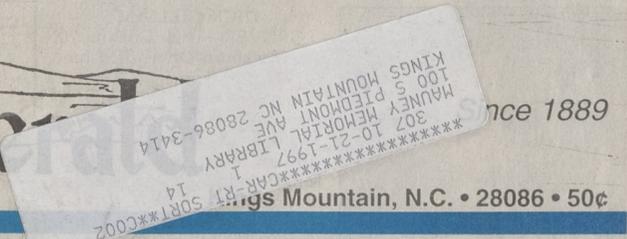




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# Kings Mountain Herald

Thursday, June 12, 1997



## 14-year-old fights cancer



STEPHEN EFFLER

If toughness and attitude makes a difference, 14-year-old Stephen Effler will win his battle against a rare cancer.

Diagnosed with leptomeningeal lymphoma in April 1996, the nephew of Patricia Webb of Kings Mountain will be the star and benefit from a big yard sale Saturday from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. at Webb's home at 309 West Gold Street.

The Lenoir teenager, son of Rebecca and Earl Effler Sr., is

scheduled to undergo massive chemotherapy treatments at Duke University Medical Center this summer. The treatments call for the removal of Effler's bone marrow, the administration of the chemotherapy and the replacement of the bone marrow. Because he will have no immune system, the boy must remain in isolation.

Proceeds from the yard sale will be used by the parents for

See Effler, 11-A

## City gets good financial report

The city had cash on hand at May 31 of \$4.9 million, the city's auditor Darrell Keller reported to City Council Tuesday night.

"This is the best cash position of the city in the last 10 years," said Keller in presenting the financial statement during a public hearing on the budget conducted by City Manager Jimmy Maney.

Keller said the report compared past years' statistics and noted that the city moved from a cash flow of \$2.5 million a year ago.

The analysis chart showed Kings Mountain's cash flow on June 30, 1995 at \$1.5 million; on June 30, 1994 at \$16,376; on June 30, 1993 at \$170,441; on June 30, 1992 at \$380,986; on June 30, 1991 at \$265,150; on June 30, 1989 at \$547,059; and on June 30, 1988 at \$1.1 million.

Keller also reported that the city's undesignated fund balance at May 31 is 28.7 percent and said that if Powell Funds had been included in that amount that the fund balance would rise even more and compares favorably with the statewide average of 31.74 percent in fund balances for a city with an electric system.

"At June 30 we will be at the state required level," he told the board.

Maney predicted that by this time next year the city would regain its high bond rating it

lost several years ago.

Councilman Jerry Mullinax asked why the big difference.

Keller said that the April financial statement showed that revenues were \$18.8 million compared to expenditures of \$17.3 million. "You made a \$1.4 million profit this year," said the auditor.

Councilman Ralph Grindstaff recommended that a policy be established to collect bad debts. He said the city was losing about \$80,000 a year because bad debts were uncollectable. He also asked that a finance director's position be budgeted and asked about the qualifications for the job.

Keller said the criteria was spelled out in the accounting manual and referred questions to the city manager.

Maney took the occasion to praise the people who work in finance and particularly the acting finance director. He said cuts had been made in some departments but said that two new positions have been added in finance, an administrative assistant has been added in Human Resources, two school crossing guards have been hired to work part time, a full time administrative assistant has been hired in the water and sewer department, one person has been hired in the electric de-

See Audit, 11-A

## Ingles amendment goes back to P&Z

For about 10 minutes Tuesday night at the close of a lengthy budget public hearing it appeared that City Council was about to decide the debate over trees in Ingles Markets Inc. proposed grocery store parking lot.

Planning Director Steve Killian presented Ingles' site plan and a proposed limited amendment to the city's new zoning ordinance and suggested that the materials included in the council members' packets of information could be used as a basis for a "fast track" decision at Council's pleasure.

Killian said the supplemental information upgrades previous information submitted last

December and included a significant number of trees around the proposed site and inside the parking lot.

"This is a vast improvement and close to what our new ordinance requires," he said in response to Mayor Scott Neisler's question about changes. Ingles proposed in the new site plan a 60,000 square foot building, instead of 56,000 square feet, and additional parking spaces.

Killian also told the board that Ingles had signed an agreement with the city on April 30 saying the company would pay for sewer to the property and to any out parcels.

Neisler questioned if the matter should not go first to the

planning board since Council voted several months ago to return the amendment request to the board. He said the board could discuss the matter at its Tuesday meeting and Council could act on the request at the June 24 meeting. Councilman Phil Hager agreed.

"I have heard enough about trees," said Councilman Jerry Mullinax who made the motion, seconded by both Councilmen Ralph Grindstaff and Dean Spears, that the board approve the amendment and give Ingles the green light to start building on Oak Grove Road.

But Hager's substitute motion to send the matter back to the planning board for a recom-

mendation was seconded by Dean Spears and passed 3-2. Voting to return the site plan and amendment to the planning board, in addition to Hager and Spears, was Councilwoman Norma Bridges. Mullinax and Grindstaff voted against Councilmen Rick Murphrey and Jerry White were absent.

About the time the mayor called for the vote on the substitute motion, former Councilman Jim Guyton, a member of the planning board, interrupted from the audience that he had something to add to the discussion. The mayor allowed the discussion.

"This amendment has never

See Ingles, 11-A

## Complaint filed by ex-employee

Former city employee Jeanette Ross, 60, is alleging that the City of Kings Mountain discriminated against her because of her age in a complaint filed with the N.C. Employee Equal Opportunity Commission in Charlotte.

The city's Human Resources director Bud Rhea acknowledged that the city had received a copy of the complaint and that City Attorney Mickey Corry would file a response within 30 days.

"I wanted to apply for the full time position of receptionist and the city manager told me I was a temporary and I wasn't needed anymore," she said.

Rhea confirmed that Ross had worked at City Hall since May 1995 and was paid to work 20 hours a week by the city with the remainder of her salary paid by Title V, a training program offered by Isothermal Community College.

Mrs. Ross said she started work in the Title V program for the city at the Parks and Recreation Department in the spring of 1994 and moved to City Hall in the spring of 1995 and was a roving employee, working also part time as a receptionist and part time in the finance office.

See Complaint, 11-A



SPRING SCENE - Brandon Ware, 3, son of Lisa and Larry Ware, takes a ride with his grandfather, Bill Worthen, and gets a lesson in the art of grass cutting.

## Public doesn't question budget

Only the members of City Council had questions to City Manager Jimmy Maney as he presented the 1997-98 city budget Tuesday night and most of their remarks were complimentary.

Maney and the city's department heads and other staff had lined the Council Chamber walls with pictures and other displays of ongoing and anticipated projects for the new year and the small crowd from the public were mum as the budget talk unfolded.

Maney said the priorities in the budget included the building of a law enforcement center for which he anticipates can be paid in full by the next budget year; repair and maintenance of existing public buildings, including the Community Center; an updated capital improvement program; a long-range plan for Moss Lake and continuation of expansion of utilities.

Maney said the city expects to break ground in early spring of 1998 on the \$1 million law enforcement center.

Changes in residential sanitation pickup are proposed from backyard to roadside with the city furnishing the rollout containers. Maney said the savings would offset the capital expenditures and he said the sanitation department would be renamed Solid Waste Management.

The Powell Bill will address

Powell Bill eligible drainage problems while still concentrating on repair and maintenance of streets. New paving will total about \$100,000.

Major capital improvements are budgeted for the water/sewer fund. The largest of these is the Northside 30 inch project which will allow the city to fill its storage tanks during off peak hours and use water from the tanks during the peak hours. Maney said this policy will save the city money.

He said the new Peak Generation Facility is on line generating savings that offset the expenditures with the anticipated pay back of four years or less. The Electric Department will also transfer to the water/sewer fund monies that will be appropriated for major capital projects. Continued innovations and state of the art equipment allows the city to be ready if retail wheeling occurs in the state. The concentration in the gas department will be for expansion to the Oak Grove and Country Creek areas.

Maney said the adjustment of the pay plan addresses pay increases that range from 3 to 10 percent across-the-board for all personnel. The city budgeted funds to pay fringe benefits, including 30 percent of dependent insurance coverage after a recommendation of the city's ad

See Budget, 11-A

### KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

## KM's Goforth new principal at Blacksburg High

As an eighth grader in Bob Hussey's class at Central School, Thomas F. Goforth made a decision to follow in Hussey's footsteps and teach school. That was in 1963.

"Mr. Hussey was my role model and coached basketball at KMHS and now is the new head coach at Virginia Tech," said Goforth, who assumes his new duties July 1 as principal of Blacksburg, SC High School.

Goforth succeeds Kings Mountain native Jim Leigh in the job which Leigh held for 30 years. Goforth has been assis-

tant principal for 13 years and before that taught elementary school for five years in Gaffney and was assistant principal at Cherokee High in Gaffney for seven years.

With 25 years in education, Goforth is no stranger to the classroom. In his new job he won't be teaching but he will serve as a role model for 650 students in grades 7-12 and ages 12 to 18.

Two years from now the campus will change at Blacksburg High. A new Middle School is going up as an addition to an

elementary school and grades 6-8 will be housed in the complex.

"We also have a Primary school that's new and a new gymnasium is going up at the high school," said Goforth who is quite proud of all his students.

Blacksburg High recently graduated its smallest senior class in recent history, a total of 66. Goforth remembers when the graduating class topped 100. He has a faculty of 44 teachers.

Goforth is already at work

preparing for next school's crop of students and looking forward to the challenge. He said the nine-member Cherokee County Board of Education hasn't made a decision on block scheduling and he isn't sold on the idea. He says he's proud of the Blacksburg faculty and the students who graduate and then go on to college or jobs in the community.

A 1967 graduate of Kings Mountain High School, he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Appalachian State University.

His son, Sloan, a recent KMHS graduate, plans to major in English at ASU and follow his parents in the education business. An older son, T. G., graduated from UNC at Chapel Hill this spring and majored in recreation administration. Goforth is married to the former Kathy Plonk who has taught for 25 years at Kings Mountain High School and teaches keyboarding and computer applications. He is the son of Edith Goforth of Kings

See Goforth, 11-A



THOMAS F. GOFORTH