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Black MOUNTAIN NEWS

Serving the Swannanoa Valley

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National Volunteer Week



Volunteer Eva Brothers does what volunteers do best—giving a little love to young Adam Cook at the Christian Church day care center.

Valley volunteers honored

by Cynthia Reimer

"A volunteer is someone who does something because you want to," Irene Ogle, director of volunteers at Highland Farms, said at a breakfast honoring volunteers there last week. "A smile," she added, "is a volunteer activity."

Volunteers all over the nation are being honored this week during volunteer recognition week.

The theme for the week is "Volunteers—Our Greatest Natural Resource."

Volunteers in the Valley devote thousands of hours every year to making life a little better for their neighbors. Their activities range from running the library at the Western Carolina Center-Black Mountain Facility to putting out fires, from arranging flowers on the church altar to bringing a religious message to juvenile offenders at the Juvenile Evaluation Center.

Their services are worth inestimable thousands of dollars yet their product is, for the most part, something money could never buy: love, friendship, caring.

"Volunteers make all the difference in the world to people whose world has shrunk," Chester Prentice, administrator of Highland Farms, said. "You give dimension to life."

Fifty to 60 percent of the residents at Highland Farms are involved in volunteer work.

At the Juvenile Evaluation Center in Swannanoa, 200-400 volunteers are on campus each month. They provide

recreation, music, social events and religious guidance.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wood of Montreat have been donating their services to the Sunday School there and acting as surrogate parents for children whose parents have abandoned them or who have no parents.

They bring their hopeful Christian message to children who often don't have much to be hopeful about.

"They are angry and frustrated when they come here," Mrs. Wood said of the JEC students. "We want to get the young people while they still have lives

to give to God...not just before they die."

In return for the hundreds of loving deeds the JEC is a recipient of, JEC students are volunteers at Western Carolina Center, where they act as "buddies" to the residents.

"We try to repay the community by participating in things like the community litter clean-up," said Lucille Gunter, director of volunteers there.

Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry-East is staffed funded and stocked almost completely by volunteers and donations.

"We couldn't operate without them," Lois Nix, director, said.

Fifteen volunteers work each week, screening clients, assisting them, stocking the store, providing transportation for the needy.

The Black Mountain Fire and Police Departments are supported by volunteer firemen, ladies' auxiliary and

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Governor's Awards nominations sought

Nomination forms for the 1982 Governor's Volunteer Awards are available at the Black Mountain Public Library. The deadline for submitting nominations is Wednesday, May 12.

Nominations may be made by a group or individual in the following categories: individual human service, individual community volunteer leader, senior citizen volunteer, disabled person volunteer, school volunteer, one-to-one volunteer, church or religious volunteer group, business or industry volunteer involvement.

Nominations will be judged with others from throughout the county. Last year no nominations were received from the Black Mountain-Swannanoa area.

Officer assigned to Cragmont area after citizens complain

by Cynthia Reimer

An auxiliary police officer has been assigned to patrol an area off Cragmont Road from 3-10 p.m. daily to protect children and other residents from individuals allegedly involved in "disorderly conduct, shooting, knifings and gunfire."

Mayor Tom Sobol described the activities of a group of five to 10 people. "There is an elderly man, around 65, retired. They keep him under the influence of something 'til he's lost control of his house."

"This man formerly was very conscientious. Now he's had his water turned off because he didn't pay the bill and I've heard his electricity was also turned off. He gets retirement and social security checks.

"They've taken that old man over. One of the girls is living there now."

The man went on to say that children in the area are afraid to go out and play. "They prowl around the woods," he said. "This is part of the same crowd we use to have around Lake Tomahawk."

A woman with a family who lives nearby said, "My husband sleeps with a high-powered rifle by the bed."

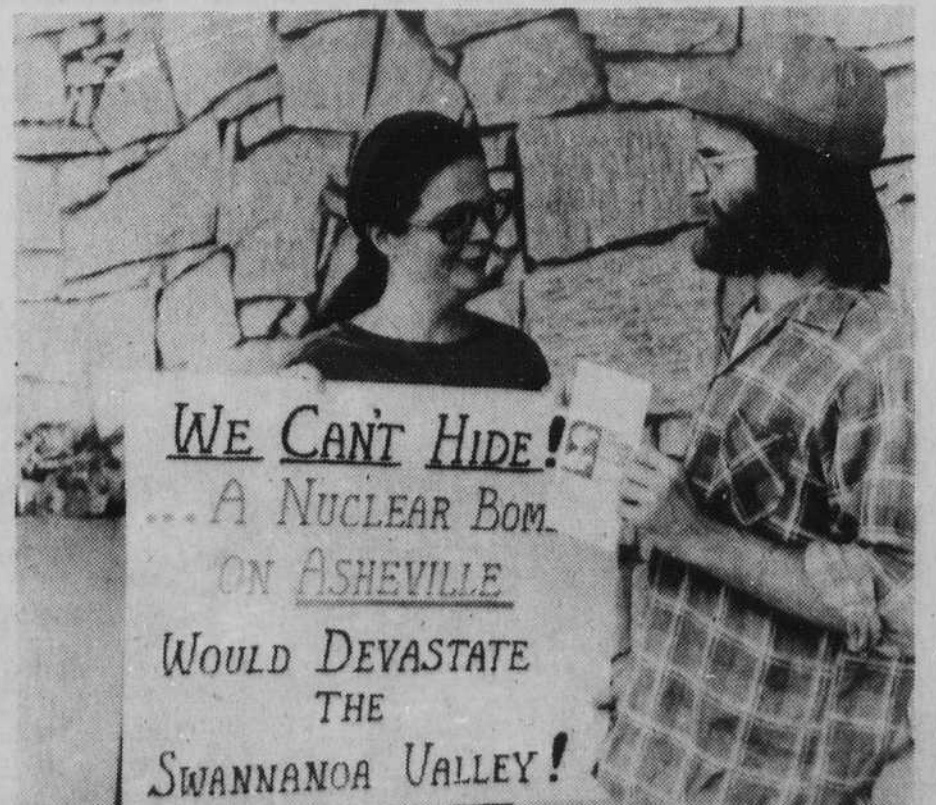
Mayor Sobol said there have been two shootings in the area, but because no one would sign a warrant, including the man shot in one incident, no legal action can be taken.

Town attorney Ron Sneed told the aldermen, "Unless the man steps out of there and says, 'get those bums out of here,' there is nothing we can do."

Town manager Al Richardson said local convenience stores had "banned" the group.

An emergency meeting was held at 8:30 a.m. Thursday by the Town Board and lawyer Ron Sneed to determine what action was available to them. Mayor Sobol said Tuesday legal action will be taken this week to alleviate the situation.

Ground Zero Week



Marie Kaplan, a member of the Swannanoa Valley Advocates for a Nuclear Arms Freeze, collected signatures at Ingles in Black Mountain Monday on a petition. Part of a national Ground Zero week, the petition asks U.S. leaders to halt the nuclear arms race. Chris Blair of Montreat received information from Mrs. Kaplan.

Town Board

Citizens' commissions formed to aid town

by Bill Anthony

Black Mountain moved closer last week toward urban improvements with a number of prerequisite bureaucratic steps.

The Town Board of Aldermen, at its April 14 meeting, appointed a committee of very concerned citizens to coordinate with the TVA's "Town Lift" program aimed at downtown rejuvenation. They are: Bob Watts, Al Richard-

son, Gay Fox, Joe Tyson, Bob McMurray, Bill Ricketts, Steve Roberts, Chuck Campbell and Priscilla Hopkins. Alternate member is Susan Garland and ex-officio members are Ed Weber and Kathy Wacaster.

And the Aldermen agreed to establish by ordinance an "urban forestry" program with a commission to serve as liaison with state experts on management of street, park and other public trees. The Board also agreed to estab-

lish a Recreation Commission by ordinance with considerable authority. According to a legal draft that commission "shall have complete supervision of the facilities and activities provided and conducted on or in connection with the parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and recreation centers provided and shall have the power to conduct any form of recreation or cultural activity."

Members of the urban forestry and recreation commissions are expected to be named at the Board's May meeting.

Last week the Board also familiarized itself with the Town's garbage and trash ordinance as part of the statewide clean-up week program. The littering section of that ordinance reads:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to throw or deposit upon any street or sidewalk, or upon any private property, except with written permission of the owner or occupant of such private property, any rocks, bricks, lumber, sawdust, bottles, jars, broken glass, or any paper bags, cups or paper of any kind that may be offensive or unsightly or that may be dangerous to traffic."

Mayor Tom Sobol encouraged witnesses to report to the police department license numbers and other identification of cars from which trash is thrown. He also reminded residents to put out whatever materials they wish

the Town to haul to the county landfill, excepting tires. Town Hall, if notified, will pick up the material during this week or until all is removed.

In other business last week the aldermen agreed to establish a new privilege license fee for doing business in the town at a flat \$20. Previously it was \$10 plus \$10 per employee on the contractor's payroll.

The aldermen also agreed to enter into a "sister city" program with St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica. This was at the suggestion of Warren Wilson College, relayed by Alderman Gay Fox. A student from St. Ann's Bay is now at Warren Wilson and further exchanges are predicted.

Mayor Sobol also announced his intention to proclaim April 28 Special Olympics Day on behalf of the handicapped children at Western Carolina Center. He urged attendance at the Olympics and to join in the "happiness of the children when they receive praise."

In another action, the Town will ask the Department of Transportation to make the corner of Rhododendron and Ninth streets a four-way stop. Rhododendron is state-maintained. Sobol mentioned complaints about speeders and a near tragic accident involving a child bicyclist.

Middle school chorus receives second superior rating

The Black Mountain Middle School chorus received their second superior rating this year at the Fourth Annual Carowinds Choral Festival held at Carowinds last Saturday. They are the only Western North Carolina middle school chorus ever to receive two superior ratings in one year.

This is the first year the chorus has existed. It is under the direction of L. Dale Whittington.

Of the 35 schools participating at Carowinds, only four groups received the coveted superior rating.

Judges for the event were Dr. Richard Brewer from Pfeiffer College, Mary Nell Saunders, and Roger Zim-

merman, both of Virginia. Each of the judges gave the Black Mountain group a superior rating.

Some of the accolades were: "free, lovely, lyrical tone," "very sensitive interpretation," "excellent tone for this age group," "best phrasing heard today," and "superb musicianship evident in the singers and conductor."

The Black Mountain chorus will perform next for the Kiwanis Club at the Monte Vista Hotel Thursday at noon and for the Buncombe County Board of Education meeting at Owen High School Thursday evening, April 22.

Planning Board to meet

The Black Mountain Planning Board will meet April 27th at 7 p.m. at the City Hall. The public is invited to present views on allowing mobile homes within the town limits.

Sign, trailers discussion continue with Planning Board

by Bill Anthony

What was variously described by participants as "Sign litter" and "sign clutter," plus uncertainty toward allowing mobile homes in Black Mountain characterized the Planning Board meeting April 13.

The Town planners hope they are in the final stretch in drafting a new zoning ordinance for presentation to the Town Board of Aldermen. Article X of the draft concerns business signs. However, how to accommodate its restrictions to merchants' satisfaction is still being thrashed out.

For example, at last week's meeting Frank Williams declared he hopes to open a shop on Black Mountain Avenue with a sign describing "Bar-B-Q'n Fixins." One restriction in the draft ordinance applying to the downtown C-1 district limits signs to those parallel to store fronts, permitting only a 24-inch projection toward the street. Williams, however, wishes to attract customers from at least a block away and doesn't consider a sign parallel to his store front sufficient.

In a vote that split the board evenly, with Chairman Travis Childs breaking the tie, Williams was given permission to print the letters vertically with the 24-inch limitation. But he was advised that should the sign article be approved by the aldermen such a sign perpendicular rather than parallel to the building would have to come down.

As the planners then proceeded through the draft ordinance, Childs suggested developing a position on whether to issue permits for mobile homes in the Town's limits. The resulting pro and con discussion came down to "how to tell people they can't have a mobile home in town and provide no other option" for those who can't afford conventional houses, versus "depreciating owners' property values by allowing mobile homes in their neighborhood."

Unable to develop a consensus, the planners scheduled another meeting April 27 at 7 p.m. with the public invited to describe the community's views on mobile homes.