

Annual Report 2024-2025



City Commission



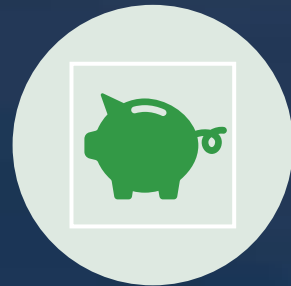
City Commission Fiscal Year Accomplishments



-Partnership with community and completion of major phase of Fantasy Forest



-Finalized build out for Wilson Center without incurring any additional bonding



-Balanced budget with additional set asides for pension and future capital needs



-Renewed fire agreements with surrounding townships to cover additional city expenditures

City Commission Fiscal Year Accomplishments Cont.



CONTINUED TO
ADVANCE
PARTNERSHIPS WITH
BINGHAM TOWNSHIP



WORKED CLOSELY WITH
THE ROAD COMMISSION
AND MDOT TO SECURE
ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
ON M-21 AND US 27



ADDRESSED
ADDITIONAL
SIDEWALK AND
LOCAL ROAD
NEEDS
THROUGH OUR
CITY MILLAGE



IMPROVED
COMMUNICATIONS
SUPPORT BY
BRINGING
SERVICES IN-
HOUSE



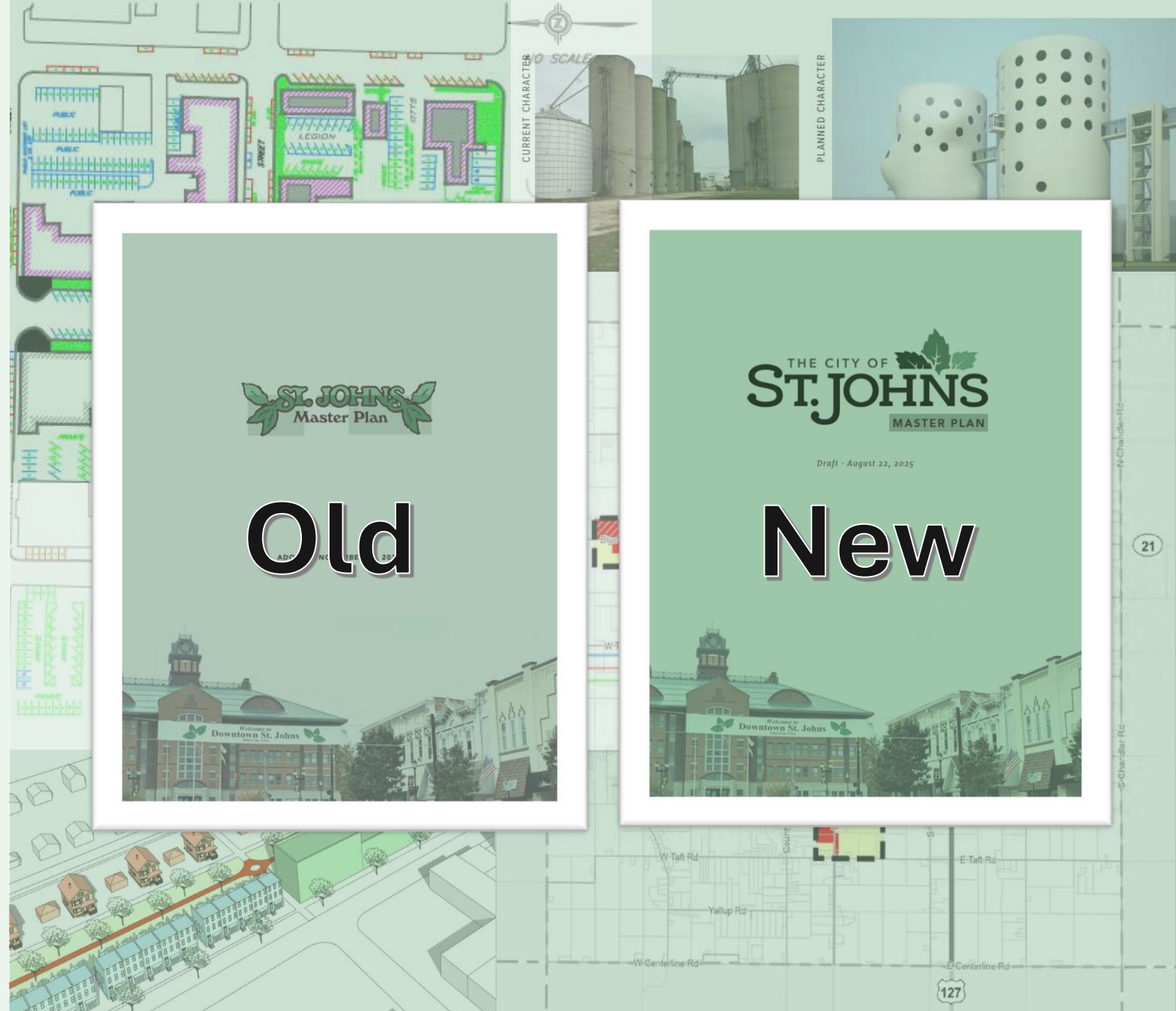
FURTHERED
PARTNERSHIP
WITH LOCAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND
COLLABORATED
TO UTILIZE
INTERNS WITHIN
THE CITY



SECURED
FURTHER
GRANTS TO
SUPPORT THE
DOWNTOWN
AREA
INCLUDING
RAIL CARS

Master Plan

- The City is updating its Master Plan to guide future growth in a way that reflects the community's vision. The plan will help shape land use and zoning decisions, protect neighborhood character and property values, preserve natural resources, and ensure development follows an open and orderly process. It will also outline clear steps to achieve our community's goals for the future.



The new city logo was approved at the Commission Meeting. Since then, the city has been deploying the new logo at prime locations throughout the city. One example of this is at City Park.





New Positions at the City

- Over the Past two years, the city has added several part time positions to assist in several specialized areas including social media & marketing, recreational programming, and grant writing.



In March, the City hired a full-time Social Media and Marketing Coordinator to oversee communication and promotional activities. The position supports the City's mission to provide residents with accurate, accessible information about programs, projects, and community developments. This role also ensures consistency in branding and messaging across all City departments and media channels.

Social Media

New Social Media Series

The purpose of these posts is to inform residents while also providing an element of entertainment.



FANTASY FOREST Friday!

The installation of playground equipment is
50% complete!



Next up in the Forest:

- Fresh concrete paths pouring into place, one enchanted step at a time
- Underground wiring weaving through the earth to awaken park lights and cameras
- Custom-crafted equipment arriving soon to take its place in the Forest

Stay tuned for more magic coming soon!

Did You Know?

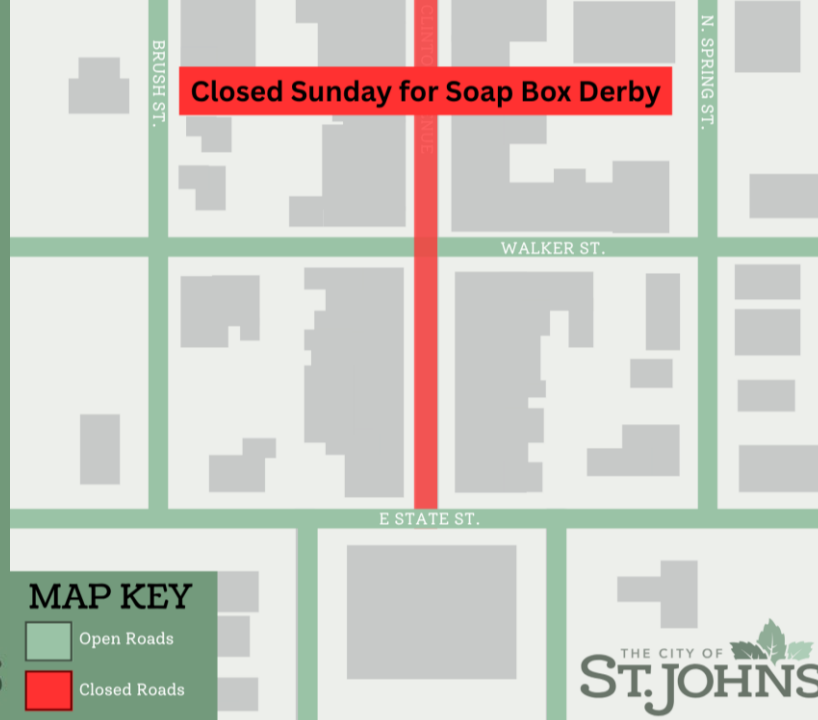


Date Stone



Garbage Services Delayed WEEK OF LABOR DAY

Granger services will be delayed by one day.



UTILITY BILLS ARE DUE TODAY



**! AUTO PAY USERS: !
YOU MUST RE-REGISTER!**



City Offices closed Monday

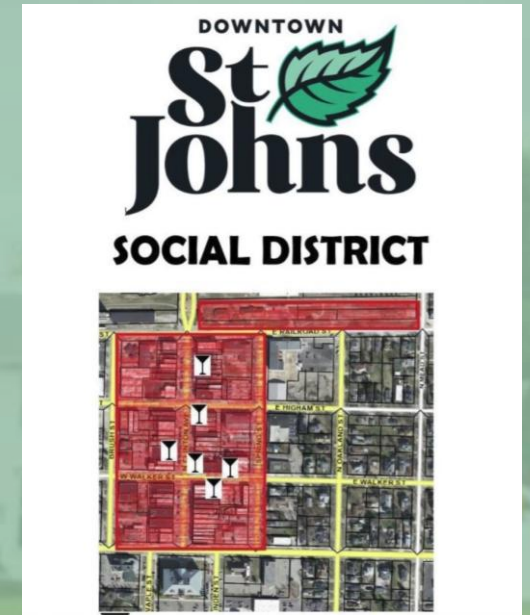
Please place all payments in the white drop box located

Keeping Residents in the Loop

The social media team has consistently kept the community informed on closures, delays, due dates, and other important updates, sharing information directly with the public through Facebook.

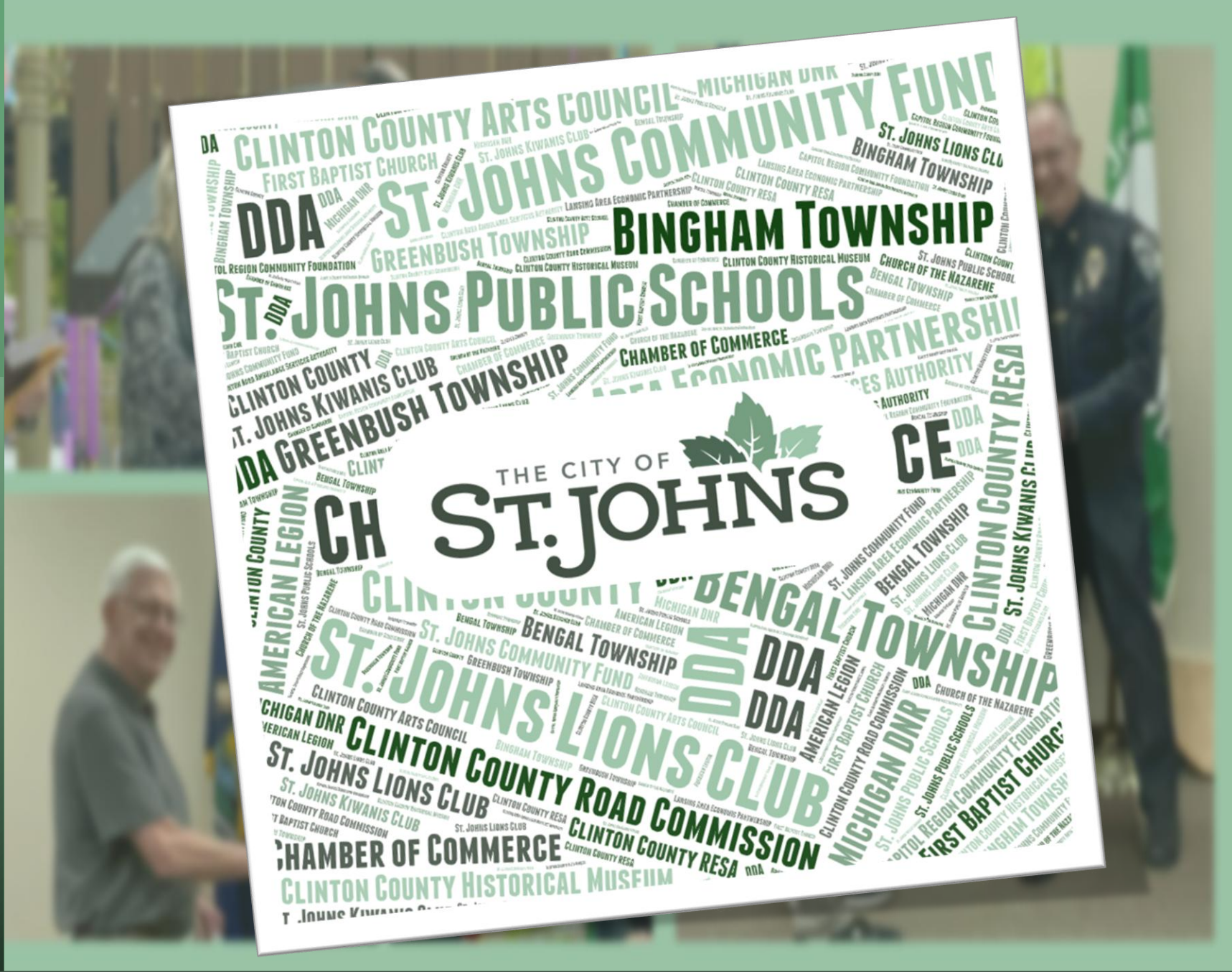
Videos

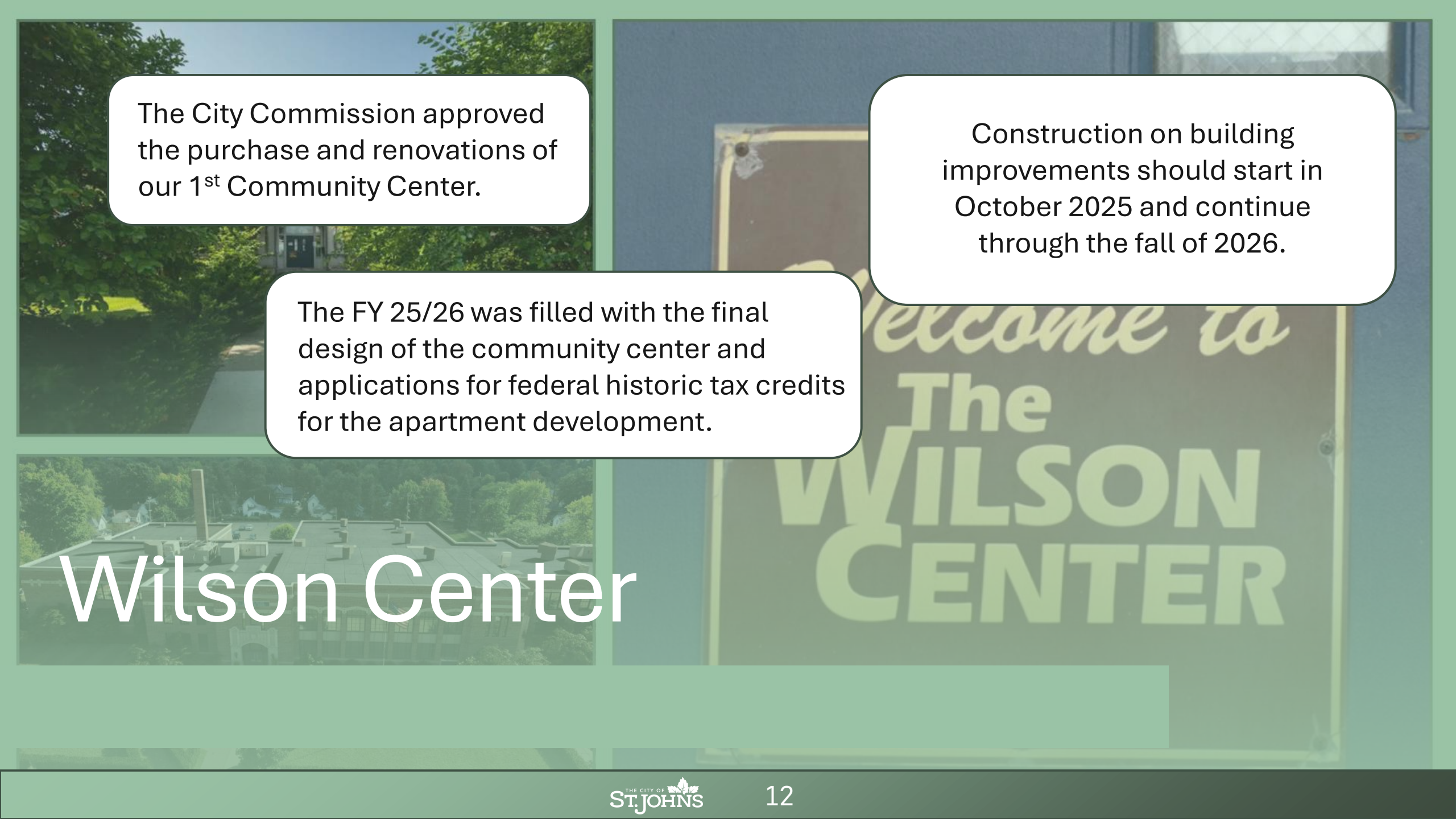
- The social media team created and produced numerous videos to help educate and inform the public on a wide range of topics, including, city services, PSAs, upcoming events, and important updates. These videos were designed to be both engaging and accessible, ensuring residents could easily stay informed while also showcasing the city's ongoing efforts to serve the community.



Expanding Partnerships

In 2024 and 2025, partnerships strengthened our community by uniting local organizations, businesses, schools, and regional agencies. Together, we expanded resources, improved services, and created new opportunities, building a stronger, more connected St. Johns.





The City Commission approved the purchase and renovations of our 1st Community Center.

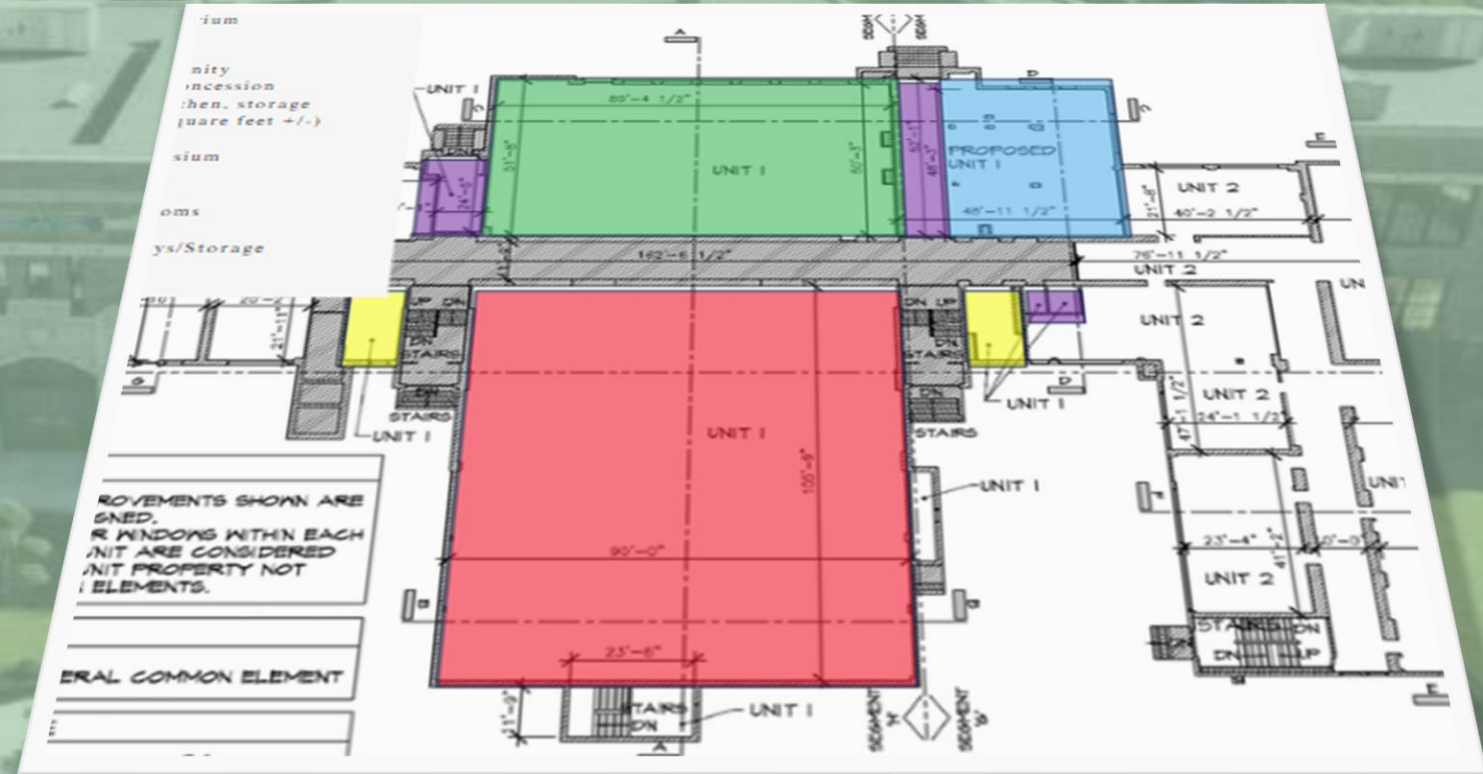
Construction on building improvements should start in October 2025 and continue through the fall of 2026.

The FY 25/26 was filled with the final design of the community center and applications for federal historic tax credits for the apartment development.

Wilson Center

Community Center Updates to Take Place

- Major electrical/mechanical overhaul and installation of new HVAC systems
- Bathroom upgrades
- ADA improvements
- Resurfacing gym floor
- Entryway improvements
- Performing Arts Auditorium
- Gymnasium



Future Wilson Center Community Room

- As part of the proposed project, the City received design renderings for a future community space. This space is envisioned as a welcoming area for all residents to gather, meet, connect, and host activities.





In February of 2023, the idea of replacement ideas were first presented to the city. The Fantasy Forest core team (a group of engaged and talented community members) was soon formed. This group helped to land the process of the replacement of the current Fantasy Forest playscape.

A master plan was eventually adopted by the City Commission. Funding from the community and grants were added to over \$400,000 of city monies to re-imagine what would be titled Fantasy Forest 2.0.

Fantasy Forest 2.0

Demo of Fantasy Forest

- The Public Works Department Assisted with the demolition of the Fantasy Forest project, including removing the old equipment and placing it in dumpsters, pulling tree stumps and hauling them to the compost site, removing and disposing of the sidewalk, and completing a rough grading of the site.





Groundbreaking

- On April 15th, the City of St. Johns held a groundbreaking ceremony for Fantasy Forest 2.0. Project partners, city leaders, and community gathered to celebrate the start of this magical project.



Construction of Fantasy Forest 2.0 April – September 2025

Grand Opening

- With a tentative date set for late September, Fantasy Forest 2.0 is almost here—and with its all-inclusive design, it will truly be a one-of-a-kind space for everyone to enjoy.

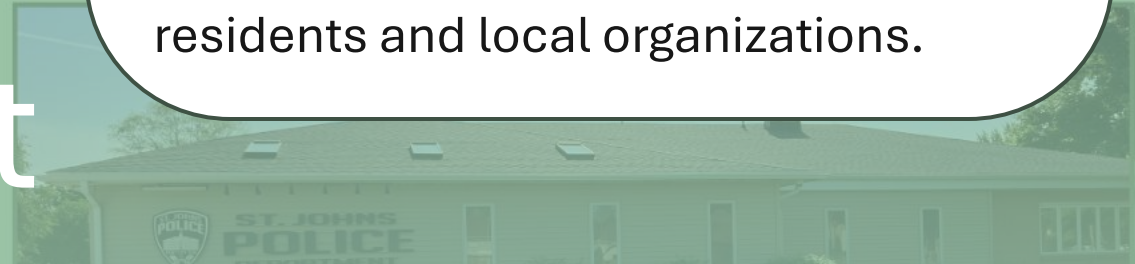


New Logo!



During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the St. Johns Police Department continued its commitment to providing professional, community-oriented law enforcement. The department focused on proactive policing, public engagement, and officer training to enhance safety and trust across the community. Ongoing technology upgrades and partnerships have improved response efficiency and strengthened collaboration with residents and local organizations.

Police Department



New Faces at SJPD



After April Lech's 25-year career, Stephanie Goetzinger became Office Manager, bringing seven years of experience and quickly improving efficiency, streamlining reporting, and building strong relationships to keep the department running smoothly.



The department's second intern, Evie Moore, has excelled in parking enforcement, events, and special projects, continuing last year's high standard. A Fowler High School graduate, she plans to study Criminal Justice at Grand Valley State University.

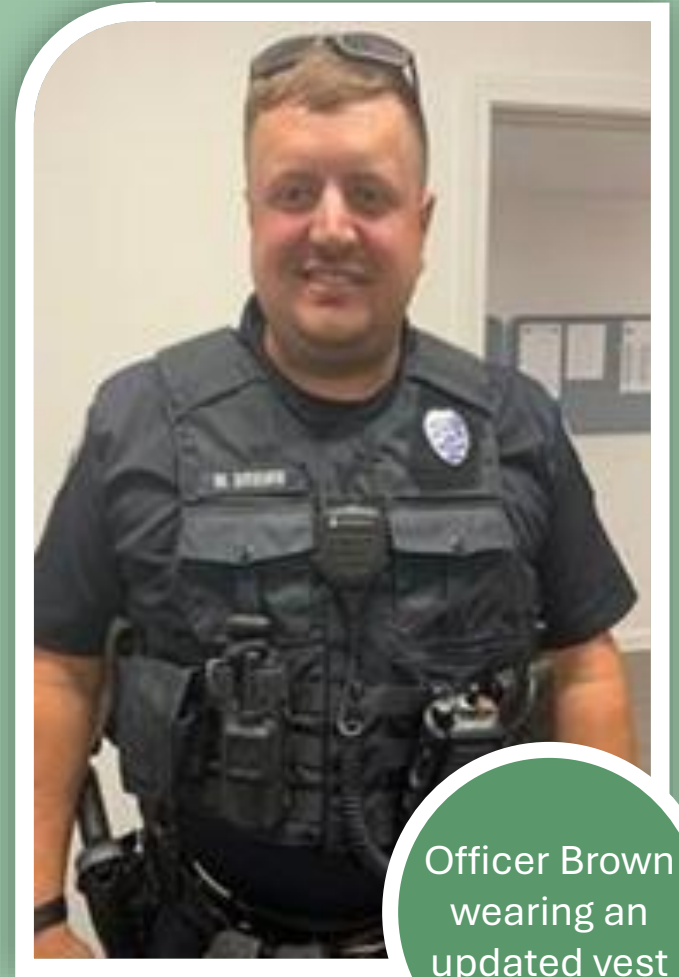
New Enhanced Gear

- **Conducted Energy Weapons Upgrade:**

In summer 2025, each officer received a dedicated, uniform-model CEW (taser), ensuring consistent training, improved maintenance, and reliable performance for years to come.

- **Ballistic Vest Enhancement:**

Updated vests now store essential gear while maintaining a professional look, with the added benefit of reducing back and hip strain compared to traditional duty belts.

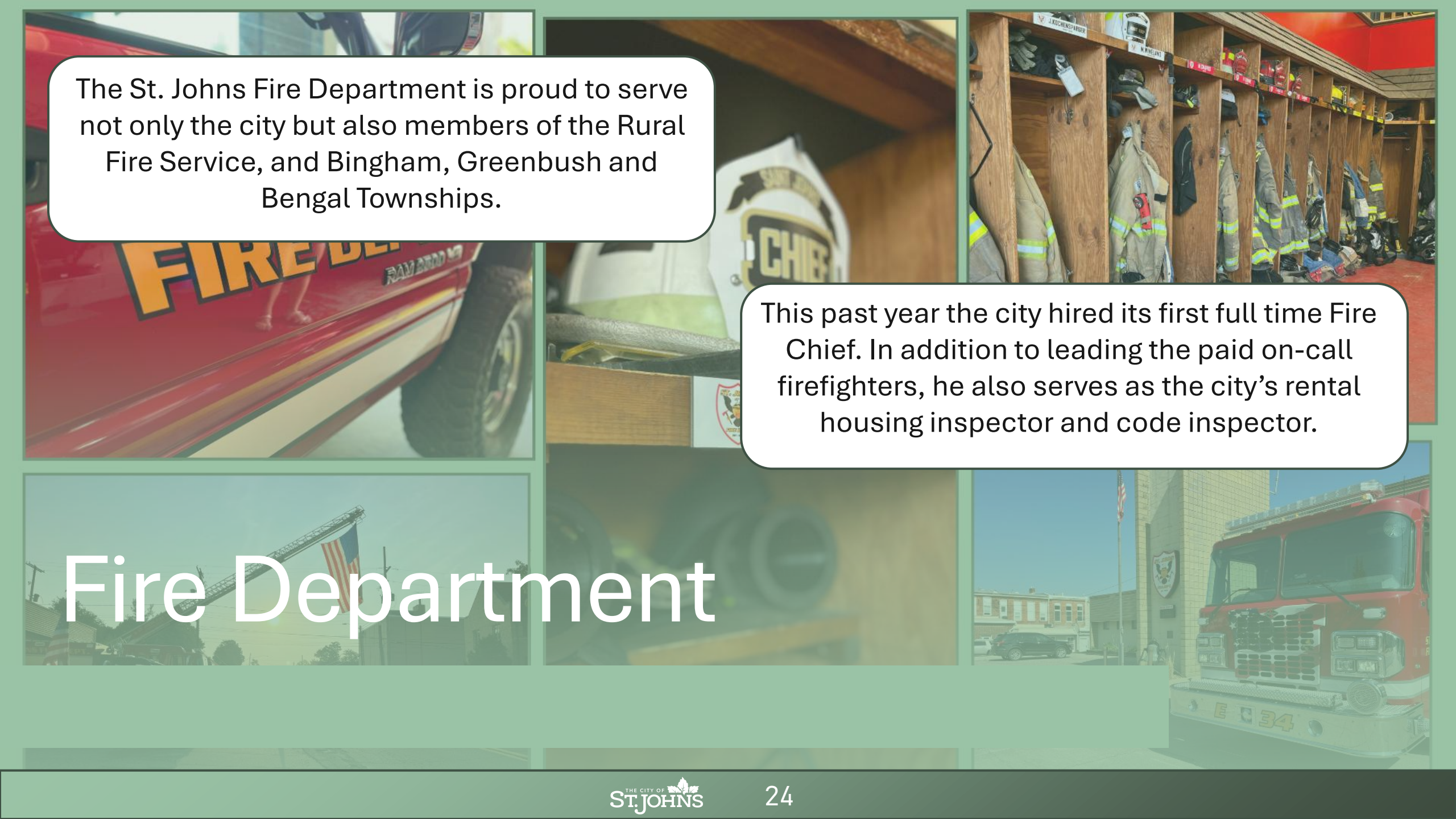


Officer Brown
wearing an
updated vest

The Lexipol

- Once again, the St. Johns Police Department has earned the Lexipol Excellence in Training Management Award. This award shows the department's commitment to keeping up with the latest standards and laws. The training center also continues to host in-demand courses that help officers meet the education requirements set by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.





The St. Johns Fire Department is proud to serve not only the city but also members of the Rural Fire Service, and Bingham, Greenbush and Bengal Townships.

This past year the city hired its first full time Fire Chief. In addition to leading the paid on-call firefighters, he also serves as the city's rental housing inspector and code inspector.

Fire Department



Chief Douglas

- From November 2024 to February 2025, the department discussed leadership plans following Chief Whitford's retirement announcement. After considering various options, the decision was made to hire a full-time Fire Chief/Code Inspector. Chief Douglas assumed the role on February 10, 2025.

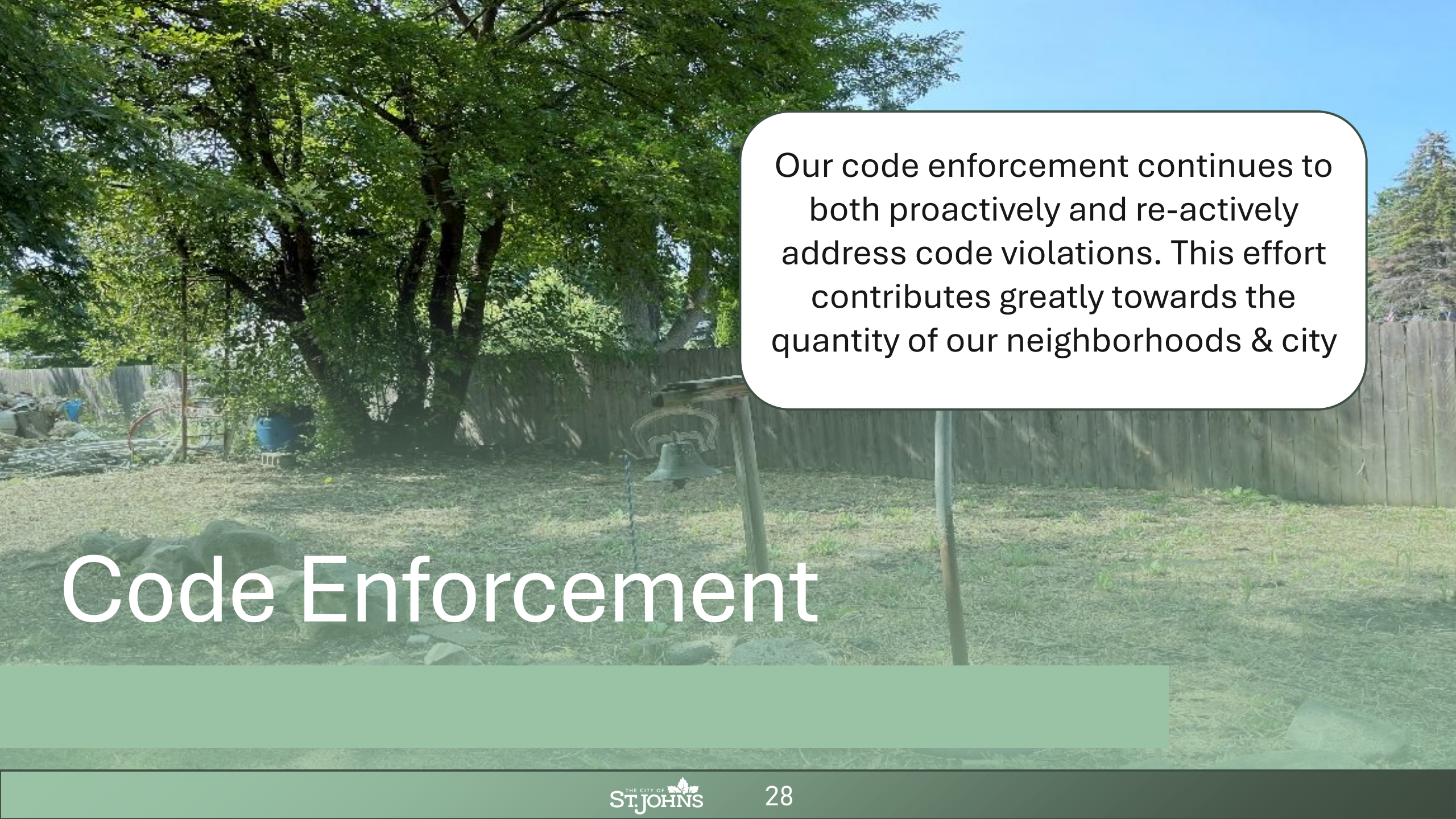
New SCBA Units

- In September 2024, the department placed new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units into service, replacing equipment that had been in use for over 20 years. These new air packs significantly improve the safety of firefighters when operating in environments with toxic smoke. The accompanying photo shows members wearing the updated equipment.



Firefighter Certifications

- In June 2025, four department members successfully completed the Clinton County Fire Academy and became State of Michigan Certified Firefighter 1 & 2. Their training spanned nearly six months, combining both lecture and practical sessions. Firefighter Kayla Knaggs was honored with the Instructor's Leadership Award.

A photograph of a residential yard. On the left, a large, leafy green tree stands in front of a wooden fence. In the center, a swing set with a single swing is visible. The ground is covered with dry grass and some small plants. The sky is clear and blue.

Our code enforcement continues to both proactively and re-actively address code violations. This effort contributes greatly towards the quantity of our neighborhoods & city

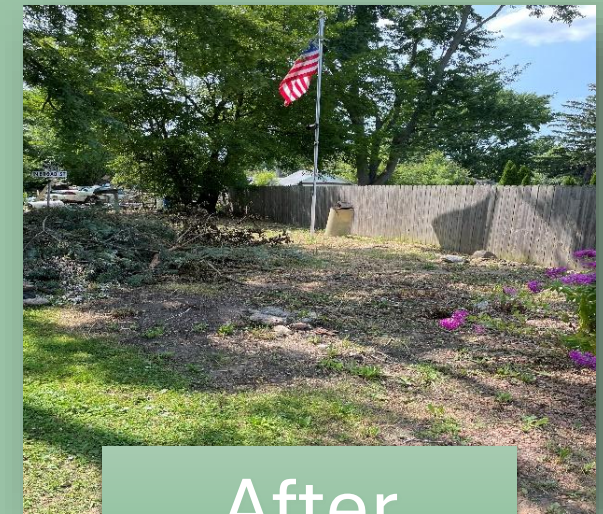
Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Fiscal Year Overview

- 4 - Animal violations chickens/dogs
- 7 - Fences, pools, or decks were built without permits.
- 10 - Sign violations
- 19 - Parking violations vehicles parked on the grass
- 19 - Sidewalk violations (Snow & Ice Violations)
- 38 - Junk vehicles
- 39 - Property maintenance violations
- 45 - Long grass violations
- 57 - General violations that include items left in the right of way, trash bins not being removed after trash collections etc.



Before



After



Mindy J. Seavey
City Clerk

One of the recent changes to the voting process was the introduction of nine days of early in-person voting. The City was fortunate to have one of the early voting locations situated conveniently near its limits at the Bingham Township Hall.

City Clerk

In-Person Voting

One of the recent changes to the voting process was the introduction of nine days of early in-person voting. The City was fortunate to have one of the early voting locations situated conveniently near its limits at the Bingham Township Hall.



9 days of in-person early voting (EV) for the:

August 2024 Primary Election

November 2024 General Election



In Clinton County, local clerks partnered in a county-wide early voting plan with two sites:



Clinton County North: Bingham Township Hall



Clinton County South: Dewitt Township Hall

Administered Elections



Subscriptions

- ☐ City Commission Meetings

City Commission Meetings: notifications of meeting agendas, meeting packets, minutes and special meetings scheduled.

- ☐ City Office News

Payments, newsletters, election notices, federal holidays, and office closures.

- ☐ Community Communications (non-emergency notifications)

Parades, planned road closures, trash delay for snow, boil water alert, storm impact notifications, emergency preparedness tips.

- ☐ Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Board Meetings: notifications of meeting agendas, meeting packets, minutes and special meetings scheduled.

- ☐ Planning Commission

Planning Commission Meetings: notifications of meeting agendas, meeting packets, minutes and special meetings scheduled.

- ☐ Zoning Board of Appeals

Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings: notifications of meeting agendas, meeting packets, minutes and special meetings scheduled.

St. Johns Notifications

Citizens can now sign up through the City's website to receive email or text message notifications for:

- City Commission Meetings
- Parks and Recreation
- City Office News
- Planning Commission
- Community Communications (non-emergency)
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Budgeting and Policy Updates

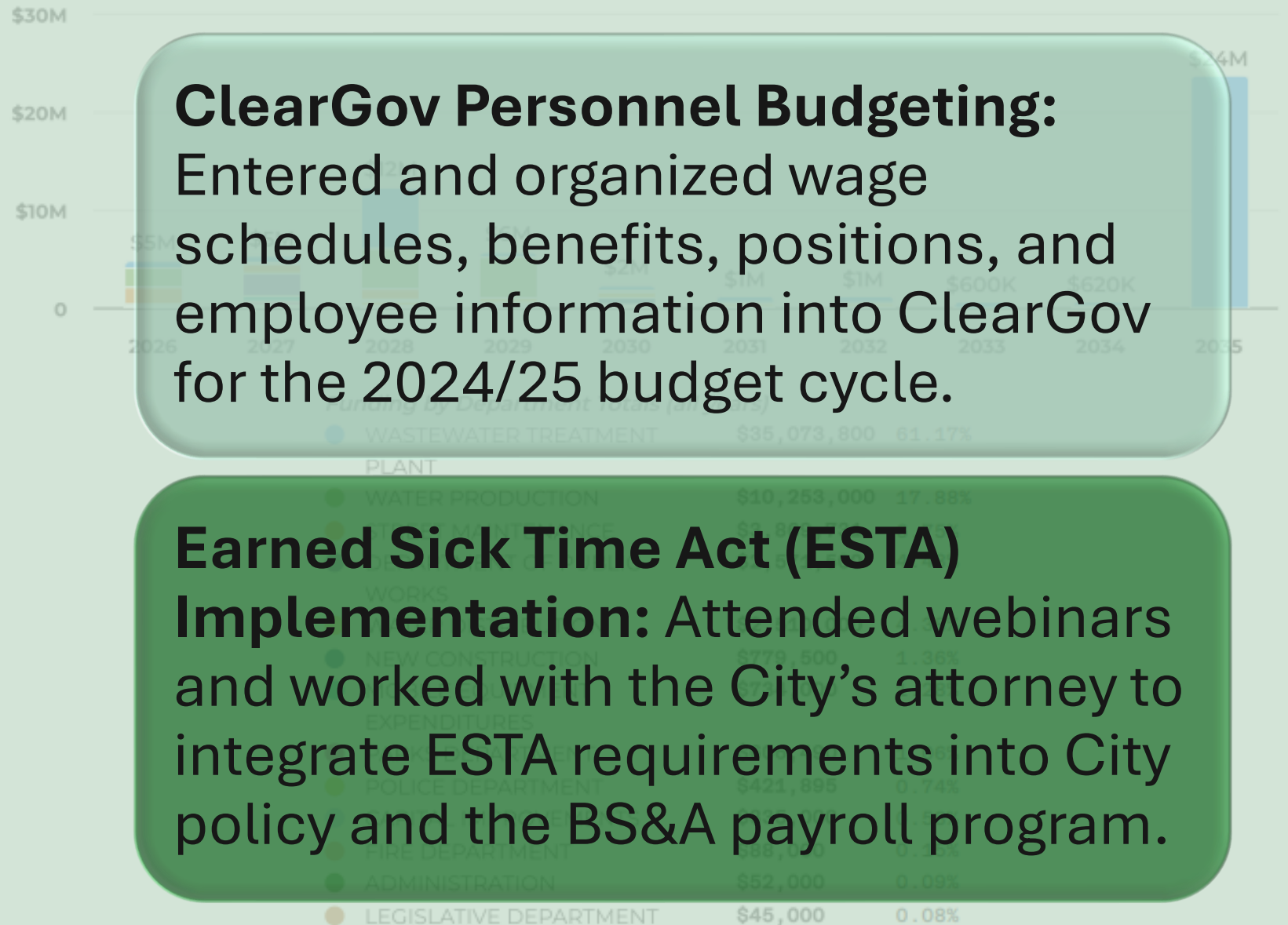
ClearGov Personnel Budgeting:

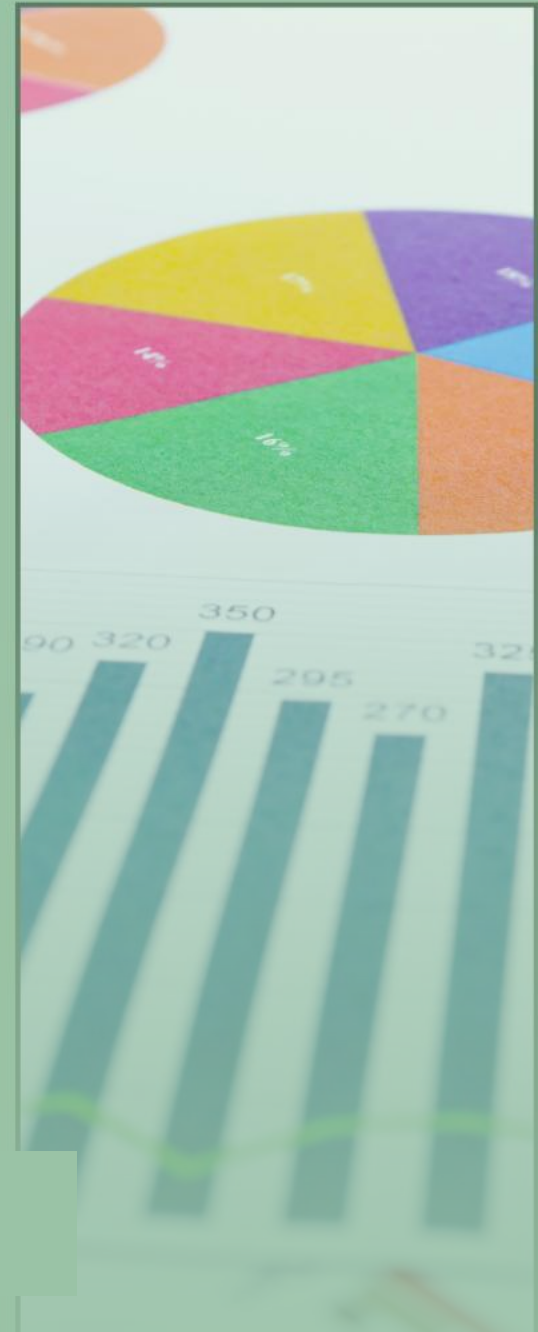
Entered and organized wage schedules, benefits, positions, and employee information into ClearGov for the 2024/25 budget cycle.

Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA)

Implementation: Attended webinars and worked with the City's attorney to integrate ESTA requirements into City policy and the BS&A payroll program.

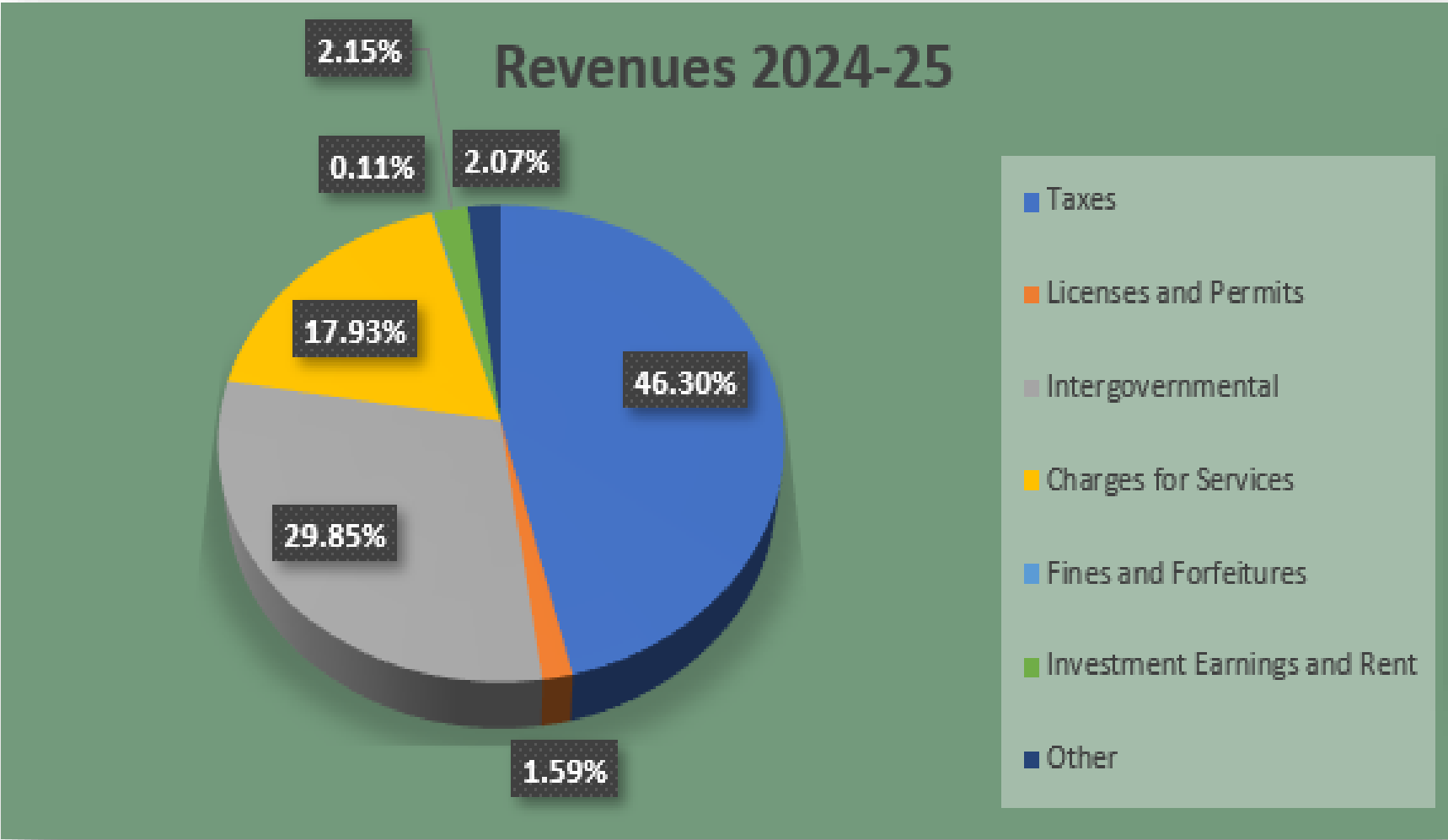
FY26 - FY35 Total Funding Requested by Department





Finance Department

General Fund Financial Snapshot

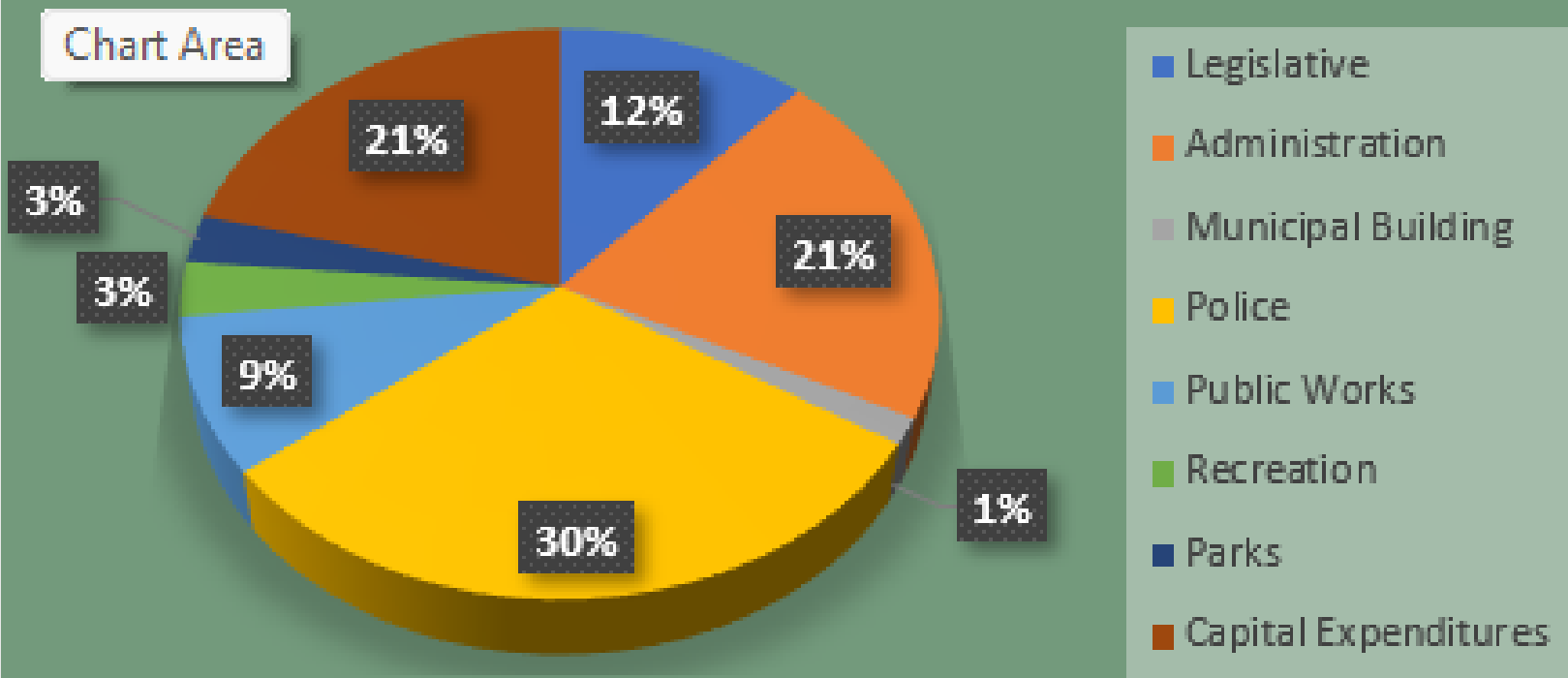


Revenues	
Taxes	2,771,806.00
Licenses and Permits	95,147.67
Intergovernmental	1,786,990.47
Charges for Services	1,073,493.32
Fines and Forfeitures	6,600.00
Investment Earnings and Rent	128,708.70
Other	124,105.08
Total Revenues	5,986,851.24

***Preliminary numbers pending final audit**

General Fund Financial Snapshot

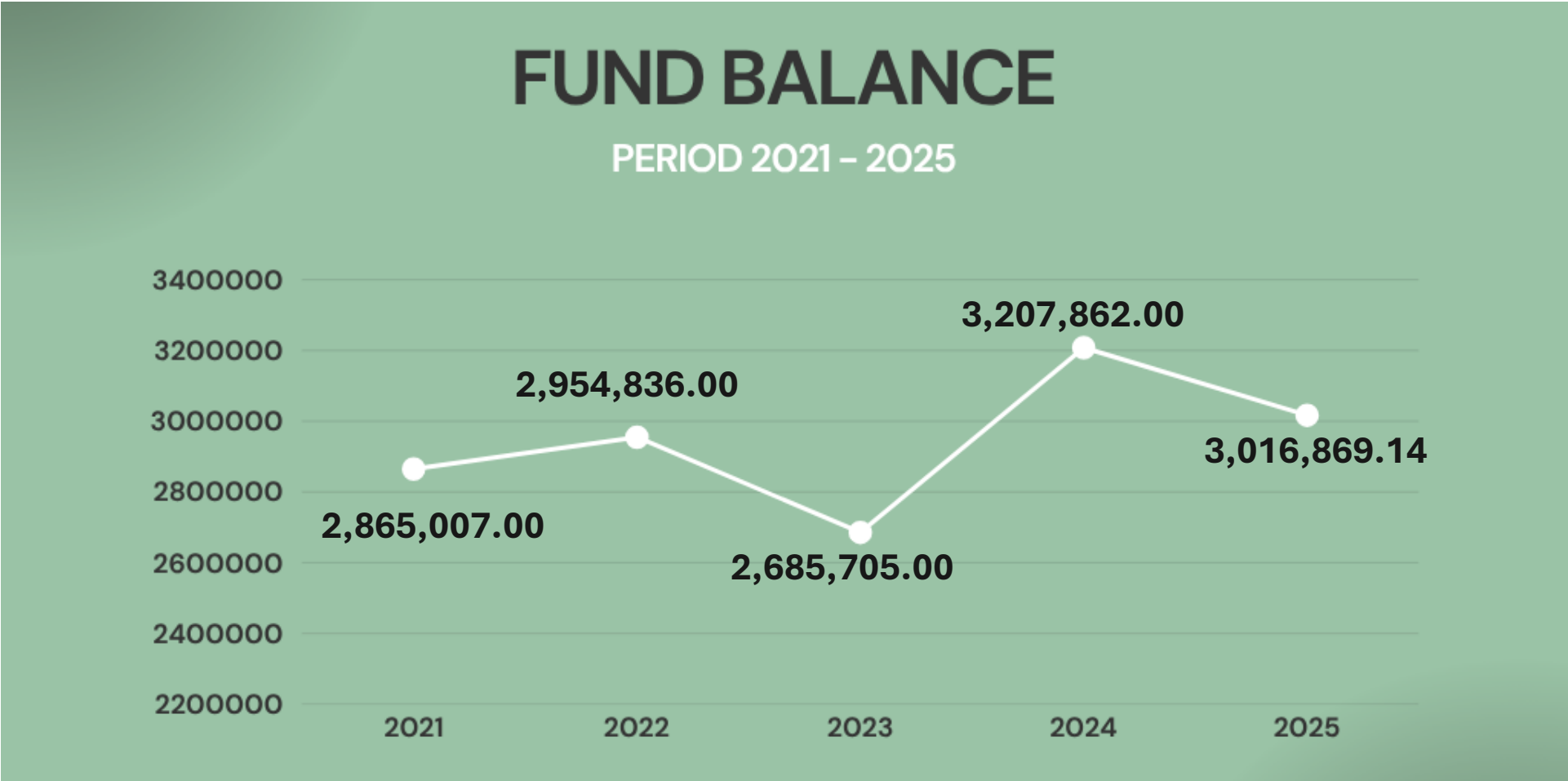
Expenditures 2024-25



Expenditures	
Legislative	727,374.51
Administration	1,270,881.20
Municipal Building	93,696.00
Police	1,887,554.96
Public Works	550,015.86
Recreation	191,602.41
Parks	165,939.04
Capital Expenditures	1,290,780.12
Total Expenditures	6,177,844.10

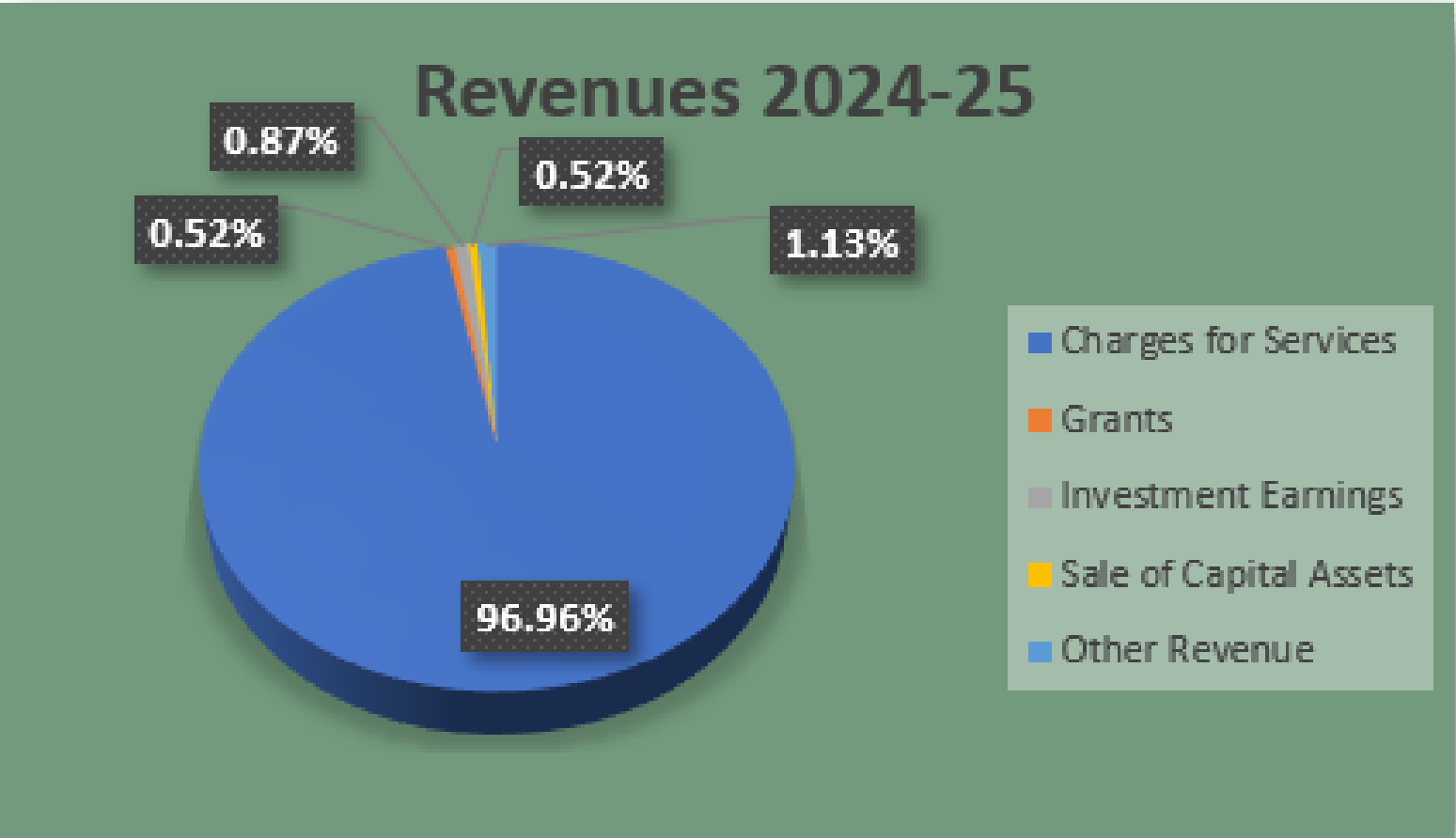
***Preliminary numbers pending final audit**

General Fund Financial Snapshot



***Preliminary numbers pending final audit**

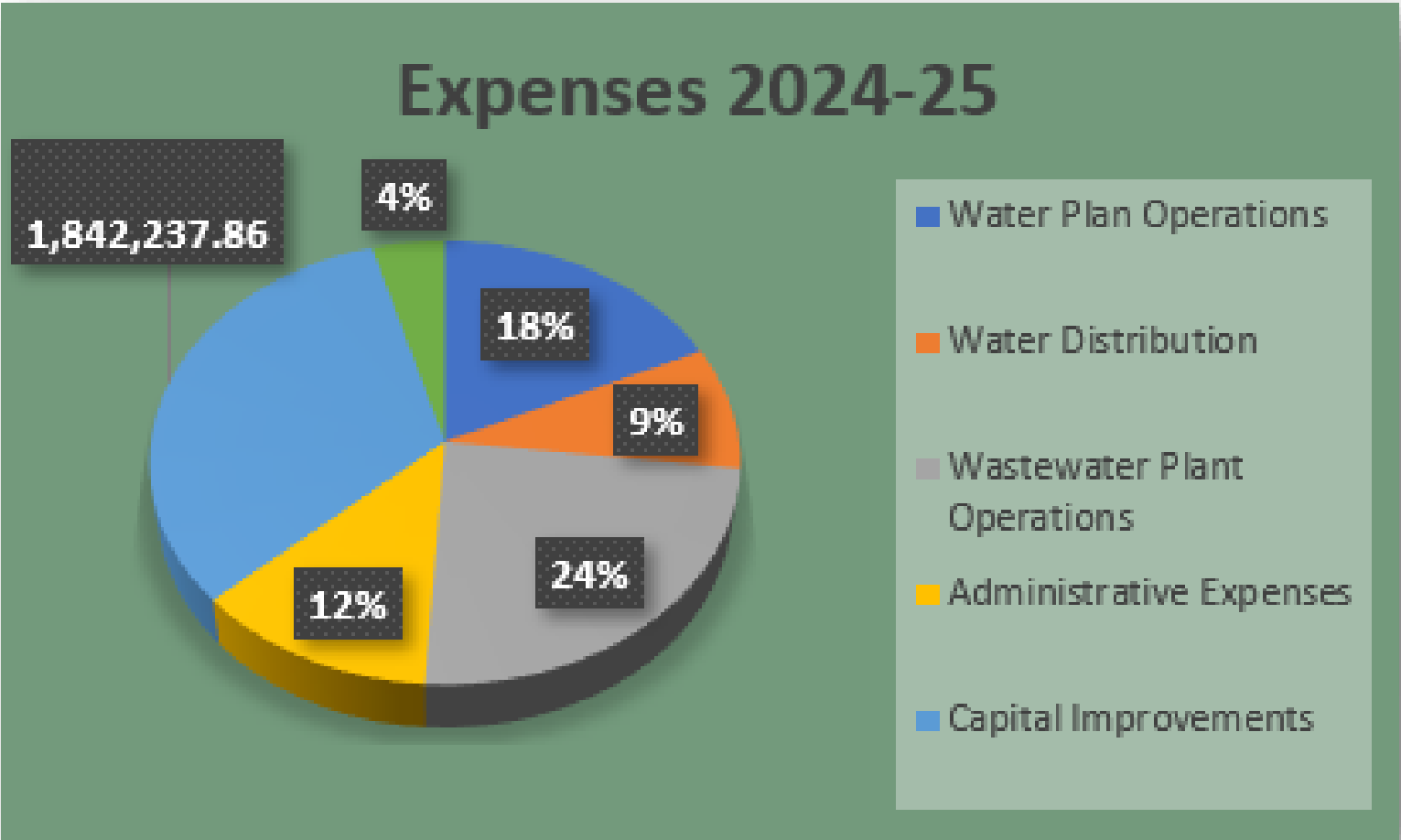
Water Sewer Financial Snapshot



Revenues	
Charges for Services	6,379,898.94
Grants	33,981.25
Investment Earnings	57,015.01
Sale of Capital Assets	34,530.00
Other Revenue	74,431.30
Total Revenues	6,579,856.50

***Preliminary numbers pending final audit**

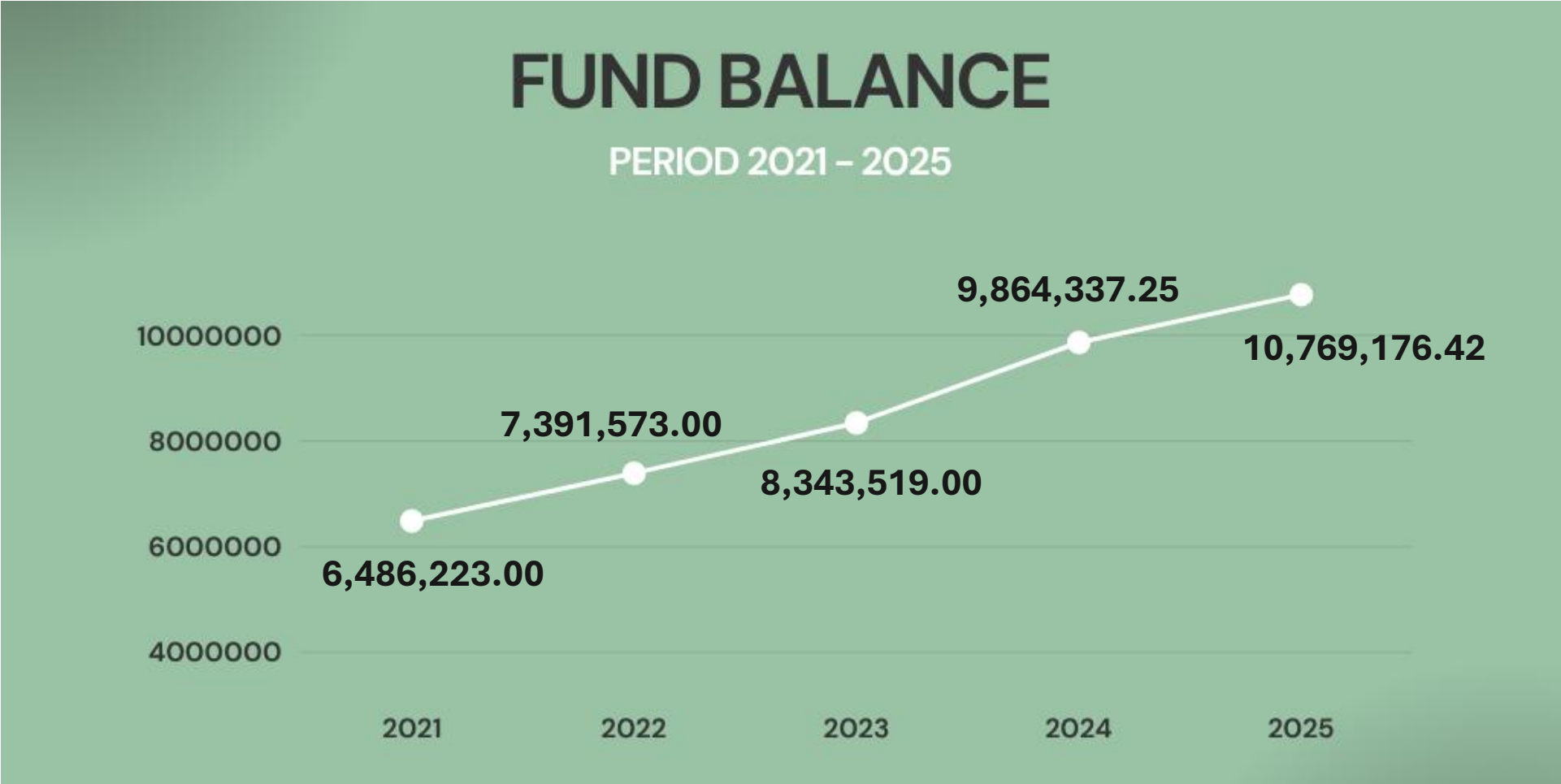
Water Sewer Financial Snapshot



Expenditures		
	Water Plan Operations	1,020,389.84
	Water Distribution	508,368.24
	Wastewater Plant Operations	1,364,687.31
	Administrative Expenses	692,279.95
	Capital Improvements	1,842,237.86
	Interest and Fees	247,054.13
	Total Expenditures	5,675,017.33

***Preliminary numbers pending final audit**

Water Sewer Financial Snapshot



***Preliminary numbers pending final audit**



Parks and Recreation

Depot Transformation

- One of the gems of the City of St. Johns is the historic former Grand Trunk Western Railroad Depot. This depot now functions as an event center for birthday parties, showers and reunions. After 25 years of serving the community, a renovation took place, creating a more modern look.





MDNR Grant Projects

- The City received **\$49,900 from the MDNR Trust Fund** to construct a new sand volleyball court area. The project included rebuilding the court, adding 10 paved parking spaces, installing player benches, creating a handicapped-accessible viewing area with bleachers, and adding a drinking fountain and sidewalk for improved accessibility and convenience.
- The City received **\$155,000 from the MDNR Trust Fund** to install 2,500 linear feet of 10-foot-wide trail. This project connected the existing Townsend Road and Scott Road Trails, and included the installation of three benches, a rain garden, and a new tree to enhance the trail experience.



Disc Golf Expansion

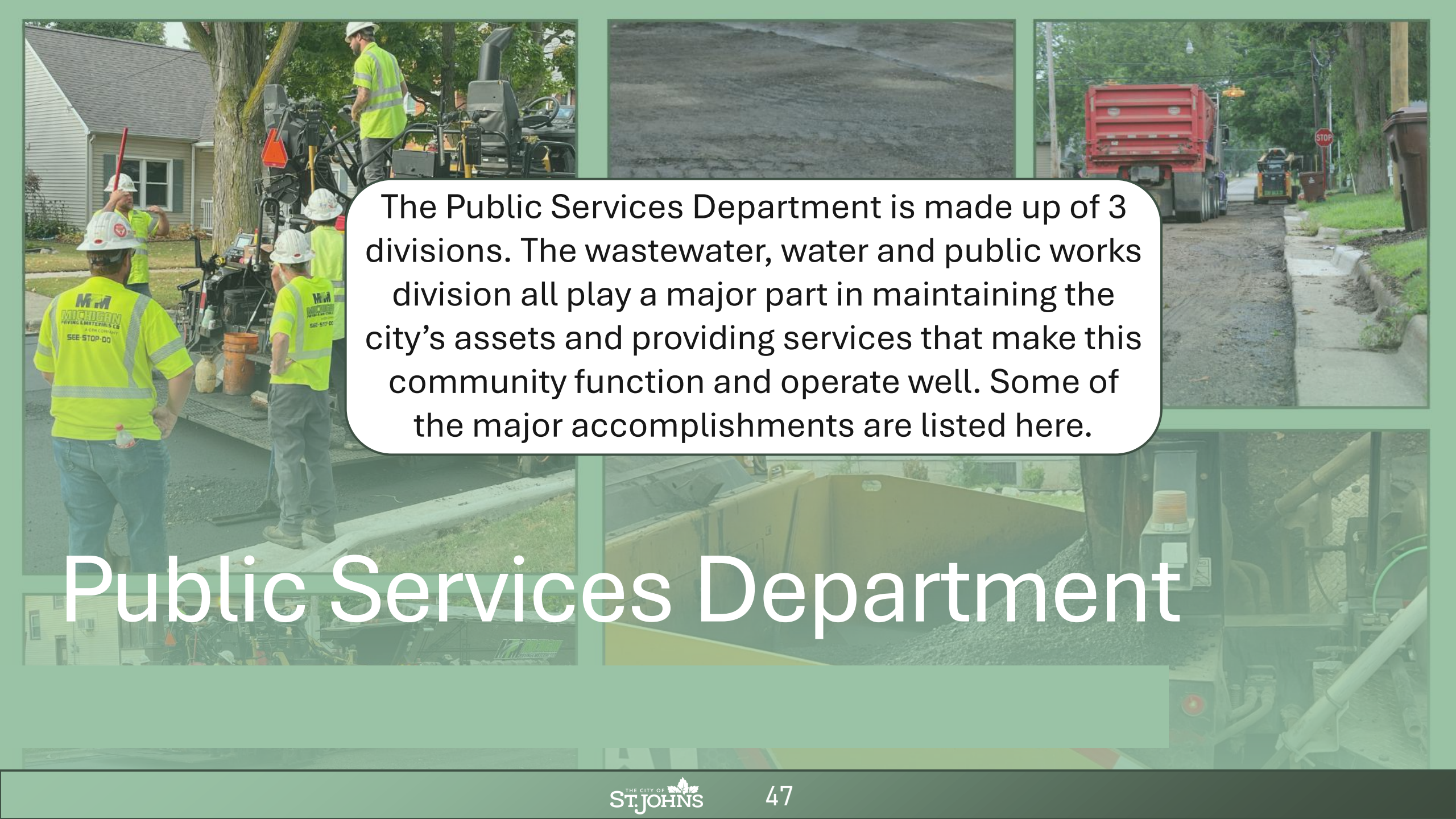
The disc golf course will be expanded with nine additional holes, enhancing recreational opportunities for the community. The disc catchers were generously donated by Travis LaCelle and his family, making this project possible through their support.

Neighborhood Parks Wood Chip Replacement

- At Jaycee, Kibbee, and Water Tower Parks, the playground safety woodchips were removed and replaced. This project cleared out old woodchips that had become overgrown with weeds and grass, and restored the playground fall zones to recommended safety depths.

BEFORE

AFTER



The Public Services Department is made up of 3 divisions. The wastewater, water and public works division all play a major part in maintaining the city's assets and providing services that make this community function and operate well. Some of the major accomplishments are listed here.

Public Services Department

Public Works - 2024 Street Millage

- A total of **1.30 miles** of streets were improved through the Street Millage program. Cass Street and Brush Street received additional upgrades that created more parking spaces. The remaining street improvements included new curb and gutter installations along with fresh asphalt paving.





Storm Clean-up

- At the end of August, a wind-storm caused downed branches and power lines. City crews responded using front-end loaders, trucks, and manual labor—including chainsaw work—to restore safe access to local roads.



Social District Signage

- A Social District was established in the downtown area, with over 10 signs installed to clearly mark the designated boundaries. City staff handled the installation of all signs for the district.



DOWNTOWN
St Johns
Social District



**NO ALCOHOL
BEYOND THIS POINT**

*Thank you for
socializing*

Wastewater Fiscal Year Accomplishments

- Cured-in-place lined more than **2,600 feet of sanitary sewer**, addressing major infiltration areas.
- **Lined 10 sanitary manholes** to reduce infiltration and strengthen structural integrity.
- **Televised and assessed nearly 17,000 feet** of sanitary sewer.

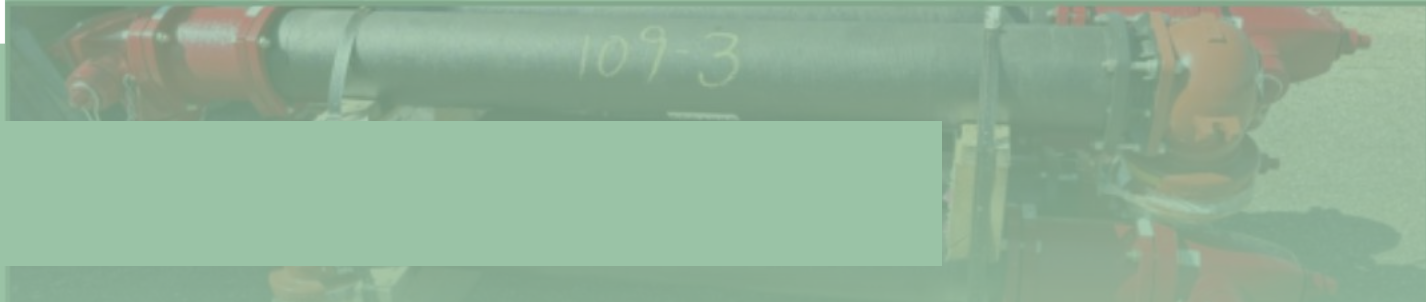
Fiscal Year Accomplishments Cont.

- **Inspected 78 sanitary sewer manholes** for condition and performance.
- **Upgraded critical SCADA equipment** at the wastewater treatment facility.
- **Maintained full compliance with the plant discharge permit – zero violations.**





Water Division



Water Department Licenses

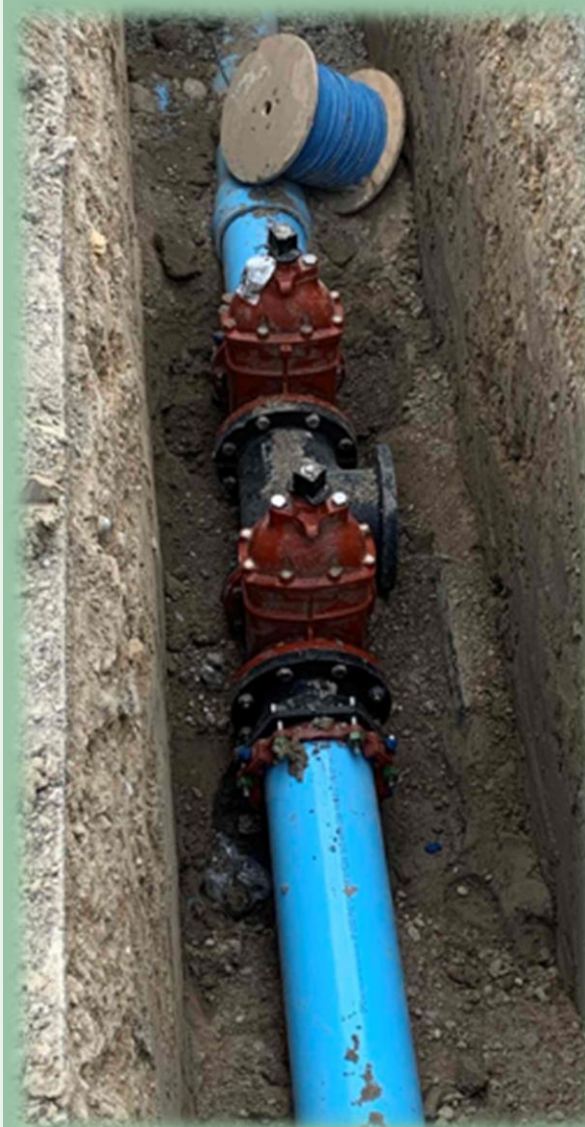
- Three employees recently obtained their Water Department Licenses, certifying the entire staff as state water operators. This achievement increases qualifications of our water operators to maintain the City's water system at the highest standards.





Morton St Water Main

- Completed a new watermain installation on Morton Street, from Gibbs Street south past the walking trail. The project included a 12-inch C900 and fused HDPE water main, along with all new valves, hydrants, and water service lines.



2024-2025 Street Project

- The Water Department successfully completed the water mains for the annual street project, adding new hydrants and valves to strengthen the distribution system.





THE CITY OF
ST. JOHNS