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Frank Walsh, City Manager
St. Joseph City Hall
700 Broad Street
P.O. Box 48
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085-0048
Phone: 269-983-5541
Fax: 269-985-0346
email: info@sjcity.com

We're on the Web!
www.sjcity.com

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR March / April 2013

March 7th: Planning Commission 4:30 pm	March 27th: Parks Advisory Board 8am Harbor Authority Board 12pm	April 17th: Pension Board 9am DDA 1pm Water Board 4pm
March 10th: Daylight Savings Time begins	March 28th: MEDIC I 8:30am	April 18th: Airport Authority 9:30am Joint Wastewater 11am Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30pm
March 11th: Board of Review 9am – 12pm City Commission meeting 6pm	March 29th: Good Friday, City Hall closed SJPS closed and spring break begins	April 22nd: City water bills due City Commission meeting 6pm Earth Day
March 13th: Board of Review 9am – 12pm; 6pm – 9pm	March 30th: Easter Eggstravaganza (SJT)	April 23rd: Library Board 7pm
March 14th: Housing Commission 8:30am	April 1st: City Park Passes required through October 31st	April 24th: Parks Advisory Board 8am Harbor Authority 12pm
March 17th: St. Patrick's Day	April 1st: Yard waste container pickup begins	April 25th: MEDIC I 8:30am Cemetery Board 9am
March 18th: TwinCats meeting 9:30am	April 8th: Last day to register for May election SJPS resumes	
March 20th: Spring begins DDA meeting 1pm Water Board 4pm	April 11th: Planning Commission 4:30pm	
March 21st: Airport Authority meeting 9:30am Joint Wastewater Board Meeting 11am Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30pm	April 12th: Last day for Blossomtime Vendor Permits	
March 25th: City Commission meeting 6pm	April 15th: Income taxes due TwinCATs 9:30am	
March 26th: Library Board 7pm		

Effective immediately, our new mailing address is: 700 Broad Street, P.O. Box 48, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085-0048



March/April 2013 Newsletter Volume 19, Issue 2

CITY CONNECTION

Your Connection to City Hall and the People Who **SERVE** You

DDA Sets Lofty Goals

Written by Susan Solon, Director of Communications, Marketing & Aesthetics



SHIP STREET AND MAIN PROPOSED CORNER VIEW

Parking lot improvements is one of the priorities for the DDA. This rendering by Abonmarche Consultants, shows the DDA's future vision.



SHIP STREET PROPOSED ELEVATION

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
SHIP AND MAIN PARKING LOT
ABONMARCHE

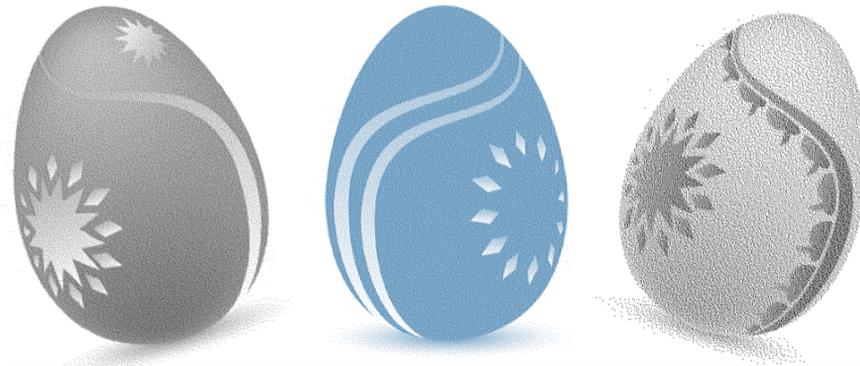
Your City Commission continues to be a strong advocate of a viable downtown. In fact, as part of their top goals for 2013, they directed staff to 'Continue our efforts to promote St. Joseph as a great place to live, work and play. When considering new events and promotions work to insure the events are harmonious with guests as well as residents. Continue to use public art, weekly movies, special events/venues and the appearance of the community as reasons people will want to visit and invest in our city.'

Another entity that keeps a close eye on the central business district is the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The DDA, a city board comprised of 9 members who have a strong interest in the downtown, works

exclusively to maintain a thriving downtown district. These dedicated volunteers recently developed their 5-year goals and objectives, which the City Commission approved at their February 25, 2013 meeting. To view all 13 goals and objectives, please visit the City's website at www.sjcity.com or call 983-5541 to receive a copy of the presentation.

At their next meeting on March 20th, the DDA will prioritize their goals and welcomes your feedback. If you would like to comment, please feel free to attend the meeting on March 20th at 1 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers here at City Hall or send an email to ssolon@sjcity.com prior to the meeting.

Easter Eggstravaganza in Downtown St. Joseph



Hop into Spring with St. Joseph Today! On Saturday, March 30, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., St. Joseph Today will be hosting all kinds of Easter fun! Participate in a downtown egg hunt, be mesmerized by a magician, get in on some face painting action and more! Plus, visit with the Easter Bunny.

Check out www.stjoetoday.com for more information or call 985-1111.

Important Information to Keep Handy

The What, Where and When about Household Hazardous Waste

Items accepted include home, garden, and garage chemicals, batteries, home medical waste and sharps/needles, and more.

- April 10, 3-7 p.m. at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor
- May 18, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at S.E. Berrien County Landfill, Buchanan
- June 12, 3-7 p.m. at Lakeshore High School,
- June 22, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at River Valley Senior Center,
- July 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Watervliet High School
- August 21, 3-7 p.m. at Berrien County Youth Fair Grounds, Berrien Springs
- September 14, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at County Environmental Health Dept., Benton Harbor
- September 28, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at New Buffalo City Fire Dept.
- October 19, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at S.E. Berrien County Landfill, Buchanan

Pill & Liquid Medication Waste – Permanent Drop-Boxes (sharps not accepted)

- Sheriff's Department Lobby, 919 Port St., St. Joseph, open Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- New Buffalo Police Department Lobby, 224 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, open Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Niles Law Enforcement Complex, 1600 Silverbrook Ave., Niles, open 24-hours

Electronics Recycling Drop-off Locations

Check out www.berriencounty.org/recycle, click "Electronics" for more e-waste recycling outlets and one-day community collection events.

Tire Recycling Collections

- Spring: May 2, 3-7 p.m. and May 3, 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at County Road Commission, 2860 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor
- Fall: September 5, 3-7 p.m. and September 6, 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at County Road Commission, 1940 Bakertown Rd., Buchanan
- Fee: \$1/Passenger Tire; \$2/Passenger Tire on Rim; \$5/Semi Truck Tire; \$10/Oversize-Loader Tire

Look for updates throughout the year at www.berriencounty.org/recycle.

Library News

There are great things going on at the library! Find out what's happening by going to stjoseph.lib.mi.us and click on the calendar page tab for an overview of all the fun programs planned over the next two months. You can also find the library on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/St-Joseph-Maud-Preston-Palenske-Memorial-Library

- If you are a fan of Trivia, be prepared to test your knowledge and match wits with the best of them at "Hodgepodge of Trivia" Fundraiser event on April 19th in conjunction with the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center.
- The Friends of the St. Joseph Library Book Sale date of April 17-20 is fast approaching. Our wonderful Friends have been busy sorting books and preparing for this annual smorgasbord of literature for all ages. If you've got books you want to donate, they'd love to have them! Drop them by the library anytime.
- Check out their newest book club offering "The Moveable Feast." Join Marnie Heyn, discussion leader, and Lisa Micunek, representing Martin's Supermarket and School of Cooking sponsored by KitchenAid, at noon at the St. Joseph Public Library. Book club participants will explore delectable literary choices with Marnie while Lisa provides a tasty treat along with some culinary history tied to the book. You're also welcome to bring some lunch along to this "moveable feast" lunchtime book club. Upcoming titles are:
 March 6th – "Chocolat" – Joanne Harris;
 April 10th – "The Apprentice: My Life in the Kitchen" – Jacques Pepin;
 May 1st – "Julie and Julia: 365 Days, 524 recipes, and 1 tiny apartment kitchen" – Julie Powell



Planes, Trains & Helicopters

This year's 27 artists have been chosen, are in possession of their molds and are happily painting away! This is our 10th year with displaying art on the streets throughout the downtown and a major component to its success is our talented artists and generous sponsors who enthusiastically partner with the city each year to bring forth the best display. On average, each artist spends approximately 300 hours creating their masterpiece. We appreciate their passion and commitment to our community. Thank you.

Please save the date of Friday, May 17th at 5:30 p.m. when this year's art is unveiled and we kick off the summer season.

City Park Passes

On April 1st, a \$5.00 entry fee, or a \$35 seasonal pass, will be needed for non-city residents to use both Lions Park and Tiscornia Park. City residents may pick up their free park pass after April 1st at the Clerk's Office at City Hall. You will need to show picture I.D. in order to obtain your free parks pass; a maximum of (2) free passes per household will be given. Please be aware that if you utilize these two city parks without your parks pass being affixed to your vehicle (lower left-hand corner of your windshield), you will be ticketed and have to pay a \$10 fine. Both city and non-city residents will be charged at the city boat launch, located on Anchor's Court on Marina Island, and that fee is \$5 per car/trailer parking, or a \$35 season pass, which can be purchased as well through the Clerk's Office.

Please remember that seasonal city park passes cannot be utilized at the Whirlpool Fountain lot, located just south of the Fountain. All vehicles, both city and non-city residents, must pay a \$5 daily use fee to park in that lot.

Board of Review

If you wish to appeal your assessment, you need to call the Assessor's office at 983-1231 to schedule an appointment for either March 11th or 13th. The Board of Review meets on March 11th from 9am – noon and 1 – 4pm; and again on March 13th from 9am – 12pm and 6 – 9pm.

Howard Ice Arena

Just a reminder that the John and Dede Howard Ice Arena will be closing mid-March. You may want to call before heading out to skate at 983-8795.

Safety Reminders from our Public Safety Department

As the temperatures begin to warm during the months of March and April, please use extreme caution when walking on inland lakes and ponds. During these months, ice begins to thaw and the thickness of the ice becomes unsafe. The ice along the shoreline of Lake Michigan is not a safe place to walk either due to the constant change in water currents, which makes the ice weak.

Also, April is a good month to check out your bicycles to ensure they are safe to ride. Please make sure your bicycle has proper safety equipment, including a helmet, in order to travel on roadways. You must obtain a license from City Hall if you plan to ride your bicycle on public streets or highways within the city. The license fee is \$2 and can be obtained through the Police Department. You may want to carry a lock to secure your bicycle when you are parked in an open area. Most of all, remember to observe all traffic laws related to riding your bicycle on the roadway. Be safe!

Yard Waste

April is spring cleaning month! Take the time to not only spring clean the inside of your home, but your yard as well. As the snow cover melts away, trash that has been hidden all winter long stands out like a sore thumb. Let's all take an extra minute or two to properly dispose of this debris. Public Works begins picking up yard waste April 1st.

St. Joseph Housing Commission Lake View Terrace Highrise

The St. Joseph Housing Commission waiting list is open for efficiency, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments located at their low-income, elderly, and disabled facility - Lake View Terrace Highrise, 601 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085. An applicant must be 62 years of age or permanently disabled and meet income standards to qualify. An application and qualification checklist may be picked up at the Management Office of Lake View Terrace, 601 Port Street, St. Joseph – Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or call (269) 983-2814 for further information. There is no application fee.

