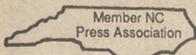


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Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 101 NO. 28

Thursday, July 13, 1989

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Off And Running For Council

Six candidates filed this week for three seats open on the Kings Mountain City Council, the three challengers assuring races in both District 5 and District 6.

All three incumbents, Humes Houston of District 2, Fred Finger of District 5 and Harold Phillips of District 6 filed for reelection to four-year terms on the board.

Challenging Finger will be Marshall E. (Coot) Camp, 58, of 403 N. Cansler St., a retired Army sergeant who is seeking public office for the first time.

Floyd (Will) Sanders, 53, of 806 Landing St., Spectrum Industries employee, filed for the District 6 seat held by Harold Phillips. Sanders lost a bid for a school board seat two years ago.

Also challenging Phillips is Jerry White, of 200 Fulton Drive, who filed for District 6 on Tuesday. White is a Detective Sergeant in the Cleveland County

Sheriff's Department, a former Kings Mountain police officer, a former Kings Mountain fireman, and a former superintendent of the Kings Mountain Natural Gas System. He was employed by the City of Kings Mountain for a number of years in different departments. He joined the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department in 1981 as a patrolman. He was promoted to the Detective Division and later promoted to Detective Sergeant. During that time, he received two citations recognizing outstanding dedication, leadership and achievement in advancing professional law enforcement. In 1986, he was named "Investigator of the Year" by Region C Criminal Justice Advisory Committee.

A life-long resident of Kings Mountain, White is married to Rebecca Gordon White. He is a graduate of



CAMP



SANDERS



HOUSTON



WHITE

See Running, 3-A

Demolition Ordered

City Council Tuesday night ordered the demolition of condemned property at 803 Second Street in 60 days.

By their action, the board authorized Codes Officer Tom Fields to demolish condemned property owned by heirs of Annie K. McAbee at 803 Second Street.

The item had been tabled since Oct. 12, 1988.

Fields said the city will advertise

for three bids for demolition and will accept the low bid. The McAbee estate will be billed for all costs of demolition, lot cleaning, and \$25 administrative fee, he said. "This property has been an eyesore for about 12 years and has been condemned, under law, as unfit for human habitation," said Fields.

Fields said the city has complied

See Council, 3-A

Hawkins, Hord File For Board

Incumbent Paul Hord Jr. and newcomer Ronnie Hawkins filed this week for two outside seats open on the Kings Mountain Board of Education in the November elections.



RONNIE HAWKINS

A third inside-city seat is also up for grabs as terms of Hord, Bill McDaniel and Priscilla Mauney expire. Mrs. Mauney has indicated she plans to run again for the inside-seat on the board. McDaniel has announced his plans for retirement.

Hord, 52, is seeking his third term on the board. "I'd like to see finished what we started," he said, referring to additions to the junior and senior high school and the implementation of the middle school program in Kings Mountain.

Hawkins, 37, said his reasons for running are that he enjoys working with children and feels his experience as a volunteer with the Cleveland County Youth Assistance Program gives some insight into some of the problems facing young people as he works one-on-one and pushes remedial education. Hawkins' mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Jones, have been foster parents for many years.

Vice President and Co-Manager of Harris Funeral Home, Hawkins is the son of the late J. B. Hawkins. He joined Harris Funeral Home nearly 14 years ago after graduation from Gupton-Jones College of Mortuary Science, Atlanta, Ga. He is a former deacon of First Presbyterian Church where he and his wife, Libby Dye Hawkins, are active in the youth program and where his wife is a deacon and Sunday School teacher. He is a Mason, a Kiwanian, and director of the Cleveland County Cancer Society. In 1982, he was voted by the Jaycees as one of the five most outstanding young men in North Carolina and received the Distinguished Service Award as Young Man of the Year by Kings Mountain Jaycees in 1983. He is a former member of the KM Rescue Squad, served on their board of directors and also in the Fire Department. He is active in the Civil Air Patrol.

A resident of Countryside Drive, Hawkins said he decided to file for an outside city seat after Chairman Bill McDaniel decided not to run again.

Hord, Kings Mountain native and son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hord Sr., owns and operates Paul's Seafood. His wife, Joyce, is manager of Kings Mountain High School Cafeteria. They have three children and six grandchildren, four of whom attend Kings Mountain schools.

Hord is president of Gideon International, Kings Mountain camp; a Mason, and a member and deacon of First Baptist Church. The family resides on York Road.

Filing for the school board continues until Aug. 4 at noon with the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

Tragedy With A Happy Ending



READY TO GO HOME-Jennifer Foster, above, plays in her crib at Kings Mountain Hospital after nearly drowning in a kiddie pool Monday in her great-grandfather's front yard. Her aunt, Beverly Inman, left, and her grandmother, Kathy Gregory, say efforts by a city policeman and family members saved the two-year-old girl's life.

KM Policeman Saves Child Who Was Feared Drowned

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Of The Herald Staff

Jennifer Michelle Foster, 2, laughed and played with her toys at Kings Mountain Hospital Tuesday night, as her grandmother, Cathy Gregory, recalled the horror story of how the child almost drowned Monday afternoon.

Jennifer is going home to 211 Stowe Acres today to play with her small brother and get more hugs and kisses from a big family of relatives.

"She won't be in any more pools this summer," said her grandmother, who praised the efforts of her 14-year-old son, Billy Foster, her four-year-old grandson, Eric Stewart, her daughter and son, Kathy and Kenneth Wayne Stewart and City Policeman Derek Johnson for their quick actions in saving the child's life.

Mrs. Gregory said Jennifer, her only granddaughter in a family of five children and six grandchildren, was playing in a kiddie pool with her cousin, four-year-old Eric Stewart while the adults were visiting Mrs. Foster's father, Howard Moore, at 207 Blanton Street. "The kids hadn't been in the little kiddie pool for about 10 minutes when Eric came running in the house and said, 'Ma-Ma Kathy, Jennifer looks like she's dead.' "My heart stopped and I ran to the door and saw her floating, face up, in that two-foot deep plastic pool. She looked swollen so bad that I just went all to pieces and started screaming."

Gregory's sister, Beverly Inman, picked up the child from the water. Billy tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and the child took a few breaths and spit up some water and blood, she said. Patrolman Johnson heard

the call about a possible drowning on his scanner and, because he was less than a mile away from the scene and had 11 to 12 years of rescue work, he responded. When he arrived, he found the child lying in the front yard surrounded by people trying to help.

Mrs. Foster said her screams brought the whole neighborhood and that several police and rescue units responded to the call.

Johnson gave the child mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and a few chest compressions, turning the child on her side to get the water out of her lungs and stomach. Then Jennifer gave a faint cry and was sick. "Eventually she started crying louder and by the time the ambulance arrived she responded when I called her name," said Johnson.

Ambulance personnel gave the child oxygen and her color returned, said Mrs. Gregory. The child was taken to Kings Mountain Hospital and was moved from Intensive Care and into a regular room Tuesday.

Mrs. Gregory said her son, Billy Foster, learned CPR during a camping trip. "Thank God, he did and Thank God for Officer Johnson," she said.

"The kids were playing only a brief time and I don't understand what happened to cause her go under water. She just died and the Lord brought her back," she said.

"What people don't realize is that you can drown in a spoonful of water if it goes down the wrong way," said Johnson.

Foster said Jennifer's pool won't be in use anymore this summer, despite the sizzling temperatures.

Jennifer, unaware of all the attention, talked on her play telephone and played with her bear while Ma-Ma Kathy talked about miracles.

City Employee Facing Charges

Samantha Diane Dellinger, 41, of 606 Bridges St., a 10-year city employee, was arrested Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. and charged with two counts of embezzling utility payments.

Mrs. Dellinger posted bond of \$9,000 and was released at 2:10 a.m. Wednesday morning from Cleveland County Jail.

The Kings Mountain Police Department, with assistance from the Special Bureau of Investigation and auditors for the city, is continuing the investigation, which began Wednesday, July 5. City Manager George Wood suspended Mrs. Dellinger without pay Thursday, July 6.

The Finance Department, which handles utility billings and collections, employs two collection clerks and three others with clerk duties. The city collected about \$10.3 million in gas and electric payments in fiscal year 1988-89.

City Council discussed the matter in executive session Tuesday night, then issued a news release on the suspect's arrest. "In order not to damage the investigation, no further statement concerning it can be made at this time," said Wood.

Kings Mountain Police served warrants on Mrs. Dellinger charging her with two counts of embezzlement totaling \$6,100.

Embezzlement by a public employee is a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison/and/or a fine.

Grover Council OK's \$326,488 Budget

Grover Town Board has approved a budget of \$326,488.62 for fiscal year 1989-90 while maintaining the same tax rate of 29 cents per \$100 property valuation.

The new budget provides for a general fund of \$152,166.71, Powell Fund for street improvements of \$17,738.64, Utility fund of \$80,894.07 and sewer fund of \$75,689.20.

The budget projects that water revenues will bring in \$57,600; water taps, \$1,150; local sales tax, \$19,627.98; sewer collections from customers of \$38,000 and ad valorem taxes of \$16,830.

The budget appropriates \$36,943.10 for the administrative department, \$23,889.24 for Police, \$18,476.23 for maintenance, \$10,160 for Town Hall and office, \$7,500 for Fire department, \$8,871.00 for insurance, \$17,738.64 for streets, \$500 for sidewalks, \$7,377.10 for professional services, \$5,300 for street lights, \$13,944 for sanitation, \$1,000 for cemetery, \$750 for election expenses, \$611.00 for dues, \$2,150 for committees, \$2,100 for donations, \$5,733.04 for contingencies, \$747.00 for miscellaneous expenses and \$6,125 for Park improvements.

The Town expects to pay \$13,809.87 in utility expenses, \$25,000 to Kings Mountain for water, \$4,500 for legal expenses, \$25,0150 for maintenance and repairs, \$8,615.64 for bond payments, among major items in the Utility Fund.

From the Sewer fund, the Town expects to pay \$30,470 for debt retirement, \$14,550 in capital outlay, \$8,400 for utilities and \$8,050 for professional services, among major items.

Mayor Bill McCarter said the Grover Municipal Sewer System has been completed and is removed from a major category in the operating budget. Grover Municipal Park construction has stopped until additional funds become available. Funds for only minor work at the Park were budgeted for the coming year.

Alex Owens, 67, Dies While On Vacation

Alex Denton Owens, 67, owner and operator of Alex's Greenhouses on York Road and a former school board chairman, died Tuesday of an apparent heart attack while vacationing with his family at North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Funeral arrangements, which are incomplete, will be announced by Harris Funeral Home.

"Alex Owens was a real friend of education and will be missed in this community," said Bill Davis, former schools superintendent who served with Owens during his 12-year term on the school board from

1967-79. "Alex was a most effective chairman," said Davis. Owens served as board chairman from 1977-79.

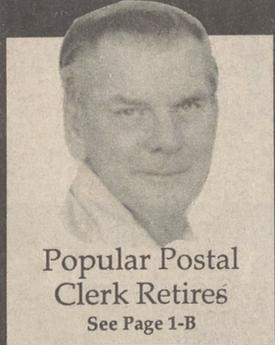
Owens' wife, Lina Thompson Owens, retired in 1985 after many years of teaching at KM Junior High and three of four of the Owens' daughters teach in the school system.

A Kings Mountain native, Owens was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John C. Owens. He was graduated from Kings Mountain High School and was a World War II veteran. He owned and operated a dairy farm and Alex Landscaping

for many years and was also a truck farmer. He was a Mason and deacon in Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are their daughters, Ann Bennett, Kathryn Blanton, both of Kings Mountain, Susan Brown of Shelby and Margaret Rhodes of Hickory Grove, S. C.; six grandchildren; three brothers, Richard Owens, Fred Owens and Charles Owens, all of Kings Mountain, and two sisters, Mrs. Mary Allen and Mrs. Maude McCarter, both of Kings Mountain.

INSIDE AT A GLANCE

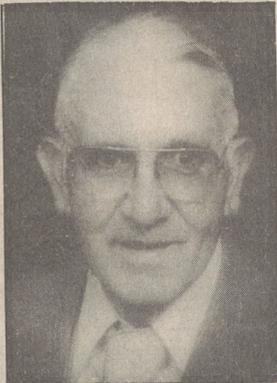


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