

## BRIEFS

### Bell ringing begins

Volunteers from the community will start ringing bells this weekend and every weekend until Christmas at the various grocery stores in the area. It's a project of the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry and all donations will help needy people.

"We are seeing more people at this holiday season because folks are without jobs," said Iris Frady, the Crisis Ministry Director.

Frady said she is seeing people needing money for fuel, many new families in the area and college students needing a helping hand.

"We are so grateful for the community's support," said Frady.

### Costners to turn on the lights Thursday night!

The switch will be flipped Thursday night on one of the longest-running Christmas light displays in the area.

"We're ready," say Grady and Katie Costner who have added a few more spectacular sights to the more than 200,000 lights in their yards and in the mobile home park across the road from their home in the Midpines Community.

Steel rods welded meticulously by Costner become creative masterpieces when illuminated by sparkling lights to delight the young and young at heart. The decorations rival any you may see at more distant places. Some call the Costner lights a "mini McAdenville."

"You don't have to drive far to the Midpines Community to see and get the holiday spirit," says Katie Costner. Their home is ablaze with lights and glitter every night beginning at 5:30 p.m. Santa Claus is also on hand to greet the children and present them with a candy cane.

It's all free although the Costners will accept donations to help pay the cost of electricity for the month of December.

### Cleveland County Schools to add 4 new school resource officers

To continue to provide a safe learning environment for students, Cleveland County Schools will add four school resource officers (SROs) by January 1. These additional positions will be fully funded by the school system, supplemented by a grant provided by the state.

"This is just another safe step forward for our students and community," said Dr. Brian Hunnell, CCS' Director of Administrative Services. "With the variety of security and facility upgrades Cleveland County Schools has made over the years, the officers will be set up to succeed as the watchmen of our youth."

The SROs will receive additional school-related training that will prepare them to mentor and counsel, work collaboratively with teachers and school administrators, apply juvenile statutes and case law, have in-depth knowledge about policies, procedures, and the culture of the school community, and manage and carry out school safety plans.

Superintendent Bruce Boyles stated, "We have had a cooperative relationship with the law enforcement agencies in our county in providing these officers. As we fund these positions, schools will have added support and resources to ensure our students are safe. We will continue working to secure additional funds, ultimately providing officers for all of our schools."

### HOW TO REACH US

Contact the Herald by:

coming by the office at 700 E. Gold St.; call 704-739-7496; fax 704-739-0611; or email lib.kmherald@gmail.com

## City Hall getting roof replacement

*A wind-vented roofing system uses high winds to create a vacuum that flushes out moisture and pulls the roof tighter to the building.*

City Hall is getting a new roof this week in a move that city managers say has been on the horizon for several years after repeated leaks.

"It was deteriorating. It was leaking," said Rickey Putnam, the city's director of Public Works. "It was to the point that it was not cost effective to continue repairs."

Administrators opted for a roofing system that employs a relatively new kind of technology to prevent wind and water damage. Called wind-vented roofing, the new approach uses strategically placed equalizer valves to create a vacuum between the roof membrane and the top of the building when winds are strong and would normally pull at the material, causing damage.

The design also pulls water out, which prevents damage and leaks.

With the "wind-vented system ... the harder the wind blows, the roof sucks tighter to the building. That aids in the drying process," Putnam said, adding that a number of local schools, including North Elementary and Kings Mountain High School, are using the wind-vented technology.

"It's a fairly new technology," said Holly Black, who is the director of Codes Administration and Engineering Standards for the city. "With the taxpayers in mind, it's the best for the cheapest."

The city accepted bids on the job and wound up awarding the roofing work to a South Carolina company for \$84,345.

Workers from Roof Options of Gaffney, S.C., began to set up for the project Friday, Putnam said, adding that the work may take up to 30 days, depending on weather conditions.



Workers load roofing material onto City Hall last Friday. After years of expensive leaks, the city is replacing the building's roof in a job that could take a month if bad weather interferes with the project.

## Enthusiastic audience greets Richmond

Donny Richmond sang his longest-running No. 1 Top 20 Song of the Year "I Believe" to an enthusiastic audience Sunday morning at Penley's Chapel Church.

The six-time winner of Country Gospel Entertainer of the Year was a big hit to the concert crowd and said that he loves to visit churches like Penley's where he has become a friend of Chief of Police Melvin Proctor and his wife, Sgt. Lisa Proctor.

Mayor Rick Murphrey presented Richmond with a key to the city and Richmond quipped, "Now, I will for sure come back." The mayor's wife, Sandra, also attended the concert.

Richmond drove from the Pigeon Forge, Tennessee area Saturday night. "I didn't get to see much of Kings Mountain but I sure do want to bring my wife and family back, this is a nice town," he said Sunday before the service when he talked with early worshippers.

Richmond and his wife, Doris McGinnis Richmond, have been married 21 years and live in Sevierville, Tennessee and are active in First Baptist Church. Son, Donny Jr. and Richmond are recording a duet the first of the year and son, Carl, was cast as young David in the recent Biblical Times Dinner Theatre show where the Kings Mountain Proctors met the Richmond family.

Entertaining has been a way of life for Donny Richmond. He was four years old when he began singing for neighbors around the kid's swings in the backyard. In the second grade, if it rained and the class couldn't go outside for recess, the



KMPD Chief Melvin Proctor, his wife Lisa, and Donny Richmond, left to right, are pictured at Penley's Chapel Church Sunday where they welcomed country and Christian entertainer Richmond to Kings Mountain.

Photo by LIB STEWART

teacher would call Donny to sing. He grew up just outside Washington, DC. In Junior and Senior High he became interested in writing songs. He sang at his own prom, wearing an outlandish outfit with gold sparkle shoes.

"I attended college by day studying music and acting," said Richmond.

In 1992 while visiting Nashville, he was invited to appear on a special recording project with Stonewall Jackson, featuring many of the old time country music artists. The resulting album is entitled, "Stonewall Jackson and Super Friends" featuring a host of country music stars and legends.

Richmond moved to Nashville in 1993 and since that time has gone on to

make history by charting both on mainstream country music charts and Christian/country gospel charts simultaneously. In the U. S. during the 1990s he was at the forefront of the Christian country music movement.

In 2011 his recording of "Gospel Jukebox," written by Walter Cunningham, became the longest running No. 1 in the history of the European Christian chart, breaking the previous record set by Vince Gill. In 2013, his longest running "I Believe" is still in current release internationally receiving pop radio airplay. "The Jailhouse Rocked," reached Europe's No. 2 chart in 2012. His Christmas video, "Heartbreak Holiday"

continues to receive air play each Christmas season and is regarded by many as a classic. "Heartbreak Holiday" also led to the Christmas 2005 short feature film by the same name and featured Richmond which drew rave reviews on American television.

He has made numerous appearances, including on his own "the Donny Richmond Show" on the Christian network.

"I travel a lot and I am often asked to present awards on the Nashville stage but what I like best is visiting small churches. Singing, giving my testimony and meeting new friends who share my love of gospel music and my God," he said.

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**WATER PROJECT UNDERWAY** - Workmen with State Utility Contractors began this week on the city's \$3 million plus water line rehabilitation project on West King Street. The water line rehabilitation runs from West Mountain to Gaston, Gold Street from Phifer Road to Battleground, West King to Railroad Avenue and East King to Oriental Avenue. The city is expecting to complete water and sewer improvements in the new year that will total \$33.8 million.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL