

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

As far as I know the bluebird hatchlings fledged. I probably missed it by a day. Rotator cuff surgery (90% tear) went well and he discovered the bicep tendon also had a tear. I am on the mend with therapy and looking forward to getting back on the pickleball court in the fall. Dates in July are; Independence Day July 4, National Buffalo Soldiers Day July 28. Happy 250th Independence Day.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Ugly Bagel plans for a July 1st opening, located at 1913 NMJRD.

UPCOMING

1) God & Country event: On Wednesday, July 1st, the community is welcome to come celebrate the freedom we have in Jesus and our nation for a special evening of fun, fellowship, and celebration. This free family event will feature live worship from Generation Changers Church with food trucks, yard games, activities for all ages, and more. The location is Charlie Daniels Park beginning at 5:30 pm.

2) Celebration events on July 4th:

- **MJ Celebrate 250th Independence Day:** On Saturday, July 4th at Circle P Ranch, the City of MJ is offering a free evening filled with patriotic pride, family fun, great food, live entertainment, and a spectacular fireworks show as we celebrate the freedoms that unite us all. The "Let Freedom Ring" celebration begins at 5:30 pm and will end around 9 pm, located at 563 E. Main Street. Bring your lawn chairs, wear your red, white, and blue, and join us as we celebrate Independence Day and begin recognizing America's 250th year together. To see the flyer, [click here](#).
- **Citizens of MJ July 4th 250th Fireworks Blast:** Beginning at 7 pm on Saturday, July 4th, Needham's Nursery is sponsoring a free Citizens of MJ July 4th Fireworks Blast to celebrate America's 250th birthday at 735 NMJRD. There will be bounce houses, food trucks, family fun, and MJ's largest fireworks show that begins at 9 pm. Bring your friends, family, chairs/blankets, and patriotic spirit. Parking will be available at MJCA, WWMS, SCE, and nearby businesses. To see the flyer, [click here](#).

3) 2026 Elections: The second election of the year is for Federal and State Primaries and County General.

- **Last day to register to vote:** July 7th
- **Early Voting:** July 17th through August 1st
- **Election Day:** August 6th
- **Seats on ballot;** U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress- Districts 5 and 6, Governor, State Senate- District 17, State Representatives- Districts 40, 46, and 57,

Republican/Democrat Executive- District 17, County Mayor, County Commissioners, County Trustee, County Sheriff, Circuit Court Clerk, County Clerk, Register of Deeds, School Board Zones- 2, 4, 5, 6, Constable Zones- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Lebanon Special School Districts, and Judicial Retention Questions. Local elections matter. PLEASE VOTE!

- For sample ballots and voter registration, [click here](#).

4) July 16th 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](#).*

- **98 Tanglewood Drive:** A survey has been submitted for a LUA/RZ/AX/FP of the Williams property at 98 Tanglewood Drive. To see the survey, [click here](#).
- **1888 Golden Bear Gateway:** A Civil Survey for 18.4 acres has been submitted for the Baker property at 1888 GBG. To see the submitted survey, [click here](#).
- **Golden Bear Place:** A PUD Amendment/Final Plat for a LUA/RZ has been submitted for Golden Bear Place for 2.4 acres at 4515 Beckwith Road. To see the plans, [click here](#).
- **Tillman Place:** A Final Plat has been submitted for Tillman Place located 6235 Central Pike for two residential lots and PH1 of (for sale) townhomes. To see the plans, [click here](#).
- **Canebrake Subdivision PH2:** A Final Plat has been submitted for PH2 of Canebrake to create 33 single-family lots and open spaces. This is a county project. To see the plans, [click here](#).
- **1100 NW Rutland Road:** A Final Plat for the Daniel property has been submitted for a two-lot subdivision, located at 1100 NW Rutland Road. To see the plans, [click here](#).

5) MJ Help Center: The MJ Help Center Summer Food Program offers family assistance with grocery budgets for elementary through high school youth living in western Wilson County. The summer program ends on July 18th. To see the flyer, [click here](#). To help with items needed during the summer program, you can [order here](#). MJHC is dedicated to providing temporary and emergency food, utility, and clothing assistance to families in western Wilson County, and they are located at 3425B NMJRD.

6) Mt. Juliet 55+ Activity Center: With the successful move to their new location, the MJ 55+ Activity Center (formerly MJ Senior Activity Center) will be holding their official Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, July 23rd at 11 am. The location is behind the new MJPD Headquarters at 1019 Charlie Daniels Pkwy. All are welcome.

7) 2026 Bikers for Bikes: On Saturday, July 25th, there is an all-day fundraiser event to benefit MJ Noon Rotary Projects and Wilson Rides. This is a scenic motorcycle ride through Wilson County. The ride begins at 8:30 am at Kat's Bar & Grill for breakfast, located at 2037 NMJRD. For registration fee and information on the flyer, [click here](#).

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

UPDATES

1) MJ Fiscal Y27 Budget: The MJ BOC passed the 2nd Reading of the new budget on June 22nd. Some highlights are below. The new budget cycle begins July 1st.

- **Beginning FY27 fund GF balance:** \$15,928,989
- **GF Revenues:** \$61,303,657
Revenue highlights: Property tax rate .28 = \$10.1M; State Shared Revenues = \$145.05 per capita/Census \$6.55M (based on 45,172; Sales Tax = \$26M; Hotel/Motel Tax = \$1.3M; Business Tax = \$2.5M.
- **GF Expenditures:** \$61,621,698
Expenditure highlights: Public Safety (60% of budget) = \$37.4M; Transfers = \$7.1M; General Government = \$9.2M; Public Works = \$3.4M; Parks and Recreation = \$2.5M; Community Development = \$1.9M.
Other City Funds: Sewer Fund: Operating Revenues = \$16.8M/Expenses (Operating/Capital) = \$29.4M; Storm Water Fund: \$3.1M/Expenditures = \$7.2M; Payroll: 3% COLA = \$1M/2% Merit = \$643k; Personnel Costs = \$37M; Capital Projects Fund: Revenues = \$29.5M/Expenditures = \$36.7M; State Street Aid Fund (recurring): Revenues = \$2.1M/Expenditures = \$2.1M; Debt Services Fund (recurring): Revenues = \$3.4M/Expenditures = \$4M. Drug Service Fund: Revenues = \$125k/Expenditures = \$430k.
- **GF Summary 26/27:** Beginning fund balance (7/1/26) \$16M; Revenues \$61.3M; Expenditures \$61.6M; Estimated ending fund balance (6/30/27) \$15.6M.

2) Central Pike widening project PH1: The MJ BOC just passed a Resolution approving a supplement to an agreement for the design of Phase 1 of the Central Pike widening project, between I-40 and SMJRD. \$600,935 is to be spread out over the next two to three years to complete the final design phase of the project. Construction is set to begin in 2032.

3) Old Lebanon Dirt Road Ground Breaking: The MJ BOC kicked off the widening project for OLDRD this week with Public Works and the construction team. This is one of our Capital Road Widening Projects that has been in the making over the past 10 years. It is a two-year project between Mooreland Drive and Chandler Road. Thank you for your patience and please use caution.

4) MJ City sales tax revenues: Sales tax revenues were up by **11.5%** over April/May and **3.6%** over June of 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 100% 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. Development south of I-40 is likely and will help speed up the capital widening project. 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](#).

I-40/Central Pike Interchange: TDOT phase is in surveying, environmental, engineering, and finalizing design. Project is 80% complete with preconstruction activity. ROW acquisition is set to begin in 2026. The City agreed to contribute \$25 million towards the project to get it expedited. The City has funded \$5 million of the \$25 million thus far. MJ will receive a Federal BUILD Grant in the amount of \$24,666,750 for the interchange project. TDOT announced during May, that the Central Pike interchange project has moved up by two years for construction, from 2031 to 2029. This also helps secure the \$24.6M federal grant.

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. Because of the City's financial commitment, TDOT has included this project in their 10-year plan for construction. TDOT announced during May, SMJRD was moved up by one year for construction from 2032, to 2031.

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.

- [Phase 1](#) is between I-40 and SMJRD and is 60% complete with preconstruction activity. **The MJ BOC just approved \$600,935 for the design of PH1, that is to be spread out over the next two to three years to complete the final design phase of the project.** Construction is set to begin in 2032.

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

Old Lebanon Dirt Road widening: Construction is ready to begin, please use caution during this two-year project. 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. That safety plan improvement 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. We expect to gain significant road improvements through development(s).

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. Construction is expected Summer '27.
- 136 Sunnymeade Drive, in final design. Construction is expected Summer '27.

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 July will be on the 13th and 27th 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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