

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

Date: May 18, 2008

**COMMISSION SETS PUBLIC HEARING TO FINALIZE PROPOSED BUDGET**—At its last meeting the City Commission set the public hearing for Tuesday, May 27 to finalize this coming fiscal year's City operating budget. This hearing is an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed budget, and is a requirement of state law. (The City Commission will meet on Tuesday rather than Monday because of Memorial Day). The proposed budget, submitted by the city manager to the Commission, is balanced as required by the State Constitution. Continued emphasis on street maintenance projects is reflected in the budget documents. This budget shows a very modest increase in State of Michigan revenue-sharing payments to our community. Because of revenue-sharing reductions passed by the Michigan legislature over the last several years, our community now receives state funds at the equivalent of 1998 levels. The City's 2008/2009 budget document continues to reflect a conservative philosophy towards expenditures and we remain financially stable due to modest debt level as compared to similar cities of population and location.

**SUMMER STREET PROJECTS**—Many residents have likely noticed the Walker Street reconstruction project is in full swing. The Oakland Street project will begin approximately June 1. These projects are funded in part by Small Urban Grant funds. Streets designated for improvements and re-construction are prioritized based on the need for infrastructure improvements (water and sewer lines), major street designation (average daily traffic) and surface road conditions.

**TORNADO WARNING SIRENS**—The City's tornado warning system is tested the first Saturday of each month at noon. Because we are in the midst of the tornado season, we suggest families develop appropriate response and safety plans in the event of severe weather. Please refer to this website ( [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) ) if you need information regarding an appropriate family response plan to a severe weather event.

**CITY RECREATION DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT**—Recreation Director Bill Schafer presented his annual report to the City Commission at the May 12 Commission Meeting. Discussion of neighborhood park upgrades, summer recreation programs and issues concerning the park pool were among the topics highlighted. As a continuing effort to provide City residents with recreational and entertainment opportunities, the Rec. Department is considering a summer program of Movies in the Park and will also expand its yoga class offerings in the fall.

**NOXIOUS WEED ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT**—The growing season brings with it an increase in the growth of noxious weeds. City Ordinance 93.50 requires that noxious weeds be cleared before reaching seed-bearing stage and lawn grasses be cut before reaching 8" in growth. The ordinance also mandates that any accumulation of dead weeds, grass or brush be cleared from the premises by the occupant/owner. This and all ordinances can be reviewed on line at the City's website:

[www.cityofsaintjohnsmi.com](http://www.cityofsaintjohnsmi.com) Paper copies of ordinances can be obtained at City Offices, or by calling 224-8944.

**MUSIC IN THE PARK, AND EVENTS DOWNTOWN**—Many fine musical events are planned for our community, both downtown and through our Concert in the Park series. Additionally, an even bigger and better 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Taste of the Town event is coming soon!

**COFFEE WITH THE COMMISSIONERS**—This program was established to open informal lines of communication between residents and commissioners. These meetings have been useful for commissioners and informative for attending residents. However, because of busy summer schedules **COFFEE WITH THE COMMISSIONERS** will be suspended through August and then resumed in the fall.

**SPRINKLER METERS**—We encourage residents who regularly use water for lawn and garden to consider installing a separate sprinkler meter. This will allow the resident to be billed only for the water usage, and not sewer charges. For more information please contact the City at 224-8944, ext. 281.