

CITY OF JACKSON

OFFICIAL CITY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

COLLEGE IN THE CITY

CLASSES AT MLK CENTER OFFERED BY JACKSON COLLEGE

The City of Jackson and Jackson College are coming together to break down barriers to a college education.

Since last fall, the college has offered entrepreneurship classes at the City's Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center on the south side of Jackson.

Dr. Clevester Moten teaches courses at the center and says the response from students has been very positive.

"Some students have indicated that courses offered at the MLK Center takes another barrier off their shoulders by not having to worry about transportation to and from the central campus," Dr. Moten said.

Jackson College's Central Campus is located in Summit Township four miles south of the City.

Kelly Crum, Jackson College's Chief Diversity Officer, says the MLK Center's reputation as a welcoming space made it a natural fit for college classes within the City.

"In the long run, it is



Officials from the City of Jackson and Jackson College unveil a new sign at the MLK Center.

about creating a community where access and class offerings can provide skill training, certification, transfer options, and degree completion for those living in the area or outside to create opportunities for their families to sustain employment," Crum said.

The new community education partnership was celebrated by City and college officials in Dec. with the unveiling of a new sign at the center's front

entrance.

MLK Center Director Antonio Parker says the college classes have been a welcome addition.

"This collaboration provides residents a wonderful opportunity to advance their education, and shows our youth that college is something within reach," Parker said.

Contact the Jackson College admissions office at 517-796-8425 if you're interested in taking classes at the MLK Center.

INSIDE

- 2 Fire station reopens after renovation
- 2 Grass cutting rules
- 3 May 2 election
- 3 Street construction season
- 4 Message from the Mayor
- 5 Helping homeless in Jackson
- 6 Reporting potholes
- 6 Hayes Hotel update

FIRE STATION 2 REOPENS AFTER RENOVATION

Fire Station No. 2 is back open and ready to serve the Jackson community.

After being closed for 11 years, the Jackson Fire Department station reopened in 2022 to provide better fire protection to the southern half of the City.

Station No. 2 closed again for renovations late last year, with firefighters returning in Jan.

The facility at the corner of S. Milwaukee Avenue and E. Prospect Street needed extensive renovations to bring it up to modern standards.

The City used American Rescue Plan funds to improve the parking lot and access to the building, install a new roof and taller bay doors, and make various interior improvements to provide a more functional space for firefighters.

Deputy Fire Chief David Wooden says having another fire station improves fire protection for the entire community.

“Thanks to the support of City administration and the City Council, this station is now in good shape for years to come,” Wooden said.



Fire Station No. 2 on S. Milwaukee Avenue.

Station No. 1, Jackson's outside the station brought Central Fire Station, also received some long-awaited attention in 2022. Infrastructure upgrades

a new parking lot, sewer line, water main and the moving of two hydrants.

GRASS CUTTING RULES IN JACKSON

Before getting out your lawnmower this spring, it will be helpful to know grass cutting rules in the City of Jackson.

The City's mowing ordinance says residents are responsible for maintaining lawns and must keep grass and weeds below 8 inches in height.

Letting grass grow beyond 8 inches for weeks or months can result in a fine and City contractors coming onto your property to cut the grass.

The average fine for this violation is \$202, but it can sometimes cost more depending on how much

grass and weeds have to be removed.

Earlier this year, the City Council approved a resolution supporting the "No Mow May" initiative.

Communities across the country have participated in this effort, which allows property owners to forgo grass cutting from May 1-31 to help the growth of dandelions and other wildflowers that are early food sources for bees and other pollinators.

Supporters say this is particularly important in urban areas where there are limited spaces for growth.



Jackson's No Mow May only allows residents to not mow backyards.

Grass length will still be enforced in the front yard of properties during the month of May.

Enforcement of grass and weed length in any area of a property will resume on June 1 and last through the grass cutting season.



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

Friday, April 7

City Hall closed for Good Friday

APRIL 11 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting

APRIL 25 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting

MAY 9 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting

MAY 23 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting

Monday, May 29

City Hall closed for Memorial Day

JUNE 13 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting

Monday, June 19

City Hall closed for Juneteenth

MAY 2 ELECTION



Voters fill out ballots at the Ward 6 polling place.

The next election is happening Tuesday, May 2.

Voters will decide a millage renewal for the Jackson County Intermediate School District (JCISD) to fund special education programs.

This is a millage renewal and will not bring any new taxes.

Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Due to ongoing construction at the Boos Recreation Center, Ward 2 voters will be directed to other polling places in the City.

Impacted voters will receive a

mailed notice prior to the election with updated polling place information.

Completed absentee ballots must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

A secure drop box is located outside the front entrance of City Hall for completed absentee ballots.

Learn more about voting in this election by visiting the Elections section of cityofjackson.org.

Later this year, there will be elections for Mayor, Treasurer and City Council for Wards 2, 4 and 6.

STREET CONSTRUCTION

The City's Engineering Division is finalizing plans for the 2023 construction season.

It will include street resurfacing, water service replacements, and intersection improvements.

Residents will be informed about construction projects in their neighborhood through CodeRED messages, the City website, and social media.

An updated list of construction projects and progress will be posted in the Engineering section of cityofjackson.org.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will continue construction on railroad bridges that go over N. Jackson and N. Mechanic streets.

MDOT plans on completing the bridge replacements later this fall.





Message from the Mayor

Daniel Mahoney

In this issue of the City of Jackson Newsletter, you may have noticed that I also appeared on the front page, smiling as myself and Jackson College President Daniel Phelan unveiled a new sign that honors a partnership with the college to offer classes at the MLK Recreation Center.

Jackson's elected officials and City staff work hard every day to improve our community, but we can't do it alone.

That's why partnerships with organizations like Jackson College help to make sure we're doing all we can for the community.

Recent months have also seen our City leaders working with the community group Residents in Action to combat homelessness by getting families off the streets and into safer living situations.

While much work is left to be done on making sure every Jackson resident has a place to live, I feel we are heading in the right direction, with more planned this spring.

Taking a closer look at this newsletter, you will see collaboration at the core of every article.

Whether its residents, firefighters, developers, activists, road workers, voters, dogs or bees, we need everyone working together to make Jackson the best that it can be.

I thank you for the opportunity to help lead this collaborative spirit in Jackson and for all you're doing to make our community an example of what's possible when we unite.

Sincerely,
Daniel Mahoney



Thank you for your service! The Jackson police community recently celebrated the retirement of K9 Gleeson. The 9-year-old German Shepherd worked with Det. Mike Galbreath since 2016. Det. Galbreath is officially adopting Gleeson, who will enjoy retirement living the relaxing life of a family pet. The police department is now working on replacing Gleeson with a new K9 team later this summer.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

Non-Emergency Medical Care

Henry Ford Health (517) 205-4800
Center for Family Health (517) 748-5500
St. Luke's Clinic (517) 783-1117

Mental Health

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

Utilities

United Way of South Central Michigan (517) 741-0202
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 (517) 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.

Dial 211 to get more information on available services.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

CITY COLLABORATES WITH RESIDENT GROUP TO HELP HOMELESS IN JACKSON

Lifelong Jackson resident Tashia Carter says helping Jackson's homeless has been eyeopening.

"There are a lot of people who are one to two paychecks away from being homeless. Jackson residents are struggling in a big way," said Carter, Residents in Action Co-Founder and Executive Director.

Initially formed in 2020 to help neighbors through the COVID-19 pandemic, Residents in Action is a support network of community influencers focused on improving the lives of Black residents and others who have

historically experienced inequity in Jackson County.

To help combat homelessness, the City Council decided in Dec. 2022 to form a partnership with Residents in Action (also called RiA).

This was a response to the growing need for more emergency sheltering during the winter.

Since then, the resident-led group has placed 84 unique individuals and families in a local hotel.

RiA's response goes beyond just providing housing.

Community advocates also assist with basic needs such as food, personal care products, and transportation.

"Most people that we have helped are grateful and hopeful that there will be a concerted effort to address the need and lack of stable long-term permanent housing in the future," Carter said.

This assistance is being funded through American



Community advocates Daveda Quinn (left) and Salena Taylor (right) prepare a meal for people being helped with housing by Residents in Action.

Rescue Plan funds given to the City of Jackson by the federal government.

City Manager Jonathan Greene thanks RiA for stepping up to the challenge of getting people out of the cold and into safer living conditions.

"Creating more affordable housing is a top priority and leaders are working on multiple solutions. While the City continues to take a leadership role, housing instability is an issue for the entire community to come together and address," Greene said.

Carter says support from the City has been monumental.

"I believe the City of Jackson is committed to making positive changes and they are listening. That's a major step in the right direction if we truly want to effectuate systems change," Carter said.

RiA organizers say it's important to know that people become homeless for a variety of reasons, not just because of drug use or mental health.

"This project has been emotionally and physically tough for RiA staff but definitely worth it because we have literally saved lives and given reprise to those suffering from homelessness," Carter said.



Tashia Carter prepares a meal for those being helped by Residents in Action.

REPORTING POTHoles

Following the winter thaw, spring is often a time for potholes to pop up on streets.

Drivers are encouraged to report potholes to the City of Jackson so they can be taken care of as soon as possible.

Residents have two options for reporting potholes.

Go to the Report a Concern feature of the City website, cityofjackson.org, and fill out a form.

Include location details and upload a photo if you have one.

You can also call the Department of Public Works (DPW) at 517-788-4170 to report a pothole.

DPW staff are ready to assist residents with pothole concerns Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding holidays).

After a pothole is reported, DPW crews work as quickly as possible to get it repaired.

Potholes that impact traffic, damage vehicles, or cause injury are given first priority.

If the pothole is outside the City Limits, contact the Jackson County Department of Transportation (JDOT).

Potholes on state highways or interstates should be reported to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).



HAYES HOTEL BUILDING RENOVATION UPDATE



Rendering of a rejuvenated Hayes Hotel on W. Michigan Avenue.

A historic building in Downtown Jackson is about to undergo a big transformation.

J. Jeffers & Co., a Milwaukee-based developer, is planning a \$27.2 million investment to rehabilitate the 10 story building to include 84 apartments, along with event, office and commercial space.

The developer is planning to start construction in Sept. 2023.

The Hayes Hotel property is located in the heart of Downtown Jackson on W. Michigan Avenue.

The building housed the Hayes Hotel from 1926 to 1975.

In 2004, the City of Jackson acquired the building from Consumers Energy, who had used it for office space since the hotel closed.

After seeking a developer for nearly 20 years, the City sold the building to J. Jeffers & Co. in April 2022.

The company has previously completed sizable rehabs of historic buildings in Milwaukee.

“A project like this is really in our wheelhouse. One of the things that attracted us to the project was all the work that’s already been done in the City, such as the vibrancy that you can see taking shape downtown,” said Brian Loftin, Senior Vice President for Development.

With a projected timeline of 16 months, the renovation is expected to be complete in early 2025.