

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS
Submitted: December 2014

2015 CITY STREET PROJECTS IN PLANNING STAGE: The dedicated street millage projects for 2015 are already in the planning stages here at the city. Staff members are working on staging, pricing and will also be working with Consumers Energy as they plan underground upgrades of their gas lines in areas where streets will be repaved next year. Spring weather will determine when the 2015 projects will commence. Streets to receive treatment during the 2015 construction season can be found on the City's website at <http://cityofsaintjohnsmi.com/>. Once at the website click on "the 2014-2017 Street Proposal Map". 2015 street reconstruction work appears on the map in "yellow".

It may also be of interest for taxpayers to know the City was able to meet and exceed its street project reconstruction goals for 2014, paving and reconstructing more linear feet of streets than what was originally projected given the funding available through the millage. Favorable pricing for asphalt plays a critical role in determining the extent to which repaving can be accomplished in a given construction season.

FINANCIAL AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS SOUND FISCAL POSITION: The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2013-2014 was summarized by a representative of the Rehmann Robson accounting firm at the November 24, 2014 City Commission meeting. The audit findings reflected the City's continued strong financial position in the face of challenging economic times. By all indicators, the operating budget was well-managed by city staff during the last fiscal year. For the fourteenth straight year the City received the GFOA Award for excellence in financial reporting. Fewer than 5% of Michigan municipalities receive this annual award. The City Commission commended staff for this award and for the audit results of year ending June 30, 2014. The City's fiscal year is July 1st through June 30th.

CITY RECEIVES MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT: The City was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the DNR for City Park improvements. This grant money, which must be matched, will 1) provide funding for shade structures for the spray park, 2) allow for the development of increased access routes to the main softball field and spray park and 3) fund improvements for the disc golf course and softball field, to include the addition of accessible player dugouts. St. Johns was one of only 69 recipients to receive a recreational development grant under this program. Funds will be disbursed in calendar year 2015. The City is required to match the grant award as was submitted to the DNR.

CITIZEN COMMITTEES: The City Commission seeks to promote resident involvement and input in city government through citizen committees. These committees serve to advise the legislative body on important municipal matters. There are a variety of committees on which to serve, with vacancies coming up throughout the calendar year. If

you are interested in serving on a city citizen's committee, contact City Clerk Mindy Seavey at 224-8944, ext. 223 or visit the City's website.

CITY COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING DATES SET FOR 2015: We encourage residents and other interested individuals to attend the city's commission meetings, which are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. The public meeting dates for 2015 are now published on the City's website. Visit: <http://www.cityofsaintjohnsmi.com/> for meeting dates and a wealth of other useful information concerning the city.

HABITAT TO BUILD FOURTH HOME IN ST. JOHNS: Perhaps you've driven by the three Habitat for Humanity homes completed and now occupied on the east side of south Lansing Street, south of Townsend Road. The City supports Habitat's mission of providing affordable housing for families. The City Commission approved the sale of a fourth city lot in this same neighborhood to Habitat so they can construct another home within the city limits. Use of these surplus city parcels to develop residential properties adds to the City's property tax base, increases municipal utilities customers, and adds children to our school system. We are proud of our partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Clinton County, and applaud their good works.

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS: Our downtown is once again filled with holiday cheer, sparkling lights and Christmas decorations. Special thanks to the Downtown Development Authority/Principal Shopping District for their efforts in creating this special holiday atmosphere. Please take time from your busy holiday schedules to visit and shop our beautiful downtown area during this Christmas season. City staff and the members of the City Commission wish you and yours a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas