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Public hearing Tuesday night on PUD request

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A public hearing on Mann Properties' proposal to build a 483-home development near Countryside Road will be conducted during Tuesday's meeting of Kings Mountain City Council at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Mann Properties is asking the city to rezone 119 acres owned by Randy Bates from R-10 to Conditional Use R-6 which would allow them to build 480 PUD (Planned Unit Development) homes.

According to City Planning Director Steve Killian, PUD designation allows the developer to make better use of the land by creating open space and recreational areas. The trade-off is the developer can adjust the locations of lot lines and street frontage amounts so as to save open space and more efficiently put in homes.

Mann is preparing 19 acres of open space/recreational space, and sidewalks, Killian said.

Residents of Countryside opposed the rezoning at last week's meeting of the Planning and Zoning Board. Comments range from an increase in traffic on narrow Countryside Road to an increase in enrollment at already-crowded KM schools.

The P&Z Board tabled the matter until its March 13 meeting, but according to Mayor Rick Murphrey city council would have to put the public hearing on its agenda since it had already been scheduled.

Mayor Murphrey said he doubts if council will make a decision Tuesday night; however, that is up to the discretion of the council. Normally, council does not make a decision until it receives a recommendation from the P&Z Board.

According to Killian, the current zoning of R-10 would allow the developer to build approximately 414 homes.

Many Planned Unit Developments are springing up in area cities, especially Gastonia and Charlotte. "As towns continue to grow, that's part of the growth," Murphrey said.

Moore seeks third term in NC House

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Races are developing in both the Democratic and Republican primaries as election filing heads into its final days.

Deadline for filing for the May primary election is Tuesday at noon at the Cleveland County Board of Elections in Shelby.

Incumbent Sheriff Raymond Hamrick and Gary Gold filed Friday, making a three-man race in the Democratic primary. Willie McIntosh had filed earlier. Don Allen and Dennis Theis had filed earlier for the Republican primary.

Two local Republicans filed Friday for state office. Kings Mountain resident Tim Moore has filed for the Republican nomination in the 111th NC House District. He is seeking his third two-year term in Raleigh.

Shelby Republican Wes Westmoreland filed for the State Senate 46th District seat, currently held by Forest City Democrat Walter Dalton.

Moore said his campaign focus will continue to be more jobs and less taxes.

"While unemployment is lower now than four years ago, I realize there is more to be done and we need to reform our tax code and make North

See Moore, 3A



Brick, flooring and other materials in the former Park Yarn Mill on S. Battleground Avenue will be recycled for use in homes and other businesses.

ELIZABETH STEWART / HERALD

Old mills live again

KM company demolishes old structures, recycles material

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

Kings Mountain resident George Culver, asbestos and demolition contractor, and his workers have pulled out 340,000 bricks from Glen Raven Mill, familiarly known as the Park Yarn Cotton Mill on S. Battleground Avenue.

"We are about to finish the demolition project," said Culver, who said Applied Abatement Demolition crews have spent five weeks in Kings Mountain. Two water tanks on the old landmark property have also come down.

Big on recycling, Culver plans to recycle the materials, turning the bricks and the rest of this piece of textile history into a recycling project.

Last week former mill workers were snapping up pieces of their old home and asking to buy a brick as a souvenir of days gone by. Culver said bricks will be made available for sale to the public.

Former mayor John Henry Moss and former city councilman Jim Childers were on the site last Wednesday to survey the progress with Culver. Moss and Childers are leaders of the non-profit Kings Mountain Consortium for Progress, Inc. which owns the mill property which

dates to the early 1900's and was donated to the Consortium in 1995 by Glen Raven.

"We are talking with developers," according to Consortium president Moss. "What we decide for this spot will be in the best interest of Kings Mountain."

Culver sees the ruins of the old plant as a huge pile of recycling potential. The bricks must be individually inspected to see whether they are worth recycling but more advances in crushing techniques and equipment means that more materials can be recycled.

"We recycle brick by brick and nail by nail," he said.

Culver, formerly of West Palm Beach, FL and Rock Hill, SC, has been in the asbestos removal and interior demolition business for seven years. Formerly, he and his father operated Two Georges Marina, a fishing business in West Palm Beach, FL for 15 years.

His firm has torn down McAdenville Mill which dates 1881, American Efrid in Bessemer City, Howell Manufacturing and Mauney Mill, both in Cherryville, and York Ice House in York, SC. Four of the mills were torn down in the past year.

Some of the materials from those mills have been recycled for use in the Culver home, office, and his business property



DYLAN LLOYD / HERALD

Mr. and Mrs. George Culver stand in their home, which was built out of recycled material from old mills.

which covers 4 1/2 acres in what was formerly called Concrete Concepts on Wiggins Lane off Highway 161 south of Kings Mountain. Hand-cleaned bricks packed 600 to the pallet are displayed in the work areas centered by a big concrete building with stand up walls and surrounded by a big yard, other buildings, and the restored house.

Culver, who also operates a trucking business on the site, hauls off debris from the work sites.

Hidden costs of drinking and driving

(Last of 3-part series)

DYLAN LLOYD

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Driving drunk can have repercussions that most people never consider. Beyond the initial sentencing, a DWI can raise your insurance and cause conflict in your marriage.

What some may not realize is that the long-term impact of a DUI can ultimately decide your career before you do.

Parents send their kids off to college in hopes that they will one day earn a better living than they did. The kids, now young adults, study hard to become doc-

tors, lawyers, or even pilots.

However, if they drink alcohol at a party and get behind the wheel of a car, they all but waive their rights to ever become any of those things.

Bryan King knows this all too well. Having graduated from Shelby High with a 1290 SAT score, he decided to enroll at Duke as a pre-med student. During his freshman year, however, he was convicted of DUI.

"You can have a 4.0 grade point average from Harvard; but if you have a DWI on your record, an employer may overlook your application," says Professor Will Stanwick of UNC Charlotte.

See Hidden Costs, 3A



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

A beer can lies on the side of the road as a car drives by in downtown Kings Mountain.

Johnson developing at I-85

The Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership announced plans by Johnson Development, Inc. of Spartanburg, SC for a new development located along I-85 in Kings Mountain.

The new development will support up to 1.3 million square feet of industrial and distribution space. Johnson plans to begin construction of a 500,000 square feet speculative building, expandable to a million square feet, during the first quarter of 2006.

Johnson Development has an ongoing partnership with economic development in Cleveland County. In 2002, Johnson Development worked with Cleveland County and the City of Kings Mountain on Kings Mountain Corporate Center which now houses the former Commonwealth Aluminum and Southeastern Container. Johnson Development has developed over nine million square feet of industrial space in the Southeast.

Garrett Scott, Director of Development, stated "We are excited about our continued partnership in Cleveland County. We have

been pleased with the efforts on behalf of the county and the city to make this project a reality. We are confident the new development will be received favorably by the market and currently are already working with a number of clients interested in our plans."

Mayor Rick Murphrey of Kings Mountain stated, "We look forward to continuing our economic development efforts with Cleveland 20/20 to continue to bring quality jobs and investment to our city. Johnson Development's continued investment validates the attractiveness of our city to new companies."

Willie McIntosh, Cleveland County Commissioner, said "We are pleased with quality firms like Johnson Development continuing partnerships in our county. The county commissioners have high regard for the quality and professionalism of their team."

Adelaide Craver, Chair of Cleveland 20/20, said "We look forward as an economic development board to assisting Johnson Development in attracting clients."

Quality Culvert picks Grover

Quality Culvert has announced plans to construct a HDPE (high density polyethylene) corrugated pipe facility in Grover. Building construction is anticipated to begin during the first quarter of 2006 and production operations are expected to begin in September 2006.

The Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership is announcing the location on Quality Culvert, Inc. to a 25-acre rail served site located on Highway 29 in Grover. The Astatula, FL based company expects to employ 35 people within two years and invest \$4.5 million in the new facility. By 2010, investment could reach \$9 million and employ up to 80 people.

Bruce Smith, Manager, Business Development, said "We are very excited about beginning operations and look forward to a long and positive relationship with Cleveland 20/20 Economic Development Partnership and the community."

Mayor Rick Murphrey of the City of

Kings Mountain said, "We are glad to welcome an additional utility customer for the City of Kings Mountain and look forward to working with Quality Culvert for their plans to create quality jobs and investment in our county."

Willie McIntosh, County Commissioner and Cleveland 20/20 Executive Board Member, said "Cleveland County has a long history of plastic manufacturing in our county. The project gives us an opportunity to continue to diversify and create new jobs for the county. We are appreciative for the investment in the facility and grateful for the efforts of our board and investors with our Cleveland 20/20 Partnership."

Adelaide Craver, Chairwoman of Cleveland 20/20, said "We are very excited to see Quality Culvert making such a commitment to our corporate community. Manufacturing plays a vital role in our local economy, and we look forward to seeing more growth throughout the County."