

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS
October 28, 2007

FALL STREET PROJECTS: The local street projects designated for fall milling and asphalt paving have been completed. Cass Street from Oakland Street to BR-US 27 and Sunview Drive now have new surfaces for travel. Miscellaneous sidewalk and curb and gutter work was also done as part of these projects. These “fixes” are part of the City’s heavy and light maintenance programs, as distinguished from the full reconstruction of streets required for many of our local thoroughfares. To date numerous gravel streets within the city limits have either been cold-milled or double seal-coated. Next spring West Gibbs and a portion of North Clinton (from BR-US27 to Walker Road) will be seal-coated as well.

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, the City Commission has authorized the expenditure of a portion of the general fund budget for additional street improvements.

MAHLE AND ALLIED RING ANNOUNCE PLANT EXPANSION: The City recently received confirmation from Mahle (formerly Dana Corp.) and Allied Ring would expand its current facility located in St. Johns. The companies, in joint venture, are adding a 47,000 square foot addition to the east side of the existing plant. It is expected that additional jobs will be created through this expansion. The City of St. Johns has supported Mahle’s decision to expand its St. Johns facility by allocating funds for water and sewer system improvements, and the development of a public roadway. This public street will not only serve Mahle and Allied Ring, but will also work to promote new economic development in the area as well as the future Rails to Trails pathway.

CITY AUDIT COMPLETED: The 2006-07 audit was presented to the St. Johns City Commission at its October 8, 2007 public meeting. Abraham & Gaffney prepared the audit, and the presentation to the commission was made by Aaron Stevens. Based on the audit summary your city’s financial condition continues to be sound in the face of rising expenditures and uncertain state revenue-sharing projections. The City has a healthy 25% fund balance (savings account).

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES: The City will issue Revenue Bonds in the amount of approximately \$6,295,000 for much needed sewer plant upgrades and improvements. Revenue bonds do not increase taxes or millage, but are instead paid for through user fees. The last major renovations to the wastewater treatment plant took place in 1995. The City’s sewage collection system totals approximately 35 miles and in 1997 the City financed the repair or replacement of sanitary sewers to control infiltration and inflow of water into the sanitary collection lines that enter the plant.

The City has commissioned an engineering firm to do the initial construction and design work in conjunction with City staff.

CLINTON COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE: This private/public consortium, initiated as a catalyst for economic development in Clinton County, has hired as its first President/CEO John Czarnecki. John formerly worked for the State of Michigan, Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Czarnecki will take on his official duties on January 1, 2008. The City is excited to be involved in this organization, which will assist in the retention of jobs and the development new economic growth in the region.

HALLOWEEN REMINDER: Trick or treating is from 6 pm to 8 pm on October 31. Have fun; drive safely.