

PROTECTING: *the city's valuable water source for years to come; final part of a series*

FROM Page 4A

Before his death to stroke and congestive heart failure July 1, 2009, Moss was still talking about his vision for a second lake, a sister to Moss Lake.

"Who knows but in years to come the city administration may have to take another look at John Henry's idea," said Murphrey.

But for now the mayor says the city has more pressing projects in water improvements, specifically the third phase of a new water line from Moss Lake to town, repairing the spillway at the dam on Moss Lake and water plant upgrades - each one with a high price tag.

Dennis Wells, Water Superintendent, said voters will likely be asked to float a bond referendum to fund the two biggest water projects - the spillway and taking the third phase of the water line from Moss Lake into town. The city will be debt free this year of water/sewer bond payments and Wells said that 2012-2013 is target date to start construction on the third phase of the line.

Mayor Murphrey called the construction of the first two phases of the water line "the worst areas." The city has laid up to 3,500 feet of water lines from the water plant to Muddy Fork and 2,500 to 3,000 feet from the tank at Public Works down to North Cansler Street.

Murphrey said the original plan to take the new line up Oak Grove Road may not be feasible. The new direction may be Stoney Point Road to US 74.

Are expansions of the water treatment plant in the future?

"We looked at expansion back in 2002 but the economy fell through," said Wells. Surveys were completed but Wells said at the time that prospect of a second lake took center stage. Wells said the city's goal of 2025 for treatment plant expansion may be moved up depending on usage of prospective new customers. The mayor estimates that when the data center park is full each data center could be using roughly 300,000 gallons of water a day. The largest data center is yet to move in next to Wipro and Disney. "I think in 2 to 2 1/2 years we could easily be up to 6 million gallons a day," Murphrey said.

Wells said there have been no major upgrades to the water plant since 1978. During the recent budget meeting with council Wells detailed the costs (\$9.8 million) for a complete rehabilitation of the water plant and expansion from 8 mgd to 10 mgd. Sludge handling is also another big expense item.

Controlling contaminants

But former city Planning Director Gene White suggests the city consider other problems that may also arise in the future. Moss Lake is surrounded by 745 adjoining property owners. Many of the houses were built in the late 60s and 1970's. Nearly every property is served by an underground septic system.

As septic systems age, they are known to fail or rust allowing sewage to back up on the soil above it. That could be a problem, noted Marty Allen, Environmental Health director of the Cleveland County Health Department.

"On-site wastewater systems installed at Moss Lake, are affected by more stringent setbacks due to the lake being a drinking water supply reservoir," Allen said. "All wastewater systems, on-site, or municipal, if not kept in proper working order, could potentially be a source of contamination."

"Other potential sources of contamination come from underground or above ground heating oil tanks, pet lots, gasoline storage tanks, and livestock wading in the lake. Add to that, storm water run-off which not only causes the lake to be 'muddy', but also brings with it fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides used by homeowners. And, don't forget the gasoline and oil that is given off by inboard and outboard motor boats that frequent the lake," he said.

Allen added that each on-site wastewater system utilizing a pump is inspected every five years. But "gravity flow systems are not required to be inspected unless they are affected by the installation of another structure, i.e. swimming pool, out building, remodeling which increases the house 'foot print' or adds a bedroom, replacing a mobile home, etc. Otherwise they may never be inspected until they malfunction or fail," Allen said.

"When a system fails, environmental health will perform the same duties to issue a repair permit and inspect the final installation."

The issue of contaminated water would fall to the city, but property owners would be held accountable. Wells said that the city works with the county and the state in monitoring the water supply.

There is no barricade along the city's control strip perimeter of the lake to prevent contamination.

White also noted the risk of leakage from the county landfill, which is situated near the creek that feeds into Moss Lake.

"Our landfill has taken every precaution to insure that leakage and/or run-off is prevented, as much as possible," Allen said. "There are groundwater monitoring wells around the landfill, to detect leakage, along with storm water diversions to prevent run-off."

"The Subtitle D regulations that landfills have to follow, require a high density polyethylene liner to contain the solid waste disposed within it. There are safe guards to limit, contain or collect rain water that falls on the landfill," Allen continued. "The rain water is then stored in tanks, partially treated, and then sent by way of municipal sewer for final treatment."

He added, "No landfill is 100 percent 'foolproof', but ours is as technologically sound as any landfill can be."

"Owners of on-site wastewater systems, and landfills are responsible for the proper operation and maintenance and assume the responsibility or liability for their failure, whether they are an individual, corporation or business, city or county," Allen said.

The City of Kings Mountain monitors its drinking water for contaminants according to federal and state laws. Considerable contaminations are required to be reported to the public.

A report on the presence and amount of contaminants found annually in tests is listed on the city's website ("2010 Consumer Confidence Report" at cityofkm.com/water_0.asp).

"Our water department staff has a total of 60 years experience looking out for water needs," says Wells. "We know the little nuances, we can listen and hear and know what to do by the sound the pumps are making."

"They know that they're doing and the city has the infrastructure to meet growth," the mayor added.

Wells, who has been with the city 18 years and water director since 2004, was the late Supt. Walt Ollis' right hand man. Wells, promoted through the ranks from third shift water operator, admits following behind Walt asking lots of questions. "Walt was a walking encyclopedia on water," says Wells.

Emily Weaver contributed to this report.

B.C. joins animal rescue group

BESSEMER CITY - Furbabies Rescue in Bessemer City, has joined other animal welfare organizations in the area that list their homeless pets on Petfinder.com, the oldest and largest database of adoptable animals on the Internet. The site currently has over 359,000 homeless pets listed, and it is updated continuously.

More than 13,500 animal welfare organizations in the U.S., Canada, and other countries post their pets on the site. Furbabies Rescue pets may be viewed at <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/NC749.html>.

A potential adopter enters search criteria for the kind of pet he or she wants, and a list is returned that ranks the pets in proximity to the ZIP code entered. Adoptions are handled by the animal placement group where the pet is housed, and each group has its own policies.

Petfinder.com was created in early 1996 as a grassroots project by Jared and Betsy Saul, to end the euthanasia of adoptable pets. Since its inception, the site has facilitated approximately 20 million adoptions, making it the most life-saving initiative in animal welfare.

Park: Vitality coming

FROM Page 3A

downtown.

pedestrian corridors will enhance the visual and safety aspects of downtown and be a catalyst to spur redevelopment and enhance foot traffic.

Mountaineer Partnership hopes to move forward with city support and begin renovations by the end of the year. Building on recommendations from the state's Main Street Center, which the city joined nearly two years ago, panelists looked at ways to make downtown alleyways and pocket parks more pedestrian-friendly. Both are currently considered to be "underutilized" in

At a well-attended Design Summit on April 28, Main Street designers said that a pedestrian-oriented environment makes maximum use of smaller spaces. They noted lighting, small parks, additional trees and an outside shopping mall with streets and sidewalks or public spaces acts as a "connective tissue holding together retailers."

NEXT WEEK - In Mountaineer Partnership's third focus project for improvements to downtown pedestrian corridors, sketches reveal plans to renovate "Grease Trap Alley."

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	Paksoy 3112	•	•	•	•	•	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
	Paksoy 3116	•	•	•	•	•	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
	Paksoy 3116	•	•	•	•	•	1:15 PM – 4:15 PM
	Paksoy 3116	•	•	•	•	•	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
ABE/GED	Online						Online
Adult High School/GED Lab	Paksoy 3105	•	•	•	•	•	8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
	Paksoy 3105					•	8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
English as a Second Lang.	Hunt 2054	•	•	•	•	•	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
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	Friendship United Methodist Church 111 Friendship Dr., Fallston	•	•		•		5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
	New Bynum Chapel AME Zion 313 N. Cansler St., Kings Mountain	•	•	•	•		8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
	East Elementary 600 Cleveland Ave., Kings Mountain	•		•			5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
	Washington Missionary Baptist Ch. 1920 Stony Point Road, Waco	•	•	•			8:15 AM – 12:15 PM
ABE/GED	CJPP Resource Center 308 Gardner St., Shelby	•	•	•	•		8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
	CJPP Resource Center 308 Gardner St., Shelby	•	•	•	•		1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
ABE/Teach Me to Read	Job Link (ESC) 404 E. Marion St., Shelby	•	•	•	•	•	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
GED	Durham United Methodist Church 320 E. Ross Grove Rd., Shelby		•	•	•		9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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