

## LOCAL

# City council denies LBTD referendum 4-3

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Kings Mountain City Council voted down a referendum (4-3), which would have called for a vote on mixed beverage sells in city limits, at their meeting Tuesday night.

Council members Houston Corn, Mike Butler, Dean Spears, and Rodney Gordon voted no. Jerry Mullinax, Rick Moore, and Howard Shipp elected yes.

Butler said that since he released his phone number in the "Kings Mountain Herald's" September 4th issue to poll the citizens, he has received six calls for yes, and several more for no.

"I was elected by the people, for the people," Butler said adding that he felt the people had, by leaving voicemails on his landline, expressed what they wanted. His vote against the referendum, he believes, represents that.

However, Mullinax said, "This town is in bad economic shape." He added that the shocking rate of 8.8% unemployment in Cleveland County doesn't help.

Charlotte lawyer, leader of Citizens for Progress (a KM committee which focuses on different economic development projects), and KM resident, Gina Collias expressed, after the meeting, that she was not impressed with the Council's decision. She said that

they overlooked the skyrocket unemployment rate and blocked people's right to vote.

Houston Corn, who served on the police department for 25 years, pushed the fact that he didn't want more police officers to see more death caused by drunk driving or domestic abuse.

A packed house in City Council listened to the con and pro debates. Audience members on both sides of the argument sported mixed stickers, exclaiming "Just say no!" or "Let us vote!" Ten spoke for the vote for LBTD, and seven spoke against.

### Multiple arguments, central theme

Although there were multiple arguments brought before council on whether or not to have a vote, the number one concern from both sides centered around what is best for the people.

Nurse Kay Hambright said that she never heard her alcoholic father say I love you.

"I had a Christian mother," she said, who prayed every night for father.

But even when her father stopped drinking at the end of his life, the damage was done.

She expressed her position saying "As a registered nurse, I've seen so many times what it does to people. There was a gentleman I saw whose stomach was so swollen you could

see every vein."

Collias said that she understood such health concerns.

"My maternal grandmother was an alcoholic. She died of psoriasis of the liver. I understand the disease!" Collias exclaimed. "And I still want my right to vote! We cannot imperilize moving our community forward by fear!"

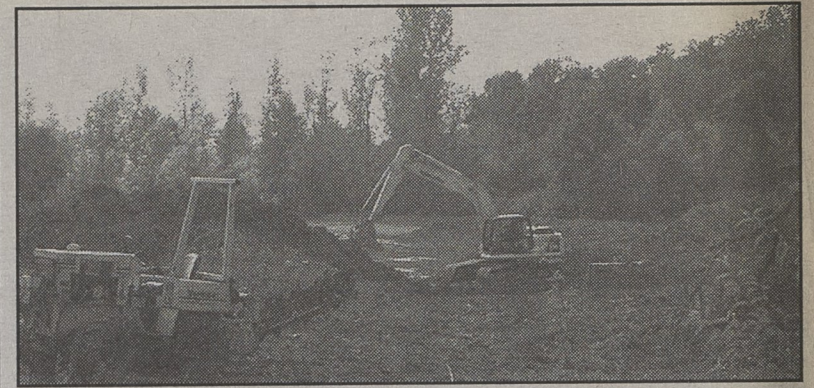
Property owner Mark Beach, who also argued for the referendum, said that without LBTD, restaurants will not come and bring jobs. He said that investors have gone with him through KM saying, "One of the things they asked me after driving around our beautiful town was, 'Why does a community like (yours) at the apex of two major roads..., why do you have so many empty lots?' Because we have no business investing."

Former Council member Keith Miller presented pictures of persons damaged by drinking in one hand and, in the other, held a money bag, which he claimed was a symbol for the economic development argument, aligned with "Judas betraying Jesus."

Miller called on council to stand and protect its citizens against allowing yet another avenue for the threat of drinking.

Pastor of Faith Baptist Church and property owner, J.R. Robins agreed.

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REBECCA PISCOPO/HERALD

Construction and bulldozers work to clear land for the building of a new apartment complex on Gold Street.

## Two apartment complexes to be built on Gold Street

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Land has been cleared on Gold Street for two new apartment complexes, "King Falls" and "Cleveland Ridge," by the Pendegraph Company of Raleigh.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said, of Pendegraph, "They're really professional people that own these apartments."

While Pendegraph hasn't released a date as to when both complexes will be completed, it is certain that each are made to suit citizens who are in different stages of their lives.

"King Falls" will be built for seniors ages 55 and older, according to Murphrey. It will feature special security conditions for the retired community.

"We feel really good about the 36 senior apartments," Murphrey said, adding that they will be for the elderly, "that don't have as much income."

Tenants living in either set of apartments can apply through the NC Finance Housing Services for helping paying their rent.

"Cleveland Ridge Apartments" will be available to anyone including young couples, families, or singles. It will house 48 units.

"They're nice apartments," Murphrey said, "but there are (financial assistance) credits that can be given."

Murphrey announced that along with the new complexes another one with 12 units, for those needing special handicap assistance, will be built at Cherokee and Wilson Streets.

## Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall comes Thursday

The Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall will be stationed at the KM Walking Track, on Cleveland Ave., October 2-6, 2008. An opening ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. Thursday, October 2, 2008.

The speaker will be Brigadier General Ernest Brockman, Jr., Ret. Army National Guard. During the opening ceremony, the names of the 121 fallen heroes from Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Rutherford and Cherokee counties will be read.

The closing ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. Monday, October 6, 2008 with speaker Col. James Quincy Collins, Jr., Ret. USAF, Vietnam POW.

The Vietnam Memorial, in Washington, D.C., stands as a reminder of the sacrifices of the 2.7 million American men and women of the Armed Forces made in service to our country. Inspired by such dedication, a group of Vietnam Veterans had a vision to honor the 58,000 fallen heroes and share the mean-

ing of this memorial with everyone. The Moving Wall has visited over 1,000 communities throughout the country, providing an opportunity for loved ones, comrades and all who love America to pay tribute to those who served their country with honor.

The wall is being brought to KM with the help of the Kings Mountain Historical Museum Board of Directors and the Moving Wall Committee.

### DEADLINES



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#### NEWS ITEMS & SOCIAL NOTES

12 p.m. Monday

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12 p.m. Monday

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5 p.m. Tuesday

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#### POLICIES

- Submission of news items and social notes are recommended to be done a week in advance. Submission of items is not a guarantee that they will run in the newspaper.

- Letters to the editor must be signed and include address and phone number. Thank you letters are required to be placed as paid personal notes.

- Weddings & Engagements will be published with one photo for \$25 each.