

# GILL

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give property owners reasonable time to respond to violations and codes officers say they give property owners up to seven days, instead of three as the ordinance spells out, and following telephone calls and a certified letter.

Wood said no property owners have been in court recently on condemnation/eviction procedures, that the city works on an individual basis with property owners trying to settle disputes.

City Council recently instituted a get tough policy in the removal and disposition of abandoned, nuisance and junked motor vehicles, authorizing the police department and the building inspector to authorize the removal of such vehicles on private property. The city contracts with private tow truck operators to remove, store and dispose of abandoned vehicles. The ordinance spells out that the city must first contact the owner by telephone and by written notice. Nothing in the ordinance applies to any vehicles in a bona fide automobile graveyard or junkyard.

White said that the most complaints come about tall grass and weeds on private properties. In this case, the codes department sends a certified letter to the property owners, asking the owner to cut the grass or clear the lot within seven days of the date of the letter. If the lot isn't cleaned up by the property owner or by someone he has hired by the date, the city contracts with a private contractor to bushhog or clear up the properties.

When the contractor cuts the grass or clears off debris, he is paid by the city \$25 per hour and the city then bills the property owner for the work, plus administrative costs.

"We try to encourage property owners to clean up themselves but if they don't comply, we have no other choice. It's our job," says Putnam, who has been with the city two years and works under the supervision of codes director Chris Rossi, who was on vacation and unavailable for comment.

"We've found that most people try to cooperate but sometimes they don't like to see the building inspector coming and other times they think that the unsightly sites are out of sight and out of mind," said Putnam.

He said that most violators of the "care of premise" ordinance don't stop with one offense. He said the same names appear on the list regularly.

The "care of premise" ordinance stipulates a right of entry which spells out that officers, employees or representatives of the city shall have the authority to enter upon property, to obtain an administrative search warrant if necessary, to issue a notice of violation, and file a lien against the property in the event that the city seeks to secure the cost of bringing the property into compliance through the collection of costs as unpaid taxes.

The ordinance gives the enforcement officer the power to use either city equipment or private contractors at his discretion, to charge for the cost or expense of clean up if the owner, occupant or tenant fails to remove weeds, trash, garbage or other objects that cause such land to be a nuisance in the city within three days of notification.

The ordinance spells out that the property owner must make the corrections of the violations and comply within seven days or face a \$25 penalty.

The ordinance spells out that vacant lots adjacent to improved property shall be kept cut within 100 feet of such improved property and shall be cut at least three times per year during the growing season April through September.

Putnam said that most property owners don't understand that maintenance of the right of way, to include mowing, trimming and disposal of trash and debris, is the responsibility of the landowner, not the city.

"I can see more face lifting in the city and property owners seem to care about their properties," said Putnam. He said the codes officers follow strictly legal forms established by the city attorney. Repairing or demolishing structures, for instance, is a highly complicated procedure which begins with a petition as to fitness of dwelling for human habitation, complaint, notice of hearing, acceptance of copy of complaint and notice of hearing, affidavit of property owners unable to be located and finally an ordinance by the Council ordering the demolition of property, about 10 steps in a lengthy process that may or may not wind up in court.

tion of the city," said planning director Gene White. "Billing and taking liens on properties is something we don't want to do."

"Ride down King Street and you can readily see some of the improvements that property owners are doing in beautification and this is what City Council instructed the codes office to do when they recently passed more strict ordinances on weeds and miscellaneous junk clean up and nuisance and junk vehicle removal," said White. "We need the public's cooperation."

# KM woman gets scholarship

M. Patricia Lamb of Kings Mountain has received a \$1,000 Patrons of Quality Scholarship to continue her studies at Western Carolina University this fall.

A senior majoring in environmental health at WCU, she is a dean's list student and a member of Mortar Board honor society for seniors. She is a 1974 graduate of Hunter Huss High School. The

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Lamb of 628 Kings Drive, Kings Mountain, she is married to Stan Burriss of 632 Kings Drive.

Patrons of Quality Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence. The scholarships are sponsored by WCU's Patrons of Quality, a group of businesses, organizations and individuals who have pledged to contribute at least \$1,000 annually for 10 years.

# REC

From Page 5-A

Mountaineer Day - Applications for crafters and food vendors are being accepted for the annual town celebration October 3. Anyone interested in a booth may call 734-0449.

Basic Couples Dances - A basic couples dance class began September 3 and continues every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. Cost is \$48 per couple and preregistration is required. Gene and Pat Brooks are instructors. Two-Step, Cotton Eyed Joe, etc. are the dances to be taught.

Open Gym - The gym at the Community Center is open every Friday night from 5-9 p.m. and every Saturday starting Saturday

from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Dance Magic registration - Dance Magic registration is open to anyone interested in fall dance classes. Late registration will be held through September 25. Classes will be offered in tap, jazz, ballet, pom pom, for ages 3 and up. Penny Sanders is instructor. Call the Community Center or Sanders at 482-5367 between 4-8 p.m.

# PRAYER

From Page 1-A

yet received any interpretation in writing from the Institute of Government. When Kings Mountain receives that information, McRae said the school board will discuss the matter in length at a regular school board meeting and make a decision regarding prayer at all school functions.

McRae said the decision on whether or not to pray before Friday's game will be made by himself and Mrs. Lavender and does not require a vote of the school board. However, they have contacted school board members for their opinions.

"We're trying to tie up some loose ends and know that we all understand all the implications, and try to make the best decision for our school system," McRae said.

McRae said he has contacted many principals and superintendents in the area and has found that "about half" the schools are having prayer or moments of silence be-

fore their games.

"Part of our consideration is looking at the climate of the times and seeing what some other folks are doing," he said. "It would have been nice if we had made an earlier decision but we felt like it was better to wait until closer to the moment."

Reynolds said an autopsy is being conducted.

# SHOOTING

From Page 1-A

lice. Other children in the house were the baby's two older sisters, ages 6 and four, and an infant sister. The boy was three years old April 17.

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# America's Most Beautiful Slated for September 19

North Elementary School in Kings Mountain will host a preliminary for America's Most Beautiful girls and Handsome Boys Pageant on Sept. 19.

Registration will begin at 9 am and the pageant will be held at 10 am. Age groups will range from 0-23 mos., 2-3, 4-5, 9-10, 11-12, 13-15, and 16-21. Two new cars will be given away at Nationals next May.

For more information please call (704) 739-1778.

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# CITY

From Page 1-A

and S. Piedmont; Ronnie, Dean, Betty, Sharon, John and Paul Anderson, 309 Dilling Street; Jay Rhodes, Carolina State Bank, corner lot East Gold, next to bank. Jessie T. Bagwell heirs, vacant property, Cranford Drive; David Faunce, c/o Faunce Realty, 132 Railroad Avenue and P.G. Ratterree, lot adjacent to W. King Street behind Bridges Hardware.

"Our goal is voluntary compliance of ordinances and beautifica-

tion of the city," said planning director Gene White. "Billing and taking liens on properties is something we don't want to do."

"Ride down King Street and you can readily see some of the improvements that property owners are doing in beautification and this is what City Council instructed the codes office to do when they recently passed more strict ordinances on weeds and miscellaneous junk clean up and nuisance and junk vehicle removal," said White. "We need the public's cooperation."

# NOTICE

## To City of Kings Mountain Natural Gas Heating Customers

It's not too early to start getting ready for cooler weather. The City offers FREE gas cut-on service to existing gas heating customers who call the Utilities Office by OCTOBER 1st and request Fall cut-on. The following conditions must be met. The customers must make an appointment and allow city employees access to their premises during normal working hours of 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.; and keep the appointment. Any service calls after the initial one shall be billed to the customer of five dollars (\$5.00). Any service calls made after hours or on weekends shall be billed at ten dollars (\$10.00) per call. All calls for Fall cut-on/light up service shall be on a first all first served basis using the available service personnel assigned to geographic areas of the city.

CALL NOW! BE READY FOR WINTER! SAVE!

**CALL 734-0333**

CITY OF KINGS MOUNTAIN GAS DEPARTMENT

Sec. 11-34 Winter Pilot Lighting Kings Mountain Code  
(Code 1967, 26-100; Ord. No. 88-15, 1,9-13-88)  
JIMMY MANEY, DIRECTOR 10/10/17

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