



Kings Mountain

SORT**R1
307 11-11-98
MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY
100 S PIEDMONT AVE
KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3414

Vol. 110 No. 32

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Kings Mountain, NC • Since 1889 • 50¢

Spot zoning approved

The county board of commissioners' first meeting scheduled outside of Shelby drew only a handful of local people to City Hall Tuesday night and of the half dozen who were in attendance only three remained for the three hour meeting.

No one spoke during the citizen portion which came at the end of the meeting.

Major business centered around the spot zoning of two pieces of property in the Moss Lake District.

Leonard and Lynn Toms, who own .503 acres at 2305 Marlowe Avenue, petitioned the board to rezone property from restricted residential to residential to open a day care center. Mr. Toms told the board that the facility is much needed in the area but I. G. Alexander, of Elizabeth Road, and Ben Martin Sr., of 2306 Mason St., said they were not against the individuals but felt if the property was rezoned it would "open a can of worms" and create a problem with others coming into the area with similar requests for businesses. Alexander also said he thought the business in the home would devalue the property of neighbors.

Commissioner Ralph Gilbert, who spoke for the rezoning, said a day care center was "vastly different from a auto repair garage." Commissioner Willie McIntosh also spoke in favor of the project saying he supported community development.

Both Alexander and Martin questioned why a mobile home had been grandfathered in the area.

"We're not asking them to move the mobile home and I have no problem with Mr. Toms wanting to make money but if this change comes this could set a precedent," said Martin.

Planning Director Bill McCarter said the two pieces of spot zoning had been approved by the planning board because members felt they were compatible with the county's land use plan.

Wallace Buckner, 1683 Pinedale Rd., Cherryville, representing the owner Patricia Sloan, asked for property one mile east of Moss Lake be

See ZONING page 3A

Deaths page 2A

Dennis McDaniel,
Grover
Tommy Chappell,
Upland, CA
Mary Howell,
Kings Mountain
Zella Sweezy,
Kings Mountain
Lydia Hampton,
Gaffney, SC
Barbara Leach,
Shelby
Jack Jenkins,
Kings Mountain
Maudie Segars,
Blacksburg, SC
Charles H. Holden Jr.,
Palm Beach, FL
Robert K. Early,
Greensboro

Inside

Business page 5-6B
Church News page 3-5B
Classifieds page 7-10B
Lifestyles page 1B
Obituaries page 2A
Opinion page 4A
Police Report page 6B
Sports page 6-8A

FATHER AND SON MOMENT



Dalton, left, and Taylor Cash take a three-mile jog around town every day - the easy way. They are pushed by their father, Scott, who runs the entire route. The three were caught taking a break and watching football practice at Kings Mountain High School.

Franklin to build \$16 million plant

Franklin Industrial Minerals, one of the largest producers of mica in the world, will invest \$16 million in a new plant adjacent to its present site at 1469 S. Battleground Avenue.

County commissioners Tuesday night in Kings Mountain set public hearing for August 18 to consider the implementation of the county's infrastructure policy for sewer extension to serve the facility.

The extension would serve Franklin Minerals Inc. and other businesses on NC Highway 216. The estimated costs for construction is \$400,000 and the line would be in the jurisdiction of the City of Kings Mountain. The county is being asked to provide up to \$320,000 of the project's construction cost.

Steve Nye, the county's economic development director, announced plans for the new construction and said that the USDA Business Enterprise Grant Program has notified the city of Kings Mountain of the awarding of \$75,000 from the agency and it is anticipated that other grants are forthcoming.

The county project would include the installation of 6600 linear feet of eight inch sewer line, 210 linear feet of bore and jack in a 12-inch casting, 22 manholes and various driveway modifications and erosion control measures.

Nye said that city and county officials have been meeting with the plant officials and other businesses along the stretch of Highway 216 on plans for the extension.

Based on the first four tax bills, the county could expect an estimated \$320,020 in property tax revenue.

Franklin Minerals is the former Kings Mountain Mica Company and would add five to 10 new employees with the construction of the new plant, according to Nye.

Glenn R. McCloskey, general manager, said the cost of the new construction is estimated at \$15 million with an additional \$1 million flotation plant renovation already under construction.

The present facility will be expanded and modernized for increased capacity and new capabilities. The operation will continue to produce muscovite mica, potassium feldspar, quartz sand and kaolin clay products used in the construction of automotive, paint, plastics, ceramics, television, glass, cosmetics, rubber and other industries.

McCloskey said the state-of-the-art facility will augment and replace existing plants located both at this site and others in the area. He said this investment in technology will allow the company to more efficiently operate in the current highly competitive industrial minerals market.

Amber gets to see Mickey Mouse

Playing with her frisky toy poodle Amber Whetstine, 5, looks like a typical preschooler.

She runs and jumps on her trampoline, frolics with the white poodle, Tosha, and eight-year-old sister, Kassy, and likes to play dressup, sometimes changing costumes four or five times a day depending on her mood.

Those "good" days are making memories for her parents, Cindy and Mike Whetstine.

Amber is a two-vessel miracle baby who requires a breathing machine at times, has lost the use of her right eye, and has been in and out of the hospital all her life. Born with chronic lung disease, her right lung is diseased, her right side is shorter than her left but it isn't noticeable and her right thumb is disfigured. She also has an acid reflex disease and has been diagnosed with curvature of the spine.

"We consider ourselves lucky to have this beautiful child," said Mrs. Whetstine, 30, who has devoted her life to caring for her children and is work-

ing with school officials to enroll Amber in the S.K.A.T.E.S. program again this fall at Bethware School.

Amber, who is 1 1/2 years behind in school due to health problems, can only attend school four hours a day and even then her mother has to be on call with the breathing machine, inhalers and medication.

Cindy doesn't know if Amber will be permitted to enter a regular first grade classroom next year. Cindy may have to sit in the class with her daughter because an on-site nurse is unavailable but she's willing to do that if it means Amber can get an education.

Discouraged at times on "bad" days, Mrs. Whetstine talked to the Governor's office last week about some financial assistance for herself and other parents faced with high medical bills for sick children. Healthy herself expect for high blood sugar at times, Mrs. Whetstine could get a job but if she does that the help from Medicare and disability payments will stop and one prescription for 14 days for Amber costs \$549.

"I told them the system just isn't fair," said Mrs. Whetstine whose husband, Mike, 32, builds houses for Whetstine and Sons.

"I ask myself why sometimes and then I say why not," said Mrs. Whetstine as she played with her two young daughters, helping Amber put on her ballerina costume and watching the two girls play with their dog, Kassy Whetstine is a third grader at Bethware School and is a healthy child who is a cheerleader for the Optimist club youth teams. Amber has enrolled in tap and ballet classes with Susan Goodson.

Married for 13 years, the Whetstines give their family top priority. Their granddaughters are the apple of the eyes of grandparents, Connie Hamm of Kings Mountain and Dee Whetstine and the late Charlie Whetstine and Arthur and Sandra Sinclair of Chester, SC. The great-grandmother is Betty Mobley of Kings Mountain.

The family forgot about pulmonologists and medicine and bills

See AMBER page 2A



Amber Whetstine

Kings Mountain schools open Monday

School bells will ring Monday morning for the fall term of school for 4,400 district students and 600 faculty members.

"We're ready," said Supt. Dr. Bob McRae.

McRae said faculties are complete and the major change in staff is the assignment of Lynda Stewart to Grover School from Kings Mountain Middle where she will serve as assistant principal and the promotion of Laura Dixon at Kings Mountain Middle School in an assistant principalship. Steve Wells, who has served as assistant principal at both Grover and Bethware Elementary, will remain at Bethware in the full time position.

"We think we're pretty much on the right track as far as academics

are concerned and there are no major changes in the curriculum," said McRae. He said a task force on student behavior is in the works since the board of education has sent a strong message to parents that misbehavior of children will not be tolerated in the classroom.

"We've told the parents and the students that the classroom is the place to learn, not play," said McRae.

One change that will be welcome for students and teachers is in the computer areas with installation of a new wide area network where all schools will be hooked up to the Internet and have Email capability.

"We think the Email will cut down on postage and telephone

See SCHOOLS page 8A



Channon Vogel, first year teacher in the first grade at North School, Pat Regan and Mark Bryson, third grade teachers, decorate Vogel's classroom in preparation for school opening Monday.

First Carolina Federal

Kings Mountain
300 W. Mountain St.
739-4781

Gastonia
529 S. New Hope Rd.
865-1111

Shelby
1238 E. Dixon Blvd.
484-0222

MEMBER FDIC