



**WIN \$100** in the  
Herald's "Pick The Winners"  
Football Contest Page 1B

**KM cop thankful  
to be alive**  
See 10A

**Major leaguers coming  
to Kings Mountain  
Golf Tournament**



# Kings Mountain Herald

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Thursday, September 15, 1994

Kings Mountain, N.C.

## Dam repairs will be \$300,000

The city's Director of Water/Sewer Walt Ollis says there is some legitimate interest by at least one developer in building houses on the shores of the city's old Davidson Lake.

"This could be four or five years down the road and may never happen," said Ollis, who said city workers have lowered the Davidson Lake level to 10 feet and may lower it another 10 feet to buy some time from the state's insistence that the dams be fixed.

"It used to be that under the law the city could lower the water level to less than 15 feet and leave it as is or sell it as is but the rules have changed," said Ollis, who said he has been told by state EPA officials that lowering the water level won't jell as a permanent solution.

Ollis estimated that the cost of doing repairs at both the city's Davidson and City Lakes will cost more than \$300,000, nearly double the amount the city budgeted two months ago for repairs.

The state-mandated Davidson Lake dam repairs were again put on hold by City Council which tabled Tuesday the awarding of a contract for both the Davidson and City Lake projects.

W. K. Dickson engineer David Pond was asked to return to the construction contractors to negotiate bids for the Davidson project alone since the state is pushing for concrete work repair at the Davidson dam.

Councilman Ralph Grindstaff suggested that perhaps someone else should start giving estimates for major projects in the budget but Mayor Scott Neisler said the timing wasn't right and Pond agreed that prices are up.

Grindstaff suggested that engineers get two different prices, one for repair and one for breaching.

"It may cost more but I had rather drain the lakes," said Grindstaff. "We continue to pay money for upkeep."

Pond says he doubts a cheaper price is on the market because dams are an ongoing liability.

"Fix them and sell them," Pond said.

Pond said that construction workers don't like to work on dams because of the heavy liability involved and the state has no money in special funds to bail the city out of the cost.

Pond said several years ago the state turned down the city's request to help pay the cost of a bridge at Davidson Lake.

Grindstaff asked why the city continually pays for something (Davidson and City Lakes) that taxpayers don't use.

"We have to get them in state compliance to put them on the market," said the mayor.

Ollis said that only a few fishermen benefit from the lakes now. "It would be nice if we could move these properties and if someone would develop really nice

homes along the lakes."

Ollis announced that the state has approved plans for running water lines to serve Patrick Yarn Mills and water pipes should be in the ground in the next couple of weeks. The project is funded by Cleveland County and Al Moretz is engineer.

Grindstaff questioned the hold-up on the project, saying that the plant wants to add 15 new employees. But Ollis said that a 12-inch water line may need to go in instead of a 10-inch line as originally planned.

In other business of the meeting, the board sold two propane tanks in accordance with the upset bid procedure to Kleen-Flame Corporation for \$28,000.

After the business part of the meeting, engineers Pond and Alex Berkley gave a slide presentation on utilities, part of a long-range study covering a 20-year period. They updated 10 current projects in a status report.

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307 MAJORITY MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
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KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086 3414

### Stop killing group plans 'Wall' in KM

A "Memorial Wall" with the names of the 12 people murdered in Kings Mountain over the past five years will go up at Pine Manor Apartments Friday at 7 p.m. as the "Stop the Killing" caravan passes through the city.

The wall will list the names of Kings Mountain residents Charles Wayne Shirey, 28, who died September 8, 1989; Carl Patterson, 41, who died May 17, 1990; Bobby Wade, 45, who died December 2, 1990; Angela Adams, 21, who died February 24, 1992; Karen D. Hardy, 35, who died March 4, 1992; Rick Sherrill Jr., 34, who died April 1, 1992; Cory Leach, 14, who died September 9, 1992; Silay Thongouphin, 34, who died February 7, 1993; Rebecca Nunez, 11-months-old who died October 9, 1993; William E. "Wimp" Ramsey, 52, who died November 3, 1993; and Hugh Wayne Marcam, 45, and Ervin C. Lovelace, 67, who died December 2, 1993. There were no homicides in Kings Mountain in 1991.

The Crusade, a faith-based, direct action, high visibility approach organization, will move through 14 cities, including Kings Mountain and Shelby.

The Crusade will be in Shelby at 8:30 p.m.

The Crusade was organized in 1988 for the purpose of fighting drug related crime in predominately African-American communities in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

While the number of African-Americans killed far out numbering all others, volunteer James Barnett said a call will go out to the African-American community to take the lead in stopping the killing and to save a race. He said that 122 non-justifiable homicides were reported in the City of Charlotte in 1993, including 76 black males, 16 white males, 24 black females and six white females.

"We of the Crusade see this campaign as a start of a movement of unity. It will be the first time that

See Campaign, 11-A



Angela and Mike Philbeck and son, Brandon, D. C. Black holding new grandson, Casey Philbeck and Kim Burdette with her nieces, Emily Stillwell and Kristine Stillwell, front row, stand in front of the Black home which burned to the ground September 3. Love Valley Baptist Church will sponsor a Poor Man's lunch and supper Saturday from 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. at the church for benefit of the family.

## Community comes to aid of burned-out neighbors

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald staff

The flames were already reaching over half of his bedroom when D.C. Black heard his daughter screaming that the house was on fire.

Black, who was working outside in his yard on Love Valley Road, shed no tears publicly when the three bedroom double-wide and all the family's possessions lay in a burned rubble but he said he mourned the loss of family pictures.

"The important thing was that my daughters and grandson were safe, but I was worried about my wife, Diane, who we called home from work to find the home she loved was no more."

Black said that life's blessings, however, top the tragic moments. Daughter Angela Philbeck, who was about ready to deliver her second child, started having labor pains and the family's thoughts turned to her and husband, Mike, and three-year-old, Brandon. Seven pound Casey Mikal Philbeck arrived on September 5. Mother and baby are fine.

Brandon was undaunted by the fire. Later, the grandchildren said the scene was "just like a love story on television." Grandmother came home and Grandpa opened his arms to her.

And since the fire the family has moved into Black's sister Joyce Styers' mobile home nearby and the caring

community has showered the new mother with clothes for the baby and the family.

"We could use some dishes, pots and pans, sheets and household items but we've got our grandkids and I'd like a dozen," said Black, who comes from a family of 10 children of the late Mr. and Mrs. Doc Black.

At 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 3 Kim Burdette and Angela Philbeck were stocking a brand new refrigerator in their parents' kitchen and Brandon was playing in the living room with his toys. Black had recently completed an addition to the three-bedroom mobile home he and his wife purchased nine years ago.

Suddenly Kim said a breaker knocked off and she walked up the hall and noticed a big orange light in her parents' bedroom.

"The whole bedroom was ablaze and I grabbed my nephew Brandon and ran out the door," said Kim who didn't take time to get her shoes. Angela holler ed to her father and husband that the house was on fire. Black started running toward them, all the time yelling for them to get out fast.

Within 15 minutes the house was in ruins despite the quick efforts of firemen from Bethlehem and Grover Fire Departments.

The home and furnishings were not covered by insurance.

### McRae: System is taking honest look at curriculum

Kings Mountain School Supt. Bob McRae told parents that the system is "trying to be careful to give an honest look" at the sex education portion of the system's Family Life Curriculum at Monday night's School Board meeting at West Elementary School.

A persistent group of parents have attended the Board meetings since February with Jean McAbee, Tom Sees and Melony Bolin taking turn about bringing their opinions before the Board.

This week, McAbee was placed on the agenda to talk about the subject and three others addressed the issue during the "Comments from the Community" portion of the agenda.

The citizens' concerns were basically the same that have been voiced in the past - urging the board to either adopt an abstinence only curriculum or to offer children the right to choose between a comprehensive curriculum such as the one the system now has, or an abstinence only curriculum such as Sex Respect which the parents' group says has been highly effective in other systems.

McRae, Jane King, who is Asst. Supt. in charge of curriculum, Board chairman Shearra Miller and vice-chairman Sonny Peeler, who is also a member of the Health Council, assured the group that the Health Council has spent numerous hours going over the curriculum almost "word for word" and viewing controversial video tapes which have been shown in some classrooms. King said the Council met for 6 1/2 hours (until 1 a.m.) at a meeting last week and another lengthy meeting was scheduled for last night. She said many more meetings may be necessary before the Council makes its recommendation to the Board.

McRae pointed out that when a recommendation is made, the Board will have as many public meetings as necessary to give everyone in the community ample opportunity to review the curriculum and make comments.

See Sex Ed, 12-A

### Enrollment up in KM schools

Kings Mountain Schools show a slight increase in enrollment over last year and could top the 4,000 figure in two years, Supt. Bob McRae told the Board of Education at its monthly meeting Monday night at West School.

The system had 3,984 students enrolled on the 10th day of school (August 31) compared to 3,935 on the 10th day last year.

The biggest gains are in the rural elementary schools, indicating that new families are locating in the perimeter of the city. Dr. McRae said if the trend continues the system may have to begin looking at expanding facilities at some elementary schools.

Grover showed the biggest gain with 453 students compared to 422 on the 10th day last year. The kindergarten enrollment increased from 75 to 97.

Bethware increased from 523 to 533, North from 378 to 389, and West from 284 to 292. The only decrease in elementary enrollment was at East, where the number of students dropped from 265 to 257. The Middle School enrollment increased from 940 to 954 but the high school enrollment dropped from 1123 to 1106.

"It is encouraging to know that the largest grade is kindergarten," McRae said. "It looks like over the next decade we could grow substantially. That could create some challenges for us down the road as far as facilities."

McRae said the new Grover School was constructed with expansion in mind, and with good acreage at Bethware and North expansion should not be a problem. He said the Board may want to begin discussing the possibility at its annual Advance October 2-4 in Boone.

In another matter Monday, the Board discussed SAT results which

See School, Page 12-A

### Sides doesn't get police duties

GROVER - Former policeman Robbie Sides scored several hits with his fellow Councilmen Monday on his suggestions for hiring at least two part-time officers and refurbishing the cemetery but he struck out when he volunteered to serve as the police commissioner.

Councilmen Noel Spivey and Jack Herndon quickly objected and Herndon asked Sides if he was going to be in town. "Is it a secret where you work?" he asked.

Sides said he works out of town from about 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. but refused to say where. He said he is willing to take complaints from both police and water/sewer departments on his answering machine.

See Grover, 12-A

### Grover to get water from KM

GROVER - Local citizens will be back on Kings Mountain's water supply next week as town workers drain the water from tank and then put it back on line.

Meantime, another water line will soon go in following unanimous action by Town Board Monday.

After looking at a map of the town water system, the board agreed to put in a new line at cost of \$2000.

Mayor Ronald Queen said part of Grover's water line is about 30 years old.

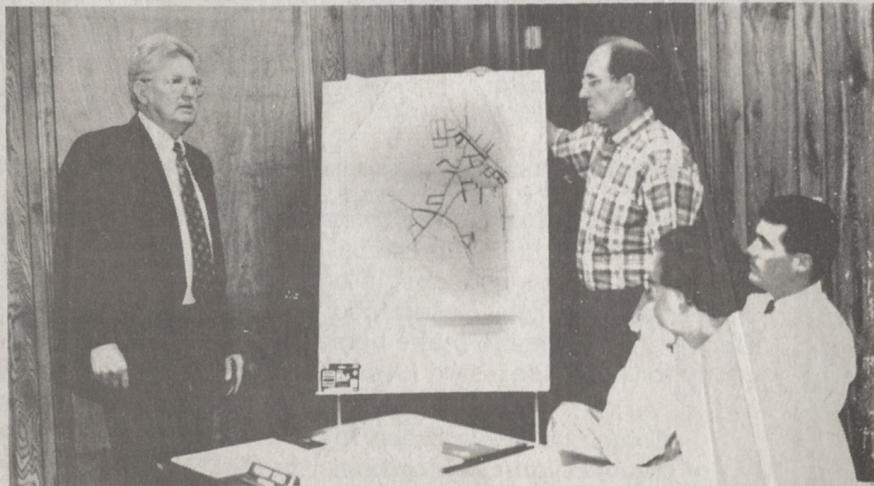
In other actions of the meeting, the board:

Voted to ask the Cleveland County Board of Elections to change the voting place in Grover from the Rescue Squad to Town Hall, effective with the next election.

Voted to spend \$300 for a community Christmas tree to be placed by the Woman's Club in front of Town Hall.

Voted to spend \$2500 for 25 new Christmas lights.

Thanked the Woman's Club for leadership of the Pre-Labor Day celebration and expressed appreciation to the Lions Club and to all who attended the event in spite of the rainy weather.



Grover Mayor Ronald Queen, left, and Councilman Noel Spivey look at charts of the city's water lines as other Council members look on during Monday's regular meeting of the town board.