



Photo by Melany Bolin

ORGANIZE GROUP — Sgt. Shirley Pruett, left, of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, assists Sue Allen in organizing the officers for the newly-formed Bethware Community Watch. The group organized in a special meeting Monday night at David Baptist Church.

Watch Groups Prevent Crime

By MELANY BOLIN
Staff Writer

The Bethware Community Crime Watch program was organized Monday night at David Baptist Church.

Sgt. Shirley Pruett of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department was guest speaker for the organizational meeting and explained how the community should get involved in combating crime.

Ms. Pruett said she got involved in community watch four years ago and now runs a tight schedule of trying to get communities involved.

In 1979-80, she said, there were 72 break-ins in the north end of the county. Break-ins are generally professional jobs, she said. Thieves use walkie-talkies and scanners and usually watch people's homes and know when they are away.

In most cases, she said, robbers do not want the victims to be at home because first degree theft carries penalties of up to life in prison, whereas, breaking and entering when no one is at home carries a lighter sentence.

"The crime watch program is not going to stop crime, but it will help," Ms. Pruett said.

Communities organize crime watch programs by choosing a committee, chairmen, and block captains who oversee six to seven homes in their area.

A nominal cost of about \$5 per family is required for reflector signs to be placed on mailboxes and boundary signs that proclaim the community as a crime watch community.

After her speech, Ms. Pruett answered questions and gave out community watch stickers and

booklets for all interested persons.

When asked why she thought a community should get involved in crime watch, Ms. Pruett said, "the days and times have changed. It used to be that almost everyone would never lock their doors when they left home. Now, everyone is warned to always lock doors when they leave and when they return inside their homes."

"We need to be on the lookout for our family as well as our neighbors, so that we can do our part in preventing and catching those involved in crimes," she said. "Watching out for others is actually watching out for yourself and your family because it helps you when those involved in crimes are caught."

Ms. Pruett gave the following tips on preventing crime:

- Use dead-bolt locks for front and back doors.
- Don't carry large sums of money.
- Women should not carry handbags but should carry change purses that can be carried in the hand.
- Forty to 50 percent of break-ins are through unlocked doors. Therefore, be sure to always lock doors.
- If you see any strange people or vehicles in the neighborhood, contact the Sheriff's Dept. If possible, get the tag number.
- Do not approach the person or persons you suspect as being robbers.
- Make a special effort to watch out for the elderly.
- Do not advertise. Leave a light on at night.

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Apartments To Be Built

Rezoning Request Okayed

By GARY STEWART
Co-Editor

The Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners Monday night unanimously approved the rezoning of 10 acres of property on Canterbury Road to be used for the construction of multi-family luxury apartments.

Local attorney Scott Cloninger made the request on behalf of Hunter Real Estate of Greenville, S.C., which plans to build the 80-unit complex on the J.O. Plonk Estate. The property adjoins Herald Publishing Co.

The local Planning and Zoning

Board earlier approved the request and recommended that the city board approve it.

A similar request by the real estate firm to build the apartments near Kings Mountain Country Club was denied by the Zoning Board several months ago. Hunter withdrew its request before it went before the city board.

Cloninger cited a problem in traffic flow as the main reason residents on the west side of town protested the apartments being built there.

"I don't think we will have

that problem here because of the Highway 74 bypass which we all hope will be completed," Cloninger said.

"Hunter Real Estate prefers this property anyway," Cloninger told the board. "It is far away from any residential houses."

No persons present spoke in opposition of the request.

The city board several months ago approved rezoning of property in the Canterbury Road area from residential to light industry over the protest of several area citizens. At that time,

Herald Publishing and Commercial Shearing were planning to build there. Both companies are now in operation.

The 10 acres are divided into two tracts of 4.22 and 5.88 acres, and Cloninger said a 60-foot driveway will be built between the tracts. He said he feels the right of way could someday be extended "all the way to Gold Street to alleviate any traffic flow problems."

In other action Monday night, the board approved several mat-

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Meter Reading Class Set

Are your utility bills too high? Are you interested in lowering them?

If so, classes set at the Governmental Services Facilities Center could be your answer.

Walt Ollis, section supervisor for the City Public Works Department, Mayor John Moss and the Board of Commissioners will lead meter reading classes on Tues., Feb. 24, and Thurs., Feb. 26, from 1:30 until 5 p.m. and 7:30 until 9 p.m.

The classes will teach concerned citizens how to read gas, electric and water meters, and suggest ways in which to cut energy usage.

The classes are being scheduled due to the ever-increasing costs of utilities. If enough interest is shown, Mayor Moss said classes will be scheduled in different districts of the city to reach "as many citizens as possible."

Moss said the city has received numerous complaints on high energy bills since the last billing, and he understands the citizens' concerns.

"With the citizens being able to read their meters, they will be able to determine their usage and be able to adjust their usage habits and conserve energy," he said.

"We are very concerned with the cost of energy and recognize that for people on fixed incomes it is very difficult," he added.

"We want to work in every way possible to assist citizens in keeping the cost of utilities as low as possible."

By keeping a running tab on the use of electricity, gas and water, Moss feels the citizens can lower their utility costs through wise usage.

"This is being done in an effort to work closely with citizens to assist them in any way possible," he said. "We feel the classes will provide the citizens the ability to check their usage as often as they desire so as to reduce their use habits and lower the costs."

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HONORED FOR LONG SERVICE — Tommy King, left, Jack E. Hullender, Rev. J.C. Goare and Jim Amos are pictured at a special recognition service honoring Jack Hullender for service to scouting. Mr. Amos presents a plaque from former members of Hullender's scout troop.

School Calendar Kept As Is

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Co-Editor

The Kings Mountain Board of Education voted 3-1 Monday night to "keep as it is" the proposed 1981-82 school calendar over objections from 216 members of the NCAE-ACT units.

Board member Bill McDaniel made the motion, Kyle Smith seconded and June Lee approved the adopted calendar. Harold Lineberger abstained. Chairman Marion Thomasson votes only in event of a tie.

Speaking on behalf of the NCAE KM Unit, President John Pettus said that a survey of 228 representatives of eight school plants, including some P-TA members, expressed "discontent" at the lack of teacher input in drawing up the new calendar. Pettus said the committee did not propose more than one calendar, as has been the custom in years prior, and that the proposed calendar was not posted at schools for teacher "comment" before it was approved last month.

Teachers and parents objected, he said, to a shortened, (by two days) Christmas break and a lengthy spring vacation. Next year's calendar cuts the usual two weeks for Christmas and includes a spring vacation of seven school days. The new calendar calls for Christmas holidays beginning Wed., Dec. 23, and concluding Fri., Jan. 1. Easter vacation begins Thurs., Apr. 8 and concludes Fri., Apr. 16.

The NCAE Council proposed cutting two holidays from the spring break and adding them onto Christmas vacations so that Christmas holidays would begin Mon., Dec. 21 and conclude Jan. 1. Easter holidays.

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Hullender Is Honored For Service To Scouting

Jack E. Hullender, 81, was honored for 45 years service to Boy Scouts of America at a special program planned by former members of his troop, at Kings Mountain Baptist Church Sunday.

Mr. Hullender organized in the early 20's Troop No. 5 which was sponsored by the Goodfellows Club of Pauline Mill and disbanded in the early 1960's. Mr. Hullender continued in an advisory capacity to Boy Scouts in Kings Mountain in the years since he served as a scoutmaster.

Tommy King, Troop 91 scout-

master, presented the 45-year service pin from Boy Scouts of America and Jim Amos, a former Scouter, presented a handsome plaque to the well known Kings Mountain man which read, "Presented to Jack Hullender for Devotion to Scouting By The Boys He Served."

Fifteen former Boy Scouts who served under the leadership of Mr. Hullender were present for the special recognition service.

The Hullenders reside on Fulton St.

Funeral Services Today For Ex-Cop Ellis King

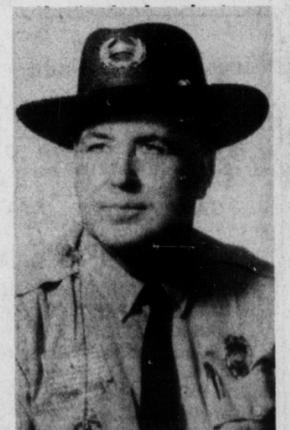
Ellis Harmon King, 65, of 609 Temple St., who retired Aug. 1, 1977 after 20 years with the Kings Mountain Police Department, died Tuesday afternoon in Kings Mountain Hospital after declining health.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday at 4 p.m. from Second Baptist Church of which he was a member. Rev. Eugene Land, assisted by Rev. W.F. Monroe, will officiate, and interment will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

At one time during the former officer's service with the Kings Mountain Police Department, two of his sons were serving on the police force with him.

Mr. King was son of the late John Claude and Sallie Elizabeth Cunningham King. His wife, Maude Jolly King, died Jan. 5, 1980.

Surviving are five sons, Tommy King, David King, Joe King, and Bobby King, all of Kings Mountain, and Jimmy King of Blacksburg, S.C.; three daughters, Miss Barbara King and Miss Susan King, both of Kings Mountain, Mrs. John D. (Janel) Wood Jr. of Bessemer Ci-



ELLIS HARMON KING

ty; a brother, Willis King of Kings Mountain; four sisters, Mrs. Sadie Burton, Mrs. Mamie Roper, Mrs. Milton (Jeanette) Kiser and Mrs. Harry (Reba) Wilson, all of Kings Mountain, and eight grandchildren.

Masters Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Higher Tuition Approved

Outside school district pupils will pay higher tuition next year but the board of education Monday delayed action on the recommended increase.

In a related action affecting pupils next year, the board postponed for further study a policy on transfer of elementary students beginning with the 1981-82 school year.

Board members asked Supt. William Davis to incorporate a proposed policy on appeals procedure to cover emergency situations and to cover children who move from one school zone to another within the school year.

The board also asked Davis to find out what tuition charges of Gaston and Cleveland County

systems are and report them at the March meeting.

The transfer policy, as proposed by Supt. Davis, spells out that beginning students in 1981-82 be assigned to the school in the attendance zone in which their parents or guardians reside. Students who are now attending schools outside their attendance zone will be permitted to continue unless that school becomes overcrowded. In that event, the last pupils approved for transfer by the board would be first to return to school in their own district. Out of district students would be assigned by the superintendent to the school closest to their residence. In the past, the parents have designated

the school of their choice and paid \$100 tuition. Persons who are employed in the schools would still have the option to place their child in the school in which they are employed, provided there is room for them. For administrative reasons, the board may request parents to volunteer to transfer their children outside attendance zones.

Supt. Davis reiterated that the current transfer policy makes it easy for students to attend schools outside their attendance areas and has resulted in overcrowded situations in the five elementary schools.

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