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United Fund Sets Its Highest Goal

Kings Mountain United Fund will seek its biggest goal ever- \$127,500 for 17 causes-in the 1991 campaign which will soon get underway.

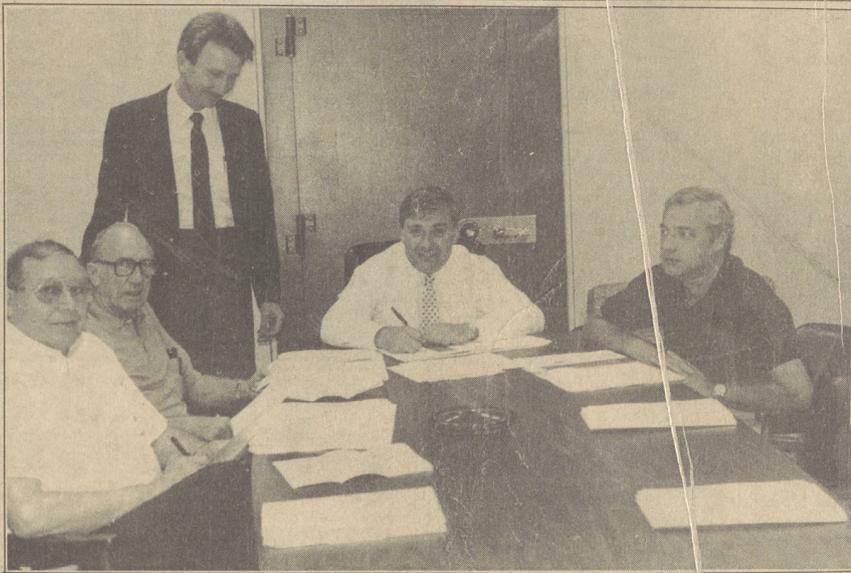
Campaign President Ruby Alexander, Campaign Chairman Glenn Anderson and officers and directors approved the budget following an allocation meeting Tuesday night at First Union National Bank and following interviews with representatives of agencies seeking donations.

A kickoff for the drive will be announced by Anderson, who is appointing committee chairmen to head the effort.

The 1991 goal is up \$6500 from last year's successful campaign which raised the most money ever in the history of the volunteer organization. Kings Mountain citizens gave \$127,000 on a goal of \$121,500.

This year's campaign will ask for an additional \$10,000 for three Venture grants. Funded for Venture grants are James Home, \$2,000; Youth Assistance of Cleveland County, \$4,000 and Crisis Ministry of the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association, an additional \$4,000, plus budgeted money for the Association's Helping Hand and Chaplain's program.

Chairman Anderson is City Executive of BB&T. President Alexander is associated with Alexander Realty.



UNITED FUND SETS GOAL-Ken Bagley, standing, presents a request for funds from Cleveland Vocational Industries as Odus Smith, left, Glee Bridges, Chairman Glenn Anderson, and Tommy Bennett listen during a budget allocation meeting Tuesday night.

KM Council To Adopt 90-91 Budget

Kings Mountain City Council is ready to adopt a \$16.88 million budget for fiscal year 1990-91 following a workshop session Tuesday night in which no changes were made from the preliminary budget they studied at a public hearing last week.

Commissioners said they were concerned that street improvements were not included in the budget but Wood said that big projects had to be cut from the budget to fund drainage improvements to the Bridges Drive area and the renovation of the old post office for a new Police Station. Both projects, Wood had termed as "large ticket" items which the board had talked about at the public hearing. "We simply can't absorb these projects totally without cutting back in other areas," he said. Wood suggested, and the board concurred, that some budget amendments be made after the winter months to determine if monies can be allocated for major street work. Powell Bill monies, which are used for street repairs, will also be used to pay salaries of street workers.

The budget calls for no increase in the tax rate and provides for cost-of-living and merit raises for employees. It is down from last year's budget-\$17.2 million-because of fewer capital projects.

Although no utility hikes are projected in this year's budget, the extra fees will be coming in the form of sanitation fees, probably by Jan. 1, 1991, and this time next year in an additional 10% hike to water and sewer customers for sewage treatment when the new Crowders Creek Wastewater Treatment plant becomes operational.

Cleveland County will be passing along landfill tipping fees to the city by Jan. 1, 1991 which Council will probably implement at that time to city residents on utility bills. The 10% water and sewer hike reflected in the 1990-91 budget will include payments to Gastonia for treating McGill plant sewage. And, another reason for the utility increase a year from now is that the city will begin making principal payments on the water and sewer bonds that are being financed for needed improvements, City Manager George Wood pointed out.

Rose Turner, librarian at city-owned Mauney Memorial Library, and Mrs. Bob Baker, chairman of the library's board of trustees, asked for additional funds for books. Mayor Kyle Smith said the board would take the request under consideration. Mrs. Baker said the library is enjoying a highly successful summer reading program with a book circulation of 1668 and program attendance at 337, compared to 1204 books and 193 people in attendance in 1989. She noted that the average cost of a book is \$20 and that the library wants to include more periodicals and resource books.

"What is the city's progress on implementation of the auditor's suggestions on city bookkeeping?" asked Commissioner Fred Finger. City Clerk Jeff Rosencrans said that all recommendations will be in place by July 14 when the new audit will be made available to commissioners. "I am reconciling the bank statements and fixed assets now and it will take about a week to 10 days to complete," said Rosencrans, who said the city's books are in good shape. Finger also asked if all city facilities are metered and if the various departments are aware that the cost is included in their budget for the year. "Everything is metered," Rosencrans said.

Responding to a question, Wood said that the budget for each department includes costs of administration.

Rosencrans said that all city records are on computer now. The city assesses a \$10 a month late fee for unpaid bills and maintains records on them, in event the account is written off as a bad debt.

Councilwoman Norman Bridges asked that some money be set aside for street paving and suggested that the board amend the budget in February or March if monies were available. Other members agreed that street paving was important.

Finger noted that "\$12 million of the nearly \$17 million budget is a 'pass through situation for utility services with operation of the city at \$4 million."

Wood led a discussion of the six continuing separate funds the city operates: the general fund; Powell Bill funds; Cemetery perpetual care fund; water and sewer fund; electric fund and gas fund.

In lieu of construction, the bond monies voted by KM citizens in the recent \$9 million referendum, are invested in money market accounts and earning over 8% interest, Wood said.

Wood said that due to a state shortfall of funds, the city didn't receive the expected increase in Powell Bill funds. When the state passed a \$9 million road bond and increased the gasoline tax, the city was told it would receive a 50% increase in receipts. "We're looking at \$240,000 instead of \$330,000," he said.

At year-end, the city reports \$1,454,450 in fund balances, which represents, Wood said, an increase of \$80,000.

The budget adoption ordinance will be the major item of business at Tuesday night's board meeting at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Thrift Promoted By KM Schools

The promotion of Mrs. Jean Thrift to the position of Director of Pupil Support, an expanded position in the administrative offices of KM District Schools, was announced this week by Dr. Bob McRae.

Mrs. McRae, Director of Exceptional Children's Program for six years, assumed her new duties this week in an upgraded position. She succeeds Cozell Vance, who retired as educational specialist.

In her new position, Thrift will be responsible for annual standardized testing in all grades, for C. A. T. (competency) testing, end of course testing and for criteria testing for all elementary grades. She will also supervise annual summer school, supervise guidance counselors and direct the Chapter I reading program in the schools.

"We are delighted to have Mrs. Thrift in this new role," said McRae, who said that Mrs. Thrift has been associated with KM Schools for 21 years. She taught 9th grade science, was a resource teacher at Central School, a diagnostician in the Exceptional Children's program for five years and supervised testing and placement.

She is married to Jerry Thrift, who is employed at Porter Brothers. They have two sons, Bryan, who is in graduate school at UNC at Chapel Hill, and Todd Thrift, who works at Lavender's Inc. of Shelby.

A graduate of Limestone College, Thrift earned her master's degree from UNC at Charlotte.

The family resides in Kings Mountain and is active in First Baptist Church.

Bloodmobile Visit Set

Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a visit of the Red Cross bloodmobile June 29 at First Baptist Church fellowship building.

Donors will be processed from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. and goal of the collection is 100 pints of blood.

"Blood is badly needed at this holiday season when accidents are more prevalent," said Lucille Williams, of the Chamber office, who encourages industry employers to allow their employees some time away from their jobs to visit the blood bank.

Demolition Begins At Grover School

Bulldozer crews from Randall Brothers in Kings Mountain were demolishing the old auditorium at Grover School Wednesday afternoon, first phase of a building program which will give the campus a new facelift.

The auditorium, built in 1919, is the first building to be torn down but demolition crews will also bulldoze the library and office building built in 1939.

Numerous trailers now dot the campus playground areas behind the gymnasium and between the second and third grade building and will be utilized by the office staff, library, music, art, Spanish, speech classes, guidance department and special services next school year.

Principal Jim Scruggs said the new drive areas of the school will be completed by school opening and that contractors will start putting up the new walls by Nov. 21 with completion date by Feb. 15, 1991.



BRIDGES DRIVE PROJECT UNDERWAY-City crews are pictured working Wednesday on a major project on Bridges Drive, above, with relocation of gas lines. One of the city workers, William Carro II, is pictured.

Construction Underway

City crews are relocating the gas line on the north side of Bridges Drive, first phase of a major project which will result in months to come the correction of one of the city's most serious drainage problems.

Water and sewer improvements on Bridges Drive will cost \$340,000 with an additional \$181,000 for drainage improvement.

City Manager George Wood said that the new budget year will see major improvements coming to be paid by utility bond monies.

"All bond work will be underway in the next fiscal year. Bids for the water project are expected in 45-60 days, and since the Council

is close to a decision on sub-station improvements, it will be about 60 days before we have electrical bids in hand," he said.

In addition to drainage improvements on Bridges Drive, the city is budgeting money for improvements on Woodside Drive; for running utility lines to a new sub-division, Colonial Woods off Maner Road, to install a six inch water line on Gold between Phifer and Juniper Streets and for a new sewer pump station.

The city is getting into the recycling business also with more bins added at the Community Center.

"Once the Council adopts the budget, our priorities will be in order and we'll be ready to move on

these projects," said Wood.

The Bridges Drive project will initially correct the water and sewer problems by abandoning the lines behind houses and placing them in the street. Property owners are being asked to sign easements so that service lines can be rerouted. Final connections may result in a short disruption of water and sewer services of about an hour.

Wood said the city has narrowed finalists to three for architectural design for the proposed KM Law Enforcement Center at the old post office. The estimated-\$100,000 project will be phased out over a three year period but architectural fees are included in the new budget commissioners are expected to adopt Tuesday night.

Suspects Charged In Gang Fight

Six of seven suspects charged by Kings Mountain Police in last week's gang fight were in custody this week, three of them minors also charged with felonies.

All seven suspects were charged with the same offense, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill in the alleged beating of three men-Bart Truesdale, Joe Cody and Eric Sparrow, with sticks, 2x4s and other weapons during a fight on North School grounds last Thursday night.

The trio, all of whom were injured in the fight, had gone to Ramseur Street to confront one of the suspects, with whom Truesdale reportedly had been feuding. Police said the trio didn't expect to find seven people waiting for them

and attempted to leave in a truck operated by Sparrow when the suspects blocked the drive. Sparrow told investigation officers that one of the suspects threw a can through the open window of the driver's side of his truck and struck him in the head, causing his vehicle to wreck. The three victims were pulled out of the truck, according to police reports. Cody was treated at the hospital and dismissed. Truesdale has been discharged from Charlotte's Mercy Hospital and Sparrow remains a patient at Gaston Memorial Hospital where he is listed in fair condition.

Charged, in addition to the minors, were Dandy Dwight Sanders, 20, of Route 2 Box 530, Bessemer City, three counts of assault with

deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious bodily injury and one count injury to personal property, \$10,000 bond, secured.

Keith Wayne Palmer, 21, of 614 Canterbury Road, three counts of assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill, one count of injury to personal property, \$10,000 bond, secured.

Ralph Bryant Berrong, 20, of Route 3 Box 187, injury to personal property and two counts aiding and abetting assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill, one count of assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill, \$10,000 bond, secured.

Michael Shane Hall, 19, of 1340 Second Street, was charged with See Suspects, Page 7A