

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

The bluebirds have five eggs, but I guess the chickadees decided not to use their box this year. Dates in May are; National Day of Prayer the 1st; International Firefighters Day the 4th; National Nurses Day and National Teacher Day the 6th; Mother's Day the 11th; Armed Forces Day the 17th; Memorial Day the 26th. Week recognitions are: National Small Business Week 4-10th; Teacher Appreciation Week 5-9th; National Nurses Week 6-12th; National Police Week 11th-17th; National EMS Week 18-24th. May is also Military Appreciation Month and Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

NOTE: I just wanted to express my gratitude for your votes in the 2025 Main Street Awards for Finalist of Best Elected Official. I am humbled, and thank you very much.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Chulitos Panaderia y Taqueria is now open in Shiloh Plaza, located at 15311 Lebanon Road.

Milestone Deli is now open, located at 2015 Golden Bear Gateway.

Simply Golf (indoor golf) is now open, located at 1004 Charlie Daniels Pkwy.

The Little Gym of Mt. Juliet (4-12 yrs) is open, located at 300 Pleasant Grove Road.

Blended (loaded tea), located in the gray building (formerly Truleigh Scrumptious) next to the RR tracks on NMJRD in Charlie's Place, should be open by now.

Mellow + Ivy (apparel/plants/goods) plans to open in late May. They are located at 14827 Lebanon Road.

Wash N Roll Car Wash on Golden Bear Gateway is set to open in late May.

Andy's Frozen Custard, located at 4040 NMJRD, plans for a late May opening.

Keke's Breakfast Cafe, located on Lebanon Road next to Chipotle, plans for a late May/early June opening.

UPCOMING

1) Mt. Juliet Farmers Market (repeat/update): The Farmer's Market in Charlie Daniels will open for the season on Saturday, May 3rd from 7 am - 1 pm.

2) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee):

- 10th Annual Ride Mt. Juliet is this Sunday, May 4th from 2-4 pm beginning at the Cedar Creek Trail Head in Charlie Daniels Park. We will ride bicycles (or walk) using the new Cedar Creek Greenway. MJPd will hold a bike rodeo for young kids prior to the event, and kids 12 or under can register for a bike giveaway. Rainout date is May 18th. Bring the family and join us for a great afternoon.

Helmets are required. To see the flyer, you can [click here](#).

- [Ride of Silence](#) is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st 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. We will ride to MJPD, have a ceremony, and then return to the train station.

3) Walk to School Day at RES: Rutland Elementary School will hold their Annual Walk to School Day on Tuesday, May 6th. 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 or ride your bicycle to school.

4) Pickleball Drills with Kit: On Tuesday, May 6th from 4-6 pm, the Ambassador of Mundy Park, Kit Magalei, will start his free pickleball drill sessions at Mundy Park once again. 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 on drill days. Tips are encouraged. Follow MJ Parks & Rec on Facebook for postings.

5) MJ Community Yard Sale: The Spring Community Yard Sale will be held in Charlie Daniels Park on Saturday, May 10th from 8 am - 12 pm. The deadline to register for a booth (\$20) is May 8th. To register you can [click here](#).

6) NEW MJ Rec/Aquatic Center Work Session:

On Monday, May 12th, the BOC will hold a public work session to present the conceptual plans for the building, that includes a gym and community pool. Included, will be the cost estimates of the building and parking lot, as well as future plans for operations and maintenance. Those involved in putting this together will be present to answer questions. If you would like to view the committee-approved plans moving forward, you can [click here](#).

7) April 15th 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](#).*

- **Hamilton Reserve:** A mass grading plan was submitted for Hamilton Reserve, located at 12465 Lebanon Road. To see the plans, you can [click here](#).
- **Reserve at Tate Lane:** A plan was submitted for Reserve (formerly Lynnhaven) at Tate Lane, located at 1413 Tate Lane. To see the plans, you can [click here](#).
- **Jam Enterprises LLC:** A Site Plan was submitted for Jam Enterprises LLC, located at 15239 Lebanon Road. To see the plans, you can [click here](#).
- **Rezone for 718 Monticello Drive:** Plans were submitted for a Rezone request from RS-40 to AR-40, located at 718 Monticello Drive. To see the plans, you can [click here](#).

8) Honoring America's Flag concert: On Saturday, May 24th, there will be a Patriotic Honor Concert featuring Wilson County's own JBD Express. Food trucks will be on sight at 5 pm and the concert will begin at 6 pm. The event will be held at MJ Veteran's Park Clock Tower on the corner of E. Division Street and NMJRD. For admission and flag sponsorship, you can [click here](#). This is an American Legion Tyler Cates Post #281 fundraising event.

9) MJ BOC meeting on May 26th: The MJ BOC will not meet on Monday, May 26th due to the Memorial Day holiday.

10) Ava's Splash Pad: Ava's Splash Pad, located in Charlie Daniels Park, opens for the season on Tuesday, May 27th.

11) MJ Animal Shelter fundraiser: On Saturday, May 31st, Southern Rhythm Farm will host Goat Yoga to benefit the MJ Animal Shelter. The event begins at 10:30 am and is located at 13895 Lebanon Road. Tickets are limited. You can [click here](#) to check availability.

12) Dinner in the Vines: Experience a taste of Italy right here in MJ on Saturday, May 31st beginning at 5 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 more. Tickets can be [purchased here](#).

UPDATES

1) MJ Community Center: If you would like to see the 2025 summer hours for the MJ Community Center, you can [click here](#).

2) Mid-Year Budget Report: If you would like to see the '24-25 budget report at mid-year, you can [view it here](#).

3) Crime trends in MJ: If you would like to see the crime trends in the city of MJ, you can [click here](#) for the 2024 statistics from MJPd.

4) 2024 End of Year Report: If you would like to read the End of the Year Annual Report for 2024, you can [read it here](#).

5) Robinson Park: The park, located behind Dairy Queen on Old Lebanon Dirt Road, is getting closer to reopening. The walking trail has been paved and the parking lot is in the process of being repaired. Stay tuned.

6) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from city sales tax increased by **7%** over this time last year. Keep shopping local and you help fund MJPd, 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 Sunnymede 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 expected after utility relocation.](#) 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](#).

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 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 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. [The bridges are in process](#). 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: [Construction plans were approved for the renovations for the fire station on Belinda Pkwy.](#)

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. Plans to move-in are expected to occur over the summer.

Old Lebanon Dirt Road widening: Project is 90% complete with preconstruction activity and ROW acquisition. Estimated construction is Spring 2026. [Utility relocation has begun and is expected to complete in the Spring of 2026. Construction will follow](#) and 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, [the walking trail has been paved, and the parking lot is being repaired](#).
- 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. [Preconstruction is 80% complete](#). 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 meeting in May is on the 12th at 6:30 pm, at MJ City Hall. We will not meet on 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 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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