



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

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

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From the Library

A **HODGEPODGE OF TRIVIA** is back and we want you to bring your trivial knowledge and join us on Friday, March 14, 2014. Call the St. Joseph Library at 983-7167 or the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center at 983-1191 today to reserve your spot on a team of up to eight people for the next "Hodgepodge of Trivia" event! Entry is \$10 per person and no worries if you don't have a full team; some of our best teams in the past have been comprised of people who met that night. Doors open at 6:30, questions start at 7:00 p.m. Bring all your trivial knowledge and any snacks you might want to help get the knowledge flowing. We'll supply the questions and drinks can be purchased at the event. We look forward to seeing you there!

The next **GREAT MICHIGAN READ** community discussions of Steve Luxenberg's "Annie's Ghosts" are scheduled for Saturday, February 15, from 10:30-Noon and Tuesday, February 18, from 6-7:30. Stop in the library to check out a copy of this fascinating true story of family secrets, part memoir, part detective story, part history, involving Detroit's Eloise Hospital and then join us for one of these engaging community discussion groups.

Twins, grades 4-6, are invited to join us for a "Non-Lovey-Dovey" Valentine's Party on Wednesday, February 12. Call to let us know you'll be coming.

WINTER TIPS...

The City clears snow from highways first, then major streets, and finally local streets. Alleys are cleared with front end loaders, not snowplows, so some alleys may be done before some streets. The City does not remove snow drifts or buildup from private driveways. Additionally, city crews do their best to assist with clearing sidewalks, but it is the responsibility of the homeowner to keep sidewalks in front of their property clean and safe. Let's work together to keep our children and elderly residents safe.



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January/February 2014 Newsletter Volume 20, Issue 1

CITY CONNECTION

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- January 31: Last Day for Day Vendor Applications
2nd Annual Chili Tour 5 – 8pm (SJT)
- February 6: Planning Commission 4:30pm
- February 7: 10th Annual Magical Ice Fest (SJT)
- February 8: 10th Annual Magical Ice Fest (SJT)
- February 9: 10th Annual Magical Ice Fest (SJT)
- February 10: City Commission 6pm
- February 14: Valentine's Day
Last Day to pay winter taxes w/out penalty by 5pm
Sweetheart Skate, Howard Ice Arena 7 – 10pm
- February 17: President's Day
City Hall and SJPS closed
Normal rubbish schedule
- February 19: Water Service Joint Operating Board 4pm
- February 20: Downtown Development Authority 8:30am
Airport Authority 9:30am
Joint Wastewater Board 11am
Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30pm
- February 24: City Commission 6pm
- February 25: TwinCATS 9:30am
Library Board 6pm
- February 26: Parks Advisory Board 8am
- February 27: MEDIC I 8:30am
Cemetery Board 9am
- February 28: Last day to purchase dog license at City Hall
Last day to pay winter taxes at City Hall
- March 3: City Park Passes available at City Clerk's Office
2015 Park Pavilion reservations open to non-city residents
- March 6: Planning Commission 4:30pm
- March 9: Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 10: Board of Review 9 am – noon; 1pm – 4pm
City Commission 6pm
- March 12: Board of Review 9am – noon; 6pm – 9pm

Staying in Touch with City Hall in 2014

Richard Lewis has been in his job as city manager for 6 months and speaks about 2014



As I write this, I can't help but think how the year 2014 has started out to be an exciting one with the recent combination of a winter storm and polar vortex. As I watched the three days unfold, the efforts of the city crews and your understanding/patience were impressive. I received several calls and notes of thanks for our efforts. You also served as our eyes for areas of concern which was a tremendous help. We know that winter isn't over and, hopefully, what remains will not be as harsh. Going forward, you can be of extreme help to the city and each other by making sure cars are not parked on the street during snow events and not placing snow on sidewalks when clearing driveways and parking lots. It is important that residents shovel their sidewalks in front of their homes so that children can safely walk to school and pedestrians can walk their dogs and be safe.

While we tend to think of our lives in terms of a calendar year, the city's year starts on July 1st. Our year that ended on June 30, 2013 showed that the city is very healthy financially. Midway through this year, we are on track to operate within the budget amounts and will end the year with a surplus. Over the next few months, the city commission will be discussing and establishing goals/objectives, which the city should be striving to achieve. Staff will then be developing budgets and strategies for city commission approval toward meeting those goals/objectives with a budget to be adopted by the first Monday in May.

To stay informed and find the information on all city business, including audits and budgets, please use the city's newly revised website – www.sjcity.com. Your website has been revamped to make it easier to stay up to date on meetings and activities. The most recent update includes an additional menu item on the top of the home page titled, "Public Hub". Under this menu, residents will be able to quickly access such items as agendas and minutes, RFP's, Public Notices, Job Postings, Press Releases and General Announcements with just one click. The website is a constant work-in-progress and, through the feedback we receive from you, changes are made to help make your use experience easier. Please take advantage of this important informational tool.

On a final note, thank you for the warm welcome to the community. I look forward to working with the citizens, an excellent city staff, and dedicated city commission to continue making the City of St. Joseph a great place to live, work, and play. My door is open, please stop by and visit.

Have a great and safe 2014.

Richard Lewis
rlewis@sjcity.com



CITY OF
St. Joseph

RESOLVE TO BE INVOLVED!

The City of St. Joseph is always seeking interested residents to become involved in city government. Board membership is one way for you to become involved; board terms vary and we are certain that there is a good fit for most citizens who are willing to serve.

If you are interested in serving on one of our Boards or Commissions, but do not have previous committee experience or leadership development training, we encourage you to apply anyway and note on your application why you think you may be ready for board participation.

As with all board members, you need to be able to commit to regular meeting attendance, have the ability to receive communication by phone and/or email and have some comfort in communicating ideas in a group setting. Each of our Boards and Commissions are staffed by city personnel who assist with on-going administration of the group.

Serving on a City Board or Commission is a great opportunity for you to 'give back' to your community and use your experience to help shape policies and programs!

Current board vacancies include positions on the Board of Review, Construction Board of Appeals, Property Maintenance Board of Appeals, Tax Abatement Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals.

If you are interested, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 269-983-6325 for more information or complete the Board and Commission application available on our website at www.sjcity.com

City of St. Joseph Boards and Commissions
Airport Authority Board
Board of Review
Brownfield Redevelopment Board
Cemetery Board
Construction Board of Appeals
Downtown Development Authority
Housing Commission
Joint Wastewater Treatment Authority Board

Library Board
Municipal Officers Compensation Board
Parks Advisory Board
Planning Commission
Property Maintenance Board of Appeals
Recreational Harbor Authority
Retirement System Board
Water Services Joint Operating Board
Zoning Board of Appeals



Recycling Changes

The St. Joseph City Commission has voted to upgrade the City's recycling service by changing from the current recycle bins to new 96 gallon recycle carts. The new carts are labeled with what can and cannot be recycled on the lid and will allow you to recycle more material while making it easier for you to take your recycling to the curb on collection day. If you are currently recycling, your recycle bin will be switched out with the new 96 gallon recycle cart on

your recycling pick-up the week of February 2nd. After trying the larger 96 gallon cart, if you determine that a smaller recycle cart is better for you, or if you are not currently recycling and want to start, please contact Best Way Disposal to discuss your options. They are available to answer any questions or handle your request.

You can contact Best Way Disposal at 269-463-3232 or e-mail them at www.bestway-disposal.com

Sweetheart Skate

John & Dede Howard Ice Arena

Friday, February 14th, 7-10 p.m.

\$8.00 per couple



Bring your sweetheart to skate to love songs as you glide across pink ice in recognition of Valentine's Day, and receive a rose (while supplies last).

For more information, please call 983-8795 or email bdwan@sjcity.com.

Warm up in downtown St. Joseph at the
2nd Annual Chili Tour
January 31, 5-8 p.m.



For more details visit stjoetoday.com

"BUILD YOUR WAY AROUND TOWN, featuring the ever-popular LEGO® Bricks and LEGO® DUPLO® Bricks, is a festival of workshops, exhibits and contests during the month of March, 2014, in St. Joseph, Michigan. This creative event is a collaborative activity hosted by these St. Joseph cultural and tourist organizations: Box Factory for the Arts, Curious Kids' Museum & Discovery Zone, Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Krasl Art Center, St. Joseph/Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library, St. Joseph Today, Shadowland Ballroom/Silver Beach Center, and Silver Beach Carousel. The title sponsor for BUILD YOUR WAY AROUND TOWN 2014 is the Abonmarche Group and all events are free to the public."



The 2014 Sidewalk Replacement Project

The 2014 Sidewalk Replacement Project is scheduled to take place in the southeasterly quadrant of the city, which is located south of Harrison Avenue and east of Niles Avenue. Property owners with sidewalks in need of replacement will be notified this spring and construction will likely occur this summer. As in the past, the Commission has authorized city participation in the replacement cost. Property Owners will only be charged half the cost of the sidewalk squares replaced along their frontage as part of the program. Questions regarding the project can be directed to City Engineer Tim Zebell at 983-5541.

You could appear in our new video!



We're creating a video as part of the fundraising effort to restore our historical lighthouses and we'd love you to be a part of it. Do you have any old photos or family movies showing the North Pier Inner and Outer Lights? If so, please share them with us by emailing Susan Solon at ssolon@sjcity.com or calling 983-5541. For more about the restoration, visit www.stjosephlighthouse.org.



10TH ANNUAL



Magical Ice Fest

ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN

February 7 - 9

Brush off the winter blues and join us as we celebrate the 10th Annual Magical Ice Fest presented by Silver Beach Pizza! Weekend activities will include:

- Ice Carving - All Weekend
- Fire & Ice Reception - Friday 8pm-midnight
- Second Annual Ice Wars! - Saturday 4:30pm - 6pm
- Snow Biz Scavenger Hunt - All Weekend
- Block Party Presented by Bud Distributing - All Weekend
- Magical Fun - Saturday
- Waikiki Weekend - Saturday & Sunday

Find complete details on these events and more magical happenings at

MagicalIceFest.com