

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER  
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS  
June 11, 2008

**CITY AND BINGHAM TOWNSHIP WORKING TOGETHER**—At the City Commission meeting held June 9, 2008 commissioners adopted a resolution in support of regional cooperation with Bingham Township. This resolution was specifically aimed at the formation and execution of a sanitary sewer agreement whereby the Township will be permitted to utilize the City's wastewater (sewage) treatment plant at a higher capacity. Once passed, this agreement will provide opportunity for additional growth and development in the Township, and a larger customer base for the City wastewater treatment system.

**COMMISSION PASSES BALANCED BUDGET**—For fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, the City Commission passed its operating budget at its May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. The major focus of this budget includes street rehabilitation projects and wastewater treatment upgrades. Each year, as part of the budget process, a new Fee and Rate Schedule was adopted. Water and sewer rates are found in this Schedule.

One should note that the City's overall millage has decreased from a 2000/2001 levy of 12.400 to our present 2008/2009 levy of 11.1554, which represents a decrease of 1.2446 mills.

**CITY ASSISTS DOWNTOWN BUSINESS OWNER WITH MSHDA FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT**—After a public hearing, the City Commission commenced the process through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for funds for downtown building façade renovations at 200 N. Clinton Ave.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR PRESENTS LIBRARY REPORT**—Director Sara Morrison presented the Briggs Public Library annual report to the City Commission on May 27<sup>th</sup>. During fiscal year 2006-2007 113,522 visitors walked through the doors of the Briggs Library. The library also offered 307 programs during the last calendar year serving 8,484 people. That represented an increase of 671 participants. During her presentation, Ms. Morrison emphasized the critical importance of financial support from state appropriations, millages and township contributions. A downturn in any of these funding sources could critically affect offered services.

**CLINTON AREA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY UPDATE**—The City Commission continues discussions regarding the proposed revisions to the authorities' Articles of Incorporation. The Commission has yet to put the issue to a vote.

**ONGOING STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**—Because of favorable weather, the Walker Street reconstruction project is ahead of its scheduled completion date. Water and sewer work has been completed. Road bed surface construction, along with curb, gutter and edge drainage will soon commence.

As to Business Route US 27, drainage upgrades have begun at the south end near the Townsend-US 27 intersection. This same type of median work will begin from Sturgis Street to the north at a later date. As part of this project, a left-hand turn lane will be added for motorists traveling south on BR 27 who wish to turn east on Sturgis Street.

The Oakland Street project, referred to in earlier newsletters, will be in full swing beginning next week. The asphalt surface will be milled, followed by infrastructure work below the road bed.

TASTE OF THE TOWN—On June 27—28 the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Taste of the Town will commence on the Depot Grounds. Many activities, including great food offerings, are scheduled for this event. For more information please access the City's website ([www.cityofsaintjohnsmi.com](http://www.cityofsaintjohnsmi.com)) or the government tv channel.