

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

Date: July 20, 2008

**STREET PROJECTS UPDATE:** The **Walker Street reconstruction project** is in its final phase. New sidewalk and curb have been installed. The roadbed is being prepared for a new asphalt surface. The first course of asphalt paving should be laid during the week of July 21, weather permitting. The final course of asphalt will then be installed and right of way green areas restored. Tree removal in the public right of way was held to a minimum. Any trees removed during this project will be replaced at City expense.

The **Oakland street project** is also in full swing as anyone who has tried to get to Townsend Road from Oakland Street can attest. Underground infrastructure work is ongoing. The water main installation is complete, with service restored to all residences. The underground work remaining involves connecting sump pump leads from each residence into the storm water drainage system. During this reconstruction project some trees on public property have been removed. Tree removal was kept at an absolute minimum. Trees were only removed if there was 1) traffic safety/site line issues, 2) for sidewalk installation or 3) to meet grading requirements. As previously mentioned, trees removed will be replaced during the restoration phase of this project, using appropriate species for road rights of way. There remains approximately two weeks of infrastructure work before grading and street surface preparation can begin.

Reconstruction of portions of **business route US 27**, a major project initiated by MDOT, will continue throughout the summer construction season. The completion date will likely be affected by unanticipated issues which arose concerning replacement of the old railroad track culvert.

The work crews are in the process of making significant changes to the M-21/BR US 27 intersection. Traffic snarls are the norm in this area until the intersection work is closer to completion. The original August 1 completion date will be met for all sections except the portion involving north and southbound traffic over the newly installed culvert near Railroad and Steel streets.

**REPUBLIC WASTE PRESENTS ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COMMISSION:** At the July 14 Commission meeting representatives from our refuse provider presented its annual report. Statistics from last year show that curbside recyclables exceed garbage pick-up in terms of total tonnage. This demonstrates that our residents are committed to recycling materials as opposed to sending trash into landfills.

The annual Spring Clean-up remains a popular feature of the rubbish pick-up program. 17 Republic Waste trucks were brought into the city for the one day clean-up. In their report Republic suggested making certain modifications to this annual clean-up event. The City Commission referred these suggestions to city staff. City residents are encouraged to contact Public Services Director Jeff Stephens at 224-8944, ext. 281, or by

email at [jstephens@ci.saint-johns.mi.us](mailto:jstephens@ci.saint-johns.mi.us) with any ideas or suggestions concerning this one day collection.

**MAHLE CDBG GRANT APPROVED:** The City received exciting news that its grant application related to the Mahle expansion was approved by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. This Community Development Block Grant will allow the city to build an all-season public road which will advance additional economic opportunities for our community. Construction design work on this road will begin immediately with a target completion date of November 2008. Related to this, the City Commission approved the Mahle preliminary site plan for its next plant expansion. This expansion will add 33,000 sq. ft. to their existing footprint.