

JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER



CONTACT:
(615) 393-4356

WEBSITE:
JenniferMilele.com

EMAIL:
jmilele@mtjuliet-tn.gov



Jennifer Milele

Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

As of this writing, the burn ban issued by the MJ Fire Department inside the city limits is still in effect until further notice, but fireworks are still allowed. Thankfully we got a small amount of rain. Please use caution because it is very dry, and July is Fireworks Safety Month. The MJ Police Department has posted firework regulations that you may find [here](#).

Happy Independence Day to everyone. I will be out knocking on doors this month through the fall. Look for me and my little red wagon. Our bluebird young successfully fledged, although I didn't get to see them fly away. We were hoping for another brood, but it hasn't happened yet.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Honey Baked Ham will be coming to Sellars Station across from The Christmas Place. I do not have a timeline.

The Paper Mill restaurant will be officially opening July 6th. The location is 4066 NMJRD (formerly Courtney's).

Popeye's Louisiana Chicken will be coming to Lebanon Road close to Hermitage and should open sometime this fall.

Whataburger has had some delays and now has scheduled their opening for early 2023. An additional entrance on NMJRD was pending approval from TDOT, which was not approved. The entrance will be on Lebanon Road and the developer is working with the city on a new plan for an alternate entrance from Slim Chickens which would also include an entrance to the new car wash.

Big O Tires will be coming to 11465 Lebanon Road this fall.

A new steak house restaurant is coming on NMJRD across from West Wilson Middle School. However, I do not have details at this time.

An exciting new business is coming to the previous Schlotzsky's location. Announcement soon.

UPCOMING

1) Vehicle registration fee: Beginning July 1st, the state vehicle registration (renewal) fee will be waived for passenger motor vehicles and motor homes (\$23.75), and motorcycles and autocycles (\$16.75). This does NOT include additional county fees, so make sure to check with the Wilson County Clerk, as these fees vary from county to county. This period ends June 30,

2023. Please [click here](#) for additional information from the TN Department of Revenue.

2) MJ Independence Day firework shows (repeat/update): As in the past, there will be two firework shows to attend this year on July 4th to celebrate America's birthday.

- The City of Mt. Juliet will hold theirs again at the Mt. Juliet League, Inc. baseball/softball fields at 10835 Lebanon Road. This year, there will not be a charge for parking so it is free beginning at 5 pm, and we have included food trucks beginning at 6 pm. The fireworks show will begin at 9 pm. There is a traffic map available along with positions of food trucks. You can view it [here](#).
- Needham's Nursery will hold their Citizen's of Mt. Juliet Fireworks Blast (largest in Wilson County history) again at Circle P Ranch off W. Division Street. This year there will be free parking and food vendors at 563 Main Street beginning at 5 pm. The fireworks show will begin at 9 pm.

3) Deadline for voter registration: July 5th is the deadline to register to vote in the August 4th State & Federal Primary/State & County General Election. Early voting is Friday, July 15th through Saturday, July 30th. You may view sample ballots and find your district [here](#). Every election is important and every vote counts in Wilson County, so make your voice heard.

4) Christmas Craft Fair: There will be A Luau Christmas Craft Fair at the MJ Community Center in Charlie Daniels Park on Saturday, July 9th, from 10 am - 4 pm. Food vendors, music, and kids activities will be available for this free event. Proceeds will benefit Give A Little Christmas, which is a nonprofit that helps to bring Christmas to children in need across Wilson County.

5) Blood Mobile: Blood Assurance will be hosting a blood drive, sponsored by the MJ Chamber on Thursday, July 14th in the train station parking lot from 10 am - 3 pm. The address of the train station is 22 E. Division Street. When you donate to Blood Assurance it stays local, as they only operate in Middle Tennessee and Chattanooga. To schedule your time slot you can [click here](#).

6) MJ's 50th Birthday Celebration event (repeat/update): 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. Some additions are yet to be announced. There will be music with Darryl Worley as the headliner, food (food trucks), games, bounce houses, hot air balloon rides, and plenty of activities for all ages, including wine tasting, lemonade tasting, and a car show. There also will be a MJ history tent with its rich history on display. And, I will be in the dunking booth at approximately 4 pm, so come take your best shot. This is a big deal and will be an exciting free event, so mark your calendars and plan to bring the family.

7) New code for suicide prevention: Beginning July 16th, 988 has been designated as the new three-digit code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This code will be available to everyone across the U.S.

8) Lifestyle Communities (LC) MJ II plan submitted: On the July 21st Planning Commission agenda, there is a 63-acre mixed-use/multifamily plan that has been submitted. The location is 7800 Central Pike which is currently in the county. This plan would include The Goat restaurant, 359 townhomes, 296 multifamily homes, and recreation areas, and would require annexation into MJ city limits, rezone, and a land-use amendment. You may view the submitted plan [here](#).

9) Beckwith Point development: On the July 21st Planning Commission agenda, a previously approved Industrial-Restricted plan has now submitted a Preliminary Plat/Site Plan for approval. The location is on 75 acres between Belinda Pkwy. and I-40, that will consist of three warehouses and one road connection to Belinda Pkwy. (across from Meadowview Drive) to Wilfong Pkwy. at the ER off of Beckwith Road. The development has been doing land surveys for the past several months. You may view the PP and SP [here](#).

10) 2022 Sales tax holiday: A new sales tax holiday begins on Monday, August 1st for the entire month through Wednesday, August 31st. Food and food ingredients will be tax free. For more detailed information please [click here](#).

11) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee) (repeat/update):

- [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 6th. 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.
- Our annual Walk/Run/Roll event is scheduled for Sunday, September 18th from 2-4 pm at Mundy Park off Belinda Pkwy. This is a free family-friendly event so come join us. More details to come.
- I have a list of committee nominations for BOC approval, since the redistricting, that will be presented on the July 11th agenda.

UPDATES

1) MJPd Chief Hambrick's CD: Our very own Chief of Police, James Hambrick has a new album (CD) called "Somebody's Gotta Tell Them." The songs are stories of life and his service to MJ over 27 years. "Community Strong" for example, was written with MJ in mind. The album includes a tribute to Sgt. Jerry Mundy and Deputy John Musice, two of our fallen officers.

In addition, the MJ BOC will be approving a Resolution on July 11th to adopt "Community Strong" as the official song of Mt. Juliet, and Chief Hambrick will be singing it at MJ's 50th birthday celebration on July 16th. A special thank you to Dr. Pete Davis for presenting the idea. We are very proud of Chief Hambrick. To obtain a copy of the new CD, you can contact him.

2) NOTICE: S. Rutland Road closure (repeat/update): On June 27th, the two-week closure period began that will last through July 11th. The portion of S. Rutland Road that is closed due to construction, is between Ellenwood Blvd. and the three-way intersection. The Waterford Park development is realigning and reconstructing the roadway as a part of their project. I was able to work with Public Works and our City Manager to remove the detour through Baird Farms and reroute on Central Pike and Beckwith Road. If you would like to view the closed section of S. Rutland Road you can [click here](#).

3) Mt. Juliet Ambulance Service (EMS Services) (repeat/update): FDMJ has recommended that MJ needs to start its own ambulance service, due to the uncertainty of the current financial situation and understaffing with WEMA. 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 22/23 budget that the BOC has now approved. Startup costs are not complete, but at this point it ranges around \$1.9M. The first step is to hire an EMS Chief, then request the ambulances we will lease, and go from there. FDMJ is hopeful the department can be functioning in about a year depending on the availability of ambulances, which are in short supply across the nation.

4) New K9 added: The MJPd now has a second K9 member added to the force named Citron. Citron can perform building searches, tracking missing persons/suspects, article searches, narcotics detection, and criminal apprehensions. The 18-month-old Belgian Malinois will work with Ofc. Jordan Brown as a team when Sgt. Barth and Majlo are off duty. Welcome Citron and a special thank you to Active Life Chiropractic (and all others) for donated funding to purchase Citron's bullet-resistant vest.

5) Temporary closure at Mundy Park (repeat): 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](#).

6) Temporary closing of Town Center Trail (repeat/update): A portion of the TCT along W. Division has been closed for sewer installation in front of Tate Lane, but as of this writing it should be opened by now. If not, it will be any day.

7) Wilfong Blvd.: The BOC approved a Resolution to officially change the street name of Wilfong Pkwy. to Summit Blvd., which is located off Beckwith Road behind TriStar Mt. Juliet Emergency Room.

8) Various planned developments: I came across a PowerPoint presentation put together by Lineberry Properties that includes some of the planned developments around town. It is an interesting visual to give you an idea of different projects, some complete, some under construction, and some yet to break ground. If you would like to view it, you may view it [here](#).

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

10) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by **5%** over this time last year.

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 **this summer, hopefully August**.

Providence Central: This is where the new BJ's Wholesale Club, Rooms to Go (plans submitted), and a Senior Assisted Living will be located. It also includes The Enclave at Providence Central, **which should begin opening for occupancy in early 2023**. 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](#). To see a plan visual for the assisted living facility you can [click here](#).

(NEW) Adams Lane: Construction for the new Adams Lane rerouting will possibly begin around September and is estimated to take about four months, depending on weather. The current Adams Lane will remain open during the process. Adams Lane cannot remain where it is because of the future I-40/Central Pike interchange.

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. **I did ask for a signal in this new budget and Public Works wanted to take a different approach prior to a signal, which would be turning lanes, more likely sooner from developers than the city.**

MJRD I-40 overpass widening: The TDOT project will be **completely finished in July**. Project is currently 90% complete.

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. [The BOC just approved a Resolution amending the initial agreement with TDOT to add ROW and construction, to be paid for by TDOT.](#)

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 [to 5 lanes](#) extends from SMJRD to Old Hickory Blvd., and currently TDOT is [finalizing](#) 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 [under contract](#) (in front of headquarters) passed the Geotech study. [The BOC approved the purchase contract to move forward.](#)

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.

Town Center Trail Phase 3: [The BOC approved an agreement with our consultant to begin design for the 3rd Phase of the TCT that will extend from S. Greenhill Road to Mt. Juliet Elementary School. The project was approved for a federal grant that covers 80% of design, ROW, and construction.](#)

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.

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) was approved. Construction is expected in 2023.

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 [this summer](#).

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.

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. [TDOT did not approve any additional funding in their new budget.](#)

Pleasant Grove Road widening and realignment: The consultant contract was approved and design/preliminary engineering has begun. This project was added to the GNRC's 2045 Regional Transportation Plan so that it may receive federal funding in the future. The widening will be a 4-lane median divided roadway from Old Pleasant Grove Road to Central Pike with multi-use paths on each side. In addition, 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: The BOC approved an updated agreement with TDOT for this project to include a 4-lane median divided roadway with multi-use paths on each side, from NMJRD to just east of GBG. Development funding toward this project is at \$8M from Amazon and Project Jolene (GBG). This project was 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 with a preconstruction meeting.
- 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. Bids came in too high and will be rebid when prices come down.

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, July 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.

Jennifer Milele

MJ City Commissioner District 4

(615) 393-4356

website: JenniferMilele.com

email: jmilele@mtjuliet-tn.gov
