

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



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Get ready because the holiday season is upon us. Where has this year gone! Remember Daylights Savings Time ends on November 5th; USMC Birthday is November 10th; Veterans Day is November 11th; Thanksgiving is November 23rd; and Small Business Saturday is November 25th. Keep those non-profits in mind for Giving Tuesday on November 28th. November is Veterans and Military Family Month, and Child Safety and Protection Month. Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Scenthound, is a new dog hygiene and wellness care located at 650 SMJRD in Suite #110. Scenthound offers basic hygiene and grooming needs for dogs.

Hawaii Fluid Art, has opened in Providence Marketplace next to Bath & Body Works at 401 SMJRD. Hawaii Fluid Art is a family-friendly place to create with classes for all ages, 2+.

Arby's, has plans to reopen with a Ribbon Cutting by the end of the month.

UPCOMING

1) 14th Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair: On Saturday, November 4th from 9 am - 1 pm, Dell Webb is holding their annual arts & crafts fair at the clubhouse located at 1100 Dell Webb Blvd. (off S. Rutland Road). The event is free and open to the public with over 40 vendors.

2) Concerts & Causes: The next benefit for Concerts & Causes will be on Thursday, November 9th from 6-9 pm benefitting the American Legion Tyler Cates #281 Mt. Juliet. The free monthly charity benefits are held at The Paper Mill, located at 4066 NMJRD. There will be music, door prizes, and a chance to win your Veteran's inscription on the MJ Veterans Wall of Honor to be located at the Clock Tower Plaza. Sponsors include Shiloh Music, The Paper Mill, and Life Between The Lakes Magazine.

3) 4th Annual Voices 4 Veterans: Operation Song® and Voices 4 Veterans is holding the 4th Annual Voices 4 Veterans for Songwriters Round on Saturday, November 11th from 4-8 pm at Tru By Hilton located at 1977 Providence Pkwy. Advance tickets are \$25 that includes food, or \$30 at the door. You can purchase [tickets here](#). There also will be a live auction, silent auction, cash bar, and merchandise for sale. Live and silent auctions include a guitar signed by Dolly Parton. All proceeds from this fundraiser goes to Operation Song® to further support its efforts in helping our Nation's veterans. To find out more about Operation Song® you can [click here](#).

4) 11th Annual Home for the Holidays: MJ Parks is hosting the 11th Annual Home for the Holidays on November 11th from 10 am - 4

pm at the MJ Community Center in Charlie Daniels Park. The largest vendor/craft fair in the community is free and there will be music, over 80 vendors, and food trucks. Santa will also be there from 11 am - 2 pm for visits and free photo opportunities.

5) November 16th MJ Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:

- **225 S. Rutland Road:** There has been a Plat submitted with the intention of creating two lots. This property is outside MJ City Limits in the county. To see the Plat you can [click here](#).
- **SW Cook Road:** 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. The location is south of Central Pike between, SMJRD and I-40. If you would like to see the plan, you can [click here](#).

6) Tree Lighting Ceremony: On Saturday, November 18th from 11 am - 6:30 pm, there will be a tree lighting ceremony at The Christmas Place located at 2250 NMJRD. There also will be photo opportunities with Santa.

7) Holiday Helping Hands: Jesus Provisions Ministry in MJ will be providing 100 families Thanksgiving meals on Saturday, November 18th and the community's help is needed. To see a list of needed items or to help by donation, you can [click here](#). JPM is a 100% non-profit 501c3. To find out more about the ministry, you can [click here](#).

8) Christmas Across Mt. Juliet Contest: The 4th Annual Christmas/Holiday lights contest is in the planning stage with the MJ Parks Board. Get your lights and decorations ready and watch for announcements.

9) Storytime with Santa: Bring the family to Providence Marketplace on Saturday, December 2nd from 2-5 pm for holiday fun. There will be a special storytime at 2 pm, then crafts projects, visits with Santa, face painting, music, hot cocoa bar, and cookie decorating. The event will take place at Cinema Circle (in front of Regal) at 401 SMJRD. Please consider bringing a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to Toys for Tots.

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

- **Christmas Lights Walk** is scheduled for Monday, December 4th at 6 pm. Bring the family for a magical night walking through Willoughby Station off S. Greenhill Road. To see the flyer, you can [click here](#). We will meet in the parking lot at 1326 Sydney Terrace, have music, snacks, and hot chocolate before the walk. The community is welcome to join the walk and festivities.

11) MJ Christmas Parade: The 2023 Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 9th at 11 am, and the theme will be "Tennessee Christmas," with MJPD Chief Hambrick being the Grand Marshal. The rainout date is scheduled for December 17th.

12) Inaugural JBF Winter Classic: MJ's Joe Beretta Foundation is hosting their inaugural indoor pickleball tournament on December 29th and 30th at the Farm Bureau Exposition Center located at 945 E. Baddour Pkwy. in Lebanon. You can [register here](#) for this fundraising event that will benefit The Joe Beretta Foundation. TJBf is a local non-profit in MJ dedicated to meeting practical needs of advanced heart failure patients and providing their families with emergency housing and emotional support and stability. To find out more about TJBf you can [click here](#).

13) MJ Special Census (repeat/update): The MJ City Census has officially launched, and will 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 prizes to be given away during weekly drawings through February. Bigger prizes will be available during Christmas time.](#) 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 15th, will eliminate contact from a special census representative coming to your door. Please help support your city. [If any places of business would like to donate prizes for the drawings, please contact the city. Please note, this special city census has nothing to do with the 2020 Federal Census.](#)

UPDATES

1) MJ Burn Ban: The fire burn ban the MJ Fire Department issued on October 27th, has now been [lifted](#) as of Monday, in case you didn't see the notice. The Ban was only inside MJ City Limits.

2) Three-way intersection: As you know, the three-way intersection that is coming at Providence Trail and S. Rutland Road has been delayed once again, waiting for a second gas line to be moved by Piedmont Gas. It appears Piedmont Gas is waiting to be paid by Beazer. Once paid, it will be several weeks before Piedmont starts moving the line. I know this is very frustrating for everyone, but the city has no recourse until the developer reaches the 100th Certificate of Occupancy. Currently, 29 COs have been issued.

3) Downtown/City Hall proposal (repeat/update): At 2nd Reading on October 23rd, the project was [deferred until November 13th](#) after discussions regarding City-owned property appraisals and an offer by the developers. [Originally, a tentative verbal offer left a difference of \\$5 million, and after their official offer of \\$4+ million on October 23rd, there is still a \\$3+ million difference](#)

between the appraised value, which is \$7.5 million. To see a rendering, you can [click here](#).

4) Breweries in Commercial Zoning (repeat/update): The BOC recently approved at 1st 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 three times in order to explore examples of large-scale breweries and small-scale microbreweries in the Middle Tennessee area. The 2nd reading Ordinance Amendment is rescheduled for **November 13th**.

5) MJ Fireworks Code: Due to advisement from MJ Fire Department, the MJ BOC continues to revise the fireworks section under MJ City Codes, which passed 1st reading on October 23rd. The biggest change was extending the timeframe for retail sales inside the city limits, and reducing the usage/discharge allowance to July 2nd-5th from 5-10 pm for Fourth of July. For New Year's Eve, the revised usage/discharge allowance is December 29th and 30th from 5-10 pm, and December 31st from 5 pm to 1 am. Retail sales will be allowed inside the city limits June 20th thru July 4th and December 20th thru December 31st.

6) Cedar Creek Greenway: The greenway is currently closed for repair, but is expected to reopen next week. The Cedar Creek Greenway is in the back of Charlie Daniels Park.

7) Pickles for Pups Pickleball tournament: The pickleball tournament fundraiser, hosted by MJ Parks and sponsored by CedarStone Bank, was very successful. It raised approximately \$5,000 for the MJ Animal Shelter's non-profit 501C.3 called MJ Animal Shelter Volunteer Organization. Special thanks given to Daniel Webb, Tina Hutsenpiller, and Terri Atwood for their efforts and support, and a huge thanks to CedarStone Bank. To find out more information about the MJ Animal Shelter, including adoptions, you can [click here](#).

8) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). **October:** 4 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that led to 4 arrests/apprehensions. All were from out of county.

9) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 3.95% 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: Please see [additional note above under Updates](#). 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 installation of the upgraded outdoor workout station is scheduled for November 13th](#).

Adams Lane: The second NB left turn lane on Adams/SMJRD is under construction. [Currently, the project is waiting on signal components to arrive so they can be installed. Once installed and operational, the turn lanes will be completed. In addition, a portion of Providence Pkwy., west of Creekside Apartments, will resume construction to five lanes once the gas line relocation has been completed. There are two developers responsible for the widening of Providence Pkwy. The portion mentioned, already in process, is from one of the developers. The remaining portion connecting to Central Pike, will be constructed by the second developer at a later time.](#)

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. [TDOT will be making announcements in December on which projects get funded through the Statewide Partnership Program. To read stipulations on the \\$25 million, you can click here.](#)

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 70% 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 in preliminary design, and NEPA studies under TDOT review. Project is 20% complete with preconstruction activity.

Town Center Trail Phase 4 (new): The City received approval from the Nashville and Eastern Railroad Authority (NERA) and RJ Corman for an easement to install a greenway trail in the railroad ROW. This trail will be installed by the Lynwood Station developer from the Train Station east to Clemmons Road. Then, the trail will follow alongside Clemmons Road to the Lynwood Station site. To see a map, you can [click here](#).

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 OPEN from 6 am to 8 pm daily, and the playground project was finally approved by TDEC so construction should begin soon. Costs are being evaluated for playground fencing and field lighting. A Ribbon Cutting for the fields will be announced in the near future.

Lebanon Road sidewalks Phases 2 & 3:

- Construction has begun and is 5% complete. 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 is 100% complete with preconstruction activity**, and 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 **70% complete**. Completion is expected around June '24. **Currently, the project is in the 3rd Phase and the 4th Phase is estimated to begin in November. In the 4th Phase, the intersection will operate as a true roundabout.** 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 **signed offers on 69 of the 90 tracts** for ROW acquisition and **closed on 70% of the tracts**.

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 applied for the Statewide Partnership Program and allocated \$3 million toward the ROW Phase to get TDOT to fund the remaining cost for ROW. Total cost for ROW is estimated around \$15 million. TDOT will be making announcements in December on which projects get funded through the SPP.**

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 [utility relocation plans are finalized. ROW acquisition has begun.](#)

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. [It has cleared Julie Drive and moving east.](#)
- 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 November are Monday the 13th and Monday the 27th 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. It is an honor serving you and being your citizen advocate.

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