

OCTOBER 2018



**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.....Ross Bates

**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*

On behalf of myself and the other members of the Board of Trustees, we express our sincere thanks to the Township residents for supporting the Fire Improvement and the Parks and Trails millages at the August 7<sup>th</sup> election. The successful passage of the Fire Improvement millage will allow our fire department to continue to keep residents, businesses and firefighters safe; and the Parks and Trails millage will provide opportunities for residents' increased health and well-being. Once again, thank you for your generous support!



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.



As we move into another colorful autumn in southwest Michigan, when the leaves start to fall remember... all leaves must be bagged in large brown paper yard waste bags or placed in containers clearly labeled "Yard Waste". Plastic bags are not allowed. You may either purchase your own container and label it (there are stickers available at the Township Hall) or rent a container from Best Way Disposal. (463-3232)



Before we know it we'll be digging into our closets for warm coats, gloves and boots. Here are a few helpful reminders for cold and snowy weather.

**SNOWPLOWING:** St. Joseph Charter Township (SJCT) roads are plowed by the Berrien County Road Department (BCRD). Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) plows Niles Road and S. Lakeshore Drive. Village of Shoreham roads are plowed by a private contractor hired by the Village Council. The Road Department plows in the following order: 1) primary roads are opened for emergency vehicles; 2) secondary roads are opened to link primary roads; 3) subdivision roads are opened when both primary and secondary roads are stabilized.



Remember:

1. Plan ahead. When bad weather is announced, stock up on food, water, flashlights, batteries and any other necessities.
2. Prepare your vehicle by maintaining antifreeze, motor oil, battery and tires. Carry flares, blankets, coats, hats, gloves, boots, shovel and any other item you may need if you should get stuck for any length of time.
3. Stay off the roads if a snow emergency is announced. This will ensure your safety and also the safety of the Road Department crew.
4. Only lightweight aluminum or fiberglass markers are allowed to mark the road edge.
5. Do not run portable generators in your home or garage. Portable generators give off deadly carbon monoxide in enclosed places.

***Have a safe autumn and winter and enjoy the holidays!***

**FROM THE CLERK - Election:**

Patrice Rose, Clerk

**November 6<sup>th</sup> Election Information:**

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

**State General Election: November 6, 2018****Voter Registration Last Day to Register: October 9, 2018**

If you have not already registered to vote, you may do so in person or by mail. The mail-in form can be found on the Township web-site at [www.sjct.org](http://www.sjct.org) under **Departments/Elections/Forms**. You may also register in person at any Secretary of State office, or at the St. Joseph Township Hall, 3000 Washington Avenue. If you register in person at the Township Hall, you will be asked to present a picture ID.

**Absentee Voting:**

You may vote by absentee ballot if you:

- Expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered for the entire time that the polls are open on Election Day.
- Are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- Cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion.
- Have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where you reside.
- Are 60 years of age or older.
- Cannot attend the polls because of confinement in jail awaiting arraignment of trial.

Anyone meeting the criteria may obtain an application for absentee voting by:

- Letter
- Post card
- Federal Post Card Application. (NOTE: This is restricted to members of the armed forces and their spouses and dependents; members of the Merchant Marines and their spouses and dependents; U.S. citizens temporarily living or traveling outside of the territorial limits of the United States)
- In person at the Township Clerk's office or online at [www.sjct.org](http://www.sjct.org) under **Elections/Forms/Absentee Ballot Application**, fill out the application, and mail it to the St. Joseph Charter Township Clerk's Office.

**Out-of-town college students:**

If you registered to vote by mail and are a first-time voter, you are not allowed to receive an absentee ballot unless identification is provided in person to the clerk's office. You may also go to the nearest Michigan Secretary of State Office and they will confirm your identity for us. Once your identity has been confirmed, an absentee ballot application will be sent to the address requested.

**Please Note:**

According to Michigan Election Law, effective March 27, 2013, if a voter applies for an absent voter ballot in person at the clerk's office, the voter is required to present a photo ID or sign an *Affidavit of Voter not in Possession of Picture Identification* form. Listed below are the acceptable forms of photo ID. The photo ID must be current and not expired

- Michigan driver's license or Michigan personal ID card
- Driver's license or personal ID card issued by another state
- Federal or state government-issued photo ID
- U.S. passport
- Military identification card with photo
- Student identification with photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education
- Tribal identification with photo

**Absentee ballots returned via the United States Postal Service MUST include additional postage. You may also drop them off in person at the Township Hall**, or slip them in the afterhours drop box located to the left of the front entrance door at the Township hall. Please remember that the ballots must be in our office by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.

## FROM THE CLERK, continued

### Frequently asked questions:

#### **Q. Who is allowed to return an absentee ballot or an absentee ballot application?**

**A.** Persons who may return an absentee ballot are limited to 1) the voter 2) a member of the voter's immediate family who has been asked to return the ballot 3) a person residing in the voter's household who has been asked to return the ballot 4) a person whose job normally includes the handling of mail (but only during the course of his or her employment) and 5) an authorized election official.

*\*(The Bureau of Election's definition of immediate family includes: father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, or grandchild.)*

#### **Q. I am the Power of Attorney for a voter. May I sign the voter's absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot envelope?**

**A.** No. Election law does not allow for anyone but the voter to sign his/her absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot envelope. If the voter is physically unable to sign his/her name, he/she must record an X or other mark on the signature line as able or the State now allows the use of signature stamps. If the voter has been provided assistance, the person providing assistance must complete the portion of the absentee ballot envelope as required.

#### **Q. I am on the Permanent Absentee Voter List. Why do I need to complete an Application for Absentee Ballot for each election?**

**A.** Election law requires a written request for absentee ballot for each election you choose to vote absentee. It's the same as voting in a regular precinct; each time you vote, you fill out an application to vote form. The exception is in an election year that has an August Primary and a November General election. Voters on the Permanent Absentee Voter List are sent a dual application that covers both the Primary and the General election for that year.

#### **Q. How much will it cost to return my Absentee Ballot by mail?**

**A.** Cost to return ballots is dependent on the ballot size. After the Township receives the ballots (approx. 45 days prior to the election) we can determine the cost.

#### **Q. What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot application?**

**A.** If the ballot must be issued by mail, the application must reach the Township no later than 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday prior to the election. (The Township office is open on that day from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.) Absentee Ballots may be picked up by the voter in person anytime up to 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the election but the ballot must be voted in the office, the voter is not permitted to leave the office with the ballot. A voter may make an "emergency" request for absentee ballot for reasons of 1) personal disablement or 2) a family death or illness which will require the voter to leave the Township for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day. The emergency must have occurred at a time which made it impossible for the voter to apply for an absentee ballot by the statutory deadline for "regular" applications.

All absentee ballot requests must be processed on our computer that is linked to the State. This process includes issuing an application, receiving the application, issuing a ballot and receiving the ballot. We have a very small election staff; and the week prior to an election is extremely busy with preparations for the election. Although, not every situation can be planned, if you know ahead of time that you will need an absentee ballot, please request and return your ballot before the week preceding an election. Our staff will greatly appreciate your help. (Election law allows a voter to submit a request for an absentee ballot 75 days prior to an election.)

### **Election Workers**

We are fortunate to have dedicated workers that offer their time and abilities to ensure that our elections run smoothly. We highly value these individuals and would like to encourage even more of you to assist our residents in exercising their privilege to vote.

You may serve as an election worker if:

- You are 18 years old or older and a registered voter in the State of Michigan
- You are 16-18 years of age (Parent/School permission required)
- You complete an application and submit it to the clerk
- You attend training (You will receive pay for training and for working on Election Day)
- You have never been convicted of a felony or election crime

If you are interested in becoming an election worker, complete an Election Inspector Application at the Township Hall or you may obtain the form online at [www.sjct.org](http://www.sjct.org) under **Elections/Becoming an Election Worker**.



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**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**Troy Gano, Building Inspector

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As the weather is changing many of your outdoor projects are being completed. Please be sure to contact the building department to finalize all open permits such as: roofing, sheds, fences, additions, window replacement, as well as many other projects. If you are unsure if your project has been inspected and permit finalized, please contact us to check, and if needed, schedule a final inspection. As a reminder, any work being done to alter the interior or exterior of your house by moving walls, constructing walls, or other renovations may require permits. If you are unsure of what work requires a permit, don't hesitate to call. 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 always trying to make it easier for you as residents to gain information about things such as zoning maps, requirements to build a home, rental inspection general requirements, etc., and we are constantly adding these types of items to our website: [sjct.org](http://sjct.org) under the building department tab to make it easier for you to obtain this information.

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**ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT**Troy Gano, Ordinance Enforcement

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As we approach fall, leaves will be coming down and yard waste will become an ongoing struggle. If we all do our part to keep our yards clean, the overall appearance to us who live here and to visitors passing through will keep the Township a sought-after community.

**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).
- **We do not offer curbside leaf vacuuming.** Again, all leaves must be in paper bags or containers. ***Please - Do NOT use plastic bags of any sort for leaves—they WILL NOT be picked up!*** These bags get caught in and foul the machinery used to turn compost piles.
- **Trash, recycling and yard waste bins**— All containers need to be kept neatly by your house, preferably behind the front of your house, until your regular trash day.
- **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.
- **Vehicles, campers, trailers, etc. stored on your property MUST be licensed and on an improved surface** and, if motorized, capable of moving under their own power. If these criteria are not met, they MUST be stored in your garage or offsite.
- **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.

**Questions?** Please call 269-429-7703. We have answers!

**PARKS / PUBLIC WORKS**



Dave Rindfield, Director

**Parks**

Thank you to our residents for supporting the parks and trails millage. We're looking forward to upcoming projects that will be possible with increased funding. To follow parks and trails activities check out our website at [www.sjct.org](http://www.sjct.org) or you can also follow us on Facebook.



Carronde Pavilion

Township parks officially close November 1<sup>st</sup> and reopen April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please remember, vehicles or snowmobiles are **not** allowed in the parks when they close for winter. However, walking and cross-country skiing is allowed.

St Joseph Charter Township has five pavilions available to rent. Four of them are open air pavilions and one is an enclosed pavilion with a small kitchen area. Park reservations for next year begin January 1, 2019, on a first come first served basis.



Maiden Lane Pavilion—Rent inside, outside or both



Maiden Lane Park



Eaton Park



Carronde Park



Napier Park



Knauf Park

Reminder:  
No horses, motorbikes or snowmobiles shall be ridden within the Township Parks

## PARKS / PUBLIC WORKS

Dave Rindfield, Director



### Sewer

The Township owns and maintains roughly 64 miles of sewer line. The Township along with Corby Energy Services will finish up sewer cleaning and camera work this fall so please be aware of their activity in the roadway. Disposable wipes continue to be a problem in our waste water system. These wipes plug sewer lines and get caught in pumps, which causes damage to pumping stations. **Please remember the only thing that should be flushed down the toilet is toilet paper.**



### Water

This year's fire hydrant painting season has come to a close. Thank you to volunteers who helped with that project this summer! Hydrant painting will start again in the spring. Please contact the Township Public Works Department if you or your group are interested in volunteering.

**Reminder - Per Township ordinances listed below, all fire hydrants must be maintained with a 3 foot clear radius:**

**507.5.4 Obstruction.** Unobstructed access to fire hydrants shall be maintained at all times.

**507.5.5 Clear space around hydrants.** A 3 foot clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of the fire hydrant, except as otherwise required or approved.

### Storm water

Keeping our rivers and streams clean through stormwater pollution prevention is at the heart of *Storm Water/Watershed Management*; and that responsibility is shared by every resident and business in the Township.

For tips on how to prevent pollution to our storm water system check out the Township website at [www.sjct.org](http://www.sjct.org) under *Utilities/Water Protection*. There are also pollution prevention brochures located on the counter at the Township hall.

## Need Help? Call 2-1-1

United Way of Southwest Michigan—Call 2-1-1

Every hour of every day, someone needs help. Whether it's needing help with providing food for your family to job training, 2-1-1 is here. 2-1-1 community resource advisors provide you with information and referrals for everyday needs and times of crisis. Best of all, it's as easy as picking up your phone and dialing 2-1-1.

Housing/Shelter — Emergency Shelter, Low Income Housing, Transitional Housing, Minor Home Repair

Food and Household Needs—Food Pantries, Hot Meals, WIC, Clothing, Diapers, Furniture

Employment—Employment Prep/Assistance, Financial Information/Education

Financial Assistance—Utility Assistance, Rental Deposit Assistance, Rent Payment Assistance, Bus Tickets/Gas Money

Health Care—Primary Care, Dental Care, Health Education Programs, Mental Health/Substance Abuse, Outpatient Substance Abuse Programs, Crisis Intervention Hotlines, General Counseling Services

Transportation—Local Transportation, Medical Transportation

Veteran, Elderly and Disabled Person Resources

Need Help? Call 2-1-1



### DEALING WITH SCAM ROBOCALLS

If you answer the phone and hear a recorded message instead of a live person, it's a robocall. In many cases the calls are from scammers who are using fake caller ID to prevent law enforcement from locating them. Recently, local telephone numbers have been cloned in an attempt to lure the recipients into believing these calls are legitimate.

During the past few months the St Joseph Township Police Department has received an increased number of reports from residents regarding robocalls that indicate there are local charges or warrants against you and offering assistance in dealing with the charges. Be aware that these are **not** legitimate calls but are either a phishing scam (trying to obtain your personal information) or an attempt to extort money.

The police will not randomly call you to inform you about a warrant. Those matters are handled via paper documentation, typically served in person by a uniformed officer. Law enforcement officers will never demand cash payment or request you to make a money transfer or send a gift card or cash reload card to a specified address.

#### What should you do if you receive one of these calls?

If you've answered the call, simply hang up – *Do Not* engage the caller in conversation.

If you've received a voicemail message – *Do Not* return the phone call. Simply delete the message.

Block the caller, if your phone system has that capability.

If you have not released personal information or sent money – No need to report the call to the police department as this is a nationwide scam being investigated by federal authorities.

Warn any friends and family members who may be vulnerable to these types of scams.

If you're curious about the phone number – enter the word scam followed by the phone number into your internet search engine to check other reports of calls from that number.

#### What should you do if you have given the caller personal information or have sent them money?

Contact the bank/business you used to send the money (gift card, cash reload card, or wire transfer service) and have them stop payment.

Report it to the St Joseph Township Police Department.

### Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours have been set for 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Residents wishing to participate are asked to turn on porch lights as a welcome signal to trick-or-treaters.



### New Michigan Law for Passing Bicyclists

#### The 3-foot safe distance rule for passing bicyclists on the left

House Bill 4185 provides that: "The driver of a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction shall pass at a safe distance of at least 3 feet to the left of the bicycle or, if it is impracticable to pass the bicycle at the distance of 3 feet to the left, at a safe distance to the left of that bicycle at a safe speed, and when safely clear of the overtaken bicycle shall take up a position as near the right-hand edge of the main traveled portion of the highway as is practicable."

## TREASURER'S REPORT



Dave Vonk, Treasurer



### DOG LICENSES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 1ST.

Please bring with you the new license form that will be sent to you in November by Berrien County. If the Rabies Vaccination will expire within the next 30 days (look at the vaccination date in the lower right corner), you will need to bring in a new "Rabies Vaccination Certificate" (NOT a veterinary receipt showing that you paid for one). There is information on the certificate that we need to copy onto the new license information. If you have a new dog that has not been licensed in Michigan before, you MUST bring in the rabies vaccination certificate and proof of neutering/spaying, if applicable. Fees are on the front of the license form that we will validate for you at the time that you pick up your new tag. Attach this tag to your dog's collar right away so, should your dog escape, your pet can be returned to you.

### Property Tax Information

- Your tax bills come out July 1st (summer) and December 1st (winter) for the current year taxes.
- Summer taxes were due by 5:00 pm on September 14th. Please call to get current balance if you didn't pay by the due date.
- Winter taxes are due by 5:00 pm on February 14th of the following year.
- The taxable value is based on the value of your property on December 31st of the preceding year.
- You can pay your tax bill with check, cash, credit/debit card or echeck. You will be charged a 3% convenience fee if you pay by credit/debit card and a \$3.00 fee for echecks.
- We can accept partial payments starting the day you receive your tax bill.
- We cannot accept delinquent payments. After February 28th you will have to call the Berrien County Treasurer to get your balance due, 269-983-7111 ext. 8569
- Please call the assessor, Sue Rice, 269-932-0272 to change your mailing address for your tax bill.
- Only the Register of Deeds at Berrien County 269-983-7111 can change the name.
- Drain assessment questions can only be answered by the Drain Commissioner's office 269-983-7111 ext. 8255
- Many questions can be answered by reading the information on the back of your tax bill.
- Please hang on to your tax bills, you will probably need them when you file your income taxes.
- **You can look up information online. Go to [www.bsaonline.com](http://www.bsaonline.com) and set up an account for your property. When you sign up you have unlimited access to your property tax information at any time! We also have pre-printed, step-by-step instructions for online inquiries at our front counter, or we can email them to you upon request. **Online lookup is free for you to look up your own property.** BS&A charges a \$2.00 fee for online inquiries by non-owners of any property.**



Please don't hesitate to call the Deputy Treasurer, Jan with any questions **269-932-0269**.

**COMCAST:** The Township receives a franchise fee for each Comcast customer located in the Township, and your bill should reflect that St. Joseph Charter Township is the franchise authority. Under the *Additional Information* section of your bill *Your Local Franchise Authority* should be listed as *Township of St. Joseph, 3000 Washington Ave., P.O. Box 147, St. Joseph, MI 49085*. If your Comcast bill lists another community, please contact St. Joseph Charter Township to report the error.

**ASSESSING DEPARTMENT***Sue Rice, Assessor*

The Assessing Department is responsible for the inventory of all property within St Joseph Charter Township, including the Village of Shoreham, and the valuation of all its taxable property. We maintain records of current ownership, assessed and taxable values, property characteristics, and market data. Record Card copies are available upon request. This office follows the requirements of the General Property Tax Act of the State of Michigan. That being said, remember, **YOU** pay property taxes based upon the information we have in our files. If you remove a deck or pool or shed or garage and do not notify us, it stays on your record card and you continue to pay taxes on it. If you ever have any questions please call me at 269-932-0272.

Also, to ensure proper billing of taxes and required notices we encourage you to notify us of any name changes, mailing address changes or business changes. Mail sent from the township is not forwarded and will be returned to us – which delays your receiving it.

**\*\*ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS - Changes to the Small Business Taxpayer Personal Property Exemption\*\***

There have been changes for small businesses that claim the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption (Form 5076). If you **qualify and file** for 2019 Form 5076 Small Business Property Tax Exemption with this office you will no longer have to file on a yearly basis. Eligible properties are those with a combined True Cash Value of all personal property at your location totaling less than \$80,000. Once granted, taxpayers will continue to receive the exemption until they no longer qualify for the exemption. At that point, the taxpayer is required to file Rescission Form 5618 and a personal property statement no later than February 20th of the year that the property is no longer eligible. If you qualify but do not file this affidavit, you will be responsible for the taxes on your personal property. More detailed information can be found in the STC Guide to the Small Business Taxpayer Personal Property Tax Exemption. (this document is located under Assessing at [www.sjct.org](http://www.sjct.org) )

**ST. JOSEPH TOWNSHIP POLICE / PUBLIC SAFETY**

*Ross Bates, Chief of Police*

**TIPS FOR PREVENTING CRIME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD:**

Place bicycles, toys, and items of value out of view when not in use.

When vehicles are parked in driveways - lock doors and remove valuables.

Secure house doors, windows, and garage doors.

Utilize timer lights and outdoor security lights to give the appearance of an occupied house.

Keep bushes and shrubs around windows trimmed to avoid creating hiding spots.

Avoid placing an extra key in obvious hiding places.

Invest in a home security system.

Become familiar with people and vehicles in your neighborhood.

Consider becoming part of a Neighborhood Watch group.

**If you see something, say something.** Report suspicious activity to St Joseph Township Police Department. (Central Dispatch: 269-983-3060, Administration: 269-429-6890)

# Curbside Recycling Services

Best Way Disposal is committed to the conservation of natural resources and minimizing the strain on the planet. The Curbside Recycling Program provides for the collection of recyclable materials at the curbside. The **SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING PROGRAM** allows residents to **mix all acceptable recyclables in one cart—no sorting!** Keep this brochure handy for easy reference when preparing materials.

## Accepted Items & Preparation Instructions

- ◆ Newspapers, including inserts, comics and advertisements.  Place papers directly into the recycling cart—no need to bag papers separately.
- ◆ Magazines, catalogs, books, phone books, office paper, unwanted mail, paper bags, etc. Food boxes must be clean and free of food. Remove hard covers from books before recycling.
- ◆ Paperboard, such as cereal boxes, cracker boxes, Paper towel rolls, etc. Corrugated cardboard must be flattened and/or cut down to a size that will fit in the recycling cart
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard. Shredded papers can be placed in a brown paper bag and placed in the cart.
- ◆ Glass jars and bottles of any color. Papers placed in plastic bags are not acceptable.
- ◆ Aluminum cans, foil pie tins, etc. Rinse containers well—all materials must be Clean and free of food, liquid or original contents.
- ◆ Tin or steel food cans and lids. Labels are OK. Remove caps from bottles.
- ◆ Plastic bottles such as milk jugs, detergent bottles, personal care products Place materials directly into the recycling cart no need to separate from papers.
- ◆ Plastic food tubs such as butter, yogurt, etc. **Only RIGID plastics marked with symbols** 

## Your Recycling Cart

Your recycling cart is the property of Best Way Disposal for use only in the Curbside Recycling Program. If you move, please leave the cart at its current location. Additional carts may be rented directly from Best Way Disposal. Contact Best Way Disposal at 269.463.3232 for more information.

## Instructions Also Located On Lid



## Not Acceptable Items

- ◆ Aerosol cans
- ◆ Batteries
- ◆ Hazardous liquids or materials
- ◆ Light bulbs
- ◆ Microwave food containers
- ◆ Motor oil / motor oil containers
- ◆ Paint / paint cans
- ◆ Pizza boxes
- ◆ Plastic bags or plastic wrap
- ◆ Scrap metal
- ◆ Soiled food containers
- ◆ Styrofoam of any kind
- ◆ Wax-coated cardboard
- ◆ Window glass
- ◆ Yard waste

2018 Recycle weeks: Oct. 29-31, Nov. 1-2, 12-16, 26-30, Dec. 10-14, 24-28

2019 Recycle weeks: January 7-11, 21-25, February 4-8, 18-22, March 4-8, 18-22, April 15-19, 29-30, May 1-3, 12-17, 28-31

There will be no trash, recycle or yard waste collection on the following holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Memorial Day. Yard waste is collected April 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018.

## Snow Removal Information

Please make sure you don't move snow, ice or slush onto or across a roadway! Also, do not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush on the shoulder of the road so as to obstruct the vision of another driver.



There is no hunting allowed within St. Joseph Township.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ryan Klaer, Fire Chief

### 2018 Fire Prevention Week

The St. Joseph Township Fire Department will be visiting several community schools and organizations during Fire Prevention Week to help educate on this year's message. The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere," works to educate people about three basic but essential steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire—and how to escape safely in the event of one:

#### LOOK

Look for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

#### LISTEN

Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.

#### LEARN

Learn two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.



### Importance of fire prevention

In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire safety education isn't just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time every October during Fire Prevention Week to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.

While children under 5 and adults over 65 are at the highest risk for injury or death in a fire, people of all ages are vulnerable. In fact, the risk of a nonfatal fire injury is highest for those between 20 and 49, showing that fire safety education is essential for everyone.

### About Fire Prevention Week

The purpose of Fire Prevention Week is to bring awareness to the risk of death in case of a fire and provide educational resources to people of all ages, races, and socioeconomic status in order to keep everyone safe.

Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

"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



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, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)  
**Non-Emergency**.....983-3060  
(Dispatch – 24 hr.)

**FIRE: Emergency**.....9-1-1  
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 ENDS THE  
LAST WEEK IN NOVEMBER FOR 2018  
AND RESUMES THE WEEK OF APRIL 1, 2019**

### BEST WAY DISPOSAL OBSERVES THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

**Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day,  
Christmas 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.

### Office Closures for 2018

Thursday and Friday,  
November 22 & 23 **Thanksgiving**

Monday and Tuesday  
December 24 & 25 **Christmas**

Monday, December 31 **New Years Eve**

Other Holidays Observed: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day

**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 snow cover 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.