

CITY OF JACKSON

OFFICIAL CITY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

IMPROVING THE CITY

2023 STREET, PARK, TRAIL & WATER PROJECTS

The City of Jackson has been hard at work this year improving streets, parks, trails and water infrastructure for the community.

Here is a breakdown of projects making an impact in neighborhoods across Jackson.

STREETS

“Fix the roads” is a comment we hear frequently from residents.

This year, seven City streets are getting these often-requested fixes with resurfacing and patching projects.

N. Perrine Street, a neighborhood street on Jackson’s east side, saw a sizable improvement project in 2023, bringing a new street surface, sidewalks and driveways.

Pothole-plagued streets saw welcome refreshes with resurfacing projects on Wildwood Avenue, S. Brown Street, N. Wisner Street, and W. North Street.

N. Brown Street and S. West Avenue received pavement patching to extend the overall life of the



ABOVE: Resident enjoying new pedestrian trail along resurfaced S. Brown Street.

street surfaces.

PARKS

Parks and trails are a big contributor to the community’s quality of life, so it’s important to enhance these offerings for everyone in Jackson to enjoy.

Optimist Park, a neighborhood park on the City’s north side, is seeing a large-scale construction project.

The sale of adjacent City-owned property on N. West Avenue means the park is being reshaped with a new basketball court, playground and

landscaping.

\$1.5 million generated from the property sale is going to the Optimist Park improvements and renovations at the Boos Recreation Center.

A major project to upgrade Loomis Park was completed earlier this year.

This popular park on Jackson’s east side received a new playground, exercise equipment, walking path, pavilion and entrance to the Boos Recreation Center.

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Public art comes to neighborhood

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TRAILS

Jackson's pedestrian trail network continues to expand, providing more opportunities for outdoor exercise and non-motorized transportation.

A new trail was installed this year along S. Brown Street from W. Morrell Street to W. Michigan Avenue, bringing more pedestrian access to Jackson's west side.

The first phase of construction started this year on the MLK Equality Trail.

In the coming years, the entire length of the trail will receive a new concrete path to provide a more consistent surface and widened to accommodate more traffic.

These improvements will also make the trail more accessible to people with disabilities.

Four trail pedestrian crossings along the MLK and PAKA trails were made safer by installing warning lights and signs.

WATER

Jackson's underground water infrastructure was refreshed this year as well.

Outdated water mains on N. Perrine Street and Steward Avenue were replaced.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) ramped up lead service line replacement projects, replacing 115 lines from March to Sept. this year.

Replacement efforts will



DPW crews replace a lead service line at a home on Bates St.

continue through Nov. and restart in early spring 2024.

If you are contacted by the DPW for a replacement, please work with crews so they can replace your ser-

vice line as soon as possible.

The sooner you respond to crews, the easier this process will be for you and your neighbors.

CITY BURNING ORDINANCE

The Jackson Fire Department is reminding the community about the City's Burning Ordinance.

There has been an increase in reported violations of the ordinance.

To make sure you are burning safely and not violating the ordinance, firefighters suggest knowing the ordinance's key details.

The wood-burning unit, such as a fire pit, must be used to burn clean wood only.

Burning of furniture, trash, brush, leaves, grass or any other material is not allowed.

Outdoor fires should be located at least 25 feet away from any structure and at least 15 feet away from fences and neighboring property lines.

There should be a water source nearby to put out a fire quickly, such as a garden hose, bucket filled with clean water or a fire extinguisher.



Following these key details can help protect your family and neighbors.

If you have any questions

about the ordinance, contact the Jackson Fire Department at 517-788-4150.



MAYOR

Daniel Mahoney

COUNCIL

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

CITY MANAGER

Jonathan Greene

MEETINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT. 26 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

OCT. 10 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

OCT. 24 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 7
Election Day

Friday, Nov. 10
City Hall closed for Veterans Day

NOV. 14 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

Nov. 23-24
City Hall closed for Thanksgiving

NOV. 28 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

DEC. 5 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Swearing In

DEC. 12 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting

NOV. 7 GENERAL ELECTION

Races for Mayor, City Council and Treasurer will be decided by voters in the Tuesday, Nov. 7 General Election.

Wards 2, 4 and 6 are all having elections for the City Council.

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 received a mailed notice about the changes this spring.

Updated polling place information for Ward 2 can be found in the mailer and on the City website.

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

Secure absentee ballot drop boxes are available for voters to submit completed ballots at their convenience.



nience.

A drop box is located outside the front entrance of City Hall at 161 W. Michigan Ave.

Another ballot drop box is installed in Nixon Park off the parking lot at 400 E. North St.

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

2023 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 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 re-



move 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.





Message from the Mayor

Daniel Mahoney

As the holiday season approaches, Jackson is gearing up to spread joy and unity throughout the city.

This festive time of year reminds us of the importance of coming together as a community and celebrating the spirit of togetherness.

From the winter parade Downtown to the bustling holiday markets showcasing local artisans, Jackson's calendar is brimming with events that foster a sense of belonging.

These gatherings offer a chance for residents to connect, make memories, and share the magic of the season.

While the excitement of the season is palpable, let's not forget the impact of supporting our local businesses.

Jackson's charming boutiques and shops offer unique gift options, ensuring that each present holds a touch of the city's character.

By shopping locally, we not only find one-of-a-kind treasures but also contribute to the vibrancy of our community.

Beyond the festivities and shopping, the true essence of the holiday season is reflected in the acts of kindness that flourish in Jackson.

As temperatures drop, hearts warm as residents come together to provide food for those in need, donate toys for children, and volunteer their time for the greater good.

These gestures of compassion remind us that unity and empathy are the greatest gifts we can give.

As we embrace the holiday season, let's hold onto the spirit of unity that defines Jackson.

Let's cherish the community events that bring us together, support our local businesses, and continue spreading acts of kindness.

In doing so, we'll ensure that the season's magic extends far beyond the holidays, leaving a lasting sense of togetherness in our hearts.

Sincerely,
Daniel Mahoney

SIGN UP FOR CODERED TO GET CITY UPDATES



Sign up for CodeRED if you want important updates from the City of Jackson!

It's helpful to know that the City operates this service differently than the messages that come from the Jackson County Dispatch Center.

CodeRED messages about weather warnings, missing people and active threats are sent to every mobile device in a targeted area from the dispatch center.

However, when it comes to notifications from the City, you have to sign up to get our messages and we can only reach residents within the City Limits.

This is why everyone in the community did not receive messages about the Boil Water Advisory this summer.

Updates from the City

of Jackson will include the following:

- Ward meetings
- Hydrant flushing
- Street closures
- Road construction
- Leaf collection
- Clean up events
- Digital newsletters
- City emergencies

To sign up, download the CodeRED mobile app or visit the CodeRED section of the City website, cityofjackson.org.

Scan the QR code to directly reach the CodeRED sign up page.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

GETTING AROUND TOWN WITH JATA

With more than 170,000 rides given already this year, the Jackson Area Transportation Authority (JATA) isn't slowing down anytime soon.

"We are trending back to pre-pandemic levels having regained approximately 80 percent of riders," said Patrick O'Dowd, JATA's Government and Community Relations Manager.

Now that riders are back on buses, the transportation service is getting more information out in the community about their services.

City of Jackson residents have a lot of bus options, with nine buses running fixed routes along major streets Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Some routes go outside the City Limits, connecting riders to nearby shopping

and education centers.

For bus fares, senior citizens, children and people with disabilities can ride for \$0.75, with students paying \$1.00 and adults at \$1.50.

Monthly passes are also available.

JATA goes beyond daily bus service by assisting residents with their individual needs.

Reserve-A-Ride is a program where riders anywhere in Jackson County can get curb-to-curb service seven days a week by calling ahead with a reservation.

Wanting to make sure residents can get to medical appointments all over Jackson County, JATA offers Rides to Wellness.

"It's a convenient and dependable door-to-door medical transportation service for non-emergency



Riders get on a JATA bus after a trip to Kroger on W. Argyle St.

healthcare appointments and other wellness activities," O'Dowd said.

More than 4,000 of these wellness rides have been completed so far this year.

JATA is a non-profit organization that's largely funded through federal, state and local resources.

A millage in the City of Jackson generates \$500,000 a year for JATA, keeping rides affordable and service expansive.

"It's important for Jackson residents to know that these services are made possible because of what they're already contributing through tax dollars. The City of Jackson is the only local community that pays into the system, so that is why buses don't service neighboring townships," O'Dowd said.

JATA is seeing more riders choose public transportation over driving their own vehicles.

"Using JATA for getting around town can often be more cost-effective than owning and maintaining a personal vehicle. When you factor in the positive environmental impacts and alleviating parking challenges, using public transportation can greatly impact you and the entire community," O'Dowd said.

Visit mijata.org or download the JATA mobile app, RideJATA, to learn more about these services.

Staff are ready to assist riders with questions at the Downtown Jackson Transfer Station at 127 W. Cortland St. or by calling 517-783-6437.



JATA employee Chloe Raines with a passenger getting assistance through Rides to Wellness. Photos courtesy JATA.

NEW DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

After serving the City of Jackson for 15 years, Tim Gonzales received a new badge this summer, becoming the Jackson Fire Department's new Deputy Fire Chief.

Gonzales, a Jackson native, is taking over leadership of Jackson's fire crews following the retirement of David Wooden in April.

He previously served as a Firefighter, Fire Motor Driver and Assistant Chief of Operations in Jackson.

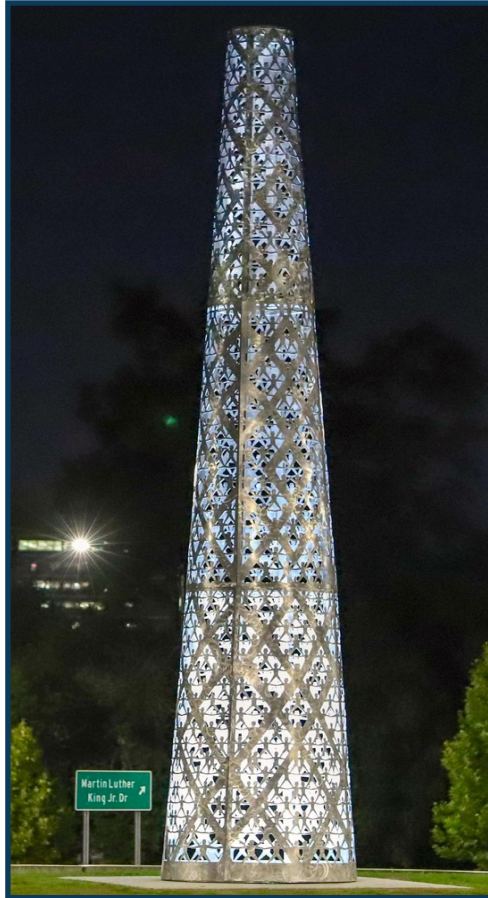
The new Deputy Chief says he's looking forward to working on more safety initiatives.

"Programs like our car seat inspections show how we can help residents take preventative measures if an emergency does occur. Focusing on more risk reduction programs will show that we can assist with different aspects of community safety," Gonzales said.



Deputy Fire Chief Tim Gonzales

SCULPTURES LIGHT UP MLK DRIVE CORRIDOR



Two new sculptures have been installed along S. MLK Drive.

Sculpture installations at two locations were completed this summer, brightening up the MLK Drive corridor.

In an effort to bring public art to the south side, the Public Arts Commission engaged residents on what kind of sculptures they'd like to see in their neighborhood.

Following the public engagement process, the City Council selected two pieces.

"A Community of Shapes" by artists Chris Turner and Doug Jones can be found near the pedestrian trail cross-

ing on S. MLK Drive.

It reflects Jackson's diverse population coming together.

"The Tower of Us/We Rise" by Maxwell Emcays is located in the center of the MLK Drive roundabout.

This illuminated 30-foot sculpture depicts individuals standing on each other's shoulders forming a tower, representing how community support can help with overcoming adversity.

The sculptures are funded by money generated from cell tower licensing in the City of Jackson and not from taxes.