

## LOCAL

# Council to hear Davidsons request

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Tony and Kathy Davidson have asked for their property at 1205 Shelby Road to be rezoned from Residential to Conditional Use Office in order to relocate their Davidson Insurance office.

It would be a move a little closer to home for the Davidsons, who reside on Kimberly Lane. Although the Planning and Zoning board unanimously approved the rezoning by recommendation, the Kings Mountain City Council will have the final say at their next meeting on Tuesday.

This rezoning request will be addressed along with a request from Barbara Parker to rezone property at 811 Margrace Road from Residential (R-10) to Residential (R-20). The R-10 district is considered to be single family dwellings, where R-20 is defined as "low-density residential development" which are generally dependent on septic tanks.

## ELECTION FILING

Persons who have filed for political office at the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

**State Senator 46th District**  
Debbie Clary, Cherryville  
Phil D. Clark, Rutherfordton  
Keith H. Melton, Ellenboro

**State House of Representatives 110th District**  
Davy Lowman, Shelby  
Kelly E. Hastings, Cherryville  
Tim Moore (I), Kings Mountain  
Pearl Burris Floyd, Dallas

**State House of Representatives 112th District**  
Bob England (I), Ellenboro

**Cleveland County Board of Commissioners**  
Mike Putnam, Shelby  
Johnny Hutchins (I), Kings Mountain  
Jason Falls, Kings Mountain  
Mary Accor (I), Kings Mountain

**Register of Deeds**  
Bonnie Reece (I), Kings Mountain

# Mark Beach withdraws rezoning request, puts site of proposed restaurant up for sale

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The sign that once told of a new Big E's Barbeque coming to town next to Bridges Hardware on King Street has been replaced with a For Sale sign.

City Planning Director Steve Killian said that Mark Beach, who had requested his parcel of land on W. Mountain Street be rezoned from Residential to Conditional Use-General Business to accommodate the 4,500 square foot establishment, has since requested his petition be withdrawn. Beach's property on King Street is already zoned for business. But, needing more room, he had requested a portion of his land that backs up the property on W. Mountain Street be rezoned.

Killian said that he recently sent in a request for his petition

to be withdrawn after a Planning and Zoning Board meeting last week, where he was faced with opposition from the West End Neighborhood.

Spokeswoman of the West End Neighborhood Helen Hatch spoke against the rezoning at the meeting. Hatch said that she outlined the following points at the meeting:

■ The neighborhood is concerned of any kind of encroachment of business on W. Mountain Street. She spoke against the loss of land or residential value from any business that is too close, "not buffered or separated properly." "The amount of land rezoned should be kept to a minimum," she said.

■ "There needs to be plenty of buffering and no access between the business property and residential properties, and this needs to be spelled out very

clearly with elevations, type of planting, type of walls, etc.," she said.

■ The hill, which is currently on the land and shielding the neighborhood from King street, should remain intact and not be altered.

■ "The site plan should be worked out with the neighborhood and should be made available in such a way that they have time to review and make some judgment on it," she said.

■ "The neighborhood agreed with the points made in Killian's letter about the deficiencies in the site plan (same points echoed by the P&Z board at the meeting)," Hatch said.

Killian had sent Beach a list of deficiencies in the site plan and ideas for corrections before the meeting. "It was a specific list of things for him to do," he said. "He stated at the meeting that

he could do all these things."

The list of recommendations asked for him: to describe in detail how he would buffer the property from the neighborhood, to show where the dumpster would go, to confirm dimensions of parking spaces, and to describe elevation on the site plan.

Killian said that the Planning Board encouraged him to make the changes and continued the hearing until its March 11th meeting. "The site plan can be fixed and approved," he said, adding that he was confused by Beach's withdrawal petition. Everybody seemed to be on the same page by the end of the meeting, he said. The City Council will decide whether or not to accept Beach's request for withdrawal.

After several attempts by The Herald, Mark Beach could not be reached for comment.

# Sheriff's Office plans inaugural Citizen Academy

The Cleveland County Sheriff's Office will be conducting its inaugural Sheriff's Citizen Academy from April 7-June 2, 2008. The SCA is a nine-week program designed to provide citizens with greater insight into the responsibilities and operations of the Sheriff's Office. This is accomplished through presentations given by sheriffs personnel involving diverse topics related to the sheriff's office, and providing additional hands-on learning experiences that participants will find both interesting and educational. Ultimately, the goal of the SCA is to foster greater understanding and positive communication between citizens and sheriff's office personnel through education.

Topics to be covered include an overview of the agency; uniform patrol operations; criminal investigations; crime scene investigations; detention operations; court security; civil process; vice / narcotics; crime prevention; solid waste enforcement; the court system; and special operations units.

In order to successfully complete the academy, participants must attend a minimum of six sessions. Attendees will be strongly encouraged to partici-

pate in a ride-along with a member of the uniform patrol division. Sessions will be held on Monday nights from 7-9 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center (located on the bottom floor of the Cleveland County Law Enforcement Center). Additionally, there will be one Saturday session to allow practical demonstrations.

Interested Cleveland County citizens should contact Cleveland County Sheriff's Office for a Sheriff's Citizen Academy brochure/ application. All applicants are subject to a thorough background investigation. Decisions as to the suitability of candidates to attend will be made by sheriffs office personnel. Such decisions are final. Minimum attendee requirements include being at

least 21 years of age, a resident of or employee within, Cleveland County, with no prior felony convictions, and no misdemeanor convictions within the previous five years. Completed applications must be received by March 3 to be considered for this session. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by March 24.

For more information contact either Lt. Durwin Briscoe or Sgt. Bryan Gordon at (704) 476-3076. SCA applications may be obtained Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office Control Room, located across from the Magistrates' Office at the Cleveland County Law Enforcement Center.

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