

Swimmers win conference title

5-A

Citizens speak out on water issue

4-A



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Council pledges to work with City Manager \$153,609 budget cuts approved at Tuesday night's special meeting

By GARY STEWART
Editor of the Herald

City Council unanimously approved City Manager George Wood's recommendations to cut \$153,609 from the city budget to prevent an immediate increase for industrial water users in a special meeting Tuesday night at City Hall.

And, after a lengthy discussion, new councilmen assured Wood and the public that they are not interested in firing Wood and other personnel or returning to the old mayor/commissioner form of government.

Councilman Jerry White made the motion to accept Wood's proposals and to discuss possible cuts to be made in the next fiscal year's budget at a budget workshop in April at Cleveland Community College. Councilman Phil Hager seconded.

Wood made his proposals after a recent City Council meeting in which the Council, and especially the newly-elected councilmen, asked him to meet with all department heads to find possible cuts which would prevent the proposed rate increase to industrial water customers.

Councilman Rick Murphrey said Tuesday that the \$153,609 cuts proposed by Wood, many of which are one-time savings, are not enough - that the city needs to make a more concentrated effort at spending cuts before going to citizens for rate increases.

"Of this amount, we're only talking about \$18,000 of actual budget cuts," he said. "I am disappointed in this effort. I have been to our auditor and looked at these things, and this city has serious financial problems. I don't want to go to the citizens for an increase

until I feel like the city has made a real effort at spending cuts. We must go back and look at every item for cuts. If we go at this with professional leadership we can do it."

Murphrey also called on the city staff to provide the Council with monthly financial statements.

"We must have financial statements to look at to make good ideas," he said. "This is not just a water issue - it's all funds."

Despite his criticism, Murphrey said he recognizes that the city manager and department heads are "professionals" and that he is willing to work with them all. "This is something that hasn't occurred overnight, and it can't be fixed overnight," he said. "If the team effort's there we can work through this thing."

Councilwoman Norma Bridges was quick to support

Wood, recalling the "mess" the city was in six years ago when she came on the Council.

"Six years ago I was involved in hiring George Wood as City Manager," she recalled. "He came in here and found one problem after another. Our buildings and equipment were falling apart and we were under several JOC's (Judicial Orders of Consent) and had several lawsuits against us. The employee morale was at an all-time low. It took many hours to correct these problems, and I don't want to see us go back to that. Our role is as policy-makers. Leave the nuts and bolts of running the city to Mr. Wood."

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Lenten services begin next week

The annual Community Lenten services will begin Wednesday, Feb. 23 and continue for five weeks at downtown churches.

The theme for the services will be "Questions Jesus Asked."

The services will begin promptly at 12:05 p.m. and a light meal will be served at 12:30 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$2 per person.

The public is invited to all services.

The schedule of churches, speakers and host pastors are as follows:

Feb. 23 - Central United Methodist Church; Rev. Hal Schwantes, host pastor; Dr. Chip Sloan, guest speaker.

March 2 - Boyce Memorial A.R.P. Church; Rev. Billy Barron, host pastor; Rev. Ervin Cooke, guest speaker.

March 9 - First Presbyterian Church; Rev. Dick Newsome, host pastor; Rev. Bob Pulkkinen, guest speaker.

March 16 - Resurrection Lutheran Church; Rev. John Futterer, host pastor; Rev. Mark Bardsley, guest speaker;

March 23 - First Baptist Church; Dr. Chip Sloan, host pastor; Rev. Dick Newsome, guest speaker.



A city truck spreads sand on a street during last week's ice storm. Seventy-five tons of sand spread through the night Thursday and most of the day Friday helped prevent any major accidents on city streets. Many homeowners in the area reported problems with water running under their shingles and into their homes.

No major damages from ice storm

Kings Mountain was spared any major damage in last week's ice storm, but many homes sustained cosmetic damage due to frozen precipitation which forced water under shingles and into homes.

Kings Mountain insurance agents have handled hundreds of claims from residents who noticed water leaking from ceilings during the sleet and freezing rain of Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

Agents explained that when water froze in gutters, it caused water coming down the roof to back up

under shingles and into homes.

One area resident reported that he actually caught a gallon of water dripping from a light fixture; and one business reported water coming in around windows and down the walls.

B.F. Maner, owner of Maner Insurance and Real Estate, said he doesn't think the damage will be significant because many of the claims will not meet a \$250 deductible, and most damages will be repaired by painting.

"I'm confident that roofs are not damaged," he said. "We had this

happen about 2 1/2 years ago. I went up on about 20 roofs at that time and there was not a mark on the roof and they haven't leaked since."

Maner surmised that when gutters froze water was forced to run sideways under shingles and found places to go through the roofs.

"The company we use to do our interior work, either from fire or water, had 500 calls come in from Cleveland County agents by noon Friday," Maner noted. "I would like to think that most of it's going to be cosmetic painting instead of a

collapse of ceilings."

Maner said he had only one customer to report a collapsed ceiling.

"One thing you find out is that people are really nice when you have a disaster like this," Maner said. "All of the people that called us didn't seem to be in a hurry and they would say, 'I hate to bother you, but I have a problem.' They were real nice."

John Warlick of Warlick and Hamrick Associates said his agency also had numerous calls but,

See Storm, 3-A

Middle School to get nurse

Cleveland County Health Department will provide a full-time nurse at Kings Mountain Middle School beginning in mid-March, it was announced at Tuesday night's School Board meeting at the Administration Office.

Supt. Bob McRae noted that the Board and Health Department had been working for over a year trying to place a nurse at KMMS.

"The nurse will hopefully help cut down on the number of student absences, especially on students signing out during the day for sickness," McRae said. "The nurse will also work very closely with parents of students in terms of providing health care, especially for those who aren't able to have adequate health care because of family situations, and so forth."

In another matter Tuesday, the board approved March 25 and June 6 as the fourth and fifth make-up days because of recent inclement weather. Other make-up days previously approved are Feb. 21, June 2 and June 3. Barring any other required make-up days, students will get out of school on June 6.

In other action, the board:

■ Heard a report from Patsy Walker, director of Kids, Etc., the system's before and after school care program, on the operation of the program.

■ Heard a report from Jean Thrift on the system's performance on the State Report Card. Kings Mountain was above state and cluster averages in many areas.

■ Approved paying \$1,000 for approximately 1,000 square feet of property adjacent to Grover School. McRae explained that years ago a fence was erected by the system and part of it lapped over onto the adjacent property

See Nurse, 3-A

Parent Center is recognized

The Parent Resource Center at West School was recognized at Tuesday night's School Board meeting as one of the 14 winners of the Governor's Program of Excellence in Education.

The Parent Resource Center was begun in 1992 at West to provide learning experiences for parents and enable them to work more effectively with their children at home.

Parents are provided a variety of materials, training and information useful to them in working with their children. In its first year of operation, the center had over 600 parents participate in a variety of workshops, educational programs and support groups.

The center provides morning, afternoon and evening hours to provide adult education in areas such as reading and math as well as a high school diploma program. Individual literacy instruction is provided for non-readers by center staff and volunteers. A computer lab is available for parents to learn skills that will improve their opportunities for employment or career advancement.

The center also distributes a packet of information on Kings Mountain schools to the parents of newborns in the area. The center provides a variety of workshops such as parenting skills, nutrition, assisting children with homework or reading, and health education. A resource library allows parents to check out books and audio-tapes, view videos and receive free pamphlets on child rearing and health

See Center, 3-A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Pearsons have been in love 65 years

Still sweethearts after nearly 65 years, Olland and Iva Lee Pearson credit the success of their long years of happily married life to "hard work and a lot of give and take."

Valentine's Day wasn't any more special for the Pearsons than any other day Monday. Olland said that Iva Lee cooks him his favorite meals every day. On Monday she surprised him with his favorite pecan pie and black walnut cake.

Friends and neighbors of the Pearsons on Fairview Street know that the kitchen is Mrs. Pearson's favorite place to be and they know the tempting aroma from her kitchen will bring them back to the table for seconds every time.

Olland Pearson, 82, and Iva Lee Pearson, 82, will be married 65 years on May 18, 1994.

"We've been married all our lives but we wouldn't have it any other way," says Mrs. Pearson, who was a bride of 17 and her bridegroom was only 18 when they tied the knot in York, SC.

Both worked in the Old Dilling cotton mill. After a courtship, they were married May 18, 1928 by a Justice of the Peace in York, SC. They set up housekeeping in a little house on the Dilling Mill village.

Iva Lee retired from the Dilling Mill after 42 years. Mr. Pearson worked at Dilling Mill for a number of years, then went to the Cora Mill and retired in 1980 from Battleground Service Station where he worked for 20 years for the late Fred W. Plonk, pumping gasoline and selling groceries.

Seven years ago the couple bought a home on Fairview Street, remodeled it and moved from their home on Dixon School Road, about a block behind the old Battleground Service Station and now Little Dan's Convenience Store.

"We just enjoy ourselves, relaxing in front of the fire and sitting on the porch swing when it's warm," says Olland.

Mrs. Pearson likes to sew, and, of course, both their favorite pas-

times are having company and seeing their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family includes two children. Harold Dean Pearson and his wife, Diane, live in Richmond, VA, where Harold has worked for the Richmond Times-Dispatch for a number of years. Shirley Mayes of Kings Mountain is married to Gene Mayes. There are two grandchildren, Jackie Putnam and Christopher Pearson and two great-grandchildren, Brandon and Jason Putnam.

Son of the late Robert and Emma Pearson, Olland Pearson was born and reared in Kings Mountain. In the early 1950's he got into politics briefly and served as a City Commissioner for two years in Garland Still's administration from 1951-53.

Although he still enjoys talking politics with friends, Olland says he has no desire to get back into city politics. Mr. Pearson likes sports and he and his son, a sports writer, spend happy hours talking

over the latest sports happenings.

Daughter of the late R.J. and Minnie Mozelle Hoyle Falls, Mrs. Pearson was also born and reared in Kings Mountain. She met her husband at the home of her aunt, Nanny Falls, and for both, it was love at first sight.

"At a time when long marriages seem to be out of style, we may be old-fashioned but we married for better or for worse, until death do us part," said Mrs. Pearson.

"The Lord willing, I'll be 83 in September and Olland will be 83 in March," said Mrs. Pearson.

Both Pearsons' keen sense of humor belie their years.

Olland and Iva Lee didn't take a wedding trip but since that time they have traveled to the mountains, to Georgia and to Richmond to visit relatives.

"After we married we had to straight back to the mill to work," laughed Mrs. Pearson.

Hard work cements a relationship, according to Olland.



MR. AND MRS. OLLAND PEARSON