

Save the Date

December 3 29th Annual Festival of the Gnomes

Billie Limacher
Bicentennial Park, Joliet
815/724-3760
www.bicentennialpark.org

December 10 Willy Wonka

Rialto Square Theatre, Joliet
815/726-6600
www.rialtosquare.com

December 31 New Years Eve Gala

Joliet Jr. College
Renaissance Center, Joliet
815/280-1444
www.rencen.info

Spring 2006

Rialto Square Theatre
Great lineup of events
www.rialtosquare.com

April 9th Downtown Easter Parade

Wish Upon a Star
815/744-9175

Coming soon— online newsletter sign up today at www.cityofjoliet.info

Starting in December, we will be producing an online version of the Joliet Journal. Sent on a monthly basis, this online newsletter will provide the most current information about Joliet such as community events, restaurants, entertainment, outdoor activities, arts & culture, community concerns, parking, transportation, and much more.

Big Business, More Jobs Coming to Joliet

Since the beginning of the year the Mayor and City Council have approved major projects that will have a positive impact on the Joliet area. The Gander Mountain superstore will make outdoor enthusiasts feel like a little kid in a toy store with its wide variety of products. Gander Mountain has 82 stores in 14 states with several new stores on the way, including Joliet. The 65,000 square foot facility is located at I-55 and Route 30 on the northeast side of the interchange. Gander Mountain is a leading specialty retailer that serves the needs of outdoor lifestyle enthusiasts, with a particular focus on hunting, fishing and camping. Everything from fishing gear and canoes to outdoor wear and cabin decor furnishings will be available. An outdoor display area will showcase boats, jet skis and recreational vehicles for sale and rent.

The Northern Builders Business Park not only expanded Joliet's border farther east, but will also bring hundreds of jobs and millions in tax revenue to the area. One of the buildings

proposed in the plans would be more than 1.2 million square feet rivaling the Dollar Tree Distribution Center in Joliet and making it one of the largest industrial projects in the Chicagoland area. The project will be a tremendous boost to the Union and Joliet Township High School districts. At full build-out the project could result in over \$2 million in tax revenue to each district annually. The Mayor and City Council also want to remind residents that the project is being built without tax incentives and will result in no new students for the local schools. The project will also generate hundreds of local construction jobs and several hundred permanent jobs once completed.



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FALL/ WINTER 2005



Bicentennial Park

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Department Phone Numbers

**All phone numbers are in area code 815*

Emergency	911
Mayor's Office	724-3700
City Manager	724-3720
Deputy City Manager	724-3730
Bicentennial Park	724-3760
City Clerk	724-3780
Planning-Zoning-Building	724-4040
Neighborhood Services	724-4090
Police	724-3100
Fire	724-3500
Human Resources (Personnel)	724-4020
Legal (Claims)	724-3800
Management and Budget	724-3900
Public Works & Utilities	724-4200
Water & Sewer Maintenance	
24-hour number for emergencies	724-4220
Water & Sewer Billing	724-3820
Public Information Officer	724-3738
City Council Liaison	724-3718
City Council	724-3700

Mayor Art Schultz
District 1 Councilman Joe Shetina
District 2 Councilman Tim Brophy
District 3 Councilman Tony Uremovic
District 4 Councilman Alex Ledesma
District 5 Councilman Warren Dorris
At Large Councilman Tom Giarrante
At Large Councilman Bob Hacker
At Large Councilman Mike Turk

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JOLIET

*Celebrating the
people, places
and events in
the Midwest's
fastest-growing city.*

JOURNAL

Light up the Holidays!

Eight Annual Christmas Parade set to light up Joliet's City Center - Nov. 25th

The eight annual "Light Up the Holidays" parade will take place on Friday November 25th in Joliet's City Center. Last year over 20,000 people packed the streets of downtown Joliet to



witness the festivities. The tree lighting ceremony will take place at 5:00 p.m. this year

when Mayor Arthur Schultz will select a child to flip the switch on the City Center Christmas Tree. The tree lighting will be followed by a short fireworks display. The parade will step-off at 5:30 from the Will County Office Building parking lot on Chicago Street. The parade route is south on Chicago Street to Jefferson Street, then east to Scott Street, then north back to the County Building. The Mayor and City Council's float will lead the parade and Santa Claus will also

be coming to town as part of the festivities. Several area bands that will be participating in this year's event including Joliet Grade School District 86, Joliet West and Central High Schools, Rockdale, Wilmington, Laraway, the Plainfield School Districts and new this year will be the Lockport High School band. Fireworks will be a part of the parade as well. The fireworks will be set off from corner of Cass and Chicago streets as well as the Ottawa Street parking deck during the parade and following the tree lighting ceremony. Following the parade, parents and children can have their picture taken with Santa Claus in the rotunda of the Rialto Square Theatre.

The day of the parade will feature

cont'd



From our Mayor

The holiday season is upon us as we prepare to close out another successful year in the City of Joliet. The JackHammers



packed thousands into Silver Cross Field and Route 66 Raceway and Chicagoland Speedway were filled with hundreds of thousands of race fans throughout the summer. Splash Station was the place to cool off this past summer and Downtown Joliet continues to be the Chicago area's newest entertainment destination.

Joliet has gone through a lot of changes during my time as mayor and I will continue to work with the City Council as we move forward. Our city services are among the tops in the country and expanded even further when we opened the new West Side Municipal Center and Police Substation. The Joliet Police Department will be able to enhance their award winning services that have enabled them to reduce crime by over 50% since 1998. The leadership at the Joliet Fire Department has lowered response times and will enhance their west side services with the opening of Station 10. The Management and Budget staff has earned a Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting three years running and will operate the new municipal center. The Community and Economic Development Department attracts great businesses to Joliet and oversees the wide variety of new housing opportunities. The Public Works and Utilities Department is getting ready to open the new west side wastewater treatment plant as Joliet prepares for further westward expansion.

These are just a few examples of how the Mayor and City Council and all the City of Joliet employees are working for you. Have a safe and happy holiday season and enjoy what Joliet has to offer.

Art Schwegel

Light up the Holidays! cont'd from page 1

several activities for parade-goers to enjoy. The Renaissance Center will be sponsoring a brunch with Santa Claus starting at noon. An ice sculpting demonstration by Joliet Junior College students will take place outside of the Joliet Area Historical Museum starting at 2:00 p.m. The Rialto Square Theatre will have free showings of "Prancer" at 3:00

p.m. and "Christmas with the Kranks" at 7:00 p.m. The Joliet Park District will also have activities inside the Rialto this year. The windows of several Joliet's City Center businesses will also be painted by local school children.



Upscale Housing Available in Joliet

Families looking to move out of a starter home and into an upscale house have plenty of options in Joliet. The Mayor and City Council have modified development policies over the last few years to require larger lots and more amenities. The latest subdivisions offer larger homes on big lots. The single-family lots have an average lot size of over 10,000 square feet and the homes will range all the way up to 3,600 square feet. The base price range will average over \$320,000 and with amenities, homes will sell for over \$400,000.

All new subdivisions now include boulevard entrances, gatehouses and traffic circles. The Mayor and City Council have also enacted an ordinance that requires landscape standards, 8:12 roof pitches and brick on 50% of the homes. New annexations are also subject to the School Land and Facilities Impact Fees, which will generate millions of

dollars for new school sites and new school buildings.

Homes in the Aux Sable Design Corridor in Joliet's portion of Kendall County will have to meet even higher standards. As documented in the Kendall County Comprehensive Plan design elements include naturalized storm detention areas utilizing best management practices; upgraded high-quality building elevations including more brick; and, upgraded landscape standards. All developments will also include a bike/pedestrian pathway system that will connect to the main trail system along the Aux Sable Creek and out to the regional trail system along Ridge Road.



Drought...Now What?

Lawn Care Renovation Tips for Your Drought Stressed Lawn

By Nancy Kuhajda, Will County Master Gardner, University of Illinois Extension



Water, water not anywhere and not a drop to drink! You could almost hear lawns crunch as you walked across them this year. The grass looked more like bad beige carpeting than turf. So what now? Re-seed? Re-sod? Fertilize? Wait until spring? Change to AstroTurf? Although it is late in the growing year, there are things you can do now and in the spring to get your grass going again. Here are some tips to help you renovate your lawn.

Understand your lawn. In a "normal" summer, our turf will go dormant (turn brown) during the hot, dry weather, because the grass mixes used in Northern Illinois are cool season grasses. These types of grass look their absolute best in the cooler months particularly when there is adequate rainfall. In the hot, dry summer grass goes into a temporary hibernation—this is normal. When the cooler autumn weather arrives, that lush green should reappear. This year, however, things were different.

To seed or not to seed, that is the question. It is too late to seed your lawn this fall. In Northern Illinois, the best time to seed a lawn is from

August 15-September 15. Many people think that as long as the grass seed "greens up", it is good to go, but the grass plants need to become well established so they can make it through winter. Put re-seeding on your list of things-to-do next spring in late April or early May.

Rake it out. A good practice that is simple to do now is to rake out your lawn, particularly any problem areas. Raking not only removes built up debris and dead grass, but provides air and light circulation. Thatch is a layer of dead grass roots and stems that can create a poor growing environment for grass roots and make it difficult for water to penetrate into the soil.

Give me some air! One of the best practices to improve the health of your lawn is to core aerate in the spring or fall. This involves the use of an aerating machine. It is not walking around your lawn in your golf shoes. Most areas of Joliet have heavy clay soil. It is difficult for roots to breathe. Core aeration can literally breathe life into the soil. By removing finger-sized clumps of soil, the remaining soil loosens, improving air circulation to the roots. The roots are

the driving force of growth—the better the roots, the better the overall health of the grass.

Don't love your grass to death. Too much of anything is bad. This includes fertilizer. People often think fertilizers are like medicine, something you give to "sick" plants to make them well. But in reality, fertilizer is a stimulus to grow. That is a completely different matter altogether. Think of an application of fertilizer like running a race; once the fertilizer is applied, the plant responds by growing or running faster. That is fine if they are well-rested and hydrated. But fertilizing already stressed turf is like forcing you to run a marathon with pneumonia and a broken leg. The final fertilization of the year, often called the winterizer, is applied within one week of the final mowing. Always read and follow the labeled instructions on any chemical you use.

For more information on lawn care and other gardening questions, contact the Will County Master Gardeners at University of Illinois Extension at (815) 727-9296.

THE JOLIET VISITORS BUREAU

The Joliet Visitors Bureau, the city of Joliet's official destination for tourism information, has proudly completed its first year and anxiously anticipates plans for the future. In the bureau's first year, the JVB has produced its premier Visitors Magazine, two new events guides for the city and launched its web site. The JVB has also booked numerous events and conventions for the city including the IHSA Class A baseball tournament, being held for the next five years in Downtown Joliet at Silver Cross Field.

Ben Benson, Director of the JVB stated "it has been a pleasure to be so actively involved and embraced in the community in our first year" as the bureau has taken on an active role in promoting the city through its publications, web site and involvement in local community events. The Joliet Visitors Bureau has recently released its 2005-2006 Fall & Winter in Joliet guide to the city's festivals and events. The four color guide features events from September through February, showcasing the

Catch the Spirit promotion of the JVB with detailed photos and listings on all the great holiday events to check out this season. Log onto www.visitjoliet.org for the most up to date information on all the area attractions and events in Joliet. For more information on Joliet or to request your free Fall & Winter Events guide and Joliet Visitors Magazine contact the JVB at 1-877-4-JOLIET or 815/723-9045. Inquiries can also be made through www.visitjoliet.org.