

# CITY OF JACKSON

OFFICIAL CITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

## RECREATION MILLAGE FOR JACKSON AREA ON AUG. BALLOT

Voters in the Jackson Public Schools (JPS) District will decide a recreation millage in the Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024 election.

The millage is used to provide free and reduced cost recreation programs for children under 18 years old and adults over 50 years old in the JPS district.

The millage funds youth programs such as soccer, basketball, football, cheerleading, and special events like the Daddy Daughter Dance.

It powers senior programs like luncheons, exercise classes, and pickleball.

The funding also employs high school and college-age students who staff recreation programs.

The district collects millage funds and turns them over to the City's Parks and Recreation Department for programming.

Voters have passed the millage every 10 years since 1960.

The last time the millage was approved was in 2014 at .50 mills.



Cheerleading Camp at Jackson High School's Withington Stadium.

In 2024, the City and JPS are asking for an increase to .75 mills.

Officials say the reason for the increase is to meet rising supply costs and pay staff a fair wage.

Millage charges are based on property value, which means .75 mills on a \$100,000 home would be \$75 per year to support recreation programs.

Comparing that to the current cost of \$50 per year on a \$100,000 home, there's a projected \$25 annual increase if approved.

"This millage is the result of community partnerships that give kids and seniors access to affordable recreation programs not only in the City, but in the entire school district," said Parks and Recreation Director Kelli Hoover.

The millage will appear on ballots as a Jackson Public Schools recreation millage proposal.

Official ballot language for the millage is available in the Elections section of the City website by visiting [cityofjackson.org/267/Election-Divison](http://cityofjackson.org/267/Election-Divison).

### INSIDE

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- Construction season update
- Historic building renovation
- New fire truck
- Reviving South Side with grants
- New apartments taking shape
- Canoe & kayak launch coming to park



## NEW ONLINE SYSTEM FOR REC REGISTRATION

A new online recreation registration system recently went live and is modernizing the way residents sign up for programs, reserve facilities, and get information.

The mobile-friendly portal is accessed through the Parks and Recreation section of the City website, [cityofjackson.org](http://cityofjackson.org).

All available programs, events, and facilities are ready to view on the site.

By creating an account through the website, residents can save information and easily sign up for programs with a few clicks.

This makes registering

more convenient for parents with children who frequently participate in programs.

Rosters, schedules, notices and cancellations are sent to participants in text messages and emails through the system.

There's also a calendar feature to keep track of activities.

Parks and Recreation staff say in-person registration and payments have been barriers for some residents to sign up for programs.

Staff say the new system means more convenient access for residents to get ac-



Active Living participants play pickleball at Ella Sharp Park.

tive and take advantage of programs and parks.

Paper forms and in-person registration will still be

available at the Parks and Recreation Department, 5th floor of City Hall.

## STREET CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Work continues this summer to improve Jackson's street, trail, and water infrastructure.

The City's Engineering Division has planned 24 infrastructure projects for the 2024 season.

The season got off to a productive start this spring with water main and service line projects on Oakridge Drive, Arnold Street, Blakeley Avenue, N. Grinnell Street, Burr Street, and S. MLK Drive.

A resurfacing project on E. High Street between Executive Drive and South Street wrapped up in May.

Resurfacing work is continuing this year on the MLK Equality Trail.

Two sections of the pedestrian trail are being widened and given new concrete surfaces, S. MLK Drive to W. Prospect Street and S. West Avenue to the Optimist Rest Shelter.

Residents can expect to see substantial construction projects throughout the summer on W. Biddle Street, Williams Street, Dwight Street, McBride Street and N. Elm Avenue.

A full 2024 planned construction project list is available on the City website,



Construction worker repairs a Jackson street.

[cityofjackson.org](http://cityofjackson.org).

The City website also has an interactive map for residents to see where

construction is happening around Jackson, along with project updates, and street closures.



## MAYOR

Daniel Mahoney

## COUNCIL

Arlene Robinson

Freddie Dancy

Angelita V. Gunn

Conner Wood

Shalanda Hunt

Will Forgrave

## Ward

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## CITY MANAGER

Jonathan Greene

## IMPORTANT DATES & MEETINGS

### Wednesday, July 3

Jackson's 195th Birthday

### Thursday, July 4

City Hall Closed for Independence Day

### JULY 16 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council meeting

### Tuesday, Aug. 6

Primary Election

### AUG. 13 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council meeting

### Monday, Sept. 2

City Hall Closed for Labor Day

### SEPT. 10 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council meeting

### Sunday, Sept. 22

First Day of Fall

## AUG. 6 PRIMARY ELECTION

Voters will decide primary races for federal, State and county offices in the Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024 election.

There will also be millage proposals on the ballot for recreation, school operations, and public safety.

The early voting site for City of Jackson residents will be located on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 161 W. Michigan Ave., Saturday, July 27 through Sunday, Aug. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Early voting follows the same procedures as voting at a polling place on Election Day.

In-person voting on Election Day at polling places is not impacted.

Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

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.

The drop boxes are located outside the front entrance of City Hall and in the parking lot of Nixon Park, 400 E. North St.

Learn more about voting in this election by visiting the Elections section of [cityofjackson.org](http://cityofjackson.org).

## CITY CENTER RENOVATIONS



Renovations are underway at the City Center (former Masonic Temple) on W. Cortland Street. Construction started in March to convert the ground, first and second floors into an incubator kitchen, food service training center, and event space. This project from the City of Jackson is funded by \$3.1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The facility will open in winter 2025.





## Message from the Mayor

Daniel Mahoney

Dear Citizens of Jackson,

Summertime is here and the outdoor activities are heating up! It is such an honor to serve as Mayor of the City of Jackson, especially with so many positive things happening around town. Enjoying mini golf at Ella Sharp Park, Nixon Pool buzzing with families, parades, festivals, car shows, food trucks, and more in downtown.

While enjoying these fun warm-weather activities, we are also addressing the most pressing issues in the community. We are committed to fixing our roads without breaking the pockets of our citizens. Recognizing that current funding streams are inadequate, we are carefully evaluating every project and seeking State and federal assistance to improve our roads.

New housing developments like The Greenwood, The Blackstone, and the 100 Homes Program are making great progress, addressing the need for more housing in Jackson. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department now offers online registration for recreation activities, and a new kayak launch will soon open at Ella Sharp Park.

We're also celebrating the MLK Corridor Improvement Authority, which awarded \$400,000 in grants to local businesses. In public safety, we've purchased a new fire truck and are actively supporting our law enforcement.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. Together, we're making Jackson a vibrant and thriving community.

Best regards,  
Daniel J. Mahoney  
Mayor of Jackson

## NEW FIRE TRUCK



Engine One reporting for duty! The Jackson Fire Department is welcoming a new fire truck to its fleet. Engine One was purchased using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The modern fire truck will help fire crews respond more efficiently to emergencies.

## CODERED UPDATE

An important notice about CodeRED.

Jackson County recently switched from CodeRED to a new service called Genasys for emergency mass communications.

The City of Jackson shared an account with the County but decided to keep CodeRED as our official resident communication system.

Jackson County will now send out emergency notifications through their new system.

CodeRED will continue to be used for City of Jackson emergencies, neighborhood updates

and information about City services such as hydrant flushing, leaf collection, and cleanups.

City residents are welcome to sign up for Genasys to get emergency alerts from the Jackson County Dispatch Center.

If you have not signed up for the City of Jackson's CodeRED, scan this QR code with your device to be directed to the CodeRED registration page.



# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## SUPPORT FOR SOUTH SIDE BUSINESSES MLK CIA AWARDS SECOND ROUND OF GRANTS



Second round of grant recipients pose with checks at MLK Center in May. Photo courtesy of Alan Wade from the Jackson Blazer.

The City of Jackson continues to lead efforts to revive the South Side.

A second round of grants was announced this spring by the MLK Corridor Improvement Authority (MLK-CIA) for the Entrepreneurial and Real Estate Fund.

10 businesses located along S. MLK Drive and Prospect Street received grants ranging in \$25,000 to \$50,000.

A total of \$400,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was awarded to help businesses purchase inventory, secure or alter a location, pay staff, and purchase other vital services for their operations.

Recipients from the second round of grants in-

clude:

- Pharaoh's Rest
- Pretty Distinct Beauty
- Mikey's Barbershop
- Stop One Party Store
- Hope Health Services
- DaRealTV Productions
- Carl's Coffee & Cream
- Nutton But Love
- TaeLynn Ice Cream
- McCranie Activity Center

"We're proud to provide small business owners with the resources and connections they need to achieve growth and success, and to continue Jackson's South Side legacy," said MLK CIA Board Chair Anthony Parker.

Earlier this winter, the authority made its first round of grant disbursements,

giving out \$250,000 in ARPA funds to five South Side businesses.

Two of those businesses, Mikey's Barbershop and Pryor's BBQ House, are already using the funds to boost their businesses.

Pryor's on W. Prospect Street used their grant to install a new security system, exterior lighting and air conditioning.

Mikey's Barbershop, which received grants in both rounds, is using their funds to add on to the barbershop building on S. MLK Drive.

This will allow them to hire more staff and serve additional customers.

"The first round of grants demonstrated this funding's power in helping to trans-

form local businesses. In round two, we are eager to help even more South Side entrepreneurs and uplift our business community to the benefit of every resident," said MLK CIA member George Brown.

The MLK CIA was launched in 2020 by the City of Jackson to focus on redevelopment in the S. MLK Drive and Prospect Street corridors.

The authority uses a portion of existing tax dollars from these areas to reinvest in the neighborhood.

It does not bring any new taxes.

The authority's board is made up of residents, business leaders, and local officials.

## SHOW US YOUR SUMMER PICS!



Local children enjoy the Nixon Water Park.

Do you have a cool photo that shows off Jackson?

We'd love to see it!

The City of Jackson is accepting photos of people enjoying downtown events, visiting businesses, and taking in the outdoors at parks.

We're also looking for photos of landscapes, neighborhoods, nature and anything else that highlights the best of Jackson!

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to be taken to a form on the City website where you can upload photos.

These images will be used by the City of Jackson in our communications efforts, such as the City website, social media, newsletters, and news releases.

Submitting a photo means you give City staff consent to use your images.

Thanks for sending in your photos!



## NEW KAYAK & CANOE LAUNCH AT ELLA SHARP PARK

You can enjoy the Grand River on a canoe or kayak this summer.

A grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is being used to install an accessible canoe and kayak launch in Ella Sharp Park.

The new launch will be located along the Grand River in the park's southeast section off Maplewood Drive and Probert Road.

Installation is scheduled for early July 2024.

This new park feature is facilitated through the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance and Jackson County Drain Commissioner to provide more access to water trails.



## NEW APARTMENTS



Two new affordable apartment complexes are under construction. The Blackstone Apartments on N. Blackstone Street will be a four story, 53 unit housing complex. The Greenwood Apartments on Greenwood Avenue (above) will be a three story housing development with 51 units. Both projects are bringing a combined \$30 million investment and filling up vacant lots formerly owned by the City of Jackson. The apartment buildings from Pivotal, an Ohio-based development company, are set to open in 2025. Pivotal previously built the Francis Senior Lofts.