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KM looks to year 2000

Counting down to 2,000 city officials predict a bright future for Kings Mountain.

"We will be focusing on our priorities and one of our big efforts will be to build a water line from the lake to town from both directions of the Highway 74 bypass so that we can offer services to a wider area," said Mayor Scott Neisler.

The mayor says it's almost a foregone conclusion that Council may up the sewer rate to Kings Mountain customers in the light of a 18 percent increase over the past two years from Gastonia.

"We have been eating those increased costs for years and we just can't do it anymore," said Neisler.

The mayor said that over the past 10 year contract with Gastonia that the neighboring city has raised the inside industrial rate to Kings Mountain 47 percent.

The mayor explained that Kings Mountain is not meeting its minimum requirement for sewage treatment in the contract to Gastonia but still must pay the minimum charges.

Other projections for near future:

+The beginning of projects/phases in a five year \$2.4 million capital improvements program.

+ By 2000 the proposed new Kings Mountain Senior Center should be a reality.

Conceptional designs for the \$1 million facility are being completed.

+ Paving will begin this spring on 25 city streets, a half million dollar project to be paid for by 1998-99 and 1999-2000 Powell Bill funds.

+Also, this spring the Department of Transportation will be paving N. C. 161 from city limits to city limits and DOT will be paving 261 from city limits to city limits.

+ More annexation is in the future following the city's largest annexation last year.

+The city plans to use the receipts from a proposed hotel luxury tax to develop a tourism and marketing program.

+A natural gas expansion

study is proposed in the new budget year and in the future possibly a \$1 million expansion.

+Developing a park downtown in cooperation with the Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association with a gazebo and clock

+Developing a web site with Internet and email capability

+Cooperation in the S. Battleground project to extend water and sewer to Franklin Minerals, a half million dollar expansion program.

+Addressing all code violations in an effort to help beautify Kings Mountain.

In 1999-2000 some major projects will be completed.

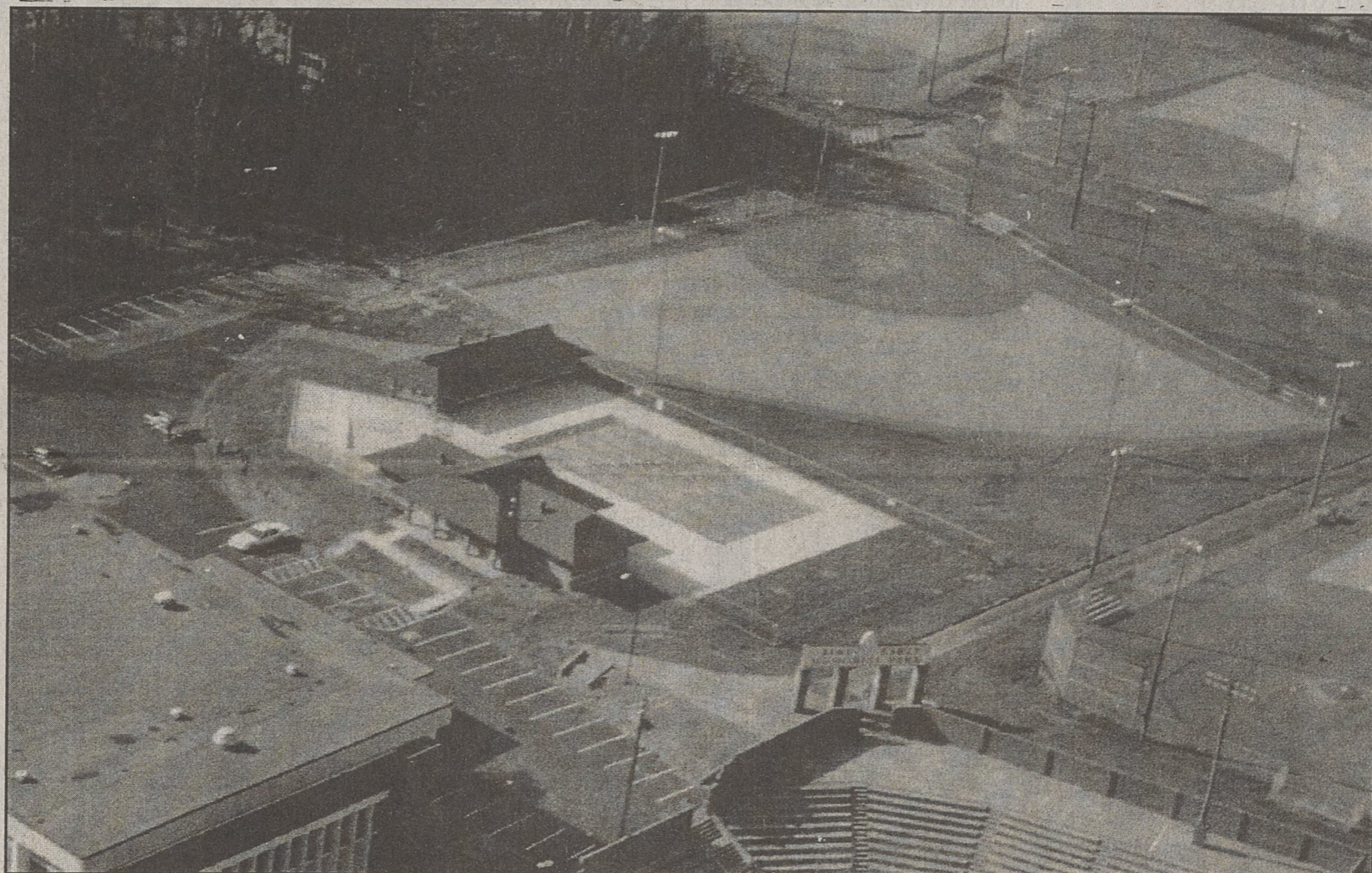
+ The \$1 million plus Law Enforcement Center should be

ready to open in the summer. Anyone who drives by the construction work at the corner of Mountain and Piedmont Avenue can see much activity.

+ Rids will be taken soon for the new Children's Wing at Jacob S. Mauney Memorial Library. Community donations have exceeded over \$600,000 to build the new addition.

+ Recreational facilities, virtually completed in 1998, will see the addition of bathrooms at Deal Street and Davidson Parks and contracted maintenance for grassing at both facilities.

1999 is an election year. In November all seats on City Council and the mayor's seat are up for grabs.



new Deal Street recreational complex was completed in 1998

City spent \$5 million on '98 projects

\$5 million. That's the price tag on city projects completed in 1998 or to be completed in 1999.

Check them off.
+The \$1.6 million Kings Mountain Law Enforcement Center is expected to be completed in late August.

+The \$1 million plus recreation complexes at Deal Street and Davidson Parks. Additional parking and lights will complete the Davidson im-

provements this summer and then its play ball for little league and soccer teams.

+The \$650,000 swimming pool opened last summer and is adjacent to the Kings Mountain Community Center which was also refurbished at cost of about \$40,000.

+The Children's Wing/Mauney Memorial Library addition was aided by a \$100,000 contribution from the city and over \$500,000 in pledges from

Kings Mountain area citizens.

+A totally rebuilt downtown underground electric system at cost of \$200,000.

+In addition, the city's largest annexation in the city's history went into effect in 1998. Benchmark of Kannapolis, the city's consultants, are proposing a new study for the 1999-2000 budget year.

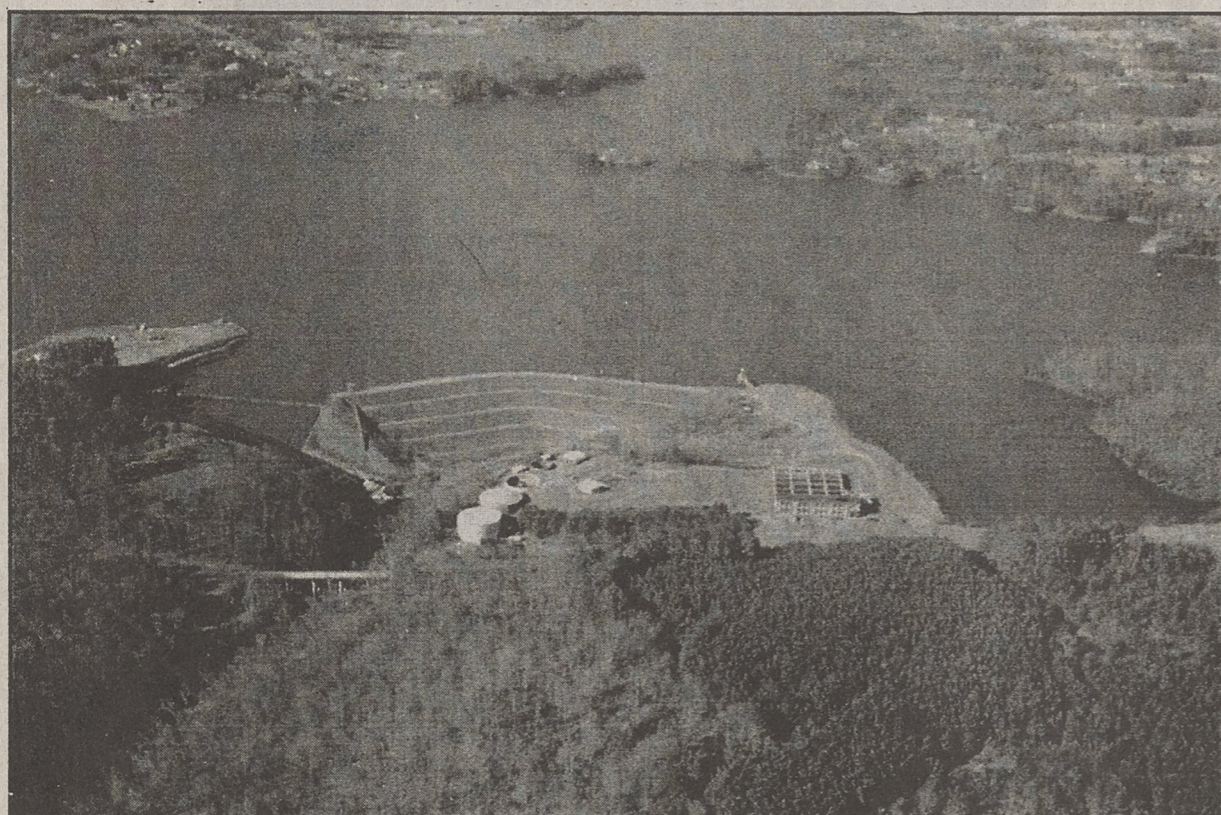
+A Scada system update \$60,000 but this gives additional backup to the Peak Generation

Plant which has paid for itself, a big electricity cost savings plan implemented by the city in the second year of a four year pay back period.

+An updated computer system is ready for 2000. The utility collection department was revamped and moved to the lobby of city hall to better serve customers. Now a utility customer can pay his water, gas, electric and sewer bills with cash, check or credit card.

+Water/sewer improvements of \$400,000, the biggie the No. 3 basin at Pilot Creek, and the city is reapplying with the state for upgraded permit to increase capacity.

+Grant projects for housing rehabilitation and running of water and sewer lines to Lake Montonia and other areas, over \$1 million.



Moss Lake one of Kings mountain's greatest resources



Work under way on Dixon Road extension to Highway 74