

KM Weather

	July 6-12, 1988	Year Ago
Precipitation	2.62"	.19"
Maximum One Day	2.40" (8th)	.19" (7th)
Year To Date	16.77"	23.13"
Minimum Temperature	60 (6th)	69 (7th)
Maximum Temperature	98 (8th)	96 (7th)
Average Temperature	82.9	83.1

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

City Delays Decision On Treatment Plant

BY LIB STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

Kings Mountain City Council voted unanimously last Thursday to delay a decision to withdraw from the proposed regional Crowders Creek wastewater treatment plant project until they could meet with the Gastonia Council on the project.

The overall financial problems the city faces because of repairs and renovations that must be made to various portions of the city's utility systems, was the reason given for council's decision to consider withdrawing from the project.

District 1 Councilman Al Moretz, chairman of the three member utilities Committee which also includes Councilmen Humes Houston and Fred Finger, made the motion that "out of courtesy to our sister city, Gastonia, and since I got a call today from mayor Jick Garland asking us to delay our decision, I move we table this instead of an official vote."

At presstime this week, Moretz told the Kings Mountain Herald that he had not heard back from Mayor Garland about a meeting date. "I have called several of the officials and Mayor Garland, and so far they have not gotten back with us," he said.

The Utilities Committee, which met last Wednesday night, was prepared to make a motion to pull out of the project, a move that Gastonia officials say may kill the program.

"Kings Mountain is the only reason for the state grant", said Gastonia City Manager Gary Hicks.

Kings Mountain is faced with an overloaded treatment system

that has forced the city to stop granting new hookups for industry. The city is under court order to clean up Pilot Creek plant problems in two years or face fines of \$5,000 per day.

"We can't afford to wait until the regional plant comes on line in 1991," said Moretz at both the Wednesday and Thursday night meetings. "Our problem is money and where the most efficient place is to put Kings Mountain dollars."

The city council's decision to stay or pull out of the project is crucial for southwestern Gaston County, Gastonia, and Bessemer City who have worked with Kings Mountain since last year on the \$26 million proposal.

Moretz said Kings Mountain must spend \$2.1 million to improve and expand its Pilot Creek

wastewater treatment plant to handle the city's increasing demand. Kings Mountain's share of the Crowder's Creek project was to be \$3-3.5 million. "We can spend a lot less and solve our problems," he said.

Gastonia was to pay about \$4 million on the Crowders Creek project, Gaston County about \$3.8 million and Bessemer City about \$800,000. The remainder of the funds were to come from a \$14.1 million state grant. This is the last year state grant money will be available.

Gastonia is the lead agency for the project and along with Gaston County and Bessemer City were to sign a legal agreement to participate by mid-July. Kings Mountain city officials had several closed sessions in the past weeks discussing legal re-

quirements but since November have known they were being asked to make a financial commitment to the project by July 1.

The city entered into an agreement in January to correct problems at the Pilot Creek plant by June 1990. That sent Kings Mountain to the top of the priority list for federal grants administered by the state. As long as Kings Mountain might get a grant, the other governments, at the urging of former Mayor John Henry Moss last year, decided to explore the regional system. A new mayor and a new manager-council form of government have since taken place in Kings Mountain.

Moretz, in presenting cost figures at Thursday's special meeting, said that as currently

Turn To Page 5-A

On Waste Treatment Plant

Public Hearing Thursday

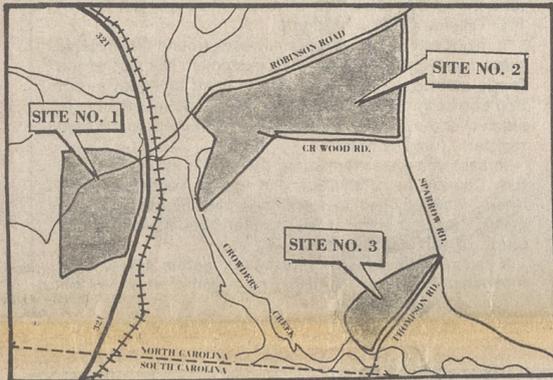
Public hearing on the Proposed Crowder's Creek regional wastewater system will be held Thursday, July 14, at 7 p.m. in the Gaston County Courthouse.

A citizens group protesting two of three proposed sites near U. S. 321 in southern Gaston County is expected to be present along with

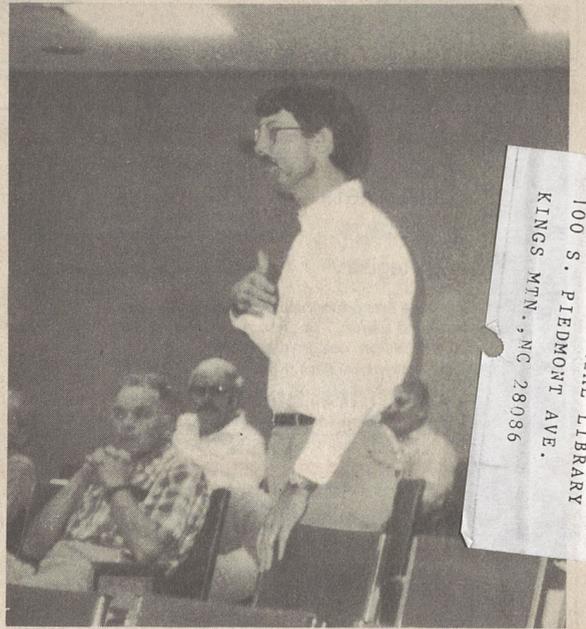
representatives of the four municipalities involved in the project - Gaston County, Gastonia, and Bessemer City.

Mayor Kyle Smith said this week that he, along with City Manager George Wood, and city councilmen plan to attend the public hearing. City Manager George Wood said Kings Mountain officials are not ruling out

Turn To Page 5-A



Proposed sewage plant sites



SPEAKS TO BOARD - Ralph S. Messera, City Manager of Bessemer City, said Thursday he hopes Kings Mountain will participate in the regional sewer plant but agreed with Council they have to do what is best for Kings Mountain.

Chamber Urges City Remain In Waste Project

The board of directors of the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce unanimously voted this week to encourage City Council to remain in the proposed Crowders Creek Wastewater Treatment project.

Kemp Mauney, president, who has forwarded a letter to city council, Mayor Kyle Smith and City Manager George Wood, said the Chamber understands the city's money problems but that the treatment facility is essential for the future growth of Kings Mountain and the area.

"For the future programs and expansion of Kings Mountain, this is something we're going to have to have eventually," says Mauney. "Since the grant money is available now and the plans are already underway, we should go ahead if we can. I understand the city's budget constraints, but I'd like to see it pushed forward if possible."

Kings Mountain, Bessemer City, Gastonia and Gaston County had discussed going together in the \$28 million project. Matching grant money of approximately \$14 million has been offered, and the four municipalities would

share the approximately \$14 million remaining costs.

Kings Mountain's share has been estimated at \$3.5 million, for which the city would receive approximately two million gallons of sewage treatment per day. Some Kings Mountain city officials have mentioned that the city could expand its Pilot Creek facility for less money and at the same time receive more treatment capacity.

"I'd like to see us do both," said Mauney. "The Chamber really hasn't discussed the proposed bond issue (to provide improvements at Pilot Creek) but I think we would be in favor of the bond issue too. My understanding is that whether the people of Kings Mountain vote for a bond or not, there is going to be a bond issue. If they vote to do it, it will be a cheaper rate. I understand the budget constraints and they (city council) have to do what they can afford. But I would like to see them do the Crowder's Creek project too."

In his letter to city officials, Mauney said the Crowder's

Turn To Page 5-A

Gastonia May Annex 950 Acres

A move by Gastonia to annex 950 acres along the I-85 corridor north to Kings Mountain may switch into high gear if Kings Mountain does not go along with a regional sewage treatment plant at Crowders Creek.

The regional sewage treatment program was to be headed by Gastonia and to serve Kings Mountain, Gastonia, Bessemer City and unincorporated areas in southwestern Gaston County.

According to an article appearing in the Gastonia Gazette earlier this week, Gastonia Councilman Doug Mincey on July 5 asked Gastonia's city planning director to look into annexing land along I-85 corridor to Kings Mountain.

"If something were to happen to the waste treatment plant, we need to go ahead with our annexation plans," Mincey was quoted as saying.

Gastonia has completed plans for the annexation of property west of the city's current boundary. Gastonia officials delayed annexation earlier this year to use the \$4 million budgeted for annexation to help fund their portion of the regional sewage treatment plant.

Principal Ready For Job

By TODD GOSSETT



Jackie Lavender

Kings Mountain Senior High School's new principal, Jackie Lavender, said she's ready to go and looking forward to the challenge of her new job.

Mrs. Lavender took over the position on July 1. She replaces Ronnie Wilson, who became the Kings Mountain School District's Director of Personnel on July 1.

Many things will be happening at the high school next year, Mrs. Lavender said. This, along with the fact that she'll still be learning the job, should make the year challenging, she said.

Among the special things that will be going on at the school next year are the construction of the new swimming pool, the ten-year reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the addition of classrooms to accommodate the ninth grade. "It's going to be exciting," she said.

The new principal said she didn't want to make any major changes at first, but that she'll always want to try to make things better.

The reevaluation that will come with the reaccreditation process will give the school some direction for improvements, she said.

Curriculum expansion that comes under the State's Basic Education Plan will be another thing Mrs. Lavender will have to deal with in her first year as principal at the high school. Specifically, dance classes will be offered in the school to comply with the plan. The foreign language program at the high school will also be expanded, Mrs. Lavender said. A teacher from the Junior High

Turn To Page 5-A

Toney, Accor Named In School Promotions

Sherrill Toney, KMSHS biology teacher, was named assistant principal at Kings Mountain Senior High School and Mary Accor, Central School language arts teacher, was named assistant principal at Kings Mountain Junior High School by the Board of Education on Monday night.

Faculties are now complete for the opening of the Fall term of school on Aug. 22. Teachers report to work on Aug. 13.

Toney joined the Kings Mountain District Schools as Seventh grade mathematics teacher at Central School in 1969.

Accor joined the Kings Mountain District Schools at Grover School in 1979.

New teaching contracts were issued to Sherry Bingham, Allyson Carswell, Grace Costner, Addie Crocker, Patricia Davis, Linda Foust, Sarah Gardner, Cynthia Hoi Hovis, Susan King, Tony Leigh, Craig Mayes, Lisa Neisler, John Toms, and Judy Shisnant. The board also employed Jerry Edmondson as a custodian and Daryl Strong as a teacher assistant.

Resignations were accepted from Anita Thompson, art teacher; Dennis Martin, agriculture teacher; and Charles Ramsey, maintenance director. Teachers transferred to other positions were Paul Bolt, Bethware Physical Education department; John Bumgardner, Senior High social studies; Diane Dooley, Senior High physical



ACCOR TONEY

education; Barbara Lovelace, Senior High social studies; Charles Helms, Junior High business lab; Patsy Rountree, Senior High home economics; and Barbara Starnes, senior high secretary.

The Board held an executive session after the regular business meeting to discuss personnel.

In other actions, the board: Heard report from Assistant Supt. Larry Allen that Kings Mountain students are "hanging in" and "doing well" on achievement tests. He said the same format for the California Achievement Test was used in 1988 and compared 1986 second graders one point below grade level to one month ahead of grade level in the third grade. "Our students are achieving consistently and if you track the years and compare the progress you can readily see that Kings Mountain students are a point ahead of the national

Turn To Page 5-A

DROUGHT

By LIB STEWART

Even though this summer is shaping up to be one of the hottest and driest periods ever, Kings Mountain residents have been faring well during the drought.

Kings Mountain's water source, Moss Lake, is limited only by treatment capacity and the amount pumped to town, says Water Department Head Walt Ollis. The local community did not suffer during the drought of 1986 and Ollis says he anticipates "no problems." Currently, the water

Turn To Page 9-A



FLOOD

By ROBERT L. WILLIAMS

The 1980's will long be remembered as the decade of droughts, and with good reason. Farmlands, orchards, gardens, and lawns are parched from the heat and lack of moisture, and water shortages are as commonplace now as rationing was in wartime.

But the droughts of the modern era cannot compare with the vengeance Mother Nature unleashed upon Gaston County 72 years ago. On July 14, 1916, a massive rainstorm stalled

Turn To Page 9-A

