



CITY CONNECTION

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dec 22: Winter begins
- Dec 23: Library closes at 6 p.m.
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve, City Hall and Library closed
Normal rubbish schedule
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day, City Hall and Library closed
- Dec. 28: City Commission meeting cancelled
- Dec. 31: New Year's Eve, City Hall open/Library closed
- Jan. 1: New Year's Day, City Hall and Library closed
- Jan. 4: City residents can begin to reserve city parks for 2017
SJPS resume classes
- Jan. 6: January series begins at Library 12:30 p.m.
- Jan. 7: Planning Commission 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 11: City Commission 6 p.m.
- Jan. 14: Parks Advisory Board 8:00 a.m.
Housing Commission 8:30 a.m.
- Jan. 16: Library closed
- Jan. 18: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
City Hall, Library & SJPS closed
Normal rubbish schedule
- Jan. 20: Water Services Joint Operating Board 4:00 pm
- Jan 21: City water bills due
Downtown Development Authority 8:30 a.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 25: City Commission meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 26: Library Board 6:00 pm
- Jan. 27: Pension Board 10:00 a.m.
- Jan. 29: Last day for Day Vendor Applications
Last day for Christmas tree pickup
4th Annual Chili Tour; 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. (SJT)
- Jan. 30: Winter Beer Fest, noon – 4:00 p.m. (SJT)



Winter Snow Removal

Do you know St. Joseph's snow removal requirements?

St. Joseph winters can be challenging when sidewalks are not cleared of snow and ice. Many people, including students and senior citizens, rely on walking as their primary way to get around. We are all pedestrians at some point throughout the day and benefit from clear sidewalks.

As with most municipalities, sidewalk snow removal within the City of St. Joseph is the responsibility of the property owner, tenant, or property manager. Clearing sidewalks is the law! Specifically, Code of Ordinances, Article III – Sidewalks; Section 26-45. – Duty to keep sidewalk clean, states, "The owner or occupant of any lands and premises abutting upon any public sidewalk shall keep the same free of all sand, rubbish, dirt and litter and shall remove promptly all snow which shall fall thereon and all ice which shall form thereon."

It is everyone's responsibility to make sure sidewalks are clear of snow and ice. If you do not own your residential or business property, consult your lease agreement to determine your shoveling obligation. Further, Section 25 of the Code of Ordinances, Removal of snow, ice, filth and other nuisances from sidewalks, states: "If the owner or occupant of any lot or premises shall fail to remove the snow, ice, and filth from the sidewalk upon which property abuts, or to remove and keep the same free from obstruction, encroachments, encumbrances

or other nuisances, or fails to perform any other duty required by the City in respect to such sidewalks or the premises of any person, within such time and in such manner as the City shall require, the City may cause the same to be done and the expense, or such part thereof as the Commission shall have determined, may be charged and collected as a special assessment against such property, as in this Charter provided."

Keeping our city streets free of snow and ice and open to traffic is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works. They ask that you please not push snow into the street, crosswalks, alleys or alley entrances, and to refrain from on-street parking until your street is plowed following a snowstorm.

Street snow removal is a priority-based system that addresses State highways and major streets first, and then progresses to the local streets. Alleys are plowed after local streets and streets that dead end or are cul-de-sacs, are typically completed last. The priority system is based upon the amount of traffic serviced by the street and the need to keep vital facilities, such as hospitals and schools, open to the public.

Make your neighborhood safe for everyone to get around this winter. Help provide a great pedestrian environment and take responsibility for your sidewalk by clearing snow and ice.

If you did not receive your 2016 City Calendar, please stop at City Hall and pick one up or give us a call at 983-5541; we would be happy to mail you one.



Infrastructure Takes a Priority as St. Joseph is Awarded \$1,000,000 in Grant Funds for Asset Management

The City of St. Joseph is proud to announce that we have qualified for approximately \$1,000,000 in Storm Water, Asset Management and Wastewater (SAW) grant funds to help the City establish a formal Asset Management Plan (AMP) for its public infrastructure. The grant, more commonly called the SAW grant, was awarded by the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and is aimed at helping communities establish asset management plans for their sanitary sewer and storm water systems. The City committed

to provide a 10% match in accordance with the grant requirements and began work on the development of a plan in early 2015. The City Commission has pro-actively committed some additional money from the City's water and street funds to extend the asset management plan development to all City infrastructure in the Right-of-Way so that all are being managed utilizing the same tools.

At their October 15, 2015 work session, the City Commission recently discussed the importance of having a solid plan for maintaining and improving the City's

infrastructure. The Commission also stressed that it would be important to create public awareness of the condition of the City's infrastructure. As the Asset Management Plan is developed over the next 12 to 18 months, the City will be seeking public input on the capital improvement plans that are developed. The goal of the City's Engineering and Public Works Departments is to create an AMP that covers all public infrastructure, including roadways, sidewalks, lighting, and utilities. Opportunities for public input will come in the future as the Asset Management Plan is developed.

LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION UPDATE



Rehabilitation of the North Pier Lighthouses and Catwalk is continuing. We are very pleased that the familiar red roof of the inner light returned before painting operations stopped for the winter. The contractor will continue to work on the structures through the winter as weather permits. When the doors are installed on the lighthouses to keep the structures secure, the construction closure of the pier will end for the winter; we expect this will be by the end of December. The contractor plans to try to minimize the need for any pier closure in the spring. We would like to again thank the community for its generosity and patience as the restoration work takes place.

City of St. Joseph Master Plan Update

The draft Master Plan is available for public review and comment. The draft plan is available online at www.resilientmichigan.org/stjoe.asp and hardcopies are available for viewing at the Inspection Department counter on the first floor of City Hall as well as at the St. Joseph Public Library. Please provide written comments by February 16, 2016, to Community Development Director Kristen Gundersen or through the website at www.resilientmichigan.org/stjoe_plancmt.asp.

The St. Joseph City Commission and staff wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

John and Dede Howard Ice Arena

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

2015 – 2016 Christmas Open Skate Schedule

Saturday, December 19	6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Sunday, December 20	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Monday, December 21	Noon – 6:00 pm
Tuesday, December 22	Noon – 6:00 pm
Wednesday, December 23	Noon – 6:00 pm
Thursday, December 24	11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Friday, December 25	Closed
Saturday, December 26	Noon – 6:00 pm
Sunday, December 27	4:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Monday, December 28	Noon – 6:00 pm
Tuesday, December 29	10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Wednesday, December 30	10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Thursday, December 31	Noon - 4:00 pm (New Year's Eve)
Friday, January 1	Noon - 6:00 pm (New Year's Day)
Saturday, January 2	6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Sunday, January 3	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

A very special thank you to Pam Subka for all of her hard work assisting with watering, deadheading, and feeding the flowers at both the City and Riverview cemeteries this past year. Without her help, the flowers wouldn't look as beautiful as they do. Thanks Pam!



Also, Bill Strine, who lives right down the street from the City Cemetery, takes care of watering the flower garden around the fountain and planter boxes by the mausoleum. Thanks Bill!

Thank you to these Election Inspectors who worked the November 3, 2015 General Election. We appreciate your dedication and commitment to the voters of the City of St. Joseph.

<i>Shirley Auringer</i>	<i>Mary Jane Hiler</i>	<i>Denise Reeves</i>
<i>Larry Cairns</i>	<i>Catherine Ilich</i>	<i>Joan Ross</i>
<i>Susan Cairns</i>	<i>Mary Kynast</i>	<i>Virginia Steinman</i>
<i>Vedette Cordes</i>	<i>Sylvia Lieberg</i>	<i>Tracy Tiffany</i>
<i>Leah Coultres</i>	<i>Barb Maynard</i>	<i>Lorraine Thomas</i>
<i>Deb Deja</i>	<i>Deb Milhauser</i>	<i>Larry Wagner</i>
<i>Martin Dixon</i>	<i>Laurie Moore</i>	<i>Tamara Zebell</i>
<i>Rhonda Fryer</i>	<i>Tom O'Neill</i>	<i>Mary Lou Zick</i>
<i>Thomas Gazella</i>	<i>Sharen O'Neill</i>	

If you are interested in becoming one of our valued Election Inspectors please feel free to apply using the online application at www.sjcity.com/government/elections or for additional information regarding this paid position, please contact us at 269-983-6325.

New Employees of the City of St. Joseph



Robert Caldwell
Laborer in Parks,
started November 9.



Kristen Gundersen
kgundersen@sjcity.com
Community Development
Director and Zoning
Administrator, began her
duties on December 7 and
can be reached at city hall.



Julie Ostdiek,
jostdiek@sjcity.com
Public Works Clerk, started
her employment on December
7 and you can find her at
Public Works located at
1160 Broad Street.



Laurie Schmidt
lschmidt@sjcity.com
City Attorney, provided legal
services for a number of
years under contract; she now
joins us full-time and can be
reached at city hall.



John Teets
Laborer in Parks,
started November 16.



CITY OF
St. Joseph

St. Joseph City Hall
700 Broad Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Phone: 269-983-5541
Fax: 269-985-0346
email: info@sjcity.com

Documents pertaining to
Government Transparency and
Accountability can be found at
www.sjcity.com.

City Hall is barrier-free. Use the
lobby elevator. Accessible parking is
behind the building.

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For non-emergency, call (269) 983-2571

Library corner . . .



The January Series

Dates: January 6th – January 26th (Monday-Friday)

Time: 12:30pm-1:30pm

The January Series of Calvin College has been one of the leading lecture/cultural arts series in the country. It covers a variety of topics including arts, science, social justice, health and more. The St. Joseph Public Library is proud to be a remote site for this educational series. The lectures are streamed live at the library, and audience members can even post questions to the speakers. Find out more about the series at www.calvin.edu/january. The lectures are free and open to the public.



We Need Volunteers!

Dates: January 16 – 18

The St. Joseph Public Library is seeking volunteers to help with a large shifting project at the library. After our inventory project was completed in 2014, it became clear that many of our collections have outgrown their allotted space. This project will make room for our most popular collections to expand. Volunteers will assist in reorganizing and shifting most of the collections on the main floor of the library. The library will be closed during this project. If you are interested in helping, please contact the library: 269-983-7167 or publiclibrary@sjcity.com.