

Second Class Postage Paid at  
Black Mountain, N.C. 28711  
Thursday, February 16, 1978, Vol. 24, No. 18

## Golf course renovations urged at town meeting

by Dan Ward

The Black Mountain Golf Course stole the show at the regular meeting of the town board February 13 as an audience swelled with Recreation Committee members asking for a number of improvements.

Ald. Jim Norton passed on a request from the Recreation Board to appropriate an estimated \$18,500 for renovations to the clubhouse and grounds, including building repairs, a locker room, a snack bar serving hot food, paved trails, benches, and new ball-washers.

Norton pointed out that the golf course has shown a \$1,000 profit since 1973, and said he believed that improved facilities would attract more golfers.

To help offset renovation costs, the Recreation Committee suggested raising greens fees to \$100 for residents plus \$25 extra per additional family members, and \$125 for non-residents plus \$25 for additional family members.

Mayor Tom Sobol called an special meeting for February 20 at 6 p.m. to study the recommendations one at a time, but said the improvements will probably have to come in stages.

Also to be discussed at the meeting will be the purchase of a new gang mower for the greens.

Greg Gamble of the Swannanoa Valley Optimist Club asked the board for permission to hold a fundraising tournament at the golf course in late March or early April. Gamble will meet with Norton to discuss costs and scheduling of the tournament.

Roy Williams, Owen High School Golf coach, requested a letter that the school golf team be allowed to use the course again for practice and matches. Williams pointed out that in the past, most team members have held memberships. Norton objected to a suggestion by Ald. A.F. Tyson to leave the permission and scheduling up to Golf Pro Ross Taylor, saying Taylor had been uncooperative with high school players in the past.

Norton said he would work out a clear schedule for the team with Taylor.

In a final note on the golf course, Town Manager Mack Kirkpatrick said he met last week with federal inspectors to determine what construction was necessary to repair the dam at the golf course, which was damaged by recent flooding. A cost estimate for repairs, which will include replacing much of the fill and construction of a concrete spillway, will be known next week, Kirkpatrick said.

**Dispatcher Grant**

Mayor Sobol said that he learned that the town would be under no obligation to repay grant funds or accept the full three years of an LEAA grant for full-time radio dispatchers for the police department. Black Mountain's grant application is still being reviewed.

**ABC Revenue**

Sobol announced that the ABC store has given the town and the police department checks for their shares of winter quarter profits. The town received a check for \$23,736.01, while the police department received \$3,832.05. Sobol noted that the profits for winter quarter indicate that the store should produce the \$90,000 amount anticipated in the budget for the fiscal year.

**Annexation Correction**

Sobol said that Acting Town Attorney William Eubanks is still researching whether some lots on Daniel Lane were properly annexed. If not, the lots will have to be properly annexed or be declared outside the town limits.

**Subdivision Ordinance**

Ald. Ruth Brandon said that she had spoken with Curtis Rateliff, chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners, and with Naomi Brigman, chairwoman of the Planning Board, to determine the proper sequence involved in putting the town's Subdivision Ordinance into effect. Sobol directed the town manager to send a letter to Mrs. Brigman asking that the sequence be given to the board so that a map of the extraterritorial jurisdiction may be drawn. Once a map is made and four representatives to the Planning Board from outside the town chosen, the ordinance may be recorded and take effect, Brandon said.

Kirkpatrick also announced that bids had been submitted to print copies of the ordinance. The board agreed to put off accepting a bid until a map is made.

Paul Griffith asked that the town's sign ordinance and flood plain ordinance be included in the booklet.

plains and areas where water pressure would be very low.

The board voted to appoint 13 full-time and two advisory members to the Town Improvement Committee. Regular members are Dot Watkins, Bill Ricketts, Harriet Styles, Dottie Williams, Wilma Blankenship, Lewis Parrish, Roy Taylor, Evelyn Taylor, Paul Griffith, Ross Taylor, Josephine Hickey, Bob Watkins and Austin Burgess. Ed Weber and Margaret Slagle, being members of the Chamber of Commerce Town Improvement Committee, will work with the committee to prevent duplication of programs.

**Disaster Agent**

The board voted to appoint Kirkpatrick as agent for the town in applying for disaster funds for damage caused by November floods.

Also regarding the floods, Kirkpatrick said the town has received \$15,298 in disaster aid, of which \$8,260 has been spent on repairs on Charlotte Street, Craigmont Road and Byrd Road.

**Returned Checks**

The board voted to begin notifying persons whose checks do not clear that there will be a \$3 fine for returned checks. Notice of the fine will (continued on page 8)



Humans aren't the only ones to take it easy when spring-like weather arrives, as this pony demonstrates. (Dan Ward)

## Suspension upheld

by Dan Ward

After 1½ hours of deliberation, the Black Mountain Town Board emerged from a special closed meeting with a 27-word prepared statement for the public on their decision concerning the three-day suspension of Officer Burt Stone while actions of his were under investigation.

The statement, agreed on by town board members to be the only comment made on action in the executive session, read "Board met and Chief Slagle, Assistant Chief Wiseman, and Town Manager Mack Kirkpatrick recommended to the board that the three-day suspension of Officer Stone was sufficient. The three men mentioned were the only persons other than the board allowed at the meeting.

The meeting, called by Ald. Ruth Brandon and Ald. Jim Norton, was designed to discuss police personnel. However, before discussing what Mayor Tom Sobol called "a few personnel issues," Ald. Brandon read a statement she told the board would be released to the media. She said that no board members had objected to her intention of releasing the statement, but Mayor Sobol later said that she had violated a promise of keeping action at the meeting confidential by releasing it.

In her statement, Ald. Brandon commented on what she called the "improper handling of this suspension revocation and question the power of the Town Manager in being able to rescind this action" apparently referring to a report that an order by Chief Craigt Slagle to suspend Stone

had been overturned by Kirkpatrick, who has no authority to reverse a department head's action in such a matter, according to the town Policy Manual.

Kirkpatrick said that the decision to suspend, and end the suspension of Stone was reached jointly between he and Slagle. Slagle said both Kirkpatrick and Brandon were in part correct, but that most of the problem was a matter of poor communication—not a violation of the Policy Manual. He would not elaborate.

Stone was suspended for three days after an incident in which he allegedly challenged Officer Gary Sorrels to fight, and tried to hit him, when Sorrels arrested a friend of Stone's for driving under the influence of alcohol.

## Streets, sewers, lights head grant requests

by Dan Ward

A fourth Community Development Grant hearing in

the Town of Black Mountain drew 22 persons, primarily from the Black community, February 10.

Those present for the most part echoed recommendations made at the preceding meeting, also held at Carter School—the need for street improvements, lighting, sewers, water lines and fire hydrants in the Craigmont section.

In addition, Inez Daugherty asked that funds be allocated to drain a swampy area on Craigmont Road to provide an area for a playground.

Lib Harper asked that services be provided for the elderly.

Mrs. Harper also questioned why the Craigmont Community required grant funds to obtain services already enjoyed by most of the town.

"If we are citizens of this town, we shouldn't have to go

through HUD (the Department of Housing and Urban Development) to get the same services as other citizens," she said.

Ald. Ruth Brandon, the only Town Board member present, replied that the town manager is not always aware of what improvements are needed. She suggested that citizens contact the town manager to let him know when improvements are needed.

Many commented on the ineffectiveness of Black Mountain leash laws, a problem that Citizen Participation Committee Chairwoman Jean Standley said was not covered by HUD grant funding. She did promise those present that a tape recording of the meeting would be played for town board members so that they could hear comments such as those on the strays problem.

## Final hearing set

A final Community Development Grant hearing will be held in Black Mountain on Monday, February 27, at Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the hearing,

the last of five, will be to get input into how up to \$700,000 in Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Grant funds could best be spent to provide facilities or services to Black Mountain, primarily for low to middle income persons and the elderly.

Citizens Participation Committee Chairwoman Jean Standley said that this hearing may be the most important, and that town board members are expected to attend.

## Emergency stickers made

The Region B Emergency Medical Services Council, which serves Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania Counties, has announced that it is initiating a community services project in the Buncombe and Madison County areas. The project involves the printing and distribution of emergency phone number stickers to the residents of the two counties to be placed on telephones.

The objective of the project is to assist the public in reaching emergency medical personnel in accident and emergency situations. The adhesive-backed stickers will indicate the phone numbers of the ambulance services within the respective counties.

Approximately 25,000 phone stickers will be distributed in Buncombe County without cost.

The Council is an advisory body to the Land-Of-Sky Regional Council and works closely with the North

Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services, local governments, hospitals, ambulance services and emergency care providers in Region B.

Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services, local governments, hospitals, ambulance services and emergency care providers in Region B.

## Gudger defends Carter efforts

by Rod Gragg

In a speech to the student body at Montreat-Anderson College, 11th District Congressman Lamar Gudger attributed President Jimmy Carter's drop in the popularity polls to over-expectations by the American public, and voiced his belief Carter will fulfill most of his campaign promises.

Gudger, a first term Democrat, made his comments while speaking at Montreat-Anderson's Monday convocation. A Montreat-Anderson student asked why, if President Carter had done so much to bring morality to government, was the President falling in the popularity polls?

"It may be that the public was expecting more out of this man than he could accomplish," Gudger answered. "He came from Georgia to the White House without having spent time in the Senate or in the United States Congress. A lot of people expected him to go up there and eliminate all excess spending, change all programs to make them efficient and economic, make the welfare system work and work well to where nobody got benefits except those who were entitled to them, how there would be expanded programs, and benefits to the



U.S. Representative Lamar Gudger at Montreat-Anderson College.

## Van painting -- "detail counts"

by Dan Ward

Connie Holcomb is not your conventional artist.



She likes portraits, landscapes and grisly surrealistic copies of paintings by Frank Frazetta. The difference with her paintings is that they are mobile—on the sides of custom vans.

"We were starving in winter," the artist gave as the reason for beginning a custom van shop in Black Mountain.

"We decided that we had to do something, so my brother-in-law (Barry Holcombe) and I hit on this," she said.

The two are planning to open the shop at the site of the former fiberglass shop on Old US 70 on March 10. Connie is preparing for the opening by painting model masterpieces on pieces of sheet metal.

The artist of 20 years said she learned of the demand for detailed van painting while talking to van customizers at Bob Ledford Motors. While there are a few area shops that will paint scenes on vehicles, most will only do simple silhouette-type scenes that take less than an hour to paint.

"We're going to specialize in Frank Frazetta paintings," she said. Those used as models include "Death Dealer"; a flame-eyed warrior with a bloody axe and the less violent, if equally arousing "Golden Girl".

"They are all very emotionally triggered," Connie

said of Frazetta's works. She noted that Frazetta got his start in cartooning and has produced "Little Annie Fanny" in Playboy magazine and the comic strips "Tarzan" and "G.I. Joe".

But if people come in and just give us an idea of what they want, we'll do that, too," she said.

The two will do some air-brush work, but will also use a technique that allows them to get fine detail into the paintings.

"It's just our technique, Connie said. "From people I've talked to, it seems it's not being used on the East Coast. I don't want to talk about it because others might use it."

While the greater detail will be more time-consuming—15 to 16 hours for more more paintings—Connie said the pair plans to "undercut everybody" in prices. She said they have not yet worked out the prices, but will have set costs for each painting.

And what sort of people want the blood-dripping, fire-eyed "Death Dealer" on the side of their truck or car?

"I don't know," Connie said. "I can't imagine putting it on my car."

aged and children at lower costs - these sort of things.

"Government doesn't change that quickly. It's a terribly complex system - this free government that we have. Carter is trying to lead, and that really, in the final analysis, is the ultimate responsibility of a chief executive. So, I commend him for trying to lead. I comprehend the limitations of the free democratic society which expects miracles of its president, and I remind you that you can't expect to change this country's course - established over 20 or 30 years - overnight.

"It takes a while. I think he is going to simplify government. He said he was going to get rid of 500 agencies this year. He's already been at work and has eliminated 15 agencies in the Department of Agriculture. There are a lot of things coming down the line. I think we'll see some of his promises fulfilled and that soon. I'm sure he'll try to fulfill them all, and that may take some time."

Gudger told the students at Montreat-Anderson he has supported 75 percent of President Carter's proposals.

Gudger, who faces opposition from his own party and from the Republicans, is home from Washington to meet with his constituents.

Connie Holcomb with the "Death Dealer". (Dan Ward)