

CITY OF ST. JOHNS/CITY MANAGER NEWSLETTER
SUBMITTED TO CLINTON COUNTY NEWS
May 16, 2007

SOLID WASTE BIDS—At the last City Commission meeting the City Commission accepted the bid of Republic Services and awarded a contract to this company for garbage and recycling collection, as well as for the annual spring clean-up. Formerly Waste Management provided these services to city residents. The new contract begins July 1, 2007 and is of three years duration. The city bid this contract out to contain costs. The only change residents will see will be a different company truck. More information will be provided on the City's website (www.ci.saint-johns.mi.us), in the local newspaper or on the public access channel.

UPGRADES TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT—The City recently approved an expenditure for Internalift screw pumps and accessories at the wastewater treatment plant at a cost of \$505,000. This equipment upgrade is crucial as the City provides essential wastewater/sanitary sewer disposal to residential and commercial users. The two screw pumps being replaced are part of the final stage of wastewater treatment and dispersal.

COMMISSION SETS 2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET HEARING—The City Commission set a public hearing for Tuesday, May 29 to finalize next fiscal year's City operating budget as is required by state law. (The City will meet on Tuesday rather than Monday because of Memorial Day). The proposed budget, submitted by the city manager to the Commission, is balanced and preserves reserve funds. Continued emphasis on street maintenance projects is reflected in the budget documents. This budget was "built" in recognition of a likely reduction in State of Michigan revenue-sharing payments to our community. Because of revenue-sharing reductions passed by the Michigan legislature over the last several years, our community now receives state funds **reduced to 1998 levels**.

TORNADO WARNING SIRENS—The City's tornado warning system is tested the first Saturday of each month at noon. Because we are in the midst of the tornado season, we suggest families develop appropriate response and safety plans in the event of severe weather. Please refer to this website (www.redcross.org) if you need information regarding an appropriate response plan to a severe weather event.

NOXIOUS WEED ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT—The growing season brings with it an increase in the growth of noxious weeds. City Ordinance 93.50 requires that noxious weeds be cleared before reaching seed-bearing stage and lawn grasses be cut before reaching 8" in growth. The ordinance also mandates that any accumulation of dead weeds, grass or brush be cleared by the occupant/owner. This ordinance applies to unoccupied structures as well as occupied residences and buildings. A violation of this ordinance will result in a warning letter from the City Clerk. If non-compliance persists

for 10 days the City will do the needed work and charge the occupant or owner of the property. This and all ordinances can be reviewed on line at the City's website. Paper copies of ordinances can be obtained at City Offices, or by calling 224-8944.

MUSIC IN THE PARK, AND EVENTS DOWNTOWN—Many fine musical events are planned for our community, both downtown and through our Concert in the Park series. Additionally, the inaugural Taste of the Town event is coming soon! Look for more details to follow.