



FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS EDITION

City Employees of the Year

From Fire, Police, Street Dept, and City Hall, we would like to say **thank you** to the public servants who help move our city forward

IEPA Increases Lead Service Line Replacement Funding

Mayor Miller Reappointed to NLC Public Safety Committee

City Hall Closed for President's Day

City Hall and non-emergency offices will be closed on February 19th in recognition of President's Day

Freeport Public Library's Food For Fines February Fundraiser

FOOD FOR FINES

Freeport Public LIBRARY

ALL FEBRUARY LONG

ONE FOOD DONATION = \$1 OFF YOUR FINES!



More than books on a shelf.



All donations made during the Freeport Public Library's Food for Fines will be taken to the Freeport Area Church Cooperative.



From the Desk of Mayor Jodi Miller

I would like to extend a big thank you to the city street crews who worked day and night during the large snow storms in January to ensure our roads were safe for travel. Over

the course of two weeks, we experienced several days of blizzard-like conditions, which resulted in 294 employee hours logged and over 2,500 total miles of snowplowing.

[continued...](#)

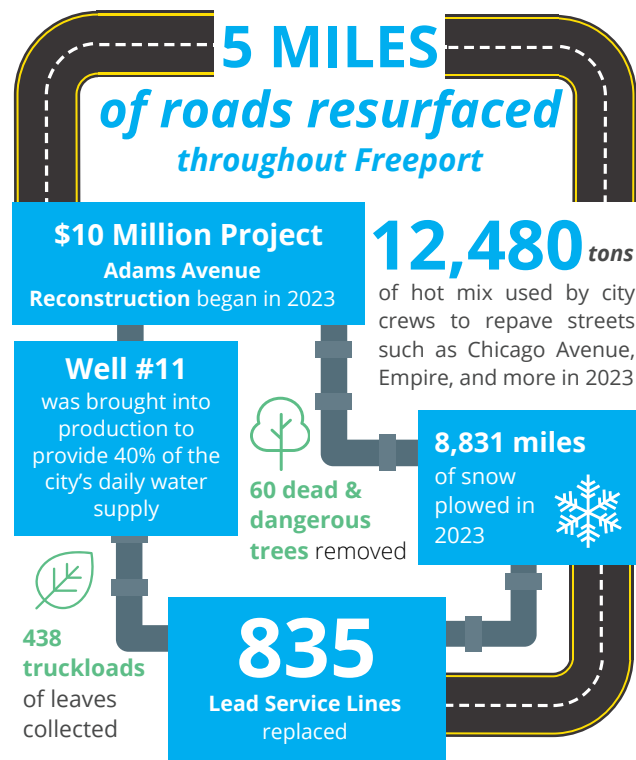
from the Mayor's Desk, cont.

Before you know it, the weather will be kind enough to us for major roadwork to begin to improve our streets. The City is working on a 2025-2028 three-year plan to repair and rebuild our road infrastructure. This creative planning process is intended to become the standard of road improvement decision-making. Furthermore, we need to decide through collaboration and cooperation how the City will fund future street improvements, as Motor Fuel Tax from the State of Illinois continues to decrease.

Looking ahead to the important projects this year, you'll see work continue on Adams Avenue. Additionally, projects to repave Bradmar, Pearl City Road, and Locust are high priorities.

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!

Department of Public Works: 2023 By the Numbers



Employees of the Year

Each year, the City of Freeport takes the time to acknowledge the hard working men and women that move the city and their departments forward. We would like to recognize the following employees that makes Freeport a great place to live, work, and play!



Freeport Police Department

- Civilian Employee of the Year: Lisa Barkalow (Pictured left)
- Officer of the Year & **City Employee of the Year**: Ptm. Brandae Hilby (Pictured right)



Freeport Fire Department

Member of the Year: Fire Marshal Hillary Broshous (Pictured left)

City Hall Employee of the Year: Kaitlyn Williams, City Accountant

Utility Employee of the Year: Doug VanHorn

City Department of the Year: Street Dept.

2024 FEMA Predisaster Mitigation Grant Update

The City will continue to administer the FEMA grant through September 2024. Currently, the City has purchased 34 properties through the PDM grant. 25 of those properties are houses, and 9 of the properties were vacant lots. 82 Appraisals have been completed, and 18 of the purchased properties have been demolished to revert the area to a natural wetlands to mitigate flooding.



CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

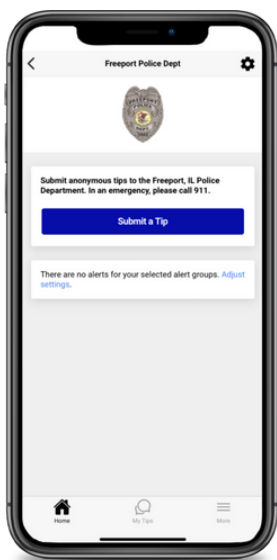
Mayor Miller Reappointed to Serve on NLC’s Public Safety & Crime Prevention Committee

Freeport Mayor Jodi Miller has been appointed to the National League of Cities (NLC) 2024 Public Safety and Crime Prevention (PSCP) Federal Advocacy Committee. Mayor Miller was reelected to a one-year term and will provide strategic direction and guidance for NLC’s federal advocacy agenda and policy priorities on public safety. The appointment was announced by NLC President Mayor David Sander of Rancho Cordova, CA.

As a member of NLC’s PSCP Committee, Mayor Miller will play a key role in shaping NLC’s policy positions and advocate on behalf of America’s cities, towns and villages before Congress, with the administration and at home.

Freeport PD Tip411: Anonymous Crime Reporting

The Freeport PD App enables the public to share an anonymous tip with police and lets officers respond back to create an anonymous two-way conversation. It is available via Google Play Store, Apple App Store, or online.



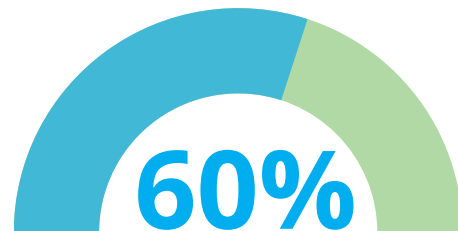
Citizens without a smartphone can share information with police by sending an anonymous text tip via their cell phone to police by texting keyword **FREEPORTPD** and their message/tip to 847411 (tip411).

Anonymous web tips can also be submitted via the department’s website at:

cityoffreeport.org/freeport-pd-tip411/

ILEPA Increases Freeport’s Successful Lead Service Line Replacement Funding

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has informed the City of Freeport that it will increase its loan forgiveness for Lead Service Line Replacements. The funding was increased from partial forgiveness on a \$2.25 million loan to *full* forgiveness funding on \$3.1 million for the project. The funding for the total Lead Service Line Replacement project throughout Freeport is approximately \$9.1 million.



of Freeport’s total Lead Service Lines replaced

The City replaced 835 lead service lines in 2023, a **164% increase** over 2022. In total, 1,300 of the City’s 2,300 Lead Service Lines have been replaced since the project started.

Keeping Fire Hydrants Clear



Please help the Freeport Fire Department keep fire hydrants clear of snow. There are several hundred fire hydrants throughout the City of Freeport. While Fire Department crews regularly clear them, this depends on crew availability. This is a huge undertaking after a snow storm.

If a fire hydrant is buried in snow, it may significantly delay the fire crew’s ability to put out the fire. By helping the Fire Department by clearing snow from a fire hydrant three feet in either direction, it may help save a life.



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

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