

# HIV/AIDS consortium meets at KM Hospital

About 25 local health and city leaders met at Kings Mountain Hospital last Wednesday to hear about the county's new membership in the Cleveland County HIV/AIDS Consortium.

County Health Department head Denise Stallings planned the program and brought Consortium President Tom Dillon and Director Donna Arrington from Charlotte to fill the group in on what the consortium has to offer.

Stallings prefaced the presentation by pointing out that of the 3,354 people tested in the county,

there were 69 who tested positive for the HIV virus and 24 cases of AIDS.

"It's a growing and expensive problem," Stallings said.

Dillon said the consortium performs much like the United Way. It's an umbrella organization, whose major thrusts are grants, raising money and education.

"I saw we have a war here, not between each other, but between AIDS and the human race," said Dillon.

Arrington began by adding to Stallings' statistics: In 1989, there

were 159 AIDS cases reported in this area. In July of 1992, there were 511 AIDS cases. Statewide, in '89 there were 744 cases reported. In July 1992, 2,500 cases of AIDS were on record.

North Carolina is in the top 11 states in the country with reported cases of AIDS, said Arrington. The good news is, she said, is North Carolina is now eligible for federal funds.

Arrington talked about the existing services in the area for AIDS patients and their families.

The House of Mercy is a resi-

dence facility, which can hold up to six patients. It is the only such house in the region, Arrington said, at the present.

Metrolina AIDS Project, likewise, is the only service organization in the region, she said.

Upcoming, Arrington said an AIDS hotline would be housed at Metrolina AIDS Project and available to the counties in the consortium.

Arrington mentioned the Charlotte Area Health Education Center and its Physician Tutorial Program, for which 30 physicians

signed up to learn more about AIDS and its treatment. Another class will be held in the future.

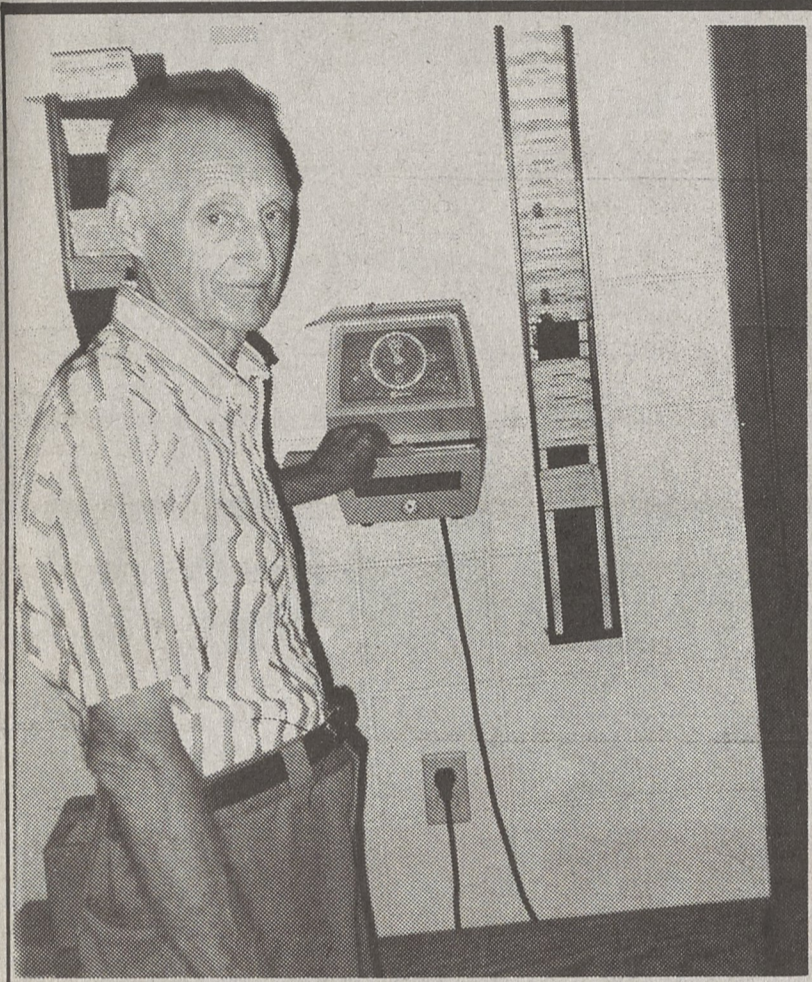
She said that the consortium planned to develop a Regional AIDS Resources Directory, which would be "user friendly" for patients and families looking for sources of help.

The consortium had \$150,000 for grant monies to individual agencies. Agencies applying and receiving the grants fulfilled services such as home delivered meals, emergency assistance and education.

Another program that the consortium has is the Regional Case Management Network. Health departments in each of the 10 counties that are members of the consortium received funding for a case manager who is skilled in AIDS work.

Arrington said the network is a model for the state and the country. "We're excited about it," said Arrington. "But it is not the answer. It all has to work together in harmony."

The consortium has 100 community leaders that set the agenda and over see the work.



## Ware retires from Post Office

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Of The Herald Staff

Robert Ware, 70, used to pick up the mail twice a day at the train tracks on Battleground Avenue.

The 38-year veteran of the Kings Mountain Post Office clocked out for the last day on the job August 30. His co-workers say his friendly smile will be missed.

Ware was hired in the early 1950's by former Postmaster Charles Alexander at the old post office and one of his duties was to hang the mail sacks over a seven feet tall pole near the railroad tracks on Battleground Avenue.

A postal employee riding the Southern Railway train would pick up the bags with a arm hook. Personnel from the mail car would throw a locked up mail sack from the train. Ware was there to pick it up.

"I called it a saddle bag," said Ware, describing how the mail had been sorted in the train's mail car and then locked up in a special bag so that it could be thrown easily to clear the tracks and not spill the mail. "One time the mail landed on a man's car," said Ware, describing how the train crews often missed their mark. Kings Mountain got several sacks of mail daily and Ware never missed a day picking it up at the tracks and depositing the bags of mail being shipped from Kings Mountain.

Ware has since worked for two other postmasters: Fred Weaver and Mike Howard. The custodian on the staff says he has enjoyed the camaraderie of the postal staff and

has seen many changes, including overnight mail service.

"I was really glad to get into this new post office six years ago even though I had more places to keep clean," he laughed, recalling that the old quarters was crowded.

A native of Kings Mountain, Ware was born on the Mauney Mill village but lived in a house almost directly across the street from the present post office and at one time lived on Bonnie Mill Village near the old post office. "I reckon I walked about a block to work at both places," he laughed, noting that he and his wife moved to Meadowbrook Road four years ago.

The son of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Ware, he worked at Bonnie and Sadie Mills and as an electrician for a number of years. His wife, the former Cleo Cox, also worked at Sadie Mills for a number of years.

The Ware family includes two daughters, Janice Carroll of Kings Mountain and Kathy Costner of Gastonia and two grandchildren. They are members of Central United Methodist Church.

The veteran employee of the post office staff will be honored at a retirement party in October, along with Postmaster Mike Howard and city carrier Fred Bridges, both of whom are taking early retirements.

Ware says he is looking forward to his first retirement check. He expects to stay busy cutting grass and working "around the house" but returning to the post office to visit is high on his agenda of things to do in retirement.

# Now is the time to build

In spite of plywood price gouching in the wake of Hurricane Andrew now is the time for home owners to build new homes or remodel their present residences.

This advice comes from both local builders and bankers who say that remodeling activity is on the upswing in this area and the prospect for future home building is good.

Materials costs went up 30 percent after the hurricane which devastated Homestead, Florida.

Ronnie Whetstone, of WW Construction, has put up 15 new homes in Pinebrook Colony this year, a new 43-lot sub-division in the Oak Grove Community. The homes are priced at \$60,000-\$75,000. Whetstone says his firm is getting more inquiries in new home building and little in the remodeling business.

"Plywood and other framing materials went up 30 percent after Hurricane Andrew and some folks want to wait to build but I don't think the materials will come down. With interest rates lower, now is the time to build," he says.

Contractors Dean Spears and Ruby Alexander agree as do financial officers Elaine Grigg of First Union National Bank, Brenda Lovelace of First Carolina Federal Savings Bank and Brenda Cobb of Carolina State Bank.

The loan officers call attention to brisk business among home borrowers for home improvements through 7 percent 15-30 year prime equity and taxwise loans. Customers refinance to pay off debts or to remodel. Activity is up in new construction loans.

"When the economy improves and more people are back on permanent jobs, we think more people will be building new homes," said Lovelace.

Spears estimated that his company has doubled its jobs for remodeling homes in the past six months. "We're doing as much building this summer as we did last summer but the higher cost of materials may hurt some."

BDF Construction Company has built 16 new homes in White Plains community at Bethlehem this year and five more are under

construction in White Plains, Foxtrot off Allen Road, and at Moss Lake.

Paul and Mike Gaffney have custom-built a half-dozen homes at Moss Lake and the Country Club area.

Robert E. Lee Construction is putting up more new homes on Highway 74 West in a 30-lot subdivision.

Spears says the reason that more people are building homes and remodeling present residences is due to low-interest rates.

Ruby Alexander expects to construct two new homes at Brandonwood sub-division. She said higher materials cost has slowed the progress of the work.

City codes enforcement officer Jeff Putnam said the surge of new construction in Kings Mountain in the early months of 1992 died down this summer but the city is experiencing a surge of remodeling and renovation activity.

Any mechanical, electrical, plumbing and/or alterations requires a city permit and business has been brisk, according to codes

secretary Dottie Elkins.

Construction authorized in North Carolina's largest towns and cities during the first six months of 1992 rose 9.4 percent above construction authorized in the same period of 1991, State Labor Commissioner John Brooks reported.

While residential construction was also down in the City of Shelby and Cleveland County, it was up in Gaston County. Residential construction authorized in Cleveland County in June 1992 totaled \$3,318,474 and in Gastonia \$9,088,707. In Shelby construction costs for the six months ending 1991 were \$8,727,314 compared to \$4,981,682 for the six months ending June 1992. Estimated cost of construction in Gastonia for the six months ending 1991 was \$231,012,614 compared with \$32,725,774 for the six months ending June 1992.

The average cost of a single family home, \$87,929, rose 6.3 percent from \$82,682 when comparing the two periods.

## Company aids Andrew victims

Warlick and Hamrick Associates and The Shelby Insurance Group have jointly announced a donation of \$40,000 to support Salvation Army relief efforts in southern Florida.

The donation represents a special release of monies through "Homeowners with Heart," a charitable fund to assist the homeless and hungry created by independent agents and the Shelby Insurance Group.

Shelby Insurance allocates \$2 to Homeowners with Heart for each new application submitted with a photo by agents and written by the

company. Salvation Army, a leader in the Florida relief efforts and an organization long recognized for its service programs for the needy, is the designee for Homeowners with Heart donations.

The award for southern Florida relief represents an early release of funds. Larry Hamrick Jr. of Warlick and Hamrick Associates said the urgency of the situation following Hurricane Andrew prompted the response.

"We all watched with concern as Hurricane Andrew devastated parts of southern Florida, leaving thousands of people homeless without

electricity, water or telephone, and food in scarce supply. The pictures of destruction brought to us by newspapers and television are a stark reminder that homelessness takes many forms. Warlick and Hamrick Associates is proud to join with people across the country in lending assistance through Homeowners with Heart," he said.

Warlick and Hamrick Associates of Kings Mountain has represented The Shelby Insurance Group since 1948. The Shelby Insurance Group, headquartered in Shelby, Ohio, offers home, auto and business insurance through a network of over 1,000 independent insurance agencies located in 13 states.

## Firestone site work to begin

Site work is expected to begin in a week or 10 days for the new Bridgestone/Firestone plant in Kings Mountain Business Park.

Mayor Scott Neisler and Firestone officials C. A. Ford and L. L. Knuckle signed a formal agreement Thursday authorizing removal and reinstallation of the city's six-inch natural gas line along the I-85 frontage road between NC 161 and Canterbury Road to set the wheels in motion for the major piece of construction and also to assure that the new plant could in the future be also a natural gas customer of the city.

Kings Mountain expects to have

the water and sewer lines in place and operable by next May and recently received a grant from Gaston County of \$1,025,680 to construct the utility lines.

At Thursday night's special City Council meeting, commissioners approved the relocation and reinstallation of the gas lines with Firestone to pick up the tab.

The contract stipulates that the natural gas line being removed and possibly relocated would be reinstalled upon the occurrence of the need by Firestone for natural gas service to be provided by that line; upon the need by another natural gas customer of the city which

would require service from that line; or if a need shall arise in order to restore or improve pressure to provide adequate flow or natural gas for gas service being provided by the city in the area of Canterbury Road.

The agreement stipulated that the city will remove the natural gas line and do the reinstallation if it should become necessary but the costs would be billed to the plant.

The agreement also spells out that any natural gas needed for the operation of the facility being constructed by Firestone at that facility shall be purchased from the city exclusively.

## Post Office in exhibit

The U.S. Postal Service Branch Office in Kings Mountain is featured in an architectural exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh.

The FWA Group of Charlotte was architect for the modern building which was occupied in November 1986.

The featured project won AIA North Carolina Atlantic Region

Design Award and also the Presidential Design Award presented in Washington, DC.

The display is part of the Museum's exhibition about architecture and will be open to the public year long at 2110 Blue Ridge Road, the museum which houses the state's art collection. Museum hours are 9-5 Tuesday through Saturday, until 9 p.m. Friday and Sunday 11-6. Admission is free.

## Bethware Fair draws record crowds, entries

Norris Howell, 14, has been exhibiting prize-winning crops at Bethware Fair five years and this year he came away with the first prize among youth exhibitors.

The 9th grade student started growing vegetables as a five-year-old when he planted tomatoes on the 12-acre truck farm of his parents, Roger and Peggy Norris.

Howell's exhibits include 38 fruit and vegetable crops, homemade biscuits, cookies and 30 crafts items.

He took home a \$25 cash prize.

The fair is expected to draw record entries and participants. More than 1900 people have entered exhibits, including agricultural products, youth exhibits, commercial exhibits, and a special display by Bethware Elementary School children.

Mary Helen Queen's 200-year-old quilt and a 1882 baby dress are

conversation pieces, along with antique cooking pots, carpet beaters, scales, jugs and lanterns.

Bethware Progressive Club has dedicated the fair premium booklet to longtime member Jack Harmon, a former custodian at Kings Mountain High School. The book also includes pictures and biographical information of children and grandchildren of members of the sponsoring club.

Free entertainment on the midway will include Evil Country Band and Kenny's Clowns. McDaniel Rides is providing 20 rides for all age fair-goers and concession stands are available, including homemade ham biscuits in a booth sponsored by the Progressive Club.

Thursday is Family Day with reduced rides from 6 until 11 p.m. The Fair runs Friday from 6-11 p.m. and on Saturday from 3 p.m.-midnight.



ELLA HODGES

## Ella Hodges 104 years old

Mrs. Ella Grubb Hodges celebrated her 104th birthday July 28 in Roanoke, Va., where she lives with her youngest daughter.

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Mrs. Hodges has six sons, including her youngest son, Henry P. Hodges, 61, of Kings Mountain, and four daughters. Two sons, deceased, were World War II veterans.

The family also includes 41 grandchildren, 86 great-grandchildren, 42 great-great grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, seven step great-grandchildren, six step great-great grandchildren, one half brother and one half sister.

Henry Hodges has been a resident of Kings Mountain since 1974.



Norris Howell, 14, junior winner at Bethware Community Fair, displays his prize-winning crops. Bethware Fair continues through Saturday on the grounds of Bethware School.

## KM will light pilots

Free winter pilot lighting to city natural gas customers is available by calling 739-0333.

"It's not too early to start getting ready for cooler weather," reminds Natural Gas Supt. Jimmy Maney, but appointments must be made for the cut-on service by October 1.

"With 500-600 cut-ons to be made before winter, the service calls will be made on a first-come, first-served basis," said Maney.

For any service calls after the initial one, customers will be billed \$5.00. Any service calls made after hours or on weekends will be billed at \$10 per call.

## Kings Mountain Weather Report

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	Sept. 2-8	Last Year
Total precipitation	1.55	0
Maximum one day	.82 (5th)	0
Year to date	38.66	39.73
Minimum temperature	66 (3rd, 7th)	59 (8th)
Maximum temperature	87 (8th)	88 (6th)
Average temperature	76.5	73.5