

FOLLOW UP ON MEETING WITH MDOT REGARDING US 27 BR IMPROVEMENTS

The City sent a letter to MDOT after its initial meeting with the state agency concerning future improvements to US 27 BR. In the correspondence, City Officials indicated their strong desire to provide input as MDOT considers upgrades to this important stretch of roadway within the City limits.

CASS STREET IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

During the Cass Street improvements, a low pressure underground gas main issue was detected. Consumers Energy responded quickly to address the unmarked gas lead to the north playground at St. Joe's School. It appears the gas leak affected three trees which had to be removed. Consumers is working on a solution to replace the old gas line that will not affect the newly paved surface of Cass Street.

CITY TO SELL RESIDENTIAL LOTS

Due to unfunded Federal and State laws requiring the City to assure lower arsenic levels in the municipal water supply, the City abandoned its southerly well site and rejuvenated City wells on the north to meet the new requirements. This approach proved to be most cost-effective. The City is in the process of abandoning the well site and razing the well house at 1521 S. Lansing Street for the property will then be marketed for residential development. The parcel will be subdivided into three (3) residential building lots.

LIGHT STREET MAINTNENANCE PROJECTS

Pavement cuts made for utility repair and maintenance last winter as well as some very poor pavement conditions will be treated with a hot asphalt patch spot repair process in the near future. The work is primarily funded through the City's light maintenance budget and Public Act 51 (gas tax) monies. This light maintenance approach has limited utility, both in terms of its cost-effectiveness and as a long-term fix for street problems.

CONSIDER HAVING YOUR WEDDING IN THE CITY PARK

The City recently changed the pavilion rental policy to allow rental up to a year in advance, which help those folks planning outdoor wedding that would like to use the City's Performance Shell and Main Pavilion. Please call City Offices at 989-224-8944 for more information.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The old adage of location, location, location also applies to routine Federal Aid Street Grants administered by MDOT. These grants bring federal gas tax we pay at the pump back to the communities in Michigan. The City of St. Johns is limited by applicable regulations to requesting \$375,000 every three years. By comparison, communities that border Lansing qualify for a different pot of street money (such as the City of DeWitt) and can request unrestricted federal grant funding every year.

The \$375,000 federal grant funds for which the City is eligible must be matched by the City with a minimum \$93,750 contribution (20% of total project). The City of St. Johns does compete for other federal and state assistance such as economic development (Industrial Park Loan), enhancement grants (Clinton Streetscape) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grants (proposed 3 lanes on Townsend Road) with some success.

INTERESTED IN SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY?

The City of St. Johns has several Boards and Committees on which citizens participate. The City Commission reviews vacancies annually. Please contact City Clerk Mindy Seavey at 989-224-8944 ext. 223 if you are interested in serving. There is a complete listing of the various Boards and Committees on the City's website at www.ci.saint-johns.mi.us

CITY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE WEBSITE

The City has been updating and striving to improve the City's website, to make the site more informative and user friendly. All City Commission meeting dates and approved minutes are available for your review on the website. Please continue to visit the City's website at www.ci.saint-johns.mi.us as we plan to go live with the new format shortly. Please share your thoughts with us.

TORNADO SIRENS TESTING/EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

At noon on the first Saturday of the month (April thru September), the City tests the City's tornado sirens (early warning system). The City can also broadcast warning messages over the access channel (Charter Communications channel 3). Please tune in to the access channel for events as well as City program and services information.

4-H FAIRGROUNDS UPDATE – TIMBER-R-R-R

If you have been up through the City Park wood chipped trails lately, you've heard heavy machinery and noticed removal of some of the woods in the southwest corner of the City Park. The City sold 26 acres of property to Clinton County for 4-h Fairground expansion. The County has begun some of the site work, which included removing some of the woods. This has not affected the main trails.