

Highlights from the week of  
December 2 - 8 \*

## **Public Works Committee Hears Reports on Gas, Water, and Grounds Maintenance**

The Public Works Committee held their regular monthly meeting at Covington City Hall Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Present were committee members Chairman Alderman Mac McGowan, Alderman John Edwards, and Alderman Drew Glass. Also present were Recorder-Treasurer Tina Dunn, Mayor Justin Hanson, Alderwoman Minnie Bommer, Alderman Jere Hadley, CPW Director David Gray, Streets Manager James Dowell, Utilities Manager Calvin Johnson, Code Enforcement Officer Jason Jenkins, Water and Waste Water Manager James Mason, Grounds Maintenance Manager Tim Taylor, Assistant to the Mayor Sara Gangaware, David Gwinn, and Margaret Fleming

Chairman McGowan called the meeting to order at 1:00 and called on Public Works Director David Gray to speak.

CPW Director David Gray

- Gas revenue – low volumes used = low sales. This is a problem all over west Tennessee. Gray provided results of a study that was done the last time we had this problem showing rate changes to offset the low sales. Revenue was down \$14,000 last year from 2015. At this point into this budget year, we are down in sales again. If this trend continues, we will be operating in the red.
- Steve Wyatt, utilities expert with MTAS, also addressed the group. He said we have lost about 40% of volume sales, resulting in a decline of our revenue stream. Mr. Wyatt distributed graphs showing that we have lost revenue due to fixed costs. He stated that warmer winter temperatures and more efficient appliances have also contributed. Mr. Wyatt stated this is happening in other places, and many municipalities are operating in the red. Mayor Hanson pointed out that the City of Covington has operated in the black for the last two years. Mr. Wyatt suggested raising the fixed rates. Alderman Edwards asked if we have to make a decision now, or can we wait to see what the winter will be like. Wyatt suggested not to gamble on it. He suggested we get our fixed rates up so we can stay solvent. He pointed out we have experienced a diminished revenue stream for three years in a row. Without an increase, Gray expects to be \$70,000 to \$80,000 in the red for this year and stated that the auditor already brought this to his attention. The rate here has been \$10 since the year 2000 – not giving us a rate increase for 17 years. Gray also reported that in comparison to surrounding counties and municipalities, our rates are near the bottom. The system was built to meet the demands needed at the time, but things are constantly changing and we have to address those changes. Again, Wyatt suggested increasing the base rate for gas.
- Gray stated that he has calculated how to close this gap in loss of revenue so we can close the year in the black rather than in the red. Chairman McGowan asked many questions and engaged in discussions with Gray and Wyatt and concluded we have to close this gap and asked Gray if he has a specific recommendation. Gray stated to raise the base gas rate \$2.50 per month, making the minimum bill \$12.50 rather than \$10.00, as it has been since 2000. Glass asked how confident Gray is this increase will balance us out. Gray stated he fully expects this to balance us out. Wyatt stated everything is a projection, but these are based on trends and the trend is clear at this time.
- Alderman Edwards motioned to take the information under advisement to better study it and Alderman Glass seconded. Wyatt asked if he could speak – and stated we are talking about only 4% increase in that revenue stream. Glass stated he wants to research other municipalities to see how we stack up. Wyatt cautioned to make sure we are comparing apples to apples, as each municipality has a different

ratio of residential and industrial customers. At that time, Alderman McGowan stated he would vote against taking it under advisement because of the time it will take to approve an ordinance and for that to take effect. He felt like we need to start closing the gap as soon as possible. Then Chairman McGowan asked for a vote and he was the only dissenting vote, with Edwards and Glass voting yes. McGowan stated the motion passed and it will be discussed again next month.

- Gray asked the committee if there is any follow-up information they need for next meeting. Glass asked for explanation as to how we got \$70,000 in the red. Hanson stated the problem seems to be just the lack of sales – something over which we have no control. Gray stated we had this same situation in early 2015 and worked with Wyatt at that time, as well. Gray also reported that more efficient heating units and industrial equipment also effects usage rates. Gray also stated that gas prices have gone up and Dunn stated operational costs continue to go up, as well.
- Gray then moved on to grounds maintenance and introduced Tim Taylor – grounds maintenance supervisor, and James Dowell, street sanitation manager. Gray included in his packet of materials a listing of the properties the city maintains and the total acreage, which is 273 acres. Gray then introduced Tim Taylor.
- Taylor went through all the responsibilities of his job, which includes all ball fields, cemeteries, the airport, overpasses, ditches, and all parks, among many other city properties. Taylor stated they are maintaining all properties, but are not able to do all he wants to do. He stated he feels many of these areas have been left untended for a long time and it is difficult to clean out and catch up. He stated he has a plan for maintaining all these areas, and they are constantly looking for more efficient ways to get things done and to do regular maintenance on machinery and equipment – preventative measures. He stated he could really use a couple more employees in this area and that he is going to have to have new equipment – as many items are “in the shop” all the time. Wants zero turn diesel lawnmower with bag, tractor with box blade and tiller, another truck and trailer, and two more employees. His goal is to make Covington look good – a beautiful town. This requires a lot of planning, work, equipment, supplies, and people. He wants to grow his department and also asked for a building maintenance person to eliminate his men being called off the job of grounds maintenance to move equipment, furniture, and make simple repairs in the facilities throughout the City. Taylor stated he is learning how to do soil tests to better and more efficiently treat areas. He also wants some time to provide training for his crew so they will be better trained to use the equipment, including the street sweeper, knuckle-boom trucks, leave vacuum trucks, and large tractors with attached equipment. Taylor stated the cemeteries are the largest consumers of time and manpower, and if anything should be outsourced, these may be the places to do it. Taylor stated the airport could outsource the mowing and upkeep of their area, as well. However, he feels his crews can do all of this with adequate manpower and equipment.

Director Gray reported that when we did outsource fall spraying the cemeteries, it cost us about \$167 an acre. Since we have done this ourselves, the cost was about \$7 an acre. McGowan asked if the department was using a growth regulator on the grass, and Gray reported they are spraying to kill and prevent weeds and broadleaf invaders. Gray suggested an RFP for outsourcing mowing and spraying in cemeteries and include this in our budget. Gray wants to compare the costs of outsourcing to maintaining cemeteries ourselves. Alderman Glass asked if municipalities have to be licensed to spray, and Gray stated he has investigated this and learned through MTAS if we can buy it over the counter, then we can spray. Gray did support outsourcing mowing at the airport.

Alderman Edwards stated he understands the problem because adding things like the ballfields throws a lot more responsibility on this department they aren't used to handling. Glass asked what parks and rec is responsible for and what grounds maintenance is responsible for. Gray stated Parks and Rec only provide part time employees who put in only a few hours a day/week. Gray stated this goes back to adequately staffing the grounds maintenance crew and he feels Taylor needs 8 dedicated employees plus the two part timers from Parks and Rec. He stated they can do all that is needed with adequate staff and materials. However, due to sickness, injuries, vacation days and other absences plus demands from

other departments, Taylor *rarely* ever has a full staff to perform these duties. As a result, they are in the process of making areas in the city low maintenance so it can be kept looking nice, rather than have high maintenance areas we aren't able to maintain. Gray stated he isn't trying to make excuses, it is just the truth. We need better equipment and more employees to do the job needed/expected on **all** the properties of the city. Alderman Glass suggested this crew not tackling the ball fields. Taylor stated ball fields have already been sprayed this fall and he plans to maintain them throughout the winter. Alderman Edwards asked if we are keeping up with labor and other costs to keep up with the ball fields. Gray stated city has always cut outsides of the fields anyway, so we have always been on the properties. Glass stated he has been asked about the stumps at the pool and feels this is a liability. He asked for this to be addressed and also Patriot Park needs attention – particularly with Dickens on the Square this weekend. Gray stated that would be done and asked that anyone who has a concern contact him directly and he will address it.

- Chairman McGowan cautioned Taylor to be careful with ornamental grasses and said he has some thoughts and ideas that may work. Hanson stated that the grounds maintenance positions grew out of the frustrations of maintaining 273 acres. He stated we paired with Parks and Rec on doing this to share in the work and funding. He also reiterated that Taylor does work, and doesn't just supervise. Taylor commented that he certainly does that and would rather work on landscaping than be called off to do maintenance in other city facilities. McGowan suggested Gray and Taylor work on a budget amendment, if that is what is needed. Edwards motioned to take this under advisement and McGowan seconded. Motion passed. Alderwoman Bommer then asked to give kudos to Parks and Rec and Public Works for working together for more efficiency in the area of grounds maintenance.
- Paving is taking place on Murphy and Sherrod streets; progress will depend on the weather.
- One leaf truck is down. More trucks and men are being used to compensate for this and they are working hard to get all leaves picked up. If you need assistance, please call 901-476-9613 ext 113
- Water/Waste Water Plant Manager James Mason addressed the regular State monitoring of our drinking water. Of the required 30 samples that were sent in to the State for testing, one of the samples leaked in the process of transportation. We resubmitted the 30<sup>th</sup> sample, but it didn't get in on State's timeline, which resulted in a violation. Of the 29 samples that DID get to the State intact, we tested way below recommended levels of lead and copper in our drinking water. However, because the 30<sup>th</sup> sample did not get in on the appropriate timeline, this resulted in sanctions. Mason assured the committee our drinking water is safe, but we must put up a notice to the public due to the timeline violation. We will be pulling 60 samples in the next 6 months to respond to state sanctions, as well. Mayor Hanson pointed out that the City of Covington has had a clean water report for 15 straight years. Mason and Johnson stated this will not happen again.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

# Public Safety Committee held Rescheduled Meeting

The Public Safety Committee held a make-up meeting on Tuesday, December 5 at Covington City hall at 3:00. Present were committee members Chairman Alderman Mac McGowan, Alderwoman Minnie Bommer, and Alderman CH Sullivan. Also present were Alderman Jere Hadley, Alderman Drew Glass, Police Chief Buddy Lewis, Fire Chief Mike Naifeh, Recorder-Treasurer Tina Dunn, Assistant to the Mayor Sara Gangaware, Margaret Fleming, Echo Day, David Gwinn

Chairman Alderman McGowan called the public safety committee meeting to order at 3:00 and called on Fire Chief Mike Naifeh to begin his report.

CFD Chief Mike Naifeh:

- Promotion for volunteer firefighters – working with Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association grant to attract and retain volunteer firefighters.
- Met with Dennis Wolf of MTAS to begin process for working on disaster plan for the City of Covington. Under State Law, Counties are required to have a disaster plan, but Naifeh is working on a plan specific to the City of Covington.
- October was busy month as it was also Fire Prevention Month. CFD visited schools, churches, and homes to help educate the public about fire safety. Naifeh believes the department came in contact with roughly 3500 children in October.
- CFD responded to 199 calls from September 9 - October 23 including 30 sick parties, 9 respiratory illness, 16 grass fires, 11 fire alarms and 11 medical alarms, 4 structure fires, and 11 vehicle fires.
- CFD responded to 291 calls from October 24 – November 27 including 43 sick parties, 23 respiratory illness, 20 injury calls, 17 calls for persons unconscious, 7 structure fires and 5 vehicle fires
- CFD is still working with their committee to evaluate and purchase a new pumper/ tanker
- Grounds maintenance/beds being worked on at both fire stations in Covington by the Ag Department at Covington High School at no cost to the City of Covington.
- 392 hours worked by volunteers in the month of September and 163 hours worked by volunteers in the month of October.
- CARE Officer Mark Heaston installed 68 working smoke detectors/alarms, made 43 welfare checks, and made special presentations to girl scouts, churches, and civic organizations throughout the city during October and November. Officer Heaston was also made a Home Fire Safety presentation for approximately 320 employees at Delfield Manufacturing in Covington.

Alderman CH Sullivan motioned to accept Chief Naifeh's report and Alderwoman Bommer seconded. Motion passed.

CPD Chief Buddy Lewis:

- CPD has responded to approximately 26,000 calls thus far this year in the City of Covington.
- Third quarter statistics are:
  - 7500 calls responded to
  - 336 arrests made
  - 450 citations issued
- There is a vacancy in the CPD and the job is posted in [Human Resources](#)
- One hire has been made – a certified officer from Hardeman County
- Two new vehicles have been delivered to CPD and are in the process of being appropriately equipped

- School zone speeds – currently speed limits are set for 15 MPH all day every day. Lewis suggested keeping the 15 mph limit while children are present, but not all of the time. McGowan asked Lewis if there is a basic speed limit in the city. Lewis stated the speed limits on city streets is 30 MPH unless otherwise posted.
- Lewis also confirmed that counties and municipalities set school zones. Alderman Glass asked about a school zone being set at TCA, and Lewis stated he believes a school zone is needed there, as well. Lewis also reported that whenever possible, he posts officers at South Main and South College to help keep traffic flowing from Mark Walker Blvd.
- Chairman McGowan motioned for Chief Lewis to contact MTAS and other agencies as applicable to address school zones and traffic issues. Alderwoman Bommer seconded. Motion passed. Lewis will report his findings at the next meeting.

Alderman CH Sullivan motioned to accept Chief Lewis’s report and McGowan seconded. Motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

## DEPARTMENTAL TIDBITS

“keeping you up-to-date with what’s going on in our city”

### **HUMAN RESOURCES & SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- **The Covington Civic Center (across from Post Office) will be open during Dickens on the Square Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be several vendors inside and Mayor Hanson will play Christmas music on the organ. Please stop in while you are enjoying the festivities of Dickens Christmas!**

### **Career Opportunities:**

[Lifeguard](#)

[Police Dept](#)

[Grounds Maintenance Keeper](#)

- **The public is cordially invited to attend Ribbon Cutting and Christmas Open House at the Covington Civic Center on December 15 from 9:00 – 11:00. There will be food, music, good cheer, and tours of the facility.**



## **PUBLIC WORKS AND STREETS:**



**Gavin Stang and Clint Tennyson installed new heaters at the pool to help keep it warm in the upcoming colder temperatures.**



**Glenn Parrish, Eddie Rich, Clint Tennyson, and Patrick Steinhaus replaced a leaky water service line this week. Public Works crews work diligently to keep gas and water lines maintained and working efficiently.**

## **PARKS AND RECREATION:**

- **Master Chief's BOOT CAMP Saturday, December 9 at noon at Cobb-Parr Park**
- **Youth basketball signups will continue through December 11.  
Season starts January 13**
- **Covington Sportsplex is partnering with USA Flag Football in 2018. Registration is open NOW. [Click here for more information!](#)**

## **Covington Aquatic Center:**

- **Holiday open swim hours will be 1:00 – 6:00 beginning December 19 through January 3. Come by for a swim in the warm water!**

## **CODES:**

### **Code Requirements for Address numbers....**

- **need to be visible from the street**
- **Shall contrast from their background**
- **Shall be a minimum of 4 inches high**
- **A minimum of ½ inch stroke width**
- **When the building address can not be viewed from the public way, a monument pole, or other sign or means shall be used to identify the structure**

## **MUSEUM:**

- **Tipton County Museum Director Barrie Foster taught an art class to Girl Scout troop 13804 at Macedonia United Methodist Church. These are the same girls who have been providing refreshments to the Veteran of the Month reception at the Museum since April. The girls created Christmas cards using oil pastels, watercolor with salt, and markers. Ms. Foster thanks the girls for all they do in the community.**



- **The Isaac Hayes exhibit has been taken down at the Tipton County Museum making way for the new Christmas exhibit. Most of the Isaac Hayes exhibit was borrowed from the Stax Museum in Memphis, so Sherri Onorati carefully wrapped all those artifacts for transport back to Stax.**
- **Tipton County Master Gardener Keith Kunkel custom made a display sleigh for the museum and delivered it this week. It is included in the Christmas exhibit.**

- **Museum Archivist Sherri Onorati has earned the status of “Certified Archives Manager” from the State of Tennessee’s Archives Institute.**



- **On Thursday morning Tipton County Museum Director Barrie Foster was a guest speaker to the seniors at their new location at the Covington Civic Center. She reviewed the history of the museum, the exhibits and programs, the proposed expansion, and more. She also invited the group to tour the museum and grounds**



### **Covington Fire Department:**

**Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.**

- **Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.**
- **Have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.**

- **Never use your oven to heat your home.**
- **Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.**
- **Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.**
- **Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.**
- **Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.**
- **Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.**
- **Test smoke alarms at least once a month.**
- **[CLICK HERE](#) and [READ THIS](#) before you burn anything outside**

Tennessee Code/TITLE 39 CRIMINAL OFFENSES/CHAPTER 14 OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY/PART 3 ARSON - EXPLOSIVES/39-14-306.

**39-14-306. Setting fires at certain times without permit.**

**It is unlawful** for any person to start an open-air fire (A) between October 15 and May 15, inclusive, **AND** (B) within five hundred feet (500') of any forest, grasslands or woodlands without first securing a permit from the state forester or the state forester's duly authorized representative. Depending upon the potential for hazardous burning conditions, the state forester may prescribe a period other than October 15 to May 15 within which a permit must be obtained prior to starting an open-air fire. The provisions of this section shall not apply to fires which may be set within the corporate limits of any incorporated town or city which has passed ordinances controlling the setting of fires.

- **Congratulations to Assistant Chief Richard Griggs on his selection into the WestStarTN Leadership class of 2018. Thank you for your commitment to this community and the Covington Fire Department.**



## Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Representatives visited Covington



Representatives from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development visited in Covington this week to review and evaluate potential industrial sites. Tim Sallee of Covington Electric hosted the group at their facility for conferences and Tipton County Executive Jeff Huffman and Covington Mayor Justin Hanson, along with Covington-Tipton County Chamber Director Maleia Evans, Keith Phelps of the Covington Industrial Development Board, Public Works Director David Gray and Utilities Manager Calvin Johnson joined the group for collaboration and tours of our sites.



# Covington Rotary Club collecting Coats for Kids

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who come together to make positive, lasting change in communities at home and abroad. Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Rotary clubs work together to:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Save mothers and children
- Support education
- Grow local economies

Please help the Covington Rotary Club provide warm coats for children in our community. Drop off all coat donations in the box in the lobby of Covington City Hall and at the North Fire Station at 101 Tennessee Avenue. ALL sizes are needed.



## CMS Recognized Student Leaders



Crestview Middle would like to acknowledge the students that go above and beyond expectations in the classrooms and as citizens in the building. For November, the eighth grade leaders were Sam Fee and Da'Amonie Hall; seventh grade leaders were Seth Childress and Aubrey Glass; and sixth grade leaders were Peyton Hughey and Calylah Taylor. Pictured with these students is Assistant Principal Tonia Beard. Crestview Middle is very proud of these students for their leadership during the month for November.

~~Article and Photo by Jonathon Mooney, CMS Teacher/Webmaster

# Crestview Middle School Spelling Bee Winners



On Thursday, December 7, Crestview Middle School held their annual school wide spelling bee. There were 21 sixth, seventh and eighth graders in the competition. The winner was 8<sup>th</sup> grader Iyanna Walker, and Joshua Rose came in second.

Iyanna will go on to compete in an online spelling and vocabulary semi-final test in January with 70 other school champions from across Tennessee. Winners from that will move to the Titans regional Spelling Bee on March 10, 2018 in Nashville, TN. The winners are pictures left with Assistant Principal Tonia Beard.

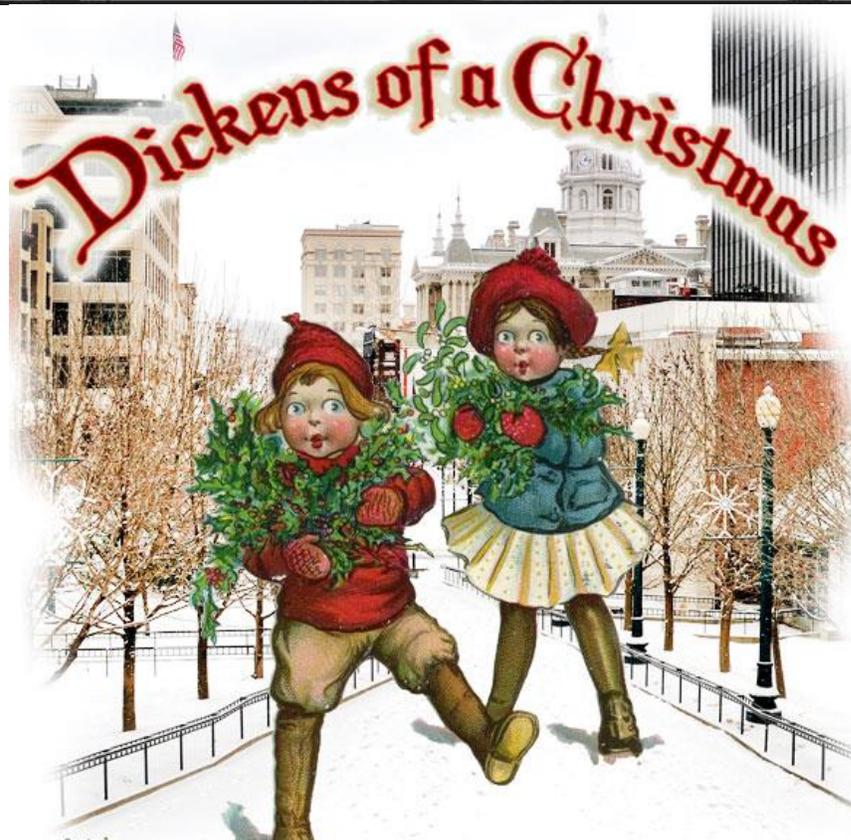
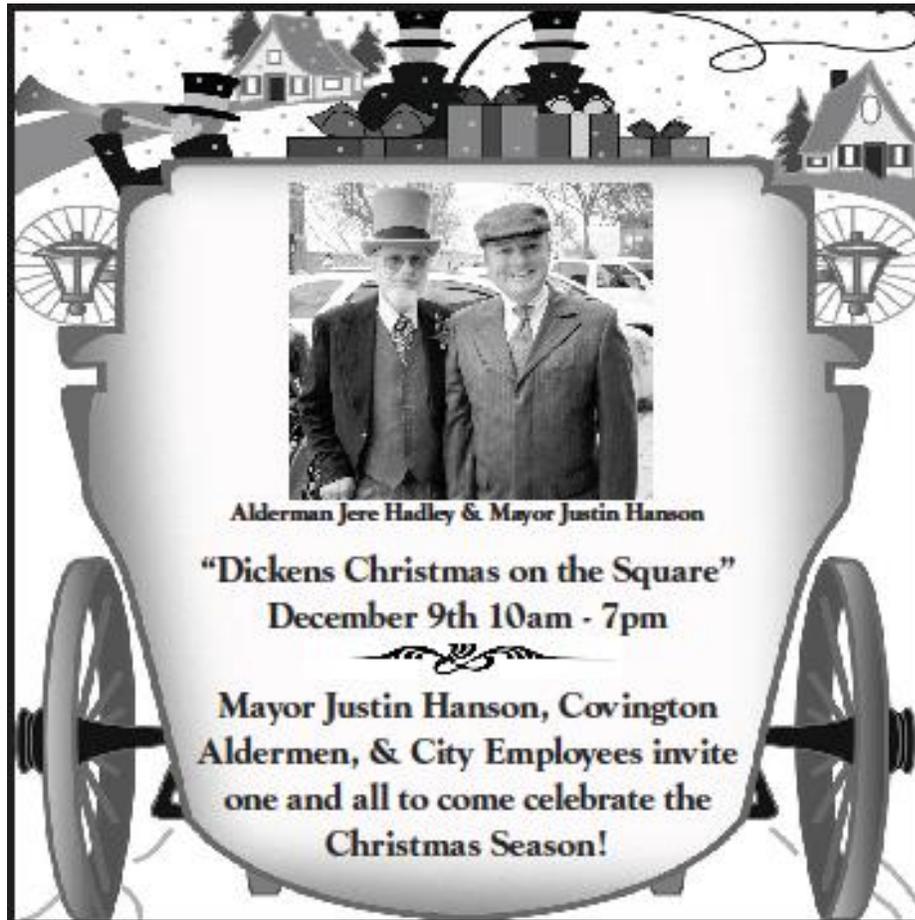
A green poster with a red border and white decorative flourishes. At the top left is a small black top hat with a red band. The main text reads 'Dickens on the Square' in a large, white, serif font, with 'on the' in a smaller font between 'Dickens' and 'Square'. Below this, 'Covington, TN' is written in a smaller white font. A white banner with a red border contains the text 'SATURDAY, DEC 9TH' in black, all-caps, serif font. Below the banner, '(ONE DAY only)' is written in a smaller black font, followed by '10AM - 7PM' in a large, bold, black font. At the bottom, the text 'Shopping, Christmas Refreshments, Carolers, Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides and Lighting of the Community Christmas Tree at 7pm on the Courthouse Lawn' is written in a smaller black font.

**Dickens**  
**on the**  
**Square**  
Covington, TN

**SATURDAY, DEC 9TH**

(ONE DAY only)  
**10AM - 7PM**

Shopping, Christmas Refreshments, Carolers, Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides and  
Lighting of the Community Christmas Tree at 7pm on the Courthouse Lawn



# Open House & Ribbon Cutting!



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH  
9 A.M. UNTIL 11A.M.**

**COVINGTON CIVIC CENTER  
100 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE  
CCOVINGTON, TN 38019**

*Cut a ribbon  
with us!*  
9:15am

**PLEASE JOIN US  
For Refreshments and  
A Tour Of Our New  
Venue!**



For more information, contact  
Karen Griffin at  
901-475-7170

TN

© Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

# Covington's [Hydratrek](#) Lauded in Texas Safety Newsletter

## SAFE-D

Per

Harvey

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Official Newsletter of the State Association  
of Fire and Emergency Districts

FALL 2017



Montgomery County ESD  
No. 10's Hydratrek D2488  
came in handy for Harvey.

could be launched and where the victims were — flushed off the roadways and swept downstream, trapped in cars or clinging to trees or dense brush.

In order to solve these recurring problems, in August 2017, Montgomery County ESD No. 10/Magnolia Volunteer Fire Department took delivery of a unique customized Flood Rescue Vehicle manufactured by the Hydratrek Company of Covington, Tenn.

We took delivery of the Hydratrek D2488B approximately two weeks prior to Hurricane Harvey's landfall in Texas. The Magnolia Fire Department had worked with the Hydratrek factory design team to build a customized Flood Rescue Vehicle on the Hydratrek platform that met the specific needs of the fire service.

Hurricane Harvey was the first major deployment in the United States of the new vehicle and the new design concept developed by the Hydratrek-Magnolia Fire Department design team.

Many of the challenging locations that we had previously been unable to gain access to were no problem for the Hydratrek D2488B, with its unique flood rescue capabilities. The Hydratrek was a great success, and it met all of our operational performance expectations.

## Harried by Harvey

### *ESDs strain to respond to storm's challenge*

*Editor's Note: Hurricane Harvey was possibly the worst natural disaster to hit Texas in more than a century. In these recollections, SAFE-D members share their experiences coping with the storm.*

**Montgomery County ESD No. 10/Magnolia Fire Dept.**

*By Gary Vincent*

Since 1994, the Magnolia community has experienced a number of major flood events. In 2016 alone, we were faced with two major flood events, one in April and one in May.

While more than 500 people were successfully rescued in each event, several trapped victims were not able to be rescued for many hours until the floodwaters began to recede. Often, the challenge that rescuers faced was a wide land-bridge between two bodies of water that rescue boats were not able to cross, and the trapped victims were located deep in the second, remote body of water.

Another difficult issue rescuers faced was dense brush between where rescue boats

**HYDRATREK**  
◀◀◀ ◄◄◄ ◄◄◄ ▶▶▶ ▶▶▶ ▶▶▶



**Land Tamer**®

*Covington, Tennessee*

## Mayhue-Greer Scheduled to Speak at DSCC's MLK Luncheon

Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC) and the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce have announced that Estella Mayhue-Greer, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Mid-South Food Bank, will be the guest speaker during the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Luncheon at **noon, Jan. 12**, inside the E.H. Lannom, Jr. Gymnasium on the Dyersburg campus.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$10 each and must be purchased in advance by Jan. 10 at the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce or at the DSCC Business Office located in the Eller Administration Building.

Estella Mayhue-Greer became president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Mid-South Food Bank Jan. 1, 2011. She began her employment there in 1996 as an agency relations director. She was promoted to director of programs in 2002 and became senior vice president and chief operating officer (COO) in 2004. Mayhue-Greer started the Kids Cafe and Food for Kids Backpack programs to address childhood hunger. She also began the Mobile Pantry program to increase distribution of food to rural counties and increased both the quality and the quantity of food distributed to partner agencies to fight hunger in the Mid-South Food Bank's 31-county service area.

Before joining the Mid-South Food Bank, Mayhue-Greer was a lecturer at Christian Brothers University while maintaining her own public relations and marketing firm. Prior to this, she was employed as an adjunct instructor at the University of Memphis, a partner in JEL Communications, and worked in marketing and public relations with the City of Memphis, Methodist Health Systems and Regional Medical Center.

Mayhue-Greer is a graduate of Leadership Tennessee Class IV and Leadership Memphis. She is active in Kiwanis Club of Memphis; Justice, Unity, Generosity, Service International, Memphis Chapter; and The Links, Memphis Chapter. She currently serves on the Trezevant Manor Board of Directors and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Community Advisory Board.

Mayhue-Greer was recognized for her many accomplishments in 2015 with the Memphis City Council Humanitarian Award. She was named one of Memphis Business Journal's 'Super Women in Business' in 2015; a 'Woman of Courage' by Dress for Success in 2013; a 'Corporate Woman of Excellence' by Grace Magazine in 2013; and '50 Women Who Make a Difference' in 2007. She was also featured in Memphis Magazine's 'Who's Who in Memphis' and as a 'Power Player' in Memphis Business Quarterly.



For more information regarding the event, contact Edith Carlton at 731-286-3300 or [carlton@dsc.edu](mailto:carlton@dsc.edu).

# Join us for Coffee with the Mayor



**Please Join Us for coffee and conversations –  
7:30 – 9:00**

Tuesday, January 9 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main Street  
Tuesday, January 23 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main  
Tuesday, February 6 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main  
Tuesday, February 20 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main  
Tuesday, March 6 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main  
Tuesday, March 20 Pappy & Jimmie's 749 N. Main

Tuesday, April 3 Sookies Bake Shop on the Square  
Tuesday, April 17 Sookies Bake Shop on the Square  
Tuesday May 1 Sookies Bake Shop on the Square  
Tuesday May 15 Sookies Bake Shop on the Square



- December 09 – DICKENS on the SQUARE 10:00 – 7:00
- December 09 – An Acoustic Evening with Zeke Yarbro – 6:00 - Danno's Grill on the square
- December 9 & 10 – ELF the Musical – Ruffin Theater in Covington – scroll down for info
- December 12 - Coffee with the Mayor at Little Jimmy's – 511 East Liberty St. 7:30 – 9:00
- December 12 – 14 – Disney's [MULAN](#) at Covington Integrated Arts Academy – scroll down for more.
- December 14 – Lifblood at Covington City Hall – 9:00 – 2:00
- December 15 – OPEN HOUSE at the NEW Covington Civic Center 9:00 – 11:00.
- December 22 – City Hall will close at NOON
- December 25 & 26 – City Hall CLOSED for Christmas
- December 29 – City Hall will close at 3:00
- January 1 – City Hall CLOSED for New Year's Day



Keep up with News, Events, and  
Information in Covington and Tipton  
County

[City of Covington](#)  
[Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[Tipton County](#)  
[Covington Sportsplex](#)  
[Drug Free Tipton](#)

[Tipton County Schools](#)  
[South Tipton Chamber of Commerce](#)  
[Boys and Girls Club of the Hatchie River Region](#)  
[Covington Aquatic Center](#)  
[Tipton County Museum](#)

\*Information in this newsletter is an overview of events. All official minutes and documents can be viewed at Covington City hall at 200 West Washington Street, Covington, TN.  
or on our website at [www.covingtontn.com](http://www.covingtontn.com)  
**The City of Covington is an Equal Opportunity Employer**

# An Acoustic evening with Zeke Yarbro



December 09 – 6:00 pm following A Dickens Christmas  
Danno's Grill on the Square in Covington

## DSCC Plans January Orientation for New Students

Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC) will host several orientation events in January before the upcoming spring semester. **All new students are required to attend an orientation event.** They may complete this requirement either in person or by using the online orientation option located inside their MyDSCC portal. Students should be reminded that **spring semester classes begin Jan. 16.**

New student orientation will be held at the Dyersburg campus Tuesday, Jan. 9, from 2-4 p.m., and at the **Jimmy Naifeh Center at Tipton County Thursday, Jan. 11, from 2-4 p.m.**

Students will be able to meet with advisors and instructors, get information about financial aid, tour the campus, learn about academic programs offered, obtain student IDs and parking passes, and learn about student life and organizations. Students, parents and legal guardians are welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact Sherry Baker at 731-286-3242 or [sdbaker@dsc.edu](mailto:sdbaker@dsc.edu).



## Action News 5 at Covington Kroger to Promote Mid-South Food Bank



Covington High School's HOSA class took donations to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual [Mid-South Food Bank](#) drive at the Covington Kroger hosted by [Action News 5 in Memphis](#). HOSA Sponsor Tab McDivitt said that Covington High HOSA loves to donate to the Mid-South Food Bank each year because they know this program directly helps the people in our community. Mayor Justin Hanson joined the crews from Mid-South Food Bank and Action News 5 to promote donations at the Covington Kroger.





# Youth Recreational Basketball

Covington Parks & Recreation has teamed up once again with the Junior **Grizzlies** for the 2018 Youth Basketball Season!!!!

**ONLY \$45**

Until December 1<sup>st</sup>

### ALL PLAYERS RECEIVE

- A Memphis Grizzlies-Junior Grizzlies reversible jersey
- One FREE Memphis Grizzlies home game ticket
- A Certificate of Participation signed by a Grizzlies Player

### Church Teams Discounts

- \$400 per team **Until December 1<sup>st</sup>**
- Max 10 players per team



Scan to sign up now to reserve a spot & pay later (before the season starts in January)

Call 901-476-3734 for more details



**ART CLASSES by BARBARA McBRIDE FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!**

**Call 901-237-4006 for information**

The Historic  
**RUFFIN**  
Theater  
2017

# ELF

## The Musical Jr

BOOK BY MUSIC BY LYRICS BY

Thomas Meehan AND Bob Martin  
Matthew Sklar Chad Beguelin

BASED ON THE NEW LINE CINEMA FILM WRITTEN BY  
David Berenbaum

December 1, 2, 8 & 9 at 7pm  
December 3 & 10 at 2pm  
Buy tickets at [ruffin.theater](http://ruffin.theater)

Elf The Musical JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY



Disney's  
**MULAN** JR.

Day Performances  
December 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am & 12:30 pm  
Night Performance:  
December 14<sup>th</sup> @6 pm

**Covington Integrated Arts Academy**  
Admission: Adults \$5,  
Field Trip \$2 per student  
(Field Trip Chaperones are free)

Contact Dr. Bonnie Wright to reserve your group at  
[bwright@tipton-county.com](mailto:bwright@tipton-county.com)

Sponsored by CIAA Arts Booster

In association with Tipton Arts Council





## **Covington City Hall** **In the Lifeblood Bus**

**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am - 2:00pm**

**For more information, or to make an appointment, please  
contact Justin Hanson or visit [clublifeblood.us](http://clublifeblood.us) and use  
SPONSOR CODE: L198**

**Lifeblood**  
[www.lifeblood.org](http://www.lifeblood.org)

Please bring your photo ID, eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water.

Free cholesterol testing with every donation!



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

*Covington Parks and Recreation*  
*Christmas Hours of Operations*



2017

*Saturday December 23- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

*Sunday December 24 - Closed*

*Monday December 25 - Closed*

*Tuesday December 26 - 5 a.m. - 8 p.m.*



*The Covington Sportsplex*

*Covington*   
SPORTSPLEX





COVINGTON  
AQUATIC CENTER

## Holiday Hours

\*Open Swim hours extended to  
1:00-6:00 pm Dec 19 – Jan 3

\*December 24- Closed

\* December 25- Closed

\*December 31- Closed

\*January 1- Closed.

\*\* We would like to wish all our patrons a very Merry  
Christmas and a Joyous New Year!! Thank you for allowing  
us to serve you this year. We look forward to many more  
years of service and Aquatic Fun!!\*\*



DYERSBURG STATE  
**Reconnect**

*Coming Fall 2018!*

**Ready to Reconnect? Get started now!**  
**Whether you're ready to return to college or starting for the first time, we've got you covered - tuition free!**

*What is TN Reconnect?*

TN Reconnect is an initiative to help adults enter higher education to gain new skills, advance in the workplace, and fulfill lifelong dreams of completing a degree or certificate. It provides adult students with a last dollar scholarship - allowing them to attend Dyersburg State Community College **tuition-free!**

*What are the Eligibility Requirements?*

**In order to receive the Dyersburg State Reconnect Scholarship, students must:**

- Meet DSCC admissions requirements. Visit [www.dsc.edu/admissions/admissions-requirements](http://www.dsc.edu/admissions/admissions-requirements).
- Complete the 2018-2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at <https://fafsa.ed.gov>. DSCC's federal school code is 006835. The sooner you fill out the FAFSA, the better! Students may fill out the FAFSA beginning October 1, 2017.
- Enroll in at least 6 credit hours per semester.
- Be classified as an independent student (see FAFSA criteria).
- Not have earned an associate or bachelor's degree.
- Be a Tennessee resident for at least one year before completing the FAFSA.
- Not be in default on a federal or state loan or owe a refund of federal or state financial aid. Contact the DSCC Financial Aid Office at 731-286-3350 for assistance if this applies to you.
- Be registered for selective service if applicable. Visit [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov) for more information.

**[www.TNReconnect.gov](http://www.TNReconnect.gov)**

**For more information, contact Rebecca Reeves, Adult Student Coordinator, at 731-288-7514 or [reeves@dsc.edu](mailto:reeves@dsc.edu).**



**DYERSBURG STATE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Dyersburg • Covington • Trenton**  
**1510 Lake Road, Dyersburg, TN 38024**  
**731-286-3200 / [www.dsc.edu](http://www.dsc.edu) / [enroll@dsc.edu](mailto:enroll@dsc.edu)**

Dyersburg State Community College does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs, and activities sponsored by Dyersburg State Community College. The following staff has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Dean of Student Services, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, [tultz@dsc.edu](mailto:tultz@dsc.edu), Student Center, Room 123, 1510 Lake Road, Dyersburg, TN 38024, (731) 286-3234. Dyersburg State Community College's policy on nondiscrimination can be found at <http://www.dsc.edu/node/6332>. A Tennessee Board of Regents Institution. PUB 10\_17

**UT EXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

 **TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
Cooperative Extension



Take a look at the upcoming programs and events from our friends at the Tipton County Extension Office...

[Click here to view flyers for upcoming 4-H and Master Gardener events!](#)

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## [The Library Corner](#)

### Tipton County Public Library News

[Check out what's in store for you at our local Library this month!](#)



**What's Happening at the Museum?**

**Check it out.... *Tipton County Pulse***

Click here to view: <https://youtu.be/ZGoLD5opQxY>



TIPTON COUNTY  
M·U·S·E·U·M  
VETERANS MEMORIAL  
NATURE CENTER

## *Gioiello* Featured Artist



### *Nancy Foshee*

A retired English and history teacher, Nancy was born in Memphis, but spent most of her childhood and youth in various army bases around the country. This diverse childhood enriched her love of history and story-telling which surfaces in every book she has written. Most recently, she retired from teaching part-time at Dyersburg State Community College where she taught developmental writing and education courses. She lives in Drummonds with her husband Frank where she enjoys writing and caring for their three cats. She is an award winning author and has written several historical novels, all of which are for sale in

*Gioiello.*



The Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center  
Expansion Campaign:

## Building for the Next Generation

As the Museum approaches its 20th year, the realization is we have outgrown the current facility and the necessity for expansion is essential. The Tipton County Museum is asking for the community's financial support in its endeavor to preserve Tipton County's rich cultural history.

Your contribution to the Museum's Expansion Fund is both necessary and appreciated. You can stop by with your donation, call the Museum to have a donation form mailed to you, visit our website at <http://www.covingtontn.com/museum.html> to download a donation form or donate online at: <https://tms.ezfacility.com/OnlineRegistrations/Register.aspx?CompanyID=5427&GroupID=1960714>.

*Thank you for your help in preserving our legacy!*

20 Years at the Tipton County Museum:

*Embracing the Future While Honoring the Past*

Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial & Nature Center

751 Bert Johnston Ave., P.O. Box 768,

Covington, TN 38019

(901) 476-0242



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## Veterans Folded Flags at Museum



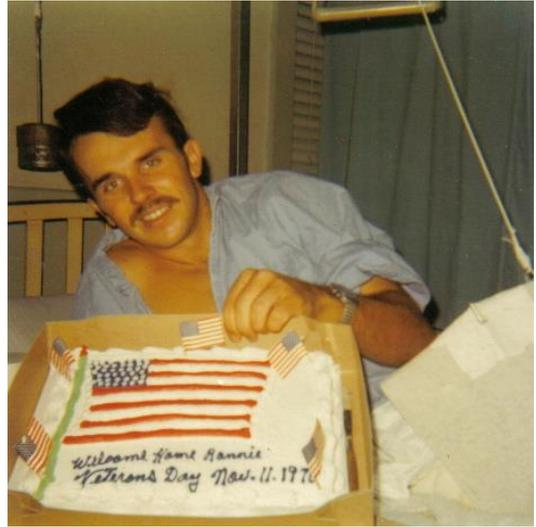
After flags flew in honor or memory for Veterans Day, volunteers fold them correctly to be given to the donors. While volunteers have done this for 5 years, this is the second year they have folded the flags at the museum.



**The Tipton County Veterans  
Council and the Tipton  
County Museum,  
Veterans Memorial and  
Nature Center**

**Veteran of the Month for  
December, 2017**

**James Ronnie Dacus**



Born on December 9, 1949, James Ronnie Dacus graduated from Brighton High School in 1967. On August 26, 1969 he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He attended Basic Training at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky and Advanced Training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana. He arrived in Vietnam on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1970 at 5:30 a.m. in 85 degree weather. He joined the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment after completing Jungle Warfare School in Vietnam. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1970, he was wounded for the first time in Le Hong Fong; he suffered a concussion and a perforated eardrum. He was wounded a second time in Le Hong Fong on November 2, 1970 when a bullet from a machine gun ambush shattered his right thigh. He spent 19 month recuperating at the Navy Hospital in Millington, Tennessee. He was granted a permanent "Chapter 64" medical retirement from the Army in 1974. For his service to our country he received the following medals: Vietnam Campaign Medal with one star, the Vietnam Service Medal, Two Purple Hearts, the Air Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Expert Marksman Badge for both rifle and machine guns.

Following his retirement from the Army he worked as a meat cutter for Seessel's and Naifeh's grocery stores, then from 1980 to 1982 he was a reserve Police Officer for the City of Munford. From 1983 to 1990 he worked as a Captain for the Tipton County Sheriff's Department. After retiring from the Sheriff's Department he returned to his previous career as a meat cutter. Then he retired from work permanently in 1999. He has two daughters, one who lives across the street from him in Brighton, and one who lives in Memphis. He has three grandchildren, one great grandchild, and another great grandchild on the way. Ronnie is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He was nominated for Veteran of the Month by City of Munford Police Chief Jim Harger.



The Tipton County Museum, Veterans Memorial  
& Nature Center

## Veteran of the Month Reception

Every 2nd Tuesday Evening at 6:30

751 Bert Johnston Ave.,

Covington, TN 38019

901-476-0242



TIPTON COUNTY  
M·U·S·E·U·M

VETERANS MEMORIAL  
NATURE CENTER



A Special Thanks to Our Program Sponsors:

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4840

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Unit 116

Woodmen Life, Neil Bringle