



Marty Blanton gets instruction from Dan Starks on how to use a handgun during a training and safety exercise Friday. Blanton, secretary to KMPD Chief Bob Hayes, is applying for a concealed carry permit and passed the eight-hour state-required course led by Starks.

## HAYES

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"I was a rising senior and I remember that ride to the hospital with my mother and my fear that my father would die," she said.

Starks said Officer Hayes was one of the lucky ones.

He said a 24-year-old Charlotte man was delivering pizza last year on Good Friday to make extra money because his young wife was pregnant. He was shot by a robber and is now paralyzed and blind and has lost his ability to think, smell and taste. John, not his real name, had a gun and returned fire. The shooter is out on the streets.

"The most lethal weapon you can have is your brain," said Starks, recounting the story of a young wife and mother of two from Seattle, in Charlotte recently for a meeting. She and another woman rented a car and took a side trip to Asheville but on returning to a Charlotte motel parked the vehicle in the parking lot instead of driving to the front of the building. A robber took her money and pumped 750 pellets into her back. She lived four hours.

The robber had been in jail previously 16 times but walked again because a judge wanted to give him one more chance, said Starks.

Starks pointed out story after story of real life situations that often women and men are victims by choice because they don't pay attention.

He displayed his daughter Heather's photograph with supplies he offers at every course because he said she's the reason he got into the business.

"Personal security and self defense is an individual's responsibility," he told his Friday class of five students, two men and three women.

"The police can't do it all," he said.

One teacher in the class reported that she had a six-year-old student who beat up the principal. A fifth grader is dealing in drugs and seven-year-old girl was raped by a nine-year-old boy.

Starks, a former junior high school teacher, said times have changed and people need to learn how to protect themselves. He said 93 people were shot in Charlotte

last year after they gave the robbers all they wanted.

"Crime is not down, one in four rapes are not reported to police and what kind of person rapes an 85-year-old woman and a child," he asked.

Starks called the judicial system a joke in this country.

Most owners of firearms don't have a clue when it comes to the reality of self-defense, he said.

His fear, he told the class, is that most people will have the false sense of security that possession can give without understanding the mindset required to survive a lethal assault.

"One must not consider concealed carry with a cavalier attitude as it could cost you everything you worked for in addition to your freedom, he warned.

If you use a firearm to defend yourself chances are you will end up in court. But he tells his students they must understand the mechanics and limitations of a firearm.

In North Carolina you are eligible for a concealed handgun permit if you are at least 21, a resident of this state for 30 days, do not have a physical or mental infirmity, have completed a firearms safety and

**TO FILL PULPIT**  
Cynthia Holland, member of Long Branch Baptist Church, will preach her initial sermon Sunday at 7 p.m. at the church. Pastor Larry Dixon invites the public.

## EXTENSION

From Page 1-A

NC 216 (Battleground Road), the Norfolk Southern Railway, SR 2263 (Margrace Road), SR 2256 (Phifer Road) approximately 1500 feet west of the Kings Mountain Middle School and Beason Creek before terminating at US 74 Business, Shelby Road, at SR 2031, Elam Road.

Killian said the project. Alternative I as recommended, is labeled the state's 1996-2002 Transportation Improvement Program.

training course that has been approved by the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission taught by a certified instructor, have no charges pending or have been found guilty of a crime punishable by more than 60 days in jail, are no a fugitive from justice, are not an unlawful user or addicted to alcohol or other controlled substances, have not or are not adjudicated or administratively determined to be lacking mental capacity or mentally ill, have not been discharged from the Armed Forces from conditions less than honorable, are not free on bond or personal recognizance pending trial, appeal or sentencing or have not been convicted of DWI within the

last three years. Blanton and Hayes successfully completed the course and filed an application for a concealed handgun permit.

Sheriff Dan Crawford will investigate their background and fingerprint them before issuing the permit which is similar to a drivers license and valid for four years. The fee for application is \$90 and must be submitted in the form of a money order. The cost of an eight-hour concealed handgun carry class is \$150.

North Carolina's concealed carry law, approved in 1995 by the N.C. General Assembly, makes it a felony to carry an illegally concealed weapon.

## Clients eye I-85 corridor

Several prospective industrial clients have been eyeing the I-85 interchange near Firestone and the old Clevefont Mill plant, according to Walt Ollis, the city's water/wastewater superintendent.

Reporting to the utilities committee Monday night, Ollis said he spotted a helicopter flying low in both locations last week.

"This will be good news if it pans out," said Councilman Dean Spears.

Councilwoman Norma Bridges, who also serves on the committee, agreed.

Chairman Phi Hager was absent for the brief meeting as was City Manager Gary Hicks who excused himself due to out-of-town relatives arriving at Charlotte Airport.

Ollis announced that bids would be received April 11 for a No. 3 basin at the Pilot Creek plant.

A request from Mr. Condrey, off Gold Stret Extension, and Ingle's for sewer connections were tabled for more information.

Ollis reported that a survey team is surveying land for a proposed apartment complex at Ridge Street and Cleveland Avenue.

## Parent Fair Monday at Bethware School

The annual Bethware Elementary School Parent Fair will be held Monday, March 25.

A hot dog supper and registration will begin at 5 p.m. Sessions will be held from 6-7:30. Door prizes will be given at 7:30.

Session topics will include: Drug Proof Your Child, by Lisa Capps, KMPD.

The new ABC's of Accountability, by Dr. Robert McRae.

The Right Way to Read, by Louise Sanders.

The Middle School Connection, by Lynda Stewart.

Fire Safety at Home, by Dewey Smith.

Your Child's Health, by Carol Johnson.

Computers, by Betty Potter.

Little Things Make a Big Difference, by Jean Webb and Brenda Wright.

Homework Without Tears, by Mary Anne Gibson.

Bethware parents are invited to attend. The workshops are free.

special entertainment will be provided by magician E.T. Vanhoy and Bethware talent show winners.

On-site baby sitting will be available for school-age children.



NEW RESERVE OFFICER SWORN - Mayor Scott Neisler, left, swears-in new KMPD reserve officer J. Harold Parker who has been assigned to duty at Moss Lake with Pt. Roger Goforth. Parker retired in 1992 after 31 1/2 years in law enforcement and comes to Kings Mountain from the Department of Corrections where he worked seven years as a transportation officer. Chief Bob Hayes, center, looks on.

# S\*P\*R\*I\*N\*G

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