Fire destroys Opelousas civic center

Donations sought to replace summer program materials

Opelousas — A fire started by improperly disposed charcoal destroyed the South City Park Civic Center on Sunday.

Opelousas Fire Chief Charles Mason said the fire was reported at 5:58 a.m., hours after an event had ended.

Mason said the fire was ignited when a garbage can next to the building, filled with improperly disposed charcoal, combusted. No one was inside the building at the time, and no injuries were reported.

The civic center was a staple for families and children in the community. Summer programs for children were scheduled to begin Monday.

The summer programs will continue at the teen center. However, organizers are asking the community to help donate games and materials lost in the fire.

The program is in need of supplies like games, ping pong table, arts and crafts.

Organizers will accept donations at the Teen Center beginning at 8 a.m. Monday.

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