Public Information Office
602 S Main Street
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City Update – April 15, 2024 **View PowerPoint Slides**

Mark your Calendar – on Friday, April 19, Joplin will be featured in a new show on the ***Food Network – Best Bite in Town.*** The show will air at 8 p.m. and highlight six of our local restaurants including Big R's BBQ, Blackstone Gastropub, Finn's, Ghetto Tacos, Hans Sushi and Hungry Monkey.

It was last August that our Convention and Visitors Bureau worked with Food Network who brought six chefs and 32 crew members to town to determine the Best Bite in Joplin from their six preselected restaurants. The show will highlight the process and menu items from each of the restaurants.

Patrick Tuttle, the director of the CVB, said there was no expense to the City for this project, other than labor in coordination and preparation. Patrick and his staff want to thank many who helped with the project, including the restaurants and their staff, Joplin Parks and Recreation and Mercy ground crews who prepared the site where the final segment was filmed. Projections of economic impact of a national show featuring local restaurants is an unknown factor, although it generally trends to the positive.

More information about the show and Joplin's specific episode can be found on the Food Network's Facebook page.

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As promised, the City of Joplin is bringing new energy to Ewert Park with the voter-approved renewal of the ¼-cent Parks and Stormwater Sales Tax.

The development of Ewert Splash Park will be the first aquatic amenity of its kind in the community. Its features will be utilized in both the summer and winter seasons and include:

- wet and dry play areas,
- a 12-foot wide ice skating ribbon,
- updated shade structures and seating,
- improvements to the current bathhouse building, and
- refreshed landscaping for year-round activities.

These improvements will not just be limited to the new Splash Park. Initial approved concepts for Ewert Park include:

- a new playground to replace the existing structure,
- a covered basketball/multi-use court,
- a modern amphitheater with sound systems and lighting for special events, and
- increased safety and security features, including lighting and cameras.

The park's design will use elements highlighting Ewert Park's history and importance, telling its story and prominence in the City of Joplin. Revitalization efforts aim to provide a community gathering space with quality amenities that will last.

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Now here's the call to action for our community.

We recently opened a Virtual Public Open House online to collect feedback about the next steps on the initial ideas for the park's design and features. The "open house", which is similar to a survey, is available on the project website (www.ewertsplashpark.com) through April 22, 2024. They can also scan this QR code to get to the site.

For those who don't have computer access or would rather see the printed design ideas, they can visit the Joplin Public Library or Joplin City Hall to view the display boards. The Library display is on the west side of the Lobby – near the vending area; and City Hall's display is close to the grand staircase on the west side of the Main Lobby. There are printed comment forms to fill out and leave in the box near the display. This opportunity is available through April 22 as well.

We encourage everyone to please participate by sharing their input about this park revitalization.

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Just a friendly reminder that Joplin Parks and Recreation is joining community partners including Wildcat Glades, Liberty, the Chert Glades Chapter of Master Naturalists, and the Missouri Department of Conservation on Saturday, April 27, to host MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU, a family friendly event at Wildcat Park.

It runs from 10 AM to 2 PM with activities, games, and music focusing on the care of our planet through demonstrations, hands-on activities, and giveaways. For more information about the event visit joplinmo.org/ArborDay or the Parks Facebook page.

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The Joplin Recycling Center is hosting a **FREE Tire Collection Event on Saturday, May 11 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Center.** Automotive passenger tires, with or without rims, will be accepted with a ten-tire per household limit. Semi, tractor, ATV and racing tires will not be accepted.

This drop off event is available to residents of Joplin and counties of Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Barton and Vernon Counties. The Center is located at 1310 West A Street**.** Managed by Joplin's Recycling Center, this collection is partially funded by Region M Solid Waste District and Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Since the 1990s, when whole tires were banned from landfills to conserve landfill space and keep out hazardous materials, citizens need options to discard tires. Worse-case scenarios include tires becoming eyesores and mosquito havens when left in yards or ditches where they collect water. The City and our partners are pleased to offer this community service for our area.

For more information or questions about these announcements or other City items, please visit our website or our Facebook page. Thank you.