

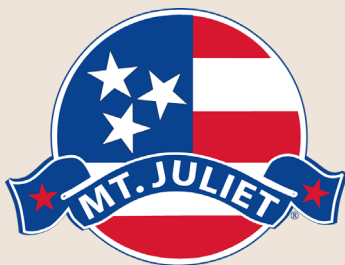
MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

I am very excited that spring is finally here. We have been waiting and watching for our bluebirds to lay their eggs. Two weeks ago, we experienced another massive thunderstorm that left many homes and cars flooded throughout the city. Two roads were damaged which now have been repaired. I have been helping residents on SE Springdale clean up and recover items from their homes that got flooded, as well as assisting at Mt. Juliet League ballpark. The water level on SE Springdale was higher than it was in 2010 as it was in many other places. The city has asked the state to declare Wilson County a disaster area, but we have not received a decision. After the tornado, the city was able to help residents with cleanup because FEMA provided the assistance and resources. I would like to extend a huge thank you and appreciation to Providence United Methodist Church and Recover Wilson who are assisting in the cleanup effort. In addition, Kenny Martin reached out to Mayor Hutto who agreed to help in the effort to provide dumpsters through community services. Thank you Kenny and Mayor Hutto.

Congratulations to City Manager Kenny Martin for being the Employee of the Month for April. You deserve this Kenny.

Business status:

ML Rose had their food truck at the MJ Chamber this past week for Chamber members. They were giving away a burger, fries, and a drink. I want to say that was one of the best burgers I've ever had and the sweet potato waffle fries were cooked to perfection. I can't wait until they open. Their target date for opening will be around the 17th of May.

Bubbakoo's Burritos is now open next to Exxon (7-11) on NMJRD.

Subway is also open located next to Bubbakoo's.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

1) Storm Water Utility: The city will hold a **public work session this Monday, April 12, at 5:15 pm** prior to the BOC meeting at City Hall. Having a storm water utility would be a dedicated source of funding to pay for storm water management, which the city does not currently have outside of right-of-way. Public Works will be leading the work session and will explain it in more detail. Please try to be there if possible.

2) Providence 14 Regal Theater: The movie theater is set to reopen May 14. I know I for one will be glad.

3) Annual Community Yard Sale: The first MJ Parks event will be the annual Community Yard Sale on Saturday, April 17th from 7

am - 2 pm at Mundy Park. The ARC of Tennessee will also have a donation truck on-site. If you would like to setup a booth, the vendor cost is \$20 (two parking spots). To reserve a booth, you can call 615-758-6522.

4) Cathy Bender Day: The BOC declared March 22, 2021 as Cathy Bender Day in the city of MJ. Ms. Bender is a graduate of MJHS and was recently inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame for her outstanding basketball accomplishments at Vanderbilt University. Congratulations to Ms. Bender.

5) Blood Drive: Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital will have two blood drives coming up. 1) Wednesday, April 14th and 2) Monday, April 19th between 12-5 pm each day. You can schedule an appointment at this link https://donor.bloodassurance.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/127142 or call 931-239-9411.

6) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee): There is grant money that will be available soon and I have put in the request to have the sidewalk project completed in Belinda City. There are other projects too so we will wait to hear, which honestly, won't be anytime soon.

Starting in April, the first Monday of each month will be a dinner walk. Those who participated on April 5th, met at City Hall and walked to Slim Chickens and ate dinner. The location and eating destination will be determined closer to each date. The next dinner walk is scheduled for Monday, May 3rd. You are invited to join us.

Our first event for the year is planned on Sunday, May 2nd at 2 pm, which will be a bicycle ride (pedestrians invited too), so get your bikes ready. We will meet at MJPD. FDMJ will lead the way thru MJMS to Woodridge Place, east to Jackson Hills and then head back to MJPD. A big thank you to Mike and Brenda Earle for donating a bicycle for this event that will be given away to a child 10 and under.

There are four districts in the city limits of MJ. Each district has a representative seat at the BPAC table. District 4 needs a representative, so if you are interested in promoting healthier lifestyles in MJ thru physical activity and family togetherness, please reach out to me. We meet at 6:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at City Hall and hold a few family-friendly community events throughout the year, as well as pursue greenways, sidewalks, and biking infrastructure around the city. There is also a "Friends of BPAC" group who helps support BPAC, as well as raise money.

Let's all be mindful and watch out daily for our pedestrians, as well as cyclists, here in MJ.

7) Bark Park: The fence around the Bark Park on SE Springdale that was damaged in the flood will be repaired over the next week.

8) MJ Senior Center: The MJ Senior Center will have their Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, April 24th from 8 am - 1 pm.

9) COVID-19 Vaccine in Wilson County: We are now in Phase 3 which consists of ages 16+. You can book your appointment at <https://vaccinate.tn.gov>. You can find the nearest vaccine location at <https://vaccinefinder.org/>. According to Mayor Hutto's office, about 26% of Wilson Countians have received at least on dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. During the past month, we saw a significant decrease in the number of cases within the county. On the same day the mask order was lifted, the TDH reported 68 new cases in WC along with a 7-day positivity rate of 13%. However, since then we have continued to see a downward trend in the number of cases in the county.

10) COVID-19 Funeral relief: FEMA announced they will help pay funeral costs for those whose deaths (after January 20, 2020) were directly or indirectly related to Covid-19. FEMA has not yet established a phone number to apply, but did put together a list for potential applicants. The [attached PDF](#) contains contact information for basic questions and as well as a link regarding assistance. **PLEASE NOTE:** Scammers are reaching out to people offering to register them for funeral assistance. FEMA has not sent any such notifications and they do not contact people prior to them officially registering for assistance.

11) 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. **Please Note:** FDMJ Chief Luffman is in charge of the notifications for blasting, however, sometimes he will be on an emergency life-saving call and won't be able to send them out until he completes his call. I will also try and post the blasting notices as I receive them thru email and also post on social media. You can find out more about city alerts and Atlas One here: <http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov/130/Alerts>.

12) 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. It will contain the link as well as details. I would like to have more input.

13) WEMA new locations: The county has submitted plans to MJ Planning/Zoning for their two new stations. One to be located at 700 Clemmons Road (WEMA Station #3) which is in the city limits, and one at 7980 Central Pike (WEMA Station #10) right outside

the city limits. On the BOC agenda this Monday, there is an ordinance to annex the Central Pike location into the city limits.

14) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). **March:** 5 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 5 arrests/apprehensions. All but three were from out of county or out of state.

15) Walton's Grove: If you live in the Walton's Grove neighborhood, please be advised I am no longer able to post updates on your Facebook page. My ability to post was removed by the admin. If you're not signed up for my newsletter and updates thru email, you can sign up on my website or contact me and I will add you.

16) Wilson Rides for Seniors: This is greatly needed for our senior community. The non-profit organization called Wilson Rides hopes to start providing transportation assistance in May. Executive Director, Gaye Lynn Wilson says there is no transportation system for our seniors and only one cab company that mainly serves Lebanon. Wilson Rides is in need volunteer drivers and volunteers to find seniors who would use the service. In addition to keep prices low, monetary donations and sponsorships are needed. For more information, you can call 615-622-5557 or visit the website at: <https://wilsonridesinc.org/>.

17) Development tracker: There is a new Development Tracker on the city website to keep citizens informed of all projects around the city. It's located at the bottom of the home page or you can click here for a direct link:
<https://mtjuliet.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=df0d1022070d44f1886a9426c6f4ac71#>.

18) Capital projects: There is a new Capital Projects Dashboard link on the city website 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/opstdashboard/index.html#/c38d5333c0cf4305ac2bfcf839fa8a01>.

19) My elected representatives (who is my...): There is a new platform on the city website that will inform citizens of who their representatives are in the city, county, state, and federal districts/regions. Check it out, here's the link:
<https://mtjuliet.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1289f4e88c384184b274f781c2bae661>.

20) New registered voters: MJ City District 4 had 93 new registered voters in March. This is great, keep registering.

21) 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.

22) MJ 21/22 Budget: The budget workshops for next year's budget will be held between May 10-20. BOC first reading will

be on May 24th with second reading on June 14th. The MJ fiscal budget is from July to June each year.

23) New revenue source: There is a new revenue source for MJ that went into effect November 2020, called the Sports Gaming Act. It is collected from companies operating online sports wagering platforms and is distributed quarterly on a per capita basis. The funds must go toward infrastructure projects, including transportation and road projects and public buildings, therefore it will go into the Capital Projects Fund. Even though it's not a significant amount at this point, the first payment for the 4th quarter of 2020 in the amount of \$4,044 was received in February.

24) Burning inside the city limits: If you are needing to burn limbs/brush from your property, please make sure you apply for a permit and know the guidelines as published on the city's website. You can find them here: <http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov/269/Open-Burn-Permit>.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

NMJRD I-40 overpass widening: This TDOT project is going very well with minimal impact on traffic. After an estimated 18-month timeframe, additional road improvements will extend from the intersection at SMJRD/Adams/Providence Way to the intersection at NMJRD/Old Pleasant Grove Road. The project is 5% complete with construction and has an estimated completion date of May 2022.

I-40 construction at Beckwith/GBG exit: This TDOT construction at the Beckwith/GBG exit on I-40 is linked to the Amazon project to include turn lanes on the ramps and additional lighting.

Spring paving list: Public Works has assessed roads in order to build a priority list for paving. The roads in District 4 right now are as follows: Belinda Pkwy. from Providence Trail to Red Lobster; SE Springdale; Greenlawn Court; Gardendale Court; Hickorydale Court; Summer Place; Deervale Court; Stone Hill between Belinda Pkwy.; Adelmont Court. There are portions of streets that were paved last year, but currently the remaining portions of these streets either aren't needed or not deemed a priority at this point, although there maybe potholes that need filling. If you know of potholes on a street not listed within the city limits in District 4 (south of I-40), please let me know. The city already knows about Beckwith Road south of I-40 to the four-way and also Belinda Pkwy. There are still several potholes left from the snow storm.

Windtree Pines: This proposed development located off Nonaville Road will be on the BOC agenda Monday, March 12 for second reading. It is on 193 acres and includes 373 single family homes and 50 townhomes (6 acres). There are pending details to be worked out regarding sewer and floodplain.

Cawthon Farms: The Cawthon Farms development that was approved last year to be located on S. Rutland has a new name, which will be Waterford Park.

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

Traffic signal on Providence Pkwy.: Plans are finalized and the city is still working with Kroger to acquire ROW and easements. Once they are acquired, it will go out for bid. The project is 90% complete with preconstruction activity. 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 in a couple of weeks. This is located at the traffic signal at Belinda Pkwy. and Providence Trail.

Guardrail damage: The damaged guardrail on Adams Lane has been repaired.

SMJRD Widening to Central Pike: This TDOT project is currently in the NEPA and preliminary design phase and it is 40% complete with preconstruction activity. It will still be three-four years before we actually see construction underway. Once completed however, it will be a 4/5 lane median divided roadway and include bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides.

Central Pike/I-40 interchange: This TDOT project is in the preliminary design stage and is 10% complete with preconstruction activity. As of now, construction is expected to begin in 2027. However, TDOT stated that once an anchor tenant is secured within the Providence Central development, they would look at moving it up on the priority list.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

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

- 1) Storm Water Utility Work Session at 5:15 pm.**
- 2) Windtree Pines development off Nonaville Road.
- 3) Budget Amendment for \$100,000 Emergency disaster grant to Mt. Juliet League due to the flooding.
- 4) Ordinance Amendment to remove issuance requirements from Chapter 4 Alcoholic Beverages. In other words, to remove the 5/1 ratio of food/beer for on-premises consumption.

- 5) Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Article 3-104.7 (Commercial General) to remove any auto-related business, with the exception of auto retail sales, from CG that is adjacent to residential zoning.

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.

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