

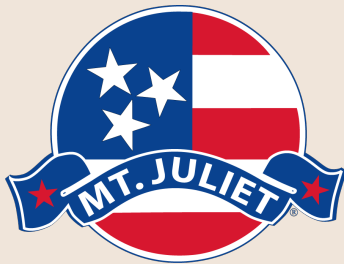
SEPTEMBER 2020
NEWSLETTER



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Jennifer Milele

Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Early voting begins this Wednesday, October 14 through October 29, with the November 3rd Election Day being 23 days away. I'm sure everyone would agree that this is a very important election, at all levels, so make your voice count. Every vote matters. My apologies for getting my newsletter out a week late.

Business status:

Sephora (currently in JC Penney) will be moving into the LifeWay building in Providence Marketplace.

Advanced Auto Parts will be locating in a portion of the Pier One building.

Chuck E Cheese will be staying where they are for now. It was previously stated they would be closing, so this is good news.

Regal Theaters are closing all locations until further notice.

Thai Samurai is a new restaurant coming to Providence Marketplace next to Crumbl Cookies.

O'Reilly Auto Parts will be opening a new store next to Tractor Supply on Lebanon Road.

Subway & Bubba Koo's will be going in the gray building next to Exxon on NMJRD.

Hammer and Stain will be going in the Valley Center.

(I don't have any timelines on the above).

Polls:

Thank everyone who took my two polls recently.

Newsletter This poll asked about adding buttons that linked to my website in order to shorten it, or leave as is. 86% said to leave it as is, which is what you see here. So, I will keep this format.

Parkland This poll asked what you would like to see for parkland/green space south of I-40. 30% nature/walking trails; 13% rec center; 9.5% tie between swimming pool and fishing; 8% splash pad; 5.5% tie between tennis courts, skate park, and more for seniors. The rest was other, such as ball fields for children under 12, park benches, pickleball, lake activities.

Charlie Daniels: Honoring Our Heroes Day:

Sellers Funeral Home is putting on this event as an opportunity to honor our local heroes. Jason and Aaron Crabb will be performing along with others, there will be speakers and special guests, college band, and MJHS Choir, just to name a few. The event is Saturday, October 17 from 1-4 pm, at the Circle P Ranch located at 563 Main St. Note: the city only helps promote the event and is not a sponsor.

Memorial Dedication to Rowan Frensley:

There was a beautiful park bench dedicated to Rowan at the Memorial on September 30 outside of Planet Playground. Rowan was the little boy who died in a tragic accident at the Christmas parade last year.

Rapid Intervention training for FDMJ:

I attended a two-day training session with the fire department and did a mock training exercise of a downed firefighter low on oxygen in a dark and smoky burning building and had to be rescued. This was an excellent hands-on training program for FDMJ, WEMA, and Lebanon Fire.

MJPD had a SWAT training exercise last Monday and I would have loved the opportunity to attend, but I had my grandson with me that day.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

1) National and state recognitions: As the City Commissioner of District 4, I am proud to be a part of Mt. Juliet which is widely recognized as being successful. Our city has had several impressive recognitions, three of which awarded recently: Rated 22nd out of 50 as the best place to live in Tennessee by Money.com; Nationally recognized as one of the fastest-growing affordable cities by Lendedu.com; and the best city for millennials to relocate by Zippia. Mt. Juliet promotes diversity in business and in our live/work/play community and I am proud to call it home for 36 years.

2) Residue from construction site burn: Wynfield and Baird developments have had repeated warnings over the past several months and in recent weeks from an overabundance of white ash and black oily residue landing in nearby neighborhoods on homes, vehicles, decks/patios, cushions, swimming pools/filters, etc. In addition, this past week, ash was landing in people's hair, not to mention, breathing was difficult. I felt it was time to put residents first, therefore I called for an immediate stop burn order for both developments. Wynfield was actively burning so FDMJ delivered the order and stopped the burn. Baird was not burning that particular day because their machine was down. FDMJ will deliver the order to Baird once they start burning again. I am sorry so many have had to deal with this burdensome cleanup effort you've been left with.

3) Park properties: I'm sure you are aware by now, but the 22-acre lake property on S. Rutland was pulled from the table after the homeowner pulled their \$2M offer. Because the BOC was short one commissioner on 9-28, they knew they had no chance for a majority, so the homeowner decided to pull their offer and explore other options. It is very possible they will look at selling next year, possibly to a developer. I believe this is most unfortunate.

The Parks Department is currently looking at other potential properties, all but one is on the north side of I-40. There is a resolution on the agenda Monday night to approve the city manager, park and financial directors to move forward with purchase negotiations for various properties the parks department has been exploring. Kenny Martin is the sponsor.

In addition, the city has been offered an opportunity to lease approximately 20 acres behind Grace United Church on NMJRD for \$1/year for 30 years. Some ideas could include the cost of building a pavilion, walking trails, and possibly multi-purpose fields

4) Town Center Trail is officially open: We had the ribbon cutting to officially open the Town Center Trail last Monday which concluded Phase 2. From the train station to N. Greenhill Rd. is about 2.5 miles. I look forward to being a part of Phase 3, which will extend west on W. Division to MJ Elementary School. The ribbon cutting was held at Eagle Park on W. Division. It is now open for your pleasure.

5) MJ Senior Activity Center Fundraiser: Annual fundraiser spaghetti dinner hosted by MJPD on October 15-16. Due to COVID there will be no dine in options, only pickup and delivery. Delivery/pickup between 11 am – 1:30 pm; Pickup only 4:30-6:30 pm. Call 615-758-9114 for meal tickets. This is a great way to support our seniors and help them raise money for a new center. The center is located at 2034 N. Mt. Juliet Rd.

6) Halloween: Trick-or-treating is a go, however MJPD has issued some suggested guidelines, such as proper distancing, disinfecting hands and wearing masks. They will also increase patrols. You can pick up reflective bracelets at police headquarters Monday - Friday between 8 am - 5 pm.

7) Sales tax: In this current fiscal budget as of August (July 20-June 21), the sales tax numbers are up over last year by 31.43%. This is great news.

8) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). September: 4 stolen vehicles/plates alerted that lead to 4 arrests/apprehensions. All were out of county or out of state.

9) FDMJ/MJPD: The BOC just voted to approve the hiring of nine additional firefighters in preparation for the new fire hall off Lebanon Road so they can get their training, which eventually will include a total of 15 along with the necessary equipment in the 21/22 budget. Two new police officers will begin employment on October 12th.

10) ADA Wheelchair swing: The Parks Department is in talks regarding installing an ADA wheelchair swing at Planet Playground in Charlie Daniels Park.

11) Christmas Parade: The 2020 MJ Christmas parade theme for this year has been changed because of political backlash over celebrating our law enforcement. The theme was to be "A Blue Christmas: Supporting Law Enforcement." The Parade Committee decided to change the theme to "Hometown Hero's." Zac Atwood remains as Grand Marshall.

12) Discussion on Food Trucks: Following this "discussion only" item being pulled from a recent BOC agenda, an email was

sent out to the BOC asking for feedback and it is my understanding the general consensus is, that any effort to change the ordinance is not there prior to the election. I suggest a work session, but I don't expect that to happen prior to the election either. If you have any questions regarding food truck vendors, please send me an email.

13) CDP Gates closed: Because of pending issues with car break-ins and theft within the park, Charlie Daniels Park will be closing the gates at 11 pm and will reopen them at 7 am until further notice.

14) Mask Mandate: As you know by now, the mask mandate order issued by Mayor Hutto has now expired beginning October 1.

15) West Wilson Middle School & Stoner Creek Elementary: According to Dr. Wright, School Director, they are finalizing details and is hopeful to start demolition in a couple of weeks.

16) Speeding: I continue working with Public Works and MJPd to help find "effective solutions" to speeding issues that continue. I currently am waiting to receive the data WB on Belinda Pkwy. at Sunnymeade. The EB showed an average of 8% over the limit.

17) Walton's Grove: There are pending issues with the developer not keeping up with their maintenance requirement. There is overgrown grass next to homes causing problems with snakes, mice and bugs. There are down trees that haven't been hauled away and old rusty metal sheds that have been abandoned. I called for an immediate stop work order until the maintenance is completed, but the city chose to give them one more chance. I am monitoring and believe these developers and contractors need to be held accountable.

18) Baird Farms: There is a pending issue with a detention pond that initially was an erosion pond that I am working with Public Works to try and get that issue resolved. As a result, snakes and mosquitoes are a problem for nearby residents.

19) The Cottages in Providence: I helped close the book on an ongoing property dispute between the HOA and the city.

20) Belinda City: I had the city replace some old storm drains on Sunnymeade and SE Springdale to help with storm water issues resulting in flooding. There are still pending flooding issues from a culvert, a current ditch, and another ditch that was covered up. I will continue working with Public Works until these issues are completed.

21) ACLU's lawsuit against MJ: The BOC voted to approve the attorney fee settlement of \$225,000 after they initially wanted \$850,000. Carafem (Crossings Circle) was given the green light by the federal judge, to perform "surgical" abortions in addition to "medical" abortions in their current location, after issuing a preliminary injunction against MJ's zoning ordinance. As a side note; I voted against rescinding our zoning ordinance because I

believe a city municipality should have the right to set their own zoning ordinances. The initial basis of the lawsuit stemmed from the previous BOC in the spring of 2019, before my time on the Board.

Please know this case is not closed, therefore I still cannot comment on pending litigation. Hopefully, it will be closed in a month or so, and then I will be able to answer any questions you might have.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

Stop signs: A stop sign was finally replaced exiting Forest View Apartments onto Belinda Pkwy. There is still one stop sign left to be installed, which is between Exxon and Staybridge Hotel off Belinda Pkwy.

NMJRD I-40 Widening: TDOT construction should begin the end of November/first of December. Once construction begins it should be completed within 18 months. They will be adding a new NB lane and sidewalks. Currently they have opened the bidding.

SMJRD Widening: In the process of Right-of-Ways (ROW), environmental, design, TDOT, etc. These big projects don't change much from month-to-month, especially on state roads. Groundbreaking is still 3-4 years off.

NEW BUSINESS UPDATES

- **There continue to be several potential new businesses that have been exploring locations throughout the city –** this continues to be good news for MJ.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The next BOC meeting is Monday, October 12, 6:30 pm at City Hall. The Board has been meeting in person and the public is welcome to come and/or submit comments/questions to Sheila Luckett until 4 pm prior to the meeting at sluckett@mtjuliet-tn.gov. The meeting is also aired live on MJTV (Comcast channel 3 or TDS channel 6) and on the city's website.

Some agenda items for the October 12th BOC meeting:

- 1) **Parkland properties purchase negotiation**
- 2) **Expansion of MJPD headquarters**
- 3) **Lease option for parkland**
- 4) **Various rezones north of I-40**
- 5) **Cost of living for city staff (does not include BOC)**

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT ME

WHO I AM, MY FAMILY, PROFESSION, & VISION:

I have been part of the Mt. Juliet community, living and working here for 36 years, which is where I raised my two sons in Wilson County schools, part of which as a single mom, and became a

homeowner in Belinda City in 1999. My husband Pete and I married 16 years ago. Both my sons have served in the military, one is currently deployed overseas. We have one grandchild, who is so precious.

I was born in Cleveland, MS, went to Jr High and High School in Hendersonville, TN. I then went to art school at Watkins College of Art (now called), and Nashville State Community College (now called). We absolutely love Mt. Juliet and have made a home here for the past 36 years. I am a Christian and we are members of The Glade Church.

Professionally, I am a graphic designer of 35+ years and have been self-employed since 2005. I have nine years of business management experience in the book publishing industry and a family-owned business.

MY D4 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Various traffic/lane/signage/signal improvements
- Stop signs
- SE Springdale Bark Park improvements
- Flooding/storm water issue improvements
- Secured extra funding from Providence Central and Cawthon Farms developments, to "stay within District 4," to go toward infrastructure, road/signal improvements, storm water, sidewalks, walking paths, speed calming measures
- Solved ongoing property dispute between a HOA and the city
- Put residents first by issuing stop burn orders for two developments

MY VISION:

- Traffic relief/infrastructure (*first*)/signals
- Speed calming measures
- White collar jobs
- 55+ communities
- Park land and green space
- More "benefits" from developments
- Continued improvements for storm water
- Open communication & education
- Keeping MJ's "core principles" and small-town feel

MY PLATFORM:

- Citizen advocate with a heart to serve as a political outsider
- Roads/signal improvements
- Low taxes
- Limited government
- Conservative (*morally, ethically, and fiscally*)
- No bias or personal agenda (*no conflicting interest either professionally or personally*)
- MJ resident for 36 years
- I bring open-mindedness, common sense, personal commitment and accountability with a high standard of ethics

HIGHLIGHTS OF MY VOTING RECORD:

Voted for:

- Amazon w/road improvements/lighting
- MJPd Guardian Shield license plate readers

- MJ "2nd Amendment" Sanctuary City Resolution (co-sponsor)
- Various MJ sidewalk projects (*not Belinda Pkwy.*)
- Funding for new MJ Fire Hall on Lebanon Rd.
- ADA policy survey
- Comprehensive Multi-modal Transportation Plan
- Providence Central (*long term traffic relief / white collar jobs, secured extra funding for improvements within D4*)
- 20/21 Budget
- Cawthon Farms (*secured extra funding for improvements within D4. Additional funds earmarked for parks & recreation*)
- Funding for MJPD hardened dispatch center expansion
- Park property for soccer fields (sponsor)
- Preserve green space for park land in District 4, community/rec center (sponsor) **landowner pulled \$2M offer from table after the BOC was short one commissioner and he saw that a majority vote was possible.*
- Hiring of new Deputy Fire Chief and nine new firefighters
- Additional bay at FDMJ Station #3
- Additional funding for MJPD "New Leash on Life"

Voted against:

Adding hotels to the middle part of town

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 sign up for monthly email newsletters, you will find the options to do so on my website. You can also send me your email address and I will add it to the newsletter/updates list. It is an honor to serve you and I look forward to continuing serving you and being your citizen advocate for the next two years. Thank you very much.

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