

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



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The bluebirds had five eggs and unfortunately, they never hatched and were tossed out. Hoping for another try. Dates in May are; International Firefighters Day the 4th; National Teachers' Day the 5th; National Nurses Day the 6th; National Day of Prayer the 7th; Mother's Day the 10th; Armed Forces Day the 16th; Memorial Day the 25th. Week recognitions are: National Small Business Week 3-9th; Teacher Appreciation Week 4-8th; National Nurses Week 6-12th; National Police Week 10th-16th; National EMS Week 17-23rd. May is also Military Appreciation Month, National Bike Month, and Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Chocolate Whisper Patisserie Turkish Breakfast is now open, located in Charlie's Place at 2232 NMJRD.

Mutts + Meows Natural Pet Market is now open in their new location at 1454 Rutland Drive.

Sen-Der by Smiley Thai is now open, located at 15301 Lebanon Road.

Whispering O.A.K. Antiques, Gifts & Sewing is now open, located at 11884 Lebanon Road.

Good Feet Store now has a location in Providence Marketplace in Ste. 310, at 401 SMJRD.

Havertys Furniture is holding their Grand Opening, beginning on May 8th at 9 am, located at 401 SMJRD (previous Jo-Ann's location). All are welcome.

Bagel Barn Breakfast Lunch Grocery is expected to open Friday, May 8th, located at 11998 Lebanon Road.

UPCOMING

1) MJ Farmer's Market: The MJ Farmer's Market will open Saturday, May 2nd from 8 am - 1 pm, and each Saturday throughout the season. The location is in Charlie Daniels Park. If you are a vendor and are interested in a space for your farm-fresh produce, homemade goodies, unique crafts, or something special to share, call the MJ Park office at 615-758-6522.

2) 2026 Bubble Walk/Run (repeat/update): Life Options Network is hosting its family-friendly Inaugural Bubble Walk/Run 5k on Saturday, May 2nd at 8:30 am at Charlie Daniels Park. There will be breakfast vendors available and you will walk/run through lots of bubbles. Early bird pricing through April 10th. LON, located at 15297 Lebanon Road, provides resource information for mothers and struggling families receive the help they need, such as food, clothing, childcare and shelter. For more information, [click, here.](#)

3) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee):

- **11th Annual Ride Mt. Juliet** is this Sunday, May 3rd 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 (1:30 pm) to the event, and kids 12 or under can register for a bike giveaway. Rainout date is May 17th. Bring the family and join us for a great afternoon. Helmets are required. To see the flyer, [click here](#).
- **Ride of Silence** is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th at 7 pm at the train station parking lot on E. Division Street. The Veloteers Bicycle Club along with MJ BPAC, team up each year to honor the Ride of Silence to raise awareness of motorists, police, and city officials, that cyclists have a legal right to the public roadways. The ride honors 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.

4) Wilson County Local Primary Election: On **Tuesday, May 5th**, please go vote and support your local officials, such as School Board, County Commissioner, County Mayor, Sheriff, Trustee, Circuit Court Clerk, County Clerk, Register of Deeds, Constable. Voting times are 7 am - 7 pm. Less than 5% of the entire population of Wilson County turned out for early voting. Go vote! For sample ballots, voting locations, and find your voting district/zones, [click here](#).

5) Blood Assurance Mobile Drives: There are three mobile blood drives during May in MJ:

- **Wednesday, May 6th** at the Activity Center on Charlie Daniels Pkwy., from 9 am - 2 pm. To schedule your appointment, [click here](#).
- **Friday, May 15th** at West Wilson Utility, located at 10960 Lebanon Road from 9 am - 1 pm. To schedule your appointment, [click here](#).
- **Wednesday, May 20th** at the MJ Fire Hall #3, located at 4730 Old Lebanon Dirt Road. This is the **Battle of the Badges to challenge** from 8 am - 5 pm. To schedule your appointment, [click here](#).

6) Wilson County National Day of Prayer: On Thursday, May 7th, there will be a prayer vigil for our nation, held at 1315 Murfreesboro Road, in Lebanon. *(I am sharing this because there is not a community event in MJ that I know of).*

7) MJ Community Yard Sale: The Spring Community Yard Sale will be held in Charlie Daniels Park on Saturday, May 9th from 8 am - 12 pm. The ARC Truck will be on onsite as well. The deadline to register for a booth (\$20) is May 6th. To register you can [click here](#).

8) MJ Animal Shelter fundraiser: On Saturday, May 9th, Southern Rhythm Farm will host the 2nd Annual Goat Yoga to benefit the MJ Animal Shelter. The two event sessions are 8 am and 10 am, located at 13895 Lebanon Road. Tickets are limited. You can [click here](#) to check availability.

9) Walk to School Day at RES: Rutland Elementary School will hold their Annual Walk to School Day on Thursday, May 14th. There are four meeting places (*new one added) at 6:15 am; Will Sellers Park (dog park) on SE Springdale, Grace Baptist Church on Belinda Pkwy., Bridge Mill Drive, and the Providence Landing entrance on Ellenwood Blvd. There will be volunteers to assist in the walk, such as teachers, parents, BPAC members (myself included), and MJP. Walking begins at 6:45 am. Please join us if you would like to walk or ride your bicycle to school.

10) MJ Senior Center Moving Sale: In preparation for their move to their new location, the MJ Senior Center is holding a moving yard sale on (pre-sale) Friday, May 15th, and Saturday, May 16th from 8 am - 1 pm. The yard sale will be at their current location at 2034 NMJRD. In addition, monetary donations are accepted to go toward their New Building Capital Campaign. To see the flyer, [click here](#).

11) The Peach Truck: The Peach Truck will be in Robinson Park, located at 4470 Old Lebanon Dirt Road, on Fridays and Saturdays beginning May 16th through August 8th from 2:30-5:30 pm. To preorder for pickup, [click here](#).

12) MJ BOC Budget Work Session: On Monday, May 18th at 5:15 pm, the MJ BOC will hold a public work session on the '26/27 fiscal budget.

13) 14th Annual MJ Field of Honor: During the week of May 21st - May 25th, 300 United States flags will rise in a powerful formation across the Field of Honor. As our nation approaches the 250th Anniversary of American Independence, the flags will honor both the legacy of our founding and the heroes who have protected our freedoms for generations. The 14th Annual Field of Honor in MJ is hosted by the Exchange Club of West Wilson County and American Legion Post 281, made possible by the generosity of sponsors, donors, and dedicated volunteers. The flags will be on display to visit, reflect, and take part in this meaningful celebration of service, sacrifice, and 250 years of American spirit. To dedicate a flag, make a donation, and/or become an event sponsor, [click here](#). The MJ Field of Honor is located at 22 E. Division Street (train station).

14) May 21st MJ 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](#).*

- **Willow Creek Garden & Home:** Site Plans have been submitted on five acres at 3215 NMJRD. To see the plans, [click here](#).
- **Emerson Park AX/RZ:** A Preliminary Plan has been submitted for 29 residential units, including annexation/rezone on Chandler Road. To see the plans, [click here](#).
- **6386/6400 Central Pike:** Annexation/Rezone request submitted for these two properties. To see the maps, [click here](#).
- **448 Bass Lane:** A Preliminary Plat has been submitted for Bass Lane subdivision on 26 acres. This property is in the county. To see the plans, [click here](#).

- **1625 Mays Chapel Road:** A request to subdivide into four lots has been submitted. This property is in the county. To see the plans, [click here](#).
- **180/198 Paradise Drive:** A survey has been submitted for consolidation of these two lots. To see the survey, [click here](#).
- **615 Rutland Road:** A Site Plan modification has been submitted for BlueBird Roofing. To see the modification, [click here](#).
- **485 NMJRD:** A site layout has been submitted for a bank. To see the layout, [click here](#).
- **Virgil Nipper, Jr. subdivision:** A Subdivision of five acres has been submitted at 23 Fourth Avenue. To see the subdivision layout, [click here](#).
- **E. Division Street Business Park AZ/RZ:** A Preliminary Plan has been submitted, including annexation and rezone. To see the plans, [click here](#).

15) Citizens of MJ Memorial Day Drone Show: On Monday, May 25th (Memorial Day), Needham's Nursery is hosting their annual drone show, honoring our heroes, community, and America's 250th birthday. Gates open at 7 pm with the drone show beginning at 8:45 pm, located at 735 NMJRD. This is a free family-friendly event, that will include local vendors, food trucks, and bounce houses from 7-8:30 pm. Parking available at MJ Christian Academy, West Wilson Middle School, Stoner Creek Elementary School, and several nearby local businesses.

16) MJ BOC meeting on May 25th: The MJ BOC will not meet on Monday, May 25th due to the Memorial Day holiday.

17) Ava's Splash Pad: Ava's Splash Pad, located in Charlie Daniels Park, opens for the season on Tuesday, May 26th. To see the flyer with details, [click here](#).

18) Dinner in the Vines: Experience a taste of Italy right here in MJ on Saturday, May 30th 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 nonprofit 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](#).

19) MJPD Pack-a-Cruiser Food Drive: The MJ Police Department is planning for another food drive on Saturday, May 30th from 11 am - 2 pm. The location is yet to be determined, so watch for details.

UPDATES

1) Property Reappraisal Notices: This is from the Property Assessor, but I am sharing because the notices go to everyone. It is an explanation from County Commissioner Lauren Breeze: Property Reappraisal Notices were mailed out by the Property Assessor this week. You will get an updated valuation of your property in the mail. This doesn't mean your taxes have gone up! The tax rate will be adjusted down to make the change

revenue neutral for the county budget. To continue reading, [click here](#). For an explanation of the process from the Comptroller's office, [click here](#).

2) OLDRD closure notice (repeat/update): Old Lebanon Dirt Road (east of SMJRD) has temporary closures due to construction in two phases. Work to be completed by June 30th. **PHASE 1:** The eastbound lane is closed through 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.

3) Tax Relief from Winter Storm: You may be eligible for tax relief if you qualify for disaster relief from the 2026 ice storm. To find out, [click here](#).

4) MJ Park fees: The MJ Parks department has an updated list of fees that was recently approved by the MJ BOC. To see the new fee schedule, [click here](#).

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

6) MJ City sales tax revenues: Sales tax revenues were up by **7.62%** over this time last year. 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: Vertical construction is underway. This is for a **(BP)** gas station, office, and **Tim Horton's** 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 **40%** 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/Summer 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 [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 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 this [summer/fall](#).

[\(Signals and Lighting\)](#)

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 has started](#).

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.

[\(City Capital Road projects and TDOT Projects\)](#)

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. 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, or we lose the federal grant.

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: Construction will begin in Spring/Summer 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 3-lane 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.

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., is part of the Mundy Park detention pond project. **Easement acquisition has commenced.** Bids are expected to go out this spring. To see the design, [click here](#).

- 121 SE Springdale Drive, in [final design](#).
- 136 Sunnymeade Drive, in [final design](#).

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 May will be on the 11th and 25th 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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