

**FEBRUARY 2023
NEWSLETTER**



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We have been enjoying this warming trend lately and hope you have too, because spring is coming this month. I checked my bluebird house, but found no signs of a nest. National Anthem Day and Employee Appreciation Day are both on March 3rd, National K-9 Veterans Day on the 13th, Freedom of Information Day on the 16th, St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, and Mom & Pop Business Owners Day on the 29th. March is also Women's History Month and for sports fans, March Madness.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Tesla Supercharger Station, located at 48 Old Pleasant Grove Rd. (between Cheddar's and BP), is now open. It is the first one in Wilson County and has 11 stalls with 250 kW charging capability.

Truleigh Scrumptious Sweet Cafe, located at 2232 NMJRD next to the RR tracks, will be opening the first part of March. As of this writing, I do not have a specific date, but it could be any day.

Blush Bootcamp, located in Providence Marketplace in front of Regal, plans on a mid-March opening.

Seafood Palace, to be located at 520 Pleasant Grove Road (formerly Lost Cajun), will be coming to this location hopefully by the end of the month.

Whataburger, to be located on the corner of NMJRD and Lebanon Road, has officially broken ground. Completion is estimated, depending on weather, to be six to eight months.

UPCOMING

1) March 3rd Tornado Remembrance Ceremony: This Friday, March 3rd at 1:30 am, the City will hold a remembrance event of the tornado disaster, with the laying of a wreath to remember the lives lost and reflect on how it impacted our community. The location will be at the welcome area on the northeast corner of NMJRD and Weston Drive (where the old truck is located) near West Wilson Middle School. All are welcome.

2) Public park restrooms: Beginning Monday, March 6th, all restrooms within city parks will open for the spring, summer, and fall seasons.

3) Spring Break on the Farm: Southern Cattle Company is hosting a family fun experience on two different days, March 7th and March 9th. From 10 am - 2 pm each day, bring a picnic lunch, meet the farm animals, pick vegetables, rope like a cowboy, go on a scavenger hunt, and play barnyard games. There will be shopping for farm fresh local beef and pork, and free snacks and drinks. Limited tickets are \$12 each and you can purchase [online here](#). They are located at 13895 Lebanon Road.

4) Daylights Saving Time: Remember to spring forward on Sunday, March 12th for Daylights Savings Time.

5) March 16th Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:

- **Project Prosper:** A plan has been submitted for commercial/retail to be located in Legacy Pointe on Golden Bear Pkwy. (GBG). If you would like to see the plans you may [click here](#).

6) Walk Across Wilson: Walk Across Wilson begins on March 19th and ends April 15th. Individuals, community-based teams, and schools are encouraged to participate by logging minutes of activity each day online. The idea is to exercise 30 minutes a day, six days a week, for four weeks, which is equivalent to walking 36 miles across Wilson County. Teams can earn money and must register on Facebook. Title sponsor for the annual event is Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital. On the last day, April 15th beginning at 8 am, all participants are encouraged to attend the American Heart Association Wilson County Heart Walk at the Nashville Superspeedway located at 4847-F McCrary Road in Lebanon. There will be heart health education, activities, a walk, and an opportunity to earn 180 minutes of extra credit. If you would like the Facebook link, you may [click here](#). Registration begins on the 19th.

7) Storm Water Utility (repeat/update): The billing cycle for the newly implemented MJ Storm Water Utility is scheduled to begin April 1st. The rate for each residence will be \$5.40 added to each monthly sewer bill for those on city sewer. For those not on city sewer, whether residential or commercial, will be billed annually for 10 or less ERUs, or semi-annually for those over 10 ERUs. To see the FAQ flyer that will be going out, you may [click here](#).

8) Easter in the Park (repeat/update):

- On Saturday, April 1st at Charlie Daniels Park, the Kiwanis Club of Mt. Juliet will host the free-annual Easter egg hunt from 11 am - 2 pm.
- **Special Needs Easter egg hunt (repeat/update):** On Tuesday, April 4th at Charlie Daniels Park, MJ Parks will hold the Special Needs egg hunt at 6 pm in the MJ Community Center.

9) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee):

- [First Monday Dinner Walks](#) will resume beginning Monday, April 3rd. These walks are held April-September each year on the first Monday of each month. We meet at MJ City Hall at 6 pm and walk to a designated location for dinner and then walk back. All are welcome.
- [Ride Mt. Juliet](#) is scheduled for Sunday, May 7th from 2-4 pm at the MJPD Headquarters on Charlie Daniels Pkwy. We will ride bicycles (or walk) on a 5-6 mile route using the new Cedar Creek Greenway. More details to follow. Rainout date is May 21st.
- The [BPAC/Veloteers/Biker's Choice community bicycle rides](#) will resume in May beginning Monday, May 1st. The rides depart Charlie Daniels Park at 6:30 pm and are open to the community. It is a 15- to 20-mile loop and takes place every Monday thru August.

10) MJ Senior Center reverse raffle: On Saturday, April 22nd, the MJ Senior Center will hold this year's reverse raffle fundraiser beginning at 5:30 pm. Seating is limited to 75, and the grand prize is \$5,000. Meals, that begin at 4 pm, must be reserved by April 17th by calling 615-758-9114. Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at the Senior Center located at 2034 NMJRD. The event is sponsored by the Exchange Club of West Wilson County.

11) Spring Craft & Vendor Fair: On Saturday, April 29th from 11 am - 6 pm, MJ Parks will host this year's Spring Craft & Vendor Fair at Charlie Daniels Park at the community center.

12) MJ Farmers Market: Mt. Juliet's Farmers Market starts back for the season on Saturday, May 6th at 7 am. It is located in Charlie Daniels Park and will be open every Thursday 1-6 pm and every Saturday 7 am - 1 pm. The season ends on Saturday, October 28th. For questions you may call 615-758-6522.

13) Celebrate Mt. Juliet: On Saturday, July 15th, the City will hold its (now) annual celebration as a city (last year we celebrated our 50th birthday). Scooter Brown will be the headliner and there will be a small carnival added. MJ Parks is looking for classic car entries for the Ray Daniel car show and Hibbett Station will be opened in the Community Center with MC Hibbett's model train on display that he built years ago. Vol State Bank is the title sponsor of the event.

UPDATES

1) State of the City: Mayor Maness gave the 2023 State of the City address during the February Chamber luncheon. If you would like to see the video, you may [click here](#).

2) Western Connector (repeat/update): The BOC voted to indefinitely defer the Resolution for the project. After further research and cost estimates, it will come back soon, because the project needs to move forward, wherever it goes. You may view all [four pages here](#) of the proposal options. The project will connect Central Pike (north of I-40) to Lebanon Road at some point in the future.

3) Providence Central PUD Amendment (repeat/update): The PUD Amendment passed 2nd reading by 3-2. This was an amendment to the 2020 plan to allow for a residential component above the retail, bringing the first Urban-style integrated mixed-use to the city, which is a 7-year project. If you would like to hear my justification for supporting it, you may read it in written form by [clicking here](#). Providence Central is also where BJ's and Rooms To Go will be located.

4) Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) work session: The BOC held a public work session on February 27th regarding the proposed boundary expansion of MJ's UGB. This does NOT mean annexation. At some point in the near future the MJ BOC, along with WC Commissioners, The City of Lebanon, and the City of

Watertown, will all vote on it. Watertown has a proposed expansion to be considered as well.

5) Mundy Park: The walking trail is expected to reopen any day. Part of the trail has been repaved, the rest will be come out of the next budget cycle. Windscreens will be strategically placed around the pickleball and tennis courts hopefully by the end of March. A new shade structure, donated by Amazon, was installed at the courts. The playground will be the next project.

6) Will Sellers Park (Bark Park):

- The new apparatus for the large dog section has been installed. There will be an Eagle Scout project installing shade structures in all sections this spring, hopefully to be completed in May. After that, trees will be strategically planted on the outside of the fences where they are most needed.
- The playground has been pressure washed, the area cleaned up with added mulch, and the holes in the slide repaired.
- Will Sellers Park is located at 151 SE Springdale.

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

8) New voter registrations: MJ City District 4 (south of I-40) had 34 new registered voters for February, with a total of 6,340 active registered voters.

9) Hotel/Motel tax revenue: The highest collections for any January occurred this past January with a 31.3% increase over 2022. Hotel/Motel tax revenue funds the City's parks and recreation.

10) City audit report for 2022: The City audit report was presented on February 27th by Blankenship, which was a great report. If you would like to see the presentation, you may [find it here](#).

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

(Note: updated information since last month is in color.)

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

Construction began on February 27th for the three-way stop intersection at Providence Trail and S. Rutland Road that is a part of the Waterford Park development. If you would like to see a rendering with added turn lanes, you can [click here](#).

(NEW) Adams Lane: Construction for the new Adams Lane rerouting, including a second left turn lane, is estimated to be completed this Spring, depending on weather. The second left turn lane will be at the intersection of Adams Lane/SMJRD (facing WB next to Waffle House).

Beckwith Road: Currently, all pre-construction phases are being funded by the city. The project is in the process of developing a contract with an engineering firm. A consultant for design services has been selected and a scope/contract is expected soon on a BOC agenda for approval. This area of Beckwith Road is between I-40 and south to the four-way intersection at S. Rutland Road/Posey Hill Drive. Widening is on the city's radar, however, it is likely to happen sooner from potential future developments. The city project would likely take around eight years (or more) and cost around \$23.2M. There are plans to apply for grant funding to cover 80% of the construction costs.

SMJRD widening: 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 70% complete with preconstruction activity. The BOC approved a Resolution amending the initial agreement with TDOT to add ROW and construction, to be paid for by TDOT. The ROW acquisition and utility relocation phases will take around three years to complete.

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. The planning document is complete. 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. The Providence Central development will be responsible for widening a portion of Central Pike with turn lanes at Providence Pkwy. which is underway.

FDMJ north firehall: Still under construction, however, it is hopeful they can take occupancy [in April](#). The location is next to Green Hill High School and is 95% complete with construction.

FDMJ EMS (ambulance): The new department for a MJ ambulance service is underway and is expected to be fully functional around Spring.

MJPD new headquarters: The Parent Company presented the latest estimates during the last MJPD work session for the new headquarters to be located on Charlie Daniels Parkway. The latest estimates from January 23rd are between \$26M-\$30M. If you would like to see the PowerPoint presentation you may find it [here](#).

Cedar Creek Greenway Phase 2: Phase 2 would connect Charlie Daniels Park to Lebanon Road, and is pending an application request for a grant submission. 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 5% 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. The project was approved for a federal grant that covers 80% of design, ROW, and construction. The survey has been completed and currently performing NEPA studies along with preliminary engineering. Project is 5% complete with preconstruction activity.

Hamilton-Denson Park: Construction bids for the playground and restrooms have been awarded, and will be completed later in the year. Located on the south end of Tate Lane (off W. Division), the project is 95% complete with construction. A Ribbon Cutting for the practice fields is planned for Spring.

Lebanon Road sidewalks Phases 2 & 3:

- Construction for Phase 2 is expected to begin this spring/summer, and is currently 95% complete with preconstruction activity. Awaiting final approval from TDOT on bid documents. 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 70% complete with preconstruction activity and in final design. Environmental (NEPA) was approved. Construction is expected in 2023.

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 NEPA studies and preliminary design. The survey has been completed.

Signal improvements Phases 2 & 3:

- Traffic signals along MJRD between Central Pike and Division will be undergoing improvements in Phase 2. The project is 95% complete with preconstruction activity and waiting on TDOT approval on construction documents. Construction is expected to begin in spring, and will include installing fiber optic communication between each of the 13 signals that will connect to City Hall. The project will take about 18 months to complete.
- Phase 3 is 20% complete with preconstruction activity, which will extend from Curd Road to Lebanon Road, covering six signals. This project is in final design and NEPA finalized.

Traffic signal on Providence Pkwy.: Signals are in the process of being installed. Once installation is complete, the lights will flash for a few days before being fully operational. This traffic signal on Providence Pkwy. is located between Kroger and Providence Commons.

Traffic signal at NMJRD/Curd Road: Design has been finalized. ROW acquisitions will follow. Coordination is underway with the federal post office on options to close their northern driveway and provide a new exit on Curd Road. Project is 95% complete with preconstruction activity, but has been paused due to potential redevelopment in this area.

Traffic signal on GBG and Volunteer Blvd.: This signal project on Golden Bear Gateway is 95% complete with preconstruction activity and in final design stage, awaiting final approval from TDOT to approve bid documents. Construction is set to begin this spring/summer.

Traffic signal at E. Division/GBG: Installation for this (Amazon contribution) signal is expected this spring/summer.

S. Greenhill Road roundabout: Construction is underway. 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.

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.

Lebanon Road widening (Park Glen to GBG): Currently this TDOT project is in preliminary design and finalizing environmental documents with TDOT. ROW plans are being finalized, and project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity. Once the NEPA (environmental) is approved, the project will be eligible for ROW funding in next year's TDOT budget.

Pleasant Grove Road widening and realignment: The BOC temporarily deferred the Resolution to move ahead with the project. 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. 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 spring.

E. Division Street widening: The consultant has collected survey data to begin preliminary design, along with environmental technical studies. The project will include a 4-lane median divided roadway with multi-use paths on each side, from NMJRD to just east of GBG.

Western Connector: Please see notice above under Updates. Project is 10% complete with preconstruction activity.

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. Manhole rehabilitation is ready to begin.
- Stoner Creek Interceptor Upsizing project is ready to begin construction. [Once contractor receives materials, construction will begin.](#)
- 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 next MJ BOC meeting will be Monday, March 13th 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, 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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