

## **Kenny Howell**

*Managing Editor*

Mt. Juliet cut the ribbon of Fire Station No. 1 on Belinida Parkway Tuesday.

Mayor Ed Hagerty gave the remarks before the ribbon cutting, saying it had been 27 years since something of this magnitude had been done to enhance the state of fire protection in the city.

“I think the Vice Mayor was entering kindergarten,” he joked.

Hagerty talked about the drastic change that the Providence area, particularly over the last eight years, has gone through. He said in 1987, he believed there was no Cracker Barrel or Waffle House on that side of the interstate.

Hagerty thanked many people that had a big hand in the building of the first fire station, including Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto, Vice Mayor James Maness, Commissioners Art Giles, Ray Justice, Jim Bradshaw and former Commissioner Ted Floyd. He also thanked State Representative Susan Lynn, WEMA and the volunteer firefighters.

Hagerty also applauded new Fire Chief Erron Kinney and Assistant Chief Jamie Luffman.

Hagerty said that in 1987, Mt. Juliet was a town of 3,000 people. Closing in 30,000 in 2013, the

need for a new fire station was a necessity.

“It’s a good thing [the growth], but it also presents some challenges,” said Hagerty. “Fortunately, we have not had a horrendous catastrophe due to fire.”

Hagerty said in the days ahead, they will be hiring career and volunteer firefighters. He said there will also have four fire trucks.

Sidney Payne, a Del Webb resident, has vowed to help get the fire station furnished. Payne has been helping push the city toward getting a new fire station, showing up with a fire extinguisher to the city meetings. She held the fire extinguisher in the air when she was introduced and received applause from the crowd.

“I may have been holding this fire extinguisher, but you were all behind me pushing me,” said Payne.

Payne and the Del Webb Women’s Club had helped furnish and rehab Station 3 behind City Hall.

There is a furnish the fire hall fund set up First Freedom bank. Tuesday, Buffalo Wild Wings donated 15 percent of their proceeds to the fund.

The Living Room recliners, tables, and lamps have been selected at Furniture Unlimited. Jim Rhodes, of Furniture Unlimited, will match every dollar donated to the Living Room. You can go to Furniture Unlimited an order straight off the registry to help the firefighters.

The Bedroom beds and desks will be custom made by Anderson Amish Furniture. Dan Anderson, the owner, has designed the beds and desks for the new Fire Hall. All beds will be extra long twin beds made of solid wood. You can order directly off their registry as well.

H.H. Gregg holds the registry for the appliances for the kitchen and laundry room. Chief Erron Kinney and Payne will be picking out the appliances this week, along with computers and iPads for the firefighters. Those wishing to support appliances and computers may go directly to H.H. Gregg and purchase off the registry.

The Woman's Club at Del Webb held a fundraisers earlier this year and will fill the kitchen cabinets with dishes, silverware, and everything needed to cook those Fire Hall dinners. H.H. Gregg has already donated a Gas Barbeque the fire hall.

Another station is planned on Lebanon Road in the next few years