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April
2026

VILLAGE
OF
AIRPORT
DRIVE

The Village News

Election Day, April 7th, Polls open at 6:00am

On Election Day, April 7, 2026 terms, will expire for three Trustees, Mark Rains, Claren Holmes, and Denise Winans. Four residents have filed for candidacy. The candidates are listed in the order that they filed and as they will appear on the ballot:

Claren Holmes has resided on Joplin Street since March 2023, and has served as a Trustee since April 2024. She is currently the Chair of Municipal Building Committee. She organizes the Coffee & Donuts meetings for residents. (see page 5) Claren has served as a Stephen leader for 20 years as part of her church's Stephen Ministry.

Denise Winans has lived on Wall Street since 1999. She served on the Zoning Commission from April 2023 until she was elected as a Trustee in April 2024. She is a member of the Picnic Committee. She has served on the Board of her church, FCC, where she has been the leader of the Women's group for the last 10 years. She has served on the Board of the United Way and the Regional Health & Welfare Board.

Mark Rains has been a Pearl Street resident since 1996. He has served as a Trustee since 1997; with a one year break in 2015. He is a past Chairman and Chair Pro Tem on the Board of Trustees. He founded the Outlaws, a baseball team for college aged boys in 1996, and managed the team until 2023. Mark was an official for high school football for twenty-five years.

Jim Truelove has lived in Tabor Woods since 2017. Jim has served on the Board of the Family Resource Center in Pittsburg, KS (2018-2023), and was selected by the Kansas State Board of Education to serve on the statewide Professional Standards Board (2019-2024). Jim has also served on several local and state committees, with experience in budgets, contracts & grants.

The three candidates with the most votes will join Terry Myers and Ray Bryant on the Board of Trustees. Trustees serve two year terms and serve the entire community.
Depending on where you live, ballots will include questions for Carl Junction School Board and a Joplin Special Road District Commissioner election. All voters will have a question from Jasper County: "Shall the County of Jasper exempt eligible taxpayers from certain tax increases on eligible taxpayers' primary residence above the liability incurred during the initial credit year?" According to Jasper County Clerk Charlie Davis, passage of this question would place a cap on yearly increases to homestead property tax rates. This was signed into state law by Governor Kehoe last June, but must be approved locally by voters before it can take effect. Property taxes could still increase if a homeowner makes improvements that raise a property's assessed value, if voters approve new tax levies, or if a property becomes subject to additional taxes through annexation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Trustees will meet on the following dates at 7:00 pm:

- ◊ April 23, 2026
- ◊ May 28, 2026
- ◊ June 25, 2026

Special After the Election Meeting:
April 9, 2026 at 6 pm

The Office will be closed on the following dates:

Good Friday
April 3

Memorial Day
May 25

Begins at 6 am on May 4th

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Updates & Reminders

Meetings for the Village of Airport Drive are held at the Municipal Building on the 4th Thursday of each month (except November & December), and are open to the public, unless posted as Closed Session. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings; it's the best way to stay informed of events in the Village.

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The **Village Office** is open **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Monday through Friday, unless posted as closed. When visiting the office, park in the lot south of the building and use the south door.

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Before you burn limbs, brush, or yard waste, call **Carl Junction Fire District** at **417-649-6062**. In lieu of a burn permit, you are required to contact the CJ Fire District to confirm the conditions are okay for burning, and to let them know when and where you will be burning.

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For questions regarding **code requirements**, please call the Office at **417-623-6744**, or you can view the Code on-line through the link on our website **www.airportdrivemo.com** or at General Code's website **www.ecode360.com/AI3224**.

The **MAPS Bus Service** is now available for use by Village residents. You do need to set up an account and there are scheduling requirements. For information call **417-626-8607**.

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If you notice **any street lights not working**, call Liberty Utilities (Empire) at **800-206-2300** or the Village Office. Liberty will determine ownership and repair the light. It is helpful if you can also give Liberty (or us) the pole number, but only if you can safely see the number.

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MODOT will pick up and dispose of **large debris** &/or **dead animals** on Highways 43 & 171. Please call 888-275-6636 or 417-895-7600.

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To avoid late fees, if mailing your payment for sewer services to the office, please allow 7 days for it to reach us. The postal system is becoming slower and less reliable. There is a black box in the south parking lot marked Payments. You can drop off payments in that box as well.

If you have not received your sewer bill by the 15th of the month, please call our office. We can tell you your balance over the phone.

Changes to Building Permits and Contractor's Licenses

If you plan to work on your home, business, or property, please contact the Village Office **before** any work begins. A Building Permit is required if you are building a new home or business, changing the footprint of a structure, building or tearing out walls, doing work that involves electric wiring and/or plumbing, or building decks or fences. No building or structure shall be erected, moved, added to or structurally altered without a permit issued by the Village Office.

All contractors must be licensed to work in Airport Drive. Always ask a Contractor if they are licensed to work in the Village. You can call the office or go to the website to verify if they are licensed.

Recently adopted ordinances have added a penalty fee of $50.00 for any contractor working in Airport Drive without a Village Contractor License or anyone performing any of the above work without an Airport Drive Building Permit.

In residential areas, the fee for a Building Permit is $125.00, plus $55.00 for each anticipated inspection. The inspection fees are collected as a deposit. Any unused deposit will be refunded after approval of the final inspection; any additional fees will need to be paid.

The Fee for a Sewer Tap inspection is $150.00.

A new fence requires a permit, costing $110.00, for two inspections; a lot inspection and a final. Repairing an existing fence does not require a permit.

A roofing permit is required to re-roof a house. The fee is $110.00 for two inspections, for the underlayment and the final.

Go to our website: *www.airportdrivemo.com* for applications for Building Permits, Sewer Tap Permits, and Contractor's Licenses.

Hello Village of Airport Drive!!

Spring is here, and we've got a few quick updates for our community.

The Village's 2025 Annual Report is now available. We invite everyone to take a look by visiting the Airport Drive website to see what's been happening over the past year.

In 2025, deputies responded to 962 calls for service, resulting in 322 reports. They dedicated 4,943 hours to serving the community and drove just over 42,000 miles. Enforcement efforts included 1,007 traffic stops, leading to 138 citations and 870 warnings issued throughout Airport Drive.

We've also received several concerns about speeding, especially in the neighborhood behind the municipal building. As a reminder, the speed limit on all residential streets in the Village is 20 mph. Please slow down and help us keep our neighborhoods safe. Officers will be keeping a closer eye on this area, and citations may be issued when necessary.

With warmer weather on the way, it's also that time of year to start thinking about lawn care.

Jasper County Sheriff's Office

Keeping grass trimmed and properties maintained helps keep our community looking its best.

We will also continue our efforts to strengthen community awareness and connections through community policing. Be sure to follow the Village of Airport Drive Facebook page for upcoming events such as movie nights, the annual water balloon fight, and other opportunities to bring residents and deputies together.

As always, thank you for doing your part to make Airport Drive a great place to live.

If you need to speak with me, please contact Dispatch at 417-359-9100 and leave a good call back number or just flag me down when you see me drive by.

Sgt. Tom Crossley,
Jasper County Sheriff's Office

New Legislation from the Board of Trustees

To better guide property owners and contractors starting new construction projects, the Board of Trustees amended the Code of Ordinances to update the Land Use Permit and to create a Land Disturbance Permit. Ordinance 03-26, adopted in February 2026, states that no person, firm or corporation shall develop, alter or modify any tract of land, roadway or any Village owned utility without applying for and securing a Site Development (Land Use) Permit, and/or a Land Disturbance Permit and by complying with the requirements and procedures for grading of unimproved land and dredging and filling of land. These permits will allow the Trustees and Village Engineer Clayton Cristy to be better informed of upcoming projects, and to make sure any dirt work, drainage, and/or access is built correctly. These permits are not required for gardens or landscaping projects. The forms are available on our website, or call the office at (417) 623-6744.

Also adopted in February 2026, Ordinance 02-26 established requirements for paved surfaces and parking spaces in agricultural and residential districts. All parking spaces required per Chapter 405 shall be constructed and paved with a sealed surface of sufficient thickness of asphalt or concrete and be maintained in a manner that no dust will result from continued use. Farmhouses, one-family dwellings and accessory buildings with off-street access in Agricultural and R-1, One Family Dwelling, Districts shall have up to the first fifty (50) feet paved, from the beginning of access off of any public roadway and any required parking spaces**. This requirement only applies to new construction.**

Municipal Building Committee

The Board of Trustees will be seeking public input on a critical new infrastructure project. The current municipal building is aging and in its current layout, presenting constraints for current and future municipal needs.

In line with our Comprehensive Plan for future needs for the Village of Airport Drive, the building committee met on January 13, 2026, to discuss some of the current problems and needs of our municipal building. Committee members Ray Bryant, Steve Allgood, Debie and Marvin Heckart, Claren Holmes, Sue Hirshey, Sharon Clark, and Engineer Clayton Cristy discussed the current and future needs of our municipal building. Residents Scott Miller Platt, Brooke Truelove, Edwina Rains, and Jack and Mary Huffman were in the audience.

The following items were discussed:

1) current inadequate office space for our staff,
2) more secure office for staff,
3) a meeting room than can't accommodate a large crowd,
4) need for an office space for a future public works person,
5) better facility for the sheriff substation,
6) growing need for storage of documents and need for a fireproof plat map cabinet to protect important documents,
7) HVAC system that is 26 years old and will need to be replaced at some point,
8) better space for community activities.

The consideration before the building committee was whether to remodel our 60 year old building or build a new municipal building. It was felt that the committee needed more information from a professional architect and the building committee put out a request for proposal. Paragon Architects was the sole respondent. At the February 26 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Paragon's fee of $12,500 was approved to begin exploration of the building needs of the Village.

Jessica Struckhoff from Paragon met with staff, Steve Allgood of the Zoning Commission, our Engineer Clayton Christy, and Claren Holmes of the building committee. Paragon has set up a schedule of meetings in March and April, with the goal of drafting plans and models for both remodel and new building proposals, and cost estimates for each of these options.

The Village of Airport Drive will be hosting a public forum to present these Paragon models to the residents. During this forum, residents will be walked through both proposals, have a chance to ask questions, and most importantly, offer feedback for the Board of Trustees' consideration. A date for the public forum will be announced soon. All meetings will be open to the public.

Monday, May 4th at 6:00 a.m.

Curbside Pick Up—Please have items out the night before!!

Acceptable Items:

Couches Chairs Love Seats Dressers
Mattresses Toilets Patio Furniture

Household trash must be in receptacle

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

Appliances	Air Conditioners	Dishwashers
Hot Water Heaters	Washers & Dryers	Batteries
Tires / Oil / Filters	Dead Animals	Waste Oil
Hazardous Waste	Hazardous Materials	Explosives
Paint	Pesticides	Shingles

Yard Waste (trees/shrub trimmings, grass clippings)

If you have any questions, feel free to call Garbage Gators at 417-8-Gators (417-842-8677)
You email them at *customerservice@thegarbagegators.com*
Or
Contact the Village Office at (417) 623-6744 or a Trustee at home.

In April, we will request the water usage for all residents and businesses from the water companies, Missouri American Water, Jasper County PWSD #1, and the City of Carl Junction. The usages from January, February, and March of this year will be used to calculate averages for each property to be used for approximately the next 12 months.

If you have experienced leaks or higher than normal water usage during those three months, or if you have questions about your usage, please contact the office. We try to calculate the most accurate amount of water that enters the sewer system.

Every month, sewer billing postcards are mailed out on the last day of the month; unless the last day is Saturday or Sunday. And every month, the office receives numerous calls about bills not received, or received damaged, and/or stubs tore off. We do the best we can to bundle the postcards to try to avoid damages during mailing. We can email the bills. If you would like to receive your sewer bill by email, please contact the office at (417) 623-6744 or email us at Sue@airportdrivemo.com.

Engineer Cristy reported finding an increased amount of grease in the sewer lines. The Board of Trustees has taken steps to better monitor business's grease traps, but would also appreciate residents to help with the effort. Please do not put the following items down your drain:

Solid Food Waste: corn cobs, bones, apple cores, cooked meats, etc.
lard, butter, shortening, cooking & vegetable oils
"skim" from poultry, salad dressings, cheese, coffee grounds

While they are heated, FOG items look like any other liquid and harmless. It might seem safe to pour down the drain, But as FOG cools, it solidifies and over time will slowly build up, causing blockage in the sewer lines. The Village is working to make sure our lines are clean and flowing smoothly.

MAILING ADDRESS:
Village of Airport Drive
25150 Demott Drive
Joplin, Missouri 64801
Phone: 417-623-6744
Fax: 417-623-7839

We're on the Web
www.airportdrivemo.com

Current and Past Newsletters are available on our website. You can view or download Newsletters going back to March 2022.

We welcome all comments and suggestions for Newsletter articles. If you have memories, pictures, or letters about the community you would like to share, or upcoming events in the Village, please let us know and we might add these to future Newsletters.

Respectfully,
Board of Trustees
And Village Clerks

A Community Growing Together

Board of Trustees

Terry Myers, Chairman:	417-385-7320	April 2027
Ray Bryant, Chrmn Pro Tem:	417-782-3996	April 2027
Mark Rains, Trustee	417-825-4218	April 2026
Claren Holmes, Trustee:	417-429-5945	April 2026
Denise Winans, Trustee	239-404-8545	April 2026

Office hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Closings are posted. Any questions or problems after hours may be directed to any member of the Board of Trustees.
Board of Trustee Meetings are the 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm unless posted otherwise.

Emergency and Other Numbers

Emergency—911

Jasper County Sheriff Dispatch	417-359-9100
Aire Internet Service	855-943-8247
Carl Junction Fire District	417-649-6062 (non-emergency)
Carl Junction Post Office	417-649-7831
Carl Junction Sewer Plant	417-649-7229
City of Carl Junction Water	417-649-7237
Dig Rite (MO One Call)	800-344-7483
Garbage Gators (trash service)	417-842-8677
Joplin Airport	417-623-0262
Joplin Post Office	417-623-6176
Liberty/Empire Electric	800-206-2300
Humane Society	417-623-3642
Jasper County Rural Water #1	417-781-8844
Mediacom	800-234-2157
MO American Water	866-430-0820
Sparklight	866-983-2409
Spire (MO Gas Energy)	800-582-1234
Webb City Post Office	417-673-4346
Wisper Internet	800-765-7772

Village of Airport Drive
25150 Demott Drive
Joplin, Missouri 64801

April 2026 Newsletter

2025 Christmas Lights Contest Winners

1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Dean & Katie Sitton	Jim & Brooke Truelove	Duane Ferraro
6421 Geneva Drive	25285 Tabor Main Rd	25459 Tabor Main Rd

Thank you to everyone that decorated for the holiday! Sergeant Tom Crossley selected his top three properties. Prizes were awarded during the December 18, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting.