

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Have you voted yet? We always take advantage of early voting. Daylights Savings Time ends, so remember to set your clocks back an hour next Sunday, November 6th. Special days in November are Election Day (8th), USMC 247th birthday (10th), Veterans Day (11th), National Adoption Day (19th), Thanksgiving Day (24th), Small Business Saturday (26th), and National Day of Giving (29th). November is also Military Family Month.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Dunkin' Donuts will have their Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening at 10 am on Saturday, November 12th. All are welcome to come celebrate.

Chipotle has plans to open on Tuesday, November 8th, if all goes well. They are located at 30 Old Pleasant Grove Road.

NashGirl is a new boutique shop located at 415 NMJRD. They are opened Tuesdays - Saturdays.

Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery is planned for Providence Marketplace. I do not have an exact location or timeline as of now.

Lovesac Furniture Store is planned for Providence Marketplace. I do not have an exact location or timeline as of now.

American Eagle Outfitters is planned for Providence Marketplace. I do not have an exact location or timeline as of now.

Blush Bootcamp is planned for Providence Marketplace. I do not have an exact location or timeline as of now.

O'Charlie's building will be the future home of a bank. The name of the bank has not been publicly announced as of yet.

UPCOMING

1) Christmas Across Mt. Juliet Contest (repeat): This year, the 3rd Annual Christmas/Holiday lights contest will have some changes. Only homeowners/businesses within the city limits will be eligible, and the new changes would require that all participants send in pictures and videos of the outside decorations. Registration **begins November 2nd** and **ends December 2nd**. All winners will be announced on December 9th.

2) Early voting: Early voting ends on Thursday, November 3rd for the General/City Election on November 8th. If you need to know your voting districts and/or would like to view a sample ballot,

you can [click here](#). As of yesterday (Monday), only 16.41% of registered voters (102,153) have turned out at the polls so far in the entire county. Please make the effort to participate in the voting process. It all starts here locally.

3) Taste of Wilson County: MJ Parks & Rec has launched its first MJ Market Night, with the second one being November 3rd. Food trucks, live music, and local businesses will be in Charlie Daniels Park **every Thursday** through November 17th from 6-9 pm. Bring the family and help make this event successful.

4) Will Sellers South Park (and Bark Park) Dedication: On Friday, November 4th, there will be a dedication of the renaming of the South MJ City Park and Bark Park at 10 am. The location is 151 SE Springdale Drive off Belinda Pkwy. All are welcome to attend.

5) Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair: On Saturday, November 5th from 9 am - 1 pm, Dell Webb will have their 13th Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair. There will be over 40 vendors with seasonal and non-seasonal items. The event will be held in the Clubhouse located at 1100 Dell Webb Blvd.

6) Senior Center Indoor Yard Sale: On Saturday, November 5th from 8 am - 1 pm, the MJ Senior Center will hold their Indoor Yard Sale. They are located at 2034 NMJRD.

7) All for HIM Ministry Yard Sale: On Sunday, November 6th, from 11 am - 4 pm, All for HIM Ministry will be having a yard sale at 103 Sunset Drive. Third Coast Salt is partnering with the ministry to help with this event and to raise donations and much needed supplies for the organization who feeds, clothes, and shelters the unhoused/homeless in Wilson County and Nashville. They also are graciously accepting blankets, socks, and sleeping bags, as well as monetary donations. To volunteer, donate, and/or read more about the ministry you can [click here](#).

8) Dancing with the MJ Stars: On Saturday, November 12th, from 5:30-8:30 pm, Dynamic Ballroom & Performing Arts will be producing a fundraising event in partnership with MJ4Hope. The very first Dancing with the MJ Stars will feature local celebrities including FDMJ Chief Jamie Luffman, MJ District 3 City Commissioner Scott Hefner, City Judge Carolyn Christoffersen, Business owner and MJ4Hope Executive Director Amy Brewer Breedlove, national business guru Dean Foderaro, and COO of Streamline Event Agency Christa Acevedo. The evening will be a dancing competition of local stars that includes dinner, silent auction, and show. The event will be held at 1732 NMJRD. To purchase your tickets, you can [click here](#). As of 10:30 am this morning, they are 85% sold out.

9) Home for the Holidays: On Saturday, November 12th from 10 am - 4 pm, the 10th Annual Home for the Holidays vendor/craft fair event will take place at MJ Community Center. At MJ's largest holiday event, there will be over 70 vendors and a silent auction benefiting Friends of the Park. Friends of the MJ Parks & Greenways is a nonprofit organization that improves quality life for MJ through the renewal and creation of parks in partnership with the city.

10) November 17th Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:

- **Smartt property:** (SW Cook Road off Central Pike) Land Use Amendment, Annexation and Rezone for mixed-use development that would include (for sale) 213 townhomes and 180 single-family homes on 110 acres, currently in the county. You may view the proposed plan [here](#).
- **Annexation of 429 S. Rutland Road:** This property annexation request is located next to the current city limits.

11) Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of avid Hotel/Holiday Inn & Suites:

This beautiful new dual hotel will kick off its Grand Opening with a Ribbon Cutting beginning at 4 pm on Thursday, November 17th hosted by MJ Chamber. Afterwards through 8 pm, there will be tours/scavenger hunt, food samplings of the new Burger Theory Restaurant (open to public), and prize drawings. They also will be collecting toys for Toys for Tots, and non-perishable goods for the Second Harvest Food Bank. All are welcome to attend. The location is 75 Belinda Pkwy. To read further details you can [click here](#).

12) Ribbon Cutting for Mundy Park courts: The official opening of the new tennis courts and pickleball courts in Mundy Park will kick off with a Ribbon Cutting at 10 am on Saturday, November 19th. All are welcome to come celebrate this exciting event. The upper section of the walking trail will reopen as well.

13) Western Connector public work session: Public Works will hold a public work session to further discuss the Western Connector study on either (TBA) November 28th OR December 12th. This project will connect Central Pike (north of I-40) to Lebanon Road.

14) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee)

(repeat/update): BPAC's last event of the year will be the Christmas Lights Walk on Monday, December 5th at 6 pm. All are welcome. [We will meet at the HOA parking lot in Willoughby Station, located at 1326 Sydney Terrace, for snacks prior to the walk. Rainout date is scheduled for Monday, December 19th.](#)

15) Christmas Tree Lighting (repeat): The official lighting of the Christmas Tree will take place on December 9th at 6 pm, at the train station parking lot. This lighting ceremony is provided by Shiloh Baptist Church. [Winners of the Christmas Across Mt. Juliet Contest will also be announced.](#)

UPDATES

1) Public work session on Pleasant Grove widening: MJ Public Works held a public work session on the widening project on Pleasant Grove Road on October 24th. There were three options presented to get feedback from the BOC as well as residents. If you would like to see the PowerPoint that includes the three options presented, you can [click here](#).

2) Storm Water Utility: The MJ BOC unanimously approved the implementation of the new Storm Water Utility Department

during the October 24th BOC meeting. This was an Ordinance to amend municipal code for Stormwater Ordinance to establish the function of, create a special revenue fund for, and method of funding for the utility.

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

MJ EMS now has three ambulances in preparation for the upcoming department. The BOC unanimously approved a Resolution at the October 24th BOC meeting, for the service agreement with Ambulance Medical Billing (AMB) for EMS and fire billing for services rendered.

4) Trash along I-40: There have been some inquiries of concern regarding the trash along I-40 between MJ and Lebanon. I reached out to Mayor Hutto for an update since the last report. In response to his request, TDOT said they had litter pickup before the final inhouse mowing cycle prior to winter, which is a full mow instead of a swath. This cycle is finishing up now. Because of so much hidden trash in the tall section of grass, they have scheduled a litter pickup after the mowing, which should be in the next couple of weeks.

5) MJPD headquarters: Concept pricing for the new proposed Mt. Juliet Police Headquarters is expected this month.

6) MJPD 2021 crime report: MJ has a crime rate of 50.06, which is a 6.48% drop from 2020, (which is good). Overall, the number of crimes for MJ dropped 2.75% (57 less reported). MJPD submitted the report after TBI finalized the crime stats for 2021. If you would like to read the entire report that also explains how crime is reported in three different categories, you can [click here](#). It also includes a comparison to other local cities.

7) Temporary trail closure at Mundy Park (repeat/update): The Mundy Park TRAIL remains temporarily closed due to construction of the new courts and detention pond upgrades. The upper portion will reopen at the same time of the Ribbon Cutting (November 19th) of the new courts. This section is from the parking lot below the playground to the trail entrance on Belinda Pkwy. The remaining portion will remain closed until the detention pond upgrades are completed.

8) Business licenses: The city has issued 200 business licenses so far in 2022, which is an increase of 24 over 2021, and 19 over 2020. The increase is slowly moving back to pre-pandemic levels seen in 2018 and 2019 showing growth despite inflationary economic conditions and uncertainty.

9) Hotel/Motel tax: The city's Hotel/Motel tax revenue is doing very well with strong growth. As of September, with three months remaining, taxes for 2022 total \$895k compared to \$879k for the entirety of 2021. All Hotel/Motel tax goes to MJ Parks Department.

10) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 9.3% over this time last year. Keep shopping local.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

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

Mundy Park Improvements: Final painting is being done for the new tennis and pickleball courts with extra parking. Ribbon Cutting is set for 10 am on Saturday, November 19th. We will also have a triangle practice green for disc golf coming soon. For a plan visual you can [click here](#). Phase 2 will be an expansion of the playground. The walking trail remains closed for now, but the upper portion (only) will reopen after the Ribbon Cutting.

The detention pond in Mundy Park is underway by Public Works to improve flooding issues. This is in the wooded area behind the ball fields, and completion is expected the end of November/first of December. The remaining portion of the walking trail will stay closed until this project is complete.

South Bark Park (new name Will Sellers South Park): The South MJ Bark Park, located at 151 SE Springdale Drive, has bids out for the intermediate (large) dog course. New dog apparatus to come, including provisions for shade in each section. [NOTE](#): trees will not be planted inside the fences, but MJ Parks will be planting some on the outside. [PLEASE](#) do not let dogs urinate on these trees because it kills them. That is the reason they will not be planted inside the fences. For an idea of what the new intermediate course might look like, you can [click here](#).

Three-way stop Providence Trail/S. Rutland Road: 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. If you see the stakes, that is what they are for. I do not have a timeline as of yet, but if you would like to see a rendering (although not final) with added turn lanes, you can [click here](#).

Providence Pkwy. new turn lane: Providence Pkwy. on the west side of SMJRD between Walgreens and Regions Bank, is getting a new EB left turn lane onto SMJRD heading north. The median has been removed. Public Works performed a structural analysis and found that the existing pole cannot add any more signal heads. However, a new signal head design and layout with lighter equipment is underway in order to keep the existing pole, and also is pending the ordering of new materials.

(NEW) Adams Lane: Construction for the new Adams Lane rerouting, including a second left turn lane, is estimated to be completed by early spring '23, depending on weather. The second turn lane will be at the intersection of Adams Lane/SMJRD (facing WB next to Waffle House).

Beckwith Road: The resurfacing/repaving project has been completed. This area of Beckwith Road is between I-40 and south to the four-way intersection at S. Rutland Road/Posey Hill Drive. Widening is on the city's radar, however, it is likely to happen sooner from potential future developments. The city project would likely take around eight years and cost around \$23.2M. There are plans to apply for grant funding to cover 80%

of the construction costs. Currently all pre-construction phases are being funded by the city.

SMJRD widening: ROW plans are being finalized, with ROW acquisition anticipated to begin this winter. Field work has begun for a survey, with ongoing environmental phase, design, and engineering. This TDOT project is 70% 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 has finalized and approved the transportation report. The planning document is underway. The city is attempting to get Phase 1 funded for NEPA and preliminary engineering. Phase 1 is between I-40 and SMJRD. Project is 5% complete with preconstruction activity. The Providence Central development will be responsible for widening a portion of Central Pike at Providence Pkwy. which is underway.

FDMJ north firehall: Still under construction, however, it is hopeful they can take occupancy around the first of December. The location is next to Green Hill High School and is 90% complete with construction.

MJPD new headquarters: Concept pricing for a new two-story building should be available this month.

Cedar Creek Greenway Phase 1: Project is being prepped for paving and is expected to be completed by the end of November/first of December. 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 85% complete with construction. Expect a Ribbon Cutting the first part of December. If you would like to see a map of where it will connect, including a Phase 2 grant the city/BPAC is applying for, you can [click 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 5% complete with construction 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. The survey has been completed and currently performing NEPA studies along with preliminary engineering. Project is 5% complete with preconstruction activity.

Hamilton-Denson Park: Phase 1 will complete once the top coat is constructed on the parking lot. The specs of the restrooms (Phase 2) are being prepared to be sent out for bid. A Ribbon Cutting is planned for 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.

MJRD Phase 2 ADA upgrades: This project will be upgrading ADA requirements on MJRD sidewalks between Weston Drive and OLDRD. It is currently 20% complete with preconstruction activity. The consultant is working on NEPA studies and preliminary design.

Signal improvements Phases 2 & 3: Traffic signals along MJRD between Central Pike and Division will be undergoing improvements which is Phase 2. The project is 95% complete with preconstruction activity and is finalizing construction documents. Construction is expected to begin early winter, and will include installing fiber optic communication between each of the 13 signals that will connect to City Hall. The project will take about 18 months to complete. Phase 3 is 5% complete with preconstruction activity, which will extend from Curd Road to Lebanon Road, covering six signals. This project has the consultant performing data collection and NEPA documentation.

Traffic signal on Providence Pkwy.: Construction on the right turn lane is complete (paving continues), and the signal poles and mast arms are installed. The cabinet has been delayed in delivery. Sidewalk improvements are being constructed. This traffic signal on Providence Pkwy. will be located between Kroger and Providence Commons. Completion of the project is anticipated to be the end of November.

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 this winter.

S. Greenhill Road roundabout: MTE has begun moving power poles, to be followed by telecom companies during November. Currently in the bidding phase (due November 10th), and

construction should begin around December/January. An estimated timeline would be 15-18 months (spring '24) to complete. [If you would like to see a map of the final layout, you can click here.](#)

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: [Design alternatives were introduced at the recent public work session.](#) 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. [Project is 10% complete with preconstruction activity.](#) 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. Development funding toward this project is at \$8M from Amazon and Project Jolene (GBG).

Western Connector: Beginning the design [and planning](#) phase that will connect Central Pike (north of I-40) to Lebanon Road. [See details above about public work session.](#)

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 75% complete with construction.
- Cedar Creek Interceptor Sewer Upsizing project [is complete.](#)
- Stoner Creek Interceptor Upsizing project [should begin construction anytime.](#)
- Timber Trail Pump Station Rehab project [should begin construction anytime.](#)

- Old Lebanon Dirt Road (OLDRD) West Pocket Plan project is 80% complete with preconstruction activity, which will install sewer along OLDRD and Page Drive. Currently in design phase.
- John Wright Pocket Plan project is in the bidding phase and will install a sewer force main extension along John Wright Road.

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, November 14th at 6:30 pm at City Hall. A public work session on the Western Connector will be held prior to the BOC meeting at 5:00/5:15 pm on either November 28th OR December 12th. Once a date and time has been scheduled, I will announce on my BOC agenda notices.

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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