

# TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

## BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY TOGETHER

### A MESSAGE FROM JOLIET TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR ALICIA MORALES



Dear friends and neighbors,

As your Township Supervisor I would like to welcome all to the Holiday edition of the Joliet Township Government Newsletter!

This is your go-to guide for staying connected with what's happening in our township—from local updates and upcoming events to programs and investments in our community.

At Joliet Township, we are committed to collaboration and making a meaningful impact on the daily lives of our residents. This newsletter is one of the many ways we're working to keep you informed and engaged.

In this edition, you'll find:

- Resources and services available to residents
- Updates on township projects and improvements
- Opportunities to get involved in community events and initiatives

We're proud of the progress we've made together, and there's so much more to look forward to. Thank you for being an active part of our vibrant and growing community.

As always, we welcome your feedback, questions, and ideas to help us better serve you. Let's continue working together to build a stronger, safer, and more connected Joliet Township.

Happy Holidays,

Alicia Morales, MBA  
Township Supervisor





## BOOSTING TOWNSHIP EFFICIENCY: BIDDING PROCESS AND TOI BEST PRACTICES



Clerk Estefany Bonilla collaborated with the Highway Commissioner's Office to manage the bidding process for purchasing treated salt, used to keep roads clear of snow and ice. This process ensures the township gets the best price and quality by comparing different options from suppliers. By overseeing this, Clerk Bonilla helps make sure taxpayer money is spent wisely while securing the resources needed.

Clerk Bonilla attended the Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) Annual Educational Conference from November 11-13, 2024. With a focus on 'Township Government Building for Tomorrow,' the event provided valuable insights and best practices. By staying informed and developing new skills, Clerk Bonilla enhances her ability to serve residents more effectively, ensuring better services and township operations.

## RENOVATED SUGAR CREEK BRIDGE OFFICIALLY OPENED WITH RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY



The renovation project, managed by Highway Commissioner Vincent Alessio, was completed after years of planning in coordination with Will County. This project highlights the benefits of using multiple sources of funding and expanding the way in which the Road District serves its residents. The event marked a significant milestone in the Road District's commitment to taking on big projects that benefit the community. The project includes vast improvements in neighborhood drainage and walkways.

With the successful completion of the Sugar Creek Bridge renovation, the Joliet Township Road District remains committed to maintaining and upgrading the township's infrastructure. Future projects will continue to prioritize the safety and accessibility of roadways for all residents.

## ANIMAL CONTROL 2024 HIGHLIGHTS: JAN. - OCT. 2024

Joliet Township Animal Control (JTAC) provides a range of services to ensure the safety and well-being of animals in the Greater Joliet Area.



**498**  
PETS  
ADOPTED



**358**  
LOST PETS REUNITED  
WITH OWNERS



**364**  
HIGH-NEED ANIMALS  
TO RESCUE PARTNERS



**65**  
NEW  
VOLUNTEERS

## ANNOUNCING THE RETIREMENT OF JOLIET TOWNSHIP STAFF MEMBER JACQUELINE MACKEY



**Jim Brenczewski**  
Assessor

After 34 years with the Joliet Township Assessor's Office, Field Inspector Jacqueline "Jacquie" Mackey has retired! She began her career on July 1, 1990, under former Assessor Anna DeMattie. Jacquie's role included assisting the public with exemptions, answering tax questions, documenting permits, preparing appeals, and conducting inspections.



**Jacqueline Mackey**  
Field Inspector

Jacquie will enjoy retirement with her husband Mike and her two sons Matthew (Matt) and Theodore (T.J.). She looks forward to traveling to her son T.J.'s wrestling meets, taking more time to travel, and relaxing to enjoy her family and friends.

The office, most of whom have worked with Jacquie for over 15 years, wish her well and hopes that she enjoys her retirement. Her humor and presence will be missed by all of her work family. Good luck, Jacquie!

## SENIOR GROUPS OFFER MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR CONNECTION AND ACTIVITIES

*A Message From Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace*



**Jeffrey Wallace**  
Senior Liaison

**Attention seniors!** Join Senior Liaison Jeffery "Jeff" Wallace for monthly senior club meetings supported by Joliet Township Government's senior tax levy grants. These gatherings offer connection, activities, and meals, with membership dues ranging from free to \$10. For support and to learn more about attending these events, contact Jeff at 815-741-3888 (home) or 815-263-4499 (cell).

### UPCOMING SENIOR GROUP MEETINGS

*Group membership may be required to attend these events. Please contact Jeff if you are interested in attending so he can help connect you with the organization.*

#### **The Moose Seniors**

First Monday of the month

#### **Latino Social Club**

Every other Saturday

#### **Senior Citizens Association**

Second Thursday of the month

#### **St John's Senior Club: 51 y Más**

Monthly meeting; dates vary

#### **St. Raymond's Cathedral Seniors**

Third Thursday of the month

#### **Widow & Widowers - Second Baptist**

Second Saturday of the month

#### **Joliet Area Retired Teachers Assoc.**

Fourth Wednesday every other month

#### **National Hook-Up of Black Women**

First Saturday of the month

#### **S.O.A.R.**

Fourth Thursday of the month

#### **St. Joseph Parish Senior Club**

Third Wednesday of every month

#### **The Paulites**

First Wednesday of the month

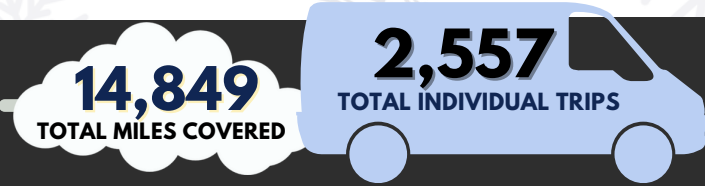
## FREE TAX ASSISTANCE STARTING IN JANUARY

Tax season is approaching! Joliet Township Government is partnering with Will County Center for Community Concerns to offer free tax preparation for all seniors, regardless of income, and other residents with income under \$65,000. Returns will be electronically filed, with refunds arriving in approximately 7-10 days. Last year, over 600 taxpayers received this valuable service.



# TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS: JAN. - OCT. 2024

The Joliet Township Transportation Department gives rides to senior citizens, people with disabilities, and clients from partner agencies. We know that public transportation can be hard to use because of cost, complicated schedules, or locations that are hard to reach. That's why we are here to help make it easier for our residents to get where they need to go. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/JTTransportation>.



## GENERAL ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHTS: JAN. - OCT. 2024

General Assistance provides temporary financial aid to individuals and families facing hardship, helping with basic needs like food, housing, and utilities. It aims to offer short-term relief and support self-sufficiency during difficult times.



### RENT ASSISTANCE

**96** RESIDENTS HELPED

\$49,256 Total Distributed



### UTILITIES ASSISTANCE

**148** RESIDENTS HELPED

\$24,639.87 Total Distributed



### CAR REPAIR ASSISTANCE

**1** RESIDENT HELPED

\$835.00 Total Distributed



### WORKFARE/JOB SEARCH

**15** CLIENTS COMPLETED



### MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

**150** PEOPLE HELPED



### TEMPORARY HANDICAP PLACARDS

**36** PLACARDS ISSUED

## INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH GRANTS

Joliet Township Government's grants and sponsorships have a lasting impact on residents of Joliet Township and the Greater Joliet Area.

With a dedication to community growth, \$105,000 has been invested in grants to support local nonprofits benefiting youth, veterans, seniors, and more.

Additionally, the following initiatives have been sponsored:



**\$5,000**

### JOLIET PARK DISTRICT ADOPT-A-CAMPER

to assist families with summer camp fees



**\$5,000**

### JOLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY STAR WARS DAY

for a free annual summer event



**\$10,000**

### JOLIET PARK DISTRICT BELMONT FIELD

for Belmont baseball complex renovations



**\$20,000**

### CITY OF JOLIET ACTIVE THREAT & MENTAL WELLNESS CONFERENCE

to help communities prepare for active threats



**\$25,000**

### JOLIET PARK DISTRICT HARTMAN TURF

to create a community soccer center



## COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION (CVI) SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

Joliet Township is committed to reducing gun violence in the community. This program helps high-risk individuals, including those who may commit violence, those who have already done so, victims, and their families.



### CASE MANAGEMENT

**110** PEOPLE SERVED



### OUTREACH

**80** PEOPLE SERVED



### VICTIM ADVOCACY

**62** PEOPLE SERVED



### COMMUNITY EVENTS

**19** EVENTS HOSTED

## FROM TRAINING TO ACTION: OUTREACH WORKER SAVES LIFE IN CRISIS



Harry Lee O'Daniels III  
CVI Outreach Worker

In a recent incident showcasing the impact of our Community Violence Intervention (CVI), Outreach Worker Harry Lee O'Daniels III saved the life of a boy who had been shot in the leg. After hearing gunshots in his neighborhood, Lee sprang into action. Using his "Stop the Bleed" training, he applied a tourniquet and gauze, effectively controlling the bleeding until help arrived. His quick response highlights the vital role our team plays in helping community members and save lives.

## CVI BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS: JAN. - OCT. 2024



In late August, CVI therapists expanded their reach by bringing essential therapeutic services to one K-8 school and two high schools, now supporting 36 students. This past quarter has been dynamic: CVI therapist Latreavette McCline, LMS, joined the Stepping Stones board in Joliet, strengthening community connections; Karissa Fleming, LCSW, completed a 3-day Sand Tray Therapy training; and Haydee Martinez-Rosales, QMHP, advanced her expertise through consultations for EMDR and TF-CBT.

This fall, CVI also hosted two trauma-informed community presentations. Caseloads have risen significantly, with 52 new referrals from January to October 2024, thanks to outreach, partnerships, and client referrals.

## CVI COUNCIL: RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT LEAGUE (REIAL)

REIAL now includes over 20 members, including new partners like Sam's Club Joliet, Lockport Township Government, Non-Violent Cities Project, Road Runner, Community Mental Health 708 Board, MAPP, National Tube Supply, and the New Lenox Safe Community Council. Municipal visits have already taken place with Relmagine Village, and more are planned, including the East Saint Louis Police Department in FY25. To learn more, visit [bit.ly/CVI-REIAL](https://bit.ly/CVI-REIAL).

## REIAL WINS COLLABORATIVE EXCELLENCE IN PREVENTION AWARD



LeShae Hudson, MHS  
Violence Prevention  
Council Coordinator

Joliet Township Government's REIAL and Violence Prevention Council Coordinator LeShae Hudson, MHS, received the statewide Collaborative Excellence in Prevention Award from Prevention First at the Connections in Prevention Conference. The award recognizes REIAL's work with over 20 organizations to reduce gun violence. After the January 2024 incident involving Romeo Nance, REIAL launched an "Emergency Response Protocol" to improve community safety, contributing to a safer Joliet area.



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

### WINTER WEATHER Reminders

The Joliet Township Road District Crew is responsible for the Removal of Snow and Ice on unincorporated roads in Joliet Township. For the safety of all please follow these reminders during the winter months.

- ❄ **DON'T CROWD THE PLOW!**  
Plow Trucks have the Right-Of-Way please give them space to work.
- ❄ During a snow event **DON'T PARK** vehicles on the street. Parked vehicles may be towed or street may not be plowed to avoid accidents.
- ❄ **DON'T SHOVEL** snow or ice onto the street or sidewalks. Snow put into the street will not be removed by Road Crew after streets have been plowed.
- ❄ During winter months **DON'T PUMP** sump pumps discharge onto streets or sidewalks.

**PLEASE STAY SAFE AND DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE  
DURING BAD WEATHER IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.**

FOR AFTER HOUR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CALL THE WILL COUNTY SHERIFF  
AT 815-727-6191



## YOUR TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT



Alicia Morales  
Supervisor



Estefany Bonilla  
Clerk



Tanya Arias  
Trustee



Cesar Escutia  
Trustee



Raymond Slattery  
Trustee



Antione Edwards  
Trustee



Jim Brenczewski  
Tax Assessor



Vince Alessio  
Highway  
Commissioner



Archie Gavin  
Tax Collector