

LOCAL

Davidson Insurance getting a face lift

EMILY WEAVER

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Davidson Insurance on Railroad Avenue is changing faces. Tony and Kathy Davidson husband and wife and owners of the insurance branch are remodeling their office inside and out. The new facade that they have planned for their business is just their part of keeping downtown Kings Mountain beautiful, Tony said. "We're just trying to make our front look good so that hopefully, other people and businesses will do the same," he said.

Kathy drew a rough sketch of the look she had in mind for the business and Tony thought it was a great idea. An awning reading "Davidson Insurance" will be hung over the door. The front window will be expanded into three single side-by-side windows with decorative shutters on each side. Cedar shake shingles will line the front of the building with a bottom and top trim of existing brick work. A sign reading "Davidson Insurance Agency; (704) 734-4810; Auto, Home, Business,

Life" will be centered along the top trim. The front door will remain as it is.

The outside of the new building will be more aesthetically pleasing as will the inside. "We're going to buff the floors and get them clean and shiny," Tony said. The black and white checkered floor pattern has been in the building for quite some time and the Davidsons would like to keep it that way, but make it appear new again.

The old heating and air conditioning units that sat atop the building have been removed. One new unit with front and rear zones has been added in its place. Tony said that a roofer out of Monroe is fixing the roof where the ACs once sat. The Davidsons plan to extend the front of the office into a waiting room with possibly a television and move the receptionist into the first office with a glass where people can pay their bills.

Their mascot, a talkative parrot named Zack, will keep his roost at the office. He often echoes a "goodbye" to departing customers and visitors, making most of them leave

with a smile on their face.

The Davidsons are also redoing their back deck, complete with new wood to cover the 12' x 16' area. It will be covered with a shingled roof to match the front. The deck is in the same vicinity used for the Beer Garden at After 5, LIVE! and may possibly be used one day for Kings Mountain Business and Professionals Association sponsored events.

"I prayed for over a year for the Lord to show us what He wanted us to do," Tony said. He was led to the business after a lay-off from his previous employment and said that this must be where God needs him now.

"We're investing a lot of money into our business," Tony said, adding that he hopes others will do the same. Davidson Insurance, a locally-owned branch of Eerie Insurance, has grown about 30 percent in the past few years. They are celebrating their new growth with improved appearances and the continuation of good customer service.

Yarbro property rezoned, possibly for Ingles store

By unanimous vote, Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night rezoned the Shelby Road property of Eddie Yarbro and his mother, Ethel Yarbro, and in making the motion Councilman Jerry Mullinax said he's hopeful it will be the site of a new super market.

Ingles Markets of Asheville is reportedly looking at the 20 acre site for a super store. City Planning Director Steve Killian said there had been no objection from adjoining property owners and no one spoke during the public hearing conducted by Council.

Two other rezoning requests were also approved unanimously after public hearings. Council amended a conditional use zon-

ing request for property at 304 E. King Street to allow a veterinary service from 6-9 p.m. with a totally enclosed kennel addition with pet grooming, pet and pet products and also rezoned property of Krystina Rush and Peggy Vaughan at 101 S. Carpenter Street from Neighborhood Business to Residential 10. Killian said the precedent has been set for down-sizing in commercial areas along King Street and York Road to accommodate people who have residential structures and want to use them for residential purposes or replace the structure should it ever be accidentally destroyed.

Because of non-compliance of housing codes, Council approved ordinances ordering

the demolition of properties at 106-108 Myers Street, 400 Cherry Street, 316 N. Dilling Street and 307 N. Gaston Street.

The property at 106 Myers St. has a current tax value of \$18,029. The property at 107 Myers Street has a current tax value of \$26,644. The property at 108 Myers Street has a current tax value of \$30,692. The structure at 400 Cherry Street has no current tax value with a land value of \$3,780. The structure at 307 Gaston St. has a current building tax value of \$23,403 and land value of \$5,967. The property at 316 N. Dilling Street has a current tax building value of \$23,981 and land value of \$4,032.

Barretts make move in duckpins

Duck Masters held onto their lead and the Barrett Bunch pulled into second place in mixed duckpin bowling league action Thursday night at Dilling Heating.

The Masters (34-22) defeated the Alley Cats (16-40) 6-2. Ed Philbeck led the winners with a 140 line and 356 set. Pernell Byars led the Cats with a 126-

326.

Tommy Barrett rolled a 145 line and 356 set to lead the Barrett Bunch (32-24) over the Robbers (30-26) 6-2. Allen Myers led the Robbers with a 119-314.

On Tuesday night, the Pinseekers (36-20) moved into a tie for first with a sweep of the Half Timers (20-36). Zeke Rybczyk led the Pinseekers with

a 113-322 and Robert Titus led the Half timers with a 117-277.

Previous leader Ducks R Us (36-20) was knocked off by Mark's Martyrs (20-36) 6-2. Ed Mark Abernathy rolled a 128 line and Ed Philbeck had a 324 set to lead the Martyrs. Kristin Abernathy had a 98 line and 268 set for Ducks R Us.

SENATE

From 1A

taxes the counties do not pay for in taxes and vice versa. "North Carolina does more to fund local issues. If you look at Virginia they fund education 30 percent at the state level, 70 percent at the local level. North Carolina is just the opposite," he said. But, he added that the counties, and especially the poorer counties, do need help with the Medicaid burden. "We do need to find a solution for it. But to take it over is about half a billion dollars. So it's going to take a lot of work," Dalton said.

"After 10 years, we have yet to have a solution," Westmoreland said. "The little bit that was applied to cap the growth of Medicaid this year, came from the House budget, not the Senate budget that my opponent wrote. It would take a half a billion dollars to fully cover it. But we started this year's budget with a \$2.5 billion surplus." He said that North Carolina does cover a lot of things that other states may not, but citizens pay for it through high taxes.

"We fund things differently in North Carolina. It's a bad politi-

cal model because it makes our state taxes look out of whack. But when you look at the overall burden, state and local, we're one of the lowest taxed states," Dalton said. He cited a study that showed North Carolina and Delaware tied as the lowest taxed state on business in the nation, in regards to the effective tax rate. He said that the reason our gas tax is higher than some other states is because we maintain 78,000 miles of highways in North Carolina. "I think we have been responsible with our tax dollars," he said, in closing.

Westmoreland disagreed. He cited another study that showed North Carolina as the 11th highest taxed state in the union. "We do have a lot of roads to maintain in North Carolina and I've not made any attempt to count. But if we've got more roads, it would stand to reason that we drive more miles and have more gas pumps and still collect the highest gas tax in the Southeast. That would go a long way to pay for the roads and take that issue off the table," he said. He added that taxes in North Carolina are too high and that the people's money needs to be handled more carefully.

In light of a recent Supreme Court case, Westmoreland said that he does not support government snatching up private property for economic development. "America, ultimately, is founded on a very small number of basic rights. Among the most basic of those, is the right to own property," he said. "Without that right we have no country."

Dalton agreed that private property should not be taken for economic development. He said that during this past session, they passed a law to prevent that from happening in North Carolina. "It should only be taken for water, sewer, roads and those types of things," he said. Dalton said that passing a state constitutional amendment, as Westmoreland suggested, would not be effective. "It would be a lot stronger than just passing a law," Westmoreland interrupted.

Both candidates also shared their views on tourism and development, the US 74-By-pass project and improvements on the business environment. The complete forums of all candidates in the running for Sheriff, County Commission, state House, state Senate, and U.S. Congress can be viewed on Cable Channel 19.

CONGRESS

From 3A

"For those that are at or near retirement age or those that are currently retired, we should honor our commitment as American people and make sure that their benefits go unchanged," McHenry said. "But for younger workers, such as my generation, I think we should have the opportunity to have a similar return on our Social Security investment and savings. That's why I think personal accounts allow younger workers, such as myself, to save in individual accounts, however, monitored by the government." McHenry is currently the youngest member of the U.S. House.

"We passed \$1.2 billion dollars of appropriations to build a border security fence," he said, in regards to solving the illegal immigration issue. "In some areas it will be a virtual fence. But in a lot of areas on our southern border it will be a wall or a fence." He said that border security, internal enforcement and cleaning up the system is the best way to deal with the issue. He said that work visas are nothing more than amnesty "every day of the week and twice on Sunday. We need to reform a broken system," he continued. "When we have good people that want to come to the United

States and embrace our freedoms, we should allow them to come. That is reasonable, just, and what Americans are all about."

Carsner said that a virtual border will not stop immigrants from coming into the United States. "I think the easiest way and the fastest way to stop the illegals is to eliminate the source of jobs," he said. "You set up a national identification program so that employers can easily check the status of somebody applying for a job. Right now, it's hard for an employer to know whether somebody is legal or illegal." He proposed that the system also grant government access to see which employers continue to hire illegals and that fines be set at high amounts for punishment.

Giggles came from democrats in the audience when McHenry talked about problems that he said resulted from the Clinton administration. The last question concerned federal taxation. "I think the federal government's taxation should be limited to the rate of growth of the American people and inflation," McHenry said. "But beyond that, I think we need to reform the tax code so we don't have these multiple taxes nipping at us each and every day." He said that he supports one flat tax or one national sales tax that will replace all other federal taxes, adding that he is "a limited-government conservative."

Carsner said that we are over-taxed and taxed unfairly. "I really do support a national sales tax. Because with a national sales tax, not only are people paying taxes on what they're consuming but also, it rewards people for saving," he said. "The government should not get involved with taxing every one on every thing."

Both candidates also answered questions regarding military intelligence, opponent positions, NSA terrorist surveillance, federal power limits and economic development. A full broadcast of all of the candidate forums will be aired from now until November 6 on Cable Channel 19. Polls open on Tuesday, November 7.

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