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In the Know in St. Joseph

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH

May 2023

Residents of St. Joseph...

Summer has arrived. We made it through crazy record setting snow totals! We were lulled a bit with some 80s in early April and then hit with more snow, OMG. Thanks again to the Public Works dept. as they did a great job keeping our streets plowed and safe for us to move about town.

Now it's time to enjoy!

I welcome David Murphy, our new City Administrator. David started on April 24th and comes to us with a great wealth of knowledge and experience. As he settles into this new role, city staff and council are eager to work with him for a smooth transition.

The process for the 2023 Street Improvements is underway. Construction is anticipated to begin later this summer. Knowing that Stearns County will be improving the intersection at County Road 75 and County Road 133, in 2024, we've started our process for the extension of Elm Street East to coincide with their construction schedule.

At a recent City Council meeting, Council approved the lease/operations agreement with the YMCA. This is a great step in moving the community center project forward. Now we will begin the capital campaign. Our consultants have been working behind the scenes waiting for this decision and will now turn our team loose to raise money. We are getting very close...

In May, many bees are coming out of hibernation and need flowers to feed themselves and their babies. No Mow May is to encourage people to let spring flowers in their lawns bloom before mowing. Flowers you can commonly see blooming in lawns in May include dandelions, white clover, and creeping charlie. While many people view these flowers as weeds, some pollinators view them as food. Ideally, you can add to the mix and provide food for more pollinators by including native plants in your lawn and garden. I don't have the authority to suspend the city's requirement to keep grass less than 12 inches tall, but I encourage you to go as long as possible without mowing this month.

Dogs are one of the most endearing pieces of family life. However, dogs require control and maintenance. Dogs must always be on a leash. I remind everyone to protect human health, animal health and water quality by always cleaning up your dog's waste.

Social media may be a great way to connect but may not be the best way to get information on what is actually happening in St. Joseph. If you have concerns or questions feel free to call city staff, myself and city council members, to obtain accurate information. This is the best way to get rid of conjecture or partial fact exploitation. If you feel the need to discuss any city issues, I am always open for the opportunity to chat, have coffee, text, email or house visit. It is gratifying to help work through any issues or problems to find a solution. Much work will be achieved for the community, and I am always available.

Mayor Rick Schultz
320-260-0393

Annual Spring Cleanup—May 20th

Residents that participate in the City Refuse Program are eligible to place additional refuse curbside at no charge. All refuse must be out curbside by 6AM on the 20th and items are limited to a 6ft x 6ft area.

Exceptions (include but are not limited to): Appliances, electronics, tires, pollutants, yard waste, construction waste, computer monitors, and televisions.

Appliance & Electronic Dropoff May 20th, 8AM—Noon

The appliance & electronic drop-off is at the St. Joseph Public Works Facility located at 1855 Elm St E. There is a limit of two items per household. Please be prepared to present your ID to confirm residency.

Park & Recreation Events

More information on each event can be found at www.cityofstjoseph.com

Movie in the Park: Movie in the Park is returning to Millstream Park on May 20th at 8:30PM.

Come out and view Puss in Boots, The Last Wish!



Pickleball: Sundays 9AM-2PM, Mondays & Tuesdays 6-9PM at Kennedy Community Schools through May 23rd.; \$2

Senior Yoga: Wed. 1:30-2:30PM; Heritage Hall; \$3.50/member, \$5.00/non-member of Whitney Senior Center. Call (320) 255-7245 to register.

Enhance Fitness: Tues. & Thurs. 1:30-2:30PM; Heritage Hall; \$3.50/member, \$5.00/non-member of Whitney Senior Center. Call (320) 255-7245 to register.

Summer Recreation Schedule

T-Ball (6PM) & Soft Toss (7PM): June 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th; July 10th, 17th, 24th

Soccer (7PM): June 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th; July 11th, 18th, 25th

Basketball (9AM & 10AM): June 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th; July 12th, 19th, 26th

3 on 3 Basketball (7PM): Ages 16+, Starts Wed. June 7th at Centennial Park

* Any cancellations due to weather will be posted on the City's website and Facebook page. If the heat index is 95° or higher, the session will be cancelled.

Mark Your Calendars

May 29 Memorial Day, City Offices Closed
July 4 Independence Day, City Offices Closed
Sept 5 Labor Day, City Offices Closed

Spring Reminders

Construction

As construction season approaches, we would like to remind you of the types of projects that require a permit with the city. Projects include: fences, accessory structures, parking pads, decks, roofing, windows and siding. Permit applications and additional information can be found at:

<https://www.cityofstjoseph.com/134/Building-Permits-Inspections>.

Lawn Irrigation Tips

As the weather heats up, start to focus on how you use water outdoors! You might find that you are overwatering. Water usage increases greatly during the summer months as people begin to care for a lawn or garden. Many people often waste water because they are unaware of how much water they need to use. Here are a few tips to help you not overwater:

- Check your sprinklers and make sure they are spraying at your lawn or garden, not on a sidewalk or driveway
- Water early in the morning before it gets too warm. Cooler weather will ensure that the water does not evaporate as quickly
- If your sprinkler system is automatic, make sure to adjust the watering schedule based on weather
- Water your lawn about 1 inch per week
- Adding a water timer to your hose to make sure you are not watering for too long



Odd/Even Sprinkling Regulation

From May through September, the odd/even watering restrictions are in effect. Properties having an address ending with an even number may sprinkle on even numbered days only. Properties having an address ending with an odd number may sprinkle on odd numbered days only.

Weed & Brush Control

Weeds and grasses are required to be kept under 10 inches in height. Keep St. Joseph looking great this summer!

Campfires

City Ordinance requires campfires be limited in size to not more than 3 feet in diameter by 3 feet in height. The fire is to be contained in a metal ring, rock, concrete or other similar non-combustible material.

RV Dump Station

The city offers an RV dump station located at the main lift station just east of Millstream Park. There is no charge, but donations are accepted to maintain this service.

Needed! Flower Basket Watering Attendants

The city is looking for individuals to water the flower baskets along College Avenue and Minnesota Street. Must be 18+. Apply online at www.cityofstjoseph.com. Contact Public Works Director, Ryan Wensmann with any questions at 320-557-3819.

Important Online Utility Bill Payment Information

In March, the city converted to a new financial software package and the format of your utility account number has changed. During the conversion, we worked closely with PSN to minimize the impact on our residents and businesses; however, a small number of accounts that were signed up with PSN (Payment Service Network) needed to have their profiles merged. If you established an account with PSN and are no longer able to log in, please reach out to utility billing staff at 320-363-7201, option 1 for assistance. Additionally, if you have setup online auto pay on your own through your bank, please be sure that your account number matches the new account number as shown on your bill.

Finally, staff is asking customers with online recurring payments to check the withdrawal date. It is always best practice to have the withdrawal set for the beginning of the even numbered month, as the bills are due on the 15th of the even numbered month. Penalties are put on delinquent accounts the following day. We have discovered that some residents are selecting their autopayments to run at the beginning of the odd numbered month. For example, if the auto pay is set for May 1st and the bills don't come out until May 10th, those accounts will be paying the past due bill, including the late fee. They are actually paying the bill that was due on the 15th of April; including the penalty placed on the account on the 16th of April. If you have any questions, please reach out to utility billing here at the city. We are happy to help.

Flushable Wipes Not Flushable

Items such as paper towels, facial tissues, baby wipes, sanitary napkins and other related items are not flushable. Even wipes that are labeled as flushable should not be flushed. These products do not breakdown like toilet paper and can cause sanitary sewer issues.

Compost Site Open!

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4-7 PM; Saturday 8:00 AM—Noon. Permits can be purchased at the Government Center and online www.cityofstjoseph.com.

Permit Fees:

St. Joseph Residents	\$45	St. Joseph Township	\$70
St. Wendel Township	\$70	St. Cloud Residents	\$60
2nd Permit/Replacement	\$5		

Town Ball Tour coming to St. Joseph July 5th!

Fox 9's Town Ball Tour is coming to St. Joseph. Come out to Schneider Field to watch the St. Joseph Joes take on the Avon Lakers. Stay tuned for more information!