

JOLIET NEWSLETTER

www.joliet.gov

SPRING 2023

A Message from Mayor O'Dekirk



Mayor O'Dekirk

Hello to all Joliet residents!

Like you, I am happy that winter is behind us and look forward to the spring season. First and foremost, I'd like to thank all of our City employees who worked outdoors during the frigid weather, especially our First Responders from Police and Fire Departments, as well as our Street and Water Department crews.

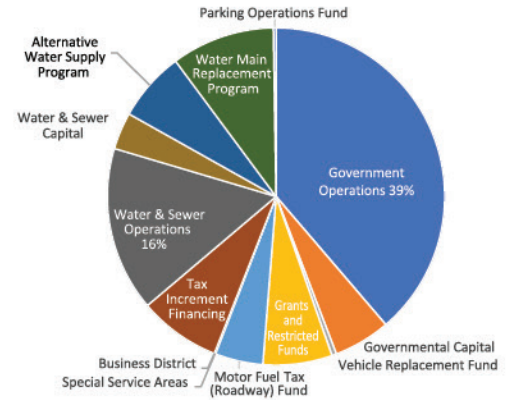
Secondly, as you may be aware, the Joliet City Council voted last November to increase money set aside for street repairs from \$2.5 million to over \$16 million dollars, as well as raise the budget for sidewalk repairs from \$250,000 to \$1.2 million. As a result, Joliet residents should expect to see significant infrastructure improvements throughout the City.

Lastly, the ongoing water project continues with the City of Joliet committed to replacing every water main constructed prior to 1970, as well as replacing all lead pipes throughout the City. This is a tremendous reinvestment in Joliet and will benefit all residents and businesses who choose to invest in our City. As always, if there is something you wish to see addressed in this newsletter, please contact me at (815) 724-3700 or rodekirk@joliet.gov.

Sincerely,
Mayor O'Dekirk

Financial Picture

The City of Joliet's 2023 Annual Budget was adopted on December 6, 2022, with \$597 million in spending for 2023 funds. As illustrated by the following chart, 39% of our spending is for government operations which includes police and fire protection, roadways, customer service personnel, and other administrative functions.



16% of the budget provides water and sewer service. The remaining monies are for infrastructure projects or for funds with external legal requirement such as pensions, grants, and bonds.

Did You Know?

Only 13 cents of every dollar paid in property tax goes to the City. The remaining 67 cents goes to schools, park district, forest preserves, county, and township.



Welcome, New Partners

City of Joliet is an entitlement community recipient of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). As an entitlement community, the City has an opportunity to assist non-profit organizations create a positive community impact throughout Joliet.

This year the City is excited to welcome two new partners, Easterseals-Joliet Region and Will-Grundy Medical Clinic.



Mayor O'Dekirk, along with members of City Council, EMA, Fire, and Police, presented a CDBG-CV commemorative check in the amount of \$296,548.25 to Will-Grundy Medical Clinic on Wednesday, January 11, at Joliet City Hall. This funding assists efforts of non-congregate shelter costs due to the effects of COVID-19.

Mayor O'Dekirk and members of City Council presented a CDBG commemorative check in the amount of \$57,000 to Easterseals-Joliet Region on Wednesday, January 11.



What's Happening

Spring Events at Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park & Theatre

Spring into step at Bicentennial Park! Take a stroll along the historic walk to see what's in bloom or look below to see what's on stage. Visit www.bicentennialpark.org for tickets, parking instructions, and additional shows, or call (815) 724-3761.

A Gnome and a Leprechaun Walk into a Bar

March 17 and 18, 8 p.m.

Follow the gnomes and leprechauns down to their favorite watering hole. There, they butt heads and try to determine who's got dibs on the most gold, who's got the slickest rhymes told, and who gets to claim St. Paddy's Day for their own. It takes place in a bar so consider it R-rated.

Skip Griparris Meets the Beatles!

April 14, 7:30 p.m.

Skip - the powerhouse singer, guitarist, and impressionist - magically recreates the most fun and memorable songs of the Beatles. Skip's dead-on vocal imitations of the Fab Four will have you humming and grooving! His sparkling guitar playing sounds like a whole band! A truly memorable, lively show.

Celebrate the 350th Anniversary of Louis Joliet's Expedition with Marquette

April 15, 7 p.m. | April 16, 2 p.m.

An original play by Jim Healy from the perspective of a 55-year-old Louis Joliet looking back on his life, reflecting on his impact to our City.

Clarence Darrow

April 28 and 29, 7 p.m.

Clarence Darrow, the famous attorney, reminisces over his long and renowned career, touching on many of his famous trials, including the "Monkey" trial and the sensational Leopold and Loeb case. Darrow reviews much of America's legal history with salty humor, courtroom gusto, and human relish. This champion of dissenters and underdogs was also a writer and lecturer, and he conjures up many famous people from his life and times.

Shakespeare and Art in the Park

May 18-20, 7 p.m. | May 21, 2 p.m.

This year's selection- Coriolanus, a classic Roman tragedy filled with epic battles and swordplay. Enjoy fantastic artwork by artists from Joliet and the surrounding communities. Meet the incredible artists in person.

Admission is FREE!

Other Great Events

Visit www.joliet.gov/events or www.visitjoliet.com for upcoming events. The following affiliate organizations also have upcoming programs, events, and festivals scheduled:

Joliet Public Library: www.jolietlibrary.org

City Center Partnership: www.jolietccp.com

Joliet Area Historical Museum: www.jolietmuseum.org

Joliet Park District: www.jolietpark.org

Rialto Square Theatre: www.rialtosquare.com

Roadway Resurfacing Program

Due to a variety of factors, including a labor strike at local quarries and a nationwide cement shortage that limited the availability of construction materials, several streets that were scheduled to be resurfaced as part of the 2022 Roadway Resurfacing Program were unable to be completed during the 2022 construction season. For a complete listing of streets on the 2022 Roadway Resurfacing Program that will be resurfaced in 2023, visit: www.joliet.gov/resurfacingprogram.

Additionally, the Mayor and City Council have approved \$10.9 million for roadway resurfacing projects as part of the 2023 budget. This funding will be utilized to complete resurfacing projects in addition to the streets listed on the Roadway Resurfacing Program web page. Streets are currently being reviewed Citywide for potential resurfacing projects in 2023.

Please contact the Department of Public Works at (815)724-4200 should you have questions regarding this program.



Roadway Reconstruction

Since 1982, the Department of Public Works has reconstructed neighborhood streets within the City of Joliet. These projects were previously completed through the City's Neighborhood Improvement Program and are now being completed through the Roadway Reconstruction Program utilizing Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds received from the State. Additional funding for street reconstruction projects is sometimes provided through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Both residential and/or collector streets are reconstructed through this program. Roadway reconstruction includes pavement removal and replacement, the installation of storm sewer, new curb and gutter, new concrete driveway aprons, the installation of ADA ramps, and placement of sod in the parkway.

The 2023 Roadway Reconstruction Program includes streets from both the 2021 and 2022 Program where construction was delayed due to utility conflicts in addition to the streets included in the 2023 Program. The following is a listing of streets to be reconstructed as part of the 2023 Roadway Reconstruction Program:

NO. STREET

1. Broadway Street (Marion Street - Jefferson Street)
2. Cora Street (Frank Avenue - Russell Street)
3. Dekalb Street (Pleasant Street - Center Street)
4. Dora Avenue (Woodruff Road - Garvin Street)
5. Helen Avenue (Charity Avenue - Mills Road)
6. Parks Avenue (Elwood Avenue - Liberty Street)
7. Stone Street (Hickory Street - Center Street)
8. Wallace Street (Pleasant Street - Center Street)
9. Walsh Avenue (Douglas Street - Taylor Avenue)
10. Washington Street (York Avenue - Eastern Avenue)

Road reconstruction projects are scheduled to take place beginning Spring 2023 and continue through late Fall 2023. Please contact the Department of Public Works at (815) 724-4200 should you have any further questions regarding the 2023 Roadway Reconstruction Program.

What's Happening

Grand Prairie Water Commission



The communities of Channahon, Crest Hill, Joliet, Minooka, Romeoville, and Shorewood have joined together to proceed with formation of the Grand Prairie Water Commission (GPWC). The mission of the Grand Prairie Water Commission is to provide a sustainable, reliable, and high-quality water supply for the member communities by 2030 and beyond in order to support public health, safety, economic interests, and quality of life.

All six member communities are currently working together to design the water transmission system required to bring water from Chicago to the region. Current activities include determining the transmission main route and locations for pumping facilities, storage tanks, and connections to each community, as well as preparation of design documents for the improvements. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2024. Customers will begin receiving Lake Michigan water in 2030.

The Grand Prairie Water Commission just released its quarterly newsletter. Check it out on the website at www.gpwc-il.org and learn more about the commission and what it means to our community.

Wyland Mayor's Challenge - Pledge to save at MyWaterPledge.com

Joliet is competing in the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. The Wyland Foundation encourages environmental awareness through education programs, public art projects, and community events. The National Mayor's Challenge is one of those events, held annually between municipalities across the country to see which community can be the most "water-wise." The event takes place beginning on April 1 and continues throughout the entire month. This friendly competition between cities across the US highlights the most "water-wise" communities. If saving water isn't enough of an incentive, you could win prizes too!

Starting April 1 through April 30, 2023, go to www.mywaterpledge.com, and select Joliet, IL, then answer a few questions about how you are willing to conserve. Once complete, you can choose to enter the drawing for prizes. If you sign up through Facebook, you will be given a code to share with your friends and neighbors and given more opportunities to win prizes. Follow us on Facebook at City of Joliet, Illinois, Government.

Individual prizes are given away every day and there is also one individual grand prize to pay your utility bill for a year! For your community to win, they need to have the most pledges in their population category. One winning community will receive a grand prize hybrid vehicle for a charity of their choice.

Take the pledge between April 1 and April 30, 2023, and see where Joliet ranks.

Attention, Joliet Landlords!

The City of Joliet has passed an amendment to the Systematic Rental Inspection Program that affects all landlords. If you own property that you do not reside in and someone else does, this is considered a rental property, per ordinance 8-152 (h). This new amendment requires you to register with the City of Joliet and obtain a license to operate rental property.

The registration form is available at www.joliet.gov under Permits and Forms. Once the City receives your registration form and the license fee of \$100, a license will be issued. It is the owner's responsibility to register and obtain the license.

Additionally, the new amendment requires all rental units to be inspected. This includes single family rental homes, two-unit homes where the owner resides in one of the units, and condo units that are rented out. You will receive a letter notifying you of the inspection date and time. Please be aware that it may take us some time to schedule this inspection, as we work through all the newly regulated properties. After you have completed your registration and obtained your license, you may continue to operate your registered rental as normal while waiting for your inspection to be scheduled. Visit www.joliet.gov/rentalinspectionprogram for more information.

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

Carmax - 1700 IL Rt 59, 60586

Don Orlando's - 20 W Jackson St, 60432

El Camaleon - 103 N Ottawa St, 60432

Las Cobijas - 800 Wilcox St, 60435

Oooh Wee Sweet Tea - 3340 Mall Loop Dr, 60431

Richardson's - 81 N Chicago St, 60432

Tropical Smoothie Café - 3064 Plainfield Rd, 60435

Vida Saludable - 1206 Plainfield Rd, 60435

Yoh's Nut House - 3340 Mall Loop Dr, 60431

Fix a Leak Week - March 13 - 19, 2023

Early detection of water issues can save you money and prevent potential damage to your property. Water usage is not always visible to us. Plumbing runs underground, behind walls, through floors, and through ceilings. Don't forget there are also hidden devices we don't often think about such as whole house humidifiers and water lines to ice cube makers in our refrigerators. Two easy ways to observe #FixALeakWeek



Sign up for the Customer Water Portal at www.joliet.gov/customerwaterportal

- 24/7 access to monitor water usage hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly
- Set alerts if usage is nearing previous month usage
- Set vacation alerts
- Find possible leaks quickly by monitoring usage during overnight hours or while gone

Dye test your toilets

- Add a few drops of food coloring to your toilet tank
- Wait 15 minutes
- If any color shows up in the bowl, you need to check the seals and flapper
- Do you have a toilet from prior to 1992 that is a 3.5-gallon flush or more? If yes, contact Public Utilities at (815) 724-4220 and ask about our toilet rebate program.

Toilets are the #1 culprit of household water loss. Make it a habit to test them in the spring and fall as part of your regular maintenance checklist.



Hazardous Household & Electronics Collection

Waste Management offers a convenient special collection service called "At Your Door." This service allows residents to properly dispose and recycle common hazardous household and electronic items safely, easily, and responsibly. Items include automotive products, electronics, garden chemicals, household cleaners, paint products, along with needles, lancets, and more. Residents should call (800) 449-7587 for program info or to set up a collection appointment. Visit www.wmatyourdoor.com for details.

Discarding Large Household Items

Contact Waste Management at (815) 280-7854 prior to placing large household items curbside on your regularly scheduled collection day for proper disposal instructions and program details.

Some items may need to be broken down, dressers/cabinets with wood/glass shelving removed and glass taped, furniture items such as carpeting/padding, couches, chairs, and mattresses may need to be wrapped to prevent moisture penetration. Items that are not properly contained, broken down, taped or wrapped, and get wet will not be collected. Visit www.wm.com for details.

Discarding Restricted Items

The following items are not part of the weekly Waste Management garbage collection program and require residents to schedule a special pick-up for a fee to have WM pick these items up. Call WM at (815) 280-7854 or residents can call a company of their own choice for a fee to pick up these items:

<i>Charcoal/hot ash</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Materials from floods and fires</i>
<i>Dirt, stone, concrete, rock</i>	<i>Large automotive parts</i>	<i>Permanent swimming pools</i>
<i>Eviction/move out piles of belongings</i>	<i>Large qty construction/demo materials</i>	

Residents should report any of the above items left anywhere on a property to the Information Desk at (815) 724-4005.

Discarding White Goods

White goods are large electrical goods used domestically. Contact Waste Management at (815) 280-7854 to schedule a collection pick-up before placing any type of white good item(s) curbside with your garbage.

Accepted white goods are:

Air conditioners, Humidifiers, Chillers & Dehumidifiers
Ranges, Stoves, Ovens & Microwaves
Refrigerators & Freezers (Please remove doors before placing curbside for pick-up)
Washing Machines & Clothes Dryers
Water Heaters, Furnaces, Boilers & Heat Pumps (Must be drained of any water)

Note: The above services are available to residents that pay for municipal waste on their City of Joliet water and sewer bill.

City of Joliet Citizen Engagement – Stay Connected

The City of Joliet's Information Desk would like to attend one of your neighborhood meetings to give an informative presentation on how residents can stay connected via social media (Facebook, Twitter & Smart Message Community Alert) and keep in contact with the City of Joliet. We will also discuss how residents can report non-emergency neighborhood concerns using the City's new "VUEWorks: CitizenVUE" citizen engagement app and portal. Don't delay! Sign up today and send your neighborhood spring meeting dates to infodesk@joliet.gov. Availability subject to first come, first serve.

Waste Management Holiday Schedule

Good Friday - Friday, April 7 - No Change - Regular Schedule
Memorial Day - Monday, May 29 - Service one day late all week

Note: Yard Waste Pickup resumes the week of March 13.

City Hall Holiday Closure

Good Friday - Friday, April 7
Memorial Day - Monday, May 29

Note: The downtown parking decks will be free of charge and there will be no enforcement of parking meters on these holidays.

Smart Message Community Alerts

Smart Message provides residents with alerts from the City of Joliet. Information includes notice of water main breaks and boil orders. Don't Delay! Sign up today at www.joliet.gov/smartmessage

City of Joliet "CitizenVUE" App

Did you know that the City of Joliet offers a FREE app that enables residents to easily report non-emergency community concerns? Our VUEWorks: CitizenVUE app is available on Apple, Google Play, and Windows stores. Concerns such as overgrown grass, trash and junk in yards, street light outages, potholes, parkway tree trimming, and more can be reported directly to the City from your mobile device. Download the app today!

We Are Here

Police and Fire Emergency
9-1-1

Police Non-Emergency
(815) 726-2491

City Hall Information Desk
(815) 724-4000 infodesk@joliet.gov

Customer Service
(815) 724-3820 customerservice@joliet.gov

City Manager
(815) 724-3730 citymanager@joliet.gov

Mayor
Bob O'Dekirk
(815) 724-3700 rodekirk@joliet.gov

Councilman
Larry Hug (District 1)
(815) 325-0875 lhug@joliet.gov

Councilman
Pat Mudron (District 2)
(815) 724-3749 pmudron@joliet.gov

Councilwoman
Sherri Reardon (District 3)
(815) 724-3720 sreardon@joliet.gov

Councilwoman
Bettye Gavin (District 4)
(815) 724-3745 bgavin@joliet.gov

Councilman
Terry Morris (District 5)
(815) 724-3742 tmorris@joliet.gov

Councilwoman
Jan Hallums-Quillman (At Large)
(815) 724-3744 jquillman@joliet.gov

Councilman
Joe Clement (At Large)
(815) 724-3747 jclement@joliet.gov

Councilman
Cesar Guerrero (At Large)
(815) 724-3129 cguerrero@joliet.gov

All City Department contact information can be found at www.joliet.gov.

Joliet City Hall
150 W Jefferson St
Joliet, IL 60432

Hours of Operation
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday*

Entrances to City Hall are located on both Des Plaines and Joliet streets.

*Except on observed holidays

Official City website: www.joliet.gov

Police [@JolietPolice](https://www.facebook.com/JolietPolice)

[@JolietPolice](https://twitter.com/JolietPolice)

[@JolietPolice](https://www.youtube.com/JolietPolice)

Fire [@Joliet-Fire-Department](https://www.facebook.com/Joliet-Fire-Department)

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