

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

We ended up with five bluebird eggs, but they were abandoned after two days of severe weather. After eleven days, the bluebirds returned and started adding to the nest, but there were no longer any eggs when I checked. The second brood consists of four eggs.

Thank you to all our teachers on behalf of Teacher Appreciation Week. This Memorial Day we remember and honor all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our nation. In addition, we recognize and thank our active duty on Armed Forces Day. May is also Military Appreciation Month. Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, past, present, and future.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Mixed Grill Greek is a new Greek restaurant located in Valley Center on NMJRD. It is very similar to the one that was there before. We had lunch there the other day and it was delicious.

Pop Shelf will be taking over the building on the southwest corner of NMJRD/Lebanon Road, previously occupied by The Yard Sale Store. As I am sure you have seen by now, Pop Shelf is owned by Dollar General and they hope to open this summer.

Mid Tenn Powersports will be relocating to Mt. Juliet at 5158 Beckwith Road in the northeast corner off of Golden Bear Gateway and I-40. This project known as Gateway Business Park, was approved at the April Planning Commission, which also plans for a hotel, and restaurants. It should be coming to the BOC during May. If approved, Mid Tenn Powersports hopes to break ground this summer with a projected opening in the spring of 2023.

7-Eleven on Golden Bear Gateway has plans to open on May 19th.

Southern Grace Boutique will be going in the building next to City Hall. I do not have any dates at this time.

UPCOMING

1) Wilson County May 3rd Primary: If you missed early voting please take time to vote TODAY. You can vote at any voting location in Wilson County. In addition to all county commission seats, county mayor, and school board seats, you can see a full list of offices and sample ballots by clicking [here](#). To find your newly redrawn county districts and school zones, you can look them up [here](#) by entering your address.

2) National Day of Prayer event: A prayer event will be held in Charlie Daniels Park on May 4th. Everyone's Wilson will host

Together: A National Day of Prayer Gathering at 6 pm. Food truck vendors will be available and open at 5 pm. This is a free family-friendly event. Please join us in praying for our City and nation.

3) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee):

- [First Monday Dinner Walks](#) have resumed. We meet the first Monday each month at MJ City Hall at 6 pm and walk to a designated location for dinner and then walk back. The next date is June 6th. All are welcome.
- The [BPAC/Veloteers/Biker's Choice community bicycle rides](#) resume in May and take place every Monday night during warm weather. The rides depart Charlie Daniels Park at 6:30 pm and are open to the community. It is a 12- to 15-mile loop.
- May is National Bike Month held every year, sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists. Get out and ride.
- During May, we are considering holding an evening Ride of Silence (national event), sponsored by the Veloteers Bicycle Club, to bring awareness of the presence of cyclists, and to honor those injured or killed while cycling on public roadways. The date has yet to be determined, but it would either be on May 16th or May 18th. I will put out a notice once decided of the date and time. This ride is suggested for experienced riders only.
- The [Greenway Walk](#) will be Tuesday, June 28th at 6 pm and we will meet at the train station parking lot on E. Division. Bring the family. More details to follow. Rainout date is June 30th.

4) Public work session on food truck vendors: The BOC will hold 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 eight questions and a place to add comments. Please take the survey by [clicking here](#).

5) Walk to School Day for Rutland ES: On May 12th, Rutland Elementary School students will meet at one of three locations at 6:15 am and walk to school. There will be volunteers to assist in the walk, such as teachers, parents, BPAC members (myself included), and MJPd. The locations are Grace Baptist Church on Belinda Pkwy., Bridge Mill Drive at Providence Trail, and MJ Bark Park (parking lot) on SE Springdale Drive. Please join us if you would like to walk to school.

6) MJ Senior Activity Center: The Mt. Juliet Senior Activity Center will hold a Pancake Breakfast fundraising event on May 14th from 8-11 am. All proceeds will go toward the Veterans Wall of Honor building project in Robinson Park. The event is hosted by The MJ American Legion Auxiliary. Tickets are \$8 each or \$20 for a family of four, and may be purchased at the senior center located at 2034 NMJRD.

7) Flags Across Mt. Juliet: Kiwanis Club of Mt. Juliet sponsors Flags Across Mt. Juliet for \$50 a year. They place flags for businesses and for residential areas, city and HOA approved, for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Flag Day, Labor Day (through 9/11), and Veterans Day. Proceeds go to support the youth in our community. To find out more details and/or enroll in the program you can [click here](#).

8) Honoring America's Flag: Over the Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30, American flags will be on display for the 10th Annual Honoring America's Flag event. If you would like to sponsor a flag to be displayed, you may purchase one for \$30 and take it home that Sunday. The event is sponsored by the Exchange Club of West Wilson County and the American Legion Post 281. To order your flag(s) you can [click here](#).

9) Military Wall of Honor & Veterans Park (repeat): 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.

10) 22/23 Fiscal Budget work sessions: The BOC will be having a public work session for the 22/23 budget on May 23rd at 5:30 pm. The BOC will need two readings to approve during regular meetings. The next budget cycle begins July 1st.

11) South Bark Park fence: The MJ Parks Department will be gathering cost estimates for a replacement fence around the dog park and expanding the fenced area to the parking lot. I have asked for the addition of activity equipment for the dogs in the new budget cycle. There possibly will be an Eagle Scout project for the building of a dog apparatus coming up.

12) Citizen's of Mt. Juliet Memorial Day Fireworks Blast: On Monday, May 30th at 9 pm, Needham's Nursery and Circle P Ranch will present a fireworks celebration to honor American heroes. The show can be seen from several locations around town from Circle P Ranch on W. Division Street.

13) Townhome/retail project (repeat): 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 should be on the June 16th Planning Commission agenda. To see a preliminary site plan you can [click here](#). The one submitted to Planning may differ slightly from those attached.

14) MJ Independence Day firework shows: As in the past, MJ will have two firework shows to attend this year on July 4th to celebrate America's birthday. The City of Mt. Juliet will hold theirs at Providence Central which can be seen from anywhere around the Providence area. Needham's Nursery will hold their Citizen's of Mt. Juliet Fireworks Blast again at Circle P Ranch which can be seen from several locations around MJ from W. Division Street.

15) MJ's 50th Anniversary event: On Saturday, July 16th from 4-9 pm at Charlie Daniels Park, the City of Mt. Juliet will celebrate 50 years after being incorporated in 1972. There will be music, food, games and plenty of activities for all ages. This will be an exciting event, so mark your calendars and plan to bring the family to this free event. More exciting details to come from the City's PIO, Justin Beasley. You do not want to miss this celebration.

UPDATES

1) Interlocal Agreement with Wilson County for ambulances: This Resolution approved by the MJ BOC for an Interlocal Agreement with the County, was not approved by the County. It only received one vote of support. It basically was a negotiation offer made by FDMJ to continue receiving WEMA ambulances inside the city limits of MJ. If you would like to read the entire resolution you may find it [here](#). The City of MJ will continue to have ambulance service, whether it is from WEMA or a private ambulance service.

2) FDMJ Interlocal Agreement with Vanderbilt: On April 11th the BOC approved a Resolution for FDMJ to negotiate an Interlocal Agreement between Mt. Juliet Fire Department (FDMJ) and Vanderbilt Lifeflight Ground EMS Transport inside the city limits. This would be for times that WEMA ambulances are not available. An agreement will come back to the BOC for final approval once completed.

3) New dispatch for 911: MJPd and FDMJ entered in a new partnership on April 29th with Wilson County 911. This removed a transfer step and will save response time getting an emergency responder to the scene.

4) Storm Water Utility: The BOC held a public work session on April 25th to hear the results of the study from our consulting firm, CDM Smith, that began last fall. From the study, Public Works will make a recommendation to the BOC for one of the four levels of service, followed by the creation of a Master Plan this summer. The SWU department is expected to be fully implemented later this fall. 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. To may [click here](#) to see the PowerPoint presentation presented during the work session.

5) Old Friends Senior Dog Day: At the April 11th BOC meeting, the MJ BOC declared April 26th, 2022 as Old Friends Senior Dog Day by Proclamation to thank the Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary for their amazing charitable work of providing lifetime homes for senior dogs. The OFSDS celebrated their 10-year anniversary on this day as well.

6) Age-restricted condo/townhome development: This proposed project next to Providence Publix, was pulled from the April 21st Planning Commission agenda by the developer. It appeared they did not have the support for amending the land use plan. The seven acres remain for sale.

7) Speed table at Bradford Park: I had inquired about having a speed table/hump placed on Providence Trail at Bradford Park, but after the speed study which was low, Public Works did not support it.

8) NAMITN.ORG: The National Alliance on Mental Illness offers FREE Family-to-Family classes to families who need assistance with family members who have mental illness or questions about mental illness. MJ resident Mark Kulhanek, who serves on the State Board of NAMI TN and Chairs NAMI Wilson County, would like citizens to know that NAMI also works with and trains, through their FREE C.I.T. program, MJPd and first responders on how to handle and de-escalate mental health crisis situations. Many families in MJ and Wilson County struggle, but are not sure who to call. NAMI is here to help free of charge. One in 4.5 American adults experience mental illness in any given year. Nineteen percent of U.S. adults with mental illness also have a substance use disorder. You may contact Mark at 623-256-3304 or MLKulhanek@msn.com. Click on the link for further details about NAMITN.org.

9) FDMJ rating: Great news! MJ's Fire Department has achieved an ISO Public Protection Class 3 rating. ISO is an independent company that serves insurance companies, communities, fire departments, and other organizations providing risk assessment. This ISO rating is an assurance that we are providing the quality service our citizens need. Beginning August 1st, 2022, reach out to your homeowners insurance company to make sure they know about this rating. It just might save you some money.

10) MJPd Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). April: 5 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 7 arrests/apprehensions. All were from out of county or out of state.

11) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 18.74% over this time 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.

12) Revenue sharing with the State: The House and the Senate presented the State budget in April, but restoring the revenue sharing was not included. The MJ BOC approved a Resolution on March 28th to support restoring the historic revenue sharing relationship between the State of TN and its local governments and return the local share of the single article cap to local governments. The House and Senate both said they wanted to study the matter further and may propose it for next year's budget.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

(Note: updated information since last month is now in color.)

Mundy Park Improvements: Construction has begun, to be completed this fall, 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 or the first part of June.

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, if not sooner. It is currently 90% 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: ROW plans are being finalized with ROW acquisition 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 60% complete with preconstruction activity.

I-40/Central Pike Interchange: TDOT has hired a firm to begin surveying, environmental, and preliminary engineering. Project is 20% 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 60% complete with construction. There was some vandalism that occurred recently onsite and repairs have been made. This possibly could slightly delay the estimated completion timeframe.

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 (in front of headquarters) 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/first of November, 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 40% complete with construction. If you would like a quick tour of the trail you may find it [here](#). The pedestrian bridge has been set in place.

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 95% complete with preconstruction activity. Construction is estimated sometime this summer. This project will be constructed along with the S. Greenhill Road roundabout.

Hamilton-Denson Park: Construction continues on the multi-purpose fields located on Tate Lane, and completion is expected by the end of October. Project is 30% complete with construction. A portion of the Town Center Trail was closed temporarily to install sewer for the park, but has since reopened. The park is also waiting on permits from RTA.

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.

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. *Shop drawings are being developed.* 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. *Coordination has begun with the federal post office on options to close their northern driveway and provide a new exit on Curd Road.* Project is 75% complete with preconstruction activity.

Traffic signal at Lebanon Road/S. Greenhill Road: *The signal has been fully installed and completed. Public Works will be working on the timing of the signals.*

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 *95%* 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 *60%* complete with preconstruction activity and *in final design. Environmental (NEPA) approved.* Construction is expected in 2023.

S. Greenhill Road roundabout: *All ROW acquisition offers have been accepted and are with attorneys.* Utility coordination plans for relocation are being finalized and the project is *95%*

complete with preconstruction activity. Field surveys have 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 and **drainage** 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.

Sewer upgrade projects: There are/will be maintenance and upgrades projects being performed on three sewer lines around the city. First is Belinda City lateral lining project. They are working in different areas off of Belinda Pkwy. and project is 30% complete with construction. Then there is Cedar Creek Interceptor Sewer Upsizing project that will begin soon, and Stoner Creek Interceptor Upsizing that is 50% complete with preconstruction activity. This project is currently in design.

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, May 9th at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

NOTE: The public is welcome to come and speak and/or submit comments/questions to Sheila Luckett until 4 pm prior to the meeting at sluckett@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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