



City of St. Johns Winter Newsletter 2017



Keep Sidewalks Clean of Snow & Ice

- ✓ When any snow or ice shall cease to fall during the daylight hours, such snow or ice shall be cleared from the sidewalks within 12 hours after such cessation. When a fall of snow or ice shall have ceased during the nighttime, it shall be cleared from the sidewalks by 6:00 pm of the day following. The Police Department along with the Code Enforcer will enforce the ordinance.
- ✓ Do not throw snow, slush or ice in the street. This is against state statute and a citation may be issued for individuals whom violate this code (Motor Vehicle Code P.A. 82 of 1978, 257.677a).



2017 Downtown Parking Permits

Parking permits that are required for any of the downtown parking lots are available ONLY at the St. Johns Police Department, they will NOT be available for purchase at the City of St. Johns offices.

Winter 2016 Tax Bill

Winter 2016 Tax Bills were mailed November 30, 2016. If you did not receive your tax bill, contact the Treasurer at (989) 224-8944. Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt the taxes from penalties. Winter taxes are payable to the City of St. Johns and due Tuesday, February 14, 2017 by 5:00 pm. Postmarks are **NOT** accepted. Tax and assessing information is available on the City website at www.cityofsaintjohnsmi.com.

Summer 2017 Tax Bill

Unpaid water/sewer bills will be placed onto the property owner's summer tax bill, the fee will be \$135. All water/sewer bills, from the previous year, need to be paid by May 22nd of the current year to avoid the \$135 fee and being short in your escrow account if your taxes are paid by an escrow company.

Christmas Tree Disposal

Christmas trees are not picked up by Granger, they are picked up by the City of St. Johns Public Works Department. The trees will be picked up on either Monday or Tuesday (the same schedule as the brown bag pick-up) beginning January 3rd. Please have your Christmas tree free of ornaments/tinsel and placed out by the curb. Do NOT have your tree wrapped in a plastic bag. You also can take your tree to the Public Works Department, 1000 N. US-127 BR compost area with 24/7 access. Please use the Kuntz Drive entrance.



Prevent Your Pipes From Freezing This Winter

Pipes and utility meters can freeze when the temperature remains below 25° for extended periods of time. The City of St. Johns Water Department offers the following tips to help protect water lines during cold weather:

- * Let a thin stream of cold water run from your faucet. The stream should be a continuous flow, about the thickness of a pencil. This water can be caught in a bucket or pail to be recycled later to use for laundry or dish water.
- * Be sure pipes in unheated parts of your home/crawl space are insulated, hardware stores carry foam insulation for this purpose.
- * Leave interior cupboard doors under sinks open, especially if the sink piping is adjacent to an exterior wall.
- * Plug up drafty cracks & repair broken window panes that allow cold air inside where pipes are located.
- * If your pipe is frozen, gently warm it with hot air from a blow dryer at the point where it enters your house.
- * Be sure you know the location of the water shut-off valve in your home. Check it periodically to ensure it works properly.
- * Shut off & drain all pipes leading to outside faucets.



If you lose water service, locate the frozen pipe. Common areas which freeze first are piping located adjacent to exterior walls or where the water service enters your home through the foundation.

- * Apply heat to the suspected section of exposed pipe with an electric hair dryer, carpet sweeper exhaust or a light bulb in the area of the freeze.
- * Heat tape can be used with care taken to install according to manufacturers specifications.
- * NEVER USE ANTI-FREEZE TO THAW A PIPE. The chemicals could contaminate the water supply.
- * If you are unable to regain service you may want to contact a plumber.

The City of St. Johns maintains underground water lines from the water main to the curb stop near the property line. Water lines running from the curb stop to the house, as well as internal plumbing, are the responsibility of the property owner. For questions, contact city offices at (989) 224-8944, ext. 282 or 280.

The cold weather tips provided above are only suggestions. The City of St. Johns does not account for or take responsibility for the customers piping for the above suggestions.

Winter Outdoor Activities at City Park



During the winter months, weather permitting, there is an unsupervised sledding hill open to the public during daylight hours. The hill is located at the main City Park, 805 W. Park St., St. Johns. The hill is at the far northwest corner of the park.

Also there is ice skating and ice hockey available at the ice rink, weather permitting. The ice skating hours are Monday—Friday, 6:00—8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 1:00—6:00 p.m. The ice hockey hours are Monday—Friday, 5:00—6:00 p.m. and 8:00—10:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m.—noon. Open skating and hockey are allowed at the City Park ice rink at any time except those times that are posted exclusively for skating or hockey.

Please visit the parks and recreation department at www.cityofsaintjohnsmi.com/Departments/ParksandRecreation.aspx for more information.

Recreation Department Winter Activities

- **Middle School Activities: \$4 per night per person from Jan. 5 – Mar. 30**

Adult Open Gym Volleyball/Basketball-Thursdays 6:30-8:30 pm

- **High School Pool Activities**

Open Swim: Mondays; 6:30-8 pm; Jan. 9—April 26; \$4-per adult, per visit; \$3-per child, per visit

Adult Early Morning Lap Swim: T & TH; 5-6 am (year round)-\$5 per visit, per person

Adult Mid-Day Lap Swim: M, W, & F; 10 –11 am (year round)-\$5 per visit, per person

Adult Evening Lap Swim: M & W; 8:15-9:15 pm; Jan. 4-April 26-\$5 per visit, per person

Youth Swim Lessons: T & TH; April 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, & 27. Times vary. \$25 each child


- **Other Activities**

Little Hoopsters Program: K-2nd grades; Feb. 11-March 18; start time 9 am; pre-registration required; Oakview Elementary. \$31-resident/\$36 non-resident

Basketball Clinic: 3rd—6th grades; Saturday Early After Noon; Feb. 11—March 18; Pre-registration & drop-ins welcome; Oakview Elementary

Kids Power Karate: K-6th grades; Mondays; 6:15-7 pm; Jan. 23-Feb. 27. Gateway North Elementary. Pre registration required \$40-resident/\$45 non-resident

Adult Photography-TH; 5-7 pm, St. Johns Train Depot; \$25 -resident/\$30 non-resident

For further information on the activities or to register go to www.cityofstjohnsmi.com. You can also contact the parks and recreation department at (989) 224-8944, ext. 284. Information is also available on  at City of St. Johns Recreation Department.

Zoning, Building, Utility & Right-of-Way Permits

Most types of construction such as fences, decks, sheds, etc. require a permit in the City.

Residents desiring to connect to City utilities must obtain a utility permit & pay the fee prior to any work commencing.

A permit must be obtained prior to performing any work in the street right-of-way (sidewalk or driveway removal, removal/planting/trimming trees or utility service repairs).

Brush Pick Up

Brush pick up for residents is **SUSPENDED** for the winter until Spring. Watch for further information in the Clinton County News, for Charter Communications customers see government access channel 99 and for WBI customers see government access channel 52, also on Facebook.

Granger Waste and Recycling Collection

Granger is the waste & recycling hauler for city residents.

The mint green city trash bags are still required for trash pick-up however there is a recycling cart that will be emptied weekly on the same day as your trash collection. Please follow the recycling guide that was included with your cart for a smooth transition.



Adopt a Hydrant



Please keep the area around fire hydrants clear of snow and ice so the fire department can access the hydrant during a fire emergency.

Briggs District Library



Please check the library website at www.briggsdistrictlibrary.org for all of the current activities and programs that are being offered.

After Hours Emergencies

For night, weekend and holiday emergencies relating to sewer, water, drainage or street systems, call (989) 224-9192.

Clinton County Information

The Clinton County website offers lots of information on how to pay an animal license, view birth, marriage or death records. Information on services for Veteran's along with events that take place throughout the year. Visit the website at www.clinton-county.org.