

CITY MANAGER / POLICE CHIEF SEARCH

The City Commission has begun the search for a new city manager and police chief. The city has entered into a contractual agreement with the Michigan Municipal League (MML) to assist in the city manager search. The MML will help determine which candidates have the desired experience, qualifications, and management style that match our community. It is our hope to have this position filled later this fall.

As many of you know, Chief Kyle Knight has accepted the police chief position in Harbor Springs, MI and will be leaving SJPD later this month. The city is in the process of receiving applications for a new police chief and it is our hope to have this position filled in the next few months.

NEW TRAILSIDE RESTROOM FACILITY

Spring has sprung and construction has begun on the new trailside bathroom facility located at 205 E. Railroad Street, just east of the depot. The City of St. Johns, utilizing Michigan DNR grant funding, is constructing this facility which will include two universally accessible restrooms. Site amenities will include universally accessible design features comprised of six foot wide concrete sidewalks, picnic tables and benches. Proposed sidewalks added to the site will connect this facility with the Fred Meijer CIS Trail.

PENSION LIABILITY

Like many cities across the state and throughout the nation, we continue to evaluate the best way to address our future pension liability. The Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) currently manages our pension fund. Over the next 12 years, the city's annual pension payments will escalate significantly to pay the existing nine million dollar pension liability. The City Commission and staff are currently evaluating these costs to develop a strategic plan (budget cuts, special millage, etc.) that addresses this liability in a pro-active manner.

2017 DEDICATED STREET IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

2017 is the last year of the four year dedicated millage for improvement of local streets within the city. During the preceding three years nine miles of city streets have been repaved, with other improvements to curbs and storm water catch basins and other infrastructure. During the 2017 construction season an additional three miles of local streets will be worked on. This includes portions of Hampshire, Lincolnshire, Lambert, Wight, McConnell, Mead, Railroad, Lewis, North Oakland, and Giles streets. The City Commission is studying the need for a future special millage to continue improving local streets.

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.