

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



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The bluebirds have given it another try and currently we have four hatchlings. I will be having rotator cuff surgery the first part of June, and yes, it is my pickleball arm. Congratulations to all graduates from Kindergarten to college. Dates in June are; State of Tennessee's birthday the 1st; D-Day the 6th; Women Veterans Day the 12th; US Army Birthday the 14th; Flag Day the 14th; Father's Day the 21st; National American Bald Eagle Day the 20th; First day of summer the 21st; National American Flag Week the 14-20th; Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. Happy summer everyone.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Main Street Market is now open, located at 563 E. Main Street. Main Street Market is a small-town stop for local produce, coffee, baked goods, and handmade goods.

Children's Lighthouse Early Learning School is now open, located at 9468 Lebanon Road.

Subway should be open early June, located at 105 Legacy Pointe Blvd.

Starbucks is set to open June 15th, located in Citi Station at 2059 NMJRD.

UPCOMING

1) MJ Buying Event: The Great American Roadshow will be in MJ for a free five-day buying event at 75 Belinda Pkwy (Holiday Inn). Free evaluations and on-the-spot offers. Bring your items and see what they are worth. The Buying Event begins on Tuesday, June 2nd, through Friday, June 5th from 10 am - 6 pm, and on Saturday, June 6th from 10 am - 3 pm. No appointment needed. For more information, [click here](#).

2) Movie in the Park: Beginning Friday, June 5th, the Movie in the Park events start back once each month (Fridays). Bring the family for these free movies, along with a blanket/chairs, in Charlie Daniels Park at the amphitheater that begins at sunset, around 8:30 pm. The movie on June 5th will be "Lilo & Stitch," and concessions will be available for purchase.

3) Benefits for Mt. Juliet Animal Shelter on Saturday, June 6th:

- From 9 am - 1 pm, free rabies vaccines and microchipping are being offered to the first 100 pets. As of today, there were only nine available, so call to check current availability. The clinic will be held at the MJ Animal Shelter at 115 Industrial Drive. To see the flyer, [click here](#).
- From 5-8 pm, Chick-fil-A in Providence Marketplace will donate a portion of their sales to help animals in need. To see the flyer, [click here](#).

- In addition, the MJ Animal Shelter desperately needs foster homes. If you are able, please call the shelter at 615-773-5533.

4) MJ 55+ Activity Center (formerly MJ Senior Center): It is time for the move! On Monday, June 15th, the MJ 55+ Activity Center plans to move into their new facility located behind the MJ Police Headquarters at 1019 Charlie Daniels Pkwy. The center will open for activities starting Monday, June 22. An official ribbon cutting will be planned around late summer. Watch for details.

5) June 18th 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](#).*

- **10495 Central Pike:** An Annexation, Rezone, and Preliminary Plan, known as Aveline, has been submitted for single-family lots on 175 acres. To see the PMDP, [click here](#).
- **Providence Church Expansion:** Providence Church, located at 2293 S. Rutland Road, has submitted a Site Plan for a church and parking lot expansion. To see the SP, [click here](#).
- **10555 Lebanon Road:** A Rezone has been submitted from RS-40 to CRC on 1.4 acres. To see the map, [click here](#).
- **Benton Plaza:** A Site Plan for Benton Plaza has been submitted for the commercial component of Elliott Reserve, located at 12440/12370 Lebanon Road. To see the SP, [click here](#).
- **Raven Oak:** An Annexation and Preliminary Plan has been submitted for single-family lots on 45 acres, located at 320 Beckwith Road. To see the PMDP, [click here](#).
- **2770 W. Division Street:** A Land Use Amendment (LUA), Annexation, Rezone, and Preliminary Plan has been submitted for single-family lots on 53 acres. To see the PMDP, [click here](#).
- **261 W. Main Street:** A Site Plan has been submitted for Hickory Station West retail/office building. To see the SP, [click here](#).

6) Freedom250 Celebrate America: On Saturday, June 27th from 3-7 pm, there will be a celebration for America's 250th birthday in Charlie Daniels Park, sponsored by the Wilson County Republican Party of TN. There will be food trucks, music, entertainment, face painting, and more. This is a free family-friendly event. All are welcome to come celebrate America's 250th. To see the flyer and lineup, [click here](#).

7) 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 at 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](#).

8) 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.

9) The Peach Truck (repeat/update): 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](#).

UPDATES

1) MJ Fiscal Budget Work Session: On Monday, May 18th, the MJ BOC held a public work session to discuss the '26/27 fiscal budget. Some highlights from the work session are below. These numbers will change before First Reading. If you would like to review the presentation from the May work session, [click here](#). The two required readings to pass a budget will be held on Monday, June 8th and Monday, June 22nd. The new budget cycle begins July 1st.

- **Estimated beginning FY27 fund GF balance:** \$16,018,223
- **GF Revenues:** \$57,998,886
Revenue highlights: Property tax rate .20 (est./CTR pending) = \$7M; State Shared Revenues = \$145.05 per capita/ Census \$6.55M (based on 45,172; Sales Tax = \$26M; Hotel/Motel Tax = \$1.3M; Business Tax = \$1.35M.
- **GF Expenditures:** \$62,708,136
Expenditure highlights: Public Safety (over half of budget 60%) = \$37.8M; Transfers = \$7.3M; General Government = \$9.8M; Public Works = \$3.3M; Parks and Recreation = \$2.5M; Community Development = \$1.9M.
Other City Funds: Sewer Fund: Operating Revenues = \$13.8M/Expenses (Operating/Capital) = \$19.3M; Storm Water Fund: \$8.5M/Expenditures = \$7.7M; Payroll: 3% COLA = \$935k/2% Merit = \$582k; Personnel Costs = \$36.7M; Capital Projects Fund: Revenues = \$40.8M/Expenditures = \$33.7M; State Street Aid Fund (recurring): Revenues = \$2.4M/Expenditures = \$2.1M; Debt Services Fund (recurring): Revenues = \$4.2M/Expenditures = \$4.1M.
- **GF Summary 26/27:** Beginning fund balance (7/1/26) \$16M; Revenues \$58.M; Expenditures \$62.7M; Ending fund balance (7/1/27) \$11.3M.

2) Central Pike Interchange: TDOT announced during May, that the Central Pike interchange project has moved up by two years for construction, from 2031 to 2029. This is fantastic news for the city and traffic relief on the I-40/MJRD interchange. This also helps secure the \$24.6M federal grant, saying that the project had to be in construction by 2029. SMJRD was moved up for construction to 2031, and Central Pike PH1 construction to 2032.

3) Sewer Rate Study: The MJ BOC held a public work session in May in regards to the current outlook for the city's sewer utility. As a result, it was recommended to increase revenues by 5%, which is reflected in the '26/27 fiscal budget. To see a copy of the PowerPoint presentation from the work session, [click here](#).

4) Planet Playground expansion: Because of donated efforts recently, the first edition of Leo Land, a merry-go-round, was added to Planet Playground in Charlie Daniels Park. Leo Land is a space designed for every child to feel included, welcomed, and encouraged. The funding came from fundraising events by Steven Whitehouse and Friends, who continues to be committed to additional phases of Leo Land. Leo is an amazing local student in MJ who is confined to a wheelchair. To help move these phases along, the city has added \$50k to the new budget dedicated to this project. To see the ribbon cutting of Phase 1, [click here](#),

5) MJ Parks Master Plan: The MJ BOC approved the contract to update the City's Master Plan for Parks. It should take about six months to complete.

6) 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.

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. Because of the City's financial commitment, TDOT has included this project in their 10-year plan for construction. 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. Because of the City's financial commitment, TDOT has included this project in their 10-year plan for construction. [TDOT announced during May, Central Pike PH1 was moved back by one year for construction from 2031, to 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 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. 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 June will be on the 8th and 22nd 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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