

APRIL 2025

**Your Township Board**

Supervisor.....Roger Seely  
 Clerk.....Patrice Rose  
 Treasurer.....Dave Vonk  
 Trustee.....Ed Meny  
 Trustee.....Tom Milnikel  
 Trustee.....Melissa Hahn  
 Trustee.....Tim Drews  
 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 1st. Passes are good for rubbish drop-off at Orchard Hill Landfill in Watervliet on the following dates: April 11, 12, 25, 26, and May 2, 3, 16, and 17. A household may have one (1) pass for rubbish cleanup 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 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through December 11<sup>th</sup>. 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".

The rules for allowed yard waste come from the State of Michigan and are the same for all Michigan landfills. Yard clippings are defined as leaves, grass clippings, vegetable or other garden debris, shrubbery, or bush or tree trimmings less than 4 feet in length or 2 inches in diameter that can be converted to compost humus. Anything larger than 2 inches in diameter or longer than 4 feet can not go into yard waste as it can not be composted. Lumber is considered trash because of its size and because it is treated.

**For Hazardous Waste Disposal**, please call Berrien County: 269-983-7111, ext. 8234 or go to their website, [www.berriencounty.org/recycle](http://www.berriencounty.org/recycle). Hazardous waste would include household/garden chemicals and pesticides, medications, tires, and electronics.

**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.



**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.



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

Roger Seely, Supervisor

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!

**Parks and Trails Millage Fund**

In December 2018, the Township began collecting taxes for the ten-year Parks and Trails Millage that the voters approved at the August 2018 election. Please see the Parks section of this newsletter for further information.

**Fire Improvement Millage Fund**

In December 2018, the Township began collecting taxes for the ten-year Fire Improvement Millage that the voters approved 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 Rosenbauer mini pumper truck arrived in October 2023. This truck is housed at Fire Station #2.

In 2024, funds totaling \$22,160 were used to purchase airbags, supplies, and an EFORCE Ram 2.0 rescue tool.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2020, the Township began collecting taxes for the ten-year road millage the voters approved at the November 2020 election. In 2025, the Township's share of the cost will go for repairs and maintenance on approximately 7.09 miles of roads, including sealcoat to the Ansley Drive Subdivision (Oakridge, Tucker, Grant, Sheridan, Ansley, Miller, Lattimer, Clemens, Marvin, Manitou, Park Den, Mead, Kim, Kevin, Royalton Heights Dr.), HMA to the Indian Hills Subdivision (Onondaga, Cayuga, Learning), HMA to Meadow Grove Pl. Subdivision (Meadow Grove Pl, Carriage Ln., etc.), HMA to High Wood Estates Subdivision (Dozer Dr. to Bluffwood, Ridgeview) and Scratch and Seal to Windsor Dr. from Colfax Ave. to Bluff Ct.

**PLANNING COMMISSION***Ben Baker, Chairman*

### **St. Joseph Charter Township Planning Commission Annual Report for 2024**

**Summary**

The Planning Commission worked this year to finalize the 5-year Master Plan. In addition, we continued review of site plans and special uses as they arose. Member Tim Drews resigned from the Commission in November as he was elected to the Township Board. Bruce Binger was added to the commission in December.

A summary of our meetings is as follows:

- **January**

The master plan was reviewed and the Planning Commission voted to pass the Master Plan along to the Board of Trustees for comment and distribution. Chairman Ben Baker presented the 2023 annual report and Commissioners approved the annual report to submit to the Township Trustees. Officers were elected for 2023: Ben Baker, Chair, Ray Matejczyk, Vice Chair, and Jim Hahn, Secretary.

- **February**

A public hearing was held regarding a special use permit for a fitness center / gym and apartment complex at 1189 Lydia Drive. The plan was presented by the applicant and was seeking approval under the Missing Middle portion of the zoning ordinance. Public comments focused on traffic. The special use application was tabled to allow the applicant to provide a more refined site plan. The Township Board had reviewed the Master Plan and asked for some syntax revisions. The Commission will review the updates and resubmit to the Board.

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**PLANNING COMMISSION** ...continued

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Ben Baker, Chairman

A special meeting was held on February 15<sup>th</sup> to review a request to rezone a portion of the Nye property, 3151 Niles Road, from R-1 to B-2. Over 60 members of the public were in attendance. The applicant reviewed how they would like to rezone the portion of the property fronting Niles Road. Approximately 14 members of the public spoke against the request, citing safety, property values, and traffic. The Planning Commission reviewed the request and guidance from SJCT attorney, Seneca. The Commission asked the applicant to revise their Statement of Conditions to provide more clarity on the request. The request was tabled subject to additional information.

- **March**

The Master Plan revisions were made and the Trustees agreed to distribution. A public hearing was tentatively scheduled for June. Additional documents were provided regarding the Nye rezoning request. The commission reviewed the updated submitted documents and discussed the data with Township Attorney Seneca. The Commission recommended the conditional rezoning of a portion of the 3151 Niles Road site from R-1 to B-2. This is passed along to the County and the Township Board for review.

- **April**

A site plan review for 2900 Niles Road was reviewed for expansion of the St. Joseph Dermatology and Vein Clinic. The Commission approved the site plan contingent upon lighting, signage and landscaping. A revised site plan for the gym, and apartments at 1189 Lydia Drive was presented. The plan was revised based on comments from the public and commission at the previous meeting. The Commission voted to recommend approval of the site plan to the Township Board.

- **May**

The Commission prepared for the public hearing for the revised Master Plan, to be held on June 11. The Commission also reviewed training opportunities available to Planning Commissioners.

- **June**

A public hearing was held to review the Draft Master Plan. Marcy Hamilton of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission provided a recap of the process taken to revise the plan. No public comments were received. The Commission voted to pass a resolution recommending the Township Board adopt the plan.

- **July**

The Township Board had comments on the Draft Master Plan, specifically mixed-use designation on the future land use map for properties east of Niles Road. The Commission voted to update the future land use map to remove the mixed-use designation for properties east of Niles Road and other minor edits to comply with the Board's comments.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** ...*continued**Ben Baker, Chairman*

- **August**

No meeting was held.

- **September**

The Township Board approved the 5-year Master Plan at their September meeting. The Planning Commission approved the distribution of plans per the contract with Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. The Commission will begin to look at updates to the Zoning Ordinance to follow the direction laid out in the Master Plan. Also, at the meeting a Site Plan for the Pizza Hut at 2049 Niles Road was presented for review. The site plan showed removal of the existing restaurant and construction of a new, smaller retail space for two businesses, one being a Pizza Hut with no dine-in seating and an option for a future retail business. The Commission approved the site plan.

- **October**

No meeting held.

- **November**

The Commission began their review of the Zoning Ordinance for areas where clarity is needed and areas that don't align with the Master Plan. Four areas were identified. These include, Article 10 (temporary signs), Article 11 (Missing Middle), Article 7 (Planned Unit Development), and Article 4 (Permitted and Special Uses). It was determined to review Article 4 at the December meeting.

- **December**

The Commission discussed Article 4 of the zoning ordinance, Permitted and Special Uses. The Commission reviewed all of the uses and what zoning districts each use was prohibited or permitted as a of right or as a special use. A number of changes were suggested and a marked-up version will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Approved January 14, 2025

By the St. Joseph Charter Township Planning Commission

Mike Schnable

Bruce Binger

James Hahn, Secretary

Ben Baker, Chair

Ray Matejczyk, Vice Chair

Jonathan Fisk

Tom Milnikel, Board of Trustees Liaison



## Contact Us

+269-983-7167

publiclibrary@sjcity.com

**Our Hours:**  
 M-Th 10am-8pm    Fri 10am-6pm  
 Sat 10am-5pm

www.LibraryByTheLake.com  
 500 Market St.  
 St. Joseph, MI 49085

## TRAVEL TALES ITINERARY

- February 11th    1. Japan
- March 11th    2. Colombia
- April 8th    3. Morocco
- May 13th    4. Canada
- August 12th    5. Ireland
- September 9th    6. Kenya
- October 14th    7. Thailand
- November 11th    8. Poland

At The St. Joseph Public Library  
 On The 2nd Tuesday Of Each Month  
 Free & No Registration Required

# TRAVEL TALES

Discover! Imagine! Learn!  
 ST. JOSEPH/MAUD PRESTON  
 PALENSKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY



# What Is Travel Tales?

Travel Tales is an inclusive event for individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia, and their caregivers to socialize and engage memory.

Travel Tales allows individuals to explore the globe from the comfort of the library with a monthly program which meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11am.

Utilizing various resources, participants will experience a gently immersive excursion to a new location and be provided with a calm and supported atmosphere to stimulate cognitive ability through travel.

Each program explores a destination through the use of folklore, music, imagery, tastes, and souvenirs.



## Grant Funded By:



At The St. Joseph Public Library  
On The 2nd Tuesday Of Each Month  
Free & No Registration Required

# Why Travel Tales?

- The Region IV Area Agency on Aging states that one in eight residents (12.5%) age 65+ live with dementia.
- That percentage is triple the 4% found in a 2024 CDC study.
- A Mayo Clinic publication from 2024 suggests that 110 of every 100,000 people between ages 30 and 64 are affected by young-onset Alzheimer's.
- A 2015 study reported that "caregivers and volunteers observe increased social interaction, increased cognitive interaction, and various types of cognitive engagement, including verbalization, memory recall, reading ability, and emotional engagement. Caregivers also report improved relationships with their loved ones as a result of the program."

## Neighborhood Watch Recruits



The Neighborhood Watch Program is looking to rejuvenate the program, and new block captains are needed.

Block captain responsibilities may include:

- **Communicating with neighbors:** Contacting neighbors to discuss crime concerns, needs, and program improvements.
- **Maintaining a contact list:** Keeping a list of neighbors' names, addresses, and phone numbers.
- **Assist in coordinating meetings:** Notify neighbors of scheduled training sessions or organized meetings.
- **Passing on information:** Sharing information about crime trends and prevention tips with neighbors.
- **Acting as a liaison:** Connecting neighbors with the police department.
- **Activating a phone chain:** In the event of a crime, starting a phone chain to notify neighbors.

If you would like additional information, or are interested in participating in the program, please reach out to Officer Josh Allen at (269) 429-6890 ext. 2760 or [jallen@sjct.org](mailto:jallen@sjct.org).

## Car Seat Inspections

Officer Paul Komdeur is certified as a Child Passenger Safety Technician. If you would like to have your child's car seat inspected or installed, please reach out to Officer Komdeur at (269) 429-6890 ext. 2265 or [pkomdeur@sjct.org](mailto:pkomdeur@sjct.org).

## We're Here for You

Never hesitate to reach out to the police department. Our administrative office is open from 7am-5pm, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), and can be reached at (269) 429-6890. After business hours, you can contact Berrien County Dispatch at (269) 983-3060. Not only do they dispatch 24/7 for police, fire, and medic, they can also put you in contact with an officer.

Remember - No call is too small!



**FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE***Christin Rice, Deputy Clerk / Election Coordinator***2024 Elections**

Last year four elections were held in St. Joseph Charter Township. Including: February Presidential Primary, August Primary, November General. A May election was held for St. Joe Schools and Lakeshore Schools. I would like to take the time to thank our loyal election workers who worked hard to run these elections. Approximately 80+ workers spent hours in training prior to the election days; not to mention a very long day on election day.

**It Takes A Team - Special Thanks To:**

Glenn, Alzeni, Ana, Cathy, Robert O., Gary S., James Y., Joyce, Rosemary, Randy, Sheree, Joanne, Adele, John M., Pat S., Terry, Renee, Katherine E., April, Pam W, Jen M., Rich, David S., Catherine S., Diane, Michael S., Thomas M., Carmela, Matthew, Nikki, Joe, Victoria, Lea, Beth Ann, Robert R., LeAnn, Celina, Mark M., Bob P., Marsha M., James R., Ginger, Mike F., Sylvia, Cynthia, Bruce, Patti, Liz O., Brittany, JoAnn, Terry S., Rachel, Richard S., John M., Kari, Rolland, Ron L., Genette, Pam D., Tony, Priscilla, Deny S., Lisa, Max, Ron K., Meredith, Michelle S., Bill S., Mary K., Jonathan, Denise C., Denise E., Marcia S., Gary S., Pat S., Deb, Tammy and Patrice!

If you know some of these inspectors, when you're out and about, thank them personally!

**Township Board Welcomes New Member:**

After the retirement of Ron Griffin last fall, Township residents elected new Trustee Tim Drews into that vacancy. Tim was sworn in at the December 2024 meeting. Welcome Tim, we are glad to have you on the board.

**2025 Elections****Possible Election Dates:**

May 5, 2026

August 5, 2025

November 4, 2025

**Currently No Elections Are Scheduled For St. Joseph Charter Township.**

If an election is scheduled it will be announced 85 days prior to the election date!

May 6<sup>th</sup> Election would be announced by: February 11<sup>th</sup>

August 5<sup>th</sup> Election would be announced by: May 13<sup>th</sup>

November 4<sup>th</sup> Election would be announced by: August 12<sup>th</sup>

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**FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE ...** *continued**Christin Rice, Deputy Clerk*

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**Voter Registrations**

Even though there may not be any elections this year, you can still register to vote:

Register to Vote on-line at: [Michigan.gov/vote](https://Michigan.gov/vote)

Also, at the local Secretary of States office:

1690 Mall Drive, Benton Harbor, MI

Phone: (888) 767-6424

Appointments can be made at: [state.mi.us](https://state.mi.us)

At the Township Hall:

3000 Washington Ave., St. Joseph, MI

Picture ID will be required!

See our website for links to voter registration and FAQ's about voting.

**New: Regarding Voter Age Limitations**

First time drivers getting their license at the Secretary of States office are automatically registered to vote unless you indicate that you do not wish to be registered. Age limitations have recently been lowered and 16-year-olds will now be pre-registered to vote, but must wait to vote until age 18.

**Become An Election Inspector**

There is a new link under departments, on our election's web page "Becoming An Election Inspector". The link is a short survey asking a few contact questions and some regarding your interest and or experience. The Township is looking for persons who are able to handle the long hours on election day and are willing to go through training sessions. Election workers are paid for working elections and for training. The survey and inspector applications can also be requested at the counter in the Township Hall during regular office hours.

**New Legislation Changes**

On Dec. 3, 2024, Governor Whitmer signed into law two bills—Public Act 157 (House Bill 4127) and Public Act 158 (House Bill 4128)—limiting firearm possession in voting-related locations. Because the bills did not receive immediate effect from the Legislature, they will not take effect until 91 days after the Legislature adjourned for the year, meaning a likely effective date in March 2025.

Michigan law currently restricts firearms in schools and places of worship, which means in many cases there are already restrictions on firearms in polling places located in schools and places of worship. However, under current law firearms may be allowed in other locations where voting is taking place if there is not some other restriction on firearms in that location.

**FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE ...** *continued**Christin Rice, Deputy Clerk*

Together, the bills prohibit the possession of firearms in voting-related locations, with limited exceptions. Specifically, they prohibit the possession of a firearm:

- In a polling place or within 100 feet of the entrance of a building with a polling place on an Election Day while polls are open.
- In an early voting site or within 100 feet of the entrance of a building with an early voting site on days when early voting is occurring.
- Within 100 feet of an absent voter ballot box in the 40 days before an election.
- In a city or township clerk's office or satellite office, or within 100 feet of the entrance of a city or township clerk's office or satellite office in the 40 days before an election.
- In an absent voter counting place or a combined absent voter counting place or within 100 feet of the entrance of an absent voter counting place or a combined absent voter counting place when absent voter ballots are being processed (While the above locations are included in both bills, this provision is added only in House Bill 4128).

However, a firearm may still be carried within those boundaries in any of the following instances: (1) by a member of law enforcement; (2) if lawfully carried on private property that falls within 100 feet of the location; or (3) by a concealed pistol license (CPL) holder who is carrying lawfully. BOE will include these new legal requirements in future guidance. At this time, BOE guidance continues to be that election inspectors instruct voters of the law and attempt to de-escalate conflicts and resolve potential violations, if possible, but that they contact law enforcement as needed.

As the Elections Administrator, I am grateful for this new legislation that protects our valued voters coming into the precinct to vote and our election workers who spend the day in precincts processing the votes.

**Notice – Be up to date on Township Information:**

Mark your calendars. The BEST way to receive Township information is to check our website: [www.sjct.org](http://www.sjct.org), our Facebook page, or to join the TextMyGov option on our website (see the Home Page to join) TextMyGov will have pertinent information on all matters of Township issues that may concern you. Including election reminders. Disclaimer...TextMyGov should not be considered as a way of soliciting your votes for any candidate, only to serve as a reminder that an election is coming up.

**New Elections Assistant:**

Belated welcome: In September of 2024; we welcomed a new addition to the Clerks Department. Deb Reed, joined our staff and will be assisting us with all thing's elections. Coming in to a Presidential election for the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever, she has shown great initiative and has caught on quickly in what can be a crazy election process. Welcome Deb, we are glad you are here!

## 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

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**PARKS / PUBLIC WORKS**

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Dave Rindfield, Director

**Parks**

Township parks will be officially open April 1<sup>st</sup> with hopes of water being turned on by April 7th weather pending.

Township parks will be officially closed November 1st and reopen April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 weather pending.

**Help Wanted -**

SJCT is looking to add 1-2 personnel in our parks dept for summer work; this will include but is not limited to maintenance of flowers and landscaping at all of our parks' buildings and grounds. If you're interested, please reach out to the township for further information.

**Carronde Park -**

We appreciate that the new pickleball courts have been so popular. Please be respectful to others and share the court time to make the pickleball experience good for all participants.

**Eaton Park -**

The remaining 3 press box towers at Eaton Park will be getting a new facelift this early spring; these upgrades will include new siding, doors, and painting the roof and trim. We're looking forward to completing this project before the upcoming baseball and softball seasons.

**Knauf Park Trail - Tree Trimming**

Despite the fact that Knauf Trail is located in the Township, there are written agreements that allow AEP/Indiana Michigan Power to perform vegetation management on their transmission main that runs through and along the trail. That means that AEP is allowed to contract with companies to trim or cut trees and brush within the area at their discretion. The Township does not have authority over how or when the vegetation management takes place. If you have concerns, please contact Indiana Michigan Power at [IMforestry@aep.com](mailto:IMforestry@aep.com) or phone 800-311-4634.

**Maiden Lane Park -**

St. Joseph Charter Township has updated the rental policy for Maiden Lane pavilions. Challenges were arising when two different parties rented the outdoor and enclosed pavilion on the same day. To minimize disputes, all reservations made for Maiden Lane this year and moving forward, will include both pavilions.

**MDNR Grants...****Eaton Park -**

A request to apply for a DNR grant for new bathrooms and pavilion at Eaton Park, will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The grant application must be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup> with an answer of acceptance from the DNR in December. If this grant is approved by the DNR we will be looking at construction in 2026.

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**PARKS / PUBLIC WORKS** ... *Continued*Dave Rindfield, Director

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**Sewer**

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**

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.



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**ASSESSING DEPARTMENT**Shalice Northrop, Assessor

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A staff member from the Assessor's office will be out visiting 20% of the properties again this year. We will send out postcards ahead of time to let you know that you have been selected for a field visit. All structures will be measured and updated photos will be taken. This is to be sure that our records are current and up to date with information. This will not increase your taxes unless something is discovered that hasn't been assessed previously. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. My information is on the postcard that you will receive. There will be no interior inspection, only exterior. Each one of the field appraisers will have credentials and magnetic signs on their vehicles. Thank you for your cooperation while we update our files.

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

**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 15, 2025**.
- **Winter Tax Bills** are mailed **December 1st** and due by 5:00 p.m. on **February 16, 2026**.
- After **March 2, 2026**, all delinquent payments for 2025 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 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.

“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



Presort Standard US Postage  
PAID  
Kalamazoo, MI Permit No. 1366

**ST. JOSEPH CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP**

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

**PHONE NUMBERS**

**TOWNSHIP HALL** .....429-7703  
**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, 7 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 Bills** .....983-6324

**Berrien County Road Department**.....925-1196  
**Berrien County Animal Control** .....927-5648  
**I&M Electric** .....800-311-6424  
**Michigan Gas** .....800-401-6451

**YARD WASTE PICKUP RUNS FROM APRIL THROUGH THE SECOND THURSDAY OF DECEMBER, ON YOUR NORMAL TRASH DAY**

**Office Closures for 2025**

Friday, April 18th — **Spring Holiday**

Friday and Monday, May 23rd & 26th — **Memorial Day**

Thursday and Friday, July 3rd & 4th— **Fourth of July**

Friday and Monday, August 29th and September 1st — **Labor Day**

Thursday and Friday, November 27th & 28th—**Thanksgiving**

Thursday and Friday, 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.