

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS
April 10, 2007

SPRING THAW ROAD WORK—City crews have begun spot repairs on Swegles, Lincolnshire, and Traver Streets. Higham Street is also scheduled for spring repair work. All of the four streets mentioned above are rated poor or very poor in need of extensive street rehabilitation or complete reconstruction. The first phase of this spot repair work involves excavating substandard base material (typically clay) and replacing it with sands and gravel for improved drainage. The soils that we have encountered are consistent with current base materials found in many of our streets. Once the asphalt plants re-open in May, the repair will be completed with asphalt overlay to complete the patch. Other utility road cuts made during the winter will be asphalt patched sometime in May. The timing of completion of this work is dependent in part on the availability and scheduling of a paving machine.

City staff appreciates your patience during these ongoing repairs.

CLINTON AREA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY—As an update on this topic, The St. Johns City Commission discussed continued city membership in the authority at its March 19th meeting. A hearing was conducted and substantial public comment taken. The City Commission indicated their strong desire to remain part of the Ambulance Authority, but expressed continued concern regarding cost projections for a proposed new ambulance facility. Commissioners recognized that other city needs and projects were of a higher priority than upgrading the ambulance facility at this time.

The Commission reiterated their satisfaction with the fine service provided by the ambulance authority and its personnel.

“LEST THEY BE FORGOTTEN” MEMORIAL—After a presentation by Mr. Alan Nelson, father of PFC Andrew H. Nelson (killed in action in Iraq in late 2006), the City Commission granted approval for the placement of a memorial tribute to soldiers killed while serving their country in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. This memorial will be placed in the City Park. Staff will assist in location and installation of this lasting memorial.

NEW SIDEWALK FOR SOUTH OAKLAND—City officials are committed to making St. Johns a more “walkable community”. Consistent with this goal, the City plans to extend the sidewalk on the eastern side of south Oakland Street (south of Elm) to Townsend Road as part of the overall reconstruction of that roadway which is scheduled for the spring of 2008. An informational meeting will be held for property owners affected by this project as construction nears.

SPRING CLEAN-UP—As a reminder, Spring Clean-up will take place Saturday, May 5th, 2007. City tax payers fund this yearly refuse round-up to the tune of \$40,000. It is

expected that trash and refuse collected during this event will be confined to those items owned by city residents. Refer to the City's website or call City Offices at 224-8944 for specific information.

INDUSTRIAL PARK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS—Work has begun connecting water main from the west side of BR 27 to the east (directional boring under the highway). This project will assure consistent, reliable water pressure to our business partners at the industrial park and will upgrade the overall system for city property owners.

CITY 2007/2008 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS --- A budget workshop has been set for April 19, 2007 at 5pm in the County Courthouse EOC room located on the garden level. The City's budget process is on schedule even though continued financial shortfalls plague the State of Michigan. The City will be budgeting a 10% decline in State revenue sharing payments. Over the past 4 years we have seen those payments continually decline and are now at 1998 levels.