

CITY OF JACKSON

OFFICIAL CITY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

PLANNING JACKSON'S FUTURE NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING EFFORT IN CITY

Looking over a model of the downtown area, Hakim Crampton envisions the future of affordable housing in Jackson.

"This is a great opportunity for Reed Manor and downtown residents," Crampton said.

A lifelong Jackson resident, Crampton is Project Manager for the Choice Neighborhood Plan.

The City of Jackson is one of eight cities nationwide to receive a federal Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant.

The grant is being used to plan the redevelopment of the Jackson Housing Commission's Reed Manor property, which includes 292 units of low-income housing.

The Choice Neighborhood Plan is working to replace all of those units with new mixed-income housing in the downtown area.

Reed Manor is becoming difficult to maintain due to its age.

There are also safety and security issues for residents.

At events downtown and



Choice Neighborhood ambassadors Rarshiem Wilson, Aenease Ramirez and Hakim Crampton.

Reed Manor this summer, residents gave feedback for the plan.

A large model of downtown helped residents identify needs.

"All the data we collect will help us understand what types of housing people want to live in and the support systems they'll need to thrive," Crampton said.

Reed Manor resident Aenease Ramirez is helping her neighbors understand this process as a program ambassador.

"Along with improved living conditions, I'd like to see more accessibility to resources so people can get the help they need," Ramirez said.

After the completion of the planning phase in 2023, officials will seek additional funding to make the plans a reality.

"We're not bad people because of where we live. Give us a chance. It does my heart good to see our residents being listened to through this process," Ramirez said.

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CITY NOW SELLING VACANT LOTS FOR NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION

Residents and developers looking for space to construct new homes can now consider properties in the City of Jackson.

The City's Property Sales Program was expanded this summer to include "buildable lots".

A buildable lot is a vacant lot or combination of properties that is large enough to accommodate the new construction of a single-family home or multi-residential complex.

Here are some highlights of the program's incentives:

- The City will sell these lots for as low as \$362.50.
- Water/sewer con-

nection discount of up to 100%.

- Priority site plan review and property development meetings with City officials.
- New home construction in an already established neighborhood that's close to parks, schools and businesses.

Over the past two years, the City Manager's Office has been ramping up efforts to sell more than 800 vacant properties owned by the City.

Since late 2020, officials have sold 136 vacant side lots and 34 existing properties, bringing \$457,100 in additional revenue to the City.

Money generated from



New home construction on W. Prospect Street in July 2022.

the sales goes into the City's General Fund, which powers City services like streets, parks and public safety.

Side lots are parcels too small for new construction that are sold to an adjacent neighbor to improve their property.

Existing properties are parcels that contain a standing home, apartment complex or commercial building.

These properties are often partially rehabbed by the City and sold on the open market through a realtor.

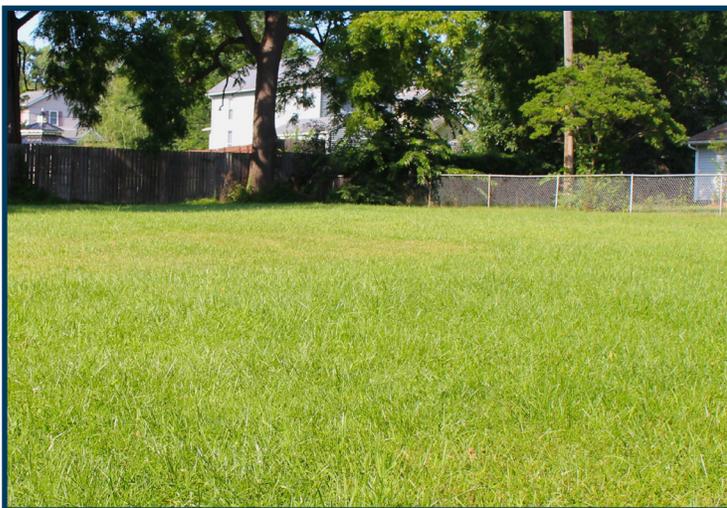
City Manager Jonathan Greene says the City Property Sales Program

benefits the entire community.

"We understand the need for more affordable housing in the community and this is something we can do to help," Greene said.

"The buildable lots are a low-cost solution for residents looking to build a new home. You'll also have the extra benefit of living close to everything Jackson has to offer."

The Property Sales section of the City website, cityofjackson.org/propertysales contains a full list of qualifications for purchasing lots and a listing of available properties.



Vacant lot ready for a new home!



MAYOR

Daniel Mahoney

COUNCIL

	Ward
Arlene Robinson	1
Freddie Dancy	2
Angelita V. Gunn	3
Laura Dwyer Schlecte	4
Karen Bunnell	5
Will Forgrave	6

CITY MANAGER

Jonathan Greene

MEETINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT. 27 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

OCT. 11 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

OCT. 25 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 8
Election Day

Friday, Nov. 11
City Hall closed for Veterans Day

NOV. 15 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

Nov. 24-25
City Hall closed for Thanksgiving

NOV. 29 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

DEC. 13 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

City Council meetings live streamed on City Facebook page and website

NOV. 8 ELECTION VOTING GUIDE

City of Jackson voters will have a lot to consider on the Tuesday, Nov. 8 General Election ballot.

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT: Voters will decide races for U.S. Congress, Michigan Governor, State Senate, State Representative, and County Commission.

There will also be state and local initiatives on the ballot.

No City of Jackson offices are up for election this Nov.

WARD CHANGES: Before voting in the Nov. election, it's important to know about possible changes to your ward and polling place.

Earlier this year, the City Council finalized a new ward and precinct map for the City's six wards.

The map selected by the council changes boundaries for every ward but Ward 1.

Depending on where you live, this could change what ward you reside in and where you vote in-person.

The City Clerk's Office mailed new Voter Information Cards to all registered voters in July to get them updated on these changes.

A new ward and precinct map is available on the City website to view the ward changes.

There are no changes to polling place locations.

The ward alterations do not



change the submission of absentee voter ballots.

VOTING INFORMATION: Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day for in-person voting.

Those opting to return absent ballots by mail are encouraged to do so as early as possible.

Absentee ballots must be submitted by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted in the election.

A ballot drop box is available at City Hall.

Completed ballots may also be hand submitted in the City Clerk's Office.

Learn more about voting in this election by visiting cityofjackson.org/elections.

ELECTION SIGNS: Before putting signs in your yard to support a candidate or cause, please be aware of where the signs should be placed.

According to a City ordinance, signs are only allowed on private property and not in the City's right-of-way or "parkway", which is the area between the street and sidewalk.

Signs that violate the ordinance could be removed and confiscated by City staff.





Message from the Mayor

Daniel Mahoney

“Out with the old and in with the new” is a phrase I’m sure you’ve heard before.

In Jackson, our current philosophy is “in with the old AND in with the new.”

Over the past year, several building rehabilitations and new construction projects have been announced in the City of Jackson, showing that we have a thoughtful approach to reshaping Jackson.

After decades of being closed off to the community, we’re looking forward to restoring the Hayes Hotel and Masonic Temple properties back to their former glories.

Earlier this year, the City Council approved the sale of the historic hotel building to a developer who plans to use it for apartments, along with commercial and event space.

A few blocks away, the Masonic Temple, which is being renamed the City Center, is getting ready for another exciting project.

The City Council has set aside \$2.5 million in American Rescue Plan funds to create an incubator kitchen and food service training center at the historic property on W. Cortland Street.

This facility will help those looking to grow a food-based business and train residents on the skills they need to work in the food service industry.

New buildings will also add to our skyline in the coming years, with affordable apartment developments planned on N. Blackstone Street and Greenwood Avenue in the downtown area.

Adding these projects to the growing number of businesses being added downtown and in neighborhoods, I believe we have a lot to look forward to.

Thank you for being a part of Jackson’s ongoing success and positive outlook.

Sincerely,
Daniel Mahoney

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Here are phone numbers to community resources that could be useful if you’re experiencing a life crisis.

Mental Health

- Henry Ford Health (800) 531-3728
- LifeWays 24-Hour Crisis Hotline (800) 284-8288
- Center for Family Health (517) 748-5500

Utilities

- Community Action Agency (517) 784-4800
- Jackson County MDHHS (517) 780-7400
- True North Community Services (231) 355-5880
- The Heat and Warmth Fund (800) 866-8429
- St. Vincent de Paul Society (877) 788-3424

Rental Assistance

- Community Action Agency (517) 784-4800
- Jackson County MDHHS (517) 780-7400

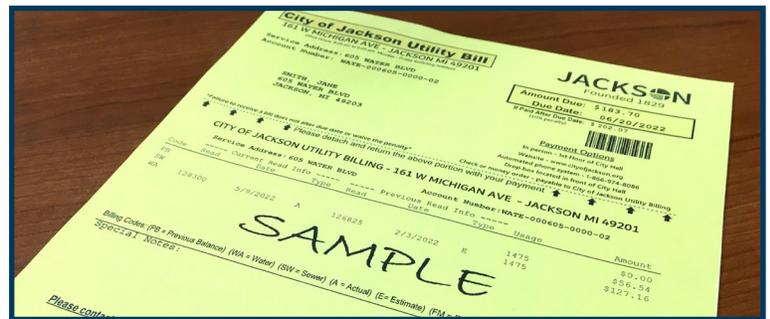
Emergency Shelters

- Jackson Interfaith Shelter (517) 789-8735
- Aware Shelter 24-Hour Crisis Hotline (517) 783-2861

Animal Control

Jackson County Animal Control provides animal control services in the City of Jackson. Contact them by calling 911.

NEW WATER BILLS



The City of Jackson has listened to the concerns of water customers regarding the small postcard-sized billing and has upgraded to a yellow full sheet bill.

Customers started receiving the new bill format in Aug. The improved layout is streamlined, easier to read, and is more informative.

It provides plenty of space for billing items, customer information, and reasons to contact the Utility Billing Office.

Bills will also have an area dedicated to special upcoming events such as leaf collection and hydrant flushing, along with ways residents can minimize water use.



SPOTLIGHT ON PARKS

NEW PLAYGROUND & IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO LOOMIS PARK

Local families will soon be able to enjoy an updated playground at one of Jackson's most popular parks.

Construction is underway this fall on a new playground and landscape for Loomis Park.

The City of Jackson is using more than \$1 million in federal funds for a new playground, walking path, pavilion and landscape.

Families will be able to enjoy an open playscape that's made of durable and modern materials.

It will also be more accessible to people with disabilities.

The previous wood playground structure was more than 20 years old and required constant maintenance.



Rendering of what the new Loomis Park playground will look like when construction is complete.

Along with becoming a safety hazard to users, it's sheltered environment was known to attract illegal activity.

Loomis Park and the Boos Recreation Center have seen substantial investment from the City in recent years.

More improvements are planned at the recreation center in the coming years

to make sure it can continue to be a long-lasting community resource.

Over the past year, the Boos Center has received a new roof and heating/cooling system.

Construction on the playground and other new features is expected to wrap up in spring 2023.

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UPDATED PARK & TRAIL GUIDE ON CITY WEBSITE

Finding Jackson's public parks and trails has never been easier thanks to a new guide on the City's website.

By visiting cityofjackson.org/parks, residents can view an interactive map that displays all 28 City of Jackson parks and four dedicated pedestrian trails.

Selecting a park or trail

on the map takes you to a profile for that location, which includes an address, photos, and description of what's available to use there, such as a playground or basketball court.

This innovation was completed earlier this summer by City staff looking for a better way to direct residents to parks and trails.



FUNDING FOR MLK CORRIDOR

A Jackson neighborhood is getting an economic boost from the City of Jackson.

In Aug., the City Council voted to allocate \$4.5 million in American Rescue Plan funds to the MLK Corridor Improvement Authority (also called the MLKCIA).

These federal funds will be used by the MLKCIA board to provide small business assistance and commercial redevelopment in the authority district.

The MLKCIA is made up of properties along the entire length of Prospect Street, MLK Drive south of Downtown Jackson, and select properties along the MLK Equality Trail and S. Cooper Street.

In addition to the recent City Council funding, the authority will use existing tax revenue captured from these areas to re-invest in the neighborhood.

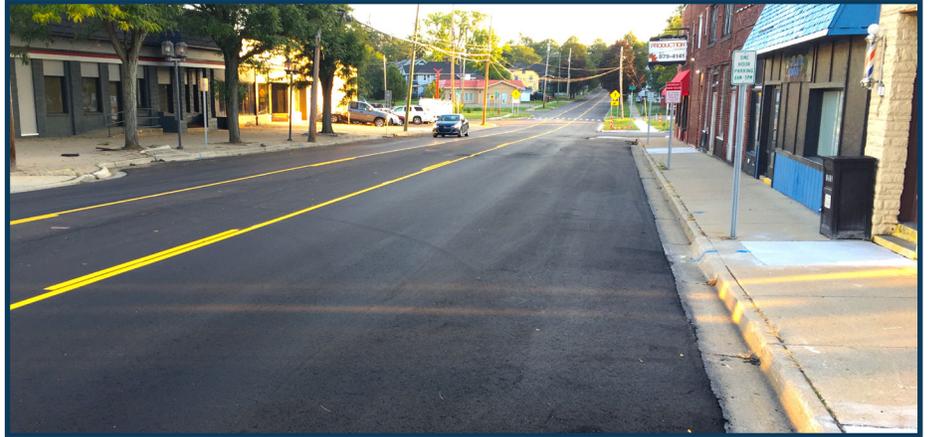
Earlier this summer, the City bought vacant property on E. Prospect Street for the MLKCIA to use for redevelopment.

Officials have proposed using this area for a fresh food market or grocery store, but this effort is still in the early planning stages.

If you'd like to get involved or learn more, MLKCIA meetings are generally held at the MLK Recreation Center on the fourth Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.



STREET & BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



New street surface and sidewalk repairs on Greenwood Avenue.

Construction crews continue to make progress on street and bridge projects in Jackson.

This fall, properties along E. Michigan Avenue will receive lead service line replacements, resulting in some lane closures.

Also continuing through the fall will be bridge replacement projects on E. High, N. Mechanic and N. Jackson streets.

Greenwood Avenue and S. West Avenue are both back open after sizable construction projects.

Greenwood Avenue received a new street surface and sidewalk replacements.

S. West Avenue from W. Franklin Street to W. Michigan Avenue now has a new water main, lead service line replacements, and improved traffic signals.

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

Loose leaf collection is returning to Jackson this fall.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is working with leaf vacuum machines and other equipment to pick up loose leaves placed curbside.

Every neighborhood will see two rounds of leaf collection.

Residents are asked to please place loose leaf piles along street curbs in the street and not in

parkways.

Please only place leaves along curbs 48 hours before your scheduled collection.

It's important for residents to remove vehicles and basketball hoops from streets the day of their scheduled pickup.

Collection information will be mailed to residents and available on cityofjackson.org later this fall.