

CITY OF ST. JOHNS
CITY NEWSLETTER
Date: August 17, 2017

DEDICATED STREET MILLAGE RENEWAL VOTE UPCOMING: City residents will soon receive important information and an accompanying street map concerning the upcoming November 7, 2017 street millage vote which has been authorized by the City Commission and the Governor's Office. This is a renewal of the dedicated street millage passed by voters in 2013, set to expire this year. The proposed renewal is for 3 mills over a period of 5 years, which is a reduction in the mill rate when compared to the original voted millage from four years ago. Under the original road millage the City has repaved and improved more than 12 miles of streets and associated facilities (curb, gutter, catch basins, etc.) since the inception of the program. This renewal will keep us on pace to deal with most of the local streets rated as "poor" by the last engineering survey done for the purpose of grading our public rights-of-way. Specific streets that will be repaved, repaired and/or reconstructed will be specifically identified in the map that will be sent to residents as well as the year in which the work will be done. The November 7 election will be critical as the City works to maintain its momentum on this important street improvement program.

NEW POLICE CHIEF: We are pleased to announce that David Kirk has been hired as the City's new Chief of Police. Dave has been working in law enforcement and public safety for 27 years, and most recently has held the chief position in Portland, Michigan. Dave spent much of his professional career working with the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department, holding the position of division commander. He coordinated major crimes investigations while with that department among his other diverse responsibilities. Dave lives in St. Johns. He will take on the responsibilities as our chief beginning September 5, 2017.

CONSTRUCTION OF TRAILSIDE AMENITIES AT THE DEPOT: Utilizing grant funds obtained from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the City is in the process of constructing much needed improvements alongside the CIS recreational trail on the Depot grounds just east of the Depot building. Public bathrooms, a drinking fountain, benches, picnic tables and expanded parking are in the final phase of development. We believe these trailhead amenities will attract more trail users and make St. Johns a good starting and ending point for those embarking upon trail adventures!

SPRAY PARK VETERAN'S MEMORIAL POOL HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS: The spray park has proved to be a very popular recreational facility for the City. To enhance its use and enjoyment the City has embarked upon a project to improve the pool house. Using available grant money from the DNR Trust Fund, renovation of bathroom facilities within the building will begin this fall. Other improvements will include a new roof, windows and doors for the pool house. These upgrades will make the spray park much more convenient for use by families and their children.

CITY MANAGER SEARCH: The process for hiring a new city manager continues apace. The consulting group assisting in this effort has met with commissioners and residents in an effort to create a profile for this important position. It is anticipated the applicant pool will be defined and the interview process initiated within the next 20 to 45 days.