

**FEBRUARY 2022
NEWSLETTER**



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Can you believe spring is less than a month away? I will be excited to see if my bluebirds come back again this year.

My sincere condolences to our City Manager, Kenny Martin, and former District 3 MJ City Commissioner, Art Giles, on the passing of their mothers last week. I am thankful I still have mine, so I called and told her I loved her. She is the best friend I have ever had.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Sunshine Café & Juicery (formerly Juice Bar) has the same great owners and is still located at 2726 NMJRD. Sunshine Café & Juicery offers healthy, quality food, smoothies and juices, with gluten-free, vegan and clean options for breakfast, lunch, and snack time.

Scooter's Coffee has submitted a site plan for 1526 NMJRD. September is the projected opening month.

The Pep Boys has submitted a site plan for 11090 Lebanon Road.

The Paper Mill is a future restaurant that will be located at 4066 NMJRD (formerly Courtney's Restaurant). An opening date has not yet been determined at this time.

Big Star Cigar Lounge will have their official ribbon cutting for their remodel on March 4th at 9:30 am, located at 3384 NMJRD.

Louisiana Fresh Seafood is a seafood market featuring fresh seafood from the Gulf. They opened last fall, but if you do not travel south down (1200) SMJRD, you may not know they are in MJ.

Graze Craze has officially opened and is located at 151 Adams Lane, Ste 18. Graze Craze offers a unique and affordable option for people looking to host a party, cater a work event, set up a romantic lunch for two, or simply treat themselves. Assortments are customizable.

Business note: If there is a new business people may not know about, please send me the information so I can help make residents aware. The City doesn't always know because independent property managers/owners are responsible for leasing the space.

UPCOMING

1) Mobile Blood Assurance: The Mt. Juliet Chamber's sponsored Mobile Blood Assurance truck will be back on Thursday, March 10th from 10 am - 3 pm. All donors will be entered for a chance

to win a \$500 Mastercard gift card in addition to receiving a free "Luck of the Donor" t-shirt. You can sign up for a timeslot [here](#).

2) National K-9 Veterans Day: March 13th is a day set aside to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifice of American military and working dogs throughout history. I would like to honor Sgt. Khaki who was my oldest son's bomb dog in Afghanistan during his time as a dog handler in the Marines. Not only did Sgt. Khaki save his life on numerous occasions, but saved many other Marines as well. After her deployment with my son, she had PTSD, was rehabilitated, and redeployed for a second tour. A special thank you to Sgt. Khaki! And of course, we recognize and thank our very own MJPD Majlo. MJPD will be gaining an additional K-9 sometime this spring.

3) Daylight saving time: Remember to spring forward on March 13th.

4) Age-restricted condo/townhome development: A plan has been submitted by Beazer Homes for an age-restricted condo/townhome (for sale) complex at 631-703 SMJRD (next to Publix). This project should be on the March 17th Planning Commission agenda at City Hall at 6:30 pm. If you would like to see the plan you can [click here](#).

5) Coffee with a Cop: MJPD will be back at Just Love Coffee Café on Belinda Pkwy. on Friday, March 18th from 7-9 am.

6) ALA Unit 281 (MJ) tree sale: The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 281 in MJ is holding their 12th annual tree sale. A nice selection is available for \$20 each through March 25th and will be ready for pick-up on April 2nd at First Baptist Church on NMJRD. For questions and ordering, you may contact Kathy at 615-218-7541 / aux281@comcast.net or download an order form [here](#) that includes a list of trees.

7) 7th Annual Walk Across Wilson: Event registration for the 2022 Walk Across Wilson campaign will be on Sunday, March 27th which is sponsored by Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital. The Wilson County Health Council organizes the event which is designed to encourage residents and students to be active by walking or participating in other forms of exercise for at least 30 minutes a day for six days each week through Saturday, April 23rd. School and community-based teams will receive grants donated to their school or local non-profit, including bonuses to the top teams. For more event details and how to log in your progress, which will take place on Facebook, you can find their page [here](#).

8) MJ Senior Activity Center: The Mt. Juliet Senior Activity Center will hold their annual Reverse Raffle Fundraiser, sponsored by the Exchange Club of Wilson County, on April 9th from 3-6 pm. Tickets are \$50 each with a ticket limit of 300. The Grand Prize drawing will be for \$5,000. Food from Blowin' Smoke Food Truck (drive-thru) begins at 3 pm with the ticket drawing beginning at 5:30 pm and the Reverse Raffle at 6 pm (virtual live on Facebook). For questions you may contact Nancy Britt at 615-289-7623 or purchase tickets at 2034 NMJRD. Their Facebook page can be found [here](#).

9) Ribbon cutting for GBG Trailhead (repeat): 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.

10) Wilson County Primary (repeat): 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](#). I encourage you to get registered and vote.

11) MJ Veterans Memorial Wall: The city will soon be promoting a fundraiser selling engraved bricks for \$100 each which will be placed on the wall for viewing. Construction will begin as soon as enough funds are raised and the location will be Robinson Park across from Valley Center on NMJRD. Be watching for more details.

12) Job opportunities: The City of MJ currently has several positions available if you might be interested. To see a list, you can [click here](#).

UPDATES

1) South Bark Park temporarily closed: MJ Parks Department began reseeded the Bark Park on SE Springdale the week of February 14th. The Bark Park (only) will be temporarily closed for about three weeks, at which time; new mulch will also be added to the entrances. As an alternative during this time, there is a small dog park located at Jones Family Park located at 1535 NMJRD.

2) State of the City Address: MJ Mayor Maness was the guest speaker at the MJ Chamber Connection Luncheon held on February 16th at the Courtyard by Marriott. If you would like to hear his speech and vision, and/or view his PowerPoint, you may find them here. To view the video [click here](#). To see the PP presentation [click here](#).

3) Tesla electric charging stations: On Monday's February 28th BOC agenda, a Resolution for the approval of the Tesla Supercharger agreement was approved. Twelve parking spaces, with additional space, will be leased by Tesla on the city-owned property (formerly known as Cheddar's overflow parking) between McDonald's/BP and Cheddars. Tesla will build a Supercharger Station with charging stalls for electric vehicles. Opening for public use is within 12 months, with an initial 5-year lease. To see a map and/or read the agreement, you can find it [here](#).

4) Wilson County Emergency Agency (WEMA): As everyone has been aware, the City of MJ faces an uncertainty when it comes to fire and ambulance support from the county. They have already closed two stations (Statesville and Norene) and now one in MJ is half-staffed by the county (ambulance). Please know FDMJ is good, but also relies on the county for backup and support. Ambulance service is provided solely by the county, not the city. MJ has held several work sessions over the past year to explore its options. One of those options is a private ambulance service to operate only within the city limits of MJ.

MJ, Lebanon and all of Wilson County are growing at a record pace and it is expected that all of WEMA grows along with it. It is critical that the county find the adequate funding and resources for WEMA. This includes proper staffing, quality pay, and the necessary equipment to keep up with current and future demand. This has not occurred over night, but has been a growing problem over the past several years. The safety and welfare of our citizens should come first.

If you would like to reach out to your county commission and the county mayor, you may find their contact information by [clicking here](#).

Update from February 28th BOC meeting: We unanimously passed a Resolution approving the MJ City Manager to begin negotiations to obtain an Interlocal Agreement with Wilson County for the purposes of addressing ambulance services in the City of MJ. The date to receive the agreement, or otherwise a status update, is March 14th at the next BOC meeting. The framework of this agreement would be:

- WC to immediately provide the City of MJ two ambulances with an option for a third ambulance. The ambulances will be operated and staffed by FDMJ.
- WC will continue to dispatch the ambulances.
- WC will continue to provide a medical director.
- WC will continue to provide medical billing and revenues will be split 50/50 between the City of MJ and WC.

If you would like to read the full Resolution you may find it [here](#). I apologize for the poor quality, but I did not have a digital copy.

5) Stormwater Utility: The BOC had approved the funding for this current budget cycle for a consulting firm to complete a city-wide study evaluating vulnerable areas heavily impacted by stormwater runoff. We have had so much rain over the past two years, and so far it looks like this year is on that same track. The City of MJ has never had the staff, resources, or funding to make improvements that are badly needed.

I am proud to say this Commission Board, along with our Public Works Department, has started the ball rolling toward finding solutions. We do have a Stormwater Department, but they primarily deal with pollutants/sediment, not rising water. This study is expected to be completed within the month, just in time for the 22/23 budget cycle. A SWU Department will be able to address many of the critical issues we currently face, so we are headed in the right direction.

6) MJPD Expansion work session: Please see below under Status Report for an update from the work session held Monday, February 28th. In addition, if you would like to view the video you can [click here](#).

7) MJPD Self-defense class: MJPD recently began offering an Equalizer Women's Self-defense Class, but the current registration is closed. If you are interested in a future class, they are held four times a year. For information on the next available class session, please contact Anna Francis at afrancis@mtjuliet-tn.gov.

8) SeeClickFix (repeat): 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) MyTn app: Rep. Susan Lynn informed us of the MyTn app, which is a mobile app providing personalized service delivery to Tennesseans through technology solutions. MyTn provides a single point of access to a growing list of services through a secure account 24/7. You may find more details [here](#).

10) Free Covid drive-thru testing: The free testing station in Mundy Park has ended.

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

12) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average. The City of MJ just broke an all-time record for a \$2M sales tax month. Keep shopping local.

13) Fiscal year 2021 Audit: The audit presentation from Blankenship CPA Group was presented Monday, February 28th at the BOC meeting. The City of MJ passed with flying colors thanks to our amazing city staff and our Financial Director, Dana Hire. Excellent report Blankenship CPAs. If you would like to review the results of the audit report [click here](#) or view the PowerPoint as presented by Blankenship CPAs [click here](#).

14) New email for newsletters: I have changed my email from jmilele2020@gmail.com to jmilele2022@gmail.com when sending out my monthly newsletters. Please make sure to check your spam/junk folder for those of you who have signed up for email notifications.

15) New voter registrations: MJ City District 4 (south of I-40) had 45 new registered voters for February.

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.

In addition, a new Senior Living plan has been submitted for Providence Central along Providence Pkwy. that will include independent living, assisted living, and memory care. It is expected to have approximately 246 residents and be located next to The Enclave.

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. Public Works continues to plea with TDOT to finish placing the temporary road striping that is very difficult to see at night, especially when it rains.

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, design, and engineering. This TDOT project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity.

I-40/Central Pike Interchange: TDOT has hired a firm to begin design, survey, environmental, and preliminary engineering. 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. The planning document is underway. 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/summer 2022. The location is next to Green Hill High School and is 30% complete with construction.

MJPD Expansion: The BOC held a work session Monday, February 28th to basically discuss an alternative plan which includes the vacant lot located directly in front of headquarters on Charlie Daniels Pkwy. I personally expressed support for another work session and because we ran out of time, we did not get to discuss any funding, the chosen bid by The Parent Company, or unanswered questions regarding this vacant lot, such as cost, appraisal, or a land study. Even though this was only a work session, four members of the BOC expressed support to move ahead with contract negotiations between the City Manager and the property owner and bring a proposed contract for purchase back to the BOC for approval. I will be calling for an appraisal and a total geotechnical/geological study prior to purchase.

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, and it was recently sent out for rebid.

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 and is 15% complete with construction.

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 ROW acquisitions and is 85% complete with preconstruction activity. Construction is 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: Construction has begun and completion is expected 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.: Road construction should begin soon and be completed during the spring, with the signal installation completed during this fall. 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 with the federal post office for approval of an exit on Curd Road, which is currently reviewing the proposed plans. Project is 75% complete with preconstruction activity.

Traffic signal at Lebanon Road/S. Greenhill Road: The plan is to use two of the poles/mast arms removed from N. Greenhill Road and two removed from the MJRD overpass. They are currently at Stansill Electric for fabrication, soon to begin excavation and construction of the foundations. In addition, underground work is in process at the location site. 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.

Traffic signal at Oak Hall and NMJRD: This proposed signal ended up not meeting the signal warrant analysis. Therefore, the BOC-approved funding will be transferred to other signal projects.

S. Greenhill Road roundabout: Finalizing ROW plans/utility coordination for the six properties 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. The City's sewer consultant is currently preparing design plans. 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. Recently the environmental (NEPA) document was submitted to TDOT for review. Once the NEPA is approved, the project will be eligible for ROW funding in next year's TDOT budget.

Pleasant Grove Road widening and realignment: The consultant contract was approved and design has begun. 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, March 14th at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

NOTE: 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; 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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