



## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

### Kenneth Medlen

Kenneth Medlen is a fair-minded individual, literally.

His dedication to the Warren County A&L Fair has earned him recognition as 2018 Best of the Best Community Volunteer.

"I've been volunteering with the fair since I was 23 years old," said Medlen, who is Fair Board president and has a sense of humor about how he achieved that status. "I started by helping out here and there. I'd do whatever they needed me to do. Next thing I knew, I was a board member. I'm still not sure how that happened. I served as second vice president and first vice president for several years before being named president a few years ago."

Few things draw more excitement in the community than the arrival of fair week. However, it takes months of preparation by a large group of dedicated volunteers in order to provide it.

"Being president can be very demanding," said Medlen. "This is one of those jobs that you get blamed for everything bad that happens, but when things go right, you don't hear a word. It can be a thankless job. If you're out enjoying the fair this year and you see a volunteer, say 'thank you' to them. They worked very hard to provide it."

Wife, Jewel, and daughters, Becky Clark and Tracey Scott, are also fair-minded individuals.

"We raised our girls at the fair," said Medlen. "From when they were able to crawl and walk, we'd have them there with us."

Since its beginning in 1954, the fair has grown and consistently wins awards on the state level. It is the last free fair in Tennessee, meaning there is no gate fee, parking fee or act fee.

Wayne Davenport comes in second place in this category and Christy Allison is third.



## EVENT VENUE

### Park Theater

The Park Theater has become the life of the party, receiving first place in Best of the Best event venue.

Kevin Roberts, theater manager, says, "Thank you to everyone who voted for the Park Theater. We are honored to be selected for the award of the Best of the Best event venue. It is our privilege to serve all of the theater patrons to the very best of our abilities. While we humbly accept this award, we do not feel that we've accomplished everything we would like, so this acknowledgement will only cause us to work harder and program even better to attain the highest standards we possibly can."

The Park Theater got its start in 1939 by Cowan Oldham making the building the most modern in its time. Sadly, in the 1980s, the theater shut down and was eventually turned into offices. The Park Theatre Group formed

in an attempt to restore the site, but it was eventually determined a private organization couldn't revitalize a city-owned property.

The city of McMinnville eventually put the project on its back and the theater opened in 2015. A portion of the balcony was opened in mid-2017.

The Park is up and running full speed with events taking place all the time packing the house with excited fans. Many plays, concerts, and events have happened since the reopening that has placed the theater on the map.

Upcoming events are about to happen at the prestigious theater. The 1982 film "E.T." will be showing July 4 as a free movie sponsored by Topz.

A summer theater camp will be taking place July 16-21 with many more events in the future.

Second place goes to The Spot in Morrison. Third is Smooth Rapids.



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