

City Connection

SUMMER 2026

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SUMMER CHECKLIST

- Put out brush for collection**
Brush collection will take place the weeks of **June 8, July 6 & August 3**
- Apply for your Parking Permit for Parks & Downtown***
The Downtown Parking Program begins **June 12**
- Request an absentee ballot (if needed)***
Absentee ballots are available for the August primary beginning **June 25**
- Pay property taxes***
Summer tax bills will be mailed **July 1**
- Pay water bill**
City water bills are due **July 21**
- Vote***
The primaries and local proposal are up for election on **August 4**
- Submit a photo for the 2027 calendar contest***
Submissions should be sent to hello@sjcity.com by **August 31**

**more information inside this issue*

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR BRUSH COLLECTION GUIDELINES



CITY OF
St. Joseph

The 2026 Downtown Parking Program at a glance

CITY RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS PARK FOR FREE!

Your parking permit gets you access to free parking:



DOWNTOWN

Any paid space
downtown



CITY PARKS

Tiscornia Beach
Lions Park
Kiwanis Park
2nd Street Beach
Whirlpool Compass Fountain

QUICK FACTS

About 1,000 downtown parking spaces remain free for everyone.

Only 175 high-demand on-street parking spaces are paid for visitors (free for residents). The costs and hours are:

\$2/hour, with a 3-hour maximum
10a.m. – 6 p.m. June 12–Labor Day

All ADA-accessible parking is free.

I've already registered for a parks permit. Do I still need to register for a downtown parking permit?

No. Your license plate will automatically be added to our system.

How many cars can I register for a parking permit?

You can register any car that you own.

VISIT [SJCITY.COM/DOWNTOWNPARKING](https://sjcity.com/downtownparking)

TO LEARN MORE & APPLY FOR YOUR PARKING PERMIT.

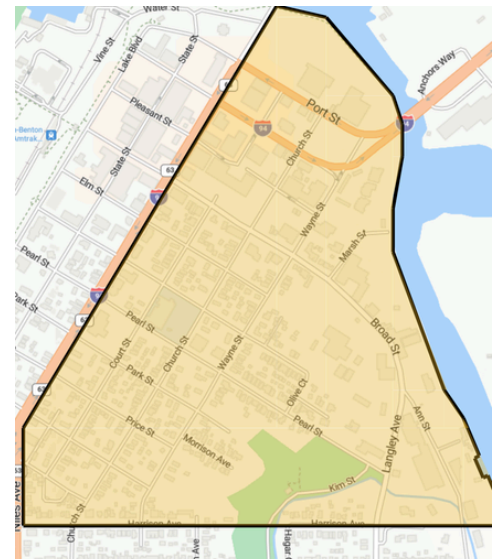
Permit applications are also available in-person at City Hall.

Summer construction update

Sidewalks are a very important means of travel for our residents. Our sidewalk replacement program helps eliminate unsafe public rights-of-ways by inspecting and repairing the City's sidewalks. This year's program is planned for the northeast quadrant of the City (see map.)

Sidewalks with a one-inch difference at any point between adjacent squares or that have other safety concerns are replaced. Sidewalks with a difference of 1.5 inches or greater are considered "urgent repairs" and are included in the replacement project regardless of location.

Sidewalks marked for repair have been identified with white paint. Sidewalk work may take place anytime before early fall. For more information, contact the **Engineering Department** by calling 269-983-5541.



Assessing Department notice

Michigan law requires local assessing offices to maintain accurate and up-to-date property records. In accordance with State Tax Commission guidelines, our Assessing Department regularly conducts routine field inspections throughout the City. Field inspections primarily take place during summer months, but can continue into fall as-needed.

If you see Assessing Department staff in your neighborhood, they may be verifying property information, measuring structures, reviewing property characteristics, and updating exterior photos. Staff will carry official identification.

For questions, please contact the **Assessor's Office** at (269) 983-1231.

Don't forget: submit your photo to win a Love Local Gift card!

You could win a Love Local SWMI Gift Card for submitting your photos to our calendar contest! We encourage entering pictures of local festivals, special events and holidays, along with everyday features that make our City so special. Read the contest rules before taking or submitting your photos:

- ✓ The photograph must be submitted by the photographer, or on behalf of and with express consent of the photographer
- ✓ Only **up to four** images will be accepted from any single photographer
- ✓ All photos must be taken **in the City of St. Joseph**
- ✓ Submit only **horizontal/landscape** format
- ✓ Enter crisp, **high-resolution** images
- ✓ Submit photos as a **.jpg** or **.tif** image file only
- ✓ Submit all photos by **5:00 p.m. on August 31**
- ✗ Photos cannot contain sexually explicit, obscene, violent or objectionable subject matter
- ✗ Photos **cannot feature identifiable people of any age**
- ✗ Photos cannot use obvious filters or effects

After the deadline, the City will assemble a committee to select one photo for each month of the year. The selected photos will be posted online, and anyone can vote by liking their favorite photo on Facebook and/or Instagram. Email photos to hello@sjcity.com to enter.

Reminder: summer tax bills

Summer tax bills are issued July 1 and are payable without penalty through 5:00 p.m. on September 15, 2026. Late payments will be assessed a 4% penalty. Your taxes are due by the due date even if you don't receive your tax bill in the mail.

If you have any concern about not receiving your bill, contact the **City Treasurer's Office** at (269) 983-5541 for assistance.

2026 Silver Beach traffic pattern

Heading below the bluff this summer? A temporary traffic pattern will be in place from **Memorial Day** through **Labor Day**. Here's what you need to know:

ALL VEHICLES

- From **Port to Lake Street**, traffic will **maintain its usual two-way pattern**.
 - On **Broad Street**, **westbound traffic** (regardless of destination) will stay in the **northernmost lane**, and the **southernmost lane** will be open for **eastbound traffic**
- Traffic on **Lake Street between Broad and Elm** will be **southbound only**
- Be sure to watch for pedestrians crossing **Broad Street by the Carousel** and **Lake Street at Elm**

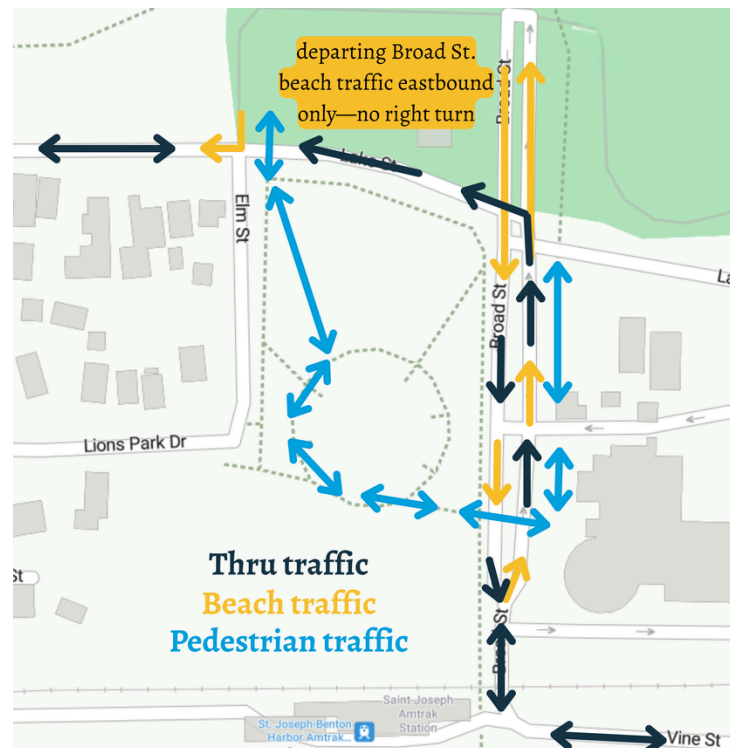
EXITING SILVER BEACH

- **Traffic exiting on Broad Street** must **continue eastbound** to return above the bluff
- **Traffic exiting at Lake and Elm Street** must **turn right** onto Lake Street and **use Park Street** to return above the bluff

PEDESTRIANS

Pedestrians are directed to enter Silver Beach by crossing Lake Street at Elm **or** by crossing Broad Street by the Carousel and Lake Street **north** of the Silver Beach main entrance.

Crossing in these areas prevents backups and maintains traffic flow. Crossing at a less hectic traffic intersection also better protects pedestrian safety.



Summer garden guidelines from the City

As you maintain your garden and lawn this summer, there are a few ordinances around residential landscapes that help keep our City safe, walkable and enjoyable for everyone. Keep the following tips in mind when planting and maintaining your property:

LOOK OUT FOR NOXIOUS WEEDS

Noxious weeds can cause human harm and are banned in the City and/or State. Review City Ordinances for a list of banned plants.

KEEP PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAYS CLEAR

Public rights-of-ways include streets, sidewalks, alleys or tree lawns. Adjacent property owners are responsible for keeping them clear of vegetation or anything that might impede public use. Make sure to **submit your Right-of-Way Landscaping request online** to get City approval before planting a garden in or altering the tree lawn other than mowing and weeding.

If you live on a corner lot, be sure to maintain the clear vision triangle to ensure vehicles can make safe turns on public roadways.

ACTIVELY MAINTAIN YOUR LANDSCAPE

Ensure that you are cultivating and tending your trees, flower gardens, vegetable gardens, shrubbery and vegetation to keep them from looking weedy. This includes mowing lawns regularly to maintain them below 6 inches in height.

Create a pollinator paradise!

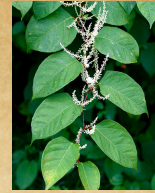
We're a Bee City USA! Our website provides information on pollinator-friendly native plants, local suppliers, and pest management best practices at sjcity.com/bc-sustainability/page/bee-city-usa

The City can also provide formal recognition for your pollinator habitat! Any size garden can apply—visit the City website to complete the form.



MOST WANTED:

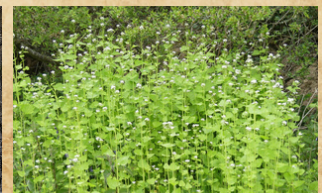
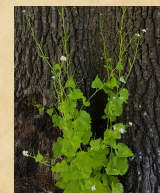
NOXIOUS WEEDS



JAPANESE KNOTWEED

ALIAS: FALLOPIA JAPONICA

WANTED FOR: HARMING INFRASTRUCTURE, AGGRESSIVE SPREADING THROUGH ANY PIECES OF PLANT MATERIAL, SUPPRESSING NATIVE PLANTS, CONTRIBUTING TO EROSION



GARLIC MUSTARD

ALIAS: ALLIARIA PETIOLATA

WANTED FOR: SUPPRESSING NATIVE PLANTS, NEGATIVELY IMPACTING HABITAT QUALITY, SPREADING VIGOROUSLY THROUGH TINY SEEDS

~~DEAD OR ALIVE~~

Planning a garage sale? Read this first.

Planning a garage or yard sale this summer? Permits are required and available at no cost. Reach out to the **Building & Inspections Department** to request one. Once received, be sure to display it in a place visible from the right-of-way. A few other rules to keep in mind:

- Only one advertising sign can be used, and it must be on the private property where the sale is taking place
- Please keep sale items and tables clear of the public right-of-way, including the sidewalks and tree lawns
- Sales should not begin before 8:00 a.m. or extend after 7:00 p.m. each day, and shouldn't last more than three days
- Do not leave items or tables outdoors between days—make sure to take your items inside from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Large items left over? City residents are entitled to three special pick-ups each calendar year. Call the **Department of Public Works** at (269) 983-5541 by noon on Wednesday to get on the Thursday pickup schedule.

Are you prepared for election season?

To verify your voter registration, request an absentee ballot, or learn more about elections, visit [Michigan.gov/vote](https://michigan.gov/vote) or contact the **City Clerk's office** at 269-983-5541.



KEY DATES

- **June 25**—Absentee ballots available for August
- **Aug. 4**—Primary election + local proposal
- **Sept. 24**—Absentee ballots available for November
- **Nov. 3**—General election

Ballot Preview: Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Millage renewal

BALLOT LANGUAGE

Shall the special voted ad valorem tax levy previously approved by the electors of the City of St. Joseph of .2442 mill (\$24 on each \$100,000 of taxable value), as authorized by Article IX, Section 6, and subject to Article II, Section 6, of the Michigan Constitution, be renewed for a period of 10 years, 2027 to 2036, inclusive (the first levy being in July 2027 and the last levy being in July 2036), for the purpose of planning, promoting, acquiring, constructing, improving, enlarging, extending, owning, maintaining, and operating the necessary landing, navigational and building facilities for the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport and the continuation of the Airport Authority, thereby raising an estimated \$159,241.27 in the first year (this is a reauthorization of a millage which was first levied in 1997 and which expires with the 2026 tax levy)?

ON THE BALLOT



Federal

[U.S. Senate](#)

One of two state seats

[U.S. House of Representatives](#)

All 13 congressional seats



Michigan

Governor & Lieutenant Governor

Secretary of State

Attorney General

[Michigan Legislature](#)

All 38 seats in the Michigan Senate

All 110 seats in the Michigan House of Representatives

[Michigan Supreme Court](#)

Two seats



Local

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Millage Renewal

SUMMARY

Currently, City of St. Joseph residents pay \$24 of their property taxes per \$100,000 of taxable value toward a millage supporting the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport. The millage expires this year. The ballot proposal asks residents if they would like to renew that millage for 10 years, through 2036.

OPTIONS

Yes is a vote to renew the current .2442 mill millage for the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport.

No is a vote to decline renewal of the current .2442 millage for the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport.

Do I really need a permit for that? Replacing deck boards

Did you know: the expected lifespan for a deck has decreased from two to three decades to about 7–10 years for decks built after 2003 (when arsenic was banned as residential lumber treatment)?

Joists and beams often hold moisture where they connect with deck boards, causing rot and decay that is hard to spot and also compromises the structural integrity of the deck. A board replacement can seem like a simple task, but it can quickly turn into a significant safety issue. Before you begin any work on your deck this summer, be sure to reach out to our **Inspections Department** at (269) 983-5541 to request a work permit.



Events

Mike Yore Memorial Car Show

July 17 from 4p–8p | Lake Boulevard
View classic cars from days gone by as they line up along Lake Boulevard.

Antiques on the Bluff

1st Sunday from 10a–5p | Lake Bluff Park
Find hidden treasures along Lake Bluff Park at this premier antique show that overlooks Lake Michigan.

Farmers Market

Saturdays from 9a–2p | Lake Bluff Park
Vendors will offer a variety of products including baked goods, locally grown produce, perennials and cut flowers, meats and cheeses, coffee and more!

Lighthouse Tours

Saturdays from 10a–7p | Tiscornia Beach
Explore the free first-floor exhibits and dive into the rich nautical history of St. Joseph/Benton Harbor or pay \$5 to climb to the top for spectacular panoramic views.

Lake Bluff Artisan Fair

July 18 & Aug. 15 from 10a–5p | Lake Bluff Park
With over 50 local vendors, there's something for everyone at this craft fair.

Returning for 2026!



SHOP & SHORE TROLLEY

Find the schedule online at swmichigan.org/trolley

PLEASANT STREET PLAZA

Pleasant Street Plaza is back for summer 2026! Join us downtown in this special community gathering space.



Chalk the Block

Aug. 31–Sept. 2 | Downtown
Attendees can watch as both amateur and professional artists prepare their squares on Friday evening, work all day Saturday and enjoy the completed chalk masterpieces on Sunday.

Wednesday Brown Bag Concerts

Wed. from 12p–1p | John E.N. Howard Bandshell
Bring your lunch and take a break from the daily grind while enjoying these free concerts.

July 15: The Weko Boys	Aug. 12: Ellen Wallenfang
July 22: Diane & Lisa	Aug. 19: Leonardo
July 29: Tim Velez	Aug. 26: Jack Adams
Aug. 5: Mike Talbot	Sept. 2: Richard Schwartz

Fri. Night Concerts

Fridays from 7p–8p | John E.N. Howard Bandshell
Groove to the sounds of jazz, big band, classic hits and more as you take in beautiful sunsets during these free concerts.

July 17: Blue Shoes	Aug. 14: Municipal Jazz Band
July 24: PT & the Cruisers	Aug. 21: The Backups
July 31: Lake Effect Jazz	Aug. 28: TBA
Aug. 7: Sankofa	Sept. 4: SMSO

Visit stjoetoday.com for more information

MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERTS

Sun. 7p–8p, July 4 7p–8p | John E.N. Howard Bandshell
Enjoy free concerts at sunset with the St. Joseph Municipal Band.



WHIRLPOOL COMPASS FOUNTAIN

Hours: 10a–9p daily
Closed the last Wed. of each month
Will close for inclement weather (thunderstorms, heavy rains, winds, etc.)





MOVIES IN THE PARK | Saturdays at 7:30p

Bring your own blankets, chairs and snacks and enjoy a free showing of a family-friendly movie!

July 11 @ Milton Park | *National Treasure*, 2004, PG

July 18 @ Whittlesey Park | *Zootopia 2*, 2025, PG

Aug. 1 @ Milton Park | *A Minecraft Movie*, 2025, PG

Aug. 8 @ Whirlpool Centennial Park, *GOAT*, 2026, PG

Aug. 15 @ Milton Park | *Hoppers*, 2026, PG

Aug. 22 @ Whirlpool Centennial Park, *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie*, 2026, PG

Aug. 29 @ Milton Park | *Napoleon Dynamite*, 2004, PG

2026, PG



Alex's Duck Duck Run

June 13 | Margaret Upton Arboretum

Learn more at TheAlexMandarinoFoundation.org



Race for the YMCA

July 18 | Margaret Upton Arboretum

Find more information at RunSignup.com



FIREWORKS

July 3, Dusk

Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff

July 10–12 | Lake Bluff Park

This rigorously juried art show includes nearly 200 booths featuring works by some of the finest artists in the U.S.

National Night Out

Aug. 4, 5:30p–8p | Maiden Lane Community Park, St. Joseph Township

Get to know our local first responders during this family-friendly event.



Library Closed | July 4, July 10–11

Visit LibraryByTheLake.org for more information on Library events

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Jurassic Jamboree (all ages)

Mon. June 1 from 2–6p
Join us to kick-off and sign up for our 2026 summer reading challenge!

Ghosts of the White House (adults)

Thurs. June 25 @ 6p

Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary

(all ages)
Sat. July 18 @ 3p

Tech Take Apart (Teens)

Tues. July 28 @ 5p

SUMMER FAMILY FILM SERIES

All movies begin at 1p

June 12 | *Jurassic Park*, 1993, PG-13

June 26 | *Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark*, 1981, PG

July 3 | *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, 2008, PG

July 17 | *National Treasure*, 2004, PG

July 31 | *Godzilla*, 2014, PG-13

Maud's Makers (age 13+) | Aug. 25 @ 6p

Join us for our "Arts, Crafts, & Mindfulness" Club!

KIDS

Story Time (babies, toddlers, preschool)

Wed. June 3–July 29 @ 10:30a

BOOK CLUBS

BYOB Book Group | 1st Tues. @ 6p

Read Against the Machine | 3rd Tues. @ 6p

Lake Bluff Book Club | Last Wed. @ 6:30p

SPECIAL EVENT

The Nitty Gritty: Voting Laws at the Booth

Aug. 29 from 2p–4p

The League of Women Voters will present information on which legal accommodations can be utilized when you're at the voting booth.

City Connection

SUMMER 2026



HOMETOWN HISTORY

St. Joseph has lost two police officers in the line of duty over its history, both at the height of prohibition. On June 23, we honor Patrolman Francis Lamunion, a 23-year-old motorcycle officer who suffered fatal injuries after colliding with a laundry truck while chasing a speeding bootlegger in 1927. Officer Lamunion had been on the job only two weeks at the time of the accident.

YOUR CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Brook Thomas
bthomas@sjcity.com

Mayor pro tem Michael Fernandez
mfernandez@sjcity.com

Commissioner Mike Sarola
msarola@sjcity.com

Commissioner Tess Ulrey
tulrey@sjcity.com

Commissioner Lisa Vetne
lvetne@sjcity.com



SJcity.com



info@sjcity.com



City Hall
700 Broad Street
Open M-F 8a-5p



Call **269-983-5541** to reach City Hall

Upcoming Closures:
Independence Day, July 3

Scan the QR code to view upcoming Board and Commission meetings:

FOLLOW THE CITY OF ST. JOSEPH, MI
GOVERNMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

