



THE HERALD
will be open Monday

Candidate filing
opens Friday at noon
11-A

COUNCIL APPROVES
\$18 million budget
9-A



Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 105 NO. 26

Thursday, July 1, 1993

Kings Mountain \$.35¢

KM Independence Day celebration is Saturday

Deal Street Park and the Kings Mountain Community Center will be buzzing with activity Saturday as the City Recreation Department sponsors its annual Independence Day celebration.

Many new patriotic and fun activities are planned as well as a continuation of some of the favorite, traditional events.

Activities actually get underway Friday night with a fast-pitch softball exhibition featuring Bradley Screen Printing of Shelby, the Southern Invitational champions, playing a doubleheader against the

Canton Stars at Jake Early Stadium.

Saturday's activities begin at 11 a.m. and will include horseshoe tournaments, water events, entertainment, and a phenomenal fireworks display.

The horseshoe tournament, which has been an annual favorite, will include male and female singles and doubles, and mixed doubles. Each division requires a minimum of eight entries and a fee will be charged.

See Fourth, Page 5-A



Tempers flare at KM Zoning Board meeting

Commissioner At Large Al Moretz pitched the City Council's ideas about proposed new zoning to the Planning and Zoning Board Thursday night and got a cool reception.

The board voted 6-1 to send the city council's suggestions for single family zoning in Belvedere, Ashbrook and Temple Park subdivisions to a non-existent land use plan review committee.

Thursday was not the first time that City Council and the Planning Board had differed on zoning matters but Thursday was the first time that Planning Board members expressed in a public meeting their apparent disenchantment with council ignoring their recommendations.

Board members charged that Council had been dragging its feet on rewriting zoning ordinances and ignores its own appointed board's recommendations.

Chairman Wilson Griffin defended the planning board as "just tired of being ignored." He said the board was ready to table the issues before Moretz arrived late at the meeting and clashed with them over the council's proposed zoning changes, items 5-10 on a long agenda.

"Council wants the zoning board to just go away but the city is bound by law to appoint and have in operation a zoning and planning board," said Griffin, who has served on the board by appointment for nearly 30 years.

"Politics gets in the way," said Griffin.

Moretz argued that the new zones would protect existing neighborhoods.

Griffin says the creation of three new zoning districts is a muddled attempt to get a quick fix solution to a problem that has existed for years.

The City of Kings Mountain wants to rewrite its zoning ordinance. But planning board members argue the city council has been slow to move—so slow that a proposed Land Use Plan Review Committee has not been appointed. Money has been approved in the upcoming budget for a new land use plan and city zoning ordinance. But the process of writing a land use plan and rewriting an outdated zoning ordinance could take two years.

Moretz says that for now the council wants to protect three subdivisions—Ashbrook, Belvedere and Temple Parks, from future multi-family development. In May council

See Tempers, 10-A

Zoning hearing planned

Public hearing by the City Council on creation of proposed new zoning districts in the Kings Mountain Zoning Ordinance has been set for July 27 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The board Tuesday night called for public hearing on the following requests:

Request from Tommy Thombs to rezone property at Map 40, Block 1, Lot 13, from Light Industrial to Residential 10. The Planning and Zoning Board recommends approval. Thombs wants to place a modular home on his large lot.

Request from Bill Patterson to rezone property at Map 4-69, Block 1, Lots 12, 16 and 17 from Residential 8 to Residential 20. He operates a non-conforming mobile home park at the location, according to the Planning and Zoning Board which voted unanimously to recommend denial of the request.

Request from W. A. Reel to rezone the property at Map 4-79, Block 1, Lot 22, partial, from Light Industrial to Residential 20. Reel presently operates a car lot on 7.57 acres of land. There is one mobile home on the lot and he is requesting that 20,000 square feet of the property be rezoned for placement of another mobile home on the property. The Planning and Zoning Board voted unanimously at the recent meeting to recommend denial of the request.

Request from the City of Kings Mountain to create Residential Single Family 6 and Residential Single Family 8 zoning districts in the Kings Mountain Ordinance. The Planning and Zoning Board tabled 6-1 the request and referred it to the non-existent land use committee.

Request from the City of Kings Mountain to rezone all or parts of Ashbrook and Temple Park Subdivisions and Belvedere Circle Subdivision, the property at Map 40, Block 4, fronting Waco Road, and the Larry Hamrick property adjacent to Ashbrook Park Subdivision. The Planning and Zoning Board referred all the requests but the Hamrick request to the non-existent land use plan re-

See Hearing, 10-A

KM plants take break for Fourth

With only a few exceptions, longer July 4 holidays are in store for industrial employees, an incomplete survey of industry reveals.

Commercial Intertech will operate as usual, according to a plant spokesman, who said that the busy season will prohibit any holiday closing.

Hayward Pool Products, Preparation Machinery Services and Eaton Corporation will close for one day, on Monday.

PMDC Inc., formerly Philips-Dupont on Grover Road, will close on July 4th only.

Spectrum, Mauney Hosiery, Kings Mountain Knit, the production department of ABE Combustion Engineering and Anvil Knitwear in Kings Mountain and Minette Mills and Grover Industries in Grover are observing the full week for the holidays.

Clevmont Mills employees are on vacation this week. The plant will resume operations Tuesday.

Lucille Williams, secretary to Kings Mountain Merchants

See Plants, 10-A



BEATING THE HEAT - Tuesday's 96-degree temperature didn't phase these Kings Mountain young people, who cooled off with an afternoon of swimming at the Deal Street Pool.

Plonk property rezoned, annexed

The James W. Plonk property on S. Battleground Avenue is the newest property to become annexed by the City of Kings Mountain.

City Council Tuesday night unanimously and without discussion rezoned the former Fred W. Plonk building on old Grover Road from Light Industry to General Business and then annexed the property into the city limits.

Realtor Hal S. Plonk said that a convenience store is going on the property and spoke in favor of both the rezoning and voluntary annexation. He said that the area is

presently surrounded by general business, such as Timms Furniture and a garage, but the whole area is zoned light industry. "I've had several prospects for the property but no one wanted it when they discovered it was zoned for light industry," he said.

"I feel a land use committee would approve the whole area for general business," said Plonk during a public hearing in which he was the only person to speak.

Gene White, planning director, said he was not speaking for or

See Plonks, 10-A

Land use work session planned

City Council voted Tuesday night to hold a work session in July with a target date of August for the full appointment of a land use committee, a move urged by Councilman Al Moretz.

Moretz said he met with members of the Planning and Zoning Board Thursday night and shared their concerns about the appointment of at least a 12-member board which would include members of the planning and city boards and

members from the community at large.

"We've had this item on the back burner for sometime and we need to get it squared away," said Mayor Scott Neisler.

The mayor asked City Manager George Wood to coordinate the work session.

City planning director Gene White said that mapping is under-

See Land Use, 10-A

Cable franchise will remain Jones

Jones Intercable announced earlier this year that it had entered into an agreement with Alert Cable Television, an affiliate of Cablevision Industries, Inc. to sell its local operation.

Recently, Jones Intercable was officially notified by Alert that it did not intend to consummate the transaction and that they were terminating the agreement on the grounds that there had been a material adverse change in the business of the local system as well as the entire cable television industry as a result of the FCC's recent rate re-regulation rulings.

"Jones Intercable has accepted Alert's termination of the agreement and will continue to operate the system with the same high quality service and programming as in the past," said Rob Bridges, General Manager.

The eighth largest cable company in the U.S., Jones Intercable locally services approximately 20,000 subscribers in Gaston, Cleveland and York counties.

Herald going to 50 cents

The newsstand price of the Kings Mountain Herald will increase to 50 cents on July 8.

This is the Herald's first single copy increase in several years and is necessary because of the escalating cost of newsprint, ink and other materials necessary to produce the paper.

According to Publisher Bob Rop, mail subscription rates will remain the same. Subscription rates are \$16 per year in Cleveland and Gaston Counties, \$18 per year in other North Carolina counties, and \$21 a year outside North Carolina. Six-months subscriptions are available for \$9 in Cleveland and Gaston counties, \$10 in other North Carolina counties, and \$11.50 outside North Carolina.

To subscribe to the Herald, call the circulation department at 739-7496 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.



United Fund President Maude Norris and Campaign chairman Jay Rhodes lay the groundwork for the 1994 United Fund campaign for \$121,500. Division leaders mapped their solicitation strategy Tuesday.

United Fund goal for '94 is \$121,500

Kings Mountain's United Fund goal for next year will be the same as last year, \$121,500.

Drive Chairman Jay Rhodes and division chairmen set the goal at a luncheon meeting Tuesday to lay groundwork for the 1994 campaign which officially starts this fall.

"We won't raise the goal due to the downturn in the economy but we hope Kings Mountain folks will top it as they did last year," said Rhodes after he appointed chairpersons for the drive.

Rhodes encouraged volunteers to start their solicitation effort early so that the drive could be completed by November 30.

The committee chairmen include: Kyle Smith, advanced gifts and correspondence; Maxine Parsons, City of Kings Mountain; Elaine Grigg and Ronnie Wheatstone, commercial; Huitt Reep, hospital; Ken Howley, industrial; Tom Tate, professional;

"I see the United Fund as my chance to give something back to my community."

-Jay Rhodes

Ronnie Wilson, schools; Rev. John Futterer, ministerial; and Lib Stewart, publicity.

The industrial committee's goal is a big chunk of the goal, \$80,000.

Maude Norris, United Fund President, said Kings Mountain area citizens gave \$124,000 to the United Fund last year. She said that some of the funds pledged last year were not collected but she is confident that those funds will come in this year.

"I see the United Fund as my chance to give something back to my community," said Rhodes.