

DISTRICT # 3 REPORT



CITY OF MADISON ALABAMA



Prepared by District #3 Councilman Jerry Jennings

Report number: 007

Date issued: 7/17/2011

The Old Trailhand sez:

Every one seems normal until you get to know them.

DISTRICT #3 NEWS

Madison Boulevard

Clearing of sloped and treed property on north side of Madison Blv'd between Faith Memorial Park cemetery and Family Home Care Medical is for a Life South building.

YMCA

The new YMCA opened in Nov 2010 and has been well received by our community. Membership is at 2500 level and increasing. Popularity of this facility has resulted in a vehicle-parking problem from time to time. YMCA management has provided some gravel based temporary parking spaces until a long-term solution is defined. We are waiting for a plan for the construction of the promised 50-meter pool. Initial fund raising and project scope called for a 50-meter pool. For your information, the city council pledged \$100,000 per year for 10 years in support of this YMCA. One of the many "Y" programs will be to implemented is a program to teach all city school 5th graders to swim.

APRIL TORNADOES

Except for the electrical power outages, the city and District #3 suffered minimal damage from the tornado activity. One significant loss was from a fire in a home in Old Ivy subdivision as a consequence of operating an electrical generator and gas grill simultaneously in the home's garage. Unfortunately the house was a total loss.

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER CONT'D

BRELAND PROPERTY

The Breland property located west of Zierdt Rd. and south of I#565 is still being planned as a mixed-use development. Mr. Breland has partnered with Daniels Corporation of Birmingham AL to develop the approximately 300 acres. A new road is being planned that will access Zierdt Rd. immediately north of Mountain Brook subdivision; run west towards golf driving range; pick up Lime Quarry Road and finally turn south to connect with Dunlop Blv'd. This road is in the preliminary design phase. You may have seen some clearing north and west of Mountain Brook for access of soil boring equipment to sample sub surface soil conditions. Besides this main access road, other roads will be constructed to access the various other project sites.

This project envisions a combination of quality brand retail, office space, restaurants and full service hotel (maybe additional hotels). Originally some apartment and or condo type residential was considered but now seems to be less likely. Property will incorporate upscale landscaping throughout.

A point I have repeatedly stressed to Mr. Breland and Daniels Construction is the imperative of **adequate buffering between this development and existing residential homes, particularly Mountain Brook homes**. Both Mr. Breland and Daniels Construction acknowledge that requirement and stated they will provide adequate buffering.

An I#565 interchange into this property is still being sought. Such a interchange will not be at intersection of Zierdt Rd. and I#565. Proximity of Madison Blv'd to that intersection precludes any interchange at that location.

ZIERDT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The upgrade of Zierdt Rd. to a 4-lane divided roadway with landscaped medians and appropriate turn lanes was delayed by Redstone's past Commanding General until Martin Road improvements for both inside and outside Redstone Arsenal were funded. The Commanding General had the ability to dictate those terms because the expansion of Zierdt Rd. required Redstone property. The funding for both Martin Road projects has been provided, so Zierdt Rd. can now proceed.

Current status of Zierdt Rd. is that a environmental Assessment (EA) has been reviewed and approved by Redstone Arsenal and the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and has been submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review and approval. Due to an inordinately high backlog of work, the EA has not been approved as of this date with any indication from the FHWA office when the EA will be reviewed. With the FHWA exceeding normal turn around times for EA submissions, we are experiencing a day for day delay in the Zierdt Rd. upgrade progressing.

A point to remember is that Huntsville has the lead on this project since 75% of Zierdt roadway to be upgraded is in Huntsville city limits. Project is from Madison Blv'd south to Martin Rd.

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER CONT'D

ZIERDT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS TIMING

Timing to actual construction of Zierdt rd. upgrade will be approximately 12 months after EA approval. First phase of construction will be to construct two northbound lanes on Redstone property. That will take approximately 12 months. That means we will have to use the existing two lanes of Zierdt Rd. for that 24 month period. I can see that 24 month period extending towards 36 months with usual delays in permitting, approvals (EA approval) and weather.

With Zierdt Rd. rapidly deteriorating, and having to handle increasing numbers of vehicles on a daily basis for at **least 24 more months**, I will be requesting council to appropriate \$125,000 to resurface Zierdt from Madison Blv'd south to city limits almost to Colonial Grande apartments. I want to duplicate Huntsville's resurfacing done last year in front of Colonial Grande and Sunlake apartments.

If you are a resident of Mountain Brook or Edgewater or use Zierdt rd. to travel to Redstone Arsenal via Gate #7; suggest you contact the Mayor and City Council of Madison at Mayors.office@madisonal.gov and city.council@madisonal.gov to voice your support of resurfacing Zierdt Rd. as soon as possible.

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER CONT'D

CITY WIDE STUFF

REDISTRICTING

The Council held its first redistricting meeting on Monday July 11, 2011. A firm contracted by the council to provide redistricting support and new council district mapping provided first input to council.

Some facts and figures presented were;

Madison experienced a 42.6% growth from 2000 to 2010; from a population of 29,329 to 42,872

Madison is now the 10th largest city in Alabama

Target population for each council district will be (+/- 5%) 6,125

Council district #3 currently has a population of 5,125

Predominant growth of Madison was in western part of city into Limestone County.

District #3 currently has the highest percentage of apartment residents of any council district. Proposed redefinition of council districts was rejected by my self since all the required population increase for district #3 was by losing residential Old Ivy and Windstone subdivisions and adding 5 apartment complexes west of Wall-Triana Hiway and south of Royal Drive. That would have resulted in more than 50% of District #3 population residing in apartments.

Our redistricting contractor, Slaughter & Associates, will evaluate redefining District #3 geographic lines. Of course that will cause all other district lines to change also. We may wind up with two council districts covering Limestone Country versus only one now.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

A new Fire Station will be constructed at Hughes Rd. and Thomas Road to replace current facility at Hughes Rd. and Hartington Drive. The old fire station has a mold problem and the 40+ year old building that has outlived its usefulness.

Fire Chief Ralph Cobb secured a \$1.4 million stimulus grant to help fund this \$2.4million fire station. This new fire station is expected to be operational in first quarter of 2012

HIGH SCHOOL

The new Madison High School construction is proceeding on schedule for completion in approximately 12 months (summer 2012). This school will be open for the Fall 2012 term. The present plan is to populate the school with 9th and 10th graders and proceed to add 11th and 12th grades one year at a time. All 4 grades will be in place in 2014.

School name will be James Clemmons High School in honor of Mr. Clemmons (1778-1860) a early Madison resident. High School rezoning will be next "big thing" for our school system. I do not any have any information to share on this rezoning

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER CONT'D

Madison Hospital

Madison Hospital is under construction and progressing nicely with a Feb 2012 opening date anticipated. This \$71 million dollar hospital will provide 60 beds initially with that number expected to expand to 120 beds within 2 years. Ultimately we can expect to have a 200-bed hospital with expansion predicated on health care demand. **Madison Hospital** is the first new from the ground-up hospital to be constructed in Alabama in about 30 years!

A city of Madison resident Ms. Mary Lynn Wright has been selected as President of this new facility. Mary Lynne is a seasoned and competent long time Huntsville Hospital employee. I am confident she will make Madison Hospital first class facility. Visit www.madisonhospital.org for more Madison Hospital information.

Public Works Department

The city has contracted with a private firm to pick up yard waste. As a consequence of that change, 8 public works personnel have been freed up to work on road repair and other tasks. This change results in additional manpower for the Public Works Department at no additional dollar cost to the city. The contractor, Allied Waste, will assume full responsibility for waste pick-up on Monday July 25, 2011.

Because of weather conditions and large amounts of yard waste being put out for pick up, we have experienced erratic service for the past several weeks. Both the city trucks and the new contractor have been engaged in waste pick-up to eliminate existing backlog.

JERRY'S COMMENTS



The city elected officials continue to work together to position Madison for future growth while maintaining all the high quality attributes that make our city a outstanding place to live and raise a family.

Your comments are solicited and encouraged.

Any questions that I may help answer are welcome.

Contact me as indicated below for being added to the subscriber list; to unsubscribe; ask questions; or make comments.

Jerry Jennings

District #3 Councilman

Madison AL

Home tel: 464 9940

City Hall tel: 772 5650

Jerry.Jennings@madisonal.gov

This newsletter is an indication of your tax dollars almost at work!