

SENATE

From 1A

ranked 48th in the U.S. in SAT scores. I think it's time to do some innovative things. I do not believe that making a system larger would necessarily help. I was very much against merger, because I think that loses accountability in our area. I want the parents to have a say-so in their schools, and not the bureaucracy in Raleigh telling us how we should run our schools."

4 - Reducing state regulations:

Neisler said many of the regulations states impose on cities end up with hidden costs that result in higher local tax rates and costs for services.

He spoke specifically of a law requiring nitrogen removal from wastewater discharge, which he said will only remove 10 percent of the nitrogen runoff from pasture land into streams.

He charged that the requirement will cost Kings Mountain an extra \$400,000 to clean the nitrogen out of wastewater "but it's only going to correct 10 percent" of the problem.

"That's sort of like going to get your car tuned up and the mechanic only replaces one spark plug," he said. "It's not going to take care of the problem, but you're going to pay full price for the tune up."

"Those are hidden costs that end up hurting you in utility bills, a cost that people on fixed income have to bear every month. When they create legislation like that it makes it harder to attract industry. We have requirements that South Carolina doesn't have, and in many cases our environmental rules are stricter than the national EPA."

Dalton, who is Co-Chair of the Committee on Education/Higher Education, lists education as his top priority. He supports pay raises for teachers, more support "for one of the nation's most effective school accountability programs," and school safety measures.

"I'm for continuing to im-

prove our public schools and keeping our community colleges and universities strong and responsive to the people," he said.

Dalton said he pushed a proposal to boost community job training programs by changing the unemployment tax laws. The new changes will provide employers in good standing with reduced unemployment rates and pump more than \$98 million in the next three years to community colleges for new equipment and technology and enhanced worker training programs, he said. He said he also backed the bond referendum that, if approved, will provide \$600,000 to NC community colleges to help them address increasing enrollment and facility needs.

2 - Economy:

Dalton said the General Assembly must "make sure that the prosperity that North Carolina has enjoyed is enjoyed throughout the state," specifically citing rural areas.

"In order to do that, we have to continue to invest in education, and particularly our community college system," he said.

Citing a down economy in the textile business, he said the state must provide job loss assistance. He said he pushed for extra funds for counties with the most business closings and permanent layoffs during the last fiscal year.

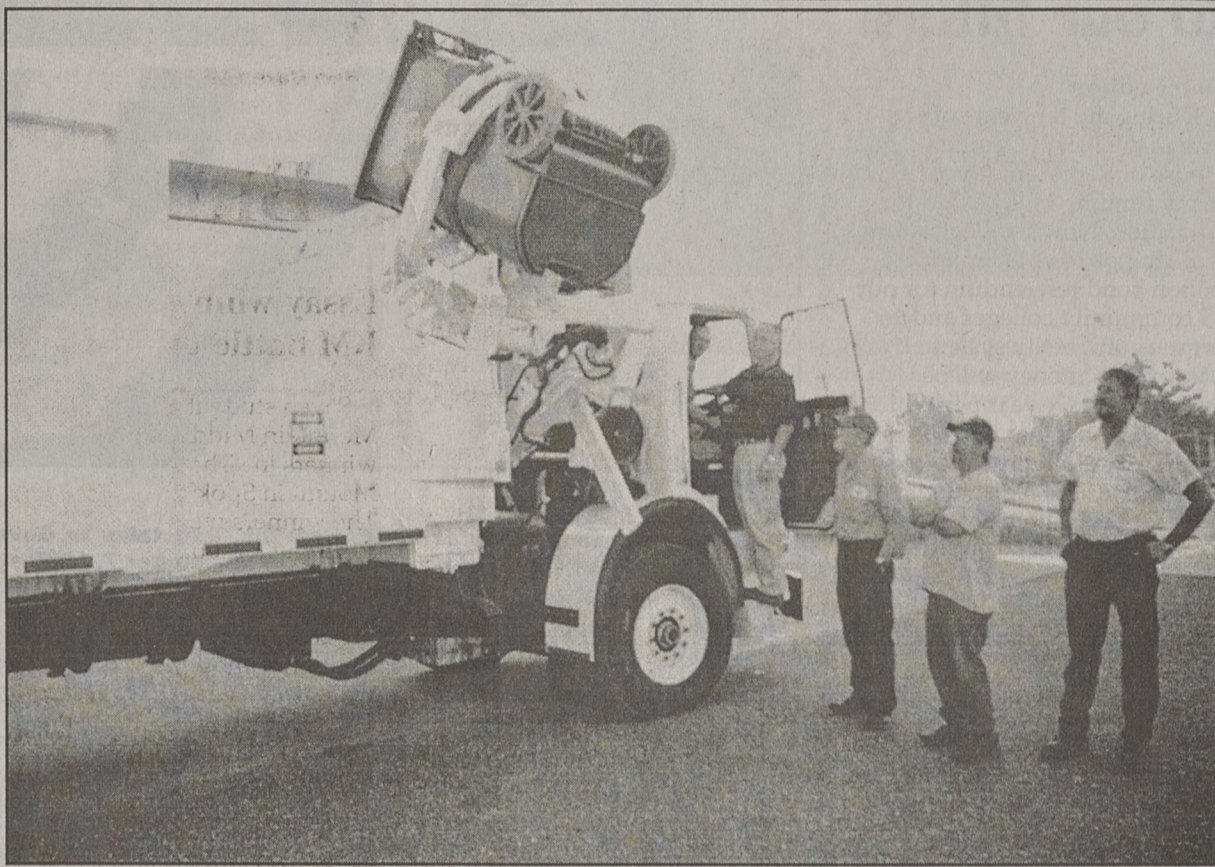
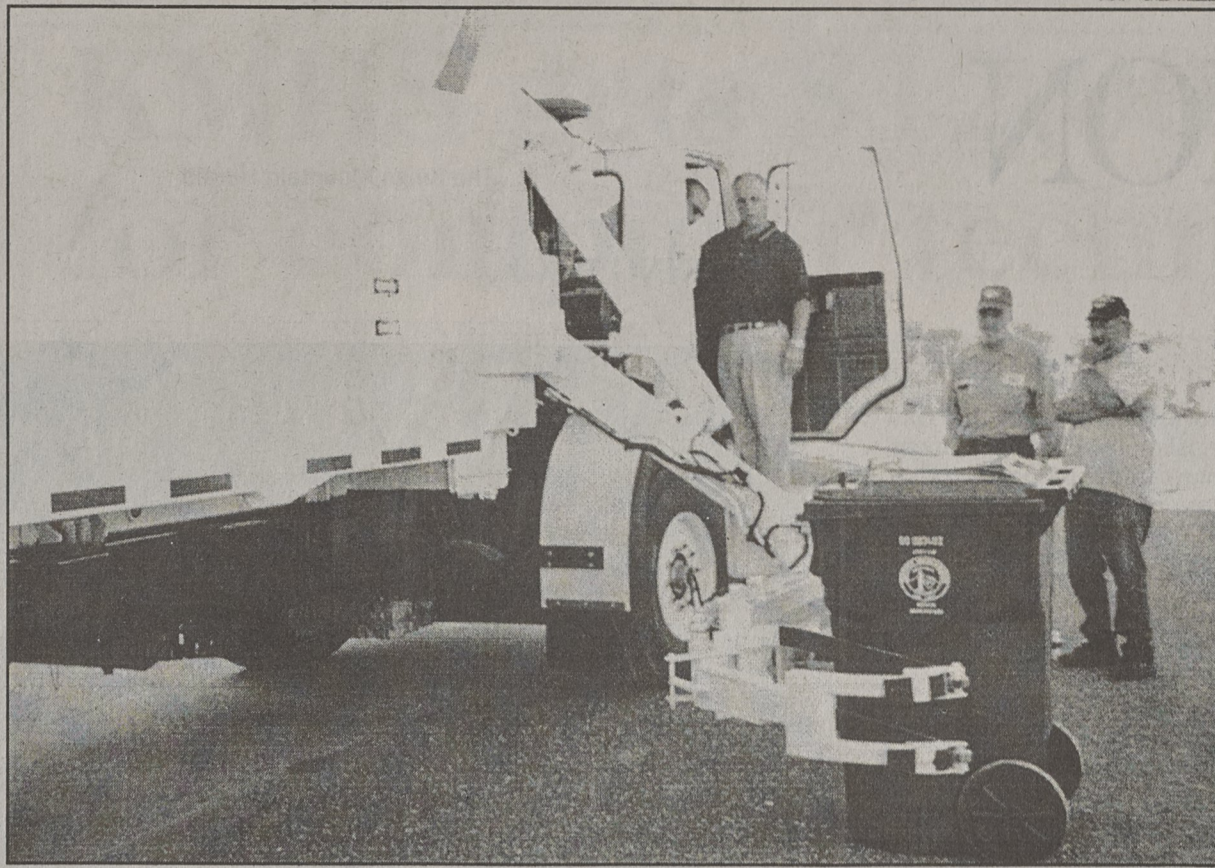
3 - Fiscal responsibility:

"We must take care of the people's money and make sure we invest it wisely," he said.

4 - Protecting children and families:

Dalton said governmental agencies should be able to request only the essential information it needs on citizens, and only for the purpose for which they need it.

"I think sometimes we go form happy and ask for far too much information," he said. "We should also address laws that give people the right to their own information, such as medical and credit reports, and look at the possibility of not letting that information being shared with anyone else without explicit permission."



Maxwell Taylor (standing at door of truck), Vice President of Sales for Carolina Environmental Systems, Inc. teaches Kings Mountain Public Works Department employees how to operate their new automated refuse collection truck. The truck should be in service this week.

GARBAGE

From 1A

long run.

When placing the item in their 2000-01 fiscal year budget, city officials said that after the initial cost of the truck, going to an automated curbside pickup system should save the city approximately \$160,000 a year.

That is possible, they stress, because the system will require fewer employees, cover more area in faster time, and result in fewer trips to the landfill.

Taylor pointed out that the Heil-manufactured DPF Formula 7000 truck, should average holding 10 tons of refuse. Barnette said that is about the amount collected in one day in Kings Mountain, thus requiring only one trip per day to the landfill.

It should serve approximately 1,000 customers a day, they said.

The truck features a 72" automatic arm, which at the touch of a handle by the truck driver can pick up the garbage at curbside, dump it into the truck, and return the garbage container to curbside. Because the entire process is automated, only a driver is required to run the route.

Barnette said the truck automatically compacts the trash as it is dumped.

Barnette and Taylor stressed steps that residents should take to make the system work efficiently:

Place containers two feet away from the curb, and three feet away from any fence, mailbox, utility pole, etc. The automatic arm needs three feet clearance on each side of the container to pick it up.

Clearance from power lines and anything else above the container, needs to be at least 7'4".

If a resident has two containers, place them approximately three feet apart.

The wheels and handles of the containers need to face the residence, not the street.

Maxwell said the automated pickup system has been in North Carolina since 1984, and each year becomes more popular.

"The system actually came into being in the early 1970s in the midwest," he explained. "Greensboro was the pioneer in North Carolina, and it quickly spread to other towns nearby. Once you get it in one area, it's like a rocket science. Everybody wants in on it."

Barnette said the city plans to add another automated truck in the future. Until that time, one of the old trucks that requires a

driver and two garbage pullers, will also be on duty.

CONTRACT

From 1A

amount of \$508,000; electrical construction to Bryant Electric of Gastonia, \$154,000; plumbing construction to Goforth Plumbing of Kings Mountain, \$71,335; and mechanical construction to Gastonia Sheet Metal Works, \$121,150.

Maney noted that all were base bids without contingencies, and any change orders would have to come back before Council. He also noted that donations of materials were not considered in the proposals. If donations come forth, that will decrease the total cost.

The general contract includes a \$500 per day penalty if the Center is not completed by August 31, 2001.

Council had to approve several budget amendments to fund the project, however it was pointed out that it is paper transfers only and will not affect any other planned capital projects.

Maney said \$500,000 initially earmarked for a new fire station will be used for the project during this fiscal year since the fire department project is running late anyway. That project could get under way in March but most of the expenditures would not occur until the 2001-02 fiscal year, he said.

Approximately \$550,000 from the gas and electric department funds that had been earmarked for a warehouse will also be used, thus delaying that project until the next fiscal year.

Funding of the Senior Center would come from the general fund \$115,000; gas fund, \$605,000; electric fund \$1,462,202; private donations \$432,798; and Cleveland County, \$150,000.

The city originally budgeted \$1.3 million for the Senior Center, but many changes were made to the original plans, Maney noted. The only money coming out of the 2001-02 budget for the center is expected to be approximately \$150,000 from gas, \$150,000 from electric, and \$115,000 from the general fund.

"As the project moved along it became a gateway to Cleveland County and became more of a conference center," Maney said. "Hopefully we're accomplishing some real needs in the community to be an all-purpose facility."

Councilman Gene White noted that the city upgraded the original plans for the new Law Enforcement Center, "but we have a show place that will last for 200 years. This will put a new face on Kings Mountain."

Mayor Rick Murphrey agreed, adding that the Senior Center "will meet the needs of citizens for many years."

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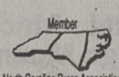
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BATTLE

From 1A

said rifleman Mark Ewing of Lincolnton.

Ewing and his fellow militiamen were dressed in buckskin and homespun clothes. Just like the men who fought in the battle over 200 years ago, they carried black powder long rifles and Brown Bess muskets.

Also clad in similar garb were the traditional Overmountain Victory Trail marchers. About 30 marchers made this year's celebration. Leader George Stephens spoke to the crowd.

"Listen, and you can still hear the sounds of guns and smoke on the mountain," Stephens said. "Those squirrels hunters found their mark, protecting the land they loved. They turned the war around."

Many other dignitaries also spoke at the commemoration. Among these were author Dan Morrill, park superintendent Broadbent, and Rich Sussman of the National Park Service. Kings Mountain mayor Rick Murphrey also delivered a message.

"Our celebration today is to reflect and show our appreciation to the memory of the heroes of our great nation and region who so unselfishly gave of themselves to establish the freedom and liberty that we enjoy," Murphrey said.

Later in the afternoon a wreath laying ceremony was held at the monument on top of Kings Mountain. Over 40 wreaths of laurel and flowers were placed in tribute to the Patriots who fought there.

Diabetes forum coming to Gastonia

The Gaston County Health Department will sponsor a forum Saturday, November 4 for diabetes patients and their families. Participants will learn how to eat healthy and help control their diabetes. Door prizes, refreshments and exhibits by diabetes supplies vendors will be on display.

For more information, call Jill Sherron at 853-5139.

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