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.
Drought…Now What?

**Lawn Care Renovation Tips for Your Drought Stressed Lawn**

*By Nancy Kubajda, Will County Master Gardener, University of Illinois Extension*

The Joliet Visitors Bureau is among the tops in the country and will attract 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 Public Works and Utilities Department that will connect to the main trail system along the Axcle Sable Creek and out to the regional trail system along Ridge Road.

**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 website. The JVB has also included 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.

**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 modernized 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.

**Light up the Holidays!**

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 continued to be the Chicago area’s newest entertainment destination.

Joliet has gone through a lot of changes during our Mayor and Mr. Mayor 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.

**From our Mayor**

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