

# No fishin' allowed



Inserted: Bill Surber. A view of the serene pond and landscape the Surber family built.

EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

## Surbers enjoy trickling garden they built

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

Bill Surber and his wife Bedie, of N. City Street, have something a little unique and refreshing in their backyard.

On these lazy summer days they are able to sit underneath the shade of their screened in porch and listen to the trickling flow of the water fountain and pond they have crafted in their backyard.

It all started about five years ago with a small pool from the store. But as with most dreams, planted in sunlight, fed by water and shaped by the imaginations of its creator, this small pool grew into the watery garden it is today.

Two streaming waterfalls, through a channel the Surber family created, carry a fresh

supply into and away from the pool, which is now home to two large butterfly koi, 16 goldfish and two black fish.

But there's no fishing allowed at this pond, Mr. Surber joked.

He feeds them everyday and they, in turn, delight him with their swim.

With the help of his wife, son, daughter and son-in-law, they built the garden around the pool. They hauled in rocks and placed them piece-by-piece around the garden's "piece de resistance".

They planted flowers and shrubbery to accent the pool and in it's reflection they soak in the joy of the peaceful beauty they've created. Many friends and family members occasionally stop by to soak in it too.

This garden has served the Surbers well, its fruit - that of their labor.



KYRA ALEXANDER/HERALD

Left to right, Mayor Rick Murphrey, Assistant Fire Chief Jamie Black, Police Chief Melvin Proctor, Fire Chief Frank Burns, FF Chip Wilson, Fire Capt. Bobby King and Fire Engineer Randy Peterson stand with some of the new equipment the city was able to purchase with a recent grant, including new emergency sirens and smoke detectors.

## SIRENS

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house a number of people.

The city electric department, under the direction of Nick Hendricks, is installing the equipment.

Fire Chief Frank Burns said that the department has received a grant to pay for 100 smoke detectors which are free for the asking and installed free by firemen. Firemen are also available to evaluate the number of smoke detectors needed for a residence. "We have been doing this service for 25 years and we want the public to know that we are still offering this free service and these free, life-saving smoke detectors," said Burns.

The sirens will be set off as storms approach the area and will also go off on Sat-

urdays at noon. The sirens, which can be heard all over town, will also go off in the case of the need for evacuation.

Burns said that he was headed for the Midpines Community when the recent hailstorm hit and damaged a wide area of the community. "My daughter came in at the time and had I left when I meant to leave I would have been caught in the middle of it," he said.

Police Chief Melvin Proctor said that in the event of a bad storm citi-

zens should take refuge in their homes with the doors and windows shut. The severity of the most recent storm sent people to their closets and bathrooms away from windows as baseball size hail damaged homes and cars in the thousands of dollars but thankfully no one was injured.

"These storms are getting closer and closer and these sirens are for our safety," said the Chief, adding "five to ten years ago we didn't have this kind of weather."

# Destination: Downtown

Promoting a positive image of Downtown Kings Mountain

By ADAM HINES  
Executive Director of MPI

Part 3 of a 7-part series

Imagine sipping on a cold drink and eating popcorn from your lawn chair in Patriots Park while a two-story-tall Mel Gibson runs across a movie screen draped over the mural of the Plonk building as you watch "The Patriot."

Imagine a group of local artists who each decorate their own statue of a Patriot soldier which are then scattered around downtown for you to view and ultimately purchase at a silent auction. Imagine a sea of white vendor tents filled with fruits, vegetable, pottery, art work, hand bags, natural cleaning products, and other locally produced goods on Railroad Avenue between Gold and Mountain Streets from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday at the Kings Mountain Merchants Market.

Imagine when the first Monday of each month will be Mountaineer Monday; a

day when downtown merchants offer deep discounts on everything from smoothies to clothes to insurance to TV's to tires.

Imagine having a downtown organization dedicated to promoting a positive image of downtown through marketing and image building, retail promotion, and special events to create a destination where residents and visitors to KM want to shop, eat, and attend cultural and historical activities.

The Mountaineer Partnership, Inc. (MPI) is that organization and we are working hard toward creating an environment where free movies can be watched, locally produced goods can be sold in an outdoor market setting, and where outdoor arts and cultural activities can provide a visually appealing environment in which to shop, dine, and meet your neighbors.

As part of the 4-point Main Street approach, MPI Promotions chair and small business owners Laurie

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## Doing 'the King's business'

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

Praying for an end to civil unrest in Honduras so they can return soon to doing "the King's business," Chris and Donna Keeter are on unexpected leave visiting churches supporting their ministry and gathering much-needed supplies.

Several weeks ago the US Embassy asked all Americans in Honduras to leave that country after protesters threatened to block the borders if ousted and exiled President Manuel Zelaya was not reinstated. Zelaya was opposed by all branches of the Honduran government, the military and his own party which supported a Congressional vote to install Congressional leader Roberto Micheletti as president. The interim government remained steadfast in saying that Zelaya would not be allowed to return and diplomatic efforts to restore him to power has shifted to Washington as the Obama administration weighing in on how to respond to the military coup.

"It was bad and is getting worse," said Chris Keeter, who said if he and his wife had remained in the country the blocked roads would have prevented them from traveling to villages and churches. The day after they left the area the airports were also closed.

"We are ready to go back," said Mrs. Keeter, who said God works in mysterious ways as He directed them to begin a day care for children, an all day feeding center on Saturdays for 120 plus children and youth in Naranjal, and in that way they also reached the parents with the good news of salvation.

The ministry is really taking off thanks to the support of churches who send mission teams to help build churches, teach in Bible schools, donate money for wells and for food in poverty-stricken areas, and do evangelistic work.

First Baptist Church of San Ignacio is headquarters for their ministry. They are learning the Spanish language from pastor Alex and his wife, who also speak fluent English. Their goal is for a bigger future feeding center. Their ministry has helped build or adopt five churches in the area 70 percent in poverty, ministering to villages as large as 5,000 people and others as small as 1500.

"The poor welcome our baskets and they welcome clothes, meals, toys

and it breaks our heart to see the poverty on their faces," says Donna.

The Keeters joined a mission team from First Baptist Church to Honduras three years ago and fell in love with that area of the world. They got their first mission experience as a member of Kings Mountain's First Baptist Church Mission Readiness Team and since then they have seen wonderful results and wonderful changes in the people they help. It is amazing, they say, the support from church groups from near and far who come to help in a mission program started in the year 2000. "We see 8-10 short term groups every year who come to help out in various ways going from village to village," said Chris.

Preparing kids for first grade is just one of the ministries that the Keeters supervise. The children are fed, learn their ABCs, color, get a good breakfast, and then on Saturdays they come with their whole family to the feeding center for lunch, Bible study, games, at the main church in San Ignacio where three other mission churches work from that location.

Planting churches, bringing in medical teams for a health clinic, an eye optical team to provide much needed glasses and the newest church in La Esperanza are just a few of the needs that mission teams meet to help others. First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain sent teams in 2004 and 2006 and Gardner Webb University sent a team in 2009. Other teams go at various times of the year from a wide area in the two Carolinas including Westview Baptist in Shelby, Cornerstone Fellowship in Waynesville, New Hope Baptist of Earl, Iron Brotherhood of Shelby and construction teams that travel for at least two hours from the main headquarters to other villages building schools and churches. During part of their early ministry the Keeters lived in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, a two hour drive from the village they focus their activities with a Baptist preacher and his wife who are natives of the area.

"God blessed us with the kids first and now these mission teams are reaching many people for God," said



Chris and Donna Keeter of Kings Mountain are pictured with the pastor of First Baptist Church in San Ignacio, Honduras and his family where they are missionaries, feeding the hungry and spreading the gospel.

Donna.

Mrs. Keeter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Myers of Kings Mountain, is a 1980 graduate of Kings Mountain High School and Gaston College. Chris, son of Mrs. Tommy Keeter of Grover and the late Mr. Keeter, is a 1979 graduate of KMHS and graduated from Gaston College. They have one daughter, Kala Buchanan, a rising senior at Appalachian State University majoring in elementary education and minoring in Spanish. Ms. Buchanan planned to leave for San Ignacio last Tuesday to work with her parents there but has postponed her trip due to civil unrest in that area.

The ministry is really taking off, say the Keeters, thanks to God's direction to call other people to help. A child from Laurinhal eating left-over scraps from a garbage can, children waiting in line for food and used clothes, volunteers serving families in line for food, families praying for water and filling up oil drums with water until First Baptist Church of Pageland, SC dug a well, 50 kids in Bible School in 2006 sponsored by First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain and today swelled to 200-350 kids. All are examples of God working in mysterious ways.

The villagers grow beans, corn and tomatoes and raise chickens and roosters. With huge families, they appreciate visitors who answer the missionary call "come over and help us."

## DEADLINES

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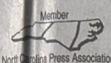
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