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Kings Mountain Herald

Volume 121 • Issue 50 • Wednesday, December 16, 2009

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SIX MONTH MORATORIUM

City sets deadline on sweepstakes

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Sweepstakes businesses were put on notice by Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night. A six-month moratorium is in effect until June 15, 2010 to give city fathers time to develop a zoning ordinance for dealing with a land use that has created a concern about its impact on the public.

During the period no permits will be issued to new sweepstakes gaming establishments, including internet cafes or any type of business (including retail) with sweepstakes terminals available to the public. Currently, 8-10 similar businesses are operating in the Kings Mountain

area.

Under the ordinance no vacant buildings may be converted for sweepstakes operations during the period Dec. 15-June 15, 2010.

As adopted, the ordinance directs "city staff to compile information (a study) for use by the planning and zoning board. That board would take two months to complete drafts of ordinance revisions. City council would use two months to both schedule and hold public hearings and subsequent to public hearings council would consider amending an ordinance or create an ordinance to mitigate land uses associated with internet cafes and businesses, including retail, with sweepstakes gaming machines and the like."

After a second public hearing, council accepted a request from John A. and Patricia Queen to withdraw their petition to rezone their property at the corner of N. Cansler and Morris streets. The Queens faced opposition from neighbors when they requested their property be rezoned for a car shop. Adjoining property owners filed two protest petitions and last month's public hearing was continued by council.

Neighbors protested the change in zoning because they said trends in the area tend to favor residential and the use (car shop) is not appropriate for the site. Twice before, the Cansler Street neighborhood had opposed changes in zoning saying they wanted to "keep our neighborhood."

Lights still on for luminaries

City decides to pay the bill to keep Christmas tradition alive

Municipal workers take up torch first sparked by one man 15 years ago

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

Christmas Eve luminaries will shine again Dec. 24 at city-owned Mountain Rest Cemetery.

"We're going to make it happen because it's a tradition," said City Manager Marilyn Sellers who only learned this week that Jim Belt, who originated the project 15 years ago, could not oversee it again.

There was no time to put out collection bins to ask for donations of milk jugs from the public so city staff ordered 6,000 milk jugs Tuesday. By mid-Christmas week Public Works/Cemetery Superintendent Jackie Barnette and city crews will start putting the jugs out at the cemetery and on Christmas Eve the city crews, and others who want to volunteer, will light the candles.

"We didn't want to disappoint citizens, so we've applied for a tourism grant and with donations from the



FILE PHOTO

Christmas Eve luminary service at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

public at the gate we know we'll get the funds needed," said Sellers.

Mayor Rick Murphy praised city employees for "pulling together to make this project happen," noting that hundreds of citizens drive through the cemetery on Christmas Eve to pay respect to loved ones.

Barnette said the cemetery gates will open at 6 p.m. and close at 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Sellers said that citizens who want to volunteer to help staff on the project can call city hall at 704-434-0333.

Grover plans Christmas Eve luminaries at municipal cemetery Page 3A

HEART OF KINGS MOUNTAIN

Brutko wins Spirit award for service

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Kings Mountain's prestigious 2009 "Spirit of Kings Mountain" award, a crystal Kings Mountain-shaped monument, was presented to Shirley (Mrs. Mal) Brutko Tuesday night at the beginning of the December city council meeting.

Mayor Rick Murphrey made the presentation, recognizing the executive of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce for giving back to her community as an acclaimed advocate for Kings Mountain.

"The City of Kings Mountain was incorporated Feb. 11, 1874 and we have always had people who welcome opportunities and create an exciting future for our city," said the mayor. "The Spirit of Kings Mountain Award is given to outstanding individuals who exemplify the character of our community, a person who gives back to their community because they care. They have a sense of dedication to improving the quality of life for everyone. Our recipients always unselfishly and through personal sacrifices give of

themselves to accomplish the success of the project. Giving back to the community is part of their daily life."



SHIRLEY BRUTKO

Brutko's leadership in various endeavors epitomizes the Kings Mountain spirit, one of the most notable the opening recently of Gateway Trails, a connector to the parks. As vice-president of Gateway Trails, she spearheaded Kings Mountain efforts in completion of the trail and greenway to provide educational and historical information to visitors as well as opportunities for healthy activities through walking paths and multi-use trails.

See SPIRIT, 3A

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Painter focuses on Joy to earn wings

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

His passion is theatre arts and so it was natural that Dylan Painter, 16, chose to refurbish the lobby of the Joy Performing Arts Theatre as his Eagle Scout project.

The Kings Mountain High School Junior is busy this week repainting, replacing lighting and restoring the original crescent doors of the 1950's when the Joy—now the home of the Kings Mountain Little Theatre—was in its heyday.

In addition to painting, the project will replace six doors and install 10 chandeliers, and carpet, all to be completed in time for two big January shows.

No stranger to the Little Theatre, Dylan was active in the L-T Drama Camp and in "Tell Me A Tall Tale," and acted on stage in "Snow White" and "Jungle Book." He is a member of the Advance Theatre Troupe at KMHS which traveled to Greensboro in November for the N.C. Theatre Conference. They then advanced to the state



DYLAN PAINTER

level in competition for the first time ever. He will play the role of Vlad Vladicoff in the KMHS musical "Seussical," based on the work of Dr. Seuss, in February.

After football practice, Painter visits Kings Mountain businesses for donations and at night he paints. Bridges Hardware donated the paint, and Duke Power

See PAINTER, 3A

Councilmen pledge oath of office



LIB STEWART/HERALD

State Rep. Tim Moore, L-R, administers the oath of office to newly-elected city council members Mike Butler, Ward 2; Tommy Hawkins, Ward 3; and Dean Spears, At-Large.

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