

CCC bond referendum set May 20

A \$3.1 million bond referendum for a classroom addition and a fire/rescue training facility at Cleveland Community College has been tentatively set for May 20.

A 7 p.m. public hearing March 4 by the County Board of Commissioners for consideration of adoption of a resolution calling for the bond referendum is the first step in the process, according to county finance officer David Dear.

Dear said if voters at the polls approve the referendum the increased cost to taxpayers would probably amount to a one cent property tax increase.

Cleveland Community College sought the additional construction funds two years ago but voters at the polls denied the issuance of general obligation bonds. The last time Cleveland County voters passed a bond referendum to construct a building on the college's campus was 1977.

John Schenck, chairman of the college's board of trustees, said at a recent meeting of the county board of commissioners that a new classroom facility and a facility for training of volunteer fire and rescue units are critical due to the continuing growth trend of the community college and its service to the community.

A new classroom building would house the computer de-

partment, business department and criminal justice department and would provide much needed classrooms and labs during critical morning and evening hours when class and lab space is at a premium. A fire/rescue training facility would also provide classes for volunteer fire and rescue squads.

Cleveland Community College President Steve Thornburg said \$2.2 million of the bond amount would allow the college to match the \$2.4 million approved in the November 1993 statewide bond referendum. But he said those funds would not be enough to accomplish what the college wants to do.

Thornburg said \$2.2 million would be spent on a classroom/laboratory building, while \$771,750 would enable the construction of the fire/rescue building, a three-story tower with burn room annex, a two story residential unit and garage, a classroom and storage building and outdoor training facilities. Some \$130,000 would be earmarked for future land acquisitions.

With the state match the total value to the college will be \$5.5 million.

Should the county fail to provide the matching funds college officials say the N.C. Board of Community Colleges would reassign the \$2.4 million dollars to another community college.



BULLET-PROOF VEST - Kings Mountain Woman's Club has presented a \$800 bullet-proof vest to Kings Mountain Police Chief Bob Hayes who displays the 35 pound vest above. Making the presentation are Woman's Club members Norma Bridges, city councilwoman who chaired the project, left, and Johnnie Reavis, club treasurer.

City Council to hold work session

City Council will hold the first of a series of work sessions on the 1997-98 city budget beginning Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said the board will probably take a look first at lake and sanitation operations.

Maney said the work sessions have been set early in order to streamline the budget deliberations which usually take weeks to complete.

"Working through work sessions should eliminate the mad dash to finish the budget that

we usually have at this time of the year," he said.

Maney said the idea for Thursday night work sessions instead of a weekend retreat is a different approach that he wants to try.

Tuesday's meeting will be devoted to a presentation of revenues and expenditures by Maney to get an idea of the Council's agenda.

"The manager has an agenda and the Council will have an agenda and marrying the two will give us the proposed budget," said Maney.

GAS

From 1-A

Community. He said Oak Grove residents are currently putting together a petition requesting natural gas service from the city.

Spears asked if the city planned to run gas lines back to Kings Mountain on US 74. Maney said he envisions that the city will tie in at its Spectrum line with a six inch 80 pound steel line, cross the road at Countryside and run down Bethlehem Road and tie in on the main line that serves White

Plains. He said a Southside Expansion could provide enough pressure to take care of industrial growth.

Maney said expansion of gas service to Country Creek Subdivision is included in this year's budget. He said that the Country Creek development on Shelby Road is the only area within the city limits that is not currently served by the city natural gas system.

Currently the city runs gas lines also up 216 to Scism/Oak Grove Road to a regulator station at Reliance Electric on US 74 west, a line which Maney envisions in the future will be a double fed system.

ZONING

From 1-A

ter questions by Cameron Ware that the city's new zoning regulations provide for a minimum 10 feet of screening and buffering when the property is developed and if the industry abuts residential properties.

"That means a lot of buffering and screening," said Mrs. Ballew.

Keith Miller, 118 Robinson Rd., said he took an informal survey of property owners in the area and described his family and others as "not excited" about a new industry moving into the area. He cited increased traffic.

Mike Hutchins questioned the size of the trailers and asked if Crocker and El Bethel Road would hold them up.

Fulford said the state limits the size of mobile homes and vehicles accompany the homes as they are moved from the manufacturing plant.

John Barker, industrial recruiter and Shelby realtor, said the new firm plans to use only about half of the acreage his client wants rezoned from residential to light industry.

"This is a very fine corporate citizen who builds quality manufactured housing," he said.

Barker said the company has looked at numerous sites in North Carolina, including Shelby and Boiling Springs, and chose the Kings Mountain site because of the availability of water, sewer, electricity and gas with access to I-85 and the potential for employees.

George Shepherd, of the N.C. Department of Commerce, also present for Tuesday's meeting, said the Indiana company had been looking at other properties in the state for about five months.

"This company has a tremendous track record in environmental concerns and officials are pleased with the Crocker Road area," Shepherd said after the meeting which drew about 15 people.

Responding to questions about traffic, Barker said trailer traffic would run off Crocker Road back to US 74. He said there is only one house between the plant site and Highway 74.

Skibo said Patriot Homes, a family business, was founded in 1972 by Sam Wilder.

"We have never lost money in any of our operations and

our workforce stays with us because of good pay and a clean environment," she said.

Skibo said the industry has a minimum of scrap products which are recycled.

Patriot Homes operates eight plants in the United States, two in Texas, two in Alabama and four in the Midwest. New plants are on the drawing board in Missouri, Texas and Indiana, she said.

Steve Nigh, executive director of Cleveland County Economic Development Commission, also spoke in support of the rezoning of the property.

"This company did a lot of searching before it chose Kings Mountain," he said. Nigh said the closing of Clevevont Mills in 1995 took many jobs from the area and he expects this plant would hire initially between 150-200 employees.

OWENS

From 1-A

spouses.

"One time he said Good Morning to me and my sister-in-law at Kings Mountain Drug Company but he didn't recognize me," said Mrs. Owens.

Mrs. Owens teased Paul that the way to his heart was through his stomach, noting that she still cooks and serves his favorite foods. They like company and in warm weather they like to relax on the deck they have added to their house and enjoy Evelyn's country cooking.

"Now mother don't tell all our secrets," laughed her doting husband.

Mr. Owens still drives a car but they don't take as many trips to the mountains as they once enjoyed. Owens has a little problem with his legs and prefers not to drive long distances.

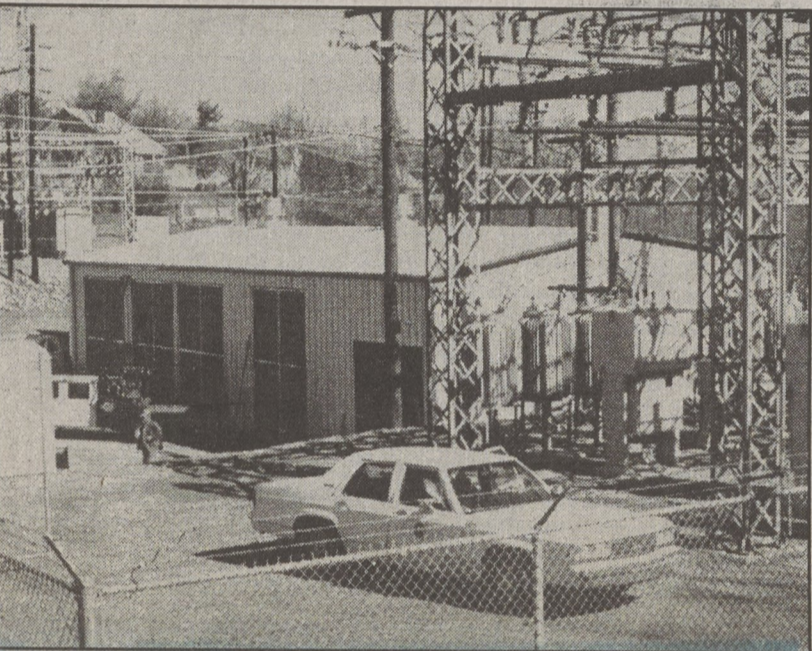
They say happy marriage and long life begins with a healthy attitude.

"And we plan to live to be 100," said Mr. Owens.

HEARING

From 1-A

Between now and the March meeting of the school board Dr. Bob McRae said he would get some figures together on approximate costs to share with the board and public.



GETTING READY TO CRANK UP - The city's new \$2 million peak generation plant is almost ready to crank up at the North Gaston Substation. The building is 90 percent complete and three weeks from now city officials say the plant will be up and running.

Kings Mountain Weather Report

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	Feb. 12-18	Year Ago
Total precipitation	2.48	.01
Maximum one day	1.60 (13th)	.01 (16th)
Year to date	8.62	7.62
Minimum temp.	27 (15th)	19 (16th)
Maximum temp.	64 (18th)	62 (15th)
Average temp.	43.8	38.4

Leaf pickup

ends on Monday

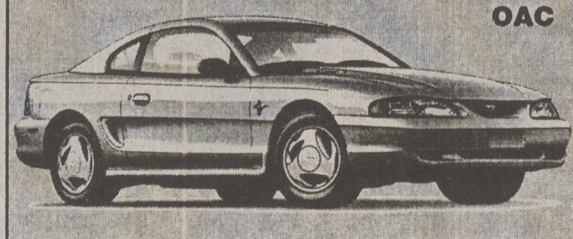
Monday is the last day of the current leaf pickup season by city crews.

Public Works Supt. Karl Moss said that after February 24th that all leaves for city pickup must be placed in bags and at curbside.

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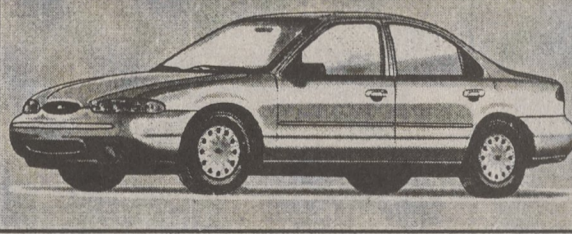
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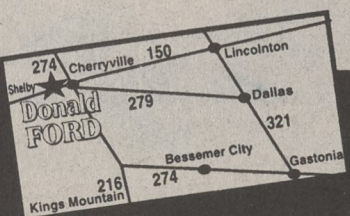
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