



In the Know in St. Joseph

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH

September 2020

Residents of St. Joseph...

As you walk or drive around town, I hope you have seen the beautiful hanging flowers. A magnificent addition to the city. I give thanks to Carol Theisen and the downtown flower group who work to ensure these flowers are added to our downtown landscape every year. Simply Beautiful.

After months of reacting and responding to the rush of pandemic related issues, along with discussion of the civil unrest seen across the country, it's time for another update.

We've seen our share of disappointments this spring and summer and COVID-19 is not over. The city received \$551,000 in Cares act funding which will allow future budget relief. In teaming with Stearns County, we allocated an amount to aid local businesses. This was enacted in August, as the money will need to be accounted for by November.

Just as we faced a change last year at this time, the City will go through another changeover with a familiar face. Recently, after a couple rounds of interviews, we offered the position of City Administrator to Therese Haffner, our current Community Development Director. Therese has been with the City for several years, is familiar with the operations of the city and has been working directly for Kris this past year. We welcome Therese to her new position and wish her well.

Kris Ambuehl's last day was September 4th. While it was a short time, Kris did an amazing job of aligning resources, projects, moving things along and getting things done.

The construction projects around town are moving forward. The city successfully expanded the Millstream Park parking lot and added lighting. Memorial Park parking lot was repaired to fix drainage problems. We will soon start the Minnesota Street renovation, which will cause some angst. The trees along the

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****Annual Fall Cleanup—October 15th****

Residents that are part of the City Refuse Program are eligible to place additional refuse curbside at no additional charge. Items must be out by 6AM on the 15th.

Exceptions: Appliances, electronics, tires, pollutants, yard waste, construction waste, computer monitors and televisions.

****Appliance & Electronic Collection October 17th, 8AM—Noon****

Bring items to the Community Center parking lot. There is a limit of 2 appliances/electronics per household. Be prepared to present your ID to confirm

Funding to Fix up Your Home!

The Small Cities Development Program in the City of St. Joseph has funding available for eligible households for home improvements. Funding for this program is through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. To date, six St. Joseph homeowners have taken advantage of this incredible program. To be eligible for the program you must own your home, meet annual household income limits, and reside in the target area. The program provides assistance to qualifying home owners to repair or replace deteriorated roofing, soffit/fascia, gutters, siding, windows and doors. Interior items are also eligible and include electrical, plumbing, new furnaces, insulation, lead based paint remediation, and health and safety items. Remodeling and additions do not qualify. The eligible area is located generally along Baker St E and Able St E, west of 12th Ave. SE extending to 5th Ave SE. If you are interested in the program, please contact Messina Owens with the Central MN Housing Partnership at (320) 258-0681.

2020 Election Update

The 2020 General Election is November 3, 2020. The City of St. Joseph has 2 precincts: Precinct 1 is at Resurrection Lutheran Church for voters west of College Ave/CR 2; Precinct 2 is at the Government Center for voters east of College Ave/CR 2. The polls will be open from 7 AM—8 PM.

Important Election Dates

- September 18th—Absentee Voting Period Begins
- October 13th—Deadline to Pre-Register
- Direct Voting Will be Offered at the Government Center On:
 - * October 27th—30th 8:00 AM—4:30 PM
 - * October 31st 10:00 AM—3:00 PM
 - * November 2nd 8:00 PM—5:00 PM
- November 3rd—Election Day & Last Day for Absentee Ballots to be Postmarked

City Candidate Filings

Mayor—vote for 1

Rick Schultz
Anne Buckvold

Council—vote for up to 2

Bob Loso
Carmie Mick
Kelly Beniek
Mike Osterman
Paul Orvis
Troy Goracke

Visit www.mnvotes.org to pre-register and/or request an absentee ballot



Cities of St. Joseph and Waite Park Bike Share System

In 2019, the City of St. Joseph was fortunate to receive a Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant from Stearns County to assist with the purchase of a bike share system. Our new Bike Share System is now operational and ready for residents and visitors to use. Riders will need to download the Movatic App to rent on their credit card to unlock the bike for use and return to either

the docking station at the Lake Wobegon Trail Head in St. Joseph or River's Edge Park in Waite Park. The initial cost is \$1.00 and \$1.00 per hour thereafter. There are directions on how to rent at both docking station locations.

Welcome St. Joseph's Newest Employees!

City Administrator
Therese Haffner

Public Works
Superintendent
Ryan Wensmann

Account Technician
Vicky Granite

Police Officer
Eric Brutger

2020 Millstream Arts Festival September 25—27

For the safety of artists, volunteers, and festival goers, Millstream Arts Festival has been moved online for 2020. You will have the opportunity to purchase Millstream art online! Visit the Millstream Arts Festival Facebook page or millstreamartsfestival.org for more details!

(Mayor's Update, Continued from page 1)

boulevard are being replaced because the roots are causing the sidewalk to heave. New trees with confined root containers are coming, along with new paving block, benches, and trash receptacles. The work will start this fall and be completed in the spring to allow for no disruption to Joetown Rocks and the 4th of July parade.

Expect more technology changes, as the ability of residents to do more online becomes more than just a trend. The City will continue to expand its footprint into better access, reporting and automation to better serve and communicate with our community. Also, expect information to be distributed about our police practices as a basic understanding to our local and regional policies. Chief Pfannenstien was recently a participant in a community policing and accountability town hall with regional law enforcement agencies.

Schools will soon be in session, if not already. With school, comes the inevitable increase in bus, family and college traffic. Not knowing the exact makeup or routine this school year will bring, I urge everyone to be diligent around schools, crosswalks, kids on bikes...etc.

Mayor Rick Schultz

Mark your Calendar!

September 14th—18th
September 25th—27th

Hydrant Flushing
Virtual Millstream Arts Festival
<http://www.millstreamartsfestival.org/>

October 15th
October 17th, 8-Noon
November 1st
November 11th
November 26th—27th

Fall Clean-Up
Appliance/Electronic Collection
Fall Back, Turn Clocks Back 1 Hour
City Offices Closed, Veteran's Day
City Offices Closed, Thanksgiving

Additional Reminders/Updates

Open Gym Hours: Monday—Friday, 6PM—9PM
Saturday & Sunday, 9AM—Noon

Firefighters Wanted! Apply at City Hall or online
www.cityofstjoseph.com

Compost Permits Still Available: Visit City Hall or purchase online www.cityofstjoseph.com

Development News: Foxmore Hollow Apartments, a new 19-unit, 2 story apartment building is planned to be constructed on the northwest corner of College Ave S and Hill St W.

Winter Parking Regulations

No parking is allowed on any City street from Nov. 1st to Apr. 1st during the hours of 2 AM and 7 AM. Any vehicle parked in violation of this Ordinance subject to immediate towing at the owner's expense.

Snow Removal

Property owners are required to clear sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hours after the same has been deposited on the sidewalk. MN Statute 160.2715 states that blowing/pushing snow from driveways & sidewalks onto public roads may be punishable as a misdemeanor.

Smoke Detectors

Fall back 1 hour occurs November 1st which is a great time to check and change smoke detector batteries.