

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS

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CABLE TV/INTERNET SERVICE: If you are a Charter Cable TV/Internet customer and experienced disruptions in your service during December 2007 you may want to contact the Charter business office at 1-800-GO CHARTER. The City does not have the authority to mandate credits or rebates for this private service under the Uniform Franchise Agreements which were recently mandated for use by State and Federal law.

YEAR END REVIEW: As we begin calendar year 2008, a look back at some of the issues which have come before your elected officials and City staff during 2007 seems in order.

Street improvements, reconstruction and repair have been and will continue to be big challenges for our city. During the year, staff and Commissioners met with state officials in an effort to procure additional funding for street projects. Additionally, Capital Improvement bonds were issued this year in part to fund some local street projects (other CI bond moneys went to construction of a new salt barn). Summer and fall street projects were initiated and completed to the extent there were available funds. Finally, a new street sweeper was purchased to keep local roadways clean and safe for travel.

Speaking of public rights-of-way, the City initiated a sidewalk survey this past summer as a means of determining sidewalk flags in need of repair or replacement. The City is looking for funds in 2008 and beyond to assist property owners who will need to replace deteriorating sidewalks along their property. A safe sidewalk system makes our City pedestrian-friendly.

Finally in the sidewalk "department", City and Public School representatives met to discuss safe walking zones throughout the neighborhoods where schools are situated. Limited grant funding is available to communities that develop a strategic plan for safe pedestrian routes for students. This plan is in its formative stage.

A new tornado siren/early warning system was purchased and installed as a means of enhancing the public safety of our residents.

The City, through the bidding process, realized some cost-savings in the area of curbside garbage and recycling collection by contracting with a new provider, Republic Services. Information regarding curbside recycling can be found on the City's website at www.ci.saint-johns.mi.us or through the City Offices at 224-8944.

In the Industrial Park infrastructure improvements were made. Water mains were upgraded to provide a reliable water supply to industrial park businesses. The City continues to market Industrial Park parcels in an effort to attract new businesses and jobs to the community. The City is being assisted in this effort by the Clinton County

Economic Alliance, a group which was formed to promote growth and development throughout the county.

Mahle Engine Components purchased the Dana Corp. manufacturing plant during the last calendar year. They are now in the process of expanding the facility with a 47,000 square foot addition. This expansion will increase job opportunities in the area over the long term.

The Commissioners and City staff would like to wish everyone a safe and prosperous New Year.