

## MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER



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# Jennifer Milele

## Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Our last brood of bluebird eggs totaled five that successfully hatched and we are now waiting on the fledglings.

I look forward to meeting many more residents while out knocking on doors this summer and fall. Look for me and my little red wagon. My youngest son just completed six years in the US Navy. June 14 is U.S. Flag Day so let us all proudly display our American flags. Happy Father's Day to all fathers and a Happy Birthday to our State of Tennessee. Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2022. Have a safe and happy summer.

### **NEW BUSINESSES:**

**Pets Supplies Plus** has opened at 11223 Lebanon Road.

**Rooms to Go** should be on the Planning Commission agenda in June with plans to open a location in Providence Central.

**Pep Boys** will be locating next to West Wilson Utility on Lebanon Road.

**Seven Brew Coffee** was approved at the Planning Commission in May to be located near the corner of Sunset Drive and NMJRD.

**Third Coast Salt** plans to open at their new location toward the end of July at 103 Sunset Drive (by Catch 22). Third Coast Salt has been voted Winner of the Best Spa for the past five years and they offer a wide variety of services including skincare, massage, and salt therapy.

### **UPCOMING**

**1) Ava's Splash Pad:** Ava's Splash Pad in Charlie Daniels Park is now open for the summer.

**2) 7-Eleven:** 7-Eleven on Golden Bear Gateway will be having their official Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am. All are welcome.

**3) ALERT:** The MJRD/I-40 overpass widening project will have closures for major road work on the weekends of June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup>. Beginning on each Friday night (8 pm), the through lanes over the bridge will be shifted to the outside of the bridge and the two NB left-turn lanes to I-40 will be closed. This means if you are coming from Providence, you cannot access I-40 WB from MJR. Instead, traffic is being routed to Central Pike to access I-40 at Old Hickory Blvd. or take I-40 E. to the Golden Bear Gateway/Beckwith Road exit and loop back around to I-40 W.

People taking the MJ exit from the east will not be able to turn left toward Providence. Instead, they will have to turn north and take GBG to Beckwith Road to S. Rutland Road. Otherwise, you will be detoured I-40 W to OHB and circle back around on I-40 E back to MJ.

Two SB lanes of MJRD will remain open during daytime hours and one NB lane will remain open.

Closures for each weekend will end Monday morning at 5 am. TDOT has developed a traffic control plan for this work with message signs on I-40 from I-840 all the way to OHB as well as up and down MJR. To view the maps from TDOT you can [click here](#).

The latest estimated completion timeline is July for finishing touches. The project will start wrapping up by the end of June and all the lanes should open in June (as for now).

**4) Dinner and a Movie:** Beginning June 3<sup>rd</sup> and each Friday from June to October, there will be three entrée food trucks and two dessert food trucks in Charlie Daniels Park from 4-8 pm. The free movie playing on June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be Encanto. Bring the family.

**5) Dinner in the Vines:** Experience a taste of Italy right here in MJ on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 7-10 pm in MJ's only private vineyard. This is a fundraising event to benefit The Joe Beretta Foundation, which is a local organization dedicated to meeting practical needs of advanced heart failure patients and their families. The event, presented by SERVPRO of Wilson County, includes an Italian meal, music, silent auction, wine selections, as well as some exciting surprises. Tickets can be purchased at: <https://www.thejoerberettafoundation.com/dinner-in-the-vines>.

**6) Blood Mobile:** Blood Assurance will be back in the MJ Chamber parking lot on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 3 pm. To schedule your time slot you can [click here](#).

**7) 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 16<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission agenda. To see a preliminary site plan you can [click here](#). The one submitted to Planning may differ slightly from those attached.

**8) Wilson County Election Institute:** On Saturday, June 18, from 8:30 am to 3 pm, the Wilson County Election Commission is offering a FREE course to learn how the election process works in Wilson County. I took this a couple of years ago and highly recommend that all citizens take the course. Seating is limited and you have the option of preordering a boxed lunch for \$10 or you can provide your own (11:30 am - 12:30 pm). The course is offered at the WC Election Commission located at 230 E. Gay Street in Lebanon. For more details and an online application you can [click here](#). For questions you may contact the WC Election Commission by phone or email at 615-444-0216 or [info@wilsonelections.com](mailto:info@wilsonelections.com).

**9) Barks and Recreation:** On Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 12 noon at the South Bark Park on SE Springdale, there will be a Huffaker's Hounds and MJ Animal Shelter adoption event and fundraiser for Friends of the Parks. There will be giveaways and vendors so bring your fur-friends too.

**10) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee):**

- [First Monday Dinner Walks](#) take place on the first Monday each month at MJ City Hall at 6 pm. We walk to a designated location for dinner and then walk back. The next date is June 6<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.
- The [BPAC/Veloteers/Biker's Choice community bicycle rides](#) take place every Monday night at Charlie Daniels Park. Cyclists depart at 6:30 pm for a 12- to 15- mile loop. All are welcome.
- The [Greenway Walk](#) has been rescheduled for Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm and we will meet at the Cedar Creek Trail Head located on the corner of Woodridge Place and Golden Bear Gateway. Bring the family. Rainout date is June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- As a side note, the MJ BPAC finished first place during the Walk Across Wilson in community groups. They will receive \$1,500 that will go to their nonprofit, Friends of BPAC. West Elementary placed first in the school group and will receive \$2,500. The annual Walk Across Wilson is sponsored by Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital. Thank you, VWCH, and congratulations to all other winners.

**11) NOTICE: S. Rutland road closure:** Advance notice that toward the end of June, a portion of S. Rutland Road will be closed due to construction. Part of the Waterford Park development is to remove the 90-degree curves and reconstruct the roadway. The timing of this is very important in order to complete the project before school begins. The developer is estimating a two-week closure period. Public Works will send out a notice about a week prior to the closure, and at that time I will send out the notification. **There is an official traffic plan submitted by Beazer Homes and you may [find it here](#).**

**12) MJ Independence Day firework shows (repeat/update):** As in the past, MJ will have two firework shows to attend this year on July 4<sup>th</sup> to celebrate America's birthday. The City of Mt. Juliet will hold theirs again at the Mt. Juliet League, Inc. baseball/softball fields on Lebanon Road. [There was an alternative option to hold it at Providence Central, but due to added expense, it was no longer considered.](#) 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.

**13) MJ's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event (repeat/update):** On Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 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 [with Darryl Worley as the headliner](#), 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. I was told I had to be in the dunking booth, so come take your best shot.

**14) Temporary closure at Mundy Park:** There is a section of the walking trail at Mundy Park that is closed until further notice due to construction. I will send out a notice once it reopens. The rest of the trail is still open. To see a map of the closed section you can [click here](#).

**15) Temporary closure at Town Center Trail:** There is a section of the Town Center Trail on W. Division that is closed for sewer installation along the front of Hamilton-Denson Park located on Tate Lane. Closure is expected to last about three weeks; However, the rest of the trail is still open.

**16) Ice skating rink:** MJ Parks (and Parks Board) is looking to add an ice-skating rink in Charlie Daniels Park during the holidays. Look for details later in the year.

## UPDATES

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**1) Mt. Juliet Ambulance Service (EMS Services):** Due to the uncertainty of the current financial situation and understaffing with WEMA, FDMJ is recommending that MJ needs to start its own ambulance service. After exhausting all efforts to find a compromise solution with the county, as well as making the determination that a private ambulance service is not the best alternative option for the city, they presented a new ambulance (EMS) department in the May 23<sup>rd</sup> 22/23 budget work session. Startup costs are not complete, but at this point it ranges between \$1.7M and \$1.9M.

**2) Public work session on food truck vendors:** There was a Staff public discussion held at City hall on May 9<sup>th</sup> regarding mobile food trucks/cafes inside the city limits. The city realizes there is a high public demand for food truck expansion, and we also want to support/protect our brick and mortar businesses, with respect to our zoning regulations. The MJ Parks Department (and Parks Board) is looking at holding additional events (beyond Dinner and a Movie) in city parks that would give more opportunities for the public to enjoy different tastes that food trucks bring. If you would like to watch the work session you can find it [here](#).

**3) Grapple trucks:** When the grapple truck comes to your area, please make sure vehicles are not blocking the debris piles. The truck will not stop if they cannot access the limb/tree debris. For my district (City District 4 south of I-40), I post notices when the grapple truck will be in our area (Chipper Zone 1) as soon as I get the notice. If you would like to sign up for notices, you may do so by [signing up here](#). Make sure you click on Chipper Service Route (email or phone icons) under Notify Me. There are eight chipper zones. When Zone 8 is complete, the truck(s) start back in Zone 1. If you would like to see what Zone you are in, you may find your address [here](#).

**4) 22/23 Fiscal Budget work session:** The BOC held a public work session for the 22/23 budget on May 23. The BOC will need two readings to approve the budget during regular meetings. The next budget cycle begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to review the budget summary as presented by Finance, you can find it [here](#).

or if you would like to watch the work session you can view it [here](#).

**5) Storm Water Utility:** Public Works will present a Master Plan to the BOC for implementation 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.

**6) Sewer Rates:** In June of 2021, our consultants, RateStudies, presented their analysis and recommendations of MJ's sewer rates. The result was a recommended 4% increase for the 21/22 budget. This, however, was put on hold for a year. Therefore, included in the 22/23 budget effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a 4% sewer rate increase to ensure the City continues to have a positive change in net position as required by state law.

**7) New Little Free Library:** There is a new LFL/Ride for Reading box located in Robinson Park, courtesy of Sally Robertson, the Biking Librarian. Please feel free to use it and read the books.

**8) MJ City sales tax revenues:** Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 14% over this time last year. Hotel/Motel tax revenue also continues to increase by 34% over budget expectations. Hotel/Motel tax funds the Parks Department.

#### **STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS**

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

**Mundy Park Improvements:** Construction is underway, to be completed **this August**, for the new tennis and pickleball courts with extra parking. We will also have a triangle practice green for disc golf. Phase 2 in the next budget cycle, **depending on leftover funding after Phase 1**, will be an expansion of the playground. **For a plan visual you can [click here](#).**

**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 mid-June.

**Providence Central:** This is where the new BJ's Wholesale Club **and Rooms to Go (plans submitted)** 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. **For a plan visual for BJ's you can [click here](#).**

In addition, a new Senior **Assisted Living** plan has been submitted for Providence Central along Providence Pkwy. It is expected to have approximately 246 residents and be located next to The Enclave. **To see a plan visual you can [click here](#).**

**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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 in July 2022 with projected lane openings in June. Please see weekend closure notice above. Project is currently 90% complete. Public Works continues to plead 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 a completion estimate of this summer. The location is next to Green Hill High School and is 70% complete with construction.

**MJPD Expansion:** Cost estimates for a new two-story building have not been discussed as of yet. The Parent Company was selected and approved for the project. The new property recently purchased (in front of headquarters) passed the Geotech study.

**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 50% 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 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 50% complete with construction. A portion of the Town Center Trail is currently closed temporarily to install sewer for the park. Please see notice above.

**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. To see a plan visual you can [click here](#).

**Charlie's Place (formerly Sellars Station):** There was recent uncertainty regarding the status of a proposed museum to honor Charlie Daniels in the red building next to the railroad tracks. It has since been reported that the museum is back on track. This development renovation is not associated with the city.

**Signal improvements:** Traffic signals along MJRD between Central Pike and Division will be undergoing improvements. The project is 95% 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 is beginning at 5%, with the signal installation completed this fall/winter, 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 is underway with the federal post office on options to close their northern driveway and provide a new exit on Curd Road. Project is 90% complete with preconstruction activity.

**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 70% 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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 is 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 upgrade projects being performed on sewer lines around the city.

- Belinda City lateral lining project. They are working in different areas off of Belinda Pkwy. and project is 30% complete with construction.
- Cedar Creek Interceptor Sewer Upsizing project that will begin soon.
- Stoner Creek Interceptor Upsizing that is 50% complete with preconstruction activity. This project is currently in design.
- Royal Oaks Gravity Sewer Replacement project sent out bids that came in too high. It will be rebid when prices come down.
- Woodland Place Gravity Sewer Project is 100% complete with preconstruction activity.

**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 and is updated each month.

## **MJ BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS**

**The next MJ BOC meeting will be Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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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