

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

April showers bring May flowers so they say. The bluebirds started over with a new brood of five eggs, and the chickadees have five hatchlings. Some dates in May are: National Day of Prayer May 2, International Firefighters Day May 4, Mother's Day May 12, Armed Forces Day May 18, Memorial Day May 27, Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-10, National Nurses Week May 6-12, National Police Week May 12-18, National EMS Week May 19-25, Military Appreciation Month, National Bike Month, Silver Alert Awareness Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Motorcycle & Bicycle Safety Awareness Month.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Foot Gear is now opened, located at 2240 NMJRD (between Leon's Famous Deli and Jeremiah's Italian Ice.

Honey Baked Ham is coming to Robinson Crossing, to be located at 1400 NMJRD in November.

Pop Shelf, located on the corner of Lebanon Road and NMJRD, will be a Dollar General.

UPCOMING

1) National Day of Prayer event (repeat/update): Join churches, businesses, and neighbors for prayer and worship at the Clock Tower on May 1st for this year's National Day of Prayer event beginning at 5 pm. This is a free, family-friendly event, hosted by Everyone's Wilson, so bring your family and friends and have dinner in the park. Food truck vendors will be available. Please join us in praying for our city, state and nation. National Day of Prayer is May 2nd. The Clock Tower is located at the train station on E. Division Street and NMJRD.

2) Food truck Thursdays (repeat/update): Starting on May 2nd, MJ Parks will host food trucks on Thursdays each month through October in Charlie Daniels Park from 4-7:30 pm. Please come out and support these businesses every Thursday.

3) Farmers Market (repeat/update): The MJ Farmers Market will open for the season beginning May 4th from 7 am - 1 pm. Located in Charlie Daniels Park, the hours are every Saturday through October. Please help support these local businesses and farmers. For questions you may call 615-758-6522.

4) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee) (repeat/update):

- **9th Annual Ride Mt. Juliet** is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th from 2-4 pm beginning at the Cedar Creek Trail Head in Charlie Daniels Park. We will ride bicycles (or walk) on a 5-6 mile route using the new Cedar Creek Greenway. MJPD will hold a bike rodeo for young kids and 12 or under can register for a bike giveaway. Rainout date is

May 19th. Bring the family and join us for a great afternoon. Helmets are required.

- [Ride of Silence](#) is scheduled for May 15th at 7 pm at the train station parking lot on E. Division Street. The Veloteers/BPAC honor the Ride of Silence each year to raise awareness of motorists, police, and city officials that cyclists have a legal right to the public roadways and we ride to honor the lives of cyclists that have been killed or injured.
- The [Veloteers/BPAC community bicycle rides](#) depart Charlie Daniels Park at 6:00 pm on Mondays and are open to the community. It is a 15- to 30-mile loop. All skilled cyclists are welcome and helmets are required.

5) Joint Work Session for Rec Center: On Tuesday, May 7th at 5:30 pm, the MJ BOC and the MJ Parks Board will hold a public work session to discuss the newly proposed recreation facilities on Clemmons Road. The work session will be held at MJ City Hall and the public is invited. The MJ Parks & Greenway Board regular meeting will follow at 6:30 pm.

6) Walk to School Day at RES (repeat/update): Rutland Elementary School will hold their Annual Walk to School Day on Friday, May 10th. There are three meeting places at 6:15 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.

7) Pickleball Drills with Kit: On Friday, May 10th from 4-6 pm, the Ambassador of Mundy Park, Kit Magalei, will be holding free pickleball drill sessions at Mundy Park. No experience required. To participate, you will need to register in advance. The maximum number of participants is 24. All courts will be reserved for drills from 4-6 pm. In case of inclement weather, the class will be moved to the MJ Community Center at the same time. Tips are encouraged. To see the flyer with the QR code for signup, you can [click here](#). **Note:** signup is a bit tricky, you must continue all the way until you can view your receipt.

8) MJP Police Week: MJP and Two Rivers Ford invite the community to kick off Police Week with a celebration honoring the brave men and women who protect and serve our community. This free, family-friendly event will be held on Saturday, May 11th from 9 am - 12 pm at Two Rivers Ford located at 76 Belinda Pkwy. Door prizes will be offered. Come meet and greet our MJP officers and learn their roles in our community.

9) MJ Market Night: On Thursday, May 16th from 5:30-8 pm, MJ Parks will bring back MJ Market Nights with music, vendors, foam party, firetruck adventure for kids, and yummy food trucks. Bring the family for a night of fun. For vendor registration please call 615-758-6522.

10) May 16th Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:

- **Everette Downs Mixed Use:** A Preliminary PUD plan for a mixed use development has been submitted that would include the newly announced Sprouts coming to MJ. To

see the plan, you can [click here](#). The location is 1919 NMJRD.

- **Silver Springs PUD Amendment:** A PUD amendment has been submitted for an additional 109 residential units on property on the eastside of Benders Ferry Road. To see the plan, you can [click here](#).
- **Yorkshire Estates:** A plan has been submitted on 78 acres located at 1000 York Road for 80 single-family lots. To see the plan, you can [click here](#).
- **Divine Dental Prosthetics:** A Site Plan has been submitted for a two story 5700 sq. ft. building at 380 Nonaville Road. To see the plan, you can [click here](#).

11) Hibbett Hall Train Museum: On Friday, May 17th at 10 am, there will be a Ribbon Cutting for the new Hibbett Hall Train & History Museum located in the MJ Community Center. N.C. Hibbett, the town's first mayor in 1973, was an avid train collector where his collection will be on display. The museum's crown jewel is its model train display that will take visitors to the 1910-1940s era of MJ. All are welcome to join this exciting historical display as we cut the ribbon.

12) MJ Spring Yard Sale (repeat/update): The MJ Spring Yard Sale will be on Saturday, May 18th from 8 am - 12 pm in Charlie Daniels Park Field #2. If you would like to reserve a vendor spot for \$20, you can call 615-758-6522 or [click here](#). Vendor registration deadline is May 15th at 5 pm. ARC will also have a donation truck onsite. For a list of accepted donations, you can [click here](#).

13) Cornhole Tournament benefiting WEMA: I had the pleasure of serving this year on Leadership Wilson and our group project was First Responders. We decided to hold a fundraiser for WEMA to provide water bottles on their vehicles while on duty. The public is invited to participate on Sunday, May 19th at First United Methodist Church in Lebanon. The cost is \$50 for a team of two. Customized cornhole boards with the WEMA logo will be donated to each of the 11 WEMA stations across the county after the tournament. Registration starts at 1:30 pm at the church located at 415 W. Main Street. Blowin' Smoke Barbecue and The Pink Truck food trucks will be there. Everyone is invited to come eat, support WEMA, and play cornhole. To see the flyer, you can [click here](#).

14) 3rd Annual Whisker Walk 5K: This year's Whisker Walk will be on Saturday, May 25th at Charlie Daniels Park beginning at 8:30 am. All proceeds benefit True Rescue and help fund the medical clinic to purchase supplies and equipment. There will be vendor booths and this year, they are adding a biscuit-making contest. For a t-shirt, the registration deadline is May 15th. For details and tickets you can [click here](#). True Rescue is a non-profit animal rescue ministry. To read more about True Rescue you can [click here](#).

15) 12th Annual Field of Honor "Honoring America's Flag" (repeat/update): From May 23rd to May 27th, American flags will be on display at 22 E. Division Street for the 12th Annual Honoring America's Flag event. If you would like to sponsor a flag to be displayed, you may donate and take it home at the end of the

display period. The display will raise funds for community programs and charities of the Exchange Club of West Wilson County and the American Legion Post 281. To get your flag or for questions you can [click here](#).

16) Ava's Splash Pad: Ava's Splash Pad in Charlie Daniels Park opens on Tuesday, May 28th. To see the schedule, you can [click here](#).

17) Summer Food Program: MJ Help Center is gearing up for the summer. When kids are out of school, the grocery budget goes up because of the absence of free- and reduced priced breakfast and lunches, along with the backpack programs. The MJ Help Center helps fill the gap to feed these kids through the summer. The program is from May 28th through July 20th. For food pickup times or to donate nonperishable food items, you can [click here](#) to see the flyer or call the MJ Help Center at 615-754-4357.

18) Public Work Session on MJ City Ethics Code (repeat/update): On Wednesday, May 29th at 5:15 pm at MJ City Hall, the MJ BOC will hold its third work session for discussion in preparation of updating the City's Ethics Code.

19) Shiloh Music 50th Birthday Bash: On Saturday, June 1st from 4-7 pm, Shiloh Music Center will be celebrating their 50th year in MJ. Olivia West & Compass Rose will be performing along with other Shiloh bands. There will be food trucks available and the event will take place in Charlie Daniels Park.

20) Costco Wholesale: Costco has set a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for June 6th at 7:30 am. They are located off Golden Bear Gateway at 100 Legacy Pointe Blvd. All are welcome.

21) Dinner in the Vines: Experience a taste of Italy right here in MJ on Saturday, June 8th from 7-10 pm in MJ's only private vineyard located at 555 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 d'oeuvres, dinner, live music, silent auction, and a wine pull. Tickets can be [purchased here](#).

22) Flags Across Mt. Juliet (repeat/update): Kiwanis Club of Mt. Juliet sponsors Flags Across Mt. Juliet for \$50 a year. They place flags for businesses and for residential areas, city and HOA approved, for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day (through 9/11), and Veterans Day. Proceeds go to support the youth in our community. To find out more details and/or enroll in the program you can [click here](#).

UPDATES

1) MJ Parks Recreation Center: After pitching ideas of what the BOC would like to see on 14 acres of the city-owned property on Clemmons Road, the BOC approved to begin research and development on a rec center proposal. The wish list would

include a gym with four basketball courts (also striped for pickleball), two Olympic-size swimming pools (one inside for schools and seniors, and the other outside for public use). Outside there would be 10 pickleball courts, four tennis courts, as well as volleyball courts. A bond would be capped at \$11M that would come from hotel/motel tax with no burden on city taxpayers. A committee will be formed as we move forward. As this progresses and becomes more of a reality, we will have a better idea of what we can actually afford to build.

2) CBID Work Session: The deferred BOC work session was held on April 22nd to hear a proposal from a developer to create a special tax district for Golden Bear Place off Golden Bear Gateway (GBG). It would be based on property tax with the tax burden being on property owner(s) and the developer with no risks to the City or taxpayers. It primarily would be used for infrastructure for that specific district. The BOC consensus was for the developer to move forward.

3) New building for MJ Parks: MJ Parks will soon have a new toddler park for ages 3/under on Charlie Daniels Pkwy. just east of MJPD Headquarters.

4) The MJ BOC May meetings: There will not be any Mt. Juliet Board of Commissioners meetings in May due to a lack of agenda items and Memorial Day. The next scheduled meeting will be June 10th at City Hall at 6:30 pm.

5) A special thank you: I would like to thank Majors Concrete and Chief Rental, Inc. for donating their time, labor, and materials to provide a sidewalk in Charlie Daniels Park, connecting the pickleball courts to the bathroom sidewalk. Thank you Tracy Majors and Mark Herrington.

6) Food trucks in residential (repeat/update): Please remember that in residential zoning, you **MUST** contact Planning/Zoning for permits. This includes single-family (HOA or non HOA), townhome/condo/ apartment complexes. Food trucks in this zoning is ONLY temporary for a trial period that will potentially end July 31st. It is very important to follow procedure because at the end of trial period, compliance will be evaluated. Please call 615-773-6283 for permits.

7) Robinson Park (repeat/update): Robison Park remains closed during sewer line construction. Robinson Park is located behind Dairy Queen off OLDRD. I do not have a timeline.

8) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 8.67% over this month last year. Keep shopping local and you help fund MJPD, FDMJ, road improvements/projects, and much more. Keep it local.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

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

Three-way stop at Providence Trail/S. Rutland Road: The remaining construction to complete the three-way, is left to the

contractor of the Waterford Park development. [The current count on Certificates of Occupancy is 75.](#) The three-way intersection is to be completed prior to the 100th CO. Your continued patience is appreciated. 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 to Central Pike [will be widened to five lanes.](#) There are two developers responsible for the widening of Providence Pkwy. to Central Pike. [I do not have a timeline.](#)

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 four-way intersection to make temporary turn lane improvements. The City has begun ROW acquisition on the quick-start improvements. [NEPA studies and planning report are underway.](#) 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. Construction for the quick-start improvements is targeted for 2025. To see a closeup of the quick start plan, you can [click here](#).

S. Rutland Road Annexation: [MJ Public Works has applied for annexation of S. Rutland Road at the city limits to include the full Beckwith Road/Posey Hill four-way intersection. The reason is to take ownership in preparation for the quick-start improvements at and around the intersection.](#)

Beckwith Point: The Beckwith Point project on 75 acres between Belinda Pkwy. and I-40, has pulled land disturbance permits to begin construction. It will consist of three distribution warehouses with a road connecting from Beckwith Rd. to Belinda Pkwy., across from Meadowview Drive. The road will have to be completed prior to occupancy. To review the plan, you can [click here](#).

Beckwith Station: Land disturbance permits have been issued for Beckwith Station. This is for a gas station, office, and eatery on the southwest corner of Beckwith Road and Summit Blvd. across from the ER.

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. TDOT construction is estimated to align with the interchange project.

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. TDOT has budgeted to begin NEPA and preliminary engineering phases. Phase 1 is between I-40 and SMJRD and is 5% complete with preconstruction activity. 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. TDOT construction is estimated to align with the interchange project.

Mundy Park: Installation of the new playground expansion is ready for construction. The equipment is expected to ship by the end of May.

Wingwall repairs in Belinda City: TDOT has determined that two wingwalls need repairing within Belinda City. [Construction has begun on Belinda Pkwy. and has a lane closure.](#) The second one is on Creekview Drive.

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. NEPA and preliminary engineering is underway. Project is 5% complete with pre-construction activity. 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 90% complete with construction activity. This project will be constructed along with the S. Greenhill Road roundabout and completion is expected by [the end of May](#).

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 final design, and NEPA studies are complete.](#) Project is [50%](#) 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](#).

Lebanon Road sidewalks Phases 2 & 3:

- Construction has begun and is [90%](#) 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 99% 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 40% complete with preconstruction activity and in final design. NEPA has been approved by TDOT, and waiting for them to obligate funds for final design.

Woodridge Place sidewalks: Construction of the Ph2 sidewalks on Woodridge Place connecting to GBG will begin this summer. Completion should be by the end of the year.

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 50% complete with preconstruction activity, and in final design. NEPA was approved. Phase 3 is estimated to begin construction in fall 2025.

Traffic signal at NMJRD and Curd Road: In March, the BOC approved moving a signal from E. Hill Street to Curd Road and NMJRD, that will include with a small amount of widening. After months requesting approval for the Post Office to add a back exit onto Curd Road, the Post Office decided to not approve it.

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 at 30% completion. The contractor is waiting on signal equipment, but installing signal pole foundations and conduit.

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. Project is 5% complete. A contractor was selected who is in the process of ordering signal components and equipment. Estimated completion is between the end of 2024 and early Spring 2025.

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 90% complete. Completion is expected the [end of May '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, 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

There will not be a MJ BOC meeting in May due to lack of agenda items and Memorial Day.

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. 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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