

APRIL 2024

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 Official.....Troy Gano
 Ordinance Officer.....Troy Gano
 Assessor.....Shalice Northrop
 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

Spring Cleanup Passes

Landfill passes will be available for pickup at the Township Hall beginning April 8th. Passes are good for rubbish drop-off at Orchard Hill Landfill in Watervliet on the following dates: April 19, 20, 26, 27 and May 3, 4, 17, 18. 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 463-5588.



Yard Waste Pickup through Best Way begins April 1st and runs through December 13th. Yard waste will be picked up on your regular trash pickup day. The landfill does not accept plastic bags. Be sure to use large brown paper yard waste bags or you may provide your own container or rent one from Best Way Disposal (463-3232). All containers must be clearly 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, tires, and electronics.

Yard Maintenance

In order to minimize rodent harborage and 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!



Pet Ordinance If you bring your dog to any Township park or trail it must be on a leash as stated in Township ordinances. Please be courteous and clean up after your pet. "Doggie" bags have been placed on the trails and in the parks for your convenience.



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

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. Please see the Parks Department section of this newsletter for more information on 2024 projects.

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. The new Rosenbauer fire truck purchased at a cost not to exceed \$725,000 arrived in 2022 and is housed at Fire Station #1. A Rosenbaum mini pumper truck arrived in October 2023. This truck is housed at Fire Station #2.

**Tools to access Township services**

- Permit forms, assessing information forms, tax information and much more can be accessed from the Township website under *Departments* at www.sjct.org. Also, check out the main page of the website for current general information.
- You may email the Township at info@sjct.org.
- Secured, camera monitored, and frequently checked drop boxes, both curbside and at the building to the left of the main entrance door are available to drop off payments and other documents.
- You may send information via postal mail to St. Joseph Charter Township, P.O. Box 147, St. Joseph, MI 49085.
- You may phone the Township at [\(269\) 429-7703](tel:(269) 429-7703) for information.
- TextMyGov is a smartphone texting application that allows you to text in a number to look up Township information. You may also text in a number that will allow you to receive notifications from the Township. See the [TextMyGov](#) section in this newsletter for more information on how to get started.
- The Township also sends information to its [Facebook page, St. Joseph Charter Township](#).



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

The Michigan Secretary of State's Office and the Township remind PEDESTRIANS for your safety: Where there are no sidewalks, walk or jog on the side of the road as far to the left as possible or on a paved shoulder **AGAINST** oncoming traffic.



Road Millage: In December of 2020, the Township began collecting taxes for the ten-year road millage that was approved by the voters at the November 2020 election. If the County Road Department's bids come in as expected, in 2024, the Township's share of cost will go for repairs and maintenance on approximately 2.42 miles of roads to include: Marilyn Dr. (Brown School Rd. to end), Cleveland Heights subdivision (Anthony Dr., Nash Dr., Kedzie St.), Tennis Ct. (Maiden Lane to end), The Estates (W. of Washington Ave.), Circle Dr. (Vineland Rd. to end), Indian Hills Sub. (Seneca, Cherokee Tr.).

MDOT: MDOT is launching a road usage charges survey at www.Michigan.gov/MIRoadCharge. The survey will give the public the opportunity to weigh in on possible new ways to sustainably and fairly fund and maintain the state transportation system. Respondents will receive a \$10 gift card for their participation.

PLANNING COMMISSION*Ben Baker, Chairman*

The Planning Commission has been working for the past year to update the Township's Master Plan. One item we've been reviewing is the Township's current housing stock and how that compares to changing populations and needs for our residents.

One item we've been discussing in detail is Missing Middle Housing. Our 2015 Community Vision document, and 2017 Master Plan discussed Missing Middle Housing and our current draft plan continues encouraging the exploration of these housing types, to supplement the high-quality single family residential housing the Township offers. "Missing Middle" Housing refers to a lack of medium-density housing options. Imagine housing density on a continuum from a farmhouse on 80 acres on one extreme, moving to a subdivision, to apartment buildings, to high rise apartments in a City. The Missing Middle refers to the range of housing between single family homes and mid-rise apartments. This includes duplex, fourplex, townhouses, and similar styles. These are housing types that fit in with single family residential, or transitional neighborhoods, but haven't been built in quantity since the 1940's. But why does this matter?

The 2020 census showed that St. Joseph Charter Township had a very small decrease in population with a total of 9,993. The median age of the Township is 45.3, which is higher than the County and State average. The fact that the Township is nearly built-out, and population trends are showing smaller households, it is likely that population in the Township will remain at a similar level if current land use and development patterns continue.

PLANNING COMMISSION ...continued

Ben Baker, Chairman

Local realtors say that our region has a housing shortage. The National Association of Home Builders says that roughly 73% of all U.S. households cannot afford a new home at the current median price. Young people entering the workforce and young families may not be able to afford a traditional single family home, or need that amount of space. Conversely, Seniors who are empty nesters may wish to downsize their homes, yards, and the effort and the associated costs. Missing Middle housing would allow for residents in this situation to remain in the community while meeting their housing needs.

Our most recent Zoning Ordinance update in 2022 provides an option for a Missing Middle Overlay district where landowners and developers can apply for a special use for Missing Middle housing in certain areas. We are excited to allow for additional housing options for Township residents as their needs for housing may change throughout their life, while keeping the character that Saint Joseph Charter Township is known for.

Ben Baker, Saint Joseph Charter Township Planning Commission Chair.



St. Joseph Charter Township Planning Commission Annual Report for 2024

Summary

The Planning Commission worked this year to continue the process to update the 5-year Master Plan. In addition, we have reviewed site plans, PUD applications and special uses as they've come to us. A summary of our meetings is as follows:

- **January**

Marcy Hamilton of Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) presented a report of the master plan survey which garnered over 500 responses. Commissioners were tasked to continue review of the goals and objectives for the next meeting. Chairman Ben Baker presented the 2022 annual report and Commissioners approved the annual report to the township trustees. Officers were elected for 2023: Ben Baker, Chair, Ray Matejczyk, Vice-Chair, Jim Hahn, Secretary.

- **February**

A public hearing was held to hear a request for a PUD for the Nye property at 3151 Niles Road. The owner and consultants presented the site plan, which included two drive through restaurants, a gas station, a bank, and apartment buildings. This plan also would add a new traffic light on Niles Ave. A large number of residents from the adjacent subdivision were in attendance at the meeting. 30 audience members spoke during the public comment, with 27 in opposition of the development. 2 votes were held, one for a special use for Residential in a Business PUD, and the second for approval of the PUD, with the former passing and the latter not passing. This was moved to the Township Board without the Planning Commission's recommendation.

- **March**

At the regular meeting on 3/14 the master plan update was the main agenda item. The commission reviewed the zoning and future land use map. The commission considered renaming some of the future land uses that had no corresponding districts on the zoning map. Such as Water Oriented, Neighborhood Mixed Use, and Recreation Open Space.

A special meeting was called on 3/21 to give reasoning to the Nye petitioner for the "no" votes on the PUD. Commissioners Matejczyk, and Baker gave reasoning for their votes.

PLANNING COMMISSION ...*continued*

*Ben Baker, Chairman***• April**

Progress on the Master Plan continued with the majority of the discussion being placed on future land uses. A deep dive into the layout of the future uses was done with SWMC to update the map to reflect the discussion.

• May

The Master Plan was the main agenda item for the month. SWMPC and the Commission reviewed the “access to recreational areas” section. “Neighborhood Mixed Use” was discussed deeply, with the consensus that a clearer definition is needed. It was determined to change the title to “Mixed Use” to provide more flexibility. The wording of the section will be further reviewed at future meetings. The Future Land Use Map was also reviewed and edited.

• June

Work continued on the Master Plan. The edits to the “access to recreational areas” were reviewed with comments suggested. The Future Land Use Map, revisions were presented along with descriptions for each proposed category. The main change was to combine “Neighborhood Mixed Use” and “Water Oriented” into “Mixed Use”. Several maps from the appendix were discussed and it was agreed that some would be removed.

• July

A draft copy of the Master Plan was presented. Each commissioner will review the document, and provide comments to Troy for collection and transmittal to SWMPC. The steps for approval of the plan were reviewed. In addition, the commission performed a deep review of the Planning Commission Bylaws with a number of changes and deletions of elements that were not relevant. Chairman Baker was tasked to send a copy with the proposed changes to the commission for review before the next meeting.

• August

A site plan for South Shore Health and Racquet Club Expansion was presented. The business proposed a 24,000 square foot expansion with a new building and parking. The Commission asked questions of the owner and architect and wished them well with their expansion. The Master Plan review generated numerous comments. These were sent to SWMPC for revisions. The proposed Bylaw changes were reviewed by the Commission and approved.

• September

Discussion began on the desire to expand the St. Joseph Dermatology and Vein Clinic at 2900 Niles Road. The business has purchased the two parcels south of their current location. One is B2 and one is R2. Troy discussed the process that would be required for a rezoning, lot combination, and then a site plan approval. The Master Plan updates were submitted to SWMPC for a final draft.

PLANNING COMMISSION ...continued

Ben Baker, Chairman

- **October**

The commission reviewed the Master Plan and voted to submit the proposed plan to the Township Board for distribution. A recess from the regular meeting was then called to discuss the public hearing for the rezoning of a parcel for the expansion of the of St. Joseph Dermatology and Vein Clinic. A neighbor questioned the changes that may occur with the rezoning and how that may impact his property. The board voted to delay the rezoning request for one month.

- **November**

Larry Morrow presented a concern to the Planning Commission that the properties in the block northwest of the corner of Napier and Colfax with 14 properties B-2 zoning, while being mostly residential in use. This causes issues for mortgages and insurance due to the inability to rebuild if a loss occurs on the property. The Commission voted to start developing a R-2, B-2 zoning overlay district for this area, like what has been done on Niles Ave. The Rezoning of 2927 Roylton Heights Road was also reviewed after being tabled at the last meeting. The neighbor was able to discuss the implications this may present for his property. The Commission voted to approve the requested zoning change.

The Township Board reviewed the Draft Master Plan at their last meeting. Liaison Tom Milnikel stated the Board had some questions regarding the plan before they would distribute the plan for review. Some of which included syntex items, future land use, and road improvements. Recording Secretary Bernard volunteered to do a preliminary proofread of the document and then forward to each commissioner for their review.

- **December**

A public hearing was held for the proposed R-2, B-2 zoning overlay district at the corner of Napier and Colfax. After the hearing was closed the Commission voted to approve the overlay district. Chairman Baker reported that SWMPC was updating the Master Plan with the revisions provided by the Planning Commission.

Approved January 8, 2024

By the St. Joseph Charter Township Planning Commission

Mike Schnable

Tim Drews

James Hahn, Secretary

Ben Baker, Chair

Ray Matejczyk, Vice Chair

Jonathan Fisk

Tom Milnikel, Board of Trustees Liaison



Receive Township Alerts

St. Joseph Charter Township

Sign up to receive township notifications via text message.
Opt-in to the following program:

- ✓ Township Notifications keyword: **SJCTOWNSHIP**

Get Started:

Text in the above keyword to: **91896**

What to Expect:

- After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply YES to verify opt-in.
- You will receive up to 4 text messages a month with a notification for each alert category selection.
- Message and data rates may apply. Check with your carrier for more details.

How to Opt-Out:

Text STOP at any time to remove yourself from the notification list.



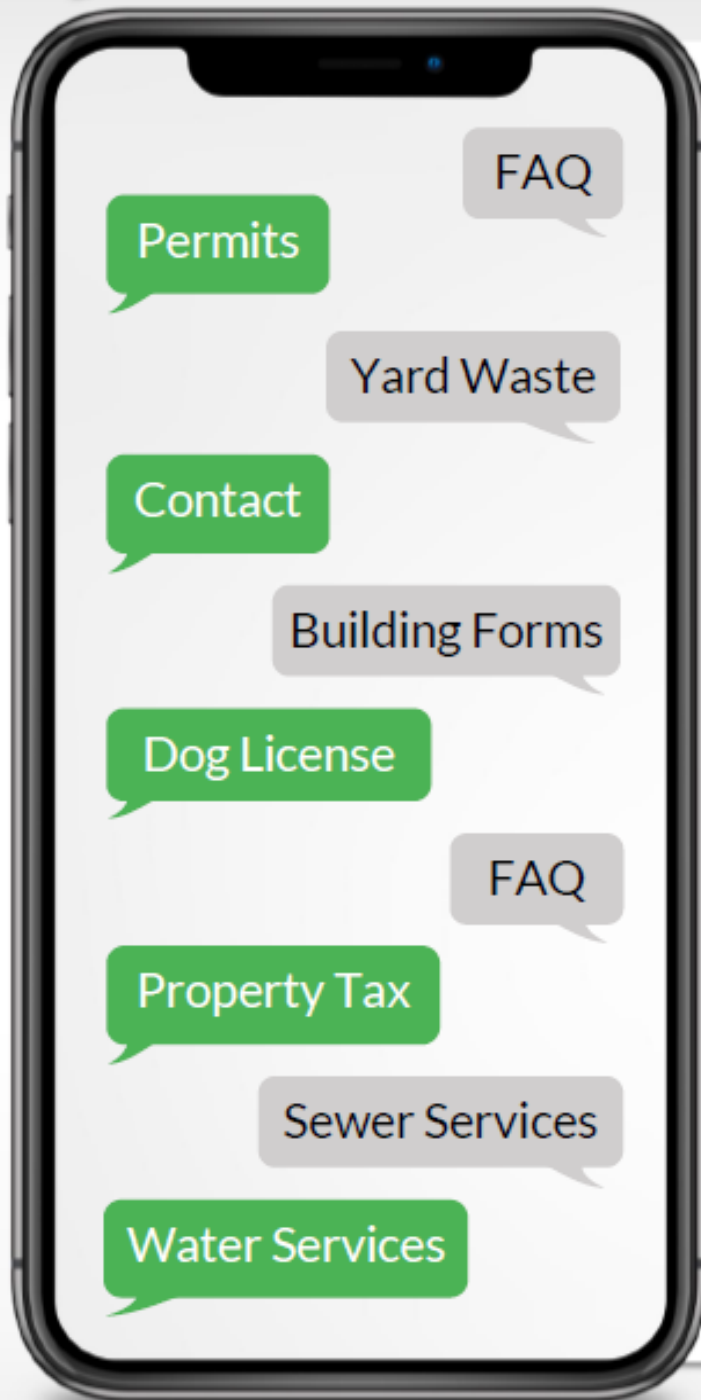
View terms and privacy policy info at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions Msg & Data rates apply. Msg frequency varies. Text HELP for contact info.

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St Joseph Charter Township

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POLICE DEPARTMENT & NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Randy Leng, Chief of Police

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The 2024 National Night Out Crime Prevention Event & Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at Maiden Lane Community Park from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Residents of St. Joseph Charter Township, St. Joseph City, and Lincoln Charter Township are welcome to participate in various displays and activities.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The St. Joseph Township Police Department has seen an influx in vehicles traveling on the roadways with no registration plate. Please remember that per MCL 257.225, “a registration plate issued for a vehicle shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle”. There are no Covid exemptions currently in place, so please be sure to take the proper steps at the Secretary of State office before driving that new vehicle.

With spring rapidly approaching, remember to keep vehicles locked during the night and valuables secured. Keep bicycles inside the garage, and don't leave purses/handbags/wallets inside of vehicles in plain view. Thieves like easy targets, so don't make yourself one.

Remember that no call is too small! Keep the following numbers close by - just in case:

- 24 Hour Emergency Police/Fire/Ambulance Dispatch – 9-1-1
- 24 Hour Non-Emergency Police/Fire/Ambulance Dispatch – (269) 983-3060
- Police Department Administrative Office – (269) 429-6860

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 ext. 2710 for further information. Lt. Knapp will be conducting several brief training sessions for participants and block captains in the coming months.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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/>

The St. Joseph Township Police Department is also on “Nextdoor”! Join the network at <https://nextdoor.com>, or by installing the free app on your smart phone or device.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!
Report suspicious activity. Help prevent crime.

FROM THE CLERK - Elections
Patrice Rose, Clerk

Voters on the Permanent Absent Ballot List will be receiving a ballot for each election listed below. Reminder, the application for a ballot will no longer be sent out to voters on that list.



If you have not requested to be added to the permanent ballot list, you can still sign up to receive a ballot automatically sent to you by mail prior to each election. To sign up you can go to our web site, under the departments tab, select elections tab, you will find the “Permanent Absent Ballot Form”. Print and fill it out and return it to us.

Elections remaining this year:

May 7th 2024 - School Bond Election (for both St. Joseph and Lakeshore schools)
 August 6th 2024 – State, County and Local Primary
 November 5th 2024 – Presidential Election

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deputy Clerk Christin Rice. Election updates are always posted on our Elections Tab as soon as we are notified.

Thank you, St. Joseph Charter Township Election Inspectors!

I would also like to thank everyone who submitted an application to be an Election Inspector. We have had over 20 residents of our community respond to work the elections, so you might have seen a few new faces if you vote in your precinct. We are happy to welcome them.

To all of you who voted:



ASSESSING DEPARTMENT
Shalice Northrop, 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 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 2024 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.

As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 269-429-7703 or shalicen@gmail.com

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Troy Gano, CBO Building Official

If you are planning a remodel or construction project and have a contractor, be sure that they are licensed to do the work, and ensure that they have obtained the required permits. If you are unsure of what work requires a permit, don't hesitate to call. If you as a homeowner plan to tackle some of these projects and are unsure if a permit is required, please call and we will let you know either way. Our goal is life safety of all residents and through permitting we can ensure this is achieved. Note that a building permit is not required for a shed under 200 sq. ft. in size or a fence of any type, but we do require a \$24 zoning permit to ensure compliance with our zoning code.

We are here to serve you with our State Licensed & ICC Nationally Certified Staff

Contacts:

Troy Gano, Building Inspector (269) 930-2453

Ken Simpson, Electrical Inspector (269) 471-5869

Ken Jewell, Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector (269) 287-0425



ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT

Henry Wing, Ordinance Officer

A few reminders:

- **There is no burning of yard waste allowed in St. Joseph Charter Township.** All leaves must be bagged in the large brown paper bags or placed in containers clearly labeled "Yard Waste" (we have these stickers available for free in our office). You may either purchase your own container and label it or rent one from Best Way Disposal (463-3232).



- **Permissible Fires**—It is permissible to burn clean dry fire wood or sticks contained within a non-combustible ring no larger than 4 feet in diameter, constantly attended, and at least 25 feet from any building or structure. (Excessive smoke in all cases will be required to be put out)
- **Junk & Debris**— If you have large items such as furniture or appliances that you would like to dispose of, please note that Best Way will NOT pick these items up without a special pickup call and additional fee. If you have extra debris/items please store it out of sight until you can haul it away or until you are able to schedule a special pickup.
- **Parking**—There is no parking on the lawn or road right-of-way at any time. All off-street parking must be on an improved surface such as crushed stone, crushed concrete, paving bricks or other similar material.
- **Dog barking** continuously is deemed a nuisance and prohibited. Dogs will bark when they see a dog or people near their property and a reasonable amount is allowed.
- **Rental Property**—Dwellings are permitted to be rented as single-family long-term (30 days or more) only if legally registered and inspected by the township.

Troy Gano, Department Head

PARKS / PUBLIC WORKS

*Dave Rindfield, Director***Parks**

Township parks will officially open April 1st with hopes of water being turned on by April 5th weather pending.

Eaton Park Field House – In August 2023, the Board of Trustees approved agreements with St. Joseph Baseball and Softball Association (SJB&SA) to construct an indoor facility at Eaton Park. Construction costs are funded through private donations and collections received by SJB&SA. Construction began in the fall of 2023 and continues. SJB&SA is hoping to have the building functional and ready for use in the next couple months.

MDNR Grants...

Carronde Park Water Trail Connection & Fishing Platform Development Project - Construction was completed in the fall of 2023. The project includes: installation of fishing platforms, a walkway along the river bank, and an all-inclusive kayak launch. Township staff is grateful for the support of the Board of Trustees in securing the grant and residents support of the parks millage that have made this beautiful project possible.

Carronde Park Tennis Court Renovation Project – A \$50,000 grant, with a \$42,400 match from the Township, has been awarded with construction expected to be completed in the Spring of 2024. This project includes: renovation of three tennis courts to include improving one existing tennis court and refurbishing the other two courts to add green space and two pickle ball courts.

Eaton Park - SPARK Grant Not Awarded - The Township applied for a SPARK grant for a project total of \$998,800 for Eaton Park to be used for renovation of restrooms, resurfacing under the playground structure, access pathways and benches. The SPARK grant was a one-time offer of a no-match grant for park related projects. Unfortunately, St. Joseph Charter Township's project was not chosen as one of the recipients for this grant. This was a very competitive statewide grant and, even though SJCT is not a recipient, we are happy to note that two Berrien County projects were chosen. We congratulate Niles Charter and Chikaming Townships!

Sewer

Lincoln Avenue Lift Station – As a part of maintaining the Township's aging waste water system, a new, much-needed lift station is being designed to replace the current lift station on Lincoln Ave. This station pumps an average of 56,000 gallons of sewage daily and close to 21 million gallons a year. The 51-year-old station will be replaced with a newer style that will allow for maintenance to be performed without using confined space measures.

Pumps have been ordered, the contractor is secured, and we are currently in the process of obtaining a permit from the State of Michigan.

Estimated construction start date is June, as we are aiming to stay just ahead of the County Road Department's Lincoln Avenue Road maintenance project.



A reminder to all residents... **Do not discharge the following to 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 (as noted in the pictures above).

Water

Fire Hydrant: 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 no other landscaping hides a hydrant.

Storm Water/Watershed Management

Just a reminder that it takes all of us working together to prevent pollution of the surface water runoff to our rivers and streams. For further information check out “Keep it Blue” at <https://www.swmpc.org/water.asp>. Brochures that illustrate ways to prevent pollution to our storm water system are also located on the counter at the township hall.



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 16, 2024**.
- **Winter Tax Bills** are mailed **December 1st** and due by 5:00 p.m. on **February 14, 2025**.
- After **February 28, 2025**, all delinquent payments for 2024 taxes 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 our Assessor 269-429-7703.
- **Tax Bill Name Changes:** call the Berrien County Register of Deeds 269-983-7111 ext. 8562.
- **County 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.

DOG LICENSES:

Due to procedure changes, dog licenses are no longer available at St. Joseph Charter Township Hall and may now be purchased through Berrien County Animal Control. Licenses may be purchased in person at 1400 S. Euclid Ave., Benton Harbor or on-line at berriencounty.org click on departments then animal control. If you have any questions regarding dog licenses you may reach Berrien County Animal Control at 269-927-5648.



“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



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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 RUNS FROM APRIL THROUGH THE SECOND THURSDAY OF DECEMBER, ON YOUR NORMAL TRASH DAY

Office Closures for 2024

- Friday, March 29th — Spring Holiday
- Friday and Monday, May 24th and 27th— Memorial Day
- Thursday and Friday, July 4th and 5th— Fourth of July
- Friday and Monday, August 30th and September 2nd — Labor Day
- Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th—Thanksgiving
- Monday and Tuesday, December 25th and 26th—Christmas

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.

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!

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.