

LOCAL

Sign for Grover to say you're 'welcome'

EMILY WEAVER

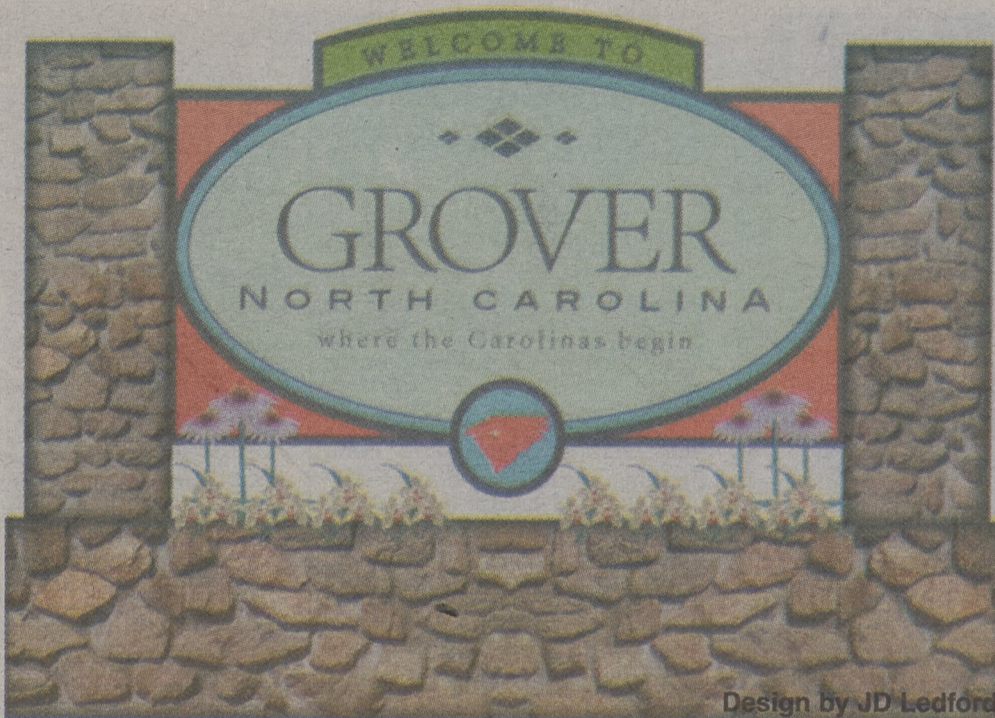
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JD Ledford, a graphic designer in Grover, presented images and pricing for new welcome signs to the Grover Town Council Monday night.

The colorful signs, situated between stonewall columns and a stonewall foundation with enough room for a small flower bed in its basin, would be placed at the town's main entrances on highways 216 and 29. "Our welcome sign is a first chance to make a good impression on visitors and also reinforces to the citizens of the town our identity," Ledford told the board.

The current Grover welcome sign is a simple white print on two wooden slats held up by two wooden stakes, whose words appear faded by time. It pales in comparison to the colorful South Carolina Education Lottery in front of it. "The first impression that you get of Grover, or to me anyway, as passer-bys and by its residents is that we're just a small town and we can't do any better," he said. "It's a sad dilapidated sign that really represents an outsider's view of our town."

But, he added that the residents of Grover love their small town and welcome signage should give justice to that



Design by JD Ledford

and let others see the town's true charm. He said that the new signs would allow the town to attract new businesses and to increase its revenue, town participation and pride.

He presented a welcome sign of

bright, cheery colors. "I chose to use bright colors, which in turn will help change people's view of Grover from the struggling little town into seeing its vibrant community," he said.

But the signs may not come cheap.

Ledford gave four options of pricing, including single- or double-sided sand-blasted signs and single- or double-sided aluminum signs, ranging from \$3,705 to \$8,740. The estimates included masonry work and materials, worth around \$2,500. The council discussed the possibility of volunteer labor and donated materials to cut down the price of masonry work and materials.

Ledford presented the estimated costs of welcome banners, which could be hung on street poles. Based on a price quote for 36 banners, the cost of each would be about \$96 with hardware around \$88/set for 18 banners.

He also presented the town with a mock-up website, offering Grover the chance to join the world-wide-web for about \$9.96/month, with website designs slated at about \$175/page. The council said that they would look into these options for downtown beautification and revitalization.

Also at the meeting, the council adopted its 2008-09 budget, which calls for no tax increases or utility rate increases. Mayor Robert Sides said that even though GDS, the town's trash collection agency, has gone up in price, the citizens of Grover will be charged no extra costs.

Relay for Life begins Friday at track

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Kings Mountain's 2008 Relay for Life begins this Friday at 6 p.m. at the Walking Track beside the YMCA in the Jake Early Sports Complex.

The Relay will continue until 6 a.m. Saturday morning as dozens of teams rally around the track to raise money to fund a cure for cancer. Survivor registration and on-site luminary sales will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday at the Walking Track. Survivors will receive a free t-shirt upon registration if they have not already done so, said KM's Relay for Life Co-Chair Tammy White.

The opening ceremony begins at 6 p.m., featuring a presentation of colors by the United States Marine Corp Color Guard and a special performance by North Carolina's own KAR Records country music recording artist Preston Long.

Committee member Diane Whetstine charged the crowd at this year's kick-off ceremony to

"Pack the Track" with survivors on Friday night. Relay's honored survivors will take the first lap of the evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

"Luminaries will be sold throughout the evening. It is never too late to remember or honor that special person (who has battled cancer)," White said.

The Luminary Ceremony begins at 9 p.m. "Hush Angels" will be around the track to remind everyone of the solemnity of the ceremony. Although there might be little noise during the luminaries, the rest of the evening is sure to be a roaring smash.

"We have a full night of entertainment for all ages (planned) and there will be lots of onsite fundraising and great food," White said.

The closing ceremony for Kings Mountain's 2008 Relay for Life will begin at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday.

For more information, contact Tammy White at 704-692-8094 or Tammy Hogue at 704-692-1086.

KMHS Class of 1973 reunion is cancelled

The KMHS Class of 1973 35th Kings Mountain Country Club Reunion for June 7, 2008 at the will be returned in the next 1-2 weeks. has been cancelled. All monies

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