



# CITY CONNECTION



## CALENDAR

- **Feb. 2:** Groundhog Day; 2024 Ice Fest
- **Feb. 12:** City Commission Meeting
- **Feb. 14:** Valentines Day; Final Night of Light Up the Bluff; Winter Taxes Due
- **Feb. 17:** Early in Person Voting Begins (Presidential Primary)
- **Feb. 19:** Presidents Day; City Hall Closed
- **Feb. 25:** Final Day for Early in Person Voting
- **Feb. 27:** Election Day (Presidential Primary)
- **Mar. 4:** City Commission Meeting
- **Mar. 8:** March Mannequins Downtown
- **Mar. 9:** Spring Artisan Fair
- **Mar. 10:** Daylight Saving Time Starts, Ramadan begins at sundown
- **Mar. 17:** St. Patrick's Day; Final Day to Skate at Howard Ice Arena
- **Mar. 25:** City Commission Meeting
- **Mar. 29:** Good Friday; City Hall Closed
- **Mar. 31:** Easter

## Presidential Primary: Feb. 27

The 2024 Presidential Primary is February 27. In the primary, voters are required to vote a Republican or Democratic ballot. Voters will select their ballot at their voting place, or for those voting absentee, using a selection form that will be mailed.

This will be the first election in which voters will have three options for voting: in person, early in person, or absentee.

**In person:** As always, voters can vote at their assigned precinct. Precinct 1 votes at City Hall. Precinct 2 votes at the John & Dede Howard Ice Arena. Precinct 3 votes at Zion Church at 3001 Veronica Dr. in Saint Joseph. To identify your polling location, visit [sjcity.com/cityclerk](http://sjcity.com/cityclerk).

**Early in person:** Voters in Michigan now have access to nine days of early in person voting. The City of St. Joseph, in an agreement with Berrien County, is offering early in person voting at the Lake Michigan College Todd Center located at 2785 E. Napier Ave. in Benton Harbor beginning February 17. For a more detailed schedule and hours, visit [sjcity.com/cityclerk](http://sjcity.com/cityclerk).

**Absentee voting:** Anyone who requested an absentee ballot in December via the Absentee Voter Ballot Application will receive a ballot by mail before the election. Please note that if you have yet to return this form it must be mailed in by February 23 and include a party selection. Absentee ballots are also available by request by calling or emailing the Clerk's Office.

If you have questions, please reach out to the Clerk's Office at [clerk@sjcity.com](mailto:clerk@sjcity.com) or 269-983-6325.

## Main Street Reconstruction Survey

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has launched a public survey for a planned 2027 project to rebuild M-63/I-94 Business Loop (BL) from Central Avenue to the Blossomland Bridge, and I-94 BL to the Bicentennial Bridge. The survey is available now through February 16, with topics including traffic and parking, safety, nonmotorized (pedestrian and bicycle), and streetscape elements.

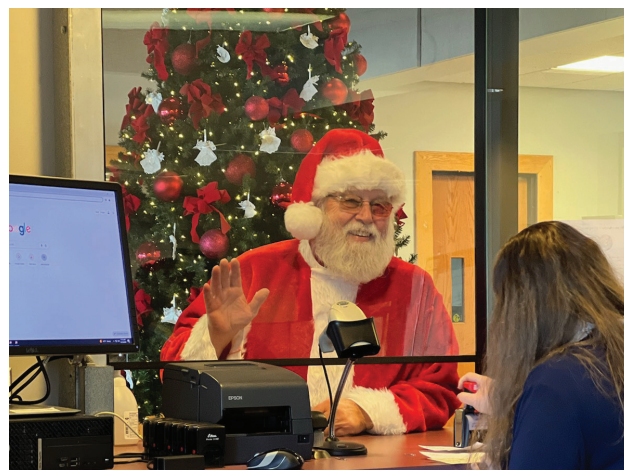
Share this survey with your friends, colleagues, or anyone else who may be interested in participating!

Use the QR code or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/M-63I-94BLSurvey>



## Property Tax Reminder

Santa paid his winter taxes.  
Follow Cupid's Arrow and pay by Valentine's Day.



Winter Property Taxes are due on February 14 without penalty. Delinquent taxes will be transferred to the county on March 1.

## Monthly Library Programs

**Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library**  
500 Market St., St. Joseph

FEBRUARY 20TH 6PM **ADULT PUZZLE COMPETITION** REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 23RD

UP TO 4 PLAYERS PER TEAM. ONLY 6 TEAM SPOTS AVAILABLE.

COMPLETE 500 PIECE PUZZLE IN 90 MIN OR LESS!

PRIZES! SNACKS! TROPHY!

500 Market St. St. Joseph, MI 49085 269-983-6325

**It's Elementary!** (1st - 3rd graders)  
NATIONAL LET'S LAUGH NIGHT

**KID'S COMEDY NIGHT**

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 6-7pm

JOKES, FUNNY POEMS, KID COMEDIANS AND MORE

MAUD PRESTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
500 MARKET STREET  
ST JOSEPH MI 49085  
[www.librarybythelake.org](http://www.librarybythelake.org)

## Weekly Schedule



Join us on the ice for Open Skate or Stick & Puck. Bring family and friends to enjoy a fun, family-friendly winter destination.

While you're there, stop by the concession stand to grab a snack, enjoy a coffee or sip some hot chocolate.

Sunday	Open Skate Stick & Puck	1:00pm –6:00pm 6:30pm –8:00pm
Monday	Open Skate Stick & Puck	12:00pm–5:00pm 7:00pm –8:30pm
Tuesday	Open Skate	2:00pm –6:30pm
Wednesday	Open Skate Stick & Puck	12:00pm–5:00pm 7:00pm –8:30pm
Thursday	Open Skate Adult Drop in Hockey	3:00pm –7:00pm 7:15pm –8:45pm
Friday	Open Skate	12:00pm–8:00pm
Saturday	Stick & Puck Open Skate	1:00pm –2:30pm 3:00pm –9:00pm

### Admission

- Open Skate & Family Skate: .....\$5
- Stick & Puck: .....\$8
- Adult Drop in: .....\$8 (\$5-Goalies)
- Skate Rental**.....\$3



### Ice Fest

**February 2 – 4, 2024**

Come downtown to experience Ice Fest, hosted by St. Joe Today! Ice Fest features professional ice carving competitions, a scavenger hunt, icy interactive displays and so much more.



### March Mannequins

**March 8, 7:00pm - 8:30pm**

Watch storefronts of participating businesses come alive during March Mannequins. Windows will display community volunteers as they pose perfectly still, like mannequins. Vote for your favorite window at [stjoetoday.com/vote/](http://stjoetoday.com/vote/)



### Spring Artisan Fair

**March 9, 11:00pm - 4:00pm**

Hosted by St. Joe Today at Union + Social, the indoor Spring Artisan Fair will feature over 30 vendors.

## Reminders!



### Gazebo or Park Shelter Reservations

can be made for your upcoming spring or summer event now. Park reservations can be made online 24/7 at [sjcity.com/parksrec](http://sjcity.com/parksrec).

### Parking Permits

are required for Lion's Park, Kiwanis Park, Tiscornia Beach Park & the Elm St Fountain Lot from April 1 through October 31. To get your permit, complete an application online at [sjcity.com/forms](http://sjcity.com/forms) or in person at City Hall.

## Construction and Preventive Maintenance Update

The Engineering Department has a number of projects underway or soon to begin.

**Lead Service Line Replacements** are continuing at various locations in the City throughout 2024 with work on Botham Avenue between Niles Avenue and Morton Avenue, Kingsley Avenue between South State and Niles Avenue, and South State Street between Wallace Avenue and Granada Avenue being up next.

The **Upton Drive Reconstruction Project**, which includes full reconstruction of Upton Drive from the southerly limits near the St. Joseph River to Momany Drive, is expected to commence on March 25, 2024 and continue through the fall.

The **Lake Boulevard and Broad Street Resurfacing Project**, the limits being Hatch Street to Ship Street on Lake Boulevard, and from State Street to Lake Boulevard on Broad Street, is expected to be underway starting April 4 and ending mid-June.

**Sewer Cleaning & Televising, and Pavement Maintenance**, is also expected to be underway this spring into early summer.

A **Sidewalk Replacement Project** is also planned in the northwest quadrant of the City (north of Central Avenue and west of Main Street/M63) starting later this year.

Additional information on the above projects is available at [sjcity.com/cityengineer](http://sjcity.com/cityengineer) or by calling 269-983-5541.

## 2024 Property Maintenance Program

The City's Property Maintenance program was created to support the maintenance and upkeep of all properties within the City. After another successful program in 2023, the City will be kicking off work in Focus Area 3 in early 2024.

The Property Maintenance program begins with a review of the exterior condition of all the properties in the focus area. Property owners will be notified of and required to repair any identified deficiencies, such as peeling paint, deteriorated surfaces, missing handrails, missing house numbers, and any other exterior feature showing signs of disrepair.

The inspections will be conducted by viewing each property from adjacent public sidewalks, streets, and alleys, and inspectors do not need to access private property.

In addition to the focus area, City staff will continue to remain alert to blighted properties in other areas of the City.

To learn more contact Joan Ross, Code Enforcement Officer, at (269) 983-1212 or [jross@sjcity.com](mailto:jross@sjcity.com) or [www.sjcity.com](http://www.sjcity.com).

