

ISSUE 1  
JULY - SEPT 2023

# JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI



## NEWSLETTER



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- County Counselor and Public Administrator Appointments
- Outdoor Warning Sirens Grant
- Master Plan Updates
- and MORE...

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dennis Gannon  
636-797-5400

## DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

David Courtway  
636-797-5400

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### District 1

Brian Haskins  
636-797-5312

### District 2

Gene F. Barbagallo  
636-797-5501

### District 3

Shannon Otto  
636-797-5351

### District 4

Charles Groeteke  
636-797-5352

### District 5

Scott Seek  
636-797-5353

### District 6

Dan Stallman  
636-797-5377

### District 7

Bob Tullock  
636-797-5384

729 Maple Street  
Hillsboro, MO 63050  
636-797-5400

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## COUNTY EXECUTIVE GANNON APPOINTS TRACEY PERRY AS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

Jefferson County Executive Dennis Gannon has appointed Tracey Perry as Public Administrator. She replaces Steve Farmer, who retired May 22, 2023. He served as Public Administrator since January 1, 2013. In accordance with the Jefferson County Home Rule Charter, Perry is affiliated with the same political party as Farmer.



Perry has a master's degree in Human Resources Management, bachelor's degree in Social Work, over 20 years of military experience, and 19 years of experience working specifically with the Jefferson County Public Administrator's office assisting with the care and oversight of the appointed wards as a social worker.

Her experience includes over 25 years assisting civilians, veterans, and families, coordinating services, and clinically representing on a multidisciplinary team addressing the needs of assigned demographics. Additionally, she has over 15 years of experience in counseling, advocacy, and program coordination.

Perry will serve out the remainder of the term, which will expire December 31, 2024.

Learn more about the Public Administrator's office by visiting the [Public Administrator webpage](#).

## Jalesia F.M. Kuenzel is New County Counselor



Jefferson County Executive Dennis Gannon has appointed Jalesia F.M. Kuenzel as County Counselor. Kuenzel's appointment was approved by the Jefferson County Council at the April 24, 2023 Council Meeting. She replaces Carl W. Yates III who was appointed Associate Circuit Judge for the 23rd Judicial Circuit in February of this year.

Kuenzel has 20 years of experience practicing law, and most recently held the Jefferson County Municipal Court Judge position. In private practice, her experience entails civil litigation, business, government, municipal, securities, immigration, and corporate law matters.

Learn more about the County Counselor's office by visiting the [County Counselor webpage](#).

## Lester Stuckmeyer, JR. Appointed as New Municipal Judge

Jefferson County Executive Dennis Gannon has appointed Lester C. Stuckmeyer, Jr. as Municipal Judge. Stuckmeyer's appointment was approved by the Jefferson County Council at the May 22, 2023 meeting. He is replacing Jalesia F.M. Kuenzel who was recently appointed as County Counselor.

Stuckmeyer graduated from law school in 1993 and is licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri. He has practiced law in multiple jurisdictions including approximately 19 years in Jefferson County.

Learn more about Municipal Court by visiting the [Municipal Court webpage](#).



## Jason Emmons is New Municipal Prosecutor



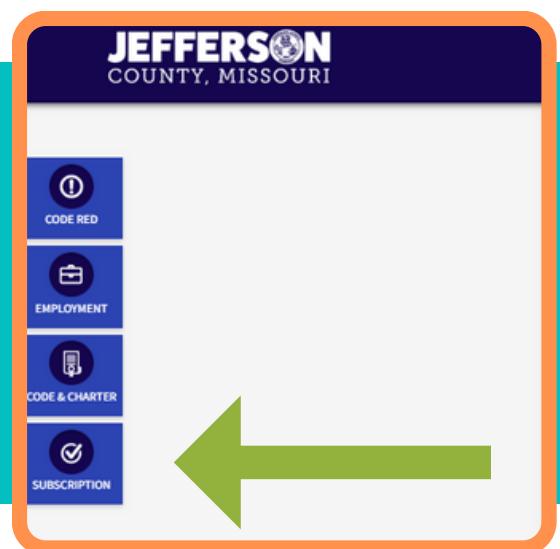
Jefferson County Executive Dennis Gannon has appointed Jason Emmons as the new Municipal Prosecutor. Emmons replaces James Isaac Crabtree.

Jason began his legal career as a trial attorney for the Missouri State Public Defender office in Jefferson City, MO in April 2013 and transferred to Farmington, MO in March 2017. Jason worked for the Missouri State Public Defender office for over 5 years and has tried numerous criminal jury trials.

Jason is licensed to practice in the state of Missouri and has been a member of the Missouri Bar since September 2012. Jason is a member of the Festus Kiwanis Club.

### Did you know?

You can subscribe to notifications about newsletters, press releases, office closures, events, meeting agendas, road and bridge projects, and more on our [website](#)? You even have the option to receive them by text or email! Just click on Subscription on the left side of the County website.



## JEFFERSON COUNTY LAND SALE

Per State Statute, the Collector's office will hold the annual tax sale on August 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., in the Administration Center located at 729 Maple Street, Hillsboro, MO 63050. Properties that are at least 3 years delinquent will be offered at the sale.

If you are interested in participating, you will need to obtain a bid number the week of August 21-25, 2023. No bid numbers will be issued on the morning of the sale. To bid at the sale, you must have all Real Estate & Personal Property taxes in your name paid in full. Bid packets are available on our [website](#) or in person at the office located at 729 Maple Street, Hillsboro, MO 63050.

All properties are sold to the highest bidder at the auction, and payment must be made that day by cash, check or credit card (credit card convenience fees will apply).

Additional information, including a list of properties and FAQ can be found on our [website](#).



## OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS TO BE FUNDED BY GRANT



Spring in Missouri means severe weather, and few sounds are more synonymous with this than the wail of an outdoor warning siren. Though commonplace in many Jefferson County municipalities, there are no sirens currently located in the County's unincorporated areas. But, with the help of a Federal grant, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the County's Public Safety Commission (PSC) are working on changing that.

Expansion of the local hazardous weather alert system has been on the radar for several years.

A contract was recently awarded to ATI Systems to develop an acoustic coverage map that will identify for officials where sirens would need to be placed to ensure complete geographic coverage of the County by warning tones. "Work on this project started in 2021 when we applied for funding through the Federal Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant," says Warren Robinson, Director of the OEM. "The application was successful, and now that we have that funding, we can identify placement locations and use that information to make recommendations on how to best incorporate sirens into our existing warning system." Funding from the BRIC grant will cover 75% of the County's expenses related to the development of the acoustic coverage map, up to \$30,000.

Robert McLaughlin, a representative from ATI Solutions, met with officials in May to discuss the County's needs for an outdoor warning system. "There are several factors to consider that will impact system capability and end cost. Do you need a system that provides tone-only or tone and voice alerts? When you have a voice alert, the voice answers three questions: What is happening? Where do I go? What do I do? The answers to these important questions will be very different whether the event is a tornado (seek shelter underground), a wildfire (evacuate the area), or an active shooter (shelter in place). When placing the units, will you opt to cover the whole County geographically or focus on densely populated areas?" says McLaughlin.

The siren placement map is still under development, but early feedback indicates it will require approximately 230 units to provide coverage to the entire County. The PSC is weighing options, and after it has time to review the findings from ATI, will provide its recommendation to the OEM for the type and number of sirens to seek funding for. Says Robinson, "We're excited to be working on this project and hope soon to have another layer of warning capability in place for residents and visitors to the County."

# Highway Project Updates



## HIGH RIDGE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS



Originally maintained by the State of Missouri as Gravois/Highway 30, High Ridge Boulevard now serves as an important main street in the High Ridge community. This county road has dozens of businesses, churches, residential subdivisions, schools, shopping plazas, and essential community services along this 2-mile corridor. The boulevard hosts several annual parades for various community events, making it an important and functional asset to the High Ridge area.

Currently, there are several deficiencies for a boulevard of such importance. There are no pedestrian access facilities, and no network of open channel ditches or closed drainage systems for proper storm water runoff control. Street lighting is also absent, and the roadway pavement surface needs preservation.

The County has secured federal and local funding for a project to construct a 10-foot concrete shared-use path along the boulevard from Crossroads Plaza to Park Road and a 5-foot concrete sidewalk along Community Lane from the boulevard to the Jefferson County Civic Center. This project will also include constructing a new storm sewer system with 4-foot concrete shoulders, and curb and gutter. Pedestrian street lighting is also being implemented to improve nighttime visibility throughout the corridor. Shoulder repairs will take place from Highway PP to Byrnes Mill city limits. The full 2-mile stretch will then be overlayed with a new asphalt wearing surface. Project construction begins in Summer 2023 and should be completed in Summer 2024. Total project costs are estimated to be \$3,000,000.

For more information on highway projects visit the [Public Works Projects page](#).

# Highway Project Updates



## OLD LEMAY FERRY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Old Lemay Ferry Road is one of the longest-served public roadways in Jefferson County. It has been continuously maintained by the County since the 1840s. Although it has been improved over the years to a modern paved surface, much of the roadway alignment remains very hilly with sharp curves. Historical crash data has shown safety improvements are needed in several areas along the 13-mile corridor. The County has secured six safety improvement project grants totaling nearly

\$15 million in dedicated funding. These improvements have been broken up into six phases. Phases 1 and 2 started construction in the Summer of 2022 and will be completed Summer 2023. These improvements were located from south of the East Rock Creek Road and north of the Spring Forest Road intersections.

The work included the realignment and reconstruction of two-thirds of a mile (3,425 feet) of roadway, addition of 4 to 6-foot shoulders, addition of turn lanes, curb and gutter, guardrail, retaining walls, installation of a new 12-foot by 8-foot reinforced concrete box culvert, and a closed drainage storm sewer system.



Reconstruction of two county road intersections at East Rock Creek and Spring Forest was also included. These two projects involved major grading operations including a 20-foot cut and a 30-foot fill. This project opened to traffic in May 2023 and cost an estimated \$5.2 million plus utility relocation costs.

Phases 3 and 4 will likely begin in Spring 2024. This project work will be between Kneff Rd./Dry Fork Rd. to  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of Frisco Hill Rd./East Four Ridge Rd. Phases 5 and 6 are anticipated to be constructed in 2025 and 2027 respectively. More details to come soon!

For more information on highway projects visit the [Public Works Projects page](#).



## NEW WALKING/JOGGING TRAIL AT NWSC

The walking/jogging trail at the Northwest Sports Complex was recently improved from an all gravel base to a paved surface.

This improvement allows for greater access and usability for everyone especially those with disabilities and other needs such as stroller use.

The track is approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile around the ballfields and includes the side track leading to the pavilion/skate park areas.

The area also hosts a playground and restrooms.

## PICKLEBALL REVAMP

In April, the Department of Parks and Recreation completed the renovation of one of the pickleball courts at the High Ridge Civic Center.

This renovation included a “rubberized” tiled surface that provides for a more uniform playing surface, while also being more forgiving for joints.

There are a total of three courts, and they are generally open on a first come first serve basis.

Contact the Parks Department at 636-797-5334 for more information.



# PROGRAMS

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS:



### Youth Fall Soccer Program

Season begins September 9

Coed Grade Groups: PreK-K, 1-3, 4-6

Saturday Practices and Games

Signup Deadline August 25

Festus Elks Club  
Northwest Sports Complex



### 9th Annual Big River Run

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Sign up for:

10 mile or 5K run

1 mile kid fun run

Race starts and ends at  
Northwest Sports Complex

## GOOD TO KNOW:

- Classes at the High Ridge Civic Center take monthly or punch card enrollment. Enrollment also accepted through the Silver Sneakers program and Renew Active for Seniors.
- BACK IN AUGUST...Martial Arts Class (Tae Kwon Do) at the Hillsboro United Methodist Church!

# PROGRAMS

## YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS:

### Mondays

#### **Cardio/Strength**

High Ridge Civic Center at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Zumba**

High Ridge Civic Center at 7 p.m.

### Tuesdays

#### **Yoga Flow**

High Ridge Civic Center at 11 a.m.

#### **Silver Sneakers Yoga Chair**

High Ridge Civic Center at 12:30 p.m.

#### **High Intensity Interval Training**

High Ridge Civic Center at 4:30 p.m.

### Wednesdays

#### **Silver Sneakers Strength and Balance**

High Ridge Civic Center at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Cardio Boxx**

High Ridge Civic Center at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Zumba**

High Ridge Civic Center at 7 p.m.

# PROGRAMS

## YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS:

**Thursdays**

- Gentle Yoga**  
High Ridge Civic Center at 8:45 a.m.
- Silver Sneakers Chair Yoga**  
High Ridge Civic Center at 10:30 a.m.
- Full Body Burn**  
High Ridge Civic Center at 4:30 p.m.
- Martial Arts (Jujitsu/Judo)**  
High Ridge Civic Center at 6-8 p.m.

**Saturdays**

- Fitness Flow Yoga**  
High Ridge Civic Center at 8 a.m.
- Restorative Yoga**  
High Ridge Civic Center at 9 a.m.

Register for events: [jeffcomo.org/parks](http://jeffcomo.org/parks)

Parks Phone Number: 636-797-5334

Cancellation/Information Hotline: 636-797-6101

Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/jeffcoparks](https://facebook.com/jeffcoparks)

## WORDS FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

It's an exciting time in Jefferson County. We have so many big projects and positive things happening right now.

The James Hardie project in Crystal City is continuing to develop. Currently, there is a lot of preparation and planning for the site going on behind the scenes with the joint efforts of Crystal City, Jefferson County and our partner James Hardie.



More good news, at MoDOT's July Commission meeting, the KCI Team was selected for the Interstate 55 Corridor Improvements Design-Build Project.

Additionally, our Master Plan is well underway. The effort behind this document is a collaboration of many citizens. The information collected will help in making a solid decision in the future for Jefferson County. We look forward to completing that process in 2024.

This is also a great time to be a co-worker here at Jefferson County. Recently, we increased the Pay Grade with minimum hourly salary of \$15. This puts us above many employers in the county who have not increased their minimum salaries to \$15 an hour. We are constantly monitoring competitor salaries and inflation while looking to increase employee morale and better employee workflow. Let's not forget all the great benefits already available to County employees. My personal favorite work incentive of Jefferson County, MO – Government is the 14 paid holidays. I certainly look forward to those long holiday 3-day weekends to allow for visits with our grandsons in Texas and California.

We have had a lot of changes in the past year. We added a Deputy Director of Administration, appointed a new County Counselor, Public Administrator, Municipal Court Judge, Municipal Prosecuting Attorney, Director of County Services and Code Enforcement, and have three newly elected council members.

We are also looking into expanding a variety of services that have been requested by citizens, employees and our County Council that will make doing business with the county easier. Our county processes will improve workflow from applying for jobs, obtaining permits, passing legislation, and more, not only internally but for our citizens as well.

Whether you live here, work here, do business here or all the above, NOW is a great time to be a part of Jefferson County.

Regards,  
Dennis J. Gannon  
County Executive



The Master Plan process continues to move forward.

Kicking off in mid-2022, the Master Plan will result in a proposal that facilitates future growth and development. Additionally, the creation of a Plan can lead to potential strategies that will help effectively guide County leaders as they make substantive and thoughtful decisions for the community.

Through out the process, project documents and outreach summaries are added to the documents section on the [Visualize Jefferson County Master Plan website](#). Most recently added are the Existing Conditions Memorandum, Community Visioning Summaries and Visioning Maps.

An Advisory Panel meeting is anticipated to take place in August.

Stay up to date on the Master Plan process by visiting the [Visualize Jefferson County Master Plan website](#).

# COUNTY COUNCIL CORNER



As District 4 Council member, it has been a pleasure to be a representative of the people of Jefferson County over the years. I was first elected to the inaugural County Council in 2010 and served for 2 years, and was the first Vice-Chairman of our newly formed Government. I was re-elected in 2016 and 2020. During my terms, I have served as Vice Chairman several times and Chairman twice, including presently.

I have worked over the years addressing concerns of District 4 and the County. Currently, we are working on improvements to regulations to help with storm water problems, and I will be serving my second term on the Missouri Associations of Counties Transportation Steering Committee.

The Council has also formed a Road Committee to assist with roadway issues in all the Council Districts.

There are lots of great and exciting projects taking place in District 4 as well. The Old Lemay Ferry Road Improvements Phase 1 and 2 should be complete by the end of 2023 with Phase 3 and 4 starting in 2024. Also taking place in 2023-2024 is the Seckman Road through Mastodon State Park Entrance project where 8-foot shoulders, curb and gutter sections, striping and signage are being added. You can learn more about road projects in District 4 by visiting [the Road & Bridge Projects page](#).

The New Master Plan will determine how our County will be developed for the next 20 years, and we are moving right along in the process. Citizen participation is key in the creation of the plan. Learn more by visiting the [Visualize Jefferson County Master Plan website](#).

We have some national recognition coming from District 4 as our very own Madison Beck, Seckman High School graduate, was recently crowned Miss Missouri Teen USA 2023. Madison is the first person from Jefferson County to win the pageant.

Your County Council meets twice a month in Hillsboro and decides on many issues that affect your lives. Please, try to attend some meetings, and get to know your elected representatives. If you cannot attend the meetings, they are available on the [County Council page](#) on the [County Website](#).

Lastly, District 4 has a lot of fun events going on this summer in Mastodon Park, Kimmwick, Pevely and Herculaneum. They are ongoing and provide great family venues. Check out these events and more by visiting [www.visitjeffersoncounty.com](#).

Thank you for electing me to represent you as the Jefferson County, District 4 County Council Member.

Sincerely,

Charles Groeteke (R), District 4  
Phone: 636-797-5352  
Cell: 636-535-3352  
Facebook: [Charles Groeteke County Council District 4](#)  
CGroeteke@jeffcomo.org

# JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI



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729 Maple Street,  
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## JOIN OUR TEAM!



**JEFFCOMO.ORG**

## BENEFITS



Medical Insurance  
Dental Insurance  
Vision Insurance



Retirement Plan  
Pension Plan  
Life Insurance  
flex Spending Accounts



Vacation & Sick Pay  
14 Paid Holidays  
Employee Assistance  
Program

and more...