

JACKSON

Issue V, July 2016

BIMONTHLY

SUMMER FUN BEGINS IN JACKSON

A record number of people are turning out for summer events in Jackson, including the annual car shows, downtown concerts and the always-popular public pool at Nixon Park.

Officials with the City of Jackson, the Jackson Downtown Development Authority and the City's Parks & Recreation Department are working overtime this summer to provide area residents with fun events and programs.

Classic cars and hot rods abound during the DDA's monthly Cruise In car shows, with the next show scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Friday, July 22, in downtown Jackson. The event can be attended free of charge, with the June car show recording a record turnout, with more than 400 cars registered and more than 2,500 people attending.

"It's really great to see everyone come out and enjoy our events that we all work so hard to organize and put on," DDA Director Nate Mack said. "They're really a summer staple here in Jackson."

The Jackson DDA is also organizing weekly films shown free of charge outdoors at Horace Blackman Park, beginning at dusk. The lineups include classic family



Pictured above, area residents enjoy the public pool at Nixon Park. The pool opened earlier this season and will remain open through Aug. 20.

favorites such as "Back to the Future" (July 22), "Goonies" (July 29) and "ET" (Aug. 5).

Free summer concerts are also on tap in downtown Jackson every Friday in July from 6-8 p.m. Bands include One Love Reggae Band and Kevin Nichols and Blue Tuesday, among others.

With the weather heating up, Jackson's public pool at Nixon Park is also seeing record turnouts.

The pool is open Monday

through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. for \$4 per session. A \$2 session is also included from 5:30-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The City organized a pool pass lottery at the beginning of the season, with area resident Angela Tingley winning the free passes through the Facebook contest.

Check out the DDA and City of Jackson Facebook page for more information on all summer events.

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CITY ENTERS INTO OPTION AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP HOTEL HAYES DOWNTOWN

Jackson officials entered into an option agreement this week with Home Renewal System, LLC to redevelop the Hotel Hayes downtown.

HRS Senior Vice President Shannon Morgan said the company plans to incorporate the hotel into a mixed use development including market-rate apartments, hotel rooms and space for commercial applications.

HRS has a long history of redeveloping historic structures in the state of Michigan, including a \$15.3 million renovation of a vacant orphanage in Marquette and the development of a 38-apartment building for seniors at a long-vacant high school in Fremont.

The agreement grants HRS the ability to begin development on the Jackson landmark for 12 months at the cost of \$1. If the developer exercises the option to buy within the year, the purchase price for the property would be \$120,001.

“We handpicked the Hayes Hotel because it is a beautiful landmark build-



Jackson officials entered into an option agreement to redevelop downtown Jackson landmark the Hotel Hayes, right, last month.

ing that is easily walkable to conveniences, amenities and opportunities in downtown Jackson,” Morgan said. “The success of all our projects is based on establishing local partnerships. We are very excited to bring new life to this historic asset and be part of the resurgence of downtown Jackson.”

HRS has directed the development of 25,000 housing units throughout the country. Their portfolio features a diverse range of projects, including adaptive reuse, residential housing, historic renovation, land development, mixed-use development and housing renovation.

Jackson Mayor Bill Jors said at the June 28 Jackson City Council meeting he’s optimistic that HRS can work to redevelop the vacant Hotel Hayes. Council voted unanimously to sign the option agreement with the company; Morgan signed on behalf of HRS on June 24.

GREAT LAKES CARING TO OPEN NEW FACILITY

Great Lakes Caring Home Health and Hospice announced the addition of a 4000-square-foot facility to open on Francis Street in Jackson recently.

Chief Executive Officer William Deary said in a press release the new center will consolidate the business operations of the company and enable Great Lakes to “more efficiently and effec-

tively provide a value-based coordinated continuum of health care.”

City of Jackson officials congratulated Deary on the announcement at a City Council meeting in June, presenting the CEO with a plaque.

The award-winning company serves more than 9,000 patients each day, in seven states and employs more

than 2,600 people. Now, the main office for the healthcare provider will rest in Jackson.

“This new development will have an extremely positive impact in our community, bringing with it jobs, tax revenue and a new business facade to our rapidly-improving city,” City Manager Patrick Burtch said. “For years, Great Lakes Caring has been one of the business-

es at the forefront of moving Jackson’s economy forward. We welcome any development, of course, but a development from Great Lakes Caring is one we know will serve our community well, long into the future.”

The new development will highlight nearly 1,600 new employees hired at the organization since its expansion was announced in 2013.





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

JULY 22 • 6 p.m.

One Love Reggae Band
Horace Blackman Park

JULY 22 • 6 p.m.

Cruise In Car Show
Downtown Jackson

JULY 29 • Dusk

Film Fest - "Goonies"
Horace Blackman Park

AUG. 15 • 6 p.m.

Public Forum with MML
City Hall, 2nd Floor

AUG. 23 • 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

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Phillip Buckner

The City of Jackson is home to 26 parks that are well kept and inviting to its citizens and visitors and while most of us see the beautiful grass and the playground equipment that our families enjoy, we don't get to see the work that goes into maintaining our parks - that's where maintenance workers like Phillip Buckner come in.

Buckner's normal day starts with a 6:30 a.m. briefing where each of the department's workers receive information on any special instructions or work detail that needs immediate attention. This could be simply offensive or obscene graffiti that has caught the attention of the public in a highly visual place, a fence or piece of playground equipment that has become damaged or just a damaged flower garden or sign that needs to be replaced.

Some days are more labor intensive than others, like when a storm with high winds and rain disrupts the City.

"This is not bad compared to some of the weather emergencies we see, in the winter, there's always something that needs our attention quickly, ice and water cause a lot of damage so we have to move fast to keep up" Buckner said of a storm that hit the City of Jackson earlier this month. "The thing for me is to make sure that we have everything looking good and working properly before the general public gets out and about."

This means that some mornings start before 5:00 a.m., Buckner said, and some days almost never end when conditions and incidents demand the workers attention.

A normal day will have Buckner and his partner covering roughly 13 parks, two community centers and Nixon Water Park.

They begin by going to each park and emptying garbage cans first. During their garbage pick-up they take notice of any little mishap or thing out of place.

"Things like branches hanging too low or fallen, missing swing chains or parts, graffiti or damaged playground stuff, we



Phillip Buckner

look for when making our garbage run," Buckner said.

From there, crews' responsibilities range from picking up garbage, taking supplies to community centers, replacing a water pump at Nixon, fixing a downtown water fountain, blowing debris from sidewalks and parks after special events, digging a grave for a funeral, planting flowers in a downtown display, or repairing park grass that has been damaged by an automobile doing donuts on the turf.

"You never know what it will be on a given day, but it's surely never the same" said Buckner. "But we keep busy and before you know it, the day is over and it's time to go home."

The next time you're out with the family enjoying one of Jackson's 26 wonderful parks, think about Phil Buckner and the maintenance crews of the Jackson Parks Department, and make sure you leave the park as beautiful as it is when you arrive.



CITY'S RENTAL INSPECTION FEES CHANGED TO AN HOURLY RATE

In an effort to reward landlords who maintain their rental property in accordance with Jackson law, City officials changed their rental inspection fees to an hourly rate beginning July 1.

Prior to the change, landlords within the City of Jackson paid \$175 per unit every two years for city inspectors to review their rental properties. Now, non-owner occupied property owners pay \$208.88 per hour of inspections in their rental properties.

"If you're a landlord or investor and maintain a good, clean apartment that will pass inspection every two years, you may have an inspector there for 15-20 minutes," Jackson Mayor Bill Jors said.

City officials calculated

the hourly rate by taking the total amount of money used to fund inspection-related expenses within a two-year cycle and divided it by the total number of billable inspection hours within that two-year timeframe.

"The program isn't intended to make the city any money that we can sock away," Public Information Officer Will Forgrave said. "All registration and inspection fees pay for is the costs associated with conducting the program in the first place."

Part of the resolution passed by City Council last month maintains that no part of the funds derived from inspection fees can be transferred to the general operating fund for any purpose.



A City of Jackson inspector reviews a rental property in the community.

A Message from Jackson Mayor Bill Jors

It seems like every couple of months the City of Jackson has more and more good news to share in its bi-monthly newsletter.

Since the last newsletter in May, City officials have continued to work hard to foster economic development within the City's core downtown as well as elsewhere in the community, with our hard work seemingly paying off.

Last month, the City signed into an option agreement with a developer to work towards redeveloping the Hotel Hayes, a downtown Jackson staple and landmark.

Additionally, City Council voted to create two tax abatement districts to allow for the much-anticipated four story apartment complex north of the Hotel Hayes on Louis Glick Highway. A purchase and development agreement was signed for the property earlier this month.

Finally, a developer purchased an option for the property on the corner of Jackson and Louis Glick Highway, which until recently had two dilapidated structures that were demolished to make way for such developments.

Downtown Jackson

could be looking very different come next summer, and I'm excited to see where everything goes from here.

In the meantime, I hope area residents enjoy the myriad options for summer fun within the city, whether that's enjoying a free live concert and movie on a Friday in July, or one of the awesome and enjoyable Cruise In car shows scheduled for every third Friday of the month through September.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer season, and please join me in welcoming new developments in the community.



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

Mayor Bill Jors



DID YOU KNOW?

State Funding for Cities on the Decline

Michigan was the only state in the nation where municipal revenues dropped from 2002-12, according to U.S. Census data analyzed by the Michigan Municipal League. In fact, Michigan experienced an 8 percent decrease caused largely by decisions of state policy-makers and state laws.

MML officials are scheduled to come to Jackson to discuss this trend during a public forum beginning at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 15, at City Hall, 161 W. Michigan Ave. Anyone is welcome to attend.

According to the MML, state support for cities was slashed by 56 percent from 2002-12, while state revenues increased 29 percent. Modest increases since then have not kept up with municipal responsibilities to provide police, fire, recreational and other services.

“Michigan’s flawed policies and legal limitations are drastically inhibiting our cities’ ability to provide critical public services. The data is clear that in Michigan we are starving our cities to



the brink of failure,” Dan Gilmartin, executive director and CEO of the Michigan Municipal League, said in a press release.

Shanna Draheim, senior consultant at Public Sector Consultants, which has examined the value of public goods that improve quality of life in growing economies, said Michigan is missing out on opportunities for more and better jobs by limiting the ability of cities to provide quality services.

“If you create great plac-

es, you will do a better job of attracting and retaining talent. Today’s businesses are locating where the talent is, and bringing with them higher incomes, more quality jobs and a better economy,” said Draheim. “Young college grads today want to live in vibrant downtowns. Limiting the ability of cities to provide the quality of life needed to attract those grads means our entire state economy suffers.”

More information is available at saveMIcity.org.

CHECK CITY ZONING LAW BEFORE YOU REPAIR PROPERTY

Warmer summer months don’t just mean street construction within the City of Jackson, since many business owners and home owners look to July and August to repair, maintain, paint and sometimes build new property.

But before working on any major project like repaving a driveway or parking lot, or building a fence along your property line or the sidewalk, be sure to contact the Jackson’s Zoning Enforcement Officer Adam East at 517-768-6433 or aeast@cityofjackson.org

“What might seem like simple maintenance can turn into a headache if your lot isn’t zoned correctly,” East said. “While many properties are grandfathered in, if you repair an aspect of your property it needs to be up to current standards.”

East said sometimes this means businesses having to repave or re curb a parking lot after repairing it, or a homeowner having to move a new fence away from an adjacent sidewalk.

“The work is normally minor, but it’s better to get in touch with the City first so that zoning laws are followed,” East said.

For current zoning laws, residents can read the city’s Code of Ordinances on its website, www.cityofjackson.org.



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www.facebook.com/cityofjacksonmi/

