

**FEBRUARY 2026
NEWSLETTER**



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Spring is only 20 days away, I know I am excited. The bluebirds and chickadees should begin scouting for their nest boxes soon. Daylight Savings Time is Sunday, March 8th so remember to set your clocks ahead one hour. Happy March birthday to my awesome husband, Pete. You are the best! Dates in March are; National Anthem Day the 3rd, National K9 Veterans Day the 13th, Freedom of Information Day the 16th, St. Patrick's Day the 17th, first day of Spring the 20th, and March 29th is National Vietnam War Veterans Day and Mom & Pop Business Owners Day. March is also National Women's History Month, Red Cross Month, and for sports fans, March Madness.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Faith & Healing Pharmacy is now open, located at 151 Adams Lane.

Hot Tub & Swim Spas is now open, located at 1249 NMJRD (Valley Center).

Lampost Theatrical Arts Company is now open, located at 15321 Lebanon Road.

La Madeleine French Cafe is estimated to open in March, located at 105 Legacy Pointe Blvd.

Beckwith Soap is moving to 2397 NMJRD. As of this writing I do not have an opening date,

UPCOMING

1) Walk Across Wilson (repeat/update): Walk Across Wilson begins on Sunday, March 1st and will end on March 28th. All you have to do is register and log your daily activity minutes once it goes live on March 1st. School and community-based teams are also encouraged to participate for bonus 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 Walk Across Wilson on Facebook for postings, or [click here](#) for website.

2) FDMJ Station #3 Ribbon Cutting: There will be a ribbon cutting (hose uncoupling) to celebrate the official grand opening of the newest MJ fire station on Friday, March 6th at 11 am. The location is 4370 Old Lebanon Dirt Road. This station replaces the one on E. Hill Street. All are welcome.

3) Daylights Savings Time: Remember to spring forward on Sunday, March 8th for Daylights Savings Time.

4) OLDRD closure notice: Old Lebanon Dirt Road (east of SMJRD) will have temporary closures due to construction in two phases.

Work begins Monday, March 9th to be completed by June 30th. **PHASE 1:** The eastbound lane will close from March 9th to May 22nd between NMJRD and Cedar Drive. **PHASE 2:** Full closure will begin May 23rd to June 30th between the entrance of Valley Center (on OLDRD) to 5404 OLDRD.

5) March 19th 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](#).*

- **1888 GBG survey plan:** A plan for survey has been submitted for 18.49 acres on the north western corner of Golden Bear Gateway and Woodridge Place. To see the map, [click here](#).
- **904 NMJRD/1316 Clearview Drive:** A Proposal for a Multi-Tenant Commercial Building has been submitted for the corner of 904 NMJRD and 1316 Clearview Drive. To see the plans, [click here](#).
- **Providence Central PUD AMDT:** A plan AMDT has been submitted for 200 Adams Lane. To see the map, [click here](#).
- **Canbrake PH4:** A Final Subdivision Plat has been submitted for the Canebrake development, located on the western portion of the county line, south of Devonshire. This is a county project in the MJ Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). To see the FP, [click here](#).
- **Convenience store:** A Site Plan has been submitted for 2190 NMJRD, for a revised convenience store. To see the SP, [click here](#).
- **3007 NMJRD Commercial:** Construction plans have been submitted for a commercial building. To see the plans, [click here](#).
- **Mareno Mexican Restaurant:** A Site Plan has been submitted for a restaurant, located at 11540 Lebanon Road. To see the SP, [click here](#).
- **Verizon small cell towers:** Plans to add new small cell towers have been submitted at 1325 Rutland Drive, 100 Legacy Pointe Blvd., 4515 Beckwith Road, 245 NMJRD, 40 NW Rutland Road, and 1209 NMJRD. To see the plans, [click here](#).
- **Tillman property:** A survey Plat has been submitted to consolidate lots and subdivide, located at 6235 Central Pike. To see the map, [click here](#).

6) CRY Holi Color Fest: On Saturday, March 21st from 12-6 pm, there will be music, food, shopping, performances, color run for kids, festivities, and more to benefit CRY America. The event will take place in Charlie Daniels Park. CRY America is a nonprofit that supports happy and healthy childhoods for children in need. To see the flyer, [click here](#).

7) MJ Senior Center Reverse Raffle (repeat/update): The MJ Senior Center will hold their annual fundraiser on Saturday, March 28th at 4 pm. The Grand Prize is \$5,000 with lots of other door prizes. Tickets are \$50 each and includes your meal from Bar-B-Cutie Smokehouse. You can purchase tickets at the Senior Center, located at 2034 NMJRD, or call 615-758-9114.

8) 2026 Elections: In 2026, there will be three elections:

- **Last day to register to vote in County Primary;** April 6th
- **County Primary** May 5th, Early Voting April 15th-30th
- **Federal & State Primary/County General;** August 6th, Early Voting July 17th-August 1st
- **November General/City Elections;** November 3rd, Early Voting October 14th-29th
- For more details and to register to vote, [click here](#).

UPDATES

1) Storm debris: The MJ BOC passed an Ordinance (1st Reading) to outsource tree debris cleanup in order to help the city with the winter storm. FEMA announced that vegetative debris collection is reimbursable up to 75% with the city responsible for the remaining 25%. By utilizing the contractor, the city estimates that all debris can be collected within six weeks, as opposed to an additional five months by the city alone.

2) MJ City Grapple Trucks (repeat/update): Since there has been so much tree damage from the winter storms, the city utilizing both trucks to help with vegetative debris pickup. There are eight Zones that rotate in numerical order, Beginning Monday, March 2nd, there will be a truck in Zone 3 as well as one in Zone 8. Once they complete a zone, they will move to the next one. If you are not sure what Zone you are in, you can [click here](#). Please **DO NOT** place your vegetation on property that is not your own, such as medians, etc. If it is city property, it is considered illegal dumping, and subject to citations. **Please avoid covering sidewalks, water/sewer covers, or placing debris near fire hydrants and roads.** To see details about how to pile the vegetation and specific sizes to prepare for the trucks, [click here](#).

3) Emergency sewer repair: The BOC approved a Resolution to proceed with an emergency sewer repair project along NMJRD at Old Pleasant Grove Road. There are urgent deficiencies in the size of the line and capacity. Project is expected to take two weeks to complete.

4) New sidewalk connections: The City is preparing for construction for new sidewalk connections: 1) from the new fire station on Old Lebanon Dirt Road, to Robinson Park (*behind Dairy Queen*). 2) from Belinda Pkwy. along SE Springdale (eastside) to Will Sellers Park/Dog Park. I do not have a timeline as of this writing.

5) '25/26 mid-year fiscal budget review: The BOC held a public work session on February 23rd to report on the mid-year budget status. To see the presentation, [click here](#).

6) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from calendar year 2025, sales tax was up by 8+% over the calendar year of 2024. Keep shopping local and you help fund MJP, 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 Station: Land clearing is underway. 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 final 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. Construction is expected to begin Spring 2026. **Low bid came in \$300k under budget, TDOT is reviewing.**
- [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)

ITS & 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 50% 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: Contractor has been selected, and signal equipment is preparing to be ordered. Construction for road widening should start in March.

GBG/Beckwith Road Interchange Lighting: Contract between MJ City/TDOT to improve lighting at the interchange was finalized. Estimated construction is Spring 2026. It is funded 50% by TDOT and 50% by the city, with a portion city's being funded by development near the interchange.

[\(City Capital Building Projects\)](#)

FDMJ Station #3: The new fire station on Old Lebanon Dirt Road is currently occupied. This location replaces 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 60% 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 just went out and estimated construction will begin in Spring 2026, if low bid is accepted. 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. There is not an estimated completion on ROW design at this time. 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, is currently in easement acquisition. Bids are now expected to go out this spring. To see the design, [click here](#).
- 121 SE Springdale Drive, in design. [Moving forward with final design by Resolution.](#)
- 136 Sunnymeade Drive, in design. [Moving forward with final design by Resolution.](#)

Weston Drive/Clearview Drive drainage: [Currently in easement acquisition](#), the plan is 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 March will be on the 9th and 23rd at 6:30 pm, at MJ City Hall.

NOTE: The public is welcome to come and speak and/or submit comments/questions to Jennifer Hamblen 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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