JOPLIN MISSOURI

CITIZEN

FALL 2022

City of Joplin Phone Directory

Emergency – Police/Fire 911

Airport	623-0262
Animal Control	623-6122
Athletic Complex *(Leagues, Activities, Programs)*	625-4750
Cemeteries	623-7990
Convention & Visitors Bureau	625-4789
Emergency Management	623-5858
Fire Dept. *(non-emergency)*	623-0403
Health Dept.	623-6122
Library	623-7953
MAPS *(Metro Area Publictransit System)*	626-8607
Memorial Hall	625-4750
Parks *(Programs, Shelters, Leagues)*	625-4750
Parks *(Maintenance)*	627-8879
Police Dept. *(non-emergency)*	623-3131
Recreation Programs	625-4750
Schifferdecker Golf Course	624-3533
Sunshine Lamp Trolley	626-8609
Trash Service—Residential	1- 800-431-1507
WIC *(Women, Infant & Children Supplemental Food Program)*	623-1928

Main Number	417-624-0820
Department	*Ext.*
Animal Control	1280
Building Codes/Inspections	1521
City Clerk	1220
City Manager	1201
Community Development	1542
Engineering	1530
Finance	1241
Human Resources *(Personnel)*	1429
Jail	1460
Mayor/City Council Information	1221
Municipal Court *(Traffic Tickets, Court Dates, Fines)*	1230
Neighborhood Improvement	1518
Public Information Officer	1204
Prosecutor's Office	1228
Recycling	1501
Zoning & Planning	1511

The Joplin Citizen is a quarterly newsletter published by the City of Joplin for all city residents to receive by mail. Please send questions or comments to Lynn Iliff Onstot, Public Information Officer, City of Joplin, 602 South Main Street, Joplin, MO 64801, or you may send an email to lonstot@joplinmo.org.

JOPLIN MISSOURI

Choose Joplin offers strong brand recognition, highlighting community assets and resources



As a resident of Joplin, you probably know a lot about this city. However with new developments, restaurants, and businesses occurring, there might be some recent additions that surprise you. A recently launched app titled "Choose Joplin" offers easy access to view different categories focusing on Joplin amenities.

To get started, download the Choose Joplin app from GooglePlay or The App Store to your cell phone and you're ready to explore the many resources available in Joplin and the surrounding area!

Wondering where to eat or need to find a store for specific needs? Choose Joplin has a full listing of these places, plus more helpful information for you and your family. Divided into categories of Eat, Shop, Play and Live/Work, answers and ideas are just a few taps away. Included are great possibilities for family fun, nightlife and outdoor activities that might bring back memories for you or possibly inspire you to make some new ones.

"The Choose Joplin brand was initially designed to market Joplin and its services through digital platforms with a high-energy website," said Erin Slifka, Marketing & Public Information Manager of Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce (JACC). "As it was developed, we also recognized this as a wonderful resource for citizens and visitors who are here in our area and looking for things to do, places to eat, and various shopping opportunities. So, we created the Choose Joplin app."

The Chamber serves as the economic development partner for the City of Joplin.

ChooseJoplin.com increases Joplin's online presence to help grow the community by advertising the region's opportunities to both individuals and businesses who are looking to relocate or expand. The website and videos tell Joplin's story by featuring entrepreneurs, local business owners, and others who have relocated here because of the welcoming environment. Featuring the quality of life offers potential residents the experience they can have in our community.

ChooseJoplin.com also demonstrates the diverse opportunities for business, whether locally owned, regional offices, or corporations, as well as the growing number of entrepreneurs settling in Joplin to launch their dreams. Among the words describing various work scenarios, short videos focus on citizens who tell their stories and how Joplin received their ideas.

As a strong economic development tool, some of the larger employers in the area will use Choose Joplin as a recruitment and retention tool, directing potential employees to the site during the hiring process.

If you're looking for opportunities or new experiences in Joplin, ChooseJoplin.com is a great asset. And if you're on the go, the Choose Joplin app puts everything you need in the palm of your hand.

To learn more about Choose Joplin, please contact Erin Slifka at erin@joplincc.com or at 417-624-4150.

....or scan here!

CITIZEN

CITY COUNCIL 2020-2024

MAYOR
DOUG LAWSON

MAYOR PRO TEM
KEENAN CORTEZ

GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS
DOUG LAWSON
(2018 – 2026)

KEENAN CORTEZ
(2019 – 2024)

CHRISTINA WILLIAMS
(2020 – 2024)

KATE SPENCER
(2022 – 2026)

JOSH DeTAR
(2022 – 2026)

ZONE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Zone 1
GARY SHAW
(2002-2026)

Zone 2
CHUCK COPPLE
(2020 – 2024)

Zone 3
PHIL STINNETT
(1998-2010; 2016-2024)

Zone 4
MARK FARNHAM
(2022-2026)

Please send City Council correspondence to:
Joplin City Hall
602 South Main Street
Joplin, MO 64801

JOPLIN MISSOURI

Economic Development 101 - An overview of how Joplin grows

Ask several people to define Economic Development (E.D.) and you'll probably get a variety of responses. Similar answers will include job creation, community investment, and economic growth. Now let's add how it also affects our citizens, including increased opportunities, more amenities, and bettering the quality of life in our community.

E.D. is a collaboration of multiple partners who support and strive for a more attractive and thriving Joplin community. It is the work that ultimately benefits us all. Many join the City to attract new businesses that help our area develop and prosper providing jobs, services, entertainment, and other amenities for our residents, visitors as well as those looking to relocate to an appealing community.

Our primary partners include Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, MOKAN Economic Partnership, Joplin Industrial Development Authority, and Downtown Joplin Alliance, plus others. The team also works with the Small Business Development Center, Workforce Investment Board, Crowder College, and Missouri Southern State University along with other local and state entities.

attraction to our area.

Just as residents pick out a home based on location in their community, businesses also focus on the location of an area and how it could serve their needs. Joplin fares well in this area. We are centrally located in the U.S. with major roadways heading north/south, and east/west, creating convenient access from all directions. At the crossroads of Interstates 44 and 49, Joplin serves as the regional hub providing major centralized services across medical, retail, education, and commercial areas.



"Working together as a region benefits all communities," said Tony Robyn, Assistant City Manager. "The City is proud to be part of this team to make southwest Missouri and Joplin a strong candidate as businesses look to build, expand, or relocate in an attractive and industrious community."

This area is already home to major national product brands and their supply-chain support companies creating industry networks. Joplin offers plenty of unique possibilities, including multiple business and industrial park options at Crossroads, Joplin/Webb City Industrial, and Wildwood Ranch, and other shovel-ready locations.

Recognized for its strong transportation, manufacturing, and healthcare industries, the Joplin region is experiencing an increasing trend of start-ups, growing e-commerce businesses, and an entrepreneurial spirit that drives energy and creativity here. Our growth is driven by the success of these services and industries and coupled with the low cost of living, a strong workforce, and a supportive and friendly environment, the area becomes appealing to potential businesses and developers.

E.D. prospects may recognize the community synergy, although new businesses often seek incentives for their final selection. The E.D. team collaborates with its partners to establish a recruitment package for prospects, specific to their needs. Various tools from local and state resources can be utilized for this, with benchmarks often specific to job growth, infrastructure development, and community enhancement. These would also be approved by the appropriate jurisdictions as they moved forward. Some of the tools include:

- Enhanced Enterprise and Opportunity Zones for targeted development and growth areas like industrial parks and low-income census tracts
- Chapter 100 Bonds allow facility, construction materials, and certain tangible personal property to be purchased temporarily tax exempt
- Workforce Development Training Grants are state grants for targeted training based on community and specific industry needs
- Negotiated Commercial/Industrial Land Sales are reduced purchase prices based on guaranteed larger numbers and quality of jobs created
- Revolving Loan Funds allow for the purchase of building and equipment for small and large business growth and expansions
- Historic Tax Credits incentivize owners in maintaining or restoring historic properties

The E.D. partnership recently used these and other tools to grow and attract major capital investments and job creation in our community, including Casey's Distribution Center, Eagle Picher, and Ajinomoto Foods' new Joplin location. The downtown Joplin building façade beautification program is another example of an E.D. tool, initiating the restoration of many historic structures and downtown revitalization.

A new localized program recently added is the Joplin Area Chamber and MOKAN Angel Investment Fund which will provide low-interest loans to startups and small businesses looking to grow or expand.

"This is an exciting time for Joplin. E.D. is a slow process, but the rewards are significant," said Robyn. "E.D. efforts also benefit entertainment and retail service establishments because of a growing population supporting them. More people and investment equal more resources which also helps the revenue sources the City relies on to maintain and grow our public safety efforts, roads, and other infrastructure projects."

In the past ten years, the Joplin metropolitan area has exceeded $100 million in major infrastructure improvements. New roads, wastewater plant expansion, additional trails, more park amenities, and new public facilities are an important part of the E.D. recruitment process as well.

"Companies looking to choose Joplin are considering safe, quality communities their employees want to live in," he said. "They look at the parks, recreation and entertainment options, schools, public transportation, cleanliness of the city, and other general amenities that residents enjoy when raising a family. The E.D. recruitment comes full circle from the business side of things to the quality of life and the overall community atmosphere. Joplin has great location, amenities, and friendly people, which all add up to the strong potential for growth."

Welcome and congratulations to new leaders at the City



Community Development manager promoted to Assistant Director

Johan Bullington has been promoted to Assistant Director of Planning, Community Development and Neighborhood Services. Johan joined the City in 2013 as a Senior Accountant in the Finance Department. In 2015 she became the Disaster Recovery Project Manager for the Community Development Block Grant program.

Prior to working for Joplin, she served as the Deputy Auditor for Newton County. She earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Accounting from MSSU.



Joplin Firefighter moves to Emergency Management position

After serving 21 years with Joplin Fire Department (JFD), **Dave Holden** is now working as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Joplin and Jasper County. Former Emergency Manager Keith Stammer retired in early November, after serving 17 years in this position.

The position is partially funded by Jasper County and serves the broader region within the County and is responsible to ensure that emergency management plans are in place and works with area emergency services to protect life and property in the community. The EMS Coordinator also serves a key role to address disasters if they should occur.



Assistant Director of Public Works - promoted to Director

Dan Johnson has worked at the City for the past 17 years as an Engineer, and as Assistant Director of Public Works - Engineering, and most recently as Interim Director of Public Works. As Director, he will manage and direct all activities of various City Public Works divisions of operations, transportation, and infrastructure engineering projects including stormwater, wastewater, streets, sidewalks, signals, and bike-pedestrian trail projects, as well as long-range project planning and collaboration among industries, businesses, and leaders within the city and surrounding communities of the immediate region.

Dan's long-term engineering and leadership experience with the City in supporting roles of project management and development assignments will be assets to proactively address improvements to the community.



Robyn returns to City to serve as Assistant City Manager

Tony Robyn joined the City as the new Assistant City Manager this summer and was already familiar with Joplin, as he worked at the City in disaster recovery from 2012 to 2017 and was promoted to the Assistant Director of Planning, Development, and Neighborhood Services. He has also held regional and state leadership positions including his most recent as Executive Director of MOKAN Economic Partnership, a collaboration of communities, industries, businesses, and leaders within the seven-county Joplin region.

Joplin City Manager Nick Edwards noted, "Generally, every discussion about moving the City forward has touched on the need for capacity, additional staffing, and responding to current challenges in the community. Tony will help the City proactively respond to the challenges and improve service to the community."

Tony moved to Joplin in 2001 with the National Audubon Society and worked to build the Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center. He is a Certified Economic Developer and serves on several boards and commissions.



Starkey joins City as Airport Manager

Bart Starkey has been named the new Airport Manager for Joplin Regional Airport. The position became open upon long-time manager Steve Stockam's retirement in April of this year.

Bart has broad management experience from 21 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigations, working in various capacities including as an FBI Pilot in Command as an FAA certified instrument rated Commercial pilot. In this role, he also worked closely with the Federal Aviation Administration and other aviation-related government entities. Bart also gained management experience through leadership positions at Sonoco Products Company and the United States Marine Corps.

Travis Stephens named as new president of Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce



Welcome to Joplin, Travis!

The City of Joplin welcomes Travis Stephens to Joplin. As the new President of the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce (JACC), Stephens brings experience of leading regional chambers and economic development knowledge to the organization and our community.

The City contracts with the Chamber for economic development efforts, working with them on numerous projects to recruit new businesses, grow existing ones and create new jobs for the betterment of the community.

Travis began his chamber career in 2011 as the President & CEO of the Clarksville-Johnson County Chamber of Commerce (Ark) where he also served as the President of the Clarksville Regional Economic Development Organization (CREDO). In 2016, Travis and his family relocated to northwest Arkansas where he was hired by the City of Bella Vista to create the city's first economic development program as the Economic Development Manager. Stephens' most recently served as the Chief Operations Officer for the Greater Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce from 2019 to June of this year.

Throughout Stephens' career in a community development role, he has served on the Workforce Development Board of West Central Arkansas and the Arkansas Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce Executives (AEDCE) organization.

Jeremy Drinkwitz, Past Chair of the JACC Board, noted, "Travis' ideas for leading our Chamber and building the local economy through leveraging collaborative partnerships will benefit the Chamber, community, and region."

Sewer rate adjustment begins January 1, 2023

Customers on the City's wastewater system will experience a 5% increase in their sewer rate starting January 1, 2023. This rate adjustment was announced following the 2020 rate study. Reminders about this adjustment are also posted on the monthly statements to help residents plan for this change.

Sewer rates are set accordingly based on the cost of doing business for the City's sanitary sewer system. The City's system is a regulated service by Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the City is required to meet specific standards.

For questions about your sewer bill, call 417-627-2955.



JOPLIN MISSOURI HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Flu and Covid Vaccines: We have you covered!

Unfortunately, the flu is a common illness this time of year, and Covid-19 is still active in our community. Both the flu and Covid-19 may be more severe in the elderly and those with underlying conditions. The flu also affects children particularly hard, and is easily spread in schools.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus. While symptoms can be similar to the common cold, it is different from a cold. In most cases, the flu causes mild to moderate illness, but it can lead to severe illness, and complications can lead to death.

Do not wait to get immunized against the flu! Because it takes about two weeks before antibodies build up in your system to protect you from the flu, it is important to receive your vaccine prior to the flu season. Flu viruses usually increase in October, peaks between December and February, and can last as late as May.

Covid-19 is a disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 that emerged in December 2019. Covid-19 can be severe and has caused millions of deaths around the world as well as lasting health problems in some who have survived the illness. Being vaccinated is still the best way to protect against this virus.

We have you covered! The Joplin City Health Department, 321 E. 4th St., carries flu and Covid-19 vaccines for all ages 6 months and older. City residents may call 417-623-6122 for further information and to schedule an appointment.



Health Dept. now offering CPR classes for community

The Joplin Health Department offers three cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes for the community. Friends and Family, Heart Saver, and Heart Code Basic Life Support, follow the American Heart Association's criteria.

Friends and Family CPR AED teaches the lifesaving skills of adult Hands-Only CPR, adult CPR with breaths, child CPR with breaths, adult and child AED use, infant CPR, and mild and severe airway block for adults, children, and infants.

Heartsaver CPR AED is for those with little or no medical training needing a course completion card for their job, or anyone who wants to be prepared for an emergency in any setting. Upon successful course completion, students receive a course completion card, valid for two years.

HeartCode® BLS Skills Checkoff is a self-directed, comprehensive eLearning program using technology to allow learners to acquire and demonstrate Basic Life Support skills. It is designed for healthcare professionals needing Basic Life Support training. Upon successful course completion, students receive an AHA BLS Provider card (eCard), valid for two years.

Fees for the classes are: Friends and Family: $25; HeartSaver: $50; Heart Code Basic Life Support: $20. Call the Health Dept. at 417-623-6122, ext. 1256 for more information.

VisitJoplinMo.org website launches new look to enrich guests' experience



Offered as a primary resource for all things Joplin, the website ***VisitJoplinMO.com*** has been redesigned to feature more appealing graphics, larger text print, and easier access for users. Created and managed by the Joplin Convention and Visitors Bureau, the website is primarily designed to promote tourism for those in the Joplin area, residents will also find valuable information on the site.

The website's events calendar features tourism-focused experiences in the area to help people plan their activities while visiting Joplin. This information is submitted via the website by local event planners, which boosts their marketing and promotion efforts. Additionally, tourism-related businesses are listed on the site.

Shopping, dining, lodging, and things to do in the Joplin area are still featured prominently, and the new site also offers information on group travel and meetings, the Visit Joplin blog, and community information.

Be sure to check out their new design at VisitJoplinMO.com. For more information on posting information on this site, contact their office at 417-625-4789.

Upcoming survey asks citizens to rate services provided by City of Joplin



How do you think the City is doing? Are there programs you like? Others you don't need?

Citizens will soon have a chance to provide their input about City services in an upcoming survey as part of a Benchmark Study that is underway. MATRIX Consulting is conducting the study and will assess the current level of services provided by the City staff given the available resources. Other questions will ask about the City's organizational structure, staffing levels, job duties and responsibilities.

The citizens' survey will soon be released asking the public to share their views on these areas. The survey will be available electronically on a survey website. There will also be an opportunity to take the survey by using your cell phone. All responses will be anonymous.

The City will announce the website and survey dates in the near future. Those interested should watch for updates on the City's website at joplinmo.org and its Facebook page. Local news media will also be notified about the survey and asked to share it with their audiences as appropriate.

"This study will provide an assessment of our current services, staffing levels and other resources to establish appropriate benchmarks," said Nick Edward City Manager. "It will help evaluate the level of services provided, including the efficiency and effectiveness of those services in order for the City to provide the highest quality of services to citizens and visitors."

The study will also compare the benchmarks to other comparable and high-growth Missouri and Midwestern cities, as well as to national standards.

"The City desires effective, efficient, quality services to attract and retain people and businesses to our community, and this study will help identify our current status in reaching this goal," he said.

Kudos, Congrats & Applause

Christina Matekel-Gibson, Children's Librarian of Joplin Public Library, recently received the Patt Behler Call-to-Conference Award, which is sponsored by the Youth Services Community of Interest (YSCI). This award is offered to introduce working librarians to the activities and programs of the Missouri Library Association (MLA) and YSCI and to encourage involvement and ongoing participation in the professional activities of those organizations.

Congratulations to the employees who have retired from the City since January through October of this year. We thank them for their service and appreciate all they've done during their career with the City of Joplin.

Name	Department	Title	Years of Service
Kathleen Austin	Building Regulations	Plans Reviewer	10 years, 3 months
Randy Black	Police	Police Officer	20 years, 0 months
Lee Cushing	Library	IT Manager	18 years, 0 months
Lindsay Dunn	Community Planning	Admin. Asst.	18 years, 6 months
Barb Gollhofer	City Clerk	City Clerk	13 years, 10 months
David Hertzberg	Public Works	Director	40 years, 7 months
Dustin Holt	Police	Police Officer	20 years, 0 months
Robert Johnson	Fire Dept.	Driver/Engineer	20 years, 4 months
Beverly Morgan	Health/WIC Service	WIC Certifier	25 years, 2 months
Mike Moudy	Public Works-Wastewater	Asst. Superintendent	21 years, 1 month
Rick Porter	Parks & Recreation	Parks Caretaker	36 years, 1 month
Dean Smith	Public Works - Streets	Infrastructure Superintendent	26 years, 5 months
Steve Stockam	Public Works-Airport	Airport Manager	32 years, 11 months
Doug Webb	Public Works	Signal Technician	35 years, 2 months

City employees benefit from HealthNuts support and education

The **City of Joplin** recently joined a growing number of Missouri businesses by becoming an awardee of the ***Missouri Silver Level Workplace Wellness Award***.

These employers proactively support employees who choose to make decisions to positively support their health. They provide wellness accommodations to help employees make the healthy choice the easy choice. Employers who provide these supports see a positive impact on their business's bottom line.

The City's **HealthNuts Committee** is the driving force behind these efforts. With a representative from each department, the committee is led by Suzan Morang, Community Health Planner/Educator in the Health Department.

"Worksite wellness programs are a growing trend in businesses today focusing on multiple dimensions of well-being to improve the quality of life for employees," said Morang. "Studies show that employers that provide wellness plans report higher employee retention, lower absenteeism, higher morale, greater productivity, a safer work environment, and reduced health care costs. Many studies have also shown improved employee job satisfaction."

Each month the HealthNuts committee features a healthy habit with tips to add these into daily living. Topics may also incorporate a small giveaway to employees, such as an apple for every employee to encourage adding more fruit into their diets. During summer months, skin cancer prevention was featured with staff receiving sunscreen packets and tips.



Worksite wellness generally focuses on chronic disease prevention, such as like heart disease, diabetes, cancer and target changes that make it easier to be physically active, eat healthy, and improve spiritual, emotional, and social wellbeing. Most adults spend at least one third of their day at work, so it's important there are healthy opportunities and choices in the workplace.

This is just one way we support our employees. We're here for them in many ways and HealthNuts is just one example of employee benefits. We are extremely pleased to be designated as a Missouri Workplace Wellness **Silver** Level awardee. And we plan to continue growing the ways we assist employees with this area."

The Missouri Workplace Wellness Award is a collaboration between the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Missouri Council for Activity and Nutrition (MOCAN) and the University of Missouri Extension.

Artist provides holiday-themed panels for City Hall windows

During the upcoming holiday season be sure to check out the decorated windows at City Hall for the second installment of a three-panel holiday scene. This year's theme by area artist Sandra Pemberton highlights Toyland, and all of the excitement it brings.

Sure to delight children of all ages, it joins the painted stained-glass depiction of Santa pausing at Grand Falls that was installed in 2021. These art panels are the first two in the series of three art panels to decorate the northeast corner of Joplin City Hall.

The 2022 addition will be revealed at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22. Since moving to City Hall in 2005, City Hall staff has upheld the Newman's tradition of decorating the front windows with festive, holiday-themed windows.

Next year the City will install the final addition to the window series.



Christmas in Candyland: theme for annual Christmas Parade



Mark your calendar for the annual Christmas parade on Tuesday, December 6. Organizers from host Freeman Health System are working with City officials in planning this year's event for all to enjoy this fun holiday tradition.

The parade will be held along Main Street. It begins at **6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6** with the theme, **"Christmas in Candyland"** Information can be found at www.freemanhealth.com/christmasparade.

If interested in having an entry in the parade, please email your contact information to joplinchristmasparade@freemanhealth.com. Questions should be directed to Freeman Health Systems, coordinator of the event, at 417-347-4624.

JOPLIN
PARKS & RECREATION

Holiday cheer is headed your way from City, Parks & Recreation

Holidays are a great opportunity to enjoy family activities. The Parks and Recreation Department has announced its programs and dates. More information can also be found on their website at www.Joplinparks.org or by calling 417-625-4750.

Letters to Santa
Nov. 16-Dec. 5;
Drop off locations found at Joplin Athletic Complex, 3301 W.1st St., and Academy

Turkey Shootout
Fri. Nov. 18, 6 PM, Boys & Girls Club

City Hall Holiday Windows
Tues, Nov. 22 – Mon, Jan. 2

Holiday Tree Trail: Kick-Off
Tues. Nov. 29, 6 – 8 PM, Mercy Park

Holiday Tree Trail
Tues. Nov. 29 – Sat. Dec. 31

Breakfast with Santa
Sat. Dec. 3, 8 – 10 AM,
Joplin History & Mineral Museum

Joplin Christmas Parade
Tues, Dec. 6, 6 pm
Christmas in Candyland
(hosted by Freeman Health Systems)

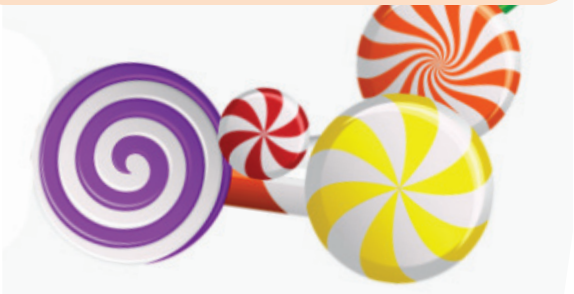
Holiday Tree Trail: Family Night
Sat. Dec. 17, 6 – 8 PM,
Mercy Park

Roll-n-Stroll Activity Challenge
Nov. 29-Dec. 31

Holiday LEGO Camp
TBD – Held during school's holiday break

Joplin Parks and Recreation – Fun for all ages and interests!

If interested in any of the following programs, call 417-625-4750 or visit www.joplinparks.org for more information or to register.



Joplin Public Library has several exciting things to announce for this fall

Joplin Public Library
at the center of it all

The Holidays are fast approaching, and we are happy to offer the Library as a refuge from the hustle and bustle this time of year can bring. We know how quickly your calendar can fill up around this time, so while we take a break from our traditional programming in December we will have several take-home kits available for you to enjoy- and perhaps keep the kids busy over Winter Break. We hope you'll take time to enjoy the Mercy Holiday Tree Trail, at Mercy Park starting November 29. JPL is providing a storywalk and we also have a themed tree this year highlighting Library services!

JPL has 126,000 items in our collection, including books, audiobooks and magazines. The Libby and hoopla apps give you instant access to hundreds of thousands of items. Don't forget that we have over 50 databases, WiFi, a computer lab, community rooms, and the Makerspace! In addition to circulating items, we have extensive programming for Children, Teens, and Adults!

Starting in January we'll be back with our regular programming! Between Children's Storytimes each week, STEM Club, Young Artist Club, Chess Club (for Children and Teens), Anime/Manga Club, Bingo Night, Joplin Book Swap and more - there truly is something for everyone.

Plus, we are always adding new items to our collection and new programs to the calendar! One such addition is the Penworthy STEAM kits! We have eight different themed kits available in Children's and four kits in Teens department. These are a fantastic way to encourage learning through fun and will be a welcome addition to our popular Curiosity STEAM kits.

STEAM-based learning is foundational in helping children and teens develop a variety of skills, including problem-solving, collaborative learning, and critical thinking through hands-on learning. Though the Library currently offers select STEAM kits, this grant allows the Children's and Teen departments to meet the needs of additional families in more diverse ways.

For more information on these items or other activities, visit our website at joplinpubliclibrary.org or our Facebook Page.



Residential Leaf Pick-up Program starts Monday, Nov. 28

Service begins Monday, Nov. 28, weather permitting and will operate same as in past years with crews starting on the north and south sides of Joplin and work toward the center of Joplin. View the Leaf Pick-up map to learn which section you live and order they'll reach your area. https://www.joplinmo.org/168/City-Maps



Relocated drive-through drop box and e-billing offer convenience for utility customers

With today's busy schedules, the City has made adjustments to help residents conveniently pay their utility bills as well as receive them.

The Utility Payment Drop Box that was against the back wall of City Hall has been relocated to the west side of the alley which allows customers to drive through and drop their payments off without having to exit their vehicles.

The secured box is marked as the Utility Payment Drop Box and is on the north end of the alley. Drivers making a payment should enter the alley at the south end and drive north to reach the drop box, and then exit onto 6th Street. This relocation was part of the renovations to the City's west entrance completed recently.



Citizens are reminded that the drop-off option is for making payments with a check or money order. Residents need to please place their payment stubs with their check or money order in an envelope before putting it into the box.

"The drive-through arrangement saves some time and a few footsteps for our citizens," said A.J. Whistler, Assistant Finance Director. "It is still very important to include the statement stub with their payment to ensure that we credit the proper account. Using an envelope will keep the information together and make it more efficient to get their account updated."

Other efficiencies are offered through the online features of the City's website, including the option to receive your bill via email instead of through the post office. Citizens will need to establish a user account and follow some basic instructions to begin receiving eBilling from the City. Go to joplinmo.org/753/Online-Payments to complete this process.

By creating an online account, customers have several options to help make the process more efficient for their specific needs and can view their past and current bills online.

Another quick option for customers is to pay their monthly bills using the online payment feature on the City's website. After clicking on this link, instructions provide the process to make a one-time payment.

<u>There are no additional fees to make an online payment, and you do not have to set up an online account for a one-time payment.</u>

"Paying bills online has become a convenient way to take care of this task in just a few minutes," said Whistler. "Plus, it allows residents to make payments any time of the day without having to come to City Hall."

Citizens may also choose to have their payment made through a bank draft. To establish this option, residents need to complete a form from the Finance Department. Residents are also welcome to mail their payment to the City of Joplin or make a payment at the Finance Department on the third floor of City Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For questions about the City's Utility billing and payment options, call 417-627-2955.

JOPLIN
MISSOURI

602 South Main Street • Joplin, Missouri 64801



Ad Omnia Parata
Together we are ready for anything!

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Work underway on several Use Tax-funded Action Plans *by Rob O'Brian, CEcD, Chair of Prop Action Implementation Committee*

In November 2021, Joplin citizens approved Proposition Action, a use tax to fund nearly 50 council-approved projects and programs identified in the City Manager's Citizen Listening Tour. These priority projects and programs, many of them requiring long-term investments, are across several areas including addressing public safety and declining neighborhoods, creating new housing stock, cleaning up blighted areas, and improving efforts to address homelessness.

The use tax is applied to out-of-state purchases, usually online, and is exactly the same as the current sales in local stores. It's important to know that Joplin citizens, over time, have approved several incremental local sales taxes in addition to the general fund tax. These "buckets" include transportation, capital improvements, public safety, public safety pension (Prop B), and parks and stormwater funding. These all total up to a local sales tax rate of 3.125%. The use tax goes into the same buckets and is divided accordingly.

When Joplin citizens approved the use tax for Proposition Action, it was estimated the tax would grow to about $3.7 million annually in 2023. That number was conservative and based on new revenue projections cities that already had the use tax were reporting. That has led to an estimate of $3.7 million annually for Joplin. This is a significant new dedicated resource for our community efforts.

Q *Where are we today?*

A Because there is a lag of two months from any purchase, when the tax goes to the state, to when the state sends it to the City, eight months of use tax revenue has accumulated to this point. In the eight months, the City received $2,631,793 so far and our estimates appear to be on track.

Q *How has the money been used?*

A Because it is a new tax, the City Council decided to see how the revenue actually came in before making any commitments of the funds. Consequently, no funds have been spent to date. However, that means the City starts the new fiscal year November 1 with the funds ready. For example, one of the first proposed uses of the funds for the new year is enhancing park security, which will come from the parks and stormwater "bucket". Another opportunity considered is beautification of targeted areas and new constructions.

With residual capital funds left over from other projects, the City did start a new housing remediation program, created a Police Recruitment Incentive, finalized the New Zoning Code, and continued Complete Streets and Broadband efforts. There has been significant progress with the creation of the "developers' incentive", which encourages home builders to buy dilapidated houses in targeted neighborhoods, demolition the house, and build new homes that complement others in the neighborhood. Five projects were already awarded in this pilot program and, to date, two new houses are underway, two house lots have been cleared, and the fifth is ready to be cleared.

The Proposition Action Implementation Oversight Committee, a 15-member citizens group appointed by Council last December after voter approval, meets monthly and reviews all city staff proposals for specific action on the approved projects, as well as revenue received to date. It will continue to oversee expenditures in the new fiscal year.
The committee has its own Facebook Page, "Action Joplin", where you can find more information. Check it out!