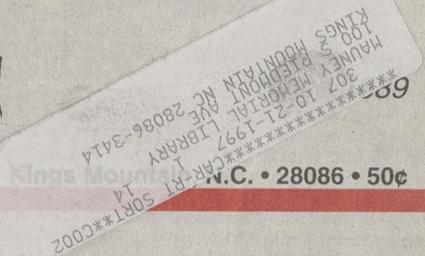




Kings Mountain Herald

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KM Council to negotiate with Moss Lake residents

Lake property owners renew leases under protest

Nearly 80 percent or 312 of the approximately 430 Moss Lake property owners have executed under protest waterfront leases under the city's new fee schedule for 1997-98 effective July 1.

City Attorney Mickey Corry gave the report at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Last week city officials returned 70 lease applications which had been altered by property owners and extended the grace period until July 8 for return of the corrected lease applications.

Maney said that the city Council looked at the current fees structure during recent

budget work sessions and saw the need to run the city-owned lake like a business.

He said the additional fees would be used for lake upkeep and maintenance and for salaries of patrol officers. Maney said a boat capacity

See Lease, 5-A

By ELIZABETH STEWART of The Herald Staff

By 7-0 vote City Council Tuesday authorized its attorneys and city manager to attempt to negotiate with Moss Lake property owners to air differences over increased lake user fees.

"We need to get these things nailed down and deal with them quickly, this week," said City Attorney Mickey Corry who said the matters should be handled officially and not through the press and conversations.

On Thursday the North Carolina House of Representatives will vote on Rep. Debbie Clary's

substitute lake bill which, among other things, gives control of the lake to an authority composed of two members from City Council, one county commissioner and two members of the Lake Property Owners Association. The Clary Bill, if approved by the House, must pass the Senate to become law.

Corry said he had been contacted by the property owners' lawyer and would schedule a meeting within the week. City Manager Jimmy Maney asked that Council members take turns attending the official meetings and each serve as a liaison

See Council, 3-A

City hikes fees to open, close graves

Local funeral directors were notified June 30 by the City of Kings Mountain that effective July 1 the city was going up 210 percent on the cost of opening and closing graves at city-owned Mountain Rest Cemetery.

For inside-city residents this is an increase from \$125 to \$400.

For outside city residents who reside in the Kings Mountain school district the fee jumps from \$150 to \$450.

Mountain Rest Supt. Dorus Bennett defended City Council's June 24 action on the cemetery budget for 1997-98 this week because he said the fees have not gone up since June 12, 1984.

Bennett said Kings Mountain is below other cemeteries in grave or lot costs and still below major cities in the area for grave opening and closing and the only city that does not hire private contractors for the work.

"We do the job ourselves because we take pride in our cemetery and we take the sod off and put it back on and can keep better control by doing the job ourselves," he said.

Ronnie Hawkins, manager of Harris Funeral Home, said the increased costs will probably mean that families will have to go to City Hall to pay the fees rather than the funeral home adding the costs to its bills for service.

Privately-owned Westview Gardens and Gaston Memorial Park in Gastonia charge \$550 on weekdays, \$595 on Saturday, \$795 on Sunday and \$895 on holidays for grave opening and closing. Evergreen Cemetery, also a private cemetery in Cramerton, charges \$450 for opening and closing. The City of Bessemer City utilizes Sisk-Butler Funeral Home which charges \$365 for grave opening and closing. Cherryville's Carpenter's Funeral Home utilizes a private contractor at City Cemetery which charges \$350

See Grave, 5-A



SWINGING HIGH - Eli Capps, 6, swings at the city's walking track during the July 4th festivities Friday. Chief Bob Hayes, in background, chats with a local resident.

Six incumbents file for reelection to KM School Board, City Council

Six incumbents - five for City Council seats and one for the Board of Education - filed Monday on the first day of filing of the political season.

Filing for reelection were Councilmen Phil Hager, Ward I; Jerry Mullinax, Ward II; Ralph Grindstaff, Ward III; Rick Murphrey, Ward V; and Dean Spears, member at large.

Filing for reelection for the Board of Education representing the outside district seat was Ronnie Hawkins, four-time chairman and eight year member of the board.

Mullinax, who was the first to throw his hat in the ring Monday morning for another term at City Hall, praised Kings Mountain citizens as "a tremendous asset the past two years."

Mullinax said he was proud to help keep garbage in the back yard, to vote for no tax increase or hike in services and looked forward to the city continuing projects like a new police department, buying a new fire truck, beginning operation of a new peak shaving plant, and working to get Ingles Food Store to locate in Kings Mountain as well as Bojangles, Holiday Inn Express, Kingspoint Subdivision, KM Medical Associates, Senior Adult Apartments on East King, Summitt Place on Phifer Road and the White Oak Manor expansion.

"I would like to thank the citizens of Ward 5 and the City of Kings Mountain for giving me the opportunity to serve on City Council," said Rick Murphrey. "This is an honor I take seriously."

Murphrey said Council has worked to position the city for economic growth, keeping the tax rate and utility rates low for all citizens and working to increase revenues and cut expenses internally before asking citizens for an increase.

"The 1997-98 budget passed last month is a result of this philosophy," said Murphrey. "There is



HAWKINS

MURPHREY

MULLINAX

HAGER

SPEARS

GRINDSTAFF

no tax or utility increase in the new budget. We are planning for the future of Kings Mountain by making sure our utility departments are financially sound with monetary reserve for the unexpected."

Murphrey also cited new projects such as the new police station, new fire truck and the new peak generation plant and he said the city is making sure city associate salaries are competitive with surrounding cities enabling the city to keep good employees in all departments and assuring citizens of the best service.

See Filing, 5-A

Sale of city land paves way for new industrial park

The sale by the city Tuesday night of 5.51 acres of land for \$58,000 to Johnson Development Co. Inc. of Spartanburg paved the way for what could be a major privately-owned state-of-the-art industrial park in Kings Mountain.

"We will see Kings Mountain in a building explosion," was

the statement that Councilman Phil Hager made in making the motion to okay the sale.

"If you all had been at the Economic Development meeting earlier today you'd know what this will mean to Kings Mountain in jobs," he said.

The park hinges on an investment of \$400,000 by the County

Commissioners who have scheduled a public hearing July 22 to address the expenditures for water and sewer service.

The site, near I-85 and 161, would provide space for warehousing and distribution operations.

At the recent county commission meeting John Barker Jr.

of John Barker Realty Inc. said the company is a developer for Class A industrial space on spec. For its investment he said the county would realize "many many returns far and beyond \$400,000."

Garrett Scott, director of the industrial development for Johnson, was present at

Tuesday night's council meeting.

Scott said the company prefers to maintain ownership of its industrial space and enter into long term leases. Tenants of Johnson sites include Adidas and Michelin Tire, he said.

See Industry, 2-A

Kings Mountain Council says no to medical waste facility

Nearly everyone in the crowded City Hall Council Chambers stood Tuesday night to oppose an ordinance amending a zoning text to permit Environmental Waste Reductions Inc. of Atlanta to bring a medical waste treatment facility/transfer station to Kings Mountain.

City Council, after a public hearing which drew comments from numerous residents, voted 7-0 to deny the request.

Jerry Burke, Division Manager for Environmental Waste Reductions of Atlanta, Ga, said the company is looking at two sites in Kings Mountain zoned light industrial that

would be suitable for the facility.

"We are not in the incinerating business," he said in response to questions. Responding to question of odor, he said there was no evidence of strong odor at any of the other plant locations.

Tim Roberts, 1014 York Road,

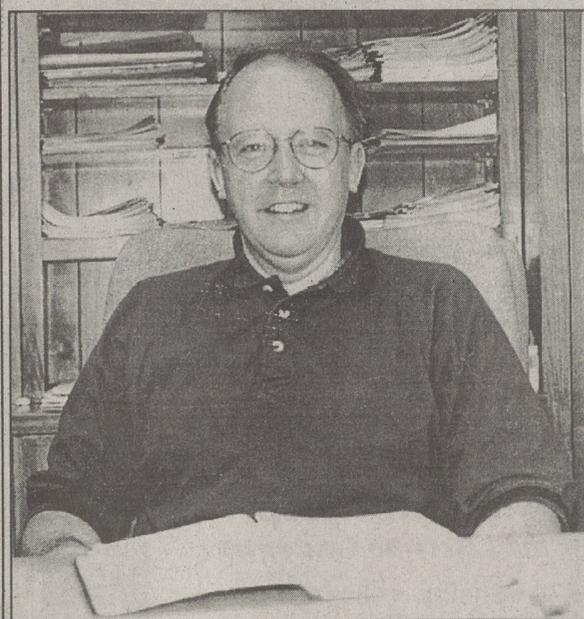
said he opposed the type of facility for Kings Mountain because of the danger of spills of waste and possible contamination.

"What if this was proposed in your back yard and not mine?" asked Roberts, who then asked everyone in the packed audience to stand who were there to

oppose the company's plans to come to Kings Mountain.

Bill Flynn of Shelby, environmental health and safety professional who lives in Kings Mountain, also argued about potential danger for citizens. "We don't need to bring trash to Kings Mountain," he said.

See Waste, 2-A



REV. HAL SCHWANTES

Rev. Schwantes always on the go

(Ed. Note - This is the fourth in a series of weekly articles on local leaders in the Jay Strack Crusade to be held August 24-28 at John Gamble Stadium in Kings Mountain.)

For Rev. Hal Schwantes his weekly visitation ministry to keep up with people's needs fits in well with his job as publicity chairman for the upcoming Jay Strack Crusade.

And if he isn't driving his car he can usually be found riding his 14-speed bicycle wherever he goes to invite people to attend the crusade.

Schwantes' job is to get the word out anyway he can. He not only talks about the crusade from his pulpit at Central United Methodist Church but as he visits and sets up interviews and advertisements in the media.

"I like to touch base not only with the 435 members of my

congregation but with others in the community, dropping in for a cup of coffee or just to chat a spell," said Schwantes, who has even been known to serve as "Mr. Fixit" as a backyard mechanic.

Schwantes got his first experience with publicity for a big crusade in Jamestown, New York 15 years ago when an associate of Billy Graham ran a crusade in that area.

"We had wide support from pastors and that's what we're aiming for in this area as we contact every church in the community to help get the word out for people to come and to volunteer in every aspect of the campaign," said Schwantes.

Schwantes and his committee will be putting up billboards, street banners, and signs in yards and closer to the August date of the crusade will be setting up interviews for local me-

dia with Jay Strack and his campaign workers who will be coming to town.

"It's very exciting," said Schwantes who came to Kings Mountain from Westford United Methodist Church in Concord in 1993 and has quickly become active in many community-wide efforts.

Chairman of the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry for the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association, he sees the Crusade as another arm of help for people in crisis situations. They find assistance in physical needs for food, fuel and clothes at the Center at the Community Center and also help for spiritual relationships with God through their associations with the churches and crusade.

Schwantes was called to preach 25 years ago after changing his major from education to religion at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls

and graduating from Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Ky. A native of Iowa, he met his wife, Darlene Ward Schwantes, at Asbury College.

"We decided we wanted to come to God's Country, North Carolina," said Schwantes, who served 13 years in the Western New York Conference of the Methodist Church before joining the Western North Carolina Conference in 1985.

Recently the local church honored their pastor and wife with a trip to the Holy Land as a gift on their 25th anniversary in the ministry.

"Darlene and I have never been to the Holy Land and this will be a great experience for us to share with local people," said the preacher who also is a Pheresis donor with the American Red Cross in Charlotte. Schwantes has donat-

See Schwantes, 3-A