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Santa Claus is coming to town!



It's almost here! This year's annual Christmas Parade is scheduled for 3 p.m. this Saturday in downtown Kings Mountain.

The parade will continue tradition and form on East Gold Street at Mountain Rest Cemetery, proceed to West Gold, turn right on Battleground Avenue downtown, right at the overhead bridge onto King Street and

disband in the area of Cleveland Avenue.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) will provide a full color guard

with representatives dressed in Revolutionary War period costumes. The Grand Marshal this year will be the recently formed Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter of the SAR.

"We're excited about this new chapter forming here in Kings Mountain," said Mayor Rick Murphrey. "This group plays a big part, every year, in celebrating the October 7th anniversary of the Battle, bringing thousands of visitors our way!" Murphrey added. They will be joined by the Colonel Frederick Hambright Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

This patriotic opening to the parade will signal the start of an array of entries representing many local churches, service groups, first responders and dance groups. The Kings Mountain High School Marching Band, directed by Gil Doggett, will fill the streets with the sound of holiday tunes. Local businesses like Cherokee Grill, Grapes in a Glass and

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Jingle Bell Rockin' Run is Saturday morning

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Organizers and racers are gearing up for the annual Jingle Bell Rockin' Run this Saturday morning and expected to draw around 500 participants for the 5K walk/run, a 10K Run, and a Kid's Fun Run.

The races start at 9 a.m. at First Baptist Church. Runners and other participants can register at the YMCA until 2 p.m. Friday

and at the church on the day of the race from 7 to 8 a.m.

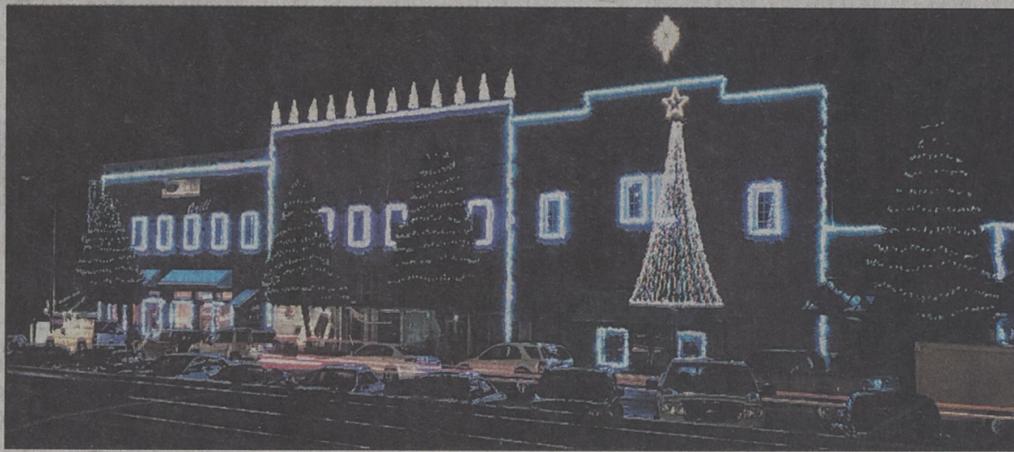
Santa Claus will be making an appearance at the beginning of the festivities. He'll also lead the children in the Fun Run in his golf cart.

In its eleventh year, the annual Jingle Bell Rockin' Run will also feature a costume contest - with prizes for children and adults - and a live DJ.

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Fantasy Light Show wows onlookers

400,000 light display has new features this Christmas season



The Downtown Christmas Fantasy of lights and music is expected to draw crowds from a wide area to Kings Mountain this Christmas season. Mayor Rick Murphrey turned on the lights Monday at 5:30 p.m. as members of city staff and technicians looked on.

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City officials and volunteers flipped the switch on the Downtown Kings Mountain Christmas Fantasy Light Show Monday night to the awe of a waiting crowd and passersby who were witness to the remarkable dance of lights - set to the "Carol of the Bells," a yuletide mash-up of "Dueling Banjos" and Mozart and Trans-Siberian Orchestra selections, among many

other songs. You can look for several new features in this year's show, which runs through Jan. 4.

The Colored Cosmic Ribbon Tree is a giant pixel-screen display located next to the Joy Theater.

"We're expanding the show in that direction," said Scott Neisler, who's aiding the city and technician Donnie Beard in putting on the popular show. "It's a really cool idea, because it can be used over and over

again and refreshed with new programs."

Also adding to the fun this Christmas is a laser light show that will play against some of the large building fronts on Railroad Ave.

"We're trying to stay cutting edge," Neisler said during several days of testing the light show and working out the technical and aesthetic kinks. McAdenville's (Christmas light show) is very traditional. We're cutting edge."

Beard, who put on the dazzling show at his Gold Run residence for several years before moving it downtown, has this year added a large snowman to the lighted objects that blink and pulsate to the carefully chosen music, which plays over Let It Snow Radio (101.5 FM).

And there's also a machine that spews out artificial snow. (But don't try tasting it - organizers say

See LIGHT SHOW, Page 8

Keeter is Grover Parade Marshal

Suzanne (Suzie) Keeter, retired Grover teacher who taught three generations of children during 40 years in the elementary classroom, will serve as grand marshal of the Grover Christmas parade Saturday at 11 a.m.

The high stepping Kings Mountain High School Band, cheerleaders, princesses and beauty queens will lead off the parade which will include participation by the Grover Woman's Club, church floats, Trail Life USA, the Civil Air Patrol and Marine Corps League, the Kings Mountain Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution, Kerns Trucking, Grover Fire Department and others, and of course, Santa Claus.

Keeter was honored as Teacher of the Year twice and as Star teacher. "I have a great love for students and everywhere I go I get a hug from a former student," she said this week. Anna Grace Hughes, parade chairman, said the Grover woman is honored not only for her previous long service to students, but for her volunteer work with 'Good news,' a school publication, and by



Suzanne Keeter

her other community accomplishments. Keeter also sponsors young Aljendro of Honduras, and is active in church activities.

Keeter said she had collected pigs for a number of years and on retirement her students presented her more collectibles which she cherishes along with the children's pictures. She said she had "wonderful children and assistants Karen Houze and Darnelle Shear."

The parade lineup will form in Spring Acres and will proceed downtown and disband on Cleveland Avenue.

"We invite everyone to come out and enjoy the parade," said chairman Hughes.

Wal-Mart opening next Wednesday

Walmart Neighborhood Market, 1011 Shelby Road, will hold its grand opening and a ribbon-cutting Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 a.m. Mayor Rick Murphrey and Chamber of Commerce officials will cut the ribbon officially opening the new Kings Mountain business in the Kings Mountain Plaza Shopping Center. The handsome 40,000 square foot grocery store also includes a pharmacy. The public is invited.

Council says: Police are pro-active

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Could the chaos and social unrest in Ferguson, Missouri happen here and if it did do police have policies in place?

The question was posed by councilman Curtis Presley at Tuesday night's city council meeting. "We hate what happened in Missouri but it's important for Kings Mountain and cities across

the country to take note of everything that has happened in Ferguson in order to prevent similar situations. We care about our community," he added.

Councilman Keith Miller was quick to reply that police have worked hard the last 10 years on being proactive in this community. He commended police for positive community relations. "We

are very blessed to have a police force that has worked hard to try and stay close to the people."

Later in the meeting Presley asked if any special events were planned for kids in the community during the holidays. Mayor pro tem Mike Butler suggested that a good project would be helping him and cemetery workers light the candles on graves at

Mountain Rest Cemetery on Dec. 24. "Tell everybody to come at 4 p.m. and help light the luminaries."

Councilman Tommy Hawkins and Mayor Rick Murphrey took the occasion to comment on Rep. Tim Moore's nomination by Republicans as the upcoming Speaker of the House of

See POLICE, Page 7

Police collecting toys for tots

Kings Mountain Police Department is collecting Christmas toys and clothing for needy children in the area.

Sgt. Lisa Proctor, who heads up the Toys for Tots and Shop with a Cop project, said that the department has obtained the names of needy families from local elementary schools and want to provide them with Christmas toys and also new clothing.

"Those who want to help in this project can deliver toys or checks for us to buy clothing for the children to the police department or mail checks to KMPD, PO Box 7, Kings Mountain, NC 28086, said Proctor.

Last Christmas police delivered hundreds of toys and winter clothing to the needy of the community.

Building on upswing in New Year 2015

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Kings Mountain will see major building projects in New Year 2015 totaling more than \$5 million.

Contractors for big construction projects either under way or in the planning stages have bought city

building permits. Cambridge Oaks Apartments, owned by Greenway Residential Development of Charlotte, is currently constructing apartments and a club and office building at property valuation of \$3.2 million, according to a building permit issued by the city of Kings Mountain

codes department. Venture Properties Dollar General of Wilkesboro, is building a 9100 square foot building to be occupied by Dollar General at 1103 Shelby Road. This new construction is valued at \$750,000. The new building will go up across the street from the shopping center

in which Dollar General is now located.

Contractor for this project is WIMCO Corporation of Washington, NC.

Creative Structures of Knoxville, TN is contractor for O'Reilly Automotive, Springfield, MO, building

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