

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Sept 23: Autumn begins
- Sept 24: MEDIC I 8:30 am
- Sept 25: Fall Festival Weekend (SJT)
- Sept 26: Fall Festival Weekend cont'd (SJT)  
Farmers Market 9am – 2pm (SJT)  
St. Joseph Wine Festival & Public Art Auction 4 – 9pm  
Household Chemical & Electronic Recycling  
(berriencounty.org/recycling)
- Sept 28: Community Meeting for Precinct 1 6pm  
City Commission Meeting 7pm
- Sept 29: Parks Advisory Board 8am  
Recreational Harbor Authority 11:30am
- Oct 1: Planning Commission 4:30pm
- Oct 3: Farmers Market 9am – 2pm (SJT)
- Oct 4: Antiques on the Bluff 10am – 5pm (SJT)
- Oct 5: Last day to register to vote in the November election
- Oct 5 – 9: Brush collection Pickup
- Oct 10: Farmers Market 9am – 2pm (SJT)
- Oct 12: Columbus Day, City Hall and Library open  
Normal Rubbish schedule  
Community Meeting for Precinct 2 6pm  
City Commission Meeting 7pm
- Oct 12 – Nov 30: Leaf collection Pickup
- Oct 15: Downtown Development Authority 8:30am  
Airport Authority 9:30am  
Joint Wastewater Board 11am  
Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30 pm
- Oct 17: Farmers Market 9am – 2pm (SJT)  
Hazardous Waste Collection (berriencounty.org/recycle)
- Oct 19: TwinCATS 9am
- Oct 21: City water bills due  
Water Service Joint Operating Board 4pm
- Oct 22: MEDIC I 8:30am
- Oct 26: Community Meeting for Precinct 3 6pm  
City Commission Meeting 7pm
- Oct 27: Library Board 6pm
- Oct 28: Parks Advisory Board 8am  
Pension Board 10am  
Recreational Harbor Authority 11:30am
- Oct 29: Cemetery Board 9am
- Oct 31: City Hall Open for AV voting 8am – 2pm  
Downtown Trick-or-Treat 4:30 – 6pm (SJT)  
Citywide Trick-or-Treat 6 – 7:30pm
- Nov 1: Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov 3: Election Day
- Nov 5: Planning Commission 4:30pm
- Nov 6 – 12: Krasl Artisan Market
- Nov 11: City Hall closed for in-service



## Delivery of New Fire Truck Anticipated in late September

As part of the 2014 Capital Improvement Budget, the city accepted a proposal from Halt Fire Equipment for a custom built Pierce CF PUC Pumper Truck at a cost of just over \$665,000. This new state-of-the-art pumper truck will have the capacity to carry 1,000 gallons of water and 1,000 feet of hose onboard, and will seat more than six (6) firefighters. In addition, the truck will be able to pump 1,000 gallons of water per minute, 500 gallons more than the current lead truck.

This new truck is designed to carry more tools than the current engines, and will be less than eleven (11) feet tall to allow traversing through the narrow alleys and tight turning radiuses common in our community. As part of the purchase price, fire crews will receive up to 16 hours of classroom and hands-on training.

The City's fire fleet currently includes a 2002 Bronto ladder truck, a 1998 Pierce pumper and a 1983 Pierce pumper. Plans call for the 32-year old 1983 Pierce pumper truck to be retired once fire crews have been thoroughly trained on the new apparatus and it has been placed into service sometime after October.



## Leaf Pickup to Begin October 12th

Curbside leaf removal is a service provided to our city residents. This year, the program will commence on October 12th with the last day to pick up leaves being November 30. For your convenience, please rake your leaves into the curb for collection. To keep leaves from interfering with traffic, residents who live along major streets such as Niles Avenue, Main Street, and Lakeshore Drive may bag their leaves or rake them onto the tree lawn for collection.

Large equipment is used to pick up leaves so it is important that you do not place other items (branches, trash, grass, rocks, sod, and yard waste) in your leaf pile as these items can damage the equipment and cause delays for everyone using the service. The program includes multiple passes around the City of St. Joseph to accommodate all its residents and to take into account unpredictable leaf fall.

Similarly, in the springtime, the program is commenced from March 15th through April 30th.

Please remember that at all other times, residents must dispose of their leaves utilizing a yard waste container through a private contractor.

If you see storm drains covered with leaves or other debris, please clear these items from the storm drain or call Public Works at 983-6341 to avoid road flooding during large rainfall events.



## Upcoming Elections

The City Clerk's Office will conduct the following Elections in the upcoming months:

**November 3, 2015 - General Election - City Commission Election** - Three Commissioners will be elected; the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall serve for a term of four years and the candidate receiving the third highest number of votes shall serve for a term of two years. The following candidates will appear the November 3, 2015 ballot:

- **Fran Chickering**
- **Chris Heugel**
- **Jeffrey Richards**

**March 8, 2016** - Presidential Primary

**August 2, 2016** - Primary Election - Federal, State, County and Local Candidates

**November 8, 2016** - General Election - Federal, State, County and Local Candidates

As always, the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on each Election Day.

Please take note of our permanent polling locations:

- **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](http://www.sjcity.com); just click on the Michigan Voter Information Center link, then enter your voter information.

See you at the polls!



Tom MacDonald



Greg Grothous

## Please help us welcome...

Tom MacDonald and Greg Grothous to the city team

Tom began his duties as Director of Public Works on September 15. He and his wife, Rozanne, join us from Wayne, Michigan where Tom has over 30 years' experience in municipal government, including water and sewer operations and storm water management. Tom has two grown sons and enjoys jogging and camping.

Greg's background includes a Master's Degree in Parks and Recreation Administration and over 10 years of experience as a Parks and Recreation Specialist. Greg has been in the position as our Parks Superintendent since late June and we welcome his family, including wife Heather and two children, to our community.

## Share Your Opinions and Concerns at a Community Meeting

The city invites residents to a community meeting to share with you what is happening at City Hall and to listen to your ideas and concerns. There will be three (3) community meetings held at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 700 Broad Street, 2nd floor, on the following Mondays:

**Precinct 1:** September 28

**Precinct 2:** October 12

**Precinct 3:** October 26

If you are unable to attend the meeting specific to your precinct, please feel free to attend one of the other meetings. We want to hear your opinions and concerns.

Let's have  
a Spooktacular  
TIME  
Happy  
Halloween  
Join us  
if you dare

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**Trick-or-Treat Hours**  
Downtown Halloween Trick-or-Treat through  
St. Joseph Today will be held on  
**Saturday, October 31st from 4:30 - 6 pm.**

For more information, please visit  
**[www.stjoetoday.com](http://www.stjoetoday.com)**

City-wide trick-or-treat will run  
from 6 - 7 pm that same night.

# INVASIVE SPECIES

## Japanese Knotweed

What is it? How can I get Involved? How can it be managed?

Japanese knotweed is an invasive species that has been found throughout our community. The City Commission took the first step toward fighting Japanese knotweed in 2013 when it hired the firm of Native Landscapes, LLC for \$11,500 to identify and record areas within our community where Japanese knotweed exists. Earlier this year, \$4,200 was paid to Applied Ecological Services, Inc., for a 5-year Invasive Plant Management Plan to assist both city staff and its residents on how to manage this fast growing problem. Both of these reports can be found on the city website at <http://www.sjcity.com/public-hub#5-charter-ordinances-codes-policies>.

The next step is to work with property owners and non-profit organizations to develop a long-term strategy for the elimination of this plant. Most importantly, the public needs to become educated in order to identify the plant and become armed with knowledge regarding the most successful methods of extermination.

To that end, we are reprinting an article that appeared in our November-December 2013 edition of the *City Connection* and authored by Kristin Schinske of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.

*For most of us, when taking a walk outdoors, the plants we pass are nothing more than leafy green vegetation. It isn't until something very showy and beautiful, or perhaps pervasive and seemingly troublesome, catches our eye that we typically begin a further investigation. Invasive plants have been receiving more and more press lately, which has aided communities in becoming more aware of their green surroundings. One plant, in particular, has recently caught the attention of many concerned St. Joseph area residents.*

*You may have noticed tall, bamboo-like plants in your neighborhood. With their creamy white flowers, exotic look, and ability to colonize an area, you may find yourself doing a double-take and thinking, what in the world is that and where did it come from? This fast-growing perennial is known as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) — one of the most tenacious invasive plants in our region.*

*Japanese knotweed was brought to North America in the nineteenth century, likely for ornamental plantings. While not a problem in Asia, the plant quickly colonized areas in North America leading to complete alteration of the landscape. Japanese knotweed can reproduce like crazy, needing only a small fragment of the plant to sprout new roots.*

*So why is this plant so terrible? Once it becomes established, it will shade-out all plants in the area, leaving nothing underneath. Without the ground-layer vegetation to hold onto the soil, you will likely experience severe erosion. This is especially true if you are along a ravine or riverbank.*

*Controlling this plant is a tough job and may take multiple approaches over several years. It's important to keep in mind that knotweed can reproduce with only a tiny stem or root fragment left in the soil. It is typically spread through mowing, dumping of yard waste, and disturbance of soil (often due to construction/large equipment.) It can also be transported by water. Please note that cutting alone will not control large stands of knotweed, and could make the problem worse. If you do cut, you must be extremely careful that you remove all plant waste — bag it up, and send it to the landfill. DO NOT compost or add it to your yard waste!*

*For more information about the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, visit [www.swmlc.org](http://www.swmlc.org) or to learn more about Japanese knotweed, go to <http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/>.*

*Other valuable resources for information include:*

<http://www.michiganinvasives.org/>

<http://www.misin.msu.edu/>

[http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370\\_59996---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_59996---,00.html)

<https://www.facebook.com/stopknotweed?ref=ts&fref=ts>



# **Fall Events @ the St. Joseph Public Library**

## **MICHIGAN ROOTS: A GENEALOGY LOCK IN**

**Friday, November 6th**

**7:00 pm** Archives of Michigan Program

**8:00-10:00 pm** Genealogy Lock-In

Following the presentation spend the remaining part of the night with open research time. Light refreshments will be served!

**Attendance for this program is limited.** To reserve a seat please call 983-7167.



**It's story  
TIME**  
@your library™

## **FALL STORY TIME!**

**September 15th - November 25th**

Tuesday evenings (*NEW!*) @ 6:30pm

Wednesday mornings @ 10:30am

Join us for Little Critter's Adventures Around Town

## **BE A FRIEND**

The Mission of the Friends of the Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library is to promote and support the library. We believe that a strong public library is a valuable cultural, educational and recreational resource in the community.

**Join**

**The Friends of the Library**



**We need your support!**



**St. Joseph / Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library**

**500 Market Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085**

**stjoseph.lib.mi.us \* (269) 983-7167**

**publiclibrary@sjcity.com**



CITY OF  
**St. Joseph**

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St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Phone: 269-983-5541  
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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.sjcity.com](http://www.sjcity.com)

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

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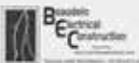
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

- **The Great Bed Race** - 4:30 pm on Lake Boulevard - presented by Slumberland Furniture & the Benton Harbor Sunrise Rotary
- **It's Finally Friday** - 5-8 pm, downtown St. Joseph

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

- **KIDS' FUN ALL DAY!** A Day on the Farm - Petting Farm (11 am-3 pm), Face Painting, Pumpkin Contest, Live Music, Balloon Twister & Instrument Petting Zoo!
- **Farmers Market** - 9 am-2 pm

- **Wine Festival** - 4-9 pm; Free admission; \$10 for a souvenir wine glass and 5 wine tasting tickets!  
Live Music: 4 pm - Vyagra Falls  
7:15 pm - Laura Rain & The Caesars



Fall Festival events produced and managed by St. Joseph Today  
269-985-1111 • [www.stjoetoday.com](http://www.stjoetoday.com)

**Pick a duck –  
any duck,  
frog, tub  
or whale**

from 22 bathtub  
toy sculptures



**LIVE AUCTION  
Sept. 26, 2015**

at Whirlpool  
Centennial Park

**4-5:45 pm: paddle number  
registration**

**5:45 pm: auction**

Auctioneer Jerry Glassman will start all bids at \$500 or the figure's highest Silent Auction bid.

**New this year! SILENT AUCTION**  
Send your bid to  
[ssolon@sjcity.com](mailto:ssolon@sjcity.com).

Include the name of the art you want (see list of sculptures online), your contact information and bid amount. All silent auction bids start at \$500.

**Silent Auction ends at midnight  
Sept. 24, 2015.**

**Email a \$1,500 offer** on your favorite bathtub toy art before midnight Sept. 24 **and it's yours!**

For more information,  
[stjosephpublicart.com](http://stjosephpublicart.com)



**Splishin' and  
a Splashin'**  
Art bubbling up  
in St. Joseph!