



CITY OF
St. Joseph

St. Joseph City Hall
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We're on the Web!
www.sjcity.com

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From the Library



The next "Books to Movies" event is the widely anticipated "Catching Fire," the second in the Hunger Games trilogy. Join us and a whole bunch of other book & movie fans on November 23rd, opening weekend, in the theater that will be reserved just for our event! You must purchase your voucher at the library for our special screening of the film. Then bring your voucher to the theater the day of the event and you'll get your ticket (good for our event only) and a refillable pop and popcorn. Great movie, fun people, and you help the library. Winning!



Gingerbread Houses are back. On December 7th the library will smell like a bake shop with frosting galore. There will be sessions for children (\$2 per child) and tweens (\$3 per tween). This popular event fills quickly so stop in the library today to save your spot!

Effective January 1, 2014, the library's hours of operation will be changing. Please make note of the new times listed below:

Monday: 10-8
Tuesday: 10-8
Wednesday: 10-8
Thursday, January thru May 2014: 3-8
Thursday, June 2014 going forward: 10-8
Fridays: 10-6
Saturdays: 10-5
Sundays closed

For more information about the library, please contact Stephanie Masin at smasin@sjcity.com or calling her at 983-7167.



November/December 2013 Newsletter Volume 19, Issue 6

CITY CONNECTION

Your Connection to City Hall and the People Who SERVE You

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Nov. 3rd: Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov. 5th: Election Day
- Nov. 7th: Housing Commission 8:30am
Planning Commission 4:30pm
- Nov. 11th: Veterans Day, City Hall open
City Commission 7:30pm
- Nov. 18th: TwinCATS 9:30am
- Nov. 20th: MEDIC I 8:30am
Water Board 4pm
- Nov. 21st: Airport Authority 9:30am
Joint Wastewater 11am
DDA 8:30am
Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30pm
- Nov. 22nd: Luminary Festival (SJT)
- Nov. 25th: City Commission 6pm
- Nov. 26th: Library Board 6pm
- Nov. 27th: Parks Advisory Board 8am
- Nov. 28th: Thanksgiving, City Hall, Library & SJPS closed
No rubbish collection
- Nov. 29th: Thanksgiving Holiday, City Hall closed
Thursday rubbish collected
- Dec. 2nd: Dog licenses available at City Clerk's Office through 2/28/14
City Commission 6pm
- Dec. 5th: Planning Commission 4:30pm
- Dec. 6th: Community Tree Lighting 6:30pm
Live Mannequins! (SJT) 7pm
- Dec. 7th: Reindog Holiday Parade (SJT)
- Dec. 10th: Board of Review 1:30pm
- Dec. 16th: TwinCATS 9:30am
City Commission 6pm
- Dec. 18th: Water Board 4pm
- Dec. 19th: MEDIC I 8:30am
Airport Authority 9:30am
Joint Wastewater 11am
DDA 8:30am
Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30pm
- Dec. 20th: Winter begins
- Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve, City Hall and Library closed
- Dec. 25th: Christmas Day, City Hall, Library & SJPS closed
No rubbish collection
- Dec. 26th: Wednesday rubbish collected
- Dec. 27th: Thursday rubbish collected
- Dec. 31st: New Year's Eve, City Hall open
Library closed
- Jan. 1st: New Year's Day, City Hall closed



Mayor Judd Steps Down November 11th

Mayor Bob Judd served the City 16 years; 10 as Commissioner and the last 6 as Mayor.

Late last year, Mayor Judd made the decision not to seek re-election to the St. Joseph City Commission and he will officially step away from elected office on November 11, 2013. Highlights of city projects which were completed during Bob's tenure include:

- Edgewater Development – Redevelopment of brownfield property
- Upgrading of City watermain infrastructure to improve fire hydrant flows
- Separation of storm and sanitary sewer mains to eliminate combined sewer overflows
- Construction of the Howard Ice Arena
- Construction of Howard Skateboard Park
- Construction of the Howard Pedestrian Bridge
- Construction of a new Water Tower
- Execution of the 425 Agreement, making way for the Harbor Shores Development
- \$18 million Silver Beach Center Project
- 25 year Water Service Agreement with area townships
- Implementation of Public Safety Department
- Construction of a new water intake and pumping station

Prior to serving as your City Commissioner, Bob served as a St. Joseph Public Schools Board of Education Trustee from 1981 through 1993. He served as that Board's president for eight years until he was transferred to Italy in 1993. Even though Bob has enjoyed his time serving the community, he reports that he and his wife, Joan, love to travel and still have a lot of places to visit. Bob retired from Whirlpool Corporation in 2000 after 32 years, and is currently counsel with the law firm of Taglia, Dumke, White & Schmidt, P.C.

On behalf of the City Commission, city staff and residents, we wish Bob well in all of his future travels and endeavors.



John and Dede Howard Ice Arena

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

Open Thanksgiving Day through mid-March
2013 – 2014 Public Skate Hours:

Monday and Tuesday:	11am – 1pm
Wednesday:	11am – 5pm
Thursday:	11am – 3pm
Friday:	11am – 6pm
Saturday:	6pm – 10pm
Sunday:	2pm – 6pm

SPECIAL OPEN SKATE HOURS THANKSGIVING DAY WEEKEND:

Thanksgiving Day:	4 – 10pm
Friday, Nov. 29th:	12pm – 10pm
Saturday, Nov. 30th:	6 – 10pm
Sunday, Dec. 1st:	2 – 6pm

Happy Skating!



YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Please remember to vote
Tuesday, November 5, 2013.
Polls are open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Polling place locations include:

- Precinct #1** – St. Joseph Public Library,
500 Market Street
- Precinct #2** – Howard Ice Arena,
2414 Willa Drive
- Precinct #3** – Zion Evangelical Church,
3001 Veronica Drive



November 11 is Veterans Day

November 11 is Veterans Day and most governmental offices are closed. While the day isn't a holiday for staff, City Hall will be closed to the public so staff can conduct in-service workshops and perform long overdue cleaning duties. The regularly scheduled City Commission meeting will still take place that evening at 7:30 p.m.

Please take time on this special holiday to thank our veterans and their families for the sacrifices they have made so that all Americans can be blessed with freedom.



The three community meetings held in October were well attended, and the City Commission and staff appreciated meeting and chatting with residents. To see a summary of topics covered, please visit please go to <http://sjcity.com/live-here/247-community-meetings>.

Japanese Knotweed:

Understanding the Effects and Addressing the Cause

Authored by: Kristin Schinske, 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!

Over the next 60 days, the City of St. Joseph is working with Randy Counterman of Native Landscapes to see the extent of these invasive species in your ravines, parks, and at the water's edge. The results of this survey will be made available by the end of the year and an action plan put in place.

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

To begin the Festive Christmas Season . . .

Luminary Festival on November 22nd, from dusk until 9 p.m., where you can stroll through the beautiful candle-lit streets as 1,000 luminaries light your way throughout downtown St. Joseph. This glowing festival is hosted by St. Joseph Today and sponsored by Cook Nuclear Plant/Indiana Michigan Power.

Next up is our traditional holiday event being held Friday, December 6th, when the St. Joseph High School Choir sings Christmas carols around the community tree in Lake Bluff Park beginning at 6 p.m.; and at 6:30 sharp, all are invited to join the Mayor as they light the **Community Christmas Tree** and the entire bluff becomes a winter wonderland.

That same evening, immediately following the community tree lighting ceremony and for the second year in a row, St. Joseph Today hosts



Live Mannequins! From 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., holiday cheer will come alive in storefront windows of participating downtown businesses. This spectacular event is sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Tourist Council and Edgewater Bank.

The next day, Saturday, December 7th, at 4 p.m. in downtown St. Joseph, St. Joseph Today will host the annual **Reindog Parade** when costumed pets and their owners escort Santa into downtown. This event is graciously sponsored by FuzzyButz Bakery.

Don't forget to stop by and let Santa Claus know what you want him to bring you for Christmas this year. You can catch **Santa** at his house, located at the corner of State and Pleasant Streets, Sunday, December 8th – December 22nd with the following hours: Thursday – Friday: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday: Noon – 5 p.m.; Sunday: Noon – 3 p.m. Thanks to the Herald-Palladium for their sponsorship.

On behalf of the St. Joseph City Commission and staff, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!