

Grover Town Council continues talk on park

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

The Grover Town Council continued its discussion of the park rules at its meeting Monday evening. This time, they had a list compiled of all of the discussion about the park from all of the Council meetings since 1992. Since September, 1997, they have charged everyone who wants to get the bathroom or ballfield key a non-refundable \$10. They hours of the park are from approximately 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

Town Clerk Barbara Barrett also researched some of the parks in neighboring areas. The Shelby City Park restrooms are left open when the park is open. The ballfields are open 24 hours a day. Kings Mountain contracts with the YMCA to take care of its recreational facilities. The restrooms are

opened as needed during the day, except at the walking track, where the restrooms are left open from about 5:30 a.m. until dark. The playground restroom is not left open on the week-ends, and it is winterized and reopened in mid-March.

Vandalism has played a major role in the Council's policies. Nonetheless, Councilman Bill Willis expressed his concern with the town's policies.

"Are we going to be held hostage by a few punks tearing things down?" he asked the other Council members.

In an effort to stop the vandalism, lights were installed in some parts of the park, and the police officer was instructed to give the park more coverage. Vandalism has not been as much of a problem at the park this year, though, said Willis.

However, Mayor Bill Favell pointed out that other areas of the community have been vandalized. For example, Bethany Baptist Church was vandalized recently, he said.

Mayor Pro Tem Max

Rollins said he doubted the ballfield could ever be left open all day. He said he would not be in favor of keeping it open all the time. He advised not changing the rules at this time.

Barrett said that right now, the ballfield is basically only allowed to be used by the Little League teams. Other people, like the industrial leagues, are not permitted to use the field.

Willis said that the park could be used by other people in town, as well. He said the Council needs to sit down and reexamine its policies.

"We need to let the people in town use it and enjoy it," he said.

Councilman Robert Hunt said, "We are not condemning anybody from using the park, just the ballfield and the restrooms."

Vandalism has cost the city a lot of money in the past, he said.

Willis also cited the petition signed by many of the people in town, including his and Hunt's wives, requesting the park be opened. Rollins said the petition was only for use of the park, not specifically the ballfield or restrooms.

"I don't see why the ballfield can't be left open when the park is open," said Willis. "We need to come up with some way to do this. I'm not too much in favor of telling the citizens they can't use their park. I think we can put our heads together and come up with something that will make people happy."

Willis suggested hiring a part-time park attendant or some volunteers who watched over the park while it was open. Favell said there simply is not money to hire an attendant. Rollins expressed doubt that anyone would volunteer to watch the park.

Rollins suggested that they all try to come up with ways in which the park rules could be improved for the next meeting. The park will be on the agenda again at the May 28 meeting.

OBITUARIES

DOROTHY WHITE
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Dorothy "Dot" Hord White, 87, 1301 Shelby Road, died May 2, 2003 at her home.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late W.M. and Charity Keller Hord and wife of the late James E. White Sr.

She was an active member of First Baptist Church, where she worked in the nursery department for many years, was a financial secretary assistant for 40 years, and was a former G.A. Leader. She was a homemaker, and was a Red Cross volunteer for many years.

She is survived by her daughters, Mikie W. Smith and husband Kyle and Linda W. Peeler and husband Shuford, all of Kings Mountain; son, James E. White Jr. and wife Cynthia of Rock Hill, SC; grandchildren, Jim Baity of Inman, SC, Lisa B. Ramey and husband Buddy of Kings Mountain, Pam B. Jackson and husband Jack of Kings Mountain, Lynn P. Mosier and husband Michael of Green Bay, WI, Dr. David K. Peeler and wife Lisa of Evans, GA, and Ginger White of Rock Hill, SC; sister, Martha Hord Goforth of Kings Mountain; brother, William "Bill" Hord of Kings Mountain; and 12 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was conducted by Dr. John Sloan at 2 p.m. Sunday at First Baptist Church. Interment was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Nursery Fund, P.O. Box 789, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; American Heart Association, 1229 Greenwood Cliff, Suite 109, Charlotte, NC 28204; or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

BILLY K. PATTERSON JR.
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Billy Keith Patterson Jr., 20, 1440 Second Street, died May 3, 2003 at his home.

He was a native of Gaston County and was employed by Patterson Auto Parts, Gastonia. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Clyde Strickland.

He is survived by his father, Billy Keith Patterson Sr. of Kings Mountain; mother, Lisa Strickland Patterson of Kings Mountain; paternal grandparents, Bill and Parnell Patterson of Kings Mountain; maternal grandmother, Shirley Strickland of Bessemer City; and brothers, Jonathan Matthew Patterson and Cody Clayton Barber, both of Kings Mountain.

The funeral will be conducted by the Revs. Scott Strickland and Dean Smith at 2 p.m. Thursday at Harvest Baptist Church. Burial will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Harvest Baptist Church, 144 Ware Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

RALPH L. BRIDGES
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Ralph L. Bridges, 53, 405 Mary's Grove Church Road, died May 1, 2003 at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

A native of Gaston County, he was the son of the late Robert Arnold and Helen Bolin Bridges. He was also predeceased by his brother, Deaver Bridges.

He was a member of the Cherryville Bassmasters and was owner and operator of Bridges Grading and Hauling Company of Kings Mountain.

He is survived by his sisters, Faye Bridges Paysour and husband Dean of Shelby, and Margaret Irene Bridges of Albany, GA; sis-

ter-in-law, Ann Marie Bridges; and nine nieces and nephews.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Doug Ramsey at 4 p.m. Sunday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Burial was in Long Creek Presbyterian Church cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

GUY LEROY ADAMS SR.
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Guy Leroy Adams Sr., 81, 112 Lakeshore Drive, died May 1, 2003 at Hospice of Cleveland County.

A native of Eustis, NE, he was the son of the late Fred Adams and Emma Brewer Adams and husband of the late Iris Esty Adams.

He was retired from Carnation Corporation as a Mechanical Engineer. He served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and was a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, Guy Adams Jr. and Jeane and Jeffrey Adams and Susan, all of Lawndale; daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer Lee Adams Elwell and Bruce of Raleigh; grandchildren, Lee Adams, Anna Adams, Jeff Adams, Brian Elwell, Rachel Elwell, Austin Elwell and Ashley Elwell; and great-grandchild, Haley Adams.

The funeral was conducted by Dr. Jeff Patterson and the Revs. David Fambrough and Elizabeth C. Minus at 2 p.m. Sunday at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Burial was in Cleveland Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150 or Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1207 W. Dixon Blvd., Shelby, NC 28152.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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Grover Fire Department seeks additional funding

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

At its meeting Monday evening, the Grover Town Council heard a request for additional funding from its fire department.

Grover Assistant Fire Chief Jimmy Hensley gave a brief presentation about the fire department. The department is made up of 24 members, all of whom are volunteers. They train approximately 100 hours each year and receive 250 or more calls per year. They operate strictly from tax revenues, donations, and fundraisers.

They provide fire, emergency medical, vehicle extrication, and specialty rescue responses. They also install smoke detectors for citizens. They also offer special children's programs at Grover Elementary. They also help

pre-plan all of the buildings in the district.

The members are trained at the highest state firefighter level, the same as the paid firefighters in Charlotte, he said. Their training consists of 400 hours of study and is offered through Cleveland Community College.

In the past, they have had hot dog and rummage sales to raise money.

The main problems the fire department encounters are a lack of funding, recruitment, and retention. The department tends to attract younger people who leave once they get to be in their late 20s and 30s because of the time commitment. The equipment shortage, poor economy, increasing national and state standards, and liability concerns have also created problems in the department.

Firefighting was listed as the second most dangerous job in the United States this year.

Equipment maintenance has been very costly. Currently, two of the trucks badly need to be replaced, said Hensley. Both the 1979 tanker and the 1980 GMC pumper can be replaced with one truck that can be

both a pumper and a tanker, he said. However, the department does not have the money to replace the trucks.

Hensley requested that the board consider giving the department \$2,000 per month, rather than \$1,000. The increased amount of money would help the department purchase the new truck. The department has gone for eight years without a budget increase, he said. The Grover department receives the second lowest amount of money in the county from its town.

In other business, the Council:

- voted to accept a bid from Ledford Roofing for the re-roofing of the park building and the waste water treatment plant.
- voted to amend the 2002-2003 budget by \$11,850 to cover the quote from Kennedy Utilities for replacing a section of 2-inch water line on Woodside Drive and Briarcliff Road. The quote was approved at the April 7 meeting. The amendment will take funds from Unassigned Funds and transfer them to Miscellaneous Maintenance, under Water/Sewer Operations.

Our Restaurant serves delicious meals! I get great food and good company with my friends here (at the Summit).

And the parties...oh, those parties!

-Summit Resident Mae Sue McGill



Everyone is invited to attend our special events.
Calendar of Events for May 2003
 RSVP to 704-739-6772

May 4
Promised Land Gospel Group 2:30pm
 May 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29
Bingo 2:30pm
 May 6, 13, 20, 27
Computer Class 2:30pm
 May 15
Happy Hoofers Dance Group 2:30pm

704-739-6772
 kristia@carolina.rr.com
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My name is Jacob.

I am what you call a patriotic guy. I am seven months old. My Uncle, Steven K. Jones, is a U.S. Marine. He is serving overseas for our country. I am very proud of him, and the good old U.S.A. I will be glad when he comes home. My parents, Michelle and Gary Cox and my Great Grandmom Faye Barnett, are also very proud of me.

