



EMILY WEAVER / HERALD

Karen Roy puts finishing touches on Ray Michaels' Karaoke Shop in downtown Kings Mountain.

Karaoke shop to open Saturday in downtown Kings Mountain

EMILY WEAVER

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Ray Michaels' Karaoke Shop, beside the Sub Factory on Mountain Street in downtown Kings Mountain, is scheduled to open for business on Saturday, July 1 at 11 am until 4 pm. The shop is owned and operated by local musician and singer Ray Michaels and the interior was designed by his wife and local artist Karen Roy. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Friday, June 30, at 2 pm.

Whatever your karaoke pleasure may be, Michaels' will have a wide variety of equipment, songs and products to choose from. "Anything he doesn't have here, he can order for you and have it in about a week," Roy said.

The walls are painted a rich Carolina blue with alternating strips of matte and shiny coats of paint. Roy painted musical notes and clefs on the right wall. "This is my talent and his is music," she laughed. "I'm just here to set up." With her artistic touch, she paints and beautifies the take off's in 'roads' to her husband's dream. It can be very hard for a musician to earn a large amount of income on a steady basis, unless of course he or she happens to be an American Idol or break into the star-studded arena. Michaels has always loved his music. He has been in a band for many years and sang karaoke too many times to count.

"With bands, one guy's wife is mad, he can't show up, you know there's always something with bands. So this way, he calls it his band in a box," she said. Through

this new venue, he has found a way to incorporate and share his love for music with the world, while giving other artists the opportunity to record.

"I don't think it's over for him yet," she said. "Not only can he sing, but most people are Country or R&B and he sings everything. The only thing he can't sing is the Beach Boys and I don't know why," she said, with a hearty laugh. "He's just excellent."

A stage is set up against the left wall, where people from all over may come to sing... or at least try. "You'll be able to come in here and record. If you want to sing, if you want to just read a bedtime story to your grandchild and mail it across the country so they can hear it every night, if you want to do greetings," Roy said, adding that they will offer a wide range of recording opportunities.

They will have CDGs available to purchase for Karaoke equipment and to assist in song recordings. CDGs provide instrumental accompaniment and display the words or lyrics on a teleprompter that will light up the individual words at the right time for the singers. "It's kind of like follow the bouncing ball," Roy said. The musical snacks will be recorded onto a CD for customers to purchase. Prices are based on recording time and or the amount of songs. Four songs or an hour on a CD, whichever comes first, are \$20. If you're not much of a singer yourself, but would still like to record a personalized musical delight for your friends or object of affection, Michaels will be happy to sing your feelings for you.

"If you've made your wife mad you can talk on the CD

as well and say 'Honey, this is for you and I'm so sorry,' then sing your song. And if you don't sing, then you could come in and say 'Honey I'm so sorry' then you can have Ray sing the songs for you. You can pick them out especially for your wife," she said. Whether a personalized music CD is to dig yourself out of a ditch or to woo that special someone on Valentine's Day, the song choice is open to all genres, like Hip Hop, Jazz, R&B, Oldies, Rock, Gospel and Country. Roy said that her husband personally owns 5,000 songs, but he will have many more at the store. Advertisements, announcements, dedications and greetings may also be recorded.

A few tables and chairs will be available for audience seating at the store. But Roy said that some people don't like an audience. "Here, now, they could be the only one here," she said, noting that it takes away some of the intimidation of a bigger crowd. "And a lot of people who go out to do karaoke want to have their own karaoke thing at home to practice with before they go out, so they know the words, they know the song, they hear what they sound like. So that will be available for them too." They will offer beginner, intermediate and advanced equipment to their customers, in an effort to "cater to everybody," selling equipment, speakers and microphones.

So whether the Simon Cowells of the world say you're a star idol or not, you can become one at Ray Michaels' Karaoke Shop with your moments of fame recorded on your own personal, cut CD.

Cleveland Regional, KM Hospital increase success in many areas

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The Cleveland County HealthCare System Community Trustee Council met Monday afternoon to discuss the great strides and progress that Cleveland Regional Medical Center and Kings Mountain Hospital are making. Among the areas of Congestive Heart Failure, where the heart muscle becomes too weak to do its job of pumping blood adequately through the body; Acute Myocardial Infarction, a clinical term for a "heart attack," which is permanent damage to the heart muscle due to a lacking supply of blood; Community Acquired Pneumonia, which is an inflammation of the lungs caused by a bacteria or virus; and Hip and Knee replacement post-surgery infections, the hospitals have increased their success rate with local patients.

Systems Management at CCHS looked at their recorded figures in these fields to get a better idea of where they are and where they want to be in the healthcare industry. "Why do we look at all of these indicators and all of this data? It's because we want to reduce hospital readmission. We want to make sure that patients can stay in their home. We want to improve and prolong their quality of life and we want to decrease the mortality rate," said Vice President of Systems Management at CRMC Elizabeth Popwell.

According to their annual report and through the Hospital Quality Improvement Initiative, CRMC and KMH have made

great strides in these fields. CRMC has decreased their readmission rate by 37 percent, over the past few years. There is a 73 percent increase in meeting all of the best practice indicators for discharge instructions. The case study, conducted by CCHS, shows a 25 percent decrease in deaths from acute heart attack than in past years, a 70 percent reduction in post-knee surgery infections, a 35 percent reduction in post-hip surgery infections, and an improvement in preventive counseling or measures with heart patients, like giving aspirin, ace inhibitors, beta blockers and information on smoking cessation. Also, among the Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) patients, there is a 96 percent compliance for discharge instructions. "People who have this disease have to have a complete lifestyle change," Popwell said. "They have to learn a whole new diet routine, a whole new exercise routine and a whole new way of life."

There is a 48 percent improvement on the mortality rates among Community Acquired Pneumonia patients. The mortality rate for heart attacks at CRMC was at 85 percent in 2004 and was down to 64 percent last year. She said that through their work in the 100,000 Lives Saved program, they have reduced their mortality rates and improved their healthcare.

"The 100,000 Lives Saved campaign is a national campaign that both Cleveland and Kings Mountain have signed on for and it's something that the Institute of HealthCare Improvement has done to nationally pro-

mote hospitals and health-care to be safer, to be more proactive about healthcare and to really try to help improve and really promote more proactive reduction in mortality," Popwell said.

Their six initiatives in this campaign are: rapid response team, where if a nurse feels like something is not right he or she can call a team that will assist in taking a second look at the patient; prevention of patients dying from heart attacks; prevention of medication errors, through education and knowledge of all medications a patient will be taking; reducing central line infections; education through new literature on patients undergoing surgery; and education through new literature on patients with pneumonia. "Through that and through some of those implementations, over an 18 month period, Don Burwick just claimed victory, so to speak, for all of healthcare saying that we've saved 122,300 lives," Popwell said, adding that Cleveland County's efforts were a part of that.

KMH and CRMC are in the top deciles in terms of performance in the areas of CHF, Heart Attacks, and Hip and Knee Replacements, throughout the nation.

President John Young said that the hospitals and Cleveland County has raised more funds than 348 other counties in the Southeast for this year's Relay for Life.

Also at the meeting, Faye Lovelace and Ron Costner were commended for their many years of service in CCHS. They are both retiring and will be greatly missed among their colleagues.

PARTNERSHIP

From 1A

adoption.

"We have never been asked by the city to provide a budget but we have provided a complete financial statement and report to council at most all meetings," Smith told the board.

Corry said the partnership between the city and MSDA is a unique one and com-

mended Smith, Executive Director Morgan Edwards and the many committee members and volunteers for their work in getting the ball rolling on downtown revitalization.

Corry and Smith said the city followed guidelines from the North Carolina General Statutes that governed the creation of the MSA. The city is authorized to levy a property tax on

those properties located in the Service District to finance, provide or maintain for the providing of the services within the district. The additional tax paid by property owners within the District is a tax being paid in addition to their usual property taxes. The district tax raises \$23,689.80 annually with the city matching the fund dollar for dollar.

FOURTH

From 1A

retrieve the colors and to the tune of "Proud to be an American" Murphrey will embark on his final ride for the night.

As the muskets fire, all will become still and dark, like

the quiet before a storm. But just as all is settled... BOOM! The fireworks begin.

The celebration is scheduled to end around 10:30 pm. People are encouraged to arrive early in order to find a parking space. Spectators may park wherever, as long as it is not on someone else's property without permission

or impeding the flow and safety of traffic. Former Mayor Scott Neisler will be the pyrotechnician, in charge of lighting the fireworks.

This celebration of America's freedom is sponsored by the City of Kings Mountain, The Herald and WKMT radio.

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Published every Thursday
Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086
USPS 118-880 by Republic Newspapers, Inc.
Postmaster, send address changes to:
P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611
Office: 824-1 East King Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086
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