

Kings Mountain Herald

kmherald.net

Volume 126 • Issue 5 • Wednesday, January 29, 2014

75¢

*****FIRM 28086
4903 04-17-14 0024A00 5P 3S
MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S PIEDMONT AVE
KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3450 ##

INSURANCE

704.739.3611

106 East Mountain Street
Kings Mountain, NC

www.KMinsure.com

We can save you money!

Supt. Boyles announces retirement

Supt. Dr. Bruce Boyles is retiring June 30 after 34 years in the public schools as a teacher, former band director, administrator, and since 2007 the leader of Cleveland County Schools.



Dr. Bruce Boyles

He announced his retirement to the board of education Monday night.

"I have been privileged to work with dedicated professionals and support staff who give unselfishly in support of the children we serve," said Boyles, adding, "while I will miss the daily interaction with my colleagues, I believe it is time for me to move in another direction and for others to lead the important initiatives that are ahead for our school district."

Prior to returning to Cleveland County he was superintendent of schools in Mooresville for seven years.

See BOYLES, 7A

Relay for Life kick-off

Kings Mountain Relay for Life will kick off the 2014 campaign at a meeting Thursday night at 6 p.m. at Fire Station 1 adjacent to Kings Mountain City Hall.

The meeting will include the election of new officers and appointment of committees and teams to head up the new campaign for funds.

"This is an organizational meeting and we invited all volunteers and those interested in forming teams and working in the relay to come," said Fire Chief Frank Burns, who has headed the campaign for four years.

"We are looking for a chairman with new ideas to lead us in the most successful campaign ever," said Burns, who said he will handle logistics in the 2014 effort.

City audit positive

City Council was expected to receive a report from its auditors Tuesday night of a perfect audit for the 15th straight year.

The audit report from Martin Starnes & Associates also reported that the city's fund balance is 22% of last year's expenditures in the general fund. The LGC, the watchdog for municipalities on finances, only requires 8% of last year's expenditures in the general fund.

City Council was meeting at city hall and was expected to recognize City Manager Marilyn Sellers for 25 years with the city.

Postage increase

A first class postage stamp will now cost you 3 cents more- from 46 cents to 49 cents.

Kings Mountain Post Office had a brisk business Monday as patrons were buying the 3centers to add more postage to the letters they were mailing.

"If you have forever stamps on your letters there's no additional 3 cent but when you use all those up and buy new stamps the cost is 49 cents for a first class postage stamp," a clerk said to a customer.



8 98525 00200 1



WILL THIS BE THE WEEK? Monique Petty is closing in on her 1,000th career point for the Mountaineers. Follow all the sports starting on page B1.

Weathering the cold snap

Residents asked to cut back thermostats to conserve energy

ELIZABETH STEWART
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

Weathering this month's cold snap won't be cheap for Kings Mountain residents who are likely to open sharply higher energy bills.

"We sent out alerts last Wednesday in the form of emails, text messages, and messages on the city's website and requested industries and residents to conserve energy due to the extreme cold and cut their thermostats back by 2 degrees if possible," said city manager Marilyn Sellers.

What's in the Forecast?

Wednesday - 14/35

Thursday - 22/40

Friday - 31/48

Saturday - 43/61

Sunday - 33/58

National Weather Service

Sellers said the natural gas usage is monitored 24-7 by the city's SCADA system as well as electrical usage but neither Sellers or Mayor Rick Murphrey could estimate how much January bills could go up.

See COLD, 7A

Storm water fee begins Feb. 1

ELIZABETH STEWART
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

Some call the new storm water fee that residents will start paying Feb. 1 a "rain tax."

After a major rain event, the phones start ringing at city hall from citizens calling about storm water problems.

When the water goes away the public's interest in fixing the problem drops off considerably.

Residential customers will see a storm water fee of \$2.50 on their Feb. 1 bills from the City of Kings Mountain. Commercial customers and industrial customers will see a storm water fee of \$2.50 per 2,000 square feet of impervious surface which means their bills will be more.

The fee doesn't set well with at least one city councilman - Rick Moore of Ward 5.

Raeford White questions the fee. "I know it's mandated by the government to set up a storm water system and utility but I

have lived on the same property for 61 years and I have seen water in my back yard only once," he said this week.

Customers want services such as power and water and are willing to pay for them. On the other hand, storm water ratepayers say they are being asked to pay for things they don't want, such as water pollution and flooding.

But storm drains empty directly into creeks and storm water management facilities require maintenance. By October 2014 the city must "harvest" or capture 1.2 to 1.5 inches of runoff and every year thereafter and meet six minimum measures on existing programs.

The state is not involved in a local government's plan design but a representative of DEMLR has given the city high praise for the implementation of its recently enacted Soil Erosion Sedimentation Control and Storm Water Ordinance.

The first year cost of the program is \$417,493.60. Over 1/3 of the cost or \$170,393.60 is for an additional four people to run it. Other budgeted items are \$8,000 for administrative supplies, \$140,000 for capital outlay, including bio-retention beds, mapping, retro-fit of wash pit, \$30,000 for inventory, including pipes, junction boxes; \$3,000 for educational/public outreach supplies and public training materials; \$30,000 for gas and oil; \$30,000 for repair and maintenance of vehicles and \$2500 for repair and maintenance of equipment.

City officials say the city's storm water system is 100 years old and it has deteriorated and will require significant and costly reconstruction. "State and federal mandates say we fix it," says Public Works Director Rickey Putnam who will head up the program.

Tax-exempt organizations, including churches, are not ex-

empt from paying a utility fee but there can be credits.

The ordinance adopted by city council, Section 16-86 "Exemptions and Credits" reads: Only undeveloped land shall be exempt from storm water service fees." It continues, "Properties subject to storm water service fees may be granted credits against the fees in accordance with a credit policy manual developed by the city manager and referenced in the City of Kings Mountain Fee Schedule. Any non-single-family residential use that provides measures to mitigate the impacts of runoff on the storm water system shall be eligible for a maximum credit of 40% of the service fee. The amount of the credit shall be proportional to the extent the measures address the impacts on peak discharge, total runoff volume and water quality as compared to the applicable city, state and federal standards. Water quantity

See FEE, 7A

Helping the hungry

The Cleveland County Potato Project, founded five years ago by Bill Horn and Doug Sharp to help the hungry, has produced 435,000 pounds of white and sweet potatoes in five years. But Sharp, of Kings Mountain, says the need is just as great today.

"Cleveland County provides an excellent environment for growing fresh vegetables to meet hunger needs," said Sharp, who invites any congregation, club, business or individual interested in growing potatoes or other crops for this purpose to attend Sunday night's meeting at 6 pm. in the chapel of Shelby First Baptist Church.

Charles Reed, Director of Missions for the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, along with Horn and Sharp, will lead a discussion of humanitarian needs in the county and how the Potato Project helps meet those needs.

Burns High School and North Shelby School have grown potatoes for the project, PPG, Carolina Farm Credit, and Glenn Williams Constructions are county businesses that have produced a large amount of potatoes in the past four years.

The public is invited.

Lunch program gets an \$8k boost from Duke Energy

ELIZABETH STEWART
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

The expanded lunch program at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center will benefit from Duke Energy's contribution of \$8,000 Monday to Kings Mountain's "Building the Future" campaign for funds for expansion.

The lunch program, now prepared in-house one day per week on Friday, will expand to five days per week in-house as part of the building campaign now underway.

Duke Energy District Manager Craig DeBrew presented the check specifically for the lunch program to Mayor Rick Murphrey at City Hall Monday morning.

Other co-chairs of the fund-raising, steering com-



Duke Energy District Manager Craig DeBrew presents a check for \$8,000 to Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey for the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center's "Building the Future" campaign. They are joined by Mary Neisler, co-chair of the fundraising steering committee, at left, and Monty Thornburg, the senior center's director.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

mittee are Jim Pridgen, president of Firestone Fibers & Textiles Company, and Alex Bell, Kings Mountain Hospital Administrator.

The expanded lunch program will include special diet meals for seniors with special dietary needs, such

See PATRICK CENTER, 7A



Creating Dazzling Smiles that Brighten Your Life!

Preventative, Restorative & Cosmetic Dentistry

To schedule an appointment contact Baker Dental Care today! Call 704-739-4461

703 E. Kings St., Suite 9, Kings Mountain • www.BakerDentalCare.com

Now
Open on
Fridays!