



City of St. Johns, Michigan City Commission Newsletter Fall 2020



Dairy Processing Plants to Open: Glanbia (now MWC) and the Proliant dairy processing plants are currently in the various stages of starting production. Glanbia chose St. Johns for their new cheese and whey processing plants for several reasons including St. Johns' central location, and the spirit of cooperation within the St. Johns community. The city of St. Johns, Bingham Township and Clinton county worked closely with CCEA, MEDC, MDOT and MDARD to attract Glanbia and their nearly \$550 million development. The building of the facilities created hundreds of construction jobs and helped boost the local economy. The plants will now provide high quality employment opportunities with over 250 permanent jobs. The new development has additional benefits for our community such as upgraded roads and expanded water and sewer facilities. Despite the 15-year tax abatement awarded to the new development, the City is now receiving additional water and sewer revenues and the schools will receive taxes toward their bond indebtedness now.

Curbside Recycling is a Great Success: As St. Johns residents will recall, the City stopped the *Green Trash Bag* program last Fall and issued trash curb carts to all residents. The plan was to provide a better way of containing and disposing of trash separate from recyclables. Prior to this change, much of the recyclable materials collected at the curb were contaminated with other household trash and therefore could not be recycled. With the change in procedures came easier sorting, and since the new program was initiated, 100% of all recyclable materials have actually been recycled. That equates to 305 tons of waste ***not*** going to the landfill in just the last year!! Congratulations and thanks go to all St. Johns residents for their efforts in helping to reduce the City's carbon footprint.

Community-Wide Master Plan: In the spirit of cooperation and to promote the entire St. Johns community, The City of St. Johns and neighboring Bingham Township have agreed to work together by adopting a Joint Community Master Plan. A community Master Plan is designed to promote the growth of a community while preserving its character and the attributes valued by its residents. The City and Township have a history of cooperation and that is a significant reason that the Glanbia and Proliant dairy processing plants decided to build in St. Johns. New development typically leads to other development including housing and more retail establishments as the population is sure to grow. Controlling that growth through a detailed master plan is important to maintain the lifestyle and cost of living that we have all come to enjoy.

Scott Road Improvements and Pathway: Improvements to Scott Road and the addition of a pedestrian/bicycle pathway have been long term goals for the community. The improvements to Scott Road were important to ensure long term viability of a major thoroughfare and the addition of the pathway joins the Meijer Trail to other parts of the City. The overall goal is to have a cohesive pathway system throughout town that also connects to regional paths and recreational sites.

2020 Road Program: We are now in the third year of a five-year program to improve roads in the City. Voters approved a second multi-year road improvement millage program in 2017 and to date, nearly 60% of all streets in the city have been improved. This year's program included work on; Cass and Church streets, Clinton Avenue, Astwood Mews Lane and Scott Road. Streets to be improved in 2021 include; Lavalley Court, Glastonbury Drive, Emmons Street, Prospect, Daisy Drive, Chalen Drive, Kelcrasta Drive, Loren Court, Lois Lane, Walker Road, and a section of Clinton that is in the industrial park, and currently gravel.