

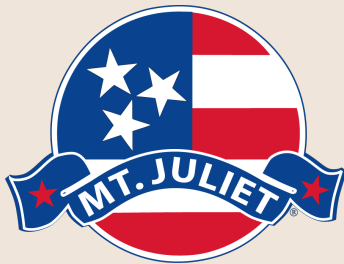
DECEMBER 2020
NEWSLETTER



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Jennifer Milele

Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all a safe and Happy New Year that I know we are all looking forward to. I waited to send this out in hopes of getting more information about the vaccine. All the latest updated information I have so far is listed below.

The District 2 Board of Commissioner's (BOC) seat remains empty and we will be nominating and voting on candidates for the appointment at next Monday's BOC meeting (January 11). Six candidates have submitted their interest in the seat; Will Sellers, Shawn Donovan, Linda Elam, Bill Trivett, Jeff Hartline, and Lisa Neff.

My condolences to the family of Steve Stepaniak, who unexpectedly passed away recently. Steve served as an employee in the Investigative Division with MJPD and volunteered as a Community Service Officer.

Congratulations to MJPD Sergeant Kimbrough who received a special Medal of Valor issued by the BOC on December 28. Sgt. Kimbrough jumped into rushing flood water last year to save a 14-year old clinging to life who was trying to save her brother. Others assisted in the rescue including K-9 Officer Barth, Officer Gibbs, Officer Neal, Captain Chandler, FDMJ Lt. Hassler, Captain Blamires, Engineers Caleb Roberts and Will Tuggle, plus the MJ Dispatchers. Thankfully everyone survived and was ok.

Business status:

Candied Rib will be going into the old Pizza Hut location on NMJRD (*estimated to be a couple of months*).

Cadillac is looking at MJ as a possible location of a dealership.

Avid Hotel has broken ground between Home2Suites and Staybridge off Belinda Pkwy.

Jay's Smoked BBQ is exploring locations in MJ.

Just Love Cafe is now open next to Exxon on Belinda Pkwy.

NY Pizzeria is coming to Providence Marketplace (*estimated to be a couple of months*).

ITEMS OF INTEREST

1) Park properties: At the December 28th BOC meeting, the Hayes property offer (20 acres) was pulled from the agenda by the property owner for personal reasons.

The BOC voted unanimously to approve the purchase of 57 acres, known as the Tomlinson property located on the north end of Beckwith Road just south of Lebanon Road for \$975,000. Beazer Homes has submitted a letter of intent to purchase 20 acres from the city (between \$4-600,000) with a proposed offer

for the remaining 37 acres to build public restrooms, a parking lot, a road connecting the western end of the property to Beckwith Road, as well as provide chipped mulch from the property for nature trails.

I am currently working with the Parks Department on a plan and vision to make improvements to Mundy Park, which would include a new playground, tennis courts and pickle ball courts, with other discussion options. It is still my future vision to have a community center on the south end of the city, which of course would depend on the right property with funding, and support.

2) BPAC Christmas Lights Walk: I personally was disappointed in the cancellation of the 6th Annual Christmas Lights Walk the BPAC had scheduled in December, but agree it was a necessary decision considering the increase in COVID counts. BPAC has some great events planned for 2021. There is an empty seat available on the BPAC for a representative from City District 4 if anyone would be interested in promoting a healthy lifestyle and giving input by being a part of the committee. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at City Hall. Please let me know if you might be that person.

7) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). December: 8 stolen vehicles/plates alerted that lead to 9 arrests/apprehensions. All were out of county or out of state.

7) COVID-19 Vaccine in Wilson County: I know most of you have seen the updates from the Wilson County Health Department (WCHD) about the availability of the vaccine for those 75+ by now. The phone lines have been overwhelmed and most have experienced constant busy signals and if you have been able to get through, there aren't any time slots available. I know this is very frustrating, but keep trying.

According to WCHD, citizens are encouraged to continue calling the number provided (615-444-5325) to schedule appointments, or visit the website link:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/wilson_county_covid_vaccination.

Part of an email from Captain Chandler (limited information provided by WCHD and WC EMA) says they can only vaccinate 10 individuals every 15 minutes, which only allows for 320 people per day. Please keep in mind that you cannot just show up to get a vaccination. You must have a scheduled appointment time.

If you have received the first round of the vaccine and are concerned about getting the second one within 21 days, WCHD encourages you to keep trying to call or log onto the website for another appointment. Captain Chandler was able to get this information which I will share with you, which is; The first round of the vaccine should protect you at 50% immunity and the second round at 95%. If you are not able to get your second shot within the 21 days, it will not hurt you. If you were to experience some systems, they should significantly be lessened,

but continue trying to schedule the second appointment when one becomes available.

WCHD is run by the Tennessee Department of Health and more time slots will become available soon. The city of MJ will continue to do its best to help pass along information as it becomes available to us. Thank you all for your patience through this important process.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

Public Works: Striping has begun for the right turn lane on the 226C exit ramp facing Tire Discounters. As many of you already know, there will be a traffic signal constructed this year on Providence Pkwy. between Kroger and Publix parking lot. This was already approved several years ago. Like many other projects, sometimes it takes years before construction and even completion. Many of you are concerned about the traffic backup it will cause, but please know that Public Works will do everything possible to make sure the traffic flow is in sync with the signal at the intersection of SMJRD and Providence Pkwy.

NMJD I-40 Widening: Again, the preliminary construction has already begun and is expected to complete in an 18-month timeframe. Road closures are expected (at this point) to be during the nighttime hours. They will be adding a new NB lane and sidewalks. This will be an inconvenient burden on traffic but it is necessary in order to get this project completed. Thank you in advance for your patience as we all move forward together.

REZONE PROPOSAL: A potential rezone is in between first and second reading with the BOC (haven't seen Monday's agenda but I do expect it to be included) at 808 & 830 NMJD, which is located across from West Wilson Middle School. You have noticed the empty lots left from the tornado. The ordinance is to change the zoning from OPS (Office Professional Service) to CTC (Commercial Town Center). According to the City Planner, the major difference is allowing restaurant and retail use. As a side note, CTC zoning is all up and down NMJD all the way to Lebanon Road.

The results from first reading was 2 for, 1 against, 1 absent, so by majority it passed.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The next BOC meeting is Monday, January 11, 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 Lockett until 4 pm prior to the meeting at slockett@mtjuliet-tn.gov. The meeting is also aired live on MJTV (Comcast channel 3 or TDS channel 6) and on the city's website. *(I haven't seen the agenda yet, but the rezone at 808 & 830 NMJD from OPS to CTC should be on it for second reading).*

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. Thank you very much.

[Happy New Year](#)

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