

## MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



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# Jennifer Milele

## Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Spring finally made it. The Bluebirds have started their nest building, but not in the Chickadee box yet. Dates in April are; Tax Day the 15<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday the April 18<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday the April 20<sup>th</sup>, and Adopt a Shelter Pet Day the 30<sup>th</sup>. April is also Child Abuse Awareness Month, Donate Life Awareness Month, and Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

### **NEW BUSINESSES:**

**Pure Barre** (gym/physical fitness) is now open located at 2014 Providence Pkwy.

**Huntington Learning Center** is now open located at 85 NMJRD, Ste. 100.

**The Snack Barr** is now open for takeout and catering, located in Shiloh Park Plaza at 15301 Lebanon Road.

**The Mercantile at Old Hickory** (furniture/décor) will soon open, located at 15380 Lebanon Road.

### **UPCOMING**

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**1) Needham's Nursery Ribbon Cutting:** The official Ribbon Cutting for Needham's Nursery will be Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 am. They are located at 12425 Lebanon Road. All are welcome.

**2) HoneyBaked Ham Ribbon Cutting:** The official Ribbon Cutting of HoneyBaked Ham will be Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11 am. They are located at 1400 NMJRD. All are welcome.

**3) Pack-a-Cruiser Food Drive:** On Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 11 am - 1 pm, bring your donations to the Speedway at 12115 Lebanon Road to help benefit the MJ Help Center. MJPD and FDMJ will be there to help load the items. To see the items needed, you can [click here](#).

**4) Shred Day:** Wilson Bank, located at 1476 NMJRD, will have a shred day on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9-11 am.

**5) MJ Senior Center reverse raffle (repeat/update):** On Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, the MJ Senior Center will hold their reverse raffle fundraiser beginning at 5:30 pm, with the grand prize being \$5,000. Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at the Senior Center located at 2034 NMJRD. The event is sponsored by the Exchange Club of West Wilson County.

**6) Bark Park closed temporarily:** The Bark Park at Will Sellers Park on SE Springdale has been temporarily closed due to maintenance/reseeding, and is set to reopen on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The water will be turned on when there is no longer a threat of freezing temperatures.

**7) Easter in the Park (repeat/update):** Easter in the Park is scheduled for Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> in Charlie Daniels Park. The event will be from 11 am - 2 pm.

**8) EggStra Special Egg Hunt (repeat/update):** The EggStra Special Egg Hunt is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. This free event is for Wilson County special needs only. The special egg hunt will be in the MJ Community Center in Charlie Daniels Park, from 6-7 pm.

**9) April 17<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:** Note: There are other items submitted as well, and there could be more added before the final deadline. You can watch for the agenda to be posted closer to the meeting date by [clicking here](#).

- **Courtyards at McFarland:** Revised plans have been submitted for (LUA/Rezone/Annex/Plans) 5025 Old Lebanon Dirt Road, consisting of public park area, single family and townhomes. To see the plans, you can [click here](#).

**10) Walk Across Wilson (repeat/update):** It is not too late to get started. Walk Across Wilson began on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and ends on April 19<sup>th</sup>. All you have to do is register and log your daily activity minutes. School and community-based teams are also encouraged to participate for rewards. Activities include walking/running or any kind of fitness exercise that gets you moving. WAW is an annual event to promote fitness in Wilson County. The goal is to walk/exercise 30 minutes a day, six days a week, for four weeks, which is the equivalent of walking 36 miles across Wilson County, while improving your health. Follow WAW on Facebook for postings, or [click here](#) for website.

**11) Murder Under the Mistletoe:** On Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:30 pm, a charity event will be held at 1726 NMJRD to benefit "Give A Little Christmas." The evening of interactive mystery from the roaring 1920s, will include a thrilling mobster-themed murder mystery with dinner and a silent auction and prizes. Tickets are \$50 each and seating is limited. Dress to impress from the 1920s if you wish. For more details, or to purchase tickets, you can [click here](#). Give A Little Christmas is a nonprofit that provides Christmas gifts to children of local families in need.

**12) 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 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 am. Registration begins at 9 am under Pavilion #2. You can [register online here](#).

**13) Mt. Juliet Farmers Market:** The Farmer's Market in Charlie Daniels is set to open for the season on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7 am - 1 pm.

## UPDATES

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**1) MJ Rec/Aquatic Center (repeat/update):** We have narrowed down one building blueprint consisting of a gym (basketball/pickleball/volleyball/badminton) and an inside zero-entry community six-lane pool (includes area for water

aerobics). The building would be expandable for future phases. The next phases after the gym and pool, would be the outdoor courts (pickleball/tennis/volleyball). We are in the process of getting more accurate (ballpark) numbers to present to the BOC (these are not actual bids). Our bond budget range is \$11.4-14 million, to be paid back \$1 million per year from hotel/motel tax. In addition, prior to a BOC vote (three votes needed) for the 25/26 budget cycle, the Parks Department and Parks Board will have to submit a budget plan for operations and maintenance, for future budget cycles. If you would like to view the committee-approved plans moving forward, you can [click here](#).

**2) Needs for MJ Animal Shelter:** The MJ Animal Shelter is currently in need of wet and dry kitten food. For donations, you can drop them off at the shelter, located at 115 Industrial Drive. Or if you prefer, you can order from Amazon and have it shipped directly to the shelter. For other ways to donate, you can [click here](#).

**3) State of the City Address:** In February, Mayor Maness gave his Annual State of the City Address. If you have Facebook and would like to view the video, you can [click here](#).

**4) Railroad crossing repairs:** The MJ BOC approved the funding to repair the road at the railroad crossings on NMJRD and Clemmons Road in the next budget cycle beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**5) Spring paving schedule:** If you would like to see the spring paving schedule by Public Works, you can [click here](#).

**6) MJ City Safety Action Plan:** The MJ BOC held a public work session the end of March regarding the Safety Action Plan put in place. Public Works is in the process of finalizing the plan. If you would like to see the presentation, you can [click here](#).

**7) Lebanon Road improvements (repeat/update):** Beginning this summer, TDOT is expected to begin safety improvements in front of West Elementary, adding a center turn lane, as well as updating reflective signage. This is not part of the entire widening project, but to improve safety issues during school pick up and drop off times. Project is expected to complete by August 2026.

**8) MJ City sales tax revenues:** Revenues from city sales tax increased by 10.6% over this time last year. The current total is slightly below budget expectations to date. Keep shopping local and you help fund MJP, FDMJ, road improvements/projects, and much more, including keeping property taxes low.

## **STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS**

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

**Belinda City stormwater system:** There are three culverts to be upsized/rehabilitation around Belinda City through the Storm Water Utility (SWU) master plan. The MJ BOC just approved the engineering contract.

- Culvert under Belinda Pkwy., as part of the Mundy Park detention pond project, currently in survey and design.
- 121 SE Springdale Drive, in planning/design.
- 136 Sunnymeade Drive, in planning/design.

**Beckwith Road:** The consultant is currently working on preliminary design for the full corridor. NEPA studies are complete, pending approval by TDOT. This area of Beckwith Road is between I-40 and south to the four-way intersection at S. Rutland Road/Posey Hill Drive. In addition, design for the Quick Start Project at the four-way intersection is complete. ROW acquisition is complete for the Quick Start Project, and we are waiting for the relocation of utilities. Construction for the quick-start improvements is targeted for 2025. To see a closeup of the quick start plan, you can [click here](#).

**Beckwith Point:** The Beckwith Point project on 75 acres between Belinda Pkwy. and I-40, is under construction. It consists 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 clearing has begun](#). This is for a gas station, office, and eatery on the southwest corner of Beckwith Road and Summit Blvd. across from the ER. If you would like to view the layout, you can [click here](#).

**Providence Pkwy.:** [The expansion to five lanes is nearing completion between SMJRD and Central Pike. This was paid for by the developers of Providence Central.](#)

**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 on the part of the city. The TDOT ROW acquisition and utility relocation phases will take around three years to complete. TDOT announced in December, this project is 100% funded in 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, engineering, and finalizing design. Project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity. ROW acquisition is set to begin in 2026. TDOT announced in December, this project is 100% funded in their 10-year plan.

**Central Pike widening:**

This TDOT widening project to five 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. TDOT construction is estimated to align with the interchange project.

- [Phase 1](#) is between I-40 and SMJRD and is 10% complete with preconstruction activity. The City funding the engineering/ROW acquisition will likely save many years on the ultimate completion of Phase 1. TDOT announced

in December, construction will be 100% funded in their 10-year plan, and they will manage the ROW acquisition.

- The [Phase 2](#) TDOT project will be from I-40 to OHB and is 5% complete with preconstruction activity.

**Cedar Creek Greenway Phase 2:** [Phase 2](#) will connect Charlie Daniels Park to Lebanon Road and currently, in design. NEPA is complete, pending TDOT approval. Project is 20% complete with pre-construction activity. If you would like to see a map of Phases 1&2 with the new trailhead Park Glen, you can [click here](#).

#### **Town Center Trail:**

- [Phase 3](#): Design for the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 75% complete with preconstruction activity.
- [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 Phase 3:** [Phase 3](#) will be between Nonaville Road and Green Hill High School and is 99% complete with preconstruction activity. ROW, NEPA and final design are complete. Waiting on TDOT construction fund obligation. Construction is expected to begin this summer.

**MJRD ADA upgrades Phase 2:** This project will be upgrading ADA requirements on MJRD sidewalks between Weston Drive and OLDRD. It is currently 75% 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 Phase 2 sidewalk project on Woodridge Place is complete with the exception of the pedestrian bridges. I do not have a timeline of completion for them. This is a project funded by a developer.

#### **Signal improvements Phases 2 & 3:**

- Traffic signals along MJRD between Central Pike and Division will be undergoing improvements in [Phase 2](#). Construction has begun, and completion is expected in 2026. Project includes installing fiber optic communication between each of the 13 signals (Central Pike to Division) that will connect to City Hall. The project 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 75% 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:** The signal project is 90% complete with preconstruction activity, which will include some widening. Design is complete and currently acquiring ROW and utility coordination. MJ Traffic Coordinator is also working with USPS for needed easements. Construction plans have been finalized, and acquiring permits from TDOT.

**GBG/Beckwith Road Interchange Lighting:** Contract between MJ City/TDOT to improve lighting at the interchange was finalized and TDOT has begun design. Bids are expected to go out this December and begin construction early 2026. It is funded 50% by TDOT and 50% by the city, with a portion city's being funded by development near the interchange. Project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity.

**FDMJ Station #1 renovations:** Renovations for the fire station on Belinda Pkwy. are in technical review and bids will go out soon.

**FDMJ Station #3:** The new fire station under construction on Old Lebanon Dirt Road is progressing well. Targeted completion is the end of this year. This location will replace the current Station #3 on E. Hill Street.

**MJPD Headquarters:** The new police headquarters is nearing the end, located on Charlie Daniels Pkwy. The move-in date is hopeful for early summer.

**Old Lebanon Dirt Road widening:** Currently in process of ROW acquisition and utility coordination. Project is 90% complete with preconstruction activity and ROW acquisition. Estimated construction is Spring 2026. Utility relocation has begun, and the project will take about two years to complete. The primary purpose of this project is safety improvements and not roadway capacity improvements. This widening project seeks to correct these issues and decrease the crash rate along the corridor. The limits of the first phase of the project are from Moreland Drive to Chandler Road. Other components of the project will include providing a 10-foot trail on one side of the road for multimodal transportation options, improving poor drainage and flooding along the corridor, and extending sanitary sewer along a portion of the project. Therefore, this project is a road widening, multimodal, stormwater, and sanitary sewer project all in one.

**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. This project has yet to be included in TDOT's funding plan. TDOT to begin a safety plan improvement in front of West Elementary to add a center turn lane. Project will begin this summer and complete by August 2026.

**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 20% complete with preconstruction activity. NEPA is complete, pending TDOT approval. The ROW design is

estimated to be completed mid-year. 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 90% complete with preconstruction activity. ROW acquisition is complete, and waiting on utility relocation. Construction is estimated to begin during 2026.

**E. Division Street widening:** NEPA is complete, pending TDOT approval. In addition, a Quick Start Project is in design for the intersection of NMJRD and E. Division Street, which includes turn lane improvements. The project is 20% 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.

**Sunset Drive widening:** This project is 75% with preconstruction activity, and working with utilities on relocation.

**Weston/Clearview Drives drainage:** The planning and design phase has begun to alleviate flooding from an undersized swale/culvert system. This project is part of the Storm Water Utility (SWU) engineering master plan.

**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 is ongoing.
- Stoner Creek Interceptor Upsizing project: Sewer work is complete in Phases 3&4, but trail restoration is delayed because of wet weather. It will be sometime in the spring before completion. Phase 5 sewer work is complete.
- Old Lebanon Dirt Road (OLDRD) Western Pocket Plan project is installing sewer along OLDRD and Page Drive. Design phase is complete and ROW acquisition is being finalized. Construction will coincide with the widening project.
- EQ Basin on OLDRD is the biggest sewer project the city has seen since the late 70s/early 80s. The MJ BOC approved the construction contract.
- City-wide sewer manhole rehabilitation is underway and ongoing.

**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 MJ BOC meetings in April are the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at MJ City Hall.**

**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 [sluckett@mtjuliet-tn.gov](mailto: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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