



Photo courtesy of Terrie Armstrong
The Cleveland County Sheriff's Department awarded a plaque of appreciation to individuals from Kings Mountain Family Worship Center Church of God who minister to inmates who are incarcerated in the county jail. Left to right are Sheriff Raymond Hamrick, Ms. Betty Lott, Director of Inmate Services, Lucille Owens, Rebecca Lineberger, Mike Smith, Terrie Armstrong, Rafael Lugo, Randy Miller and Todd Armstrong. Not pictured, Alice Ditman, Carrie Smith and Rocky Smith.

Council to vote on contract with Partnership

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

Kings Mountain City Council will vote on a three-year contract with Mountaineer Partnership at Tuesday's 7 p.m. meeting at City Hall Council Chambers. Interim City Manager Marilyn Sellers said the item is the major business on the agenda which will include some "consent" items that are usually voted all in one motion unless a council member asks for more discussion and vote on a particular item.

On June 27, City Council by a 6-1 vote approved an ordinance recreating and redefining a Downtown Municipal District and authorized City Attorney Mickey Corry to enter into negotiations for a three year contract with Mountaineer Partnership.

"I don't like taxes in any form," councilman Jerry Mullinax said after that meeting, referring to the self-taxing district, set at a rate of 23.62 cents on the \$100 property valuation, an additional tax paid by property owners within the district which raises \$23,689.80 with the city matching the MSDA proceeds to provide services. Corry is clarifying language in the new contract to state what happens to public funds if the program is dissolved, who owns the public funds, the city or the MSDA, and how are funds designated.

At that meeting Corry said the partnership between the city and the Municipal Tax District is a unique one and commended leaders and the many committee volunteers for their work in getting the ball rolling on downtown revitalization.

Killian sees residential growth

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

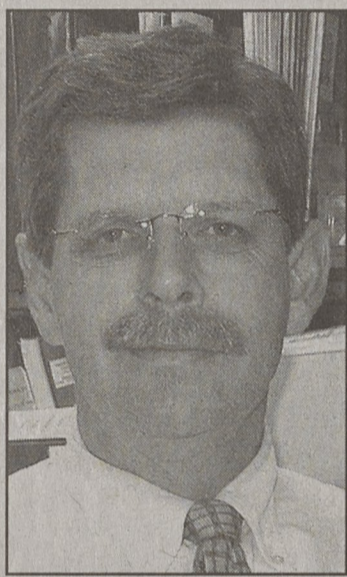
One thousand new homes in new subdivisions in Kings Mountain in the next four to five years! That's no crystal ball prediction, says Steve Killian, the city's Director of Planning & Economic Development.

Plans shaping up by developers keep the four-member staff on their toes.

Although his roots are deep in Lincoln County as a member of the eighth generation in his family of Killians who first settled in the Howard's Creek area years ago, Killian likes calling Kings Mountain his second home.

With 26 years experience in on-the-job planning for economic development, Killian joined the city staff in 1995 and came to Kings Mountain from his home town of Lincolnton, where he was County Planner and Director of Planning for six years. From April 1983 to January 1989 he served as Community Development Administrator for the Western Piedmont Council of Governments in Hickory and before that was Housing Specialist for the City of Lenoir for two years. He is a 1977 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned his Master of Arts degree in 1988 from Appalachian State University. He and Ann Robinson Killian have been married 24 years. Mrs. Killian has worked as Guardian ad Litem for 16 years for the Department of Justice and coordinates volunteers as advocates, a child's voice in court, on behalf of children in abuse and neglect situations.

"We're excited about city-wide projects taking shape and we see progress," says Killian, complimenting his staff, including Trip Hord, whose major assignments are mapping and reviewing building plans and Moss



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Steve Killian

Lake shoreline changes; Joy Fox, administrative assistant, all of whom work on the second floor in the planning offices of City Hall; and Janet Hayes, lake resource assistant who assists citizens with fishing permits and leases at city owned Moss lake.

Killian manages the planning department, facilitates the appointed boards which include the Planning and Zoning board chaired by Jim Childers which reviews subdivision and zoning requests; the board of adjustment chaired by Bob Myers which makes final decisions on variances; the Historic Landmark Commission chaired by Pat Childers; and the Moss Lake advisory board chaired by Raeford White which submits a budget and lake regulations and fee schedules to city council.

Killian, who became interested in working with Historical Properties in Lincolnton, was instrumental in the formation of the Kings Mountain Landmarks Commission in 1998 chaired

by Mary Neisler. The Central School District and the historic overhead bridge on King Street are new listings for the city by the Department of the Interior on the National Register of Historic Places. An application has been forwarded for designation of the bridge that runs north of the US 74 landmark.

"I am also excited about the Gateway to the Parks project, downtown revitalization and Mountaineer Partnership and feel that with the new ideas generated by a host of volunteers that Kings Mountain will emerge in a special niche all its own, quite different from any other cities in our area. That's our challenge," said Killian.

The announcement that two big industries - Chris*Craft and Indian Motorcycles are coming to Kings Mountain with 807 higher than average paying jobs was icing on the cake, according to Killian, who said three major building projects totaling \$12 million are under construction. Johnson Developers is constructing one of the largest Master commercial buildings in the Greater Kings Mountain area at 120 Woodlake Parkway; Summit Place, the assisted living center at 1001 Phifer Road, is adding a new wing as well as nine two room suites, and Kings Mountain Hospital, 706 W. King St., is adding an MRI facility.

Killian's office has applied to the Gold Leaf Foundation for a grant to construct a boat lift at Moss Lake and will be gearing up plans following receipt by the city of a \$700,000 Community Block grant for sewer replacement and concentrated needs at 10 homes in the Galilee Community off York Road.

High priorities are the revising of the city's land development plan to cover 30 square miles, including the extraterritorial jurisdic-

tion and implementation of the Main Street Program as a part of the Mountaineer Partnership of which Larry Hamrick Sr. is the newly-elected chairman. "These two projects are very important to the growth of the city," says Killian. He said a revitalization of downtown will encourage people to shop at home and more jobs will bring more people to live in the Kings Mountain area.

"When we lose a big water/sewer user it creates a hole in the city's revenue but it's our challenge in managing the four utilities to be able to repair, replace and maintain services for all the new residences attracting people to Kings Mountain," he added.

Killian said sub-dividers pay 100 percent of the cost of water, sewer etc. and to run streets and that the city provides the rolling services, including police, fire, and garbage collection.

Among the continued upswing in residential development projects on the drawing board:

Kings Crossing, 380 single family residences proposed on 112 acres being developed by Mann Properties on Countryside Road and recently annexed by the City of Kings Mountain.

Hardyal Shergill and MAGLand developers, 238 single family homes on 84 acres at Phifer Road and Camelot Drive and recently annexed by the City of Kings Mountain.

Addition to Phifer Downs, Phifer Road, Kings Mountain Boulevard and Margrace, 340 homes.

Crocker Ridge, 90 homes. Tommy Hall, Eagle Run, 50 units behind Food Lion, for which staff is reviewing plans.

Forty homes are in the latter phase of construction at the Hall Crossing Subdivision on Maner Road.

City receives Power awards

ELIZABETH STEWART
Herald Correspondent

Three members of the city staff - Interim City Manager Marilyn Sellers, Electric Superintendent Nick Hendrick and Tom Roddy - recently accepted two Public Power Awards of Excellence for the City of Kings Mountain at the annual meeting of Electricities in Myrtle Beach, SC.

The Economic Development plaque recognizes the city's efforts to attract industry and conduct economic development studies.

The Customer Service plaque award recognizes the city's customer service efforts like residential customer programs.

Sellers said the awards were earned by a team effort of all city employees.

Representatives from Electricities, a not-for-profit

government organization representing cities, towns and universities that own electric distribution systems, visited Kings Mountain in August and observed the city's involvement in the distribution of public power.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said visitors were in town during a recent power outage and saw how the city restored power more quickly by earlier-than-planned switching on its newest Margrace Substation. Working with the Fire Department and Senior Center, the city also offered transportation to a place for citizens without power to stay out of the heat.

Said the mayor, "The city has continued to position itself to provide the necessary utilities for our citizens and for newcomers to residential areas and business and industrial customers."

CORRECTION

A story in last week's Herald regarding Nathan Sheppard playing on a World Championship baseball team did not mention the name of his mother, Jeannie Sheppard, and grandparents June Stewart of Bessemer City and Jim Parker of Shelby.

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