

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Spring is finally here and we have many yard projects to get started on. I have removed three sets of nest debris a house sparrow had started in the bluebird house. The box has remained empty for several days, but yesterday we noticed a female bluebird going in and out of the box. Fingers crossed.

Please keep members of Mt. Juliet Fire Department in your thoughts and prayers for their safety as well as other local fire department personnel who left to assist with the wildfires in Sevier County.

Happy Easter, everyone!

NEW BUSINESSES:

Once Upon a Time by Amy will be a children's place going in next to MeTime and Cool Springs Plastic Surgery (behind Dairy Queen) on NMJRD.

Little Sunshine Playhouse has submitted plans to be located at 98 Hatfield Lane.

UPCOMING

1) Town Center Trail closure: A portion of the TCT will be closing the morning of April 5th, due to sewer line installation at Hamilton-Denson Park. The section between Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens and Tate Lane will be closed during this time. However, the rest of the trail will remain open. It is expected to be a three-week project.

2) Age-restricted condo/townhome development: A deferred plan (from March) 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 April 21st Planning Commission agenda at City Hall at 6:30 pm. If you would like to see the plan you can [click here](#).

3) Townhome/retail project: Rolling Ridge is a new 23-acre proposed project that would consist of townhomes (for sale) and retail frontage along S. Rutland Road between Belinda Pkwy. and Beckwith Road. The project will possibly be on the April 21st Planning Commission meeting at 6:30 pm, or if not, it should be on the May 19th PC agenda. To see a preliminary site plan you can [click here](#). The one submitted to Planning may differ slightly from those attached.

4) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee):

- [First Monday Dinner Walks](#) will resume beginning Monday, April 4th. These walks are held April-September each year on the first Monday of each month. We meet

at MJ City Hall at 6 pm and walk to a designated location for dinner and then walk back. All are welcome.

- [Ride Mt. Juliet](#) is scheduled for Sunday, May 1st at 2 pm at the train station parking lot on E. Division. We will ride bicycles (or walk) on a 5-6 mile route. More details to follow. Rainout date is May 15th.
- The [BPAC/Biker's Choice community bicycle rides](#) will resume in May beginning Monday, May 2nd. The rides depart Charlie Daniels Park at 6:30 pm and are open to the community. It is a 15- to 20-mile loop and takes place every Monday during warm weather.
- The [Greenway Walk](#) will be Tuesday, June 28th at 6 pm and we will meet at the train station parking lot on E. Division. More details to follow. Rainout date is June 30th.

5) MJ Senior Activity Center (repeat): 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 and 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](#).

6) Storm Water Utility public work session: At 5:15 pm, prior to the BOC meeting on Monday, April 25th, there will be a public work session to discuss the results of the consultant study from last fall on the upcoming Storm Water Utility that the city will be implementing this year. Having a storm water utility would be a dedicated source of funding to pay for storm water management, which the city does not currently have outside of right-of-way. You can find more details on my website by [clicking here](#).

7) MJ Farmers Market: Mt. Juliet's Farmers Market starts back for the season on Saturday, April 30th at 7 am. It is located in Charlie Daniels Park and will be open every Thursday 1-6 pm and every Saturday 7 am - 1 pm. The season ends on Saturday, October 29th. For questions you may call 615-758-6522.

8) Wilson County Primary (repeat): There will be a county primary on May 3rd. If you haven't registered to vote, you have until Monday, April 4th, and early voting will begin on April 13th. In addition to all county commission seats, county mayor, and 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. 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](#).

There will be a Mayoral Candidate Forum take place on Monday, April 11th from 5:30-7:30 pm at Cumberland University Alumni Hall located at 408 S. Maple Street in Lebanon. It is my understanding it will live-streamed. For more information, you can call 615-444-5503.

9) Public work session on food truck vendors: The BOC will plan for a public work session (discussion only) on Monday, May 9th, at 5:15 pm regarding mobile food trucks/cafes inside the city limits. We realize there is a high public demand for them, and we also want to support/protect our brick and mortar businesses, with respect to our zoning regulations. The public is invited. However, due to time restraints, there will not be a citizen comment time. Your feedback is important therefore I have created a survey to gather input prior to the work session. [Please take time to complete the survey](#) so that all perspectives may be considered. There are nine questions and you may take the survey by [clicking here](#).

10) Military Wall of Honor & Veterans Park (updated information): The city is promoting a fundraiser for a Veterans Memorial Wall that will be located in Robinson Park on NMJRD (across from Valley Center). This project is to honor all veterans and current serving military who are relatives/friends of Wilson County residents. All funds raised will go to help veterans and their families in Wilson County and veterans living in veteran hospitals within Tennessee. This is a service project of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 281 here in MJ, initiated by Gwynne Queener, President.

If you would like to purchase an engraved brick for \$100 to be placed on the wall for viewing, please see the flyer with purchase options by [click here](#), or for a direct link to purchase your brick(s) online, you may [click here](#).

Construction cost will exceed sales from the bricks alone therefore, Ms. Queener has set up a [GoFundMe](#) account to cover the material costs of building the wall. To donate, you can click on the GoFundMe link above. Construction will begin as soon as enough funds are raised. Sam Anderson will be the architect, and David and Donna Liddle will construct the project.

11) 22/23 Fiscal Budget work sessions: The BOC will be having public work sessions for the 22/23 budget within the next couple of months for discussion. The next budget cycle begins July 1st.

12) South Bark Park fence: The MJ Parks Department will be gathering cost estimates for a replacement fence around the dog park and expanding it.

UPDATES

1) Mt. Juliet Animal Care & Control: Adoption fees should not prevent any willing family from giving a shelter dog a good home. Beginning April 1st, Hutsenpiller Insurance is launching Hutsenpiller Animal Adoption Fund (HAAF) that will sponsor every dog at the Mt. Juliet Animal Shelter. Therefore, adoption fees should no longer keep anyone from adopting a dog. This is a great service to the community and an example of how our local businesses give back. Thank you to Hutsenpiller Insurance for stepping up and giving back and helping these wonderful dogs as well as our families. If you would like to adopt a shelter

dog, please contact the animal shelter at 615-773-5533 or visit the city's website [here](#).

2) Golden Bear Gateway restrooms: The official ribbon cutting for the GBG Trailhead Restrooms was held Friday, March 25th. They will be open every day from 6 am - 8 pm. These restrooms on Golden Bear Gateway (across from Amazon) were built by Amazon as a part of their development project here in the city, which included a five-acre donation to the city for a trailhead and the expansion of our greenways. Currently there is a multipath from the trailhead to E. Division a bicycle route. To see a future map of trails and bicycle lane expansions, as well as the current bicycle lanes, you can click [here](#).

3) Wilson County Emergency Agency (WEMA): The MJ BOC unanimously passed an Interlocal Agreement Resolution to be sent to the county for the purposes of continuing WEMA ambulances inside the city limits of MJ.

- Medical billing will be handled by WEMA and the revenue will be split 50/50 for services provided by MJ personnel operating the ambulances.
- MJ will staff and drive ambulances, make the necessary runs and provide emergency medical care for persons (visitors/residents) inside the city.
- WEMA will provide a minimum of one ambulance for each MJ city fire station and any fire station in the future.
- The medical director for WEMA will provide medical direction as required under EMS Rule. The staff will also perform first responder, BLS, and ALS services under the agency's medical protocol.
- Charges from WEMA to citizens of MJ shall not exceed similar charges made by WEMA to other citizens of the county.
- WEMA shall provide city fire personnel with emergency medical training under the WEMA training program.
- Medical supplies, fuel, and maintenance for the ambulances will be the responsibility of WEMA.

If you would like to read the entire resolution you may find it [here](#). The Resolution is pending and county support is yet to be determined. If you would like to reach out to your county commissioners and the county mayor, you may find their contact information by [clicking here](#). Please know the City of MJ will continue to have ambulance service, whether it is from WEMA or a private ambulance service.

4) MJPD Expansion vote: On Monday, March 14th, the BOC, by a vote of 3-0-1, approved a sales/purchase contract to purchase 1.5 acres (the empty lot in front of MJPD Headquarters) for \$1.1M. I abstained because I was not satisfied with the contract as it was written. It was decided that instead of expanding the current headquarters, a new proposed two-story building would go on the 1.5 acres. The new property will undergo a Geotech study prior to closing to determine if the site is buildable. There is possibly an active karst on the location, which will be the primary focus of the study.

I motioned to include an appraisal in the contract, which died for a lack of support. City Manager Kenny Martin did however,

take it upon himself to pursue an appraisal after the meeting, which came in at \$1.135M. I thanked him for doing that.

Cost estimates for a new two-story building have not been discussed as of yet, nor has the selected bid by The Parent Company for the expansion of the existing headquarters.

The MJ BOC initially approved \$6 million in 2020 for the badly needed expansion, which includes the hardened dispatch, evidence room, and other upgrades. A line item transfer was approved by the BOC on March 14th (5-0) to move \$1.5M previously allocated for the purchase. If you would like to view the video of the February 28th work session you can [click here](#).

5) 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.

6) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 14.7% over this point last year. Hotel/Motel tax revenue also continues to increase by nearly double over this time last year. Hotel/Motel tax funds the Parks Department.

7) New voter registrations: MJ City District 4 (south of I-40) had 85 new registered voters for March. Please go vote May 3rd.

8) New email for newsletters: I will be changing my email from jmilele2020@gmail.com to jmilele2022@gmail.com and/or jennifermilele2022@gmail.com when sending out my monthly newsletters and updates. Please make sure to check your spam/junk folder for those of you who have signed up for email notifications.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

Mundy Park Improvements: The BOC approved the construction contract which should begin this month, to be completed around November, 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 by the end of May.

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 should be completed by mid-June 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 summer/early fall. Field work has begun for a 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 preliminary 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 completion estimation of this summer. The location is next to Green Hill High School and is 35% complete with construction.

MJPD Expansion: Cost estimates for a new two-story building have not been discussed as of yet, nor has the selected bid by The Parent Company for the expansion of the existing headquarters. The new property recently purchased is pending a Geotech study prior to closing to determine if the site is buildable.

Cedar Creek Greenway Phase 1: Project is under heavy construction and completion is now expected to be around the end of October, depending on weather. The 10-foot wide greenway will extend from Charlie Daniels Park to Golden Bear Gateway and connect to Park Glen and Tuscan Gardens and is

20% complete with construction. If you would like a quick tour of the trail you may find it [here](#).

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 this summer. This project will be constructed along with the S. Greenhill Road roundabout.

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 on the multi-purpose fields located on Tate Lane, and completion is expected by the end of October.

Legacy Pointe: This is under construction with land clearing on the northwest side of the Beckwith Road interchange on Golden Bear Gateway. 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 it will be office and retail.

Charlie's Place (formerly Sellars Station): The status of a proposed museum to honor Charlie Daniels in the red building next to the railroad tracks, just south of The Christmas Place, seems to have changed. I do not have details at this time.

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 this fall/early winter, 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 the 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 in May/June, with the signal installation completed this November, depending on the delivery timing of the poles and mast arms. 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. Efforts continue with the federal post office for approval of an exit on Curd Road, and it is currently reviewing the proposed plans. Project is 75% complete with preconstruction activity.

Traffic signal at Lebanon Road/S. Greenhill Road: Construction has begun and the underground work nearby has been

completed. Construction of the pole foundations will begin soon. As of right now, the signals are expected to be completed and operational by the end of April.

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

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.

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 this summer/early fall. 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.

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 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 flood mitigation. The City's sewer consultant is currently preparing design plans. Project is 70% complete with preconstruction activity. The BOC held a public work session with Public Works regarding the flood mitigation on March 28th. The consultant presented three solution options with cost estimates.

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/preliminary engineering 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. ROW acquisition is expected to begin this summer/early fall.

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, April 11th 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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