

MEMORIAL DAY: services honor veterans



photos by Ellen Devenny

Sidney Dixon, left, Sophia Kellstrom, and Mayor Rick Murphrey salute the flag during the Memorial Day Service Monday.

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set aside to honor those who answered our nation's call and made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom.

Several hundred Kings Mountain people turned out at 10 a.m. Memorial Day to honor local people and also remember all other brave men and women and their families who have sacrificed for freedom.

"This is a solemn occasion today as we put our worries aside and remember," said SSgt/ 1C Rodney Karnes, a 19 year veteran of the US Marine Corps and a National guardsman for 11 years. "They gave us a precious gift, freedom, "their last full measure of devotion, extraordinary deeds from warriors who probably thought what they did was ordinary." He added, "Let us never forget that those who died and those who continue to serve make democracy possible all over the world."

"We are a grateful community," said Mayor Rick Murphrey, and today is a sacred day we honor our local fallen heroes. They knew the risks and they put their lives on the line for freedom, wrapped in sacrifice and tied with a ribbon of honor. Freedom is not free. We will never forget our heroes."

World War II veteran

Roy (Sidney) Dixon and the mayor read each honored serviceman's name as members of their families placed a white rose at the monument, pointing to the name on the wall and saluting.

Dixon, 90, a gunner's mate in the US Navy, was cited by the mayor as a hometown hero. He shot down a Japanese plane that was within a split second of bombing the ship he was on. Pieces from that plane and pictures were displayed at the memorial.

"I thank God every day for letting me see beyond that day," said Dixon.

The mayor and Dixon laid the red, white and blue memorial wreath at the base of the monument where 39 white roses had been placed by family members of the men honored.

Others on the program were the Loch Norman Band, Sophia Kellstrom, Mallora, the Kings Mountain Police Department Honor Guard who posted and retired the colors, Police Chief Melvin Proctor who gave the invocation, Boy Scout Troop 91 who led the pledge of allegiance, American Legion Post Commander Louis Floyd, bugler Paul Fulton and the American Legion Auxiliary's Miss Poppies Layla and Abbie Harris, and the NC Foothills detachment 1164, Marine Corps League, who fired the 21 gun salute as memorial



Mayor Rick Murphrey, welcomes over 200 people to Patriots Park on Memorial Day.

tribute.

WWII heroes from Kings Mountain: David H. Barber, US Army, killed in action Dec. 2, 1944; Johnny W. Blackwell, US Army, killed in action March 31, 1943; John C. Bridges, US Army, killed in action; Grady Cansler, US Army, killed in action Jan. 21, 1945; Earle E. Carpenter, US Army, killed in action Sept. 9, 1944; James G. Daracott Jr., US Navy, killed in action Dec. 14, 1944; Mofett D. Davis, US Army, killed in action, Oct. 25, 1944; Charles M. Ewing, USAF, killed in action March 20, 1943; Robert L. Falls, USN, killed in action Dec. 11, 1944; Marvin Foster, US Army, killed in action Dec. 11, 1944; Howard B. Gantt, US Army, killed in action May 17, 1944; Roy E. Harmon, US Army, killed in action, Nov. 16, 1945; Jacob C. Huffstetler, USN, killed in action Aug. 29, 1942; Harold D. Jackson, US Army, killed in action March 16, 1945; Horace E. Lantham, US Army, killed in action Aug. 1, 1944; Winfield V. Long, US Army, killed in action, Aug. 1, 1944; Sidney E. Lovelace, US Army, killed in action March 1, 1945; Felmer L. Lynn, US Army, killed in action Aug. 19, 1944; J. C. Medlin, US Army, killed in action Dec. 25, 1945; William R. Millen Jr., US Army, killed in action Aug. 7,

1944; Walter M. Moorhead, US Army, killed in action Dec. 25, 1944; Lester P. Moss, US Army, killed in action Jan. 4, 1945; James C. Nickels III, USN, killed in action 1944; Robert E. Owens, US Marines, killed in action Oct. 10, 1943; Everett Paysour, US Army, killed in action; Howard L. Phipps, US Army, killed in action June 13, 1944; Elmer M. Propst, US Army, killed in action June 28, 1944; Colon B. Reynolds, US Army, killed in action Oct. 13, 1944; William F. Smith, US Army, killed in action Dec. 24, 1944; John C. Stewart, US Army, killed in action; and Haskell Thrift, US Army, killed in action Nov. 30, 1944.

Korea heroes from Kings Mountain: Rufus G. Huffstickler, US Army, killed in action July 20, 1950; Dan B. Lail, US Army, killed in action Oct. 8, 1951; Harvey Lawson, US Army, July 10, 1952; Johnny A. Millon, US Army, killed in action March 31, 1951; Billy Owen, US Army, killed in action July 27, 1950; Pickney Roberts, US Marines, killed in action Oct. 29, 1952; Herman C. Tate Jr., US Army, killed in action July 2, 1952; and Ralph Whetstone, US Army, killed in action Dec. 31, 1953.

The souvenir program is available on the City of Kings Mountain website-www.cityofkm.com

RATE HIKE: expected for KM water-sewer users in July

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possibly an extra 50 cents charge for sanitation - an extra 15% tipping fee assessed by Cleveland County to municipalities. County Commissioners will be adopting their budget soon and an increased tipping fee is expected.

There is no property increase. The 40 cents per \$100 valuation is unchanged since 2006.

No electric base rate increase and no natural gas base rate increase are proposed.

During a struggling economy where many firms have laid off workers there have been none by the City of Kings Mountain. With the teamwork of staff, Sellers has consolidated jobs in some areas. The upcoming budget provides for one new employee to assist the head of the Department of Information Technology and two new positions in the fire department by placing part-timers in those jobs.

The 200 employees of the city received a 2% cost-of-living increase last year but no COLA or merit increase is included in the new budget. Employees and city council members receive free insurance plus adjustments for dependents. The city's contribution to employees' 401-K supplement is 5%, a longevity pay after 10 years, sick leave, vacation pay, Christmas bonuses and after 25 years with the city the employee has insurance paid for life.

Insurance costs and benefits are a big portion of the budget. Employees will be offered several plans they can choose from to lower co-insurance, etc.; however there is no change in premiums paid by the city. Local Government Retirement System went up to the city for general and fire employees from 6.74 to 7.070% and law enforcement increases went up from 6.77 to 7.28%. Sellers said that investment performance, law changes and other items can affect the rates.

"The budget is balanced and is cut to the bone to present our best level of service at the lowest rate to our citizens," Sellers told the full city council, citing skyrocketing costs in many areas.

Included in the new budget is \$75,000 for expansion of the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center or a total of \$300,000 over a four year period.

Shovel ready by midsummer

City officials expect to be shovel-ready by mid-summer on water improvements expected to cost \$33.8 million.

"I believe in Kings Mountain's future," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

City Manager Marilyn Sellers said the city must prioritize its water needs and fix them by upgrading infrastructure.

Both said they hoped to hear soon from the application by the city to the State Revolving Fund for the money (loan) to start the project at full speed. They also expect the stamp of approval from the N. C. Local Government Commission.

The water project is a high dollar item, including \$12,483,330 for water plant expansion and rehabilitation for which construction plans are under review by North Carolina Department Environmental and Natural Resources, with public hearing May 28 as a requirement for completing the review process.

A new 36 - inch water transmission line from Moss Lake to Kings Mountain will cost \$16,162,670. Permit to construct has been received from NCDENR and the city is applying for funding pending approval of the loan and obtaining right-of-ways for the project. More than 85% of the right-of-ways have been obtained.

The water line rehabilitation project is expected to cost \$5,243,500. The engineering and permitting for this project is complete and funding has been applied for through NCDENR and the State Revolving Fund. The project has received 'ready to proceed' status and NCDENR and State Revolving Fund is awaiting approval from the Local Government Commission prior to awarding of funding. This project area is King Street, Mountain Street and Gold Street.

Spillway repairs at Moss Lake are being financed through conventional funding.

GROVER: could see water-sewer rate increase

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weighed a decision to proceed on a \$1.9 million wastewater treatment project.

The current rates and user costs projections were pointed out to three members of the five-member board during a public hearing conducted by W.K. Dickson Project Manager Bob Froneberger, the Charlotte engineering company that has been working with the town on future improvements to the town's wastewater conveyance and treatment system.

The estimated project cost to finance future improvements is \$1,936,000. The town has applied for a \$500,000 grant from the N. C. Rural Development Center and a 20-year loan at the rate of 2% interest from North Carolina Department Environmental and Natural Resources (NCDENR) to fund the project.

"As yet we have not re-

ceived any favorable reviews for grants," said Froneberger.

"Grover Industries looks like the best option unless the City of Kings Mountain makes an attractive offer," said Willis.

Froneberger said plans and specifications need to be submitted by Dec. 3 and construction could begin by June 2014.

Members discussed downsizing the project.

"All this has gotta be done at some point," said councilman Shane Davis, but Mayor J. D. Ledford said pump stations could be an immediate fix. He said the water treatment system was built in 1998 but if the plant continues to deteriorate there will be a greater need for improvements. He added, "Basically I guess we're proceeding with what we have here with Grover Industries, continuing down the road on the project with Grover Industries based on engineering studies." Willis,

Davis and Ledford agreed.

A presentation by Froneberger spelled out the objectives of the Grover Wastewater Treatment Project upgrading the existing Watterson Road and Adkins Drive pump stations with new above ground accessible pumps and valves; replacing existing surplus generators with new propane fueled generators; and providing wastewater treatment facilities with a capacity of 200,000 gpd to meet future 20 year needs with a possible planned town annexation.

He evaluated three options to the board: optimization/expansion of existing WWTP at Bethlehem Road site; regionalization of treatment by transferring wastewater to Kings Mountain Waste Water treatment plant; and transferring to existing Grover Industries WWTP with upgrades for treatment of municipal wastewater.

Probable costs he out-

lined as "transferring wastewater to Kings Mountain \$1,283,400 for construction costs and estimated annual O&M cost \$173,538 and present worth cost projection as \$5,354,151; transfer to Grover Industries, probable construction cost \$1,936,000; estimated annual cost \$90,437; and present worth cost projection \$3,425,520; and optimize existing Town of Grover WWTP probable construction cost of \$2,566,900; estimated annual cost \$92,608; and present worth cost projection \$4,094,832.

Moms Club to meet June 6

Moms Club of Shelby, a chapter of an international club for stay at home moms and moms who work part time and their children, will meet June 6 at 11:30 a.m. Mothers and their children 0-4 are invited to meet and greet at Jammin' J's Pizza in Shelby. The club also meets at the same place on June 18 at 4 p.m. for mothers and children 4 and over.

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CRASH: involving five cars injures eight people

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exited the car to help the people involved in the accident. Her car was rear-ended by the Savage vehicle and approximate damages were \$2,000.

Officer Bryan McGinnis said that another rear-end collision happened when Thomas Eugene Latham of Shelby, operating a 2013 Hyundai, attempted to pull off the highway and help the wreck victims. His car was hit by a 1996 Ford operated by Kris Driver of Gastonia. Property damages were estimated at \$1150.



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