



WIN \$100 in the
Herald's "Pick The Winners"
Football Contest Page 5A

Bud Bumgardner
roasted
See 13A

Cleveland Home Health Care
opens new facility in She
See page 9A

Kings Mountain Herald

VOL. 106 NO. 38

Thursday, September 22, 1994

Kings Mountain, NC 2

*****COR-RT-SORT#CR02
007 10/21/94
MAJNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S FLEMING AVE
KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086 3414

Auditor: Financial condition still serious

New City Manager optimistic about future

Kings Mountain's new city manager Chuck Nance has only been on the job 2 1/2 weeks but already he feels right at home.

"With the fine attitude of the staff and the support of the mayor and City Council, I see only positive things for the City," said Nance, who said his doors are open to the public.

Since his arrival in town Nance has been busy meeting with staff and department heads and says he likes what he has seen in the day to day operation of the city.

The newcomer says the process of learning the day to day utility operations can't be accomplished overnight but that the pervasive theme of his administration will be the delivery of service.

"I'm still driving about 90 minutes a day on US 74 to Spindale and back but it isn't a bad drive and it gives me time to do some thinking," said Nance, who plans to move to King Mountain after the end of this school year. His son started to kindergarten this year and Mrs. Nance is a parent educator with the Rutherfordton School System. His daughter recently celebrated her first birthday.

Nance won't end his City of Spindale responsibilities for several weeks. He is working in Spindale on Fridays as that city hires his replacement.

"The Spindale Council permitted me to work on Thursdays in Kings



CHUCK NANCE

See Manager, 10-A

City auditor Darrell Keller says the city will carry over into new fiscal year 1994-95 nearly a half million dollars in debts that should have been paid by June 30, 1994.

Keller, busy auditing the 1993-94 fiscal year of operations, estimated that it will be 1996-97 before the city, even with austere budgets Council sticks to, will be out of a financial hole and with money in the bank.

On June 30, 1994 Keller said he reconciled the city's bank statements and the city had \$1,279 in the bank. July 31, 1994 the city had \$179 in the bank.

Finance officer Maxine Parsons, in her August 25 financial report to City Council, said that at the end of July the city owed \$718,764.26 to vendors and had \$377,440.20 in cash. September 1, the city made a bond payment of \$261,076.25, which included \$137,466.17 from sales tax revenues from the state and the balance from regular utility revenues. The city remained behind, however, in its payments to suppliers of electricity and natural gas.

Parsons noted in her memorandum that the Local Government Commission is monitoring the city's cash flow on a monthly basis.

Keller said that during 1993-94 the city paid \$770,000 worth of bills that actually should have been

paid by June 30, 1993.

"That's what's killing them," he said.

Keller said the city is still behind in payments to Duke Power and Transco, its suppliers of electricity and gas.

Parsons said in her memorandum to Council that water consumption was down in July in comparison with the past five months but most of the major industries were down for a week to 10 days during the July 4th holiday. She said that the electric fund had a great month with \$776,543 in revenues. Last year in July the revenues were \$816,165. Historically, she said July is the worst month for the gas fund. Last year July gas revenues were \$225,071.

Keller said he will include a letter of recommendations to management with the audit report which will probably be completed by November. He said he has been working closely with new city manager Chuck Nance and Parsons.

"City officials will have to keep their nose to the grindstone over the next three years before they ever have money to build on," he said.

"The city's financial condition remains a serious problem."

City Council negotiating dam project

City officials are negotiating the low bid from Hickory Construction Company for improvements to Davidson Dam and Monday night talked to a Charlotte man interested in buying the property.

Jerry Smith met with members of the city utilities committee and indicated interest in both the Davidson Lake and City Lake properties.

But Councilman Jim Guyton, who chairs the committee, said the city would have to recoup its investment for fixing the dams and the price tag could run \$250,000.

Mayor Scott Neisler reminded that the city would have to take bids and use the upset bid procedure in disposal of the property if Council offers the properties for sale.

Smith, who did not elaborate on what he wanted to build, said he was merely on a "fact finding mission."

Walt Ollis, Superintendent of Water/Wastewater, will present a proposal to City Council Tuesday night to spend \$197,630 to fix Davidson Dam and delay, with state approval, the repairs to old City Lake Dam where the combined costs of the two projects were expected to run \$300,000.

Ollis said the reduction in cost will mean that the contractors will have 120 days to complete the Davidson project, instead of 90. The contract change includes that on-site rock will also be used for riffraff and the city will be responsible for disposing of waste excavation materials.

Ollis said that a total of \$215,000 is budgeted for the state-mandated repairs.

Updating other projects, Ollis said that the state-sponsored Dixon Road-Rest Stop project to run water lines down Dixon road and sewer to the Rest area is about "two years down the road." The project is on hold pending the awarding of federal funds.

Ollis announced a preconstruction meeting with county officials on the Patrick Yarn Mill water line project for 3 p.m. Thursday at City Hall. No city money is involved in the project. The county is paying for the lines which Kings Mountain will install.

Ollis announced that state officials will be in Kings Mountain at Holiday Inn on September 28 to meet with city officials and officials of Grover Industries about that industry's sewer treatment problems.

Ardist Byers, a representative of Transco, asked for cost estimates to run a water line 3,000 feet to serve Transco's station on 216 South of I-85. Ollis estimated the cost would be \$70,000, including fire hydrants, taps and engineering fees.

See Project, 10-A



Shirley Wingard, Doug Wingard, Doug Wingard Jr., Shelley Shirey, Joshua Worthy, Sandra Morales, Rev. James Barnett, Pine Manor Apartments Resource Director Denise Leonard, and Angela Neely, left to right, stand at a memorial wall which lists the names of the 12 local people who were victims of homicide during the past five years.

Stop Killing Campaign stops in KM

A mother's grief was relived Friday night as she watched her son's name being placed on a "Stop the Killing" memorial wall at Pine Manor Apartments.

Shirley Wingard, her husband, Doug, their son, Doug Jr. and granddaughter, Shelley Shirey, stood by as Rev. James Barnett of Charlotte took his message of community responsibility to Kings Mountain.

Charlie Wayne Shirey, who died September 8, 1989, was one of 12 homicide victims in Kings Mountain during the last five years.

Shirey was the victim of a senseless killing at the hand of a friend, according to his young daughter, Shelley, a Kings Mountain High School student.

The memorial wall was unveiled only a few feet from the apartment where Shirey died and where two others died.

The Stop the Killing caravan was nearly two hours late arriving in Kings Mountain Friday night but on Monday Barnett returned with another message.

"If the Klan was shooting us down as we are shooting each other down, we'd burn down any city," said Barnett who has crusaded against drugs and crime - especially murder - in Charlotte's black community. "But we've just accepted it."

Since 1989, Barnett, with the help of Z. Smith Reynolds and Lance foundation grants, has waged a grass-roots campaign against crime in North Carolina's biggest city.

He has been outspoken about what he sees as the black community's tolerance of violence.

"There are more good people than bad people, but bad people tend to run the streets," he said. "We've got to turn that around."

His main weapon against crime has been a kind of grim cheerleading.

His strategy is part of his belief that anti-crime efforts in the black community need to be led by blacks themselves.

"No matter how many white people you bring into the community, they aren't going to be role models for the brothers carrying guns," he said.

After rising in 1993, Charlotte's homicide rate is down 22 percent this year, which Barnett attributes to his group's efforts, including workshops and organized rallies.

Barnett wants to establish a Stop the Killing chapter in Kings Mountain and the county. The dozen or so public housing residents who came to hear Barnett speak nodded in approval. Some wore white shirts lettered in black which read "A people united will never be defeated."

Kings Mountain's wall - a stark reminder of the reality of death - is displayed in front of the Pine Manor office. It bears a dozen names, nine males and three females.

Sheriff candidate wants office for deputies in KM

Republican Ward Kellum's proposal to open a satellite office in Kings Mountain to reduce deputy response time caught the ire of his Democratic opponent for Sheriff Dan Crawford this week.

"The concept may be good but county commissioners would have to approve additional funding," said Crawford.

"My first priority is to get more officers on the streets. We have too many people in offices now."

Kellum said if he is elected in November that he can open the county's first satellite office here with the help of local businesses without sacrificing existing department services and programs.

Kellum said he has received an offer of both land and a modular office building where deputies could serve warrants, respond to emergency calls and complete paperwork, eliminating the need for so many trips to the county seat. He said deputies would still have to travel to the Law Enforcement Center in Shelby to imprison suspects and complete business with the magistrate's office.

Kellum would not put a price tag on his proposal but Crawford said if additional money is appropriated by county commissioners that the money should be spent for manpower.

"Cleveland County has only seven deputies that work a 12-hour shift and that breaks down to one officer for 13,000 people," said Crawford, who said Cleveland County's population is 89,000.

"Certainly an office would be a convenience but 90 percent of public complaints can be answered over the telephone and if an arrest is made that means trips to the county seat," said Crawford who said by statute the City of Kings Mountain's Police Department has the responsibility of providing po-

lice service to the people of Kings Mountain.

"Kings Mountain has a very professional police department and any warrants issued for citizens living inside the city limits must be served by KMPD," said Crawford.

Crawford said that Kellum's proposal to use volunteers would not wash.

"When you use volunteers you run into a liability problem and only sworn people could be used to run the office. Certified law enforcement people won't volunteer 365 days a year."

Crawford said that more deputies are needed not only in No. 4 Township but also in No. 1 Township and in other areas of the county.

"Crime is our main social problem now but I'm not making promises I can't keep," he said.

Kellum said if he is elected as the next sheriff and if a satellite office proves successful in Kings Mountain that he would consider similar offices in other areas of the county.

"People are frustrated about crime and I believe a satellite office can be one of the answers and can be opened using donations from businesses and individuals," he said.

"There's no reason why the response time would not be cut and there's no reason why the deputy can't fill up with gas in Kings Mountain instead of driving 13 miles back to Shelby to fill up," he said.

Kellum said he envisions a proportionate number of officers based in this area based on the number of calls.

"We can justify an office here in the Kings Mountain area and there are ways to do it and stay within

See Office, 10-A

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE



Former longtime florists Selma Crawford, left, and her sister, Grace Talbert, enjoy retirement.

Grace Talbert, Selma Crawford: sisters, business partners, friends

By ELIZABETH STEWART
of The Herald Staff

The needlepoint gift sends a strong message about Grace Allen Talbert and Selma Allen Crawford, sisters, business partners and lifelong friends.

"Flowers leave some of their fragrance in the hand that bestows them."

Retirement was a big adjustment for the popular florists but now they find they are so busy with volunteering at the Crisis Center, the prison ministry, and Boyce Memorial ARP Church that they wonder why they didn't retire earlier.

"We've also caught the travel bug and find we love to travel."

said Selma. They're packing their bags for a trip to Vermont.

Grace, 69, and Selma, 67, got into the flower business at the urging of their father, the late Will Allen, and their sister, the late Mary Dean Swanson who furnished them flowers for Allen's from her greenhouses for many years.

Grace retired from Allen's in 1980 and Selma retired in 1989 after more than 34 years in the family business which was sold to Cindy Crawford Phillips in 1989 and then to Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Wyatt of Spartanburg, SC.

Although her major career was in floral arranging, Grace got her

See Sisters, 10-A