

SEPTEMBER 2023  
NEWSLETTER



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# Jennifer Milele

## Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Fall is in the air and temperatures are beginning to slowly drop. Fall break for Wilson County Schools is October 2<sup>nd</sup> thru October 11<sup>th</sup>, which also includes no students because of Teacher Professional Development Day. October 13<sup>th</sup> is US Navy Day; October 27<sup>th</sup> is National Civics Day; October 28<sup>th</sup> is National First Responders Day. Mental Illness Awareness Week is October 3-9; National Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Have a safe Halloween.

### **NEW BUSINESSES:**

**Maniacs**, has a planned opening during October. They are located at 2236 NMJRD (behind Jeremiah's Italian Ice).

**Leon's Famous Deli**, has a planned opening the end of October. They are located at 2240 NMJRD (behind Jeremiah's Italian Ice).

**BJ's Wholesale**, had hoped for an October opening, but due to complications they are now saying Black Friday. BJ's Wholesale is located on Providence Central on the corner of Adams Lane and Providence Pkwy.

**Nido's**, is an indoor play space for ages five and under, located at 13260 Lebanon Road. They have new hours beginning in October, Monday-Saturday from 8 am - 2 pm, and will extend to 4 pm once the weather gets cooler.

### **UPCOMING**

**1) Mundy Park closure:** Due to the weather last week, Mundy Park will be closed for three days again this week for paving, on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. I am not sure at this point, if it will open Friday evening or not.

**2) Providence Pumpkin Bash:** On Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at Providence Marketplace, bring the family for a morning of fall fun in front of Regal Theater. From 10 am - 1 pm, there will be music, games, face painting, free ice cream, and more.

**3) A DOGgone Good OLD Time:** Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary will be holding their 6<sup>th</sup> annual event in Charlie Daniels Park on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 3 pm. There will be dogs, vendors, food trucks, lawn games, live music, photo backdrop, and more. Bring your pups and the family for a doggone good time.

### **4) 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. [The registration DEADLINE is](#)

Tuesday (October 3<sup>rd</sup>) at midnight, and 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](#).

**5) MJ Safety Night:** On Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at the amphitheater in Charlie Daniels Park, you and your family are invited to a special evening of community, connection, and safety awareness. From 5-6 pm, there will be a Sensory Hour to comfortably engage with our first responders and explore the equipment, followed by the main event from 6-9 pm. Volunteer Bank will provide hotdogs, chips, and drinks for the evening. This is a unique opportunity to meet the dedicated first responders who serve our community. Please come out and show your support. For questions, you may contact Sgt. Kimbrough through [email](#).

**6) 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Veterans Tribute Ride:** Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Dixie Belle & Friends Veterans Tribute Ride and Dukes Backyard Bash Music Festival in Charlie Daniels Park. Registration (\$20 each) is from 9 am- (KSU) 11 am, and benefits The Journey Home Project. There will be an escorted ride (return at 1 pm), food, vendors, kids play area, silent auction, music, custom car and bike show, the 2024 American Outlaw Customz Calendar girls, and more. Music artists will play all day and the event itself is from 1-9 pm. Tickets are \$20 each and kids under 12 are free. A \$20 ticket will get you in the drawing for a 2009 Honda motorcycle with custom ghost flame paint and tour bags. The drawing will be at 9:05 pm after the show. The Journey Home Project provides Veterans Services and you can order [tickets here](#).

**7) October 19<sup>th</sup> MJ Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:**

- **McDonalds:** McDonalds has submitted plans for relocation at 1395 NMJRD, from their current location at the BP on NMJRD.
- **Mekong Grill & Noodle Restaurant:** Construction plans have been submitted for Mekong Grill & Noodle Restaurant located at 3126 NMJRD.

**8) Spaghetti Days 2023:** This year's Jacque Benton Memorial Spaghetti Days at the MJ Senior Center will be Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, and is sponsored by the MJ Breakfast Rotary Club. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased by calling 615-758-9114, or from the reception desk at the Senior Center, located at 2034 NMJRD. For more details, you can see the advertised flyer by [clicking here](#).

**9) Halloween in the Park:** One of MJ's biggest events will be on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> in Charlie Daniels Park from 11 am - 3 pm. During Halloween in the Park, there will be costume contests, a foam party, petting zoo, Gelly Ballz, food trucks, hay rides, inflatables, vendors, LOTS of candy, and a haunted surprise. Bring the family for an exciting day of Spooktacular fun.

**10) Indoor Yard Sale:** On Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the MJ Senior Center will hold their Indoor Yard Sale from 8 am - 1 pm at 2034 NMJRD.

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

- **Christmas Lights Walk** is scheduled for Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Bring the family for a magical night walking through Willoughby Station off S. Greenhill Road. More details to follow.

**12) MJ Special Census (repeat/update):** The **official kickoff** for a city-wide (city limits) census **will be the first part of October**, 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. Please complete yours and return it as soon as possible. **For those who complete their portion online, will qualify for a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to be held November/December. For those who do not submit online, will receive a postage paid mailer for the remaining residents during fall/winter 2023. Providing the information online or by mailer before November 15<sup>th</sup>, will eliminate contact from a special census representative coming to your door. Please help support your city.**

**13) Adopt a Shelter Dog Month:** If you are considering adopting a dog, October is a good time since October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month. Please consider the Mt. Juliet Animal Shelter, and in addition, here is a wish list of items that can be donated. Mt. Juliet Animal Shelter, located at 115 Industrial Drive, helps provide homes for abandoned, lost, and stray animals that are in their care, as well as educate the community in humane treatment of animals, and maintain a low euthanasia facility. To find out more, you can click here.

**14) 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.

## **UPDATES**

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**1) New lights at CDP:** New lighting is being installed around the pickleball courts in Charlie Daniels Park. Players will be able to play during the evening hours very soon.

**2) Downtown/City Hall proposal:** Mayor Maness and I co-sponsored a public workshop to discuss the city hall portion of a development proposal on 7+ acres between E. Hill Street and E. Caldwell Street, where MJ City Hall is currently located. My hope was to explore all options of a possible location, and discuss

whether or not a new city hall is justified at this time. I am not sure much was accomplished during the workshop, but the second reading will take place at the next MJ BOC meeting on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **3) Pickleball classes & open play:**

- If you would like to learn how to play pickleball, the MJ Community Center has two options available for beginner classes: Wednesdays 1-3 pm, and Fridays 6-7:30 pm.
- If you are looking for somewhere to play indoors, there is open play for all skill levels available on Sundays from 1-4:30 pm, through the end the end of October for the basketball season.
- You must be a resident of Wilson County to play inside the MJ Community Center.

**4) Breweries in Commercial Zoning (repeat/update):** 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 Amendment as approved, you can [click here](#). *Second reading has been deferred twice in order to explore examples of large-scale breweries and small-scale microbreweries in the Middle Tennessee area. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Ordinance Amendment is rescheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

**5) Belinda City culvert replacements:** There are three culvert replacements within Belinda City that have been included in the Storm Water Utility budget. They were all sent out for bid, although none were received. Rebidding will occur in the coming weeks. The locations are Belinda Pkwy., SE Springdale, and Sunnymead.

**6) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers:** (ALPR). *September:* 1 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that led to 1 arrests/apprehensions. Suspect/missing person were from out of county.

**7) MJ City sales tax revenues:** Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 8.65% 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. 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.

**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:** The consultant is currently developing a planning report for the corridor, which determines what the roadway typical section needs to be based on future traffic projections. In addition, they are also evaluating and designing for a quick start project at the fourway intersection to make temporary turn lane improvements. This area of Beckwith Road is between I-40 and south to the four-way intersection at S. Rutland Road/Posey Hill Drive. Currently, all pre-construction phases are being funded by the city and is 5% complete. 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 40% 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 between I-40 and SMJRD. Consultant firm was approved by the MJ BOC. The City funding the engineering will likely save many years on the ultimate completion of the project. The Phase 2 TDOT project will be from I-40 to OHB.

**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. *Costs are being evaluated for playground fencing and field lighting.* A Ribbon Cutting for the fields is planned during the fall season.

**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 RJ Corman to approve agreement to cross the railroad.* 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 has been accepted and approved, with construction to follow.*

**Traffic signal at E. Division/GBG:** Installation for this (Amazon contribution) signal is *currently in the construction phase.* 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 66 of the 90](#) 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 [now complete and open, and minor improvements will be made](#).

**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:** 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. [The City has terminated the consultant contract due to the design staff leaving the firm, and a new consultant will be selected soon](#). 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 the consultant is also performing utility deconfliction.

**E. Division Street widening:** The consultant, along with performing environmental technical studies, [has collected the survey data and traffic data, and is currently developing the planning report for the whole corridor, which determines what the roadway typical section needs to be based on future traffic projections. In addition, they are currently designing a quick start project at the intersection of NMJRD and E. Division Street, which includes turn lane improvements](#). 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**

**Due to Columbus Day, there will only be one MJ BOC meeting held in October, which will be Monday, October 23<sup>rd</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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