April 2015 Election Filing Dates

The 2015 Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015. The following seats will be open:

**Councilperson - Ward I - (Pam Hollenberg)**
**Councilperson - Ward II - (Mary Halaska)**

Filing for this election opens at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2015. Petitions are available at City Hall, located on the first floor of the St. John Municipal Center, 8944 St. Charles Rock Road.

In order to file for office, candidates must:

- Be a current resident of St. John
- Have legally resided in St. John for one year or more
- Be 21 years of age or older
- Currently be a registered voter in St. John
- Be current with payment of all State, County & Municipal taxes

Candidates meeting the above requirements must file a petition (supplied by City Hall) with the City Clerk containing the signatures of ten (10) registered voters (in indelible ink). Candidates filing for Council must live in the Ward in which they are filing for and the signatures of their sponsors must be from that same Ward. Nominees are not allowed to sign their own petition. The filing fee is $10 and must accompany the petition at the time of filing. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the City Hall at 427-8700, x 3.

**PROPOSITION “S”**

Proposition “S” (as in SAFE STREETS) is a proposed 1/2 cent sales tax that will be presented to St. John voters on April 7, 2015. This sales tax is essential to help maintain critical municipal services to the citizens of St. John. Law Enforcement, Street Maintenance, and Snow Plowing are essential services. Demand and cost for these services continue to rise. Unfortunately, City revenues have not kept pace with these rising costs.

Proposition “S” will annually generate approximately $400,000 in new revenue. These additional funds will be used to support Law Enforcement and Street Maintenance. Without new revenue sources, the City of St. John may not be able to continue providing these professional services at the level we have all grown accustomed to.

A Vote for PROPOSITION “S” is a Vote for:

- Continued Quality Law Enforcement Services
- Well Maintained Streets
- High Quality Municipal Services
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Strong Property Values
- SAFE STREETS

**REGISTERING TO VOTE IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY**

Registering to vote in St. Louis County is very easy. There are numerous registration sites available throughout St. Louis County for those eligible to register to vote. The additional sites are made available in an effort to accommodate individuals who are unable to come directly to the St. Louis County Election Board. These sites include most city halls (including St. John), libraries and schools in addition to Special School District facilities, local branches of the Junior College District, Universities and Colleges, and various businesses, union halls and churches within St. Louis County.

State election laws also provide for registration by mail, at all County department of motor vehicle registration offices and state offices providing public assistance while conducting other official business at their establishment.

To register to vote in St. Louis County, a person must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Must be 17 years of age (18 years old by Election Day)
- Be a resident of St. Louis County

Please contact the Election Board for any additional registration information by calling 314-615-1800.
Dear Friends, Neighbors and Residents,

As Mayor of the City of St. John, I’ve been contacted many times about the recent events in our neighboring City of Ferguson, Missouri. Many of our St. John residents are concerned for the safety and security of our own community. Civil unrest is a rare event. Unfortunately it has recently occurred right in our own County. When communities are impacted by floods, tornados, heat waves, and blizzards: we all come together to help one another. Often-times these events require more personnel, equipment, expertise, and resources than what local communities can provide. The events occurring in Ferguson were no exception. Although not weather related, the civil unrest impacted the day-to-day lives of residents, visitors, government and businesses.

The City of St. John and numerous other municipal governments came to the aid of the City of Ferguson, once civil unrest began. The St. John Police Department deployed Officers, equipment, and vehicles to support the Ferguson and St. Louis County Police Departments. For the following two months, the St. John Police Department continued this support in Ferguson.

Residents may wonder if providing personnel and equipment to neighboring communities during a time of need could jeopardize the safety and security of our own community. Rest assured, at no time were the residents of St. John left with an inadequate number of officers on patrol. All deployed officers to Ferguson were on their days off. The normal number of officers patrolling our community did not change during the unrest.

No communities should ever have to experience the events that unfolded in our neighboring City of Ferguson. No City can be 100% prepared and insulated from civil unrest. However, lessons must be learned from this event. Your Public Officials and City Staff are committed in keeping the streets of St. John safe and secure. We understand the diversity in our community requires better insight into the cultures, traditions, and customs of all residents. Our City has always embraced the community spirit of welcomed acceptance to all our neighbors.

Your elected officials and City staff welcome dialog to enhance community relations. Let’s keep St. John a great place to live and raise our families!

In 2009, the City of St. John became the sixth (6th) jurisdiction in the State of Missouri to pass a primary seat belt ordinance. A primary seat belt ordinance allows a law enforcement officer to stop a vehicle and issue a seat belt citation, without the need to have an accompanying violation.

Significant debate and confusion existed as to whether a local government could legislate and enforce a law having more regulation than state law. On May 20, 2014 the Eastern District Court of Appeals found the St. John primary seat belt law to be valid and enforceable.

The City of St. John and the St. John Police Department are committed to keeping our streets safe, saving lives, reducing serious injuries in accidents, and saving our residents from unaffordable medical expenses.

BUCKLE UP! IT’S THE LAW!

Cleaning and disinfecting wipes, personal hygiene products, baby wipes – they all are “disposable,” so why not flush them down the toilet? Quite simply because disposing of such items in the toilet – even those labeled “flushable”– instead of in the trash causes big problems, both for the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and for homeowners.

Mounds of disposable materials clog sewer lines, pumps, and lift stations. They can cause sewer backups and damage plant equipment. Clearing such materials from the wastewater stream is time-consuming and labor-intensive. Even dental floss flushed down the toilet can cause problems. Dental floss is very strong and durable. It can get tangled up in pumps and equipment, or worsen minor clogs within pipes by “binding” materials together.

These items are also a big problem for property owners’ home plumbing and sewer laterals, which are smaller in diameter and more susceptible to clogs. The sewer system is not designed for disposable wipes, dental floss, or similar items. Sewer clogs caused by these items can result in considerable cleanup expense and potential harm to our environment.

Please don’t use your toilet as a trash can! Only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed down your toilet. Put everything else in the trash, where it belongs.
NEW EMPLOYEES

In June 2014 the City hired Amy Collins as a part time Clerk in the Municipal Court. She was born in St. Louis, but grew up in Columbia where she attended a community college for Business and Office Technology. She moved to St. Charles in March of 2013.

In July 2014 the City of St. John hired Officer Curtis McPherson as a full-time police officer. Curtis had been a Reserve Officer with the City of St. John since August 2013 while being employed full-time in his family’s business. Curtis is a 2000 graduate of Central Missouri State University, attaining a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice after discovering his passion for law enforcement while in college.

Curtis was the 2013 Reserve Officer of the Year, after a nearly unanimous vote among his peers. He is well-liked and respected, and is a welcome addition to our City.

Randy Toedebusch was recently hired as a Patrol Officer for the City. Randy has an Associate’s Degree in Computer Programming from Sanford Brown College and is working towards his Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice. Randy graduated from the Law Enforcement Training Institute at University of Missouri in 2012 and previously worked for the Charlack Police Department until being hired by St. John.

Shari Pijut was hired by St. John as their new Code Enforcement & Animal Control Officer. She comes with prior experience from St. Louis County where she was an Animal Control Officer for eight and a half years. She is a certified Animal Control Officer through the Missouri Animal Control Association. She is also certified in chemical immobilization through the National Animal Control Association. She will be doing code enforcement as well as animal control for the City.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT TEAM (N.E.T.)

The St. John Police Department and your St. John Elected Officials have joined together to form the New Neighborhood Enhancement Team (N.E.T.).

The purpose of this team of staff and officials is to help out residents that are struggling to maintain their properties. Senior Citizen homeowners and/or homeowners with physical disabilities often-times lack the ability to care for their homes. Locating or affording a “handy man” for minor clean-up and repairs can be a challenge.

The Neighborhood Enhancement Team will show up in mass, armed with shovels, chainsaws, lawn mowers, and large dumpsters. Within a few hours, a noticeable improvement to the residence will be noticed. Our goal is to encourage and improve “Curb Appeal” throughout our community. Volunteers are needed. Civic organizations, church groups, scouts and students needing community service hours are encouraged to participate. If you can donate your time, tools, and talent, please contact thalaska@cityofstjohn.org or jmorris@cityofstjohn.org.
**UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**LIMB CHIPPER SCHEDULE**

On Monday, November 3rd the Street Department began running the limb chipper through the City. On the first and third Monday of each month we will run through the east side of town (East side of Marshall, to the eastern City limits), and on the second and fourth Monday of each month we will cover the west side of town (West side of Marshall, to the western City limits).

As always, please be sure to put the fat end of the limbs out next to the curb and make sure that no limbs are over 3” in diameter. Also please make sure that you do not block sidewalks with your limbs nor put them in the street. If there is a sidewalk in front of your home just set the limbs behind the sidewalk. We’ll get them for you. Thanks for your cooperation and remember, the chipper will run until the last week of April, 2015.

**IN THE EVENT OF A SNOW STORM**

For those of you who put stock in the Old Farmer’s Almanac, we are supposed to have another snow filled winter this year.

We want to remind all residents that when snow is in the forecast it is helpful if all cars are parked off the street so we can plow with a minimum of blockage from parked cars. We realize that this is not always possible for everyone, so please understand that when the snow plow comes around it may cover the driver’s side of your car if the snow is deep and your car sits on the street very long. It is particularly critical for residents on the narrower streets to try and park off the street in a snow event, or at least try to park all cars on the same side of the street. As we have reported in the past, federal clean water guidelines require us to use less and less salt every year so plowing early and often is critical to getting the streets as clear as possible as soon as possible.

Finally, every year it seems we must apologize in advance because of how normal snow plow operations seem to pile snow and ice up at the end of driveways. It’s unavoidable. The plows are directed to remove snow from the street and it only has one place to go and that’s to the curb. We are sorry for the inconvenience this may cause those who have shoveled off their driveways only to have the snow plows cover the end up again.

**FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING & DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT**

**Saturday, May 9th  9am-Noon (RAIN OR SHINE)**

Bristol Ave. Parking Lot Across from
The St. John Municipal Center,
8944 St. Charles Rock, St. John, MO

This Event Is Open To The Public
You DO NOT have to be a St. John resident.

There is no charge for items unless otherwise noted. Basically anything that has a cord or uses batteries is accepted. Items can include:

- Computers; Printers; Keyboards; Hard Drives;
- Fax Machines; Scanners; Laptops; VCRs;
- Stereos; DVD Players; Speakers; Answering Machines; Cell Phones; Pagers; Televisions*;
- Kitchen Appliances; Radios; Power Tools; Air Conditioners; Furnaces; Water Heaters; Lawn & Garden Equip.**

*A fee may apply depending on the type and size of the TV. Cash or check accepted on site.

**Lawn & Garden Equipment Must have Oil & Gas Removed.
Looking to increase your activity level? Join our senior oriented aerobics class involving low impact aerobic exercise and the use of Dyna-bands. Class is held on Monday & Wednesdays from 8:45 – 9:30 am. The cost is only $2.00 per person per class. You only pay for the classes you attend.

Join other area seniors for exercise of the mind and body through slow movements and concentration. Class is held on Thursdays from 8 – 8:45 am. The cost is only $1.50 per person per class. You only pay for the classes you attend.

NEW GUIDELINES FOR DOG & CAT LICENSING

In March, the Council amended the City code regulating the licensing of dogs & cats. Licenses for unaltered dogs/cats are now $20. Altered animals are $2.00. In addition, the previous licensing deadline of February 28th was changed to May 1st. This allows residents the opportunity to take advantage of the lower inoculation fees at the annual Rabies Clinic held in April of each year.
Criminals look for the easiest opportunity when deciding to commit a crime. Shoppers, particularly women, can be vulnerable to such crimes as theft, robbery, and assault. The following crime prevention tips or recommendations are designed to make shopping as safe of an experience as possible.

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Knowing who and what is around you can help you avoid being surprised. It also allows you time to react if something does appear suspicious.
- Display confidence. Criminals choose the victim who looks like the easiest target. That choice is partially based on their perception about your abilities to react to an attack. If you walk with purpose, scan the area around you, and make casual eye contact with others, you are displaying confidence.
- Trust your instincts. Your body will tell you when someone or something is suspicious. If you have an intuitive feeling something is wrong, do not second-guess yourself. React immediately and take action to reduce your risk.
- Carry only what you need. Extra cash, credit cards, checks, jewelry and other items should be left at home. If it is necessary to carry a purse, keep it in front and close to your body. Men should keep wallets out of back pockets where they are easily stolen. Carry wallets in front coat pockets or use a money clip as an alternative.
- Don’t be overburdened with packages. Carrying several shopping bags makes you look vulnerable. Request a store to hold your merchandise until you are finished with your shopping. If the store does not offer that service, place your purchases in the trunk of your car before you buy additional items.
- Shop with others. The chance of being victimized drops dramatically when you are with a companion. If there are three or more people together, the chance of being targeted for crime is 90% less than when alone.
- Ask for an escort. Many retailers have security personnel. Ask for an escort to your vehicle if you are uneasy about venturing into the parking lot alone.
- Be prepared. Have your keys in hand when walking to your vehicle. The keys can be used as a defensive weapon and you will not waste time trying to find them when standing outside your vehicle. Carry a whistle or personal alarm. These devices will alert those around you something is wrong.
- Plan ahead. Choose areas to park where lighting is good and activity is high. Valuables in your vehicle should be kept out of view. Be sure to lock the car at all times. Most auto burglaries occur on cars that are left unlocked.

The St. John Police Department wants everyone to have a safe shopping experience. And remember to be proactive and join the St. John Neighborhood Watch Program by contacting Sgt. Selby or Sgt. Barthelmass at 427-8700 Ext 5 for details on joining.
In May 2013, the St. John Police Department implemented what was named the Targeted Area Problem Solving program (T.A.P.S.). This program was formed in response to persistent neighborhood issues such as drugs, thefts, truancy, etc. negatively affecting the quality of life for our residents.

We began by discussing issues with residents to find out what the most important issues to their community were. After speaking with numerous residents, it was obvious that one or two problem houses on a street could severely affect the quality of life for the entire neighborhood. By identifying problem residences, we were able to develop a more focused plan to reduce or eliminate the neighborhood problem(s).

All St. John officers were assigned to be part of the solution. When a suspected problem residence is identified, an individual officer or a team of officers were empowered to devise a solution. Many times the problem was found to be drug related, in others it was lack of parental supervision, in others we found more than one type of illegal activity.

We increased our efforts to keep lines of communication with our residents open. We have attempted to make it easier for citizens to report illegal activities and problem residents to us. The more citizens that feel safe coming to us with a problem, the better our opportunity to solve the problem.

As of September 22, 2014 our TAPS program has been involved in over 65 investigations of problem subjects and/or residences. We have seized approximately 7 methamphetamine laboratories, made over 50 Felony Drug Arrests, 6 Federal prosecutions for weapons and firearms, cleared several burglaries and thefts, and we have started civil actions against numerous neighborhood problem properties. We have also directly seized approximately $20,000 in US currency which was all donated to local school districts. In a large percentage of cases, these neighborhood problems have elected to move to other towns rather than comply with existing laws and ordinances. We believe that we have had a positive impact in making St. John a “Good Place to Live.”

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you may contact Captain Chad Rackers at 314-427-8700 ext. 5 or you may contact the TAPS Program Supervisor, Sgt. Paul Anderson at TAPS@Cityofstjohn.org or 314-884-6262.

ALL REPORTS CAN BE MADE ANONYMOUSLY.

TAPS - WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY TO BETTER THE COMMUNITY
Another beautiful fall season is upon us, which means it’s time to deal with fallen leaves and other yard waste before winter sets in. MSD Project Clear is urging the community to follow the below tips when tending to their yard. As you rake the fallen leaves and other yard waste from your property this fall, please refrain from using inlets as a disposal site. MSD manages 162,054 inlets throughout the district, and needs your help to keep them clear. Inlets full of leaves and yard waste can clog, creating standing water in neighborhoods and in streets. As temperatures fall, this standing water can cause icy conditions on roads, which we hope you will help us avoid. By following these tips, you can help ensure your yard waste won’t affect your street or your neighbors this fall. Please:

- Do not dump fallen leaves and other yard waste into the inlets, storm drains or on creek banks.
- Clean up fallen leaves and other yard waste that reach the street to keep it out of the storm drain system.
- Use a mulching mower or a mulching blade and leave grass clippings on the lawn as fertilizer.
- Use fallen leaves as winter or summer mulch or shred them and leave them on the lawn.
- Compost your leaves, brush, grass clippings and other yard waste.

- Do not dump grass or yard waste onto a creek bank or area where it will be washed into creeks and rivers.
- Contact your municipality or trash hauler about collecting leaves and other yard waste.

About MSD Project Clear

MSD Project Clear is the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District’s initiative to improve water quality and alleviate many wastewater concerns in the St. Louis region. MSD Project Clear will invest billions of dollars over a generation in planning, designing, and building community rainscaping and system improvements, along with an ambitious program of maintenance and repair and the disconnection of some residential downspouts in parts of St. Louis County’s separate sewer area from the wastewater sewer line. This work is part of an agreement between MSD and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The St. Louis region’s success with MSD Project Clear will only be possible through strong partnerships and clear communications with the public.

To learn more about the MSD agreement with EPA, please visitwww.stlmsd.com/aboutmsd/organization/consentdecree. For more information on MSD Project Clear, visit ProjectClearSTL.org or follow us on Twitter@ProjectClearSTL.
ST. JOHN POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH LIAISONS  A Partnership for Success

Approximately 1 year ago, the Police Department was approached by a group of professionals calling themselves the “Community Mental Health Liaisons.” They marketed themselves as a State funded group that would be a resource bridging the gap between mental health service providers, police officers and potential consumers. Initially, we were on board, but didn’t know what to expect. Historically, frequent calls from the mentally ill were frustrating for officers as consumers would be taken to the hospital but would be released within a few days, without receiving any long-term treatment.

We began by contacting a CMHL (Community Mental Health Liaison) any time that we had a contact with someone in the community that we believed was in need of emergency or non-emergency mental health services. If it was a non-emergency situation, a CMHL would contact the consumer within a few hours and make arrangements to meet the consumer. The CMHL would determine if their services were needed and would ensure that they were provided. In an emergency situation, a person in crisis would be taken to a hospital and the CMHL would follow the progress of the consumer. The CMHL would again ensure that all necessary services were received.

The results of this partnership were amazing. Frequent calls to the same addresses for the same issues were being dramatically reduced. Officers were receiving timely, accurate information regarding their referrals. Officers were very willing to put forth significant effort when they knew that the consumer was going to receive the help they needed.

Over the last year, we have referred approximately 50 cases to the CMHL, with numerous success stories along the way. One of the most significant successes happened approximately 8 months ago, involving Sgt. Heimann, Officer Will and Sgt. Barthelmass. The officers received a call for a burglary in progress, and ultimately captured the subject inside the residence. During the booking process, it became apparent to the officers that the suspect was suffering from some type of severe mental illness. The officers contacted the CMHL, who were able to locate family for the individual in southern Missouri. The CMHL collaborated with their cohorts in southern Missouri and were able to facilitate treatment with the consumer’s family. The consumer received treatment and is doing exceptionally well as a result of continuing treatment. The officers also contacted the St. Louis County Courts to ensure that the consumer was not incarcerated as a result of their psychiatric illness. The victim of the burglary was satisfied with the result, the Courts were not unnecessarily tied up with an unnecessary case, and the consumer is receiving the necessary treatment to be a highly functioning member of society.

In summary, we believe that this program is one of the most valuable programs we have seen in law enforcement in the past 40 years. If you know of someone who may benefit from CMHL attention, contact Captain Rackers or Sgt. Connell at 314-427-8700 ext. 5 and we will be glad to arrange for a contact with one of the St. Louis Area Community Mental Health Liaisons.
The City of St. John welcomes Tim Crawford, owner of Rock Road Pawn Shop, to its new location at 9191 St. Charles Rock Road. Tim is no stranger to our City. He has been in the pawn shop business, exclusively in St. John, for the past twenty-three years. After outgrowing his two previous locations, his business now operates out of a larger 19,000 square foot facility.

Tim was asked why he prefers to keep his business location in St. John. He replied “I never considered any locations other than in St. John. I have loyal customers in the neighborhood. I like the Rock Road business community. City Hall has always been accommodating when changing locations. And I feel safe and comfortable with the service from our Police Department”.

Tim and his staff are excited about the new facility and future services. Rock Road Pawn will continue to make loans, trades and purchases on jewelry, tools, firearms and electronics. However, their new larger facility will provide these services for larger items such as motorcycles, jet-skis, lawn equipment and boats.

X-TREME CLEAN COIN LAUNDRY
3507 WOODSON ROAD
314-890-9274

Did you wonder what business was going into the old Dolly Madison store on Woodson Road. Well it’s X-treme Clean Coin Laundry. They held their Grand Opening on October 25th!

Pictured above is Keysa Carter who, with her husband Trevin, own X-treme Clean. We are proud to announce and welcome this newest addition to our St. John community!

Newsletter in Spanish
If you would like a copy of our newsletter in Spanish, please email Tom Halaska (in Spanish is fine) at thalaska@cityofstjohn.org

Si usted quiere una copia en Español de nuestro boletín de noticias, por favor mándeme un correo electrónico (en español está bien) a thalaska@cityofstjohn.org

For Rent
2 Bedroom, One Bath Apartments
Starting at $550, Extremely nice at $700
At the corner of North Ave and Woodson Ave

North Woodson Apartments
314 307-4269 or 314 307-4538
Affordable Living, Nicely Done™
METH LABS: Did you Know?

“Meth” (Methamphetamine) labs are a common problem in the State of Missouri, including the St. Louis area and locations in and around the City of St. John. Missouri leads the country in the amount of incidents reported. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s Methamphetamine Lab Incidents list, there were 11,210 illegal laboratory incidents in 2012.

Meth labs, more so than other narcotics manufacturing, pose an extreme danger to the health and safety of the public. Two of the most common hazards associated are the potential for fires or explosions and the extremely toxic chemicals used. Exposure to these chemicals can occur through inhalation, absorption or through direct skin contact and ingestion.

Signs of a potential meth lab include pungent odors, empty chemical containers and unkept properties. If you suspect a possible meth lab, do not enter the building or area. Instead, allow local law enforcement and first responder hazmat teams to remove the toxic chemicals and all items associated. Remember that ventilation is one of the most important steps to minimize the risk of contamination or explosion.

If you suspect a possible meth lab in your area, or just wish to request further information about this topic, please do not hesitate to call the Police Department at 314-427-8700. If you’re reporting a suspected meth lab after regular business hours, contact the Dispatcher at 314-889-2341. For non-emergency reports, you can also report anonymously via email at TAPS@cityofstjohn.org.

Cindy’s Adult Day Care

9424 Guthrie Ave.
Woodson Terrace, MO 63134
Phone: (314) 427-9997
Fax: (314) 427-9998
Hours: Monday - Friday 9 A.M. - 5 P.M

Cindy’s Adult Daycare also has a Consumer Direct Service in which you can be paid to care for your loved ones at home. The program includes bathing, meal preparation, transportation, and other necessary needs. You can reach Cindy Laster at 427-9997 for more information or come by the adult center at 9424 Guthrie in Woodson Terrace.
PROJECT BLUE LIGHT

The St. John Police Department and Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. (COPS) are again asking for our citizens to support Project Blue Light. COPS is a national grief support organization comprised of surviving family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

What is Project Blue Light? This is a project intended to show support for law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the line of duty. It is also, a sign of support for our officers who work in our community, 24 hours a day. During the holiday season, residents are asked to put blue lights in their front porch lamps and in their holiday decorations.

The Police Department will provide a free blue light to any resident wishing to participate in Project Blue Light. Simply stop by City Hall to receive your light.

Newsletter can be interpreted upon request.