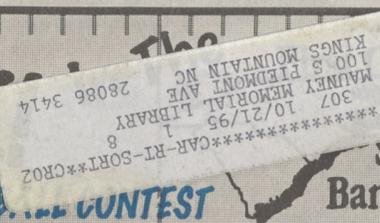


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# Kings Mountain Herald

Vol. 107 No. 37

Thursday, September 14, 1995

Kings Mountain, N.C. • 28086

## KM Briefs

### City receives recreation grant

The city has received a \$47,000 recreation grant from the county and will probably use the money to improve the Deal Street Pool.

"The pool needs a lot of work and we hope with this money we can get it up to par by next summer," said Interim Recreation Director Trip Hord.

The Recreation Commission at its Tuesday night meeting approved the same fees and rental policy schedules for the fiscal year pending approving of City Council.

Plans for annual Mountaineer Day on October 7 were discussed and the group agreed to name a Special Events committee to head up other promotions such as July 4 and city parades.

"We also talked about how to best use the old City Lake and Davidson Lake and some of us took a tour of these facilities this week and realize there is much work to do," said Hord.

Councilwoman Norma Bridges chairs the committee.

### Painters needed

Kings Mountain people who want to help paint the Senior Center Depot and Gift Shop can still help out Saturday beginning at 8 a.m.

Maude Norris, chairman of the city's participation in the county-wide Day of Caring, said breakfast will be provided the crew of at least 10 volunteers who will also have lunch and then attend the celebration event barbecue at the Cleveland Community College Amphitheater.

### Torch Run Saturday

The torch run to the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta will pass through Kings Mountain Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

Police Chief Bob Hayes said the State Highway Patrol will escort the caravan on Cleveland Avenue to the Kings Mountain city limits, turn right at Hardees on Business 74 and proceed west to the Highway 74 West bypass and on to Shelby.

### Utility meeting set

The city's gas consultants, Heath and Associates, are expected to attend Monday night's 6 p.m. meeting of the city utilities committee at City Hall.

City Council at the last meeting indicated that consultants would be asked to offer suggestions at the September meeting of the utilities committee 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 natural customers of the city.

Other business of the meeting will include the awarding of a bid to the engineering firm for work on the lining of the No. 3 basin at the Pilot Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## REMEMBERING VJ DAY



Kings Mountain World War II and Korean Conflict veteran Bill Early is back from the 50th anniversary celebration of VJ Day. Early holds his service medals and his Navy photograph above, as he talked about taking "a sentimental journey."

## 50th anniversary celebration sentimental journey for Early

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
of The Herald Staff

For Bill Early, his September 2 trip with his wife, Ruth, to the 50th anniversary celebration of VJ Day aboard the USS North Carolina Battleship was "a sentimental journey."

"I had just had surgery on my eye and like my wife I am blind in my left eye but the invitation came from Governor Hunt and we used both our good eyes to drive the car to Wilmington," said Early of the memorable commissioning of the battleship attended by 7,000 World War II veterans and their families.

"That may be our last trip," said Early, 71, a former Navy boxer and middleweight champion on the USS Midway. His contact lens implant went bad several weeks ago and his eyeglasses didn't help much on his recent trip, he said.

"We sat down in the bleacher seats in Wilmington and the first couple we saw were Ozelle (Gladden) and Robert Dixon of Charlotte, formerly of Kings Mountain, and all of us went to school at Grover High," laughed Ruth Hambright Early.

It was a fabulous day for the Oak Grove Community couple. Dignitaries included Governor Hunt, former Governor and Senator Terry Sanford, Margaret Truman Daniel and Rev. Franklin Graham, among others.

Although he doesn't want to be called a hero of Iwo Jima, Early was there when the victory flag was raised February 23, 1945. The crew on his ship was busy loading ammunition into amphibious landing vehicles so it could be ferried to the beach.

"I looked up and noticed something was happening on the hill," he said.

"I borrowed some binoculars and watched them raise Old Glory."

Early was a member of a Navy gun crew assigned to guard a merchant ship. It was loaded with ammunition that Marines needed for their assault on the tiny South Pacific island 760 miles southeast of Tokyo, a landing strip for bombers to use in raids against the Japanese mainland.

"The only heroes of Iwo Jima were the guys we left behind in the graveyards," said Early, who brought back plenty of medals from World War II.

"I figured anything was better than plowing a mule," said Early of the reason he left the family farm in the Dixon community to join Uncle Sam's Navy and served 14 years. He received Navy commendations for shooting down four German/Italian ships and served in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

See Early, 8-A



Rita Lawing and Maude Norris, co-chairman of the big industrial phase of the 1995-96 United Fund campaign, general campaign chairman Mickey Smith and UF President Nancy Scism, left to right, are pictured at the UF kickoff Tuesday.

## United Fund campaign goal \$125,145

Kings Mountain United Fund kicked off its 1995-96 campaign for \$125,145 at a noon luncheon Tuesday at Holiday Inn.

President Nancy Scism called the crowd one of largest kickoff events ever with virtually all officers, directors and division leaders present.

Campaign Chairman Mickey Smith said the drive will be completed hopefully by the end of November with a celebration dinner planned prior to the Christmas holidays.

Smith said the goal is the same as last year and the agencies to be supported are unchanged.

Rev. Harold Schwantes, chair-

## Downtown apartments violate codes

Mayor Scott Neisler says the city's new land use plan calls for a change in the zoning laws that could permit second stories of downtown buildings to be rented as apartments.

Neisler says he is in favor of this change to beef up the downtown area and give it much needed revitalization.

The mayor confirmed that currently the old Sterchi building across from Griffin Drug Store is occupied by renters in two apartments and he says the owner falls under what he termed "prior conforming use."

Interim Planning Director Jeff Putnam concurs with the mayor.

"That was done before my time in this office and permits had been issued by building inspectors and the city inspects the building," he said.

Putnam said that under the current codes it is a violation but he agreed with the mayor that in the foreseeable future more could be allowed under the new land use plan if a sprinkler system is installed in a primary fire district.

"It becomes illegal if a property owner rents his building for apartments and a zoning order is in effect," he said.

"Apparently those folks were in

"They are a tolerated violation of the present codes."

-Jeff Putnam

the apartments before the new zoning rules went in," he said.

Adding to the confusion, he says that once the apartments are vacated for 180 days the city can step in and tell the owners that the property can't be used for apartments unless the zoning is changed," he said.

Putnam says he has no knowledge of any other apartments in use in the downtown area but Neisler said that many of the old buildings have second stories that are utilized for storage and would make beautiful homes for residents.

"I hope someday that people who need housing can use these buildings," he said.

Neisler said that beautiful apartments are already located in downtown Shelby above the Masonic Temple.

It's confusing," says Putnam of the zoning.

"We know that apartments exist downtown and they are a tolerated violation of the present codes."

## KM Schools enrollment largest in many years

Tenth-day enrollment figures in Kings Mountain District Schools top the 4,000 mark for the first time in 10-15 years.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said Monday at the September school board meeting that 4,087 students are registered at the system's eight plants, up from a range of 3,700 in previous years.

The highest growth is reported in the K-5 grades with a high of 41 more students at Bethware.

"The good news also is that the

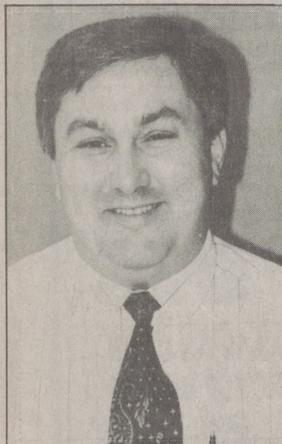
system is up over 100 the number of students the state has projected our resources," he said.

McRae said the board will take an in-depth look at all the figures on population growth versus majority/minority charts at the fall Advance scheduled for September 24-26 in Boone.

"The board has a challenge to plan for the growth because we have become tight on spaces," he said.

See Schools, 8-A

## Dave Crawley named publisher of Herald



DAVE CRAWLEY

Dave Crawley has been named Publisher of the North Carolina Group of Republic Newspapers, Inc., according to an announcement by Corporate Vice-President Nick Drewry.

Crawley, a native of the Rocky Mount area, assumed his new duties on September 6. He succeeds Bob Rop, who resigned after three years as Publisher to enter private business.

"My family and I are thrilled to be back home," said Crawley. "We love North Carolina and its people."

"Republic's family of newspapers - The Kings Mountain Herald, The Cleveland Times, The Bessemer City Record, The Cherryville Eagle, and The Banner News in Belmont and Mount Holly - are fine community newspapers. I look forward to working with all of

our associates as together we continue and strengthen our commitment to our readers and advertisers."

Crawley has served as District Circulation Manager, Circulation Director, Marketing Director and Interim Publisher for the Rocky Mount, NC Telegram, and Publisher for The Observer and The Brevard Shopper in Florida.

He said the goals for North Carolina's Republic newspaper group will be to "serve the people of Cleveland and Gaston Counties with hometown pride and commitment. We will be a constructive force for good and positive things in the communities that we serve."

Crawley and his wife, Stephanie, have two children, Cindy, 12, and Nick, 9.



PIECE OF HISTORY - Kings Mountain's historical vintage World War II Howitzer has been mounted by city crews in its familiar spot at the corner of Railroad Avenue and West Mountain Street. The KM Jaycees and then-Congressman Jim Broyhill in 1971 secured the Howitzer from Fort McClellan, Alabama Military Depot and dignitaries came to the city to help dedicate it. Chains which held the cannon were torn down several times by children using it as a bench in front of the old Joy Theatre and the cannon had been put in storage. Gene Borders, Randolph Ross and Tommy Spencer, all city employees, secure the piece of history.