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KM City Council candidate arrested in video poker sting

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

A candidate for Kings Mountain City Council who was arrested in a video poker sting Friday morning says his arrest may or may not have been politically motivated, but the fact that his picture was the only one of the arrestees appearing on television indicates to him he may have been

targeted for political reasons.

Glenn Carroll, owner of Community Grocery and an At-Large candidate for City Council in the November election, was one of 15 persons arrested by law enforcement officials from the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department and Kings Mountain Police.

Carroll faces one count of gambling and one count of manufacture/sell slot machines.

He was released on a \$1,000 bond and will be in court this Friday to set a hearing date.

Carroll said if he is found guilty of the misdemeanor, he will no longer allow video poker machines in his business. If he is found not guilty, he said he will continue to have video poker machines.

Captain Billy Benton of the

See Arrest Page 3A



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
 City Council candidate and local businessman Glenn Carroll is escorted out of his business in video poker sting Friday morning.

KM Council denies PUD development

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

Amid much resident disdain, Kings Mountain City Council unanimously denied a rezoning request Tuesday which would have allowed a proposed planned unit development or PUD in the Cansler St. area.

Barry Ledford, who lives near the area where the proposed development was going to go, said he was pleased with the results.

"I think the city council did the right thing," Ledford said. "I think they did as the people asked them to do."

Ledford had presented a petition signed by approximately 117 of the residents in the affected area.

A proposed lake in the development was another problem for Ledford, who drew on thoughts from living near the mines as a child.

"It was apparent, one false step and you would fall 50 feet into the water," Ledford said. "I can't imagine living right up against it."

Greg Miller, who was representing Charlotte resident and the owner of the Cansler St. land, Ellen Ferro, had submitted a second amendment to the initial application.

The amendment reduces the number of total lots from 576 to 470 with reductions made in the east, north and south phases of the development.

Miller said the project would be reduced by 20 percent. He said he was disappointed with Tuesday's vote.

"It's a shame the City of Kings Mountain is not is not in favor of progressive housing opportunities," Miller said.

Miller said his company, Delphin Properties, would not reapply for the rezoning request. He would not give any further information concerning the company's existence or record of past developments.

Traffic on Cansler St. and North Elementary School would not be adversely affected, Miller said, citing studies done by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Kings Mountain District Schools.

The proposed development would have also been close to the Oglebay-Norton quarry, which processes mica.

Oglebay-Norton employee David Williamson said the company, which operates seven days a week, would present several problems to residents near the plant such as back up alarms, lighting and the company's 24-hour operation schedule.

Williamson said the site has been zoned for heavy industrial use since 1941.

Steve Proffitt said the development would be too dense and would eventually not meet the expectations of residents.

"I do not think there is any way in the world that it would be a quality project we could be proud of," Proffitt said.

Council member Clavon Kelly said he was initially in favor of the PUD proposed by Ferro.

"They are needed in appropriate areas," Kelly said.

See Council Page 3A

Playground to be built next week

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

What started as an idea will soon be a reality as the Project Playground Committee will hold its build days September 4-9 at the Cleveland Ave. site near the walking track.

While the build is scheduled to occur, Committee Volunteer Coordinator Michelle Lynch said approximately 2,500 volunteers are still needed for the build. Lynch said an estimated 1,000 have already signed up and more are expected during the weekend build days.

Ashley Harris, who has been working on fund raising for the playground, said finding volunteers has been a challenge.

"That's probably our biggest roadblock right now," Harris said. "It seems to me everyone is excited about it."

The committee is also looking for tools such as electrical cords, hammers, levels, ladders, shovels and rakes.

Some of the area firms donating time, money or tools include Cunningham Bricks of Grover and Kings Mountain's Goforth Plumbing.

Leathers & Associates, a New York firm, will be used to supervise the build.

The New York firm supervises community builds of parks, day care centers and zoos; and Leathers was used to help build Gastonia's Martha Rivers Park.

The City of Kings Mountain has donated \$250,000 to the project, which project organizers said will go toward site improvements such as grading. The committee has also raised approximately \$12,000 which will go toward wood picket fence on the perimeter of the playground site.

Initial project estimates were approximately \$100,000 but organizers said that did not include the cost of landscaping, food or chid care.

The playground will be divided into a lot for younger children and one for older children with both parts being similar.

A pirate ship and dolphins are expected to be built, a moat at the castle entrance, several slides and a rock climbing wall.

The pirate ship and dolphins will have a water mist that will spray when a button is pressed.

The younger children's lot will have a model of a village with a bank, courthouse and pool.

Other equipment scheduled to be built are two xylophones, approximately four feet long.



BEN LEDBETTER/THE HERALD
 Preparations for the September playground build dates move forward as workers perform grading work recently at the playground site on Cleveland Ave.

The xylophones will be made of PVC pipe, wood and metal, and will be designed for children to play musically.

Charlotte firm Pavilion is donating time to build an entrance to the playground which will resemble a castle with a wall that will have a wall decorated with hand tile prints projecting off of both sides of the entrance. It is also building the gravel walking track next to Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Kings Mountain Fire Department's second station on Shelby Rd.

After the project is built the city and the Kings Mountain YMCA will jointly maintain the playground, Kings Mountain YMCA Director David Ozmore said. The YMCA will do routine maintenance while the city and the YMCA will collaborate on major maintenance tasks.

"It will enhance our programs," Ozmore said. "It's hard to comprehend how many members of the community will take advantage of it."

The playground's hours of operation and the YMCA's will coincide and it will be open to the public, Ozmore said.

Since the playground will be on the former Jake Early Field, a new field for t-ball is scheduled to be built as part of the project.

No plans to rename any or all of the athletics field for the late Kings Mountain native and former Washington Senators baseball player have been made, Ozmore said.

Once the playground is built Leathers & Associates suggested, on its web site, to form a volunteer committee to supervise maintenance of the playground.

"Each community organizes itself differently," the web site said about long term care. "But it's important to form some kind of group."

With proper care, the playground can last for approximately 25 years, according to the Leathers web site.

Satellite health clinic coming to KM

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

A new 3,000-square foot satellite office of the Cleveland County Health Department will open in Kings Mountain on Tuesday, September 4.

The health department will be located at the new medical facility on East King Street, directly across the street from the Kings Mountain Herald.

Business hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Due to limited staff, the office will be closed for lunch between 12-1 p.m.

Health Director Denese Stallings said the office will offer such services as blood pressure checks, TB screens, medication pickup, immunizations, screens for cholesterol, diabetes, pregnancy tests, hemocult tests, skin rash, head lice, and sexually transmitted diseases.

In addition, there will be various materials available on health issues and there will be occasional speciality clinics on topics such as family planning, women's, infant and children's programs, and alcohol abuse counseling.

Most of the services offered will be free. Some will have a small charge.

Stallings said the services offered will be constantly evaluated and other services can be added if the need arises.

"We will continue to evaluate to see what people need down here," Stallings said.

Initially, the office will be staffed by a full-time nurse, CNA and receptionist.

"We will evaluate the demand based on the number of people we serve," Stallings said. "I look for us to be real busy."

Currently, Stallings said approximately 5,000 Kings Mountain citizens visit the Cleveland County Health Department in Shelby on a yearly basis. That represents about one-fourth of the total number of clients.

"There may be some things they will still have to go to Shelby for," she said. "An example would be the maternity clinic. We don't have enough staff to have two of those in the county."

The Kings Mountain clinic is equipped with a large receptionist/waiting area, three exam rooms, a director's office, conference room and kitchenette.

"We're excited that this building is new and has never been occupied by anyone else," Stallings said. "It is first class."

Although Stallings' office will continue to be at the Health Department in Shelby, she said she will be visible in Kings Mountain and will make good use of her office here for counseling purposes. Special services will be available here by appointment.

The majority of the clientele of the Kings

Mountain office will be for walk-in medical services. She also invites Kings Mountain area citizens to come to the KM office to get information and to make appointments in Shelby for services not offered here.

The satellite office will be linked by computer to the County Health Department and all patients' records will be available to the KM staff.

Stallings is excited about placing an office here, and feels it will be heavily utilized.

"We hope to be a real asset to the medical community," she said.

Placing a health department here has been an 18-month joint effort by the Cleveland County Health Department's Board of Directors and the City of Kings Mountain.

"The city has been real instrumental in helping us provide these services," Stallings said. "We're excited about it. It will be better access for health care to the citizens on this end of the county."

Both Stallings and Mayor Rick Murphrey said transportation alone will be a big savings for the citizens of Kings Mountain.

"Transportation is a problem for a lot of people," Stallings said. "Hopefully this will help improve the health services for any citizen that needs to be seen."

See Health Page 3A



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
 Health Department Director Denese Stallings says the door is wide open for Kings Mountain area residents to visit the new KM satellite health department beginning Tuesday, September 4.



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