

**LOCAL**

# Tourism Authority discusses budget for Kings Mountain Gateway Project

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The Kings Mountain Tourism Development Authority met Tuesday to elect a new Vice-Chairperson as well as discuss budget issues related to the ongoing Gateway to the Parks project.

Dean Spears of 301 Maner Road was elected to be the new Vice-Chairman of the tourism

development group, which is currently chaired by Pat Childers. Childers made the motion to elect Spears, which was then seconded by fellow member Rick Moore. Spears is also a current member of the Kings Mountain City Council.

The group then discussed budget expenses regarding the Kings Mountain Gateway project. Earlier this year \$12,500

had been allocated for a "feasibility study" to plan for the project. Members voiced concern over receiving an invoice for expenses, and the issue was set on the agenda for the March 28 meeting.

"Are we going to see accountability for this money down the road would be my question," said Communications Director Ellis Noell.

The budget currently stands at \$87,086, of which 82 percent annually goes toward grant programs such as the Gateway project. The Gateway project is a series of nature trails being pushed by the city and the Cleveland Chamber to ultimately connect Kings Mountain with Crowders Mountain State Park and Kings Mountain National Military Park.

# Lenten services set Wednesdays at noon

Kings Mountain Ministerial Association will sponsor its annual Lenten services each Wednesday from March 8-April 5. Each service begins at 12 noon and ends by 12:30.

An offering will be received for the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry. The host church will serve a light lunch afterward for a \$3 donation.

The schedule of services is:  
March 8 - at Kings Mountain Baptist Church, sermon by Rev. Danielle Duncan.

March 15 - at Central United Methodist, sermon by Rev. Jim Brackett.  
March 22 - at Bynum Chapel AME Zion, sermon by Rev. Jody Griffin.  
March 29 - at Boyce Memorial ARP, sermon by Rev. J.R. Robbins.  
April 5 - at St. Matthew's Lutheran, sermon by Rev. Eddie Gray.

For more information call Rev. Eddie Gray at 739-4266.

# COUNTRYSIDE

From 1A

different from those in the neighborhood but would be in keeping with the value of the adjoining property."

Local attorney Tim Moore represents the Countryside residents, and he and many residents spoke against the proposal.

Moore claimed that 19 acres of the property are in a flood plain that abuts Potts Creek, leaving only 75 acres for the 483 homes.

"This would be a dramatic change to the composition of the Countryside area," he said. "There are a substantial number of negative impacts."

Moore pointed out that "the whole purpose of zoning is to have consistency in growth. If you look at the area - rolling country - it is inconsistent to have 483 homes on 75 acres."

Moore said "major roadway

improvements" would be required, the area would not be safe, and the impact on schools would be tremendous.

"We all like growth," he said. "These folks on Countryside support growth, but we want it to make sense."

Moore claimed that residential growth does not produce revenue for the city and could eventually cause the loss of commercial and industrial use in that area. One industry and a trucking company are already located close-by, and the Cleveland County Industrial Park is just across Highway 74.

Lynn Welborn urged the council to deny the request. "We have only one chance to make this project right," he said. "Don't allow growth just for growth's sake."

County Commissioner Ronnie Hawkins, who lives on Countryside, told council "if you fail to plan your plan will fail. We have to plan a little better. There's a smart way to do

it, and this is not the way."

The only Kings Mountain resident supporting the project was Joni Smith, who said it could result in \$2.4 to \$2.8 million a year in taxes and utility fees.

In addition, she said, it would bring new people into town who would shop in local businesses and become active in local churches and activities.

"The positive impact would be phenomenal. You should approve it once the developer meets with the neighbors to address their concerns," she said.

In other action, Council:  
 ■ Recognized four city employees for their length of service. They were Brian Ramsey and Janie McVay, five years; Rick Putnam Jr., 10 years; and New Henson Jr., 20 years.  
 ■ Proclaimed April 2-8 as National Library Week.  
 ■ Was told by Special Events coordinator Ellis Noell that

Saturday, March 18 had been set aside by the city and the Rotary Club to clean-up Patriots Park in preparation for the next phase of the Rotary Club's centennial project.

■ Approved a budget amendment to appropriate a \$6,000 grant received from the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate's Assistance to Firefighters.  
 ■ Approved a budget amendment for meter reading services.  
 ■ Set the date of March 28 at 7 p.m. for a public hearing regarding a zoning ordinance text amendment, "Table of Permitted and Conditional Uses."  
 ■ Accepted a proposal from Bill Tomlinson to remove trees on a control strip.  
 ■ Approved a resolution adopting the Cleveland County Hazard Mitigation Plan.  
 ■ Approved release of natural gas capacity.

# KM Military Park to note 75th anniversary March 4-5

Kings Mountain National Military Park will celebrate its 75th anniversary March 4-5.

The park was created by Congress through the enabling legislation that was passed on March 3, 1931. The legislation allowed for the preservation of the site of the Battle of Kings Mountain, a critical battle in America's war for independence.

As part of the celebration the park's Backcountry Militia will welcome visitors to their camp and offer weapons demonstrations and other activities. There will be special tours focusing on the park's history, and an exhibit of historic photos and artifacts in the visitor center.

For more information, call 864-936-7921 or log onto www.nps.gov/kimo.

# MANAGER

From 1A

In the past, he said the city's electrical department has found ways to trim its budget so the increases would not be passed on to consumers. The electrical department was able to absorb close to \$400,000 of the latest increase.

"Every municipality is having to deal with this," Murphrey said.  
 ■ In another matter, City

Council voted 4-2 to approve a request from Faunce properties to rezone property at 814 W. Mountain Street from RS-8 to Office; however, because the request required six votes for passage the zoning will remain the same. Faunce leases the facility to a day care center but felt office use would be more in keeping with other businesses across the street, which include doctor's offices and Kings Mountain Hospital.

■ Council also voted not to rezone property owned by

Mike Brown at 402 E. King St. from Neighborhood Business to General Business.

■ Council tabled a request from a property owner at Moss Lake who wants the city to grant him an easement over their control strip.

■ Council heard a report from Frank Shepherd of Siemens Building Technologies of performance contracting. Siemens contracts with municipalities and school systems to evaluate energy systems, and guarantees savings.

According to Mayor Murphrey, one of the area's targeted by the study is city hall, which has heating and cooling systems that are 25 years old. Newer, more efficient systems can be purchased on loan with the monthly payment being offset by the savings. If the city contracts with Siemens, Siemens would agree to make up the difference if savings do not meet or exceed the monthly payment.

A proposal will likely be considered in April.

# Rev. Bob Hope selected Metropolitan Who's Who

Rev. Robert H. "Bob" Hope of Kings Mountain was recently chosen to have his biography appear in the Metropolitan Who's Who Worldwide Registry.

Rev. Hope serves as chaplain for Kings Mountain Fire Department and as on-call minister for Harris Funeral Home. He attended school in Raleigh and Nashville, TN, where he received certification as an EMT and for deep and swift water rescue.

He served 18 1/2 years with Kings Mountain Rescue, and three years as the Director. He is a high school graduate and

attended Fruitland Bible College in Hendersonville, where he studied English, Homiletics, Bible History, and is certified in Sermon Presentation.

Rev. Hope has been in the ministry for 35 years. He served as pastor of Faith Baptist Church for 10 years. He is now a member of Midview Baptist Church where he has served as pastor for 14 years.

Rev. Hope received his Certificate of Recognition from Metropolitan Who's Who during a recent service at Midview Baptist Church.

# FILING

From 1A

Boggs, both of Lawndale, filed along with Kenneth A. Ledford of Polkville. Ellis and Ledford both ran in the past. Boggs is a member of the Cleveland County Board of Education.

Joining the Republican field on Monday were Ron Schaeffer and Bill Chambless, both of Shelby.

They join Shelby realtor Kelly E. Hastings on the ballot. Jerry Vess of Grover also filed earlier but has since withdrawn.

Schaeffer said he has spent a lot of time talking with commissioners, the county manager and attending meetings and he feels the county commissioners

"are a professional, cooperative board. I am pleased to be running for an open seat and I am confident I can work well with the returning commissioners to assure efficient and effective administration of county business."

He said he is concerned about the economy and the elderly.

Schaeffer is a training specialist and instructor for National Association of Safety Professionals. He helped organize the Adopt Laurel relief effort after Hurricane Katrina.

■ Kings Mountain's Dwight Tessner drew opposition in the Democratic primary for County Coroner Tuesday when Tott D. Griffin of Shelby filed. No Republicans filed for the coro-

ner's job, which is being vacated by Coroner Doug Tysinger.

■ Betsy H. Fonvielle of Shelby filed Tuesday for the Democratic nomination for the District 111th seat in the State House of Representatives. Fonvielle and Republican incumbent Tim Moore of Kings Mountain will both be unopposed in the primary and will face each other in the November general election.

■ No one filed this week for Clerk of Superior Court. Claudia Glenn of Shelby will run unopposed for the Republican nomination. Sharon Hamrick Jones, Mitzi McGraw Johnson and Larry Ware will compete for the Democratic nomination.

District Court Judge Ali B. Paksoy Jr. of Shelby has filed to retain his seat in District 27-B, which includes Cleveland and Gaston counties. He was appointed to the position by Gov. Mike Easley to fill the unexpired term of Charles A. Horn.

Prior to accepting the appointment Paksoy served over 30 years in private practice.

# KM WEATHER REPORT

	Feb. 22-28	Year Ago
Total precipitation	.32	2.12
Maximum 1 day	.32 (22nd)	1.10 (27th)
Month of February	1.59	4.07
Year to date	4.75	5.86
Low temperature	23 (26th)	24 (24th)
High temperature	69 (28th)	70 (22nd)
Avg. temperature	50.1	44.7

# WEST

From 1A

called "very promising," the deal to purchase the property for an undisclosed amount of money is expected to ease the spillover parking that congests Mountain Street adjacent to the school.

"Traffic around West Elementary School has been a monster for sometime," mentioned board member Dr. Larry Allen.

The property is currently owned by Phillip Scism and Bobby Horne and is valued at \$14,059. The lot is already cleared and leveled for paving.

"I know this will please many residents on Mountain Street, as I am one of them," said board member Shearra Miller.

The School Board also heard information from Dr. Linda Hopper regarding the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools district accreditation process.

The SACS accredits schools based on their overall quality of learning. Schools can either be accredited individually or by district, with the latter being less costly and time intensive.

"Instead of going through a process of 20 visits in which individual schools have two weeks to prepare, a district

accreditation would allow a single presentation in which not every school would need to host a visit," said Donna Carpenter of the Cleveland County School office.

The SACS approves three tiers of accreditation; one being for individual schools, the second for groups of schools or a "supersystem," and the third being accreditation for the entire school district.

There are currently 28 schools in the district; Kings Mountain High and Shelby High were the first to be accredited by the SACS. Kings Mountain Middle, Kings Mountain Intermediate, and Davidson Alternative Schools are all actively seeking accreditation this spring.

Later in the meeting board members heard from Cheryl Lutz who reported on the Laptop Project, an effort sponsored by Apple Computers to provide laptops to students.

Apple will soon provide an additional 400 laptop computers, expanding the program to Kings Mountain and Shelby high schools. Two hundred computers have already been distributed to Burns and Crest high schools, and the board is also looking to bring the program to area middle schools.

Cleveland County ranks above the state average for technology with 3.7 modern


computers per student. The state defines a modern computer as one that has a Pentium 4 processor and contains at least 5 gigabytes of random access memory.

The board hired William Donald "Chip" Smith as the new director of transportation. The director of transportation oversees all school bus activity in the Cleveland County district.

Smith will replace former director Don Byrnes, who has worked for the Cleveland County School Board for over 15 years.

I would like to thank the Petro Express employees and customers in Kings Mountain for the support, donations and prayers for Lisa Hedrick and family; and Mark West and family. God bless you all!

## TOUCHING TOMORROW, TODAY



**THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON THE DECISIONS OF TODAY**

Where we are as a community is no surprise. The blueprint for our progress was presented years ago, just like where we will be in the future is being decided today. Our neighbors and subdivisions -- where they are, what type of housing is acceptable -- are a product of yesterday's decisions. Our business community -- where to locate and what is sold -- is guided by the population and the support surrounding it.

This year's Progress issue will give **OUR COMMUNITIES** the opportunity to see where we are and where we are going. It's also your opportunity to present your story of what decisions you are making or what decision may have led to where you are today. So join us as we tell the story of "Touching Tomorrow, Today."

Touching Tomorrow, Today will include several different sections including:

- Touching Community (the overview)
- Touching Business • Touching Real Estate •
- Touching Industry • Touching Faces •

Each section is designed to tell the story of our growth, our goals, and our communities.

Each advertising participant will receive a Business Honor Roll listing in the issue -- truly a value-added opportunity. And, depending upon the size of the ad purchased, there are additional Value-Added opportunities to tell the story of your business with either a photo or a story.

# University Women plan 'Fun for Fellowship' dinner

The Gaston Regional Branch of American Association of University Women will hold its annual "Fun for Fellowship" dinner Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall

of First A.R. Presbyterian Church, 315 S. Chester St., Gastonia. The cost is \$10. Tickets may be purchased form any AAUW member of by calling B'Ann Vance at 853-2822.

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