

# Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks



Lib Stewart  
Managing Editor

The nation is indebted to the New England Pilgrims, religious refugees in a new wilderness, for establishing Thanksgiving, now a national holiday.

Unacquainted with Pioneer requirements, the Pilgrims learned to live off the land, to protect themselves from hostile Indians, and to earn for themselves a new life in a land where they could worship as they pleased. Their thanksgiving rites were in appre-

ciation for success in overcoming many obstacles. Today's wilderness on this Thanksgiving Day is hardly the same as it was for the Pilgrims but there are many obstacles of different kinds and the season of Thanksgiving is as much in order today as it was in the 17th century.

One of the most important features of our Thanksgiving observance is a switching of emphasis from the wants and seeming needs to the blessings we have—and most of us are pretty well blessed.

Thanksgiving is the time to give thanks to God for these blessings.



**HONORED ON RETIREMENT** – Michael Chambers, third from left, was honored on his retirement after 30 years with the Gastonia Police Department by the Third Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club last week. The club meets at Mountain View Restaurant. From left to right, James Lomick, Samuel Adams, Michael Chambers, Ronnie Byers and Fred Smith.

Photo by STARR DOVE

## Holiday calendar of events

By ELLIS NOELL  
Director Special Events  
City of Kings Mountain

The Christmas holiday season always seems to be brighter in Kings Mountain, whether it's the shimmering lights throughout downtown or the bright smiles of the little ones, as they greet Santa when he arrives on his Fire Truck Express!

"Home for Christmas ~ Kings Mountain" began this Monday evening at 7 p.m. with the annual Children's Tree Lighting at the Jacob Mauney Memorial Library. The Bethware and North Elementary School Singers, directed by Susan Gray, sang Christmas carols. While waiting for Santa Claus to arrive on the Fire Truck Express, Mayor Rick Murphrey shared a reading from Luke 2: 7-14. The children then joined the mayor on stage for the reading of Night Before Christmas. Also participating in this start of the holiday season were Breann Jenkins, Little Miss North Carolina and Sophia Kellstrom, Grand Majestic Miss North Carolina singing a special Christmas song. This year's tree lighting, with help from Santa, revealed a newly re-designed lighting pattern.

That evening, prior to the Tree Lighting, down the block from the Library, the Historical Museum hosted a special night run of the trains from 5-7 p.m., part of their "Toys, Games & TRAINS" exhibit.

For the second year, the Kings Mountain Downtown MainStreet program will have a huge display of Christmas lights throughout the downtown shopping district. The Christmas lights are once again synchronized to Christmas themed

music and, this year, an array of new digital lighting elements has been added to make this extravaganza really "pop" to the music. The Mayor will throw the switch to light the downtown at 5:30, Monday, Dec. 1, and the lights will remain on in the evenings during the holiday season. The Kings Mountain Family YMCA kicks off the annual "Jingle Bell Rockin' Run" at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6 with a 10k run along the tree-lined streets of the West End Historic District.

The annual Kings Mountain Christmas Parade will also be a part of the Dec. 6 activities, beginning at 3 p.m. with over 100 entries including the Loch Norman Pipe Band and the Kings Mountain High School Marching Band. Entries from the "Ghost Busters" white Cadillac ambulance to dignitaries to beauty queens will all be part of the parade.

Some of the best local dance groups in all their Christmas sparkles, will be joining the other participants in one of the largest parades in the county. Of course, Santa will be there on his Fire Truck Express!

The Kings Mountain Historical Museum will be open for Spirit of Christmas Past from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. before the parade on Dec. 6, and afterwards open for candlelight tours of the Historic Barber and Cornwell Houses after the parade. The "Toys, Games & TRAINS" exhibit and "S" gauge model railway is open now throughout the holiday season. Santa's Fire Truck Express will also make a stop at the museum on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. for a final check on those Christmas lists. Children will have the

opportunity to see a huge interactive train set up.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, music came to the forefront at the Holiday Concert at the Joy Performance Center with Darin and Brooke Aldridge. Earlier in the day was a reading of the "Nutcracker" at Mauney Memorial Library and a meet and greet visit by the Gaston Dance Theatre who will be performing at the Joy Performance Center Saturday, December 6 at 7p.m. and Sunday, December 7- at 3 p.m.

The Southern Arts Society opened their Christmas season with "Art for Christmas" at the old Southern Railway Station on Nov. 23 from 1-4 p.m. This reception for the public introduced the new 2015 calendars, created by the members. The depot has been restored and transformed providing spacious galleries for over 75 artists selling their fine arts and crafts. Stop by the gift shop, it's full of artistic, unique gift items handmade by local artists. Affordable art abounds!

The "Shop Local" campaign starts in downtown Kings Mountain on Saturday, Nov. 29. Merchants in the downtown area will be offering extended hours and great prices throughout the holiday season.

And, on Christmas Eve, luminaries will glow throughout Mountain Rest Cemetery, from 5:30 p.m. until midnight. A "must see" for all the busy shoppers, a place where you will want to slow down and take time to reflect on this special season.

Christmas just couldn't be brighter than when you come "Home for Christmas – Kings Mountain".

## Holiday Parades

Two Christmas parades are scheduled in the Kings Mountain area December 6.

Grover's annual parade will be held at 11 a.m. and it isn't too late to enter by calling Anna Grace Hughes at 704-730-9221. There is no reservation fee. The grand marshal will be retired kindergarten teacher Suzie Keeter of Grover.

City of Kings Mountain Special Events Director Ellis Noell is still accepting reservations for the annual Kings Mountain Christmas parade to be held at 3 p.m. on December 6. Applications are available on the city's website cityofkm.com. The registration fee is \$20. Return applications to Karen Tucker, Deputy

Clerk and receptionist at City Hall.

Grand marshal for the Kings Mountain parade will be the Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter Sons of the American Revolution.

The parade will be video taped and shown on C-19, the Cleveland Community College public access channel.

## KM woman: remembered

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before. Every age of person and from every walk of life attended her services, and many of them were strangers to me."

Terry was a Kings Mountain native who with her husband and two daughters had moved to a new place in Grover in just the last two weeks. She had been employed at the Sub Shop, a sandwich restaurant within the KM Truck Plaza for several months, according to family members. For Terry, family came first.

"Her main thing was her children," said Karen Sellers, an aunt. "She was concentrated on making sure her girls and her husband were taken care of." That hard work was already paying off, according to Sellers, who said that both Heaven, 17 and a senior at Kings Mountain High School, and Trinity, 9 and a 3rd grader at Grover Elementary, were A students.

Terry also was always on the lookout for ways to help others, whether they were relations or not. It seemed like every Christmas she identified others who were less fortunate than herself

– whether they be homeless or going through a particular rough patch – and then go out of her way to help them out.

"That's who she was – very generous and always sacrificing," said Allison. Allison said she had lot of fond memories of her daughter, including hiking, which was one of their favorite pastimes. Together over the years this passion carried them around and through the tough trails of the Crowders Mountain State Park. And for mother and daughter, wintry and difficult weather posed no real obstacle. Allison said they relished the challenge no matter the conditions.

Terry, who was fond of many of the 1960s and 1970s folk and rock acts like Janis Joplin and the Grateful Dead, and had a love of the outdoors that was unparalleled. This love took her on many camping trips in the N.C. mountains with her husband and daughters and other family members.

Her love of the outdoors was almost as big as her heart, which she used to defend those who she felt were being picked on, family members said.

"She couldn't stand any kind of discrimination," said her mother, "She would take up for people." Terry was delivering her daughters to school the Tuesday morning when her Honda was struck by another vehicle while entering Bethlehem Rd. That collision sent Terry's car into the path of an oncoming car in the southbound lane.

Authorities say that Terry died at the scene. Heaven suffered a broken arm in the crash, while Trinity's injuries amounted to some scrapes and bruises. All three were wearing seat belts, according to police.

A 52-year-old woman driving the vehicle in the northbound lane that struck Terry's vehicle was taken to the hospital with minor injuries. An 18-year-old driving in the southbound lane was not injured in the crash.

Funeral services for Terry were held Saturday at a packed Clay-Barnette Funeral Home in Kings Mountain. She is survived by a brother, Justin, 31, who lives in Gastonia, her mother Wanda and father Alfred "Skeeter" Allison, aunts and uncles, and many cousins.

## 21st annual Woodbridge lawnmower parade

The 21st annual Woodbridge lawnmower parade will be held Sunday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m. on Dunes Drive in north Woodbridge.

Everyone is invited to

decorate their lawnmowers, tractors, pickups and bikes and participate in the fun

Caroling and a visit from Santa Claus feature the holiday event and those

attending are encouraged to take cookies to share in the festivities.

Call Doug Sharpe at 704-480-1608 for more information.

## Costner: lights to glow

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Grady does the welding and Katie winds the lights around the finished products to add to those from years past. They will keep the lights on until after Christmas each night and each night Santa and his elves will be present to give candy canes to children. It's a won-

derland for people who turn at his home on Margrace Road at Midpines and travel all around his residence to enjoy the special beauty of the holiday season. It's a fabulous show and something the Costners are proud of each season.

"People tell us they enjoy our decorations more than McAdenville sights

and they don't have to drive as far," says Costner. Costner started his first decorating project with just a few lights. Now, Grady and Katie boast the granddaddy of all home decorations and open them to the public from 5:30 until 10 p.m. every night beginning on Thursday.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BECOME A TEACHER!

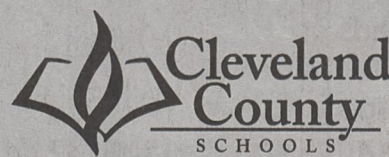
Degreed professionals are invited to the *Professionals Aspiring to Teach* program on

**December 4, 2014**

from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the CCS Central Services Staff Development Center.

Regional Alternative Licensing Center Director Penny Powell will offer insight on how to begin teaching while working towards licensure.

Visit [www.clevelandcountyschools.org](http://www.clevelandcountyschools.org) for event registration and information.



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