

## APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER



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# Jennifer Milele

## Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

We had five bluebird eggs that have now hatched successfully. Important dates in May are; National Day of Prayer May 4, International Firefighters Day May 4, Mother's Day May 14, Armed Forces Day May 20, Memorial Day May 29, National Nurses Week May 6-12, Teacher Appreciation Week May 8-12, National Police Week May 14-20, National EMS Week May 21-27, Military Appreciation Month, National Bike Month, Silver Alert Awareness Month, and Mental Health Awareness Month.

### **NEW BUSINESSES:**

**Journey's**, in Providence Marketplace, plans for a May 27<sup>th</sup> grand opening.

**Fukutoku**, will be moving into the old Bonfire facility located at 630 SMJRD. I do not have a timeline.

### **UPCOMING**

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**1) National Small Business Week (repeat/update):** NSBW is April 30 - May 6<sup>th</sup>. Please continue shopping local and supporting our small businesses.

**2) Tracy Lawrence dedication:** There will be a building dedication for Tracy Lawrence on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11 am in front of Charlie's Place located at 2232 NMJRD. All are welcome.

**3) National Day of Prayer event:** Join churches, businesses, and neighbors for prayer and worship in Charlie Daniels Park on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for this year's National Day of Prayer event, hosted by Everyone's Wilson. This is a free family-friendly event, so bring your family and friends and have dinner in the park. Food truck vendors will be available at 5 pm and the service begins at 6 pm. Please join us in praying for our city, state and nation. National Day of Prayer is May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**4) Spring Community Yard Sale (repeat/update):** On Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, MJ Parks will host this year's Community Yard Sale in Charlie Daniels Park from 8 am - 1 pm. If you would like to reserve a vendor spot for \$20, you can [click here](#). You will need to set up an account, then look for the event. **The deadline for booth registration is May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 pm.**

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

- **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride Mt. Juliet** is scheduled for Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm at the MJPD Headquarters on Charlie Daniels Pkwy. Riders of all skill levels are invited to attend and must wear a helmet on this 3.5-mile loop using the new Cedar Creek Greenway in Charlie Daniels Park. MJPD will hold a bike rodeo for little ones at the

beginning, and children (12/under) can register to win a free bike courtesy of the Veloteers. Rainout date is May 21<sup>st</sup>. To view the route, you can [click here](#). MJP and FDMJ will be present on the ride to ensure safety.

- **[Community Greenway Walk](#)** is scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup> in Charlie Daniels Park to walk the new Cedar Creek Greenway. The rainout date will be Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Details to come and all are welcome.s
- **[First Monday Dinner 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.
- 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 6:30 pm and are open to the community. It is a 15- to 20-mile loop. All skilled cyclists are welcome.
- **Additionally, the MJ BPAC sponsors four events annually, beginning with Ride MJ.**

**6) Public Work Session for City Hall project:** On Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 pm, a second public work session will be held at City Hall to discuss an updated version of the newly proposed 7-acre project that includes a new City Hall, commercial retail and office, with a residential apartment component in the back. Two options will be presented by the developers, that you can [view here](#).

**7) Walk to School Day at RES:** Rutland Elementary School will hold their Annual Walk to School Day on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. There are three meeting places at 6:30 am; Will Sellers Park (dog park) on SE Springdale, Grace Baptist Church on Belinda Pkwy., and Bridge Mill Drive. There will be volunteers to assist in the walk, such as teachers, parents, BPAC members (myself included), and MJP. Walking begins at 6:45 am. Please join us if you would like to walk to school.

**8) MJ Help Center 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The MJ Help Center will celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 13<sup>th</sup> from 11 am - 2 pm. Bring the family to celebrate this milestone for a day of fun, that will include building tours, face painting, pet contests, food trucks, balloon artists, prizes and giveaways. They are located at 3425B NMJRD.

**9) MJ 22/23 Fiscal Budget work session:** On Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm, there will be a public work session with the BOC to discuss the new 23/24 fiscal budget that goes into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>. First reading for the Budget Ordinance will be on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> on the BOC agenda.

**10) Cedar Creek Greenway:** The new Cedar Creek Greenway in the back of Charlie Daniels Park will be closed from May 15<sup>th</sup> through May 29<sup>th</sup> for staining and painting.

**11) May 18<sup>th</sup> MJ Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:**

- **Rolling Ridge:** A plan has been submitted for a 23-acre retail frontage/townhome (for sale) project to be located on Beckwith Road and S. Rutland Road (two entrances) that would include a Land Use Amendment

and Rezone. If you would like to see the submitted plans you can [click here](#).

- **MJPD Headquarters:** Site Plans have been submitted for the new headquarters to be located at 1019 Charlie Daniels Pkwy. (in front of current headquarters). If you would like to view the submitted site plans, you can [click here](#).

**12) MJ Market Night:** The MJ Parks Department will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Market Night beginning on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> in Charlie Daniels Park from 5:30-9 pm. Included in these free Thursday events are food trucks, music, and local businesses, as well as a foam party and firetruck adventure for kids. This is the first of several Market Nights, so bring the family. Vendor and business registration will go live on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and the cost is \$10.

**13) Voices 4 Veterans 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pick'n in the Park**

**(repeat/update):** On Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, bring the family to Charlie Daniels Park from 1-5 pm for live music, a crawfish/shrimp boil, food trucks, auctions, and raffle. This is a free fund-raising event, where 100% of the proceeds support our nation's Veterans through Operation Song Alumni. Bring your chairs and to see the flyer you can [click here](#). Operation Song empowers veterans, active-duty military members and their families, to tell their stories through the process of songwriting. Sponsors are Two Rivers Ford, Sellars Funeral Home, Shiloh Music, Wilson Bank & Trust, D&M Supply, Toppers Music, Jack's Guitartheology, and Melvin Gatewood with Operation Service Dentist.

**14) Ava's Splashpad:** Ava's Splashpad in Charlie Daniels Park will open for the season on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.

**15) Darryl Worley dedication:** There will be a building dedication for Darryl Worley on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 11 am in front of Charlie's Place located at 2232 NMJRD. All are welcome.

**16) Dinner in the Vines:** Experience a taste of Italy right here in MJ on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-10 pm in MJ's only private vineyard located on Pleasant Grove Road. This is a fundraising event to benefit The Joe Beretta Foundation, which is a local organization dedicated to meeting practical needs of advanced heart failure patients and their families. The event includes an Italian meal, music, silent auction, and wine selections. Tickets can be [purchased here](#).

**17) Ribbon Cutting for new fire station:** On Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm, the City will hold a Ribbon Cutting for the new MJ Fire Station (#2) on N. Greenhill Road, across from Greenhill High School. All are welcome.

**18) Sips & Sounds of September:** Wilson Rides Inc. will hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sips & Sounds on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 pm at Rural Hill Farm located at 9400 Couchville Pike. All proceeds will benefit Wilson Rides and there will be live music, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction. Wilson Rides Inc., a 501c3 non-profit, provides seniors (55+) with transportation in Wilson County who no longer drive or seldom drive. Ticket ordering will go live the middle of May. Look for the link on their [website](#).

## UPDATES

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**1) Storm Water Utility (SWU) credits:** As the SWU billing has rolled out, credits will be available once the credit manual has been adopted by the MJ BOC by Resolution in May. Credits are based on existing maintained storm water facilities up to 75%. These credits must be applied for whether residential, commercial, or industrial. To view the (DRAFT ONLY) copy of the credit manual prior to the vote, you can [click here](#). Additionally, there has been some confusion on the billing regarding a statement referencing a mandate from Congress. Please [click here](#) for an explanation of this statement.

**2) Costco Wholesale:** On the April 24<sup>th</sup> BOC agenda, Costco requested to defer the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of their plan ordinance until the May 8<sup>th</sup> BOC agenda. The deferral was approved. They have an estimated opening of May 2024 and would be located within Legacy Pointe on Rutland Drive off Golden Bear.

**3) Urban Growth Boundary (UGB):** On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the BOC voted to approve a revised final map for expansion of the MJ UGB. (this does NOT mean annexation). At some point in the near future, the Wilson County Commission, The City of Lebanon, and the City of Watertown, will all have to vote on it before becoming official. If you would like to see this pending map, you can [click here](#).

**4) Give-intake dog toy boxes:** Pet Supplies Plus in MJ will be installing give-intake dog toy boxes in our dog parks. If you have dog toys you would like to donate, please contact the MJ Parks Department at 615-754-2552.

**5) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers:** (ALPR). April: 5 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 6 arrests/apprehensions. All but two were from out of county.

**6) MJ City sales tax revenues:** Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 7.68% over April 2022. Keep shopping local and you help fund MJPD, FDMJ, road improvements/projects, and much more.

**7) Hotel/Motel tax revenues:** Revenues from hotel/motel tax revenue is up by 21% over this time last year. Hotel/motel tax supports our City's parks and greenways.

## 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:** This project continues to be on pause waiting for Piedmont to move a gas line. This has been delayed several times to date. The next scheduled expected date to begin the gas line relocation is May 3<sup>rd</sup>, but that could change once again. Please use caution around the sidewalks. This project 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 late Spring, depending on weather. The second left turn lane will be at the intersection of Adams Lane/SMJRD (heading NB). All of these improvements are part of the Providence Central development.

**Beckwith Road:** Currently, all pre-construction phases are being funded by the city. [The consultant contract will be on the May 8<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 [75% 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. [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](#). 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. [MJ Public Works has begun the consultant selection process for engineering, with a contract expected to the BOC this summer.](#)

**FDMJ north firehall:** Construction being finalized with a [Ribbon Cutting planned for June 7<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm](#). The location is next to Green Hill High School and is 95% complete with construction.

**MJPD new headquarters:** It is hopeful that groundbreaking will take place [late-spring/early summer](#). 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 10% 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. 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 10% complete with preconstruction activity.

**Hamilton-Denson Park:** Located on the south end of Tate Lane (off W. Division), the Phase 1 parking lot will receive the final coat of asphalt in May. A Ribbon Cutting for the fields is planned for Spring. Construction is underway for the Phase 2 restrooms project to be completed later in the year.

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

- Construction for Phase 2 is expected to begin this summer, and is currently 100% 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 75% 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 preliminary design. NEPA has been submitted to TDOT for review.

**Signal improvements Phases 2 & 3:**

- Traffic signals along MJRD between Central Pike and Division will be undergoing improvements in Phase 2. Construction engineering and inspection agreement approved. 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 finalized.

**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.

**GBG/Beckwith Road Interchange Lighting:** [Contract between MJ City/TDOT to improve lighting at the interchange will be on the May 8<sup>th</sup> BOC agenda for approval.](#)

**S. Greenhill Road roundabout:** Construction is underway and 10% complete. 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/summer](#).

**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 by TDOT.

**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. 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 [summer](#).

**E. Division Street widening:** The consultant has collected survey data to begin preliminary design, along with environmental technical studies. The project is 5% 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 70% with preconstruction activity, and in final design.

**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.**
- 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 two BOC meetings in May are Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm at City Hall.**

**NOTE:** The public is welcome to come and speak and/or submit comments/questions to Sheila Lockett until 4 pm prior to the meeting at [slockett@mtjuliet-tn.gov](mailto:slockett@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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