

## AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER



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# Jennifer Milele

## Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Fall arrives this month that will bring in the beauty of the colorful leaves. We have been enjoying the hummingbirds feeding outside the kitchen window. It is harvest time, so please support our local farmers. September 4<sup>th</sup> is Labor Day; the 11<sup>th</sup> is Patriot Day; the 17<sup>th</sup> is Constitution Day; the 18<sup>th</sup> is US Air Force/Air National Guard birthdays; the 28<sup>th</sup> is National Voter Registration Day. Please make sure you are registered to vote, and have a great Labor Day weekend everyone.

### **NEW BUSINESSES:**

**Five Below**, will be moving into Providence Commons this fall at 655 SMJRD (previously Tuesday Morning).

**Natural Comfort Footwear**, will be coming to Charlie's Place located at 2232 NMJRD. It is expected this fall.

**Andy's Frozen Custard**, is looking to open next to The Papermill at 4066 NMJRD. I do not have a timeline as of yet.

**Nicoletto's Pasta Company**, is looking to open at 4041 NMJRD. I do not have a timeline as of yet.

**Cinnaholic**, is looking to open a location on the Southeast corner at E. Division and NMJRD. I do not have a timeline as of yet.

**Starbucks**, is looking to open a location on the Southeast corner at E. Division and NMJRD. I do not have a timeline as of yet.

### **UPCOMING**

**1) Ava's Splash Pad:** Ava's Splash Pad in Charlie Daniels Park is now closed for the season.

**2) Mundy Park closure:** Mundy Park will be closed for three days during September for parking lot paving. Football/cheer, pickleball, tennis, pavilion, playground, workout station, and walking trail will all be closed during this time. As of this time, we are still waiting on a start date from Rose Paving. Please watch for notices.

**3) Vintage Wine & Spirits benefit:** On Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 pm, Vintage Wine & Spirits will be hosting a Bourbon & Wine Tasting to benefit the [MJ Help Center](#). They are located at 15255 Lebanon Road. Tickets are \$100 that will include food from local restaurants and tasty samples of wine, spirits, and beer from some of the best producers in the world. There also will be a silent auction. For more details and ticket ordering, you can [click here](#). The MJ Help Center is the oldest and most active food bank in MJ. They are a non-profit charity organization dedicated to providing temporary and emergency food, utility, and clothing, located at 3425B NMJRD. To help in other ways, you can visit their website [here](#).

**4) CraftFare Before Christmas (repeat/update):** 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.

**5) MJ Community Health & Wellness Fair:** Join MJ City and US Community Credit Union for a community-wide health and wellness fair on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm in the MJ Community Center. There will be an array of health and wellness booths that provide valuable insights to overcome health challenges while improving physical fitness, financial well-being, and nutrition.

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

- [Walk Run Roll](#) is scheduled for Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 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. [There will also be a StoryWalk for young kids](#). The community is invited to either walk, run, or roll. The rainout date is September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 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.

**7) Fall Community Yard Sale:** Mt. Juliet Parks is hosting the 2023 Fall Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 8 am - 1 pm at Charlie Daniels Park. Registration for vendors is open at \$20 per booth and will end on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. The Arc truck will also be on-site for donation pickups. To register for a booth, you can [click here](#).

**8) Pickleball tournament benefiting MJ Animal Shelter**

**(repeat/update):** MJ Parks is hosting CedarStone Bank [Pickles for Pups](#) pickleball tournament, benefiting the [MJ Animal Shelter](#), on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. The tournament will take place at Charlie Daniels Park beginning at 7 am. Registration is capped at 150, so submit yours as soon as possible. Registration is \$50 per person and you can [register here](#). 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](#).

**9) 2023 Grocery Tax Holiday (repeat/update):** 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.

**10) 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.

## UPDATES

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**1) MJPD:** The groundbreaking ceremony for the new headquarters took place Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. This much-needed new headquarters will be an important addition for the safety of our citizens, as our Mt. Juliet Police Department continues to do what they do best. It is located in front of the current headquarters on Charlie Daniels Pkwy.

**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) Open records policy:** The BOC recently approved updates to the City's open records policy to align with the State. To see the Resolution, you can [click here](#).

**4) WCS policy:** The BOC recently approved the adoption of a policy with the Wilson County School System. The objectives of the policy shall be to ensure the schools can accommodate the proposed developments being requested inside the city limits of MJ, and establishes the responsibilities of the WCS System. It would require a representative from the WCS System to participate in the City's Technical Review Committee to verify the growth as presented by development, and provide a letter of accommodation for each development indicating whether or not they can accommodate the proposed growth. If you would like to read the Resolution, you can [click here](#).

**5) Breweries in Commercial Zoning:** The BOC recently approved at 1<sup>st</sup> reading to permit breweries/microbreweries in select commercial districts within the city limits. If you would like to read the Ordinance as approved, you can [click here](#).

**6) MJPD promotions:** City Manager, Kenny Martin announced on September 1<sup>st</sup>, promotions to come after MJ Police Chief James Hambrick retires in December. Deputy Chief Mike Mullins will become Chief, and Captain Tyler Chandler will become Deputy Chief. Congratulations to them all.

**7) MJ City sales tax revenues:** Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 7% 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

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

### **Three-way stop at Providence Trail/S. Rutland Road:**

Construction is underway. When the gas company moved their line recently, they discovered a section of another line on the northside needed to be moved for safety reasons. They have been asked to expedite the second line, so again we are waiting on them to start that project. 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:** Phase 2, which consists of the playground expansion, is out for bid. In addition, the outdoor workout station will be getting an upgrade expansion, and is out for bid as well.

**(NEW) Adams Lane:** The second NB left turn lane on Adams/SMJRD is under construction with an estimated timeline of two months, depending on weather.

**Beckwith Road:** Currently, all pre-construction phases are being funded by the city and is 5% complete. Consultant survey work has begun and currently performing a traffic analysis for quick start improvements at the fourway. 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. TDOT ROW is in the early stage of acquisition, and utility relocation coordination. 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. Project is 5% complete with preconstruction activity. The city is attempting to get Phase 1 funded for NEPA and preliminary engineering. Phase 1 is potentially between I-40 and SMJRD. A consultant has been selected by the city with a contract expected to the BOC soon. Phase 2 is from I-40 and OHB.

**MJPD new headquarters:** The groundbreaking was held on September 1<sup>st</sup>. It is located in front of the current headquarters on Charlie Daniels Pkwy. 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 60% 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. [Currently in preliminary design, and NEPA studies under TDOT review](#). Project is 20% 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 [fall](#).

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

- [The construction bid for Phase 2 was approved by the BOC and construction is set to begin](#). This includes both sides of Lebanon Road from NMJRD to Park Glen, including a portion of Park Glen. [Completion is expected around June '24](#).
- Phase 3 will be between Nonaville Road and Green Hill High School and is 90% complete with preconstruction activity, and is currently in ROW acquisition phase. [NEPA and final design are complete](#). 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 approved by TDOT](#).

**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 grant-funded project was approved by TDOT. Bid opening is scheduled this month.

**Traffic signal at E. Division/GBG:** Installation for this (Amazon contribution) signal is in preconstruction planning and a contractor has been selected. The contractor is ordering signal equipment and has until May '24 to complete the project.

**GBG/Beckwith Road Interchange Lighting:** Contract between MJ City/TDOT to improve lighting at the interchange was finalized and TDOT has begun design. Project is 5% complete with preconstruction activity.

**S. Greenhill Road roundabout:** Construction is underway and 60% complete. Completion is expected around June '24. 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 70% of the tracts for ROW acquisition.

**Lebanon Road slip lane:** This project is a right turn lane onto GBG at the southwest corner of Lebanon Road is under construction and nearing completion.

**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 in the early stage of acquisition. Also performing utility deconfliction.

**E. Division Street widening:** The consultant is performing traffic analysis and the planning study report, along with environmental technical studies. The project is 10% 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. **Design is complete.**

**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:** To save you the time and effort, I provide a list of various updates for your convenience. The information listed is reflected on the city website and is updated each month, as referenced here [Capital Projects Selector](#) and [Development Tracker](#).

## **MJ BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS**

**The two BOC meetings in August are Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and Monday, September 25<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. It is an honor serving you and being your citizen advocate.

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