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MIRROR-HERALD

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Housing Program Okayed By Council

By TOM MCINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

City commissioners gave permission to the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission, Region C, to establish a HUD Section 8 Housing Assistance Program in Kings Mountain Monday night.

As explained by Earl Honeycutt of Shelby, Region C Housing Coordinator, the program "requires nothing from the city, except its blessings in trying to establish the program here."

The program, which runs for five years with funding through the state from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is for existing rental structures within an established price range.

"We plan to advertise the public meetings through newspapers and radio," Honeycutt said. "There will be one meeting for landlords and another for tenants to explain the mechanics of the program. We hope to kick it off by August first."

In short the program is a rent and utility allowance to renters, families whose income is less than 80 percent of the HUD published median income for the county.

In Cleveland County the median income level is \$12,400 annually.

HUD's fair market rent, maximum rent by number of bedrooms, has been established for Cleveland County. The HUD allowance for a one bedroom home is \$81; two bedrooms, \$92; three bedrooms, \$18. The fair market allowance for utilities is also based on number of bedrooms — \$30, \$40 and \$50.

For the qualifying family whose income is less than 80 percent of the county's median and one fourth of this income is less than the maximum rent plus utility allowance — \$111, \$132 and \$148, a certificate of eligibility will be issued.

Honeycutt said the program "does nothing to disturb the landlord-tenant relationship. If anything the program will improve the relationship."

"The rent and utility allowances will allow the tenant to pay the landlord the full worth of the home," Honeycutt continued, "and this in turn will allow the landlord to keep the property up to standards."

Honeycutt said only the tenant and landlord are aware of the program. "Cleveland County will cover about 80-85 units," he continued. "Kings Mountain's share will cover about 30-35 units. I personally feel this program will keep marginal property on the tax books much longer."

Honeycutt said the purpose of the program is first and foremost to assist needy families. "We believe, however, the program will encourage the property owner to better maintain his property, which will add to its usefulness and reduce some of the pressure for much costlier new construction of assisted housing."

The program is being tested simultaneously in Kings Mountain, Shelby, Forest City and Rutherfordton.

Isothermal Planning and Development Commission will administer the program. The city has no responsibility for any costs.

The contract will be strictly between the tenants and landlords and Isothermal Commission. Annual checks will be made to see that tenants have lived up to their contract and inspections made to see the landlord has kept up the property.

"I'd like to stress the point that from the skin out we are now staffing the program," Honeycutt said. "We have a target date of July 1 to set the program in motion. We will have a person who will set up the public meetings for the tenants and landlords and who will spend about eight hours a week in Kings Mountain to get the program underway once the applicants have been approved."

Honeycutt said that any dwelling unit that meets the minimum standards established by HUD or the community is eligible to apply. In Kings Mountain's case, according to Honeycutt, the communities standards are higher than those of HUD.

Delegation To Speak To Demos

The local legislative delegation will discuss action in the recent sessions in Raleigh tonight at 7:30 in Shelby.

The delegation has been invited to speak at tonight's meeting of the Cleveland County Young Democrats.

The public is invited to attend the meeting to be held in Courtroom 2 at the Law Enforcement Center, Shelby.

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Myers Hambricht of Kings Mountain urges all YD members to attend tonight's meeting in order to determine the number planning to attend the 10th District cookout in Hickory Sun., July 17.

The 8 p. m. event is sponsored by the YD's of Catawba County and will be held at The Wildlife Club on Lake Hickory.

For further information call Myers Hambricht at 739-7924 after 5 p. m.

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On Sat., July 23 the installation banquet for new state Young Democrats will be held at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh.

Nelson Connor of Kings Mountain will be installed as state vice president.

Will Work With DOT

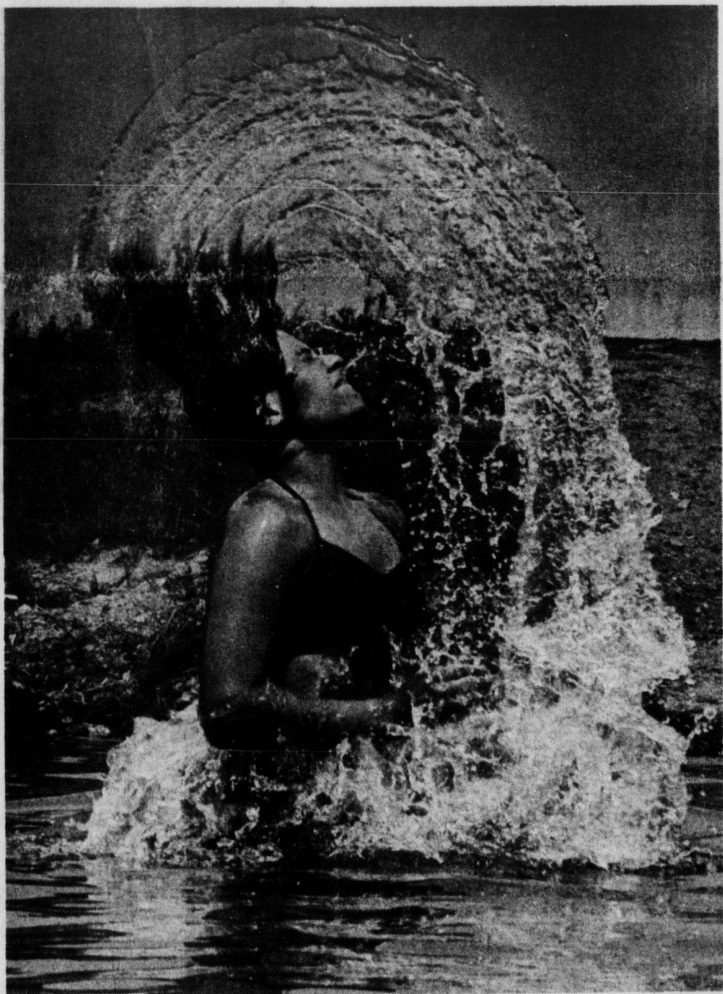
An organizational meeting was held at city hall Tuesday night for a liaison committee to work with the N. C. Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Fred Wright is chairman of the committee.

Members of the committee are expected to attend a public hearing in Lincolnton Fri., July 15 at 2 p. m. Thomas Bradshaw, secretary of transportation, will chair the hearing and give an update on the DOT highway improvement program.

The local committee is expected to present data on needs connected with state highway projects in Kings Mountain, with special regard to the bypass project.

All comments will be recorded and presented to the full transportation board in Raleigh for further consideration.



Photos By Butch Vess

A NEW HAIRDO? — No. It's just Rita Hoyle's method of cooling off at Moss Lake during the current heatwave. The Buffalo Community resident is a regular water sports enthusiast at the lake.

\$2,500 Is Approved

According to Commissioner Bill Grissom, part of a \$20,000 state grant request has been approved for Kings Mountain's special recreational project.

The project is "sort of a day camp" type operation where youngsters can be taught various

skills by qualified instructors at both Deal St. and Davidson parks.

Commissioner Grissom said "about \$2,500 of the request has been approved. It should give us some kind of program, although not the type we had expected."

Outdoor Market Open

The community market at the Kings Mountain Depot Center is open today.

Rev. Ken George, coordinator of the depot center activities, said the market opened at 8 a. m. and will remain open until 4 p. m. today. He said the hours of operation will be adjusted as needed.

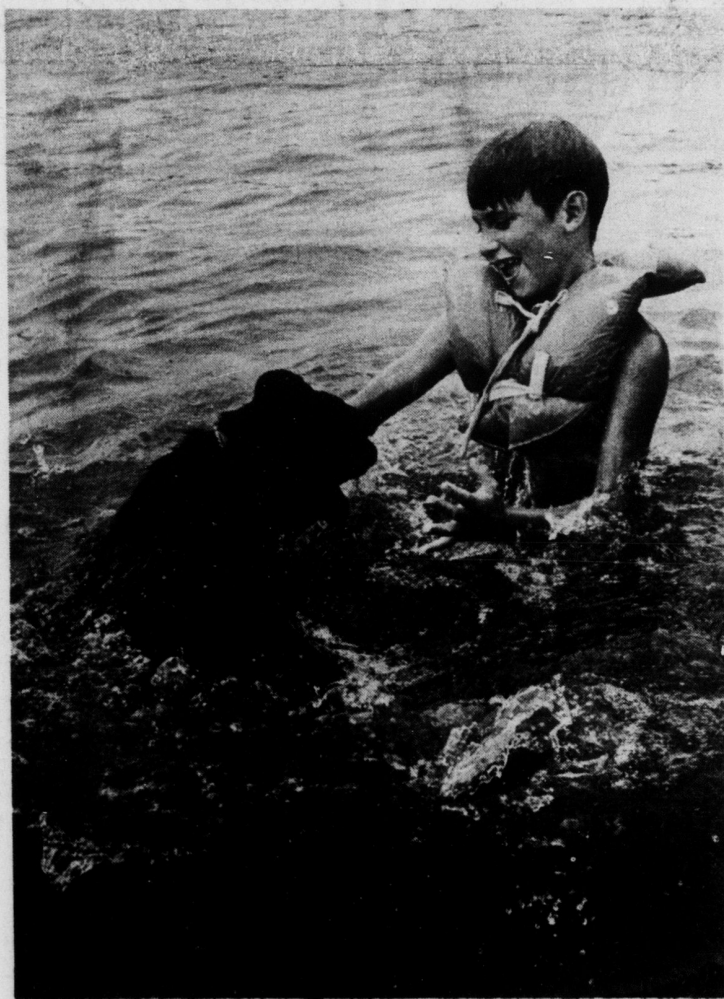
The outdoor market caters to

local farm crop producers. The city commissioners have devised a lengthy set of rules and regulations and rental fees for market tenants.

Local farmers may sign an agreement for market space and pick up a set of the rules from Rev. George in the KM Senior Citizens office at the depot center.

Community Center Project

Plumbing Bids Denied



EVEN DOGS DO IT — Kerry Vess of the Buffalo Community found he had a companion, his dog Prancer, when he plunged into Moss Lake recently to beat the heat. After all, with all that hair a dog's gotta find some way to cool off, too.

No action was taken Monday night by commissioners to award construction contracts for additions to the Kings Mountain Community Center.

However, on a motion by Commissioner Jim Childers, the board rejected four plumbing construction bids for the Citizens Service Center.

Childers said he didn't "know if this is the right time to do this, but all of the bids, even the lowest, on the plumbing contract are much higher than what we have budgeted for the job."

The commissioner said he realized the plumbing work is holding up completion of the new public works building on N. Piedmont and that the target date for finishing the job may be missed.

"I proposed we get together again with the architects and go over the specifications and drawings to see what we can do to lower the cost," Childers said.

Holland & McGinnis, Associates of Shelby is the architectural firm.

The lowest bid for the plumbing contract was submitted by Gastonia Plumbing and Heating. That bid was \$20,400.

Following revisionment of the specifications the project will be readvertised for bids.

Ed Smith, representative of Holland-McGinnis, which is architect for the additions to the community center, read both the bid prices for the Citizens Service Center plumbing contract and the bids on the community center additions.

The additions bids accepted by the board were broken down into four separate contracts.

General construction bidders were:

Anchor Construction Co. — \$238,000; Cabarrus Construction Co. — \$231,800; S. C. Hondros & Associates — \$243,992; A. A. Ramsey & Son — \$243,240; Reynolds & Sons — \$206,618; Robinson Builders Mart — \$235,154; T. C. Strickland — \$235,497.

Plumbing:

Gastonia Plumbing & Heating — \$18,500; Hickory Plumbing & Heating — \$18,795; Hoyle Plumbing Co. — \$21,800; George B. Stevens — \$20,500.

Heating:

Climate Conditioning — \$35,221; Hickory Plumbing & Heating — \$47,500; George B. Stevens — \$49,850.

(Please Turn To 10A)

Tired Of Walking? Earn A New Bicycle

The Mirror-Herald wants to interview boys and girls 12 years of age and older who are tired of walking.

Here's the deal. Come by our office on S. Piedmont Ave. today or Friday between 9 a. m. and 1 p. m. with written permission from parents or guardian to become "circulation salespersons for The Mirror-Herald."

The jobs we offer involve selling new subscriptions to the paper. The annual subscription rate is \$8.50. Sell 20 new (not current subscribers) subscriptions and we present you with a brand new bicycle. Sell any number under 20 and we pay you \$3 for each.

See the page ad in today's Mirror-Herald for full details, then call on us in person. Through your efforts The Mirror-Herald increases its circulation and you earn cash or a bicycle or both.

We look forward to working with you.