

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER



CONTACT:
(615) 393-4356

WEBSITE:
JenniferMilele.com

EMAIL:
jmilele@mtjuliet-tn.gov



Jennifer Milele

Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Spring finally made it and I was ready. The Bluebirds have started their nest building and to my surprise, the chickadees have a nest in their new box. It is that time of year again to get those taxes done. Tax Day is April 15th, Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 27th, Adopt a Shelter Pet Day is April 30th. April is National- Donate Life Month, Volunteer Month, Autism Awareness Month, Distracted Driving Awareness Month, Month of the Military Child, and my favorite, National Pickleball Month.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Estilo Nash Haven Apizza is now open in the Meridian Complex at 120 Providence Trail. Right now, they are open four days a week and take-out only, but they do have future plans for dine-in.

Leon's Famous Deli has plans to open April 3rd. They are located at 2240 NMJRD behind Jeremiah's Italian Ice.

Milele Academy is relocating their dance studio from Nashville to Mt. Juliet. Opening is expected before summer to be located at 9600 Lebanon Road.

Five Below is now open in Providence Commons at 655 SMJRD. **Costco** is now looking at an early June opening.

UPCOMING

1) Walk Across Wilson: Walk Across Wilson began on March 24th and will end on April 20th. It is not too late to register and log your daily minutes. If you still would like to participate, you may [click here](#) to register and log your minutes. It is not necessary to sign into Goggle. To end the WAW, on April 27th beginning at 9 am, all participants are encouraged to attend the American Heart Association Wilson County Heart Walk at the Nashville Superspeedway located at 4847-F McCrary Road in Lebanon. There will be heart health education, activities (8 am), and a walk.

2) Kid's Night Out with Mt. Juliet Fire: Bring the kids to Firehouse Subs on April 3rd between 5-7 pm and eat dinner with Mt. Juliet firefighters. Kids 12 and under eat free with a kids combo. Firehouse subs is located at 650 SMJRD.

3) MJ Décor Sale: On April 5th and 6th, Cracker Barrel at 350 SMJRD will be selling over 500 pieces of their antique décor from 7 am - 7 pm each day on the front porch. It is open to the public, first come first serve while supplies last.

4) Shred Day: If you have papers that need shredding, Wilson Bank & Trust will be holding a shred day on April 6th from 9-11 am. They are located at 1476 NMJRD.

5) Ribbon Cutting & eclipse watch: On Monday, April 8th beginning at 11:30 am, Two Rivers Ford will have a Ribbon Cutting for their expanded Commercial Vehicle Center and at 1 pm, there will be an eclipse watch party (with NASA-certified eclipse glasses) with door prizes and more. They are located at 76 Belinda Pkwy. All are welcome.

6) April 18th Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:

- **Convenience Store:** A proposed layout plan for a convenience store has been submitted to be located at 2190 NMJRD.
- **Children's Lighthouse:** A Site Plan has been submitted for Children's Lighthouse to be located at 9468 Lebanon Road.
- **Tim Horton's:** A Site Plan has been submitted for Tim Horton's Coffeehouse to be located at 10576 Lebanon Road.
- **George Wright Plat:** A Final Subdivision Plat for one-lot on 4.35 acres has been submitted to be located at 1200 John Wright Road.
- **Worlow Property:** A Final Subdivision Plat for two-lots has been submitted on 5 acres to be located at 285 John Wright Road.
- **Drive-thru restaurant:** Plans for a drive-thru only restaurant has been submitted on .86 acres to be located on the southwest corner of Rutland Drive and Volunteer Blvd. off Golden Bear Gateway.
- **Willow Landing Ph1:** A Final Plat for 68 single-family residential lots on 31 acres has been submitted to be located on Mays Chapel Road (This is a county project in the MJ Urban Growth Boundary and it will not be annexed).

7) Public Work Session on CBID: The MJ BOC will hold a public work session at 5:15 pm on Monday, April 22nd at City Hall. This is a development proposal to create a special tax district located off Golden Bear Gateway.

8) Walk for Life Event: This is a family-friendly opportunity to help the Pregnancy Care Center (4989 Lebanon Road) raise support and awareness. The one-mile walk is at Charlie Daniels Park on Saturday, April 27th from 9:30-11:30 am. Please come to Pavilion #2. You can [register online here](#).

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

- [Dinner Walk](#) will be on Sunday, April 27th. There will only be this one event for the MJ BPAC dinner walk. We will meet at MJ City Hall at 6 pm and walk to a designated location for dinner and then walk back. All are welcome to come walk and eat.
- [Ride Mt. Juliet](#) is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th from 2-4 pm at the MJPD Headquarters on Charlie Daniels Pkwy. We will ride bicycles (or walk) on a 5-6 mile route using the new Cedar Creek Greenway. More details to follow. Rainout date is May 19th. All are welcome. 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](#) kicked off the season on March 25th. The Monday rides depart Charlie Daniels Park at 6:00 pm and are open to the community. It is a 15- to 30-mile loop. All skilled cyclists are welcome and helmets are required.

10) National Small Business Week: Please continue supporting our small businesses and in case you did not know, NSBW is April 28 - May 4th.

11) National Day of Prayer event: Join churches, businesses, and neighbors for prayer and worship in Charlie Daniels Park 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.

12) Food truck Thursdays: Starting in May, MJ Parks will host food trucks on Thursdays each month thru October in Charlie Daniels Park. Please come out and support these businesses.

13) Farmers Market: 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.

14) Walk to School Day at RES: 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 MJPd. Walking begins at 6:45 am. Please join us if you would like to walk to school.

15) MJ Market Night: On Thursday, May 16th from 6-8 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.

16) MJ Spring Yard Sale: The MJ Spring Yard Sale will be on Saturday, May 18th from 7 am - 12 pm in Charlie Daniels Park. If you would like to reserve a vendor spot for \$20, you can call 615-758-6522.

17) 12th Annual Field of Honor "Honoring America's Flag": 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](#).

18) Public Work Session on MJ City Ethics Code: 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) Flags Across Mt. Juliet: 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 City Bark Park: The water fountains in the dog park located in Will Sellars Park on SE Springdale Drive will be operational during the first week of April.

2) Food trucks in residential: 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.

3) New building for MJ Parks: In March, the BOC approved the purchase of the old daycare building on Charlie Daniels Pkwy. It is now the property of MJ Parks and will mainly be utilized for program activities, including a toddler play area, and possibly some activities for teens.

4) MJ BOC term limits: After deliberation during February/March BOC meetings, term limits for BOC members, along with adding two seats, failed to pass adding a referendum vote on the November ballot. If you would like to read my position on term limits you can [click here](#).

5) Three-way stop Pleasant Grove/Central Pike: The BOC passed 1st Reading to approve a three-way stop with flashing lights and other safety measures at the intersection of Pleasant Grove Road and Central Pike. The 2nd Reading was deferred to see about the possibility of lowering the hill on the east side by the developer of Villages of Pleasant Grove.

6) Tomlinson property: In March, the BOC approved to sell 29 acres that the City purchased in 2021 for MJ Parks. The funds will go back into the Parks budget for future expansion of MJ Parks. This property is located on the west side of (north) Beckwith Road, just south of Lebanon Road.

7) Signal at Curd Road: The signal that was potentially moved to E. Hill Street, pending the recent downtown project, is back on the table. In March, the BOC approved to install the signal at Curd Road 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.

8) Hamilton-Denson Park: The Hamilton-Denson (sports) practice fields are officially open and ready to rent. To reserve one of the eight practice fields for \$10/hour, call MJ Parks at 615-758-6522. Note: the playground, which is complete, must pass a HIC (Head Injury Criterion) test that is expected to take place in April. Once the results are received, MJ Parks will open the playground. The fields are located at 1855 Tate Lane.

9) Robinson Park: Robinson Park remains closed during sewer line construction. Robinson Park is located behind Dairy Queen off OLDRD. I do not have a timeline.

10) MJPD Headquarters Ph2: The BOC approved a max estimate of just under \$30M for the construction phase of the new MJPD headquarters.

11) A special thank you: I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank every city resident that took time to fill out their MJ City Special Census that just ended. You helped bring in almost \$1M (\$200k/year) to help with public safety, infrastructure, and many other things. Thank you for helping with services the city provides for you. The count ended up at 40,430.

12) MJPD Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). *March:* 4 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 8 arrests/apprehensions. All vehicles were from out of county/state.

13) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax continue to stay above average by 2.27% over February 2023. 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 74.* 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, resumed construction. 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 four-way 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. Construction for the quick-start improvements is targeted for 2025.

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. 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. 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. You should see construction begin soon. One is located on Belinda Pkwy. at the bridge over Stoner Creek between Stoner Creek Apartments and Grace Baptist Church. 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 April.

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 30% 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 80% 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.

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 40% 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 at 20% completion. The contractor is waiting on signal equipment, but will be installing signal pole foundations and conduit.

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. Project is 5% complete. 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 90% complete. Completion is expected the end of April '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

The BOC meetings in April 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.

Jennifer Milele
MJ City Commissioner District 4
(615) 393-4356

website: JenniferMilele.com
email: jmilele@mtjuliet-tn.gov
