

APRIL 2020

Your Township Board

Supervisor.....Roger Seely
 Clerk.....Patrice Rose
 Treasurer.....Dave Vonk
 Trustee.....Ed Meny
 Trustee.....Tom Milnikel
 Trustee.....Ron Griffin
 Trustee.....Melissa Hahn
 Manager.....Denise Cook

Other Township Officials

Building Inspector.....Troy Gano
 Ordinance Officer.....Troy Gano
 Assessor.....Sue Rice
 Chief of Police.....Randy Leng

Township Meetings

Township Board of Trustees
 6 p.m. 1st Monday of the month
 (Board Workshop at 12:00 Noon)

Planning Commission
 6:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday Monthly

Zoning Board of Appeals
 7 p.m. 2nd Wednesday
 (As Requested)

**MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE
 TOWNSHIP HALL AND ARE
 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Township Hours
 The Township Hall is open
 Monday-Friday
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



" Update" is published periodically in an effort to inform residents of the many activities in St. Joseph Charter Township. Inquiries or future articles should be directed to the Manager.

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

Roger Seely, Supervisor

PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE

I send sincere thanks on behalf of myself and the Board of Trustees to our residents for supporting the public safety millage at the March 10th election. The successful passage of this millage allows the Township to continue to offer our residents excellent police and fire protection and high quality ambulance service. Thank you for the confidence that you place in our police and firefighters and, once again, thank you for your generous support!

SPRING CLEANUP PASSES

Landfill passes will be available for pick up at the Township Hall beginning April 13th. Passes are good for rubbish drop-off at Orchard Hill Landfill in Watervliet on the following dates: April 24-25 and May 8-9. A household may have one (1) pass for rubbish clean up from that property. If you have any questions on what is allowed, please call the landfill office at 468-3658.



Yard waste pickup through Best Way begins April 1st and runs through November 30th. The landfill does not accept plastic bags. Be sure to use paper bags or containers labeled "yard waste".

For hazardous waste disposal, please call Berrien County: 269-983-7111, ext. 8234 or go to their website, www.berriencounty.org/recycle. Hazardous waste would include household/garden chemicals and pesticides, medications, tire, and electronics.

YARD MAINTENANCE

In order to minimize rodent harborage and to keep our neighborhoods looking tidy and well-cared for, we ask that residents adhere to the maximum grass height of 6". If we see or receive a complaint that property is overgrown, a notice will be posted to bring it into compliance. If there is no response to the notice, the grass will be cut, without further notice, and that property will be invoiced for the charges. Any unpaid invoices will be placed on the winter property tax bill. Please note this extra charge on your winter tax bill could affect your monthly mortgage payment. The requirement for mowing applies to all properties, even those with deep lots. The exception for full mowing is undeveloped, wooded lots, which must be kept maintained at least around the perimeters. Please assure that your neighborhood is a great place to live in by keeping your property picked up, trimmed and mowed. Your neighbors and the Township thank you!



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK ... *continued*

Roger Seely, Supervisor

PET ORDINANCE

If you bring your four legged furry friend to any Township park or trail it must be on a leash as stated in Township ordinances. Please be courteous and, if needed, clean up after your pet. "Doggie" bags have been placed on the trails and in the parks for your convenience.

**FIRE IMPROVEMENT MILLAGE FUND**

In December of 2018 the Township began collecting taxes for the ten year fire improvement millage that was approved by the voters at the August 2018 election. It is estimated that the first year of collection will amount to approximately \$126,650. At this time, the Township Board is allowing the fund to build up before committing to the purchase of a fire truck(s).

**PARKS AND TRAILS MILLAGE FUND**

In December of 2018 the Township began collecting taxes for the ten year parks and trails millage that was approved by the voters at the August 2018 election. At the end of 2019 the Township had collected approximately \$107,000. Please see the parks department section of this newsletter for more information on 2019 projects and to view plans for 2020 parks and trail improvements.

**REVENUE SHARING**

In order to receive CVT revenue sharing payments the Township must meet all State requirements.

One of the requirements is to complete and publish an annual performance dashboard and provide public access to that information. St. Joseph Charter Township's Dashboard is available on the website. Visit www.sjct.org and click on **Public Hub** in the upper right to view the dashboard information.

**THE 2020 CENSUS IS RAMPING UP...**

What Is the 2020 Census? The 2020 Census counts every person living in the United States and the five U.S. territories.



The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted every ten years by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The Census Bureau needs to know where people live so an accurate population number is provided for counties, states, and local governments.

Participating in the census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau.

It is very important that you and those in your home be counted. The quality of services offered to Township residents is greatly influenced by the amount of state revenue sharing dollars received. Township revenue sharing dollars received from the State are determined by population based on the total residents counted in the census. The greater the count, the greater the portion of dollars received. This count will be the Township's official count for the next 10 years.

Some of the other ways census data is used:

- Determine the number of congressional seats distributed to each state. The more seats a state has, the more influence they have in Washington D.C.
- Determine if and how state legislative lines are redrawn.
- Determine what community services to provide.
- Determine how approximately \$675 billion in federal funding affects our Township and State.

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK ... *continued**Roger Seely, Supervisor*

There are three ways to respond to the 2020 Census. By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding:

- By phone.
- By mail.
- On line.

All census information is confidential. It is illegal for the Census Bureau, or its employees, to share your personal information with any other government agency including law enforcement, IRS, Welfare, FBI, Immigration, etc. No court of law, not even the President of the United States can access your individual response. For further information visit 2020census.gov for 2020 census updates.

Twin Cities Sustainable Harbor Project

The St. Joseph Charter Township (SJCT) Board along with City of St. Joseph and City of Benton Harbor Commissions met in January and all three communities approved resolutions to form a work group to develop a proposal for a harbor governing body to focus on Twin Cities Harbor Revitalization. Each community agreed to appoint four representatives to serve on the work group. The SJCT Board has appointed Roger Seely, Dave Vonk, Keene Taylor and Denise Cook. After each community completes the task of appointing representatives to the work group the real work of determining the best form of governing the future of the harbor will begin.

**Roads**

The Township Board approved the Berrien County Road Department's suggested 2020 Master Project Schedule for road maintenance in the Township. The Road Department will send out requests for bids for roads in the Tucker Dr. subdivision west of Lincoln Ave. that are to receive Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay (HMA). Those roads include: Tucker, Westwood, Heights, Field, Wadena, McLin, and Valley. The estimated total cost for this 1.66 total miles of road maintenance is listed at \$237,091. However, it is expected that bids will come in higher than the estimate as asphalt prices have increased. The Berrien County Road Department will contribute \$103,186 (their 2020 match) of the total cost with the balance pulled from the Township's general fund.

POLICE / PUBLIC SAFETY*Randy Leng, Chief of Police*

St. Joseph Township Police Department is proud to announce our two officers of the year for 2019, Sergeant Mike Lanier and Officer Jaramee Peppers. Thank you for your dedication and service to the residents of St. Joseph Township.

POLICE / PUBLIC SAFETY ...continued

Randy Leng, Chief of Police

CRIME PREVENTION/SAFETY AWARENESS

The St. Joseph Township Police and Fire Departments participate in pop-up crime prevention/safety awareness community events. Dates, times, and locations of events will be announced on social media.

The St. Joseph Township Police Department participates in the Law Enforcement Day at the Berrien County Youth Fair in August.

Information on the St. Joseph Township Police and Fire Departments and the Neighborhood Watch Program are located on the St. Joseph Charter Township Website at <http://www.sjct.org/> under Public Safety.

Follow the St. Joseph Township Police and Fire Departments on Facebook.

St. Joseph Township Police Department <https://www.facebook.com/SJTwpPD/>

St. Joseph Township Fire Department Station 1 <https://www.facebook.com/Sjctfd/>

St. Joseph Township Fire Department Station 2 <https://www.facebook.com/sjctfd2/>

St. Joseph Township Police Department is joining the Nextdoor social network. Join the network at <https://nextdoor.com> or by installing the free app on your smart phone or device.



**ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS AND GARAGE DOORS.
NEVER LEAVE VALUABLES IN PLAIN SIGHT, EVEN IF YOUR CAR
IS LOCKED.**

ST. JOSEPH TOWNSHIP NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Lt. Rick Knapp, Coordinator

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

St. Joseph Township Police Department encourages all residents to become involved in the Neighborhood Watch Program. The ultimate goal is to establish the program in all neighborhoods of St. Joseph Charter Township.

Township residents who wish to become involved in the Neighborhood Watch Program may contact Lt. Rick Knapp at (269) 429-6890 for further information. Lt. Knapp will be conducting several brief training sessions for participants and block captains in the coming months.



2020 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT Crime Prevention Event & Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at Maiden Lane Community Park from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Residents of St. Joseph Township and St. Joseph City are welcome to participate in various displays and activities.

Past programs have included Fire Department Jaws of Life Demo, Med Flight helicopter, Berrien County and MSP canine units, MICHIP Program, Lions Kid Sight vision testing, fire trucks, police cars, and other local emergency equipment, and games/prizes for the children.

FROM THE CLERK - Elections

*Patrice Rose, Clerk***2020 Election Information**

March 10th, 2020 – Presidential Primary Election

August 4th, 2020 – Primary Election

November 3rd, 2020 – General Election

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

**Absentee Ballots**

With the passing of Proposal 3 in November 2018, anyone can request an absentee ballot without having a “reason”. Because of this change, we expect to see quite an influx in requests for absentee ballots.

Please remember that our election staff is very small, so planning ahead will make the process more seamless for you and/or your family members. Absentee ballot applications can be requested up to 75 days prior to the election, and can be simply mailed to your residence upon your request.

Here are the answers to a few questions we often hear:

Do you have to fill an absentee ballot application out for every election?

Yes! We have to have something in writing, with the voter’s signature, requesting the ballot. (Remember - Just like when you vote in person, you have to fill out that little slip of paper called an application to vote.) The signature on the application is compared to the digital and/or paper signature we have on file, and if they match, the application is scanned in as received.

Why is there a delay in getting my ballot after I submit my application?

State law states that the ballots are to be in our office 45 days prior to the election. Unfortunately, things happen and sometimes they arrive a few days later. Once they do arrive, they have to go through testing to ensure that everything is correct. After they are tested, we start mailing them out.

Will my absentee ballot application and/or ballot itself be forwarded by the USPS?

Applications will be forwarded; however, the ballots themselves will not be. There will always be a section on the application where you can list an alternative address for the ballot to be mailed to.

What happens to my absentee ballot once I return it to the Township Hall?

Once your ballot is returned to our office, it is scanned back into the computer and your original application for the ballot is matched back up with it. The signature on the ballot envelope is verified (again). If everything matches, we sign off on the envelope, and the ballots with the applications are stored in a safe until Election Day!

Who counts the absentee ballots?

The absentee ballots are counted on Election Day by a group of election inspectors in what we call the Absent Voter Counting Board. This group of inspectors are sequestered on Election Day

FROM THE CLERK - Elections ... *Continued*

Patrice Rose, Clerk

until after the close of the polls at 8pm. No one can, with the exception of election staff, go in or out of the room where the ballots are being processed, and if someone wants to watch the process (such as a Challenger), they have to stay until the process is complete.

These inspectors work diligently to ensure that every absentee ballot is counted and that the voting process remains as anonymous as possible.

So...the absentee ballots are always counted?

Absolutely! We actually get asked this question often. The absentee ballots are counted for every election, and St. Joseph Charter Township has one of the highest absent voter ballot rates in the county.

If you have an additional question, or you'd like to vote via absentee ballot, please feel free to contact me, Danielle Riegel, at (269) 429-7703.

Real ID

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, Michigan residents will need to present a REAL ID compliant document to fly within the United States and enter certain federal facilities under federal law.



Many people have a REAL ID document, such as a valid U.S. passport, a DHS Trusted Traveler Card or an Enhanced Driver's License. A full list of acceptable REAL ID documents is available at TSA.gov. Those who don't can make their Michigan license or identification REAL ID compliant by visiting a Secretary of State branch office and presenting the required documents. If you make an appointment you'll be in and out in 30 minutes or less.

Here's what you need to do to get a REAL ID:

- To schedule an appointment at one of the Secretary of State branch offices visit Michigan.gov/SOS Appointments or call 888-SOS-MICH. Book your appointment at least a few weeks in advance of when you plan to travel. Your REAL ID license or state ID card will be mailed to you.

Bring these documents to the Secretary of State Office the first time so you don't have to make multiple trips.

- Your driver's license or state identification card.
- Your certified birth certificate with a raised seal or stamp issued by a governmental agency; valid, unexpired U.S. passport; or an approved citizenship or legal presence document. (Faxes and photocopies won't be accepted.)
- If your name is different from what is on your birth certificate, bring certified documents, such as marriage licenses or court orders, for every time your name has changed.

There is no additional fee to turn a license or state ID card into a standard REAL ID if it's done during your normal renewal time; otherwise a duplicate card fee of \$9 or \$10 will be charged.

Learn more at Michigan.gov/REALID

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Troy Gano, Building Inspector

Please remember that building projects such as decks, additions, re-roofing, window replacement, etc. require permits. You may want to tackle some of these projects yourself and as a homeowner you are allowed to do so, but you need to obtain the required permits and ensure that the work is inspected. On the other hand, if you were to have a contractor do any of this work, you want to ensure that they are licensed as a residential builder in Michigan and that they obtain the required permits for work being done at your home. As always, if you have a question on permitting or general inquiry, we would rather you ask the question than have us come to you and make you change something that could have been avoided. Let's build safely and keep our community looking great.



Visit our link to obtain permit applications and view codes currently enforced.

<http://sjct.org/departments/building-dept>.

ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT

Troy Gano, Ordinance Enforcement

In order to keep our Township looking great, here are a few ordinances that regularly come up as issues:



Lawn maintenance such as keeping it mowed and not to exceed 6 inches in height. Please note that if your grass gets too high, it will be posted and mowed by the Township contractor at your expense.

Parking in the road right of way and/or on unimproved surface, such as grass, is not allowed in the Township.

Property maintenance such as junk and debris on a property or peeling paint and surface conditions in disrepair need to be tended to. We will be sending out notices to become compliant as we see these issues. We currently enforce the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code.

Rental properties need to be registered and inspected by the township in accordance with Township ordinance and property maintenance code.

House numbers are required to be on the front of the primary structure and at least 4 inches in height, so as to be visible from the road.



PARKS / PUBLIC WORKS

Dave Rindfield, Director

Parks

Parks officially open April 1st and, weather pending, water should be turned on by April 15th.



MDNR Grants...2019 Maiden Lane Playground Structure Project LWC grant application - In December the Township received word that the Maiden Lane Playground Structure Project LWC grant of \$110,000 was awarded. Township staff is working diligently on this project and hope to have it completed for National Night Out in August.

The 2019 **Carronde Park Water Trail Connection & Fishing Platform Development Project Trust Fund grant** for installation of fishing platforms, a walkway along the river bank, and an all-inclusive kayak launch was not awarded, but scores were very close to projects that were awarded. Based on a recommendation to resubmit, the Township will again apply for the Trust Fund grant and also submit a new Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for the same project. If one of these grants is received, permits would be applied for in 2021 with an expected completion date sometime in 2022.

A new “\$50,000 and under” Trust Fund grant application will be submitted for a **Carronde Park Tennis Court Renovation Project**. This project will renovate three tennis courts, and includes improving one existing tennis court and refurbishing the other two courts to add green space and two pickle ball courts. If this grant is received, this project will begin in 2021.

Also, in the “\$50,000 and under” category, a new Trust Fund grant application will be submitted for a **Kedzie Park Playground Development Project**. If this grant is received, this project will begin in 2021.

In other grant news, the Township Board submitted a 2019 Rotary grant application for **Kedzie Park Playground Development**, but it was not awarded. In addition to the 2020 MDNR Trust Fund application for this project the Township will submit an application for Berrien Community Foundation’s “For Good Grant” in September 2020 for their fall grant cycle.

Parks Millage Update...Construction began on a new pavilion at Carronde Park last fall but, due to uncooperative weather, the project was not completed. This year, as soon as weather allows, the pavilion will be completed and available for rent.

Also, as stated in the 2019 fall newsletter, approximately 2,000 feet of ADA sidewalk was installed at Eaton Park last summer connecting parking lots to baseball/softball fields to restrooms and neighborhood paths.

This year, parks millage dollars will be used for the Maiden Lane Park Playground Structure project grant match of \$110,000 for a total estimated project total of \$220,000.

PARKS / PUBLIC WORKS ... *Continued*

Dave Rindfield, Director

SPECIAL EVENT...Southwest Michigan Egg Drop...a community celebration for all!

A partnership of local organizations, businesses and individuals are mobilizing with Overflow Church to bring the first annual fun-filled **Southwest Michigan Egg Drop** to be held Saturday, April 11, 2020, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Maiden Lane Park in St. Joseph Charter Township. The FREE event is designed to promote a fun, safe, and vibrant community experience bringing together families throughout the region.

“The goal of the **Southwest Michigan Egg Drop** is to gather people in the community around a positive annual event that will let them know they are loved and valued,” said Brian Bennett, lead pastor of Overflow Church. “We want to bring a really positive and fun experience into the heart of St. Joseph Charter Township and reach out to the kids and families throughout Southwest Michigan. We want the community to know there are people who love them and love to have fun together”.

The **Southwest Michigan Egg Drop**, a community celebration for all, will include plenty of candy (toddlers through grade 5), food, inflatables, music, 10,000 Easter eggs, and a helicopter drop! Save the date for this new annual event and join Overflow Church and others in the region in celebrating Easter in a new and exciting way in 2020!

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to become part of the positive impact in the region by promoting, attending, and sponsoring the **Southwest Michigan Egg Drop** through cash or candy donations. Area businesses are invited to participate this year and consider becoming Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors in the future for this annual event.

For more information visit: www.swmichiganeggdrops.com or contact Overflow Church: 269.926.1191 or info@overflowchurch.org.

Sewer

A reminder to all residents...**do not discharge the following into the sanitary sewer:** storm water, surface water, ground water, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, cooling water or unpolluted industrial process waters. As noted in the past, disposable flushable wipes should never be flushed as these wipes cause issues to our lift stations and the treatment plant.

Water

Fire hydrant flushing will begin May 1st and continue through the fall. During this time you may see water that is dirty or rusty. If this happens, run your water a few minutes until it clears up. If dirty or rusty water continues, contact the Township Public Works Department at 429-8113.

Please note: Per the International Fire Code, all fire hydrants must maintain a 3 foot radius, so please be sure that all fire hydrants are cleared of bushes and trees and that no other landscaping hides a hydrant.

Storm Water/Watershed Management

Just a reminder, we all have to work together to prevent pollution of the surface water runoff to the rivers and streams. There are brochures located on the counter at the township hall showing how to prevent pollution to our storm water system.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dave Vonk, Treasurer

IMPORTANT TAX DATES:

- **Summer Tax Bills** are mailed **July 1st** and due by 5:00 p.m. on **September 14, 2020**.
- **Winter Tax Bills** are mailed **December 1st** and due by 5:00 p.m. on **February 16, 2021**.
- After **March 1, 2021**, all delinquent payments are due to the Berrien County Treasurer 269-983-7111 ext. 8569.

PAYMENTS:

- You can pay your tax bill by check, cash or credit/debit card. There is a 3% fee (\$2 minimum) for using a credit or debit card.
- We can accept partial payments starting the day you receive your tax bill.
- Please call 269-429-7703 for current balance due if you did not pay by the due date.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **Tax Bill Address Changes:** call Sue Rice, Assessor 269-932-0272.
- **Tax Bill Name Changes:** call the Berrien County Register of Deeds 269-983-7111.
- **Drain Assessments:** call the Drain Commissioner 269-983-7111 ext. 8255.
- Your **taxable value** is based on the value of your property on December 31st of the preceding year.
- Valuable **income tax information** can be found on your tax bills. Please save them.

You can access your tax information free online at www.bsaonline.com. After creating an account, you will have unlimited access to your property tax information. BS&A charges a \$2.00 fee for online inquiries by non-owners of any property.

“Like” our Facebook page: **St. Joseph Charter Township** to keep up to date on Township happenings. Or go to our website **SJCT.org**. Please see the following Facebook pages for Police and Fire Department information:



St. Joseph Township Police Department
 St. Joseph Charter Township Fire Department Station #1
 St. Joseph Charter Township Fire Department Station #2

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

Sue Rice, Assessor

The State Tax Commission requires that assessors annually inspect a percentage of the properties in each class. New photos of the homes included in this percentage will be taken.

Over the years changes are sometimes made to your property, things added, and sometimes things are removed. The only way your record card can be accurate is by making sure that any changes you make (or have made in the past) have been accounted for. If, for example, you recently removed an inground swimming pool and did not get a demolition permit we would not know it was gone and it would remain on your record card, and you would be paying taxes on something that is no longer there. Remember, **YOU** pay property taxes based upon the information I have in my files – and if that information is not current, then neither is your assessed and taxable value.

In February you received an Assessment Change Notice showing your new 2020 Assessed and Taxable Values. It has a section that says...% **Exempt As “Homeowner’s Principal Residence”**. If this property is your principal residence, (not a second/vacation home), as noted on your Michigan driver’s license, your Michigan voter’s registration card, and the address you file your Michigan Income Tax from, then the % here should be 100%. If it is 0 and you feel that it is incorrect, please contact this office as soon as possible as this % is used in computing your **summer tax bill** as either homestead or non-homestead. It is a little number, but it makes a **HUGE** difference on your tax bill. So please take a second look at your notice and check – if you cannot find your notice, you can call and we can check for you. It is much easier to correct this now before the summer bills are processed.

	PRIOR AMOUNT YEAR: 2019	CURRENT TENTATIVE AMOUNT YEAR: 2020	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR TO CURRENT YEAR
1. TAXABLE VALUE:	65,975	66,568	593
2. ASSESSED VALUE:	219,700	234,500	14,800
3. TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTOR: 1.00000			
4. STATE EQUALIZED VALUE (SEV):	219,700	234,500	14,800
5. There WAS or WAS NOT a transfer of ownership on this property in 2019: Was Not			
This change in taxable value will increase/decrease your 2020 tax bill by approximately \$14.			

The 2020 Inflation Rate Multiplier is: 1.019

On your notice this is where you locate your 2020 information – the first two columns show your 2019 and 2020 Taxable and Assessed Values - the last column shows the difference in value (**not** the amount of taxes). The black line shows the approximate increase/decrease in your 2020 taxes (winter and summer bills).

As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 269-932-0272 or srice@sict.org.



3000 Washington Ave
P.O. Box 147
St. Joseph MI 49085

PHONE NUMBERS

TOWNSHIP HALL429-7703
Fax.....429-2079
(Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergency Only.....9-1-1
Police Administration.....429-6890
(Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
Non-Emergency.....983-3060
(Dispatch – 24 hr.)

FIRE: Emergency.....9-1-1
Fire Administration
Station #1 - 3000 Washington Ave.....429-4100
Station #2 - 1750 Colfax Ave.....429-4100

AMBULANCE.....9-1-1
Public Works - Sewer/Water Problems.....429-8113
Water/Sewer Bills983-6324

Berrien County Road Department.....925-1196
Berrien County Animal Control927-5648
I&M Electric800-311-6424
Michigan Gas800-401-6451

YARD WASTE PICKUP IS FROM APRIL THROUGH NOVEMBER ON YOUR NORMAL TRASH DAY

Office Closures for 2020

Friday, April 10th — **Spring Holiday**

Friday and Monday, May 22nd and 25th— **Memorial Day**

Friday and Monday, July 3rd and 6th— **Fourth of July**

Friday and Monday, September 4th and 7th— **Labor Day**

Other Holidays Observed: Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving Friday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

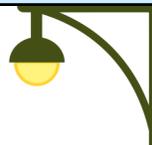
BEST WAY DISPOSAL OBSERVES THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Years Day

Usually, if a holiday falls on your regularly scheduled collection day, that day and every collection day after that day will be moved back one day for the remainder of that week. **Please call Best Way directly (463-3232) with any questions on holiday pickup or recycling schedules.**

Arrangements for extra rubbish carts, yard waste carts, or recycling containers can be made by calling Best Way. Please call Tami at **269-463-3232** with any questions or concerns on our rubbish/yard waste/recycling programs.

STREET LIGHTS: If you notice a street light that is not working, report it to Indiana Michigan Power on their website: <https://www.indianamichiganpower.com/> You will be asked for the pole number and the nearest street address or cross street. The pole number is located on a metal tag about eye level on the street light pole. If you do not have internet access, you may contact the Police Department at 429-6890 to have them enter your request into I&M’s website.



IMPORTANT NOTICE: Your water service may be turned off if your bill remains unpaid 45 days after the date of the bill. There will be a fee to turn the water back on, so please call 983-6324 with any questions or problems *before* this occurs.

Unpaid bills are added to December property tax bills, and these additional fees, which raise the amount that mortgage companies with escrow accounts pay, COULD affect your monthly mortgage payment, so please keep your account current. Call 983-6324 to make payment arrangements.

FIRE HYDRANTS are a vital part of our overall community public safety. **Please try to keep them free of over growth 3’ around and easily visible.**

Seconds can make a difference between saving and losing someone’s home or life. Please help us keep them readily visible for emergency personnel, even in winter. Our fire fighters thank you for your help!