

DECEMBER 2021
NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Now that we are looking at a new year, I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas. My family had our Christmas a week early so I took some time off and therefore had to miss this year's Christmas parade and tree lighting. It is important to remember how blessed we are as a city and remember those who were displaced because of the latest tornado.

A special thank you to Jennifer Sharpe and Boy Scout Troop 911 for decorating and driving my Two Rivers Ford truck in the Christmas parade. And as always, thank you, Two Rivers Ford, for loaning your awesome new trucks.

My youngest son got approved for his early-out apprenticeship with the Navy, so they moved home. I am beyond excited because my two-year-old grandson is living with us.

I wish each one of you a happy and prosperous new year.

Business status:

BJ's is coming to Providence Central, as I am sure you have heard by now. If you have never heard of it, they are a wholesale club similar to Costco or Sam's Club, and it is very exciting news for Mt. Juliet and Providence Central. The plans include fuel pumps and a tire center. This will be on the January 20th Planning Commission agenda.

UPCOMING

- 1) Free Covid drive-thru testing:** Beginning Monday, January 3rd, a drive-thru testing site will be operational at Charlie Daniels Park, Monday-Friday 8 am - 4 pm. You will receive results within 24-72 hours. For questions, please contact Kristin Shorey at (617) 794-6717.
- 2) Christmas tree recycling:** MJ will continue taking your trees for recycling through January 10th at Mundy Park and Charlie Daniels Park. Look for signs.
- 3) Congratulations to MJ Youth Football:** On January 10th at 6 pm at MJ City Hall, the BOC will recognize MJ Youth Football for their successful 2021 season. The public is invited to attend.
- 4) Last day for emissions:** Remember the last day for vehicle emissions testing is January 13th. Beginning January 14th, there will no longer be a requirement in Wilson County to test your vehicles.
- 5) State of the City Address:** MJ Mayor Maness will be the guest speaker at the MJ Chamber Connection Luncheon on January 19th from 11:15 am - 12:30 pm. You can reserve your seat [here](#).

The luncheon will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott, 1980 Providence Pkwy. and seating is limited.

UPDATES

1) MJPD policy: Beginning January 1, 2022, the MJPD will temporarily implement a policy change regarding crashes on private property. MJPD will no longer respond unless a driver is impaired, an injury has occurred, or if it involves a hit-and-run with significant damage. Crashes/accidents on private property that do not meet those exceptions will be recorded in the CAD system and the drivers will be given complaint numbers for insurance purposes. Both drivers will then be instructed how to report the crash on the TN.gov website. If you have any questions regarding this policy change, please call MJPD at 615-754-2550.

2) Redistricting: Also beginning January 1st, MJ will officially have new voting/commission districts. You can view the newly adopted map (2.1) by [clicking here](#).

There will be about 4,400 of my current constituents going to City District 3 whose Commissioner is Scott Hefner. It has been my pleasure to serve the following areas (constituents) over the past 2 ½ years as your City Commissioner. If you are subscribed to my monthly newsletters, you will continue receiving them each month if you wish. As of January 1st, I will no longer be posting to the following neighborhood Facebook profiles. The following will move to City District 3 beginning January 1st:

- * John Wright
- * Everything west of SMJRD, including Creekside Apts. and Providence Central (Enclave Apts.)
- * All of Providence Marketplace & commercial north of Providence Pkwy. including Kroger and Target
- * All commercial along Belinda Pkwy. to FDMJ
- * Meridian
- * Maristone
- * Providence Trail Apts.
- * The Cottages
- * The Villages
- * The Reserve
- * Stoner Creek Apts.
- * Forest View Apts.
- * FDMJ

3) Grapple trucks on tornado duty: The Grapple Trucks have been busy picking up debris from the tornado, but should return to the regular routes this week.

4) RM-8 Zoning (Multi-family) Public Work Session: The work session I had planned for Monday, January 10th will be cancelled, because this agenda item has been tabled. It would require a three-vote majority to bring it back.

5) Recording of meetings: My sponsored agenda item was approved 5-0 which means all special meetings and work sessions will be recorded. Although not broadcast live, the videos will be posted to the city's website.

6) Blasting accountability: As many of you know, I believe that state laws need to change regarding blasting to better protect homeowners. Senator Mark Pody and Representative Terri Lynn Weaver are sponsoring a Bill (SB1017) that would help do just that. I attended their meeting at the Cordell Hull Bldg. on December 14th to give input on behalf of MJ. Also in attendance was a resident from both Watertown and Hendersonville, as well as someone associated with the blasting industry. Senator Pody and Rep. Weaver are gathering input prior to sending their bill to the General Assembly. You can read the Bill in its current form [here](#). There will likely be amendments.

Commissioner Hefner has been asking developers to extend the state law pre-blast survey distance of 300' to 500' and to reduce the size of their shots. So far, the ones asked have agreed to voluntarily comply, since the city cannot require it.

7) Speed hump on Belinda Pkwy: Since last February I have been conducting a Nextdoor poll with Belinda City residents regarding installing a speed hump at the crosswalk on Belinda Pkwy. Out of only 149 that took the poll, within 1-3% either way, the results have been close to 50/50 consistently, including 1-5% that didn't care either way. I am currently exploring options with Public Works. Please know any speed humps/tables have to be justified and supported by Public Works and MJPd, as well as the community.

8) Greenway signs: All the new Greenway signs are posted at all the MJ Trailheads that the BPAC initiated, the BOC approved, and the Parks Department designed.

9) MJPd Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). December: 10 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 9 arrests/apprehensions. All but one were from out of county or out of state. (Date range December 1-29).

10) MJ city tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax are up 16% over this time last year. Keep shopping local. Hotel/Motel tax is up over 110% over this time next year. Wholesale liquor tax is up 2% over this time last year and 29% over 2019. Wholesale beer tax is down 4% from this time last year, but up 35% over 2019.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

Flooding issues in Belinda City: Public Works will soon be making corrections to the detention area in Mundy Park to help with some of the flooding issues that are affecting Belinda Pkwy., SE Springdale and Sunnymeade areas. They say it won't eliminate flooding altogether, but are confident it will have a positive effect. It is expected at this time that the frisbee golf course will have to be sacrificed because of its location in the detention area.

Crosswalk at Providence Trail: A new crosswalk with pedestrian signals has been completed connecting Providence Trail

sidewalks across Belinda Pkwy. to the sidewalks in front of Two Rivers Ford.

Mundy Park Improvements: Bids will be going out the first of the year. Construction is expected to begin January or February and be completed around September 2022 for the new tennis and pickleball courts with extra parking.

Providence Central: The extension of Providence Parkway to Central Pike is underway. Because of rain delays, it will probably be spring when completed. 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. This includes The Enclave at Providence Central Apartments, which will be a two-year project.

MJRD I-40 overpass widening: The TDOT project is still on schedule to complete around May 2022. It is currently 60% complete. It is very difficult to see the lanes right now, especially at night and on wet roads. This has been communicated with TDOT, asking for help to improve the situation as soon as possible.

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 50% complete with preconstruction activity.

I-40/Central Pike Interchange: TDOT has hired a firm to begin design and survey. Project is 10% complete with preconstruction activity. 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, and currently TDOT is working on the transportation report. Project 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.

FDMJ north firehall: Under construction, with an estimated timeframe for completion around spring 2022. The location is next to Green Hill High School.

MJPD Expansion: December proposal bidding has now closed. The MJ BOC approved \$6 million for the badly needed expansion last year, which includes the hardened dispatch, evidence room, and other upgrades. Unfortunately, the estimates have come in at several million dollars above what was budgeted. The new proposals are being evaluated.

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 Phase 1: Project is under heavy construction and should 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.

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 and with preliminary design and environmental phases. Construction is expected in 2023.

Town Center Trail Connector: This greenway extension will run along S. Greenhill Road from W. Wilson Blvd. to Town Center Trail on W. Division. Project is currently performing utility coordination and is 70% complete with preconstruction activity. ROW acquisitions are expected 4th quarter 2021, with construction estimated sometime in 2022.

Hamilton-Denson Park: Groundbreaking for the sports fields on Tate Lane should begin early January.

Legacy Pointe: This is under construction with land clearing on the north side of the Beckwith Road interchange on GBG. It is a commercial development with office and retail. If you would like to view a visual you can [click here](#).

Everett Downs (sign): You may have noticed land clearing on the large vacant lot beside Whitt's BBQ on NMJRD. This will be office and retail.

Charlie's Place (formerly Sellars Station): This is between The Christmas Place and the railroad tracks, which will be a museum to honor Charlie Daniels. It also is where Dunkin Donuts and Jeremiah's will be going in. I do not have estimated dates.

Traffic signal on Providence Pkwy.: A rebid process will take place in January for the traffic signal on Providence Pkwy. between Kroger and Providence Commons. Road construction should begin soon and be completed in the spring with the signal installation completed later in the year. There will be an additional EB right turn lane added with sidewalk improvements.

Traffic signal at NMJRD/Curd Road: Design is expected to conclude soon, 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 75% complete with preconstruction activity.

Traffic signal at Lebanon Road/S. Greenhill Road: Currently working on structural analysis to ensure the poles will be structurally sound. The project is 95% complete with preconstruction activity. Construction is likely this winter.

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

S. Greenhill Road roundabout: Finalizing ROW plans/utility coordination and 80% complete with preconstruction activity. Once completed, the ROW acquisition process will begin. Construction is expected to begin spring/summer 2022.

Old Lebanon Dirt Road widening: Currently in process of appraisals for ROW acquisition for 90 tracts to be acquired and utility coordination. Along with this project will be sewer expansion and flooding mitigation. Project is 70% complete with preconstruction activity.

Lebanon Road widening (Park Glen to GBG): Currently this TDOT project is in environmental/preliminary engineering phases and 40% complete with preconstruction activity.

Pleasant Grove Road widening and realignment: Currently in consultant selection phase. Public Works is also working with a developer (Village at Pleasant Grove) about improvements at Central Pike/Pleasant Grove Road with the flashing light.

Golden Bear Gateway widening: The widening on GBG between the Cedar Creek bridge and Palermo/Curd Road is 60% complete with preconstruction activity. Currently, ROW plans are being developed and utility coordination.

Project note: If there is a project you are interested in and don't see it listed, you can contact me and I will get you the information, or you can find any of these and many others on the [Capital Projects Selector](#) or [Development Tracker](#) on the city website. To save you the time and effort, I provide a list of various updates for your convenience. Note: Because of the holidays, I noticed many of the project statuses either have not changed, or have not been updated. The information listed above, is reflected on the city website.

MJ BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The next MJ BOC meeting will be Monday, January 10th at 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 is 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 each 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 serving you and being your citizen advocate. Thank you very much.

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