

SHRINERS BAR-B-QUE

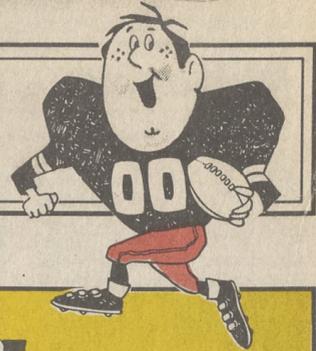
To Be Held This Saturday
-Vacant Lot Beside American Legion-

GROVER ELEMENTARY

Plans Open House
12-A

KM'S STEPHENS

Drafted By
New England Patriots
4-A



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Redistricting hearing Monday

Under a proposed redistricting plan to go before city council Monday night, voters would elect one council member from one of four districts where they live, two others city-wide and a mayor.

The proposed change in the way Kings Mountain residents pick their city officials would virtually guarantee a minority member for the first time.

Currently, Kings Mountain residents cast ballots for all six city council members and the mayor.

The 11 members of the redistricting committee voted 6-5 on the option of four council members elected by wards and two at-large at a meeting of the redistricting committee last Wednesday night and agreed to bring the recommendation to the city council for a vote Monday night. The committee will show two maps, one detailing four wards and one at-large seat and one map detailing boundaries of five wards with one at-large seat, the two options the majority of committee members liked. The boundary maps are on display at city hall and available to the public for review.

The committee Wednesday looked at seven options before choosing a plan which city elections board chairman Becky Cook says will even up the lines and comply with state laws and the Federal Voting Rights Act allowing for minority representa-

tion on the board.

Once the city council approves the plan, there is a 10-day waiting period due to the change in city charter, according to Cook, and then the council must submit it to the U. S. Justice Department in Washington, D.C. for approval. "It's all going to go down to the wire but we're hopeful the plan can be approved by July 5 in order for the fall elections to be held as scheduled," she said.

City council will hold a second public hearing inviting citizen input before taking the vote on a proposal for redistricting at 7:30 p.m. Monday. The April meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, has been set for Monday. At the first public hearing on redistricting, only six people from the community attended and only one person voiced an opinion.

"We need to have more citizen input," said Charlie Carpenter, who says the ideal setup for elections is a combination of at-large and voting by districts to total an odd number of council persons so that the mayor would never have to vote against an even split, with a full quorum present. Carpenter bases his opinion after talking with longtime head of the N.C. League of Municipalities Leigh Wilson and thinks that five wards should be established with the council person elected within the wards. In 1991 this would mean,

"...we're hopeful the plan can be approved by July 5 in order for the fall elections to be held as scheduled."

Becky Cook
Elections Board Chairman

he said, that three districts would already be staffed but that two would be elected from the vacant districts. It would also mean that two council persons be elected at large in 1991 with the leading vote getter to serve four years and the second one two years. He also proposes that the mayor be elected every two years, instead of four, and offer for reelection when any municipal election is held.

Carpenter's recommendation is contrary to what the redistricting board is recommending. The committee selected a plan whereby the mayor and two

council members would be elected by all city voters for a four-year term. Four council members would be elected by voters in their respective wards. The outcome would mean larger wards and a minority ward within the city with the minority representative virtually assured a seat on the board. Cook says its likely voters would choose an at-large candidate from among the three incumbent councilmen whose seats are up for grabs. The other at-large candidate would be elected at the next municipal election when terms of three remaining members of the present board are depending on where council draws the lines, the three incumbents may not be living in the wards presently known as Districts 1, 3, and 5, each of which comes up for election this fall.

The new ward map will be presented to council Monday night based on results from the 1990 U. S. Census. Prior to boundary changes the population differed greatly in some of the districts. Federal law allows populations to differ by as much as 5 percent among voting districts.

"I'm convinced that a mayor should run every two years," said Carpenter, who is working to get people out to Monday night's council meeting.

'Hall' inducts 4 men

Over 350 people, including some of Kings Mountain's top all-time athletes and coaches, saw the late John Gamble, Toby Williams, Jim Kimmell and Ken Baity inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame Monday night at the Community Center.

Terry Holland, athletic director at Davidson College and former basketball coach at the University of Virginia, was the guest speaker.

Former KM Hall of Fame inductees Jim Dickey, Pat Murphy and Don Parker attended along with KM's first pro football player, Pride Ratterree, and former professional baseball pitcher Eugene Goforth.

Kings Mountain High's 1990 state championship golf team received the annual Special Achievement Award.

Most eyes became misty when former KMHS football coach Bill Bates inducted Coach Gamble, who influenced the lives of many young men and women during his teaching and coaching tenure at KMHS. Coach Gamble's son, Johnny, who was just seven years old when his father died of multiple sclerosis in 1965, gave the acceptance speech as his mother, Betty Gamble, looked on.

Coach Bates described Gamble as a compassionate man and a second father to many people.

"John and Betty's first child was stillborn," Coach Bates recalled,



Jim Kimmell, Betty and John Gamble (representing deceased KMHS football coach John Gamble), Ken Baity and Toby Williams, left to right, were inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame at Monday night's annual banquet at the Community Center. (More photos are on page 5-A).

"and I'll never forget John coming and lying his head on my shoulder. It was a heavy burden for him to carry because he loved children. It deeply hurt him.

"And I'll never forget the day that Johnny came into this world," Bates continued. "I've never seen a prouder father than John Gamble."

Coach Gamble had already been stricken by MS in 1961 when Bates' first child was born but Gamble wanted to be at the hospital then, too.

"I was coaching girls basketball and we had a game that night," Bates recalled. "We won the game and John was already in a wheelchair. He wanted to go with me to the hospital. When we rolled him down the aisle at the hospital they brought my wife out with our

daughter. We put her in John's lap and he got to laughing and crying at the same time while holding that baby. That's a picture that will never leave me."

Bates recalled Gamble's love for the outdoors, especially fishing, and his involvement with his church and community.

"He worked very hard, whether in the classroom or on the ball-field," Bates said. "He meant a lot to this community and his church. He was a Deacon and Sunday School teacher at Kings Mountain Baptist Church (now First Baptist) and he lived what he taught.

"Even through his declining health he kept the faith and still believed in God," he said. "Someday I look forward to joining him in Heaven. There is no man I could

love any greater than John Gamble. He brought me from a young teacher and coach to what I am today."

Johnny Gamble thanked the many friends who came to see Coach Gamble inducted. His family, former players and friends filled a table which stretched almost from one end of the gym to the other. His mother, Mrs. John H. Gamble Sr., 85, of Miami, Fla., and his brother, Howard, were among the group.

"All of you are very special," Gamble said. "If my father were here tonight he would want to be here because of you and would receive this award not because of his won-lost records but because he loved sports."

See Banquet, 4-A

Symphony concert is next Thursday

More than 600 people are expected to attend next Thursday's concert by the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra at 8 p.m. in B. N. Barnes Auditorium and 1,000 students will be in the audience for a student concert May 2 in the auditorium at 10 a.m.

Assistant Conductor Mark Cedel will direct the Orchestra. Leo Driehuys will be music conductor.

The evening program May 2 will feature Mendelssohn's "Symphony No. 4" as well as "The Best of the Beatles" and Herman's "Old Song Medley" and "Italian Fiesta" and

selections from "My Fair Lady."

A special program is planned for students earlier in the day.

The program is funded by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.

During intermission, members of the Kings Mountain Woman's Club will serve refreshments in the foyer and elementary students of art teachers, Sherry Bingham and Addie Crocker, will present an exhibit of art. Ushers will be members of the KMHS National Honor Society and Bethware students. See Symphony, 11-A

Survey to ask input on possible UF merger

Kings Mountain United Fund is conducting a survey of its board of directors inviting input on strategic future plans for the organization and addressing the question of whether or not a full and complete merger with Cleveland County United Fund is a possibility.

President Glenn Anderson submitted the questionnaire to board members this week in a letter and asked members to rank their answers in order of most appropriate and most desired to least appropriate and least desired action.

The questionnaire follows a meeting of board of directors April 10.

Members are being asked to state their opinion on a general scaling down, reducing campaign goals from recent levels; whether they approve or disapprove of a

continuation of current campaign levels with average annual increases in the 5% range for both campaign objectives and allocation; whether they approve a gearing up of growth, adopting more aggressive posture that would provide for more ambitious campaign goals, whether they favor a full and complete merger with CCUF, limited merger with CCUF with separation of allocated funds with the KMUF designating allocation for the Grover-Kings Mountain community and whether they want dissolution of the KMUF with simultaneous creation of a new non-profit organization whose focus would be exclusively with the Kings Mountain-Grover community.

The questions came from ideas submitted by directors at the recent See United Fund, 11-A

Gene Bumgardner receives teaching excellence award

Gene Bumgardner, KMHS Choral Director, was praised as an "all around man and teacher" upon presentation of the coveted "Excellence In Teaching" award at the annual academic awards banquet Monday night at Kings Mountain High School.

KMHS Principal Jackie Lavender said Bumgardner takes "raw talent and turns it into polished material in his expert direction of the KMHS Choral groups. He gets 110 percent from the students and gives 120 percent," said Lavender, as she presented him a gold apple.

Bumgardner goes the extra mile with students, according to Lavender. He not only coached choirs in the recent school production of the musical, "Oklahoma" but directed a band. "He does whatever it takes to help the students be successful,

whether it's accompanying them to competitions or just singing for the sheer fun of it," she said.

Bumgardner and his wife, Becky, have three children.

Speakers on the program took the occasion to congratulate the students honored for academic achievement from the four high school classes. Supt. Bob McRae said "yellow ribbons should be tied around public education" and that students are the leaders of tomorrow. Principal Lavender said that "students like these tonight make a tough job better because they are positive proof that teachers are doing a great job." Rep. Bill Withrow of Hollis, who represents the 48th House District, said parents should let their legislators know how they feel about proposed school cuts but the tenor of

See Bumgardner, 10-A



EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD-Kings Mountain High School Choral Director Gene Bumgardner is congratulated by KMHS Principal Jackie Lavender after Bumgardner received the coveted "Excellence In Teaching" award at the annual academic awards banquet Monday night.

Fund drive to aid youth

Cyprus Foote Mineral Company employees have started a fund drive to help a young Junior High student suffering from A Plastic Anemia.

Blake Price Falls, 14, son of Cyprus employee Scott Falls and Mrs. Falls, became ill in mid-February and is a patient at Duke Hospital in Durham. There is, as yet, no matched donor for his much needed bone marrow transplant.

Twenty-three employees of the firm had blood tested recently as possible donors with the plant donating half the cost of the tests and the employees paying the rest. In addition, employees opened an account in Baker's name at Carolina State Bank and are inviting donations to help toward the family's rising medical expenses. Scott and Sarah Falls have been staying at Ronald McDonald House in Durham but are traveling back and forth to the hospital with Baker for

medical treatments. Scott Falls has worked at Cyprus Foote Mineral since August 1976. The family formerly lived in Kings Mountain but now reside in Gastonia, where Baker is a student at Grier Junior High School. Baker also has a sister, who is in college.

Persons wishing to contribute to the fund for Baker can make their checks payable to Baker Price Falls Fund, in care of Carolina State Bank, 114 E. Gold Street, Kings Mountain 28086. Gifts are tax-deductible. Further information about the drive can be obtained by calling Pat Allen or Brenda Peterson at 739-2501.

In addition to the fund drive, Foote employees will wash cars Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at National Guard Armory for benefit of the Baker Falls fund. There is no charge for the car wash but donations will be appreciated.