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Council news

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\$9M bid approved

Bids for the new 36-inch water transmission line to run from Moss Lake to the city were approved Tuesday night by Kings Mountain City Council with a notice of tentative award to State Utility Contractors for \$8,141,432.50 and a \$880,016.00 award to Sanders Utility Construction for a total of over 9 million dollars.

The bids were let in April and the awards must be approved by North Carolina Department Environmental and Natural Resources (NC-DENR).

Thirty firms bid in three divisions of the major project.

In other business, Council:

- Adopted the NCDOT/Kings Mountain Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan after a public hearing, the plan described as a DNA of how the city grows and outlines needed pedestrian improvements in the city with more than 150 improvements projects included as far as Ingles in West Kings Mountain. Some of the improvements targeted in the study are new sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting and changes to roadways and railroad crossings. The bicycle plan was adopted in 2011. Planning Director Steve Killian said that 80% of the cost of the pedestrian plan was funded by the North Carolina Department

See WATERLINE BID, 7A

Rezoning request denied

"Not in my back yard," property owners told city council last Tuesday on Carl Logan's request for rezoning of property on Latham Drive for a proposed 72-unit apartment complex, charging during a standing-room-only crowd that they were misled by the developer that The Lofts would be built with low-income tax credits.

By 5-1 vote city council denied the request for conditional zoning and killed plans of The Lofts at Kings Mountain LLC for an apartment complex which Marvin Wilroth, Senior Developer for the Ohio-based Miller-Valentine Group, said was a \$10 million investment.

Wilroth said the Miller-Valentine Group, founded in

1963, is one of the largest affordable housing developers in the United States.

Architect Mark Fishero of Charlotte, Rep. Tim Moore, attorney representing the developers, and Gina Collias, attorney representing Logan, spoke in favor of the project, all quoting market studies that Kings Mountain has a vacancy rate of zero percent and multi-family housing is much needed in the area.

By Council's vote, with Howard Shipp voting 'no' and Rick Moore (father of Tim Moore excused by 5-1 vote with Curtis Pressley in opposition) the board overturned in a 5-1 vote a decision of its planning board, which had originally voted

See REZONING, 7A

Casino opponents urge council to rescind support

Casino opponents packed City Hall last Tuesday night and their message to city council was: rescind your letter of support to the Catawba Indian Nation for a casino.

The seven city council members made no comment after five representatives of the Kings Mountain Awareness Group spoke during the citizen recognition portion of the agenda at the beginning of a city council meeting that took nearly three hours to complete.

Some 50 people in the audience in Council Chambers were identifying name tags as members of the Kings Mountain Awareness Group. The other 20-25 in the standing room only crowd were citizens opposed to the building of "Lofts at Kings Mountain" in the KM Boulevard area of the city.

Council killed the apartment complex proposal by 5-1 vote, denying the property owner's request for rezoning.

Rev. Scott Whitney, pastor of East Gold Street Wesleyan Church, Rev. Reg Alexander, Cynthia and Adam Forcade, and Beauford Burton all shared their views and data research

See CASINO, 3A

Relay for Life is all night Friday

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Organizers and survivors are putting the finishing touches on Friday's Relay for Life all-night fundraising event, which last year raised more than \$10,000 in just one 24-hour period.

The 16th annual cancer awareness and fundraiser at the Kings Mountain walking track will feature live music, trivia, karaoke, fireworks, a luminaria display and plenty of good food and fun games. Relay for Life starts at 6 p.m. with a Survivors Lap kicking off the evening's main events.

A team representing Boyce Memo-



rial ARP Church joined dozens of teams this year who have used so much of their free

time to raise money.

The ARP church team, whose theme is "Fishing for a Cure," has raised funds through a silent auction, an April bake sale and by soliciting donations for Relay for Life luminarias, which will be on display Friday night. They've raised more than \$1,400 so far. Come Friday night, they'll be raising more money through the sale of Chex Party Mix, Gummi Worms and custom-made "Fishing for a Cure" T-shirts.

"We've had a lot of cancer survivors in our church," ARP team member Tammy Gelot said, adding that she

See RELAY, 10A

Crews near end of waterline work

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Downtown neighborhoods have been a little noisy this winter and spring. Not to mention the busted sidewalks and muddy, temporarily closed streets that have dotted some of the city's main arteries.

But workers are getting close to the finish line of a \$5.2 million waterline rehabilitation project that affects pipes from Battleground Ave. to Phifer Rd., and engineers say they expect to finish the project by mid-July.

Monroe-based State Utilities' workers used heavy equipment Monday to pierce huge sections of pavement and concrete to find a water line at the intersection of Gold St. and Battleground. Part of the infrastructure project includes installing

See WATERLINE, 7A



A crew of workers from State Utilities uses a track-hoe and shovels to try to locate a buried waterline Monday at the corner of Gold and Battleground streets. The city is installing shut-off valves along several miles of waterline in the downtown area and looks to finish the \$5.2 million project by mid-summer.

Photo by DAVE BLANTON

Town gears up for 15th annual triathlon

Kings Mountain will play hosts to hundreds of elite athletes on Saturday, May 17, as the 15th annual Over the Mountain Triathlon is held on Moss Lake and roads stretching through Cleveland County and parts of South Carolina.

The big race is part of the North Carolina Triathlon Series and sanctioned by the USA Triathlon. The International/Olympic length competition will feature some of North Carolinas' top triathletes as well as regional race teams, this year including Team JFF, a triathlon team that raises monies for the Jimmie Johnson Foundation. NASCAR Champion Johnson is scheduled to race in the Over the Mountain Triathlon this year.

Celebrating its 15th year, the race will follow a familiar route, a 1 mile open water swim across Moss Lake, a 30 mile bike ride (through four counties, three area

parks and two states) and finish with the recently redesigned 10K run through the West Side Historic District of Kings Mountain.

The race has received many accolades from the triathletes including being voted best bike portion in the 16 race series in the NCTS and the best triathlon overall in the Charlotte Metro area.

"It amazes me with all the changes in people's attitude toward a healthy lifestyle and the increased awareness about the sport that has happened over the last 15 years of producing this race," said Ellis Noell, Kings Mountain's Event Director. "Fifteen years ago, many of our residents were uncertain what a triathlon was about. Now we have teams originating here in our hometown and other communities throughout the Cleveland County. And, we continue to draw competitors from around the U.S.

and around the world," added Noell.

The Dover Foundation YMCA has partnered with

the race by providing a 10-week session on triathlon swim training for individuals

See TRIATHLON, 7A



A pair of athletes race to the finish at the 2013 OTM Triathlon.

Photo City of KM



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