CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS
Submitted: September 28, 2016

ZONING REGULATIONS REGARDING OFF-STREET PARKING, OPEN STORAGE: City officials have received a number of complaints from residents regarding the outside storage of inoperable and unlicensed vehicles, trailers, recreational vehicles and other materials and equipment. Residents are reminded that the City regulates the parking of vehicles and the storage of materials and equipment on residential properties. St. Johns City Code section 155.341 requires that vehicles can be parked out in the open only if they are on a paved driveway or parking area. Not more than three vehicles can be parked on a residential lot unless in a garage-like building. Violators can be cited for a civil infraction with fines starting at $50.00 per day. Additionally, inoperable and/or unlicensed vehicles cannot be stored in the open on private property within the city per St. Johns City Code 94.02. Other items such as snowmobiles, boats and snowplow blades must be kept in closed storage (e.g., shed or garage; see St. Johns City Code 93.36). A violation of this code section is a misdemeanor, which carries up to a $500 fine plus court costs.

BOND REFUNDING SAVINGS: The City is in the process of refunding and reissuing some outstanding water/sewer bonds to take advantage of favorable interest rates that will likely be available for only a limited period of time. Working with our financial advisor and bond counsel, it is expected this new issue will save the City more than $800,000 over the life of the bonds. These bonds were originally issued to fund required improvements to the City's public utility facilities.

PUBLIC PARKING LOT UPGRADE: The public parking lot on Walker Street east of the UAW building will be resurfaced in this fall. Miller Bros. Excavating was awarded a contract for this construction work through the competitive bidding process. In addition to the asphalt work, some storm sewer and base improvements will also be part of the project. The anticipated completion date for this project is October 15, 2016.

SPRING STREET WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENT: Miller Bros. has also been awarded a public works contract for the installation of an 8" water main on Spring Street between Walker and Higham Streets. This construction project when completed will improve both water flow and water quality for commercial and residential users serviced by this water line. Completion of the project is targeted for October 28, 2016.

SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT: Many residents have inquired about the status of the Seybert "Castle St. Johns" senior housing project slated for development at the corner of Higham and Spring Street. This project is still on track according to the developer. No official word has yet been provided regarding groundbreaking for this multi-unit apartment complex.

YARD WASTE BAGS: As the weather cools residents will begin their annual autumn yard cleanup in preparation for the winter months. City staff will continue to make their rounds

picking up bagged yard leaves and other plant material placed curbside by residents. This method of disposal is encouraged by city staff, as it is an integral part of the City's composting program. We commend our residents for their widespread use of leaf bags in both spring and fall. Brush and branches are also picked up curbside by City staff. PLEASE NOTE: it is an ordinance violation to rake leaves into the street. Violators will be subject to a civil infraction fine. If a resident needs additional yard waste bags they can be obtained at no charge from the City Offices, Briggs District Library or by contacting DPW Supervisor Jeremy Ritter at 989-224-8944, ext. 229.

HALLOWEEN HOURS: Trick or Treat hours in the City are from **6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m**. Ghouls and goblins will be canvassing the neighborhoods as they fill up their Halloween bags with treats. If you're driving on city streets during this time please be very careful of little ones in costume as their vision is often limited by scary masks and other headgear. Have fun!!