

# KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

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Businessmen, Merchants Asked For Ideas

## CBD Traffic Control Is Talked

By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The first of a series of meetings of the Kings Mountain Traffic Flow Committee was held Monday night and the majority of the 90-minute session was spent by merchants airing parking complaints.

Commissioner Fred Wright, committee chairman, said the meeting would be informal and before he could ask those attending for their comments on how better to pattern the traffic flow in the central business district he was deluged by complaints on parking.

Horace Hord, who operates B&B Food Store on S. Battleground Ave., complained that "there has been no parking for customers downtown in two years and from the looks of this parking lot being built, there will not be a lot of parking available in the future either."

Hord, along with Mrs. Woodrow Grayson of Grayson's Jewelry, said that employees from other businesses in town are using the limited on-street parking on W. Mountain and Battleground. Hord said, "There are a number of retired people who

come early in the morning to park and stay there all day."

Mrs. Grayson said that people who do business with the billiard parlor on W. Mountain St. take up parking spaces for long periods of time, which cuts out other business customer parking.

Willie Webb, planner with Isothermal Region C Planning told the gathering at city hall that "businessmen have some hard facts to face. If there is no parking available near your place of business, then you might consider buying a piece of property nearby for your customers."

Webb said that in his own hometown businessmen were faced with this situation and they were advised to consider this suggestion. "Half of the businesses closed their doors rather than consider providing parking at their own expense for customers," he said. "There is no easy way to put it, but it appears that business people, in general, wait for the city to provide such facilities so they can take advantage of the taxpayer's money rather than their own."

Odus Smith, owner-operator of the Western Auto Store on S. Cherokee

St., said, "I have spaces for 60 cars I have provided myself. Now I need some way to get traffic in the downtown area to fill those spaces."

He said the streets in the downtown business district have been torn up for so long that "there is no traffic flow to speak of."

In this William Fulton of Fulton's Department Store agreed. He said the property behind his own store, which runs from S. Cherokee to S. Piedmont, will soon become another municipal parking lot. He also agreed that employees in downtown businesses are creating a problem with the limited on street spaces by parking there all day long. Fulton suggested that downtown merchants get together to set some policies on employee parking to take care of this problem.

Al Moretz, the city codes director, who is also doubling in brass as a city planner and public works director presently, suggested that front door customer parking is not necessary.

"You see this fact in the shopping centers," Moretz said. "Take TG&Y. There is ample parking at West Gate and the majority of it is not at the front door. People who have to park closer to the street in

that parking lot have further to walk to shop than anywhere in the downtown area.

"The reason people don't mind parking and walking some distance to shop is because they have easy access to parking and to the shopping places," he continued. "That is what will have to be done in the downtown area."

Moretz said the downtown area has already taken the first steps toward this with mall-type planning. He also suggested that within 10 years the downtown businesses will

have turned their backs completely toward the railroad tracks and that front entrances will be facing onto the parking lot.

"The downtown businessmen and merchants are going to have to capitalize on the mall-type effect," he said. "The key to success is providing parking, but more importantly, providing easy access to the parking."

Moretz suggested the merchants get together and come up with suggestions on traffic patterns. He said traffic can be controlled, it can

be dictated.

Webb told the gathering that "when the by-pass opens the downtown area is going to be helped considerably because people who do not want to bypass the city are going to have to come into the downtown area. By planning now on traffic control you will be ahead of the game and will be able to help dictate which way the traffic flows."

Webb will assist the city planners and the CBD businessmen and merchants in planning traffic flow in the coming weeks.

## City Is Expecting Word From Ford

At presstime this week there was still no word from The White House on President Ford's plans to accept or decline an invitation to join in the October 7, 8 and 9 celebration in Kings Mountain.

Mayor John H. Moss, general chairman of the joint North and South Carolina and Kings Mountain celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain, said, "Possibly there will be some word on The President's decision today, according to my information."

Meanwhile, planning for the local three-day celebration are continuing with several events firmed and others in various planning stages.

The rocking chair marathon, announced last week, will begin at 10 a. m. Thurs., Oct. 7 on the paved lot beside Neisler Brothers. At 3:30 p. m. a fashion show is scheduled. At 7:30 p. m. two events will take place - in the new municipal parking lot off S. Cherokee St. there will be a senior high pep rally and street dance and at the community center a square dance is planned for the senior citizens.

The Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association also announces a Mountaineer Days Sale which will continue from Oct. 7-9 with a drawing for two grand prizes scheduled at 4 p. m., Sat., Oct. 9 in the new downtown parking lot. (See Mountaineer Days ad in today's Mirror-Herald).

At 3 p. m. October 7 there will be the culmination of the Overmountain Men march in the Kings Mountain National Military Park with an address by Gen. Westmoreland in the amphitheatre.

On Fri., Oct. 8 at 9:30 a. m. Mayor Moss will officiate at dedication ceremonies of the municipal parking lot. In attendance will be Miss North Carolina - Susie Proffitt, and Miss South Carolina - Lavinia Cox.

At 10:30 a. m. N. C. Gov. Jim Holshouser and S. C. Gov. James Edwards will meet at the state borders inside the military park to shake hands and drink a toast of mountain spring water.

Following the "Hands Across The Mountain" meeting the governors will officiate at dedication ceremonies of the new Kings Mountain National Military Park visitor center dedication.

At 1 p. m. the City of Kings Mountain will host a dinner for special invited guests at the Kings Mountain Country Club.

A parade is planned for 3:30 p. m. in the downtown area featuring bands, floats, the two governors and other attractions.

From 5:30 to 7:30 p. m. a supper is planned in the senior high cafeteria and at 8 p. m. the Mountaineers host the Burns Bulldogs at John Gamble Stadium. At 8:15 p. m. wrestling matches are planned at the community center and at 9 p. m. a street dance.

Sat., Oct. 9 a sidewalk arts and crafts show is slated downtown from 10 a. m.-4 p. m. A pet show is set for 1 p. m. and at 8 p. m., a battle celebration dance is set at the National Guard Armory.

Other events are being planned to make this three full days of activities, Mayor Moss said.

### Crime Prevention Meeting Tonight

Citizens are invited to attend a Community Crime Prevention meeting tonight at 7 p. m. at the Kings Mountain Community Center.

Sponsored by the KM Police Department and Citizens On Patrol and Emergencies (COPE), this month's meeting will cover Operation Identification and how it helps reduce the loss by theft of personal property.

A 27-minute color film - "Brink Of Disaster" - will also be shown during the meeting.

### Elections Office Open Saturdays

The Cleveland County Board of Elections office, 211 E. Warren St., Shelby, will be open Sat., Sept. 25 and Sat., Oct. 1 from 9 a. m. until 5 p. m. to register voters who are unable to come during the week.

Persons may also register at the home of the registrars and qualified judges in their precincts by appointment.

Hazel McNeilly is the Bethware registrar (739-4820); Geraldine Myers is the West KM registrar (739-

9188); and Margaret White is East KM registrar (739-4019). Call for an appointment.

The deadline for registering for the November 2 general election is 5 p. m. Mon., Oct. 4.

Applications for absentee ballots will be issued from October 4 through 6 p. m., Wed., Oct. 27. All applications must be returned to the elections board office by 6 p. m. on October 27.



FIRST CHECK FOR KMUF - Larry Wood, chairman of the Kings Mountain United Fund, accepts a check for \$300 from Ron Osborne, industrial division gifts chairman. The check represents a corporate gift

from Wise Industries, which has been in business about three months here. Another \$208 has been pledged by Wise employees.

Photos By Tom McIntyre

## New Standards Approved

By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The city has approved new minimum standards for fire department, water and waste treatment plant applicants.

Under the fire department minimums new applicants will take a written examination scheduled by the State Employment Security Commission, submit to a thorough background check, a physical examination, an agility test and, if accepted, work a six month probation period.

Water and waste treatment plant applicants must be high school graduate or obtain the equivalent within one year of date of employment, serve a one year probationary period, obtain a Grade C certificate for water and Grade 2 in waste water within two years of employment and take the ESC general aptitude test and score in the medium range.

Mike Church, foreman of the city's water and waste treatment plants, said, "At present all of our operators have the required educational and certified backgrounds to operate the water and waste plants. These new minimum standards, some of which are suggested by the State Board of Health, are for new employees who will someday be in positions of responsibility."

Church said the state places a water plant into either an A, B or C classification according to the number of gallons processed per day and the amount of chemicals added. The city's water plant is Class A and has a Class A operator - Church. Waste treatment plants are graded as 1, 2, 3 and 4. The city has two plants for waste treatment - the McGill Plant, which is a Class 2, and the Pilot Creek Plant, Class 3. The plant operators have the required certificates. Church said

the Grade 2 certificate employee will have to become a Grade 3 within the next two years, however.

Church said that all present employees will be required to obtain Grade C certification for the water plant and a Grade 2 for the waste treatment plant within two years.

While water and waste plant

applicants may fall between the ages of 18 and 50, new applicants for the fire department must be 19 to 35, according to Fire Chief Gene Tignor.

The fire department minimum standards follow closely the minimums adopted for the police

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## Firefighters Open Toys For Tots Campaign

The Kings Mountain Fire Department has begun its annual Toys For Tots campaign.

This project, which began with the city's fire department, is aimed at providing toys for youngsters who otherwise would be deprived on Christmas Day.

The firefighters are looking for repairable toys (and even new toys) to be donated by area citizens. The repairable toys and bikes will be collected if citizens will call 739-2552.

Fire Chief Gene Tignor said, "We would like to request toys and bikes only. Any clothing items citizens may wish to donate should be given to the Salvation Army."

However, if citizens wish it the firefighters will collect clothing items along with toys and make arrangements to get the clothing to the Salvation Army for their distribution to the needy program.

As in the past, the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association will assist the fire department in distributing the toys at Christmas. The KMMA will provide a list of the needy and make appointments for them to collect toys from a central distribution point.



DSA WINNER - Roy Pearson, Kings Mountain Recreation Department director, holds his Distinguished Service Award presented by the KM Jaycees. The plaque is for Pearson's "years of dedicated service to the community." Pearson has served the city's youth in recreation planning for 20 years, the last seven as a city employee.



WESTMORELAND

## Named To Post In Grover

GROVER - Dean Westmoreland has been appointed to the Grover Town Council to fill the unexpired term of R. E. Hambricht.

Hambricht resigned recently to serve on the Cleveland County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority.

Westmoreland, appointed last Thursday night, will be sworn in at the next regular meeting. The term runs for approximately one year.

The Grover resident is a teacher at Kings Mountain Senior High, immediate past president of the N. C. Association of Educators and was an unsuccessful candidate for the N. C. Senate in the August 17 Democratic Primary.

OUR SELECTION IS GREAT

SHOP OUR STORE YEAR ROUND