

SEPTEMBER 2021
NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

It's almost time for school fall break already. Congratulations to Mt. Juliet Fire Department (FDMJ) on their 8th anniversary. We are proud of you and proud to support you.

It was sad to hear of the passing of School Resource Officer, Deputy Teresa Fuller, who was assigned to Rutland Elementary. She was only 55 years old and made a big impact on the community. Deputy Fuller will be missed.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month so make sure you're getting your regular screenings. Other observations are ADD/ADHD/Autism awareness, Domestic Violence Awareness, Bullying Prevention, Fire Prevention, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness, Tackling Hunger, Crime prevention, as well as many others. Here's an interesting one, October 1st is World Smile Day. Smiles are highly contagious in a good way. That's something we can safely share with others each and every day.

Have a safe Halloween. There are no plans on behalf of the city to change the date, even though this year it falls on a Sunday night.

Business status:

Third Coast Salt Therapy is building a new site behind Catch 22 (next to Houston's) on NMJRD.

Zoya is a new authentic Italian restaurant with a mediterranean flair, that is open to the public in the Hilton Garden Inn located at 1975 Providence Pkwy.

The Corner Pub (CP Between the Lakes) is reopening in a few weeks under new ownership.

The Christmas Place has extended their hours. They are open Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 8 pm; Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm; Sunday, 12 pm - 6 pm. Closed on Mondays.

UPCOMING

1) National Fire Prevention Week: Saturday, October 2nd, FDMJ will kickoff National Fire Prevention Week at Lowe's Home Improvement in MJ with a community event to promote fire safety and improvements from 10 am - 12 pm. Public is invited. On Tuesday, October 5th at Victory Baptist Church, FDMJ will promote awareness for home fire safety and first aid beginning at 7:30 am. The church is located at 1777 Tate Lane and the public is welcomed. On Friday, October 8th, FDMJ will be at Mt. Juliet High School for AG Day from 8:30-11:30 am in celebration of agriculture and service careers.

2) National Faith & Blue Weekend: MJPD, in partnership with Everyone's Wilson, is organizing a Community-Wide City Beautiful Day on Saturday, October 9th from 8 am - 12 noon. Those interested in participating will meet at MJPD Headquarters at 8 am and partner with different groups, then head out to various areas around the city to clean up and clear roadside litter. The event is to bring MJPD and the community together in a collaborative effort to build stronger bridges through community service.

3) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee):

- At our next meeting on October 5th we will decide on a reschedule date for the [Ribbon Cutting](#) for the Belinda Pkwy. sidewalks and discuss whether or not to reschedule the [8th Annual Walk, Run, Roll](#) event that had to be cancelled due to weather. Usually BPAC events are not rescheduled.
- The [BPAC First Monday Dinner Walk](#) 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 resume Monday, October 4th which leaves Charlie Daniels Park at 6:30 pm. It is a 15 to 20-mile loop and takes place every Monday during warm weather.

4) Redistricting Public Work Session: On Monday, October 11th at 5:15 pm at MJ City Hall, the BOC will be redrawing the four city districts to ensure equal representation from the 2020 Census numbers. Currently, the city district numbers are as follows: District 1 - 9,051; District 2 - 7,630; District 3 - 10,038; District 4 - 12,610. I know for sure that portions of District 4 will go to District 3. If another work session is needed it would be scheduled for Monday, October 18th at 5:30 pm. Wilson County Commission Districts, School Board Zones, and State Districts will be redrawn and voted on in their respected meetings as well.

5) Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary Event: On Saturday, October 16th, the MJ Chamber's non-profit annual DOGgone Good OLD Time free event, will be held at Charlie Daniels Park from 10 am - 3 pm. There will be food, music, vendors, and DOGS! Bring your dog(s) and the whole family.

6) Belinda City Community Potluck: A date has been set for October 17th from 2-4 pm. It will be held at Mundy Park and there is a survey on Nextdoor for items/dishes to bring, just search for community potluck under Belinda City neighborhood for details.

7) October Planning Commission: A submittal for a potential 120 townhome (for sale) project is likely to be on the October Planning Commission agenda. The location would be next to Providence Publix behind Zaxby's. The developer would be asking for a Land Use Amendment and a Rezone to RM-16 (multi-family). The October Planning Commission is scheduled for Thursday, October 21st, at 6:30 pm at MJ City Hall. PC meetings are open to the public to speak. Depending on the outcome from the PC, this project would come to the BOC for a vote.

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

9) RM-8 Zoning (Multi-family) Public Work Session: On Monday, October 25, at 5:15 pm at MJ City Hall, the BOC will hold a public work session about the possibility of reducing RM-8 zoning for multi-family from the 20-acre minimum to a 10-acre minimum. This was deferred from earlier in the summer until January 2022. The public is invited to speak. To view the map of the current tracts across the city that would be in question, please click here: <https://jennifermilele.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/NEW-VAcant-tracts-for-RM8.pdf>.

10) Tree trimming: MJ City Public Works will be conducting tree trimming along roads and sidewalks in and around City District 4 (south of I-40) within the next couple of weeks. There are certain areas where trees have overgrown and expanded over streets and sidewalks which pose safety issues.

11) Public restrooms across from Amazon: It was previously reported the restrooms at the trailhead, as well as the trail itself on Golden Bear Parkway across from Amazon, had opened. The trail is open, but Amazon still has some construction, landscaping, and cleanup to complete for the restrooms, so they are temporarily closed. Once completed, they will be turned over to the city and the hours will be 7:30 am - 7:30 pm. The completion is expected any day now.

12) Christmas lights contest: Currently, MJ has plans to hold another Christmas/Holiday lights contest like last year's "Joy Across Mt. Juliet" which was a big success. Look for details soon.

13) 2nd Public Work Session for ambulances in MJ city: On Monday, November 8th at 5:15 pm at MJ City Hall, the BOC will hold its second discussion meeting regarding the future of EMS (ambulances) inside the city limits. This meeting will be a second attempt to discuss the possibility of a compromise to keep WEMA at their current locations, and in addition, FDMJ will present a submitted plan from a private ambulance service as a possible option. The public is invited to attend and speak.

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.

14) Townhall meeting for City District 4 growth: There are some new projects coming to City District 4 (south of I-40). One industrial concept plan, known as Beckwith Pointe, has been submitted that was approved by the MJ Planning Commission to be located on the 75 acres between Belinda Pkwy. and the interstate. The developer already had the zoning and land use, therefore it never had to come to the BOC for a vote. It's basically four warehouses with a road that would have only one connection to Belinda Pkwy. extending to Wilfong Blvd. behind the ER. To view the plans submitted for Beckwith Pointe (3

pages) click here: <https://jennifermilele.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/beckwith.pdf>.

A place has been determined for the townhall, but I am waiting on the confirmation of an available date from the developer and engineer of Beckwith Pointe, which is looking like November. During the rest of the meeting, I will be presenting a visual of more projects to come to City District 4 in the near future.

15) MJ 2021 Christmas Parade: This year's Christmas parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 11th. The theme is "A Patriotic Christmas."

16) Speed hump (not bump) Survey Poll: If you haven't taken the poll yet, please give your input for a speed hump (not bump) on Providence Trail between The Cottages and Meridian. I am polling community support for it. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5LZBSWB>. Please know any speed humps/tables have to be justified and supported by Public Works and MJPd, as well as the community.

UPDATES

1) MJ City SIO: The city of MJ has hired its first-ever Public Information Officer (PIO), Justin Beasley, former sports reporter and anchor with WSMV Channel 4. Justin will manage the social media pages for the city and assist with grant writing. He's already doing a great job. Welcome Justin.

2) Panhandling: You may have noticed new signs posted around the city regarding panhandling. The ultimate goal is to encourage those in need to contact local charities and churches and for those giving money to give to charities. MJPd takes a proactive and graceful approach and does everything in their authority, to help individuals get the help they need through local charities that provide food, shelter, and clothing. However, there also have been times when individuals refuse offers for help because they only want cash. Here locally, there is the MJ Help Center, ALL for HIM Ministry, and Compassionate Hands.

3) Michael Bean Day: The MJ BOC issued a proclamation issuing September 13th as Michael Bean Day. Mr. Bean made the crosses you see on the corner of NMJRD and Weston Drive to honor the 13 fallen U.S. military members in Afghanistan in August as well as fallen law enforcement officers. Thank you Mr. Bean.

4) Anti-mandate Resolution: On Monday, September 23rd, the MJ BOC unanimously (5-0) voted to approve a Resolution protecting the rights of MJ City employees from unconstitutional federal mandates. To read the Resolution please click here: <https://jennifermilele.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/mandate-resolution.png>.

5) Storm Water Utility: In September, the MJ BOC approved the firm Public Works selected for the SWU study and

implementation. A public work session was held earlier this year about creating a SWU and it was approved in the 21/22 budget in June. You can review the SWU presentation on the home page of my website: <https://jennifermilele.com/>.

6) Short term rentals (repeat): 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.

7) MJAlert Notices (repeat): 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/>.

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

9) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). September: 6 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 7 arrests/apprehensions. All were from out of county or out of state.

10) New voter registrations: MJ City District 4 (south of I-40) had 79 new registered voters for September.

11) Hotel/Motel tax revenue: MJ City has seen an increase in the hotel/motel tax revenues. May/August revenues have been consistently higher than those months in all previous years with August revenues being the highest ever collected at \$97,000. The cumulative year-to-date increase over last year is 133% and 18% over the 2020 fiscal year. The hotel/motel tax only funds MJ Parks and Recreation.

12) MJ sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax for September is an increase of 25% over this time last year. Keep shopping local.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

Signal warrant on Providence Trail: As part of the Baird Farms development they will be required to do a signal warrant study at Providence Trail and Providence Pkwy. at a certain point of occupancy within the development.

Providence Central: Land clearing has begun which includes blasting. 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 the end of 2021.

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. Construction is expected to begin around April 2022.

Waterford Park (formerly Cawthon Farms): This single-family home development on S. Rutland is resolving an issue with a natural spring. Once construction begins, it will probably take 6-8 months for infrastructure, with home building beginning sometime next summer/fall.

Traffic signal on Providence Pkwy.: The signal between Providence Kroger and Providence Commons is still finalizing right-of-way acquisition with Kroger and is 90% complete with preconstruction activity. Construction was expected to begin this summer, but is taking longer than expected.

Three-way stop intersection on S. Rutland Road: The 3-way intersection at the back entrance to Baird Farms at S. Rutland Road and Caroline Way has been constructed and the curve in the road removed. Final pavement won't be completed until the construction equipment no longer uses this entrance for the final construction phases in Baird Farms.

MJRD I-40 overpass widening: Concrete is/was in the process of being poured on the bridge expansion and then the railing will follow. 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 TDOT project is still on schedule to complete around May 2022.

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.

SMJRD widening: Currently in final design stage and ROW acquisition is anticipated to begin this winter. Field work started for survey. Ongoing environmental phase and design. This TDOT project is 40% complete with preconstruction activity.

I-40/Central Pike Interchange: TDOT has hired a firm to begin design and survey. You may see some surveyors around that area in the coming weeks. It is too far off to estimate projected construction at this point. There are many phases to go through for capital projects.

Central Pike widening: This TDOT widening project extends from Old Hickory Blvd. to SMJRD. Currently, TDOT is working on the transportation report and is 5% complete with preconstruction activity. The Providence Central development will be responsible for widening a portion of Central Pike at Providence Pkwy. when they get to that point.

Sidewalk improvements on NMJRD: MJ has been awarded funding from the COVID Relief and will be using it to make ADA sidewalk improvements along NMJRD. The section between Weston Drive and Old Lebanon Dirt Road will be reconstructed with 6 ft. ADA-compliant sidewalks to replace the current 4.5 ft. non-ADA-compliant sidewalks.

Cedar Creek Greenway: This greenway project should start construction in October and be completed in about 12 months. It will extend from Charlie Daniels Park to Golden Bear Gateway and connect to Park Glen and Tuscan Gardens.

FDMJ north firehall: Construction has officially begun. Estimated timeframe for completion is around spring 2022. The location is next to Green Hill High School.

Traffic signal at NMJRD/Curd Road: Design is expected to conclude in about two months, followed by ROW acquisitions. 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. Project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity.

Traffic signal at Lebanon Road/S. Greenhill Road: This has had many delays to date for many reasons. A structural analysis will be done soon to ensure the poles that will receive a different mast arm will be structurally sound. The project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity. Construction is likely later this year.

S. Greenhill Road roundabout: Finalizing ROW plans and 70% complete with preconstruction activity. Once completed, the ROW acquisition process will begin. Construction is expected to begin spring/summer 2022.

Traffic signal on GBG and Volunteer Blvd.: This signal project is 95% with preconstruction activity and in final design stage. Construction is likely during 4th quarter 2021.

Lebanon Road widening (Park Glen to GBG): Currently this TDOT project is in design, ROW plans, and environmental phases and 40% complete with preconstruction activity.

Pleasant Grove widening and realignment: Currently in consultant selection phase. Public Works is evaluating options at the 3-way intersection at Central Pike.

Golden Bear Gateway widening: The widening on GBG between the Cedar Creek bridge and Palermo/Curd Road is 50% complete with preconstruction activity. Currently, ROW plans are being developed and utility coordination.

Lebanon Road sidewalks Phases 2 & 3: Currently, Phase 2 is in ROW planning and in final design and 80% complete with preconstruction activity. Construction is expected to begin in 2022. This includes both sides of Lebanon Road from NMJRD to Park Glen, including a portion of Park Glen. Phase 3 will be between Nonaville Road and Green Hill High School and is 25% complete with preconstruction activity. Construction is expected in 2023.

MJ BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The next MJ BOC meeting is Monday, October 11, 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 as well as YouTube. **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, which is the Wednesday prior to a meeting.**

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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