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# Kings Mountain Herald

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Kings Mountain, N.C. 280

## Mobile Homes Get A Break

Mobile home park owners got a break from city council Tuesday.

The board unanimously extended from three to five years the amortization period for parks to come in compliance with codes and directed city staff to draw up within nine months a new R-6 MH code which mobile home parks will have to comply with to remain in the city.

The local parks opposing the proposed ordinance feared they would have to move in three to four years.

Will Sanders, of 806 Landing Street, was the only citizen to speak in opposition to mobile home parks remaining in the city. "I live near a trailer park and they're an eyesore. If these owners are so interested in cleaning up their properties now, why haven't they done it before?"

Sanders presented council with

police records logging a total of 34 calls answered by police to the three trailer parks between Aug. 1, 1990 and Jan. 29, 1991, 20 at West Gate, nine to Gold Street and five to Deal Street Park and copies from the city treasurer's office of 21 utility accounts owed the city over two years old and totaling \$3,965.38 by former West Gate tenants.

Crawford Mobile Homes on Deal Street complied with all but four of the 28 requirements for conditional use. Don Crawford requested for rezoning from R-8 to R-20 but his request was denied during a public hearing in which Crawford, Jim Amos, owner of a 10-home park on East Gold Street and Bill Farthing, attorney for 38-home West Gate Mobile Homes on W. Gold Street, opposed the new ordinance which would, in effect,

See Trailers, 3-A

## City To Delay Election

City Council is expected to delay the 1991 city election to May 5, 1992 to redraw the six voter districts because of new state and federal redistricting requirements.

The board Tuesday night set public hearing on adoption of a municipal election resolution for Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Redistricting would have to be approved prior to July 19, 1991 for the election to be held on schedule, said City Manager George Wood and the city can't begin doing that until they get detailed figures from the 1990 census and the census data isn't expected until April 1.

Wood says state law requires cities to prepare a plan which changes the residency districts so

that they are substantial population and receive U. S. Justice Department pre-clearance of the plan, all before July 19, 1991, in order to hold the election as scheduled. Wood estimates the U.S. Justice Department could take 60 days to review the matter and another 60-days extension, which would be more than the number of days the city has to complete the redistricting.

Wood said the existing six wards 1-6 are believed to be considerably unequal in population size and will be confirmed to be by the 1990 census data.

Kings Mountain's six city councilmen are elected at-large but must reside in one of six residency districts. See Election, 3-A



**IN OR OUT?**-Councilman Al Moretz, left, and Will Sanders agree that mobile home park owners should comply with city ordinances or move out but Sanders thinks the city has given them adequate time to clean up their properties. Council voted unanimously to extend the grace period to five years and establish a new R-6 zoning, which will keep mobile parks in, if they comply.

## Proud To Be An American

Memories of Vietnam are still fresh to Don Fite, although he has been out of uniform since December 1984.

The 53-year-old custodian at Kings Mountain Middle School thinks the War in the Gulf is justified. He doesn't feel it will be another Vietnam because the U. S. stands strongly behind the troops there.

"I can still remember the day I came home from Vietnam and flew out of Washington State and people were spitting on us and making ugly remarks about us when some of our brave men died there," said Fite.

Fite, who has worked at KMMS since 1985, thinks the Gulf War will not end quickly but the military there have an advantage over

those who fought in Vietnam. "We didn't have missiles and rockets," said Fite.

Like most Kings Mountain residents, Fite sat glued to the television screens since war began Jan. 16. When he saw the POW's on international TV, he found it degrading for them and said they looked mistreated and beaten. "They were being told what to say by the enemy," he said.

Soldiers returning from the Gulf will be treated like heroes, said Fite, who was honorably discharged as an Army M/Sgt. in December 1984 after 28 years of service. He served in Vietnam in 1966-67 and joined the Army in 1956 after graduating Tryon High School. He served four tours of duty in Germany, one in Vietnam and

one in France. He taught his German bride, Johanna Buchel, the English language. The two met at a service club dance on the post and now have two children, Klaus Dieter Fite, who is married to Jane Dieter and they have a son, Ryan Arthur, and live in Olathe, Kansas and a daughter, Jennifer, who is married to Raymond Owens and they and their two daughters, Ashlie and Kristina, live in Kings Mountain.

Fite and his wife are buying a house on Marigold Avenue and attending Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church.

Fite joined in the recent patriotic ceremony at KM Middle School, where 100 members of the student body with loved ones serving in the Persian Gulf led the service.



DON FITE

Standing on the roof overlooking the campus as the students circled the flag pole, Fite said he was proud to be an American. "I support those men and women in the Mideast but I've had my war," he said.

## KM Board Approves Roll Out Dumpsters

New 90-gallon "roll out" garbage containers will soon replace the big dumpsters at downtown businesses.

City Council, with unanimous approval of downtown merchants, voted Tuesday night to purchase the new roll-out containers and sell them at city cost to downtown merchants to replace the open greenboxes which have been a target for illegal dumping in recent weeks.

The new containers will be standardized. Removal of the two big dumpsters and brick wall in Cherokee Street parking area will give more parking space.

In other actions Tuesday, the board:

+Adopted an ordinance setting the speed limit at 25 m. p. h. during school hours on Phifer Road. New signs will be posted by the Department of Transportation for the heavily traveled state-maintained road that leads to the KM High School and KM Middle School. A concurring ordinance must be approved by DOT before the signs go up.

+Reappointed Mary Tillman to the Kings Mountain ABC Board on recommendation of Chairman Andy Neisler.

+Approved resolution and easements and accepted dedication of the water and sewer lines in Colonial Wood Subdivision, Phase I, and authorized the 50% reimbursement of \$54,123.50 to the developer.

+Set March 2-3 as the date for a long-term planning session by city council for the 1991-92 budget. Department heads will present budget requests.

+Approved annexation of property of Clarence F. Denton III on Suzanne Street.

+Approved contract with Cleveland Memorial Library Board

of Trustees for a "loose" affiliation as requirement for state funding.

+Set public hearing for March 26 at 7:30 p.m. on request by Jack W. Barrett for rezoning of his property on Dixon School Road.

+Approved more beautification at the western exit to the city by "Pride in Kings Mountain" Committee which includes minor landscaping, white gravel and a park style bench. Some city labor will be required for the project.

+Set public hearing for Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. to consider authorizing a Community Development Block Grant application for \$567,000 for rehabilitation of 19 houses on Second Street, including water, streets and sewer improvements with the city committing \$94,000 in local funds to the project.

+Approved a SCADA system at cost of \$323,323.00 to generate savings on peak demands for electrical usage, the costs to be paid off in semi-annual payments over a five year period at 6.6% interest to First Citizens Bank, the low bidder among six financial institutions.

+Heard report on a revised KM thoroughfare plan-study schedule which reflects a four months delay in completion of the study because of changes in project workers and state budget shortfall. Officials have completed a traffic study and socioeconomic projections but the plan is now scheduled for completion in June 1992. The thoroughfare plan calls for an extension of secondary road 2283 between N.C. 216 and Waco Road and extension of Cansler and Gaston Streets to N.C. 216. The new thoroughfare is projected from I-85 northwest around the city.

## KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

### School Librarian Pruette Is A 'People Person'

A librarian's job is never dull if you're a 'people person' like Joanne Pruette who finds research challenging and books exciting.

Media Specialist at Grier Junior High School, the Kings Mountain woman went back to college after she and her husband, M.C., reared and educated three daughters.

It was tough working days and going to school four nights a week for the past four years but the reward was worth the effort. Joanne attended Cleveland Community College for two years and Gardner Webb College for two years. She is a 1990 graduate of G-W with a B.S. in Middle School Education with concentration in language arts.

Why did the busy homemaker and library assistant at Kings Mountain High School decide to



JOANNE PRUETTE

go back to books after graduating from KMHS in 1950?

"I was encouraged by my family and by KMHS Librarian Sara

Griffin and I said, why not?" said Joanne, as she relaxed in the comfort of her home on Maner Road and talked about her new job as Media Specialist, her life-long dream.

"I see as many as five classes a day of Junior High students in the library and you wouldn't believe some of the research problems and questions they ask my help about," smiled Joanne, noting that a librarian's job is more than cataloging books and helping students select the right books. There are basic activities in the library and English classes come in regularly. "We have over 800 kids at Grier Junior High and I'm getting to know many of them on a first-name basis."

Although burning the midnight oil and discipline was a necessity the past four years she went to

school and worked too, Joanne said she was glad of the opportunity and won't quit. She's working now on her master's degree in a program with Winthrop College but she has cut her night classes from four to one, which she says her husband appreciates. Her youngest daughter was finishing high school when Joanne enrolled in night classes at Cleveland Community College and having the whole family behind her helped her to make good grades and to graduate.

"When I went into the classroom I found people of all ages and soon became great friends with the young students and mothers and grandmothers my age. Getting a grade no lower than a "B" was a tough assignment for me but I feel good that I worked toward and

See Pruette, 3-A

## Board To Look At More Reassignment Ideas

Kings Mountain School Board members developed several more scenarios during a second work session on elementary reassignment Thursday night at West School.

The board asked YSAC, Inc., which provided a computerized plan to reassign students to achieve racial balance, to provide four more maps with the following changes:

\*Moving nodes 4060, 4070 and 4160 (Fulton Road, brick yard and West Mountain Street areas) from North to West; moving nodes 5140, 5160 and 5170 (North Piedmont, First and Second Street areas to the Gaston County line) from East to North; moving node 2040 (Bethlehem) from Grover to Bethware; and moving nodes 4010, 4020 and 4100 (Timms Circle to Wells Street areas) from West to North.

\*Moving node 2040 (Bethlehem) from Grover to Bethware; moving node 2160 (Highway 74 from the KM Animal Clinic to Bethware School) from North to Bethware; moving part of node 2205 (area north of the Ebenezer community) from Bethware to North; moving nodes 4060 and 4160 (Fulton Road, brick yard and West Mountain Street areas) from North to West; moving part of nodes 5140, 5160 and 5170 (North Piedmont area only) from East to North.

\*Moving nodes 2220 and 2205 (area north of Ebenezer) from Bethware to North; moving nodes 2160, 2170 and 2180 (Countryside toward Patterson

Grove area) from North to Bethware; moving 5060, 5070 and 5130 (area north of King Street from Edgemont to Cansler Street) from North to Bethware; moving 3060 (Pine Manor area) from Bethware to East; moving 3170 (Northwoods) from East to North; moving 4060, 4070 and 4160 (Fulton Drive, brick yard, West Mountain area) from North to West; moving 4010, 4020 and 4100 (Timms Circle to Wells Street area) from West to East; and moving 2040 (Bethlehem) from Grover to Bethware.

\*Moving node 2040 (Bethlehem) from Grover to Bethware; moving part of 2160 (Highway 74 students only) from North to Bethware; moving 2205 (north of Ebenezer) from Bethware to North; moving 4060 and 4160 (Fulton Road, brick yard, West Mountain) from North to West; moving 3060 (Pine Manor) from Bethware to East; moving 3170 (Northwoods) from East to North; moving 5140, 5160 and 5170 (North Piedmont and First and Second Street areas) from East to North.

Board member Ronnie Hawkins, who requested the maps, said he wants two different sets of maps, one showing the above changes without regard to racial percentages and the other showing the changes but keeping within the board's hopes of staying within plus or minus five percent of the system-wide racial minority percentage of 25.7 percent.

The board spent almost four hours discussing possible changes to the YSAC map. The new maps will be

studied at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on Mon., Feb. 11. Board member Doyle Campbell urged the board to "do whatever we need to do in February" in order to make a final decision at the March board meeting.

During a break in the meeting, several parents told the press they feel like the board should adopt the original YSAC map.

"The system has paid YSAC \$5,000 to develop the plan and we should go with it," said one parent. "It is the fairest way and no one can say that the school board made special changes for certain people."

Supt. Bob McRae said the board has not ruled out the original YSAC proposal and that any parents supporting it should recommend it to board members.

Only about 20 parents attended the meeting and only three spoke.

Kathy Livesy thanked the board for allowing parents to speak prior to each meeting but also asked for a period of time midway of the meetings for public input. She said parents often think of more concerns as the board meetings go on but, under current guidelines, cannot speak publicly until the next meeting.

She also said she felt like some of the possible changes to YSAC's original reassignment plan would increase the minority percentage at North School past five percent of the system-wide average. During later discussion by board members, Supt. McRae and Asst. Supt. Larry Allen said every scenario discussed since

the original YSAC proposal had significantly increased the percentage at North.

Alan Propst agreed with Mrs. Livesy that parents should be given opportunity to be heard later in the meetings, pointing out that under current guidelines most parent comments have to deal with things said or done at a previous meeting.

He also said the board's main concern should be quality education and asked if the reassignment plan would create additional combination classes. He questioned the board's decision to go with three inside-city elementary K-5 schools rather than one K-2 and 3-5 inside city schools as suggested by a special committee appointed by the board a year ago to study reorganization. "I understand the decisions that have been made," he said, "and am willing to live with them if they provide equal education."

He also suggested the board schedule more public hearings before a final decision is made.

Linda Hardin urged the board to leave three students living on Chestnut Ridge Road at North School (her request was included in two of the above proposals). She also urged the board to study the "socio-economic" issue at East. "I think the board is going to have to hand pick some neighborhoods to improve the socio-economics at East School," she said. "If you do not have parent involvement you will not have some benefits that other students have. Allocated funds cannot take the place of parental support."