

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

I hope everyone made it safely through the winter storm. Dates in February are; National Freedom Day on the 1st, Valentine's Day on the 14th, President's Day on the 19th, and Leap Year on the 29th. The month of February is African-American History Month and American Heart Month. Enjoy the Super Bowl!

NEW BUSINESSES:

Beckwith Soap, is now open and located at 1730 NMJRD.

UPCOMING

1) Valentine's Craft Fair: On Saturday, February 3rd from 10 am - 4 pm, there will be a Valentine's Craft Vendor Fair at the Holiday Inn/Avid Hotel located at 75 Belinda Pkwy. Bring a toy to donate to Give A Little Christmas and restock Santa's Workshop. Give A Little Christmas is a non-profit that provides Christmas toys to local families that need a little help.

2) Wilson County School Board vote (repeat/update): The Wilson County School Board voted to remove "Wilson County Residents" from their policy in December by a vote of 4-3. At 2nd Reading in January, they voted to send it back to the Policy Committee for another review, which occurred last night. That vote was to table it until the State General Assembly completes their session the first of July, and 2nd Reading will be held at that point. The 2nd Reading vote would decide whether "Wilson County Residents" would continue to have the right to challenge materials/books already in public school libraries and classrooms. Books/materials that are considered sexually explicit and/or inappropriate for minors. If, 2nd Reading does get 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. To contact School Board members, you can [click here](#).

3) MJ Senior Center:

- On Saturday, February 10th, the MJ Senior Activity Center will hold their indoor yard sale from 8 am - 1 pm. Tickets are available to purchase a chili lunch (10:30 am - 1 pm) with a deadline of February 6th. To purchase your chili lunch tickets in advance, you can call 615-758-9114. The MJ Senior Center is located at 2034 NMJRD. All proceeds benefit the MJ Senior Activity Center.
- On Saturday, March 9th, the MJ Senior Center will hold their Annual Reverse Raffle, hosted by Exchange Club of West Wilson County. The Grand Prize is \$5,000 with other door prizes. Tickets are \$50 that includes a meal (must RSVP). Meals are served between 4-5 pm by Bar-B-Cutie Smokehouse, and the raffle will begin at 5:30 pm. Deadline to reserve meals is March 1st. If you have

purchased a ticket for the raffle, but have not ordered your meal, please call 615-758-9114,

4) February 15th Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:

- **Mundy Memorial Industrial Development:** A plan has been submitted by Nashville Office Interiors, for office/warehouse, to be located at 105 Mundy Memorial Drive on 4 acres. To view this plan you can [click here](#).
- **Eastside Bowl:** The Final Master Development (FMDP) & Site Plan (SP) for Eastside Bowl, to be located at Golden Bear Place off Golden Bear Gateway, has been submitted. This project was approved by the BOC, as a part of the Golden Bear Place project. To see the plan, you can [click here](#).
- **Homewood Suites:** The FMDP/SP for Homewood Suites, to be located at 80 Belinda Pkwy., has been submitted. This project was previously approved at Planning Commission. To see the plan, you can [click here](#).

5) TDOT Public Information Meeting (repeat/update): 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. Providence Church is located at 2293 S. Rutland Road.

6) Wilson County Election Calendar (repeat/update): The first election for this year is in March. You can [early vote at MJ Community Center in Charlie Daniels Park](#). If you haven't registered to vote, please do so by [clicking here](#) as soon as possible.

- **Primary Election March 5th** (*Presidential Preference Primary / County Primary Election*)
 - WC School Board Zones 1, 3, 5, and 7
 - Assessor of Property
- **Early Voting** begins February 14th and ends February 27th.

UPDATES

1) Ethics complaints (repeat/update): The two remaining ethics complaints between Commissioner Justice and Vice Mayor Trivett, still reside with the MJ Ethics Commission. The review meeting on January 9th was rescheduled for a later time when the EC has five appointees. After the complaints were heard and dismissed by the EC between myself, Mayor Maness, and Commissioner Hefner, four of the five members resigned. These cases were dismissed for lack of evidence and third-party hearsay. Three members have been replaced and they are waiting on one more appointment before moving forward. That meeting will be public. The initial meeting(s) were not held in public where three interviews took place. According to the way the EC code and State Law is written, those interviews should have been held in public. I believe the previous one should be deemed null and void and be held in public. That decision to overturn, will be determined by the new EC, from my understanding. We will have to wait and see how that plays out. The BOC is in process of updating the City's Ethics Code to close up any loopholes. The City posted a statement on the website. If you haven't seen it and would like to, you can [click here](#).

2) Three-way intersection (repeat/update): Due to weather delays, utility construction began this past Monday. 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) Beckwith Point: The Beckwith Point project on 75 acres between Belinda Pkwy. and I-40, should break ground in March. This project is set to close on the contracted property toward the end of February, and consist of three distribution warehouses with a road connecting from Beckwith Rd. to Belinda Pkwy., across from Meadowview Drive. To review the plan, you can [click here](#).

4) MJ Sign Ordinance Amendment: The recent amendment to the sign ordinance that passed 1st Reading in December, failed at 2nd Reading at the BOC meeting in January. The major change was to make temporary banners illegal in commercial districts. The current sign ordinance remains in effect. Please note, off-sight pointer signs have been illegal for several years now. That did not change.

5) Pothole repairs: Unfortunately, the snow and ice do a lot of damage to our roads, creating potholes. The City is in the process of identifying areas across the city in need of repair. Public Works will begin filling those this week. Thank you for your patience and please avoid them, if at all possible.

6) Winter storm road preparations: Prior to the winter storm we just had, the City had 250 tons of salt/brine mixture that was depleted to 50+ tons. Public Works is making efforts to acquire more from other vendors, as well as speaking with TDOT for a potential contract. This would allow MJ to receive funding and salt, giving MJ the opportunity to treat State roadways sooner. Regarding city roadways, MJ treats and plows all main roads inside the city limits. After all main roads have been cleared, they begin plowing side streets. Generally speaking, the City does not treat and plow residential areas.

7) Veterans Memorial Wall: Initially, this non-profit fundraiser was to be built in Robinson Park (behind Dairy Queen), but MJ Parks is now leading the project and it will be built near the Town Center Clock Tower at the train station. Construction should begin soon.

8) End of year report for 2023: The City continues to see growth in sales tax revenues. For the fiscal year, we saw an increase of 6.53% over the previous fiscal year. We had 30+ capital projects totaling \$76M, and 10 sewer projects totaling \$11+M budgeted. These projects include new buildings, transportation, stormwater, and sewer infrastructure. The crime rate was down by 8%; shoplifting down 26%; crashes down 9%. Since installation of the Guardian Shield cameras, they have led to 172 stolen cars, 116 wanted persons, 70 stolen plates, five stolen trailers, four missing adults, and six missing/runaway juveniles.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

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

Three-way stop at Providence Trail/S. Rutland Road: Please see [note above under Updates #2](#). Please use caution around the sidewalks. If you would like to see a rendering with added turn lanes, you can [click here](#).

Providence Pkwy.: The portion of Providence Pkwy., west of Creekside Apartments, [resumed construction to five lanes this past Monday](#). There are two developers responsible for the widening of Providence Pkwy. to Central Pike.

Beckwith Road: [The consultant is currently working on preliminary design](#). In addition, they are also evaluating and designing for a quick start project at the fourway intersection to make temporary turn lane improvements. [The City has begun ROW acquisition on the quick-start 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. The City plans to apply for grant funding to cover 80% of the construction costs, [when they become available](#).

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. TDOT announced in December, this project is 100% funded over 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. TDOT announced in December, this project is 100% funded over their 10-year plan.

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 [10%](#) complete with preconstruction activity. TDOT has budgeted to begin NEPA and preliminary engineering phases. Phase 1 is between I-40 and SMJRD. [A consultant firm was approved by the MJ BOC to begin design for Phase 1. The City funding the engineering/ROW acquisition will likely save many years on the ultimate completion of Phase 1.](#) The Phase 2 TDOT project will be from I-40 to OHB. [TDOT announced in December, construction will be 100% funded in their 10-year plan, and they will manage the ROW acquisition.](#)

Mundy Park: [The bid for the playground expansion project opened yesterday.](#)

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 should begin installation this week](#). 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 [30%](#) 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 [95%](#) 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. [Phase 2 is estimated to begin construction this spring with a fall 2025 completion](#). 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 **in final design**, which will extend from Curd Road to Lebanon Road, covering six signals. This project is **30% complete with preconstruction activity**, and in final design. NEPA was approved. **Phase 3 is estimated to begin construction in fall 2025.**

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 **waiting on** 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.

Traffic signal at W. Division/S. Greenhill Road: **Signal is being upgraded to steel poles and mast arms with signal equipment and railroad safety components. Bids recently opened. Estimated completion is spring 2025.**

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. **Estimated construction is early 2025, depending on utility relocation.**

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. **In the TDOT announcement in December, this project was not included in their funding plan. We do not know, or understand the reasons.**

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. A new consultant has been approved and hired. The ROW design is estimated to be complete by July 2025. 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. Utility relocation and ROW acquisition have begun. Construction is estimated to begin during 2026.

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 is preparing to cross Old Lebanon Dirt Road (OLDRD).
- 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 February will be Monday the 12th and Monday the 26th 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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