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Today's News... This Morning

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Friday, December 29, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

Development Grants for Projects For McMinn County

Assistant Tennessee House Majority Leader Mark Cochran, of Englewood, announced \$1,260,000 in community development grants for projects in McMinn County from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD). Etowah received a \$630,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a fire hall development project and McMinn County received a \$630,000 CDBG for a park improvement project. "The Etowah Fire Department does an excellent job protecting the city, and this project to construct a new fire hall is well-deserved," Cochran said. "The park improvement project will help expand events at Bicentennial Park and further improve activities at that impressive facility. I'm appreciative of TNECD's work in selecting these deserving projects." Etowah will use its CDBG to construct a new fire hall to replace its existing 50-year-old building. McMinn County is expected to use its funds for the second phase of the bicentennial park improvement project.

Continued on Page 2

Local and Area News

◆ A woman died in a trailer fire in Meigs County last Friday morning. (DEC 22nd). The fire broke out around daybreak on Highway 58 south of Decatur. Sherry Varner, who owned the mobile home, had a woman who stayed with her, who did not survive the fire. Varner had two dogs and said she was awakened by her dogs barking. Neither of the dogs survived the fire and Varner says she tried unsuccessfully to save the victim, who was like a mother to her. Varner said she opened the door of her trailer to escape the flames, but that caused the fire to burn hotter, causing part of the ceiling to collapse on her. She managed to escape by crawling on the floor. There was no working smoke alarm in the mobile home. Fire officials said there was no suspicion of foul play. The identity of the victim has not been released.

◆ A church pastor from Cleveland has been arrested after a Bradley County Grand Jury indicted him for sexual exploitation of a minor after discovering over 100 images of child sexual abuse on his personal laptop computer. Detectives with the Cleveland Police Department started an investigation of Richard Sentell of Cleveland after receiving a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children over child sexual abuse material activity on the internet. The investigation led to a search warrant at Sentell's home. He was arrested by the Bradley County Sheriff's Office on Christmas Day and booked the following day on a \$75,000 bond. Sentell is listed as a senior pastor for Cornerstone Church of God in Cleveland.



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2024

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As we stand at the doorway
 leading out of 2023 and
 into 2024, none of us
 know what lies on the
 other side of that door.



What will the New Year Bring?
 It is our hope, here at
 The Morning Fax,
 that 2024 will bring you health,
 prosperity, and happiness.

Friday, December 29 2023

Morning Fax® Today's News This Morning

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

♦ Chris Harrison, age 34, from the Saroya family, a native of Hyderabad, (Sindh) Pakistan, and a resident of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, December 27. Visitation will be from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at St. Mary Catholic Church. A funeral mass will follow at 11:00 AM. Interment will follow at Hammonds Cemetery in Athens. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.....Continued from Page 1

The county will place artificial turf on the remaining fields in addition to improvements to the park's fencing and parking. The funding for this grant comes from the CDBG Coronavirus Response Supplement (CDBG-CV). TNECD approved \$36.6 million in grants to 78 communities across the state for projects in categories including public health and safety, community infrastructure, community revitalization, water system improvements, and sewer system improvements. The allocation of CDBG funds is based on priorities set through the public meeting process at the local community level. The CDBG program is funded through HUD and administered in Tennessee by the Department of Economic and Community Development. State Rep. Mark Cochran represents House District 23, which includes McMinn County and part of Monroe County.

Church News and Events

-Trinity Trio will be singing Sunday, December 31 at 10 o'clock at Emmanuel Baptist Church with a fellowship dinner to follow. Everyone welcome.

-Chris Bryant will be singing at Solid Rock Baptist Church in Calhoun on January 07, 2024 at 6 PM in the evening service. Everyone is welcome.

-Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship, 317 Maple Street, in Athens, invites you to attend Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

-Celebrate Recovery meets at the following churches: The Englewood Church of God every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Woodward Avenue Church of God every Tuesday at 6 p.m.

-Mars Hill Presbyterian Church (205 North Jackson Street) is sponsoring a free children's playgroup on Mondays, 9-11 a.m. for ages 0-5. For additional information, contact the Church Office (423-745-1403) or Mary Ann Reed (910-200-2905).

-The Epps Family from South Carolina will be singing at Solid Rock Baptist Church on January 14, 2024 at 10:30 during their morning service. Everyone is welcome.

♦ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ MEDIC Regional is in urgent need of O Negative blood. O Negative usage has been very high this week, and donations have been low. Donors may donate at MEDIC Regional Blood Center located at 927 Decatur Pike in Athens. Call 423-453-5846.

♦ **We will not publish the Morning fax on Monday. Have a Safe and Happy New Year.**

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