



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD

Kings Mountain Intermediate School student Victoria Dover will have poetry published in the 2004 Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans.

Student's poetry to be in national publication

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Work by a young Kings Mountain poet will appear in the 2004 Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans.

Victoria Dover, a sixth grader at Kings Mountain Intermediate School, wrote about young poets like herself.

Her language arts teacher Teresa Deaton praises the young poet.

"She's a real sweet girl. She works hard," Deaton said.

Victoria has written poems since the second grade. While she studied poetry in language arts class, the writing is all original.

"She did this on her own," Deaton said. Victoria says she was both surprised and excited to learn she had won. She plans to continue writing poems.

A few of Victoria's classmates also entered poems but haven't heard from the Anthology. Deaton is supportive.

"This encourages them to put forth the effort, gives them a reason to do it," she said.

Deaton also believes poetry encourages students to put their thoughts on paper.

Victoria is the daughter of Renee and Wayne Dover. She has a brother, Wayne Dover Jr.

Kindergarten registration planned in local schools

Children who will be five years old on or before October 16, 2004 should register for kindergarten in their respective school districts. If parents do not know which school their child will attend, they should call the Kings Mountain District Office at 734-5637.

Applications and Kindergarten Health Assessment Reports are available at all elementary schools. The application should be completed and returned to the school as soon as possible. The Kindergarten Health Assessment Report is to be completed by the child's physician or the health department and is due on or before August 11, 2004.

Orientation Day for incoming kindergarten children and their parents will be

March 19 at all elementary schools. At this time parents are to take the child's official birth certificate and social security number. Parents are to take their child to school at 8:30 a.m. and remain for an informative session with the principal, which will last about one hour. Children will go to classes and enjoy a typical kindergarten day, ending with lunch in the cafeteria as guest of the school system. Parents will pick up children at 11:30 a.m. Regular kindergarten children will not attend school on this day.

Questions should be directed to John Goforth, Assistant Superintendent of Kings Mountain Schools for Curriculum and Instruction at 734-5637.

Gaston kindergartners should register in Gaston

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Snow and ice have closed school several times this year causing students to attend on days they would have had off if weather would have cooperated.

Students will attend school Feb. 19 and 20 and March 11.

If school is cancelled again due to weather, make up days will be March 12 and April 16. So far, those days are still holidays for students and optional workdays for teachers.

Kindergarten students should register at

the school in their home district. For Kings Mountain students living inside the Gaston County line that means registering in that county. Those students will either attend Chapel Grove or Bessemer City elementary. To find out which school, parents may call 704-866-6100.

The Gaston County School Board has indicated it will allow those students to transfer to Cleveland County, though no formal procedure has been worked out. For now that means students planning to transfer to Cleveland should still register in Gaston County. Out of county students may be charged tuition.



GARY STEWART / HERALD

Dr. Abaya Bey asks talks to students at Bethware School during Black History Month program Thursday.

Utility Committee discusses policies

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain City Manager Phil Ponder presented several draft policies to the utility committee Monday afternoon.

Under a utility extension policy, modeled after Shelby's policy, the city would determine the cost of running sewer to a neighborhood and would then divide the cost by the number of homes involved.

The city would then bill homeowners for installation cost over a 10 year period.

Shelby absorbs 25 percent of the installation cost for its residents. If the policy is adopted, the Kings Mountain City Council will have to decide if it will subsidize a portion of installation and if so, what percent.

Ponder also told the committee an eastside transfer station needs to be constructed at a cost of \$600,000. The city is currently buying its way out of a contract with Gaston County. Diverting the water to its own facility will save approximately \$1 million annually, Ponder said.

The city contracted with Gastonia 18 years ago during the textile heyday when it could not keep up with the waste water treatment demand. With the demise of the textile industry the need for water treatment has dropped dramatically.

"We all know water and sewer are in bad shape. I feel like with Gastonia paid off we'll grow," said utility committee chairperson Rick Moore.

According to Ponder, other immediate needs include repair of two lift stations which are in danger of causing environmental problems, a line on First Street and sewer line in-flow. Repairs are also needed on a city dam.

Ponder presented a utility reimbursement policy which would require developers who build in areas not already served by sewer to pay for having large sewer lines installed. These would serve more than the developed area. Other developers who later build near the initial area would then reimburse the initial developer for a portion of the sewer installation fee.

"No cash is coming out of our pocket and it doesn't over burden the initial developer," Ponder said.

The City of Mount Holly has used the policy successfully for the past decade, according to Ponder.

The city manager presented a sanitary sewer line extension policy. The draft calls for city staff to identify a project area and determine a preliminary cost estimate.

Community members would then circulate a petition for the lines. At least 50

percent of property owners who also own at least 50 percent of the road frontage must sign before council can consider the request.

The assessment fee will represent approximately 75 percent of installation cost. Actual cost will be determined at completion. The city will be responsible for the remaining 25 percent of associated cost.

Property owners may either pay in full or make annual payments over the next decade. The interest rate will be identical to that charged the city, not to exceed eight percent.

Ponder presented a six step drainage ditch policy. During an open meeting, council must direct staff to investigate the feasibility of specific ditches. Staff then authorizes a survey of drainage areas in order to document location of needed easements. The city engineer and other staff review the assessment. Staff develop a cost estimate which is then submitted to the city manager for review. The council then makes a recommendation to the city manager and authorizes either a budget amendment or inclusion in the capital improvement program.

"These steps, I like them," Moore said.

The city council must approve the above policies before they become official.

Katie Stowe on Chancellor's List at UNCW

Katie Stowe has been recognized with the Chancellor's Award at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington for the fall semester

To quality for the recognition a student must have a 4.0 average while taking more than 15 semester hours.

Katie is a senior majoring in exercise science with plans to become an occupational therapist. She is the daughter of Bob and Kay Stowe of Kings Mountain.

Cecil's Been Promoted!

FOR ALL ROGERS LOCATIONS



He's Here To Take Care Of All Your Automotive Needs!

Cecil Faile, General Manager
Cecil Faile
A Signature You Can Trust

Pontiac, Buick, Cadillac, GMC, Honda, Kia, Harley Davidson and all your pre-owned needs

Call Cecil at 704-718-2021
For any ROGERS Automotive location
Can't Come To Me? I'll Bring The Car To You!








1-800-849-3330