

LOCAL

Hospice gets go-ahead 23 bales of hay to establish a KM home disappear from Gazebo at park

EMILY WEAVER

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It's official! "After two years and tons of paperwork," the Certificate of Need for a Hospice House in Kings Mountain has been approved.

Les Brown, project analyst with the NC Department of Health and Human Resources, said that the CoN was "conditionally approved" on September 16, 2008. Final approval arrived in the mail on Monday afternoon.

Hospice of Cleveland County had to seek CoN approval for the project before they could officially begin with plans to bring the house to KM.

Now with the state's okay, Hospice Executive Director Myra McGinnis said that the next step is completing the soil testing at the proposed KM site near the intersection of Phifer Road and Kings Mountain Boulevard. Once the tests are complete, she said that they will seek rezoning of the property, currently owned by Wayne and Cameron Ware, from Residential to Office for the new facility.

After the property is rezoned, Hospice of Cleveland County will purchase the land and begin construction in January 2009. They hope to have construction completed in December and to admit the first patients in January 2010.

"We welcome Hospice to our community," Mayor Rick Murphrey said on Tuesday. "Hospice is an important cornerstone in the quality of life foundation in our community. They are a light and a beacon of compassion and hope."

He has been touched personally by the Hospice organization. Before his father recently passed away, Hospice workers came to his parents' house to care for him. "They were just so wonderful to my dad," Murphrey said.

Jane Grigg, president of the Tri-County Horse Club, echoed the same feelings on Monday afternoon. She said that one of their club members Leonard Anderson passed away at the Hospice in Shelby. Another one of her family members received care at their home from Hospice. She was touched both times by the compassion of the benevolent caregivers.

The Tri-County Horse Club decided to give all of the proceeds from the sale of the club's estate to Hospice of Cleveland County. Grigg handed McGinnis a check for \$65,500 on Monday.

McGinnis said that \$50,000 of the proceeds will be used to establish a room at the KM Hospice house, \$15,000 will go towards creating a grief counseling room at the Wendover center Shelby, and \$500 will be put into Hospice's support fund.

McGinnis said that they had raised over \$800,000 in pledges so far for the KM Hospice house. On Tuesday, they received another pledge of \$100,000 from an anonymous donor.

"We have been working on this important project for almost two years and are ecstatic to have the approval from the state to build the facility. From the time Wendover opened in 1996 with six bed(s), through the expansion in 2004 to 14 beds, we have had

100% occupancy," McGinnis said. "The Hospice house in Kings Mountain will be a blessing."

"Approximately 25% of the patients we serve are from the Kings Mountain/Grover area," said Vice President of Access Patti Ellis McMurry. "It is fitting that Kings Mountain have a Hospice house. Each of the past two years, we have had almost 100 people who wanted to come to Wendover, but never made it - they died someplace else. Having a Hospice house in Kings Mountain will give us needed beds and will allow patients to remain closer to their family and friends."

But more donations may be needed to seal the deal of Hospice in KM. According to the state DHHS' report, Hospice of Cleveland County estimates that the "total capital cost of the project will be \$4,058,851, including \$125,000 for purchase of the land, \$161,500 for site preparation costs, \$275,000 for water and sewer extension, \$3,083,350 for construction and \$414,001 for furniture, equipment, architectural and engineering fees and other expenses."

Plans for the KM Hospice, include four inpatient and four residential care beds/rooms, with private patios overlooking a courtyard. Private baths are attached to each room. The facility will also house a commercial kitchen and conference room that will be available for the public's use, a chapel, two sitting areas, a family quiet room, living room, dining room, nurses station, and a patient spa.

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Trick or treat? Twenty-three of the 25 bales of hay the city had used for the recent Gateway Festival and had planned to use for the kids in the upcoming Great Pumpkin Halloween Parade have disappeared.

City Special Events Director Ellis Noell said that he had gathered all of the hay bales after Gateway and stacked them under the Gazebo at Patriot's Park to keep out of the weather until the parade. But as he drove by the Gazebo on Monday, he noticed the piles of 25 bales had shrunk to two.

"The city is tight for money just like everybody else is and I thought, 'Good I can spread out the expense of a couple of hundred dollars for hay bales to use them for two different events,'" Noell said.

The price for hay has been higher recently due to last year's drought.

Noell said that they usually spread the hay over the massive sand pile at Patriot's Park. They usually hide treats for the kids in the straw. This year Noell had hoped to have three different mounds of hay for the little

fortune hunters of various ages.

He said that during the city's annual Easter Egg Hunt, they realized that the bigger kids often find treasures quicker than the smaller ones. "So we were going to divide it into three different hay stacks for big kids, middle kids and little kids," he said. "It's all for the kids."

After the Gateway Festival, Noell had gathered the five bales used by reenactors at the museum and the 20 used at Patriot's Park and stacked them in three mounds underneath the Gazebo. He moved the only remaining two bales on Monday to make sure that they did not join the other 23 in the disappearing act.

"It's just disappointing. I never thought anybody would steal hay bales," Noell said.

In this recent act of trick or treat, the trick, unfortunately, seems to be on the city which wanted to treat the kids.

The city is asking for donations to help replace the missing bales. If you have any information on the whereabouts of the hay or would like to make a donation, contact the city at 704-734-0333.

CORRECTION

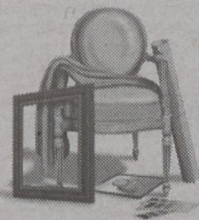
In last week's Herald, a typo misidentified Mr. Joe C. Heddon as Herndon in the story "DAR recognizes two who served in WWII."

In the Oct. 1, 2008 edition of The Herald, the final sentence was cut-off in the story entitled, "Johnny Hutchins hopes to stand for county in 2nd term." It should have read, "Together we can make a difference!"

Due to an unforeseen power outage, this week's recap of last Tuesday's P&Z board meeting will appear in next week's Herald.

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