

THURSDAY'S

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To Discuss Improving KM Revenue

Mayor John Moss and two commissioners, whom the mayor will appoint plan to meet with representatives of Management Improvement Corporation of America to discuss methods of improving the city's revenue picture.

Frank Chamberlain, a native of Cleveland County and one of the MICA members, explained the firm's services to the city commissioners Monday night and commissioners found it an offer hard to refuse.

Chamberlain, accompanied by John Tobin, who would work directly with the city on projects, explained that MICA is "paid only what the city's decides to pay it at the end of the projects. If we have shown you a method for saving revenue, then you decide what portion of that savings you feel we've earned. If there is no savings, then we get nothing."

Chamberlain said MICA is working directly with the N. C. League of Municipalities in cities and counties all over the state. "We work with communities at absolutely no risk to those communities," Chamberlain said.

MICA has a staff of 30 persons with expertise in many areas. They work on specific projects which cannot or are not being handled by a community's staff. The basic goals

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Postal Rates Up Sunday

It will cost more to mail a letter Sunday.

Effective Sunday, May 29th, at 12:01 a. m. new postal rates go into effect.

Kings Mountain Postmaster Fred Weaver said the rate for first class letters will be 15 cents instead of 13 cents, and the rate for postal cards will be ten cents each, instead of nine.

Carroll Trial Set Wednesday

Trial of Melvin Haskell Carroll on charges of assault with firearm and felonious assault on Police Sgt. Bob Hayes is docketed for Wed., June 7th in the criminal term of Cleveland County Superior Court.

Also slated for trial during the one-week term of Superior Court is a related charge of aiding and abetting assault with firearms on an officer against Tommie Lee Bright.

Judge John R. Friday will be on the bench and Hampton Childs, Jr. will serve as district attorney.

Commencement Exercises Begin

Commencement exercises for 242 graduating KMSHS seniors will begin Sunday night with baccalaureate services at 8 p. m. in B. N. Barnes Auditorium.

Rev. Gary Bryant, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, will deliver the sermon.

Other ministers of the community who will participate on the program include Rev. Howard Shipp, who will give the invocation; Rev. Alfred Wright, who will read the scripture; Rev. Eugene Land, who will introduce the speaker; and Rev. Eddie Lockhart who will pronounce the benediction.

The Kings Mountain Senior High Choir, under direction of Mrs. J. N. McClure, will sing two anthems.

Diplomas will be awarded at finals exercises to be led by seniors on June 1 at 8 p. m. in John Gamble Memorial Football Stadium.



Photo By Tom McIntyre

CHURCH EXPANSION — Gene White, executive director of Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission, looks over the scale model of expansion plans at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. The redevelopment commission gained city board approval Monday night to sell needed property to the church.

St. Paul's Church Land Sale Okayed

With approval for the land sale by the Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners Monday night, the congregation of St. Paul's United Methodist Church will begin fund-raising for construction of a new sanctuary.

The church is located on N. Candler St. and is in the Candler St. Urban Renewal Project.

Trustees of the church approached the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission several months ago with a proposal to purchase adjacent property for church expansion. Gene White, commission executive director, said the RC board approved the land sale, based on architectural plans submitted by Murphy-Martin Associates, Shelby architects.

Both White and Architect Jim Martin appeared before the city board Monday night to request approval for the sale of the property to the church.

Martin brought along a scale model showing the intended church construction. The model shows a modern addition adjacent to the present church. "The addition will be of block and brick in keeping with the existing building," Martin said.

The new sanctuary will contain about 3,300 square feet of space. Also included will be restrooms. The old building will be used for Sunday School classrooms and recreation purposes.

The construction will cost between \$90,000 and \$100,000. White said the church could be ready to advertise for bids within 30 days after the transfer of deed. The church will pay the redevelopment commission \$800 for the 9,362 square feet of property.

"The redevelopment commission began with the idea of retaining and enhancing the black institutions in the urban renewal area," White said. "This is the second church we have assisted. The first was Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church was relocated from a small lot on W. King St. to a much larger site at the corner of Parker and N. Watterson Sts. St. Paul's United Methodist Church is not being relocated, but is being expanded at its former site.

White said he has been told that construction of St. Paul's 200-plus seat sanctuary will take about six months.

Airport Committee Meeting In Gaston

The City of Gastonia went on record last Thursday opposing the regional airport concept that would have included Gastonia, Kings Mountain, Cherryville and Bessemer City.

Gastonia councilmen vetoed the idea even though the city paid for a master plan for a new Gastonia Municipal Airport, which included the regional concept, in 1977. The master plan was devised by Talbert, Cox and Associates, Inc., airport consultants.

Last Friday, however, Gaston County Manager David Hunscher contacted Mayor John Moss, Gaston

County Commissioners Bud Black and Robert Heavner and Lincolnton's Buster Lentz about an airport committee meeting to be held tomorrow (Wed., May 24) at 10:30 a. m. in Gastonia.

Bill Ballew of the FAA in Atlanta and Jarvis Pate of N. C. Department of Aviation will also attend the meeting to answer any questions the committee has concerning developing a regional airport.

Members of the Kings Mountain Airport Committee, following comments opposing the airport by Gastonia City Council, said the regional airport concept to serve this area "is far from being dead."

Flood Control Hearing Tonight At City Hall

By TOM MCINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The first of three public hearings on surface drainage and flood control is scheduled tonight at 7:30 at city hall.

The city commissioners approved Monday night accepting a \$208,040.39 federal grant under the U. S. Department of Labor, Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, Title 6. \$75,000 of the grant is earmarked for surface drainage and flood control.

Commissioner Humes Houston, chairman of the city's surface drainage and flood control committee, said Monday night the public hearings are designed to gather more information from citizens in order to tie down an overall work program toward relieving some of the drainage and flooding problems the city has.

"I think this is going to be one of our best steps forward on this problem," Houston said. "Our committee was formed in 1976, but we are just now receiving the funds we need to get a comprehensive program started."

Houston said this program "will not eliminate all of the problems of

surface water running through people's lawns. There is no solution to all of the problems, but this program will go a long way toward solving much of the problems we have with drainage and flooding."

Houston said information will be gathered and discussed tonight and again on Tues., June 6. On Tues., June 12 the program will be finalized.

Mayor John Moss said, "We want to hear everyone within the city who has drainage or flooding problems. This program is flexible and the individual problems will be worked into the overall program. This is the first time in the history of the city we have had this kind of money and manpower to work on this problem."

Under the grant flood control work calls for cleaning and clearing major streams designated as flood zones in the city. This will eliminate blockage and stream flow restrictions. Rip-rap will be installed and minor piping at critical locations to reduce erosion. And flood control pipe will be installed in areas that receive large quantities of surface water, but where a definite stream channel does not exist.

Project areas indicated under the

grant approval include streams from Watterson St. to Pilot Creek; Carpenter St. to the intersection east of Hwy. 161 from North School to the intersection with Pilot Creek; Oak St. to Beason Creek and its tributary from Joyce St. to the intersection with the main stream.

Under the \$208,040.39 grant the city may employ 86 clerks, laborers, foremen, equipment operators, surveyors and so on to operate from the old public works site on City St. as a separate unit from the city. The city, however, will be in charge of engineering work related.

Mayor Moss said the flood control projects will be the first tackled under the June 1-Sept. 30 program and that the other projects included will begin as the employees are hired. Also included under the grant are improvement programs for sidewalks, recreation and water and sewer system.

Interviews for qualified Cleveland Countians for employment under this program began Tuesday morning at 10 a. m. The interviews will continue until the 86 employees are on the payroll. The Employment Security Commission offices in Kings Mountain and Shelby are handling the interviews.



Photo By Lib Stewart

VETERAN EMPLOYEES OF PARK YARN MILLS — Eloise Clary, left, Jessie Timms and Gaynelle Oliver are all veteran employees of Park Yarn Mills. Mrs. Clary joined the firm in 1934, Mrs. Oliver in 1945 and

Mrs. Timms in 1946. The plant has recently installed new drawing frames and completed extensive improvements.

At Park Yarn Mill

Hearing Tests Conducted

Park Yarn employees are currently undergoing a first-time hearing conservation program instituted this year by the company's new owners with a certified audiometric technician now testing hearing of all 260 workers on three shifts.

The plan is part of what General Manager Jim Potter calls a long-term policy to "show our employees they are our Number One priority."

Park Yarn, founded in 1917, was purchased from the Washington Group in Dec. 1976 by a New York based firm and the textile mill is operated as a "one company plant," said Potter, manufacturing polyester cotton blended yarns for the knitting industry which are geared to outerwear garments.

Paid holidays for employees were also instituted just recently and a clean-up, paint-up, fix-up campaign at the plant has been underway for some months with both interior and exterior getting a face-lifting, installation of lighting, roofing repairs, and installation of ten new drawing machines, among other improvements. Offices have been

carpeted, and paneled, among other renovation.

"We need our employees — they make a difference" is the slogan the new owners want to emphasize in the community, said Potter. "Textiles at best are not a clean operation," said Mr. Potter, but at Park Yarn the emphasis is on a clean and pleasant environment, which he says that both management and labor are realizing.

Yarn is created through at least 11 processes in the plant from beginning fiber stages which is parallelized, broken down, and twisted into yarn electronically inspected for defects and packaged on cones. Sixty miles of yarn, or three and one-half pounds of fiber, are on one big cone.

New equipment has been installed in dusty areas of the mill to handle waste and cotton initially processed, exhaust fans and filters have been added, and 10 Rieter drawing frames have been installed.

Potter predicts an increase output of 25 percent in the next few months. The mill is running six days a week.

Employees receive bonuses during vacation period, July 4th, and also at Christmas holidays. A Christmas party is held for all employees and their families.

Park Yarn Mills from its beginning has been at the hub of Park Yarn Community, recalled Potter. The mill was once the center of a village which housed a large number of residents. There are only six homes near the mill now. When the village was sold in 1952, most of the residents bought their homes and moved them to other locations. Most of the children in the community attended Park Grace School and at one time the mill and Lithium Mines, which bought the village, collaborated in building a Nazarene church in the community. The old church is now used for storage by the mill. Park Grace School was subsequently consolidated with the city system and is now home of the KM Little Theatre.

"Textiles play a vital role in the Kings Mountain community," said Potter, a relative newcomer to the city, and we're proud to be a part of the growing community."