

# KM Community Center prepares for elections

City Recreation Director Tripp Hord says the Community Center is ready for Precinct 2 voters on September 15, the date for the Democratic Primary for the Ninth Congressional District, and for the general election November 3.

Members of the board of elections, city officials and precinct workers finalized plans to use the glassed-in area on the second level of the community center for a polling site at a meeting at the center Monday morning.

Director of Elections Debra Blanton said voters will enter at the back door of the gymnasium where they can park their cars at the back of the building and walk through the gymnasium to the private area. Curb-side voting will be provided for handicapped voters. Reserve police officers will be on duty during voting hours to ensure that the driveway is accessible to vehicles for voters who want to park at the back door and not at the side entrance and walk up the hill. The city will also post signs.

"Let's establish one area in the center for elections at all times," said Mayor Scott Neisler after a suggestion that the gymnasium be used for the November elections. The mayor said the gym area is not air-conditioned. Rest rooms adjoin the polling area and rest rooms will also be opened at the new swimming pool complex, said the mayor.

Precinct officials Hilda Dixon, Shirley Brutko and Mary Anne Hendricks, along with county election officials Pat Spangler, chairman, Ruth

Wilson, secretary, K.C. Withrow, new member, and Blanton were present along with the mayor, Hord, city manager Jimmy Maney, councilmen Clavon Kelly and Gene White, Becky Cook and Joyce Dye.

"It was a real good meeting," said Neisler, who said voters will enter and exit the same way at the center and campaigners won't be permitted in the parking area at the back door which will be reserved for voters.

Councilman Kelly said he was pleased with the Monday meeting in which complaints were raised about non-voters walking through the voting area last May at the community center.

"It's not legal for a polling place to have people walking through it," said Blanton.

"We want the election officials to let city staff know about any complaints," said Kelly.

The elections board had voted to change the polling place for the KM No. 2 precinct from the community center to the lobby of the local hospital after creating two new precincts in the city, the American Legion and Second Baptist Church. The other precinct, No. 1, is the National Guard Armory.

Council members complained that the change was made without consulting them. Permission was given by hospital officials to use that facility for a polling place but administrator Hank Neal withdrew the offer, citing possible public relations damage to the hospital.

# 2,000 computer bug no big deal for local government agencies

Locally, people aren't fretting over the "millennium bug."

Government and school officials insist programs for handling the software glitch are quietly underway and the "bug" hasn't set off any alarms in Cleveland County.

Scott Fite, Information Technology Director for Cleveland County, Mark Sivy, technology specialist for the Kings Mountain District Schools, and City Clerk Marilyn Sellers of the City of Kings Mountain don't foresee complications with a computer shutdown at the turn of the century.

Sivy says the "bug" will be nothing to shrug about by financial institutions or people who have word processors that automatically date documents and express years with just the final two digits.

So when 1999 draws to a close, unfixed computers and embedded circuits in machines won't know if it's 2000 or 1900 and Sivy says that could garble date-sensitive data or even shut down.

"We hope we have the millennium bug beat," says Sivy who says it's called the Y2K problem, that means year 2,000.

"We get our software on programs from the state and vendors are verifying that they are in compliance or will be in compliance before 2000,"

he said.

Fite said that most of Cleveland County's software is vendor written also and the county has letters of compliance from vendors saying they will be software compliant by January 1, 1999. Most of the software packages are already compliant, says Fite.

"Many big companies write their own software in-house and they are going in and rewriting it but local government gets their software from vendors and don't do programming changes," he said.

Sellers said the city's finance director Lori Hall and City Manager Jimmy Maney are working with vendors on new computer software and addressing networking.

The Kings Mountain District Schools owns about 800 computers and is in process of setting up a wide area network. All the servers will be located at the district office on Ridge Street and three or four weeks from now all schools should be interconnected with this network, Sivy says. Initially, Sivy says, the change is for the purpose of Internet access with all the schools and also Email availability which will save time and postage. The web site address will be: www.kmds.k12.nc.us.



**BELL REUNION** - Children of the late Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Bell gathered Sunday for the annual reunion at North Main Street Baptist Church in Mount Holly. From left, Ted Bell of Moun! Holly, Jim Bell of Gastonia, Letha Bell Stewart of Kings Mountain, Carl Bell of Belmont, Betty Bell McMahan of Alexis and Alma Bell Sellers of Kings Mountain. The brothers and sisters were all reared in Kings Mountain.

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