

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER



CONTACT:
(615) 393-4356

WEBSITE:
JenniferMilele.com

EMAIL:
jmilele@mtjuliet-tn.gov



Jennifer Milele

Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

July was a hot one. People are returning from their vacations to get ready for the new school year.

It was sad to hear of the passing of Tommy Crockett, General Manager of Two Rivers Ford and Harold Sutton, who helped establish the little league baseball fields. Both were pillars of the community.

I have been seeing some pretty butterflies that are attracted to my butterfly gardens.

Business status:

The Candid Rib officially opened Saturday, July 31 after several months of delays.

Autism in Motion is set to open August 9th and will be located at 854 NMJRD across from West Wilson Middle School.

Dollar General in Valley Center is doing a remodel and do not have a re-opening date at this time. (I don't think I realized how much I went there).

Sweet Biscuit submitted a site plan for a new location on NMJRD. I do not have an address.

SPECIAL NEED

Son of MJ firefighter: Recently, Knox Hastings, 12-year-old son of one of MJ's firefighters was diagnosed with T-cell deficient Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). The Hastings family really need your thoughts, prayers, and donations because their lives have been turned upside down. Knox is facing immediate surgery and long-term chemotherapy. [#Team21KnoxStrong](https://www.facebook.com/team21knoxstrong).

- If you would like to send a special encouraging message to the family and/or have questions, you send them to team21knoxstrong@gmail.com.
- Many have reached out looking for ways to make donations and assist with any needs they may have. Chief Luffman has set up three options for donations:
- Cash App
[https://cash.app/\\$Team21KnoxStrong](https://cash.app/$Team21KnoxStrong)
- GoFundMe
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/team21knoxstrong>
- You can also drop off your donation at Station 3 fire hall on E Hill St.

UPCOMING

1) Valley Center Grand re-opening: Most all the businesses have reopened in the Valley Center Shopping Center, therefore a Ribbon Cutting will take place in the parking lot on August 6, at 3 pm.

2) New yoga program at MJCC: Beginning this month on Monday nights at 6 pm, the MJ Community Center will have a new yoga program called "Twisted Sister Yoga."

3) MJ Community Center Membership: Beginning August 9th, only Wilson County residents will be allowed use the facility with a membership. The BOC approved the new entry plan sponsored by Commissioner Trivett who also serves on the MJ Parks Board. There are two options for membership:

- 1) \$20 annual registration fee with a \$2 daily fee per person
- 2) \$100 annual family fee, includes immediate family members (\$20 and \$2 fees are included)

Annual rates are January 1- December 31. If you join during the year the rate(s) are prorated. There is no fee for those who wish to come watch (only) league play. There have been situations where people from out of county are using the gym and getting into fights, while Wilson County residents have to be put on a waiting list.

4) MJPD Volunteer Program: If you are interested in becoming a volunteer as a reserve police officer, MJPD is hosting an informational session on Tuesday, August 17 at 7 pm at their headquarters on Charlie Daniels Parkway. To find out more click here: https://mjpgdnews.org/2021/07/26/mt-juliet-police-reserve-officer-program-hosting-informational-meeting-for-those-wanting-to-volunteer-in-service/?fbclid=IwAR0sIHlwnlhLTGUrLjrF7JhrpAyVhC_giyAvun02fPETiS_cE1TM4Zb_ruw.

5) WEMA presence in MJ city: I have arranged for a public work session on Monday, August 30 since Mayor Hutto said he was willing to attend. I, along with Dell Webb residents and others, are wanting to discuss options for keeping WEMA in their current locations, as well as supplying one in the new north fire hall once it has been completed. And then adding two new ambulances to next year's county budget for the two new stations that are further out.

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 locations on Clemmons Road/Curd and Central Pike across from the storage units just east of SMJRD. Both of these locations are in the city limits.

If Mayor Hutto, with WEMA and County Commission support, does end up moving the current ambulances to the new locations, FDMJ is looking at bringing in a private ambulance service to service all three MJ fire halls. If you would like to see my presentation when I met with Dell Webb residents, you can view it here:

<https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.138/mjf.429.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/DW-mens-PP.pdf>.

6) Emissions testing: Tennessee's law to eliminate the vehicle emissions testing program was submitted to the EPA in 2020 who has until the end of August 2021 to decide whether or not to approve it, which includes Wilson County. If the EPA approves the elimination, the program would end 120 days after the approval.

7) Public Works goal for August: Beginning a dedicated, full-time sweeper truck route to clean all city roadways. Special projects to include cleaning out storm catch basins and other debris within ROW.

8) MJ American Legion Post #281 Reverse Raffle: A fundraising event benefiting American Legion Tyler Cates Post 281 Mt. Juliet will be held on Friday, September 17 at the Hermitage Golf Course. The grand prize is \$10,000. Funds raised during the raffle will help the Post meet their goal of giving back to the community of MJ. For details and information about tickets click here: <https://mtjulietalpost281.com/announcements-news/reverse-raffle-is-being-held-on-friday-september-17-2021-at-the-hermitage-golf-course>.

9) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee):

- **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.
- The MJ Parks Board approved the official set of BPAC [Greenway Rules](#) for the city so I brought them back to the July 26th BOC agenda which was approved with modifications. The signs will be ordered and placed at all trailheads. You can review them here: <https://jennifermilele.com/mj-greenway-rules/>.
- The first Monday of each month is a [dinner walk](#). We meet at City Hall at 6 pm and walk to a designated location for dinner and then walk back. All are welcome.
- 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.

10) Fall Community Yard Sale: This year's fall event will be on September 25 in Charlie Daniels Park from 7 am - 2 pm. If you would like a booth, they are \$20 each and includes two parking spots. To reserve call 615-758-6522 or email parkevents@cityofmtjuliet.org.

11) Belinda City Community Potluck: There is a poll on Nextdoor to help pick a date this fall for a Belinda City Community Potluck at Mundy Park. Just search for community potluck under Belinda City and take the poll if you would like to participate.

12) 2020 Census reports: MJ should receive the official results from the 2020 Census sometime in September. At that time, the MJ BOC will be redrawing the four city districts to ensure equal

representation. Currently, it is with the state legislators whose districts will also change as well as the 25 Wilson County districts. If you would like to read more about redistricting you can click here: <https://www.wilsonelections.com/2022-redistricting/?fbclid=IwAR3WFnX7mqc1iCOtLtMdXF8a8nwGuhnS5OvkKWDLq9hrZ2ZebI417hPprl0>.

13) Halloween in the Park: This year's free family event will be held in Charlie Daniel Park on October 23 from 11-3 pm.

UPDATES

1) Remembrance Ceremony: At MJPD headquarters on July 9th, the annual remembrance ceremony was held to honor Sgt. Jerry Mundy and Wilson County Sheriff's Deputy John Musice who lost their lives that dreadful day in 2003 on I-40 while on duty.

2) Alden Shade Day: The BOC voted to designate July 12, 2021 as Alden Shade Day and invited him to serve as honorary mayor during the meeting. Alden has earned the nickname "Mayor of Mt. Juliet Middle School because of his positive attitude and confidence.

3) 20-acre minimum reduction to 10 acres for multi-family: The sponsors, Commissioner Hefner and Vice Mayor Justice motioned at July 12th BOC to defer this until January 2022 which was approved. It will be back and I will oppose it then too. If you would like to read why I am opposed, you can find it here: <https://jennifermilele.com/20-acre-reduction-for-multi-family/>.

4) Term Limits: Commissioner Hefner's term limit Ordinance Amendment Referendum for city commissioners and mayor died on the floor without a Second at the July 12th BOC. I had already stated publicly why I was opposed. If you would like to read my justification you can find it here: <https://jennifermilele.com/term-limits/>.

5) Committee for new city hall/youth center: The BOC voted on July 12th to have Mayor Maness appoint a committee to further research and study the need for a potential new city hall and future youth/senior center on city-owned property located on Clemmons Road as well as other possible locations. Vice Mayor Justice stated his vision was for a future youth/senior center to be a Jimmy Floyd type facility, pool, city hall, etc. to take care of the city for the next 25 years.

6) Public meeting for SMJRD Widening project: The City of MJ held a public (Virtual) meeting July 13th with RaganSmith and a TDOT rep to discuss the SMJRD widening project. This was a very good meeting and I encouraged Public Works to have more of these. Even though this project is 2-3 years away from construction, it is in progress. To see detailed maps, please click here: <https://jennifermilele.com/smjrd-widening-project/>.

7) MJ Sewer Rate Increase: There is a 4% increase on your July 31st MJ city sewer bill. If you would like to see the presentation by the city's consultants, RateStudies, you can find it within this BOC

agenda starting on page 6. They have said to look for small increases over the next five years. The increase is to ensure the City continues to have a positive change in net position as required by State Law. The Water and Wastewater Financing Board Order of the Rate Study reflects the most accurate impact of each user type on the system:

<https://mtjulietcitytn.igam2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1695&Inline=True>.

8) Blasting Accountability: After the public work session on June 14th with Rep. Susan Lynn, Joe Baker, State Deputy Fire Marshal, and Beth Meadows, I brought my Blasting Accountability Resolution back to the BOC agenda on July 12th. After my motion, it did not get a Second, so it died on the floor. It got no support which was very disappointing. This was not a law, but a "request" to the Tennessee General Assembly asking them to considering doing further research on the damage of homes, specifically outside the 300' perimeter as well as extending the 300' up to 1,000'. Tennessee State Legislators established the blasting laws, therefore MJ has no authority to regulate blasting, which is regulated and monitored by the State Fire Marshal's office. I do plan on bringing my resolution back.

I attended a meeting on Friday, July 30 with many residents on the northside over blasting concerns associated with the Park Glen development. The site developer and blasting company representatives agreed to have discussions to make sure they were doing everything they can do within their power to help the situation from the site itself without violating state law. They have now decided to voluntarily reduce the shot charges by 20% and place an extra seismograph on location. The city can "request" developers to be sensitive of homes nearby by volunteering to make adjustments, but the city cannot require it.

I pointed out the state laws need to change and the biggest challenge would be fighting the industry lobbyists who spend millions winning and dining elected officials all across the state. I feel these laws protect industry over homeowners. Senator Pody has a bill that includes everything listed on my resolution plus a lot more. It currently is being rewritten.

9) Grapple truck communication notices: I believe there is a flaw in the communication system for the zone location status of the grapple trucks. This is something I am working on to ensure residents have sufficient notice to get their limbs out to the curb prior to the trucks entering Zone 1 (city limits south of I-40). Once a solution is achieved, it will be beneficial city-wide which has eight zones. The city sends out messages of where the trucks will be. The flaw is when the trucks finish a zone and then move to another zone and sometimes two different zones without notice.

- To sign up for notifications click here: <http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov/list.aspx?listid=236>.
- To view the zoning map click here: <http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/84/Chipper-Zone-Map-PDF>.

10) Bicycles in Providence Marketplace: Recently when a resident was notified that her son and his friends had MJPD called on them for having bicycles in Providence Marketplace,

she discovered that bicycles had been banned. Her son and his friends were sitting outside the theater when MJPD approached them. The security guard confirm they were not causing problems. She made several phone calls and I sent an email to the General Manager. The ban was lifted within two days. The reason for the initial ban was due to a handful of teens' unruly behavior. Going forward, they will have MJPD deal with the ones causing problems. The General Manager, who I ended up meeting at a Chamber luncheon, confirmed they wanted to support MJ's live, work, play community which includes bicycles. Thank you Angela.

11) Wilson County Clerk's office (MJ): The MJ location for the Wilson County Clerk's office is now in their new location at 10905 Lebanon Road in front of the baseball fields.

12) Little Free Library: A new LFL was donated to the city by Tony and Lara Dillon, who also made the post, and custom built by Bryce Hawk who did an awesome job. MJ Parks department installed it the first part of July which is located in the South Bark Park located on SE Springdale. Please feel free to take a book to read and if you have one you think others might enjoy, you are welcome to leave it. Lara will be maintaining it and changing the books out regularly.

13) Speed study on Hilltop Drive: The speed study has been completed on Hilltop Drive which showed the average over the speed limit was 6.5%. Public Works does not consider anything under 8% average over the speed limit to be considered dangerous. They go by averages, so that's not to say people aren't speeding because I know they are. It's a problem all over the city and MJPD will rotate after working a specific area. I am looking for solutions instead of the status quo, but of course it has to be justified, which is a process. The speed monitors are a part of that process.

14) Belinda City Speed Hump Poll: There have been several new people join Nextdoor in Belinda City in which I shared my poll about a speed hump back in February. It is up to 133 votes so far and I would like to have at least 200. If you live in Belinda City, I am polling you. It is only on Nextdoor so if you haven't participated yet, please search for POLL: Speed humps on Belinda Pkwy to read details and take the poll. Or you can let me know and I will send you the link.

15) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). July: 12 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 17 arrests/apprehensions. All were from out of county or out of state except one.

16) New voter registrations: MJ City District 4 (south of I-40) had 92 new registered voters for July. Nice going!

17) MJ Sales Tax: As of July 26th, MJ sales tax revenue was \$1,460,321 which was a 9.19% increase over last year. The city received \$1.3M last year which was a 48% increase over 2019.

18) MJ Christmas Parade: The theme for the MJ Christmas Parade this year will be "A Patriotic Christmas." Grand Marshalls will be veterans from present and past war heroes.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

Providence Central: The Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Providence Central took place on July 14th. 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) within the city limits. The extension of Providence Parkway to Central Pike should be completed by Christmas.

Traffic signals at I-40/Beckwith/GBG: You may have noticed the new traffic signals installed at the Beckwith interchange at I-40. This was part of the Amazon project. They are currently flashing as a test which usually takes 7-10 days and should be fully functional after that.

MJRD I-40 overpass widening: The bridge beams are set in place. New signal poles will be placed within the month. Most of this will be overnight. The bridge and widening on the west side will be completed and traffic shifted to east side around October. Improvements will start on the east side at that time. The project is still on schedule to complete around May 2022.

SMJRD Widening to Central Pike: The project is in final design and beginning ROW plans. It is 40% complete with preconstruction activity. Please see above for details about the public "virtual" meeting held on July 13th.

Old Lebanon Road widening/realignment: Currently working on appraisals and ROW acquisition for 90 tracts to be acquired. Sewer pocket plan is in design planning to complement the widening project. Utility relocation is being coordinated with West Wilson Utility District.

S. Greenhill Road/Willoughby roundabout: The acquiring of ROW is about to begin once utility relocation plans are received from WWUD. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2022.

Traffic signal at NMJRD/Curd Road: It is promising to hear the ROW acquisition is expected to be achieved on the federal Post Office property for an exit onto Curd Road. This was a big concern of mine. This project, which is in design, will also include some widening on Curd Road. Design is expected to be a couple of months and then start the ROW acquisition. At this time construction is expected to begin this winter.

Traffic signal at Lebanon Road/S. Greenhill Road: The initial expected construction date of April 2021 has had many delays to date. Currently, a timeframe won't be known until Stansell Electric submits their reports.

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 (west

of Baird Farms). It will probably take 6-8 months for infrastructure, with home building beginning sometime next spring.

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 was expected to begin this summer.

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. I was told by a TDOT rep that was probably not accurate, suggesting it maybe a closer estimate to say 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The next BOC meeting is Monday, August 9th, 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 list of what will be included at this time. I will send out a notice after the agenda comes out if there are any hot topic items on it.**

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
email: jmilele@mtjuliet-tn.gov
