

Duo draws from experience to fight cancer

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff writer

Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns fights cancer with the same spirit he fights fire. And so does Tammy White, his co-leader of the 2010 Kings Mountain Relay for Life, the annual campaign for funds now underway.

For both individuals and many others in the Kings Mountain area, the dreaded cancer disease has impacted their lives.

Burns is among hundreds of survivors from the Kings Mountain area. Both his brother and sister-in-law had cancer. Burns was one of the first Relay volunteers 14 years ago and he credits many people from the community who work as a team for its success. This year's goal is \$75,000. He said Relay teams are hard at work planning events to raise money for

research into a cure.

White's uncle had cancer seven years ago and she immediately started volunteering at Relay events. A nurse for Interim Health Care, she has seen how this insidious disease has taken a toll on families and how a caring community turns out every year in support and last year topped a goal of \$68,000 in spite of a faltering economy.

Burns is chairing the Kings Mountain campaign for the second year. White has co-chaired the annual drive four years.

"Early detection saved my life and that's what we emphasize," Burns said. Active on the Haz-Met team of firefighters, he went to the doctor for his annual physical. "I had no symptoms, a cancer the size of a pencil head showed up after a prostate specific test," he said.



LIB STEWART/HERALD
Fire Chief Frank Burns and Tammy White

White added, "It's important that everyone have annual physicals."

Numerous fun and fundraising events are planned prior to the big all-night event from 6 p.m. Friday, April 23 until 6 a.m. Saturday, April 24, at the Kings Mountain Walking Track. "Cancer never rests," Burns says, explaining the schedule. The opening ceremonies will include a U.S.

Marine color guard flag presentation, the traditional survivor lap, and always a highlight the lighting of hundreds of luminary candles which honor and memorialize loved ones. A midnight feature that is expected to be a must-see event is a womanless beauty contest and men of the community are already planning their wardrobes for the show.

TRAIN

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- Kings Mountain Northwest Connector: an extension of KM Blvd. to the north. It connects Shelby Rd., US 74, Oak Grove Road and NC 216. The whole western circumferential is meant to relocate through-traffic out of downtown Kings Mountain. The recommended cross section is two 12-foot lanes. This also includes a new interchange with US 74 with Patterson Rd. and Countryside Rd. teeing into the Connector.

- NC 216/NC 161 Connector: connects NC 216 at Chestnut Ridge Rd to NC 161 near the Gaston County line. The recommended cross section is two 12-foot lanes. This connector will carry traffic around the north side of Kings Mountain and reduce traffic downtown.

- Gold Street Extension connects the eastern end of Gold St. to East King St. near US 74 to reduce the traffic and congestion on King St. through downtown. The recommended cross section is two-12 foot lanes.

- Major Improvements: As part of TIP project R-2707, US 74 will be upgraded to freeway standards between the US 74 new location and the existing freeway in Kings Mountain.

- Widening Projects: NC 150-Cherryville Hwy, four lane divided section; KM Blvd. and Dixon School Road, full four lane divided cross section between I-85 and Shelby Road; NC 216-N. Piedmont Ave. between US 74 and the NW Connector, four lane divided cross section; NC 161-York Rd between King St. and Lake Montonia Rd, four lane divided cross section; NC 226-Cleveland Ave. between NC 180 and Grover town limits, three lane section; Oak Grove Rd between Elizabeth Ave. and US 74, three lane cross section; Bethlehem Rd between US 74 and the SC line, three lane cross section; Phifer Rd between KM Blvd. and King St., three lane cross section.

- A minor widening improvement on NC 161-York Road, between Lake Montonia Rd and the SC line to full 12-foot lanes with designated bike lanes.

- Two potential locations

for park-and-ride lots near the intersections of NC 10, NC 18 and NC 27, near the Cleveland Mall, and in eastern Kings Mountain.

Designated as a bicycle route is NC 161-York Road between Lake Montonia Rd and the SC line, widening to full 12-foot lanes with designated lanes.

"These are long range plans but if the opportunity develops for grants we need to be ready," said Dosse in response to question from councilman Dean Spears on a time table. Dosse said the state DOT could consider the plan as early as July this year.

In other actions Tuesday, council:

- welcomed Boy Scouts from Troops 92 and 95. Mayor Rick Murphrey invited the large group of Scouts to advance the American flag and the North Carolina flag, and then retire them at the end of the meeting. The mayor also recognized a number of individuals, including Kings Mountain police and four firemen, for special recognition.

- approved after public hearing a request for conditional use rezoning from Steve Ingram, owner of property at 502 King Street. The existing single family dwellings are to be demolished and parking facilities developed to support the existing medical office building at 502 King Street.

- approved after public hearing a request for a conditional use permit, rezoning from R-10 to Residential 20, the George Grier property on the west side of Pearce Drive.

- approved after public hearing the annexation of contiguous property owned by the City of Kings Mountain, the water storage property north of Grace and west of Church streets.

- approved after public hearing an industrial incentive program grant to Patrick Yarn Mills, Inc. based on a total new taxable investment in building and equipment in the amount of \$650,000 and the creation of six jobs, both within 18 months. The jobs

typically have higher pay than the average weekly pay for Cleveland County in order to qualify for the job creation percentage, 25 percent. The grant totals \$6,875, distributed over the five year period following the company's expenditures that coincide with the payment of tax bills.

- reappointed David Mark Hullender to the ABC board with term expiring March 31, 2013, Mary Neisler to the Historical Landmarks Commission with term expiring Dec. 31, 2012 and recommend to the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners to appoint Doug Lawing to serve on the board of adjustment ETJ position with term expiring Dec. 31, 2012.

- adopted "no parking" ordinances on the westbound side of S. Cherokee St., corner of Falls Street behind Farmers Furniture, to the chain link fence behind property at 409 S. Battleground Avenue and "no parking loading zone" at Stevo's, 133 W. Mountain St. between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- authorized the mayor to execute an agreement on behalf of the city to enter into the NCLM Municipal Environmental Assessment Coalition project participation.

- approved budget amendment to appropriate \$82,678 grant funds received from NC Rural Center Building Reuse and Restoration Grant for the Qual-Tech project.

- set April 27 at 6 p.m. for a public hearing to consider a request from Howard Elmore to rezone two properties on the east side of City Street from Conditional Light Industrial to Central Business.

- set April 27 at 6 p.m. for a public hearing to consider an ordinance text amendment for internet cafes and businesses, including retail, with sweepstakes gaming machines and the like.

- authorized the mayor to execute easement for an Autumn Woods lot access across city property for a driveway.

INTERSECTION

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travelers should be able to see a good distance both north and south before turning.

"When we first built that new road, we did have a problem with accidents, but it was mostly people running the stop signs," Nichols said.

The DOT added rumble strips (sets of raised white lines) before the signs to remind drivers to prepare to stop and put in other counter-measures to reinforce the intersection.

Since then, Nichols says, he hasn't heard of many more wrecks. But after a call from a concerned citizen last Thursday, he and his staff members are investigating the crash history of the intersection.

The results of a signal study, conducted earlier on the crossroads, did not warrant the need for a traffic light at the intersection, but Nichols said that they will continue their investigation to see what, if anything, should be done.

BUDGET

From Page 1

posed new water line from Moss Lake to town, upgrading of infrastructure and maintaining service to customers. Council is expected to receive a draft of a proposed budget from City Manager Marilyn Sellers in May.

Former city councilman Clayvon Kelly asked how many citizens are charged a fuel charge. Electric Supt. Nick Hendricks said that every public power served by Duke Energy pays a fuel charge and it is built in your rate. "Ninety percent of the rate is fuel driven," he said. Hendricks said the purchase cost for power has risen dramatically over a five year period.

Sellers said it is the goal of the city to create a rate that customers understand and a rate study is currently under way with a full report coming in January. She said the result would be a 'simplified rate concept.' "Our rates have been tweaked through the years, she said, but we want to get rid of the fuel adjustment cost and go to a purchase of power adjustment rider."

The mayor noted that a rate consultant will update city officials in November together with administrative adjustments by Duke Power to remove the fuel adjustment that now appears on monthly bills. "It will be much easier for customers to read their bills," he said.

Sellers commended Hendricks and his staff for "a great job negotiating a new contract with Duke Power", the city's supplier of wholesale electricity.

Dennis Wells, Water/Sewer Resources Director, presented costs of running water and sewer, reviewed collections, and updated council on revenues which showed a downward trend due to a slow-down of Kings Mountain industry. Sellers commended Wells and his staff for their diligent service to city customers.

Council took no action. The mayor and Hendricks also took the occasion to show off SCADA, the city's peak shaving operation which saves the city upwards of \$1 million each year in shaving electricity.

By law, council has to adopt a budget for 2010-2011 by June 1. Public hearing will be scheduled in May.

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