



In the Know in St. Joseph

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH



January 2021

Residents of St. Joseph...

I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday break. 2020 was a challenging year for all of us. What started out in March as a two-week quarantine turned into nine months of isolation. Throughout this time, the City had three main priorities in its response to COVID-19:

1. Looking after the health and safety of staff and the community
2. Keeping city services available
3. Continuing to invest in business and projects, keeping any momentum and growth in mind.

As we look to the future, there remain many questions and concerns about our economy, health and safety conditions. Addressing our community's needs will take careful thought and consideration. We must continue to be thoughtful, vigilant and careful, to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe and well.

Even though 2020 may be thought of as the year of COVID, from a City standpoint, I want to view 2020 as a year of growth.

The City received a big boost toward a community center when the State Legislature included money in the bonding bill for that structure. Meetings in the new year will occur to shape what our next steps will be.

We are in the process of repairing and upgrading the Minnesota Streetscape. Our goal is to have the project completed by July 3-4.

We acquired additional space near the current public works building for needed expansion which will increase staff productivity and help with equipment availability.

(Cont'd. on back)

Snow Removal

Property owners are required to clear sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall event. If the owner fails to do so, the city may remove the snow or ice and the owner will be charged for the service.

It is unlawful to blow snow into a street or alley.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant

When clearing your driveway of snow, please take the time to clear the snow around any fire hydrant on your property or in your vicinity.



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 is subject to a fine and immediate towing at the owner's expense.

SNOWFEST 2021

You are invited to the first ever **SNOWFEST!** Join members of the St. Joseph Park Board and Recreation Department for some socially distanced family fun!

Saturday, February 27th, join us at 6:00 PM for a moonlight snowshoe walk in Millstream Park followed by a bonfire with smores near the Millstream Park shelter.

Sunday, February 28th, the fun will begin at 1:00 PM at Memorial Park. Bring your skates and sleds to experience the sledding hill along with skate races.

SNOWFEST Medallion Hunt

Beginning Monday, **February 22nd**, clues will be published daily at 9:00 AM on the City website. The lucky individual/s that find the medallion will receive prizes from local establishments! Contact the Rec. Department with any questions (320) 557-8140.

FIREFIGHTERS WANTED

The City of St. Joseph is accepting applications for the St. Joseph Volunteer Fire Department. Members are paid per response and training will be provided. Positions are open until filled.

Apply online at www.cityofstjoseph.com.



We want your feedback on City services. Please take a few minutes to answer questions to help us better meet your needs. The survey is available

from January 19th to February 4th and can be found at www.cityofstjoseph.com.

Facility Reservations

Reservations are now being accepted for the St. Joseph Fire Hall and various park shelters.



The non-refundable rental fee is \$100.00 and each reservation requires a \$200.00 damage deposit. Contact City Hall at (320) 363-7201.

2021 Budget

The City Council adopted the 2021 levy, budget, capital spending plans and fee schedule on December 7, 2020. The implementation went into effect January 1, 2021, and property tax statements will be mailed by Stearns County in March. The overall 2021 City budget and levy increased. With a market value increase of 7.6%, the resulting city tax rate decreased 3.9%. Your property taxes include other jurisdictions: Stearns County,

St. Cloud School District 742, Sauk River Watershed District and Rail Authority. With all jurisdictions combined, the overall tax rate shows a decrease. When applying the tax rate to the 7.6% market value increase, residents may see an increase or decrease in property taxes depending on their property's market value. The chart below indicates the impact with different home values using the proposed 2021 tax statements.

NTC \$4,529,636 7.61% ↑	Taxable Market Value 2020	Taxable Market Value 2021	Homestead Credit Reduction due to Increase in MV	City Taxes 2020	City Taxes 2021	2021 Tax change with all Jurisdictions
Home 1	\$154,900	\$164,600	(\$800)	\$968.91	\$963.72	(\$5.19)
Home 2	\$235,500	\$248,100	(\$1,000)	\$1,473.08	\$1,452.63	(\$20.45)
Home 3	\$307,400	\$330,300	(\$1,900)	\$1,922.82	\$1,933.91	\$11.09

Note: Tax Rate is the result of dividing the amount of property tax levied, by the net tax capacity value.

Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance

The City of St. Joseph is a member of the Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance (CMWEA). The mission of CMWEA is to develop and implement educational programs that encourage individuals to protect water resources by increasing their knowledge and making simple behavior changes. For more information, visit h2youmn.com.

Winter Clean Water Tip: Smart Salting

Salt is toxic to Minnesota's aquatic life. Over salting does not mean more melting, it just damages property and pollutes our water supply. To avoid over salting:

1. Shovel Early and Often

2. Scatter Salt. Distribute thinly, aiming for 2-3 inches between salt granules.
3. Select the Right Tool. Salt only works when the pavement is above 15°.
4. Sweep Up and Reuse. Clean up leftover salt, sand, and deicer to save and reuse as needed.



Summer Recreation

It's not too early to start thinking about recreation activities for this summer. A survey regarding recreation program interest will be posted on the City Website early February. Stay tuned!

New Utility Rates, Effective January 1, 2021

The new utility rates will first be applied on the March 2021 utility bill (for January/February services). The rates below reflect a single-family residential user billed every two months. More information on the 2021 fee schedule can be found online under the Finance Department.

	2021 Rates	2020 Rates	
Water Usage	\$5.15	\$5.05	per 1,000 gallons
Water Line Charge	\$24.00	\$24.00	
Sewer Usage	\$6.10	\$6.30	per 1,000 gallons
Sewer Line Charge	\$34.00	\$34.00	
State Surcharge	\$1.62	\$1.62	
60 gal Recycling	\$15.20	\$12.00	
90 gal Recycling	\$21.20	n/a	
30 gal Refuse	\$17.80	\$15.50	
60 gal Refuse	\$19.20	\$18.00	
90 gal Refuse	\$22.50	\$40.50	
Refuse Tax	9.75%	9.75%	
Street Light Utility	\$4.80	\$4.80	per unit
Stormwater	\$12.40	\$10.00	per unit

(Mayor's Update Cont'd)

We also welcomed new staff in each department! After serving as Community Development Director, Therese Haffner moved into the role of City Administrator. Nate Keller was hired on as the Community Development Director. Public Works welcomed Ryan Wensmann as Public Works Superintendent and Mike Sworski was promoted to Utility Lead. In the Police Department, Eric Brutger became St. Joseph's newest Police Officer and Matt Johnson and Dan Maggaard were promoted to Sergeants. Administration also welcomed Vicky Granite as the new Account Technician. We have a great staff in place and I am excited for the future of St. Joseph.

Throughout 2020, I saw signs of strength, determination and community connection that I believe put us in a position to emerge from this as a stronger, more unified and more informed community than ever before.

Thank you to every person and business in our community for the strength shown while under enormous pressure. I am honored to be the Mayor of St. Joseph. Here's to a better 2021!

Mayor Rick Schultz