August 6, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Joliet Park District

Ribbon Cutting Celebrates Venue Ninety-Eight at the Barber & Oberwortmann Horticultural Center

On August 5, 2026 The Joliet Park District proudly celebrated the official ribbon cutting of Venue Ninety-Eight, the newly renovated wedding and event venue located within the Barber & Oberwortmann Horticultural Center at Bird Haven Greenhouse.

Since the Horticultural Center opened in 1998, it has served as a treasured gathering place for weddings, celebrations, and community events. With its recent renovation and the introduction of Venue Ninety-Eight, the space enters an exciting new chapter while continuing to honor the generosity of donors Andrew B. Barber and Clarence D. Oberwortmann, whose contributions helped make the Horticultural Center possible.

The renovation reflects the Joliet Park District's commitment to preserving this beloved destination while enhancing the guest experience with modern amenities, refreshed interiors, and timeless elegance.

Executive Director Brad Staab thanked the Joliet Park District staff for their dedication in bringing the renovation of Venue Ninety-Eight to life. He recognized Human Resources Manager Angie Boyce for leading the project during a staff transition and Event Manager Stephanie Burns for guiding it to completion and creating memorable experiences for future couples and guests. Staab also thanked the Joliet Park Board for its continued leadership and support throughout the project.

Sue Gulas, President of the Joliet Park Board, expressed her excitement to celebrate this milestone and officially introduce Venue Ninety-Eight. President Gulas said “Many of the people joining us today have celebrated weddings and other special occasions here over the years. It is especially meaningful to welcome them back to see the beautifully renovated facility and celebrate the next chapter of a place that has created so many memories."

The ribbon-cutting celebration welcomed representatives from the City of Joliet, Will County, Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce, Joliet Park Foundation, community organizations, local businesses, and residents. Guests toured the renovated venue, including its new bridal and groom suites, sampled menu offerings from Venue Ninety-Eight's caterer, Fundare, LLC, owned by Chef Alexis Ramos and Chef Paul Bringas, and learned more about the venue's offerings for weddings, receptions, corporate events, and other special occasions.

Whether planning a dream wedding or a memorable gathering, Venue Ninety-Eight at Bird Haven Greenhouse offers an elegant setting within one of the Joliet Park District's most unique facilities. Featuring a tranquil koi pond, cascading waterfall, and stunning greenhouse showrooms.

To learn more, view photos, schedule a tour, or inquire about booking an event, visit
https://www.venueninetyeight.com/

Venue Ninety-Eight
227 N. Gougar Rd, Joliet, IL 60432
(815) 207-6423

Stephanie Burns, Event Manager | sburns@jolietpark.org

Tours available by appointment Monday-Sunday 9am-5pm