Sixth Annual Christmas Parade set to light up Joliet’s City Center

Friday, November 28th

The sixth annual “Light Up the Holidays” parade will take place on Friday, November 28th 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 a new time this year. Mayor Arthur Schultz will select a child to flip the switch on the City Center Christmas Tree at 5:00 p.m. 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. New to the parade will be the Harris Bank mascot “Hubert” who will serve as the Grand Marshall this year. Harris Bank sponsors several area bands that will be participating in this years event including Joliet Grade School District 86, Joliet West and Central High Schools, Troy School District 30-C, Rockdale, Wilmington and the Plainfield School District will all be participating in this year’s event. Fireworks, sponsored by Harris Bank, will be a part of the parade as well. The fireworks will be set off from the corner of Cass and Chicago streets as well as the Ottawa Street parking deck following the tree lighting ceremony and during the parade and. 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 several activities for parade-goers to enjoy. The Renaissance Center will sponsor a brunch with Santa Claus starting at noon. An ice sculpting demonstration by Joliet Junior College students will take place outside the Joliet Area Historical Museum starting at 2:00 p.m. Two free movies will be shown at the Rialto Square Theatre. “The Muppets Christmas” will be shown at 3:00 and “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” will be shown after the parade at 7:00 p.m. The windows of several Joliet City Center businesses will also be painted by local school children.
From our Mayor

Believe it or not, another year has almost passed us by and once again the City of Joliet is celebrating many accomplishments. With a population of almost 120,000 residents Joliet is now the 10th fastest growing city in the United States. This is a very significant milestone for Joliet considering the other cities in the top 10 are in California, Nevada and Arizona. Record housing starts are just one of the many factors that have led to the increase in population. New housing starts have averaged over 1,400 a year since the last census was taken. The new population numbers show that Joliet has become a destination city and now the entire country is starting to notice. More people moving into the City creates a better tax base for our residents…and more new homes built in Joliet creates more jobs. We will continue to provide the necessary services in addition to providing amenities such as the new baseball stadium, water park, library and a museum for our residents.

I also would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season. Please join the City Council and myself as we light the City Center Christmas Tree and ride in the annual downtown Christmas Parade on November 28th. Also please keep in mind and in your prayers 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.

JackHammers name new manager

The Joliet JackHammers name Jeff Isom as their new manager, the second manager in the team’s brief history. Isom succeeds Matt Nokes, who managed the JackHammers in the franchise’s first two seasons. The JackHammers begin their third Northern League season in May of 2004.

The 2004 season will be Isom’s fifth as a manager and 12th overall in professional baseball. As a manager, he holds a 177-and-99 record (.641 winning percentage) and has been to the post-season in each of the past three years. He is first managerial role was during the 2000 season when he took over the independent Frontier League’s Canton (OH) Crocodiles and guided them to a 20-and-20 record.

The 2001 season was his second as manager, but it was his first full season at the helm. He led the Crocs to a 47-and-37 record. In the league rankings, Isom’s squad ranked first in pitching and defense, and they were ranked fourth in hitting.

Isom moved to the Frontier League’s Washington (PA) Wild Things in 2002, their inaugural season, and was tabbed as the league’s Manager of the Year. His team was 56-and-28 that year and ranked first in pitching, first in defense and second in hitting. Isom followed that season with a 54-and-34 record in 2003, and his team ranked first in hitting, first in defense and second in pitching.

Isom’s seven-year professional playing career was spent as a pitcher. Through 163 games (44 starts), Isom was 25-and-28 with 9 saves and a 4.51 ERA. The Pittsburgh Pirates signed him as a free agent on March 21, 1996. Isom also spent several years playing at various minor league levels.

The JackHammers begin their 3rd season of play at Silver Cross Field in May 2004. JackHammers ticket representatives are standing by to assist those looking to book full season tickets, mini-plans, luxury suites, groups (including picnics) and the DesRochers Spa & Party Patio (hot tub) for the 2004 season. For additional team information, the JackHammers can be contacted at 815-726-BALL (2255) or visit www.jackhammerbaseball.com.

"Keep the Wreath Red"

During this holiday season, the Joliet Fire Department will once again participate in the annual “Keep the Wreath Red” campaign. Every fire station in the city will display a wreath with red holiday lights. The idea is to keep the lights red. Should a fire occur that involves holiday lights or decorations, a bulb in the wreath will be changed from red to white. The purpose of this campaign is to remind everyone that the happiness of the holiday season can be forever changed in a moment by fire. Common sense and awareness of fire threats can help to keep our wreaths red.

Far too many fires occur due to unattended open flames, such as in fireplaces or with the use of candles. Use your fireplace with caution. Never burn holiday wrapping paper or boxes in your fireplace. Use a fire screen anytime you burn and ensure that candles are well secured in their holder and kept away from anything combustible.

Natural trees are a big part of our holiday tradition, however Christmas trees become serious fire hazards if not kept well watered. Use extra care with electrical extension cords and tree lights. Frayed cords and overloaded electrical circuits remain a major cause of holiday season fires.

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What’s happening at the Museum?

The award winning Joliet Area Historical Museum in downtown Joliet has several upcoming programs for the Holiday Season. The museum houses seven core exhibits, each core serving as an introduction to the many stories of the Joliet area and its people. Our Museum will encourage an understanding and appreciation of Joliet’s significant history, stimulate the imaginations of diverse audiences, and provide thought provoking interactions with objects, historical concepts, and real life experiences. The Joliet Area Historical Museum is located at 204 N. Ottawa St., Joliet, IL. Free parking is in the lot at the corner of Ottawa and Webster Streets. Museum hours are Tues-Sat.: 10am - 5pm, Sun.: Noon - 5pm. Closed Mon. except for school holidays. For more information call (815) 723-5201 or visit www.jolietmuseum.org

Family Programs
An Old Fashioned Holiday
Friday, November 28, 2003
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
FREE DAY OF ADMISSION, COURTESY OF BANK ONE

TCF Bank Family Fun Day!
Tollhouse Cookie Houses
Sunday, December 7, 2003
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Lunch and Lecture - 100 Years of the Joliet Public Library
Wednesday, December 10, 2003
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

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.
Each month Joliet police officers attend dozens of meetings with various organizations. These include homeowners associations, neighborhood watch groups, service clubs, groups of residents from various subdivisions and neighborhoods, and other groups of concerned citizens. Their one consistent concern is traffic violators in their neighborhoods. Our residents want stricter traffic enforcement.

Joliet Police Department studies indicate that as high as 80 percent of the traffic violators in any subdivision also live in that subdivision. Drivers are also involved in more traffic crashes when they are closer to home in familiar surroundings.

As a result of the increasing concern about traffic violators, the Police Department has increased enforcement. Through September of 2003, 24,556 tickets were issued to violators. This is a 20 percent increase over the same period last year.

Studies indicate that stricter traffic enforcement leads to a decrease in violations and crashes. However, the most effective method to reduce needless injury and suffering is for all of us to be alert, drive safely, and obey our traffic laws.

Also, while you increase your traffic safety vigilance, remember to buckle up and exercise proper child safety restraint. The State of Illinois recently passed legislation making non-compliance of seatbelts a primary violation.

This means a police officer can stop and cite a motorist for not wearing a seatbelt even though no other offense occurred.

Some people are of the opinion that the use of a seatbelt by the driver of a motor vehicle should be an individual choice. That is not correct. It affects other motorists and pedestrians. The use of a seatbelt by the driver often enables that driver to maintain control and avoid a secondary impact after being initially struck in a traffic crash.

For information on the proper installation of child safety restraints, contact the Joliet Police Department at 815/724-3083. Questions about traffic laws can be directed to 815/724-3010. Respect your neighborhood—drive carefully.

David L. Gerdes, Chief of Police
Joliet Police Department

Neighborhood Safety
Drive carefully and buckle-up