

February 8 & 15

# Development Grant Hearings Planned

By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Public hearings to discuss programs for the third year of Community Development Block Grant funding are scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 8 and 15 at 7:30 p. m. at city hall.

Mayor John H. Moss said, "We will evaluate existing programs funded under the CD program, such as the home based child care project, program for the aging, expansion of water and sewer facilities, recreation facilities, streets, sidewalks and improvements at the city's parks, Deal St. and Davidson."

In addition, during the public hearings the city council will hear proposals for new community programs for CD funding. Persons or groups with proposals in mind should contact Mayor Moss' office for assistance in understanding guidelines and in developing proposals.

The five year program was awarded Kings Mountain under the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The total amount earmarked for the city was \$4,180,000 to be funded over the five year period.

The third year entitlement is \$1,040,000, the same as the first two years. In 1978, the entitlement drops

to \$893,000 and in 1979 to \$347,000. The guidelines list activities which are eligible for funding and this includes:

Acquisition of property which is blighted and is appropriate for rehabilitation; construction of public facilities; loans and grants for rehabilitation of buildings; demolition of buildings and improvements; improvements to remove barriers to mobility to handicapped and elderly persons; payments for temporary housing for persons displaced by community development; disposition of property acquired through community development activities; provision of public services which are not otherwise available and are needed to support other community development activities; payment of city's share required in a federal grant-in-aid program; cost of completion an existing urban renewal project; relocating

payments; planning costs; and administrative costs.

Programs not eligible for CD funding include:

Facilities for general government use such as city halls, courthouses, police stations and other municipal buildings; stadiums, sports arenas, auditoriums, concert halls, cultural and art centers, convention centers and museums; schools (except neighborhood or senior centers having classrooms; airports, subways, trolley lines, bus, or other transit terminals and transportation facilities for general public use (except neighborhood or senior centers); hospitals or other medical facilities for general public use (except neighborhood or senior centers); operating and maintenance expenses (except for eligible activities); general governmental expenses; political expenses; new housing construction; and income payments.



Photo By Gary Stewart

**SENIOR CITIZENS TO PERFORM** - Here's the Kings Mountain Senior Citizens Band, which will perform at the community center on February 11 during the California Outies basketball game. Band members include, from row, left to right, Julia Roberts, Ruth Burris, Ferrie Gordon, Nola Morrow, Daisy

McCurry, Essie Davis and Grayson Davis. Second row, Ellen Petrosino, Willie Bratton, Millie Gladden, Annie Gist, Kara Martin, Maggie Hullender and Ella Gibson. Back row, Gussie Bolton, Biddle Barrett, Beasie Mills, Lydia Mitchell, Florence Carroll and Beulah Mauney.



Photo By Gary Stewart

**CUTTING WOOD** - With the natural gas shortage reaching the critical stage and threatening rationing of residential energy, several persons who have fireplaces and wood-burning heaters have turned to mother

nature for their fuel supply. In photo above, David Hughes of Kings Mountain cuts firewood from a truckload of wood he hauled from a local saw mill.

## Cold? Burn Wood

By Gary Stewart  
Staff Reporter

With the natural gas shortage getting more critical each day and electric bills continuing to skyrocket, Kings Mountain and area citizens are turning more and more to natural fuel . . . wood.

Those with fireplaces and wood-burning heaters are putting them to use and firewood dealers are seeing their business skyrocket like the price of fuel.

One local dealer who advertises in the Mirror-Herald said he's been busy all winter cutting and delivering wood and has finally had to turn people down. To date, he's 33 loads behind.

Most dealers advertise firewood "all hard wood, any length" for as little as \$20 a pickup truck load. Anyone who has had to cut wood will

tell you that's a bargain.

Others have turned to saw mills for real bargains in firewood. Most mills in the area sell slabs for as little as two dollars a pickup truck load and some mills give away strips to use for kindling.

One area saw miller contacted last week said trucks come by the dozens each Saturday to take advantage of their deals and usually all slabs and strips are cleaned out by Saturday afternoon.

Still others, as unfortunate as it is, have turned to stealing firewood.

George Shull of the N. C. Department of Transportation, said his department has had numerous complaints about persons cutting firewood on North Piedmont Avenue where the state has purchased property for the new Highway 74 bypass.

Some persons, Shull said, have been told that the government is giving away trees if persons would cut and haul the wood, but this is not true.

"We're not giving away any trees," he said, "and if we find out who has been cutting them we'll prosecute them. The federal government doesn't want those trees cut until the road is built."

"Of course," he continued, "if the owner cuts or has his trees cut before we purchase his property, it has nothing to do with us. But we do not have the authority to cut or give away any trees on the property that we've obtained."

Shull said several of the homes his department has purchased have been vandalized.

There is one agency in town that is happy to give away firewood at times, and that's the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission.

Commission Director Gene White said the commission has in the past given away wood from homes it has demolished and at times has given away trees. At the present, however, there aren't any homes being torn down.

At the Cansler Street Urban Renewal project, several trees have been cut recently and given away to persons who would cut them into firewood size and haul them away.

White said Bob McKinney, the site foreman, would be the person to contact for that wood.

## Bloodmobile At Bethware Friday

The Red Cross bloodmobile will return to Kings Mountain Friday for a one-day visit at Bethware School Gymnasium.

Bethware School Parent-Teacher Association is sponsoring the visit and goal of the collection is 175 pints of blood.

Donors will be processed from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., said a

spokesman for the P-T.A.

Because of so many accidents during the holidays and during snow and ice, the need for blood in Cleveland County is critical.

"We invite everyone to turn out in record numbers for this one-day visit of the regional blood collecting unit," said a spokesman for the Cleveland County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Through People Cooperation

## Even In Crisis, City Gas Holding

Winter has thrown the country into a panic.

Natural gas is running out and now we are told that alternate heating and manufacturing fuels are coming into short supply.

Unemployment is rising at an alarming rate all over North Carolina and the nation because plants are closing due to no fuel. Schools are being closed in many areas because it is just too cold in classrooms for students to work.

In Kings Mountain students have missed a couple of days because of heavy and sudden snowfalls, but those days will be made up at the end of the year. Students here are still going to classes at 8:30 a. m., while in Gaston County classes do not begin until 9 a. m., an effort to conserve fuel.

Also in Kings Mountain the majority of the city's industrial customers on the natural gas system do have alternate fuels and have long since switched to them. So far it is business as usual and there have been no reported large layoffs.

What has happened here is a community-wide spirit of cooperation and sacrifice. Citizens are adhering to the request to keep

thermostats at low degrees to conserve gas consumption. The city's gas department has a monitoring system set up at the public works offices and employees keep a constant check on the readings to determine where the demands are being made. When this happens the department can curtail gas in one or two less vital areas and step up the feed to the important demand areas.

The city also has a propane air system which can, when working full capacity, supplement the city's natural gas allotment up to 25 percent. To date the propane air system has not been called on for help.

Al Moretz, city planner, told The Mirror-Herald, "We have the people and their cooperation to thank first, and secondly the monitoring system which allows us to know when and where the demands are needed."

"We have been extremely fortunate so far," Moretz said. "But the crisis is far from over and we urge citizens continued cooperation to conserve as much of the natural gas supplied by the city as possible," he continued.

During Extreme Cold

## Caution At Home May Save Lives

Fire Chief Gene Tignor has issued a warning to citizens to exercise caution before bringing heating units and stoves out of retirement during the cold weather.

"Due to the bitterly cold weather and fuel shortage," Tignor said, "Citizens are bringing heating units, stoves and fireplaces into use. There is danger here, especially if this equipment has not been used in some time."

The fire chief reminds the public that two Kings Mountians have lost their lives within the past month through using fireplaces and materials in an unsafe manner.

Chief Tignor said there are many causes for dangerous and sometimes fatal home fires in connection with heating devices.

- (1) Do not overheat any type of heating plant.
- (2) Provide adequate clearance between heaters and combustible materials, at least 24 feet on the sides and 48 inches above.
- (3) Check stove pipes and fuel lines for cracks and holes before

using. If damages show, replace them before using.

(4) When using open fireplaces. Always use a firescreen to prevent live coals or embers from popping out onto floors or rugs, never use flammable liquid to start fires or to boost a going fire, and make sure the flames have died out before retiring or leaving the house.

(5) Electric heaters should never be left unattended for any length of time. Clean and oil heaters frequently to prevent dust or lint buildup.

(6) Treat flexible drop cords with care. Such cords with broken insulation can start fires. Cords should be replaced as soon as they are damaged or show signs of wear. Cords should never be run under rugs where people walk or under doors that are regular closed.

(7) And do not use old type, one burner portable kerosene heaters. Such items are easily over-heated or knocked over. And these items are especially hazardous where small children are present.

## School, City Election Is October 11

On Tues., Oct. 11 three commissioners and two Kings Mountain District Schools board members will be elected here.

The seats in districts two, five and six are up for grabs in the municipal election. These seats are currently held by Commissioners Humes Houston, William R. Grissom and Fred Wright Jr.

On the school board Tommy Bridges of Kings Mountain and P. A. (Tip) Francis will be up for reelection.

Luther Bennett, chairman of the Kings Mountain Board of Elections, said, "The county will handle the school board election while we handle the municipal election. In the school election, citizens residing in the KM district, which includes Grover and Bethware, will vote. For the municipal election, only those citizens residing in the corporate limits may vote."

Filing for candidates in the city election will begin at noon on Fri., Aug. 19 and end at noon on Fri., Sept. 16. The usual commissioner candidate filing fee is \$5, but the city board has the authority to increase that to not more than one percent of the annual salary of a commissioner.

Candidates will file with either Chairman Bennett or elections board secretary Betty Mercier.

## Democrats

## To Organize On Thursday

Organizational meetings of both East and West Kings Mountain Precinct Democrats are scheduled for Thurs., Feb. 10.

The meetings will begin at 8 p. m., with East KM Democrats meeting at the community center and West KMers at the National Guard Armory.

During the meetings chairmen and vice chairmen and delegates to the Cleveland County Democratic Convention will be elected. The convention is scheduled for noon, Sat., Mar. 19 at the county courthouse in Shelby.

Serving as chairmen presently are Charles T. Carpenter, West KM, and Charlie Moss, East KM.