

## Residents of Berrien County Invited to FEMA Flood Map Open House

**Thursday, November 14, 2024 | 4PM - 6PM**  
*Benton Harbor Public Library, 213 E Wall Street*

FEMA recently completed updates to their flood maps. The preliminary versions of the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report and the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Berrien County highlight several streams and flooding sources and includes the St. Joseph River and the Paw Paw River, both in the City of St. Joseph.

FEMA will host an Open House where experts will teach residents about flood risk and flood insurance, explain floodplain development regulations and the mapping process. Residents can meet with experts one-on-one to look at their own addresses on the new maps. There is no formal presentation planned.

The maps can be found at <http://msc.fema.gov>. Click on "Show all products" and use the "Preliminary Product" option to find the latest materials.

For Open House questions, reach out to [fema-r5-map@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-r5-map@fema.dhs.gov)

## Waste Collection

**Leaf Collection** will be underway through November 1 and will resume from November 11 to 27.

**Brush Collection** will occur the week of November 4 to 8.

**Best Way's Yard Waste Collection** has been extended through December 15.

**Recycling** dates for October are incorrect in the City calendar. Recycling will be collected the week of 10/28, not the week of 10/21.



# CITY CONNECTION

## Calendar

- **October 1-31:** Where's the Witch Scavenger Hunt
- **October 18 - 31:** Pumpkins on Parade
- **October 21:** City Water Bills Due
- **October 26:** Truck or Treat | 4PM – 6PM
- **October 28:** City Commission Meeting | 6PM
- **October 31:** Halloween
- **October 31:** Trick-or-Treating Downtown St. Joseph | 4:30PM – 6PM
- **October 31:** City Trick or Treat | 6PM – 7:30PM
- **October 31:** Last day park passes needed
- **November 2:** Krasl Fall Art Market
- **November 2:** City Hall Open for Absentee Ballots
- **November 4-8:** Brush Week
- **November 5:** Election Day
- **November 11:** Veteran's Day
- **November 11:** City Commission Meeting
- **November 11:** City Hall Closed
- **November 18:** Ice Arena Opens for Season (Tentative)
- **November 22:** Luminary and Window Wonderland | 5PM – 8PM
- **November 25:** City Commission Meeting | 6PM
- **November 27:** Last Day of Fall Leaf Collection
- **November 27:** Library Closes at 6PM
- **November 28:** City Hall, Library & Ice Arena Closed
- **November 28-29:** No Rubbish Collected
- **November 28:** Thanksgiving
- **November 29:** City Hall Closed
- **November 22:** Luminary | 5PM - 8PM
- **November 22:** Window Wonderland | 5PM - 8PM
- **November 22 - December 15:** Countdown to New Year
- **November 30:** Small Business Saturday

## October is Fire Prevention Month!

### Did You Know?

Smoke and CO alarms should be installed on every level of the home, including the basement, as well as inside and outside each bedroom for whole home protection. Maintain alarms by testing them regularly, changing the batteries every 6 months, and replacing alarms at least every 10 years.



Installing reliable protection and being proactive is important to help keep your loved ones safe from a fire or carbon monoxide (CO) emergency.

- Almost **3 of every 5** home fire deaths resulted from fires with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms (NFPA)
- Carbon monoxide is the **#1 cause of accidental poisoning** in the US (CDC)
- Unattended cooking is the **#1 cause of home fires** (NFPA)
- A fire department responds to a fire every **23 seconds** in America (NFPA)

Also, be prepared with fire extinguishers. Fire extinguishers help stop small fires from causing more damage and should be kept easily accessible on every level of the home, especially in the kitchen and garage. Ensure you know how to operate a fire extinguisher before you need to use one.

## Countdown to New Year

**Friday, November 22 - Sunday, December 15**

[stjoetoday.com/countdown](http://stjoetoday.com/countdown)

St. Joe Today will host a Countdown to New Year, a daily giveaway event from November 22 through the month of December.





## Pumpkins on Parade

**October 21 - October 31**

[stjoetoday.com/halloween](http://stjoetoday.com/halloween)

SWMI Businesses and restaurants will display their decorated pumpkins from October 21 through October 31! Visit participating locations and vote for your favorite pumpkin! Voting will be available at [stjoetoday.com/vote](http://stjoetoday.com/vote) from 10AM October 21 to 11:59PM October 30. The top three winners will be announced on October 31!



## Truck or Treat Halloween Event

**Saturday, October 26 | 4PM - 6PM**

Join us for Halloween fun on Saturday, October 26th at the John & Dede Howard Ice Arena, 2414 Willa Dr.

Fire trucks, police cars, excavators and tractors, oh my! Come see the trucks that get the job done while you trick or treat from truck to truck.



## Trick-Or-Treat

**Thursday, October 31 | 4:30PM - 6PM**

[stjoetoday.com/halloween](http://stjoetoday.com/halloween)



Calling all ghosts, goblins and ghouls for an evening of treats! Merchants of Downtown St. Joe are excited to welcome trick-or-treaters at this festive event!

**Thursday, October 31 | 6PM - 7:30PM**



We can't wait to Trick or Treat! After visiting Downtown St. Joe, Trick or Treating will continue citywide from 6 PM to 7:30 PM.

## Luminary

**Friday, November 22 | 5PM-8PM**

[stjoetoday.com/luminary](http://stjoetoday.com/luminary)

Luminaries will light your way as you stroll through and explore downtown St. Joseph from 5PM - 8PM during Luminary! Participating locations invite you to eat, shop, drink and be merry while you enjoy the downtown.



## Small Business Saturday

**Saturday, November 30 | All Day**

[stjoetoday.com/shopsmall](http://stjoetoday.com/shopsmall)

Celebrate small businesses in Southwest Michigan! Local businesses are excited to welcome the community into their stores to find unique, one-of-a-kind merchandise. Small Business Saturday promotes shopping small to support your neighbors, family, friends and local economy.

## Early Voting & Election Day Voting!

**Election day is Tuesday, November 5.**

St. Joseph City residents can vote early at the Lake Michigan College Todd Center, 2785 E Napier Ave, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. Early voting for the General Election will start on Saturday, October 26 and will continue through Sunday, November 3. Voting will take place from 8:30AM to 4:30PM daily except on Wednesday, October 30, when the hours will be 11AM to 7PM.

Absentee ballots are made available in the City Clerk's Office on September 26. If you have received one, you may return it to the City Clerk's Office or may use it to vote at the Early Voting site or in your precinct on Election Day. Absentee ballots must be submitted by 8PM on Election Day. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is Friday, November 1, and the last day to pick one up in person is Monday, November 4 at 4PM.



The polls will be open on election day from 7AM to 8PM.

Please call the Clerk's Office at 269-983-6325 if you need to check your registration, find your precinct location, or have any election-related questions.



## Window Wonderland

**Friday, November 22 | 5PM-8PM**

[stjoetoday.com/windowwonderland](http://stjoetoday.com/windowwonderland)

Window Wonderland invites attendees to view the dozens of storefronts that have decorated their windows for the holiday season. Vote for your favorite window at [stjoetoday.com/vote](http://stjoetoday.com/vote)! Voting will be open starting at 5PM on Friday, November 17 until 11:59PM on Sunday, November 19. Please limit one vote per person!

## Construction Update

**The Upton Drive Reconstruction Project**, which includes Upton Drive from Momany Drive to its southerly limits, is expected to be complete prior to the end of October. The City thanks the residents and businesses in the area for their patience throughout the construction.

**The CSO Early Action Project** is expected to start in early November. This project is located at the base of the Broad Street hill and includes construction from Pier 33 through Pri-Mar Petroleum, Broad Street and into Public Works yard. Construction is scheduled to be underway throughout the winter months with completion by mid-May. Broad Street will be closed, and traffic detoured at times for the work to be accomplished.

**The reconstruction of Botham Avenue**, from South State Street to Niles Avenue is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2025. The construction is expected to be underway into the summer months. **Cleveland Avenue** is slated to be resurfaced from Hilltop Road to Lakeshore Drive in the summer or fall of 2025. **Broad Street** from Wayne Street to approximately Public Works will also be resurfaced, likely in the early summer of 2025.

Additional information, as it becomes available will be posted to the Engineering Department webpage, [sjcity.com/cityengineer](http://sjcity.com/cityengineer)

## Temporary Sign Regulations

Remember that temporary signs have restrictions! A temporary sign is any sign posted or displayed for a limited amount of time, such as banners, construction signs, garage sale signs and political signs.

One and two-family dwellings are allowed to display not more than 24 square feet of signage at any time. Signs must remain on private property. The maximum height for each sign is four feet and the size may not exceed six square feet.

To learn more visit [www.sjcity.com/building/page/sign-information-and-applications](http://www.sjcity.com/building/page/sign-information-and-applications).

