

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS
July 23, 2007

DEPOT/TRAIN MUSEUM—The Clinton County Arts Council recently met with Ed McManus, a conservator with the Smithsonian Institute, for his valuable input regarding renovations of the historic train cars and other railroad artifacts on the depot grounds. A volunteer group is in the process of refurbishing these cars and gained much insight from this visit. Efforts to obtain grants for this project are ongoing, and Mr. McManus provided insights regarding obtaining grant monies.

ROAD PROJECT COMPLETED—If you've recently driven on South Morton or East Sickles Streets you may will noticed an appreciably better ride on the new overlay asphalt recently installed as part of the City's heavy street maintenance program. This application is typically utilized only for streets that are graded in fair or good condition. Also, selected gravel streets in town have a new seal-coated surface for improved travel. Other gravel streets will receive a similar upgrade when funds become available.

SUMMER TAXES—Please be advised your summer tax bill now includes all Clinton County operating millage. Prior to this year the county tax was split into two payments: 2/3 portion on the summer tax statement and the 1/3 remainder on the winter tax bill. The winter property tax statement will no longer include any county operating millage.

“OFFICIAL PAYMENTS” SERVICE MAKES GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS EASIER, MORE REWARDING—The City has partnered with the company “Official Payments (OP)” to allow residents the ease of paying government taxes and fees by credit card, debit card or electronic check in person at City Offices or via the Internet. Making payments electronically allows consumers to take advantage of card rewards, payment flexibility, convenience and safety. A nominal fee is charged by OP based on the transaction amount. The consumer is informed of the fee before the payment is made.

The City also has a credit card terminal at the City Offices which can be used in person to pay taxes and fees by credit/debit card through the OP service. This payment method is offered for the convenience of City residents. The City does not profit from this payment method.

SIDEWALK SURVEY—In an effort to make this a safer and more “walkable” community, two seasonal employees are currently conducting a survey of the condition of City sidewalks. A listing of sidewalks in need of repair or replacement will be submitted to the Public Services Subcommittee for review. Property owners with deteriorated sidewalks will be notified consistent with the procedure established by City Ordinance.

Sidewalk repairs are the responsibility of the property owner per City Ordinance. This current fiscal year the City has allocated \$20,000 to assist in defraying the cost of

replacing deteriorated sidewalks. Contact Jeff Stephens (224-8944, ext. 281) or Steve Rademacher (ext. 229) for additional information.

BE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN TOWN—The Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum and the Clinton County Historical Society have a full list of summer events for 2007. These include craft demonstrations and sales during the Mint Festival, a historic building walking tour and other interesting events. For more information call Diane at 227-9677, check out the public television access channel (Channel 3) or visit www.pgsmuseum.org.

Also, be sure to check out the downtown Depot Center for the Arts for the many activities slated during the summer months.