

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Our second brood of bluebirds fledged successfully, and we have welcomed our teachers back to school and showed them some love and support. It is hard to believe school is back in session already. August 4th is U.S. Coast Guard Birthday; August 21st is National Senior Citizens Day; and August 29th is Marine Corp Reserve Birthday. I wish everyone a safe and successful school year.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Play it Again Sports, will be coming to Valley Center located at 1315 NMJRD (next to Planet Fitness). The targeted opening is September.

Fred Astaire Dance Studio, will be coming to Valley Center located at 1273 NMJRD. They should be opening about October.

TJ's Pizza, has moved to the City Center next to Sweet CeCe's located at 1720 NMJRD. They should be opening during August.

Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery, in Providence Marketplace, is planning on an August opening.

UPCOMING

1) 2023 Grocery Tax Holiday: During the months of August, September, and October, food and food ingredients are exempt from sales tax. For more details you can find them [here](#). Please shop local.

2) Concerts & Causes: Every Thursday night at the Paper Mill there are fundraising opportunities for local charities from 6-9 pm. Each week features a different charity along with live music hosted by Krys Midgett and Olivia West, with the sound being provided by Shiloh Music. On August 3rd, the charity focus is a local woman who lost everything in a house fire. If you are a singer/songwriter or a local charity who is interested in participating, you can send an [email here](#). The Paper Mill is located at 4066 NMJRD.

3) August 17th MJ Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:

- **Lifestyle Communities (LC) MJ II:** After months of deferrals, a Land Use Amendment, Annexation and Rezone for a 60+-acre mixed-use/multifamily plan (655 units) has been resubmitted. This plan would include The Goat restaurant, townhomes (rental) and apartments. The location is 7800 Central Pike which is currently in the county. If you would like to see the submitted plan you can [click here](#).
- **Smart property:** (SW Cook Road off Central Pike) After months of deferrals, a Land Use Amendment, Annexation and Rezone for a mixed-use development that would include townhomes (for sale) and single-

family homes on 110 acres, currently in the county, has been resubmitted. If you would like to see the plan, you can [click here](#). (note: their updated plan would not upload, so this plan is one of their previous ones, but it hasn't changed significantly).

- **Downtown City Block:** A preliminary 7-acre plan has been submitted for a downtown project that would include a new City Hall, retail, office, and multi-family, along with underground parking. This is located between E. Hill Street and E. Caldwell Street, facing NMJRD, and is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) partnership with private developers. If you would like to see the submitted plan you can [click here](#).
- **Rolling Ridge:** After a May deferral, a plan has been resubmitted for a 23-acre retail frontage/townhome (for sale) project to be located on Beckwith Road and S. Rutland Road (two entrances) that would include a Land Use Amendment and Rezone. If you would like to see the submitted plan you can [click here](#).

4) MJ Special Census (repeat/update): 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.

5) MJPD Headquarters groundbreaking: The groundbreaking for the new MJPD Headquarters is currently planned for Friday, September 1st at 10 am. The location is in front of the current headquarters on Charlie Daniels Pkwy. All are welcome.

6) CraftFare Before Christmas: On Saturday, September 9 from 10 am - 4 pm, MJ Crafts & Vendor Fair presents CraftFare Before Christmas at Charlie Daniels Park. There will be lots of vendors available, painting, live music and food trucks. Bring the family and help the non-profit toy drive, [Give a Little Christmas](#), that brings Christmas gifts to families who need temporary assistance in Wilson County and beyond.

7) 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 MJ BPAC and provided by Biker's Choice. The community is invited to either walk, run, or roll. The rainout date is September 24th.
- 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

pm and are open to the community. It is a 15- to 20-mile loop. All skilled cyclists are welcome.

8) Pickleball tournament benefiting MJ Animal Shelter: MJ Parks is looking to host a pickleball tournament benefiting the MJ Animal Shelter on Saturday, October 7th. The tournament will be at Charlie Daniels Park and is in the planning process, so watch for details. The MJ Animal Shelter, located at 115 Industrial Drive, has a non-profit 501C.3 called MJ Animal Shelter Volunteer Organization and you can find out more information by [clicking here](#).

UPDATES

1) Ava's Splash Pad fall schedule: Beginning August until the end of the season, Ava's Splash Pad will only be opened on Saturdays and Sundays. The hours are: Saturdays 10-11 am (4 years and under only); Saturdays 11 am - 6 pm; and Sundays 1-5 pm.

2) New FDMJ Fire Chief: We are happy to announce the hiring of our new MJ Fire Chief, Mark Foulks. Chief Foulks brings 30 years of experience to the MJ Fire Department. He has been Chief of Murfreesboro Fire Rescue, Fire Chief of Greeneville Fire Department, and Assistant Chief of the Knoxville Fire Department. Welcome Chief Foulks.

3) New pickleball class/open play: MJ Parks has added a new class for beginners on Fridays from 6-7:30 pm in the gym of MJ Community Center located in Charlie Daniels Park. This class is for people who are unable to attend the beginner day classes on Wednesdays. Also, the gym is now open on Sunday afternoons from 1-4:30 pm that is open play for all skill levels through October 15th. Note: to play in the gym, you must be a Wilson County resident. In addition, the MJ Parks Board voted to permanently stripe another tennis court for pickleball at Charlie Daniels Park, which will be in the coming weeks. **Note:** tennis players have precedence over the tennis courts, which means they do not have to wait on courts because of pickleball players.

4) Storm debris clean-up: Because we have had so many storms lately, there is a Volunteer Network group that is helping with the clean-up effort, but they also need volunteers. If you need help with clean-up and/or would like to volunteer your time in the effort, you can sign up by [clicking here](#).

5) MJ City Fireworks Code: During July, the MJ Board of Commissioners unanimously passed code revisions regarding new fireworks policies inside the city limits. New hours to buy, sell and/or use fireworks during the July 4th holiday and New Year's holiday are as follows. In addition, there are revisions for firework tents and vendors for selling fireworks. For details you can contact the codes department at 615-773-6225:

- **4th of July:** To buy, sell, or use fireworks, the new dates are June 28th to July 5th. The hours to use fireworks are 2-10 pm only during these dates.

- **New Year's Eve:** To buy, sell, or use fireworks, the new dates are December 26th to January 1st. The hours to use fireworks during these dates are 2-10 pm, with the allowed exception of two hours before midnight on December 31st and two hours after midnight on January 1st.

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

7) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 4.45% over this time last year. 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:

Construction is underway. There will not be lane closures during school hours, only between the hours of 8:15 am and 1:45 pm. Public Works will be doing a traffic study to determine whether or not to allow the contractor to do another lane closure at 3:15 pm. Please use caution around the sidewalks. If you would like to see a rendering with added turn lanes, you can [click here](#).

Mundy Park playground/workout station: Construction bidding has gone out for two projects in Mundy Park: the playground expansion and the workout station expansion.

(NEW) Adams Lane: The rerouting of Adams Lane, connecting to Providence Pkwy., has been completed and is now open. The second NB left turn lane on Adams/SMJRD is next and will begin construction soon 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: The MJ BOC approved the consultant contract to start the design process. 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: Currently, the groundbreaking is scheduled for Friday, September 1st at 10 am. If you would like to see the PowerPoint presentation you may find it [here](#).

Mundy Park: Phase 2, which consists of the playground expansion, is set for construction in August. I do not have a timeline at this point. In addition, the outdoor workout station will be getting an upgrade expansion as well.

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. For Phase 2, [the restrooms are now complete](#) and the [playground project is waiting on TDEC approval before continuing](#). A Ribbon Cutting for the fields is planned for [late summer/early fall](#).

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 was in July. 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 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 began in July.

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 **and is halfway completed**.
- 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 August are Monday, August 14th and Monday, August 28th 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 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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