

City of St. Johns, Michigan

WINTER NEWSLETTER



2021 Edition

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- * January 18th—Clinton County Courthouse/City of St. Johns closed for Martin Luther King Day
- * February 15th—Clinton County Courthouse/City of St. Johns closed for President's Day
- * February 16th—Winter Property Taxes Due
- * February 22nd—Water/Sewer Bills Due

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Have your water/sewer bills emailed, contact City Offices at (989) 224-8944 or email csj@stjohnsmich.com with your request.
- If you have an emergency after hours, during the weekend or holidays relating to sewer, water, drainage or streets call (989) 224-9192 for assistance.
- Dashboard information is available at www.cityofstjohnsmi.com/Home/Dashboard
- Adopt a hydrant—Please keep the area around fire hydrants clear of snow and ice so the fire department can access the hydrant during a fire emergency.



Granger Recycle Coach App

To help you remember when your trash/recycling will be picked up, you can download Granger's **FREE** Recycle Coach App. You can access details specific to St. Johns trash & recycling anytime! You can receive reminders on collection days and also reference what items are or are not accepted.



Keep Sidewalks Clean of Snow & Ice

- ✓ When snow or ice shall cease to fall during the daylight hours, such snow or ice shall be cleared from the sidewalks within 12 hours after such cessation. When a fall of snow or ice shall have ceased during the nighttime, it shall be cleared from the sidewalks by 6:00 pm of the day following. The Police Department along with the Code Enforcer will enforce the ordinance.
- ✓ Do not throw snow, slush or ice in the street. This is against state statute and a citation may be issued for individuals who violate this code (Motor Vehicle Code P.A. 82 of 1978, 257.677a).



Christmas Tree Disposal

Christmas trees will be picked up by the City of St. Johns Public Works Department beginning January 4th. Please make sure all decorations are removed & placed out by the curb. Do **NOT** have your tree wrapped in a plastic bag.



You also can take your tree to the Public Works Department, 1000 N. US-127 BR compost area with 24/7 access. Please use the Kuntz Drive entrance.

Winter 2020 Property Taxes

The 2020 Winter Property Tax bills were mailed on November 30th. If you did not receive your tax bill contact the City Treasurer at (989) 224-8944. Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt the taxes from penalties. Winter taxes are payable to City of St. Johns and are due by 4 pm on **Tuesday, February 16, 2021**. Tax and assessing information is available on the City website at www.cityofstjohnsmi.com.

Annual Property Assessments

The City will mail all property owners annual property assessments in mid-February 2021. You can contact the assessing department with any questions or to make an appointment by calling (989) 224-8944. (Please review the back side of your property assessment if you wish to contest the values through the March Board of Review process.)

2021 Downtown Parking Pass

- * Parking Passes are available for \$100 at the St. Johns Police Department **ONLY**.
- * If you wish to park in a City lot, a parking pass is required if parked for more than 2 hours during the day or for any length of time overnight.
- * The pass **MUST** hang from the rearview mirror of the vehicle or you will be ticketed.
- * Purchase of a parking pass does not guarantee you a parking spot in a certain lot. Spaces in the parking lots are on a first come, first served basis.
- * Your vehicle needs to be moved at least once every 72 hours. If you live downtown & need to leave your vehicle in the lot for an extended period of time, please contact the police department at (989) 224-6721 ahead of time.
- * No parking is allowed on any city street between the hours of 1 am and 6 am. Your pass is not valid for street parking during the day or at night.
- * Passes are transferrable between vehicles, but we do not give refunds if you move out or leave your employment before the end of the year.

Winter Outdoor Activities at City Park

During the winter months, weather permitting, there is an unsupervised sledding hill open to the public during daylight hours. The hill is located at the main City Park, 805 W. Park St., St. Johns. The hill is at the far northwest corner of the park. There are also walking trails throughout the park which is a great way to get out and get some exercise.



Also there is ice skating and ice hockey available at the ice rink, weather permitting. The ice skating hours are Monday—Friday, 6:00—8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 1:00—6:00 p.m. The ice hockey hours are Monday—Friday, 5:00—6:00 p.m. and 8:00—10:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m.—noon. Open skating and hockey are allowed at the City Park ice rink at any time except those times that are posted exclusively for skating or hockey. Please visit the parks and recreation department at <https://stjohnsmi.myrec.com/info/default.aspx> for more information.

Prevent Your Pipes From Freezing

Pipes and utility meters can freeze when the temperature remains below 25° for extended periods of time. Here are some tips to help protect water lines during cold weather:

- * Be sure pipes in unheated parts of your home/crawl space are insulated.
- * If you have a faucet located in an unheated location, allow a thin stream (about the thickness of a pencil) of cold water run through the faucet.
- * Leave interior cupboard doors under sinks open, especially if the sink piping is adjacent to an exterior wall.
- * Plug up drafty cracks & repair broken window panes that allow cold air inside where pipes are located.
- * If your pipe is frozen, gently warm it with hot air from a blow dryer at the point where it enters your house.
- * Know the location of the water shut-off valve. Check it periodically to ensure it works properly.
- * Shut off & drain all pipes leading to outside faucets.



If you lose water service, locate the frozen pipe. Common areas for frozen pipes are on exterior walls or where the water service enters your home through the foundation.

- * Apply heat to the suspected section of exposed pipe with an electric hair dryer, carpet sweeper exhaust or a light bulb in the area of the freeze.
- * NEVER USE ANTI-FREEZE TO THAW A PIPE. The chemicals could contaminate the water supply.
- * If you are unable to regain service you may want to contact a plumber.

The City of St. Johns maintains underground water lines from the water main to the curb stop near the property line. Water lines running from the curb stop to the house, as well as internal plumbing, are the responsibility of the property owner. The City of St. Johns does not account for or take responsibility for the customers piping for the above suggestions.

Facility Rentals and Recreation Programs:

Gym Rentals: Need a space to let your children get some exercise? The Wilson Center Gym is available for family rentals and individual training sessions. All people attending must reside in the same house and be part of the same household account. Rentals start at \$25 per hour for city residents. Check the Recreation Department website for availability and fees. You must bring your own equipment.

Snowman Contest: The City of St. Johns Recreation Department is looking for the best snowman in St. Johns. After the next snow fall, you have 4 days to head outside and make a snowman. Send a picture via Facebook Messenger to the Recreation Department (City of St. Johns Recreation). Photos will be posted on our social media accounts and the winner will be announced at the end of each month.



Please check our website for current information <https://stjohnsmi.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>. All rentals and programs are dependent on orders by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information: **City of St. Johns Recreation**



Household Battery Recycling Program

The City of St. Johns offices (1st floor, Clinton County Courthouse) does accept household batteries for recycling. The types of batteries accepted are Alkaline/Zinc Carbon batteries, Lithium batteries, Mercuric Oxide (Button Cell) batteries, Nickel Cadmium batteries. Auto & Marine batteries are **not** accepted at city offices, however, they are accepted for free at Bee's Sports located at 2138 S. US-127 BR, St. Johns.



Brush Pick-Up Suspended for Winter

Brush pick up for residents is **SUSPENDED** until Spring. You may take your brush to the Department of Public Works, 1000 N. US-127 BR. This site is open 24/7. Please use the Kuntz Drive entrance.

Zoning, Building, Utility & Right-of-Way Permits




Most types of construction such as fences, decks, sheds, etc. require a permit in the City.

Residents desiring to connect to City utilities must obtain a utility permit & pay the fee prior to any work commencing which is done online by visiting cityofstjohnsmi.com, click online services, then permits. A permit must also be obtained prior to performing any work in the street right-of-way (sidewalk or driveway removal, removal/planting/trimming trees or utility service repairs).

Emergency Communication Network—Smart911.com

Visit www.clinton-county.org or go to smart911.com to sign up to receive emergency information via email, text, landline or cell phone. Smart911.com is designed to send out county wide emergency information or geographical information pertaining to a specific area.



-  A free service – Provided by your community
-  Private and secure – You control your information
-  Saves time in an emergency – When seconds count