

AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Well August went by fast. School started back and fall is around the corner. MJPD and school officials have provided temporary traffic relief during school drop off and pick up times until a permanent solutions can be agreed upon.

I missed the whole fair this year because I was in Florida visiting my little grandson who just turned two. It's unbelievable how fast time flies and how fast little ones grow up.

September is National Voter Registration Month and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Mt. Juliet. We must never forget 9/11 which marks 20 years this month. My heart breaks for the families of our fallen military heroes who recently gave the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. I wish you a happy and safe Labor Day.

Business status:
Bargain Hunt has now reopened.

The Candle Station has moved to 3384 NMJRD and changed their name to 615 Candle Lab.

UPCOMING

1) Ava's Splash Pad: The last day of the season for Ava's Splash Pad will be Sunday, September 5th from 1-5 pm.

2) Blood Drive: The MJ Chamber of Commerce will host a Mobile Blood Drive with Blood Assurance on Thursday, September 9th from 10 am - 3 pm. You can schedule an appointment here https://donor.bloodassurance.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/131431, or contact Michelle Shoemake at (615) 758-6972 or michelle@mjchamber.org.

3) Benefit for Knox Hastings: A benefit for 12-year-old Knox, son of MJ firefighter, will be held at Circle P Ranch on Sunday, September 12th from 12-5 pm. Admission is free with a silent auction, music, and inflatables.

Tickets on the day of event to eat (\$20/per person) will be first come first serve (while supplies last) since they held a presale. Circle P is located at 563 Main Street in MJ. All proceeds to benefit the Hastings family.

Knox Hastings was diagnosed with T-cell deficient Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). Donations for the family can be made at:

- 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.

4) Constitution Day: September 17th is Constitution Day which commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution our Founding Fathers secured for us on September 17, 1787, recognizing all who are born in the U.S. or by naturalization, and who have become citizens. *"If it be asked, what is the most sacred duty and the greatest source of security in a republic? The answer would be an inviolable respect for the Constitution and the laws."* -Alexander Hamilton. Our U.S. Constitution is worth celebrating and you can find it and all our founding documents here: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs>.

5) 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 free fun outdoor event. This event celebrates physical fitness and showcases BPAC projects that supply funding for MJ sidewalks, bike lanes, and greenways. There will be a bicycle giveaway for kids donated by The Veloteers Bicycle Club. Also, this year's event includes a StoryWalk for families with small children featuring the book "Big Dance" presented at a series of reading stations, separated by a short walk within the park.
- The **BPAC First Monday Dinner Walk** will not take place on Labor Day, but will resume Monday, October 4th. We meet at City Hall at 6 pm and walk to a designated location for dinner and then walk back. All are welcome.
- The **BPAC/Biker's Choice community bicycle ride** will not take place on Labor Day. It will resume Monday, September 13 which leaves Charlie Daniels Park at 6:30 pm. It is a 15 to 20-mile loop.

6) Fall Community Yard Sale: This year's fall event will be on September 25th 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.

7) 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.

8) 2020 Census reports: MJ received the official 2020 Census numbers which was 39,289, making MJ the largest city in Wilson County, and the 21st largest city in Tennessee. In addition, Wilson County was rated 2nd with the highest median income in the state.

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. As soon as the BOC Work Session dates are set, I will

send out notices. If you would like to read more about redistricting you can click here:

<https://www.wilsonelections.com/2022-redistricting/?fbclid=IwAR3WFnX7mqc1iCOtLtMdXF8a8nwGuhnS5OvkKWDLq9hrZ2Zeb1417hPprl0>.

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

10) Emissions testing to end: The EPA approved the Tennessee Law to eliminate the vehicle emissions testing program for Wilson County (and others). The last day for vehicle emissions testing will be January 13, 2022. Beginning January 14, 2022, your vehicles will no longer be required to be tested.

11) Speed humps (not bumps): Public Works has been installing several speed humps (justified) around the city. I will continue pushing for them, but please know they have to be justified and supported by PW, MJPd and the community. In saying that, I am trying to get one on Providence Trail between The Cottages and Meridian and therefore polling support for it. **Please take my poll to indicate whether or not you would support it:**
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5LZBSWB>.

12) New projects: There will be some new projects coming to City District 4 (south of I-40). One concept plan has been submitted that I am studying now. I probably will be holding a townhall meeting soon. Look for the notice.

UPDATES

1) WEMA presence in MJ city: The MJ BOC held a public discussion Monday night with Wilson County Mayor Hutto to discuss the future of EMS (WEMA ambulances) inside the city limits. Also in attendance, was WEMA Director Cooper, WEMA EMS Chief Newberry, FDMJ Chief Luffman, FDMJ DC Edwards, and City Manager Kenny Martin. Citizens were invited to speak. I presented a PowerPoint summary to start the meeting which explains Mayor Hutto's reasons for relocating ambulances as well as a starting point for discussing a compromise. Overall, not much was accomplished, but the BOC agreed to more public discussion meetings. I tried to get it videoed but couldn't get it approved, so I recorded an audio. You can view the PowerPoint and listen to the audio from the meeting here:
<https://jennifermilele.com/wema-public-discussion-w-wc-mayor-hutto/>.

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.

2) Mayor Ed Binkley Recognition: The BOC issued a proclamation issuing August 8 as Ed Binkley Day. Mayor Binkley served as Mayor in 1989 for two terms.

3) Sewer EQ Basin Public Work Session: On Monday, August 23, the MJ BOC held a public work session with Public Works to present options for a future Sewer System Equalization Basin. Our contract with Metro expires in 2029. Currently, there are available property options for purchase they are looking at for this future project. PW is proposing that the city look at being proactive by purchasing property now, which would require a budget amendment for a BOC vote. The design and construction for such a project would take about three years to complete. To see the presentation you can view it here:

<https://jennifermilele.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Sewer-EQ-Work-Session-21.08.23.pdf>.

4) Grapple truck communication notices: I met with Public Works to discuss how to receive more accurate notices. For now, it was decided to try and send notices out twice a week instead of once. These will be on Tuesday and Friday each week. So far, I believe it is working much better.

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

5) Short term rentals: There was a report from Channel 4 News about a situation in Hendersonville regarding short term rentals. The judge in the case ruled that it was unconstitutional to put a ban on short-term rentals, which could have consequences across the state. Hendersonville Mayor Jamy Clary said "If that ordinance is unconstitutional, then all zoning laws in Tennessee are unconstitutional." The city will repeal the decision. If you didn't see the article you can read it here:

https://www.wsmv.com/news/judge-rules-short-term-rental-law-unconstitutional/article_6a5217c6-09dc-11ec-bf21-7bcf9be1cbc3.html.

6) MJAlert Notices: The city has returned to a text messaging system for alert notices (thankfully). If you haven't seen it already you can sign up for free to receive city alerts regarding emergencies, traffic accidents, bad weather, road closures, missing persons, suspect searches, blasting, etc. Text MJ to 67283. For additional information you can click here:

<https://mjpgdnews.org/2021/08/06/city-of-mt-juliet-launches-mjalert-bringing-back-community-notifications-emergency-alerts-via-text-message/>.

7) MJ Parks Notices: MJ Parks & Recreation also has a new text messaging system for park updates. To sign up you can text PARKS to 67283.

8) Storm Water Utility: Public Works has selected a firm for the SWU study and implementation. You will remember a public work session was held earlier this year about creating a SWU and it was approved in the 21/22 budget in June. To approve the

firm, this will come before the BOC in September. You can review the SWU presentation on the home page of my website: <https://jennifermilele.com/>.

9) BOC/Department Heads: The BOC voted to approve the planning of an off-site meeting for team building and strategic planning for the future of the city. As of the publishing of this newsletter, a date has not been set. Initially, it was proposed to hold the meeting in Sevier County, but I personally felt it was a waste of taxpayer money. We voted to have it locally.

10) GBG Trailhead open: The trailhead on Golden Bear Gateway across from Amazon is open as well as the public restrooms. This was part of the Amazon project.

11) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). August: 5 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 6 arrests/apprehensions. All but one were from out of county or out of state.

12) MJ Sales Tax: MJ sales tax revenue is \$1,512,141 which is an increase of \$217,000 over this time last year. This makes an increase of \$540,000 over 2019.

13) New voter registrations: MJ City District 4 (south of I-40) had 90 new registered voters for August.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

S. Rutland Road Closure: After the first postponement because of weather, the second attempt at the road closure project that was to start on August 27th was cancelled by Public Works because the contractor didn't have all their control signage out in time. Tentatively, the project to construct a 3-way intersection at the back entrance of Baird Farms (Caroline Way) will be in a couple of weeks. I will send out another notice once I receive it.

Providence Central: Land clearing has begun which includes burning and blasting. After the burning began, it was creating issues with ash north of I-40 because of the winds. As a result, the decision was made to issue a deadline to end the burning. 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.

Mundy Park Improvements: Design plans are 95% complete and will be going to the Planning Commission this month. Once completed and approved, bids for construction will go out after that.

Cedar Creek Greenway: This greenway project should start construction in October and be completed in about a year which will extend from Charlie Daniels Park to Golden Bear Gateway and connect to Park Glen and Tuscan Gardens.

MJPD Expansion: The hardened dispatch and expansion project and at the Mt. Juliet Police Headquarters is moving along in the design phase and about to wrap up schematic design. Engineering and utilities surveys have been completed and they are nearing the review phase with codes.

MJRD I-40 overpass widening: Installation of new signal equipment has been taking place this week on the north side of intersection. They also are about to start on the EB ramps (on/off) with lane shifts. You can view a map (two pages) of the Traffic Control Plans Phase 1 here: <https://jennifermilele.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/I-40-EB-ramp-shifts.pdf>. 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.

FDMJ north firehall: It is very possible to see construction begin later this month.

Signal improvements: Traffic signals along MJRD between Central Pike and Division will be undergoing improvements. The project is 80% complete with preconstruction activity. Construction is expected to begin in 2022 and will include installing fiber optic communication between each signal and connecting to City Hall.

Traffic signal at NMJRD/Curd Road: Project is in design and then will start the ROW acquisition. At this time construction is expected to begin this winter. Efforts continue in working with the federal Post Office for approval of an exit on Curd Road.

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. The project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity.

Waterford Park (formerly Cawthon Farms): This single-family home development on S. Rutland was to break ground in August but there was an issue with a natural spring that had to be worked out first. Once construction begins, it will probably take 6-8 months for infrastructure, with home building beginning sometime next summer.

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.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The next BOC meeting is Monday, September 13th, 6:30 pm at City Hall.

The public is welcome to come and speak 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.

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