

LOCAL

Local landowner gets more time to bring houses up to code

REBECCA PISCOPO

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Holly Black, Codes Administration Director, requested that pastor and landowner John Heath be granted 90 more days to finish updating his property at 209 Linwood Road to avoid demolition, at the last city council meeting.

He had also requested more time to finish the work, including having the dry walls completed on his property at 119 Linwood Road.

The council granted a stay of demolition on the condition that both properties will be brought up to code in 90 days. Murphrey stated that they also allowed Heath leeway because the Codes staff and council believe that he has made efforts in improving the two houses.

"They (property owners) have ample time to keep them

up," Murphrey stated. "It's time we cleaned up our community."

The Mayor claims that he and council have taken a strong stance against landlords who do not follow the city Codes Department's rules and regulations. Since July, demolition has been ordered for six properties.

"We're going to be very aggressive! All the rental property owners understand the codes. Some landlords don't want to put in the money (to repair their properties)," Murphrey said.

When the Codes Department notices a property in deterioration or hazardous disarray, they inspect the residence with a health inspector to determine whether or not the landowner is meeting the minimum housing codes. Some examples of existing problems are holes in the roof or little to no plumbing, which the Mayor states, "isn't

fair" to the persons renting the "living space."

If a property is deemed to be not in compliance, the landowner would then appear before city council, who often grants 90 days for properties to be brought up to code before they are scheduled for demolition.

However, Heath's case is different. He had already been given 90 days, but did not complete all of the work.

"I don't see any reason not to give him some leeway. There's a lot of cleaning-up that needs to be done," said council member Rodney Gordon at the meeting.

"I feel bad. I have made the neighborhood look bad. I have done lots of work on that house," Heath said.

The 209 Linwood property, according to Black, is closer to being finished.

"Is it an economical strain?"

Gordon asked Heath. "You've got two houses that need to be fixed."

The two questions now concerning council in Heath's case are: Can he afford to complete both houses in time? Will he finish the house at 119 Linwood, the larger of the two properties, in 90 days?

"If he doesn't get it done, he comes back to you (the council)," stated Black.

"If he comes back to us...don't come back to us," said council member Rick Moore.

If property owners don't complete the work, Black said, "We (Codes Department) give an order to repair and demolish. They have to have the home removed."

"I take care of my yard and my house. I expect my neighbor to do the same," Murphrey said.

DEATH

WANDA ORMAND
KINGS MOUNTAIN
Wanda Johnson Ormand, 48, of 5136 Southbrook Drive, died August 31, 2008 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

She was born in Scotland County, daughter of the late Charles Johnson. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Cheraw, SC.



She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Ormand of Kings Mountain; daughters, April Quick, Sallie Quick and Jennifer Quick, all of Cheraw, SC; mother, Barbara Johnson of Bessemer City; brothers, Charles Johnson of Kings Mountain and Joe Johnson of Lowell; sisters, Cathy Brigman of Laurel Hill, Brenda Setzer of Monroe, Barbara Passmore of Gastonia, Lori Holloway of Darlington, SC, and Evelyn Johnson of Dallas; and two grandchildren, Zack and Lilly.

A funeral will be conducted by the Revs. Greg Nelly and Richard Brown at 11 a.m. Thursday, September 4, 2008 at Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church. Interment will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at 10 a.m., Thursday, September 4, 2008, prior to the service, at the church.

A guest register is available at www.HarrisFunerals.com

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The following events are scheduled for the months of September-October in Kings Mountain and the surrounding area:

Sept. 4-30: Back to their Roots - exhibit of original art works by three Cleveland County artists, Dawn Caldwell, Will Eskridge and Susan Hamrick-Mole at the Cleveland County Arts Center, 111 S. Washington St., Shelby. For more information, call 704-484-2787 or visit ccartscouncil.org

Sept. 6-27: Downtown Kings Mountain Farmer's Market - every Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon at the Gazebo at Patriots Park. The market features produce, baked goods, plants, flowers and crafts. For more information, call 704-730-0283 or visit www.mtnpartnership.com

Sept. 11-30: Honor Our Veterans - Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 10-4 p.m. Exhibit offers a display of uniforms, equipment, and memorabilia from the Revolutionary War through Operation Iraqi Freedom at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum, 100 E. Mountain Street. For more information, call 704-739-1019 or e-mail knhmuseum@bellsouth.net

Sept. 13: Trades and Crafts with the Backcountry Militia

from 9-5 p.m. at the visitor center at Kings Mountain National Military Park. Watch the Backcountry Militia as they demonstrate various crafts and trades, such as scrimshaw, weaving, and others, that were used in the 18th century. Meet an 18th century doctor, learn how to roll musket cartridges and more. For more information, call 864-936-7921 or visit www.nps.gov/kimo

Sept. 13: Kings Mountain Historical Museum Annual Fundraiser, fifth annual Reverse Raffle and Live Auction, begins at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Kings Mountain. For more information or tickets, call the museum at 704-739-1019 or visit www.kingsmountainmuseum.org

Sept. 25-Oct. 4: 84th Cleveland County Fair - opening times may vary; at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 1752 E. Marion St., Shelby. For more information, call 704-487-0651 or visit www.clevelandcountyfair.com

Oct. 2-6: The Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall will be on display at the Kings Mountain Walking Track - open 24 hours a day. Opening ceremony will be held Oct. 2nd at 1 p.m. For more information, call 704-739-1019 or e-mail knhmuseum@bellsouth.net

Oct. 4-5: 228th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain Encampment: 9-5 p.m. at Kings Mountain National Military Park. Living history interpreters, featuring the Backcountry Militia, will set up a military style camp with various living history demonstrations. For more information, call 864-936-7921 or visit www.nps.gov/kimo

Oct. 7: "Breaking the Silence and Healing the Soul; The Oral Histories of Vietnam War Veterans of North Carolina" beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Mauney Memorial Library: featuring Dr. Sharon Raynor, of J.C. Smith University, available through a NC Humanities Grant. For more information, call 704-739-2371, ext. 5, or visit www.MauneyLibrary.org

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Oct. 7: 228th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain from 9-5 p.m. at Kings Mountain National Military Park. Wreath Laying ceremony begins at 11 a.m. Over Mountain Victory marchers arrive at 3 p.m., followed by a keynote address. For more information, call 864-936-7921.

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