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Kings Mountain People

Haynes proving herself

By RENEE WALSER
Of The Herald Staff

Linda Haynes, the first woman detective in Cleveland County, doesn't let the fact that she's just 5' 4" tall bother her or anyone else.

Besides, there's a male officer who is about her height, she said.

Haynes, of the Kings Mountain Police Department, was promoted to detective in January of last year. There are four detectives on the department staff.

Haynes rose through the ranks starting as a dispatcher for 11 years and in animal control for the next three years.

Detective status had always been in the back of her mind.

"I had considered it," she said. "It's a challenge. Trying to actually solve the cases. You have to look for physical evidence."

Haynes said detectives take over when the police officers file the initial reports.

"There's a lot of footwork and knocking on doors," she said, adding, "A female has to prove herself."

See Haynes, 8-A



FIRST FEMALE DETECTIVE - Kings Mountain Police Department's first female detective Linda Haynes discusses a case with supervisor Det. Lt. Richard Reynolds, left, and KMPD Chief Warren Goforth.

Zoning for county

County commissioners could call a public hearing on a proposed county-wide zoning plan as early as March.

Planning board chairman Frank Ledford told a standing-room-only crowd Wednesday that "right now it's just a map with colors on it. We're here to try to work out what's best for all concerned."

Ledford made the statement during a meeting at Kings Mountain city hall where most of the 75-80 people in attendance said they were in favor of orderly land use proposals.

Mining representatives at a 5 p.m.-6 p.m. meeting with the planning board said they would prefer no zoning or heavy industrial zoning for the 6.4 mile industrial corridor between Kings Mountain and Grover but they would not oppose efforts to enact zoning laws.

After industry had their say, 60-70 residents of the area voiced differing concerns of living in a predominately rural area now dotted with mines and industrial development during an hour's session with county planners.

Ledford said the planning board would probably make some adjustments in its original proposal for zoning about 4500 acres as heavy industrial and 2000 as light industrial, residential and commercial before presenting the formal plan to the county board of commissioners. Commission Chairman Joe Cabaniss said the board would probably consider the new proposal at the March meeting.

Rev. Kenneth Curry and other residents of the Kilgore community complained about a now-closed mine near the neighborhood, saying it was dangerous and an eyesore. "I think we ought to solicit more high tech industries like Eaton and Phillips DuPont," he said.

Steve Dolley Jr. of Gastonia, attorney for a new Grover mining operation, said the new industry would not cause any problems in the corridor and the company had no objections to zoning.

"I have sympathy with the mines but property owners should be considered," said Harry Beam, whose property is surrounded by industry on Grover Road and who stated his opposition to more mining. He asked for a light industrial designation in the area he lives, which includes the Eaton plant and Phillips Du Pont. He said mines should be limited to heavy industrial area.

Ledford reiterated that the hearing could not determine how to deal with existing problems but was to identify the areas on a color

coded map that would be zoned heavy and light industrial, residential and general business.

The Grover Road stretch of land is one of the region's most industrial corridors with seven plants and 1600 employees making everything from truck transmissions to compact discs. The largest land holders are mining companies, which either own property or mineral rights or lease the land.

Gene Dotson of Cyprus-Foote Mineral asked officials not to deny companies use of mineral reserves.

"If we lose the right to zoning, we may as well put a gun to our heads," he said.

"Zoning is probably inevitable as the county grows," said Herb Bierman of KMG Minerals Inc. "You can count on our cooperation. Our company's been in the area about 50 years and we've attempted to be a good neighbor."

"We can't zone the property for the concerns of a few people," Ledford said of mining interests. "But then Grover Road is where the minerals are."

"It's a real dilemma for us," said Ledford of the mining interests which have conflicted for decades with the concerns of residents who complain of discolored water, noise, dust, and declining property values. The hearing was reiterated by property owners again on Wednesday.

In the coming weeks, Ledford said Planning Board members will decide whether they can and should zone property with mineral rights held by mining companies as light industry. The stricter heavy industry zoning designation would force mining companies to ask for a zoning change before they begin mining, he said.

The bulk of the land being eyed by the zoning board is either owned, leased or part of mineral rights where owners prefer no zoning.

"We feel very concerned with the growth in this area," said county planner Bill McCarter. "We want to protect it and see it evolve and grow."

Cabaniss said county officials have studied more comprehensive land use plans for several years. The county's only existing zoning regulations were enacted in 1973 and sets aside designated areas on a 2,500 acre strip around Moss Lake.

The maps also identified residential areas in Midpines, Bethlehem, Dixon communities, Galilee Church Road and Kilgore Communities.

See Zoning, 8-A

Tech Prep gets big send-off

The doctor on call at every football game at KMHS gave the first orientation program in Tech Prep for rising 9th grade students Wednesday morning.

Dr. Staley Jackson, orthopedic surgeon in Kings Mountain and a former high school athletic coach, told the 13-year-olds sitting in the gymnasium bleachers at KM Middle School that the good jobs of today and tomorrow are based on high technology, advanced communications and service occupations and students need to start preparing when they enter the high school as a freshman.

"Get serious about your registration for classes and choose those classes that will be most helpful to you," he said, calling his high school math teacher in Maryland in the 1960's and his guidance counselor as strong influences on his life.

"I was an A student but I saw my friends sliding through on easy courses and having what I thought as a teenager more fun. I tried to get out of college prep courses on their advice but thank God I listened to my teachers," said the doctor, who said he entered the 8th



Misty Smith, left, 8th grader who wants to be a pediatrician, KMMS Co-Principal Jerry Hoyle, Dr. Staley Jackson, orthopedic surgeon, and 8th grader Angie Young, who wants to be a fashion designer, talk about the new Tech Prep program available to 9th grade students next year and for which orientation began Wednesday.

grade in Maryland with school integration and found the experience frightening for a 4 1/2 feet tall youngster with little information about his career goals. A turning point in his life came, he said, when his math teacher encouraged

him to take college preparatory courses.

Today's society, said Jackson, requires more than the basic skills. Thirty years ago a high school graduate could get a job if he had a strong back, he said. Today, strong

minds and backs are required due to a highly technologically advanced society.

Jackson challenged the kids to stay healthy by eating the right foods, drinking plenty of water and getting enough sleep. He challenged them to believe in themselves. Enjoy being teenagers but be serious as you start enrolling in high school classes. Don't be afraid to ask for help, he said.

More than one-half of the 8th graders in the audience raised their hands that they want to get some form of post high school training.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae reminded the class their graduating class of 1996 will be the first class in North Carolina required to pass algebra before getting a high school diploma. The stepped up requirements for graduation also include science and math courses.

McRae asked students to look at Tech Prep if they want to attend a community college or technical school for post high school training. He said KMHS is creating curriculum choices so that students can take vocational courses at the

See Tech Prep, 8-A

New KM company to recycle tires

Darren Blevins may have come up with the solution to a problem that has puzzled many since the invention of the automobile.

What do you do with the old tires? You can burn them, use them to decorate your yard, make swings out of them. What else?

Blevins, a scrap dealer, got an idea when he went to a scrap tire show in Louisville, Kentucky.

Why not bind them together and use them as filler in concrete walls that serve as security fences, retaining walls and sound barriers?

That's exactly what Blevins and another partner from Cleveland County are doing. They built a sample on land where they plan to build a manufacturing plant for that purpose, which is located on Benton Road off Highway 29 on the way to Grover. They're calling the company Enviro Tire.

The wall is 6' 5" high and weighs 12 to 15 tons,

KM to hook on to Crowders Creek

Kings Mountain is poised to hook on to the \$19 million Gastonia Crowders Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant but it will probably be March or April.

City Engineer Tom Howard said the final inspection at the new sewer tie-in line on Cleveland Avenue, which will connect Kings Mountain to the Gaston system, was held this week. "Everything looks good and we're just waiting for them to tell us

and its skeleton contains about 1,000 old tires. Eighty percent of the bulk weight is high pressured compacted tires, Blevins said.

"It's a state of the art thing," said Blevins. "We're making tires a recyclable product... a market product."

Blevins said he is just about set to go on the project and has sent his paper work to the new projects program at the Department of Transportation to be reviewed. The DOT has to okay anything built on a federal highway, he said.

Blevins said they plan to get tires from Cleveland County.

"Obviously, we can get rid of a volume of tires," he said.

Enviro Tire will do all the processing, fabricating to constructing on site, Blevins said.

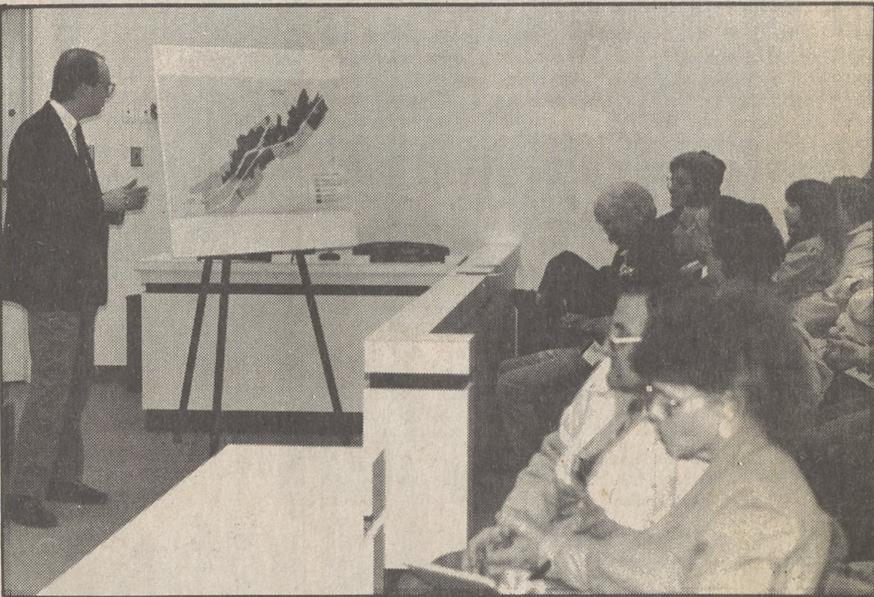
"It's economical," he added. "We'll be competitive."

when to hook on," he said.

The city will be shutting down its outdated McGill Treatment Plant once it hooks on to Crowders Creek to the tune of 1.9 million gallons of sewage per day.

The city's share of the cost of the project was a half million dollars but their part of the deal was also

See Waste, 8-A



ZONING HEARING - Bill McCarter, Cleveland County planner, addresses a crowd of residential and industrial property owners attending a hearing last week at city hall on proposed county wide zoning. County commissioners will probably act on a zoning plan in March.