

JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

We have a second brood with three newly hatched bluebirds. I hope everyone is having a great summer. It is hot, so stay cool. Independence Day is July 4th, Buffalo Soldiers Day is July 28th and July is National Fireworks Safety Month. Stay safe this summer.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Fukutoku, will be having their ribbon cutting in July. They are located at 630 SMJRD. As of this posting, they have not posted an exact date, but did say July.

Music City Polish Pottery, will be having their Grand Opening July 14th. They are located at 3580 NMJRD.

UPCOMING

1) Independence Day fireworks:

- On [July 4th](#), 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. Come celebrate our independence.
- [MJ City Fireworks Code](#): If you are shooting your own fireworks, please remember July 5th is the last day to buy or sell fireworks inside the city limits and they cannot be discharged between the hours of 10 pm and 10 am. To read further details you can [click here](#).

2) Pickleball meeting: If you play pickleball anywhere in MJ, please make plans to attend a townhall meeting on Thursday, July 6th at 6 pm in the gym of the MJ Community Center. MJ Parks Director will be going over etiquette and rules of the courts.

3) Kids Fun Day in the Park: Bring the family to Charlie Daniels Park on Saturday, July 8th from 1-3 pm for a day of fun. This is a free event sponsored by Church Alive. There will be games, crafts, snow cones, and kids' activities at the amphitheater.

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

- On Saturday, July 15th, MJ Parks will host the City's 2nd 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 16th.
- 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 15th, 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.

5) July 20th MJ Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:

- **Beckwith Point:** The final plat for the 75 acres between Belinda Pkwy. and I-40 will be on the agenda, to consist of three warehouses, including a new road connecting Summit Blvd. and Belinda Pkwy. (across from Meadowview Drive.

6) Pickleball tournament benefiting True Rescue: On Saturday, July 22, Ellie's MJ Pickleball Classic will benefit True Rescue Animal Shelter. The tournament will be at Charlie Daniels Park from 8 am - 2 pm, although start time may change as it gets closer. All skill levels are invited to participate and food trucks will be available as well. To register for the tournament, you can [click here](#). True Rescue is a non-profit charity organization located at 12110 Lebanon Road in MJ. To volunteer, donate, or just find out more information about True Rescue, you can [find it here](#).

7) Sales Tax Holidays: Two sales tax holidays are coming up:

- **July 28th-July 30th** on clothing/school supplies/computers
- **August-October** on food and food ingredients

8) MJ Special Census: There will be a city-wide (city limits) census around August and last for approximately four-six months. After which, the results will be submitted to the State prior to their deadline. It is important to remember that no personal information is required other than your name(s) and address. This information is NOT shared and your participation benefits all residents and our community. Not participating causes us to lose out on entitled revenues/resources because of growth and its impacts. Local benefits for our community can include upkeep of roads, new roads, public services like EMS, police, fire, parks, public works and general infrastructure. Once the census begins, please complete yours and return it as soon as possible.

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

- **Walk Run Roll** is scheduled for Sunday, September 17th from 2-4 pm at Mundy Park. We will meet under the pavilion on the hill. There will be a bike giveaway for ages 12 and under, sponsored by Friends of BPAC and provided by Biker's Choice. The community is invited to either walk, run, or roll. The rainout date is September 24th.
- **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.

UPDATES

1) Ava's Splash Pad new schedule: Effective immediately on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the hours of 10-11 am each week will be designated for ages four and under. Ava's Splash Pad will be closed on July 4th.

2) Landscaping berm at Mundy Park: Because of the revisions of the detention pond in Mundy Park a few months ago, several trees had to be removed. There will be a new landscaping berm with new trees planted to help create a buffer between the interstate and residents.

3) BJ's Wholesale opening: As of right now, BJ's is planning for an October opening. BJ's, under construction, is located on the corner of Adams Lane (new) and Providence Pkwy.

4) Food trucks (repeat/update): The MJ BOC will hold the 2nd reading of a new food truck ordinance on Monday, July 10th. 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 2nd reading will be a trial period through December 31st, 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 very manageable compromise that did not receive support.

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

6) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 3.76% over May 2022. Keep shopping local and you help fund MJPD, FDMJ, road improvements/projects, and much more.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

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

Three-way stop at Providence Trail/S. Rutland Road: Piedmont Gas did get the gas line moved. The contractor of Waterford Park will resume construction on the three-way after July 4th. Please use caution around the sidewalks. 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, depending on weather. 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. Consultant survey work has begun. 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 TDOT 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. [A consultant has been selected by the city](#), with a contract expected to the BOC this summer.

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 will connect Charlie Daniels Park to Lebanon Road, [and the grant was approved. Currently in the consultant selection process.](#) 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 [30%](#) 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. 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 [paving is complete](#). A Ribbon Cutting for the fields is planned for Spring/early summer. The phase 2 restrooms and playground project is under construction, 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. [Bid opening is planned for July 12th](#). 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 80% complete with preconstruction activity, [and is currently in ROW acquisition phase](#). 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. [Waiting for construction fund obligation from TDOT/FHWA](#). 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 was approved](#).

Traffic signal at NMJRD/Curd Road: [Because of the potential city hall project, funding allotted for this project has been reassigned to other projects. There is no longer a signal planned for Curd Road / NMJRD.](#)

Traffic signal on GBG and Volunteer Blvd.: This signal project on Golden Bear Gateway is 100% complete with preconstruction activity and in final design stage, awaiting final approval from TDOT to approve bid documents. Construction is set to begin this summer.

Traffic signal at E. Division/GBG: Installation for this (Amazon contribution) signal is expected this spring/summer. [Bid opening to begin July 12th](#).

GBG/Beckwith Road Interchange Lighting: Contract between MJ City/TDOT to improve lighting at the interchange was finalized and TDOT to begin design soon.

S. Greenhill Road roundabout: Construction is underway and 30% 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 50% 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): Project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity, [waiting for TDOT to fund the ROW phase](#). 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, [and performing preliminary design and NEPA phases](#). 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. [Also performing utility deconfliction](#).

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 [75%](#) with preconstruction activity, and [working with utilities on relocation](#).

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 July are Monday, July 10th and Monday, July 24th 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. 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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