

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER

Submitted: November 1, 2015

LEAF PICK UP: Every autumn the City of St. Johns assists residents with leaf disposal if proper protocol is used. Residents can either 1) bag their leaves and leave the filled bags curbside (on the property, not in the street) or 2) rake their leaves to the curb in piles (again, not in the street). The City will provide free leaf bags for residents. Additional bags can be picked up at the city offices, the city library or at the DPW site. City crews will continue to pick up bagged or raked leaves at regular intervals during October and November, weather permitting. Residents can also transport their leaves and other yard waste to the DPW compost site.

Raking leaves into the street is a violation of St. Johns City Code 50.05 (c) (3) and could result in the issuance of a civil infraction citation. Leaves raked into the streets can clog city storm sewers and create public safety hazards. As in past years, City crews will be collecting leaves along the curb the week of November 17th, weather permitting. Seniors and handicap residents who are unable to rake their yards may contact Bill Schafer at 9898-224-8944 ext. 227 to receive volunteer assistance. We wish to thank the various youth groups and their leaders for this valuable community service. If another youth group would like to participate please contact City Offices, all are welcome.

COMPLETION OF 2015 STREET PROJECTS: Contractors are “buttoning up” the final road work that is part of the 2015 street millage schedule. Consumers Energy have already completed their natural gas upgrades along these city streets. Thanks to the residents whose ingress and egress to their homes were affected by these street upgrades. Your patience is greatly appreciated. For more information about this program and a color-coded map indicating where construction will occur in 2016 please visit the City’s website at: <http://cityofstjohnsmi.com/> Once at the site click on “2014-2017 Street Millage Proposal Map”. In addition to the work indicated on the map for the 2016 construction season, improvements will also be made on N. Lansing Street as a result of receiving Michigan Department of Transportation Small Urban grant.

AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: The multi-unit residential development being proposed for senior citizens for the downtown district continues to move forward. Engineering and environmental work is being undertaken by the developer. Financing for the project is being put in place with an expected ground-breaking for the apartment complex to occur in late spring/early summer of 2016. It is estimated that the construction would take up to 10 months to complete. The City has received numerous calls regarding interested seniors who would like to be on a waiting list. Registration details are still being investigated. It is important to note, studies have demonstrated that there is a distinct shortage of safe and affordable housing for seniors on modest incomes in the Clinton County and the Tri-County Region. This project will address that need.

DEPOT GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS/CIS TRAILHEAD: The City of St. Johns has received Department of Natural Resources grant funds to support improvements along the CIS recreational trail where it intersects with our downtown. The grant will allow the city to erect public bathrooms and install benches, picnic tables and additional paved parking in the Rotary Park/Depot Grounds area. In addition, sidewalks, lighting and security cameras will be installed. Conceptual drawings are continuing to forge ahead as we prepare for a spring/summer 2016 project. And if you haven't yet taken the time to stroll or ride along this wonderful recreational trail, autumn is a great time to give it a try.