March 20, 2015

City of Joliet’s 2015 Big Hackberry Tree Contest Underway

The City of Joliet’s Tree Advisory Board is again sponsoring a “BIG TREE CONTEST” as part of its 2015 Arbor Day Celebration. This year’s goal is to identify the largest hackberry tree within Joliet’s city limits. Sometimes called a sugarberry tree, hackberries have oval shaped toothed leaves and “warty” bark. Their round 1/3 inch diameter fruit ripens in the fall and is favored by birds. Trees grow up to 80 feet tall and can have a 5 foot diameter trunk. Hackberries are drought tolerant and are often planted as street trees. The contest is open to all residents of Joliet. The winning tree will be determined by measuring the circumference (distance around the tree 4.5 feet above the ground), the height, and the spread of the crown. City Forester Jim Teiber will take official measurements to verify the winner. The tree may be on public or private property. If nominating a tree that is on someone else’s private property, please ask permission to nominate.

Nominations will be accepted until Noon, Wednesday, April 15, 2015, and may be dropped off at City Hall at 150 W. Jefferson Street, or mailed to City of Joliet, Big Tree Contest/Forestry Division, 1203 Cedarwood Drive, Joliet, IL 60435. Nomination Forms are available at City Hall, both Joliet Public Libraries and will be posted online at www.cityofjoliet.info. For more information please call 815-791-8216.

The winner will receive a framed photo of their “Big Tree” with acknowledgement of their honor. The winner will be announced on, or before, Arbor Day, Friday, April 24, 2015.

To view the Illinois Big Tree Register, which lists champion trees in the State, visit the Illinois Big Tree Register’s Web site at: http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/forestry/il_big_tree.html

CITY OF JOILET
BIG HACKBERRY TREE CONTEST

Common Name of Tree: Hackberry
Scientific Name: Celtis occidentalis
Nominated by: ____________________________
Phone Number: _______________________
Address: ___________________________________________ E-mail Address: ________________________________________
Nominator (if not owner of private property) should ask permission to nominate.
Location of Tree:

____________________________________________

Tree Measurements: (measure circumference, estimate ht. and spread)
Circumference (4.5 feet above ground) ___________ Height ___________
Crown Spread: ________________________________

James D. Hock
City Manager

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago’s Loop. Home to over 147,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.cityofjoliet.info or call 815-724-4000. The City of Joliet’s Media Releases are always available on our website.