



News

City of St. Joseph: John and Dede Howard Ice Arena will not open Thanksgiving Day

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WARM WEATHER DELAYS THE OPENING OF THE HOWARD ICE ARENA

(ST. JOSEPH, Mich.) The John and Dede Howard Ice Arena, for the past 13 years, traditionally has opened at 4:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. That will not be the case this year as the warm temperatures have not been conducive to making ice.

The preparation process for making ice at the Howard Ice Arena takes approximately 10 days once the chillers are turned on. Chillers are turned on when the daily high temperature is expected to be below 42 degrees for 5 consecutive days. The concrete then has to drop to a temperature of 11 degrees, which takes approximately four days before beginning to lay the ice. The ice making process will take another 5 days to reach a finished thickness of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

With cooler temperatures anticipated over the upcoming weekend, staff will plan to turn on the chillers and begin the ice-making process. If all goes as planned, the Howard Ice Arena will open on Wednesday, December 2nd.

The Open Skate Regular Schedule for the 2015-2016 Winter Season includes:

| Day | 2015 - 2016 Open Skate Schedule |
|------------|--|
| Monday | By Appointment from 2:00 - 4:00 pm |
| Tuesday | By Appointment from 2:00 - 4:00 pm |
| Wednesday | By Appointment from 2:00 - 4:00 pm |
| Thursday | By Appointment from 2:00 - 4:00 pm |
| Friday | Noon - 6:00 pm |
| Saturday | 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm |
| Sunday | 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm |

The Open Skate Holiday Schedule includes:

| Date | 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 | Noon - 6:00 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 |

Please check for additional open skate times during school holidays and closings. The Howard Ice Arena will stay open through mid-March, weather permitted.

Fees for the 2015 - 2016 remain the same as last year; \$5 daily admission and \$3 for ice skate rental. The facility may be rented for private skating or hockey games. Please call 983-5432 to make those arrangements.

The John and Dede Howard Ice Arena, located at 2414 Willa Drive, was made possible by a generous donation from local residents John and Dede Howard. It has been a great resource to the City by providing fun, family-friendly recreation for the community.

As weather may alter the planned schedule, please look for any changes to be posted to the city website, www.sjcity.com. If you have questions, please contact Susan Solon (269) 983-5541 or by email at ssolon@sjcity.com.

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