

Coming to Lions Park Beach Spring of 2013!



Proposed Restroom Facility Design

will replace the existing small and heavily used restroom facility that is currently located in the park. The new restroom facility will be larger in size and better designed to handle the increased number of users in the popular beach park. The restroom facility will also have separate changing rooms and beach showers for bathers to use.

Thanks to you, park visitors and a grant from the State of Michigan, the City will begin construction of a new restroom, picnic pavilion and accessible beach path at Lions Park Beach this spring 2013. As one of the top five (5) goals in the 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City pursued a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$247,100 to construct the facilities at Lions Park Beach. In the summer of 2012 we received news that we were successful with our grant application! The project

In addition to the new restroom, the City will also construct a new picnic pavilion with tables that will be available to rent for parties, family gatherings and events similar to the two existing pavilions currently available. The final part of the project will be an accessible path out into the beach towards the lake to provide accessibility for people who find it difficult to cross the sand, but want to be closer to shore. Our goal is to have the project completed and ready for everyone to use and enjoy by Memorial Day 2013.

City of St. Joseph Used Equipment Sale

The City of St. Joseph is accepting sealed bids through the end of business on Monday, November 26, 2012 for the purchase of any or all of the following items:

- ITEM #1 - 1995 Ford F-150 Pickup**
- ITEM #2 - 1992 Dodge D200 Pickup**
- ITEM #3 - 1994 International 4700 Dump Truck with Salt Box**
- ITEM #4 - 1991 Chevrolet Caprice**

Items are available for inspection Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the City of St. Joseph Public Works Department located at 1160 Broad Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

All envelopes containing sealed bids should be clearly marked as 'Sealed Equipment Bid' and mailed to the St. Joseph City Clerk at 700 Broad Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Please specify the item number and equipment description with your bid amount. No bids will be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 26, 2012.



November/December 2012 Newsletter Volume 18, Issue 6

CITY CONNECTION

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

ST. JOSEPH IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volunteer group has long history of giving

IN THE EARLY 1950's, the St. Joseph Improvement Association (SJIA) was formed under the leadership of the late People's State Bank President John Stubblefield. Mr. Stubblefield served as Bank President from 1932-1977. He cared deeply about the future of St. Joseph and made it his personal mission to do what he could to care, preserve and enhance St. Joseph. Mr. Stubblefield, and a group of loyal St. Joseph followers, founded the SJIA as a means to advance St. Joseph through the purchase of real estate for development and public uses.

John Stubblefield said SJIA's mission was to work together to make the area a better place to live. He particularly hoped that development would bolster the St. Joseph school system. At that time, school districts were funded through local property taxes, and John was aware that residential homes alone did not provide the tax base needed to support a school district of the quality he felt the community deserved. Every new development was seen as an investment, not just in the community but as an opportunity to improve the school system, for the benefit of the students.

More recently, under the direction of President Bob Gerbel, the SJIA has blessed the community with strong support for the Light up the Bluff program, original founder of the downtown public art, the median flowers on Main Street and the St. Joseph Public Schools welcoming

sign on Lakeshore Drive. In 2004 the city approached the SJIA Board of Directors with a crazy, unproven idea of placing public art on the downtown streets as a method to bring the artist community together and promote tourism, supporting our hotels and downtown shop owners. The initial \$50,000 gift from the group is what allowed the city to move forward with public art. Today, St. Joseph is heralded as the "Public Art Capital of Michigan".

In 1997 there was a push to "spruce up" Main Street with planting roses in the medians. The funding for the program started with the SJIA and carries over today with the group funding the median beautification program. The program has evolved from roses in the spring to a summer filled with annuals, perennials, and beach grasses. The medians look awesome and once again we have the SJIA to thank for their inspiration to fund the program from Day One.

Finding a way to add Christmas lights and a winter attraction on the bluff was just a dream in 2005. Our goal was to add a new attraction that would bring people downtown in the winter to help support our merchants. Once again, the SJIA stepped up with a plan to Light Up the Bluff with thousands of lights and decorations sure to please those looking for a little "holiday cheer". Light Up the Bluff has been a huge hit since 2006 and, in 2010, we added music to the mix and the bluff continues to be a sentimental winter

wonderland in the months of December, January and February.

Additionally, it was the St. Joseph Improvement Association's financial support which allowed us to purchase the one hundred American flags you see around town, along Lake Bluff Park, in the city cemeteries, and in front of City Hall during patriotic holidays such as July 4th and Veterans Day.

The city truly appreciates the unparalleled support we have received from the St. Joseph Improvement Association. We encourage you to consider becoming a member of the organization by making a tax deductible donation to the St. Joseph Improvement Association by December 31, 2012. Please help them help us!

Your gift will continue allowing us to provide public art, Light Up the Bluff and the gorgeous medians. To donate, please fill the form below and send to the address provided.

On behalf of the St. Joseph City Commission and staff, we wish you a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2013!

Frank L. Walsh
City Manager

FOR POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALL 911

Annual Neighborhood Meetings.

Please join us as we share the city's 2012 accomplishments and 2013 goals. We welcome your questions about your city and/or specific neighborhood. Cookies and punch will be served.

Precinct 2: Monday, December 3rd at 6 p.m.
Precinct 3: Monday, December 17th at 6 p.m.



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St. Joseph, MI 49085-1276

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email: info@sjcity.com

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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| Nov. 19th: Precinct 1 meeting 6pm
City Commission meeting 7pm | Dec. 7th: Community Tree Lighting Ceremony 6:30pm |
| Nov. 21st: DDA 1pm
Water Board 4pm | Dec. 11th: Board of Review 1:30pm |
| Nov. 22nd: Thanksgiving, City Hall, Library & SJPS closed
No rubbish collection | Dec. 17th: Precinct 3 meeting 6pm
City Commission 7pm |
| Nov. 23rd: Thanksgiving Holiday observed, City Hall closed
Thursday's rubbish collected | Dec. 19th: DDA 1pm
Water Board 4pm |
| Nov. 27th: Library Board 7pm | Dec. 20th: MEDIC 1 8:30am
Airport Authority 9:30am
Zoning Board 4:30pm |
| Nov. 28th: Parks Advisory Board 8am | Dec. 21st: Winter begins |
| Nov. 30th: Winter Tax bills mailed
Last day for yard waste container pickup | Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve, City Hall and Library closed |
| Dec. 1st: Reindog Holiday Parade (SJT) | Dec. 25th: Christmas Day, City Hall, Library and SJPS closed
No rubbish collection |
| Dec. 3rd: Precinct 2 meeting 6pm
City Commission meeting 7pm
Dog licenses available at City Clerk's Office through 2/28/13 | Dec. 26th: Tuesday's rubbish collected
Parks Advisory Board 8am |
| Dec. 6th: Planning Commission 4:30pm | Dec. 27th: Wednesday's rubbish collected |
| | Dec. 28th: Thursday's rubbish collected |
| | Dec. 31st: New Year's Eve, City Hall open; Library closed |

I am interested in becoming a member. Please send me more information.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

I am not interested in becoming a member, but please accept my one time contribution of \$ _____ and made payable to the SJIA.

Please return to: St. Joseph Improvement Association (SJIA), c/o Robert Gerbel, P.O. BOX 44, Gerbel & Company, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085; rgerbel@qtm.net/983-0534.

John and Dede Howard Ice Arena

2414 Willa Drive, St. Joseph • 983-8795 • www.sjcity.com

**Open Thanksgiving Day through mid-March
2012 - 2013 Public Skate Hours:**

Monday and Tuesday: 11am - 1pm
Wednesday: 11am - 5pm
Thursday: 11am - 3pm
Friday: 11am - 6pm
Saturday: 6pm - 10pm
Sunday: 2pm - 6pm

SPECIAL OPEN SKATE HOURS THANKSGIVING DAY WEEKEND:

Thanksgiving Day: 4 - 10pm
Friday, Nov. 23rd: 12pm - 10pm
Saturday, Nov. 24th: 6 - 10pm
Sunday, Nov. 25th: 2 - 6pm

*We accept only cash or checks.
No credit or debit cards please.*

Happy Skating!



Congratulations to Miss Southwest Michigan, Sydney Harner, who was honored with a street sign by the St. Joseph City Commission at a recent meeting. City Manager Frank Walsh spent the day on October 20th as a judge for the Miss Southwest Pageant.



Alex Rutherford broke the all-time leading rushing record recently for St. Joseph High School. Alex rushed for 2,895 yards breaking Mike Ryan's record (2,366) from 1972-74. Pictured are Mike Ryan handing over the football record to Alex at a recent City Commission meeting. Congratulations Alex!



#2 in Michigan - Dynasty!

Holiday Fun with Light Up the Bluff and Live Mannequins!

On Friday, December 7 get ready to celebrate the holidays with two merry events!

St. Joseph Improvement Association's Light Up the Bluff

To begin the festive season, the St. Joseph High School Choir, directed by Choir Director Beth Gray, will begin singing Christmas Carols at 6 p.m. in Lake Bluff Park and at 6:30 p.m. sharp, all are invited to join the Mayor as he lights the Community Christmas Tree and the entire bluff becomes a winter wonderland. Thank you St. Joseph Improvement Association for all that you do for our community.

Live Mannequins!

St. Joseph Today welcomes an exciting new event to downtown: Live Mannequins! From 7 p.m. - 8:30p.m. holiday cheer will come alive in storefronts and windows of participating downtown businesses.

Volunteers from the community will pose perfectly still, like mannequins, as they depict scenes from classic holiday stories, scenes and nostalgic lore. This event is sponsored by the Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council and St. Joseph Today. For more information visit stjoetoday.com or call 269-985-1111.



Reindog Holiday Parade

Kick off the holiday season by coming downtown Saturday, December 1, 2012 to see the annual Reindog Holiday Parade, which will feature dressed up pets and their owners in a variety of holiday garb. Be prepared to see all kinds of costumes from "Santa Bernards" to "Reindeer Rotweilers" - this is definitely a must-see event. The parade will start at 4 p.m. and will also feature Santa's arrival. First, second and third-place prizes will be awarded for the best-dressed pet and best group, so bring your competitive spirit! Call 269-985-1111 for more details.

Public Art Display



We hope you enjoy next year's public art display, which will line the streets in downtown St. Joseph from Memorial Day - September 28th.

Thoughts on Short-term Rentals?

The City Commission has enacted a moratorium until March 15, 2013, on applications for new short-term rentals (STRs) in single-family and two-family zoned residential neighborhoods in the city. As most residents know a new ordinance was adopted in early 2007 regulating short-term rentals. The ordinance requires zoning approval for new short-term rentals as well as inspection and operational requirements. The City is reviewing these ordinances in light of the community's experience over the last five years to determine how the city can better protect our residents and the quality of our residential neighborhoods.

Some residents have continued to express concerns that these uses simply weaken residential neighborhoods and should not continue to be permitted, while others have indicated they are important to the local economy and can be compatible if well managed. As a resident or property owner, what do you think? Have you had experiences with short-term rentals, whether positive or negative? Do you have suggestions for how short-term rentals should be regulated? Please send any written comments you may have to the City of St. Joseph, attn.: Community Development Director John Hodgson, 700 Broad Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085 or e-mail your thoughts to jhodgson@sjcity.com.