

Under Grant At KM Hospital

Health Care Program Continues

Kings Mountain Hospital is in the second year of a three year program designed to provide greater access to health care services for citizens. The program was initiated in 1975 by The Duke Endowment, The Kate B. Reynolds Health Care Trust and The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. Acting as a consortium, the three groups provided \$4.5 million to implement the program. Recently the group reported that as of February 1, 1977 a total of 81

hospitals in North Carolina have received grants totaling \$1.45 million to establish full-time emergency room physician coverage. Grady Howard, administrator of Kings Mountain Hospital, said, "We have retained two physicians with the grant money. We retained one physician under the first grant, then with another grant, another physician." Howard said the first year the

grant the local hospital received provided \$20,000 per physician. The second grant, the current program, provides \$10,000 per physician. Kings Mountain hospital offers emergency room physicians on duty from 6 p. m. until 6 a. m. on a daily basis. Only 12 of the 31 hospitals involved in the program state-wide now provide around-the-clock emergency room coverage. The 290-bed Cleveland Memorial Hospital in Shelby is one of 12.

The funded program initially adopted several innovative approaches to meet the objectives of the program, including monitoring health needs, identifying access problems, especially in rural and underdeveloped areas, developing practical approaches to respond to identified needs, recruiting suitable sponsors to test proposed solutions, assisting sponsors in financing special projects and monitoring projects to determine their ef-

fectiveness. One result reported by the consortium report is that it appears easier to recruit primary care physicians even in medically underserved areas when hospital emergency rooms are staffed during nights and weekends by full-time emergency room physicians. Howard said, "This has been a fine program for our community. It has been well-received here. We are working toward seeing this program

continue with or without a grant." Howard said the hiring and emergency physicians "does not preclude patients being treated by their own doctors during the 6 p. m. to 6 a. m. period. We have also developed a backup program with area physicians in cases of emergencies when more patients would be brought into the emergency room at one time than the on-staff physicians could handle."

Zoning Request Okayed By P&Z

The city planning and zoning board Thursday night approved by vote of 2-1 petition of Dr. Craig Jones for rezoning of lots across from the hospital on West King Street from Residential Office to Neighborhood Business. Dr. Jones told the board he wants to construct a "Pantry" or convenience store on his property which fronts 878 feet on the south side of W. King St. at the corner of W. King and Juniper.

The motion to rezone was made by Don W. Blanton seconded by L. L. Adams with Tom Tate abstaining and Bob Maner, chairman, voting against. Other members present, Paul Owens and Mrs. George Houser, did not vote.

Prior to the board's action, Chairman Maner showed the board petition from 26 property owners in the W. King area who oppose the rezoning because they feel it "offensive to the area and would create more congestion and traffic on W. King." Signing the petition were J. O. and Joyce Van Dyke, Elizabeth Mauney, Mary and Joel E. Cloninger, Clyde Conner, N. F. and Nancy McGill, Viola and J. D. Hammett, Wiley and Quilla Blanton, Dottie and Bob Southwell, W. L. Mauney, Nan P. Ormand, Earl Cloninger, Ronald and Sylvia Maples, James and Martha Yarbro, Margaret D. Hullender, Blanche Yarbro, Verna Bolton, Ola M. Sullivan and Z. W. Sullivan.

Dr. Jones told the board that he felt the new business would be good for Kings Mountain.

Tom Tate said he abstained from voting because Home Savings & Loan Association, of which he is executive officer, owns property directly across the street, the former Mauney property which the board later unanimously rezoned from Light Industry to Residential Office. That property fronts 280 feet

on the North side of 74 or West King. The board also unanimously voted to rezone from R-6 to Central Business property owned by Mrs. Haywood E. Lynch to be compatible with adjacent zoning. Chairman Maner explained there was an error in the new zoning map.

Two requests for amending zoning ordinances were denied.

By unanimous vote, with all members who were present voting (including James Herndon and Wilson Griffin who were late arrivals) the board denied request of Jim Rowell, of PO Box 818, Terrell, to rezone, from R-6 to N-B property fronting 40 feet on the West side of Ark St. and 118 Fulton Dr. Mr. Rowell said on his application he wanted to construct a small grocery store at the site. Both Paul Owens, a member of the board, White, KM Redevelopment Commission Director who are residents of the area, opposed the rezoning, saying there was not enough property for the proposed structure and that residents of the community are opposed.

Don Blanton made the motion, with L. L. Adams seconding, that Paul R. Sheffield's request for rezoning from R-8 to General Business his property fronting 442 feet on the north side of East King St. and U. S. 74 (Kings Mountain Motor Court) be approved so that Sheffield could make improvements to existing property. Mr. Sheffield reportedly wants to locate a UFO research project on his properties. Under the present ordinance, the exterior dimensions cannot be altered.

The vote was 4-3 against with Jim Herndon, Tom Tate, Bob Maner and Mrs. George Houser voting "no" and Mr. Blanton, Mr. Adams and Mr. Owens favoring.

Members absent were Fred W. Plonk and Gary Sarvis.



PAVING CONTINUES - As part of the Cassler St. Urban Renewal Project, Waterson St. has been widened and is now being paved. Curbing and guttering and storm drains are also included in the program. Champion Landscaping paved Waterson over the July 4th holiday.

Delegation Is Happy With Judicial Split

Sen. Ollie Harris of Kings Mountain said that the local delegation and members of the judicial system are "happy with the separation in the 27th Judicial District."

One of the 11th hour bills to pass the General Assembly last week, the three county district is now split into two parts - 27-A is now Gaston County and 27-B is Cleveland and Lincoln counties.

Senator Harris said the bill, "mostly drawn by Carl Stewart, 'House Speaker from Gastonia, 'seems to be quite satisfactory with those concerned.' The bill becomes effective on July 15, 1977.

Also part of the bill package is the elimination of the Public Defenders office in Cleveland and Lincoln counties. The defense of persons who cannot afford to pay an attorney for services will be handled by private practice attorneys in the two counties appointed by the court. Public Defender Jim Funderburk and his staff will continue to handle indigent cases in Gaston County.

"The Cleveland County Bar Association favors the court appointed private attorney over the Public Defender system," Sen. Harris said. "However, we have two years to study the situation to determine which of the two defense systems will prove more beneficial to the client and less costly to the state."

Senator Harris said it is his understanding from Chief District Court Judge Lewis Bulwinkle that the effective date for eliminating the

Public Defender system in Cleveland and Lincoln counties is also July 15.

Since 1976 the three county district has had a split in prosecutorial staff. Gaston county has had its own District Attorney, Joe Brown, and Cleveland-Lincoln counties have shared the services of District Attorney W. Hamp Childs Jr.

For Gaston County Robert Kirby of Cherryville will serve as senior resident Superior Court Judge. Robert Gaines will also serve a judgeship in the new 27-A Judicial District. District Court judges Berlin Carpenter, Donald Ramseur, Ralph Phillips and Bulwinkle will continue to serve Gaston County.

John R. Friday of Lincolnton will serve as senior resident Superior Court judge for Cleveland and Lincoln counties. Max Harris of Shelby will serve the 27-B district as District Court Judge.

Senator Harris said that under the legislation that passed last Friday that the new 27-B Judicial District will gain another assistant District Attorney, another District Court Judge, another investigator for the DA's staff, another magistrate (in Cleveland County) and two more deputy clerks of court.

"The new District Court Judge will be appointed by the governor," Senator Harris said, "I believe that is sometime in 1978. Which county the new judge will come from, I do not know. Nor do I know where the new magistrate for Cleveland County will be stationed."

City Delaying 201 Study Finalization

The engineering firm of Hennington, Durham and Richardson of Charlotte have indicated that Kings Mountain is holding up finalization of the federally ordered 201 sewer facilities study.

The regional 201 study for this area includes, with the exception of Cherryville, all of Gaston County and Kings Mountain and Grover in Cleveland County.

Les Hall, a representative of the engineering firm, said recently that the basic layout for presenting the study to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been finalized except for needed data from Kings Mountain and Grover. Hall said Grover was added to the study about four months ago.

Al Moretz, Kings Mountain's engineer, said the city's input to the study should be completed within a month. Part of the data needed has already been supplied.

Moretz said the reason the city's data has been delayed is his "getting used to the city's system." He has only been with the city for one year. Another reason for the delay is the fact that Moretz has had to wear many hats as far as his duties to the city since he was employed in 1976.

"We are looking over the entire area with this 201 study and we have to be sure we make good recommendations in the beginning," Moretz said.

The 201 study is supposed to cover the next 20 years as far as waste treatment is concerned. Hall said the end product is to provide alternates for building waste water treatment facilities at the least costly and which will environmentally sound.

The 201 studies must be approved by EPA before federal funding will be considered. Hall said he feels that should the local 201 study receive the needed data from Kings Mountain and Grover within the next two months that a presentation to the EPA could come in six to eight months.

Moretz said he feels approval and or funding for the local project is at least five years away. "Out of the entire United States, only one 201 plan has been approved," he said.

California Student Group Entertained

Residents at the KOA Campground here Sunday were entertained by 45 young people from Arcadia, Calif.

Mrs. Jane Clemmer, owner of the campground off Hwy. 161, said the Rio Hondo Prep School students, fourth graders through senior high aged, presented a light show, a three act drama, a magic show, a band concert and caroling bells music.

"The students are on a 10-week tour across the country playing campgrounds," Mrs. Clemmer said. "This is part of their educational curriculum."

The group arrived with mobile units, a sound truck, a costume truck and hunch van. They were accompanied by their teachers from the school.

KM Hospital Earns JCAH Accreditation

Kings Mountain Hospital, Inc. has been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals according to Grady Howard, local hospital administrator.

This accreditation, according to Howard, covers from June 20, 1977 to June 20, 1979, which is the highest accreditation rating any hospital can receive.

The two-year rating came as the result of an on-site survey made by field representatives of the JCAH accreditation program. The rating indicates the Kings Mountain Hospital is operating according to standards set by JCAH.

Kings Mountain Hospital is one of 4,800 general hospitals to earn this recognition. There are approximately 7,150 hospitals in the United States.

"The joint commission's surveys are voluntary," Howard said. "It is not legally necessary for a hospital to be accredited, but health care facilities have sought accreditation because it represents a benchmark of quality that is higher than governmental licensure alone."

50 More Units Released

Following inspection of 50 more units of public housing Wednesday, PHA Executive Director Tom Harper said the units were released to the Housing Authority with a number of minor items yet to be completed.

Harper said the Housing Authority will assign units as the contractors complete these items.

Seventeen units will be assigned the week of July 17 and it is anticipated, said Harper, that the remaining 33 units will be assigned within the next 30 days.

Three units located on the north end of Tracy Street will be open to the public this Saturday morning from 9 until noon.

Chief Lloyd Is Chairman

Kings Mountain Police Chief Earl Lloyd has been elected chairman of the Region C Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

Also elected to office at the meeting in Marion last week was Max Padgett of Rutherfordton as vice chairman.

During the business session members discussed a replacement

for Don Jones, former Region C Planner, who resigned recently to accept a state agency position. Applications for the job are still being accepted.

A committee of Region C and Isothermal Planning Commission members will attempt to hire a replacement by the July 28 Region C Meeting.