

## KHGG-AM Fourth Quarter 2014 Issues Report

October is national "Fire Prevention Month." On Thursday, October second, Fort Smith Fire Marshal Tommy Bishop and Captain Michael St. Cyre talked with Bill Pharis during "Arklahoma Today". They discussed extension cords, space heaters, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, electric blankets, and candles. Colder temperatures have created the house fire season with Fort Smith reporting one house fire a week for the past month. They also discussed the city's new fire department training ground at Chaffee Crossing, and the new fire station housed there, and the department's program providing and installing free smoke alarms to residents who request them.

The Fort Smith Adult Education Center continues to provide GED studies free of charge. 2014 saw the cost for taking the GED Exam from from being a no-fee test, to a cost of \$125. Through the help of various local organizations and groups, the Fort Smith Adult Education students taking the GED have been able to take the test at no charge, through test scholarships. He spoke with Karen Pharis Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> during "Arklahoma Today." Also discussed were satellite GED programs in the Sebastian County jail for the juveniles detained there.

On Thursday, October 9, Mitch Parker with the Fort Smith Sanitation Department spoke with Bill Pharis during "Arklahma Today" regarding the city-wide clean-up scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. They discussed recycling locations, and items that could be dropped off at Davis Metal and Iron on Wheeler Ave. Parker reviewed items that cannot be recycled, including batteries and rubber tires, and drop-off points for those type discardables. Free trash bags will be available for pick-up for those helping in the pick up of trash in streets, sidewalks, and alleys.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Karen Dodd and Chris Roberts talked with Karen Pharis during "Arklahma Today" about statistics in the Fort Smith area and breast cancer. Sparks Hospital is staking seven pink flamingos and one white flamingo throughout the city of Fort Smith. The white flamingo represents the one woman in eight who will develop breast cancer. The two encouraged listeners to get a mammogram, and discussed potential warning signs indicating a woman should seek a doctor's consultation.

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The head of the City of Fort Smith's "Comprehensive Plan" spoke with Bill Pharis on October 16<sup>th</sup> regarding the input the city has received over the past few months. City officials will take citizen input and construct a five, ten, and fifteen year set of goals to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors of Fort Smith. Wally Baily said the study/input sessions were held in various city wards in different meeting locations to easily reach out to, and receive ideas from residents. He said the majority of input dealt with city parks, with requests for increased walking and biking trails, in addition to more locations throughout the city for baseball/softball/soccer fields for the youth.

Executive Director of the Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Bureau, Claude Legris spoke on Arkhoma Today November tenth about the Veteran's Day Ceremony the next day at the National Cemetery, and talked about the previous weekend's Veteran's Day Parade held at Chaffee Crossing. Since the parade was moved to the site of the former US military post, participation has increased. In 2013, there were 50 different organizations which either entered a float or walked in the parade. 2014 had 200 participants. He also touched briefly on the upcoming "Christmas Honors" sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce to place a wreath on each grave site in the National Cemetery.

Family mediator/counselor Bob Collins spoke with Karen Pharis on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> on how the holidays affect children in step families. Collins is the founder of "Step Carefully", an organization which provides support and advice to step families. His holiday advice: It's okay for the kids to act like kids, because they are; they shouldn't be expected to act like adults. Parents should act like grown-ups and not like kids. And, it's okay if everything isn't perfect. He talked about the free monthly meetings and his website that offers reading material.

The Fort Smith Optimist Club Christmas Tree sale kicks off the Friday after Thanksgiving, and Randy Harper with the organization spoke with Karen Pharis during "Arklahoma Today" on November 26<sup>th</sup>. All the money raised goes to support activities at the Fort Smith Boys and Girls Clubs, and the group has been holding this particular fundraiser for the past 35 years to benefit the youth. The lot, located at Hunts Park, will be open seven days a week and this year will

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Include the sale of fresh wreaths made on-site, and extra greenery from the trimmed trees.

In an effort to help local residents understand the Affordable Care Act, Sparks Regional Medical Center is offering free assistance to those needing help navigating the Healthcare website. Cynthia Hogue with Sparks spoke with Karen Pharis on December second about the upcoming December 6<sup>th</sup> event at Sparks inviting area residents to come to the facility and receive free help. Ms. Hogue explained there is certain help to pay for premiums for families in qualifying income groups.

Tonya Rogers with 360 Leadership Series in Fort Smith talked with Karen Pharis Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> about the group's December meeting on the eleventh. Guest speaker at the event will be the owner of Candy Craze candy shop at Central Mall, who is a member of 360 Leadership. Rogers said the purpose of the organization is to allow business leaders to network and learn something new about a person or business in the region. The public is invited to the once monthly meeting held at the Movie Lounge. Cost for the lunch and the speak is \$18. per person.

City Administrator Ray Gossack spoke on "Arklahoma Today" Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> about the year 2014 and the progress made by the city in several areas; primarily the passage of a one-cent tax to continue fire department improvements that will keep the city's fire insurance rating high; which means lower insurance rates for city business and homeowners.

Sebastian County Judge David Hudson spoke with Daren Bobb on Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> on "Arklahoma Today", and giving a year-end review to listeners for Sebastian County. The highlight of the year came in the form of groundbreaking and now construction under way for the new "Parrot Island" water park at Ben Geren Park. Following much public input, a design for the park was agreed upon, construction costs contained, and the park should open on Memorial Day, 2015.