



*Mayor's column July 17, 2014*

### **The Buzz About Gallatin**

Gallatin is getting a lot of positive coverage these days – everything from new companies choosing to locate in Gallatin to people choosing to make Gallatin their home. Newspapers tell the story. The coffee shop crowds are abuzz. You may have seen articles in the Tennessean, on Nashville news stations, or in the local papers. It's an exciting time for the citizens of Gallatin! Let me do a recap of some of the projects/events taking place:

- Beretta is still moving forward. Just a couple of weeks ago I spent the morning touring with their new Product Development manager. He's excited to be coming to Gallatin and loved our area. Beretta has selected their architect and is in the process of putting the final touches on their building design. Beretta represents 300 new jobs over the course of three years.
- American Colors, another new company for Gallatin, will also be located in the second phase of our Industrial Center. It will produce products for the composites, coatings, plastics, and agricultural industries. They have a research lab that will house chemists and technicians who take dry pigments and mix them with various liquids to create colors. As stated by the company, the car you are riding in today probably has products made by American Colors. This new company represents 31 new jobs for this area.
- ABC Technologies is undertaking a major expansion of its current facility. If you drive out Airport Road, you will see the progress. This expansion represents 230 new jobs when complete.
- National Healthcare is the large building taking shape beside Kennesaw Farms off Nashville Pike. It is a state-of-the-art assisted living and skilled care facility including a rehabilitation center. It is targeted for completion in early 2015. This company represents 92 new jobs.
- The new Panera Bread restaurant is coming out of the ground at the corner of Lock Four Road and Nashville Pike. It is scheduled to open in the fall of 2014. The building beside Panera, owned by Panera's parent company, is for retail/offices – but no announcements yet on what will locate there.
- Many residential developments are underway all over Gallatin. One can drive in any direction to see new houses fitting all price ranges. The newest community – Foxland Crossings – recently had their ribbon cutting. They are adding more buildings to accommodate the demand for housing.
- Gallatin has also just received another Home Grant for \$250,000 to aid folks who want to repair and renovation their existing homes. This grant is handled by our Planning Department. Residents must qualify for the funds. Call the Planning Department and they will assist you.

Because of all of this progress, Gallatin is building additional roads to accommodate the growth and plan for the future:

- The new GreenLea Extension is in the right-of-way phase which means land will be purchased to extend the road to Long Hollow Pike.
- Albert Gallatin/Hatten Track is our connector-road which will extend Albert Gallatin Boulevard (the road that runs beside our Civic Center) over to State Route 109. It is called our Northern Bypass. This project is in the right-of-way acquisition phase. It will take approximately 18-24 months to purchase the necessary property with the goal of being under construction in 2016.
- And, the Tennessee Department of Transportation is scheduled to begin construction on an improved intersection at Nashville Pike/Red River Road/Main Street early next year. The redesign creates a right turn lane from Red River onto Nashville Pike.

As you can see – the newspapers, TV stations, and talk at the coffee shops are all correct—Gallatin is a happening place!