

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS
Submitted: April 15, 2015

LOCAL STREET CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM: Year two of the City's dedicated street improvement program will be up and running on or about May 1. The first phase of reconstruction will involve specified sections of Gibbs, Swegles, Lincoln, McConnell, Traver, Kibbee and Sickles Streets as well as Greengate Drive, Meadowview Drive and Parkview Drive. These streets will be resurfaced as well as undergo improvements to curb and gutter where needed. It is anticipated all improvements will be completed by July 15. Drainage and curb issues will be addressed before repaving can be initiated. Most of the improvements described above will occur in Quadrants #1, #2 and #3 of the City. In addition to the street improvements that will be funded through the dedicated street millage, the City expects to improve a portion of North Lansing Street (between Higham and Gibbs) using Michigan Department of Transportation grant funds which were applied for during the last grant application cycle. Given the poor condition of this street, high daily traffic use, and being a major gateway into the City, this grant application, if approved, will allow for an additional funding source to improve areas where curb and gutter is not utilized along with storm water improvements. This portion of the 2015/2016 project plan will likely be undertaken in the spring of 2016 unless grant funding is approved sooner than later. The standard high maintenance mill and fill process, as used on other streets, will be done if the grant is not awarded to the City.

Phase two of the 2015 street project will commence shortly after Mint Festival with the expectation that all work will be completed by October 1. This phase will involve improvements to Ottawa and Prospect Streets in Quadrants #3 and #4 of the City. For more information about this program and a color-coded map indicating where construction will occur, please visit the City's website at: <http://cityofstjohnsmi.com/> Once at the site click on "2014-2017 Street Millage Proposal Map".

TOWNSEND LIFT STATION UPGRADE: As an update to information from a previous city manager newsletter, the City Commission has approved funding for Townsend Lift Station upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$500,000. Enhancements include equipment replacement such as pumps, controls valves and metering systems. A building addition is also a necessary upgrade that will be part of the project. The City continues to reinvest in this very important infrastructure.

LEAF BAGS AVAILABLE: With warmer weather comes the urge to tidy up that yard and get rid of the dregs of last fall's leaves, branches and lawn clippings. The City promotes the use of lawn and leaf bags by residents. City crews regularly pick up these bags curbside and add them to the City's composting site. Use of lawn bags promotes good environmental practices, keeps the City's storm water system running freely and provides compost for gardening. Residents can pick up lawn and leaf bags free of charge at the City Offices, the City Library or at the DPW site. For more information regarding the City's leaf bag and composting program please call the City Offices at 989-224-8944, ext. 280.

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS: Charter Communications has filed notice with the City that it intends to renew its local franchise agreement so that it can continue to provide cable television, telephone and internet services. Under current Federal and State law the City has no bargaining power with respect to these franchise agreements and the services provided. In the past city representatives have requested that Charter establish a local office in our community, and has recently renewed this request. Owosso continues to be the closest Charter outlet for St. Johns customers. To date Charter has not responded to the City.

TORNADO WARNING SYSTEM/TORNADO SEASON: The City tests its tornado sirens (early warning system) at noon on the first Saturday of each month beginning in April and running through October. These tests will be conducted on this schedule unless there is severe weather in the area. Tornado sirens are located at the City Park, Sparrow/Clinton Hospital and just east of the former Federal Mogul building.

Families are encouraged to establish a home safety plan for severe weather events. Suggested family safety plans for weather emergencies can be found in brochure form on the internet at: www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/ttl.pdf.

SPRING CLEAN-UP SET FOR SATURDAY, MAY 9th: BIG TRASH DAY is right around the corner. That means it's time to begin scouring your home, garage and shed for items that have outlived their usefulness. The annual Big Spring Clean-Up, conducted again this year by Waste Management Services, will begin promptly at 7:00 a.m. on May 9, 2015. **Residents can begin placing unwanted articles curbside seven days before the clean-up date.** Waste Management will be coming through neighborhoods throughout the week prior to May 9th to do early pick-ups. Please be reminded that this service is paid for by City residents and is therefore restricted to those items owned by City residents. Refer to the City's website, or call City Offices at 224-8944 for further information regarding the 2015 Big Trash day.