

Carl Smith going into Kings Mountain Hall of Fame

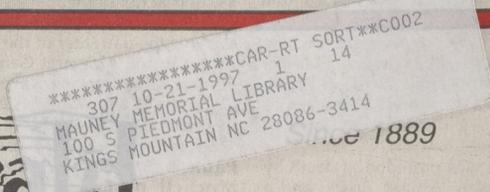
8-A

David Neisler writes book on Civil War

1-B



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P&Z Board won't bend on parking lot ordinance

Neighbors object to proposed strip mall

Neighbors of Love's Fish Box objected Tuesday night to Olin Love's rezoning request and his plans to build a strip mall that the Planning and Zoning Board approved.

The board voted 5-0 to recommend to City Council March 25 that Love's 1 1/2 acres be rezoned from residential to general business.

Love's attorney Scott Cloninger said plans by Love are to remove the three houses on the property on Shelby Road and develop a strip mall. He

said that Love hopes to lease 15,000 feet of rental space for commercial uses.

Lou Ballew, a member of the planning board, voiced objections to new business development in residential communities but said she would reluctantly go along with the full board because she helped develop the city's land use plan.

Board Chairman M. C. Pruette and Jim Guyton pointed out that the land use plan pinpoints Shelby Road or

Highway 74 West for general business.

"There is general business in that whole area," said Guyton.

Ballew said she hoped the board would consider a conditional use permit instead of outright rezoning to give the adjoining neighbors a chance to sit down with Love and work out the details. But other board members, also including Jim Childers, Jim Belt, and Roger Goforth said conditional use

See Neighbors, 4-A

By ELIZABETH STEWART
of the Herald Staff

Asheville realtor Charles Murdock charged Tuesday night that city officials put brakes on Ingles plans to build in the Oak Grove Community.

But Planning and Zoning Board members and city planning director Steve Killian and building inspector Jeff Putnam defended the city, saying they had "bent over backwards" to assist the developer.

"We're not against Ingles but we have to stick to the rules," said board chairman M.C. Pruette after the board voted 5-0 to reject Ingles amendment to the 1996 zoning ordinance which would have, in effect, grandfathered or placed regulations regarding the store development within the old ordinance.

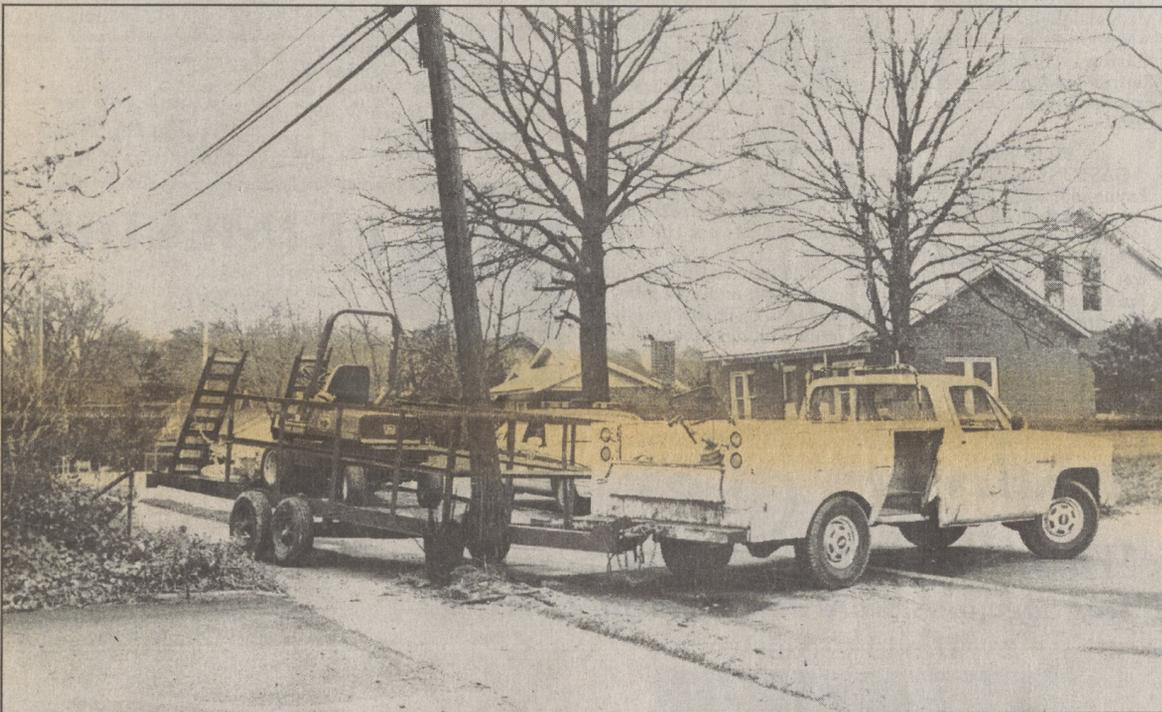
Ingles specifically objects to the placement of trees in the parking lots of their stores, a provision in the new ordinance adopted in December 1996.

Murdock said Tuesday that Ingles won't object to placing trees around the edge of the site. Killian suggested that the objection to trees could be covered through another amendment and offered the city's help.

But Judy Scism, owner of the property on Oak Grove and Scism Road which Ingles took an option to buy, said that she wishes city officials had offered more advice earlier in the negotiations.

"Get everything legal and we'll help you and maybe we can bend a little for minor things," said member Jim Belt who said Ingles was granted a variance on signs for the new store by the board of adjustment.

See Ingles, 4-A



OOPS - Either the trailer which hit this utility pole, or the utility lines is the only thing keeping the lines up and the power on after a city recreation department employee pulling a lawn mower clipped the pole at the corner of the BB&T lot on East King Street Tuesday. The

driver said he hit the pole trying to avoid hitting a car which turned in front of him. Police left the truck and trailer in place to keep the lines from falling until a new utility pole was put in place.

Shelby Council supports KM's annexation plans

By 5-1, Shelby City Council Monday night voted to support a local bill to allow Kings Mountain to annex the lake which Kings Mountain owns.

Mayor Scott Neisler appeared before the Council to seek support for the bill that he will ask local legislators to introduce later this month.

The bill is necessary because state law does not allow a municipality to annex an area that is closer to another incorporated municipality. Moss Lake is closer to Waco, Shelby and Patterson Springs than it is to Kings Mountain.

Neisler has already received support from Waco Town Board and is meeting in April with the Patterson Springs board.

Councilman Sam Rapier voted against the proposal because the language in the bill was not spelled out.

"It's not an evasive move," Neisler said of the bill. "It's just making sure Kings Mountain has control of its own property."

Neisler said the annexation is only of the lake and not the homes surrounding it. If the bill is approved no new residents will be added to the city. The bill would not give Kings Mountain taxing authority over Moss Lake residents, he said.

Shelby City Manager Dee Freeman expressed concern over the implications for the city of Shelby.

"How does it affect Shelby's ability to grow?" he asked. "As the city grows we're going to

grow toward the lake."

But Mayor Mike Philbeck said the annexation of the area around Moss Lake by Shelby is unlikely.

"The density requirements do not exist that would allow us to annex around the lake," he said. "They don't need to be alarmed round the lake. No one's going to annex anyone at the lake."

The bill will include an addendum that approval would not adversely affect the growth of Shelby.

Monday night Kings Mountain City Council passed 5-0 a resolution of support for special legislation allowing the city to annex city owned property up to eight miles from the city limits. City planner Steve Killian pointed out that the annexation is a zero population annexation.

He said a major reason is that the city currently buys retail electricity from Duke Power and the franchise the city pays for the power goes to the state of North Carolina. However, if the transmission point is located in a city one half of the tax goes to the city. Kings Mountain wants to gain \$16,000 a year in franchise taxes.

Also on Monday KM Council adopted a resolution for support of special legislation that would increase the membership of the ABC Board from three to five members and set a third budget workshop for April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Higher user fees in proposed budget

No property tax increase and no increases in gas, water, sewer and electricity are proposed in the 1997-98 city budget but the city is looking at raising user fees at Moss Lake and increasing sanitation and cemetery fees.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said Monday night at a two-hour work session that the move to up fees is an effort to avoid a tax increase.

The city is also moving to lock in for 12 months natural gas costs that will guarantee a lower rate on a 12-month average over fiscal year 1996-97. Maney said the city and is looking at how to possibly de-

crease the electrical residential rate over the next fiscal year.

"Where can you find a city with 9,000 population that owns and operates four utilities, is currently building a peak generation plant to shave the electric demand during peak periods, owns its own library and senior center and isn't raising taxes?" asked Maney.

Maney said an updated pay plan will cost \$150,000 to \$300,000 to implement and a new police building will cost about \$1 million.

"The money has to come from somewhere," he said.

Maney said a survey questionnaire will go out with April

utility bills asking residents if they would be willing to pay \$2 more monthly on their sanitation bills to keep backyard pickup or switch to curbside pickup at the current price.

"We are not interested in privatizing our residential sanitation but we are going to start picking the garbage up at the curb or raise the rates," Maney told five of the seven members of City Council in a budget presentation.

"Whatever the majority decides, we will abide by it but pickup would be limited to once a week."

Councilmen Rick Murphrey, Mayor pro tem Phil Hager and

Dean Spears said they were in agreement with the new plans.

And although Council members Norma Bridges and Jerry Mullinax say they don't want to raise taxes or see increase in utilities they have concerns about upping the sanitation fees.

Mayor Scott Neisler says he supports the sanitation increase and hopes citizens will too. He said the increase in sanitation fees will help give sanitation workers a well-deserved raise and keep workers in town.

"What we are looking to do is to raise user fees when it comes

See Fees, 5-A

Kings Mountain People



ETHEL CHILDERS

Ethel Childers notes 90th birthday

Her Water Oak Street neighbors tease Ethel Childers, 90, that when she reads a book she inhales it.

Reading fast is a hobby that Mrs. Childers has loved all her life and Harlequin Romance books are her favorites that friends share with her.

Sunday her family and over 100 friends gathered at Oak View Baptist Church to celebrate her birthday. Mrs. Childers renewed friendships with many people she had not seen in a number of years and they reminisced over family pictures and had pink and

white decorated birthday cake and party refreshments.

"Childers," as Ethel is called by her neighbors, relaxed in a rocking chair and talked about the days of growing up on a farm in the Dixon Community.

She tells the story of how her late husband, J. E. "Em" Childers, was six years old when he went to her house and saw baby Ethel for the first time.

"Em told me after we started courting that he told his mother at the time that he planned to marry me," said Childers who was 17 when she became a

bride. They raised five daughters, had 10 grandchildren, a number of great-grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren. Daughters Mildred Caldwell, Faye Lovelace, Dot Spearman and Joyce Roark hosted the Sunday birthday party and Lovelace also baked the decorated cake which Ethel was sharing with neighbors on her birth date Tuesday.

A native of the Dixon Community, Mrs. Childers is the daughter of the late Mary Jane and John Farris and is the

See Childers, 5-A



VICTORIAN LOOK - The new lantern-type street lamps downtown have the look of the Victorian era. City officials say the new effect enhances downtown and the lights will be especially decorative at the holiday season.