

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

I cannot believe it is time for school to start again! We have only seen one or two hummingbirds so far. Wishing my fabulous grandson a happy August birthday, when he turns seven. That is so hard to believe! Some dates in August are: First day of school for students is the 3rd; US Coast Guard Birthday the 4th; National Navajo Code Talkers Day the 14th; National Nonprofit Day the 17th; National Senior Citizens Day the 21st. August is also National Back to School Month. Welcome back teachers and students, have a fantastic school year.

NEW BUSINESSES:

New York Deli & Grill is now open, located at 1200 SMJRD.

Queen Gyro is the new name of Mixed Grilled Gyros, located in the same location at 1265 NMJRD.

Beckwith Soap is now open in their new location at 2397 NMJRD.

Brooks on Main (BOM) is a lighting, furniture, wallpaper, and décor gallery, that recently moved to their new location at 1440 Rutland Drive in Legacy Pointe, that plans for an early August opening.

Einstein Bros. Bagels is planning for an August 1st opening, located in the former KFC building located at 11001 Lebanon Road.

Calabria Brick-Oven Pizzeria is planning to reopen at the conclusion of their remodel on August 3rd (according to Google). They are located at 1209 NMJRD.

Asian Co. & Boba Tea is planning for an August 7th opening (according to Google), located at 1913 NMJRD. (Owned by Smiley Thai & Sushi).

Rock 'n Roll Sushi is planning for a mid-August opening, located at 1913 NMJRD.

Big Bad Wolf has permanently closed their sit-down dining after 19+ years as of last week, but will continue their catering business, as well as advanced orders of bulk products for pickup, and using their dining room as event space for rent. They are located at 189 NMJRD.

UPCOMING

1) Tax-free Holiday: The back-to-school tax-free weekend continues through Sunday, August 2nd. To see the flyer and link, [click here](#).

2) Ava's Splash Pad: Beginning Monday, August 3rd, Ava's Splash Pad schedule changes to two days a week. Saturdays 11 am - 6 pm, and Sundays 1-5 pm until the last day of the season on September 6th.

3) August 6th Election: The second election of 2026 is for Federal and State Primaries and County General. Election Day is

Thursday, August 6th. Local elections are very important, please vote. For sample ballots, [click here](#).

4) 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](#).

5) BPAC Annual Greenway Walk: On Thursday, August 13th at 6 pm, the MJ Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is sponsoring our annual greenway walk, beginning at the Cedar Creek Trailhead in the back of Charlie Daniels Park. This is a family-friendly walk event for about 3.3 miles that is mostly flat and shaded. All are invited. The rainout date is August 27th. To see the flyer, [click here](#).

6) Wilson County TN State Fair: I love this fair. The fair takes place August 13th-22nd, at the Wilson County Fairgrounds, located at 945 E. Baddour Pkwy. in Lebanon. There is a multitude of things to do and see for all ages. The family-friendly fair proudly celebrates Tennessee traditions and agriculture. I personally will be entering items in several competition categories. If you would like to buy tickets and/or check out what makes this fair exciting, [click here](#).

7) August 20th 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](#).

- **1865 Nonaville Road:** An Annexation request has been submitted on five acres. To see the submission, [click here](#).
- **Providence Central West:** A Final Site Plan has been submitted at 7110 Central Pike for Spectrum Sound. To see the SP, [click here](#).
- **3007 NMJRD:** A Site Plan has been submitted for commercial on two acres. To see the SP, [click here](#).
- **12009 Volunteer Blvd.:** A Site Plan has been submitted on 16 acres for Industrial-Restrictive (west of Costco). To see the SP, [click here](#).
- **Providence Commons PH2:** A Final Plat has been submitted (next to Publix) for commercial, on SMJRD. To see the FP, [click here](#).
- **2819 OLDRD:** A Final Plat has been submitted on five acres for the Abdo property. To see the FP, [click here](#).
- **6484 Beckwith Road:** An annexation request has been submitted. To see the map, [click here](#).
- **Twice Daily:** A Preliminary Plan has been submitted at 1575 Beckwith Road. To see the PMDP, [click here](#).
- **Hickory Station West:** A Site Plan has been submitted at 261 W. Main Street for an office building. To see the SP, [click here](#).

8) 2026 Team Hope Walk TN: A fundraiser for Huntington's Disease awareness will take place at Charlie Daniels Park on Saturday, September, 5th beginning at 11 am, hosted by the Huntington's Disease Society of America TN Chapter. To see the flyer, [click here](#).

9) MJ Fall Community Yard Sale: On Saturday, September 12th at Charlie Daniels Park from 8 am - 12 pm, MJ Parks is hosting the annual fall yard sale and is currently taking reservations for vendor spots. Spots are 20'x20' for \$20 each. To reserve your spot, [click here](#). Registration ends September 9th at 5 pm. The ARC Truck will also be on-site for donations of unsold items.

10) Spud & Butter Fundraiser: Now through September 30th, every desert makes a difference. Eat dessert and give back. Spud & Butter is located 2059 NMJRD.

- Every brownie purchased helps support [Friends of MJ Animal Shelter](#), benefiting the animals of the shelter.
- Every banana pudding purchased helps support [The MJ Help Center](#), serving neighbors in our community.

11) Pickleball tournament benefiting MJ Animal Shelter: MJ Parks is hosting the 4th Annual Pickles for Pups Pickleball Tournament, benefiting the MJ Animal Shelter, on Saturday, October 3rd, beginning at 8 am. First Financial Bank is the featured sponsor and registration is now open. [Click here](#) to reserve your spot. The MJ Animal Shelter, located at 115 Industrial Drive, has a non-profit 501C.3 called MJ Animal Shelter Volunteer Organization. The funds raised go toward veterinary expenses for animals in their care.

12) Jacque Benton Memorial Spaghetti Days: The MJ Senior Center is holding their annual fundraiser on Thursday, October 15th and Friday, October 16th. Watch for announcements.

UPDATES

1) Repeal of MJ "Home Rule" Charter: The MJ BOC approved First Reading of the Ordinance to give the voters of MJ City the opportunity on the November 3rd ballot, to decide whether or not to repeal the Home Rule Charter. Second Reading will take place on Monday, August 10th of the MJ BOC agenda, just prior to the WC Election Commission's deadline. The City will hold five public meetings this fall prior to early voting, so that residents can be fully informed. I do have questions that I am compiling as well, so if you have some, please email me and I will find an answer for you. What does it mean? What will not change? Why Now? [Click here](#).

2) Important infrastructure update: Please see below under [Status Report for the Lebanon Road Widening project](#). Great news!

3) 6' sidewalk addition: The city is currently installing a 6' sidewalk along SE Springdale Drive (dog park), connecting Belinda Pkwy. to the walking path behind Rutland Elementary. The kids will have a safe walk now. This was a \$15k grant from Duke Energy applied for by Friends of Mt Juliet BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee). The City allocated \$10k, making it a \$25k sidewalk project. Another great addition of connectivity for the city.

4) The Flock camera debate: Chief Chandler of the MJPd issued a clear educational statement regarding the FlockSafety

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) that are used in Mt. Juliet, with a link of further explanation. There has been a lot of misinformation circling around social media lately, so I share this in hopes of getting the truth out. To see the statement from Chief Chandler with the link, [click here](#). To see the 2019 Ordinance that MJ BOC put in place to keep restrictions in place, [click here](#).

5) Theft rates in MJ: MJPD has issued status reports of the theft crimes in MJ, that has consistently showed downward trends over the past two years. These theft crimes include all theft categories, shoplifting, and vehicle burglaries. Most of these theft crimes (90%) are from non-city residents. The LPR cameras we have here in MJ play a significant role in these apprehensions, and I am thankful they are here. It is one tool MJPD uses to keep crime low here in the city. Thank you MJPD! To see the downward trends, [click here](#). To be fully informed on how these cameras are used in MJ, please see #4 above.

6) Belinda Pkwy. PH2 Sidewalk Grant: The MJ Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) will meet on Tuesday, August 4th and vote on applying for another grant opportunity for Phase 2 of the Belinda Pkwy. sidewalk expansion project. It would begin at the Mundy Park Trailhead (on the northside of Belinda Pkwy.) to S. Rutland Road and connect to the existing trail on the Providence Church property. This is the second grant applied for on this expansion project. MJ was not awarded the first grant for PH2 three years ago. It will take months, if not longer, to find out whether or not MJ is awarded this grant.

7) MJ Parks survey: MJ Parks is in the process of updating the MJ Parks & Rec Master Plan for the future, and they would like to hear from you. The survey only takes 2-3 minutes. To see the flyer with the QR code, [click here](#).

8) Victory Nissan: Victory Nissan is coming on Pleasant Grove Road near Walmart and has broken ground. There will be a ribbon cutting once they open. Watch for it in a few months.

9) Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary: OFSDS is looking for forever foster homes for many of the furry friends in their care. Most of these wonderful senior dogs are able to live happily with a good quality of life if given a chance. They make great companions because they are mature, calm, and loving. OFSDS also commits to providing these friends with high-quality vet care for life. If you are able to provide a forever foster home, or support this amazing nonprofit in anyway, [click here](#).

10) Community Food Drive: If you would like to help feed those that are hungry and locally unhoused, Jesus Provisions Ministries is collecting non-perishable food items for those in need. In addition, if you are looking for an opportunity to serve and would like to volunteer your time, or see the items needed, [click here](#). JPM is a non-profit Community Outreach based in MJ.

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)

Sidewalk on SE Springdale Drive: The sidewalk connection from Belinda Pkwy., along Will Sellers Park (Bark Park), to the walking path behind Rutland Elementary is under construction. Estimated completion is by the end of August.

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: Construction has begun](#). 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. [Project completion is expected within 12 months](#).
- [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/fall](#).

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: Construction for road widening is underway. The entire project is expected to be completed by the end of November.

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 underway.](#)

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): [The City was just awarded \\$12M in Federal money to fund the ROW acquisition of this project. This also means that the project is guaranteed to receive Federal funding for the construction phase when the time comes. The City has approximately two years remaining to complete the engineering phase. At that point, the ROW acquisition is expected to start in late 2028/early 2029. THANK YOU to our Public Works Director, Matt White!](#)

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.

E. Hill Street: [E. Hill Street is part of the Lynnwood Station development project, paid for by the developer. It will extent east and connect to Clemmons Road. The connection must be completed by the 100th Certificate of Occupancy \(CO\). Currently they are at the 56th.](#)

(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. This project is in conjunction with the project in Clearview. The BOC just approved the construction contract. 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.
- The entire water drainage basin in this area is being studied and is in engineering.

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 August will be on the 10th and 24th 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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