

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Fall is almost here and the leaves will be turning their beautiful colors. Coming up, we have Labor Day (5th) recognizing the contribution of American laborers; National Days of Prayer and Remembrance (10th) when we come together to lift our hearts to Almighty God in prayer and remembrance of the victims from the 9/11 tragedy; Patriot Day (11th) in remembrance of almost 3,000 innocent lives that were either injured or killed on 9/11, when our nation was attacked by terrorists. In addition, we take time to give thanks to the brave first responders and American citizens; Constitution Day (17th) celebrating the adoption of the U.S. Constitution; the U.S. Air Force birthday (18th); and the month of September is National Suicide Prevention Month.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Magnifico's Italian Cuisine has opened at 3690 NMJRD Suite 100, inside Billy Goat Cafe. Their hours are 6-9 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Sundays are reserved for private dinner parties that you can book by calling 615-788-8150. Magnifico's hours are after Billy Goat closes on those days since they are in the same building.

Bawarchi Biryani is a new Indian cuisine restaurant located at 151 Adams Lane (between Margarita House and Aqua Bella). They are opened every day except Mondays.

Lost Cajun has now closed. I do not know the reasons, other than lack of employees.

O'Charlie's building has sold and whoever bought is expected to close the middle of September, so we will find out for sure who it is.

UPCOMING

1) Ava's Splash Pad end of season: The end of the season is here for Ava's Splash Pad. The last day is September 4th and will close for the season at 5 pm.

2) Blood Mobile: The MJ Chamber will host the next blood drive by Blood Assurance on September 8th, between 10:30 am - 2:30 pm. To schedule your visit, you can click [here](#).

3) Storm Water Utility work session: MJ Public Works will have public work session on Monday, September 12th at 5:15 pm, just prior to the BOC meeting. They will be bringing their Master Plan recommendation for the new MJ Storm Water Utility.

4) Lifestyle Communities (LC) MJ II plan submitted (repeat/update): [On the September 15th Planning Commission](#)

[agenda](#), a submitted plan for a 60+-acre mixed-use/multifamily plan will be heard, [that was previously deferred from July](#). 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.

5) 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. [We will not meet on Labor Day, so the next and final date for 2022 is October 3rd](#). 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. We will meet at the registration tent next to the pavilion on the hill. There will be a story walk for kids, a bicycle giveaway sponsored by the Veloteers, prize drawings, more. Wear your sneakers and bring your bicycles with helmets. Following the initial presentation, we will walk, run, and/or ride according to the designated routes toward Belinda Pkwy. There are two route options, a 3k route for walkers and runners, and a family-friendly 5-mile bicycle route. A rainout date is planned for Sunday, September 25th.
- My list of voting member nominations were approved by the BOC on August 22nd by majority vote (3-1).

6) Fall Community Yard Sale: On Saturday, September 24th, MJ Parks & Recreation will hold its Fall Community Yard at the MJ Community Center in Charlie Daniels Park from 8 am - 1 pm. If you would like a \$20 booth, you may call 615-758-6522 or register [online here](#). The registration deadline is Wednesday, September 21st.

7) Wilson Rides Sips & Sounds: On September 29th, Wilson Rides Inc. and the MJ Breakfast Rotary Club will host the 1st Annual Sips & Sounds of September, benefiting the nonprofit Wilson Rides Inc., that provides transportation assistance to seniors 55+ in Wilson County. For more details and tickets ordering, you can [click here](#). For sponsorships you may contact Gaye Lynn at gayelynn@wilsonridesinc.org.

8) MJPD vs FDMJ: On Monday, October 3rd, the MJ Police Department and the MJ Fire Department will go head to head in the MJ First Responder Basketball Game Fundraiser at Mt. Juliet High School at 7 pm. VIP coaches for each team are head coaches from Belmont University. All proceeds from the game will go to the James Bess Foundation. For ticket information you may find it [here](#).

9) MJPD Chili Cook-off: For National Faith & Blue Weekend, MJPD is organizing a community Chili Cook-off & Open House in a collaborative effort to build stronger bridges through fellowship. This free family-friendly event will take place on Saturday, October 8th from 11 am - 2 pm at MJPD Headquarters

at 1019 Charlie Daniels Pkwy. There will be a kids' fun zone, as well as guided tours of the headquarters. Bring the family, join the contest, or just eat, and enjoy. If you would like to participate in the chili cook-off contest, you can find more details and registration information by [clicking here](#). There is no entry fee.

10) Providence Pumpkin Bash: On Saturday, October 8th at 10 am, Providence Marketplace will host their free family-fun Providence Pumpkin Bash in Cinema Circle. The event will have pumpkin-themed activities, games and prizes, a DJ, a petting zoo, face painting, balloon artist, and more, including pumpkins. You are encouraged to bring a new or gently-used book to donate to Book'em to spread the love of reading to Nashville kids.

11) Halloween in the Park: On Saturday, October 22nd in Charlie Daniels Park, MJ Parks & Recreation will hold its annual Halloween in the Park from 11 am - 3 pm. This is a free family event and there will be costume contests, hay rides, a petting zoo, inflatables, food trucks, vendor booths, and lots of free candy. For details on the costume contests and vendor registration, you can [click here](#).

12) Speed humps on Sunnymeade Drive: There are speed humps that will be installed on Sunnymeade Drive very soon.

13) Three-way stop coming soon: There will be a three-way stop intersection coming soon at Providence Trail and S. Rutland Road to be constructed by the Waterford Park development. More details soon.

14) Flashing pedestrian lights: There are solar pedestrian flashing lights that will be installed at the crosswalk at Bradford Park on Providence Trail very soon. Also, they have been placed at the crosswalk on Belinda Pkwy., and the crosswalk on Providence Trail between the Swim Club and Deerfield Apartments.

15) Amendments to the TN Constitution: The MJ BOC recently passed a Resolution expressing support of four proposed Constitutional Amendments on the November 8th election ballot. You may read summaries of what these mean by [clicking here](#):

- Amendment 1: relative to the right to work.
- Amendment 2: exercise of the powers and duties of the Governor during disability.
- Amendment 3: prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude.
- Amendment 4: relative to disqualifications of State legislature seats.

16) MJ Christmas Parade: This year, the MJ Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 10th at 11 am. The 2022 theme will be "A Golden Christmas." The route will be the same as last year, beginning at the baseball/softball fields on Lebanon Road, now known as Two Rivers Ford League. Registration will open November 1st.

UPDATES

1) Adams Lane: Adams Lane has permanently closed to allow for the construction of BJ's Wholesale Club and Rooms To Go. Construction of the rerouting of the new Adams Lane will begin soon as well, which will include an additional left turn lane at the intersection at SMJRD. Please use Providence Pkwy. to access Central Pike from SMJRD. The new 3-lane Adams Lane is expected to be completed at least by early spring '23, depending on weather. I made a map to give you a better visual, that you can [view here](#).

2) Providence Pkwy.: The road extension of Providence Pkwy. is now officially opened. This is between Walgreens in the Providence area and Regions Bank that connects SMJRD to Central Pike. Widening with turn lanes on Central Pike at the connection point is under construction. I made a map to give you a better visual, that you can [view here](#). There will be a signal installed here in a few months.

3) Temporary trail closure at Mundy Park (repeat/update): The Mundy Park TRAIL is temporarily closed until further notice due to construction of the new courts and detention pond upgrades. A notice will be sent out once it reopens.

4) Mt. Juliet Ambulance Service (EMS Services) (repeat/update): FDMJ has hired Chief Eric Newman to head our new EMS Department. Chief Newman holds a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration, and comes from Vanderbilt LifeFlight where he has spent the last nine years as a Flight Paramedic, Manager, and Associate Director, as well as other EMS capacities since 1998. 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.

5) Improvements to Sunnymeade Drive/Belinda Pkwy.: Due to the ongoing and dangerous problems with drivers traveling WB on Belinda Pkwy. on the wrong side of the road, yellow striping has been installed coming out of Sunnymeade Drive and four red signs have been installed.

6) Signal at Providence Pkwy. & SMJRD: As you know the EB/WB green lights (including turn arrows) at this signal have been very short, allowing only a handful of vehicles to get through at a time. Public Works is working with the consultant to change the parameters for the EB/WB movement to allow for longer greens. This signal is located in the Providence area between Walgreens and Holiday Inn Express.

7) Signal warrant study: As a part of the Baird Farms development, they performed a signal warrant study at the three-way stop at Providence Trail and Providence Pkwy. As a result, the study did not warrant a signal, therefore this condition has expired.

8) Short-Term Rentals: Recently, the MJ BOC approved an Ordinance Amendment on Short-Term Rentals. Short Term Rentals are only allowed within RM-16 (multi-family) zoning within

MJ city limits (permits required), and are not allowed within residential zoning. Airbnb's are classified as Short-Term Rentals.

9) Feral cats: If your area, within the city limits, is having issues with a growing population of feral cats, you can call MJ Animal Care & Control at 615-773-5533. They will set two traps on Sunday morning and pick them up later that day. PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE THE CATS FROM THESE TRAPS. They deliver the cats to the spay & neuter clinic (limit of two) on Monday, and then return the cats back to where they were picked up on Tuesday. The spay & neuter clinic will vaccinate, tag, and treat for fleas if they have any. If you would like to volunteer at the shelter or donate to the supplies wish list, you can find more information by [clicking here](#). Also, to help raise money for the shelter and additional medical expenses, you can purchase a brick for \$75 and have it engraved. You may [click here](#) for the form. The bricks will be placed in the memorial pathway in front of the shelter.

10) MJ Snow & ice routes: Recently I informed a resident that the city now salts all public roads within the city limits, but this ended up being a misunderstanding on my part. So, to clarify, the city salts main roads and only if they have time, they go down other roads. Please note, these are only city public roads and TDOT is responsible for salting all state/federal roads, which include MJRD, Central Pike, Lebanon Road, and I-40. If you would like to see a map of the main city roads included on the MJ Snow & Ice Routes, you may find it [here](#).

11) Infrared paving truck (repeat): 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 with the location into the SeeClickFix app that you can download on your phone.

12) City Code violations (repeat): 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.

13) MJ's parks and greenways (repeat): 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.

14) New code for suicide prevention (repeat): The three-digit number of 988 has been designated as the new code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This code will be available to everyone across the U.S. September is National Suicide Prevention Month.

15) MJPd Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). August: 7 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 8 arrests/apprehensions. All were either from out of county or out of state.

16) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 10% over July 2021. Keep shopping local.

17) New voter registrations: MJ City District 4 (south of I-40) had 100 new registered voters for August. The next election is November 8th.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

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

Mundy Park Improvements: Construction is still underway with paving, to hopefully be completed by mid-October for the new tennis and pickleball courts with extra parking. The light poles have arrived. Look for announcements of the ribbon cutting soon. We will also have a triangle practice green for disc golf coming soon. 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. You should see additional fencing going up very soon, as well as a water fountain. I do not have a projected timeline at this point.

Providence Pkwy. extension: Providence Pkwy. now connects to Central Pike as a part of the Providence Central development already underway. Widening on Central Pike at the connection point is currently being constructed with turn lanes. That should be completed soon. Thank you for your patience.

Providence Central: Construction for BJ's Wholesale Club and Rooms to Go will begin very soon. A Senior Assisted Living facility has been approved for the project as well. 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, including a second left turn lane, should begin in September and is estimated to be completed by early spring '23, depending on weather. The current Adams Lane will NOT remain open during the process. It has permanently closed just past the existing businesses. The second turn lane will be at the intersection of Adams Lane/SMJRD (facing WB next to Waffle House).

Beckwith Road: The consultant selection for the widening project is underway. Beckwith Road is on the calendar for resurfacing this year. 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.

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 85% complete with construction.

MJPD Expansion: Cost estimates for a new two-story building have not been discussed as of yet.

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. [The Parks Department received an extra grant award of \\$320,000 for extra expenses due to bad soils, thanks to our Deputy Director of Public Works, Matt White.](#) 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 of the fields nears completion at 90%. Final completion of the fields is expected by the end of October and grass seed will be planted. The drawing phase of the restrooms (Phase 2) should begin in October. The fields and the restrooms should be ready by spring '23.

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 fall/winter. 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 20% complete. The signal installation, to be completed this fall/winter, is dependent on the delivery timing of the poles and mast arms. There has been an EB right-turn lane constructed and is open for traffic. Signal foundations will be poured in the coming weeks. Sidewalk improvements are part of the plan. 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: Tree clearing is now complete. MTE can begin moving power poles, followed by telecom companies. The main project will go out for bid September/October, which should begin construction around December/January. An estimated timeline would be 15-18 months (spring '24) to complete.

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: [Look for a public work session in the coming weeks/months to review design alternatives.](#) 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. [There will be a signal here as well.](#)

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 [fall/winter](#).

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. The engineering scope and contract are being finalized. [This is expected to be on the BOC agenda for approval in September or October.](#) 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. [Look for a public work session most likely in November.](#)

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, September 12th at 6:30 pm at City Hall, and a public work session prior to the meeting at 5:15 pm regarding the new Storm Water Utility.

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.

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