

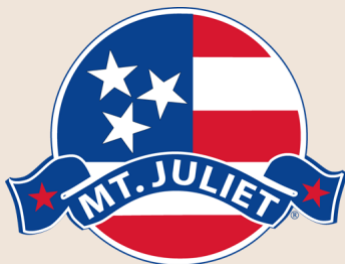
NOVEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Christmas is almost here! I shattered two bones in my wrist so typing the newsletter was very difficult, but I got it done. December 3rd is the beginning of Advent; December 7th is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and the beginning of Hanukkah; December 13th is National Guard birthday; December 15th is Bill of Rights Day; Space Force birthday is December 20th; December 21st is the first day of winter; Christmas Day is on December 25th; Kwanzaa begins December 26th; National Pledge of Allegiance Day is December 28th; followed by New Years Eve on December 31st. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Maniac's, has officially opened. They are located in Charlie's Place at 2240 NMJRD.

BJ's Wholesale Club, has a grand opening planned for the middle of December. Reports had indicated the 15th, but their PR did not confirm that date as of today. So, watch for announcements. They are located on the corner of Adams Lane and Providence Pkwy.

Play it Again Sports, located at 1315 NMJRD, is holding a four-day grand opening with prize drawings each day, Nov. 30 - Dec. 3.

Arby's, has a reopen date planned for December 8th.

UPCOMING

1) Storytime with Santa (repeat/update): 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.

2) 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. [MJ BPAC will be choosing a first-place winner for their decorations/lights that would get a yard sign for bragging rights.](#) The rainout date is December 18th.

3) Wilson County School Board vote: There is a vote scheduled for Monday, December 4th by the seven-member WCSB, to

decide who has the right to challenge materials/books already in public school libraries and classrooms. Currently, all Wilson County residents (taxpayers) have the right to challenge any book that is considered sexually explicit and/or inappropriate for minors. Some books already challenged, have crossed the line into pornography, among other questionable content. IF, the School Board votes Monday night to silence Wilson County taxpayers from their right to challenge books/materials by removing them from the current list, the revised list would consist of students, staff members, and ONLY parents/guardians with students enrolled in the school system, as the only ones allowed to do so. The location of the WCSB meeting is 415 Harding Drive in Lebanon and begins at 6 pm. If you would like to speak, you can sign up prior to the start of the meeting. To contact School Board members, you can [click here](#).

4) Christmas Across Mt. Juliet Holiday Lighting Contest: Get your Christmas lights and decorations out because the 4th Annual Christmas/Holiday lights contest is on. Residents/businesses within the city limits are eligible, and all participants will need to submit pictures and videos of their outside decorations as soon as possible. [The submission deadline is December 5th](#). All winners will be announced on Friday, December 8th at the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at 6 pm at the Town Center Clock Tower. Prizes will be awarded for the winners and food trucks will be onsite by 5:15 pm. A current list of participants will be posted to the City's website and Facebook. The contest is sponsored by Hutsonpillier Insurance. For details, you can [click here](#).

5) 4th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting & Community Sing: On Friday, December 8th the official lighting of the Christmas Tree will take place at 7 pm, at the Town Center Clock Tower near the train station. This lighting ceremony is provided by Shiloh Baptist Church. Please bring a family ornament to hang on the tree. Winners of the Christmas Across Mt. Juliet Contest will be announced at 6 pm. Food trucks will be onsite by 5:15 pm.

6) 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 route will be the same as last year, beginning at the baseball/softball fields on Lebanon Road, known as Two Rivers Ford League, and end at the Train Station parking lot on E. Division Street. Bring the family and watch 80 festive floats followed by Santa himself, and grab some candy. As always, a special thank you to Two Rivers Ford for providing their beautiful new trucks for dignitaries in the parade. The rainout date is scheduled for December 10th.

7) WC Election Institute: This free opportunity is provided by the Wilson County Election Commission designed to give citizens an inside look at how they prepare for elections. You will gain knowledge on Voter Registration, Ballot and Machine preparations, Candidate Information and the importance of Poll Workers, the Media and Community Outreach. You will learn how all of these functions are interrelated and how much detail is required when preparing and conducting elections. Having confidence in our county election process is important. The Wilson County Election Institute will be on Saturday, December

9th, from 8:30 am - 3 pm and include a lunch break. The location is 230 E. Gay Street in Lebanon. The class is limited so sign up today. For more details or to sign up for the class, you can [click here](#).

8) Dinner with a Dog: Stop by Local Joe's Café on December 13th between 4-7:30 pm and have a meal to benefit the MJ Animal Shelter. Animals will make a visit to the restaurant during this time and 10% of the proceeds will go to the shelter. Local Joe's is located at 2037 NMJRD. For one week in December, the restaurant will be accepting round-up donations at checkout. To see the flyer, you can [click 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](#).

9) December 21st MJ Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:

- **Homewood Suites:** There has been an amendment to a PUD for Homewood Suites on 3.25 acres located at 80 Belinda Pkwy. To see the plan submitted, you can [click here](#).
- **John E. Davis Property:** This is a submittal to subdivide five acres in the county, located at 6260 John Hagar Rd, into two lots. To see the plan submitted, you can [click here](#).
- **Providence Trail charging stations:** This submittal is to add two new electric vehicle charging stations within the Providence Trail Apartment complex on Providence Pkwy. To see the plan submitted, you can [click here](#).

10) Wilson County Election Calendar: There are **THREE** important elections in 2024. If you haven't registered to vote, please do so by [clicking here](#) as soon as possible.

- **March 5th** (*Presidential Preference Primary / County Primary Election*)
 - WC School Board Zones 1, 3, 5, and 7
 - Assessor of Property
- **August 1st** (*Federal & State Primary / County General Election*)
 - U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress Districts 5 & 6
 - State Representatives Districts 40 & 46 & 57
- **November 5th** (*General / City Election*)
 - Presidential
 - City of Mt. Juliet, Mayor, Districts 1 & 3

11) 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) Downtown/City Hall proposal (repeat/update): This project has been indefinitely deferred, 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](#). This project also has pending ethics complaints against members of the MJ BOC, regarding adjacent property.

2) Ethics complaints: Six ethics complaints against MJ BOC members have been filed to date by MJ BOC members, linked to two properties. The situation currently resides with the MJ Ethics Commission. A public meeting has not been scheduled as of yet.

3) Three-way intersection (repeat/update): According to the latest update, Piedmont and Beazer have both signed the agreement to move the second gas line. The work order has been sent out for a contractor to perform the work. Currently, the work is scheduled to begin December 5th and take approximately two weeks, depending on weather. After that has been completed, the three-way intersection at Providence Trail and S. Rutland Road can move forward. I know this has been very frustrating for everyone and your continued patience is appreciated. The city has no recourse until the developer reaches the 100th Certificate of Occupancy in Waterford Park. Currently, 48 COs have been issued.

4) Breweries in Commercial Zoning (repeat/update): The BOC recently approved at 2nd reading, to permit breweries/microbreweries in select commercial districts within the city limits. The primary reason is to allow restaurants the option to have microbreweries onsite. Large-scale breweries are capped at 50,000 barrels per year.

5) Food trucks: A new Food Truck Ordinance Amendment was heard at 1st Reading November 27th to settle a lawsuit out of court. After the 2nd reading of a new food truck ordinance was approved in July, a lawsuit was filed against the city regarding permit fees for out-of-city vendors (\$100/day) verses in-city vendors (\$100/year). The primary reason for the July ordinance was to allow food trucks, ice cream trucks, and canteen trucks into residential and industrial zoning. An evaluation trial period was scheduled to end February 15, 2024. Even though the city attorney said the Ordinance passed in July was defensible, it could cost taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars to defend it.

With a 3-2 vote for an amendment, the trial period was extended to June 30, 2024. The Ordinance to resolve the lawsuit and charge all food truck vendors \$100/annually, passed unanimously.

6) MJ Fireworks Code (repeat/update): At 2nd Reading on November 27th, regarding the Ordinance to amend the MJ City Fireworks Code, the BOC approved the following for shooting and selling fireworks within the city limits. In the event of rain, FDMJ has the authority to determine any additional date(s) for shooting. There are other changes regarding tents and retail sales. If you have questions, please call the Mt. Juliet Fire Department:

- Usage/discharge allowance (shooting):
 - 5-10 pm on the Saturday prior to the 4th of July, July 3rd, and July 4th.
 - 5-10 pm on December 29th and 30th, and 5 pm - 1 am on December 31st.
- Retail sales permitted allowance:
 - June 20th thru July 4th
 - December 20th thru December 31st

7) MJ City Park restrooms: On, December 11th, all MJ City Park outdoor restrooms will be closed for the winter, with the exception of Amazon, Hamilton-Denson, Mundy, and football restrooms at Charlie Daniels Park.

8) Mundy Park Move-Strong workout station: The upgraded workout station in Mundy Park has been installed. Move-Strong is located in front of the Wall of Honor.

9) Christmas trees: The City Grapple truck(s) will pick up Christmas trees again this year during their normal routes after Christmas. Please note, only real trees, stripped bare will be picked up. Click here to see the Grappling Truck Route. There also will be two drop off locations, one in Mundy Park and one in Charlie Daniels Park. If you are not sure which Grapple Truck Zone (known as Chipper Zone Map) you are in, you can find the map of your Zone here. To see the drop off areas after Christmas within the parks, you can click here.

10) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). November: 2 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that led to 2 arrests/apprehensions. All were from out of county.

11) New voter registrations: MJ City District 4 (south of I-40) had 36 new registered voters for November, with a total of 6,268 active voters. I encourage everyone to get registered and vote.

12) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 2.59% 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: 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. Please use caution around the sidewalks. [Please see #3 under Updates above for the latest status report.](#) 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, Move-Strong, has been installed.](#)

Adams Lane: The second NB left turn lane on Adams/SMJRD is [scheduled to be operational by the opening of BJ's. Signal components are still on order and will be installed when they arrive.](#)

Providence Pkwy.: The 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. [I do not have a timeline.](#)

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 are [10% 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 [80% 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 [50% 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. **TDOT has budgeted to begin NEPA and preliminary engineering phases.** 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, a consultant has been chosen and approved, and is in design.** 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 **75%** 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: 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 **around the end of December**. Costs are being evaluated for playground fencing and field lighting. A Ribbon Cutting for the fields will announced in the near future.

Lebanon Road sidewalks Phases 2 & 3:

- Construction has begun and is **10%** 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. NEPA has been approved by TDOT, **and waiting for them to obligate funds for final design.**

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, [and for construction fund obligation from TDOT/FHWA](#). 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 [in a few months, due to long lead times on signal components](#).

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: [The project just entered Phase 4 traffic control plan, which is the last one. The intersection is now operating as a true roundabout.](#) Construction is underway and [75%](#) 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 [closed on 75% 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.
- EQ Basin on OLDRD will be the biggest sewer project the city has seen since the late 70s/early 80s. Currently, this project is in the design phase which should wrap up sometime during 2024, followed by construction bidding the end of 24/25 fiscal year.

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 only BOC meeting in December will be Monday the 11th 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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