

MEETING

From 1A

property owner.

"There's nothing uglier than a pile of branches or a pile of junk on the side of the street," he said. "We recently spent tons of money tearing down the old Falls service station building because it was unsightly. We spend tons of money cutting people's grass because it is unsightly. Some we bill, some we don't. My contention is, why can we do this and why discriminate against a man for a pile of trash? I think it should be picked up whether it's brush, a refrigerator or whatever."

The way the proposed ordinance is written would result persons clearing a large amount of trees or shrubs to take up to seven cubic yards a week to curbside over a period of several weeks until it is gone, or pay the city to remove it.

"If I cut down a tree I don't want to put half of it out this week and half next week," Spears said.

Councilman Jim Guyton also had some concerns, especially in cases of elderly people who are not physically able to move piles of brush. They often have to hire someone to trim trees and have the contractor place them at curbside.

"I don't think this would be a fair policy for them," he said. "If a man is able to do it, he should do it. If not, I don't see making them pay for the city to pick it up."

Councilman Bob Hayes echoed Guyton's concern. "If elderly persons have trees and can't afford to hire a contractor to move them, the city should. They're taxpayers."

Spears pointed out that the instances of huge piles of branches left at curbside are probably only about a dozen a year.

"Let's quit beating this dead horse and go on."

-Carl DeVane



"That point's well taken," said Councilman Gene White. "We have 4,500 households in the city and it seems to me that we're saying if we don't have rules nobody has to worry about taking responsibility. We have to have some kind of guidelines that everyone can comply with, and then adjust it if you have a unique situation."

White suggested that all members of City Council attend the May meeting of the Utility Committee and voice their opinions so the committee can work on the proposed ordinance some more.

Council voted 5-1 to send the matter back to the Utility Committee. DeVane cast the lone no vote. He said much favoritism has been shown to certain people from certain city officials and employees in the past, and there needs to be a consistent policy which applies to everyone.

"This has been discussed over and over," DeVane said. "Nobody's in favor of anything unless it affects them. I don't think it's fair to citizens to have favoritism - I'll do it this time for you but I won't do it for anyone else."

"Let's quit beating this dead horse and go on."

In another matter last week, City Council approved a new set of water and sewer tap fees. The 3/4" water tap used by most residences will increase from \$400 to \$600 inside the city and \$800 to \$1,200 outside the city.

Shaw said there has been no precedent set of a merger decision being challenged successfully.

"I just certainly hope the cases go in our favor," School Board member Sherra Miller said.

Miller said she wants to stop dealing with the legal issues of the merger right now.

"We've been fighting for over a year and a half, and hopefully we'll come closer to reaching a conclusion that will be favorable for Kings Mountain, that we will be able to get maintain our school system so we can get back to the business of educating our children."

would like to cover our own area."

The rescue squad is also responsible for covering the City Lake and Davison Lake on York Road.

Squad member Jennifer Rucker said she would like to get rid of the bridge and barbed wire off Zeb Cline Road because of a bad undercurrent at the area.

Members of the squad said there are other objects in the lake.

On the job stress for emergency workers is higher than average, and after incidents like a drowning, dealing with it involves a form of counseling.

After the Moss Lake drowning, the squad had to receive a debriefing.

The Western North Carolina Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team from Asheville is called in 24-36 hours after work on an accident is complete.

Dewey Cook, with Cleveland County Emergency Management, said that the team is called in after fires, drownings and other accidents involving a fatality.

School kids give ideas on proposed city playground

BY BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain's children will have their say in the proposed new playground.

Thursday, Mayor Rick Murphrey and John Dean from Leathers & Associates, Ithaca, NY, went to Kings Mountain elementary schools to solicit ideas from the students on what the design should have.

The students at East Elementary School were not short of ideas.

The ideas included benches, slides and a tree house.

And when architect John Dean asked the group how they wanted it, they said, "extremely high!"

"We're interviewing hundreds and hundreds of kids in the town," Dean said. "It's a process that really needs to do that."

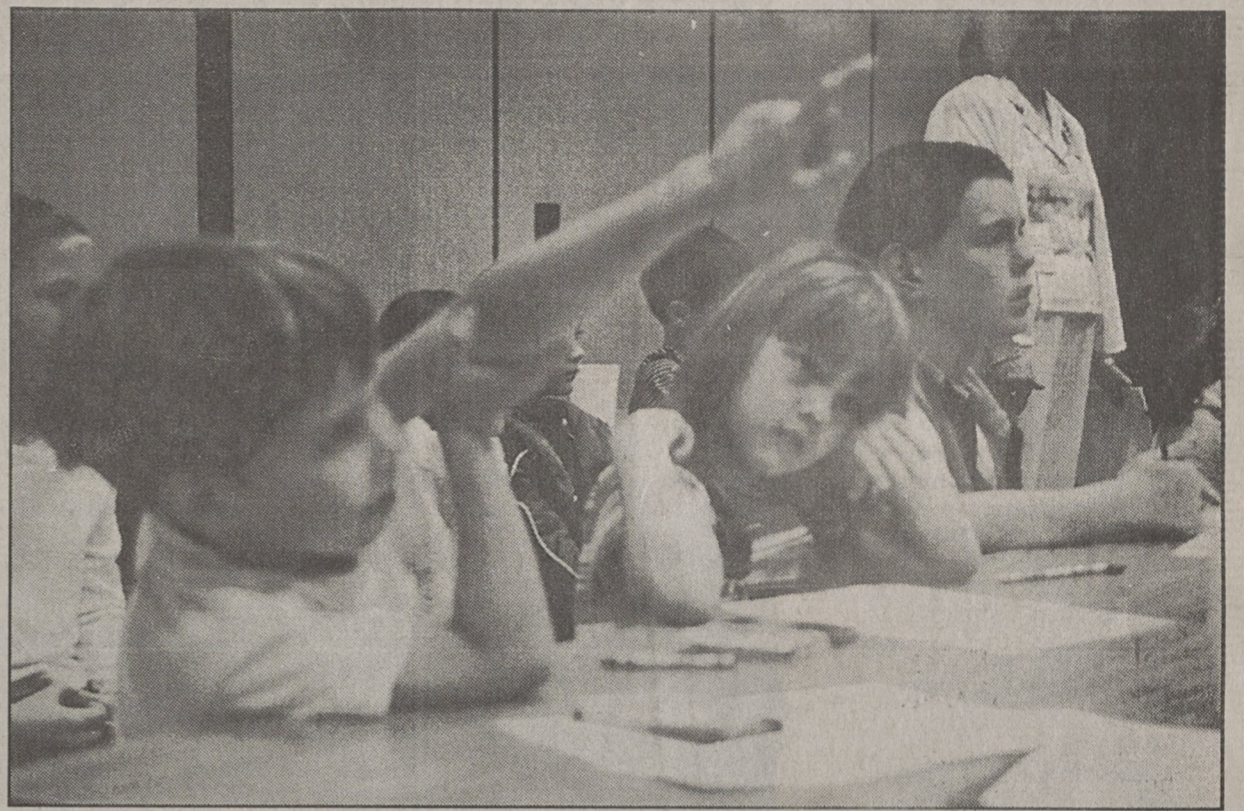
The playground will be built with entirely volunteer labor, and Dean said that more people will make the design better.

It is scheduled to be built in the fall, and is scheduled to take five-six days to build.

"The more people you have building these things, the more elaborate, the fancier they are. The less people you have the smaller they are. So, we're shooting for the moon," he said.

Dean, whose firm does only parks and playgrounds, said that volunteer labor and kids both have impacts on the projects.

"To us, the kids are really the motivators for these things," Dean said. "And if people don't want to plug the kids into these and do it in a barn raising fashion, we just don't do them."



BEN LEDBETTER/THE HERALD
East Elementary School student Mitchell Hardee raises his hand Wednesday while Jada Mauney and Robert Barnes listen to the suggestions being made during design day for the new playground. Architect John Dean and representatives from the City of Kings Mountain went to the elementary schools to get ideas for the design.

After going around getting suggestions from the children, Dean took the ideas and made a design which was unveiled Thursday at City Hall.

Dean's first design of the project has the playground in the home plate corner of the Jake Early Field at the Kings Mountain YMCA.

In the design, the bleachers, and the stage with a gazebo, could serve as an amphitheater, Dean said.

Balance beams, and a dinosaur with a tongue as a slide,

was in the design.

Cost of the project is projected at \$70,000-\$100,000, and Dean said that was with a high amount of donated materials, without the gazebo, and without poured rubber for the surface.

Murphrey said the city will contribute toward the cost of building the playground.

"It takes the whole community to accomplish the project," Murphrey said. "We have a committee together, and all skill levels will be needed to work on that project."

The committee will be responsible for all phases from design to building.

"I'm very excited about it," said Committee Chairperson, Gina Collias, a Kings Mountain attorney. "I think Kings Mountain needs a wonderful playground, and I'm looking forward to working on it."

Collias also knows about the needs of children; she has some of her own.

"I have twin four-year old girls who are very excited about helping and wanting a playground," she said.

MERGER

From 1A

If it is dismissed it will stop the injunction.

"The challenge is not whether the merger is good or bad," Shaw said. "We think the merger is bad for education."

Shaw said the legal basis of the case is whether the Kings Mountain District runs into Gaston County, and if it did, Shaw said Gaston County Commissioners never approved the merger.

If all appeals are exhausted for the school system, the Justice Department in Washington will make the final decision in the matter.

RESCUE

From 1A

The next step will be continuing training, and getting equipment; it will need to raise some of the money for the rest of the training.

"Even though we're getting certified in open water in Florida, it doesn't just stop there," Serita Mull said. "Our continued training goes to deeper depth."

Squad member Jennifer Rucker said the cost of equipment for the eight person dive team is \$10,481.23, which would not include oxygen tanks.

Currently the squad already has snorkels, fins, masks and boots, and would need to raise approximately \$6,000 for the equipment.

Danny Smith said one reason the squad is taking the class is so it can be ready handle future water emergencies in its own coverage area.

"We actually need one because of the lake in the area, Moss Lake," Smith said. "It is our coverage area, and we

BUDGET

From 1A

Kings Mountain plans to continue to push for a satellite health department even though Cleveland County Commissioners recently mailed the mayor a letter stating that the county would not fund anything that wasn't funded last year. The city originally earmarked \$20,000 for the project and the County was to pay approximately \$40,000. Murphrey said the city will consider providing more funds for the project so it can become a reality. It would be housed in the new medical facility on East King Street.

"We're going to make that happen, even if we have to put in more money than we anticipated, because that's something that is needed in Kings Mountain," Murphrey said. "People can come here instead of having to go all the way to Shelby. It would offer pretty much the same services that are

offered at the Cleveland County Health Department."

Murphrey said the city will continue an aggressive drug enforcement effort and downtown revitalization, and will work hard on economic development to bring more jobs to the area.

The city will complete approximately \$1 million in mandated water improvements into newly-annexed areas of Canterbury Road, Hillway Road and Galilee Road. The city received over \$700,000 in grants toward those projects.

Murphrey said community quality of life activities and beautification will continue to be a strong focus. The light posts in the downtown area will be painted and more banners will be ordered for use during different seasons of the year.

"All in all, this is a good budget," Murphrey said. "If you take out all of the mandated charges, the senior center and fire station and the additional energy costs, there's not a lot of big capital projects planned for this year."

Kings Mountain Weather Report

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	Apr. 25-May 1	Year Ago
Total precipitation	.10	1.23
Maximum one day	.10 (25th)	.67 (28th)
Year to date	15.07	18.95
Low temp.	44 (26th)	43 (26th)
High temp.	83 (28th)	77 (20th)
Avg. temp.	63.6	59.0

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

Now Enrolling

K-6th

No Tuition

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL IS A PUBLIC SCHOOL OFFERING A CHALLENGING CURRICULUM WITH A UNIFORM DRESS CODE. CALL FOR INFORMATION/ENROLLMENT PACKAGE.

853-2428

www.pccharter.org

CENTRAL CAMPUS (EAST SECOND AVENUE)

This School Will Not Discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

BBQ Lunch Glamour Photography Session

May 19, 2001 BBQ Lunch 11:00 am - 2:00 pm \$5.00 per plate
Glamour Magic Photography Session \$9.95 per Session
Includes 8 x 10 photo. Full Cosmetic Makeover and Hairstyling
Instant Portrait Viewing. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Photo session will be held at the church over a 4 day period. Company will contact ticket holders to set up appointments.

Phone Ann Bennett at 704-739-7789 or Norma Moose at 704-739-5600 to purchase Glamour Magic Photography Session Tickets.
All proceeds go to the Youth Fund at Kings Mountain Baptist Church.
Church location: 101 West Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 Church Phone 704-739-2516

Kings Mountain Baptist Church
101 West Mountain Street
Kings Mountain
704-739-2516

FAX US YOUR AD (704) 739-0611

Remember to include your name, address, and phone number. **IT'S FAST - IT'S EASY!**

"Celebrate Down Home Day with Us"

Where There is Always a Sale!

Come by & Get Your Mother's Day Present While Enjoying the Festival.

117 East Virginia Ave., Bessemer City (704) 629-3594 Open 10am - 6pm Mon. - Sat.

It's Strawberry Season!

Farmer's Market
Now Open:

7:30 am - 7pm Weekdays
7:30 am - 5pm Saturdays
1-5pm Sundays

Kings Mountain
(704) 739-6602

The Herald

Published every Thursday
Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086
USPS 118-880 by Republic Newspapers, Inc.
Postmaster, send address changes to:
P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611
Office: 824-1 East King Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086
E-mail: kmhnews@aol.com

Mike Blanton.....Publisher
Gary Stewart.....Editor
Ben Ledbetter.....Staff Writer
Stacy Godfrey Kale.....Advertising Manager
Shelley Campbell.....Composition Manager

Mail Subscription Rates

Payable in Advance. All Prices include 6% NC State Sales Tax.

	1 Year	6 Months
Gaston & Cleveland County	\$24.25	\$15.75
Other NC Counties	\$25.50	\$17.00
Outside NC	\$30.00	\$19.00