

# COUNCIL

From 1A

\$150,000 to \$160,000 in revenue after not passing on to customers an 18 percent rate hike from Gastonia last year. Neisler said he and Maney want to negotiate a more favorable contract with Gastonia officials.

Also in the works may be proposals to offer quantity discounts to major customers, shield customers who live on Social Security from major rate increases and guard the interest of Spectrum Dyed Yarns, the city's major water and sewer customer, in any sewer changes. No rates were suggested by the full Council and Maney said it will probably be the April meeting when action is taken on any recommended rate increases.

"I understand the need but I said I would not vote to raise rates," said Kelly. Although Ingles has not officially updated its original offer of \$300,000 for sewer extensions to serve the new plant, the five year sewer improvement plan is estimated to cost \$2.5 million and includes a contribution of \$300,000 by Ingles.

Both Maney and engineer Al Moretz illustrated the projections on maps again Thursday to Council, that utilization of money from a proposed grant, Ingles and the city would open up the whole area of Oak Grove Road and allow more expansion in that area of the community.

But Maney cautioned Council

that "You're going to have to go up on water and sewer rates in the new budget, whether you address a capital needs plan or not."

Water Supt. Walt Ollis said the city faces the possibility that businesses, industries and residential customers could lose water or sewer service for days rather than hours if a major break occurs.

Maney called it a "balancing act" to maintain and repair an aging system, develop plans for expansion and keep costs down.

Neisler said the city faces some tough decisions and needs to bite the bullet.

"You're going to pay now or pay a lot more later," he said.

Ollis said the major weak link in the water delivery system is the 24 inch line that brings water from Moss Lake to the city's storage tanks.

What happens if the line breaks? Ollis said industries would have to shut down and 1,500 people would be out of work. "Everything stops," he said.

Council members agreed that a second line to town is a necessity. Maney said Clean Water grants or loans and new businesses like Ingles could help make the project a reality.

"But you're talking about spending \$1 million a year and not raising rates," he said.

And Maney says he has no crystal ball but the needs are critical and not "pie in the sky" projects.

# KMLT sets auditions March 24-25 for play

Kings Mountain Little Theatre is holding auditions for the comedy, "Drop Dead," which will be held May 13, 14 and 15 at the Kings Mountain Woman's Club.

Auditions are scheduled for March 24 and 25 at 7 p.m. at the Woman's Club. There are parts for seven men and three women.

# DELLA

From 1A

Parkdale No. 5 opened its yarn manufacturing plant in Kings Mountain in 1977 and a few years later opened Plant No. 19 where Albert Woodberry is manager and Jane Starnes is personnel manager. Both plants employ about 100 people on two shifts. The plants produce yarn for knitting goods, weaving and apparel.

"We manually figured the payroll by production," said Bell of her first experience in the office at Parkdale. She said the system became computerized about 10 years ago.

Giles Bell has retired from Coca-Cola Bottling Company. The Bells have two sons, Craig, who is married to Sheila Allen Bell and Brent, who is married to Teresa Houser Bell. There are three grandchildren, Katie, Kyle and Emily Bell. The family is active in Oak Grove Baptist Church.

# KELLY

From 1A

City Manager Jimmy Maney said the city is operating its water/sewer fund at a loss and that's clearly is a "no no" by state regulations that cities with bond indebtedness must break even on water and sewer.

The city has 15 more years to make bond payments for water improvements.

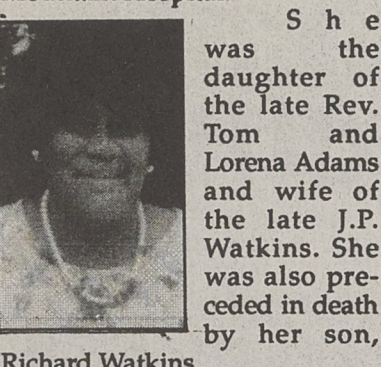
"We've eaten too many increases by Gastonia and we need an automatic rollover when Gastonia raises rates," said Neisler who said half the town is served by Crowders Creek and half the town is served by the city's Pilot Creek wastewater treatment plant.

Neisler is recommending that Council approve a quantity discount for industrial users who use two million gallons of water. What happens if the city doesn't up its rates?

Maney said he doesn't know where the money will come from to fix 30 pump stations, high priorities.

# Obituaries

**LOUISE WATKINS**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Louise Watkins, 82, 123 York Road, died March 8, 1999 at Kings Mountain Hospital.



She was the daughter of the late Rev. Tom and Lorena Adams and wife of the late J.P. Watkins. She was also preceded in death by her son, Richard Watkins.

She was a long-time member of Galilee United Methodist Church where she was a communion steward, and member of the Woman's Society and T.A. Powell Choir.

She is survived by her daughters, Nancy Thompson of New Haven, CN, and Mary Young and Delores Cole of Kings Mountain; sons, Leroy Watkins of Bessemer City and James and Chris Watkins of Kings Mountain; son-in-law, Alan Cole of Kings Mountain; daughter-in-law, Katherine Watkins of Bessemer City; sisters, Kathleen Jamison and Gladys Worthy of Kings Mountain; 26 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Clarence Wright at 3 p.m. Sunday at Galilee United Methodist Church. Burial was in Galilee/Adams Chapel Cemetery.

J.W. Gill & Sons Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**ROBERT ROSS**  
BESSEMER CITY - Robert McGill Ross, 76, 805 Edgewood Rd., died March 15, 1999 at home.

A native of Gaston County, he was the son of the late John Odom and Blanche McGill Ross. He was also preceded in death by a brother Norman Ross and sister Mary Ellen Ross. He was an honorably discharged WWII U.S. Army Corporal 5th Class in the Medical Corp. He graduated in 1949 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy. He retired in 1985 from Smith's Drug Store in Gastonia after 36 years of service.

He is survived by his wife of the home Catherine Hunter Ross; son and daughter in law David and Cheryl Ross of Charlotte; daughter and son in law Marilyn and James Wooten of Lansing, N.C.; daughter Phyllis Jean Ross of the home; brother John Ross of Charlotte; sister Betty Ross Turner of Charlotte; grandchildren John and Anna Wooten; step-grandchildren Mindy, Stephanie, and Joshua Edsall.

The funeral was conducted Wednesday by the Rev. Robert Mitschke at 11 am at Grace Lutheran Church in Bessemer City. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery in Kings

Mountain. Pallbearers were Peter Beck, Ricky Hager, Bill Morris, Michael and Reggie O'Brien, Tony Sosebee, and Joe Turner.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Grace Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 185, Bessemer City 28016.

Please Recycle!

**DAVID NEILL**  
CHARLOTTE - David Moore Neill, 71, died Wednesday, March 10, 1999 at Mercy Hospital.

A native of Charlotte, he was the son of the late Buren Schuford Neill and Elizabeth McComb Neill. He was a graduate of Kings Mountain High School and received his BS Degree in Business Administration from Davidson College, where he played basketball and football, and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. He also attended Northwestern University for graduate studies.

He married the late Jean Webb Neill in 1949, and moved to Charlotte in 1954 as a trust officer at American Trust Bank. His career in banking included serving as Senior VP and Trust officer at NCNB and First Union, as well as writing a financial planning column for the Charlotte News. In the late 1960's, he started his own businesses in financial services, real estate, and insurance.

He was a charter member of Providence United Methodist Church, where he had taught Sunday School. He also coached Little League and was an active member of the YMCA and Myers Park Country Club. He was a truly unique man who never met a stranger and had a kind word for everyone. He was a true family man and was devoted to his wife, children, and grandchildren. He loved all sports, especially golf, basketball, and swimming at the YMCA.

He is survived by his wife, Cleone B. Neill; four daughters, Kathy Herran and husband, Pete Herran, of Charlotte; Libby Sturgis and husband, Gerald Sturgis, of Rock Hill, SC; Allison Richardson and husband, David Richardson, of Charlotte; and Stephanie Neill, and her fiancé, Robert Harner, of Charlotte; seven grandchildren, David Herran, Cannon Herran, Forrest Sturgis, Mark Sturgis, Alex Sturgis, Kate Richardson, and Beth Richardson; brother, Robert H. Neill and wife, Betty Neill, of Charlotte; and sister, Elizabeth Fortune and husband, Jack Fortune, of Blowing Rock.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Jean Webb Neill, in 1984, and his brother, Buren S. Neill, in 1992.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Terry Swicegood and Dr. George Thompson at 2 p.m. Friday at Harry and Bryant Chapel in the Oaks, Charlotte. Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery, Kings Mountain.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association, 1300 Baxter Street, Charlotte, NC 28204; Davidson College, 102 North Main Street, Davidson, NC 28036; Central YMCA, 400 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28202; or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Harry and Bryant Company was in charge of arrangements.

**ADA WRIGHT**  
SHELBY - Mrs. Ada McSwain Wright, 87, Linville Manor, died Wednesday, March 10, 1998 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

She was preceded in death by two children, Mrs. Dean "Mary" Garver and Douglas Wright.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, G.E. "Elwyn" Wright; four children, Patsy Gomez of Naples, FL, William Wright of Naples, FL, Brad Wright of Morristown, TN, and Milton Wright of Cary; nine grandchildren, Richard Weathers of Hilton Head Island, SC, Robert Weathers of Sanford, FL, Charles Weathers of St. Helenas Island, SC, Kelly Masingo and Kasi Wright of Morristown, TN, Richard Wright of Fayetteville, Victor Wright of Winston-Salem, Donna Barrineau of Atlanta, GA, and Dale Wright of Cary; 14 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; brother, J.L. McSwain of Shelby; and sisters, Helen Dellinger of Kings Mountain and Nancy Harmon of Morganton.

The funeral was conducted by Pastor Ervin Price and Dr. Wade Dellinger at 11 a.m. Friday at Mulls Memorial Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Mulls Memorial Baptist Church, 3299 Fallston Road, Shelby, NC 28150.

**WILLIAM CHRISTENSON**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - William Allen Christenson, 60, 307 Bell Rd., died March 14, 1999 at Wendover Hospice Facility in Shelby.

A native of McEwen, Tennessee, he was the son of the late Gus and Mary Christenson. He was also preceded in death by brother Chester Christenson, and sisters Alice Christenson and Elmyra Anderson. He was a 27-year employee of Plastic Products in Kings Mountain. He was also a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, a member of American Legion Post #155, and a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Kings Mountain.

He is survived by his wife Myrtle Dunn Christenson; aunt Idella Flanery of McEwen, Tennessee; cousin Nancy Clarke of Braverton, Michigan; brothers in law Andrew Dunn and wife Joyce of Gaffney, S.C., Arlie Dunn and wife Nancy of Lincolnton, N.C., and Amos Dunn and wife Mary of High Shoals, N.C.

A graveside service was conducted Tuesday at 11 am at Mountain Rest Cemetery. A memorial service was held at 2 pm Tuesday at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church by the Rev. James Dougherty.

Memorials may be made to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 201 N. Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain 28086, or to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, 28150.

# KINGS MOUNTAIN WEATHER REPORT

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	March 10-16	Year Ago
Total precipitation	.53	.02
Maximum 1 day	.33 (14th)	.02 (16th)
Year to date	9.99	19.02
Min. temperature	27 (10th, 11th)	20 (11th)
Max. temperature	66 (16th)	72 (14th)
Average temperature	44.8	42.1

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