



news

Mayor

Tony R. Aikens

City Council

Jennifer L. Wampler, Vice Mayor

James Brandon

Douglas "Buddy" Hines

Bobby G. Johnson

Jim Shields

Eddie Simpson

City Recorder

Jim Wilburn

City Administrator

Amber Scott

City Judge

Robin M. McNabb

City Attorney

Gregory H. Harrison

Important Phone Numbers

City Hall

986-2715 / 986-7915

Police Department

986-2005

Fire Department

986-2310

Programs & Recreation Facilities

986-1223

Lenoir City Utilities Board

1-844-OUR LCUB (687-5282)

Lenoir City School Board Office

986-8058

Lenoir City Planning Office

986-2715

The Venue at Lenoir City

986-8340

Loudon County Economic Development Agency

458-8889

Loudon County Chamber of Commerce

458-2067

Visit Loudon County

986-6822

From the Desk of the Mayor

It's so nice to share with you once again in this edition of *Lenoir City News*. Let's reflect on some of the accomplishments we have experienced over the past several months and look toward the future.

I am happy to announce that City Council and I, once again, passed a balanced budget without a tax increase and without decreasing City services. The Budget Committee worked very hard with me this year to achieve this goal, and we are proud to announce such news! We take our commitment to sound stewardship of your funds very seriously, and it is considered "priority one" in every decision made.

We are still progressing on the Central Park Phase II Project (located downtown next to the Post Office). This phase will encompass installation of an All-Access Splashpad, pavilion, restrooms/changing rooms, additional parking, and landscaping...leading to more usage of the Central Park, which is already successful with its playground. As you know, we were awarded a \$500,000 matching grant for this project via Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Local Parks and Recreation Fund (TDEC-LPRF). In order to receive the full \$500,000 from the grant, we are required to match (locally) with another \$500,000. We are currently informing local organizations about this donation opportunity to help with that local match. Since we are working through TDEC, we are



required to meet all their regulations – a step-by-step process. In other words, the City only gets to move forward on the project when TDEC approves us to do so. In August, we received a signed contract from TDEC for the grant. At this point, we are beginning the Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

process for a consultant to assist with the work. Then, we will bid the work to a contractor(s). We will keep you updated as this exciting project progresses!

The developers of the downtown Brewery/Restaurant have begun clean-up work of their site located in the old Lenoir City Utilities Board building at 200 East Depot Street. They took ownership of the property in June. They have started work with their architect and should be moving forward very soon. We are excited about watching this project as it grows!

Construction on Phase II of the Downtown Streetscapes Project began in April. The phase is composed of one block of North B Street from Broadway to First Avenue (in front of the War Memorial Building); Broadway from C Street to A Street; areas of Grand Street to Kingston Street. This phase will feature replaced sidewalks, underground electrical, decorative street light poles, and stamped concrete areas. The contractor is progressing well on this project, and we are quite pleased with the outcome thus far, and we estimate completion in early-mid Fall. The City

Continued on page 4

Parks & Recreation Department

Zack Cusick, Program Coordinator
 zcusick@lenoircitytn.gov
 Kim Arms, Adm. Assistant
 karms@lenoircitytn.gov

Office Location:
 530 Hwy. 321 N, Suite 301
 Lenoir City, TN 37771
 Office Hours: M - F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Phone: 865-986-1223
 Facebook: @lcparksandrecreation
 Shelter Reservations:
 Call 986-1223 or visit lenoircitytn.gov

ATHLETICS

Youth Basketball Registration

Boys and girls ages 5 -14

Office Registration:

Monday through Friday
 beginning Oct. 14th

After Hours Registration Dates:

Oct. 22nd and 29th from 5 - 7p.m.

All registration is held at the Parks and Recreation Office

Registration fees are \$40 per child or \$75 per family. Includes a reversible game jersey.

Practices will begin the first week in December and games will start January 4th.



Spring Youth Baseball Sign-ups

Boys and girls ages 4-13

Coach pitch and kid pitch

Lee Russell Recreation Complex.

Office registration begins February 3rd
 (Monday through Friday)

Saturday Registrations:

At Lenoir City High School Gym
 February 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd
 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

\$40 per person or \$75 per family



COMING SOON – Phase 2 of the Lenoir City Central Park
 Includes: Splash pad, large event pavilion, additional parking and landscaping

SPECIAL EVENTS

Downtown Street Festival

The Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the Lenoir City Civitan Club for our Annual Street Festival which includes a classic/antique car show, live music, arts and crafts vendors, children's play area and food vendors. The event takes place in the beautiful Historic Downtown Lenoir City area.

Saturday, September 21
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Breast Cancer Awareness Night

October 18
 Lenoir City High School Stadium
 Lenoir City vs Gibbs



Park After Dark

Fun event for the whole family!
 Includes a costume contest, games, hayrides, inflatables, face painting, fall pictures, and light refreshments.

Thursday, October 24
 5 - 7 p.m.

Wampler-Keith Park



Christmas Parade

Each year, thousands of families come together on a magical December night to watch the excitement of our Annual Christmas Parade. Historic

downtown Lenoir City provides beautiful lights and sounds that will please parade fans everywhere! Get your float and parade entry ideas ready and help us bring the magic of Christmas to Broadway!

This year's theme is "The Twelve Days of Christmas"

Thursday, December 5

Parade starts at 6:30 p.m.

Line-up at R&L (formerly Yale) parking lot beginning at 5 p.m.

All parade participants must pre-register.

Christmas Tree Lighting and Evening with Santa

Kick off the holiday season with the Annual Lenoir City Tree Lighting and an Evening with Santa. This event includes: Lighting of the Lenoir City Christmas Tree, Live Christmas Music, 1-1 time with Santa, light refreshments, and a keepsake photo of your child with Santa.

Lenoir City Central Park/The War Memorial Building

Thursday, December 12

6 - 7:30 p.m.

Event is free



Family Movie Night

Come out and enjoy a movie and refreshments with your son or daughter. While having some great quality time with your kids you can take pleasure in a movie, popcorn, snack and drink. Free admission includes a complimentary concessions combo.

Lenoir City War Memorial Building

Friday, March 13, 2020

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and

Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

Stormwater Department News

Lenoir City Stormwater Department welcomes Kacey Ellis! Originally from California, she came to New Market, Tennessee after completing a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of the Redlands. Kacey has worked in the education field with the University of the Redlands and San Bernardino City Unified School District.

Kacey will be working with the City for about 10 Months. She will be working on public education with the schools and the public and will be heading up stream clean-up days in the Fall and Spring. Kacey will also be assisting in stream assessment, site inspections, infrastructure mapping, data entry, as well as assisting the Tennessee StormWater Association. We are excited to have the opportunity to work with Kacey! ■



Kacey Ellis

Codes Enforcement and Planning

The Codes Department has been very busy the last several months with new businesses coming into the city. One area of continued growth is our downtown. In the last few months, several existing businesses including Sparkly Pig, Markets on Broadway, and The Backdoor Gallery have moved locations within the area. In addition, several new businesses have opened downtown including Daisies Sew Crafty, Off the Paige, and Kingston Formal. Other new commercial projects around town are Which Wich, Climatize Heating & Cooling, Mystique Nails & Spa, Turner Concierge, and American Shaman.

There are a few upcoming projects in the department. A large section of Creekwood Park Boulevard that had mixed residential and commercial zoning was recently all rezoned to C-3 Highway Commercial District in hopes of attracting new commercial entities. Firestone Tires has received site plan approval from the planning commission to build a new store at

the Market at Towncreek. Harrison Glen has recently received preliminary plat approval for an expansion of the subdivision to include 162 new lots.

One area that we are focusing our attention on currently is the city's sidewalks. Please be mindful of our sidewalks and their intended use. Blocking a sidewalk, either with vehicles or other items, is against city ordinance. City sidewalks are an important part of pedestrian transportation. Staff is continuing their assessment of the sidewalk conditions in the city to document areas that need attention and implement a plan of action to address those areas.

Please call the Department of Codes Enforcement and Planning with any issues or questions at Lenoir City Hall at 865-986-9876; or email Rondel Branam, Building Official/Codes Enforcement Officer/ADA Coordinator at rbranam@lenoircitytn.gov; or Beth Collins, City Planner/Office Manager at bcollins@lenoircitytn.gov. ■

The Venue: Upgrades & Holiday Parties

The Venue at Lenoir City is in the final few months of its third year of business...and is raising the bar! From new decor options to upgrades in the capabilities of its audio-visual system, we've listened to our clients' suggestions to offer even more of the amenities they seek.

For our more upscale events, we can now offer six-foot, decorative crystal chandeliers to add sparkle to the ceiling of our 8,700 square-foot ballroom. These gorgeous pieces are available for rental, both with and without decorative lighting.

Centerpiece options have also expanded. The traditional hurricane vases are still available for guests' use at no charge. Cylinder and Eiffel vases of varying heights, as well as silver and gold crystal candle holders, are just some of the new additions to our rental line.

We've also increased the size of the dance floor. This will allow for both multiple groups to have dance floors simultaneously, and an increased maximum floor size of 576 square feet. Our quality, indoor-outdoor wood dance floor is a very popular add-on!

Past groups who've utilized videographers have needed to use their secondary microphone to record the speaker's audio. This often involved having to move their secondary microphone when speakers changed or utilized different primary microphones. With the addition of a professional grade audio-for-video transmission unit, they'll be able to capture professional sound directly from The Venue's system.

The Venue's team is very excited to be working on a recycling program! We'll be placing recycling containers for plastic, glass and aluminum cans in both a public area of the facility and in our kitchen. We're proud to officially add this sustainability initiative to The Venue's existing environmental features:

- Electrochromic glass with tint controls to reduce heat load from the sun
- Occupancy sensors on interior lights to control lighting in unoccupied spaces
- High efficiency HVAC equipment
- Previous pavement in parking lot to reduce the amount of storm water run-off
- Aqua-Shield storm water treatment system that filters and cleans storm water run-off before leaving the site and going to the creek
- Continuous insulation on all exterior walls and roof that meets the current energy code requirements

Due to popular demand, The Venue at Lenoir City is bringing back its epic New Year's Eve Celebration! The theme is "Black & White with a Roaring 20's Vibe," presented by Brewster's Services Group, to usher in 2020.

With fancy food stations, an expanded dance floor, casino games, fire pits with s'mores, a complimentary champagne toast at midnight, keepsake wine glass, and the addition of a breakfast buffet after midnight, this is one party you don't want to miss! This year's live band is Soul Connection, which covers a wide musical spectrum of dance music, oldies, rhythm & blues, and soul, all done with infectious energy and unmistakable style.



So, mark your calendars for October 7th, because that is when tickets will be available for purchase. The cost is \$75 per person or a table of 10 for \$700. The last time this event was held, it sold-out. So, be sure to buy your tickets early so you can celebrate with 300-400 of your closest friends!

Lastly, holiday dates are booking quickly. Be sure to contact us at 865-986-8340 to reserve space for your November or December celebrations! To learn more about the spaces, services and events at The Venue, visit www.VenueLC.com. Thank you for your continued support! ■

Holiday Fun at the Library!

Please join Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Lenoir City Public Library for a free story time at 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 12. We will share books, treats, and stories before the parade starts! Call the library at 865-986-3210 for more details! ■



Lenoir City Police Department

Late summer of 2019 has brought sadness to our LCPD family. K-9 Dagger passed away on August 13, 2019 after a short battle with cancer. Dagger was just shy of his 9th birthday. He was born on August 23, 2010. Dagger was a German Shepherd and joined the Lenoir City Police Department in September of 2011. Dagger was partnered with Officer Keith Sennett at that time, where he would work as a dual-purpose service dog with training in narcotics and patrol. Dagger's service and assistance to Officer Sennett would lead to the apprehension of many arrestees and enumerable narcotics seizures.

Officer Sennett was Dagger's handler until October of 2017, when he left full-time employment with LCPD. Officer Jimmy Yoakum stepped in as Dagger's partner at that time. Officer Yoakum and Dagger worked together until

January of 2019. Officer Yoakum had previously been a K-9 handler and was a great partner for Dagger. Circumstances came to pass such that K-9 Dagger was temporarily assigned to Sergeant Christian Dragon. Sergeant Dragon and his family cared for Dagger until his passing in August. During that time, Dagger was not on duty or in service, rather he was enjoying time at the park, riding in the car, and visiting the police department.

Dagger was an asset to the department throughout the years. However, his playful side was one that all of us or anyone that knew him will fondly remember. To say Dagger had a "big" personality is an understatement. His love for water bottles, his "toy" (a piece of rubber pipe), and anything else he might find lying around kept us entertained. Dagger was well respected for his abilities by our agency as well as other law



Sergeant K-9 Dagger
August 23, 2010 – August 13, 2019

enforcement agencies in and around Loudon County. Chief White made the statement, "If Dagger could drive a vehicle, he could patrol on his own." We will all greatly miss Dagger. He was ours for a short time but left each of us with so many wonderful memories. ■

Lenoir City Finance Department

As we all begin to transition into Fall and cooler weather, the Lenoir City Finance Department would like to update you on the Tax Relief Program. The State of Tennessee offers a Tax Relief Program which helps the Disabled, Elderly, Disabled Veterans, and Widow(ers) of a Disabled Veteran Homeowner. If you are at least 65 years of age and made less than \$29,860.00 in the calendar

year of 2018, you may be able to receive these benefits. Also, if you have a letter from the Social Security Administration OR the Veterans Affairs Office that states you are totally or permanently disabled, then you, too, may be able to receive these benefits.

Please contact our office at 865-986-2227, if you have any questions.

HOURS: M-F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Phone: 865-986-2227; Fax: 865-988-5143

Important Information:

You can pay your Loudon County Property Taxes at our office located at 530 Highway 321 North, Lenoir City during the months of October 2019 – February 2020.

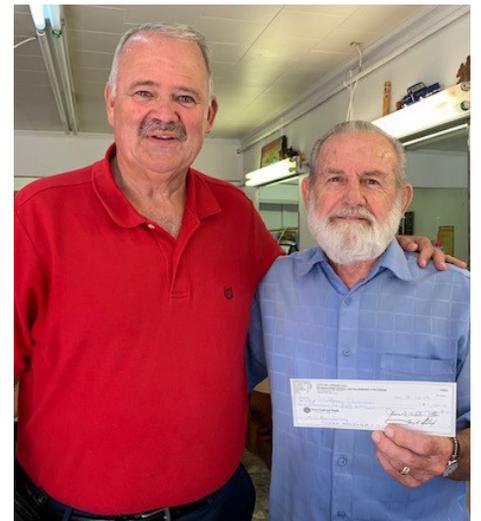
A representative from the Loudon County Clerk's Office will be here Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for anyone needing to register their vehicle. ■

From the Desk of the Mayor **From page 1**

has been mindful of any impact the construction may have on the store-owners that are in close/direct proximity to the project. Therefore, we committed during both Phase I (completed in 2016) and Phase II (current phase) to assist downtown business owners with financial relief for a certain amount of time. Between both phases, we have offered approximately \$40,000 in relief to the downtown business owners for any disruption or inconvenience – one such store owner is Wilburn Clemmer of Wilburn's Barber Shop (pictured

right). Mr. Clemmer has been in business with his barber shop for 64 years in Downtown Lenoir City and is the 3rd oldest business in the downtown area. We appreciate Mr. Clemmer and all the downtown business owners for their patience and understanding during this transitional phase in improving Downtown Lenoir City.

I am honored to serve as your Mayor! My greatest passion is this community and its people. If I may do anything for you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 865-986-2715. ■



Lenoir City Fire Department

Richard Martin, Fire Chief
Phone: 986-2310

As Fire Prevention Week™ approaches, Lenoir City Fire Department reminds residents: **NOT EVERY HERO WEARS A CAPE. PLAN AND PRACTICE YOUR ESCAPE!™**

The Lenoir City Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)—the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years—to promote this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!” The campaign works to educate everyone about the small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

NFPA statistics show that in 2017 U.S. fire departments responded to 357,000 home structure fires. These fires caused 2,630 fire deaths and 10,600 fire injuries. On average, seven people died in a fire in a home per day during 2012 to 2016.

“These numbers show that home fires continue to pose a significant threat to safety,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA’s vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. “In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Escape planning and practice can help you make the most of the time you have, giving everyone enough time to get out.

While NFPA and the Lenoir City Fire Department are focusing on home fires, these messages apply to virtually any location.

“Situational awareness is a skill people need to use wherever they go,” said Richard Martin, Fire Chief. “No matter where you are, look for available exits. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately.”

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING AND PRACTICE

Home fire escape planning and drills are an essential part of fire safety. A home fire-escape plan needs to be developed and practiced before a fire occurs.

- Home fire escape planning should include the following:

- Drawing a map of each level of the home, showing all doors and windows
- Going to each room and pointing to the two ways out
- Making sure someone will help children, older adults, and people with disabilities wake up and get out
- Teaching children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them
- Establishing a meeting place outside and away from the home where everyone can meet after exiting
- Having properly installed and maintained smoke alarms
- Home fire escape practice should include the following:
 - Pushing the smoke alarm button to start the drill
 - Practicing what to do in case there is smoke: Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - Practicing using different ways out and closing doors behind you as you leave
 - Never going back for people, pets, or things
 - Going to your outdoor meeting place
 - Calling 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone or a neighbor’s phone

SMOKE ALARMS

- Smoke alarms detect and alert people to a fire in the early stages. Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

Smoke alarms are provided by the Tennessee State Fire Marshall’s Office and installed by the Lenoir City Fire Department to all citizens.

COOKING

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Thanksgiving is the leading day for fires

involving cooking equipment.

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.

HEATING

- Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months.
- Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires.
- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from heating equipment.
- Have a 3-foot (1-meter) “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Have a qualified professional install heating equipment.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.

EVACUATION OF YOUR HOME:

- Create a plan for evacuation that includes alternate routes out of the danger area.
- Have prepacked kits with essentials such as medicine, family records, credit cards, a change of clothing, and food and water.
- Create a family communication plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication.
- Prepare a plan for the care of pets and other animals.
- Take steps to protect family, friends, or neighbors who have disabilities.
- Stay aware of local fire conditions. When told to evacuate, go promptly. If you feel unsafe, do not wait for an evacuation order—leave immediately

Resources: www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/fpwwww.nfpa.org ■

Public Works Department

Contact Information:

J.J. Cox, Street Superintendent, Phone: 865-986-2715

The Fall Season is here, and that means leaf season is just around the corner!

We have had a very productive Summer. We have carried out many resurfacing projects this year including the following: Browder Hollow/Johnson Drive; a few subdivisions; and areas of City Park (pictured). City Park has received a "face lift" with the beautiful improvement to several of our sheds, volleyball court (pictured with drainage repair ongoing), as well as improvements to the grounds. Additionally, we have been doing much needed pothole repair in the City. Mowing and weed eating have also been a primary focus this summer, and along with that came the hauling of yard debris and waste. You may have also noticed that we are in the process of installing and repairing various areas of guardrail, and we will continue doing so.

Are you cleaning out a house or property in the City and in need of a truck in which to load the debris? Please contact J.J. Cox, Street Superintendent, at 865-986-2715 to request a truck to be brought for your convenience. A "tipping fee" will also be associated with this service - depending on the size/weight of the load. Additionally, if you become aware of potholes, signage, or other roadway issues, please contact J.J. Cox at 865-986-2715.

Please take a look at the included Household Garbage Collection Schedule for information on when garbage will be collected in your area. Please keep in mind that it is your responsibility to ensure the area around your garbage receptacle/dumpster is free from trash and other debris. If you have any questions or comments to share, please contact J.J. Cox at 865-986-2715.

Have an enjoyable Fall and Winter season! ■



Paving (above) and guardrail repair (below)



Garbage Collection Schedule - Fall 2019

MONDAY:

Pick-up from D Street West to E, F, G, H, I, J, K, M, N, and Q Streets; both sides of West Broadway from D Street to O Street; West 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Avenue; Crestwood Hills Subdivision; and Chestnut Ridge Subdivision off Harrison Road; Halls Ferry Road

TUESDAY:

Pick-up from D Street West to C, B, A Streets, and East side of Kingston and Hill Streets; East 1st; East 2nd; East 3rd Avenues; Pine Ridge Apartments; Pinewood Condominiums. Pick-up on Simpson Road; Twin Lakes Drive; Pinetop Street; Highland Park Drive; Pearl Drive; all of Harmony Heights sub-division; Sharp Estates; Carrington Subdivision; Myers Road; Tom Lee Road; Town Creek Road West; Allenbrook Subdivision.

WEDNESDAY:

Pick-up on Rock Springs Road; 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th Avenues and West Side of Kingston Street. Pick-up on A, B, C, D, E, F, and G Streets. Pick-up on Oakland Avenue; Coffey Circle; and Browder Hollow Road from Highway 11 to Finley Drive. Pick-up on Mincey Street and all of 10th Avenue. Pick-up on West Hills Drive; Emerald Court; Oak Hills Subdivision; Visitor's Center; and Jan Way

THURSDAY:

Pick-up on Johnson Drive from Finley Drive to West Hills Drive including Johnson Circle. Pick-up on Tracy Lane and Frances Drive. Pick-up on Church Drive and all dead ends off Church Drive. Pick-up in Hamilton Subdivision; Ivy Avenue; Candlenook Drive; Ash Avenue; and Rogers Circle. Pick-up on Harrison Road; Harrison Woods; Norwood Drive; Harrison Avenue; and Reeves Street. Pick-up on Wilson Street; Kirk Avenue; Harrison Glen Subdivision; Acadia Villas; Kennedy Drive; Coley Lane; and Heape Road.

FRIDAY:

Pick-up on Nelson Street; Depot Street; Rear-side of town; and Bussell Ferry Road. Pick-up on Lee Drive; Hillcrest; Executive Meadows; Green Meadows Lane; Happy Hollow Road; Poplar Street; Pike Street; Locust Street; Bon Street; and Maple Street. Pick-up on Bell Avenue; North and South Cherry Street; North and South Walnut Street. Pick-up on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Avenues off Highway 321; North and South Oak Street. Pick-up on Highland Circle; Hall Street; and Simpson Road (behind Bimbo's Convenience Store). ■



530 Hwy. 321 N
P.O. Box 445
Lenoir City TN 37771

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #210
Sweetwater, TN

Transportation Projects Update

Downtown Streetscapes – Phase II

Cost: \$1,650,000 (97% Federal and State/2.84% Local)

This project takes place along Broadway from C St. to A St. and from Kingston St. to Grand St. and B St. between 1st Ave. and Broadway. The project includes sidewalks, crosswalks, landscaping, and pedestrian lighting. The outcome will be similar to what you see in Phase I (Kingston St. to A St.).

Please make note of the unique nature of the cost break-down. We were successful in applying for and being awarded a combination of grants that will only require us to fund approximately 2.8% of the total project...meaning that we will receive a \$1,650,000 project for approximately \$46,999. Work commenced in April, and the contractor is moving along at a strong pace. They are expected to be completed in the Fall of this year.

Intersection Safety Improvements at Hwy. 95 and Town Creek Rd. (beside Kingston Pike Baptist Church)

Estimated Cost: \$470,050 (TDOT Funded)

This project is categorized as a TDOT

“spot safety” project. Sight distance will be greatly improved at this location. I have been told by TDOT that the environmental phase is underway and construction could be expected Summer 2020.

Simpson Road Widening Project – Widening the roadway (from Hwy. 321 to Shaw Ferry Rd.)

Cost: \$997,000 (80% Federal/20% Local)

This project includes widening the roadway from 18' to 26', addition of a left turn lane into First Baptist Church, and addition of sidewalks along the commercial side of Simpson Road.

We are currently waiting for TDOT to approve our Environmental Document re-evaluation and for the Federal Highway Administration to release the construction funds; then, we will be in line for approval to enter the construction phase of bidding.

I-75 Interchange Lighting, Exit 81

Cost: \$720,000 (90% Federal & State/10% Local)

This TDOT-managed project takes place at Exit 81 off I-75 and will include the addition of high-mast lighting. This will add to the safety of our exit and will work

to encourage more travelers to use our exit for food, fuel, etc. TDOT estimates the project will be bid in Summer 2020.

CMAQ Intelligent Transportation System Project: Signal System Upgrade

Cost: \$1.3 million (100% grant funds)

This project takes place along Hwy. 321 (from the intersection of 321/11 to I-75) and the Hwy. 11 corridor, leading to improved communications between traffic signals and, hence, more efficient flow of traffic throughout both corridors.

The project was postponed for one year (due to state funding issues) but is now back on track. We are currently working through Environmental Document re-evaluation and will expect the approval to bid after that is accepted.

**The City has multiple transportation projects underway, and we have completed many others over the recent years. The City is building the infrastructure necessary to attract commercial and residential growth in our area. These projects (although frustrating, at times) are a strong indicator of prosperity for a community. ■