

Kings Mountain Herald

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Kings Mountain, NC • Since 1889 • 50¢

ABC petition to be out Tuesday

"Citizens for a Better Community" will kick-off a petition drive against alcohol Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Kings Mountain Community Center.



"We need 1800 valid signatures"

Gene White
City Councilman Gene White who has spearheaded the organizational efforts.

Petitioners will have a month to gather the names. The timetable calls for the elections board to validate the petitions by July 3 and if validated to call the election within 60-120 days.

"We're looking at September 15 for the actual election," said White.

White said the March 9 meeting is a rally and kick-off "against alcohol, drugs and gambling in any form in Kings Mountain."

White reiterated that only registered voters living in the Kings Mountain city limits can sign the petitions. He said, however, that outside city residents are also encouraged to turn out to help out in the campaign.

KM man is charged with murder attempt

Larry Lewis Carroll, 47, 213 Duke Street, faces charges of attempted murder following a domestic incident February 22.

Carroll was served the warrant by Det. Sgt. Lisa Proctor of the Kings Mountain Police Department at the Cleveland County Detention Center where Carroll was first jailed without bond on charges of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious bodily injury.

Carroll allegedly assaulted Claudette Carroll.

Sgt. Andy Berry was arresting officer.

DEATHS

Madeline Houser, 96
Mae Fleming, 78
Hubert Davidson, 88
Joseph Causby, 67
L.J. Black, 76
Lawrence Pruitt, 75

2A

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This week's advertising sections:
Carter Chevrolet
Clark Tire
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Fred Caldwell
Harris Teeter
Sterling Lending
Winn Dixie

First Carolina Federal

1238 E. Dixon Blvd.

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KINGS MOUNTAIN NC 28086-3414
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begin to begin
spring sports
seasons B1

Mayor drafts bills for lake annexation

3 percent hotel occupancy tax idea also to be sent to state legislators

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Of The Herald Staff

The city is seeking special legislation to annex city-owned property at Moss Lake, create a two-mile extra territorial jurisdiction area and assess a hotel room occupancy tax.

Mayor Scott Neisler has presented the three bills to local

legislators for presentation in the N.C. General Assembly. The mayor said the bills have the blessings of all local legislators.

The lake bill calls for voluntary noncontiguous annexation of the city owned water treatment plant, Camp Creek Road picnic area, boat landing and dam up to 5 1/2 miles from the city limits.

The two mile extraterritorial jurisdiction would allow the city to plan for a growing area already benefiting from city services and city created economic opportunities.

The 3 percent tax levy, a room occupancy tax, would bring in tax dollars to the city for tourism development. If approved, the occupancy tax would be levied on any hotel,

motel, inn, tourist camp or similar place within the city that is subject to sales tax and is in addition to any local sales or state taxes. This tax does not apply to accommodations furnished by nonprofit, charitable, educational, or religious organizations when furnished in furtherance of their non-profit purpose.

The act, if ratified by the

General Assembly, would allow Kings Mountain to use at least two thirds of the net proceeds of the occupancy tax to promote travel and tourism in the city. The city could contract with Cleveland County for tax collection services. The bill is patterned after Senate Bill 585 which passed the General Assembly last year for the city of Lumberton.

Fun in the Sun



ALAN HODGE / THE HERALD
Enjoying a sunny afternoon on the North Elementary School playground are kindergarten students, left to right, Teanna Ross, Matthew Morgan, and Colby Gardner. The trio and their classmates were all eagerly awaiting spring days when they could put on short sleeves instead of sweaters.

Board to discuss smoking issue

The Kings Mountain Board of Education will take up the smoking on school campuses issue again at its monthly meeting Monday at 7 p.m. at Central School.

The issue surfaced late last fall when KMHS student Amanda Johnsonbaugh requested that the Board ban all smoking on school campuses, including outdoor sporting events.

At that time, Supt. Bob McRae checked out the possibility with the attorney for the State School Boards Association and learned that local boards cannot make any policy that is more restrictive than it was in 1993 when federal legislation was passed.

Since Kings Mountain already has a policy allowing use of tobacco products by teachers and staff in designated area - and by the public at sporting events - the Board cannot ban smoking altogether.

But McRae said it is possible for the Board to try to control smoking at outdoor stadiums. "They (the board) could prohibit the use of tobacco in the stands

and basically request through signs and announcements that people cooperate and move to an area behind the stands if they want to use tobacco, or they could designate a specific area behind the stands as a tobacco use area," McRae said.

Members of the Board had mixed reaction to the issue when Johnsonbaugh made her request, some saying that enforcing a smoking policy outdoors would be almost impossible.

But, McRae said, the board will "try to make some decision of what, if anything, to do with that."

Also on Monday's agenda is probable final approval of three sections of policy dealing with governing principles, board operations and personnel; first draft of the budget proposal for next year and scheduling a budget hearing for the April board meeting; approval of the 2000-2001 school calendar; approval of summer school plans for 1999; and reviewing the long-range facilities study.

Grover may send water to S.C.

The question of extending water lines into South Carolina for new development along the Highway 29 service road was the focus of the town council meeting in Grover Monday night.

To be located on approximately 10 acres of land owned or previously owned by the Hambricht family, the new development would be the site of a possible hotel, gaming room, and carry out restaurant.

Using a map that showed existing water lines, highway right-of-ways, and rail lines, Mayor Max Rollins detailed the engineering options and requirements to run the new lines. Also discussed were the legal differences between South Carolina and North Carolina laws as they related to who would bear the cost of laying the pipe.

Other discussion on the water service issue revolved around who would bear the cost of meters, what potential revenue losses or gains would be realized by providing water service to the new develop-

ment, and how future highway construction would impact the project should it be approved.

Council member John Higginbotham as well as several citizens in attendance expressed concern over whether the project should even be attempted until it was proven that it would be profitable to Grover. It was finally agreed to hold off on a decision concerning the project until more research could be conducted.

In other business Monday night, the council heard from member Jack Herndon concerning inappropriate stone borders and other decorations in Grover's cemetery. The regulations in question state that only a headstone and flat footstone be used so that mowing can be accomplished more easily. Two families had apparently placed raised stone borders around their plots. Herndon asked city attorney Mickey Corry to look into the situation.

See Grover, 3A

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

The status of the city and Ingles progress on a way to serve the proposed super market with sewer is on the agenda for Thursday's 1:30 p.m. meeting of the city utility commission.

A possible upgrading of the sewer line at the Spectrum plant to allow Ingles to tap onto the line and Spectrum to increase the opportunity for more production is one avenue that the three-member committee of Councilmen Gene White, Rick Murphrey and Clavon Kelly may explore.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said the updating of the city's master water/sewer plan is a high priority of Council.

"We will look at the original 20-year plan for capital improvements and try to break it down into increments of five years," Maney said. He said a study developed by W.K. Dickson engineers some years ago had mapped loops and upgrades which are no longer necessary since the closing of one of the city's biggest plant and water user.

By using more water and sewer, plants like Spectrum and Anvil Knitwear, the city's biggest utility users, could mean more revenue for the city and keep utility rates down for all users, Maney said.

Industry is important to Kings Mountain, says Maney.

Maney says he will push upgrading of a master water/sewer plan to help industries to expand, hire more people, and bring more revenue into the city.

Maney said 50 percent of the city's monthly billing for water, sewer and gas is paid by two industries in town, Spectrum and Anvil Knitwear.

"We want to encourage more industry to come to Kings Mountain and keep our low rates," he said, noting that the average residential customer's bill for water and sewer is \$15-20.

Anvil Knitwear, with more than 500 employees locally, spent \$1.4 million with the City of Kings Mountain last year for utilities.

Spectrum Textured Fibers, with 675 employees at four plants, including Kings Mountain, spent \$1.2 million last year for utilities.

Maney said he will push for incentive programs targeted to increase usage by not only the big plants but all others and will ask the city council to review rates.

"With our rates as low as they are for residential users we can't even qualify for a State Clean Water Grant, so we need to address a capital improvements plan that will help generate more jobs, more industrial expansion and increased production," he said.