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BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

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Fire Truck rides were the highlight of the Black Mountain Fire Department Open House on Sunday. Emergency equipment was on display for the parents to observe. (Dan Ward)

Open house draws 200

A total of 378 persons attended an open house held at Black Mountain Fire Department on Sunday, October 9 in honor of Fire Prevention Week. Fireman Steve King described it as "one of the best crowds we've ever had at an open house." Included in

the festivities were rides on a fire truck for almost 200 children. Hors d'oeuvres of cookies and soda were served to visitors in the upstairs living quarters. The Fire Department plans to continue in observing Fire Prevention Week by holding

fire drills at schools and plants around Black Mountain.

The department was called out four times last week.

On October 6, one truck and 17 men were called to check out and stand by an oil leak from a furnace at a residence on Mecklenburg Circle in Montreat. No damage was reported.

On October 7 morning, one truck and 10 men took part in a search for missing person in the Dogwood Manor area.

That person was found.

Also on that day, two trucks and 17 men stood by at a controlled burning on NC 9 and one truck and 17 men answered a report of an overheated stove at 100 Walker St. No damage was reported.

The fire department ambulance made two routine and two emergency runs. Buncombe County Ambulance made 21 routine, 6 emergency and was not needed on two runs.

Swannanoa Fire

Swannanoa Volunteer Fire Department personnel and 22 citizens completed a 45-hour advanced first aid class taught by Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute on October 5.

On October 6, rescue squad personnel responded to the Abby Scott residence to assist a person who had fallen. No injuries were reported.

The Fire Department Board

of Directors will meet at 7:30 p.m. on October 13.

Barry Roberts has been named Fireman of the Month. He lives with his wife, Debbie, and daughter, Stephanie, at 737 E. Hospital Rd. on the JEC campus.

The department urges everyone to begin fire prevention habits during Fire Prevention Week. (See page 2)

Collins robbed of \$915 cash

An unidentified thief took \$915 out of an unlocked cash drawer during Collins Department Store's sale October 8, police reported.

No store employees have been able to identify the person who entered the store

around 5:30 p.m. by the back door and took the cash.

Black Mountain Police took 77 calls last week, issued 11 traffic citations and responded to a traffic accident in which there were no injuries.

Water problems head town agenda

by Dan Ward

The Black Mountain Town Board was expected to meet October 12 at 7 p.m. to hold a workshop on the some immediate proposals to make the water department more efficient.

Included in those proposals, introduced by Ald. John Mundy, were those to bill water users bimonthly, read meters bimonthly, charge seasonal users a minimum charge and charge an average for users with broken meters.

The board was also expected to discuss whether town water hook up is implied when granting building permits or whether building permits should not be issued until the town's water problems are solved. The board voted to grant taps to those builders now having permits and to bill them from the day the tap is connected. Various decisions to be made by the board Wednesday

were to hinge on a meeting with Asheville water officials on the possibility of Black Mountain purchasing Asheville water on a regular basis. Plans for the workshop were made at the regular meeting of the Town Board on October 10.

Street Closings

At the board meeting, the board also voted to close Lake Avenue and Fifth Street in places petitioned by residents. The board also agreed to hold a public hearing on November 9 on a petition to close an alleyway off of West View Street.

Pollution program

A slide presentation was given by a representative of the League of Women Voters on the need for citizens to help avoid non-point pollution or littering, pesticide run off and soil erosion.

Water petition

The board heard a petition from about 15 persons to supply adequate and clean water. Mayor Margaret Slagle pointed out that the current water crisis is a priority for the board. Water Supervisor Al White said that, unless it rains heavily soon, the town has only three weeks of usable water left in its reservoir.

Extraterritorial mile

The board voted to go ahead with a recommendation from the Planning Board to implement the town's Subdivision Ordinance. A copy of the ordinance will be filed with the Registrar of Deeds for the county and a map of the town's jurisdiction will be drawn.

Truck bid accepted

The board accepted low bid from Matthews Ford for a truck for the town Street Department.

Part three:

Long range goals

by Dan Ward
Ed. Note—This article is the last in a series on Black Mountain's water problems and suggested solutions. This article will deal with long range planning for the town.

With the passage of the Clean Water Act, one of the three long-term alternatives suggested to the town has been all but ruled out. The Clean Water Act requires that all municipal water be filtered. Town Manager Jon Creighton has estimated that the cost of constructing a water filtration plant in Black Mountain would cost \$1.5 million.

In 1975, before passage of the act, Cummings Engineering suggested three alternatives in bringing water supply for the town up to health and fire protection safety levels—as well as meet future demand.

Those alternatives were (1) buy water from Asheville, at no initial construction cost since the town already is connected to that system in two places, (2) use water taken from the Swannanoa River, at an initial construction cost of \$1.53 million for filtration and chlorination facilities, and (3) drill 20 wells at a cost of \$552,000. The third alternative does not include the cost of building filtration facilities, which would bring its construction cost to \$2 million. Pumping charges for ground water would also be considerably higher than from the Swannanoa River.

Creighton said that,

following recent recommendations from Cummings Engineering, the town will probably pursue an agreement with the City of Asheville to buy water that is already treated and filtered. Negotiations are already under way as to wholesale cost to the town of Black Mountain. Whatever water source is chosen, either aspects of the town's system need upgrading.

Cummings recommended construction of an additional 500,000 gallon reservoir for the town. The engineers also suggested purchasing an additional site to build another large reservoir in the future to accommodate growing water needs. Since those recommendations have been made, the town's only large storage reservoir, holding 165,000 gallons, has been closed by I-40 construction. Creighton said long-term plans now call for construction of a 1 million gallon reservoir. Cummings suggested building the reservoir either next to the existing Jeanie Avenue. Reservoir on the north side of town or on the south side near Dalton Street.

Cummings suggested installing a 10-inch "backbone" line up NC 9 and Montreat Road and on up North Fork Road to connect with the Asheville water system at Oconeechee Street. Such a line would generally improve water pressure throughout town, connect the two proposed reservoir sites, and provide a higher pressure

hookup with the Asheville water system.

Part of the "backbone" was installed by the Department of Transportation when NC 9 was

John Bradley

Strays: beware of man

by Dan Ward

John Bradley has what many people consider the least enviable job in the world. He is Animal Control Officer for the town of Black Mountain, or more simply—the dogcatcher.

Until Bradley was hired three months ago, the strays problem in Black Mountain was one of the most emotional and long-lived crises in the town's history. An anticlimactic calm prevails now that Bradley is on the job.

Compliments have hardly been heaped on Bradley for having removed about 80 dogs and 30 cats from the streets of Black Mountain.

"I've had a few," he said. "I've also had a few that weren't compliments, too. One fella told me he'd put ME in the cage."

"A lot of people call with dogs, cats I pick up—but there's a lot I catch, too," he said. "I've gotten as high as six in one day, and 30 in a week."

Bradley cruises the streets in an old Water Department pickup truck, varying his hours so that owners won't think they can let their animals romp when he is off duty. His uniform is simply a set of workman's khakis, which created a problem when one woman thought that he was trying to steal, not impound, her neighbor's dog.

The main tool of Bradley's trade is a choke stick, a five-foot pole with a cable noose at the end. As cruel as it looks, it is usually used to guide a dog into a cage. Bradley said he has only once tightened the cable enough to hurt a dog—a particularly mean one.

"I'm no villain," he said. "I like dogs. I had one until I moved here, but I had to give it up because I didn't have a fence and I didn't want to chain it."

By far, most of the animals Bradley catches are ownerless strays. Only five animals he has caught have



UFO?

News staff member Charlie Taylor was surprised to find an airborne object other than a free-floating weather balloon was captured by his camera last week. He said he did not see anything other than the balloon through his lens when he took the picture, but what could either be a diving bird or a flying saucer also got in the act.

Creighton said. Cummings also suggested

Continued on page 12



Fireman Gary Bartlett checks the rear-view mirror as he pulls out with a truckload of kids. (Dan Ward)



Dan Norton, proprietor of the Black Mountain Golf Course, has filed for the office of alderman in Black Mountain.



Ross Taylor, manager of the Black Mountain Golf Course, has filed for the office of alderman in Black Mountain.



Bentley Leonard, an attorney, has filed for the office of alderman in Black Mountain.



John Abernathy has filed for the office of alderman in Montreat.



Steve Aceto has filed for the office of alderman in Montreat.



Andy Andrews has entered the race for alderman in Montreat.

