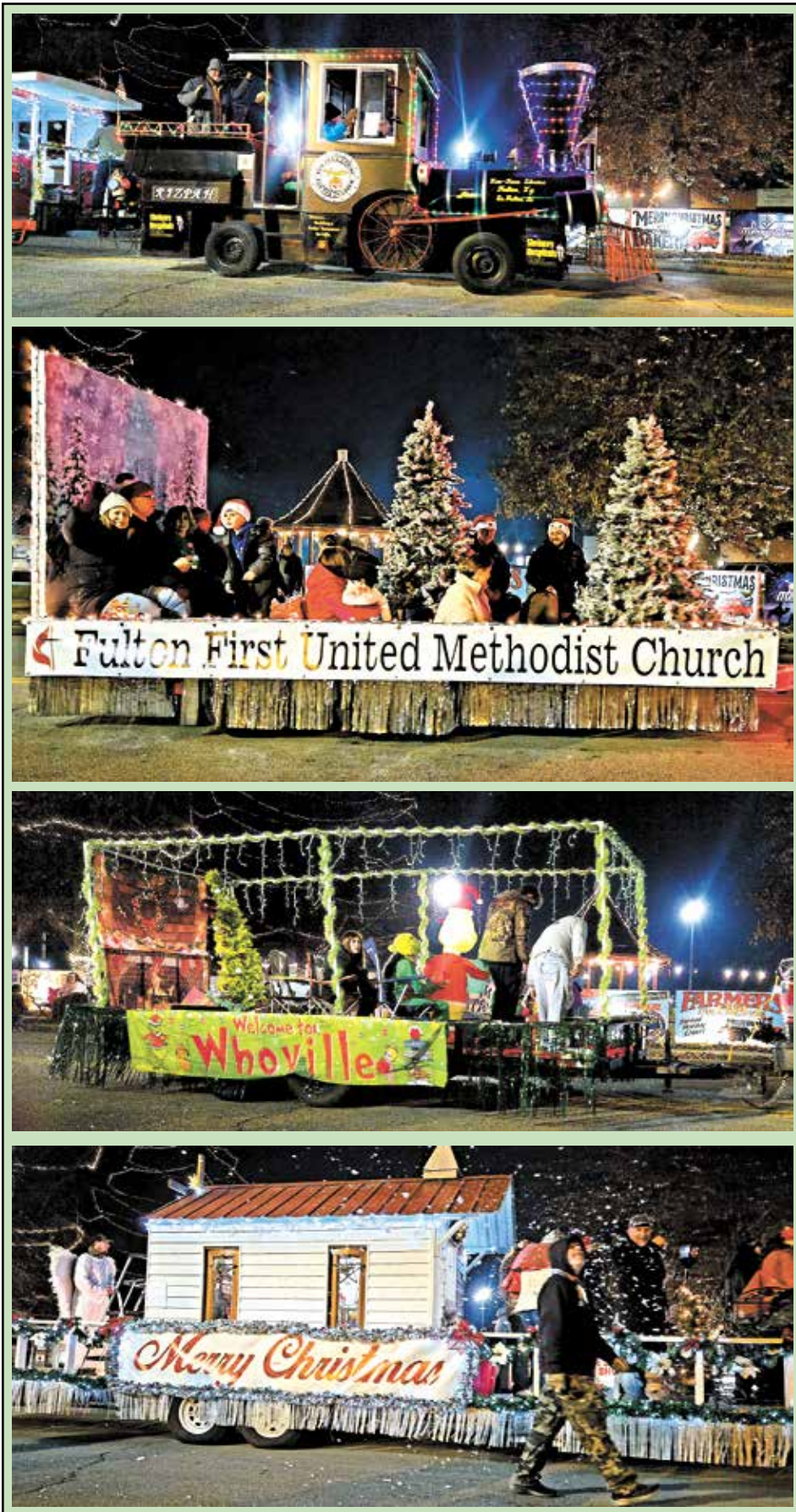


## Current Continuations



## Fulton County Farm Bureau recognized for outstanding membership, program achievement

Fulton County Farm Bureau was recognized during the 106th Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) annual meeting in Louisville for its outstanding membership and program achievement in 2025. This award honors county Farm Bureau offices that meet or exceed the company’s profitability and insurance policy growth requirements.

Glenn Howell, President of Fulton County Farm Bureau, was acknowledged as the award recipient by Eddie Melton, President of Kentucky Farm Bureau, John Sparrow, Executive Vice President and CEO of KFB Insurance, and Drew Graham, Executive Vice President of the KFB Federation, during the organization’s awards program on Fri., Dec. 5.



Howell

## South Fulton Commission to hold special called meeting Dec. 11

The South Fulton City Commission will hold a special called meeting on Thurs., Dec. 11 at 4:30 p.m. in the South Fulton Municipal Complex Commission

room.

The meeting is open to the public.

The following items are listed on the meeting’s agenda: 1. Call to order by May-

or; 2. Invocation; 3. Roll Call; 4. Business: A. Award of CDBG Sewer Project Bid; and B. Approval of ARPA Funds for CDBG Sewer Project; and 5. Adjournment.



The 2025 edition of the Fulton Tourism Twin Cities Christmas Parade was packed full of visual delights, as seen with the Ken-Tenn Shriners Train, a staple of all Twin Cities events, the snowy float from Fulton First Methodist Church, Redline Exterior Services took a trip down to Whoville and Jackson Purchase Distillery’s snow globe was the top winner for mini float division. (Photos by Megan Dame)

## Hickman

cent equipment upgrades, training compliance, and enforcement activity. The chief reported that seven Axon body cameras were donated to the department by the county jail. The equipment included charging stations, vest mounts, and accessories, and was described as being in “near-new condition.”

The chief explained that each officer now has an individual login to upload and properly categorize video footage, improving accountability and records management. He further reported that all personnel files have been uploaded into the Lexipol policy and training management system, bringing the department fully current with documentation requirements.

Additional improvements included repurposing older City Hall computers for police use, allowing every officer access to a computer and monitor. The department has also implemented monthly officer performance reviews and a six-month review cycle for open investigations to ensure progress is being maintained.

In terms of activity, the department responded to 146 calls for service during the reporting period, conducted 111 traffic or alcohol-related stops, and issued three city ordinance warnings.

Fire Chief and public works director John Amberg reported that the department responded to nine calls during the previous month, bringing the year-to-date total to 131 calls. One firefighter completed a 300-hour basic firefighting certification and also holds EMT certification, totaling approximately 720 hours of combined training.

The chief stated that the department currently consists of 19 volunteer firefighters, who are paid once a year for their call responses. Each firefighter receives \$30 for each training attended and for each call, no

matter what the call is for.

Significant discussion centered on ongoing sewer system challenges. Sewer Department representatives reported multiple customer service line issues and recurring main line problems, particularly in the Bernal Ave. area. Amberg noted that “disposable” wipes being flushed into the system have caused repeated pump station failures.

Letters have been mailed to residents requesting that wipes not be flushed. In addition, a recent early-morning power surge caused a transformer failure at the sewer plant. One pump failed to restart due to a damaged soft starter, though two pumps remain operational.

Estimated repair costs were discussed, including \$1,000 to \$1,500 for a soft starter and approximately \$6,000 to \$6,500 for a replacement pump. Inspection efforts have also been hindered by a malfunctioning light on the sewer camera.

The Water Department reported that a leak detection contractor Kevin Leonard had been contacted to perform a system-wide survey. Amberg also noted that a previous leak detection effort resulted in an estimated savings of 11 million gallons of water per month.

Planning is underway for lead and copper service line replacements to meet a two-year compliance deadline. Meter readings show a substantial increase in water usage since 2019, prompting further evaluation. Commissioners also discussed the possibility of entering into a monthly leak detection service contract.

Amberg reported that lawn mowers and weed eaters have been serviced in preparation for the upcoming season. Ongoing mechanical issues continue with an aging dump truck used for snow removal. The salt spreader remains unrepaired due to estimated repair costs of \$4,500 to \$5,000. Despite the equip-

ment challenges, roadways were prepared in advance of recent winter weather.

Hickman resident Tyler Dunn made a donation of one large bag of dog food to the city’s animal control program, which Mayor Carlton thanked him for the generous gesture.

Steve Reed of Reed Backflows, in Dyersburg, Tenn., presented findings from the city’s cross-connection control survey, a state-mandated program affecting sanitary survey scores. Reed reported that 92 locations were inspected, with 24 requiring need a vacuum breaker to prevent anything from possibly backing into the city’s water supply. Fourteen backflow devices were located and tested, two devices were repaired, and one irrigation-only device was found broken.

Reed outlined the compliance process, which includes education, written notice, certified letters, and eventual water service termination for continued noncompliance. Estimated costs for installations range from approximately \$1,500 for small systems to \$40,000–\$50,000 for large facilities.

The municipalities are responsible for implementing and enforcing a plan where places that have potable and non-potable water sources and that they are not mixing them. The backflow prevention devices keep outside water which may have contaminants from mixing with the city’s water supply. Reed recommended that the city fund annual testing, while customers remain responsible for repairs.

Ultimately, the matter was tabled as Mayor Carlton requested Reed prepare documentation on the scope of work needed to keep the city in compliance.

The commission unanimously accepted two resignations. A motion was approved to accept the resignation of Leslie Woods due to family circumstanc-

es, followed by a separate unanimous vote to accept the resignation of Divial Esters, a seasonal employee with public works.

Commissioners approved a contract with Water Management Services, LLC. to conduct a wastewater infiltration and inflow study at the Hickman Wastewater Plant.. The study will be funded through the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority and will include smoke testing of the system. Commissioners discussed ongoing wastewater system failures and emphasized the need for professional evaluation.

Insurance coverage for the Hickman Industrial Development Authority-owned property, formerly the Bumper to Bumper building, was also approved. Commissioners voted to authorize liability insurance coverage, with premiums to be paid by the Hickman Industrial Development Authority. Commissioner Bridges voted no on the measure.

The commission received updates on flood mitigation efforts, including meetings with BF&W Bank, coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and potential FEMA and Delta Regional Authority grant opportunities. Officials reported that an aerial survey of flood-prone areas has been completed and that a preliminary engineering report will be required to qualify for larger grants.

Additional infrastructure discussions included continued grinder pump failures caused by flushed wipes, bridge replacement needs that may involve collaboration with the Four Rivers welding program, fence replacement near Magnolia Bluff using geotextile material, and the identification of dilapidated and unsafe properties for possible condemnation. Property owners will be notified before any further action is taken.

Administrative updates

included the hiring of Amy Hensley as utility billing clerk. Griggs said they are still working with Ken-Tenn EMS on funding the ambulance service to provide equal service for Hickman and across the area.

A committee consisting of Fulton County Judge Executive Jim Martin, Chuck Murphy, Glenn Jones, and Griggs, who are all on the ambulance board, has been given the task of tailoring and submitting an alternate funding proposal and returning to the board with alternatives for funding in March of 2026.

“Of course, the key to us getting better EMS service is subscriptions. We need people to subscribe to the service and that will help us,” Griggs said.

Griggs noted that the city had been contacted recently and told the processing company had gotten behind on mailing utility bills making them late.

Because of this delay, Griggs said the city is extending the deadline for customers to pay their bills to Monday, Dec. 15.

“So if you pay by the end of the day on Monday, the 15th, or you put it in the night, drop box before they open on Tuesday, the 16th, your payment will be considered on time,” Griggs announced.

He said the city will send in the December bills even earlier than that so that can get the bills out by Jan. 2, correcting this problem.

Griggs also noted that

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customers can call City Hall at (270) 236-2535 to find out how much their bill will be.

Road grant applications have been submitted for Liberty, Hollywood, and Clay streets. A representative from the Department for Local Government is scheduled for an on-site evaluation, and an upcoming Water Management Council meeting was announced.

The annual Christmas Parade was announced for Tuesday, December 16, 2024, at 6 p.m., with lineup at Hickman Public Works, according to Commissioner Gannon. Any person or group who wish to participate in this year’s parade should register at the Mayor’s Office no later than Monday.

With no further business, the commission unanimously approved a motion to adjourn. The city will meet again for a regular scheduled meeting on Jan. 12, 2026 at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

### Current Classifieds

#### BUSINESS SERVICES

**RAY’S BACKHOE** Service - Septic systems installed. Certified installer. Also backhoe work, gravel & dirt hauling and driveway work. Free estimates. 270-677-4641 or 270-254-0401.

#### Notice of Noncompliance

Pursuant to KRS 65A.040, the Kentucky Department for Local Government hereby gives public notice that as of December 2, 2025, Fulton County Levee Board—Watershed #1 is in violation of Kentucky Law for failure to comply with the reporting requirements of KRS 65A.020. The last known point of contact for Fulton County Levee Board—Watershed #1 is Doug Voorhees, who may be reached at (270) 236-3123 and/or 102 W WELLINGTON ST HICKMAN, KY 42050. The last known Board Members are: Joey Parker, Doug Voorhees, Jill George, Rob Coffey, Shaun Parks. The district was noncompliant with FY2025 - Budget Year End Actuals, FY2018 - Attestation Engagement Every 4 Years, FY2022 - Attestation Engagement Every 4 Years. The Auditor of Public Accounts has been notified and state funding for this entity will be withheld until further notice. Department for Local Government encourages this entity to comply with the law.