

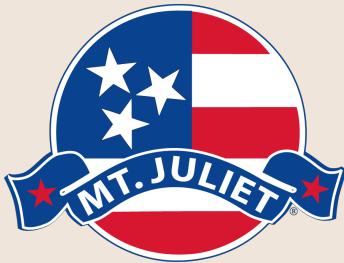
MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

March turned out to be a very devastating month for all of us. First, the tornado, and then the coronavirus pandemic. While we are still recovering from the tornado and those affected are trying to get their homes and businesses rebuilt, I hope everyone is staying safe and adhering to safety measures put in place by the CDC/NIL.

As you've seen by now, **Gov. Bill Lee revised his Executive Order (EO22)** March 30, issuing a "Safer at Home" policy. Therefore, **Mt. Juliet** (city) has also revised its State of Emergency (SoE) order, issued by the Board of Commissioners (BOC) on March 23, and **adopted the "Safer at Home," effective March 31-April 14**. What does the revision mean? The order restricts businesses that cannot safely operate during COVID-19 including businesses like barber shops, salons, recreational, and entertainment outfits. It also provides for the continuation of essential businesses to protect the economy, along with "strongly urging" the community to stay at home, except to engage in essential activities. Courts, playgrounds and the skate park at city parks are all closed. MJ's greenways and walkways remain open. **Please note: neither order is a "mandate."**

For additional information, please go to these websites:

[Link to Gov. Lee's EO22 Safer at Home:](https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/pub/execorders/exec-orders-lee22.pdf)

<https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/pub/execorders/exec-orders-lee22.pdf>

[Link to MJ's Safer at Home:](https://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=44)

<https://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=44>

[Link to CDC COVID-19:](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

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Late afternoon on March 31, a MJ city employee tested positive for the coronavirus, who is at home in isolation under the care of a healthcare professional. Let's keep this person in our prayers.

This virus is very serious and we are all concerned, scared, even fearful, and we want to protect ourselves and our families. **The "best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus, and the best way to avoid being exposed is to remain at home as much as possible for the protection of ourselves and our community. We all value our personal liberty and with it comes personal responsibility of doing our part"** -Gov. Lee. This virus will not last forever, it will peak, and we will get through it. Thankfully it is spring now and the weather is getting warmer.

If you are feeling ill you should first call your usual source of care. If an assessment cannot be done at that location, then you can call our local assessment site at the Vanderbilt Walk-in Clinic, 64 Belinda Pkwy., (888) 312-0847. Most locations do a phone assessment to determine if an in-person assessment or test is

needed. Most individuals, particularly those with mild or no symptoms do not need a test (according to *Department of Health*).

Reported to the TDH, as of 2 pm April 1:

2,683 confirmed cases in TN

24 have died in TN (8 suicides in Knox Co.)

45 confirmed cases in Wilson County

0 deaths in WC

1 confirmed case in MJ

The recovery rate of those diagnosed is about 98%.

I know habits are hard to break, such as shaking hands, hugging, touching our face/mouths/etc., but I encourage everyone to stay calm, use common sense, and wash your hands frequently with soap and water. It's easy to succumb to panic, but we must remain calm. I stay at home for most part, but if I go out to the store for supplies, I make sure to wipe the shopping cart with sanitizing wipes (I even take my own in case the store is out), use my hand sanitizer when I get back into the car and wash my hands when I get home. I use my credit/debit card because I am the only one that touches it, unlike paper/coin money. I got a package in from China today that I had ordered over 3 weeks ago and I sprayed the outer package, the bubble wrap inside, and my product with Lysol.

Please take care, stay safe, and keep our healthcare professionals, the elderly, those with compromised immune systems and underlying conditions, and those affected in your prayers.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

1) On March 31, City Manager Kenny Martin, MJ Mayor Ed Hagerty and myself attended a teleconference with TriStar Summit Hospital/ MJ Emergency Hospital (ER) to discuss the efforts they have put in place to combat COVID-19. I am pleased to announce they have adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, high quality test kits, and are in good shape on generators. Results for testing are coming in as early as 1 day (depending on the outsource). Both locations do temperature screenings and the MJ ER has setup a temporary wall inside the ambulance entrance for COVID-19, a decontamination room and an isolation room. So, in other words, both locations are adequately prepared. Surgeons met last Friday and the biggest request that came up was to put forth an effort on educating the public. The majority of all those who come in for testing, test negative for coronavirus, and are therefore diagnosed with allergies, colds, flu, and/or respiratory issues in general. CM Martin asked if they would be willing to provide regular updates on MJ's City MJTV Channel 3 (Comcast) 6 (TDS), and they are more than willing to comply. Look for updates.

The healthcare industry is overwhelmed, therefore they ask that contact be limited to the local authority as point of contact, in our case that is CM Martin. He stays in constant contact with health officials and facilities, and in addition, CM Martin and MJ

Mayor Hagerty are frequently in touch with WC Mayor Hutto, Lebanon City Mayor Ashe and Watertown Mayor Jennings, as well as other local and state officials.

NOTE: The TriStar Imaging Center on SMJRD is temporarily closed. If your doctor issues an order for imaging, the MJ ER on Beckwith is prepared to do them.

2) Just for your information: The Tennessee Medical Association (TMA), a nonprofit advocacy group for medical professionals, recently sent a letter to local municipalities and county mayors across the state, recommending that they request authority from the governor to issue "Stay at Home" orders in their jurisdictions. The GNRC Middle Tennessee Mayors Caucus sent a letter to Gov. Lee expressing support for a "Shelter-in-Place" OR "Stay at Home." An additional letter to the governor from various healthcare professionals/medical boards across the state, are requesting him to declare a "Shelter-in-Place" for 14 days.

Please know that there is basically, for the most part, very little difference in these terms; "Safer at Home," "Stay at Home," or "Shelter in Place," as according to various executive orders issued across the state, from the office of the governor down to cities and counties, currently in place. The targeted goal of the letters mentioned above are for the purposes of issuing a "mandated government order" to stay in place, which Tennessee does not currently have.

Dr. Deborah Birx, M.D. (Head of COVID-19 Task Force) announced yesterday during the press conference that they are relying on the country to follow safety guidelines put in place by CDC/NIL, rather than calling for a "lockdown" at this time.

Remember to visit: [SafeMtJuliet.com](https://www.SafeMtJuliet.com) as a COVID-19 information resource that was recently set up by the city. It includes restrictions; senior citizen call check requests; restaurants opened for takeout/pickup/delivery; restriction violation form; testing sites; information from healthcare professionals, etc.

I will list at the bottom of the newsletter the details of the Governor's EO21/22, including a list of "essential" and "nonessential" businesses.

3) I commend our city for coming together after the disastrous tornado left much devastation across our city and county. All the first responders, city officials, and volunteers, some of which coming from long distances, who didn't hesitate to do what was needed in order to help. And unfortunately, it included the loss of three precious lives that we all grieve for. There were 305 homes severely/damaged with 59 considered a total loss, several businesses and of course three of our schools (West Wilson Middle, Stoner Creek Elementary, and MJ Christian Academy. I am very thankful because it could have been so much worse. The MJ Community Center at Charlie Daniels Park was/is a disaster relief distribution center for essential supplies. It

will take months, even years, to completely recover and rebuild, but we will get there together.

There are many recovery resources available for those affected by the tornado. Most have already made contact, but if you know of someone needing assistance please let them know.

*FEMA Disaster Assistance: **1-800-621-3362**

*WC Assistance Request Portal:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeoTOlbDvJ3ZMZNfJcpScQwyQTzreAorFR8sC5u-2K7qHVgJA/viewform>

*Financial aid and counseling: <https://mjpgdnews.org/tornado>

*Debris removal: **1-800-451-1954**

*TN Crisis phone line: **1-855-274-7471**

*Airbnb for no-cost accommodations:

www.airbnb.com/tntornado20.

*Small Business Administration (SBA): Shawn McKeehan, Deputy District Director of the TN District Office (lives in The Cottages in Providence) **615-736-2499**/christopher.mckeehan@sba.gov.

Typically, the city's sales tax reports come in about two months after the fact, so we won't know the effects from the tornado and business closings from COVID-19 until probably May.

Major city-wide debris removal: The city is still in the process of removing debris from the tornado, which is going to be a long process. They are looking for a contractor to remove the remainder of the material, in addition, FEMA strongly recommended hiring a monitoring company to track the material, which is essential to make sure we get paid for all the work the contractor does. The monitoring company cost will also get reimbursed by FEMA, and in order to meet requirements, there are strict regulations for procurement. Pending contract approvals, the work is expected to begin later this week. The first rounds were mainly trees, limbs and greenery. The next phase will include home debris and remnants.

MJPD continue to patrol affected neighborhoods watching for potential thieves. The National Guard that was assisting with cleanup are no longer in the city.

4) At our town hall meeting on March 12, I presented a PowerPoint of the **MJ Comprehensive Transportation Plan**, which is a future multimodal vision plan for roads/bicycles/transit/pedestrians for MJ and outer lying areas. I have had requests to put it online and I am in the process of doing a video to include explanations to go with each of the slides, otherwise it won't make sense. I have been preoccupied with the COVID-19, but I will get this done and uploaded very soon. Watch for the notice.

Joining us was **Linn Yeager, President of REHAB 23**, who presented a PowerPoint description of the all-volunteer organization, who serves and supports First Responders (Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and Paramedics) of Wilson County. They operate out of the MJ Fire Hall on Belinda Pkwy.

Also joining us was our **County Commissioner for Zone 11, John Gentry**, who talked about the Sales Tax Referendum that passed by majority vote on March 3rd. He explained how the verbiage on the ballot, as submitted to the WC Election Commission, was misleading and did not properly explain the breakdown of the tax portion that was earmarked for classroom teacher pay raises.

- Sales tax increases from 9.25% to 9.75%
- 7% goes to the state
- The remaining is equally split between education and the city where a purchase is made (30% is estimated to be collected from visitors to WC).

Estimated breakdown locally for first year:

- WCSchools \$5.2M (classroom teacher salaries/no administration)
- LSSD \$910K
- Lebanon (city) \$2.8M
- MJ (city) \$2.3M
- Watertown \$44K
- WC \$465K (goes to debt services)

A side note: The amount that is funded by the state for education is reduced every year, which puts more of a financial burden on the county and school system).

5) April 1 Census Day: It's time to complete your federal census. The last U.S. federal census was done in 2010 and they are taken every 10 years. You can fill it out online, over the phone, or by mail. Your information is confidential for 72 years.

The city of MJ gets funding based on the results that help determine how billions of dollars flow into states and communities. The federal funds can help our hospitals, fire department, schools, parks, roads, and highways.

The results also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. It's also mandated in the U.S. Constitution. So, make sure to get them completed as soon as possible.

6) The paving trucks and equipment are back in the area to complete the roads they didn't get to previously. I saw them on Sunnymeade on Monday.

7) The Chipper service will resume once the contractor is hired for the remaining debris from the tornado and can pick up the slack. I have requested they return to Zone 1 first, (District 4 for the most part) since they started on March 1st and the tornado hit on March 3rd, and they weren't able to complete our area.

If you would like to sign up for text/email alerts you can sign up here: <https://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov/list.aspx?listid=236>.

8) MJ budget work sessions for the 20/21 fiscal year, which is July-June, are still set to begin the end of April. If we are still not

able to meet in person we will have to meet online to work through them.

9) The four properties around town the city is looking at purchasing for parks and recreation, are all on hold for now because of the tornado and COVID-19. CM Martin has called for a spending freeze for now.

The four pieces of property are; Cedar Creek Sports Center at 10770 Lebanon Rd. (13 acres); Windtree Golf Course (previously) at 810 Nonaville Rd. (60-75 acres); Eddie Thomlinson property off Beckwith (approx. 57 acres); and the Baltz property off Golden Bear.

10) Status of **ACLU's lawsuit against MJ**: Carafem, which provides "medical" abortions located on Crossings Circle, is claiming that the MJ amended Ordinance 2020-08 is unconstitutional, denying them the right to expand in order to provide "surgical" abortions in the city. A court date has not been scheduled.

11) Hopefully, this problem has been resolved, but **construction vehicles have been using Providence Trail** for the Baird Farms development, specifically in the early mornings. They have been notified and put on notice, that if they continue using any other outlet, other than S. Rutland, the city will issue a Stop Work Order. If you happen to see any construction vehicles using Providence Trail going into Baird Farms, please let me know, and if possible, without breaking the law or jeopardizing your safety, please provide photos and times. I want to stay on top of this.

12) [Mt. Juliet Police \(MJPd\)](#) **Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers:** (ALPR) Installation of the 37 readers are in process and to be completed by June/July. Currently 17 are operational. Please note; these are not used for speeding, they only alert license plates that are in the system associated with criminal activity. Unless there is an ongoing investigation, the information is erased after 30 days.

March: Three stolen vehicles/plate alerted that lead to four arrests.

February: Five stolen vehicles/plate alerted that lead to four arrests.

January: One stolen plate alerted that lead to one arrest.

December: One plate alert that lead to one arrest.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

Belinda Pkwy Sidewalks: The weather has really delayed this project that was initially scheduled to be completed the end of February. They are working as fast as the weather allows.

NEW BUSINESS UPDATES

- **Exxon (Belinda Pkwy)** – is now open.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The BOC meeting during April is scheduled for Monday, April 13. The BOC will meet for 20/21 Budget Work Session on Monday, April 27. Of course these are pending because of COVID-19.

CAMPAIGN TO ELECT JENNIFER MILELE

I am campaigning for the November 3rd election to keep my City Commission seat for District 4. Therefore, I am asking for your support and votes as well as financial donations to help cover postage, yard signs, mailers, printing, ads etc. In addition, I will be looking for volunteers further into the year, as well as possibly holding a couple of fundraising events. I would be honored to have you to help me keep my seat as your District 4 City Commissioner so that I may continue serving you.

What I stand for:

- Citizen advocate with a heart to serve
- No property tax increase
- Conservative
- No bias or personal agenda
- Roads/signal improvements
- Limited government
- MJ resident since 1984
- I bring open-mindedness, common sense, personal commitment and accountability with a high standard of ethics.

I care because you matter, therefore I would like to hear from you. If you have any suggestions, ideas, comments, complaints, or just something to share, please let me know. If you would like to make a contribution to my campaign, volunteer, and/or sign up for monthly email newsletters, you will find the options to do so on my website below. You can also email me your email address and I will add it to the newsletter/updates list. Thank you very much.

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Gov. Lee's Executive Order 21/22 (I highly recommend reading the EOs for yourselves, all individuals and businesses are required to follow health guidelines and leaving your homes should be limited in nature)

Essential Businesses/Activities:

- Health Care and Public Health Operations
- Human Services Operations
- Essential Infrastructure Operations
- Essential Government Functions

- Food and Medicine Stores
- Food and Beverage Production and Agriculture.
- Organizations that Provide Charitable and Social Services
- Religious and Ceremonial Functions
- Media
- Gas Stations and Businesses Needed for Transportation
- Financial Institutions and Insurance Entities
- Hardware and Supply Stores
- Critical Trades
- Mail, Post, Shipping, Logistics, Delivery, and Pick-up Services
- Educational Institutions
- Laundry Services
- Restaurants for Off-Premises Consumption
- Supplies to Work from Home
- Supplies for Essential Businesses and Operations
- Transportation
- Home-based Care and Services
- Residential Facilities and Shelters
- Professional Services
- Manufacturing, Distribution and Supply Chain for Critical --- Products and Industries
- Hotels and Motels
- Funeral Services
- Any business related to Essential Activity
- Any other business or organization that operates at all times with ten (10) or fewer persons...
- The minimum necessary activities required to maintain any business or organization, whether otherwise essential or not, including: a. Maintaining the value of the business's or organization's inventory; b. Preserving the condition of the business's or organization's physical plant and equipment, livestock, or other assets; c. Ensuring the security of the business or organization; d. Processing the business's or organization's mail, payroll, and employee benefits; e. Facilitating employees of the business or organization being able to continue to work remotely from their residences; or f. Conducting any functions related to these activities
- Critical infrastructure
- Activities essential to a person's health
- Obtaining necessary services or supplies
- Outdoor activity
- Caring for the needy, including pets
- Visiting places of worship/weddings/funerals
- Travel related to essential activity and services, including those unable to care for themselves, to/from educational institutions, to/from outside State of TN, required by law/law enforcement/court order

NonEssential Businesses/Activities:

- Barber shops, hair salons, waxing services, threading salons, nail salons/spas, body-art/tatoos, tanning salons, massage therapy
- Entertainment/recreational services; night clubs, bowling alleys, arcades, concert venues, theaters, racetracks, indoor children's play areas, adult entertainment venues, amusement parks, roller/iceskating rinks