On April 2nd voters will go to the polls to elect a new Mayor for the City and a Councilman for their respective Wards. This year, you have six people running for Office. Two for Mayor; two for Councilman of Ward I and two for Councilman of Ward II. Lee Taylor who has served as the City's Mayor for the past 12 years has reached his term limit and is not eligible to run for office this year.

As always, the City cannot provide you with the political views of candidates. However we can provide you with brief introductions to each one for your information.

**Mayoral Candidates**

Tom has been a St. John resident since 1977. Tom has been married to his wife Mary for 40 years. They have two children and 6 grandchildren. He is an active member of Holy Trinity Parish and was a former member of St. William Parish. He is a Master Technician and has been a member of Machinists District 9, Local 777 for 33 years and is currently the Shop Steward at his place of employment. He has been involved with the City of St. John since the early nineties and has served on many levels. You can find Tom on FaceBook at Tom Halaska, St. John Councilman, Ward II.

Tom’s experience and memberships include:

- 14 years on the City Council;
- 8 years Deputy Mayor;
- Planning and Zoning Board;
- Board of Adjustment;
- Budget Committee;
- Code Review Committee;
- Tax Increment Financing Commission;
- Personnel Board;
- Human Rights Commission;
- NW Community Chamber of Commerce;
- Missouri Municipal League;
- St. Louis County Municipal League;
- National League of Cities;
- North County Incorporated;
- Certificate of Achievement: FEMA/HomeLand Security National Incident Management System and Incident Command System (ICS 100);
- St. John Citizen’s Police Academy;
- 7 years St. William School Board Member;
- Member of the Knights of Columbus;
- Former Member Missouri Real Estate Commission.

Jim and his wife, Mary, have been married for almost 50 years and have lived in St. John for over 43 years. They have resided for 41 years on Boswell Avenue. Jim has a B.S. and M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from West Virginia University. He worked 30 years as an aerospace engineer at McDonnell-Douglas/Boeing retiring in 1998. He then worked part time at the PGA Tour Golf Shops at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport for 6 1/2 years until retiring there in May 2005. Jim and Mary have two children, both Ritenour graduates, and three grandchildren.

Jim served 12 years (four terms) as a Ward II Councilman until he was term limited in April 2012. During his tenure as Councilman he served as Deputy Mayor for two years and Chairman of the TIF Commission for ten years. Prior to being on the St. John City Council Jim was a member of the Planning and Zoning Board for four years. He has again been reappointed to the Planning and Zoning Board.
WARD I Councilman Candidates

Justin has been a resident of St. John for 24 years. He has a Bachelors Degree in Political Science at the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

He has worked in banking and corporate and legal services for the past 7 years. He recently left his job in corporate and legal service to start a microbrewery in Saint Louis.

He has been a Council member for 6 years. In addition he serves on the Planning and Zoning Board, Budget Committee, Bid Review Committee, TIF Commission (currently Chairman) and is a former member of the Human Rights Commission.

WARD II Councilman Candidates

Bill has lived in the City of St. John for over 10 years. He is married to Jennifer and they have a daughter, Mackenzie.

He is the owner of Bales Property Services, a landscape maintenance company that provides service to commercial, multi-family and residential property owners.

Public Service Information/previous experience:
Before starting his own business, Bill was employed as a Building Inspector for the Cities of St. John, Rock Hill & Clayton. During his tenure as an inspector, Bill was involved with many aspects of City government and has experience dealing with City Ordinances, building codes, code review and planning & zoning issues.

In addition, he has actively participated in City Council meetings, Public Hearings, Municipal Housing Courts, Planning & Zoning Board meetings and Board of Adjustment meetings.

*Incumbent

Christopher has lived in the City for over a year now. He is currently attending both the University of Missouri-St. Louis and St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley.

He is studying Economics and Education. He is also currently serving as treasurer for the Student African American Brotherhood at the Florissant Valley campus.

RETIREMENTS

Sergeant Charles “Butch” Barger is retiring after working twenty-nine (29) years for the St. John Police Department. Butch held a variety positions during his tenure with St. John. He was a Firearms Instructor, Shift Supervisor, Certification Manager and Administrative Sergeant. Butch’s retirement plans are golf, fishing, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Corporal Bruce Kahmke is also retiring after twenty-nine (29) years of dedicated service to the St. John Police Department. During his career, Bruce was an Assistant Shift Commander and Field Training Officer. He was also a Citizens Police Academy Coordinator. Bruce’s retirement plans are moving to the Lake of the Ozarks for fishing and relaxation.
Dear Residents,

As this will be my last article in the City Newsletter, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you these last twelve (12) years as your Mayor and as Councilman of Ward 2 for several years prior to that.

I leave office with feelings of accomplishment. I am very proud of the revitalization of our St. Charles Rock Road Business District and am looking forward to the addition of a McDonalds restaurant and a CVS pharmacy to our City.

My hope for St. John is the continued progress of our business districts, programs targeted to benefit our senior citizens and the maintaining and improving of our residential areas to keep up our property values and keep St. John, as our motto says, “A Good Place To Live”.

In closing, I would like to thank the dedicated employees of St. John; the entire Administrative Staff, Police Department, Municipal Court and Public Works Department for their hard work and dedication to this City.

And last, but not least, I thank the City Council. Without their hard work, ideas and honesty my time as Mayor could never have been as productive and fulfilling.

Best Wishes,

Lee Roy M. Taylor
Mayor, City of St. John

ANNUAL CITY GARAGE SALES

After last year's sales, we sent out a survey to all participants on how they liked the new sale format. An overwhelming majority said they liked the City being split in half for the sales. They thought it brought more people to the sellers because only half the town was holding sales at a time; as well as allowing the sellers from one side of town to shop the sales in the other side of town.

So, the City Council decided to keep the format the same again this year, but with one little change..........

Rain Outs: When we looked at trying to fine tune this part of the sale so as to cut down on the confusion of a “rain out” date, we decided that we should just change it entirely. So after careful consideration, we decided to eliminate “rain out” dates.

This year each side of town will have two Saturdays in which they can hold their garage sales. If sellers want to sell on only one of the two days or both days, they will be allowed to. If someone elects to sell on the first day and closes due to rain, they can still sell on the second day. If someone elects to sell only on the second day and closes due to rain, they can always get a garage sale permit for another day. All residences are allowed three sales per year with a permit. It will be each seller’s prerogative. This will also allow people to sell and shop in their own side of town if they like, as well as the other side of town.

For those that don’t know, and a reminder to those that do know, the City is divided into the following two sections for sales:

• East of Brown Road (including homes on the East side of Brown Road) will hold their sales on the first & second Saturdays in June (June 1st and 8th).

• West of Brown Road (including homes on the West side of Brown Road) will hold their sales on the third and fourth Saturdays in June (June 15th and June 22nd). The sales will be held on their respective Saturdays from 7 am - 3 pm. For these days only, no garage sale permits will be required. If you want to hold a sale on a date other than your respective side of town, you will need to obtain a permit from City Hall (no charge).

Residents are encouraged to sign up at www.cityofstjohn.org, and click on the Garage Sale Tab at the top of the home page. From there you will be able to create an account, enter your sale items and edit or delete them if you need to do so at a later time. Your entry should show up online in approximately 24 hours; 48 hours if entered on a weekend.

Remember, the web site also allows you the benefit of listing two “Featured Items With Photos” for your address. The featured items and/photos are not required entries but are just an option should people wish to use them.

Again this year, users will be able to print out a list of all entries in order by address. This will provide potential buyers the means to print an up to date list of participating addresses at any time instead of having to go up to City Hall for a copy.

And finally, after your sale is all said and done, what do you do with the items that didn’t sell?

The City’s website will have a listing of various organizations that you can call to schedule a home pickup of your left over items. By calling an organization to your home, you won’t have to load up and take the items to a drop off point like last year. It is also handy if you have any larger items to donate that won’t fit into your car. This list will be available on-line closer to the sale dates.
ST. JOHN POLICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

During the past thirteen (13) years, the St. John Police Department has awarded nearly $45,000 to graduating seniors from Ritenour High School. Our scholarship program is also available to graduating seniors who are St. John Residents attending all area high schools. The St. John Police Scholarship Program is funded through various fund raising efforts and community partnerships with local businesses.

Scholarship applications can be found on our City’s web site and must be turned in by Friday, April 12, 2013.

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY OFFERS INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE TO SENIOR CITIZENS

FREE assistance with simple federal and state income tax forms and the Missouri Property Tax Credit Claim (Mo-PTC or “Circuit Breaker”) is available through the Saint Louis County Department of Human Services’ County Older Resident Programs (CORP).

Preparation of Federal, State and Missouri Property Tax Credit Claim forms is provided at various St. Louis County sites, including the St. John Municipal Center. Individuals eligible for this assistance must be a Saint Louis County resident, 60 years or older with income of $51,000 (includes Social Security) or less.

CORP tax assistance may be scheduled, beginning Jan. 28, 2013, by calling Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm.

For North County locations, please call (314)615-7447. For South County locations, please call (314)615-4037. Persons with hearing impairments may call 800-735-2966.

STREET SWEEPING SCHEDULE

Just a reminder that with the purchase of a new street sweeper last year our goal is to sweep the entire City once a month, year round, weather permitting. We will need to coordinate our sweeping with Allied Waste trash pick-up so that we are not trying to sweep around trash cans set out at the curb. Allied Waste collects trash from a designated zone of the City every day of the week so we have configured our sweeping zones based on their trash pick-up schedule. We have decided that we will sweep the entire City the first full week of each month. The streets in each zone and the day of the week that zone will be swept are as follows:

Zone 1 Will Be Swept On Monday Of The First Full Week Of Each Month.

Zone 2 Will Be Swept On Tuesday Of The First Full Week Of Each Month.
Zone 2: Havenbrook, Belhaven, Belcrest, Hagner, Ardelia, Moran, Hilleman (between North & Ardelia), North Ave. (between McKibbon and Valleywood), Ginger, Loyd, Markdale, Valleywood, Norman, Debbie Ct., Engler, Hilleman (off of Engler), Thomas, Kitchell Ct., Chaney Ct., Rosalind, Madeline, Engler Park Ct.

Zone 3 Will Be Swept On Wednesday Of The First Full Week Of Each Month.
Zone 3: St. Charles Ln., Eminence, Charlack, Roy, Lindscott, Janet Ct., St. Louis Ave., Rosemore, North Ave. (Brown Rd. to Boswell), Patrice, Pallardy, Patrick, Herbert, McNulty (Brown to dead end in cul-de-sac), Killarney Ct. and Bobb (from Brown to Boswell).

Zone 4 Will Be Swept On Thursday Of The First Full Week Of Each Month.
Zone 4: Bristol, Orlando, McKibbon, Crocus, David, Susan, Ezra, Mavis, Marvista, Maryknoll, Marshall, North Ave. (McKibbon to Brown), Winterowd, McNulty (Brown to Marshall), Kitchell (off of McKibbon), Bobb (Marshall to Brown), Harry’s Ln., St. Charles Ln., Toddy, John Pl., North & South.

Zone 5 Will Be Swept On Friday Of The First Full Week Of Each Month.
Zone 5: Boswell, Ritenour Ct., Gordon, Jonell Ct., Francis Ct., Frann Lynn Ct., Central, Leenora, North Ave. (Woodson to Edmundson), Bobb (Brown to west City limits), Marvin, Marvin Gardens, Calvert, Dix, Joel Ct., Edmundson, Burdella, Roslan, and Edmund.

Please look carefully at the above schedule and determine which zone you live in and on which day your street will be swept. We ask that you do not park your cars on the street on the day your street is scheduled to be swept. Finally, if the weather is rainy or otherwise inclement, and if your regular sweeping day falls on a holiday, we will not sweep your street that month.

2nd Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser
To Benefit Officer Jim Davis’ Memorial Fund
Saturday, April 20, 2013
St. Ann Community Center
#1 Community Center Drive • St. Ann, MO 63074
Doors Open at 6 pm • Trivia Starts at 7 pm
$25/Person or $200/Table (8 person per table)
Beer, Setups and Pretzels provided. Bring your own snacks and/or bottle.
Raffle Items • Silent Auction • 50/50s • Scratch-Off Lottery Tree
All proceeds go to a trust for the education of Officer Davis’ three children
For tickets and/or information contact:
The City of St. John at (314) 427-8700, #3
UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM... GOT DRUGS?

St. John Municipal Center Lobby
8944 St. Charles Rock Road • 10 am - 2 pm

On Saturday, April 27, 2013, during the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., DEA will coordinate a collaborative effort with state and local Law Enforcement agencies including the City of St. John Police Department for the focus of removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our Nation’s medicine cabinets. This national Take-Back day will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to Law Enforcement Officers for destruction. This one-day effort will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. The program provides an opportunity for Law Enforcement, prevention, treatment and the business communities to collaborate and establish a safe collection site for all Americans, regardless of where they reside.

The City of St. John Police Department will again host its collection site in the lobby of the City Municipal Building located at 8944 St. Charles Rock Road. This has been very successful during past collections and we anticipate this one to be equally successful.

This program is completely anonymous and the public is encouraged to safely dispose all unused and unwanted controlled, non-controlled, and over the counter substances at our site. Participants may dispose of their medication in its original container being sure that the lids are tightly sealed. NOTE: Used intra-venous (IV) solutions, injectibles, and syringes are not allowed to be dropped off at the collection site due to potential hazards posed by blood-borne pathogens.

PLEASE - NO NEEDLES AT ALL.

Questions or concerns may be addressed to:
Sergeant Robert Connell, (314) 427-8700 ext #5

SPRING CLEANUP Extra trash - April 22-26, Limb Chipping - April 29-30

Spring Clean Up will be held from April 22-26 this year. During that week Allied Waste has agreed to pick up the extra “stuff” you may want to get rid of during your normal pick up time. As a reminder, no hazardous waste, car parts, tires, batteries or construction material will be taken. Just set it out at the curb with your usual trash cart (in a neat and orderly manner), and Allied Waste will pick it up.

Then, you can do your final tree trimming for the spring and set out the limbs to be chipped on the week of April 29-30. The Street Department will run the chipper through the entire City one last time for the spring on those two days to pick up the last of your limbs. After those days the chipper will be put away for the spring as we have much other work to do this year. So please be sure to get your limbs out for the chipper on April 29-30. After that, it will be up to you to dispose of them.

2013 ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC Saturday, May 11

City of St. John & Rock Road Animal Hospital

Join us for the 2013 Annual Rabies Clinic! Rock Road Animal Hospital veterinarians will be offering vaccinations for dogs and cats at a reduced rate.

Our Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on the lower level of the new Public Works Garage, located at 8920 Bristol Avenue (behind City Hall). Vaccinations will be administered from 1:00-2:30 pm. City of St. John Animal Licenses will be available at the clinic for $2.00 each.

We are unable to accept credit cards at this location and will accept checks and cash only.

As a matter of public safety, all animals are required to be crated or on a very short leash to disallow contact with other individuals or animals.

ALTERED - SPAYED/NEUTERED ANIMALS
RABIES &DHLPP or FVR/CP PACKAGE $42.00
INDIVIDUAL RABIES SHOT ONLY $22.00
INDIVIDUAL DHLPP or FVR/CP SHOT $25.00
FELINE LEUKEMIA $20.00

UNALTERED ANIMALS
RABIES &DHLPP or FVR/CP PACKAGE $50.00
INDIVIDUAL RABIES SHOT $30.00
INDIVIDUAL DHLPP or FVR/CP SHOT $25.00
FELINE LEUKEMIA $20.00

We hope to see you there!
With spring just around the corner we will begin to see yard flags and most importantly American Flags being flown within our city. Many times we see American flags displayed that are tattered, faded and sometimes touching the ground or displayed incorrectly.

We checked with our local Veteran’s Administration and here’s what we found regarding the care, displaying and disposal of our flag:

The federal flag code says the universal custom is to display the U.S. flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaffs in the open, but when a patriotic effect is desired the flag may be displayed 24-hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. Also, the U.S. flag should not be displayed when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.

On special days, the flag may be flown at half-staff. On Memorial Day it is flown at half-staff until noon and then raised.

Avoid Dishonoring the Flag.
Here are some things to avoid when handling a U.S. flag.

Do not let the flag touch the ground.

Do not fly flag upside down unless there is an emergency.

Do not fly a tattered, faded or otherwise deteriorated flag

Do not carry the flag flat, or carry things in it.

Do not use the flag as clothing.

Do not store the flag where it can get dirty.

Do not use it as a cover.

Do not fasten it or tie it back. Always allow it to fall free.

Do not draw on, or otherwise mark the flag.

Do not use the flag for decoration. Use bunting with the blue on top, then white, then red.

Please contact your local VFW Post if you’d like assistance or more information on proper flag disposal. You may also contact the local Girl Scout or Boy Scout organizations as they have flag disposal ceremonies as well.

For more information you can read the entire Flag code. Public Law 94-344, known as the Federal Flag Code, contains rules for handling and displaying the U.S. flag.

2012 AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE

Ordinance 982 which amended Section 235.100 – Storage of Salvageable Materials. All salvageable materials (lumber, boxes, barrels, bricks, stones or similar materials) must now be stored off the ground at least twelve (12) inches and must be removed off the property within thirty (30) days unless there is a building permit in effect.

Ordinance 983 which amended Section 235.110 – Storage of Used Tires. From now on, no person, firm or corporation shall store one (1) or more tires outside of a building located on any premises within the City limits.

Ordinance 985 which amended Section 230.060 (B) (2) (a) (3) – Accumulation and Storage of Refuse. The requirement for storage of cord wood (wood to be used in fireplaces or woodstoves) to be kept off the ground has been lowered from eighteen (18) inches to twelve (12) inches.

Ordinance 987 which amends Section 505.010 – Adoption of the Building Code, and Section 520.020 – Adoption of Property Maintenance Code. The adopted building code is amended to exclude portable carports from having to comply with the fire resistance rated construction provisions of Chapter 7. In addition, the fire safety provisions of Section 703 of the adopted Property Maintenance Code shall not apply to existing portable carport structures.

Ordinance 988 which repeals Ordinance No. 764 and amends Section 520.023 of the Code. The fire resistance ratings of the adopted Property Maintenance Code (Fire Resistance Ratings) shall not apply to existing garages located in the basements of residential structures.

Ordinance 996 which amends sections of the Municipal Code as it relates to the cost of certain public meetings. Sections 400.450 and 460 were amended to require that the applicant will pay for the cost of advertising public hearings and meetings instead of the City paying for it.
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
The City of St. John is implementing a Traffic Management Program to address the local residential roadway related traffic concerns of our community.

Under this program, staff will work with residents to identify traffic problems in their neighborhood and create a neighborhood traffic plan that consists of solutions that are acceptable and appropriate.

The program will also address issues relating to major streets and intersections. A Traffic Management Program will be another part of the City’s commitment to the safety and livability of residential neighborhoods.

A copy of the Traffic Management Program application and guidelines can be downloaded at our City website. Just click on the Police Department Tab at the top of the home page, then go to the Main Menu of the Police Department Page, on the right hand side of the page.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS
Did you know that it is illegal to park a vehicle on a sidewalk in our city? The City Hall and Police Department periodically receives complaints about residents parking/blocking sidewalks. Vehicles cannot be parked on sidewalks even when the sidewalks are part of a resident’s driveway. Sidewalks have been installed to make our streets safe for pedestrian traffic. Everyone’s cooperation is essential and appreciated.

DID YOU KNOW...?
It is against the law to park an unattached trailer on the street.

KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE (K.O.S.S.)
The St. John Police Department and the Ritenour School District are committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for students in our schools. The St. John Police Department will begin making frequent appearances at schools throughout the day/week. This is in addition to School Resource Officers and DARE Officers already assigned to schools. Our intentions are not to alarm students, staff, and parents or make them feel uncomfortable. We simply want to promote a safe and secure learning environment for our neighborhood schools. We also encourage parents, students, and neighbors to report any suspicious activity observed in and around our schools.

SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS
The St. John Police Department was successful in obtaining a grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation Highway Safety Division to conduct several sobriety checkpoints throughout the year.

One weekend each month, St. John Police will be conducting sobriety checkpoints. Drivers suspected of intoxication will be given a brief field sobriety test. Confirmed drunk drivers will be arrested.

While some area motorists may be slightly inconvenienced by these stops, citizen patience and cooperation will assist in this important safety effort.

SENIOR CITIZEN UTILITY TAX REBATE
Utility tax rebates will be issued now until April 30, 2013 for the year 2012. The rebate is $30.00 per household. In order to qualify for this rebate, residents must:

1) Have turned sixty-five (65) years of age or older at some point during the year 2012

2) Currently reside in the City and have previously resided in the City for the entire calendar year of 2012

3) Apply on forms provided by the City for a rebate on the previous year’s taxes.

Qualified residents need to provide the following documentation to the City Hall in order to collect the rebate:

1) Picture identification

2) Identification showing current address and date of birth

3) One utility bill for January 2012 and one bill for December 2012 reflecting the address which they reside at and are requesting the rebate for.

Questions? Please contact City Hall at 427-8700
REMAINING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR 2013

Memorial Day ~ Monday May 27, 2013
- Monday routes will be picked up on Tuesday, May 28th
- Tuesday routes will be picked up on Wednesday, May 29th
- Wednesday routes will be picked up on Thursday, May 30th
- Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, May 31st
- Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, June 1st

Fourth of July ~ Thursday July 4, 2013
- Monday routes will not be affected
- Tuesday routes will not be affected
- Wednesday routes will not be affected
- Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, July 5th
- Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, July 6th

Labor Day ~ Monday September 2, 2013
- Monday routes will be picked up on Tuesday, September 3rd
- Tuesday routes will be picked up on Wednesday, September 4th
- Wednesday routes will be picked up on Thursday, September 5th
- Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, September 6th
- Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, September 7th

Thanksgiving ~ Thursday November 28, 2013
- Monday routes will not be affected
- Tuesday routes will not be affected
- Wednesday routes will not be affected
- Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, November 29th
- Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, November 30th

Christmas Day ~ December 25, 2013
- Monday routes will not be affected
- Tuesday routes will not be affected
- Wednesday routes will be picked up on Thursday, December 26th
- Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, December 27th
- Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, December 28th
Many people are out walking their dogs and visiting the parks, which makes this a perfect time to remind pet owners of the rules and regulations for pets in St. John. When outdoors, for their safety and the safety of our residents, all dogs and cats should be kept inside a fenced area from which they cannot escape or kept under tethered control. Dogs and cats are not allowed to roam, or to be away from the owner's premises unless restrained by a leash. Dogs may be tethered in the front of the premises, but only when accompanied by a person and tethered in a way that they may not reach the right-of-way.

St. John has three City parks and one County park. Pets are not allowed in Home Heights Park and should never be allowed to run freely in the parks. Leashed dogs and cats are allowed in St. John Park, Reed Park and the St. Louis County Park on Endicott. St. John City Park and Reed Park both have pet waste stations. These green boxes are located inside the park to provide plastic bags for picking-up and disposing of animal waste deposited in the park.

If your animal defecates anywhere other than the owner's private property, the owner/handler of the animal is required to remove and dispose of the feces prior to leaving the immediate area. Therefore, if you are walking your pet, you should always carry a plastic bag or other means to ensure immediate removal of your animal's feces. If your animal defecates on your own premises, St. John Municipal Code allows 24 hours for the removal of the feces.
MOSQUITO SPRAYING

Mosquito control in St. Louis County is based upon the principles of integrated pest management, using environmentally friendly approaches. Since the active ingredient in most adulticides has to actually land on a mosquito to kill it, spraying is the least effective means of mosquito control and is therefore less frequently used. Once the spray hits the ground it is ineffective. With the health concerns of West Nile Virus, the main effort is concentrated on pretreatment or larva control because it is the most effective and cost efficient approach. Larva control is made up of two basic components: 1) breeding site elimination; and 2) larviciding.

The County monitors and larvicides public property and easements including ditches, drainage areas, non-flowing creek systems, and sewer catch basins. Residents will want to monitor their own property as the County does not treat private property. Biological mosquito products can be purchased from garden centers, hardware and home supply stores. Look for one that specifies Bti as an active ingredient, or methoprene. These are the products the County uses.

Mosquitoes can breed anywhere that water collects. Residents and businesses need to take some preventative steps to reduce mosquito population on their property. Effective management and prevention of mosquito breeding sites takes a consistent, season long effort from all residents. Taking basic preventative measures in the beginning of the mosquito season will not be enough. Mosquitoes breed in standing water, so every effort must be made to eliminate all sources of standing water. Some common sources of standing water are drainpipes from down spouts and sump pumps, birdbaths, pet dishes, piles of leaves or grass clippings, ruts in the yard, etc.

As mentioned above, mosquito spraying is the least effective means of control, so don’t expect to see the foggers running through the City very often. Spraying is specifically targeted to those areas with the greatest concentration of disease bearing mosquitoes. Spraying decisions are based upon several factors such as mosquito trap results, species identified, quantity collected, positive West Nile Virus results, positive human and animal West Nile Virus cases, complaints, and weather.

Let’s all make a consistent and concentrated effort in St. John to prevent mosquitoes and enjoy as vector free a summer as possible.

GRASS, WEEDS AND NOXIOUS GROWTH

In accordance with the St. John Municipal Code, grass and weeds must be mowed or otherwise maintained so that they do not grow more than eight inches (8”) in height. Other deleterious, noxious and unhealthful growths, for example poison ivy, shrubs/trees in the fence line, must be destroyed and removed.

If your property borders a paper street, or other area dedicated to public use, such as right-of-way or a sidewalk, you are responsible to mow and maintain that area too. Since all homes front on a street, the area between your property line and the street which is considered “right-of-way” is the homeowner’s responsibility to maintain. When a resident fails to cut, destroy or otherwise remove such growth from their property and adjoining right-of-way, he or she could be subject to prosecution.

Please contact City Hall if you have questions or concerns with regard to growth in your neighborhood. We have a large number of vacant properties in town. If you know a premises is vacant and can see the grass is obviously more than 8” high, please call City Hall. Code Enforcement officials follow a specific notification process which may take a little time to achieve correction, but once the process is complete, the City can take action to regularly maintain the grass at abandoned properties. However, if the premises changes ownership, Code Enforcement is required to repeat the notification process. We appreciate your assistance in keeping St. John a good place to live.
RODENT CONTROL

Rats not only startle and frighten us, they carry diseases, which makes it important to keep rat populations under control. Rats live in burrows underground. They will burrow along the foundation of a house, under a driveway or piles of debris or rubbish. They usually live within 150 feet of their food and water sources. Rats will eat any source of food available, including garbage, pet food, animal feces and that which falls from fruit or nut bearing trees.

Eliminating all sources of food or harborage is the best way to knock down rodent populations and prevent infestations. Dispose of any junk or debris on the premises that could attract rats. Store firewood and other materials 12” off the ground. Ensure all trash is picked up and tightly enclosed in an appropriate container with a lid. Promptly remove and dispose of all animal feces and fruits or nuts which fall from trees on your premises. Store pet food in containers with tight fitting lids.

If you see evidence of rats on your premises, or see rats in your neighborhood, please take immediate action to eliminate the problem. For large infestations, you may need to contact a professional exterminator. For small, incidental situations, the City of St. John provides FREE rat bait in specially designated, disposable boxes which attract rats and prevent exposure to children or other animals. The City will only be able to provide one bait box per residence per year as supplies are limited.

Due to new EPA regulations, the City of St. John Rat Bait Program has changed. We are now required to use pre-loaded, disposable bait stations which will be provided in the original boxes with complete product labeling. This product may be used only in a manner consistent with its labeling.

Residents may still pick-up bait boxes at City Hall between the hours of 8am - 5pm, Monday through Friday. Place boxes at the site of rat activity, but never further than fifty (50) feet from the structure. When the bait station is completely empty, dispose of it in the trash or recycling. If the bait station is partially filled, it may be placed in the trash receptacle only. Unused product must never be flushed down any indoor or outdoor drain.
Reminder about Christmas Lighting and Decorations

The Municipal code allows Christmas lighting and decorations to be displayed starting November 1 of each year and must be taken down before January 31 of the following year.

City of St. John
8944 Saint Charles Rock Road
Suite 100
St. John, MO 63114-4200
www.cityofstjohn.org

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

Reminder about Christmas Lighting and Decorations

The Municipal code allows Christmas lighting and decorations to be displayed starting November 1 of each year and must be taken down before January 31 of the following year.

City of St. John
8944 Saint Charles Rock Road
Suite 100
St. John, MO 63114-4200
www.cityofstjohn.org

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES