

Opinions

OUR VIEW



David Hancock

KM Recreation Director

We're Almost Ready To Walk

As I hope many of you may already know, construction on the Parks and Recreation walking track is well underway. This provides an opportunity to discuss some of the long rang plans for this facility as well as an opportunity to plug the Wellness kickoff at Kings Mountain High School Thursday at 6 p.m. These two activities are closely related in that the Wellness kickoff is an activity to promote healthful living by all residents of the community and the walking tracks, both at Early Park and the high school, are facilities which are provided to meet the fitness needs.

First, I'd like to explain the purpose and program of the Wellness kickoff. This is a project of the Kings Mountain Health Advisory Council, in cooperation with Kings Mountain District Schools and the City of Kings Mountain, and is designed to provide participants with information on ways to make life more healthful. The Cleveland County Health Department, Kings Mountain Hospital, P.E. Department of the schools, the Parks and Recreation Department, and other area agencies, will have information available on health and wellness for program participants. Dr. Scott Mayse and Gordon Edwards will provide information on the benefits of a healthful life style to start the event and then participants will be free to visit any of the variety of activities or booths and join in.

This event coincides with the National Employee Health and Fitness Day, May 16, and from all preliminary indications, area business and industry will be well represented. It is widely accepted that health and wellness programs are a great benefit for both the employer and the employee in ways such as reduced accidents and injuries, reduced sick days, greater productivity and enthusiasm for the job.

The addition of the walking track to the park facilities adjacent to Early Field has many benefits for our citizens. Initially, the satisfaction of knowing that area is a cleaner, more attractive city property will go a long way with many residents. However, the long term benefits of this facility will depend on the interests of the track users and on the types of support equipment which is placed in the track area.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has expressed its interest in addressing some of the major needs noted by the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Committee, including picnic shelter, kiddie playground and landscaping. These efforts are directed at making a more passive type of park than what currently exists in the area. Trees, flowers, shrubs, etc., will need to be planted in and around the track not only for shade but also as a way to help beautify the area. The Parks and Recreation Commission has also taken on the responsibility of constructing a rest room in the area for track users. Both of these projects can greatly benefit from volunteer help from citizens.

From the technical side, the large track is approximately 1,854 linear feet which is about a third of a mile. The course, around the large area, involves some gradual up and down hill grades to add to the interest and degree of workout a user will get. For those starting out, a short track bisects the larger track reducing the length and also staying on the flat part of the property. It is approximately 1,115 linear feet. Two laps around both tracks would equal a mile. The base is composed of crusher-run stone with 2" to 3" of granite dust screenings compacted in place to make for good walking conditions in most any type of weather. As with any exercise program, walkers and joggers are urged to check with their physician before beginning.

We are planning a dedication ceremony for the first or second week in June. More information on that will be shared in future columns.

We hope citizens will enjoy and use this new facility safely and wisely. It has been developed for the health and enjoyment of walkers and runners. No bicycles will be allowed. We will need the help and support of all track users to keep it clean and safe for everyone. Should you have questions or need more information on the new track or on any other aspect of the Parks and Recreation Department, please feel free to call me at the Center--734-0449.

Nostalgia Corner



1961 LEGION TEAM - Kings Mountain American Legion Post 155 is getting back into baseball this year after several years absence. This is the 1961 team which was in the running for the Area IV championship before being disqualified because of some lost birth certificates. Front row, left to right, (manager), Brent McDaniel, Robert Munday, Tommy Barrett, Ronnie Pearson and Jim Leigh. Second row, Punch Parker, Ken Wilson, Louis Cook, Richard Little, Jackie Hughes and Ernest McCarter. Back row, assistant coach Blaine Froneberger, head coach Bill Powell, Warren Goforth, Barry Gibson, Bud Sanders, Randall Haynes, Lawrence Bolin, Butch Young and athletic officer Richard Shaney

Everyone Should Bathe --At Least Once A Year

I was reading one of those tabloid newspapers from a ski resort in Colorado the other day and noticed an item about unusual laws in that state.

One of the laws caught my eye because I don't see how they ever planned to enforce it. The law read: "It is a misdemeanor for a bloodhound to kill a rabbit after 7 p.m." Now, how in the world did a statute like that get on the books? and, how do they go about punishing the perpetrator--take away his lamp post privileges?

Anyway I got curious, did a little research and came up with the following:

In Idaho, a citizen is forbidden, by law, to give another citizen a box of candy that weighs more than 50 pounds.

It is against the law in the state of New York to shoot at a rabbit from a moving trolley car.

Every citizen of Kentucky is required, by law, to take a bath once a year.

In Alaska, it is a violation to even look at a moose from the window of an airplane or any other flying vehicle. I've yet to figure out what any other flying vehicle might be.

You think the laws in this country are tough on drunk drivers? In San Salvador, driving under the influence of alcohol is punishable by death by firing squad.

It kinda makes you wonder where politicians get their training, and whether they have enough to do.

IN THE NEWS

+A couple of years ago, Tipper Gore, wife of Senator Gore of Tennessee, made a big fuss about filthy lyrics belted out by today's so-called singers. She was accused of fostering censorship, among other things, by such authorities as Frank Zappa. To give you an idea of Zappa's intelligence, he has a son named Dweezil and a daughter named Moon Unit.

Several large record companies have decided to put stickers on their albums stating that some of the material contained therein might be objectionable and unsuitable for children.

This should prove profitable for the record companies, as well as the performers. I know if I made records I'd insist on having a sticker applied to my album cover.

You don't think the kids might buy the album, then remove the peel-off sticker before they get home, do you?

+The U.S. Postal Service will raise the price of a first class stamp from 25 to 30 cents next year. That should relieve their shortfall problem, but wait a minute. The government has just published a report that says the Postal Service will lose 1.6 billion dollars next year. Who's minding the store?

Your Right To Say It

Thanks For Help

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Greater Piedmont Chapter March of Dimes, I would like to thank all of the walkers and volunteers who participated in WalkAmerica on April 7, 1990. Nearly \$20,000 was raised to help the March of Dimes prevent birth defects and decrease infant mortality in North Carolina.

Credit for the success of WalkAmerica belongs entirely to the people of Kings Mountain and Shelby. Individuals, businesses, clubs, and schools all rallied together to improve the health of future generations. We are especially indebted to the more than 300 walkers who participated.

The money raised will be used to support March of Dimes programs nationally and in Cleveland County. A recent March of Dimes grant in the amount of \$50,000 was awarded to Edith Miller, M. D. to begin a two-year preconception counseling program for diabetic women in Cleveland County.

Thank you, Cleveland County, for your commitment to giving every child a healthy start in life.

JENNIE BURTON
Special Events Coordinator
Greater Piedmont Chapter
March of Dimes

Support Clean Air

To the editor:

The House of Representatives is expected to vote by Memorial Day on a bill which will determine the quality of our air for the next generation. Unfortunately, H.R. 3030, the bill under consideration, would fail to fully protect our health and environment from smog, acid rain, and toxic air pollution.

Polluting industries are spending millions of dollars to influence this legislation. Our Congressmen need to hear from all of us -- parents worried about their children's health, fishing enthusiasts concerned about the increasing acidity of mountain trout streams, farmers concerned about crop damage from smog, even those concerned about the paint finish on their cars.

All of us are paying the costs of not controlling air pollution. And a recent nonpartisan congressional study found that industry cost estimates for controlling air pollution are greatly exaggerated, and their dire warnings of numerous job losses are based on faulty assumptions. Meanwhile, health costs due to air pollution continue to mount.

I urge other North Carolinians to call your Congressman and urge support for strengthening amendments to H.R. 3030.

Unbelievable as it sounds, language in the bill would allow states to let even their big polluters ignore the law, and also would close many avenues citizens now have to fight air pollution in our communities. An amendment will be offered which would allow citizens and the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce the law -- which is, after all, the current situation.

Other amendments are expected which would protect coastal waters, including Pamlico-Albemarle Sound, from toxic air pollutants, and protect our Great Smoky Mountains National Park and other national parks from pollution.

Again, I urge you to ask your Congressman to support strengthening amendments to H.R. 3030, and do it today. Call the switchboard at the U.S. Capital at 202-225-3121, and ask for your representative's office.

Sincerely,
Gordon Smith
N.C. Sierra Club

Letter Policy

The Kings Mountain Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each week's paper. We ask that you follow these guidelines when presenting letters:

All letters must be brief and to the point. Type and double space them, if possible, but sign them in ink and include the entire name, address and telephone number for verification purposes.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for spelling, libel, slander, or any other reason, and reserves the right to reject letters for any reason.

Mail your letters to Letter to the Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. Hand-delivered letters will not be published.

Schools Still Face Challenges

It is difficult to believe that another school year is about to come to an end. This has been a good year probably the busiest one yet. Our employees and students have excelled in a number of ways. We have accomplished a lot, but there remains a lot to be done. We all look forward to the challenges.

This will be my last column for the year. I want to thank this paper for so graciously allowing me the space to share my thoughts with you. I hope the columns have been informative.

It would be impossible to list all the accomplishments made this year by groups and individuals representing the school system. I think it is apparent that excellence is a goal of ours. We are not without our needs for improvement, but we already have many achievements to our credit that would be envied by any system.

What does next year hold in store? There is no question that we must continue to work to decrease our drop-out rate. We also want to work very hard to give every student an improved opportunity to learn. There will be other areas of emphasis, but these are certainly two of the most important.

It must be said that, no matter how hard we work at these goals, parents really hold a major key to our suc-

Superintendent's Viewpoint



BOB McRAE

cess. It has been proven time and time again that lack of support at home gets in the way of success at school. It's not good enough to talk about education-it takes action. Parents must get more actively involved than ever before in supporting their children's efforts at school. Make sure they attend regularly, stay in contact with their teachers, monitor their efforts at homework above all, give school a place of importance. If parents are not concerned, we will not be successful-it does not matter how hard our teachers work.

I think this system provides wonderful opportunities for its students. It is so discouraging to see some turn their back on those opportunities and fail to realize their maximum potential at school. We all need to re-

solve to restore schools to the place of importance they should hold. I hope I can count on you to help.

In closing, let me thank this community for providing so many special opportunities for our children. It is a remarkable program that we offer, and it could not be done without resources from outside the system. This really is a special place to go to school.

Let me invite you to share any concerns or positive comments you have about the system. If you have something on your mind that you would like to share with me, please drop me a note. The address is Bob McRae, Kings Mountain District Schools, P. O. Box 279, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. I assure you that if you take the time to write, I'll take the time to read your comments carefully. Please consider signing the letter. It is really difficult to interpret anonymous comments.

1990-91 will be upon us before we know it. Have a great summer. Most of all, have a safe summer. We want all of our kids back next year.

Class of 1990-congratulations on a job well done. You're about to do one of the most important things in your life, graduate from high school. Best wishes as you take the training you have received here and put it to use in college and the workplace. I have great confidence that you will do well.

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