

LOCAL

Hundreds attend Christmas Parade

EMILY WEAVER

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Over 100 participants and hundreds of on-lookers filled the streets of downtown Kings Mountain on Saturday for the city's annual Christmas parade.

The smell of candy was in the air and children big and small gathered with bags in hand. They stood ready on the sidelines. With mouth-watering anticipation they waited for the candy-tossing procession to start.

The parade began a little after 3 p.m. with cars and floats lined up along Gold Street for over a mile. Heading the pack was Kings Mountain's Chief of Police Melvin Proctor, Fire Chief Frank Burns, and KM Rescue, each in their own department vehicles. Mayor Rick Murphrey and his wife, Sandra Murphrey strolled close behind in a horse-drawn carriage.

All of the Kings Mountain city councilmen drove by in their separate "horseless" carriages, tossing candy. Several other officials from neighboring municipalities, like Grover and Shelby also joined the procession.

The Kings Mountain Marching Mountaineers and the Loch Norman Pipe Band marched through piping music into the Christmas scene. Dance Reflections, Dance Magic, La Petite Dance Studios and an international group of dancers boogied down the street.

Antique and classic cars chugged down the line, one not quite making it past the starting line. The car overheated and was pushed to the side, where members of the crowd offered to help. The Red Hat Mamas, adorned in purple and red, waved from their perch on top of their float.

As the children continued to scramble for candy, a Frosty the Snowman greeted and surprised them on the sidelines. Then, about an hour and 10 minutes after the parade had begun came the moment many had all been waiting for - the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

They waved and wished a "Merry Christmas" from the end of the line. The visible signs of the parade treats were seen in candy wrappers and broken lollipops scattered along the streets and sidewalks. At the end of the parade, the crowd departed into another sign of the holidays - traffic.



EMILY WEAVER / HERALD
Sidney Dixon, a WWII hero and KM native, was Grand Marshal for this year's KM Christmas Parade on Saturday. Left, the Loch Norman Pipe Band marched in Saturday's Christmas procession playing festive tunes.

More parade pictures on page 12

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- Kings Mountain Florist
- Joy Performance Center
- Furniture, Fixtures, and More

The Kings Mountain Little Theatre will be presenting "Snow White" starting at 7:30pm

Mountaineer Christmas
Friday, December 7th
5pm to 9pm
Downtown Kings Mountain

Join the Mountaineer Partnership in Downtown Kings Mountain for a celebration of the holidays. This event will feature free trolley rides, food, live music, dance showcases, late night shopping, and more. Santa Claus will be coming to downtown as well, so don't forget to have your picture made with him!

For more info contact:
The Mountaineer Partnership
(704) 730-0283