JOPLIN MISSOURI CITIZEN

SPRING 2024

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)*	1423
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 and mailed to all Joplin residential households. Please send comments to Lynn Iliff Onstot, Public Information Officer, City of Joplin, 602 S. Main St., Joplin, MO 64801, or email lonstot@joplinmo.org . www.joplinmo.org

JOPLIN MISSOURI

Three new members to join the Council; Two incumbents return to serve

Joplin's April 2, 2024 election brings three new members to the City Council, while two council members return.

GENERAL SEATS

Keenan Cortez and Josh Bard were elected for a four-year term, and Doris Carlin will serve a two-year term.



Incumbent **Keenan Cortez** was elected to one of two open general seats. He has been on the Council since 2019, and has served as Mayor Pro Tem for the past four years. He is employed by Freeman Health Systems as the patient experience manager for Crothall Healthcare. Prior to his Council service, Cortez sat on various City boards, including the Joplin Police Citizens Advisory Committee, Public Safety Sales Tax Task Force, and the Planning and Zoning Commission.



Doris Carlin will complete the two-year term remaining after the resignation of Kate Spencer late last year. She was unopposed for this seat. Carlin has lived in Joplin for 43 years, and is the founding partner at Keller Williams Realty Elevate, a brokerage based in Joplin that services southwest Missouri, southeastern Kansas and northwest Arkansas. She has had her Missouri Broker License for over 30 years. She has served on multiple community boards including the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, Community Housing Board, Joplin Industrial Development Authority, Missouri Real Estate Commission, Historic Murphysburg Residential District and numerous businesses' boards.



Josh Bard was elected to the second of two open general seats. He has been a Joplin resident for 47 years. Bard is a real estate agent for Keller Williams Elevate Realty, and has served on the City's Capital Improvements Sales Tax Oversight Committee for six years.

ZONE 2

Chuck Copple will retain his four-year seat as Zone 2 Council member, serving his second term in this role. He ran unopposed for this position. Copple has worked at Verisk Analytics for 11 years, after retiring from the Joplin Fire Department. He served as co-chairman of the Proposition B Sales Tax Citizens Committee and helped pass the one-half cent sales tax for the Joplin Police and Fire Pension Fund. He currently serves as the council liaison to the Joplin Sports Authority board.



ZONE 3



Ryan Jackson will serve in the Zone 3 seat for a four-year term, following Phil Stinnett who chose not to run after serving a total of 20 years on Council. Jackson has lived in Joplin for 38 years and works in business development. As a graduate of the University of Mississippi, he assists with student housing and student affairs as part of his leadership role in the Phi Kappa Psi

(continued on page 2)

CITIZEN

CITY COUNCIL 2020-2024

MAYOR
KEENAN CORTEZ

MAYOR PRO TEM
JOSH DeTAR

GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

DOUG LAWSON
(2018 – 2026)

KEENAN CORTEZ
(2019 – 2028)

JOSHUA BARD
(2024 – 2028)

DORIS CARLIN
(2024 – 2026)

JOSH DeTAR
(2022 – 2026)

ZONE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Zone 1
GARY SHAW
(2002-2026)

Zone 2
CHUCK COPPLE
(2020 – 2028)

Zone 3
RYAN JACKSON
(2024-2028)

Zone 4
MARK FARNHAM
(2022-2026)

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

JOPLIN MISSOURI

Three new members to join the Council; Two incumbents return to serve

(continued from page 1)

Fraternity Housing Corporation. Jackson is active with the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce and has served on area boards, including the Joplin Historical Society, American Red Cross, and Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity. Jackson has served on the City's Planning and Zoning Commission and the Joplin Airport Board and has chaired the Sales Tax Oversight Committee and the Traffic Commission in past years.

Corvettes line Main Street for May's Third Thursday event



Come out and enjoy Third Thursday this year. The upcoming May 16 Third Thursday will, in part, be focused on a great American pastime: CRUISIN' along Route 66.

Visit Joplin and ***Landers Chevrolet of Joplin*** will host the **National Council of Corvette Clubs 65th Annual Convention** being held in Joplin.

With 40 Corvettes spanning the decades parked on Main Street for public viewing, this will be an exciting night for car lovers. Plus, **THE ROAD CREW,** a Route 66 favorite band, will perform a free concert from the Landers Chevrolet Stage at 6th and Main Street with shows at 6 and 7:15 p.m. Lawn chair seating. Fun for the kids will include the Valve Cover Races starting at 5:30. More details: **VisitJoplinMO.com/events**



KUDOS, CONGRATS & APPLAUSE

Congratulations to our recent retirees:

Jeff Stephenson retired from **Public Works - Sewer Treatment division** after nine years of service with the City.

Sally Massey served at the **Joplin Public Library** for 18 years and recently retired.

Emergency Communications Center Manager Cheryl Konarski recently received the Community Passion Award at the Senator Jill Carter's Night for the People event. Having worked for more than 30 years in Emergency Communications, Cheryl was recognized for her continued work and dedication in this profession. Thank you for your service, Cheryl, and your dedication to our community!

Leigh Kelly, Administrative Assistant in the Joplin Fire Dept., set the Missouri State Record for running a 30K race (18.64 miles) for the 63-year-old women's division. She completed the race in 4:14:27 on December 16, 2023. She completed this during the Jack's Back Race held on the Ruby Jack Trail in Carthage, MO. Way to go Leigh!

Congratulations to the **Joplin Health Dept. for passing the Center for Disease Control's Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) Audit** conducted by the Missouri Immunization Program. Thanks for your work and commitment to keeping our community healthy.

April is Animal Cruelty Prevention Month

Animal Cruelty Prevention Month is recognized in April, and Joplin's Animal Control Officers (ACO) encourage all citizens to be good neighbors to each other and to any animals they may encounter.

Joplin ACOs respond to a variety of calls, with some involving possible animal cruelty, abuse, or neglect which are a violation of the Joplin Municipal Code.

Joplin ACOs encourage everyone to help prevent animal cruelty by being aware and learning to recognize possible animal cruelty situations, such as:

- Not providing adequate care for the needs of the animal, such as wholesome food, clean water, and shelter.
- Not getting the medical care necessary to maintain good health for the type of animal.
- Leaving animals alone in a vehicle during periods of extreme heat or cold.
- Abandoning an animal.

In Joplin, these situations should be reported to Joplin Animal Control by calling the Joplin Health Department at 417-623-6122, 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. After hours, on weekends or holidays, call the Joplin Police Department's non-emergency number at 417-623-3131. Callers should provide details, such as street address, time of day, animals involved, injuries occurred, etc. This information helps the ACO respond to the scene in a timely and appropriate manner.

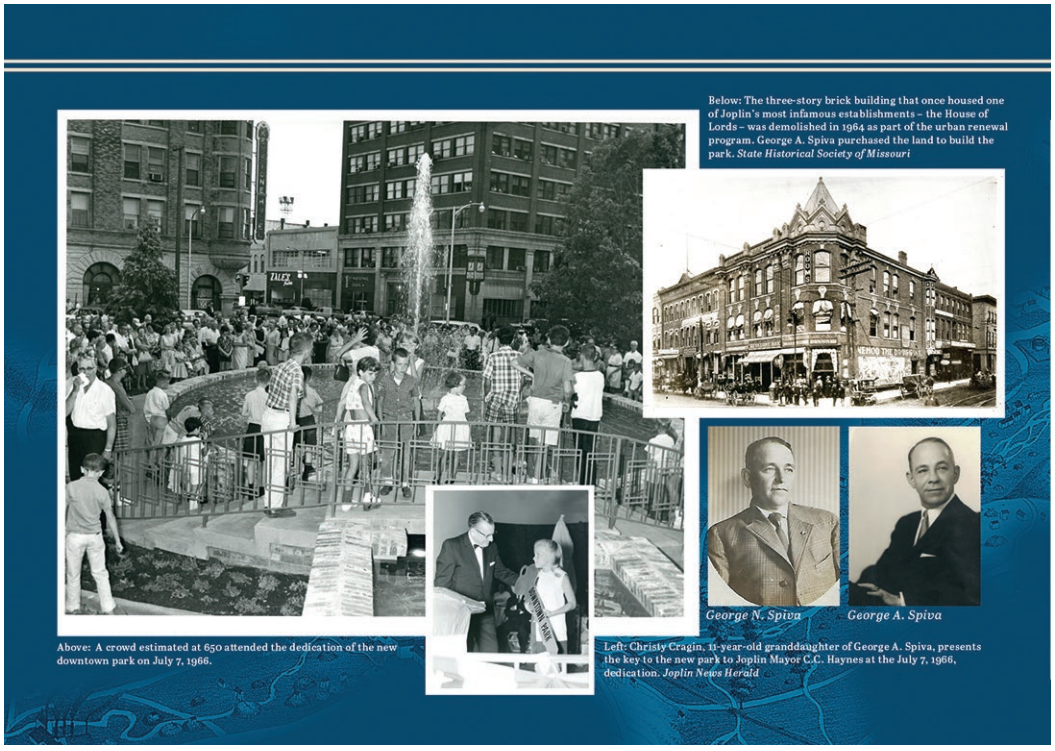
Beyond recognizing and reporting possible animal cruelty situations, you can also set a good example for others by treating animals with respect and kindness.



Animal Cruelty Prevention Month reminds us of our responsibility to protect and care for animals. By raising awareness, we can make Joplin a safe place for animals, where they are treated with kindness and compassion.

Joplin's Birthday brings three new markers to the Heritage Trail

Joplin just celebrated its 151st birthday, recognizing its incorporation as a city by the state of Missouri on March 23, 1873. Although this birthday is not as dramatic as last year's Sesquicentennial, the Joplin Celebrations Commission marked Joplin's birthday by adding three new Heritage Trail markers in Spiva Park at 4th and Main Street.



The new markers tell the history of this downtown location and its popularity for many years as the focal point of life in Joplin, the Spiva patriarchs for whom the park is named, and the Connor Hotel. These are the 5th, 6th, and 7th Heritage Trail markers to be placed. The Spiva Family and Visit Joplin funded the three new markers.

The Celebrations Commission planned the Heritage Trail to have 20 markers to tell Joplin's story chronologically. The initial three markers, placed along the trail between Landreth Park and 4th Street, highlight the influence of the Osage Nation in the Joplin region, the discovery of lead, which was a main factor in drawing people to our area, and southwest Missouri Joplin's early settlers. These markers were dedicated in 2022 as a legacy project of the commission's work with the Missouri Bicentennial, Joplin's Sesquicentennial, and the 2026 Route 66 Centennial and USA 250th celebrations.

The Joplin Celebrations Commission continues its work through the 2026 Route 66 Centennial and USA 250th.

Golf course improvements cover several areas for players to enjoy

Many look for reasons to get outdoors as we move into warmer weather, and playing a round of golf at Schifferdecker Golf Course is a nice option. This past fall, Joplin Parks and Rec worked with golf course staff to improve the course and the clubhouse. With newly asphalted golf paths that eliminate the course's dips and cracks, golfers will have a much smoother ride.

"Our paths were overdue for repaving, and we are pleased with the results," said Austin Shipman, the City's golf pro. "Golfers have also commented on the improvements and appreciate the work that's been done on the course and the clubhouse."

By remodeling the clubhouse, golfers have a more efficient experience when making their payments, getting refreshments, or just taking a break. "The flow works better for golfers and our staff, and the fresh coat of paint and new flooring brightened up the space," he said.

Once on the course, golfers will notice course improvements with better drainage in areas that would often collect water and result in an unwanted "cart path only" sign being placed along the paths. The maintenance team backfilled the cart path edges to ensure smooth transitions from cart path to grass. The overseeding process that began in 2021 continues, and the term "Bluemuda" is a good description as Kentucky Bluegrass has overtaken the Bermuda fairways. Not only will the course maintain a greener appearance deeper into the fall and earlier in the spring, but this will also make for ideal playing conditions.

More improvements are planned this summer, so keep watch if headed out for a round of golf this summer.



Schifferdecker GOLF COURSE SINCE 1922

Come out and play a round this summer, or get into a tournament. If playing a lot, an annual pass might be something to think about. Passes are good for 12 months from the date of purchase. **To schedule a tee time, call 417-624-3533.**

UPCOMING PUBLIC TOURNAMENTS

- **June 19, July 17, August 21**
  Senior SHAMBLE
  - 2-person Shamble
  - 8:00 am shotgun start
- **June 29-30**
  Senior Ozark AM
  - 36-hole individual
  - 7:00 am
- **July 13-14**
  76th Ozark Amateur
  - 36-hole individual
  - 7:00 am
- **August 3**
  Bud Powers Memorial Tournament
  - 4-person Scramble
  - 7:30 am shotgun start
- **August 18**
  Joplin Golf Club 6-6-6 Tournament
  - 2-person tournament
  - 12:00 pm

RATES	Weekdays	Weekends
9 Hole Green Fee	$ 9.00	$12.00
9 Hole Green Fee Senior (60 & over)	$ 8.00	$ 9.00
18 Hole Green Fee	$20.00	$22.00
18 Hole Green Fee Senior 60 & over)	$14.00	$17.00
18 Hole Twilight	$14.00	$16.00

ADDITIONAL FEES FOR CARTS

ANNUAL GOLF COURSE PASSES

	Walking	W/Cart
Adult	$920.00	$1,560.00
Senior	$720.00	$1,360.00
Family Green Fee/cart	NA	$2,000.00
Twilight (ages 16-45)	$500.00	$1000.00
Junior (17 & under)	$ 90.00	N/A

Joplin Parks & Rec offers fun activities – mark your calendar!

With busy calendars, we're sharing some upcoming summer events to help families plan their activities. For more information about these, call Joplin Parks & Recreation at 417-625-4750 or visit www.joplinparks.org or Facebook.

PARK DATES TO KNOW

Swim Lesson
Registration begins May 1

Adult Softball & Adult Soccer
Registration ends May 13

Aqua Zumba
Begins June 1
$6/person
Held every Saturday 9–10 AM

Show Me Water Safety
- June 15, at Wildcat Park
- July 17, 2024 at Schifferdecker Pool

Line Dancing*
Every Monday at 6 PM
$5/person

Play-Doh Adventure Camp*
Registration begins May 1
June 10-13
Ages 5-10

Lego Creation Camp*
Registration begins May 1
June 24-27
Ages 5-12

Foam Frenzy Nerf Camp*
Registration begins May 1
July 8-11
Ages 5-12

*Held at Joplin Mineral and History Museum

SWIMMING WITH JOPLIN PARKS & REC

POOLS OPEN MAY 31ST

Monday - Thursday: 1–6 pm • Friday: 1–8 pm
Saturday & Sunday: 1–6 pm
Last Day of the 2024 Season: August 18th

SCHIFFERDECKER AQUATIC CENTER	CUNNINGHAM AQUATIC CENTER
Children (3-15): $6.00	Children (3-15): $5.00
Adult (16+): $7.00	Adult (16+): $6.00

Children 2 and under are free

OUR SEASON PASSES ARE A GREAT VALUE FOR THE SUMMER!

Season Pass Prices:
- o Family pass $200 (up to 4 family members). Each additional child is $15.
- o Adult pass (18+): $100
- o Youth pass (3 - 17 years): $90
- o Senior pass (60+): $90
- o Children 2 and under: FREE



We offer 50% off season passes for those of qualify (must receive WIC, Medicaid, MO Healthnet, or Food Stamps). A scholarship form must be filled out (available at our office) and proof of assistance is required.

Season Pass Member Nights
We're opening Schifferdecker Aquatic Center exclusively after-hours for our season pass members!
Saturday, June 22 & Sunday, July 21
Please bring your valid 2024 Season Passes to attend.

Fun family games to be added to Cunningham Park

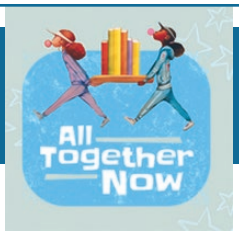
New amenities are coming to Cunningham Park for all to enjoy. Recently, Parks and Recreation staff removed the Boomtown playground for safety reasons, which will provide space for the new park features. The wooden playground was 13 years old and served our community well. However, due to weather deterioration, this structure became increasingly a maintenance and safety issue.

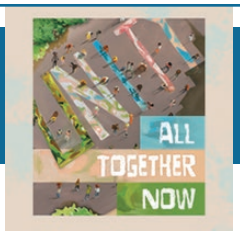
Two sand volleyball courts, which the Joplin voters approved in the 2021 Parks and Stormwater 1/4 cent Sales Tax Renewal, will be added to this area. The current Chamber's Leadership Joplin class is also partnering with Parks and Recreation to install permanent outdoor games to Cunningham Park. These include corn hole, horseshoe pits, table tennis tables, and chess/checker tables. Outdoor games were listed as potential park additions in the Parks Master Plan and should be installed by early summer. The two sand volleyball courts will be installed in the 2025 budget.

"We're excited about this new park area and plan to name it the "Boomtown Family Game Area," said Parks Director Paul Bloomberg. "Thanks to the Leadership Joplin Class, the City will have reduced costs. We appreciate the group's support to build a new area to give back to the community."



Joplin Public Library hosts upcoming activities and events







Joplin Public Library offers so much more for our community than many realize. Below is a brief listing of upcoming events and a new collection recently added to their offerings. For more information about these events and services, visit www.joplinpubliclibrary.org or call 417-623-7953.

Star Wars Day - May 4, 2024 JPL will host Star Wars Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 4. We're teaming up with Creative Learning Alliance who will host STEAM activities such as a Star Wars Breakout Box, LightSaber circuit art activity, levitating objects with the force, and more. JPL's Makerspace will have appointments available to make acrylic Star Wars lights, and we'll have activities for all ages library wide!

Summer Reading - The Adventure Begins at Your Library this summer on May 28! Kids, teens, and adults can track their reading all summer long, fill out a game-board, and enter to win prizes. Summer Reading Library Cards are FREE for anyone participating in the program. Materials can be checked-out in the Library or online all summer long. The Library will also host plenty of fun programs for all ages!

Thanks to a recently awarded Bramlage & Willcoxon Foundation Grant, **the Library of Things collection has a new Health & Wellness category** with 20 new items. This collection includes non-traditional materials such as tools, games, kitchen items, electronics, and more—all available to check out for free from the Library.

The newest category joins other topic areas of Arts & Crafts, Tools & Tech, Kitchen Gear, and Fun & Games. The heart of the collection includes items that library users would only potentially need once in a while or expensive items individuals could benefit from borrowing to test before an investment is made. Some items in this new category include a professional grade carpet cleaner, a blood pressure monitor, light therapy lamp, and exercise equipment.

Joplin Public Library
Library of THINGS

Mowing regularly improves appearance of neighborhood, community



The City of Joplin is committed to assisting residents in providing clean, safe, healthy, and aesthetically pleasing surroundings. One condition that the City regulates is tall grass, weeds, and poisonous/overgrown vegetation. **To achieve this goal, the City reminds residents that their yards and lots must be mowed regularly to ensure that grass does not exceed 12 inches in height.** *(Sec. 54-52 – Duty to cut weeds)*

Joplin's Neighborhood Improvement Division also reminds citizens to clean up their yards, as explained in Sec. 54-35 of the City's Code of Ordinances. By removing accumulated debris, citizens help with pest and vermin control in their neighborhoods.

"Improving community appearances is one of the six goals our City Council established several years ago," said Dustin Molinaro, the division's supervisor. "Our team works to help meet this goal, and we appreciate our citizens' assistance with their property."

If a Neighborhood Improvement Officer observes a violation during a routine inspection or through a report from a fellow citizen, the owner and tenant are notified by mail. Depending on the violation, the property will be re-inspected between 3 and 10 business days later.

"If the violation continues to exist, the Neighborhood Improvement Officer does everything in their power to make personal contact through visits or phone calls to ensure the occupant is aware that a violation needs to be corrected," he said.

If the owner/tenant fails to work with the Neighborhood Improvement Officer, a final notice is mailed, a citation is written, and a summons is issued so that the occupant and owner must appear in court. The judge may grant the defendant more time to correct the issue, issue a fine, or give the City permission to hire a contractor to correct the code violation.

"We work to communicate with the property owner or tenant throughout this process, but the first step is for everyone to understand the ordinances. Trash, debris, appliances, articles intended for indoor use, abandoned objects, or equipment are on our radar to be removed from properties all over the city as part of our Code. We encourage everyone to survey their property for these types of items and remove them. This helps all of us and provides for a cleaner and more attractive community we all want."

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Neighborhood Improvement Division at 417-624-0820, extension 1518.

Residents encouraged to report illegally occupied structures

To help with the safety of our citizens, the Joplin Fire Department is encouraging citizens to alert the City about illegally occupied structures. This can be a storage building, a vacant structure, a shed, or any other structure that is not intended to be occupied and does not have permanent utilities. In most cases, the occupants will establish water and power through temporary means from neighboring structures with extension cords, generators, garden hoses, etc. This is an extremely dangerous practice that can often lead to a fire or carbon monoxide poisoning for the occupants living in structures not designed to be permanent housing. Fires in these structures will also threaten neighboring structures, resulting in potential damage to them.

"We are asking citizens to report these situations if they see a building being used as a residence without utilities or if they believe that no one should be inside the structure," said Deputy Fire Chief Andy Nimmo. "Thank you for working with us to keep our citizens and community safe."

The "See, Click, Fix" platform* is the City's method for citizens to report issues they find within Joplin and can be accessed through the City's website at www.joplinmo.org and clicking the "Report a Problem" icon on the home page. When reporting this, utilize the "Illegal Occupancy" category for this issue and it will be referred to the appropriate City Department for investigation.

*SeeClickFix is an online and mobile service request system for the City of Joplin and allows residents to identify non-emergency issues and report those service requests to our Joplin staff. With the App, citizens can easily notify the City of any non-emergency service request, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, directly from their mobile phone. It is free to download on their iOS or Android device.

JPD offers online crime-reporting service

The Joplin Police Department offers an online reporting service that allows citizens to file information for a police report over the internet at their convenience, at a time that is best for them, without having to wait for an officer to respond in person or call them back. Citizens who submit their information can print a temporary copy of the report.

Police personnel will review the report, and once approved, the citizen will receive an email with a permanent report number. The report will also be sent to the proper investigational unit. An online-reported crime gets the same investigation as if a police officer had filed it in person.

This online reporting option will allow officers more time to patrol, be proactive, and address immediate community needs. This service is appropriate to report incidents of vandalism, business forgery or fraud, harassing phone call, leaving the scene of an accident, theft from a vehicle, fail to return rental property, theft, gas drive-off, or identity theft.

Citizens CANNOT use the online reporting service if:

- The crime is in progress or is an Emergency. (Please call 911)
- This incident occurred outside the Joplin City limits.
- There is any physical evidence connected to the crime that needs to be collected (i.e. blood, obvious fingerprints).

The online reporting service can be accessed by visiting www.joplinpolice.org and clicking **Report a Crime,** under the **Contact JPD** tab.

FREE Tire Drop-Off Event

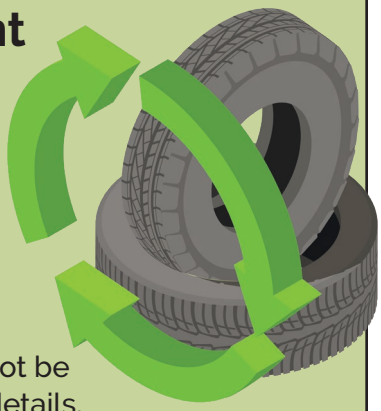
Saturday, May 11
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Joplin Recycling Center
1310 West A Street.

Automotive passenger tires, with or without rims, will be accepted.

10 tires / household limit.

Semi, tractor, ATV and racing tires will not be accepted. 417-624-0820, ext. 1501 for details.





Arbor Day/Earth Day

"May the Forest Be With You"

Saturday, April 27 • Wildcat Park
10 am – 2 pm

Activities • Games • Music
Food • Fun Family Event!

602 South Main Street • Joplin, Missouri 64801

Ad Omnia Parata
Together we are ready for anything!

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JOPLIN, MO
PERMIT NO. 187

JOPLIN RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Beautification efforts include more than Main Street tree replacements



Replacing the invasive Callery Pear trees with other blooming trees along Main Street is one of the first projects in a list of beautification efforts within the city. Joplin Parks and Recreation worked with a local contractor to refresh the downtown streetscape by planting more appropriate trees, such as the Ivory Silk Japanese Lilac and the fruitless Spring Snow Crabapple tree. These smaller, flowering trees are more suitable for the downtown areas than the pear tree, which has a weak structure that cannot endure winds, ice or snow—and they do not have a desirable fragrance! Work was initially done in the downtown area and then moved to south Main Street.

"Replacing the trees along Main Street is a long-planned investment that will enhance the overall appearance of the main corridor through our community and provide an attractive area for existing and new businesses," said City Manager Nick Edwards. the citizen-approved Proposition Use Tax is the funding source for these beautification efforts.

Other Parks beautification projects include new entry-way signs in many of our parks including Schifferdecker, McClelland, McIndoe, Wildcat, and Senator Ron Richard Memorial Park (formerly Campbell Parkway). The signs will be similar to those at Leonard, Ewert, Parr Hill, Humphrey, Cunningham, and Mercy Parks.

The City also plans to create a gateway into Landreth Park while beautifying the intersection of 4th and Murphy Boulevard. The existing brick walls will remain, and a new trail connection and walking trail that crosses under 4th Street will be built along with a new trailhead and parking lot. Flowering trees will be added to the shade trees providing a nice area for walkers and cyclists to rest.

New signage is part of the beautification project planned for Main Street near 10th Street. Monument signs marking the entrance of Downtown Joplin will be visible for northbound travelers, and southbound traffic will be welcomed to Joplin's Midtown District with new signage.

"There are several districts along Main Street and this project will signify the different areas in an attractive manner as people travel along Main Street," said Edwards. "It's a nice way to add some interest along this route, with possible seating areas and places people can pause to enjoy the outdoors."