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## Drug busts tell KM chief C.O.P. working

A drug bust in two areas of Kings Mountain last week resulted in the arrest of two people on felony drug charges. A third person was cited in a third incident.

Kings Mountain Police Chief Bob Hayes said the arrests came on confidential information related to the new C. O. P. officer Ron Creech during patrols of the areas.

"This proves to me that the new Community Oriented Policing program is working in Kings Mountain," said Hayes.

Thursday afternoon about 4 p.m. officers executed a search warrant at the home of Kenneth William Massagee, 24, of 129 McGinnis St.

Hayes said that officers confiscated marijuana with a street value of \$4500 and charged Massagee with three felony counts of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, three felony counts of selling and delivering a controlled substance and one felony count of possession with intent to sell and deliver.

Massagee was jailed under \$20,000 secured bond.

Assisting in the investigation, in addition to Hayes, were Captain Richard Reynolds, Det. Lt. Houston Corn, Ptl. Jerry Tesseneer, Ptl. Thomas Fletcher and officers with the Gaston County Rurals and

Cleveland County Sheriff's Department.

Hayes said the marijuana was contained in a big jar.

Upon execution of a search warrant, officers also raided a residence at 406 N. Battleground Avenue and charged Beverly Carpenter Malone, 40, of 406 N. Battleground Ave., with felony possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of selling and delivering cocaine, also a felony, and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

Malone was jailed under a \$15,000 secured bond.

Officers assisting in the investigation were Sgt. Melvin Proctor, Ptl. John Wright, Ptl. Brent Harp, Ptl. Thomas Fletcher, Ptl. Andy Berry, Lt. Houston Corn, Sgt. Raymond Garris, Captain Richard Reynolds and Chief Hayes.

Hayes said officers confiscated 2 1/2 ounces of marijuana with a street value of \$8,000 and an undisclosed amount of currency.

In a third incident, police cited Victoria Ann Jackson, 32, of 211 Parrish Drive, with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of one half ounce or less of marijuana.



Kings Mountain Police Chief Bob Hayes loads confiscated drugs and money into the back of his police car during a raid last week on McGinnis Street.

## Retirement home idea is protested

A proposal by the Consortium for Progress Inc. and developers of a \$3 million assisted living complex for the elderly on Phifer Road drew opposition Tuesday during a public hearing by the city's Zoning Board of Adjustments.

After nearly three hours in an almost full Council Chambers Chairman Bob Myers recessed the meeting until March 19 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Myers directed Zoning Administrator Jeff Putnam and Planning Director Steve Killian to secure a site plan from the developer which shows the distance the developer intends to place the buildings off the property lines; the location and size of the entrances into the property off Phifer Road; the location of that entrance in relation to the curve in the road; and determine how much of the existing vegetation the developer intends to leave along the adjacent property lines behind the houses on Southridge Drive.

Because of other concerns about increasing traffic with the addition of the 48-room, 66-bed facility in the neighborhood, Myers asked the city staff to present results of traffic surveys in the area and progress on the state-proposed North-South Connector to the high school and middle school which has been talked for some time.

Vice-President John Easterling of Summit Place Associates said developers will assure property owners that a vegetation buffer remain there through deed restrictions.

Putnam said the developers are "bending over backwards to accommodate the adjoining property owners."

"The developers are saying they will be leave 40 to 50 feet of woods between the three buildings and the residences and situate the complex in the middle of the acreage."

Realtor Philip S. Bunch presented the "special exception" request from Section 80-1.3 of the Kings Mountain Zoning Ordinance for Wendell L. and Jeanette Phifer, Alonzo and Wanza Goforth, M. D. and Bess Phifer and R. P. and Doris Anthony Jr.

The five lots comprise 11.8 acres across from the Kings Mountain Middle School at 1001 Phifer Road.

Bunch has obtained an option to buy until April 15. Summit Place Associates has a similar complex opening in Rock Hill, SC this month.

## Some interested in moving in

Liz Lynch, 84, wants to be the first senior citizen to occupy Kings Mountain Summit Place, the proposed assisted living complex.

The widow of Haywood E. Lynch, a former owner and publisher of The Kings Mountain Herald, told citizens at a public hearing Tuesday that other people are ready to sign up.

Several other citizens said they might like the idea when they get the facts.

"Wayne Mercier, of 812 Southridge Rd., said his property adjoins the proposed facility.

He presented a petition signed by 90 people who asked the zoning board of adjustments to postpone action for at least 90 days, citing the short notification period by the city, unanswered questions, traffic congestion in the area and questions about emergency access.

Mercier also asked the board to schedule an evening meeting so that more people can give input.

Board Chairman Bob Myers acknowledged his telephone had been ringing off the hook since last Thursday.

City Hall telephones also started ringing Thursday after property owners read the advertisement about the public hearing in the Kings Mountain Herald.

During a short recess when Myers asked board secretary Shirley Payne to xerox papers for distribution to the large audience, several adjoining property owners talked with board members and said they had yet to receive a notice from the city planning department about the public hearing.

But Planning Director Steve Killian said notices were mailed within a reasonable time and the property was posted.

"When we receive an application we have to follow through with it," said Killian.

Killian said a special exception permit is often confused as a variance. It's a permit for a use that is permitted in that district. The board of adjustments' role, he said, is to conduct a public hearing, take the evidence concerning the permit application, make a decision on it and if need be attach fair and reasonable conditions to the permit so that the use is good for the community. The only appeal from the decision of the board is the courts. Each person who spoke at the hearing was sworn.

See Hearing, 5-A

## Church cleared for Family Life Center

First Baptist Church got the green light from the city Zoning Board of Adjustments Tuesday on an appeal for a variance that will signal the construction of a Family Life Center at 605 W. King Street.

On February 21, 1995 the board rejected a proposal by the church and told church leaders the plans would have to be redrawn to conform to zoning regulations.

City Councilman Dean Spears, a member of the church building committee, presented the request for a 10-foot variance from a re-

quired 20 feet rear yard setback. No one spoke in opposition to the request.

The addition is expected to cost \$750,000 plus.

In the variance application, Spears pointed out that churches are a use permitted by right in this zoning district but the only use requiring a 10 feet setback for accessory structures. All other permitted uses in this district, including schools, require a five feet setback for an accessory structure.

Clayton Kelly, a member of the

board, objected to what he called a discrimination clause in the application.

"It is certainly not the intent of this board to interfere with the worship of the church," he told Spears.

But Spears said that part of the application was misleading.

The application stated that "the First Amendment to the Constitution of the U.S. provides for the freedom to practice religious beliefs without fear of arbitrary persecution. This section un-

fairly singled out churches based on the fact that it is a church, a religious sanctuary."

Spears said the church obtained a new site for the proposed structure and additional property, drew a new set of plans and changed the position of the building to conform to the ordinance.

Bud Ballard, also a member of the local church, questioned the routing of traffic around the four buildings. Spears said traffic would

See Church, 5-A

## Lake Commission to meet again on fees

The Moss Lake Commission will meet again Monday at 7 p.m. at City Hall to make a recommendation to City Council about proposed fee increases at the city-owned lake.

Chairman Joe Champion and member M. C. Pruette expressed reservations about the proposed increases and Evelyn Hamrick suggested that city residents who are paying for the facility get a break in the form of a lifetime fee.

"We really can't justify the total increase of \$40,000 annually in the

budget until we see what the money will be used for and itemized expenses," Champion said.

No resident of the lake was present at the meeting. All members were present with exception of Wendell Bunch. City officials Steve Killian, Jeff Putnam and Shirley Payne were also present as well as lake officer Roger Goforth.

Tommy King presented a printout and a budget copy but said he wanted to see a monthly printout from the city's finance office with a copy of the report that showed

where the money was being expended.

"We have a \$97,000 budget and I want to see if the money goes for the improvements," he said.

Lake Officer Goforth said the proposed increases by city staff make sense because there are some needed improvements at Moss Lake. He asked for and got approval from the board - pending also the city council's approval - for a jet ski to use at the lake for patrol purposes. He said the only cost to the city will be \$65 for in-

urance.

"Lake residents are using such modern equipment now that it's hard for me to get to where I need to go."

Goforth said he will be the only person using the equipment and he will be able to better monitor the traffic and safety on the water.

Goforth said an electronic gate opener for the main gate at the lake is also a necessity.

"It's a sad state when we have to

See Lake, 4-A



**GIFT TO EXPLORERS** - City Councilman Jerry Mullinax, second from left, present a check for \$200 to the new Police Explorers Club at Kings Mountain High School organized by 10th grader Lt. Wayne King, accepting the check, as advisor Ptl. Maurice Jamerson, the school system resource officer, right, and Chief Bob Hayes, left, look on. Operation ID is an ongoing project of the club.

## House hopeful campaigns in KM

William E. "Bill" Jackson of Mooresville says the Republican Revolution has gone too far under Speaker Newt Gingrich and freshmen like 9th District Rep. Sue Myrick, and the former Davidson College professor hopes to get a shot at unseating Myrick in the November general election.

Jackson, 60, recently filed for the seat, but he will have to win the Democratic Primary in May in order to challenge for Myrick's seat in the fall.

Jackson admits unseating Myrick will be difficult unless the Democratic candidates receives a coat-tail effect from the Presidential and Gubernatorial races.

Jackson, who campaigned in the Kings Mountain area Tuesday, said his views differ from Myrick's in many areas, especially in how they look at the role of the federal government.

"I see the federal government as not the enemy, but as a necessity," he said. "Therein lies a fundamen-



BILL JACKSON

tal philosophical difference in Sue Myrick and myself. She and the Republican freshmen speak of gov-

ernment as an evil bastion that must be shut down or radically cut back regardless."

Jackson said he is a strong advocate of programs such as Medicare and Medicaid being managed at the federal level rather than being handed over to 50 individual states who will manage them 50 different ways, and he also strongly favors strict environmental laws.

"I am against the efforts to gut those laws by House Republican freshmen," he said.

Being a long-time college professor at Davidson and other universities as well as a former staff member of the Senate and an employee of the State Department during President Carter's Administration, Jackson said he is also adamantly opposed to changes in the direct student loan program for college students.

Jackson said job insecurity is not something invented for this election year, but that corporate downsizing is a reality nationally and lo-

See Jackson, 4-A