

# Mebane City Beat: Celebrating summer in the city

BY ADAM POWELL

STAFF REPORTER/NEWS OF ORANGE

Summer in Mebane is anything but boring. From patriotic celebrations and live music to farmers markets and opportunities for young athletes to stay active, our community is filled with events that bring neighbors together and create lasting memories.

One of Mebane's most beloved traditions is our annual 4th of July Independence Day Celebration, which marks a milestone year in 2026. This year, we celebrate not only America's 250th birthday but also the City of Mebane's 30th year of hosting this cherished community tradition.

The day begins in downtown Mebane with the Mebane Historical Museum's annual non-motorized 4th of July Parade at 10:30 a.m. Families are encouraged to decorate their bicycles, scooters, wagons, and strollers in red, white, and blue and enjoy a morning filled with music, activities, and community spirit. Visitors can also enjoy the Red, White, and Local event throughout downtown from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring one-of-a-kind shopping deals, hot dogs, and special activities hosted by local businesses.

The celebration continues in the evening at the Mebane Arts and Community Center Complex beginning at 5:30 p.m. Residents can enjoy backyard games, inflatables, food vendors, photo opportunities, and more. New this year, a free trolley service—provided through a partnership between the City of Mebane and the Downtown Mebane Development Corporation (DMDC)—will make it easier for attendees to travel to the event site without the hassle of parking or navigating heavy crowds.

The trolley will pick up guests at three convenient locations: Buffalo Lanes Family Bowling Center parking lot, the Farmers Market lot between Dollar General and Lou's Bakery, and the traffic circle at the Mebane Community Park.

At 6:30 p.m., the Part Time Party Band will take the stage on the Green Field for a high-energy performance, followed by Mebane's dazzling fireworks display around 9:15 p.m. Residents are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets and to follow the City's social media channels for any weather or drought-related updates affecting the fireworks show.

The summer fun continues with Music on 4th, Mebane's free outdoor concert series held in downtown Mebane on the third Friday of the month, May through September, from 7 to 9 p.m. Presented in partnership with the Mebane Business Association, the remaining concerts include The Fandinos on July 17, The Moxie Band on August 21, and The Megan Doss Band on September 18. Whether you enjoy rock, pop, funk, R&B, soul, or country music, there is something for everyone.



**Mebane**  
Positively Charming

**MUSIC ON 4TH**

**Fridays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. — Downtown Mebane**

**MAY 15**  
Red House Band  
Classic Rock/Southern Rock/Country/Blues

**JULY 17**  
The Fandinos  
High-Energy Rock/Pop Trio

**AUGUST 21**  
Moxie Band  
Funk/R&B/Soul

**SEPTEMBER 18**  
Megan Doss Band  
Country Hits/Top 40/Pop Dance Hits/Rock and Roll

**ADDITIONAL PARTNERS INCLUDE:**

**MBA**  
MEBANE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
Connecting Business & Community

Just bring a chair, lace up your dancing shoes, and gather your friends and neighbors to enjoy an evening of music in the heart of downtown.

For those looking to shop locally or find fresh produce, the Downtown Mebane Farmers Market, located at 102 E. Ruffin Street, runs every Saturday from now through November from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The market features fresh produce, meats, flowers, local goods, live music, and special events throughout the season, including Young Entrepreneur Fairs and Makers Markets that showcase the creativity and talent of our community.

The Mebane Recreation and Parks Department also provides opportunities for youth to stay active through a variety of summer sports camps. From basketball and football to lacrosse, volleyball, and tennis, these camps allow young athletes to build confidence, develop new skills, and create friendships while enjoying a fun and supportive environment.

Athletic Supervisor Mark Geiger shares, "I'm really looking forward to a summer full of camp opportunities that offer variety. Whether young

athletes are developing their skills on the basketball court, football field, volleyball court, or tennis courts, or trying something new like lacrosse, our camps are a great way to stay active, learn, and have fun all summer long. It's going to be an active and fun summer here in Mebane!"

No matter your age or interests, there is no shortage of ways to make the most of your summer in positively charming Mebane. We invite everyone to get outside, support local businesses, connect with their neighbors, and enjoy all that our vibrant community has to offer.

Recreation Events and Program Supervisor Becca Liegey adds, "We are excited for a summer full of events that have something for everyone in our community. Whether it is music lovers coming out for Music on 4th, local supporters visiting our Farmers Market each weekend, or families celebrating the Fourth of July together, we hope to see our community out and ready for a summer full of fun."

*Kelly Hunter is the public information officer with the City of Mebane.*

## VIGIL

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niche issue, then tolled a bell 51 times to memorialize American lives lost to health care inequity, while children lit memorial candles.

Said Dr. Jonnal, "As an ER doctor, I can assure you that the numbers grossly underestimate the problem, and uninsured Americans are not the only ones at risk. Under-insured and adequately insured people are still subjected to endless phone trees, claims denials, exorbitant costs, dangerous wait times, and ultimately unnecessary suffering and death. It is still jarring to me, 25 years into my career, to walk through waiting rooms full of bleeding, vomiting, wailing, and dying humans — precious humans — in the richest country in the world, which has the most expensive health care system in the world by a factor of two. But our health outcomes rank lowest among industrialized countries. Why? The money going into the hands of profiteers needs to be returned to the system to heal people. And the only way to do this is universal health care without a profit motive."

Dr. Royce concurred that the Yale study numbers are a gross underestimate and reminded that rates of preventable infectious diseases like mumps, whooping cough, measles, and even hantavirus and Ebola are on the rise because of cuts to USAID programs and disinformation in the United States country surrounding vaccine safety.

Finally, Representative Renée Price spoke about North Carolina House Bill 696. Passed by lawmakers, this key Medicaid adjustment bill preserves state expansion while inspiring intense debate for implementing copayment caps and threatening coverage for certain immigrant populations. She reiterated her concerns about the bill's stricter eligibility "lookback periods" and immigration status tracking, which critics warned could threaten health care coverage for thousands in our state and keep people who need medical care from seeking help.

# Mebane approves bid for infrastructure improvements

BY ADAM POWELL

STAFF REPORTER/NEWS OF ORANGE

The City of Mebane recently awarded a contract to PDC, Inc. for completion of a 1,700 foot line of 12-inch ductile iron pipe along West Ten Road in western Orange County. The water infrastructure installation will extend from the Carolina Achieve Charter School down to the Buckhorn Business Park, providing the area a much-needed additional supply of local water.

"The West End Waterline Connector creates a 12-inch water line east-west loop south of the interstate, which is needed," said City of Mebane Chief Engineer Franz Holt. "We did receive eight bids. Six were deemed responsive. The low base bid was from PDC out of Greensboro of \$428,650. The range (of bids) went up to \$871,000. We had an original cost estimate of \$809,750, so we were extremely pleased with the number of bids and the actual low bid itself."

Holt indicated that the City of Mebane has a memorandum of understanding with Orange County to pay for half the project, including the \$428,650 to PDC, Inc., as well as an additional \$86,350 in projected construction project contingencies. The construction budget is \$515,000 for the water line installation project, and the total budget for the entire project was set at \$650,000. Mebane will be responsible for \$325,000 of that total project amount.

After unanimously approving the water line connector installation along West Ten Road, the Mebane City Council also unanimously approved a series of storm drainage improvements and repairs. Mebane saw significant stormwater and flooding during Tropical Storm Chantal last July. The town is looking to make storm drainage improvements at Brown, London, and Jackson Streets.

The town allocated \$800,000 in its 2025-26 fiscal year budget for street repairs and resurfacing. Holt explained that city staff did complete last fall about \$219,000 worth of street repairs and resurfacing

around town. Approximately \$20,000 went to storm drainage repair engineering. That left over a half million dollars in city funds available for local street repairs.

"These areas were damaged during Tropical Storm Chantal, so we anticipated about \$538,000 worth of repairs out of the \$800,000 that were budgeted for street repair and resurfacing," Holt said. "Meeting with management, it was decided that we put this project out for bid. We were very pleased again with the number of bids we received, with the low bidder being \$338,320 from Precision Earth and Pipe out of Raleigh."

"We did have \$550,525 that we were looking to use, some of which was going to be for additional street repair," Holt continued. "Based on the construction bid cost of \$338,320 (from Precision Earth and Pipe), some engineering work that needs to be done - stakeout and inspection - adding some construction contingency, we've got a total recommended project budget of \$420,000."

Holt also indicated that will leave Mebane with \$160,525 to do additional street repair and resurfacing with Turner Asphalt. Mill and resurfacing work will take place on four local streets covering 0.43 miles - West Clay Street from N. Charles Street to N. Wilba Street, South Eighth Street from Walker Court to Vickers Court, Beaver Creek Drive from Drake Lane to Esteban Court, and Fieldale Road from S. Fifth Street to Mebane Oaks Road.

Holt also said that the town should get reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for up to \$150,000 in storm-related infrastructure costs.

"We do anticipate at some point getting reimbursed, hopefully around \$150,000," Holt said. "We don't have that money right yet. There is some environmental review on the mitigation side. They have decided on the damage side. The mitigation side, once it completes their environmental review, that should free up some of that money. And we think it's going to be around 150,000."