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Dr. Adams returning to KM

Kings Mountain Family Practice on W. Mountain Street will become Kings Mountain Medical Center March 1 and longtime resident Dr. Charles Adams will join Dr. Thomas Durham in the general practice of medicine.

A third physician, Dr. Lewis Robertson of Greenville, a recent graduate of East Carolina University Medical School, will join the staff on July 24.

Durham signed a management contract, effective March 1, with Cleco Primary Care Network to keep medical care in the community, said Denise Stallings of Kings Mountain, a director of the public/private partnership.

Dr. Joseph Lee III, a former partner with Durham in Kings Mountain Family Practice for 31 years, died February 14, 1995 of leukemia. The Clinic was founded by the late Dr. Paul Hendricks Sr.

Stallings said new patients will be welcomed in addition to current patients of Durham and Lee. Medicare, Medicaid, other hospital insurance or payment by Master Charge and Visa will be available.

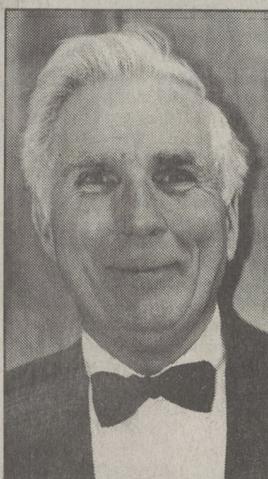
Cleco will also offer preventive services, according to Stallings, who is Executive Director of the Cleveland County Health Department. Diabetic patients, for example, will be offered help from nutritionists on diet and proper foods and local specialists will be available for referrals from the clinic.

Cleco plans to hire more doctors and physician's assistants as the practice continues to grow, said Stallings, who said that doctors will admit patients to either Kings Mountain Hospital or Cleveland Memorial Hospital and an after-hours calling service will be available.

"We can reassure Kings Mountain people that a doctor will be available to them and they get help from a specialist and surgeon if needed and admitted to a hospital," said Stallings.

Stallings said the Office of Rural Health in Raleigh has contributed money and resources to the project and will assist in recruitment of doctors and nurse practitioners.

"Keeping medical care in Kings Mountain is what this is all about and we are excited," said Stallings.



DR. CHARLES ADAMS

Term petition going strong

Retired city planner Gene White said he will present a petition to shorten the terms of the mayor and city council from four to two years to Kings Mountain City Council March 28.

Meantime, White said that he will be at various shopping centers this week and next to invite interested citizens to participate. He said he is mailing petitions to 100 people this week to sign and pass on to other citizens.

"I am getting tremendous response," said White.

The petition does not call for a staggered term, only that Kings Mountain's form of government be modified to a two year term. White said before the City Manager form of government became effective in 1987 that the city council and mayor were elected to four year terms and before that to two year terms.

White, KM Elections Board Supervisor Becky Cook and Cleveland County Elections Board Supervisor Debra Blanton agree that a staggered term would be impractical and costly since the election and a run-off, if necessary, would have to be held each year.

"Back in the early 1980's Kings Mountain citizens elected the Mayor and Council every two years and that procedure is what people are telling me they want," said White.

White hopes that the process can be completed in time to become effective at the next election for Mayor and City Council in October 1995. Terms of Mayor Scott Neisler and Council members Norma Bridges, Phil Hager and Jim Guyton are up in 1995. Terms of Council members Rick Murphrey, Dean Spears, Ralph Grindstaff and Jerry White are up in 1997.

Blanton said the petition must be verified by her office and if one-tenth of the signatures are verified to be voting residents of the city that City Council would be required to call a referendum. If the referendum passes, the whole process would have to be approved by the U. S. Justice Department because it involves a change in the city charter.

White said that he is hopeful that a referendum could be held as early as this summer.

Both White and Blanton said that if the two-year term is approved that by the 1997 city election voters would be choosing a mayor and a full seven member board.

The petition, addressed to the
See Petition 7-A

City Council meets Tuesday

It's likely that a recommendation by the city utilities committee to pay developer Jim Lybrand a rebate for the city's share of utility costs to his new Ashley Park Subdivision will be tabled again Tuesday by City Council.

Councilman Ralph Grindstaff, who made the motion to table at last month's marathon council meeting, said that he will probably make the motion to table again until all improvements cited in a review of the project by W. K. Dickson Engineers are in order.

Last month the utility committee recommended that payment be made to Lybrand, stipulating that certain deficiencies be first corrected.

The 15 stipulations by Alex Berkeley, engineer, before the roadway and sewers are accepted for maintenance by the City of Kings Mountain, included:

Permanent erosion control by either rip rap or curb and gutter on the shoulder of the road at the beginning of Downing Street near the Kings Mountain Country Club.

Recessed catch basin in place of existing catch basins or rip rap where erosion takes place. The engineer said excess water will continue to wash down the road and eventually over the shoulder of the creek or existing storm drainage system on the Moore property causing possible minor damage to road shoulder.

A field survey determined the roadway is installed within the road rights-of-way.

The city originally installed the gas line prior to the road being completed. The contractor paved the road over the gas line. The city may want to consider installing the gas line in the road shoulder, Berkeley told the city utilities committee who said the idea is not practical.

Widen the shoulders of the road to a minimum of six feet. The creek may need to be realigned.

Existing storm drains may also need to be extended.

The appropriate wetland and erosion control permits should be obtained prior to the work taking place.

If widening is not required by the city guardrails should be considered where there is not sufficient shoulder. Presently, the engineer says 800 feet of guardrail may need to be installed to meet NC-

See Council, 7-A

Congresswoman Myrick meets her constituents

Greeting local constituents Friday at Kings Mountain City Hall in her first official office visit here since her election, Congresswoman Sue Myrick said her doors are open.

A representative of Myrick's office is in Kings Mountain on Tuesday from 9-12 and Thursday from 1-5 p.m. at City Hall.

Bill Plonk, Kings Mountain dairy farmer and a director of Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, asked Myrick to vote against President Clinton's proposal which would permit the sale of Southeast Power Administration, a federal power agency which Plonk says saves the REA \$1.5 million annually in wholesale power costs. Rutherford Electric has 49,000 consumers in nine counties with 24 percent of the total membership in Gaston County.

Retired city employee J. K. Brooks, 63, of 118 Owens St., was worried about health insurance.

Legally blind, Brooks retired from the City of Kings Mountain Sewer Department on July 30, 1993 after 17 years on the job. He said the city will stop his insurance on February 28 and he is two years away from age 65 when he could be insured by Medicare.

"Stick with your contract with America" were other messages that Myrick was hearing at visits in her district here and in Gastonia.

Jason Bradley, Press representative in Myrick's Gastonia office, said Myrick was in Gaston County to present a Presidential memorial certificate for honorable service to the family of a serviceman whose family had been told that he was a deserter in the military in 1984 and whose family had asked former Congressman Ballenger to ascertain the true facts.

"I was very pleased to be able to make this special presentation," said Myrick.



Congresswoman Sue Myrick, above, chats with Kings Mountain dairy farmer Bill Plonk during a visit in Kings Mountain Friday.

Byers kids fund drive tops \$13,000 mark

A fund drive for a specially handicapped-equipped van for Billy Byers Jr. and his sister, Tabitha, reached the \$13,000 mark this week.

Patricia and Billy Byers said they are grateful for the continued support of the community for their children who are battling Batten's Disease. The family got a good report from doctors at Duke Hospital last week when the children went back for regular checkups.

"The doctors are amazed every time they see Billy and they increased Tabitha's medication," said Mrs. Byers.

Batten's disease affects the brain and causes deterioration of the intellect and neurological symptoms, twitching, seizures, psychotic behavior and spasticity of legs and arms.

Before they developed the disease - Billy Jr., now 9, at age 4, and

Tabitha, now 5, at age 3, the children were normal.

The family travels 170 miles to Duke Hospital as the children need to go. In between visits to Duke, they go to their pediatrician in Shelby. When they go to Durham, Billy Sr. must take a take off from work. It takes both parents to lift Billy Jr. and his wheelchair, which altogether weighs about 100 pounds, into the the family's '78 Chevrolet van which has more than

130,000 miles and is not handicapped equipped.

"After we buy the new van, whatever is left over we will donate to children who need lifts and wheelchairs," Mrs. Byers said.

A fund has been set up at First National Bank, Shelby, or persons who want to help may contact Mr. or Mrs. Byers at 108 Plantation Drive in the White Plains Community of Kings Mountain.

Maney: City must track cost of utilities

Utility Director Jimmy Maney is heading off any complaints he may get from interruptible natural gas customers about their last month's bills in which the city charged them 73 cents above the retail rate.

"We don't want to gouge our customers, so we need to take another look at the total flex rate and shift some of the cost back to the

particular customer class that it needs to be assigned to," he told the city utility committee Monday night.

Maney said that a new flex rate inaugurated last summer was a quick fix to recover the cost of service in each customer class but it isn't working.

"We must pattern our interrupt-

ible rates after Public Service and Piedmont Gas and keep tracking the costs because it changes every 30 days," he said.

Maney said his proposal will not affect residential customers. He said the city should be selling slightly above six percent or above the alternative fuel supply to interruptible customers. An interrupt-

ible customer can switch to No. 2, No. 5, or No. 6 fuel oil and qualify for the special rate.

Maney and City Manager Chuck Nance plan to redesign the flex rate to maintain the profit margin but not gouge the interruptible customers. The proposal will be pre-

See Utilities, 7-A

Mayor wants to roll back tax, rates

A memorandum from Mayor Scott Neisler to City Council this week includes extensive charts which show that the city's lease-purchase payments will be gone virtually this year and \$481,954 more money will be available in FY 1995-96 for capital outlay than in FY 1992-93.

The mayor said the city has made numerous big-ticket improvements in the recent past which required long-term bonds and lease/purchase agreements.

The memos were circulated by Neisler, he said, to lead credence to his claims that a property tax increase and residential water rate increase are both unnecessary.

He said these figures will be incorporated in his proposed 1994-95 budget he has sent to the state treasurer's office for review.

The figures were first projected

by then-City Manager George Wood on March 26, 1993 at City Council's budget retreat in which Wood estimated capital budget targets for individual funds. At the time Wood said the charts could help as Council analyzed whether to use pay-as-you-go financing, lease purchasing or long-term debt to finance capital expenditures in the next budget year.

According to the chart the city paid lease purchases of \$121,798 in 1992-93, \$102,919 in 1993-94 and \$14,105 in 1994-95 from the general fund. The SCADA electric system will be paid off in 1995-96. The 1994-95 payment is \$77,050 and the 1995-96 payment is \$51,367.

The chart points out that the water and sewer fund received \$78,000 from a two percent water

See Mayor, 3-A

Guyton won't support cuts

City Councilman Jim Guyton said Monday he could not support a cut in city taxes and water rates.

The chairman of the city utility committee said the city needs to spend money to make improvements to its water and sewer systems and those funds must come from the general fund which is supported by costs of services and property taxes.

Guyton said the city also must support local utility customers and industry.

"We can't curtail our longtime customers by taking on bigger ones to provide service unless we have additional capacity for providing water, gas, electricity and sewer," he said.

Guyton said he knew of no new industry looking at the city but he said that when industry locates the first priorities are utilities.

Mayor Scott Neisler is proposing that the city roll back recently-enacted city property taxes and residential water rates and says it can be done in his version of a 1994-95 budget Local Government Commission and Institute of Government officials have in their hands to review.

The mayor said that he hopes to have a report from the proposal this week so that he can make a report at Tuesday night's February meeting of City Council at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.



RECEIVES EMPLOYER AWARD - Mikie Smith, right, of Commercial Intertech accepts the 1994 Job Service Employer Award from Sherwood Southernland, Shelby Job Service manager, and ESC Chairman Ann Q. Duncan. Winning employers were judged on a number of factors, including creating new jobs, expansion of existing business, use of Employment Security Commission services, and participating in local JSEC activities.