

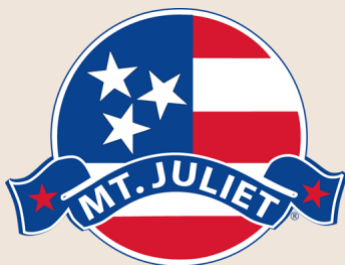
## MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



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# Jennifer Milele

## Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Our bluebirds successfully fledged, now we are waiting on a second brood. Congratulations to all graduates from kindergarten to college. Important dates in June are; US Flag Day June 14, US Army Birthday June 14, Father's Day June 18, Emancipation Day June 19, Alzheimer's Awareness Month, and National Men's Health Awareness Month. Happy summer everyone.

### UPCOMING

**1) Food & Flick nights:** The free annual family Food & Flick nights begin June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Charlie Daniels Park at the Amphitheater. These are monthly events through October hosted by MJ Parks. Bring your own chairs and/or blanket. Food trucks are available and the June 2<sup>nd</sup> movie will be Top Gun Maverick that begins at 8:30 pm. To see a monthly movie list and start times, you can [click here](#).

**2) MJ Animal Shelter clean-up:** On Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8 am - 1 pm, there is a volunteer clean-up day for the MJ Animal Shelter located at 115 Industrial Drive. There is landscaping work and painting to be done. Volunteers are welcome.

**3) MJ Farmers Market:** The Mt. Juliet Farmers Market on Charlie Daniels Pkwy. will now include vendor(s) and/or food truck(s) every Saturday morning 7 am - 1 pm.

**4) The Peach Truck:** The Peach Truck will be setup in Robinson Park (behind Dairy Queen on OLDRD) through August 5<sup>th</sup>.

**5) Concerts & Causes:** Every Thursday night at Burger Theory, located at 75 Belinda Pkwy. from 6-9 pm, there is a fundraising opportunity for charities hosted by Chris Austin and Krys Midgett. You will receive a discount on your meal by bringing donations for the specified charity. This week, the charity focus is the MJ Animal Shelter. Needed items are wet kitten/dog food, clumping cat litter, liquid laundry detergent, bleach, paper towels, and non-rawhide treats. Come hear amazing songwriters. If you know of a charity in need of donations and/or items for their cause, or a singer/songwriter who would like to perform please email [lifebetweenthelakesmj@gmail.com](mailto:lifebetweenthelakesmj@gmail.com).

**6) Ribbon Cutting for new fire station (repeat/update):** On Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm, the City will hold a Ribbon Cutting for the new MJ Fire Station (#2) on N. Greenhill Road, across from Greenhill High School. All are welcome.

**7) Dinner in the Vines (repeat/update):** Experience a taste of Italy right here in MJ on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-10 pm in MJ's only private vineyard located on Pleasant Grove Road. This is a

fundraising event to benefit The Joe Beretta Foundation, which is a local organization dedicated to meeting practical needs of advanced heart failure patients and their families. The event includes an Italian meal, music, silent auction, and wine selections. Tickets can be [purchased here](#).

**8) June 15<sup>th</sup> MJ Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:**

- **Verizon small cell network towers:** Verizon has submitted plans to add four small cell light poles with transmitting antennas around the area to be located at: 3001V Providence Pkwy.; 2012V Providence Pkwy.; 73V Belinda Pkwy.; 100V Providence Way. If you would like to see the plans for all four towers you can [click here](#).

**9) MJ Market Night (repeat/update):** The MJ Parks Department will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Market Night beginning on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> in Charlie Daniels Park from 6-9 pm. Included in these free Thursday events are food trucks, music, local businesses, and vendors, as well as a foam party and firetruck adventure for kids. This is the first of several Market Nights this summer, so bring the family. For (\$10) vendor and business registration you can [click here](#).

**10) Food truck Fridays:** Beginning Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Charlie Daniels Park, MJ Parks will host Food Truck Fridays each week until further notice between 5:30-7:30 pm. Bring the family and come have dinner in the park. Food trucks must be registered through the Parks Department.

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

- **Community Greenway Walk** is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. **We will meet at the train station and walk the Town Center Trail along W. Division.** The community is invited to join. The rainout date is July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **First Monday Dinner Walks** are held April-September each year on the first Monday of each month. We meet at MJ City Hall at 6 pm and walk to a designated location for dinner and then walk back. All are welcome.
- The **BPAC/Veloteers/Biker's Choice community bicycle rides** are held on the first Monday of each month during May-August. The rides depart Charlie Daniels Park at 6:30 pm and are open to the community. It is a 15- to 20-mile loop. All skilled cyclists are welcome.
- The MJ BPAC sponsors four events annually, **May, June, September, December.**

**12) Independence Day fireworks:** On July 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be one fireworks show located at Circle P Ranch on W. Division, co-hosted by Needham's Nursery and the City of MJ, and sponsored by the US Community Credit Union. This will be the largest fireworks show in Wilson County's history. Food trucks, live music, and inflatables will begin at 4 pm and the fireworks show will start at 9 pm.

**13) Family game nights:** Family game nights begin July 7<sup>th</sup> and will be held every Friday night through early November. Bring the family and play a wide variety of fun games from 5:30-8 pm, and eat dinner together from food trucks. This event will be held

inside the MJ Community Center in Room B, located in Charlie Daniels Parks. Family game nights are hosted by Grace UMC.

**14) Celebrate Mt. Juliet annual event (repeat/update):**

- On Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, MJ Parks Department will host the City's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebrate Mt. Juliet event in Charlie Daniels Park from 4-9 pm. There will be a Ferris wheel, plenty of vendors, live music, splash pad, Kool-Aid tasting, inflatables, food trucks, and car show. Bring the family for a day of fun. Rainout date is July 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **Ray Daniel Inaugural Cruise-in Car Show:** If you have a classic car you would like to show off at this year's Celebrate MJ event on July 15<sup>th</sup>, make sure to roll it in from 2-4 pm and show it from 4-9 pm. There is no registration. To see the flyer with details, you can [click here](#). The Ray Daniel Cruise-in is sponsored by Volunteer State Bank and Two Rivers Ford.

**15) Sips & Sounds of September (repeat/update):** Wilson Rides Inc. will hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sips & Sounds on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 pm at Rural Hill Farm located at 9400 Couchville Pike. All proceeds will benefit Wilson Rides and there will be live music, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction. Wilson Rides Inc., a 501c3 non-profit, provides seniors (55+) with transportation in Wilson County who no longer drive or seldom drive. Ticket ordering will go live the middle of May. Look for the link on their [website](#).

## UPDATES

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**1) Costco Wholesale (repeat/update):** The Costco plans were approved at 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by the MJ BOC on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ground breaking is expected to take place in August with an estimated opening in May '24. Costco will be located within Legacy Pointe on Rutland Drive on the westside of Golden Bear, just north of I-40.

**2) Food trucks:** The MJ BOC passed a 1<sup>st</sup> reading draft of a new food truck ordinance, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading will be in June. The primary reason for this ordinance is to allow food trucks, ice cream trucks, and canteen trucks into residential and industrial zoning. Whatever is approved at 2<sup>nd</sup> reading will be a trial period through December 31<sup>st</sup>, that would be reevaluated at that time. I personally think this is a wide-open door policy with very few limitations that will prove to be too overwhelming for the city to manage, even with new staff (over \$100,000) the city will hire. I proposed a manageable compromise that did not receive support.

**3) NOTICE for Belinda Pkwy. residents:** Please know it is against the law to put your limb debris in the median which is city property. That is considered dumping. The city has added more signs along the parkway and has begun notifying residents. The mowing crews cannot mow with piles of limbs in the median, nor do they have the ability to remove them. Limb debris needs to be next to the curb in your yard, without blocking the sidewalk if you have one in front of your house.

**4) Storm Water Utility (SWU) credits (repeat/update):** The MJ BOC approved the credit manual for the SWU. Credits are based on existing maintained storm water facilities up to 75%. These credits must be applied for whether residential, commercial, or industrial. To view the approved credit manual, you can [click here](#).

**5) New City Hall/Commercial project:** On Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> the MJ BOC voted to approve a non-binding MOU that basically moves the new downtown proposal forward to the next step. Also approved, was a cap of \$1 million for the design of a new City Hall. A new City Hall would be part of the newly proposed 7-acre project that includes commercial retail and office, with a residential apartment component in the back. The two options presented by the developers can be [viewed here](#).

**6) MJ City 22/23 Fiscal Budget:** On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the MJ BOC approved the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the next fiscal budget. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading will take place in June, prior to the official date of July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to read the proposed budget from 1<sup>st</sup> reading, you can [click here](#).

**7) MJPd Headquarters:** The Site Plan for the new headquarters was heard and approved by the MJ Planning Commission on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Ground breaking is expected early summer.

**8) Security alarm permits:** Just in case you did not know, the City requires all residents and businesses (within city limits) to register alarms and obtain a permit annually with MJPd. The permit can be obtained or renewed online or at police headquarters on Charlie Daniels Pkwy. Residential is \$10 and commercial \$25 per year, for each alarm. You can find more [details here](#).

**9) MJPd Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers:** (ALPR). May: 6 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that led to 5 arrests/apprehensions. All but one, were from out of county.

## **STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS**

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

**Three-way stop at Providence Trail/S. Rutland Road:** This project continues to be on pause waiting for Piedmont to move a gas line, which has been delayed several times to date. I did not receive the updated status report as of this posting. Please use caution around the sidewalks. This project is a part of the Waterford Park development. If you would like to see a rendering with added turn lanes, you can [click here](#).

**(NEW) Adams Lane:** Construction for the new Adams Lane rerouting should be completed the first part of July. After that, the second NB left turn lane on Adams/SMJRD will begin construction with an estimated timeline of two months, depending on weather.

**Beckwith Road:** Currently, all pre-construction phases are being funded by the city. The consultant contract was approved by

the MJ BOC in May to begin the design phase. This area of Beckwith Road is between I-40 and south to the four-way intersection at S. Rutland Road/Posey Hill Drive. There are plans to apply for grant funding to cover 80% of the construction costs.

**SMJRD widening:** ROW plans are finalized, with ROW acquisition anticipated to begin mid-year. Field work has begun for survey, with ongoing environmental phase, final design, and engineering. This TDOT project is 75% 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. Construction is estimated to begin in 2026, depending on if TDOT adds construction funding to their budget at that time.

**I-40/Central Pike Interchange:** TDOT phase is in surveying, environmental, 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. We are receiving very encouraging feedback from TDOT.

**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. Waiting for TDOT to fund the next phase. The city is attempting to get Phase 1 funded for NEPA and preliminary engineering. Phase 1 is potentially between I-40 and SMJRD. Project is 5% complete with preconstruction activity. MJ Public Works has begun the consultant selection process for engineering, with a contract expected to the BOC this summer.

**FDMJ north firehall:** Construction being finalized with a Ribbon Cutting planned for June 7<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. The location is next to Green Hill High School and is [complete with construction](#).

**MJPD new headquarters:** It is hopeful that groundbreaking will take place late-spring/early summer. If you would like to see the PowerPoint presentation you may find it [here](#).

**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 10% complete with construction activity. This project will be constructed along with the S. Greenhill Road roundabout.

**Town Center Trail Phase 3:** Design for the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10% complete with preconstruction activity.

**Hamilton-Denson Park:** Located on the south end of Tate Lane (off W. Division), the Phase 1 parking lot is receiving the final coat of asphalt. A Ribbon Cutting for the fields is planned for Spring/early summer. Construction is underway for the Phase 2 restrooms project and playground to be completed this summer.

**Lebanon Road sidewalks Phases 2 & 3:**

- Construction for Phase 2 is expected to begin this summer, and is currently 100% complete with preconstruction activity. Awaiting final approval from TDOT on bid documents. 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 75% complete with preconstruction activity and in final design. Environmental (NEPA) was approved. Construction is expected to start in 2024.

**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 preliminary design. NEPA has been submitted to TDOT for review.

**Signal improvements Phases 2 & 3:**

- Traffic signals along MJRD between Central Pike and Division will be undergoing improvements in Phase 2. Construction engineering and inspection agreement approved. Project includes installing fiber optic communication between each of the 13 signals (Central Pike to Division) that will connect to City Hall. The project will take about 18 months to complete.
- Phase 3 is 30% complete with preconstruction activity, which will extend from Curd Road to Lebanon Road, covering six signals. This project is in final design and NEPA finalized.

**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.



**GBG/Beckwith Road Interchange Lighting:** Contract between MJ City/TDOT to improve lighting at the interchange **was approved by the MJ BOC in May.**

**S. Greenhill Road roundabout:** Construction is underway and 10% complete. An estimated timeline would be 15-18 months 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. The City's sewer consultant is currently preparing design and drainage plans. Project is 90% complete with preconstruction activity. **The City has closed on 40% of the tracts for ROW acquisition.**

**Lebanon Road slip lane:** This project will be a right turn lane onto GBG at the southwest corner of Lebanon Road, that is waiting on the issuance of the grading permit by TDOT. Construction is likely to begin this spring/summer.

**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 by TDOT. **The City has allocated \$3 million for the new budget cycle to go toward TDOT's efforts, which is yet to be determined, in hopes of expediting the project.**

**Pleasant Grove Road widening and realignment:** This project remains a work in progress. 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. To see a map linked to the Resolution, you can [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 80% complete with preconstruction activity. ROW plans are finalized and ROW acquisition is expected to the BOC in this summer.

**E. Division Street widening:** The consultant has collected survey data to begin preliminary design, along with environmental technical studies. The project is 5% complete with preconstruction activity, and will include a 4-lane median divided roadway with multi-use paths on each side, from NMJRD to just east of GBG.

**Western Connector:** The BOC Resolution deciding where the connection will begin and end has been deferred indefinitely. Project is 10% complete with preconstruction activity.

**Sunset Drive widening:** This project is 70% with preconstruction activity, and in final design.

**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.
- Stoner Creek Interceptor Upsizing project has begun 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 is under construction.

**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 two BOC meetings in June are Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at City Hall.**

**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](mailto: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 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 option to do so on my website, or you can 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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