

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS
Date: March 18, 2008

DRAMA CLUB RECOGNITION: The St. Johns City Commission recently recognized the St. Johns High School Theatre Department for winning the State Championship at the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association State Theatre Competition. The group performed the play "Blood Brothers". In attendance to receive the City award were theatre group members Joel Carpenter, Ashley Kirby, Carly Burnham, Chris Robinson, assistant Elissa Munger and faculty adviser Ashley Bowen. Congratulations to the entire high school theatre ensemble for this outstanding achievement.

AREA FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES: In an effort to realize cost savings for both the City and local municipalities, the St. Johns City Commission has submitted a letter to Bingham and Greenbush Townships offering to provide fire protection through the City Fire Department at a favorable rate. This initiative is an outgrowth of recommendations contained in a recently published fire study authored by noted fire protection consultant Mark Nottley. This proposal is in keeping with the Governor and Legislature's mandate that governmental units engaged in regional cooperation will be given priority for state loans and grant monies.

CLINTON AREA AMBULANCE SERVICE AUTHORITY: The City Commission took up the issue of approval of the Ambulance Authority's budget at the March 10 Commission meeting. The City is one of ten municipalities that comprise the authority's membership. Recently the authority has experienced operating budget shortfalls, giving City Commissioners concern over its long term viability. At the end of the discussion the City Commission voted to withdraw from the ambulance authority, effective April 1, 2009. Commissioners expressed hope that the ambulance authority would be able to make administrative improvements and shore up its annual budget by 2009, thus allowing the City to consider rescinding its notice of withdrawal.

TORNADO SIRENS AND TORNADO SEASON: The City will be conducting monthly tests of its tornado warning system beginning the first Saturday of April. The sirens will be activated at noon. Additional information will be provided by public service announcement. Families are encouraged to review their home safety plans as we near the severe weather season. Suggested family safety plans for severe weather events can be found in brochure form on the internet: www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/ttl.pdf.

SPRING CLEAN-UP SET FOR MAY 10: It's time to begin rummaging around your home for items that have outlived their usefulness. The annual Big Spring Clean-Up, conducted this year by Republic Waste Services, will begin promptly at 7:00 a.m. on May 10. Residents can begin placing unwanted articles curbside seven days before the clean-up. Please be reminded that this service is paid for by City revenues, and therefore

is restricted to those items owned by City residents. Refer to the City's website, or call City Offices at 224-8944 for further information.

SOUTH OAKLAND STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT INFORMATIONAL MEETING: As one of many local street projects starting this spring, the South Oakland reconstruction project (Sturgis to Townsend Road) will kick off with an informational meeting to be held on April 1 from 6 pm to 7 pm at the Clinton County Courthouse, first floor, conference room "C". All interested persons are encouraged to attend. Affected residents along the reconstruction route will receive written notification of this meeting.