

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS
August 30, 2007

STREET PROJECT UPDATE—Continuing our efforts to repair and maintain city streets, the City Commission contracted with the County Road Commission to do extensive “crack band oversealing” on selected streets within the community. This maintenance application is used on streets graded fair to good. This technique seals streets to prevent moisture from degrading the sub-base of roadways. Work in this area should be completed by the 1st of November.

CLINTON AREA TRANSIT (“CAT/BLUE BUSES”)—Recently the City and CAT entered into discussions regarding the relocation of its current bus facility (which is downtown St. Johns) to a property located within the St. Johns Industrial Park. CAT has expanded its bus fleet, and therefore is in need of a larger site for its facility. CAT also has plans to expand its route and service area. Discussions regarding land acquisition are ongoing, but no final decisions have been made.

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/BINGHAM TOWNSHIP UTILITY

DISCUSSIONS—Representatives from the City and Township have been meeting for several months for the purpose of discussing areas of cooperation which could be beneficial to the region. The City has already engaged with other governmental entities in mutual aid for fire protection, provision of library service and ambulance service through the formation of an authority.

In 1986 the City and Bingham Township entered into an agreement whereby the City of St. Johns would receive and treat up to 100,000 gallons per day of Township sewage effluent. The City and Township are now working on amendments to this agreement so that the Township could direct more sanitary sewage flow to the City treatment plant. This would allow for increased residential and commercial development in the Township. Future meetings between the Township and City are anticipated but not yet scheduled as both governmental entities review the current agreement.

FEDERAL-MOGUL UPDATES—On August 30, 2007 City staff met with Federal-Mogul representatives, environmental consultants and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality personnel to review ongoing environmental clean-up efforts at the F-M plant and surrounding sites. F-M representatives provide the City with quarterly reports and meet annually to provide updates regarding the remediation of solvents and lead which have passed into the environment from F-M operations over the years. Michigan DEQ and the City will continue to monitor the situation and require remediation until the clean-up is complete.

DEPOT CENTER FOR THE ARTS—Old historic buildings sometimes reveal their age in unusual ways. As for the old railroad depot building, sagging and aging skin manifested itself when the plaster ceiling in the main portion of the building gave way

and dropped several inches. As a result, the Clinton County Arts Council is in the process of temporarily relocating in the downtown area. Please stay tuned for further announcements.

TORNADO SIREN/EARLY WARNING SYSTEM—The City is in the process of procuring a new early warning system, subject to final City Commission approval. This is the third step in a four phase project. Early warning systems are critical for public safety, along with the development of a personal safety plan for each family in the area.

The City tests its early warning system on noon of the first Saturday of each month during the severe weather season.

MINT FESTIVAL—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 2007 Mint Festival a successful community event of which to be proud. Preparation for the 2008 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.