



CITY OF
St. Joseph

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

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Park Passes for use at Lions Park, Tiscornia Park, and Elm Street Parking Lot

On April 1st, a \$5.00 entry fee, or a seasonal pass will be needed to use Lions Park, Tiscornia Park, and, new this year, the Elm Street lot (south of Whirlpool Compass Fountain). Seasonal passes are free to city residents while non-city residents

will be charged \$40. You may pick up your park pass at the City Clerk's Office; a maximum of two (2) free passes per household will be given. Please be aware that if you utilize these city parks and beaches 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. The only city location where all users, both city and non-city residents, will be charged is 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.



St. Joseph Today's Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 19th from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. join in the festivities in downtown St. Joseph, including face painting, hunting for the Golden Egg and having your photo taken with the Easter Bunny. For more information about the events on that day, call 985-1111 or visit www.stjoetoday.com/all-events.



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March/April 2014 Newsletter Volume 20, Issue 2

CITY CONNECTION

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- March 13 Housing Commission 8:30am
- March 14 – 16 Diva Days (SJT)
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
Howard Ice Arena closes for the season
- March 18 TwinCATS 9:30am
- March 19 Water Service Joint Operating Board 4pm
- March 20 Spring begins
DDA 8:30am
Airport Authority 9:30am
Joint Wastewater Board 11am
Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30pm
- March 24 City Commission meeting 6pm
- March 25 Library Board 6pm
- March 26 Parks Advisory Board 8am
- March 27 MEDIC I 8:30am
Spring Break begins at end of day for SJPS
- March 28 - 30 LEGO Brick Big City Build (SJT)
- April 1 City Park Passes required through December 31st
Yard Waste Container Pickup Begins
- April 7 Last day to register to vote in May election
SJPS reconvenes
Hazardous Waste Collection (www.berriencounty.org)
- April 9 Planning Commission 4:30pm
- April 14 City Commission meeting 6pm
- April 15 Tax Day
TwinCATS 9:30am
- April 16 Pension Board 9am
Water Services Joint Operating Board 4pm
DDA 8:30am
- April 17 Airport Authority 9:30am
Joint Wastewater Board 11am
Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30pm
- April 18 Good Friday
City Hall, Library and SJPS closed
- April 19 Easter Eggstravaganza 11am (SJT)
- April 20 Easter Sunday
- April 21 City water bills due
- April 22 Library Board 6pm
- April 24 MEDIC I 8:30am
Cemetery Board 9am
- April 25 Arbor Day
- April 28 Shoe Box Float Parade/Blossomtime Festival 4:30pm
- April 30 Parks Advisory Board 8am
- May 1 Planning Commission 4:30pm
- May 3 Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade 1pm
Library closed
City Hall will be open for voting until 2 pm
- May 4 Antiques on the Bluff (SJT)
- May 5 Cinco De Mayo
- May 6 Election Day 7am – 8pm

Help save our lighthouses

Committee launches fundraising campaign to restore and preserve our historical lights

After withstanding more than 100 years of severe weather and Lake Michigan's pounding waves, our lighthouses might not survive without your help. That's why the Lighthouse Forever Fund Committee is launching a campaign to raise \$2 million to restore and preserve the inner and outer lighthouses and catwalk after the federal government deeded them to the City in August 2013. The Lighthouse Forever Fund Committee consists of Honorary Chairs John Carter, M.D., Merlin Hanson, Steve Upton, David Whitwam as well as committee members Bob Judd, Joen Brambilla, David Burghart, Fran Chickering, Rick Dyer, Bill Hanley, Millicent Huminsky, Bill Johnson, Bill Marohn, Pat Moody, Jeff Noel, Bill Schalk, Jill Stone, Mike Thieneman and Amy White. We thank them for their insight, hard work and dedication in keeping these historic beacons at the forefront of our community.



The City took advantage of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act that allows local governments to take possession of lighthouses declared no longer necessary to aid navigation. The U.S. Coast Guard deemed St. Joseph's lighthouses as surplus in 2008.

"Imagine looking out across the lake and not seeing them," said former mayor Bob Judd, chairman of the committee.

"We needed to take possession of our lighthouses to save them for future generations," Bob said. "At the time they were declared surplus, no other parties expressed interest in saving them. Because the federal government is no longer maintaining them, the lighthouses would have continued to deteriorate until they were removed. If we lose them, we lose a part of ourselves."

Losing the lighthouses would likely hurt our economy because they serve as an important tourist attraction. It would also hurt generations of residents who see the lighthouses as part of our region's identity.

Restoration is planned for 2015 if the fundraising goal is met. The North Pier will be closed to the public during the restoration.

The Lighthouse Forever Fund committee is working with the Berrien Community Foundation to raise money through private donations because the City does not have the resources to fund the repair and restoration. After full restoration, the City will fund ongoing maintenance through General Fund tax revenues. In addition, the City is working with The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center to handle education such as interpretive displays and tours.

Stay tuned as this very important campaign is rolled out in 2014. Please help save your lighthouses by donating to the Lighthouse Forever Fund. You can contact the Berrien Community Foundation at 983-3304, the City Clerk's Office at (269) 983-6325 or visit www.lighthouseforeverfund.org.

Recycling in St. Joseph City has come a long way!



The recycle cart looks like your trash cart except it has a tan lid and the recycle cart lid includes a recycling instructional sticker. Many St. Joseph residents switched out their small recycling bin for the recycle cart on wheels in February. If you have not received a new recycling cart, it's not too late. Call Best Way Disposal, 269-463-3232, or learn more at www.bestway-disposal.com.

The Single-Stream Recycling program means residents can place all accepted recyclables together in the same cart – no separating necessary. Accepted recyclables include cardboard, food boxes (flatten all boxes), mixed paper/junk mail, newspaper, magazines, plastic bottles & jugs, glass bottles & jars, metal food & beverage cans, hard & soft cover books, paper bags, and Styrofoam.

Recycling Program Tips:

Do your part to keep the program running efficiently and reduce contamination by only recycling the accepted items listed above. Items can be placed loose in the recycle cart, no need to bag them. For items that are not accepted in your curbside recycling cart but should not go in the trash either (such as oil-based paint, electronics, tires, etc.) see the Berrien County Recycling Guide at www.berriencounty.org/recycle.

Less than 50% of the St. Joseph City residents who have access to the single-stream curbside recycling program are actually participating. Now that it's even easier and more efficient to recycle, let's get everyone onboard!

Recycling = Good Business

Best Way Disposal utilizes three Material Recovery Facilities (MRF's) in Michigan and Indiana to sort the recyclable materials. The materials are then baled and sent to manufacturers to be used as "raw material" in their production process.

Recycling = Healthy Environment

In 2013, St. Joseph City diverted 341 tons of waste from going to a landfill by choosing to recycle instead. All the natural resources that went into making those products the first time around are conserved through recycling and put to further use in new recycled products.

Recycling = Community Stewardship

St. Joseph City residents of all ages can recycle, today. Taking responsibility for one's own waste and diverting as much as possible to reuse and recycling is even easier and more convenient now with the new recycle carts.

MAY 6, 2014 SCHOOL ELECTION

On Tuesday, May 6, 2014 the City of St. Joseph will hold a Special Election. The ballot will include two (2) proposals by St. Joseph Public Schools to renew current school millages.

Proposal 1 would allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2014 tax levy.

Proposal 2 would allow the school district to continue to levy the currently authorized millage rate of 0.9946 mills (\$0.9946 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) assessed against all property in St. Joseph Public Schools, Berrien County, Michigan, for an additional 10 years, 2016 to 2025, inclusive. This millage provides for a sinking fund for the construction, maintenance and/or repair of school buildings and other purposes



- Precinct 1 – Library – 500 Market Street
- Precinct 2 – Howard Ice Arena – 2414 Willa Drive
- Precinct 3 – Zion Evangelical UCC Church – 3001 Veronica Drive

For information on how to obtain an absent voter ballot, confirm your registration, check your polling location or work as an election inspector at the polls, please call the City Clerk's Office at 983-6325.

You may also check your voter status or polling location at www.sjcity.com; just click on the Michigan Voter Information Center link, then enter your voter information.

See you at the polls!

REMINDER: Electors who wish to vote in the May 6, 2014 Special Election must be registered no later than **April 7, 2014**. To register, visit any Secretary of State Branch Office, the County Clerk's Office or the St. Joseph City Clerk's Office.

authorized by law. If approved, the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect the first year of the levy (2016) is approximately \$950,000. This is a renewal of millage that will expire with 2015 tax levy.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2014. Please take note of our permanent polling locations:

April is Fair Housing Month

April marks the 46th anniversary of the passing of the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968. This act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of dwellings on the basis of race, color, religion, sex and national origin. The 1988 amendment to this Act prohibits discrimination based on disability and familial status. There have been many laws implemented over the years that protect all individuals in respect to housing, e.g. ADA Act of 1990, Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, etc. It is the responsibility of all housing providers to prevent discrimination and to ensure that their staff abide by these laws. Different types of housing discrimination include: refusal to rent or sell housing on the basis of the above mentioned categories, setting different terms or conditions, advertising or making statements that indicate limits or preferences, steering applicants to



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

Individuals who feel that they have a fair housing claim can call (800) 765-9372 (Chicago - HUD Regional Office) or the Southwest Michigan Fair Housing Office at (866) 637-0733.

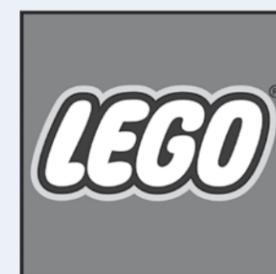
Join the St. Joseph City Commission and the St. Joseph Housing Commission in promoting fair housing to all individuals - not only during the month of April - but throughout the year.

other housing based on their protected class or retaliation against someone who has filed a fair housing complaint.



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. Best Way begins picking up yard waste April 1st. Public Works will pick up leaves until May 16.



Second Annual Build Your Way Around Town LEGO Event

Show us your best beacon in our Lighthouse LEGO Contest!

The Second Annual Build Your Way Around Town event, March 1 – April 6, features LEGO brick building activities, family-friendly concerts, displays, competitions and a Big Build by LEGO professionals being held March 27 – 30. Event sites include Box Factory for the Arts, Curious Kids' Museum, Krasl Art Center, St. Joseph/Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library, Shadowland Ballroom, Silver Beach Carousel, the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center and St. Joseph Today. To find out the schedule of events and competition information, please visit facebook.com/BuildYourWayAroundTown.

Speaking of competition, the City is teaming up with St. Joseph Today to host the Lighthouse LEGO Build competition which will take place the week of March 31st. We invite artists of all ages to build their own lighthouses from LEGO bricks. To enter the Lighthouse LEGO Building competition, builders must download a submission form at www.stjoetoday.com/LEGO. Lighthouse models will be displayed at local businesses and other sites around town until kickoff of the Shining Sculptures public art exhibit.