

JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

It is hard to believe that school is starting back already. I attended Rutland Elementary School on July 26th with a great group of people, to welcome the teachers back and to show our support for all our wonderful teachers across Wilson County. Thank you for your dedicated service and hard work and have a great year.

Happy 232nd birthday to the U.S. Coast Guard that takes place on August 4th. August also celebrates Women's Equality Day in honor of the 1920 ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment and, with it, women's right to vote. August 21st is National Senior Citizens Day and my amazing mom will turn 82. On August, 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I have a dream" speech.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Chipotle Mexican Grill, it was finally announced, is coming to the former Schlotzsky's location at 30 Old Pleasant Grove Road. They are working on the building getting it ready. I do not have a projected opening date at this time.

O'Charlie's, as you have heard by now, has closed. Their sales had been down by 50% and had trouble maintaining staff. O'Charlie's was one of our original restaurants at the beginning of Providence Marketplace. No news of a replacement yet, but we do know the business/lot has been sold. They are not saying who bought it or what they will do with it.

The Yard Sale Store has officially opened at 126 Belinda Pkwy., after their relocation from Lebanon Road.

Holiday Inn / Avid hotel has plans to open on August 11th, which will include a Burger Theory restaurant opened to the public. The location is at 75 Belinda Pkwy.

SiPS Express has opened at 12070 Lebanon Road. SiPS offers a drive-up service offering coffees, teas, juices, and shaved ice.

Catch 22 has closed due to staffing shortages and lease issues. One of the owners hopes to bring the restaurant back somewhere soon.

Chewy (dog products) will be building a distribution center off Golden Bear Gateway at some point in the near future, which I do not have a timeline for at this point.

UPCOMING

1) Ava's Splash Pad: Beginning August 1st, Ava's Splash Pad in Charlie Daniels Park will only be opened on Saturdays 11 am - 6 pm and Sundays 1-5 pm through the end of the season.

2) August 4th Election (repeat): Remember to get out and vote this Thursday, August 4th for the State & Federal Primary and County General, if you didn't get to early vote. You may view sample ballots and find your districts [here](#). Every election is important and every vote counts in Wilson County, so make your voice heard.

3) Ribbon cutting for Providence Pkwy.: The public is invited to attend the ribbon cutting for the opening of the Providence Pkwy. extension connecting to Central Pike, taking place Friday, August 5th at 8:30 am. Parking will be along Providence Pkwy. where there is ample parking.

4) Dinner and a movie: Bring the kids to Charlie Daniels Park this Friday, August 5th for Food & Flick night. These take place the first Friday each month through October. There are food trucks onsite beginning at 5 pm and the movie, Clifford the Big Red Dog, will begin at 8:15 pm. New food vendors this month will be On Point BBQ and Nana's Lemonade Stand. If you would like to see the schedule and times for the rest of the season you may find it [here](#).

5) 2022 Sales tax holiday (repeat): 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](#).

6) 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 redrawing of the city districts, that will be presented on the [August 8th agenda](#). (deferred from July 25th meeting).

7) Lifestyle Communities (LC) MJ II plan submitted

(repeat/update): On the July 21st Planning Commission agenda, the submitted plan for a 60+-acre mixed-use/multifamily plan [was deferred until September](#). This plan would include The Goat restaurant, townhomes and apartments, that would require a land use amendment, rezone, and annexation into MJ city limits.

You may view the submitted plan [here](#). The location is 7800 Central Pike which is currently in the county.

UPDATES

1) New MJ City Hall proposal: On Monday, July 25th, the city held a public work session to hear a proposal about a new City Hall, along with a parking garage, new firehall, and a mixed-use commercial development presented by Imagine1 Co. and Lineberry Developments. Included in the proposal would be office, retail, restaurant(s), and apartments. At this point, they are pitching the idea to the city to see if there would be enough support from the BOC to move their proposed project forward with plan submittals. To see the proposed project rendering and cost estimates you can find them [here](#). Cost estimates for the city would possibly be in the range of \$37 million.

2) Western Connector: The MJ BOC just gave approval to begin the design phase of a Western Connector that will connect Central Pike (north of I-40) to Lebanon Road. An exact connection location will be determined during the design process. Public Works plans to hold public work sessions at a later time and expects the Western Connector to be a five-year project.

3) Pedestrian delineators: If you noticed the pedestrian delineators missing along Providence Trail at the pedestrian crossings, there is a reason for that. The city has spent a lot of money having to constantly replace these because within two weeks of placing them, they get hit. I recently was able to secure a solar flashing pedestrian signal at Arbor Springs crosswalk and have another one coming at Bradford Park in this new budget. The city is looking at additional safety measures because the delineators obviously are not working.

4) Raised crosswalk on S. Rutland: As you know S. Rutland was recently closed for two weeks to realign a portion of the road, and in the process, a raised concrete pedestrian crosswalk was installed. This was part of the requirements that the city included in the original development plans for Waterford Park to connect the northern section to the southern section, that was to be constructed during the northern phase. It is very steep at this point because the final top layer of asphalt has not been done.

In the meantime, the raised crosswalk is very steep, so please be prepared to slow down before driving over it with your vehicles. In addition, I have been speaking with Public Works about finding a temporary fix to help smooth out the height. They are working with Beazer to help the situation.

At some point in the near future, another closure will take place to finish realigning the remaining portion of the road. I will send out notices when that time comes.

5) Infrared paving truck: Public Works has a new sophisticated infrared paving truck for potholes and road imperfections. If you see a pothole that needs repairing, please take a picture

(safely) and submit it into the SeeClickFix app that you can download on your phone.

6) Town Center Trail: The TCT along W. Division is now back open.

7) City Code violations: MJPD has created a system for the public to report city code violations, which consist of three options. For additional information on city code violations as advertise by MJPD, you can [click here](#):

- 1) Send an email to codes@mtjuliet-tn.gov
- 2) Call and leave a message at 615-773-6280
- 3) Submit to SeeClickFix app you can download on your phone. It does help if you can take a picture and upload it.

8) MJ's parks and greenways: If you are interested in viewing a map of MJ's parks and greenways you may find it [here](#). It will be updated as current projects are completed.

9) Mt. Juliet Ambulance Service (EMS Services) (repeat/update):

FDMJ will be creating a new ambulance (EMS) department. Startup costs are not complete, but is estimated 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. [The BOC just approved the leasing of office space for FDMJ admin on NMJRD because they need more room to operate.](#)

10) New MJ Fire Marshall: The City of MJ now officially has a Fire Marshall. FDMJ just promoted Captain Brent Blamires to the position. Congratulations and well deserved.

11) New code for suicide prevention (repeat): 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.

12) 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](#).

13) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). July: 3 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 4 arrests/apprehensions. All were from out of county.

14) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 10% over June 2020. Keep shopping local.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

[\(Note: updated information since last month is in color.\)](#)

Mundy Park Improvements: Construction is underway, to hopefully be completed **sometime this fall** for the new tennis and pickleball courts with extra parking. **Project has a slight delay due to waiting on the delivery of light poles.** 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](#).

South Bark Park: The South MJ City Park (Bark Park), located on SE Springdale, will bring an expanded bark park with new dog activities. This unfortunately will include the removal of the volleyball section. I do not have a projected timeline at this point.

Providence Pkwy. expansion: Providence Pkwy. will connect to Central Pike as a part of the Providence Central development already underway. The road is complete so please see the notice above about the ribbon cutting.

Providence Central: This includes the new BJ's Wholesale Club, Rooms to Go, and a Senior Assisted Living. It also includes The Enclave at Providence Central, which should begin opening for occupancy in early 2023. For a plan visual of BJ's you can [click here](#). To see a plan visual for the assisted living facility you can [click here](#). To see a plan visual of Rooms To Go 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. 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. **The process of selecting a consultant for the widening project has begun.**

SMJRD widening: ROW plans are being finalized, with ROW acquisition anticipated to begin this **fall/winter**. 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 approved a Resolution amending the initial agreement with TDOT to add ROW and construction, to be paid for by TDOT. **ROW acquisition and utility relocation will take three years to complete.**

I-40/Central Pike Interchange: TDOT phase is in surveying, environmental, and preliminary engineering. Project is **30%**

complete with preconstruction activity. It is expected to coincide with the Western Connector which is a five-year project.

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 delays because of supply chain issues. A possible completion timeline is hopeful by the end of the year. The location is next to Green Hill High School and is 80% 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.

Cedar Creek Greenway Phase 1: Project is under construction and completion is expected to be around the end of October/first of November, depending on weather, possibly sooner. 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 70% 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 100% complete with preconstruction activity. This project will be constructed along with the S. Greenhill Road roundabout.

Town Center Trail Phase 3: Design for the 3rd Phase of the TCT has begun 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. Currently performing survey and data collection.

Hamilton-Denson Park: Construction nears completion with final grading and parking lot. Final completion is expected by the end of October. Project is 75% 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 and is

finalizing construction documents. 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 has begun and is 10% complete. The signal installation, to be completed this fall/winter, is dependent on the delivery timing of the poles and mast arms. There will be an 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 95% complete with preconstruction activity, **but has been paused due to potential redevelopment in this area.**

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 is set to begin soon.**

S. Greenhill Road roundabout: All ROW acquisition offers have been accepted. Utility coordination plans for relocation **are finalized** and the project is 100% complete with preconstruction activity. **MTE will begin moving power poles once tree clearing has been completed. Tree clearing should begin in August.**

Old Lebanon Dirt Road widening: Currently in process of appraisals for ROW acquisition 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 75% complete with preconstruction activity.

Lebanon Road widening (Park Glen to GBG): Currently this TDOT project is **finalizing environmental documents with TDOT. ROW plans are being developed,** and project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity. Once the NEPA (environmental) 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 recent 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: [Beginning the design phase](#) that will connect Central Pike (north of I-40) to Lebanon Road.

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, August 8th 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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