

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS
September 7, 2014

STREET CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: The dedicated street millage funds have been put to good use this 2014 construction season. Area 2, as found on the city's street construction map, was completed this spring. That work included portions of Travers, Kibbee, McConnell and Cass streets in the area south of M-21 and east of BR US 27. The second phase of this year's street construction is now underway, involving Areas 1, 3 and 4 on the map. Segments of the following streets will be under construction through September: Gibbs, Ottawa, Higham, Oakland, Church, Clinton, Wight, Baldwin and McConnell. In advance of some street reconstruction residents will continue to see Consumers Energy working in the public right-of-way upgrading underground gas mains. City crews will also be replacing water valves and other facilities as needed in conjunction with the ongoing street improvement program. We recognize that this construction inconveniences some residents, and ask your patience as the crews work in your neighborhoods to improve city streets. City staff believes that remaining road work should be completed by October 1st.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED: At its August 25th meeting, the St. Johns City Commission adopted two recommendations of the Planning Commission involving the expansion and renovation of two local businesses. Olympian Tool will be expanding its facility to accommodate increased business. The proposed site plan of the local McDonald's restaurant was also approved, which will involve a total demolition and rebuild of its existing building.

DANGEROUS BUILDING ORDINANCE BEING IMPLEMENTED: Through its Community Development Department, the City is now engaged in the process of determining whether three residential structures meet the criteria for "dangerous buildings" under local ordinance. Inspection of each structure has taken place. Unless problems are remediated by the property owners the enforcement remedies will be implemented by the city, which can include demolition. It is noteworthy that this procedure was initiated against these properties based on citizen complaints.

CITY SPRAY PARK PROGRESS REPORT: If you have visited our main City Park recently, you will see the signs of early construction of the City's spray park, which is being built at the site of the Veteran's Memorial Pool. While the community has shown its commitment to this project through generous donations, our fund-raising goal has not yet been achieved. Without additional donations some of the important features of the spray park cannot be incorporated into the final layout until new donations are secured. If you are interested in contributing to this important community recreational project, please contact City Recreation Director Bill Schafer (989) 224-8944. Donations can include the purchase of engraved paving bricks with names or personal tributes, which will be used in the surround of the spray park, or for an above ground spray feature.

SUMMER EVENTS: The city was alive once again this summer with many community events, including the ever-popular Concert in the Park series, the Principal Shopping District-sponsored downtown car show, music and dancing at the Rotary Park/Depot Pavilion and of course the 30th annual Mint Festival. Just two weeks ago St. Johns hosted the U.S. 27 Motor Tour, which brought more than 200 classic cars to our downtown. This tour started in Indiana and visited 12 Michigan cities, ending in Cheboygan. Our community takes great pride in these many events each year and only through the dedicated volunteers and business community do these come to life. Thank you to all.

BACK TO SCHOOL: With the school year again in full swing, please remember to drive safely and slowly in school zones. During the fall season more students walk and ride bikes to their schools. Road construction may create traffic slow-downs and sight obstructions in certain areas around schools, so use special care in these neighborhoods. We wish all the students, teachers and support staff a successful and rewarding educational experience. Go Redwings!