

# CITY OF JACKSON

OFFICIAL CITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

## FARMERS MARKET KEEPING JACKSON FRESH THIS SUMMER

Getting food that goes from local farms to your table has been made easier thanks to the Grand River Farmers Market.

“What I hear most from customers is the quality of the food we offer compared to what you find in the store and how the prices are the same, if not better,” said Ben Marks.

Marks has been selling produce from his family farm in Lenawee County at the market since 2008.

“New customers are sometimes surprised we have such a substantial farmers market in Jackson,” Marks said.

The Grand River Farmers Market is located in Downtown Jackson at the intersection of Pearl and Mechanic streets.

Beyond fresh fruits and vegetables, the market offers a wide variety of local products, such as flowers, plants, artwork, baked goods, soap and much more!

It is operated by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

“At the peak of the grow-



Ben Marks of Marks Farms is ready to assist you this summer at the farmers market.

ing season, you can fill your fridge with produce from the market. Shoppers usually come down for one item and stay for everything else,” said DDA Executive Director Cory Mays.

The market accepts cash and credit cards, along with most food assistance programs including WIC, Bridge Cards, Double Up Food Bucks, and Project Fresh.

“The farmers market is here for the community to get fresh food and locally-made items, so it’s

important everyone feels welcome to take advantage of all we have to offer,” Mays said.

Marks says sellers are well accustomed to assisting shoppers using food assistance.

“We’re glad to know that what we sell helps the community. Shopping here also helps local farmers too and we appreciate the support,” Marks said.

The Grand River Farmers Market is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Friday and Saturday from June through the end of Oct.

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## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CITY WARD CHANGES BEFORE THE AUGUST ELECTION

Before voting in the Aug. 2 Primary Election, it's important to know about possible changes to your ward and polling place.

**WARD CHANGES:** Earlier this year, the City Council finalized a new ward map for the City's six wards.

These borders are redrawn every 10 years to reflect population changes determined by the U.S. Census and to comply with Jackson County Commission district lines.

The map selected by the council changes boundaries for every ward but Ward 1.

**WHAT THIS MEANS FOR RESIDENTS:** Depending on where you live, this could change who represents you on the City Council, what ward you live in, and where you go to vote in-person.

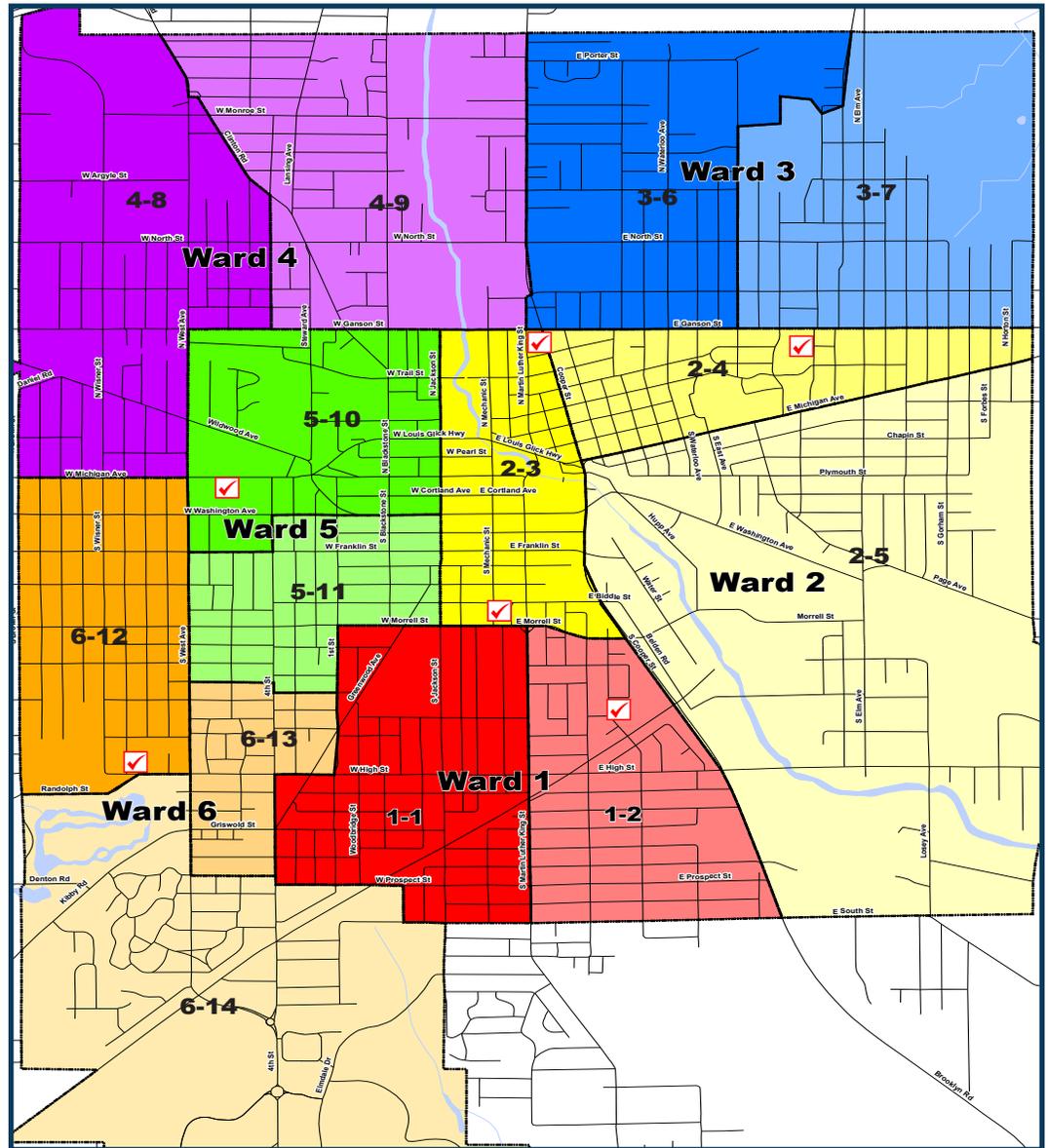
The City Clerk's Office is mailing out updated voter registration cards to impacted residents, informing them of their new ward and voting location.

The map included with this article is the new ward and precinct map.

A closer look at this map is available on the City website, [cityofjackson.org/elections](http://cityofjackson.org/elections).

There are no changes to polling place locations.

The ward alterations do



not impact submission of absentee voter ballots, which will continue to be submitted to the City Clerk's Office through mail, drop box or hand submission.

**ELECTION INFORMATION:** Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 2 for the

primary election.

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

Voters will decide primaries for Congress, Governor, State Senate, State House and County Com-

mission.

There are no City of Jackson elections on the ballot.

Voters will have one ballot proposal to consider for the Jackson Area Transportation Authority (JATA).

The local bus and shuttle service is seeking approval of a millage renewal.





## STREET & BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### MAYOR

Daniel Mahoney

### COUNCIL

#### Ward

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

*City Council contact information listed on City website*

### CITY MANAGER

Jonathan Greene

### MEETINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

#### Monday, July 4

City Hall closed for Independence Day

#### JULY 12 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting

#### AUG. 9 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting

#### Monday, Sept. 5

City Hall closed for Labor Day

#### SEPT. 13 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting

#### SEPT. 27 • 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting

*City Council meetings live streamed on City Facebook page and website*



**S. West Avenue water main and service line replacements underway in early June.**

If you've driven around Jackson lately, you've likely noticed a lot of street closures.

This is the result of an active construction season, which is seeing bridge replacements, water infrastructure upgrades, and improved street surfaces.

Two projects recently wrapped up construction.

There is now a new street surface on Denton Road in the Cascades Park area and the E. Washington Avenue bridge has been fully replaced by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

MDOT is also in the process of replacing two railroad overpasses in Downtown Jackson that go over N. Mechanic and N. Jackson streets.

Those projects are expected to be completed in Nov.

Also underway is the replacement of the E. High Street bridge in the industrial park area on the southeast side of the City.

This project, which is also being conducted by MDOT, will close E.

High Street through Oct.

A sizable water infrastructure project has closed S. West Avenue between W. Michigan Avenue and Carlton Boulevard.

The City of Jackson is replacing an undersized and outdated water main in this area and replacing 46 lead service lines.

S. West Avenue is expected to re-open in late July.

Local drivers can also look forward to an improved street surface on Greenwood Avenue between Griswold and W. Morrell streets.

Crews will resurface this 1 mile stretch of Greenwood, bringing a closure from June to late Sept.

Planned resurfacing projects on Wildwood Avenue and lead service line replacements on E. Michigan Avenue will top off a busy summer construction season in Aug.

The City also has plans to reconstruct traffic signals for better traffic flow at seven intersections across Jackson.





## Message from the Mayor

**Daniel Mahoney**

Imagine with me a vibrant Jackson neighborhood where businesses, health care, community services, and yes, even a grocery store, can be reached by foot or a short drive from your home.

The MLK Corridor Improvement Authority is working to make that dream into a reality for Jackson's south side.

Officially started last year, the improvement authority area currently includes properties along the entire length of Prospect Street, S. MLK Drive, and the MLK Equality Trail.

A portion of taxes from these properties are captured in a special fund and used to revitalize the area.

It's important to know that this is not a new tax.

Every dollar captured will be used to reinvigorate the neighborhood.

Improvement efforts are overseen by an eight member board of residents and business leaders, including myself.

Before this project gets underway, we want to further set up the authority for success.

Plans call for expanding the authority district area to include more of the south side neighborhood along S. MLK Drive, S. Cooper Street and the MLK Equality Trail.

Involving more of the neighborhood will ensure we have more resources to make a bigger impact.

While efforts continue to attract new businesses, the authority will also work toward increasing pedestrian access, improving streets, and making the MLK Corridor a more attractive place to visit.

Stronger neighborhoods bring a better City for everyone, and I am looking forward to all we can change for Jackson in the coming years.

Sincerely,  
*Daniel Mahoney*

## FREE SMOKE DETECTORS AVAILABLE

With a dramatic increase in fire deaths over the past year in Michigan, the Jackson Fire Department (JFD) wants to keep residents safe by providing free smoke detectors.

Firefighters are teaming up with the Michigan Fire Prevention Bureau, Habitat for Humanity, and the Jackson Area Career Center to install free smoke detectors in homes.

Those who would like a free smoke detector are asked to submit an online form by visiting [cityofjackson.org/fire](http://cityofjackson.org/fire) or calling the fire department at 517-788-4150.

Fire cadets from the career center will work with Habitat for Humanity to install the detectors in homes for free.

Hearing impaired alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are also available for free and are ready to be installed by fire cadets.

Firefighters advise checking detectors monthly to ensure they're working properly, having one detector on every floor, changing batteries once a year, and fully replacing the detector every 10 years.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Here are phone numbers to community resources that could be useful if you're experiencing a life crisis.

### **Mental Health**

Henry Ford Health (800) 531-3728

LifeWays 24-Hour Crisis Hotline (800) 284-8288

Center for Family Health (517) 748-5500

### **Utilities**

Community Action Agency (517) 784-4800

Jackson County MDHHS (517) 780-7400

True North Community Services (231) 355-5880

The Heat and Warmth Fund (800) 866-8429

St. Vincent de Paul Society (877) 788-4623

### **Rental Assistance**

Community Action Agency (517) 784-4800

Jackson County MDHHS (517) 780-7400

### **Emergency Shelters**

Jackson Interfaith Shelter (517) 789-8735

Aware Shelter 24-Hour Crisis Hotline (517) 783-2861

### **Animal Control**

Jackson County Animal Control provides animal control services in the City of Jackson. Contact them by calling 911.

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## BRIGHT WALLS MURAL FESTIVAL PLANS GRAND FINALE

Spray paint, lifts and crowds will return to Downtown Jackson again later this summer for one last hurrah

“It is heartwarming to see people from Jackson and beyond embrace the murals and events that surround them,” said Bright Walls Founder and Co-Director Clay McAndrews.

The Bright Walls Mural Festival is planning its fifth and final event from Sept. 8-11.

Since 2018, the mural festival has brought in artists from around the world, Michigan and community to paint 41 murals.

This year’s grand finale event will feature 21 artists painting murals in Downtown Jackson.

“We will also have live music every night of our festival and events for the whole family to enjoy,” said Bright Walls Co-Director Jacque Austin.

Running out of wall space is one reason Bright Walls is hanging up its paint brushes after 2022.

“We also feel we have accomplished what we set out to do in creating a point of pride for Jackson residents and a destination for visitors to enjoy,” McAndrews said.

Organizers have collab-

orated closely with several community partners over the years, including the City of Jackson, to make the events a success.

“The City has worked with us over the past five years to help with necessary planning and ensure some infrastructure is in place to create a safe and fun event,” Austin said.

Bright Walls also worked with the City Council and Public Arts Commission to get approvals needed for the individual murals and festival.

While this may be the last year, the festival creates a lasting legacy for Jackson.

“200,000 people have visited our community because of the Bright Walls murals. This drives pride for residents. It also creates a thriving arts and culture epicenter in our downtown core, which in turn helps to bolster economic growth,” McAndrews said.

More information about this year’s artists, murals and events can be found on the Bright Walls website, [brightwallsjackson.com](http://brightwallsjackson.com).

The Bright Walls team plans on caring for the murals so they can be enjoyed for years to come.

“We are very humbled and happy with the success of Bright Walls,” Austin said.



Artist I Am Eelco painting mural in 2018. Photo by Tom Gennara.



Artist Karabo Poppy painting in 2019. Photo by Bart Hawley.



2019 festival concert. Photo by Lindsay Goodrich.

## FIREWORKS LAWS

Before using fireworks to celebrate summer holidays, you'll want to make sure you aren't breaking local laws.

A City ordinance sets specific times and days for the use of "consumer fireworks".

These are fireworks that shoot into the sky for a large visual effect.

For Independence Day, consumer fireworks are permitted during the hours of 11 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. from June 30 to July 4.

These fireworks are allowed the Saturday and Sunday before Labor Day from 11 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.

This means consumer fireworks are not permitted on Labor Day.

The Jackson Police Department asks residents to call 911 for fireworks violations.

Officers advise residents to be aware of when fireworks are allowed so the dispatch center is not overwhelmed with fireworks calls.

The ordinance also states that fireworks may be seized by an officer as part of a violation, and offenders could face a civil fine of \$1,000 for violating the ordinance.

There are no restrictions for using small ground fireworks and sparklers.



## IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO MLK EQUALITY TRAIL



Jackson's main pedestrian trail is about to see lots of new investment from the City of Jackson.

More lighting is coming to the MLK Equality Trail this summer.

The City is installing 62 LED lights along the trail from W. Prospect Street to Weatherwax Drive.

This means the entire length of trail will have lighting.

The lights will improve safety on the trail, along with allowing residents to use it more frequently during the darker months of the year.

The project is partially funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Federal funds will be used in the coming years to fully replace the trail surface from MLK Drive to W. Prospect Street starting in 2024.

The current trail has lots of uneven surfaces and is not wide enough for safe sharing of the trail.

The new trail will be made of con-

crete to provide a more consistent surface and widened to accommodate more traffic.

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

The MLK Equality Trail from MLK Drive to Merriman Street will be reconstructed starting in 2025.

Kelli Hoover, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, says she'd like to see the entire length of the 3.7 mile trail resurfaced in the coming years.

"The MLK Equality Trail is a big asset for residents when it comes to exercise, but also for getting to school and work. Supporting this kind of infrastructure has a long-lasting benefit for the entire community," Hoover said.

The MLK Equality Trail turns into the Falling Waters Trail at Weatherwax Drive, which can be used to reach Lime Lake County Park and the Village of Concord.