

JACKSON

Issue XII, Autumn 2017

BIMONTHLY

BAGGED LEAF PICKUP RETURNS

Beginning Saturday, Oct. 28, United Waste will begin the annual job of gathering Jackson residents' bagged autumn leaves after entering into a contract with the City of Jackson this August.

This is the third year the City will have a contractor pick up bagged residents' leaves this autumn. Jackson residents can put their bagged leaves on the curb the evening before a designated pickup day, with every home in the City allowed two scheduled days for leaf collection.

This year, residents are required to purchase any 30-gallon paper leaf bag for bagging purposes. Contractors will not pick up plastic bags for paper bags smaller or larger than 30 gallons.

"Residents need to purchase any 30-gallon paper leaf bag from the supplier of their choice this year after we received complaints the first few years of having residents pick up leaf bags at City Hall," Public Information Officer Will Forgrave said. "We're constantly tweaking the program to better serve our residents. While no plan will make everyone happy, we want to best serve as many people as possible."

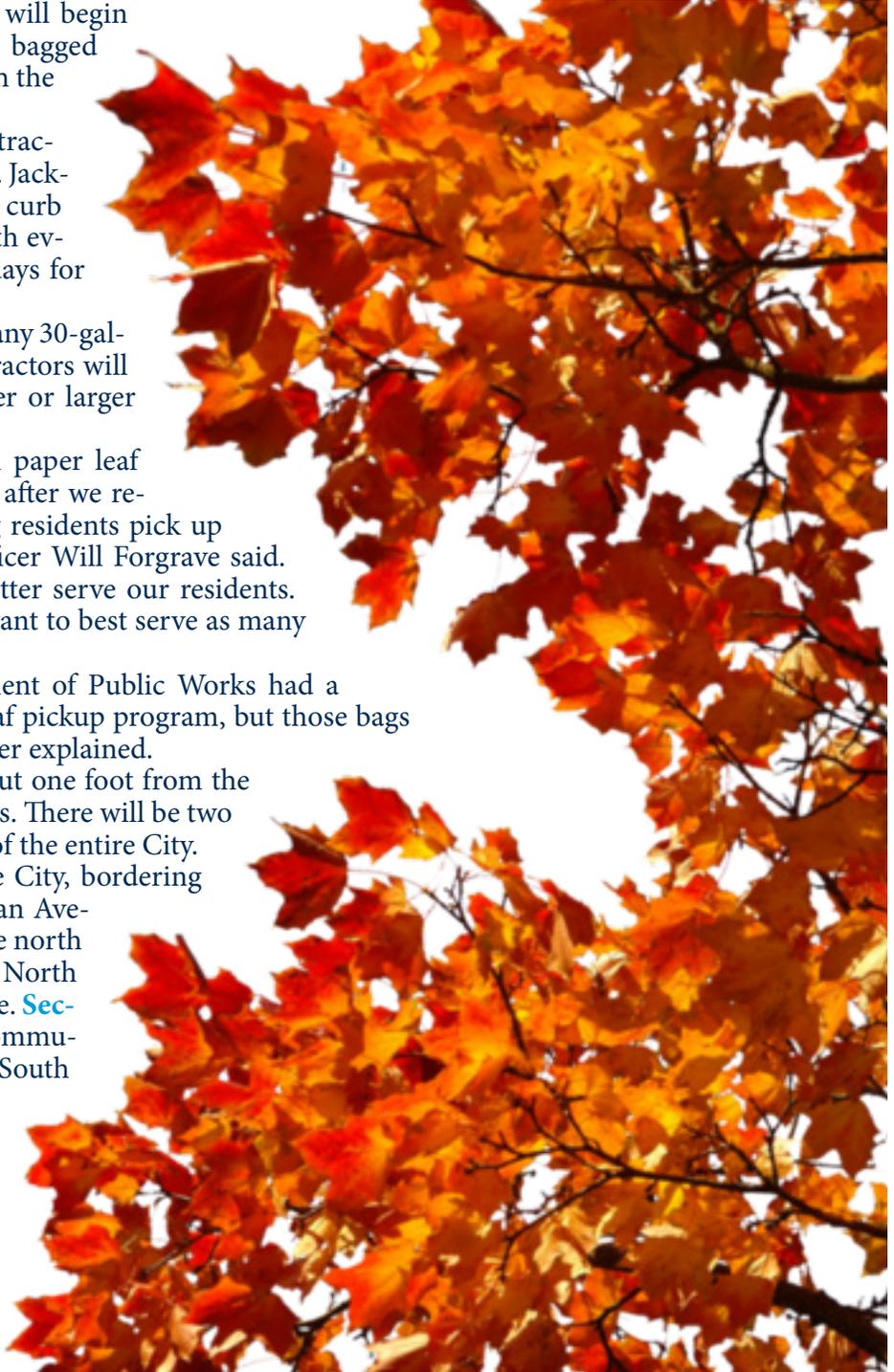
Last season, the City of Jackson's Department of Public Works had a number of leftover paper bags from the first leaf pickup program, but those bags have all been used, DPW Director Todd Knepper explained.

Bagged leaves must be placed curbside, about one foot from the curb, by 6 a.m. on the designated collection days. There will be two rounds of bagged leaf pickup in three sections of the entire City.

Section 1 is in the southeast portion of the City, bordering East North Street, Cooper Street, West Michigan Avenue and South Jackson Street. **Section 2** is in the north portion of the City of Jackson, bordered by East North Street, Cooper Street and West Michigan Avenue. **Section 3** rests in the southwest portion of the community, bordered by West Michigan Avenue and South Jackson Street.

To view a map of the City of Jackson, split into each of the three sections, visit www.cityofjackson.org/593/leaf-bag-pick-up-program.

The schedule will have Section 1 leaf pickups on Oct. 28 and Nov. 18; Section 2 pickups on Nov. 4 and Dec. 2; and Section 3 is scheduled for Nov. 11 and Dec. 9.



FOUNDATION GIFTS CITY \$70K

The City of Jackson was recently awarded \$70,000 from the Weatherwax Foundation to go toward beautification efforts at Ella Sharp Park, as well as restoring the Summer Night Tree sculpture in downtown Jackson.

“The Weatherwax Foundation is glad to have been part of the many successful efforts to make the City attractive and enjoyable for everyone,” said Maria Dotterweich, executive director of the foundation.

A portion of the funds will be used toward reforestation efforts at Ella Sharp Park, after City officials opted to cut invasive trees and shrubs last year. Another \$20,000 will go toward restoring the Summer Night Tree sculpture, designed and created by artist Louis Nevelson.

Restoration efforts began this month, with crews already sandblasting and painting the structure.

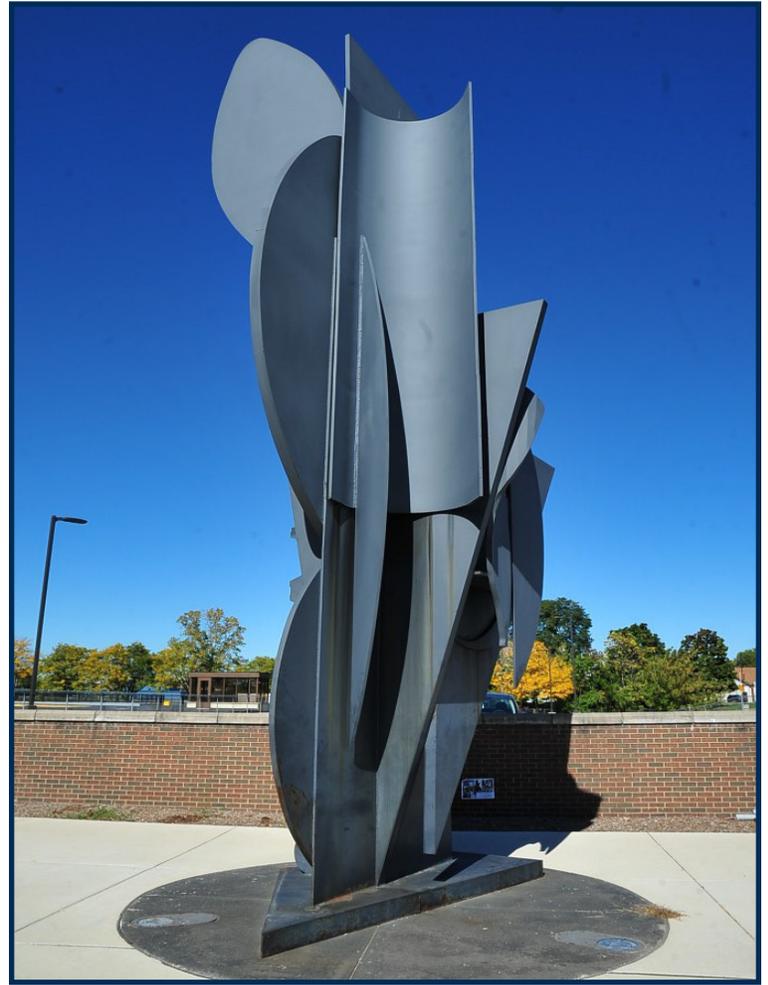
Since its installation in

1978, the sculpture has truly become a cultural asset to the City of Jackson, and its restoration is a top priority, said Stacy Harrison, chairwoman of the Jackson Public Arts Commission. JPAC officials estimate the restoration will cost roughly \$40,000.

The restoration includes removal of all previous paint coatings and corrosion and an application of layers of new protective coatings which are expected to maintain the sculpture for at least 30 years.

JPAC officials are still garnering donations toward the project, which can be made through the Ella Sharp Museum’s website, www.ellasharp-museum.org, or by checks mailed to the museum.

The Weatherwax Foundation will soon cease operations, after being a go-to source for charitable organizations looking for grants in the Jackson area for more than three decades.



‘Summer Night Tree’

NEW DOWNTOWN LOFTS ON TAP

A new mixed-use development project at the site of the former Jackson Citizen Patriot headquarters took its first steps toward a reality last month when Jackson City Council voted to enter into a development agreement with General Capital Group.

The development calls for 73 apartments and 4,000 feet of commercial space along Jackson Street downtown.

Some of the apartments won’t be market rate, but to say the proposed lofts are low-income is wrong, Public Information Officer Will Forgrave said. About 15 units out of the 73 will be for residents whose household income does not exceed 50 percent of the area median income.

“We’re going to welcome any development within our community that calls for 73

apartments and commercial space,” Forgrave said.

In plans presented to the City of Jackson (one is shown below), GenCap intends to build a three-story structure that will connect to the back of the current building, extending north to Cortland Street and wrap around the Beffel Lighting building.

The project also calls for the preservation of the Jackson Citizen Patriot building’s

facade, designed by Detroit architect Albert Kahn. Other Kahn buildings include the Fisher Building in Detroit, Auditorium and Burton memorial Tower in Ann Arbor and, in Jackson: the Jackson County Tower building, the former Consumers Power headquarters and more.

“We’re extremely excited to welcome yet another development to Jackson,” City Manager Patrick Burtch said.





MAYOR

Bill Jors

COUNCIL (Ward)

- Arlene Robinson 1
- Freddie Dancy 2
- Daniel Greer 3
- Craig Pappin 4
- Andrew Frounfelker 5
- Derek Dobies 6

CITY MANAGER

Patrick Burtch

MEETINGS/EVENTS

Sept. 22 • 6-9 p.m.
Cruise In Car Show
Downtown Jackson

Sept. 26 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Oct. 3/17 • 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Oct. 31 • 6-8 p.m.
Halloween Hours
City of Jackson

Tuesday, Nov. 7
Election Day
City of Jackson

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

Summer in the City

Jackson HRC Increases Community Presence

This summer the City of Jackson’s Human Relations Commission packed in a few memorable community events within the community.

First, the HRC held its annual community picnic at Carter’s Corner in the beautiful Ella Sharp Park on July 8.

Many City residents attended and enjoyed the festivities and the coming together as a community theme, officials said. The event started with the raising of the flag by the Jackson chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America Color Guard.

“To make the event official and give it a great American kick-off, Jackson area Songstress Anissa Sumner rendered a very soulful national anthem that moved the crowd,” Jackson’s Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator John Willis said. “HRC Chairperson Alice Lewis then gave an official welcome and the community party was alive and in full force.”

After the formalities, the guests were free to enjoy a variety of food, including fresh dogs and burgers, grilled by HRC

board member Melissa Morse. There were several desserts and side dishes for all to enjoy.

“This is a very important event,” said Lewis, “not only is it an open invitation to the community for people of every race and identity, it’s also a chance for the Human Relations Commission to get the word out about what we do, and how the community can contact us.”

The event also offered a variety of children’s events for family fun from face painting by “Dee Dee the Clown” to several recreational games supervised by City of Jackson Recreation’s King Center Staff.

Representatives for the Jackson Police Department offered tours of the State of the Art police vehicles used locally, while many other local non-profit groups shared information with the public.

“It was a great event,” Lewis said. “The weather was perfect, the crowd was great, the food was great, and the community

See ‘HRC’ on Pg. 5



“Dee Dee the Clown” painted childrens’ faces at the annual community picnic hosted by the Human Relations Commission.



PARK WINS ANNUAL AWARD

The Michigan Association of Planners awarded the City of Jackson and Beckett & Raeder, Inc. the prestigious 2017 planning award for “urban design” for the City’s expansion of Horace Blackman Park.

The annual award recognizes communities and planning agencies which promote sound community land use planning that benefits everyone within a municipality. This is the second MAP/APA Michigan award Jackson received, after earning the Daniel H. Burnham Award for the City’s master plan last year.

“A tremendous amount of time and energy went into making Horace Blackman Park what it is today,” said City Councilman Andrew Frounfelker, who represents the 5th Ward where the park rests. “We’re honored to have been awarded for our hard work.”

Since the demolition of the old Consumers Energy headquarters where the park now resides, City adminis-



Horace Blackman Park draped in lights and decorations for the 2016 holiday season. The park recently won a MAP/APA award. (Courtesy of JTV)

tration and staff have worked hard to make the park what it is today. This includes raising the necessary funds to build the CP Federal City Square on park grounds - spearheaded by City Councilman Derek Dobies, 6th Ward.

After roughly three years of planning, fundraising and

construction, the Glidden Parker mural - housed in the city square - was unveiled May 5. Funding for the project began with the success of two competitive grants and was followed by eight organizations and nonprofits stepping forward to donate funds for the project.

“The CP Federal City

Square project highlights all of the work City officials did to make Horace Blackman Park what it is today,” Mayor Bill Jors said.

The award will be granted to the City of Jackson during the MAP/APA’s annual conference Sept. 27 at the Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island.

A Message from Jackson Mayor Bill Jors

While the fall equinox isn’t set until later this month, autumn is alive and well in the hearts and minds of area residents now that children are back at school and Labor Day is behind us.

I hope everyone had a restful and productive summer season, and I hope everyone is looking forward to the autumn months ahead.

Jackson City Council continues to work to better our community despite the time of year, and while

the days are shorter and the nights colder, construction projects continue apace.

In addition, the City of Jackson has recently been recognized by organizations for excellence in planning Horace Blackman Park and the CP Federal City Square (Pg. 4), as well as its ongoing effort to beautify Ella Sharp Park and restore the Louis Nevelson sculpture (Pg. 2).

Yet another development is starting to show signs of

life in Jackson as well, as City Council recently entered into a development agreement with GenCap Jackson Limited Dividend Housing Association to restore the former Jackson Citizen Patriot headquarters on Jackson Street and build 73 loft apartments downtown (Pg. 2)

For these reasons and many others, the future looks bright in Jackson!

Mayor Bill Jors



DID YOU KNOW?

9/10 Have 'Positive' Views of the JPD

A recent survey aimed at discovering how City residents view the Jackson Police Department shows that although more than one-third of respondents believe the community has negative views of JPD, more than 90 percent personally hold a positive view of the department.

Dr. John Hawthorne, a professor of sociology at Spring Arbor University, drafted the survey and mailed it to Jackson residents this spring. Hawthorne said while the response rate was lower than he originally hoped, there is "still sufficient data for a baseline evaluation of City residents and their views on the JPD."

The survey was mailed to 3,500 Jackson residents in late April. The responses showed, overall, a positive view of the City's police department as well as consistently positive interactions with officers.

Roughly six in 10 responses reported "all" interactions with JPD officers were either positive or very positive, compared with only 8 percent reporting no positive interactions.

"This survey underscores the police department's commitment to excellence," Director of Police and Fire Services Elmer Hitt said. "We'll always strive to improve, and while most interactions from respondents were

positive, there are things to learn from those who held negative views."

Nearly half of the survey respondents see police-community tensions as present everywhere, while about one-third don't see this as a serious issue at all. Hawthorne noted that media reports on national issues may have made people sensitive about the risk of tensions here in Jackson and elsewhere, but two-thirds of survey-takers are willing to partner with the JPD and build community relationships.

Hawthorne will discuss his findings at a City Council meeting in the future - a date and time is to be determined.



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www.facebook.com/cityofjacksonmi/

HRC

Continued from Pg. 3

came out to support our efforts. We look forward to being even more involved and visible in the community."

Get more involved is exactly what the HRC did. Two weeks after its annual community picnic, the HRC organized a Candidates Forum for candidates and incumbents running for mayor and Jackson City Council.

The Forum was moderated by HRC board member Dr. John Hawthorne and several candidates participated.

The candidates all received three questions prior to the forum which they were all allowed to answer after their 2 minute introduction.

Three written questions from the audience were presented to each candidate. Each candidate was given two minutes to respond to the question. Both forums used this same format, and the candidates were all given 3 minutes to summarize the reasons they felt they would best serve their constituents.

"This was a great opportunity to engage the public," said HRC event chairman Rev. John Clemons. "The format allowed information to be shared and questions to be answered in a non-confrontational manner that was pleasing to all."

The HRC will also be holding another forum in late October for the November election.

The next HRC event is the annual Harold White Volunteer Awards Breakfast, set for 7:30 a.m. Oct. 18, at the Cascades Manor House. Tickets go on sale Sept. 15. For more information, call 517-788-4167.

