

Opinion

Our View

City must do better job collecting trash

If you were considering moving your family or business to this area, would you consider Kings Mountain?

We would hope, yes. But if a prospective citizen has been driving around the area lately we would have to think, no.

If you saw the front page of the Herald last week, you know that some of the streets of Kings Mountain have recently become a trash dump. We did that story and took those pictures because of complaints from readers who said trash has been piling up, some citizens have been unlawfully depositing household garbage on the sides of streets, and that their complaints to city hall have fallen on deaf ears.

As we understand the sanitation ordinance, household garbage is supposed to be deposited in trash cans in the backyards of residences. If that's not the case, it should be.

Kings Mountain is preparing to go to curbside collection in September, and the new collection policy should clearly state that household garbage is to be placed inside the cans - not on the ground or in the streets.

We believe much of the trash build-up on city streets in recent weeks is not so much the blame of residents as it is the city, which is collecting trash too infrequently. (One of trash piles pictured in last week's paper had been accumulating for over two weeks).

There are always excuses that can be offered - such as a lack of manpower and/or equipment, or even that some citizens don't care how their neighborhood looks - but we believe the majority of citizens in all areas of town want this to be a nice, neat place to live. And it is the city's responsibility to see to it.

Voice your support for industrial park

Citizens are invited to next Tuesday night's meeting of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners to voice their opinions for or against a proposed county-financed industrial park.

The county is considering purchasing land - and possibly building a spec building - for an industrial park in an effort to recruit industry to ease the blow of recent plant closings as well as open new opportunities for employment for area citizens. One parcel of land being discussed is near Kings Mountain.

There are those who feel that tax dollars should not be invested in industrial parks - that it is the responsibility of business.

There are others who want the industrial park located in other areas of the county.

County-financed industrial parks are springing up all over North Carolina, and some close to this area have been very successful in recruiting industry.

At least two agencies - the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce and the Kings Mountain Consortium for Progress - have endorsed the idea even though they did not go so far as to endorse the Kings Mountain location.

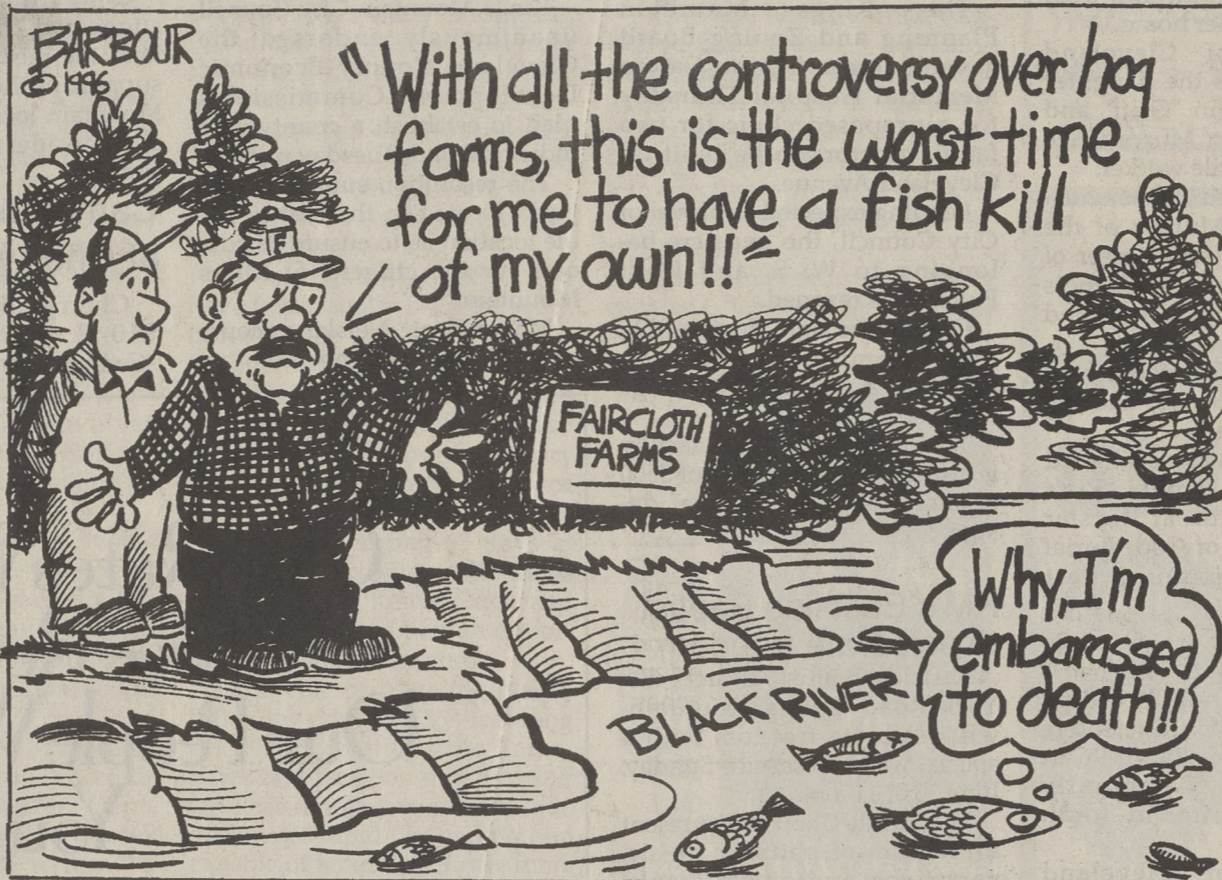
We feel the idea of a county-financed industrial park is a good one, and we also believe the proposed location is the best the county has to offer. Industries want to locate near major highways, and Kings Mountain is served by both U.S. Bypass 74 and Interstate 85. That's an offer no other community in the county can make.

Kings Mountain also has utilities already in place, another plus that most areas of the county cannot provide at present.

The Kings Mountain area, which was the hardest hit by recent plant closings, also needs an economic shot in the arm.

Kings Mountain government and community leaders who support an industrial park in this end of the county need to make every effort to attend and speak at next week's Commissioners meeting. You can bet persons who oppose the idea and the Kings Mountain site will be there in full force.

Cartoonitorial



Your Right To Say It

Thanks from police

To the editor:

The members of the Kings Mountain Police Department would like to extend our appreciation to the Reverend James L. Dougherty and the congregation of Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church for the "thank you" picnic that was extended to us on Sunday evening, June 23.

Many times the men and women of the police department do not receive the recognition for a "job well done" when a kind word would be appreciated by them for the long and sometimes dangerous assignments they encounter.

Again, we appreciate the fellowship with the Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church congregation and will continue to serve the citizens of the Kings Mountain community in the professional manner in which the officers are trained.

Bob Hayes
Chief of Police

Industrial park needed

To the editor:

As a long time resident of this county and a displaced textile worker due to a plant closing, I wanted to take a moment to write about the lack of job opportunities here. After losing my job, and with a good work record and a high school education, I was unable to find a job in Cleveland County in over four months. The only jobs I was offered were service positions whose pay was far below what my family needed to survive.

Finally, I was offered and took a job in another county with hopes that it will become permanent.

If our county has the ability to create an industrial park that will provide good jobs in the future, we should all be wholeheartedly behind the project. It makes no difference where in the county it will be located. If it is here, it will benefit us all. Please don't wait until you are the displaced worker looking for a job.

Jane A. Martin

And the time is now

To the editor

A survey of Cleveland County citizens made by the Urban Institute of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, during the developmental phase

resulting in Cleveland Tomorrow, showed strong support for economic development as a priority for action with establishment of an industrial park having county-wide support. Five different town meetings were held during this period with each meeting supporting economic development as part of a strategy for improving Cleveland County.

The N.C. Department of Commerce reports industrial location clients require sites which are near interstate highways with water, sewer and utilities at competitive rates. It is also important to note that 80% of the clients contacting the Department of Commerce require that an existing building be available for inspection in any location under consideration.

A recent meeting of elected officials in Cleveland County, sponsored by the Cleveland County Chamber, agreed that there is a pressing need for industrial parks in our county.

Other counties in our region which currently have, or are establishing county-owned industrial parks are Lincoln, Cabarrus, Iredell, Rowan and Union counties.

Ideally the development of an industrial park would be developed by private investors. This has not happened significantly in Cleveland County.

Cleveland Tomorrow Economic Development Committee recommends a public-private effort to make us competitive with counties in our region since this is an important means to create jobs for our citizens.

Milton Holloman
Vice-President-Economic Development
Cleveland Tomorrow

HERALD NEWS DEADLINES

The Herald welcomes your news for publication in each Thursday's paper. We ask that you follow these deadlines:

The deadline for A section news such as hard news, obituaries, sports, letters to the editor, city and community news is 5 p.m. Tuesday. In cases of Tuesday night meetings, ball games, etc., items will be accepted until 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The deadline for B section news such as weddings, women's news, club news, school news, birthdays, church news, reunions, etc., is 12 noon Monday. There is a \$10 preparation fee for wedding, anniversary and birthday pictures but there is no charge for news articles.

News items received after the deadline will be published in the current week's paper if time and space permit. If not, they will be withheld until the following week.

THOM GOOLSBY
Syndicated Columnist

Now, N.C. teachers are dropping out of school

North Carolina has another problem with high school dropouts, but it's not what you think. The problem is with our teachers and not our students. Many of our state's brightest and most qualified teachers are fed up with what they describe as an out-of-control system where teaching is one of the last things they are allowed to do.

In a recent state Department of Public Instruction review of 81,000 teaching records, it was discovered that 40 percent of the Tar Heel State's best and most promising teachers leave public education. Even more disturbing is the study's discovery of how our least qualified teachers stay on the job the longest.

Fifteen percent of North Carolina's teachers quit teaching within the first two years of employment in the public school system. One-third of all teachers leave by the end of their fifth year. The study demonstrates that over the last decade, North Carolina has lost 44 percent of its top teachers.

The reasons for teacher defections can be traced to several factors. Typically, new teachers draw bad assignments. They are given large teaching loads of required classes full of students, many of whom are not interested in learning. Veteran teachers are assigned the advanced placement and elective classes where students are typically more eager to learn and are not apt to be dangerous or cause discipline problems.

Where are we going with public education in the Tar Heel State? Why can't most of our teachers be provided with safe classrooms, filled with challenging students who are eager to learn? A rallying cry for many local boards of education is the call for "stronger and tougher discipline policies." Politicians are even pushing for full-time police officers to be assigned to public schools.

Remember when education once worked? Many of our nation's best and brightest minds were filled with knowledge, thanks to the public education system. Good teachers made life-long careers in their chosen profession and left wonderful legacies of educated, well-mannered and God-fearing people.

The school systems of our recent past are not reflected in today's typical public education model. Federal and state mandates direct much of the activities and take away local control and even a teacher's classroom autonomy. Authority, represented by God and The Ten Commandments, has been stripped from every school building. Old notions such as "Spare the rod and spoil the child" have long since given way to the psychobabble theories based on the "I'm okay, you're okay" philosophy.

If it is possible to save our public schools - and that is a big if - the first thing they need is a strong dose of common sense. Recent activities in the General Assembly don't provide much hope. It appears that Tar Heel politicians continue to think that our education woes can be solved by throwing more and more money at the public education leviathan. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The more we spend, the less we get for a system that ranks 48th in the nation. It is past time for the state and federal authorities to cease control of public education. We must place the control and responsibility for public schools in the hands of parents, teachers and local officials. It's the only common sense thing to do and our best hope for reducing the drop out rate for our students and their teachers.

HERALD LETTER POLICY

The Kings Mountain Herald welcomes your letters to the editor. We ask that you use these guidelines:

Keep letters brief and to the point. Letters in excess of 600 words will not be published. All letters must be legible, signed in ink and include the full name, address and telephone number of the writer.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length, spelling, good taste, libelous or slanderous statements, or any other reason, and the Herald reserves the right to reject letters for any reason.

Mail your letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

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Sidewalk Survey

• By Elizabeth Stewart

What did you like best about Bible School this year?

MATTHEW McCARTER (age 3)	LAURA CLONINGER (8)	LAUREN GAFFNEY (7)	JESSICA YARBROW (6)	KATHERINE CRAWFORD (8)
Painting flower pots and butterflies and fruit loop necklaces.	Playing games and eating were my favorite things at ARP Bible School.	Crafts and singing songs and making Noah's Arks and ostrich eggs.	We read Safari stories and had fun with a Noah's Ark.	Eating zebras and making prayer Safari T-shirts.