



KM High presents
'Annie Get Your Gun'
 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at Barnes Auditorium

Mountaineer swimmers
State Championship



*****CAR-RT-SURT**CR02
 10/21/94 1 14
 307 MAIN ST LIBRARY
 MAIN ST LIBRARY
 100 S PIEDMONT AVE
 KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086 3414

Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 106 NO. 10

Thursday, March 10, 1994

Kings Mountain, NC 28086 • 50¢

George Wood resigns

Taking \$68,000 position in Cleveland, Tennessee



GEORGE WOOD

Kings Mountain City Manager George Wood, 42, resigned Monday, effective March 21, to accept a similar position with the City of Cleveland, Tennessee.

Wood will be Cleveland's first City Manager in the Manager/Council form of government, leading that Tennessee city through a transition period from Mayor/Council form of government as he did Kings Mountain six years ago.

"My family and I have mixed emotions about leaving a place we love but this is a career move that I can't pass up," said Wood, who was hired at annual salary of \$68,000 plus travel allowance.

Cleveland has a population of 32,400, over three times the size of Kings Mountain, and the city's budget is a whopping \$70-\$80 million compared to Kings Mountain city's budget of \$19 million.

Wood tendered his letter of resignation to Mayor Scott Neisler and the City Council Monday after earlier in the day formally accepting the position offered by Tennessee's mayor and seven board members. He

See Wood, 12-A

City employees shocked with Monday's announcement

City Department heads and City Council members expressed shock this week with the announcement from City Manager George Wood that he is resigning.

Although several alluded to recent tensions with Council members may have played a part in his decision to apply for a new job, all said they felt Wood would give the same devotion to his new job as he has in Kings Mountain for six years as the top administrator in city government.

Devastation was the word used by Chief of Police Warren Goforth after hearing the news at the 4:30 p.m. called meeting of all department heads Monday.

"We all knew that the professional person that he is would make him attractive to big cities,"

said Goforth. "His professionalism in this city will be greatly missed. He's led Kings Mountain into the 21st Century and his shoes will be hard to fill."

"I'm very saddened that the city has lost such a professional," said City Councilwoman Norma Bridges. "We have to pick up the pieces and go on as professionals to pick his successor."

Bridges, former mayor pro tem, is the only present member of the seven member board who served on the selection committee that hired George Wood May 9, 1988 during the administration of Kyle Smith.

Bridges said that the present Council has to understand that "our job is policy making and let the city manager run the every day job

at City Hall. Only then can we move forward."

Finance Director Jeff Rosencrans said he was disappointed that Wood was leaving Kings Mountain. "The chemistry of the staff will suffer but its an excellent opportunity for him."

Aging Director Monty Thornburg said he had seen many changes in government for our betterment during Wood's tenure. "I enjoyed working with him and wish him well."

Ward I Councilman Phil Hager said Kings Mountain is better for having Wood as a leader for six years at the helm of city government. "I hate to see him go," said Hager, "because Kings Mountain has lost a precious jewel."

See Shock, 12-A

Grover sets public hearing on proposed land use plan

Grover cop votes on vacation plan

Grover town attorney Mickey Corry cited conflict of interest Monday night after Councilman Robbie Sides made a motion and voted on a new vacation plan for city employees, including himself.

Sides, a Grover policeman, said police and other employees currently have 12 paid holidays, 45 sick days and vacation days.

Mayor pro tem Sandra Ellis argued that the town can't afford to be as generous as in years past and that after six months an employee could earn one week's vacation and after three years of employment two weeks of vacation with no accumulation. Other board members agreed.

Mayor Ronald Queen said he was not concerned about employees abusing the sick day policy and Commissioner Noel Spivey asked what did it matter if sick days were accumulated. But, Councilman Jack Herndon said Sides, out on leave recently, had used up "twice that amount in the last several months."

Sides made the motion that the sick day policy remain as is, one day a month and no more than 45 days accumulated, but the attorney called his hand and told the board to take another vote.

Sides did not ask to be excused from the vote but passed a letter from the North Carolina League of Municipalities which he said allowed him to voice his opinion on the issue.

See Conflict, 12-A

GROVER - Citizens will have a chance to tell Grover leaders what they think of a proposed land-use plan during a public hearing Monday, March 21, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Max Rollins, chairman of planning and zoning, said that the public hearing comes a little over six months after Mayor Ronald Queen named him and Fain Hambright, Tommy Keeter, Kathy Neilly, David Chadwick, Robert Roper and Jack Herndon to develop the town's first zoning plan.

"We had a good foundation to start with by working with county planner Bill McCarter and his staff," said Rollins, who foresees the zoning map should draw much interest but little controversy.

"No one is really restricted and zoning protects property," said Rollins.

Council got the ball rolling on zoning in the fall of 1993 when they discovered they had an ordinance against mobile homes that was unenforceable. The Mayor said that neither he nor Council realized that no construction of any kind could be regulated without a zoning ordinance in place.

Since that time the new planning/zoning board has worked diligently, using zoning maps and ordinances from the county and towns surrounding Grover to come up with a land use plan for the town.

The big map is color coded to show the areas, such as restricted residential use, residential manufactured homes and parks, uptown business district, manufacturing and warehousing, heavy industrial,

See Zoning, 12-A



REFRESHMENT TIME - City Clerk Marilyn Sellers, Mayor Scott Neisler and Mrs. Neisler and Ruby Alexander chat at the refreshment table in the City Hall lobby Tuesday. The Cleveland County Chamber, which also includes Kings Mountain's branch office, held a get-together to celebrate the merger of the two organizations. The City Hall may be the new home of the Kings Mountain branch pending approval of City Council.

Kings Mountain Jaycees to reorganize

Three Kings Mountain men - Jim Tate, Larry Hamrick Jr. and David Dellinger - are in process of rechartering the Kings Mountain Jaycees, a leadership training organization for young people between the ages of 21 and 40.

The Jaycees, an equal opportunity organization, offers training in the fields of individual development, community development and management development.

The Kings Mountain Jaycees will be affiliated with the North Carolina Jaycees, the United States Jaycees and the International

Jaycee Organization.

Mary Schott, the first female President of the North Carolina Jaycees, will be in Kings Mountain March 21 to help with chapter organization and chartering.

Statewide, the Jaycees are best known for North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center, the North Carolina Jaycee Boys Home, the North Carolina Jaycee Girls Home, the Hugh O'Brien Youth Campaign, fundraising for muscular dystrophy, the March of Dimes Walk America, Cystic Fibrosis and

fundraising for the Duke Cancer Center.

Locally, the Jaycees have been involved in former years in the Halloween Haunted House, the Distinguished Service Awards banquet, Youth Little League, Youth basketball, Boy Scouts, Toys for Tots and other local charities.

The Jaycees were founded by Henry Guisenberg in St. Louis, Mo. in the early 1940's. In the 1940's the organization was known as the Junior Chamber of Commerce and was designed at

See Jaycees, 14-A

Special meeting Tuesday

Kings Mountain City Council has called a special meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. to name an interim City Manager to replace George Wood, who resigned Monday.

Mayor Scott Neisler said each of the seven board members will have input into the decision and will nominate a person to fill the vacancy.

"I'm saddened that George is leaving us because he is super to work with and he has done a lot of good things for Kings Mountain during six years of service," said Neisler.

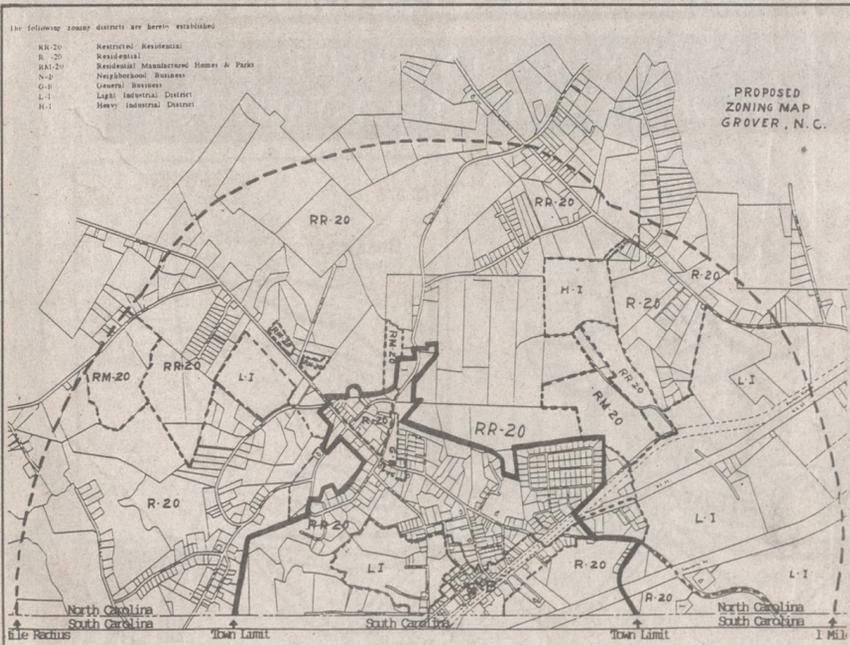
Wood is leaving the city March 21 to take the position of City Manager of Cleveland, Tennessee, a city three times the size of Kings Mountain. He will be that city's first City Manager in the Manager/Council form of government.

The Mayor said Council will begin immediately placing advertisements in various publications for a City Manager and will then begin the screening and interviewing process similar to six years ago when it hired Kings Mountain's first City Manager under the new City Manager/Council form of government.

The Interim Manager can't be a member of Council nor can the Mayor serve in that position.

Neisler would not speculate on whom the Council would choose for Wood's successor. Whoever is hired will lead the Council in the

See Meeting, 12-A



Wood to make recommendation on city's dwindling fund balance

City Manager George Wood said he will recommend to City Council that it underspend this year's budget and leave \$150,000 in the 1994-95 budget to increase the dwindling fund balance.

Wood said that some lease purchases will be paid off this year and more money will be freed up for the fund balance.

Wood said the city has notified State Treasurer Harlan E. Boyles how its plans to up the reserves that could be used for unexpected emergencies and unexpected expenditures or for financial opportunities that unexpectedly arise.

Craig M. Barfield, Director, Fiscal Management Section, suggested in a letter February 22, 1994 to Mayor Scott Neisler that the city's current budget ordinance be analyzed immediately to determine areas in which revenues can be increased and/or expenditures can be reduced to begin building general fund revenues. The statewide average fund balance available for comparably-sized municipalities with electric funds is 27.02 percent of the total general fund expenditures, he said.

As of June 30, 1993, the amount of fund balance available was \$54,655 or 1.12 percent of total general fund expenditures. The city's fund balance available decreased from 2.75 percent on June 30, 1992.

"The city finds itself in a position where serious

cash flow problems can be possible. Fund balance available should never be less than eight percent of total general fund expenditures or one month's average expenditures," wrote Barfield, of the State Local Government Finance Division and the Local Government Commission.

"Local governments need to maintain adequate amounts of fund balances to finance their operations during periods of declining revenue," said Barfield.

Barfield said the city violated G.S.143-64.31 in failing to comply with certain purchasing and contracting laws of the state and encouraged members of the city's governing board to familiarize themselves with these North Carolina General statutes. Barfield reminded that the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer Policies Manual contains a section on purchasing that should provide useful guidance to the city.

Barfield asked the city to give a written statement of how it plans to resolve the problem areas and address the financial weakness of the city's general funds and electric and gas funds, which show that current liabilities exceed liquid assets, cash, investments and receivables.

The staff of the Local Government Commission recently analyzed the city's audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 1993.