

White Plains Shrine Club in search of new home

By ELIZABETH STEWART
staff writer

White Plains Shrine Club is looking for a home.

Dennis C. Reel, club secretary, and Freddie Dellinger, a former president, are praying that someone will donate (for a tax deduction) a building or house inside the city limits that members can fix up for a permanent location. Since its charter in 1982, Shriners have held monthly meetings at Fairview Lodge 339 AF & AM, appreciate the generosity of Masons but want to spread their wings.

"Our members are willing to build a meeting house if we can get some property," said Dellinger.

Shriners in Kings Mountain's White Plains Shrine Club have been cooking and serving up barbecue two times a year for 20 years to help children at Shriners Hospitals with burns and orthopedic problems. Over the years the local club and community has provided thousands of dollars and the club has given transportation to families with children needing the free medical service.

Thursday night at the club's 6:30 p.m. dinner meeting at Fairview Lodge 339 AF&AM local Shriners will make plans for the April 4 benefit, a big barbecue to be held at the corner of S. York Road and East Gold Street.

Events are a sellout so those participating should plan to arrive by 10:30-11 a.m. to purchase dinners for \$7 and sandwiches at 2 for \$6. The dinners are either pork or chicken cooked over hickory and oak coals.

The Fall date for the annual fundraiser barbecue is October 3.

Reel said Shriners have been operating a network of hospitals since 1922. These hospitals have not charged the parents of the burned or crippled child a penny and all treatment is free. Local Shriners have also provided transportation to the hospital for local children. Burn pa-



photo by Lib Stewart
Freddie Dellinger, left, and Dennis Reel stand in front of the White Plains Shrine Club logo as they talk about plans for fundraisers to help burned and crippled children and for their dreams for a new home for Shriners.

tients are flown to Shriners Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio and orthopedic patients are transported to Shriners Hospital in Greenville, SC. Shriners operate 22 hospitals in the United States, three burn centers and 19 hospitals for orthopedic children.

"Of course we can't operate these hospitals without continuing fundraising on the part of Shriners throughout the United States," says Reel and they ask the public to help them and support the Shriners Hospitals whenever they see

or hear of a fundraising event.

White Plains Shrine Club was chartered in October 1982. The current membership is 50 Shriners. The club meets on third Thursdays of each month at Fairview Masonic Lodge in Kings Mountain for dinner at 6:30 p.m. and business meeting at 7 p.m. Mike Bell is President. Contact Reel at 704-937-0639, residence; 704-674-6719, cell; and email deno4reel@aol.com or contact Dellinger at 980-522-6226.

Head-on collision totals new van, but lives are spared

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

It was a few minutes past 9:45 p.m. on the eve of Friday, Feb. 6. Teresa Wilson, of Clover, was driving her grandson, Ramsey Stiles, back home in the family's new van.

The 2008 Dodge Caravan that she and her husband Terry Wilson had purchased on Wednesday was pristine. It still had that new car smell. But minutes later, that smell would be replaced by the stench of twisted metal and oozing car fluids.

At about 9:49 p.m. in front of the Lithium Corp. of America plant on NC 161, Wilson was hit head-on.

Witnesses driving behind Wilson told officers that they noticed the oncoming 1991 Oldsmobile drift off of the right side of the road, travel back onto the highway, glide over the center line onto the opposite shoulder. Then the car, driven by Nettie Shoaf, of Kings Mountain, headed back into the lane in which Wilson was traveling. Neither could escape the head-on collision that followed.

Ofc. D.B. Rogers, with the Gaston County Police, reported that it was believed a "medical problem" caused Shoaf to lose

control of her vehicle.

Officers found a few medications in Shoaf's car. One bottle was a prescription for Oxycontin and another was supposed to help for sleeping, said Wilson's husband who showed photos taken at the scene.

Shoaf was taken to Gaston Memorial then to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte; where she remains in the Intensive Care Unit.

Wilson and Stiles were taken to Cleveland Regional Medical Center, for bruises and abrasions. Stiles was released that night. Wilson was released the following day.

The accident crumpled the fronts of both vehicles. It also sent a middle-row seat, which was supposed to be manufactured into a locked position, according to Terry, rolling around loose inside the van. A metal bottom part of the seat stabbed the cushion which held Stiles in his car carrier. It penetrated right where his legs would have been, had they been long enough to hang over the seat, Terry said.

"It could have been much worse," he added.

Although their new vehicle, which had less than 30 miles on

it at the time of collision, is a total loss, nothing would compare to the loss of a life.

He is grateful for the witnesses, Melissa Elders of Clover, SC, and Josh Rhyne, of Gastonia, who stayed to make sure that his family was okay.

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