



Walt Maddox
Mayor

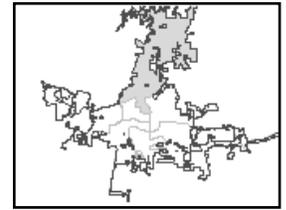


NEWSLETTER



Cynthia Almond

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District 3

Much has happened in our city since I last wrote to you. The devastating storms last April transformed how our council has conducted business over the past year. For several months, our focus necessarily was fixed upon recovering from the storms. We extended our council meeting times, created new budgets, hired the needed consultants, held numerous community meetings, and talked with people from Joplin, New Orleans, Mississippi, and other areas which had endured similar devastation. By far, most of the real work was performed by our mayor and city employees. I have to say honestly that I was, and still am, extremely proud of the way our city responded. Many employees worked around the clock, even slept at city hall on occasion, and thankfully had the necessary skills to guide us through this difficult time. While undoubtedly there are some things we would do differently, there is no question that much has been accomplished thanks to the hard work of our city employees.

And work continues. Recently the city presented details of the Tuscaloosa Forward Generational Master Plan as well as the new residential rezoning plan. The City held an Open House at city hall for citizens to get a first-hand look at the plans, and many citizens took advantage of the opportunity. I was there, and I talked with many of you. I heard comments that ranged from outright criticism, to helpful suggestions on how to make some aspect better, to overwhelming praise for the plans and the process! The city is reviewing the comments and making changes. Thank you for participating and for helping to shape the vision for our city in the years to come.

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

Have you noticed all of the new plantings in front of the Woodridge subdivision along Rice Mine Road? I hope that by the time this newsletter arrives, the crepe

myrtles will be in full bloom! This island had long been an eyesore and was in need of sprucing up. The neighborhood worked hard to collect money and partner with the city to make this project a reality. Many thanks also to Jeff Bryant and his crew with TDOT who remained committed to seeing this project completed and helped us stretch our dollars.

RECYCLING UPDATE

As you know, our city's recycling trucks were demolished in the April 27 storm. New trucks were ordered and are due to be in service by May. Once the new trucks arrive, the city will have, for the first time ever, curbside recycling service for every water customer within the city limits of Tuscaloosa! I encourage you to take advantage of this service to reduce the amount of waste that we put in our landfill. Reduced waste not only is good for our environment but also saves the city money on landfill fees. Until the curbside recycling is restored, you can take your recycling to your nearby drop off site. In District 3 we have two sites: one at fire station #3 on Rice Valley Road, and another at fire station #10 near North River Yacht Club. Please also encourage your neighbors to recycle!

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATES

Amphitheatre: Since I last wrote to you, the amphitheater has been completed and had a successful first year! Wendy Riggs and her staff have done an excellent job of managing that venue and making it first rate.

Transportation Museum: The Mildred Westervelt Warner Transportation Museum is now open also. Located next to the Tuscaloosa Public Library in the old Queen City Pool Bathhouse on River Road, the museum tells the story of Tuscaloosa's history through a transportation focus.



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www.tuscaloosa.com

Tuscaloosa FORWARD

A STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN TO RENEW AND REBUILD

RiverMarket, RiverWalk, and Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports Center: At long last, the RiverWalk is connected from Capitol Park to the end of The University of Alabama’s section in front of Clara Verner Towers. It is so refreshing to see the many different people who use this trail. If you have been along this road recently, you undoubtedly noticed that the RiverMarket and Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports Center is now complete also. The RiverMarket will open officially in May 2012. I encourage you to visit it often to buy your fresh produce and other locally produced or handmade goods or crafts. This new market promises to be the best ever and undoubtedly will be a favorite local spot on Saturday mornings. During most market hours, we hope to have fresh coffee, snacks, and live music! The building also will be available for rent for private functions.



Please join me at Coleman Coliseum Friday, April 27th for a special program commemorating the anniversary of the tornado beginning at 5:00 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIMES

WEEKLY CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Weekly on Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers – City Hall (Pre-Council Meetings on Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. in the Narashino Room adjacent to the Council Chambers in City Hall)

PUBLIC PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Weekly on Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. Daugherty Room – Second Floor, City Hall

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On the Second and Fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Daugherty Room – Second Floor, City Hall

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

First Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. Daugherty Room – Second Floor, City Hall

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. Daugherty Room – Second Floor, City Hall

OTHER MEETINGS

If there is a need for additional Committee meetings, notice will be given in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Law, Act 2005-40 (Ala. Code §36-25A-1).