JOPLIN MISSOURI CITIZEN

HOLIDAYS 2023

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
Schiffe decker 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)*	1423
Jail	1460
Mayor/City Council Information	1221
Municipal Court *(Traffi Tickets, Court Dates, Fines)*	1230
Neighborhood Improvement	1518
Public Information Offic	1204
Prosecutor's Offi	1228
Recycling	1501
Zoning & Planning	1511

The Joplin Citizen is a quarterly newsletter published by the City of Joplin and mailed to all Joplin residential households. Please send comments to Lynn Iliff nstot, Public Information Officer City of Joplin, 602 S. Main St., Joplin, MO 64801, or email lonstot@joplinmo.org . www.joplinmo.org

JOPLIN MISSOURI

Festive Holiday Activities planned for the season

Tis the Season...of holiday events, activities, shopping, wrapping, planning and fun. Several events hosted by Joplin Parks and Recreation are listed below; other activities can be found on page 6. If looking for more events, go to www.VisitJoplinMo.com and other media outlets' websites.

Letters to Santa

Children are invited to write a letter to Santa and drop it in Santa's Mailbox at the Joplin Parks and Recreation offices, 3301 W. 1st St., Academy Sports & Outdoors, or the Joplin History & Mineral Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker Ave. An after-hours mailbox is also available at the Department's office.

Santa's Mailbox is available through December 8. Letters must include the child's first and last name, a eturn mailing address, and a few details about the child (school if attending, brothers or sisters, pets, friends, and a wish list). The letters will be delivered to the North Pole and Santa will write back a personalized letter to each child who sends him a letter. Please address letters to: Santa's Workshop, 9 Reindeer Road, North Pole

Children anxious to get their list to Santa are in luck.

City Hall Holiday Windows will be set up for viewing by evening of Tuesday, November 21. These windows are the third installment from area artist Sandra Pemberton and will highlight a traditional family room during the holiday season.

This year's window display joins the painted stained-glass depiction of Santa pausing at Grand Falls that was installed in 2021 and the Toyland windows display from 2022. This series of art panels decorate the northeast corner of Joplin City Hall. 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.

Downtown Joplin Alliance will again host their **Christmas Window Decorating** contest with many of the downtown merchants and restaurants decking the halls in accordance with this year's theme "Winter Wonderland." Patrons can vote online for their favorites in these categories: Best Use of Theme (Winter Wonderland); Best Use of Lights; and Most Creative. Voting begins November 21, and ends December 15. The awards ceremony will be held on December 19 in the lobby of City Hall.



Join the fun of the Holiday Tree Trail Kickoff.
6-8pm I Tuesday I Nov. 28

Holiday Tree Trail Opens Nov. 28

Visit Mercy Park and the annual Holiday Tree Trail! Everyone is invited to walk the trail, vote for their favorite decorated tree, and attend our special events! It's a great place to enjoy the holiday season with family and friends!

Joplin Parks and Recreation expanded the Holiday Tree Trail with 45 trees this year and added a few special surprises along the trail. Everyone is invited to the **Holiday Tree Trail Kickoff Night from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 28 at Mercy Park.** Enjoy cookies from Casey's, hot chocolate served by Joplin Rotary Clubs, and Karen's Dance Studio dance performances and be sure to stop and see Santa.

The Tree Trail is open every night until 10 p.m.; attendees are encouraged to vote for their favorite tree through December 20. Winners receive a catering package from event sponsor Texas Roadhouse.

(continued on page 3)

CITIZEN

CITY COUNCIL 2020-202 4

MAYOR
DOUG LAWSON

MAYOR PRO TEM
KEENAN CORTEZ

GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

DOUG LAWSON
(2018 – 2026)

KEENAN CORTEZ
(2019 – 202 4)

CHRISTINA WILLIAMS
(2020 – 202 4)

KATE SPENCER
(2022 – 2026)

JOSH DeTAR
(2022 – 2026)

ZONE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Zone 1
GARY SHAW
(2002 -2026)

Zone 2
CHUCK COPPLE
(2020 – 202 4)

Zone 3
PHIL STINNETT
(1998-2010; 2016- 202 4)

Zone 4
MARK FARNHAM
(2022 -2026)

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

JOPLIN MISSOURI

Residential Leaf Pick-up begins Monday, November 27

The City's annual residential leaf pick-up program begins on November 27, the first onday after Thanksgiving, weather permitting.

To address all areas of Joplin, the City utilizes two crews that start in outlying areas and work their way toward the center of Joplin. As crews work in opposite areas, they move toward the middle of town to complete the program. To help residents know the general order of neighborhood locations, the City has created a map with neighborhood sections numbered, indicating the order of the crews' work areas. By using the map, citizens can better prepare for their arrival to pick up their leaves, and check the progress of areas completed.

The Leaf Pick-Up map is posted on the City's website. Map areas labeled S1 through S5 are the areas the Streets crews will be working. Neighborhoods marked P1 through P5 identify the Parks crew's areas. Crews will move through these areas in sequence, starting November 27. Due to the uncertainty of leaf amounts on streets, weather, and unforeseen conditions, it is difficult o predict the exact timing of arrival to the areas.

The first neighborhoods th t Streets crews will be working in are the Silver Creek, Highlands, and Woodland Hills areas (S1), and then moved to neighborhoods east of Range Line Road. After S1 is completed, crews will start S2 at the north end of Joplin and work toward the south.

The Parks crew begins south of 32nd Street and west of Main Street (P1) and then moves east towards Range Line Road (P2). Crews will progress through these sections until all of the City has been canvassed. Weather permitting, this collection could take at least one month or longer.

Residents should rake their leaves to the curb of the property line. Leaves should NOT be raked into the street, as this can clog storm drains and could cause the City's street sweeping truck to bypass that area. No tree limbs, brush or rocks should be included in the piles, please.

The City picks up the leaves so that they will not congregate around the storm drains, which can cause flooding

For residents who wish to dispose of leaves now, take them to the Joplin Compost Facility next to the Turkey Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant at 3457 Eddy Lane. Please remove leaves from trash bags and take trash bags with you. No brush, tree limbs, bags, or trash, please. The site is open daily during daylight hours.

For more information about leaf pick-up call 417-624-0820 e xt. 1566.

Bridge dedications recognize the honorable service of fallen police officers

While traveling in Joplin, drivers will now be reminded of the vows of honor, courage, commitment, and service that three men of the Joplin Police Department displayed during their careers with the department.

On three differe t occasions, the community surrounded families and friends of fallen Joplin Police offic s with love and support during bridge dedications for our local heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice in doing the job th y loved and were committed to. Interim Police Chief Brian Lewis led the ceremonies with his command staff, ther Joplin offic s, and fir - fig ters joining in the dedications.

The fi st dedication service was held at the bridge on East 20th Street to honor JPD Offic Jake Reed. Reed, along with Corporal Ben Cooper, were victims of a shooting on March 8, 2022. The offic s were arresting a suspect when he shot both offic s, stole a police patrol car, and fled f om the scene near 4th Street and Geneva Avenue. Cooper succumbed to his injuries, and Reed would not recover from his injuries, according to a JPD statement that day. Encircled by family, Reed was kept on life support until March 11, when his organs were donated.

Lewis noted during the dedication ceremony that "in his last heroic act, Jake gave the gift of life so others could live."

Reed's wife, Bayley Reed, accepted the Medal of Honor during the ceremony and unveiled the "Offic Jake Reed Memorial Bridge" sign with assistance from Sam Reed, Jake's brother, as Jake's parents and other family members stood nearby.

Cpl. Cooper was honored during a dedication of the bridge near 2800 R ange Line Road. Friends and community members joined family members including Cooper's wife, Roxy, who brought the idea of bridge dedications to the JPD to honor late offic s, as she had seen this done in other communities. Roxy was joined by their daughters Tiffa y Boyer and Ashley Cooper as they pulled back the cloth to reveal signage of the "CPL Ben Cooper Memorial Bridge," as Cooper's father, mother, sister, and other family members watched nearby.

Lewis presented the Medal of Honor to Roxy and his family and commented that naming a bridge after him honors his commitment and service to the community.

Offic Tim Nielson was recognized for his courage and commitment as he responded to a call on August 10, 2004, f or assistance to a suicidal victim in a Joplin home. Unaware that the suspect had filled the home with natural gas, Nielson and fellow Offic Greg Batson had

Festive Holiday Activities planned for the season

Continued from page 1

And no worries if you cannot get to Mercy Park during the evening hours. Although the trees will not be lit up, their themes will show, and patrons can also enjoy the 28 creative sculptures along the trail. The sculptures are a year-round attraction as part of the Joplin Rotary Sculpture Garden. (More information about the sculptures in Mercy Park is listed on their Facebook page.)

Roll N' Stroll
November 28 - December 31

Let's get moving to close out 2023! Roll-n-Stroll is an inclusive activity challenge to coincide with the Holiday Tree Trail. It's open to anyone who wants to participate and is sponsored by Missouri Southern State University. We challenge everyone to roller skate, use their wheelchair, push their stroller, or walk or run their way into the new year!

The first 200 egistered participants to turn in their activity tracker receives a FREE knit hat, courtesy of our sponsor, MSSU! This program is FREE for all ages and requires participants to log at least fi e activity sessions and return their activity log by December 31. Activity logs can be downloaded at registration during the opening of the Holiday Tree Trail or picked up at our office located at 3301 W. 1st Street.

Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, December 2

Joplin Parks and Recreation hosts their 23rd annual Breakfast with Santa event at the Joplin History & Mineral Museum from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 2. This come-and-go event features a hearty breakfast along with a chance for children to visit with Santa. Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras. Registration is required. Fee is $8 per person until December 1, and is $10 after that date. Children ages two and under are free but still must be registered. Seating is limited.

• Register by calling Joplin Parks 417-625-4750 or register online at www.joplinparks.org.

Joplin Christmas Parade
Tuesday, December 5, 6 pm

Mark your calendar for the annual Christmas parade on Tuesday, December 5. Organizers from host Freeman Health System are working with City officials o plan this year's fun holiday tradition.

The parade will be held along Main Street. It begins at **6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5** with the theme, **"Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree".** The route starts at 15th and Main Streets and runs north to 2nd Street.

Freeman is seeking entries for Joplin's parade. There is no fee for schools or bands, $15 for non-profit o ganizations with an active 501(c) status, and all other registrations are $50. Space is limited – a maximum of 75 flo t entries are sought. The last day to register is November 25, but spots fil up fast so don't delay. Organizations can register at **freemanhealth.com/christmasparade**.

Funds generated by the 53rd Annual Joplin Christmas Parade will go to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®, which provides assistance to children from birth to 21 years of age. All funding stays local and helps children across 14 Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma counties.

Questions should be directed to Freeman Health Systems, event coordinator, at 417-347-4624.

Family Night at Holiday Tree Trail
Saturday, December 16, 6-8 pm

This evening includes viewing the decorated trees apart of the Holiday Tree Trail along the park's walking trail, joining in on an activity, meeting Santa, and enjoying refreshments.

Bridge dedications recognize the honorable service of fallen police officers

Continued from page 2

just arrived to contact him when the home exploded. Both offic s were injured, and Nielson succumbed to his injuries on September 13, 2004.

In mid-October, a dedication of the South Connecticut Avenue bridge over I-44 brought many together, including wife Tracy, daughters Grace and Rachel (attending by live stream from NYC), parents David and Genie, and brother Joe, along with other family members, friends, and community members.

Lewis noted that Tim's legacy in the community strengthened family and others to continue living lives forward before the "Offic Timothy Nielson Memorial Bridge" sign was unveiled and the Medal of Honor Certific te presented.

Signs are posted on both sides of each bridge to remind travelers of the Joplin heroes who are a part of our community.

Joplin welcomes new Holiday Train with musical entertainment

Canadian Pacific Kansas Cit Railroad has announced their HOLIDAY TRAIN will stop in Joplin from **1:30-2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 28.** The train will arrive at Joplin Union Depot at 1:15 p.m. and present a 30-minut e, staged Holiday Show at 1:30 p.m.

The Canadian Pacific Kansas Cit HOLIDAY TRAIN combines an engine and train cars decorated for the season. One of the center box cars converts into a stage for a live holiday music performance. Though CPKC promotes several entertainers supporting the year's program, performances by **Seaforth** and **Kiesza** are currently slated for the Joplin stop.

Seaforth is a country music duo from Australia and **Kiesza** is a Canadian singer-songwriter.

Parking for the event on the Union Depot grounds (205 N. Main Street) will open at 11:30 a.m. For more details, content, video, and images, go to www.cpkcr.com/en/community/HolidayTrain

Looking for gift ideas? Check out these ideas...

Finding the right gift for everyone on your list can be a challenge. Think about your friends and family members' hobbies and how they spend their time. If golfers or dog lovers, the City has something that might help – gift certific tes for Schiffe decker Golf Course or a membership to the Dog Park at Parr Hill Park.

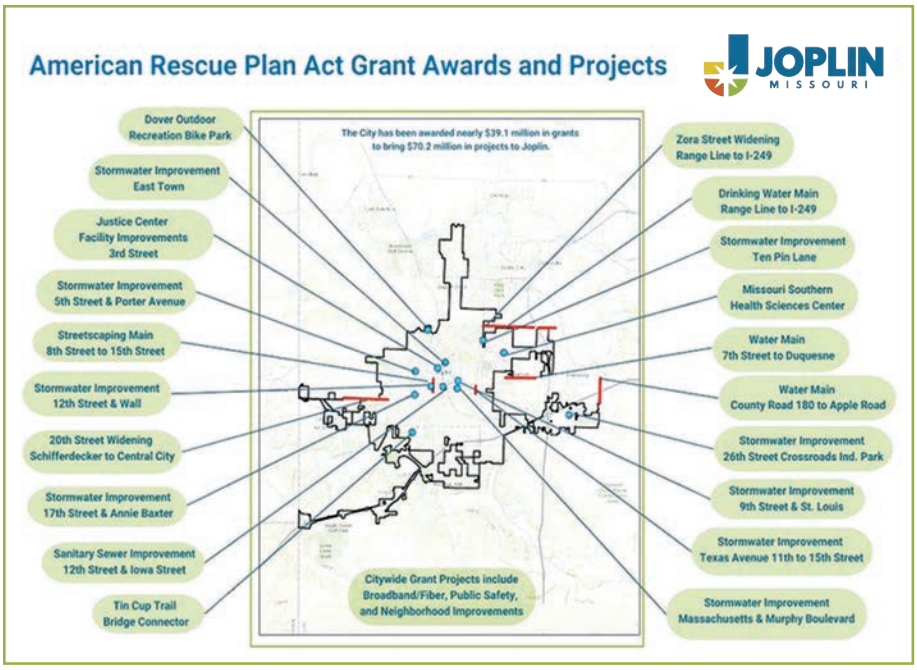
Schiffe decker Golf Course Passes can be purchased through the Clubhouse at your chosen denomination. Dog Park Memberships are purchased through the Parks and Recreation Department at 3301 West 1st Street. For questions, contact Joplin Parks at 417-625-4750.

JOPLIN'S ARPA GRANT SUMMARY

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Government passed the CARES Act, the American Rescue and Response Plan (ARPA), and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). CARES funding was granted to counties, while ARPA funds were granted directly to state, county, and city governments, like Joplin, to aid in recovery from the pandemic. The ARPA funds and projects must be under contract by December 31, 202 4, and funds must be spent by December 31, 2026.

The City was directly awarded nearly $13.8 million in ARPA funds, which must be spent in certain ways. The State of Missouri was awarded approximately $2.7 billion in ARPA funds. With a portion of their award, the State created grant opportunities for cities, counties, non-profi organizations, and some small businesses. However, the State's grant opportunities typically require at least a 50% match of funds. The grant awards under IIJA also require a

(continued on page 5)



PROJECT DESCRIPTION	GRANT	GRANTOR	GRANT AWARD	EST. PROJECT COST
Streetscape- Main from 8th to 15th Street	Federal Earmark	HUD	$3,000 ,000	$6,000 ,000
Mechanical Upgrades to Joplin's Justice Center	Legislative Priority ARPA	State of Missouri	$1,000,000	$2,000,000
Water Extensions at Three Locations	Legislative Priority ARPA	State of Missouri	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
Stormwater Improvements at Nine Locations	State ARPA	State of Missouri	$5,000,000	$8,676,000
Wastewater Improvements 12th & Iowa	State ARPA	State of Missouri	$3,599,782	$1,667,000
20th Street Widening	County ARPA	Jasper County	$4,000,000	$12,000,000
Police Radio Statewide Interoperability	County ARPA	Jasper County	$637,048	$637,048
Zora St. Widening	Governor's Grant	State of Missouri	$4,000,000	$10,754,000
Community Revitalization- Housing Down Payment Assistance, Home repairs, Dangerous Building Demolitions	State ARPA	State of Missouri	$3,500,000	$7,000,000
EMS Medical Equipment	State ARPA	State of Missouri	$20,000	$41,894
Fire Turnout Gear	State ARPA	State of Missouri	$20,000	$54,594
Police Body Cameras	State ARPA	State of Missouri	$20,000	$42,000
Local Tourism-Dover Outdoor Recreation Bicycle Park	State ARPA	State of Missouri	$1,437,133	$3,425,000
Cybersecurity Training and Equipment	State Health Department	State of Missouri	$186,472	$186,472
Sustainable Transit Study	AOPP-Areas of Persistent Poverty	FTA	$400,000	$500,000
MSSU Health Science Innovation Center	City ARPA	City	$1,500,000	$1,500,000
Broadband Network	City ARPA	City	$5,000,000	$5,000,000
Tin Cup Bridge Trail Connector	City ARPA	City	$750,000	$750,000
TOTAL			$39,070,435	$70,234,008

JOPLIN'S ARPA GRANT SUMMARY

Continued from page 4

match component. With this in mind, the City Council decided to use our local ARPA award, along with other city funds, to apply for these various grant opportunities and to maximize our award while bringing transformative projects to the community.

With the assistance of the grant consultant management service, Guidehouse, to date, the City has been awarded nearly $39.1 million, including a portion of the City's ARPA funds. This will bring $70.2 million in projects back to Joplin. The City is matching these grant awards by using a variety of council-approved sources, depending on the project. A listing of the grants and details highlighted in the map is on page 4.

The process has been successful for the City, in part because of the various studies that were completed over the last several years, which identified oppo - tunities for community growth based on citizen input and coun- cil direction. Without the planning information to apply for grants, the City would not have had the required information and documentation for successful grant applications. Between now and 2026, the c ommunity will see major projects unfold, improving economic development, livability, public safety, and services for the community that were funded by dollars brought back to Joplin!

And we're not done yet!

Residents have options for bulky items disposal

Congratulations on cleaning out that back room full of unused items. But now, what to do with that old couch, mattress, or microwave oven? Joplin residents have a couple of options to dispose of large bulky items.

Curbside Pick-Up:

Joplin's residential trash service contractor, Republic Services, provides a bulky item pick-up service with the regular weekly trash curbside for no additional charge. Bulky items consist of non-recyclable and non-vegetative items which cannot be containerized, bagged, or bundled, including furniture, televisions, toilets, pool heaters, water softeners, mattresses, dry carpet, construction and demolition debris in small quantities, i.e., no more than one cubic yard, bathtubs, sinks, bicycles, and other similar domestic household goods and furniture. Place these on the curb on the same day as your trash day. Items should not weigh over 70 lbs.

Bulky items NOT acceptable include motor oil, appliances, railroad ties, lead acid batteries, contractor's waste, water heaters, business or commercial waste, chemicals, hazardous materials, carpet that has been allowed to get wet, tires, construction and demolition debris that is over one cubic yard.

For questions, please contact Republic's customer service at 800-431-150 7.

Drop-Off Service:

Waste Corporation of America (WCA) currently is the City's contractor accepting residents' bulky items at their Transfer Station at 3700 W. 7th Street. Residents must bring their Joplin sewer/trash bill and matching identific tion to show Joplin residency to receive the pro-rated fee.

Residents can drop off up to 2,000 pounds of bulky items, such as limited amounts of construction debris, furniture, brush, tree limbs, and tires. The bulky items drop-off service fees are divided in half between the resident and the City. Residents fees are:

Car/Truck	
(Up to 2000 lbs.)	$10.08
Less than an 8-foot trailer	
(Up to 2000 lbs.)	$10.08
Greater than an 8-foot trailer	
(Up to 2000 lbs.)	$13.68

Tires are assessed at $2.60 each, and no more than fi e tires can be brought in one load. The transfer station does not accept liquids/chemicals, appliances, hazardous material, regular weekly trash, commercial waste, lead acid batteries, or leaves/grass clip- pings.

WCA's hours for drop-off are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday. The facility is located at 3700 W. 7th Street, on the south side of 7th Street, just west of Schifferdecker Avenue. For questions specific o the service, contact WCA at 417-623-6620. Bulky items drop off is part of the City-Wide Clean-up Program designated in the Solid Waste Management Fund.

For other questions about residential trash services, contact the Recycling Coordinator at 417-624-0820, ext. 1501.

Friendly reminder from Neighborhood Services Division

As the colder weather approaches, Neighborhood Services Officers will have more time to inspect proper- ties and notify residents of debris, trash, and items not intended for use or to be stored outdoors. We encourage residents, landlords, and tenants to survey their property and adequately store or remove unnecessary items from their yards and porches. For options about disposing of bulky items, see the article on this page.

Following is the City Code related to this topic. For more details, please see the full listing on the City's website, www.joplinmo.org, under Government-City Code of Ordinances.

Sec. 54-35.- Enumeration

The maintaining, using, placing, depositing, leaving or permitting to be or remain on any public or private property of any of the following items, conditions or actions is hereby declared to be and constitute a nuisance; provided, however, this enumeration shall not be deemed or construed to be conclusive, limiting or restrictive:

***(9)** Refuse, garbage and ashes generally.*

***(18)** Open storage of furniture or appliances. All furniture, bedding, refrigerators, freezers, heating stoves, kitchen ranges, laundry and dishwashing equipment, air conditioning units, or any other such appliances, articles or equipment designed for use inside a dwelling unit if stored, placed or set upon the ground, on any open porch, in any attached carport, in any freestanding carport, or in any garage or shed that is without doors to conceal such articles.*

***(20)** Abandoned objects or equipment.*

***(24)** Dumping of rubbish, garbage or trash.*

Historic Murphysburg Preservation, Inc.
Joplin Missouri

Tour of Allen's historic buildings set for December 3

Austin Allen, the Architect . . . Remembered . . . A Lecture and Tour

Historic Murphysburg Preservation, Inc. will host a lecture and tour from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 3, featuring 18 historic structures built between 1890 and 1917 designed or associated with the distinguished local architect Austin Allen. Tour sites include Joplin City Hall, (originally built as Newman's Department Store), St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, United Hebrew Congregation Temple, Old Elk's Club, and many more historic buildings in use today or under renovation. Don't miss this rare opportunity to tour the ongoing restoration of the Olivia Apartments or stand inside Allen's mausoleum – his final resting place at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Brad Belk, Principal Historian and House Site Director for Joplin Historical Neighborhoods, Inc. and MSSU's Community Historian, will speak about the life and work of Allen at tour headquarters, the Joplin Schools Administrative Building, 310 W. 8th St. The administrative building, originally Joplin High School, was designed in 1916 by Allen. The lecture starts at 1 p.m. Tour sites open at 1:30 and run until 6 p.m. Guests can pick up their tickets at headquarters before or after the lecture and begin their self-guided tour of the sites in any order.

A commemorative booklet (which is also the ticket and map) describes the history of each tour site and its history. The tour includes 15 sites in Joplin, two in Webb City, and one in Oronogo. Approximately ten sites on the tour will have both the interior and exterior open to guests. The remaining eight sites will only be visible from the outside or street view.

Purchase tickets in advance at www.murphysburg.org for $25 per person. Tickets can also be purchased on December 3 at tour headquarters for $30 per person. Children ages 12 years and under are admitted for free.

Due to the design of these historic properties, handicap accessibility is limited. There are two handicapped entrances on the west side of the Joplin Schools Administrative Building at 825 South Pearl Avenue.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Paula Callihan,
Historic Murphysburg Preservation, Inc.
417-208-937 6
Murphysburg@gmail.com
www.Murphysburg.org.

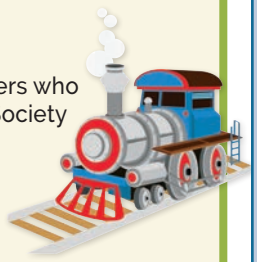
JOPLIN History & Mineral MUSEUM



Joplin History and Mineral Museum invites everyone to enjoy upcoming events for the holiday season. Join them at the Museum, 504 Schifferdecker Ave., just west of the playground and pool.

MUSEUM INVITES ALL TO GATHERINGS FOR TRAINS, GINGERBREAD, AND LOOKSIES

MODEL TRAIN SHOW & SWAP MEET



- Saturday November 25, 9am–3pm
- Presented by Tristate Model Railroaders, a group of model railroaders who promote the hobby of model railroading, and the Joplin Historical Society
- Admission: $5 adult; children 12 and under FREE
- See the train layouts in action and browse through 60-plus tables of items for sale or trade.
- For more information on model railroads, contact Steve Gardner, 620-230-9545, sogar dner1@att.net, tristatemodelrailroaders.com

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST



- Presented by the Joplin Historical Society
- Entries accepted December 2-8; all entries must be submitted by 5 p.m., Dec. 8
- Winner announced at Museum's Open House at 1 p.m., Dec. 9
- Categories: Children 10 & under, Children 11-17, Adult 18+ and Professional
- Rules and information can be found at www.joplin-museum.org/gingerbread-contest-rules

OPEN HOUSE

- 11 am-2 pm Saturday, Dec. 9 • Presented by the Joplin Historical Society

Health Department offers vaccinations for residents

The CDC recommends the 2023-202 4 updated Covid-19 vaccine be given to protect against serious illness from Covid-19. The Joplin Health Department has Moderna vaccine for those aged 12 years and older. If you received your last dose of the COVID vaccine before September 12, 2023, you are encouraged to call 417-623-6122 for an appointment. You will be asked to provide your photo ID and insurance information. If you do not have insurance or your current insurance does not cover the vaccine, a $13 administration fee will be issued at the time of service.

If you seek COVID vaccines for ages six months to 11 years old, go to www.vaccines.gov or call 1-800-232-0233 t o find a p ovider near you.

We also offer flu vaccines. These vaccines are available for individuals six months and older. Don't miss out on enjoying family gatherings and outings this holiday season. Call and schedule your appointment today to protect yourself, your family, and your community. 417-623-6122.



KUDOS, CONGRATS & APPLAUSE

Congratulations to **Donna Miller, Guest Relations Manager of the Joplin Convention & Visitors Bureau (Visit Joplin),** who received the Tracy Kimberlin Hospitality Award during the annual Missouri Governor's Conference on Tourism. She was honored with the prestigious award for her dedication and the extraordinary ways she ensures travelers enjoy their stop at Joplin City Hall and their visit to Joplin.

Donna greets guests in the Visitor Center within the Joplin City Hall. Her knowledge of attractions in the Joplin Tri-state region and understanding of traveler expectations helps her connect with guests, often resulting in extended stays so visitors can experience more of what Joplin offers. She is a true ambassador of Route 66 – all the Route. Donna shows true enthusiasm and excitement as she greets foreign and domestic guests. Within minutes, they've become new best friends.

The Visit Joplin guestbook consistently reflects comments of appreciation and praise about Donna Miller and the excellent customer service she provides. Whether an individual, a family, or a bus group, she is ready to meet and greet them with a hardy "Welcome to Joplin."

Bus tours have tried to kidnap her; children want to stay with her, and guests ask to hire her as their personal tour guide. Like family, Donna also becomes part of a guest's memories, being photographed as if she was one of their own.

From her previous career in hotel management, she understands customer service and how to keep guests in town longer and hit her goal of giving them the best experience possible while they are here in Joplin. The Visitors Center website is www.VisitJoplinMo.com .



Library recognized for new programs and ongoing services

Joplin Public Library

Joplin Public Library (JPL) recently received multiple Missouri Library Association Awards and a grant to enhance patron services.

Beth Snow, Teen Services Librarian, received the Community Partnership Award, alongside **Lisa Nelson** from Landmark Builds, for their Iconic Joplin collaboration. This award recognizes a Missouri library and one or more community organizations for their partnership benefitting ommunity members. As part of Joplin's 150-year birthday celebration, Iconic Joplin engaged youth ages 12 to 16 in local history by building landmarks out of LEGO elements.

Snow was also awarded the Show Me Youth Services Award, which recognizes a library employee, friend, or trustee who advocates for children or young adults by demonstrating notable and outstanding performance in planning, developing, and promoting programs, services, collections, and reading activities. Snow has served in her role for eight years.

Carolyn Trout, retired JPL Director, received the Meritorious Achievement Award, which recognizes an individual making a significa t contribution to Missouri libraries in Missouri. A recipient must be either an individual outside of the library profession or a retired librarian.

As JPL Director from 1988 to 2006, Trout helped to create the firs standards for Missouri public libraries, and was instrumental in creating a training program for public library staff. Library advocacy is a strong focus for her and has worked to connect people with information throughout her career and into retirement.

Justin Kelly, JPL Systems Administrator, received a $3,000 Access and Innovation Grant to improve patrons' library access. Funds will go toward upgrading internal wireless access points to accommodate more users at higher internet speeds. In keeping with the national broadband standards, it brings better wireless security and new network monitoring tools.

"We are honored that Missouri Library Association recognized our efforts in patron services, community collaboration, and a commitment to ongoing improvement," said Director Jeana Gockley. "Our staff is our greatest resource, and these awards highlight the talent, dedication, and excellence present in this community's local library."

Council renames a central park to "Senator Ron Richard Park"

In recognition of his service to our community and his years serving in the Missouri State Legislature, the Murphy Boulevard/Campbell Parkway trail and park has been renamed Senator Ron Richard Memorial Park. The Joplin City Council unanimously approved a Resolution naming this centrally located park after the late Ron Richard.

Richard began his public service in 1980, working on the Health Board and other City boards before being elected to the City Council in 1990. He sat on Council until 1998, serving as Mayor from 1994 to 1998. He was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2002, serving f our terms, including Speaker of the House in 2009, and then elect ed to the Missouri Senate in 2010. H e served two terms, including President Pro Tem, from 2015 t o 2018.

Richard accumulated impressive achievements and honors and was the only lawmaker in Missouri history to be elected both House speaker and Senate President Pro Tem. He died June 9 at the age of 75.

During the meeting, Council members spoke of Richard's support, kindness, and willingness to help Joplin through-out his public career, many referred to him as "a blessing." Mayor Doug Lawson summed up Richard's work and commitment to southwest Missouri, noting that he followed his Dad's advice to add a park with a trail to Joplin. "So he made it happen. There are any number of things that you could say, he made happen. Many things today would not have happened were it not for Ron Richard. We are honored tonight to be able, in a small way, to honor the Senator."

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New 20th Street crossing alerts drivers to students in crosswalk

The City recently installed a beacon pedestrian crossing along 20th Street to provide a safer environment for students crossing this roadway. The crossing is located just north of Joplin High School's Performing Arts Center near Missouri Avenue and Sunny Jim Park.

"The foot traffic is equent in this area, and the City worked with school officials o develop this crossing for everyone's safety," said Dan Johnson, Director of Public Works.

The pedestrian crossing is similar to the crossing at 20th Street and Murphy Boulevard, with a concrete refuge island with flashing bea ons in the middle of 20th Street. To cross, pedestrians push a button, and lights



on the beacon begin flashing or the first t o lanes they need to cross. When they get to the island, they push a button to activate the flashing lig ts for the next two lanes, alerting traffic so they can cross.

"By working together with Joplin Schools, we were able to make a crossing that is both convenient and safe for the students and others using the shared path along East 20th Street," said Johnson. "We appreciate everyone's cooperation to get this project completed."

Sewer rate adjustment begins January 1, 2024

Customers on the City's wastewater system will experience a 5% increase in their sewer rate starting January 1, 2024. This rate adjustment was announced following the 2019 rate study. Reminders about this adjustment are also posted on the November, December, and January 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 the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the City is required to meet specific standa ds.

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