

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Are you ready for the Super Bowl? National Freedom Day is celebrated on February 1st, Valentine's Day on the 14th, Susan B. Anthony Day on the 15th, and Ash Wednesday on the 22nd. Take care of your hearts because February is American Heart Month. It also is National Women's History Month, National African American History Month, National Senior Independence Month, and American History Month.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Barrel House Restaurant, located at 3950 NMJRD, is now open. **Gotcha Poke Bowl & Bubble Tea**, located at 1984 Providence Pkwy. is now open.

American Eagle plans for an opening date of February 15th. They are located in Providence Marketplace in the strip facing the movie theater.

Andrews Cadillac is planning on opening toward the end of the month, but that will depend on the weather. They are located at 560 Pleasant Grove Road.

BJ's Wholesale Club is planning to open by the end of 2023, depending on weather. BJ's will be located within Providence Central on the newly constructed Adams Lane.

UPCOMING

1) Annual State of the City Address: MJ Mayor Maness will be the guest speaker at the MJ Chamber Connection Luncheon on February 15th from 11:15 am - 12:30 pm. You may contact the Chamber at 615-758-3478 to check on the status of limited seating, and/or signup online [here](#). The luncheon will be held at Rutland Place located at 435 NW Rutland Road.

2) February 16th Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:

- **9769 Central Pike:** Plan submitted to subdivide the 2.03-acre lot. If you would like to see the plan submission, you may [click here](#).

3) Storm Water Utility: The billing cycle for the newly implemented MJ Storm Water Utility is scheduled to begin in April. Having a storm water utility would be a dedicated source of funding to pay for storm water management, which the city does not currently have outside of right-of-way. This project has been almost two years in the planning process.

4) Easter in the Park: On Saturday, April 1st at Charlie Daniels Park, the Kiwanis Club of Mt. Juliet will host the free-annual Easter egg hunt from 11 am - 2 pm. The Kiwanis Club is looking for sponsors and you may contact Taylor at 615-708-9933, or Lisa at 615-547-5501. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Wilson County School Family Resource Center.

5) Special Needs Easter egg hunt: On Tuesday, April 4th at Charlie Daniels Park, MJ Parks will hold the Special Needs egg hunt at 6 pm in the MJ Community Center.

6) New entertainment venue: Just a heads up, there could be a new entertainment plan coming to the north end of MJ. The plan consists of a container park, including a covered skating rink (ice/roller), entertainment venue, and restaurants/food options. If you would like to see a concept plan, you may [click here](#). This possibly maybe coming to the Planning Commission later in the year with a plan submittal.

UPDATES

1) Western Connector: The BOC passed a resolution indicating that S. Greenhill Road is the preferred choice for the northern phase of the Western Connector. Public Works will be bringing a Resolution as well, based on the public input from the work session that presented the different options. You may view all [four pages here](#). This project will connect Central Pike (north of I-40) to Lebanon Road at some point in the future.

2) Providence Central PUD Amendment: The PUD Amendment passed 1st reading by 3-2. This was an amendment to the 2020 plan to allow for a residential component above the retail, bringing the first Urban-style integrated mixed-use to the city. I did decide to support the project after much thought and consideration. If you would like to hear my justification for supporting it, you may read it in written form by [clicking here](#). There was a video made of my town hall meeting, but the battery ran down after 45 minutes and the file is too large. Providence Central is all the developing land south of I-40, west of SMJRD, and north of Central Pike (including a section to the southwest) within the city limits. BJ's and Rooms To Go are also included within Providence Central.

3) MJPD public work session: The Parent Company presented the latest estimates during the MJPD work session for the new headquarters to be located on Charlie Daniels Parkway. The latest estimates from January 23rd are between \$26M-\$30M. If you would like to see the PowerPoint presentation you may find it [here](#).

4) Donate your old laptops: There is a way to donate your old laptops and put them to good use. They are refurbished and given to single moms, dads, and the disabled who are trying to better themselves by going to college online. If you have an older laptop (Mac or PC) that you would like to donate, please contact Vito Froggatt by "TEXT ONLY" at 615-495-4589.

5) Smartt property: The Smartt property, located on SW Cook Road off Central Pike, was not approved at the January MJ Planning Commission for a Land Use Amendment (LUA). The request was for 213 (for sale) townhomes and 180 single-family homes on 110 acres in the county.

6) Mundy Park Walking Trail (repeat/update): The walking trail remains closed as the detention pond project finishes up. A portion of the trail will be paved prior to reopening and that will depend on the weather. The remaining section of the trail will be paved in the next budget cycle.

7) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). January: 1 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 1 arrests/apprehensions. This vehicle and wanted person were from out of county.

8) End of year report for 2022: The City continues to see strong growth in sales tax revenues. For the fiscal year, we saw an increase of 13% over the previous fiscal year. We had over 30 capital projects worth a total of \$31.6M, that included transportation, sewer, stormwater, and buildings. Crimes against Persons dropped by 10%, and Crimes against Property dropped by 20%. Since installation of the Guardian Shield cameras, they have led to 144 stolen plates, five stolen trailers, four missing adults, and five missing/runaway juveniles. If you would like to review the City of Mt. Juliet End of the Year Report for 2022, you can find it [here](#).

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

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

Three-way stop at Providence Trail/S. Rutland Road: There will be a three-way stop intersection coming at Providence Trail and S. Rutland Road to be constructed by the Waterford Park development. [Depending on weather, it is likely to begin this month.](#) If you would like to see a rendering (although not final) with added turn lanes, you can [click here](#).

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

Beckwith Road: 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 (or more) 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. The project is in the process of developing a contract with an engineering firm. [A consultant for design services has been selected and a scope/contract is expected soon on a BOC agenda for approval.](#)

SMJRD widening: ROW plans are finalized, with ROW acquisition anticipated to begin this winter. [Field work has begun for survey,](#) with ongoing environmental phase, final 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. The ROW acquisition and utility relocation phases will take around three years to complete.

I-40/Central Pike Interchange: TDOT phase is in surveying, environmental, and preliminary design and engineering. Project is 30% complete with preconstruction activity. [The BOC approved a Resolution to put up to \\$25M on the table toward the interchange in order expedite it.](#) The offer was made recently on behalf of the City by Mayor Maness, Kenny Martin, and Andy Barlow, during a meeting with Gov. Lee.

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 [complete](#). 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 with turn lanes at Providence Pkwy. which is underway.

FDMJ north firehall: Still under construction, however, it is hopeful they can take occupancy [the middle of March](#). The location is next to Green Hill High School and is [95%](#) complete with construction.

FDMJ EMS (ambulance): [The new department for a MJ ambulance service is underway and is expected to be fully functional around Spring/early Summer.](#)

MJPD new headquarters: [Please see notes above under Updates.](#)

Cedar Creek Greenway Phase 2: [Phase 2 would connect Charlie Daniels Park to Lebanon Road, and is pending an application request for a grant submission.](#) If you would like to see a map, including the Phase 1 connection to Golden Bear Gateway (GBG), 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: [Bids for the playground and restrooms are out for bid.](#) Located on the south end of Tate Lane (off W. Division), the project is 95% complete with construction. A Ribbon Cutting for the practice fields is planned for Spring '23.

Lebanon Road sidewalks Phases 2 & 3: Construction for Phase 2 is expected to begin this [spring/summer](#), and is currently 95% complete with preconstruction activity. 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. The survey has been completed.

Signal improvements Phases 2 & 3: Traffic signals along MJRD between Central Pike and Division will be undergoing improvements in Phase 2. The project is 95% complete with preconstruction activity and waiting on TDOT approval on construction documents. Construction is expected to begin in spring, 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.: [Signals are in the process of being installed. Once installation is complete, the lights will flash for a few days before being fully operational.](#) This traffic signal on Providence Pkwy. is 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 this [spring/summer](#).

Traffic signal at E. Division/GBG: [Installation for this \(Amazon contribution\) signal is expected this spring/summer.](#)

S. Greenhill Road roundabout: Construction should begin [any day](#). 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 80% complete with preconstruction activity.

Lebanon Road widening (Park Glen to GBG): Currently this TDOT project is in preliminary design and finalizing environmental documents with TDOT. ROW plans are being finalized, 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. If you would like to see the PowerPoint presentation from the Work Session, you may find it [here](#).

Golden Bear Gateway widening (Eastern Connector Phase 2): The widening on GBG between the Cedar Creek bridge and Palermo/Curd Road is 75% complete with preconstruction activity. ROW plans are finalized and ROW acquisition is expected in early spring.

E. Division Street widening: Planning and design phases have begun. [Survey work and field investigations are underway](#). The BOC previously 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).

Western Connector: Please see notice above under Updates. Project is 10% complete with preconstruction activity.

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. [Manhole rehabilitation is ready to begin](#).
- Stoner Creek Interceptor Upsizing project [is ready to begin construction](#).
- Timber Trail Pump Station Rehab project is 10% complete with construction. [Once contractor receives materials, construction will begin](#).
- Old Lebanon Dirt Road (OLDRD) West Pocket Plan project is 100% complete with preconstruction activity, which will install sewer along OLDRD and Page Drive. Design phase is complete and ROW acquisition is being finalized. Construction will coincide with the widening project.
- John Wright Pocket Plan project was opened for bidding that will install a sewer force main extension along John

Wright Road. Working with low bidder on contract approval.

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, February 13th 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 agendas, therefore look for notices prior to each BOC 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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