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High-speed chase ends in KM

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Health Director: Consolidate animal control

Kings Mountain City Council took no action Tuesday on a preliminary proposal by County Health Director Denise Stallings for consolidation of the animal control program.

Instead, Mayor Scott Neisler spoke for Council and said representatives would meet "at the table" to talk about a possible county-wide ordinance.

Stallings said she is concerned that only 8,200 dogs and cats out of a possible 120,000 animals are vaccinated yearly in the county, which she said leaves the county wide open for an outbreak of rabies.

"We haven't had any rabies reported in this county but Gaston County has," said Stallings, who said the

concept of county-wide consolidation of animal control would mean quicker response by dog catchers and offer 24-hour protection for local residents.

Stallings said she is proposing that two shifts of dog wardens work the county and that they be sworn officers so they can give tickets on the spot for violations. She also suggested that a way to pay for the program is to add a user fee to taxpayers, a proposal which would have to be approved by the county board of commissioners.

"Ultimately we could reduce the tax dollars and the only cost to Kings Mountain for the first coupe of years would be the salary of the officer and the equip-

ment," she said.

Stallings said a new ordinance would incorporate both Kings Mountain and Shelby's leash laws. The county does not presently have a leash law.

Councilman Phil Hager asked how one officer on duty could respond to a call in the upper end of the county and at Kings Mountain at the same time.

"We cover the county now with four officers and I envision we would have a total of six," said Stallings.

But Councilman Ralph Grindstaff questioned the plan, asking what was wrong with Kings Mountain's present system which employs a sworn officer who responded to 468 calls last year and picked up 49 ani-

mals in June, 42 in May and 32 in April, comparing with the county's three officers who reported 140 in June and 181 in May and a total of 6,586 stray dogs for the year.

Stallings said she wasn't knocking Kings Mountain's system but said that a consolidated system would include one phone number for all residents to use, would be less confusing and would offer 24 hour service.

"Now, if your officer is on vacation, the calls must still come to the county," she said.

"We believe we have a strong animal control policy in Kings Mountain and have had no complaints about

See Animal, 11-A

Pre-Labor Day celebration set at Grover park

GROVER - A pre-Labor Day celebration Saturday at Municipal Park promises fun for the whole family.

Grover Woman's Club is sponsoring the fun day which begins at 11 a.m. and will be topped off with a street dance at 6 p.m. in front of Grover Industries.

Entertainment will feature train rides around the walking track, putt-putt, a dunking booth, concessions and Grover t-shirts imprinted with the town logo, "Where the Carolinas Begin."

The list of activities include:

11-11:15 a.m. - Opening ceremonies by Major and Town Council. Town Councilman Noell Spivey will sing the "Star Spangled Banner."

11:15-11:30 - Jennifer Senter - singer.

11:30-12 noon - David Dingus, Carolina Christian Academy.

12-12:15 - Ms. Jackie Blanton, story teller.

12:15-12:45 - Bethany Baptist Church Singers.

12:45-1:15 - St. Peter's Baptist Church Choir.

1:15-1:45 - Grover First Baptist Church Ensemble.

1:45-2:00 - Arnold Clayton - banjo.

2:00-2:30 - Mike Hayes - Keepsake Recording Artist.

2:30-3:00 - Long Branch Baptist Church Choir.

3:00-3:30 - Jerry Edmondson and Family.

3:30-3:45 - Benji Towery - Comedian.

3:45-4:00 - Jada Clark and Megan Meade - Dancers.

4:00-4:30 - Bible Holiness Church Singers.

4:30-5:00 - Jane Campbell's Dance Academy.

5:00-5:30 - Talia Quinn - singer.

5:30-5:45 - Jada Clark and Megan Meade - Dancers.

5:45-6:00 - Taped music.

6:00 - Street dance featuring "Southern Thunder."

For more information, call Betsy Wells at 739-1585 or Bobbie Spivey at 937-7397.



Eighth Grade Science students, above, work in "Nature's Corner," which will include a pool or fountain as a source of water for the birds. From left, Rocky Ingram, Chris Mackins, Tyler Ellis, Clay Phillips, Brocke Blackburn, Cody Smith and Richie Wells dig up the earth.

Students enjoy 'Nature Corner'

On any school day visitors to Kings Mountain Middle School can see eighth grade Science students working outside on a "Nature's Corner" and in the classrooms with 12 little animals in "Habitats on Wheels."

KM District School's Educational Foundation chose the "Nature's Corner" for a grant of \$450 for this school year.

North Carolina Math/Science Alliance chose "Habitat On Wheels" and funded the project \$1000 with Patti Weathers and Van Canipe as the lead teachers.

Even though the school year just started, the 150 Science students, under the direction of Weathers, have started converting the courtyard outside the library into an aviary for the birds, using netting to cover the top and planting bushes. A pool or fountain will also be constructed on the advice of Mike Horn of Discovery Place. The year's work will include studies of different types of birds to determine the birds that would survive the best without human interference.

Weathers said the project will indirectly involve 900 students who will enjoy the courtyard area.

The 150 young people are not only busy outside the school building on the Science project but inside as well.

Recently, mobile habitats featuring a dozen small animals became a part of the classroom scene.

With each habitat a unit of study will be designed

to teach proper respect, care and handling of animals. Since the animals are in cages and set up on carts, they will be used on a classroom rotating basis as teachers exchange animals periodically during the year so that all students will be exposed to all animals at that grade level. The animals include love birds, gerbils, hermit crabs, fish, algae eaters, guinea pigs and earthworms.

Cages and aquariums will be used to house the creatures.

Weathers said that students will be pretested on both projects at the beginning of the year and post-tested at the end of the year.

On a recent day students were fascinated with a Spiny Iguana, love birds and hamsters. Animal food is stored in a cabinet under each mobile habitat.

"The Iguana likes to hide and the students are fascinated by his habits," said Weathers.

Weathers said an important goal of both projects is that students will learn how to work together. She said the aviary will serve as an outdoor classroom for the environmental lab students to use and also as a quiet, restful place that staff and students can enjoy.

Students took out their shovels and gardening tools Friday afternoon and started digging up the earth and weeding for several gardens and plants.

Weathers hopes the project will whet the appetite for other students who like birds and nature in general.

Annexation rules explained to board

M. Eugene White, the city's director of Planning and Development, said Kings Mountain has made only "false starts" on involuntary annexation in the past but he hopes the pattern would change with new laws he updated Tuesday to City Council.

White outlined the legal steps in annexation and asked Council to examine the policy and set priorities.

He called attention to several contiguous areas of the city, including East Kings Mountain at Linwood, Kings Mountain Industrial Park, Shelby Road and Margrace Road but cautioned that once annexation is in place that the city must provide the services within a two-year period.

"I've been on the board six years and we've talked annexation," said Councilwoman Norma Bridges.

"Let's move on it."

Councilman Rick Murphrey said he supports annexation 100 percent to expand the tax base and revenues of the city and asked Interim City Manager Maxine Parsons to make some specific recommendations.

White suggested that an outside person be employed to do some of the leg work.

Mayor Scott Neisler suggested that Council devote a work session to the matter.

The lengthy presentation included steps for voluntary and involuntary annexation.

"We need to take in all these new developments and not jump around, taking one property and skipping another," said Councilman Jim Guyton.

Rezoning and annexation talk took up the major portion of the meeting.

After a public hearing, the board approved an amendment to the zoning ordinance regarding golf courses, permitting as a conditional use in the R-20 District and rezoned property of John Kiser on East King Street near The Herald to General Business.

See Annexation, 3-A

Councilmen give spending advice

City Councilmen Ralph Grindstaff and Dean Spears cautioned city employees not to spend unless there was money in the bank during a discussion of budgeted gas projects Tuesday.

"We may have the money in the budget but no money in the bank and we'll be in the hole again," said Grindstaff to Utility Director Jimmy Maney who was proposing plans for a major gas project at cost of \$95,000.

"If there's no money to pay, we'll stop work on the project," said Spears.

But Mayor Scott Neisler said after the meeting the city would not be in the hole.

"We've always had to budget for projects such as gas extensions and the money is in capital outlay in the budget," he said.

Maney and Interim City Manager Maxine Parsons said now is the time to run a gas loop in the Stoney Point/Oak Grove area at Reliance Electric to pick up more customers who will be needing to turn on fuel at the onset of the winter.

Maney said the low bidder for labor is M&R Utilities of Shelby at cost of \$2,953.19.

Parsons said there is currently no funds to pay for the entire project but the funds will be available with payment of city tax bills in the fall.

Maney said that the city's natural gas customers should begin to see cheaper prices with the new flex rate. He said the Oak Grove project will be done in phases and the city will be billed as the work progresses.

"You will be kept informed at every step of the process and anything that should exceed the budget will be brought immediately to your attention," said Maney at the regular Council meeting at City Hall.

KM-Grover waste agreement hits snag

A proposed agreement between Grover Industries and the City of Kings Mountain for a possible wastewater connection has apparently hit a snag.

City Council was ready to approve the agreement Tuesday night but Mayor Scott Neisler asked them to table the matter.

After the meeting, the mayor said that Walt Ollis, the city's Director of Water/Wastewater, was meeting with Grover officials Wednesday in an attempt to iron out the agreement.

Ollis said Wednesday negotiations are still continuing.

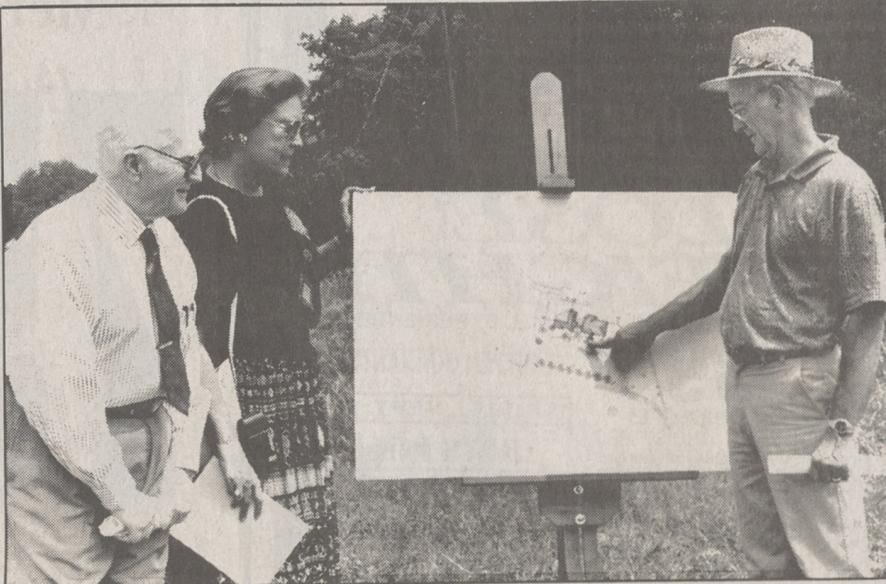
Grover Industries asked city officials in May for a possible wastewater connection and the city got approval from the Department of Environmental Health and Natural Resources.

Sine then Ollis has worked up preliminary wastewater permit

limits for Grover executive John Harry and Harry has been collecting water samples and running tests.

Under the agreement of preliminary costs, Grover industries would fund the refurbishing of basin 3 and related units at Kings Mountain's Pilot Creek Waste treatment plant. Construction of pumps, mains and sewers as necessary to tie into the city system plus the necessary engineering would be required.

Under the agreement, the city would contribute up front the amount budgeted in the 1994-95 budget and would allow Grover Industries to recoup its funds less the cost of the connection at Motor Panels on Grover Road which would serve only Grover Industries at the rate of 50 percent of their monthly bill for wastewater service.



Dr. George Plonk, Betty Burleson and Harold Hord, left to right, Kings Mountain members of the Board of Directors of Hospice of Cleveland County Inc., look over plans for the \$1.2 million facility for which construction begins in September.

Ground broken for new Hospice

The hot sun blazing down on the large crowd standing in the middle of a 12-acre field in Shelby Tuesday didn't dampen the enthusiasm as Hospice of Cleveland County Inc. broke ground for a new Hospice Patient Care Facility.

"This is a beautiful day," said Kathleen Hamrick, chairman of the campaign which has raised over \$1 million and needs only \$40,000 of its goal of \$1.2 million.

After months of planning and fund-raising, shovels lifted the soil from the spot on 951 Joe Road where construction of the 15,853-square-foot facility is scheduled to begin in September.

"We plan to start moving in 12 to 14 months," said enthusiastic board member Harold Hord of Kings Mountain. Other local board members, Dr. George Plonk and Betty Burleson were just as excited.

Evelyn West, Executive Director, said the new home for

See Hospice, 3-A