



photo contributed by Helen Hatch  
Volunteers from Central United Methodist Church and George Hatch, of Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland County, gather around the new Habitat for Humanity house foundation on Dilling Street. Left to right, are Jerry Depew, George Hatch, Huiitt Reep, Jim Potter, Betty Potter and Ann Reep.

## A foundation for lives

### Habitat home taking shape in Kings Mountain

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland County started building its largest home yet—a five bedroom, two-bath house—in Kings Mountain last week for a family in need. George Hatch of Kings Mountain, who has served on Habitat's board of directors for nearly five years, said Monday, that it could be one of the largest homes they've built in his time with the local agency.

Burney Drake, Habitat's church relations chairperson, confirmed it. On land donated to the project by the City of Kings Mountain, volunteers will gather each Thursday and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (weather permitting), to construct the home, set at 316 N. Dilling Street. The foundation was completed by a hired contractor, who also graded the property, a little over two weeks ago. Habitat's regular construction volunteers, all with experience in building, gathered at

the site last Thursday and started putting up lumber for the floors. Eight volunteers started work on the project last Thursday and more will be needed to finish construction. Able-bodied volunteers are invited to come out and receive instructions on how they can help build a home for a grateful family. Central United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church of Kings Mountain have contributed funds for the project, according to Helen Hatch, George's wife.

"This home is being sponsored by the Methodist churches in Cleveland County, but we would love to have people from all faiths join in the build," said Stephanie Crosby, former executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland County. Drake said that they have received matching funds from a Duke Endowment Rural Development grant for the project. "We can use more volunteers, including people to provide meals for the crew (on Thursdays and

Saturdays)," Crosby said. "We welcome donations from any individual, business or church. We are all volunteers and depend on donations to keep building houses and giving hope to families," Drake said. In addition to volunteers and meals, HHCC said that they also request: prayer for volunteers and for the family, and church commitments to help with financing. George Hatch, who has also worked in Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland County's resale shop in downtown Shelby, said that they have sold more than \$150,000 of materials in the store that have led to donations that help fund the creation of these needed homes. On average, he said, Habitat has helped build two to three houses a year for local families. "We are excited for Kings Mountain, the family and for the opportunity that this construction provides for church missions," Drake said. "We are seeking all the support we can as we continue to end poverty housing in Cleveland County."

"Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with people in need to build and renovate decent, affordable housing. The houses then are sold to those in need at no profit and with no interest charged. Volunteers provide most of the labor, and individual and corporate donors provide money and materials to build Habitat houses," according to HHCC's website. "Partner families themselves invest hundreds of hours of labor — 'sweat equity' — into building their homes and the homes of others. Their mortgage payments go into a revolving fund for Humanity that is used to build more houses." Last year, with the help of volunteers and donations, Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland County built four homes.

## ElectriCities: City takes top honors in all contests

The City of Kings Mountain ran away with Public Power Awards of Excellence in every key category presented recently at an ElectriCities banquet. Twenty towns and cities were recognized for receiving awards of excellence in seven divisions. Only five out of those 20, including Kings Mountain, took honors in all contests. "We thank the mayor and the city council for their support," said city Manager Marilyn Sellers, who attended the awards banquet with the councilmen. "It was a team effort. As a mayor, I'm very proud of the city's associates and all who have worked on these programs," Mayor Rick Murphrey said. All seven trophies were on display Tuesday night at the city council meeting. The "Grassroots" award was given to the city in recognition of efforts by Kings Mountain in legislative issues important to public power, initiation of local grassroots events and participation in federal and state legislative events. The city won the "Economic Development" award for initiatives by the city in economic development efforts, including industry recruitment leading to job creation, and implementation of economic development studies. The "Communications" award was bestowed to the city for having outstanding

customer communications, including the use of bill inserts to communicate information to customers and use of innovative strategies to communicate policies. The City of Kings Mountain was given the "Customer Service" award for showing outstanding customer service efforts, including residential customer programs. Also included in the criteria for the honor was having designation of a central point of contact for commercial customers and holding a customer appreciation event, which the city holds as a special breakfast at the senior center each year. The communities with "Customer Service" accolades demonstrated a commitment to amending policies to meet the needs of their customers during the recession and extremely cold weather the region experienced in January. The city was also recognized as a "Key Accounts" winner. The Key Accounts award recognizes efforts by the city with their key business customers, including advanced training by key account representatives, communication with key accounts customers and locally sponsored events. The "Energy Efficiency" award was given to the city, recognizing efforts by Kings Mountain with energy-efficient building programs, energy education, energy audits and participation in



Front row, l-r, Mayor Pro Tem Rodney Gordon, city Manager Marilyn Sellers, Mayor Rick Murphrey, Councilman Rick Moore. Top row, l-r, councilmen Mike Butler, Howard Shipp, Houston Corn, Dean Spears and Tommy Hawkins.

NC Green Power. The City of Kings Mountain was also named a "Training" winner. The "Training" award recognizes the city's commitment to ongoing staff education and training by attending ElectriCities-sponsored training sessions, completion of a continuing education or tuition-reimbursement program and in-house training opportunities. The city has hosted six training schools for ElectriCities members over the past two years. "Over the last five years,

our linemen have attended over 50 classes," said Nick Hendricks, director of the city's electric department. Hendricks and three of the linemen on his staff have also taught several classes with ElectriCities. Sellers and Hendricks agreed that it was pretty special to clinch every award up for grabs. "We're pretty proud of that," Hendricks added. Special, too, is the city's role in public power. Kings Mountain purchases electricity, wholesale, from Duke Energy and uses its peak

generation plants, over 500 miles of electrical lines and three substations to manage and distribute power to over 4,500 customers. The electric utilities are locally-owned, operated and managed by the city. Kings Mountain is one of fewer than 100 municipally-owned electricity providers in the state. "We've been a member of ElectriCities 25 years," Hendricks said.

ElectriCities is the service organization that provides customer service and safety training, emergency and technical assistance, communications, government affairs and legal services to public power communities. "It was created to give us a voice in legislation," Hendricks said, adding that being a part of ElectriCities is a "big benefit to us and the city."

## Public Power Week Oct. 3-9

Public Power Week is set for the week of Oct. 3-9. City Electric Director Nick Hendricks said that they have several activities planned for the week. He and his staff will be visiting kindergartners at Bethware, East, North and West elementary schools, beginning in late September, to teach them about public power and electricity. The students will be invited to join a coloring contest. The winner will be announced at the Public Power tent during the Gateway Festival on Saturday, Oct. 9. The winner will also be recognized by Mayor Rick Murphrey at the following city council meeting. At the Gateway Festival, Hendricks said that they will have displays, contests and give-aways, during which the public can snag free energy kits. The city will also host a Lineman's Rodeo, where linemen will compete in contests, such as pole-top rescues and switch change-outs.

### Clarification

The name is the same, they are both assistant principals in the same great KM schools and they

even attend the same church, but the Julie Rikards, who appeared in last week's Herald, are not one in the same. Julie Kendrick Rikard, the wife of Matt Rikard, is the new assistant

principal at Kings Mountain Middle School. Julie Yarbrow Rikard, no relation, wife of Quinton Rikard of Kings Mountain, is the returning assistant principal at Kings Mountain High School.

The Kings Mountain Herald,  
Cherryville Eagle & Banner News  
**WILL BE CLOSED**  
**Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**  
in observance of Labor Day  
**Deadline for all Display  
and Classified Ads  
for the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>  
will be at 12:00 pm  
on Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>!**  
All offices will re-open with regular hours on Tuesday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>.