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Community revival set for Jan. 29 at 6:30

By Jessica Johnson

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Excitement ripples throughout Phenix City's church congregations as the night draws near for the inaugural community revival set for Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m. ET.

Central Baptist Church will host the event, with several pastors from the Phenix City area. The revival is open to anyone and is highly encouraged by Mayor Eddie Lowe and pastors throughout the city.

Some of the pastors present will be: Pastors Jim Caldwell, Dr. Raymond Cochran, Lawrence Stephens, Noble Williams, and Wayne Scarbrough. Pastors say they are ready and believe that it is time for the community to have a revival.

"We need a revival in Phenix City and everywhere else," said Cochran, pastor at Franchise Missionary Baptist Church. "I'm 81 years old and I've never seen things as bad as they are now."

The main purpose is to reunite Phenix City so that the community can move forward in a positive light, unified as one.

"We want to let everyone in our city know that we are one," said Wayne Scarbrough, pastor at Auburn Heights Baptist. "And we are here to help each other."

The overarching motto for the revival, according to Lowe, is "Change Hearts, Change Community," and that is exactly what they plan to achieve.

"Phenix City is moving forward and moving forward on God's word," Lowe said. "Unified as a county and city."

The service will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. and will start with the pastors preaching, leading way into prayer. Central Baptist Church is located at 1407 Broad St. in Phenix City, across from Dollar General and St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

State of the City: challenges city possible new ord

By Blenda Copeland

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For the first time since yearly State of the City addresses, more than a small handful of people showed up to hear what Phenix City leaders had to say Jan. 19 about the city's finances and other matters -- and one person spoke up on a possible ordinance that could affect a business he leases.

About 70 citizens attended the open meeting at the Central Activity Center. About half that number stayed through the end of the meeting, while about half left by 7:15 p.m. as citizens were still addressing the council.

At the end of Phenix City Mayor Eddie Lowe's State of the City address Jan. 19, local citizen Mike Cannon was one of about nine people to address questions to the city council on various topics.

He expressed concern about a potential new ordinance the council discussed at its Jan. 4 meeting that could impact local car washes and car dealerships because it deals with how run-off water must be handled. Representing what appeared to be a group of about 10 to 15 or so people, he said he wanted to know who specifically he should contact at ADEM to talk about this matter.

(At the Jan. 4 meeting, City Engineer Angel Moore said the proposed ordinance was related

to ADEM requirements that ensure the city can keep its MS4 permit to discharge stormwater into bodies of water.)

In answering Cannon's question, City Manager Wallace Hunter said the city wanted to ensure potentially impacted business owners were well-informed about what might be required. He asked that the city be allowed to get information to them, noting that ADEM was set to be at a Feb. 7 public hearing regarding the possible ordinance. That public hearing will occur at 9 a.m. (when the city council holds its regular meeting) in the council chambers at the Public Safety Building, 1111 Broad St. If the council votes to approve the ordinance that day, it is expected to become effective immediately.

It also was mentioned that there may be three different ways to approach the subject.

"I don't know which is the cheapest for me or for anyone else," Councilman Steve Bailey said, as he told the audience that he's among those whose businesses could be affected by the potential new ordinance.

Regarding a former statement he made about a similar ordinance existing in Columbus, Bailey said it may only be certain parts of Columbus. However, he said he felt local businesses should be prepared to hear what the state has to say when ADEM appears Feb. 7 at Phenix City's public hearing.

News

Flood fix with reserves

Roads, a drainage pipe and a city maintained cemetery are among emergency flash-flood related fixes that will cost Phenix City.

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Opinion

Letter to the Editor

There's an old story I heard many years ago regarding a farmer and his use of a mule to plow his fields.

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News

Heart of the Community

See the teachers, faculty, support personnel and community members who were nominated for the annual awards.

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