

LOCAL

# Zoning Board denies Vaughns' request to use residence as an events center

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

A Creedmore couple hoping to use one of Kings Mountain's historic homes as an event center was turned down by the city's Planning and Zoning Board Tuesday night. That vote however is not binding and the rezoning request can be brought before the city council.

Debra and Kevin Vaughn want to use the home at 1220 North Piedmont Avenue as their residence and to rent it for private, upscale outdoor events like wedding receptions and charity fund raisers. The home could also be used for business lunches and breakfasts. Under this plan, the Vaughns would purchase the home from current owners David and Terry Mays.

Neighbors Joe King, Ann Claffee, Jim Claffee and Ed Tavis spoke out against the rezoning. They cited the potential for traffic accidents due to the home's location in a sharp curve. Other concerns included parking, noise, cutting of old trees on the property and devaluation of adjoining property.

The Vaughns say events will be limited to a maximum of 150 people, will end by 10 p.m. and will occur approximately twice monthly. The couple say their plan could draw people to Kings Mountain from the Charlotte area.

The Vaughns have worked as caterers in the Triangle area for 15 years and own a small, upscale cafe in Creedmore.

Board members David Allen, Preston Todd, Lou Ballew, Tony Ruppe and Ron Humphries voted against changing

the zoning from residential to neighborhood business. Board member Steve Marlowe cast the lone vote in favor of rezoning.

Ruppe encouraged the Vaughns to be at the April 27 city council meeting and to talk with the neighbors to find how they could be made comfortable with the plan.

In other business, the board turned down a request by the VFW to have its zoning changed from residential to general business. The organization wanted the change so it could open weekend steak dinners to the members' guests. The board determined no change in zoning was needed for this to happen. The vote was unanimous. The VFW may ask the city council for the change.

# Manager candidates interviewed

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain City Council members interviewed candidates for city manager last week in a closed session meeting.

Mayor Rick Murphrey was mum on details but did say that the interviews went well.

"We had a lot great applicants, (with) great experience," the mayor said.

Murphrey said he was satisfied with the number and quality of the applicants. He would not say how many were interviewed last week.

More interviews are scheduled for next week, Murphrey said. He expects

to have someone on board in the next couple months.

Councilman Jerry Mullinax echoed Murphrey's sentiments, saying Monday that the hiring process was going well.

North Carolina law allows city councils to hold closed session interviews with job candidates.

# Democrat caucus Saturday in Shelby

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
Staff Writer

Democrats across North Carolina will gather Saturday to make their presidential and vice-presidential preferences known.

Cleveland County will hold its caucus at the County Office Building at 130 South Post Road across from Cleveland Community College. The drop-in event lasts from 8 a.m. to noon.

This is the first time the state Democrat Party has held a caucus. Previously, votes were cast during the primary. However, the state Board of Elections changed that date to July due to a Republican challenge to North Carolina's redistricting plan, according to Betsy Wells, chairwoman of the county Democrat Party.

In order for North Carolina Democrats to have a voice in the National Democrat Convention July 26-29, a caucus was scheduled.

Unlike a primary, voters sign the ballot form.

Cleveland County Democrats who are out of town may vote in any caucus across North Carolina. The votes will be credited to Cleveland when they are tallied at the state level. To find sites across the state, visit [www.NCDP.org](http://www.NCDP.org).

Choices include Howard Dean, John Edwards, John Kerry, Dennis Kucinich and Al Sharpton.

"Hopefully North Carolina will vote for John Edwards and John Kerry will select him as running mate," Wells said.

If Edwards carries North and South Carolina, the Democrat presidential ticket will be more successful in the south, Wells believes.

Any Democrat president during the past 30 years has had southern roots somewhere on his ticket, she said.

Votes at the caucus level also give contenders more influence over the national party platform, Wells said.

The county's annual Democratic Convention will start at 2 p.m. Saturday at the same site as the caucus. Delegates should arrive by 1:30 p.m. to register.

Democrats will hear a report on the Cleveland County caucus vote, elect delegates to the district and state conventions, elect committee members for judicial, senatorial and house districts, hear from candidates for county, state and national offices and hear information about the national convention.

For more information, contact Betsy Wells at 704-739-1585 or [betsywells@yahoo.com](mailto:betsywells@yahoo.com) or Tenth Congressional District 1st Vice-Chairman Willie McIntosh at 539-3768.

"I hope people will come out and vote Saturday," Wells said during a telephone interview Monday.

She spent most of January volunteering with the

Edwards campaign in New Hampshire.

Because of its early slot in the primaries, voters in that state expect a lot of attention from candidates. Wells, Judy Gilbert of Lincolnton and Linda Gunter, a former state senator from Raleigh, traveled over 800 miles visiting teachers there.

They also divided and wrapped 50 pounds of North Carolina peanuts into 1,000 bundles along with information on Edwards. Wells said she returned home with two packets.

Because of the intense political environment in New Hampshire, universities like Yale, Harvard and Brown send students on one and two week internships. Wells, a retired educator, met many of these young people.

"I highly recommend it for anyone who is interested in politics or is just curious," Wells said.

She also organized educators in the western half of North Carolina in a letter writing campaign on Edwards' behalf. North Carolina Association of Educators wrote, called and emailed their colleagues in Iowa during September and October.

Wells spearheaded a telephone drive targeting voters in Tennessee, Michigan, New York, Georgia and other states.

Wells, who campaigned for Edwards during his successful 1998 Senate bid, said she believes in the man. He runs a positive campaign and has no baggage, she said. Edwards' Carolina roots also appeal to Wells.

"It's so exciting he's from North Carolina," she said.

OBITUARIES

GEORGE JACKSON

KINGS MOUNTAIN - George M. Jackson, 68, 115 Omega Drive, died April 6, 2004 at his home after a courageous battle with cancer.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Marion and Anna Childers Jackson. He was also preceded in death by his son, Russell Jackson, grandson Zachery Jackson, brothers Tommy, Floyd and Frank Jackson, and sisters Jeanette Frisbee and Carrie Almond.

He was a member of the American Legion, Bessemer City.

He is survived by his sons, Cory Jackson and Brian Jackson of Kings Mountain, Floyd Jackson and wife

Tammy of Gaffney, SC, and Shane Jackson of Gastonia; daughters Marian Parker and husband Bobby of Gastonia, Rheta Conley and husband Stacy of Kings Mountain, and Kathy Jackson and husband Ronnie Lawson of Kings Mountain; mother of his children and close friend, Cleone Wright Jackson; brother Stoney Jackson of Kings Mountain; sister Vangie J. Ramsey of Kings Mountain; 15 grandchildren, Elizabeth McDaniel, Lori Barraza, Kirk Lawson, Amanda Parker, Brett Parlier, Jessica Conley, Brian Lawson, Philip Lawson, Courtney Jackson, Dylan Lawson, Tyler Jackson, Brent McGinnis, Dalton Jackson, Zachery Jackson, and Sara Jackson; and eight great grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. Warner Doles and Bob Hope at 2 p.m. Friday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Midview Baptist Church Building Fund, 703 Margrace Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; Fraley Memorial, 3025 Fraley Church Road, Gastonia, NC 28054; Harvest Baptist Church, 144 Ware Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; and Hospice of Gaston County, 258 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, NC 28054.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

BRANT YORK

BLACKSBURG, SC - Michael Brant York, 30, 368 Martin Hill Road, died April 8, 2003 at Catawba Valley Memorial Hospital, Hickory.

He was born in Cleveland County and was an employee of S & ME Engineering of Spartanburg, SC. He was a member of First Church of the Nazarene, Kings Mountain, where he served as Sunday School teacher and coordinator of working witness mission trips.

He is survived by his wife, Dawn Mullenix York of Blacksburg; son Michael Storm York of the home; daughter Sierra Dakota York of the home; brother Anthony J. York of Blacksburg; and parents Michael Lee and Sherry Rose York of Blacksburg.

A memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Michael Dougherty at 6 p.m. Saturday at First Church of the Nazarene, Kings Mountain.

Memorials may be made to Working Witness Project, First Church of the Nazarene, 405 S. Cherokee Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

WALT OLLIS

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Walt Ollis, 68, 804 Rhodes Avenue, died Monday, April 12, 2004 at his home.

He was born in Avery County, son of the late Clarence and Hazel Buchanan Ollis.

He was a member of Second Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher and choir member. He was employed as Waste Water Director for the City of Canton, Ohio from 1959 to 1977, and was currently employed as Water Resources Director for the City of Kings Mountain.

He is survived by his wife, Diana M. Ollis of the home; son Clay Ollis of Kings Mountain; daughters Ruth Ollis Wellmon and fiancée Steven Lancaster of Kings Mountain, Susan Todd and husband Joe of Kings Mountain, and Janey Ollis of Kings Mountain; sister Wanda Reese and husband Larry of Big Spring, TX; and grandchildren Ashley Todd and Allison Wellmon.

The funeral will be conducted by the Revs. Richard Prow and Dennis Wells at 3 p.m. Thursday at Second Baptist Church. Interment will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Building Fund, Second Baptist Church, 120 Linwood Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# KM students win art competition

Several Kings Mountain students won awards in the Cleveland County Student Art Competition.

Those include Kee Elswick, third place painting; Megan Lowery, first place drawing; Amber Caudillo, honorable mention mixed media; Hugh Noell, first place photography; Kala Buchanan, second place photography; Amber Malpass, third place photography and Jamie O'Dell, honorable mention photography.

The student work will be on exhibit through April 22 at the 111 S. Washington Street Arts Center in Shelby

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