

# Kings Mountain Herald

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## Accor named to County Board

Bethware School Principal Mary Accor, 38, is the unanimous choice of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners for the seventh seat on the board.

It is the first public office for Accor. She is the county's second woman to serve on the board which was expanded from five to seven members with the recent court-ordered appointments of two minority members.

Accor was appointed on motion by the county's first minority member, Bobby Malloy, Tuesday night at a special meeting of the board.

"I'm just elated and trying to come down from this feeling of excitement," said Accor Wednesday.

Accor said she has many concerns that she hopes the board will address in the months ahead and with positive results.

She expects to run for election in 1998 when terms

of all seven board members will be up.

"For awhile I plan to just listen to the issues and vote my convictions and what I feel will be best for the people of Cleveland County," she said.

Accor said that when she was contacted about serving on the board that she felt very humble and didn't hesitate because she wanted to "give something back to the county where I was born and have lived all my life."

"For several weeks now we have been in discussions with members of the NAACP regarding the appointment of the next county commissioner," said Malloy Tuesday.

"First, a committee of commissioners (including Malloy, Jim Crawley and Chairman Cecil Dickson) met twice with members of the NAACP and held con-

See Accor, 3-A



MARY ACCOR

## Gas proposal may be opposed

A proposal on how to satisfy industry with enough gas in the winter months to operate on full scale and keep costs down for all 3,000 customers is on the agenda for Tuesday night's City Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The city utilities commission passed on the dilemma to city management Monday night after it hedged on its decision a week ago to recommend to Council that the city buy an additional 1,000 mcf's and spread the cost out to all 3,000 users of natural gas, saying later that an extra 500 mcf's would get customers through the winter.

Retired city planner and mayoral candidate Gene White and Councilwoman Norma Bridges will oppose any proposal by the city utilities committee to buy additional firm natural gas if the additional costs are to be borne by residential users, they said this week.

White filled out a form with City Manager Gary Hicks for inclusion on the Tuesday night agenda.

Both White and Bridges say city fathers are moving too fast and should table the gas matter for more discussion by the city manager, Gas Supt. Jimmy Maney and the city's gas consultants, Heath & Associates.

"Jimmy (Maney) is our superintendent of gas for 23 years and knows more about the gas business than we do and I feel his input is needed," said Bridges.

"If we trust him to head up that department then certainly we should listen to his recommendation."

Maney said last week during a utility meeting with industrial users that buying an additional 1,000 mcf's per day of firm gas and spreading the additional annual cost of \$100,000 to \$132,000 between the city's 3,000 residential users of natural gas and industry is "no way to run a gas business."

"But that decision is up to Council," he said after the meeting.

Monday night the utilities committee, with Phil Hager absent and Dean Spears and Chairman Jim Guyton present, voted to turn the decision over to the city manager and city finance director to consult with Maney and come up with a recommendation.

Maney was out-of-town three days this week on business. Parsons said that a meeting is planned with Maney before Tuesday's meeting.

While the city has not increased its gas allocations since 1989, it has increased 600 residential customers, said Guyton. He suggested that the city buy 500 additional mcf's of firm gas to get by this winter until after a new rate study is prepared and to keep the six industries on interruptible rates from being cut off when the weather dips to 32 degrees and below and there is an insufficient gas supply.

Parsons said the city is committed under contract to deliver gas to industry.

## Grindstaff wants KM's money back

"We want our money," said Councilman Ralph Grindstaff Monday, expressing his dismay that the city, which was short on funds for months, could be in good shape if:

The federal government forks out over \$1 million soon for the Dixon School Road water/sewer line project which runs to the rest area at I-85 and now is almost complete.

Fifteen customers on Dixon School Road will hook on to Kings Mountain's water supply. The project is paid for by federal money administered by the state to the city to contract the work. The contract states that the contractors will be paid as soon as the money comes in.

Settlement of a \$300,000 Class Action suit filed on the city's behalf several years ago by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and following what Finance Officer Maxine Parsons called a historical imbalance with Transco, the city's natural gas supplier during the time of gas deregulation in the early 1990's.

Parsons said a settlement offer was made to give the city credit for gas several years ago but city management at the time held out for a bigger settlement. She said that numerous customers are involved in the suit but that gas suppliers maintain that some customers owe the gas company more and are not quick to settle.

"This is money that the city paid when the gas system deregulated and the city itself has no leverage to collect it," said Parsons.

"Everything is in limbo."

"They gave our money away and I want it back," said Grindstaff.

"City water is the only leverage we have to speed up the federal funds," said Walt Ollis, the city's superintendent of water/wastewater, updating the utility commission on the Dixon Road/Rest Area water-sewer line.

Parsons suggested, and utility members Jim Guyton and Dean Spears agreed, that the city should not turn on water to the new customers until the money comes in from the state.

The concern over settlement of the two projects surfaced at Monday night's utility committee meeting in which a progress report was given by Ollis.

The committee looked at engineering proposals for the lining of the No. 3 basin at the Pilot Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and voted to ask a representative of McGill & Associates of Asheville, the low bidder, to attend next Tuesday's city council meeting to outline the project.

Chairman Jim Guyton said there is more than a \$9,000 difference

See Money, 8-A

## Williams to stay on DSS and fight for proposals

Ignoring the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners' recent action to remove him from the board of Social Services, Robert A. Williams of Fallston plans to attend Monday's 4 p.m. meeting at the County Office Building Auditorium.

He plans to propose that drug screening be required of all caregivers who receive ADFC, food-stamps or Medicaid with positive results constituting a substantial neglect charge requiring a Child Protective Services review for appropriate action.

Williams faxed six pages of this suggestion and other specific policies he wants to see implemented to Director Lorene Rogers, plus a "strategic" plan for implementation of a child protection policy.

Williams said he plans to call for the DSS Board to raise \$8,000 in donations from private sources to assist restoring Lauria Moses' return to independent living to add to the contributions he has personally received for the woman.

He also said that he will make a motion that the board reschedule its afternoon meetings to 7 p.m. meetings on the Monday prior to the first county commissioner meeting of each month for benefit of the general public and that the chairman of the DSS Board be the official representative and liaison of the DSS to the county commission and any other official functions.

Williams also wants to see the board schedule an invocation at every meeting instead of a moment of silence currently on the agenda.

Williams is also proposing that DSS:

Initiate legal actions to terminate parental rights for all parents convicted of felony child abuse, murder or felony drug crimes.

Initiate legal action to collect medical bills paid by Medicaid as a result of felony child abuse, murder or felony drug crimes.

Disclose the names of DSS employees, county employees and immediate family members receiving DSS benefits/services/ payments, including Smart Start daycare, to the DSS board and county commissioner review.

Adopt a DSS board policy and strategic plan to protect children which calls for reviewing and approving of any restoration of children into injurious environments.

Review and approve all legal actions brought by or involving Cleveland County DSS.

Prioritize child support collections with the lowest being collections for the state.

Require budget updates and reports at every regularly scheduled meeting

Adopt a resolution that no services, benefits or cash payments be provided to support a drug habit recipient with the board to be notified upon discovery of benefits converted to drug usage.

Prosecute fraud as required by law.

Keep current board policies apart from the minutes.

Call special meetings when a death involving DSS services/clients occur or there is serious injury.

Develop and adopt a performance review for the director and plans and goals for each department

See Williams, 8-A



Nothing is more fun on a summer day than sliding on a sliding board and these Grover kindergarten students are obviously enjoying the third day of school for the fall term. They represent the Class of 2008 of Kings Mountain District Schools.

## Pilot Creek not up to standards

The city is working to correct a chlorination problem at Pilot Creek Waste Treatment Plant, the only area in which it didn't get a clean bill of health following a state inspection.

"The state's limits are so stringent that we are having trouble meeting them," said Supt. of Water/Wastewater Walt Ollis who reported the permit limit violations to members of the utilities committee Monday night.

Ollis said the plant was constructed when the limit was higher but now the limits are lower - .028 parts per million compared to two parts per million or 1/80th of the former limits.

"I doubt very seriously that we are the only municipality with this problem this week because every plant had its limits lowered," said Ollis who was notified by Keith Overcash, Regional Supervisor of the Division of Environmental Management, of the violations in a letter under date of August 14 and following annual inspection by John Lesley on August 9.

Interim City Manager Gary Hicks responded to the state Wednesday, saying that the city would follow the recommendations in making the cor-

rections which include automatic sampling controls on the chlorinator. He estimated that the repairs would be completed by mid-September.

Ollis said that moving the sampling point down line and installing a new mixer below the sulphur dioxide feed point and a new instrumentation set up will closely control the process and keep the chlorine in the basin longer.

Ollis explained that somehow there is a chemical reaction to the sun which pulls the chlorine out at both the water plant and wastewater treatment plant. For instance, he said in cold weather it may require 20 pounds of chlorine compared to 150 pounds in the summer months when the sun takes most of it away.

The city was cited in violation of monthly average and weekly average permit limits for fecal coliform and daily maximum effluent limits for mercury and total residual chlorine.

The 6.0 MGD wastewater treatment plant was last inspected on November 15, 1994.

## KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

# Reynolds involved in KM community



CAPT. RICHARD REYNOLDS

Family and church are priorities for Captain Richard Reynolds who would rank law enforcement also at the top of his list.

The 27-year veteran of the Kings Mountain Police Department sees his new role as Captain and Commander of the Patrol and Detective Divisions as a challenge and an opportunity to get out in the community more.

He is excited about community policing, something that he has wanted for the department for many years and he's excited about the police department's D. A. R. E.

program with the schools and the role that the new resource officer will play in school safety.

On any given day now you can see Reynolds riding in a police car with one of the officers or walking the beat.

"I want to work with the officer to get his feedback about the problems on the job and the needs of the community and with Chief Bob Hayes' cooperation and his emphasis on community involvement we can do it," he said.

Hayes, who was recently named Chief of Police, promoted

Reynolds, second in command and Assistant Chief of the 31-member staff plus a 10-member reserve force.

Law enforcement has taken on mechanization with computers and more staff since Ptl. Reynolds joined the force as the 12th member in 1969 and also did double duty as dispatcher.

"We had a tag book and when we identified tags we had to go through the whole book and at that time all auto tags expired on February 15," he recalled, noting the onset of computer training at

the department and the 911 system.

"Then-Chief Tom McDevitt and Bob Hayes believe in training for police and in community policing," said Reynolds who has the highest respect for all the officers he has served with over the years and currently works with at KMPD. He has worked for six chiefs, including Hayes, and was promoted through the ranks to Sergeant in 1974 when he went on the Detective Division and to Lieutenant in the Detective Division in 1989.

Although he admits that he loves

the investigative side of police work, Reynolds loves being back in his familiar uniform instead of the clothes plainclothes cop attire.

A 1964 graduate of Kings Mountain High School, he went to work with the state highway commission for three years, driving a dump truck in the maintenance department. He came to KMPD from the N. C. Department of Corrections where he worked as a prison guard.

He got his rookie training on the

See Reynolds, 3-A