



Joliet History Museum Main Street

JOLIET

Celebrating the people, places and events in northern Illinois' fastest-growing city.

JOURNAL

Look inside for:

Mayor's Letter, (page 2)

Downtown Open for Business, (page 2)

Joliet Museum – Preserving Our Past, (page 3)

Website to include Streaming Video, (page 3)

Where does all that Riverboat money go?, (page 4)

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
Public Information Officer	724-3738
City Council Liason	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	

Joliet Journal is a bi-annual publication
 Edited by Kevin Hegarty
 Designed by Gammon Group, Inc.

Downtown Joliet is Gearing Up for Summer Events

Baseball games, concerts, festivals and other special events are planned for almost every weekend. The Joliet JackHammers are already underway at Silver Cross Field. Their schedule includes 45 home games and will wrap up on Sunday, August 24th.

The 1st Annual All-City Homecoming event will bring thousands to downtown Joliet on the June 6th and 7th. The event is sponsored by the Joliet City Center Partnership and Joliet Catholic Academy, Joliet Township High School, Providence Catholic High School, Joliet Junior College and Lewis University. Alumni of all of these schools and all area residents are encouraged to come downtown and enjoy two entertainment stages, food vendors and plenty of kid's games. The Heritage Corridor Tractor Adventure will wrap up that weekend on June 8th. More than 300 antique tractors, and their drivers, will enjoy a memorable three-day ride along the historic Illinois and Michigan National Heritage Corridor in Illinois. The drivers will start their experience at the Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, leaving the Speedway at 1 p.m. and heading for downtown Joliet where they will parade past some of Joliet's newest and oldest attractions, Silver Cross Field, Joliet Area Historical Museum, The Cathedral Neighborhood and the Rialto Square Theatre to name a few. After a tour of the area the tractors will park on Chicago Street for the Classic Tractor Night.

The annual car show will pack Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park on June 13-15. This family festival will include lots of food and live entertainment, but the cars are, of course, the highlight. Over 200 cars ranging from vintage antiques to "tricked-out", customized late models will be on display. Registration is \$10.00 in advance or \$15.00 at the gate. Pro and amateur burnouts will also take place in burnout alley throughout the weekend and fireworks will light up the sky on Saturday night. Admission to the park is free as always.



July 3rd and 4th will offer plenty of opportunities for area residents to enjoy a spectacular fireworks show. The annual July 3rd celebration at the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park will start at 5:30 with musical entertainment on two stages starting at 7 p.m. The classic rock band *Mad Money* will be on the pavilion stage and *Vintage Wood* will be on the south stage. The highlight of the evening will be fireworks along the river at 9:30. Friday July 4th you have two locations to choose from for fireworks. The Joliet JackHammers will be blasting off fireworks

continued on page 2

From our Mayor

The summer of 2003 will mark my 41st year with the City of Joliet. I spent 29 years as a



police officer and thanks to the voters who re-elected me in April, I'm in my 12th year as mayor. Joliet has gone through a lot of changes during my time as mayor and we are definitely moving forward. We have opened the Route 66 Raceway, Chicagoland Speedway, Challenge Park Extreme, Silver Cross Field, Splash Station, the Joliet Area Historical Museum and the new west side branch of the Joliet Public Library with no additional cost to the taxpayers. We have also built miles of new roads, upgraded our storm sewer system and kept all of our city services at a very high level.

Baseball games, concerts, races, festivals and other special events are the theme as we head from spring into summer. From the opening weekend for the Joliet JackHammers to the last event at Route 66 Raceway and Chicagoland Speedway, the summer of 2003 promises to be one of the most action packed in Joliet history. Joliet is now the Midwest's newest entertainment destination.

I hope everyone gets out to our many attractions this summer, but also keep in mind those who fought and died for our country this year in our war on terrorism. Many area residents fought, and continue to fight that war and we are eternally grateful. Thank you to all of those who showed up at the many "Support the Troops" rallies that took place.

All Signs Lead to Downtown Joliet

The Jefferson Street Bridge will be closed until October as a result of a barge accident on May 2nd. Local traffic is being directed to Cass Street, which has been converted to two-way traffic. Trucks and non-local traffic are being detoured to the McDonough Street Bridge.



Police manpower has been beefed up downtown to help ease congestion and monitor traffic near the detours.

Despite the bridge closures, downtown Joliet is alive and well. The JackHammers have begun their 2nd season and thousands of people are expected to flock to downtown Joliet this summer. The JackHammers have 45 home games this year and a Chicago Cubs vs. Chicago White Sox Legends game planned for August 2nd. The downtown area has an entertainment district with new and old bars and

restaurants giving visitors several options. McBrody's Bar and Grill has opened near the corner of Jefferson and Joliet streets, serving gourmet soups, sandwiches, salads, martinis and cold beer inside and in the beer garden. Down from the Tracks sports bar and grill in Union Station has also opened their large beer garden for the summer. The two new bars join mainstays Chicago Street Bar and Grill, Champions Spirits and Eatery, Barolo Risotrante, and The Olde Keg as excellent places to eat and drink in downtown Joliet.

Gearing Up for Summer Events *continued from page 1*

following their game against the Schaumburg Flyers. And the annual fireworks show at Memorial Stadium will take place at 9:30.

The 3rd Annual Fan Fest will take place on Thursday July 10th. Several NASCAR drivers are scheduled to appear and live entertainment, beer tent and plenty of food will also be a part of the celebration. The event will encompass a nine block area of downtown Joliet from the Harrah's Entertainment area at Clinton and Joliet Streets, merchandise row along Clinton Street, the Indy Racing League simulators in Van Buren Street Plaza and the NextMedia simulators and drivers forum inside of the Rialto Square Theatre. The event starts at 4:00 and coincides with the Thursday night downtown Cruise Nights.

The 22nd Annual Waterway Daze Festival will take place July 18th and 19th at the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park. This year's festival will not only

be a celebration of the waterway, but also a welcome home and patriotic celebration for our local troops. With the theme "Only in America", special patriotic programs are planned as well as a reception for our troops and their families. Fireworks will light up the sky on Friday night and the lighted boat parade will get underway at 9 p.m. on Saturday.

On Saturday August 16th the first musical concert at Silver Cross Field will take place. Chicago bands *Poi Dog Pondering* and *Hello Dave* will take the stage as part of a festival sponsored by McBrody's Bar and Grill. Poi Dog's sound is expansive - combining elements of pop, rock, funk, house, acoustronic atmospheres, and soul into a blend that is distinctly their own. Charming audiences nationwide, Hello Dave's unique blend of rock, folk and pop with a southern twist never fails to bring a crowd to its feet with a smile on their faces. For tickets call or stop by the Silver Cross Field box office or McBrody's at 73 W. Jefferson Street.

Joliet Area Historical Museum is the Place to Be!

The buzz around town is that the Joliet Area Historical Museum is a place that the citizens of Joliet and the outlying areas can be proud of. If you haven't been to the Museum, here's what you can look forward to when you visit. The Museum's exhibits provide many interactive opportunities for patrons. For instance, your tour begins by walking through a recreated I&M Canal lock. As you make your way through the exhibits, you hear the whistle of the trains, a welder working on a Joliet-made steel beam and an old pipe organ playing German music. Our "Talk of the Town" exhibit is like no other. Actors almost jump out of the screen to tell you about the important issues in Joliet over 100 years ago. Make sure you "ride" our trolley to discover what life was like in Joliet at the turn of the twentieth century. Then, watch clips from silent movies shown at the Rialto Theatre in the 1920s and get "In the Mood" as you jitterbug through our World War II Gallery. Finally, as you ascend the stairs, you are treated to a magnificent view of the stained-glass windows that give clues to the Museum's former life as the Ottawa Street Methodist Church. Learn about Joliet's designation as an All-America City in the 1950s, listen to orator Rabbi Hershman's All-America City speech, and reminisce about life in Joliet in the 1950s and 1960s. Before exiting the galleries, our "Joliet Today" movie highlights the hopes and dreams which current residents have for their jewel, Joliet.



Whether you've lived in Joliet 5 months or 50 years, the Joliet Area Historical Museum is a Joliet destination you don't want to miss. Put a visit to the Museum at the top of your list of fun places to visit this summer. You won't be disappointed.

The Museum is located at 204 N. Ottawa Street and is open Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sunday Noon-5:00 p.m., and is closed on Mondays, except for school holidays. Plenty of free parking is available in the Museum parking lot at the corner of Webster and Ottawa Streets, 1/2 block North of the Museum. (815) 723-5201 www.jolietmuseum.org

Park District Golf Courses and Splash Station open for business

The Splash Station Water Park is open for a full season this year and thousands are expected to walk through the gates this summer. The aquatic park is affordable family fun for all Joliet residents,

including those who do not live within the boundaries of the Park District.



City residents pay \$7.50 and non-residents pay \$10.00 to visit the park. The Park District Board has agreed to let all City of Joliet residents use all Park District aquatic facilities at resident rates. This includes Inwood and Nowell pools. If you are a City of Joliet resident who is not a Joliet Park District resident, you may obtain the resident rate at aquatic facilities by

purchasing an Aquatic Resident Discount Card. These cards may be purchased at the Inwood Recreation Center or the Multi-Purpose Center, both located at 3000 West Jefferson Street. If you are a Joliet Park District resident and a Resident Discount Card Holder, you do not need an Aquatic Resident Discount Card.

The Park District has also established a new pricing plan for their three golf courses for those who are Joliet residents but don't live within the park district boundaries. The new rate is called the "Partnership Rate" and will be less expensive than the non-resident rate. If you have any questions, please call the Joliet Park District at (815) 741-7275 or check out their website at www.jolietpark.org.



City's website to include streaming video

The City of Joliet website is jumping into a new age of technology. Soon the city's website will include a video greeting from City of Joliet Public Information Officer **Newest Technology!** Kevin Hegarty. The City of Joliet has contracted with E-local Link (www.elocalink.com) to provide streaming video and multimedia services to our website. Streaming full-screen video is one of the newest technologies in the world. By including it on our website, we are not only able to tell people about Joliet, but show them as well. Streaming video works for anyone using the internet, whether they **Works for Anyone!** have a high-speed or dial-up connection.

The City's Homepage is located at www.cityofjoliet.info. You can now download a complete copy of the city's community profile, including demographics, quality of life issues, government, a community survey, utilities, development **Download Info!** trends and development agencies and incentives. You can download a complete copy of the City Zoning Ordinance and all petitions for Variations of Use and Re-zonings as well. You can also download a copy of the city's application for employment. Stay tuned, in addition to streaming video, several additional new developments are in the future for www.cityofjoliet.info.

Joliet Fire Department



Severe Weather - Be Prepared, We Are

Joliet Fire personnel take severe weather very seriously. Earlier this year we were in several neighborhoods planning and practicing our response to weather-related emergencies. But, you should be prepared too. Keep these severe weather tips in mind:

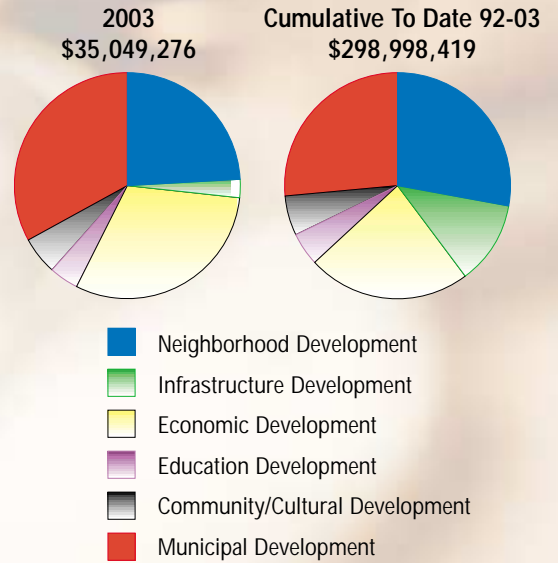
Our emergency siren warning system is designed to alert people outdoors of an approaching problem. If you are indoors and need weather information, turn to your local radio or television station. We test our siren system the first Tuesday of the month at 10am. Should the sirens sound at any other time - there is immediate danger. Take shelter at once. Go to your pre-determined "storm room" in your home - like, a basement or an interior room with few or no windows. Always keep on hand: a flashlight and portable radio - both with fresh batteries.

Where does all that money go?

The city's successful efforts in 1992 to land riverboat gaming in Joliet have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars for the City of Joliet. The city has allocated over 90-percent of that money back to the community. Gaming revenue has allowed the City of Joliet to reduce and eliminate fees providing significant infrastructure improvements. The city continues to reduce its portion of the local tax bill as well. While taxes and fees have gone down, single and multi-family housing starts have grown at a record pace. Over two thousand single and multi-family homes were built in 2002 compared to fewer than 50 in 1981. Building permits have also doubled in the last ten years to over four thousand last year.

One of the most important uses of the city's gaming revenue is the millions of dollars given to local schools. Since 1992, Joliet has given almost 15-million dollars to schools serving Joliet residents. In 2001, the city gave advance funding to Joliet Grade School District 86 to help them build two new schools. The schools will be the district's first new buildings built in over 30 years.

Other agencies receiving gaming revenue include Cornerstone Services, Trinity, Senior Services Center, Hospice, Stepping Stones, United Cerebral Palsy, Lamb's Fold, Werden Buck Boy's and Girl's Club and other community service programs.



On The WEB
www.cityofjoliet.info

For downloadable community profiles, information about city departments including Police and Fire, city employment applications, and the latest Calendar of Events.



- Save the Date**
- June 5-Aug 27 Concerts on the Hill, Billie Linacher Bicentennial Park. Every Thursday, 6:30 p.m. 724-3760
 - June 6-7 All-City Homecoming Event/Fundraiser, Starts Fri., 4:00 p.m. on Chicago Street. 723-1800
 - June 13-15 Joliet's 10th Annual Car Show, Bicentennial Park. Fri.-Car Cruise Through Town, Sat.-Fireworks, Sun.-Awards. 724-3760
 - June 22 This Olde House (Housewalk), Cathedral Area Preservation Association. Sun., 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 - July 3 Fireworks, Billie Linacher Bicentennial Park. 724-3760
 - July 4 Fireworks, Joliet Memorial Stadium and Silver Cross Field. 724-3738
 - July 10 Fantest/NASCAR Event, Kialto Theatre/Chicago Street. Thur., 4:00 - 11:00 p.m. 724-3738
 - July 17-22 Waterway Daze, Bicentennial Park. Thur. 6:30-9:00 p.m., Fri. 5:00-10:30 p.m., Sat., 12:00-10:00 p.m. 724-3760
 - Aug 16 Poi Dog Pondering and Hello Dave concert, Silver Cross Field. 726-8960

CITY OF JOLIET
150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432-4156

PRSRTD STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JOLIET, IL
PERMIT NO. 132