

*Projects

(Continued from page 1.) Fisheries, and Parks grants. We applied for the land and water conservation fund grant. The funding for that grant is right at \$117,000. It's for a 900-square-foot splash pad.”

A shaded canopy where parents with young children can get out of the sun is also on list for the park's development.

“Also with that grant, we'll be addressing fencing and security gates to lock and unlock the park,” McCrory continued. “We can establish park hours also. At the other end of the park, we'll have (road) access for maintenance and upkeep for utility vehicles, tractors and mowers. If the lights are out, (we have) access to replace the bulbs. The lighting plan was done by Entergy; it was presented to the board and we approved it.”

Through Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Lexington applied for the Healthy Heroes Grant. “It's a grant that has no cap on what you can ask for, the amount of funding you can ask for,” explained McCrory. “You don't (apply) and ask for something that's not feasible on your first try, you want to be reasonable. We started thinking about the park and

what we needed if we're getting the splash pad.”

The Healthy Heroes Grant is a “no match” grant, from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation.

“It's a 100% grant, for \$47,900,” said McCrory. “With these funds we will be buying and purchasing outdoor fitness equipment.”

A variety of fitness stations will include machines for chest press, leg press, push-up bar, self-weighted sit up bench, ski walker, stretch bars and uneven bars.

“We're getting the outdoor adult fitness equipment and we're getting playground equipment,” McCrory continued. “The grant will pay for the foundation and the installation of everything. In return for the \$47,900 that we are getting, there's only one catch, we have to go into the schools and teach health, wellness and fitness. Blue Cross Blue Shield has its own perspective on how best that's done. We have to use our “heroes” in the community, referred to our firemen and policemen.”

After a one-day training session at the BCBS headquarters in Flowood, Lexington Police Investigator John Newton and Police Officer Steven Davis will have to go into the schools with the Healthy Hero curriculum

to present a lesson on nutrition, a physical exercise activity and a walk.

“(BCBS) furnishes you with materials about healthy foods and “sometimes” foods. They don't call them bad foods, they taught us well,” laughed McCrory. “We'll be going into William Dean (Jr. Elementary School) and teach once a month with each class during P.E. period.”

Other grants Lexington has already been awarded:

- \$50,000 Healthy Hometown Award from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation for promoting health and wellness. “The splash pad has the \$117,548 grant, it's a match grant, so we're going to use this \$50,000 as our match,” said McCrory.
- \$155,000 Rural Impact Funding (RIF) Grant/Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) for economic development and job creation. “With the Chenoa Coffee Company-Southern Beverage locating to Olive Street, we were able to get approved for funding to make improvements, resurface the access (road) to that business because they will be hiring up to thirty people by 2021. That work will start at Swinney Lane and Highway 12 east, go through the four-way stop onto Olive, then onto Kickernick-Elm; and around in front of the school bus garage and vo-tech building. We've already opened bids and that project has been awarded to Double S Incorporated.”
- \$332,505.90 Airport Improvement Project Funding through Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to fill

in cracks, to put a sealant on the runway-taxiway and to rehab the apron (tarmac) at the C.A. Moore Airport. “T.L Wallace Construction out of Columbia, Mississippi got that project.”

- \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through MDA to replace the McGee (sewage pumping) lift station and the Beall Street lift station, rehabilitation of the city's lagoon and other sewage improvements. “We keep having to baby-sit these lift stations and they are just turning into money pits. We've got to get those replaced. Double S Inc. was awarded that job as well.”
- \$653,000 MDOT Street Improvements Grant for Highway 17 south of the Lexington Court Square to Autozone. “That is to do the sidewalks, the railing, the drainage, the crosswalk, the lamppost street lighting, and the benches,” said McCrory.
- \$750,500 MDOT Street Improvements Grant for Highway 12 east.

Grants that the city of Lexington has applied for or is in the process of applying for:

- \$115,712 Recreational Trails Facility Grant through Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for building a pavilion, one unisex rest room, parking lot improvements and adding wooden bollard fencing at Milton Olive Park.
- \$500,000 HOME Program Grant for building houses and the rehabilitation of homes based on applicant income requirements. Sixty percent of the funds will be used for construction of new homes and forty percent will be used for the rehabilitation of existing homes. “Appli-

cants with a house trailer, are awarded for a house trailer. If you have a house, you are awarded for a house,” said McCrory.

- \$240,000 Delta Regional Authority Grant for rehabilitation of Lexington's lagoon access road.

McCrory also emphasized the importance of the upcoming vote on the proposed two percent tax increase on prepared foods and beverages in city limits.

“When people say, ‘Parks and recreation? We don't have that!’ We won't ever have that until we start working on it,” explained McCrory. “Now that we're getting it, we have to got to sustain it and keep it up. We can't have it vandalized, ripped up, the grass not cut, so the monies that we get from that two percent tax, (the city) can hire security personnel, maintenance personnel,

equipment that we need to purchase to be at the park. Fourty-six thousand isn't a whole lot of money annually, but it's there if we're able to get that 60% vote.”

McCrory looks to ease the overall financial burden of the city's general fund from being squeezed in meeting expenses. She expects the tax increase to give more latitude to focus on the city's other bills.

“You've got to have a vision, and when you have a vision you've got to have a way to pay for it,” said McCrory. “When the city doesn't have it in the general revenue you've got to go for these grants. But, guess what, more times than not, these grants have matches. The higher the grant, the more match you have to contribute.”

The two percent tax can be used for a grant match.

DURANT NEWS
by Rowena Hill

Mrs. Scott Binegar has returned home after a nice visit with her dad.

We are grateful Joey Hill is feeling much better from his recent by-pass surgery in Jackson. We (the family) are so very thankful he seems to be getting stronger. He was very sick for two or three weeks and still isn't “well” but is better. Please continue praying for him and Jackie. She has been very good to see that he followed the doctor's orders. Thanks to each one who prayed/visited during his suffering. It's still only four or five weeks so he has a way to go. Joey and Jackie visited his surgical

physician in Jackson one day last week and thankfully received a good report. ‘Thank you Lord.’

Prayers are for Bro. Lyn Nations and his family with the recent passing of his sister. He is leading the Wednesday night Bible study at First Baptist Church.

The gospel group “United Voice” will be at First Baptist Church this Sunday evening, August 18, at 6:00. A love offering will be taken for them. Ladies, please bring finger foods for the fellowship meal.

Shirley and Jack Ables and I spent time in Jackson during the weekend with our sister, Bessie Easterling and husband, Ernie. We had a very nice time as usual.

Everyone take care during these days of hot weather.

Obituary

DAVID SAMUEL ALEXANDER

Mr. David Samuel Alexander, 69, passed away on August 9, 2019 at Walter B. Crook Nursing Home in Ru-leville, MS

He is preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Leona Alexander

David is survived by his wife Julia Alexander; his sons, Sam Miller (Tillie) and Gregory Keith Smith (Terry) of Kosciusko, MS; his brothers, Ralph Alexander (Anne) of West, MS and Louis Alexander (Lucy) of West, MS; his sister Miriam Tubbleville; and his beloved grandchildren.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 4:00 P.M.

LIBERTY HILL
Liberty Hill AMEZ Church in Durant will host its annual revival services from Monday, August 12 through Wednesday, August 14 at 7:00 nightly.

Liberty Hill AMEZ Church will celebrate its 130th Church Anniversary on Sunday, August 25, at 1:30 p.m. 8-8,15

DAMASCUS M.B.C.
Damascus M.B. Church in Durant will hold Fall Revival Services from Sunday, August 18 through Tuesday, August 20. Sunday services are at 6 p.m.; Weekday services are at 7 p.m. 8-8,15

SOUTHSIDE M.B.C.
Southside M.B. Church in Lexington will host its annual church anniversary on Sunday, August 18 at 2 p.m. 8-15

MVSU ALUMNI
The Mississippi Valley State National Alumni As-

Church in Pickens will host a Youth and Young Adult Rally on Sunday, August 18 at 6:00 p.m. 8-8,15

HEALTH COUNCIL
The Lexington Mayor's Health Council meet will on Wednesday, August 21, at 10 a.m. in the Lexington Multi-Purpose Complex. 8-15

sociation of Holmes County will have its next chapter meeting on Sunday, August 18, at 4 p.m. at the CMI building in Lexington. Refreshments will be served. 8-15

WEST GROVE M.B.C.
West Grove M.B. Church in Lexington will host its Annual Women's Day Program on Sunday, August 25 at 11 a.m. 8-15,22

MACEDONIA M.B.C.
Macedonia M.B. Church in Lexington will have its annual revival services from Monday, August 12 through Friday, August 16, at 7:30 nightly. 8-15

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