

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Hopefully this new year is off to a great start for everyone. I am enjoying every second with my grandson because he is growing so fast. Spring will be here before we know it and I for one am ready. I don't remember when we have had this much snow.

This year the City of Mt. Juliet will celebrate its 50th anniversary after being incorporated in 1972. Did you know that in addition to having a rich, abundant history, Mt. Juliet now has the largest shopping complex between Nashville and Knoxville?

Business status:

BJ's Wholesale Club passed the Planning Commission in January. A groundbreaking is projected for April with an opening date planned for January 2023.

Dunkin' Donuts & Jeremiah's Italian Ice are projected to open in June. They will be located next to The Christmas Place.

Shop Kiraana is a new place I just noticed while driving. "The India Mart for All" had a ribbon cutting on January 20th and they are located next to MJ Lowe's.

Papa John's also has a new location I recently noticed at 621 S. Mt. Juliet Road next to Starbucks.

Pet Supplies Plus & Dog Wash opened this month, located at 11223 Lebanon Road.

The Axe-Shack, LLC is a sports entertainment venue that consists of axe throwing. I don't have any details about it at this time, only the name and an address listed as 151 Adams Lane.

Courtney's Restaurant has closed, at least for now in case you haven't heard.

Schlotzsky's will not reopen and has decided to sell if anyone is interested.

UPCOMING

1) Grapple trucks: Both grapple trucks are back on regular routes after the tornado clean up. They will be back in Zone 1 (city limits south of I-40) either toward the end of this week or the first of next week, so get your limbs out.

2) Paw Pantry: New Leash on Life/Braingineers Lab has a Paw Pantry that provides pet food assistance to pet owners in need on a monthly basis for those faced with financial hardship. They are currently taking donations from the community for dog and cat food and their next Pet Food Give-away is Saturday,

February 5th from 9-11 am at 429 Industrial Drive in MJ. To find out more information, as well as a Lebanon location, you can click [here](#).

3) State of the City Address: MJ Mayor Maness will be the guest speaker at the MJ Chamber Connection Luncheon on February 16th from 11:15 am - 12:30 pm. You may contact the Chamber to check on the status of limited seating [here](#). The luncheon will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott, 1980 Providence Pkwy.

4) Public work session: On Monday, February 28th, the MJ BOC will have a public work session at 5:15 pm at City Hall to discuss the recent bids for MJPd expansion.

5) Property taxes: Just a reminder the MJ City (and county) property tax deadline is February 28th for 2021.

6) Ribbon cutting for GBG Trailhead: There will be a ribbon cutting very soon for the new trailhead on Golden Bear Gateway as soon as the locking system for the restroom facility is complete. The location is across from Amazon.

7) Wilson County Primary: There will be a county primary on May 3rd. If you haven't registered to vote, you have until April 4th and early voting will begin on April 13th. As you know, the county districts have been redrawn as a result of the 2020 Census. To see the new county district and zone maps, you can view them [here](#).

In addition to all county commission seats, county mayor, and some school board zones, you can see a full list of offices that will be on the May 3rd primary by clicking [here](#).

UPDATES

1) US Community Credit Union Day: On Monday, January 10th, the MJ BOC officially named January 24, 2022, as US Community Credit Union Day. They recently purchased a very nice golf cart for the city's Beautification Team as a way of showing their appreciation and to support their efforts in keeping the city clean and well maintained. Thank you!

2) JECDB appointment: At the January 10th MJ BOC meeting, Vice Mayor Justice nominated me to replace him on the Joint Economic & Community Development Board of Wilson County. I accepted and the BOC approved. I attended my first Board of Directors meeting on January 25th, which also consisted of representatives from Wilson County, the City of Lebanon, the City of Watertown, and several other members of the community. This will be a great opportunity and I look forward to serving.

3) EMS (ambulances in MJ City): The EMS work session scheduled for January 24th was postponed. The same night, the MJ BOC unanimously passed a Resolution asking the Wilson County Commission to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with MJ City. It reads as follows: Whereby WEMA agrees to fund an ambulance/staff for the new north firehall, and to maintain

current staffing and equipment at all MJ stations located within the city limits. This actually will first be sent to the EMA (WEMA) Committee to vote whether or not to forward it to the County Commission for consideration. I do not have dates, but you can reach out to Mayor Hutto's office for a time schedule.

4) Groundbreaking for Andrews Cadillac: The groundbreaking for Andrews Cadillac took place on Thursday, January 27th. They will be located next to Rockie Williams dealership on Pleasant Grove Road. This remarkable dealership will be a great addition to MJ.

5) Free Covid drive-thru testing: The free testing site has relocated from Charlie Daniels Park to Mundy Park. Operational hours are Monday-Friday 8 am - 4 pm, with lunch from 12-1 pm. You will receive results within 24-72 hours. For questions, please contact Kristin Shorey at (615) 794-6717.

6) Grass at South Bark Park: MJ Parks Department did an evaluation regarding the need for new grass in the South Bark Park on SE Springdale Drive. They will be aerating and overseeding in mid-February and will add mulch to the entrances about the first of March.

7) Solar flashing beacons: I have requested a pedestrian solar flashing beacon be installed at the crosswalk on Providence Trail at Arbor Springs. The money is in the budget so I would not have to request a budget amendment. Another request I have made is to have two installed at the crosswalk on Belinda Pkwy. These will be added to the 22/23 budget which starts July 1st.

8) SeeClickFix: This free mobile app is community driven for the purpose of reporting non-emergency issues to the city: for example, a pothole that needs repairing, a downed tree blocking a roadway, a nonfunctioning signal, litter violations, a break in the sewer line, etc. Download the app and stay engaged with the community.

9) MJPD policy (repeat): As of January 1st, 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.

10) End of the Year Report for 2021: If you would like to review the City of Mt. Juliet End of the Year Report 2021, you can find it [here](#).

11) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). January: 6 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 6 arrests/apprehensions. All but one were from out of county or out of state. The breakdown for 2021

was as follows: stolen cars 57; stolen plates 28; wanted persons 48; stolen trailers 2; missing adults 5.

12) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from December 2021 city sales tax were up 23% over December 2020. For the year 2021, city sales tax revenues were up by 29% over 2020. The total received in 2021 was \$17M. Keep shopping local.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

Mundy Park Improvements: Bids have opened. Construction is expected to begin in about a month and be completed around September 2022 for the new tennis and pickleball courts with extra parking. Phase 2 in the next budget cycle will be an expansion of the playground. We will also have a triangle practice green for disc golf.

Providence Pkwy. expansion: Providence Pkwy. will connect to Central Pike as a part of the Providence Central development already underway. Because of delays related to weather, completion is expected around April.

Providence Central: This is where the new BJ's Wholesale Club will be located. Projected opening for BJ's is January 2023. It also includes The Enclave at Providence Central Apartments, which will be a two-year project. 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.

Beckwith Road: Beckwith Road is in bad need of resurfacing and it is currently on the calendar for this fall after the 22/23 budget which begins July 1st. This area of Beckwith Road is between I-40 and south to the four-way intersection at S. Rutland Road/Posey Hill Drive. It also needs widening improvements and a signal at the four-way. This will most likely occur once the area builds out with commercial development, which may not be that far off.

MJRD I-40 overpass widening: The TDOT project is still on schedule to complete around May 2022. It is currently 60% complete.

SMJRD widening: Still in final design stage and ROW acquisition is anticipated to begin this winter. Field work has begun for survey with 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 SMJRD to Old Hickory Blvd., 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: The new bids are in. A public work session will be held on Monday, February 28th at 5:15 pm at City Hall to discuss the new bids. The MJ BOC initially approved \$6 million for the badly needed expansion last year, which includes the hardened dispatch, evidence room, and other upgrades. Unfortunately, the initial estimates came in at several million dollars above what was budgeted.

ADA upgrades: Thanks to our Public Works Department, MJ was awarded a grant for ADA sidewalk upgrades 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 finalizing construction bid documents and is 90% 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 85% complete with preconstruction activity. ROW acquisitions are expected to begin, with construction estimated sometime in 2022.

Thanks to our Public Works Department, MJ was awarded a grant for the next phase (3) of the TCT, which will be along W. Division Street from S. Greenhill Road to MJ Elementary School. The grant covers 80% of all design, ROW, and construction costs.

Hamilton-Denson Park: Groundbreaking for the sports fields on Tate Lane should be soon. Construction is expected to end later this fall.

Legacy Pointe: This is under construction with land clearing on the northwest 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): This is next to Whitt's BBQ on NMJRD and will be office and retail.

Charlie's Place (formerly Sellars Station): A museum to honor Charlie Daniels will be located in the red building next to the railroad tracks, just south of The Christmas Place.

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.

Thanks to our Public Works Department, MJ was awarded a grant for next phase (3) of the signal improvements project, which will be from City Hall to Lebanon Road.

Traffic signal on Providence Pkwy.: The initial bids were well above budget. Rebidding will take place regarding only the signal components. The road work items will be constructed with our on-call contracts already established. Road construction should begin soon and be completed later 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. This traffic signal on Providence Pkwy. will be located between Kroger and Providence Commons.

Traffic signal at NMJRD/Curd Road: Design has been finalized. ROW acquisitions will follow. 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: After a structural analysis, not all the poles are usable. The poles/mast arms removed from the MJRD overpass are being looked at as an option. Because the original shop drawings from TDOT have not been located, Stansell Electric will do additional field work to replicate the drawings. Once that is complete, design of the pole foundations will be developed. The project is 95% complete with preconstruction activity.

Traffic signal on GBG and Volunteer Blvd.: This signal project is 95% complete with preconstruction activity and in final design stage, awaiting final approval from TDOT to approve bid documents. Construction should begin spring 2022.

S. Greenhill Road roundabout: Finalizing ROW plans/utility coordination and 85% complete with preconstruction activity. Field survey has begun. 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, ROW design phases and 50% complete with preconstruction activity.

Pleasant Grove Road widening and realignment: A consultant has been selected; therefore, a scope and contract will soon come to the MJ BOC for approval. This project will be added to the GNRC's 2045 Regional Transportation Plan so that it may receive federal funding in the future. Also, the developer of Village at Pleasant Grove has agreed to improvements at Central Pike/Pleasant Grove Road.

Golden Bear Gateway widening: The widening on GBG between the Cedar Creek bridge and Palermo/Curd Road is 70% complete with preconstruction activity. Currently, ROW plans are being developed along with utility coordination.

E. Division Street widening: A scope and contract from the consultant will soon come to the MJ BOC for approval. This project was recently added to GNRC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) so that it may receive federal funding in the future.

Western Connector: A consultant has been selected for this project, which has been talked about for many years. A scope and contract will soon be coming to the MJ BOC for approval. The Western Connector will connect Central Pike (north of I-40) to Lebanon Road. An exact connection location will be determined once the consultant completes the scoping process.

Project note: If there is a project you are interested in and don't see it listed, you may 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. The information listed above is reflected on the city website which is updated each month.

MJ BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The next MJ BOC meeting will be Monday, February 28th at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

NOTE: The MJ BOC will NOT meet on February 14th. The public is welcome to come and speak on February 28th 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, therefore, I do not 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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