

JACKSON



Issue XIV

SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE

NEW COUNCIL TAKES OATHS

A new Jackson City Council took its oaths of office this month as a number of new faces as well as familiar faces in new roles began their stints as City representatives Dec. 5.

Elections were organized this November for five out of the seven City Council seats up for election. Meet your new City Council below.

Derek Dobies Mayor

Formerly the City Councilman for Jackson's 6th Ward, Dobies defeated incumbent mayor Bill Jors by a vote of 2,259 to 1,818.

Dobies has served as the Vice President of the Jackson Housing Commission and Secretary of the Jackson Human Relations Commission - he currently serves on the City's Planning Commission, the Ella Sharp Park Board of Trustees and numerous project-based committees.

A Michigan State University graduate and Eagle Scout, Dobies lives in Jackson with his wife, Danielle, and their daughter.

Colleen Sullivan 6th Ward

Colleen Sullivan replaces Dobies as the 6th Ward representative after defeating three challengers in the Nov. 7 election. Sullivan garnered



Newly elected Mayor Derek Dobies is sworn in during the Dec. 5 inauguration at Jackson City Hall. (Photo courtesy of Jake Crandall • MLive.com)

709 votes while Jeffrey Fearh, John Wilson and Matthew Swartzlander earned 489, 230 and 66 votes, respectively.

Sullivan graduated from Albion College where she spent a great deal of time volunteering in local mentoring programs, teaching children to read and volunteering for the Special Olympics. After surviving pre-eclampsia and HELLP Syndrome, she became an advocate for maternal health care and awareness. As her son was diagnosed

with autism and mild cerebral palsy, she worked within the special needs community to ensure that Jackson had a functioning therapeutic autism program.

Jeromy Alexander 3rd Ward

Challenger Jeromy Alexander won the Jackson 3rd Ward seat by a tally of 331-310 over longtime incumbent Daniel Greer.

Born and raised in Jackson, Alexander attended Co-

lumbia Central High School and Jackson Community College. He is a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish.

Alexander said he hopes to connect with every resident of the ward through a wide variety of community groups, ward meetings and online.

Elsewhere, incumbents **Arlene Robinson** and **Andrew Frounfelker** won their bids to continue to represent the 1st and 5th wards, respectively.

LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS XMAS SHOP WITH AREA FAMILIES

While new Jackson City Council members were taking their oaths of office on the other side of town, children from the Jackson-area community were surveying dolls, action figures and toy trucks - preparing for Christmas day.

Numerous families in need gathered at Walmart for the eighth straight year to shop with local firefighters from the Jackson and Summit fire departments. Firefighters donated their time to help parents provide Christmas gifts to their children, while Walmart provided gift cards, wrapping paper, cookies and a visit from Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus after the event.

Local firefighter Tim Gonzales helped organize the annual event.

"Walmart has been great to work with and all the firefighters get super stoked to help these kids out," he said. "You see the look on some of their faces when they get that one gift they were eyeing and it makes it all worth it."

Roughly 20 children participated this year, along with their families.

"It's just another way we can give back and help the community," Gonzales said.



A local firefighter shops with a child during the eighth annual Christmas shopping event at Walmart.

From the Desk of Mayor Derek Dobies

As your newly elected Mayor, my first hope is that every Jackson resident has a happy and safe holiday season. I am honored and humbled to have this opportunity to serve the Jackson community as Mayor.

We've accomplished a lot in the years leading up to my mayoral run, including passing a non-discrimination ordinance, fostering new economic development opportunities such as the Lofts on Louis apart-

ment complex downtown, and raising property values by - among other priorities - eliminating blight.

Jackson residents can expect new and exciting developments moving forward, and you have a strong and dedicated City Council to help us all reach our potential as a community.

As I said in my inauguration speech earlier this month: 'Whether your black or white, old or young, rich or poor - whether you're

straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, what sets us apart is not stronger than what binds us together. We are all Jacksonians first. Each and every one of us in important and we are all going to be a part of rebuilding Jackson.'

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all.

Sincerely,





Annual Christmas Parade

Residents Turn Out for 27th Annual Event

Parade organizers estimated there were more than 12,000 people at the 27th annual Christmas parade in downtown Jackson this year.

“It gets bigger and better every year,” Downtown Development Authority rep Kaiti McDonough said. “We’re already planning ways to make the 28th parade the best yet.”

Parade attendees were greeted with marching bands, floats and more.

JTV photographer Ryan Kerwin was there to catch the action and submitted these photos.

MAYOR

Derek Dobies

COUNCIL (Ward)

- Arlene Robinson 1
- Freddie Dancy 2
- Jeromy Alexander 3
- Craig Pappin 4
- Andrew Frounfelker 5
- Colleen Sullivan 6

CITY MANAGER

Patrick Burtch

MEETINGS/EVENTS

Dec. 22, 25 and 29
City Hall Closed
Christmas/New Years

Dec. 31 • 10 p.m.
“Eve on the Ave”
Downtown Jackson

Monday, Jan. 1
City Hall Closed
New Year’s Day

Monday, Jan. 15
City Hall Closed
Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 16 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting
City Hall, 2nd Floor

For more information about City programs, visit the City’s website at www.cityofjackson.org

