

DECEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER



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My wrist continues to improve and hopefully I will be back on the pickleball courts by February. Dates in January are; National Law Enforcement Day on the 9th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day on the 15th, National Religious Freedom Day on the 16th, National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on the 21st, International Holocaust Remembrance Day on the 27th. The week of January 18th-25th is Prayer for Christian Unity. The month of January is known for National Sanctity of Human Life, National Blood Donor, and Poverty Awareness. I wish everyone a blessed New Year.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Fayzano's Pizza, will be opening soon in Providence Marketplace in front of Belk, Suite 345. I do not have an exact date.

UPCOMING

1) Wilson County School Board vote: At the December meeting, the Wilson County School Board unfortunately voted 4-3 to censor "Wilson County residents" by deleting that phrase from its policy. The 2nd and final Reading is scheduled for Monday, January 8th, that will decide who has the right to challenge materials/books already in public school libraries and classrooms, that is considered sexually explicit and/or inappropriate for minors. If, 2nd Reading is approved, the revised policy 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](#).

2) Daddy/Daughter Dance: Tickets will be available for purchase on Friday, January 5th at 8 am for \$20 each. The 2024 Daddy/Daughter Dance, sponsored by MJ Parks, will be Saturday, February 10th. Tickets go fast. If you would like to see the flyer, you can [click here](#).

3) 8th Annual TWRA Swap Meet: On Saturday, January 20th at Charlie Daniels Park, the public is invited to attend the 8th Annual TWRA Swap Meet that will have vendors with fishing, hunting, and boating gear. The entry fee is \$5 that will go towards supporting the purchase of quality fish food for the TWRA fish hatcheries. Find great items and learn more about the Percy Priest Hybrid and Striper Club. The event will be from 9 am - 1 pm. Free admission under 12.

4) TDOT Public Information Meeting: On Thursday, February 29th at 5 pm, TDOT will hold a public information meeting at Providence Church to discuss their plans for the Central Pike

Interchange and SMJRD Widening projects. Providence Church is located at 2293 S. Rutland Road.

5) Wilson County Election Calendar (repeat/update): 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

6) MJ Special Census (repeat/update): If you live inside the city limits of Mt. Juliet and have not completed your MJ City Census, please make the effort to complete it. 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 click the link to [complete your portion online](#).

UPDATES

1) Ethics complaints: Four of the six ethics complaints against MJ BOC members have been dismissed by the MJ Ethics Commission for insufficient evidence. Two complaints filed against Commissioner Scott Hefner, were filed by myself and Mayor James Maness. Two were filed against myself and the Mayor by Commissioner Hefner for lack of evidence. All four of these complaints involved private property owned by Commissioner Hefner adjacent to the deferred downtown project. If you would like to read my public statement regarding the reasons I filed my complaint, you can [click here](#). The two remaining complaints still currently reside with the MJ Ethics Commission. A meeting for review is set for January 9th, and I do not have details of that meeting, or if it will be available to the public. These two complaints are between Commissioner Justice and Vice Mayor Bill Trivett, regarding private property on Charlie Daniels Pkwy.

2) Three-way intersection (repeat/update): I had requested a status update but, as of today, I did not receive one. I know this intersection at S. Rutland Road/Providence Trail 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.

3) Right-turn arrows at SMJRD: The two right-turn arrows at Providence Way/SMJRD (EB turning NB) have now been corrected. They are synced with the green through movement.

4) MJ City Park restrooms (repeat/update): All MJ City Park outdoor restrooms are closed for the winter, with the exception of Amazon, Hamilton-Denson, Mundy, and football restrooms at Charlie Daniels Park.

5) Christmas trees (repeat/update): The City Grapple truck(s) are currently picking up Christmas trees during their normal routes. 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](#).

6) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by .84% 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: I had requested a status update but, as of today, I did not receive one. 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. 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 operational. 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. [TDOT announced in December, this project is 100% funded in their 10-year plan.](#)

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 announced in December, this project is 100% funded in their 10-year plan.](#) 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 will begin installation in late January](#). 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 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. [The signal at S. Greenhill/W. Division are undergoing improvements as well. It will include steel poles, mast arms, and upgrading the signal equipment, along with railroad safety components.](#) 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 BOC meetings in January will be Monday the 8th and Monday the 22nd 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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