

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

June brought summer and "Peace on the Mountain" Juneteenth event at Charlie Daniels Park. Many in the community joined us, as well as several church groups that led us in worship and prayer. Thank you to Everyone's Wilson for putting this unifying event together.

Happy Independence Day to everyone. We are a free people and our nation is worth honoring, defending, and celebrating.

I have created my second butterfly garden and have already seen it attract some pretty butterflies. Our four bluebird eggs successfully hatched and later the little ones fledged. It was so good to see.

Business status:

The Christmas Place is now officially opened.

Amazon is open for business.

Andrews Cadillac has been confirmed for MJ. They will hold a ground-breaking this fall and estimates a grand-opening in the fall of 2022. It will be going near Rocky Williams and Walmart in the Paddocks area.

Whataburger is coming to the corner of NMJRD/Lebanon Road, but a site plan has not been submitted yet.

The Candied Rib's opening still has not been announced, but could be any day.

Corner Pub has still not made a final decision on the future of the business and remains closed at this time.

<https://www.facebook.com/cpbetweenthelakes>.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

1) Dr. Donna Wright Day: The BOC voted Monday night to declare June 30, 2021 as Dr. Donna Wright Day. Dr. Wright, Director of Wilson County Schools, just officially retired. Congratulations to her and for her many years of dedication and service to our school system. We wish Dr. Wright a happy retirement.

2) 4th of July fireworks: The MJ city fireworks show for the 4th of July will be held again at Mt. Juliet League Inc. Park on Lebanon Road. If you would like to support Mt. Juliet League in their fundraising effort, you can park in their parking lot for \$10 per car. The celebration will begin at 9 pm.

A second fireworks show at Circle P Ranch will be sponsored by Needham's Nursery and Circle P Ranch. PLEASE NOTE: There is NO parking at Circle P. The Citizens of MJ 2021 4th of July Blast will be the biggest in the county's history. Parking is available at several local churches, schools, and businesses along MJRD between MJ Middle School and Cheddars. If you would like to help support their fireworks show, you can make donations at any Cedar Stone Bank in the name of Needham's Nursery Fireworks account, or search Citizen's of Mt. Juliet Fireworks Blast on GoFundMe.

The last day to shoot fireworks within the city limits is July 5th between the hours of 10 am to 10 pm.

3) MJ City Property Tax: This past Monday night at the BOC meeting, the Board unanimously (5-0) voted to approve a cut in the city's property tax down to .11/per \$100 of the assessed value. There were several motions/amendments made and if you would like to read about them, you can find the link below, which also includes discussion of the state's recommended rate of .1243 and my concerns over cutting the rate too much: <https://jennifermilele.com/mj-city-property-tax/>.

If you would like to read about the WC tax assessments you can read Stephen Goodall's explanation here: <https://tinyurl.com/3fv3ewmw>.

4) WEMA presence in MJ city: As you know, Mayor Hutto has plans to move WEMA ambulances out of Station #1 (Belinda Pkwy.) and Station #3 (E. Hill Street) and move them to new (future) county-funded buildings on Clemmons Road and Central Pike. Both of these locations are now in the city after the BOC annexed the Central Pike location. I got the BOC to agree to try one last time to find a compromise with Mayor Hutto and county commissioners about keeping WEMA at Station #1 & #3. We are in the process of coordinating schedules. I remain hopeful a compromise can be reached, but if not, FDMJ is looking at bringing in a private ambulance service.

5) Sewer Rate Study (SRS) Work Session: This past Monday night the BOC held a public work session with our consultants, RateStudies, to look at their analysis and recommendations of MJ's sewer rates. The result of the SRS is a recommended 4% increase for the 21/22 budget to ensure the City continues to have a positive change in net position as required by State Law. This will have to come back to the BOC as a Budget Amendment to make the adjustment. I asked how much each bill would increase and it's estimated about \$2.50, give or take. If you would like to see the presentation by RateStudies you can find it within the BOC agenda starting on page 6: <https://mtjulietcitytn.igam2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1695&Inline=True>.

6) Blasting Accountability: We held a Public Work Session on June 14th to discuss the possibility of more accountability for blasting companies. Rep. Susan Lynn, Joe Baker, Deputy Fire Marshal, and Beth Meadows with the state was in attendance and gave valuable input. In addition, Rep. Lynn brought with

her proposed blasting bills over the course of time as well as Sen. Mark Pody's pending legislation.

Their input will help better define my resolution to the Tennessee General Assembly asking them to do further research to the damage of homes outside the 300' and consider extending the 300' max perimeter, up to 1,000'. If you would like to watch the work session you can find [here](#). I plan to put this back on the BOC agenda on July 12th.

7) Term Limits: On the July 12th BOC agenda, Commissioners Hefner and Trivett will be co-sponsoring term limits that would be put to the voters by referendum. The language states an elected official on the MJ Board of Commissioners (including mayor) can only serve two consecutive 4-year terms. I will vote no and here's why: I believe it's the voter's duty and responsibility to pay attention and hold elected officials accountable at the end of their term(s) in the ballot box. If term limits are in place, it basically takes the incentive to pay attention and the accountability away from the voter. In addition;

There is another consideration which is this; if someone is doing a great job and constituents choose to keep them in office at the end of their second term, they would not have the opportunity to keep someone they felt was working for them and I believe the voter should have that choice. Projects, including positive change, that an elected official puts in place takes time to implement, sometimes years. That official should have the opportunity to see those things through if the voters chooses to keep them there. Potentially, we could be looking at an all-new Board at some point with no experience, which could prove to be very risky and take the city in a direction it doesn't need to go. Experience does matter.

8) 20-acre minimum reduction to 10 acres for multi-family: This was pulled from the BOC agenda this past Monday and should be on the July 12th agenda. The sponsors are "expected" to motion for deferral until the first of the year.

9) Public meeting for SMJRD Widening project: The City of MJ will hold a public (Virtual) meeting on Tuesday, July 13th, at 6:30 pm to discuss the TDOT widening project. The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on proposed improvements being studied. To see a map, details of what is proposed, and the virtual login information, please go to this link on my website: <https://jennifermilele.com/smjrd-widening-project/>.

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) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee): The first Monday of each month is a [dinner walk](#). The next one coming up is Monday, July 5th. 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 at 6 pm, which leaves Charlie Daniels Park at 6:30 pm. It is a 15 to 20-mile loop.

BPAC, MJPD, and MJ Parks finalized the official MJ Greenway Rules. I presented them in a resolution for approval this past Monday at the BOC meeting, which was deferred to give the MJ Parks Board the opportunity to approve before coming back to the BOC. The signs will be ordered and placed at all trailheads. You can review them here:

<https://jennifermilele.com/mj-greenway-rules/>. I plan to put this back on the BOC agenda on July 12th.

BPAC will not meet in July for the regular monthly meeting.

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

12) BPAC Greenway Walk: Tuesday, June 29th was the Community Greenway Walk. We met at the train station parking lot and walk the Town Center Trail and had over 20 participants.

13) BPAC Walk, Run, Roll Event: This is BPAC's next event which will be at Mundy Park on Sunday, September 19, at 2 pm. Whether you like walking, running, or riding bicycles, you and your family are invited to come join this fun outdoor event.

14) 5/1 food/beer ratio policy change: The BOC voted to keep the 5/1 food/beer ratio for restaurants, and with a new Ordinance at 1st reading, voted to place a 50/50 food & fees/alcohol ratio for Entertainment & Amusement Services – Limited, to encourage entertainment and amusement venues to come to MJ. For more details you can find them here: <https://jennifermilele.com/update-results-of-5-1-food-beer-ratio-vote/>.

15) Mt. Juliet Historical Commission: If you are interested in helping save and preserve historical building in our area and would like to be a part of creating a Mt. Juliet Historical Commission, please contact Stuart Resor at 757-752-1390 or email at stuartresor@gmail.com.

16) MJ Parks Master Plan: The BOC adopted the Resolution for the MJ Parks Master Plan, which is a future growth plan for MJ City Parks. You can view it here: <https://jennifermilele.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Mount-Juliet-Parks-Master-Plan-Document.pdf>.

17) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). **June:** 4 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 4 arrests/apprehensions. All were from out of county or out of state.

18) Vandalism & theft at Bark Park: There have been some vandalism issues at the South Bark Park on SE Springdale and theft of playground apparatuses. If you see anything please call MJPD.

19) New voter registrations: MJ City District 4 (south of I-40) had 89 new registered voters for June.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

Waterford Park (formerly Cawthon Farms): This single-family home development on S. Rutland had some delays, but the plan is to break ground in August on the northern section. It will probably take 6-8 months for infrastructure, with home building beginning sometime next spring.

Providence Central: The Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Providence Central will be July 14th at 10 am. At this time the exact location has not been determined. Providence Central is all the undeveloped land between south of I-40, west of SMJRD, and north of Central Pike (including a section to the southwest).

Mundy Park construction: Design and bidding documents are being finalized. Once the bidding goes out, the contractor for construction will be selected. I don't have a timeframe at this point, but will keep you posted.

Milling and Paving on Belinda Pkwy.: Depending on the weather the project should take about 8-12 days.

Left turn lane on Belinda Pkwy.: The left turn lane into Two Rivers Ford is close to completion, but has halted until after the milling and paving, which should only be a few days.

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.

MJRD I-40 overpass widening: The project is 15% complete with construction and has an estimated completion date of May 2022. The compromised situation with the bridge caused from the unfortunate fatal accident is expected to take around three weeks depending on weather.

Central Pike/I-40 Interchange.: The interchange is listed on the TDOT'S iTRIP dashboard set to go out for construction bid in the 4th quarter of 2024. This is great news!

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 (at this point). Please see above for details about the public "virtual" meeting on this project on July 13th.

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

Traffic signal at NMJRD/Oakhall Drive: Project is in gap analysis study, working on traffic counts, and 5% complete with preconstruction activity.

Traffic signal at NMJRD/Curd Road: Project is in design, working on boundary and topo survey, and 5% complete with preconstruction activity.

Golden Bear Gateway Widening: On the north end of GBG, the widening project from the Cedar Creek Bridge to Palermo/Curd Road is in ROW stage and utility coordination, and is 40% complete with preconstruction activity.

New FDMJ Fire Station North: Contract has been awarded. Once construction begins it is an 18-month projection.

TDOT Project Dashboard: This is a new link on TDOT's website called iTRIP where you can search for projects and find out the status. Here is the link:
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/e14888bce2954050a10df5e949a1bc1d>.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The next BOC meeting is Monday, July 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).* **It's too early for the agenda so I don't have a complete list of what will be included at this time.**

- 1) 20-acre minimum reduction to 10 acres for multi-family.**
- 2) Term Limits for MJ Board of Commissioners**
- 3) Blasting accountability resolution**
- 4) MJ City Greenway Rules**

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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