

SJ Downtown Chili Tour set for Jan. 27

By HP STAFF

ST. JOSEPH — Whether visitors like their chili mild or fiery hot, with chili-inspired desserts or hot beverages, they will find more than 20 ways to chase away the chill during the 5th Annual Downtown Chili Tour in downtown St. Joseph on Friday Jan. 27.

The 5-8 p.m. event is pre-

sented by Zion Evangelical UCC and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. Merchants and restaurants will offer samples of their favorite chili recipes in hopes of earning the People's Choice Award, determined by popular vote, or the Chili Pepper Award determined by a panel of judges.

“There is a suggested donation of \$2 per person or \$5 for a family of four or more,” said Brian Smith, interim executive director and events manager of St. Joseph Today.

Special participants will include Caffé Tosi, featuring the St. Joseph High School's “Fantastic Four” of the 2016 LMC Chili Cook-Off. Participating restaurants of-

fering tastings at downtown shops include Bistro on the Boulevard, Zoup!, the Sandbar & Grille, Greenbush Brewing Co., Babe's Lounge, Plank's, Papa Vino's, Cravings, Round Barn, Bread+Bar, Charlie's Piggin' & Grinnin', Coach's and Clementine, as well as downtown eateries.

Registrants will get a map of chili stop loca-

tions, which they can turn in at the end of the night to vote for their favorite chili as well as be entered in a drawing for a \$25 St. Joseph Today gift certificate good at more than 40 locations. The drawing will be held Jan. 28.

Smith said several non-chili locations are also “must stops” that evening because of their special

sales and family-friendly entertainment.

Guests looking to enjoy a full weekend of fun in St. Joseph can also still buy tickets for the 2nd Annual Winter Beer Fest, Jan. 28, and the Magical Ice Fest, Feb. 3-5. For updates about the Chili Tour and future events, visit stjoetoday.com, [facebook.com/stjoetoday](https://www.facebook.com/stjoetoday) or call 985-1111.