

# PROJECTS MILL

From Page 1-A

Easterling said. Pulliam took the occasion to praise the leadership of the Consortium for Progress in the venture.

"You should be proud to be a citizen of Kings Mountain," he told the 45 people in the audience at City Hall for the press conference called by John Moss.

Pulliam said when he was first approached by banker Gary Whitaker and other Consortium members he said this community was too small for a facility of the type he builds but he said Whitaker, Moss and others would not take no for an answer.

"It's a whole lot easier to develop a facility in a place where you are wanted," he said.

Matthews said the developers are the leaders in the nation in the development of assisted living facilities. He said their reputation was solid. "You can't buy a reputation," he said.

Pittman, a resident of Kings Mountain, echoed her praise of the co-sponsors of the project, the Consortium members.

"This is a great community to grow old in and this facility will keep people at home rather than in adjoining cities like Gastonia and Charlotte," she said.

Dean Westmoreland, chairman of the committee heading up the assisted living center project, called Tuesday "a great day for Kings Mountain."

"This is a shot in the arm for economic development in the two state-four county area which comprises the Consortium," he said. Westmoreland commended Moss for his leadership in the success of the project.

Libbie Shipley of the Cleveland County Council on Aging said housing is a major need of the older population. She said one out of five elderly residents in the county live in inappropriate housing. She said 300 units of housing are available in the Shelby area but there is a long waiting list.

Moss said after the meeting that 48 units of new housing are proposed in the Kings Mountain area with a site to be determined. He said the committee is also in the process of selecting a site for a new Adult Day Care Center and Kelly Bunch, chairman of the project, called it a must for the area.

Mayor Scott Neisler commended the Consortium group for seeing the needs of the community.

"The work you've done the past year only underscores the fact that people other than government have to become involved to get things done," he said.

He said the committee looking at sites for a multi-recreational facility have not settled on a location but have looked at similar facilities at Cherry Park in Rock Hill, SC where four or five Little League fields and a softball complex are housed. He said the present Community Center was designed in the 1950s. He said today that kids are at risk for traffic. Neisler said a 45-50 acre complex would be sought for the complex which would meet the needs of people in the 21st century.

"This will be a challenge for both the city and the Consortium," said Moss. He said such a facility would have dramatic impact on the recreational opportunities as well as impact the economy. It would accommodate little league, softball, baseball, soccer and a wide range of opportunities.

Membership chairman Tony Ruppe invited new members to join the organization which meets monthly. He can be contacted about membership details at Ruppe Hosiery, 739-4537.

From Page 1-A

McKeller said plant officials opted to donate the property valued at close to \$1 million to keep the cost of the retirement units down. The acreage adjoins the old Park Grace School which is now owned by Consortium members Jim Childers and Kelly Bunch.

McKeller said he envisioned the mill could be used as a shopping center complex or community gathering place.

Moss made the announcement of the donation at a press conference Tuesday at City Hall and took the occasion to present a plaque to be mailed to Glen Raven officials. Project chairman Jim Childers and his committee, including Hubert Johnson, Tony Ruppe and Kelly Bunch, said a consultant would be hired in 10-15 days to begin work on the private development.

Moss said the complex would include 125-140 homes which would face the mountains with appropriate buffers and roads and landscaping separating the development from the mill. The homes would include patio homes, condos, etc.

The homes would cost in the \$55,000 price range and would include 24-hour security with a gate and full services.

Moss said the Consortium will petition the city for voluntary annexation.

Park Yarn Mills, which at one time operated with 450 employees

# ANNEXATION

From Page 1-A

101 which allows permits to be granted for the sale of beer and wine. Councilman Ralph Grindstaff had served in this position.

Appointed Herman Greene of Maner Road to the board of adjustments.

Approved a budget amendment for the water and sewer department regarding additional chemical use due to new state requirements.

Adopted resolutions for possible FEMA reimbursement of expenses incurred during and after the February 1996 ice storm, \$30,000 to the street department and \$30,000 to the electric department.

Awarded the low bid of \$46,583 to Consolidated Pipe of Charlotte for materials for the Southside gas line expansion on recommendation of Utilities Director Jimmy Maney and approved \$15,000 for repairs to a line truck.

Set April 30 at 7:30 p.m. for public hearing on a \$8.5 million bond order refund which would save the city \$25,000 a year over a 10-year period.

Set public hearing for April 30 to consider a text amendment which allows the building inspector rather than the city engineer to approve alternative materials for boat piers and floats.

Approved a budget transfer for the planning department for an additional computer.

Tabled a lease request by the Kings Mountain Historical Museum Foundation for the old Post Office until a meeting can be held with the Museum officials and Attorney Mickey Corry to complete the paperwork concerning terms of the lease.

The board committed \$14,000 to the Museum for the old Post Office building roof repairs.

during its heyday in the 1950's and 1960's and had 48 village houses on the property and a company store, is located outside the city limits.

"I was born and reared in a house on this mill village," said Moss as he and other members of the Consortium visited the site Tuesday afternoon.

Moss recalled that 200 former residents of the Park Yarn Community attended a reunion in August at the Depot Center. He said the mill closed several years ago and Glen Raven Mills, headquartered in Glen Raven, NC near Greensboro, has been renting the facility for warehouse space.

Moss said Consortium members would begin dialogue with private developers within the month.

"It isn't often that a group is handed a million dollars to begin a project and we are just delighted," he said, noting that the donated land is valued at \$222,000 on the county tax books and the mill is listed at \$912,822.

"This will be a new retirement neighborhood which will enhance this area," said Moss.

The mill is a 150,000 to 200,000 square feet facility and Childers called it a building with "great potential and flexibility." He said the building is in excellent shape structurally.

Vice-chairman Hubert Johnson said the committee welcomes ideas from the public as to what they would like to see in the building, whether small shops, commercial, manufacturing, etc.

# DIXON

From Page 1-A

fear of AIDS.

Both women fear that the fear of AIDS keeps people away from bloodmobile visits and has hurt the large numbers who used to give blood at Kings Mountain visits.

"AIDS can't be transmitted through giving a pint of blood," says Bolick, who said federal regulations in 1994 prohibits volunteers from doing such important things as helping with the donors and even registering them. Now volunteers are used in the canteen area and not as many volunteers are required for each visit and that in itself keeps the volunteers from reporting and donating blood.

If you are 18 years of age, in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds you can give a pint of blood.

Dixon remembers how good she felt the first time she gave a pint of blood.

"It's such a good feeling to know that you helped someone and you are really giving life when you give blood," she said.

Dixon says healthy people even 70 and older can give blood and volunteers can return after eight weeks to give more blood.

Bolick said the Red Cross is open to suggestions from the public on how to improve local visits.

Dixon has chaired the volunteer program here since 1988 and before that volunteered in about every aspect of the blood program for the Red Cross. Because she loves people, her personality blends well

in the role, according to Bolick.

Dixon and her husband of 17 years Delbert Dixon love volunteering. Delbert was one of the organizers of the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad and retired after a long career at Lithium Corporation.

"The blessing of my life was when I met Delbert," said Mrs. Dixon, the former Hilda Hamrick, daughter of Mrs. Helen Hamrick Kiser and the late Leonard Hamrick. Hilda's father was one of the first deputies in the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department.

Hilqda started volunteering when her daughter was three years old running errands for her neighbors. After that when she worked as a sales clerk she often

delivered the merchandise to her customers if they didn't have a car to pick it up.

A native of Kings Mountain, she graduated from Kings Mountain High School and took a business course at Cleveland Community College.

She's a full time homemaker and volunteer. She and her husband enjoy working in their yard on Sims Street and she's into crafts, fashioning shirts for her grandchildren, her pride and joy. They are active in Central United Methodist Church where husband and wife sing in the choir.

Volunteering is a labor of love for Dixon and she finds it the most gratifying experience.

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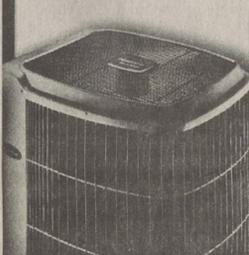


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# UTILITIES

From Page 1-A

"I have been patiently waiting for you commissioners to do something about these utility problems and I guess we will handle the problem at the polls the next election," she said. Two other citizens spoke during the citizen recognition portion of Tuesday's meeting.

Former Councilman Jim Guyton said he had been asking for certain pieces of financial information which are public record and had not received copies nor answers to his questions. He wanted to know the policy on collecting utility bills from customers the city undercharged and the number of contracts that utility customers have made with the city of Kings Mountain.

He also said the city had paid penalties on late payment of sales tax for two months last year and late fees in employee pension payments to the state.

Moss Lake resident Bob Colin said he is concerned that the Moss Lake budget had not been made available to Moss Lake Commission members and that the city was not using \$60,000 from revenues for upkeep of the lake.

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