



DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS EDITION

Snow Emergency Parking Procedures

Learn how a snow emergency declaration can change parking procedures for snow removal

Mayor Jodi Miller Appointed to National League of Cities Board

City Job Openings

Start your career with the City of Freeport!

Freeport Police Department's Drug Take-Back Results

City Hall Closed for the Holidays

City Hall and non-emergency offices will be closed Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25.

Freeport's 2022 Chicago Streetscape Project Earns Major Illinois Award



Pictured: City Manager Rob Boyer, Greater Freeport Executive Director Andrea Schultz-Winter, and Andrew Reeter of Fehr Graham

The City of Freeport, Greater Freeport Partnership, and Fehr Graham earned an Illinois Main Street award for their collaborative design on the Chicago Avenue Streetscape Project in 2022. The Chicago Avenue Streetscape Project was one of 3 design projects from the state of Illinois that received the design award. Since project and infrastructure improvement completion, all storefronts along Chicago Avenue have been filled. Four building owners have made substantial investments in their buildings.



From the Desk of Mayor Jodi Miller

As we wrap up the year and approach the holidays, I cannot help but reflect on the accomplishments and impactful moments for the City and our community.

This year, our Public Works crews operated on a level of excellence, conducting in-house paving projects at a pace and skill level unseen by previous administrations. Our crews paved nearly 5 times the amount of hot mix than any year in recent history... *...continued*

from the Mayor's Desk, cont.

... allowing us to put our city-owned paver to good use and improve many streets throughout the city. Streets like Chicago Avenue, Center, Empire, and plenty more all benefited from the great work of city crews. That work is paired with the excellent work of our contracted partners on larger projects like Adams Avenue, which will continue into 2024. Over the past three years, the city has improved 11.5 miles of Freeport streets, and we hope to improve **more than 4.5 miles** next year.

City-led projects for next year's street program are extensive. Streets like Iroquois from Galena to Kenwood, Chicago Avenue from Galena to Jackson, Oak from Galena to South, Ridge from Park to Wood, 13th Ave from Shawnee and La Salle are just a few of the many street repairs you will see in 2024. This list is in addition to the contractor led projects already in motion like Adams Avenue Reconstruction, Pearl City Road, and Bradmar and Towne Drive. We hope to announce plenty more in the new year.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. Let love and kindness your motivation in all you do and together we can show the world that Freeport is a great place to live, work and play!

City of Freeport Job Openings

The City of Freeport has a variety of job opportunities for individuals that value public service. Current openings include:

- Communications Director
- Construction Crew Foreman
- Instrumentation & Control Technician
- Water & Sewer Construction System Worker

Full job descriptions and requirements are available online at

cityoffreeport.org/city-job-openings/

Applications can be obtained at City Hall or online.

The City of Freeport is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate based upon any status protected under local, state, or federal laws. We welcome a diverse workforce.

Snow Emergency & Odd-Even Parking Explained



As winter approaches, it is critical that Freeport residents follow the protocols for vehicle parking during snow emergencies. During snow emergencies, the City requires residents to follow an alternative parking procedure:

Vehicles should be parked on the "even numbered" side of the street in the City on the "even-numbered" day of each month. Vehicles should be parked on the "odd-numbered" side of the street on an "odd-numbered" day of the month.



101

102

Park on the "odd-numbered" side of the street on "odd-numbered days" like the 1st, 3rd, and 5th day of the month

Park on the "even-numbered" side of the street on "even-numbered days" like the 2nd, 4th, and 6th day of the month

Vehicles found in violation of the above parking regulations may be towed at the vehicle owner's expense.

Parking in driveways, observing even/odd parking protocols, removing vehicles from downtown streets, and municipal parking lots significantly contribute to City Street Crew's ability to safely and effectively conduct snow removal operations.



Holiday Decoration Safety Tips



Many hallmarks of the holiday season, including Christmas trees, holiday decorations, cooking and baking, present potential fire hazards that contribute to home fires during the winter months. Freeport Fire Department wants every family to have a safe and happy holiday season. Follow these tips to keep the winter holidays safe for all of your family and friends:

When decorating, remember:

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn. Better yet, use battery operated candles instead.
- Check lights – some are indoor use only, some are outdoor use only, and some are both. Be sure you are using the correct lights.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions on the correct number of light strands that are safe to connect together.
- Use clips made for light hanging, not nails or staples, keeping cords from becoming damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors ensuring a clear path of escape in case of fire.
- Turn off all lights and blow out all candles before leaving your home or going to bed.

Did You Know: more than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles

Mayor Jodi Miller Elected to National League of Cities Board

In November, Freeport Mayor Jodi Miller was elected to the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors. Only 26 elected officials across the country are elected to serve 2-year terms as at-large members of the board. Mayor Miller is the first Freeport mayor to be elected to this national leadership position, and only one of two elected officials representing Illinois communities.

"I look forward to representing Freeport on the national stage," says Mayor Jodi Miller. "The National League of Cities advocates for federal policies that impact our community, and I'm honored to be a voice for Freeport."

The NLC is an organization that comprises of city, town, and village leaders that are focused on improving the quality of life for their current and future constituents. It represents over 2,700 communities across the nation. Its mission is to relentlessly advocate for, and protect the interests of cities, towns, and villages by influencing federal policy, strengthening local leadership, and driving innovative solutions.

Freeport Police Department's Drug Take-Back Event Results

In October, the Freeport Police Department collected over 39 pounds of prescription drugs during their Drug Take-Back Event. These collection events prevent prescription drugs from falling into the wrong hands and help residents safely dispose of drugs, no questions asked.

Get Snow Emergency Notices through CodeRED™

Get **FREE** community notifications regarding time-sensitive and weather-related emergency information that impacts the City of Freeport.

Text FREEPORTALERTS to 99411 to sign up for safety alerts.



STAY CONNECTED TO CITY NEWS



View City Council Meeting Agendas Online at cityoffreeport.org

NAME	OFFICE	TERM EXPIRES	PHONE	ADDRESS
FREEPORT OFFICIALS				
Jodi Miller	Mayor	2025	815.235.8200	314 W. Stephenson St.
Rob Boyer	City Manager		815.235.8208	314 W. Stephenson St.
Dovie Anderson	City Clerk	2025	815.235.8203	314 W. Stephenson St.

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL				
Joy Sellers	Ald. at Large	2027	815.238.5358	314 W. Stephenson St.
Tom Klemm	Ald. 1st Ward	2027	815.978.0484	314 W. Stephenson St.
James Monroe	Ald. 2nd Ward	2025	801.698.1659	314 W. Stephenson St.
Rachel Simmons	Ald. 3rd Ward	2027	815.768.1299	314 W. Stephenson St.
Don Parker	Ald. 4th Ward	2025	815.275.1372	314 W. Stephenson St.
Cecelia Stacy	Ald. 5th Ward	2027	815.908.9814	314 W. Stephenson St.
Gregory Shadle	Ald. 6th Ward	2025	815.232.6208	314 W. Stephenson St.
Larry Sanders	Ald. 7th Ward	2027	815.908.9268	314 W. Stephenson St.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS				
Wayne Duckmann	Community Dev. Director		815.235.8221	314 W. Stephenson St.
Ashley Huffines	Library Director		815.233.3000	100 E. Douglas St.
Scott Miller	Fire Chief		815.235.8217	1650 S. Walnut St.
Michelle Richter	Finance Director		815.297.1300	314 W. Stephenson St.
Chris Shenberger	Police Chief		815.235.8231	320 W Exchange St.
<i>Vacant</i>	Communications Director		815.801.8008	314 W. Stephenson St.
Curt Suttman	Dir. of Information Tech.		815.801.8003	314 W. Stephenson St.

DEPARTMENT CONTACT NUMBERS		
City Animal Control		815.235.8210
Community & Economic Development		815.235.8202
Police Department (<i>Non-Emergency</i>)		815.235.8222
Public Works-Street Department		815.235.8210
Water & Sewer Billing Office		815.233.0111
Trash Collection- Gills Disposal		815.233.5644

Subscribe to City of Freeport News



Join our list of subscribers and get City of Freeport's monthly e-newsletters and other important, timely updates sent directly to your e-mail using this QR code.