

8.19.26

Balancing a vibrant entertainment scene with the peace and quiet of local residents is a challenge many growing communities face. We value the economic and cultural benefits the music brings, but want to protect the quality of life and property values for those who call the area home.

When communities look for ways to protect residents while still keeping live music, we often look into specific regulatory frameworks:

Decibel Limits: Setting clear, measurable sound limits.

Curfews: Establishing cutoff times for outdoor amplified music, especially on weeknights.

Sound Mitigation: Requiring venues to install acoustic fencing, landscaping, or indoor baffling.

Permitting Systems: Creating special use permits that can be reviewed if a venue receives repeated, verified complaints, and updating the town's ordinance to measure sound at the venue rather than inside residents homes.

Being good neighbors should always be a priority between businesses and city residents. Not everyone has a 9 – 5 Monday – Friday work schedule. When the music is so loud that residents up to a mile away can hear the bands playing, that is not being a good neighbor. Frankie Martins has done several things to help mitigate this by putting up sides on the stage as well as monitoring the noise level more closely which I am sure is appreciated.

The issue is that the bands seem to like to play loud, thinking louder is better and when they have the crowd engaged, they seem to want to play even louder.

From online comments, some dating several years back, residents who have emailed, and come to the meetings to have their voices heard - there is a problem. Many of our residents lived in Cottleville long before the live music venues moved in.

Not everyone can drown out the noise with sound machines, or by just going inside their home so they are not hearing the music. Not everyone has the money to replace all their windows to combat the loud noise.

Again, all we are asking is for everyone to enjoy and appreciate why they live in Cottleville, for our live entertainment venues to be good neighbors, and to protect the quality of life of our residents.

8.19.26

I wanted to make you aware of a couple of items that are currently in process. As always, your Mayor and Aldermen work for you, and constructive discussion from our residents is appreciated.

Please see the details below regarding the current items:

- Cottleville Springs Subdivision (located between Hwy K and 364 in Cottleville): A rezoning request has been submitted by Lombardo Homes to change the zoning from R-1A "single family residential district" (1-acre lots) to R-1D "single family residential district" (1/4-acre lots).
- 4640 Mid Rivers Mall Drive (7.41 acres): A rezoning request to change from "Special College District General Commercial Retail Subdistrict" to "Special College District MULTI FAMILY Subdistrict." At the request of the applicant, this item has been postponed to September.

We welcome your feedback on these and any other items. Please visit the City of Cottleville website for more information and the meeting schedule. Citizen comments are allowed at the Board of Aldermen (BOA) meetings; to participate, please fill out the comment form located at the table when you walk in and give it to the City Clerk before the meeting starts.

5.14.26

Planning & Zoning and the Cottleville Police Department

Welcome,

At the most recent Board of Aldermen meeting, the city had the privilege of swearing in three new officers to the Cottleville Police Department. The Board and attendees were also introduced to Zeke, the Department's newest K9 officer, along with his handler, Officer Dolan. Zeke is trained in multiple disciplines, including narcotics detection, search operations, and apprehension, and will serve as a valuable asset to the Department's ongoing public safety efforts.

I would like to formally recognize and commend the Cottleville Police Department for its continued commitment to maintaining the City's distinction as "The Safest in Missouri." Under the leadership of Chief McCune, the Department actively collaborates with surrounding jurisdictions and participates in regional agencies and task forces. These coordinated efforts enhance information sharing, strengthen operational effectiveness, and contribute significantly to the safety and well-being of our community.

I am also pleased to share that I have completed the UMSL Continuing Education Chancellor's Certificate in the Fundamentals of Planning and Zoning. This program provided a comprehensive foundation in municipal planning principles and governance practices, including zoning structures, regulatory frameworks, and the integration of long-range planning with implementation strategies.

As the City of Cottleville continues the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, I pursued this certification to further strengthen my ability to contribute meaningfully to informed decision-making and responsible growth.

Planning and Zoning serves a critical function in guiding the City's development, land use, and overall character. It establishes regulatory standards, defines permitted uses, and provides a structured and transparent process for evaluating proposed changes prior to consideration by the Board of Aldermen.

Planning and Zoning meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, in conjunction with meetings of the Old Town Historic Commission and the Board of Adjustment (when necessary). Residents are encouraged to consult the City's official website for the most current meeting schedules and updates. Please feel free to attend!

4.8.26

Welcome to the City of Cottleville's Updated Website

Welcome to the upgraded official website of the City of Cottleville—and to my blog. I have proudly called Cottleville home for 23 years and am currently serving my second term as Alderman for Ward 1. My first term was nearly 20 years ago, and I was honored to be re-elected last year. Many have asked about the gap between my terms. Simply put, life brought other priorities, including raising my children, supporting animal rescue efforts, and managing business responsibilities. Over that time, I've seen Cottleville grow and evolve in many ways, which inspired me to return to public service and contribute my experience to our community. Thank you for your trust and support.

One of the most common concerns I hear from residents is traffic. At a recent work session, the Board of Aldermen and Mayor discussed needed improvements to Lohmar Lane and began exploring grant opportunities to support those efforts. As one of the remaining roads in the city without key safety features such as sidewalks and shoulders, Lohmar Lane is an important focus area. While discussions are still in the early stages, I look forward to working collaboratively with city staff and fellow board members to identify the best path forward. Meanwhile, in the short-term I'm pleased to report that the City will pursue some limited sidewalk and pedestrian crossing improvements at the intersection of Lohmar Ln and Madison Park Dr. Additionally, we continue to require traffic impact studies for new developments expected to generate significant traffic.

At our most recent meeting, I reintroduced a previously tabled bill related to a utility easement request from Spire on city park property. After reviewing the proposed location, I worked with city staff to explore an alternative alignment that would place the easement within an existing utility corridor under the Ameren power lines. This approach helps preserve usable park space while still meeting infrastructure needs. I'm pleased that Spire agreed to this adjustment and that the bill was ultimately approved.

I have also been in communication with residents of the Cottleville Trails subdivision to better understand their concerns. While some issues fall outside the City's authority or were established prior to my current term, I remain committed to listening and working with residents, city staff, and developers to pursue practical solutions wherever possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read, and I look forward to sharing future updates.

Elizabeth Holt
Alderman, Ward 1