

August 24, 2017

To: Area Residents
From: Mayor Buckley
Re: Neighborhood Update

Dear Residents,

I hope this letter finds all of you well. We certainly have a lot going on both with the hospital property and infrastructure work in several area neighborhoods. I wanted to update you on several items that are occurring as we speak.

We will host another town hall meeting on September 19th at 7PM at the Hornet Park Community Center. We invite and encourage everyone to attend.

In a meeting held on Wednesday, I was informed that the dismantling of the buildings are ahead of schedule. Currently, they are working on the tower building. The “bustle” and the north building are staying put until the tower is dismantled to provide a shield for the neighborhood. A note on the tower building, as of this writing crews are on the 9th floor. It takes about 4 days per floor to dismantle, so in another 2-3 weeks they will be down to the 6th floor. When crews get to the 6th floor the heavy machinery on the ground will begin the dismantling process and it will go much quicker.

Everything that is being dismantled will be taken from the property except for the huge pieces of concrete. The huge pieces of concrete will be crushed on site until they become small pieces of gravel, and then will be reused as base material prior to filling.

When the project concludes and everything is cleaned up, Buffalo Street will be milled and repaved as will the alley between 16th and 17th from Buffalo to where the city started paving. Included in this will be new storm water drainage points along Buffalo to correct an age old problem. The 2 parking lots at 17th and Buffalo will be removed and they will also be reverted back to green space as well (the alley remains).

Other work on the property is being done as well. You may have noticed that a considerable amount of work is being done to the parking garage. Once they have completed the remodeling, employees will be able to park in the garage. So, progress is being made. This is good news for the neighborhood as well.

I talked with the folks at DLZ when we met about some dust issues that are occurring and I was reassured that the crews are very conscious of this, and are working diligently with water to try to minimize the dust. Wind conditions may play apart in this as well, but we just have to work through it.

As you know, Safeway recently opened. Another vacant building would have been really bad for the neighborhood. We welcome them, and I hope you find them worthy of your business. If you have any issues with Safeway, I ask that you contact me so I can relay your concerns to them. Having said this, I want to pass on that we are doing a beautification project at 18th and Albany. You may have noticed some cement benches and flower pots have been placed on Albany Street. Soon, a new sidewalk will be installed (thanks to Citizens Energy) on 18th Street and trees will be planted. We sure hope this adds a pleasant look to the neighborhood.

There continues to be no movement on the 2 medical buildings and the old Starbucks building located across the street from the old hospital. This is very unfortunate as we have met with several parties who have shown an interest in the medical property.

If you remember Citizens Energy Group replaced the water main on North 13th a few years ago. Currently, Citizens Energy Group is now replacing water mains on the following streets in our Beautiful City:

- 1) 18th Street from Main to Albany
- 2) Main Street from 18th to 25th Street
- 3) 20th Street from Churchman to Southern
- 4) Woodmont Court
- 5) Yazoo from Woodmont Court to Thompson Road
- 6) 7th Street from Main Street to Buffalo

This can be somewhat disruptive at times and we apologize for it, but these investments being made will stabilize our infrastructure for many years to come and is very much needed.

A couple footnotes for area residents:

The annual BGHS Homecoming Parade steps off at 5PM on Friday September 8th at the Middle School.

The Holy Name Oktoberfest is set for Friday September 29th and Saturday September 30th.

Please call my office at 317.803.9111 if you have any concerns or questions. Have a great day!

Blessings,

Dennis B. Buckley
Mayor
City of Beech Grove