

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

Date: August 17, 2008

STREET PROJECTS—At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 11, 2008 the St. Johns City Commission approved the disbursement of funds to re-pave Brush Street as well as sections of Higham Street (near downtown) and Park Street (from Morton going east toward Lansing Street). Requests for contractor bid submissions are the next step in the process. With good luck, good weather and favorable bid results, the projects should be initiated and completed during the 2008 construction season.

The Townsend Road project near the middle school is scheduled to be completed prior to the first day that classes resume. The road has been upgraded and bike paths installed. This Clinton County Road Commission project will improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

The new BR US 27 upgrades continue to move toward completion. At the intersection of M-21 and BR US 27 the traffic signals will no longer have a green “go” arrow for left turns. Drivers making left turns will now have to wait until oncoming traffic has safely cleared the intersection before completing their turn.

DOWNTOWN BUILDING FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT—The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) has awarded the City a \$200,000 grant for façade improvements on downtown buildings located at 200 N. Clinton Ave and 121 E. Walker Street. A necessary requirement for receiving the grant funds is the creation of jobs—in this case seven full-time jobs—by the property owner who benefits from the building improvements. Another obvious benefit for the City is the beautification of the downtown area through exterior building upgrades. We commend downtown property owner Jim Ortman and Community Development Director Steve Wagner for their diligence in pursuing this grant.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD—Tyler Barlage, recently “retired” executive director of the St. Johns Downtown Management Board (DMB), was recognized by the City Commission at its last meeting for his outstanding service to the DMB over the last seven years. A resolution of appreciation was read into the record by Mayor Dana Beaman and delivered to Tyler, who received a standing ovation at the conclusion of the brief ceremony. Newly hired DMB director Carole Field was formally introduced to the Commission at this same meeting.

We’d like to offer a special thanks to a good-hearted citizen who has taken the time during her walks in the downtown area to trim and prune the flowers and foliage in the downtown flower baskets. This kind of volunteerism reflects the civic values of our citizens and their pride in our community.

REMINDER FOR SNOW BIRDS—With summer winding down all too quickly, some City residents will turn their attention to preparing for their winter migration to warmer

climates. Just a reminder that the City provides a water turn-off/turn-on service to protect residential property during prolonged absences. There is an administrative fee of \$25.00 for each call out for turn-on or turn-off service. During any time period when the City turns off residential water service, the “ready to serve” charge is not incurred.

LIBRARY MILLAGE PASSES—The City is grateful for the continued support of the Briggs downtown library by Bingham Township residents. This support was recently expressed by their vote to renew the library millage. The Briggs Library is an important asset and resource for both citizens within the City and for library patrons in the surrounding areas. Regional financial support is a critical piece in maintaining the vitality of the library as it strives to meet the challenges of providing up-to-date information in an ever-changing world.

MINT FESTIVAL THANK YOU—The City would like to thank the Clinton County Chamber of Commerce, City staff and all the citizen groups, churches, civic organizations and individual volunteers for making the 2008 Mint Festival a successful community event of which to be proud. Preparation for the 2009 Mint Festival has already begun. If you are interested in getting involved in next year’s event, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 224-7248.