

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

May was Military Appreciation Month and of course Memorial Day we honored and remembered all our fallen service members. I am grateful for their service and sacrifice to our nation, as well as recognizing Armed Forces Day and all those currently serving on active duty.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021, including teachers, principals and staff. You overcame a difficult year and have achieved much.

Happy 225th Birthday to Tennessee on June 1st. Thank you to Mt. Juliet Chamber for educating us on our great state of Tennessee's history and its statehood since its birth.

We lost our last batch of bluebird eggs before they hatched unfortunately, but I'm please to say we now have four new eggs. I do hope our new predator guards will help keep them safe.

Business status:

Official Openings and Ribbon Cuttings were held recently for Wilson Rides, Inc., ML Rose, and Advanced Auto Parts. Congratulations to all these new businesses in our district. We wish you much success.

Wash N' Roll site plan on Belinda Pkwy next to Exxon, was approved by the Planning Commission in May. This will not come before the BOC and I do not have a timeframe at this point.

Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary will officially open in their new location at 765 Nonaville Road with a Ribbon Cutting on Friday, June 4th at 11 am. Also, on Saturday, June 12th, they will have a Senior Dog Parade at 11 am, and walk from their old location, 12110 Lebanon Road, to their new location.

The Christmas Place will be opening any day now.

Mattress King is moving from Paddocks (next to Lowe's) to the old Mattress Firm location on NMJRD, just north of I-40.

Whataburger is coming to MJ to be located at NMJRD and Lebanon Road. No timeframe at this point.

Music City Bar & Grill is coming to Lebanon Road almost to the county line at Hermitage.

Charlie's Place at Sellars Station (new name for Sellars Station), near the train station and The Christmas Place on NMJRD, will have a Charlie Daniels Museum and mural during Phase 2. Phase 1 will have Jeremiah's and Dunkin Donuts. There will also

be a huge flag pole and a permanent tribute to veterans. I don't have any more details at this point.

The Candied Rib's opening date is still yet to be determined according to the owners.

Corner Pub will remain closed until further notice. When the family comes to a decision on what to do with the business, they will post an update on their Facebook page. The owner Jason Gregory died suddenly in case you weren't aware of the situation. <https://www.facebook.com/cpbetweenthelakes>.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

1) 9th Annual Honoring America's Flag: It was an honor to attend this year's event at Jones Family Park on Friday, May 28th. We stood in the rain as the Honor Guard of American Legion Tyler Cates Post 281 presented, followed by Post Commander Max Wix who led the ceremony. Thank you to West Wilson County Exchange Club and American Legion Tyler Cates Post 281 for sponsoring the honorable event. The flag I sponsored was in honor of The Fallen.

2) Ava's Splash Pad: Ava's Splash Pad opens for the summer in Charlie Daniels Park beginning Tuesday, June 1st. The hours are Monday-Saturday 11 am - 6 pm, and Sunday 1-5 pm.

3) Dinner in the Vines: Experience a taste of Italy in MJ on Saturday, June 12, at "Dinner in the Vines." This is a fundraising event to benefit The Joe Beretta Foundation, which is a local organization dedicated to meeting practical needs of advanced heart failure patients and their families. It will be held from 6-9:30 pm at MJ's only private vineyard, and will include an Italian meal, music, silent auction, and wine selections. Tickets can be purchased at: <https://www.thejoerberettafoundation.com/>.

4) Blasting: Monday night, June 14th, we will have a public work session to further discuss a resolution I am sponsoring regarding more accountability for blasting. As of now, Senator Mark Pody, Rep. Susan Lynn, and Joe Baker, Deputy Fire Marshal with the state, will join us to give input on better defining the wording of my resolution so the Tennessee General Assembly would be willing to do further research and consider extending the 300' max perimeter set by the state. The work session will begin at 5:15 pm at City Hall. It's my understanding Sen. Pody has already been working on legislation pertaining to the blasting issues. I look forward to hearing the details.

5) MJ Parks Master Plan: Last fall the BOC approved a contract with Kimley-Horn to complete a Parks Master Plan in order for the city to apply for various grants as well as doing a city-wide survey to get input about the future of parks in MJ. Monday, June 14, the MJ Systemwide Parks and Recreation Master Plan results will be on the agenda for 1st reading. If you would like to view it you can read it here from my website, keeping in mind it could change once voted on: <https://jennifermilele.com/wp->

<content/uploads/2021/06/Mount-Juliet-Parks-Master-Plan-Document.pdf>.

6) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee): The first Monday of each month is a [dinner walk](#). The next one coming up is Monday, June 7th. We will meet at City Hall at 6 pm and will walk to Slim Chickens for dinner and then walk back. You are invited to join us.

The invitation is open to join [BPAC/Biker's Choice community bicycle ride](#) every Monday night, which leaves Charlie Daniels Park at 6:30 pm. It is a 15 to 20-mile loop.

BPAC, MJPD, and MJ Parks are in the process of finalizing an official set of public greenway guidelines that will have new signs placed at entry points.

Currently, we have two, possibly three, residents interested in being the District 4 representative on BPAC.

7) 5/1 food/beer ratio policy change: The BOC voted at 2nd reading to defer the ordinance amendment lowering the 5/1 ratio after an alternate proposal was presented by Commissioners Justice and Hefner. The new amendment proposal would suggest keeping the 5/1 ratio for restaurants and include entertainment and amusement venues.

Basically, there are three sections that would end up changing in the city code (ordinance), according to the city attorney who drafted the revision. There are many unanswered questions at this point and I am in the process of getting answers.

On the surface it sounds good, but I have a few concerns. Even though it appears that the 5/1 food/beer ratio would remain in place for restaurants, it could be a loophole for some restaurants to apply for an entertainment license, have live music twice a week, and get out from under the 5/1. This should be back on the BOC agenda either June 14th or June 28th. I will send notification.

MJPD is in the process of giving input on defining more accountability and consequences on the business owner under the public nuisance laws.

You can read the noted three sections of the new amendment proposal here which are highlighted in yellow:
<https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.138/mjf.429.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/new-proposal-1.jpg>.

8) BPAC Greenway Walk: Tuesday, June 29th the community is invited to join BPAC members for a greenway walk at 6 pm. We will meet at the train station parking lot and walk the Town Center Trail and back.

9) 4th of July fireworks: The [MJ city fireworks show](#) for the 4th of July is a go and will be held again at Mt. Juliet League Inc. Park on Lebanon Road. The \$10 parking fee will go directly to the ball park to help with (nonprofit) expenses. Further details are being finalized.

A second fireworks show at Circle P Ranch will be sponsored by Needham's Nursery and Rufus Page. PLEASE NOTE: There is NO parking at Circle P, located off the south side of W. Division. They did a "test show" Memorial Day night to figure out where the best views will be prior to the actual show on the 4th. Citizens submitted pictures/videos from different places around town, so Needham's/Circle P will report on the best locations. The Citizens of MJ Independence Day Fireworks show is free, but will take donations to help with funding.

10) MJ Youth Sports Appreciation Day: MJ Parks will host this free event Saturday, July 17th from 11 am - 3 pm at Charlie Daniels Park. There will be inflatables and food vendors as well.

11) Splash Day is scheduled for July 31st from 11 am - 2 pm. This is a free community event that will transform Charlie Daniels Park into a mini water park for children consisting of free play in the splash pad, inflatable water slides, and an inflatable slip-n-slide. The event is recommended for ages 5-12. All those under 18 must have a signed waiver.

12) Opportunity to help Wilson Rides, Inc. for Seniors: Wilson County has been approved for its own specialty license plate. They will only be produced once 1,000 signatures and \$35 per plate are collected.

This is a great opportunity to support Wilson County's very own transportation service for seniors, Wilson Rides, Inc. a non-profit. You can be one of the first 1,000 residents with a specialty license plate for Wilson County. Wilson Rides, Inc. will benefit from these specialty plates who helps preserve the quality of life for older adults in Wilson County by providing safe transportation to local destinations. You can preorder at the link below and help meet the minimum of 1,000.

<https://www.wilsoncountyttn.gov/county-mayor/mayor-s-latest-blog/entry/promote-wilson-county-the-place-to-be-with-a-specialty-license-plate-1>. To read more about Wilson Rides, Inc. you can visit the website at: <https://wilsonridesinc.org/>.

13) Mundy Park: In addition to the improvements at Mundy Park which are set to begin soon, I have been working with the Parks Director to add a practice putting green for disc golf and the Park's Department will also be painting and repairing the disc baskets throughout the nine-hole course.

14) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). May: 13 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 15 arrests/apprehensions. All but two, were from out of county or out of state.

15) WC Property Tax Assessment: There has been so much confusion over the new tax assessments. WC Property Assessor Stephen Goodall helps explain in an interview with the Wilson Post. In case you missed it on social media, I will post the link here: <https://tinyurl.com/3fv3ewmw>.

16) Stoner Creek demolition: The early stages of demolition have started at Stoner Creek Elementary. In the coming weeks,

following the demolition of the elementary school, the work will move on to the damaged portions of West Wilson Middle. The estimated process to rebuild Stoner Creek is around 14-16 months.

17) MJ 21/22 Budget: The BOC unanimously voted to approve the 21/22 budget at 1st reading, which begins July 1st. City staff salaries have been well below average for a long time. Commissioner Hefner presented a comparison of 15 cities during the budget work session. We voted at 1st reading to approve \$638,000, bringing them into the 95th percentile.

18) MJPD K9: MJPD will be looking to hire another K9 dog in the new budget year. I was disappointed to hear that Majlo recently broke his leg and is currently recovering from his injuries.

19) New voter registrations: MJ City District 4 (south of I-40) had 61 new registered voters for April and 75 for May.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

Providence Central: Within two weeks you should see the start of land clearing and road construction extending Providence Pkwy. to Central Pike, which is the beginning of Phase 1.

Mundy Park construction: Now that Flag Football season is over, construction will begin in the next few days to start on the tennis courts and pickle ball courts.

Left turn lane on Belinda Pkwy.: The left turn lane into Two Rivers Ford is nearing completion with construction.

Traffic signal on Providence Pkwy.: The signal between Kroger Providence and the Publix parking lot is finalizing right-of-way acquisition and 90% complete with preconstruction activity. Construction is expected to begin this summer.

SMJRD Widening to Central Pike.: The project is in environmental and preliminary design at 40% complete with preconstruction activity. Actual construction isn't expected until 3-5 years.

NMJRD I-40 overpass widening: The project is 15% complete with construction and has an estimated completion date of May 2022.

Traffic signal S. Greenhill Rd./Lebanon Rd.: The project is in the design phase at 10% complete with preconstruction activity.

MJPD expansion.: The expansion and hardened dispatch for MJPD is finalizing the design stage.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The next BOC meeting is Monday, June 14, 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-nc.gov

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)*. **It's too early for the agenda so I don't have a complete list of what will be included at this time.**

- 1) 1st reading of MJ Systemwide Parks and Recreation Master Plan.**
- 2) 5/1 food/beer ratio new ordinance amendment proposal. *(if this ends up not being on the agenda I will send out a notice)*.**

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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