

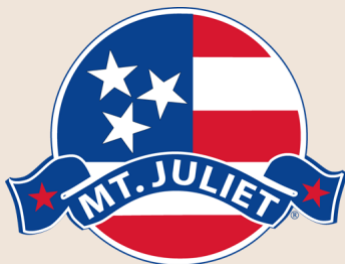
NOVEMBER 2025
NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Winter and Christmas are almost here! Advent begins November 30th. Dates in December are: Giving Tuesday (charities) the 2nd; Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day the 7th; National Guard birthday the 13th; beginning of Hanukkah the 14th; Bill of Rights Day the 15th; Space Force birthday the 20th; first day of winter the 21st; Christmas Day the 25th; Kwanzaa begins the 26th; National Pledge of Allegiance Day the 28th; followed by New Year's Eve on the 31st. The month of December is also National Giving Month. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2026.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Compassion Coffeehouse is at 11674 Lebanon Road and hopes to have a December opening. They are a missions-based shop aimed at supporting veterans and schools.

Pokeworks is located at 2014 Providence Pkwy. and should be opening any day.

UPCOMING

1) Christmas in the Park (repeat/update): MJ Parks will once again hold their decorating of the walking trail in Charlie Daniels Park with Christmas trees. The trees are sponsored by local businesses and individuals. Public viewing of the trees will begin Monday, December 1st. Sponsors of this fundraising event are Lynda and Carl Senkbeil, with proceeds benefiting Give A Little Christmas and Big Brothers of MJ. To see the flyer, [click here](#).

2) Christmas Across Mt. Juliet Contest (repeat/update): The 6th Annual Christmas/Holiday lights contest is in full swing. Get your lights and decorations out because the entry deadline is December 8th. Winners and awards will be announced and presented on December 9th. For more details, [click here](#).

3) Public work session: There will be a work session at 5:15 pm, prior to the MJ BOC on Monday, December 8th, pertaining to growth and infrastructure.

4) Santa's Workshop Christmas Parade: On Saturday, December 13th, MJ Parks will host this year's Christmas parade beginning at 11 am. The Grand Marshal is MJ's own Barry "Butch" Wilmore. There will be no throwing candy from vehicles this year, however walkers may hand out candy along the sidewalks. The city will also have volunteers handing out candy, so pick your spot and bring the family. There is a new route this year that is shorter, that will begin at West Wilson Middle School on NMJRD and end on E. Division Street at the train station. The rainout date will be on Sunday, December 14th. To see the flyer, [click here](#). A special thank you to GSF Media for the generous donation of the candy that will be handed out on behalf of the MJ BOC.

5) A Very Mt. Juliet Christmas Market: After the MJ Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 13th, bring the family to Veterans Parks (Clock Tower) for a day of magical excitement. There will be shopping, live music, Santa visits, kids' crafts, festive treats, food trucks and more. This special event will begin at 10 am and end at 5 pm, presented by MJ Parks. Supporters are The Incredible Christmas Place, Give A Little Christmas, and Shiloh Music Center. In support of Give A Little Christmas Toy Drive, bring a new, unwrapped toy for local kids in need. To see the flyer, [click here](#).

6) MJ BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee):

- **Christmas Lights Walk** is scheduled for Monday, December 15th at 6 pm. Bring the family for a magical night walking through Willoughby Station off S. Greenhill Road. We will meet in the parking lot at 1326 Sydney Terrace, have music by the MJHS Band of Gold, snacks, and hot chocolate before the walk. The community is welcome to join the walk and festivities. The rainout date is December 22nd. To see the flyer, you can [click here](#).

7) December 18th Planning Commission: *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](#).*

- **13135 Lebanon Road:** A Rezone request has been submitted from RS-40 to CRC.
- **6325/6365/6391 Central Pike:** An Annexation and Rezone request has been submitted for 4 acres, from County R-1 to CMU. To see a map, [click here](#).
- **Vintage Vines:** A Site Plan has been submitted on 12 acres for the Joe Beretta Foundation, located at 855 Pleasant Grove Road. To see the plans, [click here](#).
- **4009 Beckwith Road:** Construction Plans have been for Storage units. To see the plans, [click here](#).
- **Benders Cove:** A PUD Amendment for 771 Benders Ferry has been submitted to request the Certificate of Occupancy be moved to the 75th CO, regarding the road widening project. To see the letter, [click here](#).

8) Buddy Bridge Ribbon Cutting: The Buddy Bridge I told you about a few months ago is now open in the Bark Park (Will Sellers Park) on SE Springdale. If you have lost a furry loved one who has crossed the rainbow bridge, you are welcome to honor them by attaching their collar to the Buddy Bridge. There will be an official ribbon cutting around the third week of December after all the signage has been placed, so watch for announcements. Thank you to the Bailey family who saw the need and built this wonderful bridge. To see pictures, [click here](#).

9) FDMJ Station #3: The new fire station that will replace the current one on E. Hill Street will soon be ready for occupancy. Their targeted timeline was to be open by the end of the year and it will be close. Watch for announcements for the official ribbon cutting later in December or early January. The location of the new station is 4370 Old Lebanon Dirt Road. We are proud of our FDMJ.

UPDATES

1) Retirement of Sheila Luckett: Our Deputy City Manager/City Recorder's last day will be this Friday, December 5th. Sheila has been with the city for 37 remarkable years. Thank you Sheila for your loyalty and dedication to the City of MJ. We wish you all the best and a happy retirement. If you would like to send best wishes to Sheila this week, her email is sluckett@mtjuliet-tn.gov.

2) Fosters in need: The MJ Animal Shelter is looking for a few fosters for the holidays to help find forever homes for the rescue dogs and cats in their care. If you are interested in becoming a foster, please call 615-773-5533,

3) Emergency request from True Rescue: There was a recent fire from another county, and True Rescue is in urgent need of volunteers, donations, and fosters over the next couple of weeks as they take on rescued cats and kittens from this house that burned down. This will be a very large and expensive rescue operation, so any help is greatly appreciated. True Rescue is a nonprofit located at 12110 Lebanon Road. Their contact is listed on the [website here](#).

4) 2025 MJPD snapshot: MJPD produced a report to date (January-November) regarding wanted people that have been apprehended. They report that 744 were apprehended which was 12% more than 2024, and 20% more than 2023. Of the 744, 70 were residents with 674 being non-residents (91%). Very thankful for our MJPD. If you would like to see the graphic, [click here](#).

5) Pickleball Drill with Kit: Kit's pickleball drills at Mundy Park have ended for the year. Look for announcements around Spring '26.

6) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from FY25 sales tax was up by 10% over this time in FY24. Year-to-date, sales tax numbers are up 8%, however, we are about \$250k under budget. To see the collections chart, [click here](#). 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.)

(Various in my District)

Beckwith Point: The Beckwith Point road connection between Beckwith Road (at ER) and Belinda Pkwy. **is now open**. This road was paid for by the developer. **NOTE:** Trucks are not allowed on Belinda Pkwy. since it is a non-truck route. **If you happen to see any coming out of Beckwith Point, please report to MJPD.** Pictures and videos do help if they can be taken in a safe manner.

Beckwith Station: Land clearing has resumed. 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](#).

(Trails and Sidewalks)

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:](#) [Phase 3 received the notice from TDOT to proceed with the construction.](#) It will extend from S. Greenhill Road to Mt. Juliet Elementary School, and include a trailhead parking lot. This phase of work will be paid for with Federal construction grant funds with 20% local match that was secured. [Bids are expected to open early January.](#) Construction is expected to begin Spring 2026.
- [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. The Federal construction grant funds have been secured. Construction is expected to begin Spring 2026.

MJRD ADA upgrades Phase 2: This project will be upgrading ADA requirements on MJRD sidewalks between Weston Drive and OLDRD. It is currently 95% complete with preconstruction activity and in final design. NEPA has been approved by TDOT, and waiting for them to obligate funds for final design. Construction is expected to begin Spring 2026.

(Signals and Lighting)

Signal improvements Phases 2 & 3:

- Traffic signals along MJRD between Central Pike and Division is undergoing improvements in [Phase 2](#). Construction has begun, and is currently 30% complete. 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 is expected to be completed by August 2026.
- [Phase 3](#) extends from Curd Road to Lebanon Road, covering six signals. This project is 90% complete with preconstruction activity. Final plans were approved by TDOT. Phase 3 is estimated to begin construction Spring/Summer 2026.

Traffic signal at NMJRD and Curd Road: The signal project is 100% complete with preconstruction activity, which includes some widening and acquiring ROW and utility coordination. Bids went out in November and the lowest bid was \$200k under budget. Approval of the construction contract will be on the next BOC agenda. Once approved, construction should start shortly after the new year.

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 in January 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 90% complete with preconstruction activity.

(City Capital Building Projects)

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

(City Capital Road projects and TDOT Projects)

Beckwith Road (South): The consultant is currently working on preliminary design for the full corridor. NEPA studies are complete, pending approval by TDOT. Preconstruction is 20% complete. 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, the Quick Start Project is waiting for the relocation of MTE poles. Bids will go out after utility completion, followed by construction for the Quick Start improvements, which is estimated to begin Spring/Summer 2026. To see a closeup of the quick start plan, you can [click here](#).

SMJRD widening: 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. Per our agreement with TDOT, the City is required to fund all engineering for the project. So far, the City has spent \$1,452,832.52 on engineering. The estimated total cost for engineering is \$2,043,741.35 for this project. Because of the City's financial commitment, TDOT has included this project in their 10-year plan for construction to be funded in the year 2032. The City is working with TDOT to get the construction moved up earlier.

I-40/Central Pike Interchange: TDOT phase is in surveying, environmental, engineering, and finalizing design. Project is 60% complete with preconstruction activity. ROW acquisition is set to begin in 2026. Per our agreement with TDOT, the City was required to fund the preliminary engineering/NEPA phase of the project. Also, the City agreed to contribute an additional \$25 million towards the project. The City funded \$2,409,922.84 for the preliminary engineering/NEPA phase. No other funding is needed to complete that phase. The City has funded \$5 million of the \$25 million thus far. Therefore, the City has an outstanding

balance of \$20 million. Total project commitment is \$27,409,922.84. Because of the City's financial commitment, TDOT has included this project in their 10-year plan for construction to be funded in the year 2031. UPDATE: MJ will receive a Federal BUILD Grant in the amount of \$24,666,750 for the interchange project. This project will complete the engineering design, ROW acquisition, and construction. The City is working with TDOT to get the construction moved up to 2029.

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 20% complete with preconstruction activity. Per our agreement with TDOT, the city is required to fund all engineering and ROW acquisition for the project. The City has spent \$243,808 thus far on engineering. The estimated total cost for engineering is \$2 million for this project. The estimated total cost for ROW acquisition is \$4 million for this project. Therefore, the estimated total cost for the City is \$6 million. Because of the City's financial commitment, TDOT has included this project in their 10-year plan for construction to be funded in the year 2030. The City is working with TDOT to get the construction moved up earlier.
- The [Phase 2](#) TDOT project will be from I-40 to OHB and is 5% complete with preconstruction activity.

Old Lebanon Dirt Road widening: Bids are expected to go out in January. If the bids come in within budget, estimated construction will begin in Spring 2026. Utility relocation has begun and is expected to complete Spring 2026. Construction will follow and will take about two years to complete. 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. 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. Per our agreement with TDOT, the City is required to fund all engineering for the project. So far, the City has spent \$855,473.17 on engineering. This project is currently on hold because TDOT has not chosen to fund the ROW acquisition phase or the Construction Phase yet. Once those phases are funded by TDOT, the City will be required to resume engineering expenses. The estimated total cost for engineering is \$2 million for this project. TDOT is constructing a safety plan improvement in front of West Elementary to add a center turn lane. Project will 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: Design is complete, This project is 75% with preconstruction activity, and working with utilities on relocation.

(Storm Water Utility Projects)

Belinda City stormwater system: There are three culverts to be upsized/rehabilitation around Belinda City through the Storm Water Utility (SWU) master plan.

- Culvert under Belinda Pkwy., as part of the Mundy Park detention pond project, currently in survey and design. Bids were due to go out this fall. To see the design, [click here](#).
- 121 SE Springdale Drive, in planning/design.
- 136 Sunnymeade Drive, in planning/design.

Weston Drive/Clearview Drive 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.

***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 two MJ BOC meetings in January will be on the 12th and 26th 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 jhamblen@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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