

**FEBRUARY 2021  
NEWSLETTER**



**CONTACT:**  
(615) 393-4356

**WEBSITE:**  
[JenniferMilele.com](http://JenniferMilele.com)

**EMAIL:**  
[jmilele@mtjuliet-tn.gov](mailto:jmilele@mtjuliet-tn.gov)



# Jennifer Milele

## **Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4**

I hope everyone made it through the big snow storm and a huge thank you to MJPD, FDMJ and Public Works. Thankfully, spring is right around the corner and I for one, am glad. I have had the pleasure of helping keep my young grandson for the past 8 months while my son has been deployed, who is due back soon. My husband and I helped my daughter-in-law and grandson get all their belongings back home to Jacksonville. They have been up here since last June and I sure do miss my little grandson. I am very blessed to have been able to create a special bond with him during this time. Maverick is 18 months now. Time goes by so fast and they grow so quickly.

Sales tax revenues still look good. Continue to shop local because it does make a difference.

Congratulations to FDMJ Deputy Chief Edwards for being the Employee of the Month for March. Well deserved.

Remember to spring forward on March 14 for Daylights Savings Time.

### **Business status:**

**Restore Hyper Wellness + Cryotherapy** will be going in next to M.L. Rose (previously Logan's) and expects to open around July. **M.L. Rose** is planning for a spring opening.

**Sephora** is close to opening (previous LifeWay location). Probably will be April/May.

**WC Clerk's office** (MJ location) is close to moving into their new location in front the ball fields on Lebanon Road.

**Nukes Restaurant** is considering a MJ location.

**A Cadillac dealership** is still in discussions about a MJ location.

**Mr. Nadar (former Gourmet Donuts owner)** will be opening a new donut shop on Nonaville Road.

**NY Pizzeria** is now open in Providence Marketplace in front of Belk's (opposite side from Salsarita's and formerly BurgerIM).

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**1) One-year Remembrance Ceremony of tornado disaster:** As many of you know and/or attended, the city of MJ in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce held a bittersweet remembrance ceremony at the town center clock tower on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> to reflect upon the last year. Recognized, were all the residents and business owners in the tornado's path, and especially the three souls that lost their lives, and in addition, all the first responders and volunteers. I was not able to attend because I was traveling back from Florida, but I did watch online and it was a very touching ceremony. A shout out to Cheri Hefner (wife of Commissioner Hefner of District 3) for sharing the beautiful song she wrote and sang for everyone. As

we continue moving forward together, let us always remember how we came together as a community after that tragic event, and those who are still trying to rebuild their lives, homes, and businesses, as well as our students and teachers.

**2) MJ Community Center:** The MJ Community Center in Charlie Daniels Park reopened March 1<sup>st</sup> with limits on capacity (40 max). Ava's Splash Pad is scheduled to reopen on Memorial Day. Easter in the Park will not take place in 2021. Community Center hours are 8 am - 7:30 pm Monday to Saturday, and 1-5 pm on Sundays.

<http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov/167/Parks-Recreation-Department>.

**3) Annual Community Yard Sale:** The first annual event will be the Community Yard Sale on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 am - 2 pm at Mundy Park. The ARC of Tennessee will also have a donation truck on-site.

**4) FDMJ Work Session:** Prior to the BOC meeting this Monday, March 8, at 5:15 pm, FDMJ will submit a proposal of their research for privatized ambulance service inside the city limits of MJ. As a reminder, this stemmed from Mayor Hutto's plans of relocating the two WEMA ambulances in MJ. Wilson County is looking to build two new stations that will include fire service and ambulance service in the Mt. Juliet area. The ambulances would be pulled from their current locations in FDMJ on Belinda Pkwy. (Station 1) and E. Hill Street (Station 3). The new proposed locations of WEMA would be on Clemmons Road near Curd Road and south off Central Pike, a short distance west of SMJRD, which is in the county.

**5) MJ Parks Master Plan Public Survey:** On the city's Facebook page, there is a city-wide public survey that our consulting company is conducting. It has to do with a future vision of all parkland/green space/amenities in the city. This is in addition to any survey/poll that I have done in the past, so it's very important for future planning. Please take the time to participate so your voice is heard. It's a link to Survey Monkey so you don't have to have a Facebook account to take the survey.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MtJuliet\\_Parks\\_MP?fbclid=IwAR07aKwZfQfHQyQoO-Lv8yHLDIGa\\_ydN1oHwDSvEHh2sYD6an63loNXple4](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MtJuliet_Parks_MP?fbclid=IwAR07aKwZfQfHQyQoO-Lv8yHLDIGa_ydN1oHwDSvEHh2sYD6an63loNXple4).

**6) Late fee penalties waived:** Because of the big snow storm and due to city offices being closed, MJ will waive late fee penalties until April on sewer payments, property (city) tax payments, etc.

**7) Mundy Park improvements:** At the BOC Work Session on February 22, the Parks Director submitted cost estimates for Mundy Park improvements, along with the soccer fields on Tate Lane and amenities on the leased property behind Grace United Methodist Church. At the BOC meeting this Monday, March 8, we will vote on moving \$3,000,050 from park property to park improvements. This money was already in the 20-21 budget. I also have submitted a plan request for public restrooms to be included at Mundy Park, which will depend on the outcome of the vote.

**8) Speed survey:** MJPD completed their speed survey on Providence Trail between Providence Pkwy. and Belinda Pkwy. in both directions. It did not show that the average speed over the limit was 8 mph or more. Actually, the average speed showed 28-30 mph, so the report results were classified as low.

**9) Amazon in MJ has begun hiring process:** Amazon began their hiring process March 1 through text. Instead of the initial number of positions of 1,000-1,500, they have increased it to approximately 3,000. These will include FT and PT. The hiring notice put out by Amazon, said to text MJNOW to 77088 in order to receive information about positions and hiring events. I inquired about high-level IT positions and was given this link to see other positions in addition to entry level:

<https://www.amazon.jobs/en/>.

**10) MJ kick off for Walk Across Wilson:** The spring kick off this year will be on Saturday, March 27, beginning at 9 am at the RTA (train) parking lot. We will walk north one mile to Lebanon Road, then south back to the RTA, which will be the halfway point. We then will walk south for one mile, and return to the RTA. This is a great community event to get out and exercise and promote healthy lifestyles. Advertising details will go out around the 15<sup>th</sup>, so look for those and plan for a nice spring walk with friends and neighbors.

**11) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee):** Our first event for the year is planned on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> which will be a bicycle ride so get your bikes ready. Time and meeting place to be announced. Let's all be mindful and watch out for our pedestrians, as well as cyclists, here in MJ.

**12) Beer sales:** Second reading for this ordinance amendment to city code will be on the BOC agenda this Monday, March 8. Last month, I explained how this came about. Ultimately, the time for retail sales of beer on Sunday mornings will be changed to 10 am instead of 12 noon, to align with state law allowing liquor stores and restaurants to begin selling at 10 am.

**13) Parking on city streets:** We have many new people moving here from other areas and I would like to bring to your attention MJ city ordinance about street parking. There is no street parking within the city limits between the hours of 1 am - 5 am. If you have a special need for overnight parking for additional vehicles, you can go to MJPD and get a permit which is generally for three nights, but certain circumstances have extension allowances, for example, an overnight caregiver.

**14) COVID-19 Vaccine in Wilson County:** We are now in Phase 1b which includes 65+, teachers, and staff members of kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. On March 8, Phase 1c will begin which will include 16+, children with high risk conditions, and caregivers of children with high risk conditions. To book an appointment you can go to <https://vaccinate.tn.gov>.

**15) COVID-19 Rental relief:** THDA was set to launch the COVID-19 Rent Relief application portal on March 1, for the majority of Tennessee. The program is to support tenants/landlords who are

or have been struggling to pay rent, utilities, or other home energy costs due to loss of wages/income as a result of the pandemic under the COVID-19 Rent Relief Act of 2020. The Rent Relief Call Center is LIVE 844-500-1112. <https://thda.org/help-for-renters-section-8/covidrentrelief>.

**16) Blasting:** The Wynfield and Walton's Grove neighborhoods are in the process of expanding which also includes blasting. If you have a notice on your door that means you are within the state-allowed distance of 300'. Please make sure you follow up to protect your home. They will make four attempts to contact you. Also, if you haven't signed up for Atlas One alerts on your cell phone yet, you can download the app and create a free account. FDMJ will send out notices of blasting and other alerts, along with MJPD notices of road closures, accidents, weather alerts, suspect pursuits, etc. Stay informed.

**17) Belinda City poll:** If you live in Belinda City (only), I sent you a private message invite on Nextdoor (only) to participate in a poll regarding a speed hump. If you haven't already taken the poll, please check your message box. Currently about 100 people have given input, but I would like to get another 100 if possible.

**18) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers:** (ALPR). February: 8 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 10 arrests/apprehensions. All but two were from out of county or out of state. Also, during February the GS ALPR surpassed 100 successful interceptions since the start of the program. Great program and thanks to MJPD for keeping MJ the 5<sup>th</sup> safest city in Tennessee.

**19) MJ Senior Center Reverse Raffle:** One of the facility's biggest fundraisers of the year will be Saturday, April 10, 5-6 pm, raffle at 6:15 pm. The grand prize will be \$5,000 and tickets are limited so get yours today. Note, it will be announced on March 26 whether event will be in person or virtual. Call or email Nancy at 615-289-7623, [ngbritt@comcast.net](mailto:ngbritt@comcast.net) for questions.

**20) New capital project link on city website:** There is a new Capital Project Dashboard link on the city website under the Public Works page to keep citizens informed of active capital projects. If you click on a particular icon on the map, information regarding the project will pop up. <https://mtjuliet.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/c38d5333c0cf4305ac2bfcf839fa8a01>.

**21) Little Library addition at Mundy Park:** This was an Eagle Scout project and it was installed a couple of weeks ago. We hope to get another one installed at the Bark Park on SE Springdale in the near future by a private donation. Look for an announcement.

**22) New registered voters:** MJ City District 4 had 72 new registered voters in January and 40 for February. This is great, keep registering.

**23) Redrawing of city districts:** At some point this year with the new 2020 Federal Census counts, the BOC will meet to discuss

redrawing of the four districts. As soon as I find out more information, I will send updates.

#### **STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS**

**I-40 construction at Beckwith/GBG exit:** You may have noticed some construction at the Beckwith/GBG exit on I-40. This is linked to the Amazon project to include turn lanes on the ramps and additional lighting.

**NMJRD I-40 overpass widening:** Just an FYI that Cheddars will not be losing any of their parking lot and whatever is being used for construction will be replaced. Also, the project (near completion) will include new pavement and striping on SMJRD/NMJRD from the intersection at Adams Lane/Providence Way to the intersection at Old Pleasant Grove Road. Again, this will be about an 18-month project.

**Windtree Pines:** This development will be on the BOC agenda Monday, March 8. It is on 193 acres and includes 373 single family homes and 50 townhomes (6 acres).

**Plans submitted:** There are plans that have been submitted for a medical office building and car wash on Belinda Pkwy., between St. Thomas (has a new name now) and Exxon, across from Two Rivers Ford. This will not come before the BOC because it is not a rezone. I have only seen the drawing at this point. I for one, will be excited to see a car wash south of I-40.

**Beckwith Station Plans submitted:** A site plan for a convenience store/fuel pump station has been submitted to the Planning Department off the I-40 Beckwith exit on Wilfong Pkwy. near the ER.

**Traffic signal on Providence Pkwy.:** Plans are finalized and the city is working with Kroger to acquire ROW and easements. Once they are acquired, it will go out for bid. Construction is estimated to begin this spring and completed this fall. Please remember this project was approved several years ago.

**Left turn lane:** The EB left turn lane into Two Rivers Ford is expected to be underway this spring. This is located at the traffic signal at Belinda Pkwy. and Providence Trail.

#### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS**

**The next BOC meeting is Monday, March 8, 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](mailto: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. *(The agenda will include the following).*

- 1) Windtree Pines development off Nonaville Road.
- 2) Ordinance to Amend City Code to change the time to buy/sell beer at retail stores.

- 3) Ordinance to move appropriated funds from Park Land to Park Improvements in 20-21 Budget.
- 4) FDMJ Work Session at 5:15 pm for privatized ambulance service inside city limits.

If you have any questions, suggestions, ideas, comments, complaints, or just something to share, please let me know. If you would like to sign up for my 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 serving you and being your citizen advocate. Thank you very much.

**Jennifer Milele**  
**MJ City Commissioner District 4**  
**(615) 393-4356**  
website: [JenniferMilele.com](http://JenniferMilele.com)  
email: [jmilele@mtjuliet-tn.gov](mailto:jmilele@mtjuliet-tn.gov)

---