

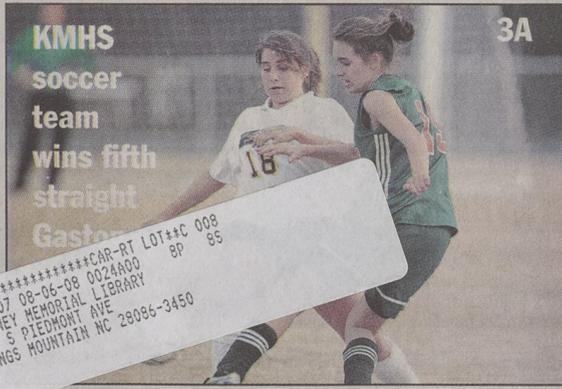
KINGS MOUNTAIN The Herald

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The changing face of King Street

It will someday be the main street of KM

EMILY WEAVER

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The face of King Street is changing. At one time the street was lined with houses. Today, the few homes that remain stand solemnly between stores, law offices, real estate agencies and other businesses. The houses are a dying breed and the businesses are thriving in their youth, hinting at the future.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said that as Kings Mountain continues to grow King Street will one day be the main strip through town and in some ways it is already.

He said that for several years the street has been migrating away from its residential beginnings to more of a general and neighborhood business area, because of younger generations either moving away or families selling their properties to the highest bidder - industry. Advance Auto Parts, Auto Zone, Highland Real Estate, and two new office buildings, currently under construction, are just a few of the recent establishments to locate to King Street. All of the businesses go hand in hand with the city's long range plan for King to be a main strip, allowing other streets like Gold, Mountain and Ridge Road the honor of showcasing the city's historical and "hometown" heritage.

Even though more businesses have located to King Street, homeowners do not need to fear being forced out. If, however, a cataclysmic event like a fire were to destroy the house, the city of Kings Mountain would have a say in what is rebuilt. City Planner Tripp Hord said that if a house burned down it could only be rebuilt as a home if the property falls in a residential zone, but if the property is zoned general business or neighborhood business the new structure would have to comply with zoning regulations.

New businesses increase the property's tax value, providing the city with more tax revenue. "If you've got a house that's worth \$150,000 and you put a whole complex there, that business itself could be taxed as a value of \$300,000 or \$400,000 because of all of the investment (the business) has put into the area," he said. "The more customers and industry that we can get within the city to help share in the taxes and utility expenses, the more we can keep all of our utility rates and taxes down."

Another new project the city's Planning Department and staff are working on, which will include King Street and other main



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

King Street is quickly changing from residential to commercial. In top photo, the new Auto Zone is being built next door to a longtime residence. In lower photo, Cloninger and Neisler Attorneys at Law have relocated from downtown Kings Mountain to a former residence on East King Street.

entrance corridors, is the Overlay Project. A public hearing on the OP will be held at the city council's March 27th meeting. Murphrey said that the overlay is just an additional set of requirements that will be assigned to areas of the main corridors that enter the city. The requirements will be tacked on to the properties' current zoning regulations in regards to matters like cosmetics and safety. The mayor said it could be like making sure that drive-ways are lined up correctly for traffic safety; or instead of having signs on poles, having signs that are closer to the ground; or instead of metal buildings the structures will be mostly brick. Shrubbery for beautification purposes may also be a requirement, he said.

"You want to make sure that your main corridors are showplaces as people come through your town and so you want to make sure that cosmetically they look good and they are safe," Murphrey said.

He explained that the city wants to keep its historical heritage and preserve its hometown atmosphere and quality of life, while growing for the future. "Sometimes (these desires) go against each other, but there is a happy medium there that we're reaching for," Murphrey said.

It's official! Ingles coming to Kings Mountain

Market closed deal Wednesday for Yarbro property on Shelby Road

ELIZABETH STEWART

Herald Correspondent

The sale of Yarbro property on Shelby Road to Ingles Markets was finalized last Wednesday.

"It's a done deal," said Kings Mountain businessman Eddie Yarbro, who added, "the money is in the bank." He did not disclose the sale price.

Ingles has purchased 20 1/2 acres of land from Yarbro and his mother, Mrs. Ethel Yarbro. The acreage is familiarly known as the Ab Yarbro property on Vestibule Church Road and Highway 74.

Deeds filed on March 7, 2007 in the Cleveland County Register of Deeds office listed the transactions for "consideration of land" as \$300,000 for a small tract and house owned by Eddie Yarbro, and \$1,100,000 for the larger tract owned by Ethel Yarbro.

Plans are in the works for a top-of-the-line 80,000 square foot grocery store which will also feature a car wash, gas pumps, deli and bakery - one of the largest Ingles markets in the area.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said discussions have been ongoing for months with Kings Mountain, Cleveland County and state officials working to bring the Asheville-based market to Kings Mountain.

"We're working on infrastructure to expedite the process," he said. The mayor said that growth in the Greater Kings Mountain

"It's a done deal."

Eddie Yarbro
Property owner

area supports new businesses such as Ingles. He mentioned particularly the people who work in the area of Cleveland County Industrial park and said those employees would find that the new market would be ideal for lunch breaks.

Ingles has also reportedly contacted Cleveland County on the possibility of purchasing the nearby County EMS base, which opened late last year. A county official said the matter has not gone past the talking stage.

Ben Lafrombois, Ingles representative, said Ingles is not ready to make a public announcement. He acknowledged that Ingles has closed on the property.

Eddie Yarbro said he has 60 days to move from his house located at the corner of Vestibule Church Road and Highway 74. His mother, 98, who has lived in her present home 55 years, was guaranteed life estate by the buyers. Mr. Yarbro, who helps other family members care for their mother, said he may move into his mother's home temporarily while he looks for an apartment.

"Ingles is coming and I can't wait," said an excited mayor.

Police seek information on robbery at Bojangles

Kings Mountain Police are seeking information on an armed robbery that occurred at 9:45 p.m. Monday at Bojangles, 218 Cleveland Avenue.

According to Detective Sgt. C.N. Moore, employees stated that two black males armed with handguns entered the business and demanded money. There were no injuries and an undisclosed amount of money was taken.

One suspect is described as a heavy set Black male 6 feet to 6'2" tall, wearing a black toboggan, black shirt, tan or gold pants and white shoes.

The other suspect is described as a Black male, 5'6" tall, wearing a black toboggan, camo jacket and black pants.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Kings Mountain Police Department at 704-734-0441.

Suspicious fire burns pallet yard located at former Glen Raven Mill

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A suspicious Sunday night fire did approximately \$100,000 damage to Woodwize pallet yard, located on the former site of Glen Raven Mills on South Battleground Avenue.

Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns said the fire is under investigation but doubts if arson can be proven "unless someone admits setting it or seeing someone set it."

According to Burns, six local fire departments battled the blaze from 9:55 p.m. Sunday to 2 a.m. Monday. Six other departments were on standby because

the departments were having to shuttle water in. He estimates between 10,000 and 15,000 pallets burned. The pallet business is owned by Scott Grigg.

Glen Raven Mill, also known as Park Yarn Mill, had recently been torn down and the bricks and floors recycled. According to Burns, only a couple small buildings remained and they were also damaged by the fire.

The pallets were located inside a fence but not inside the buildings, Burns said.

Because the pallets were made of recycled pallets and stacked on top of each other, it took time to get the blaze under control, Burns said.

"With the pallets stacked on

top of each other they had air gaps and spaces in between them, and there was also probably about a 10 to 15 mile per hour wind," Burns noted. "It was blowing pretty good and just fueling the fire. About all we could do was cut it off and keep some propane tanks and propane fork lifts from getting involved."

There was no danger of damage to adjoining property, Burns noted. All of the old mill houses that used to be located behind Glen Raven have been demolished and the closest building is the old Park Grace School which is about 2,000 yards away.

BBQ Saturday to raise funds for lung transplant survivor Hyder

EMILY WEAVER

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Trust and faith helped the Hyder family weather some terrible storms recently, and although they have survived those great storms there are still some dark clouds on the horizon. They need your help.

A benefit to raise money for Wayne Hyder, a double lung transplant survivor, will be held at the Kings Mountain Armory on Saturday, March 17, from 10 am-6 pm. Carolina Country BBQ will be there serving BBQ plates for \$7 each, to eat in or carry out.

Here is his inspiring story: Wayne was diagnosed with C.O.P.D. (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) and late stage 3/early stage 4 emphysema in August 2004. His doctors gave him two years to live. Time of death was to be around October 2006. In the "eleventh hour" he got a call.

See Hyder, 9A



Wayne Hyder with wife Lisa and daughter Amber.