This past October, our City was extremely fortunate to provide major home renovations to our residents on October 8th, 9th and 10th. Nearly 500 volunteers converged on the Kincaid-Betty Lee neighborhood to provide home repairs to fifteen (15) homeowners. This project, known as “Building A Healthy Neighborhood” had been in the planning process for nearly a year. One of the driving forces behind this project was the organization Rebuilding Together - St. Louis. They are the local affiliate of the National Volunteer Organization Rebuilding Together. Their mission is to bring volunteers and communities together to improve the lives of homeowners in need.

Rebuilding Together selected the City of St. John through a competitive process as their annual “Building A Healthy Neighborhood” community. The purpose of this project was to improve the homes of residents of age, limited income, and/or health issues. The goal is to allow these homeowners the continued opportunity to live independently, in the safety and comfort of their own homes.

Rebuilding Together coordinated the application process, gathered volunteers and received nearly $100,000 in corporate donations. Repairs and renovations included remodeled kitchens/baths, floors, porches, electric panels, plumbing, windows, smoke detectors, and HVAC units. Volunteers and Corporate donations were supplied by Lowes Hardware, Charter Communications, Emerson Electric, Pepsi, Bank of America, and Rottler Pest Control. In addition to home repairs, this project also included renovating (converting) a vacant lot into a small park.

We, as a community, are proud of our partnership with Rebuilding Together and its corporate sponsors. Considerable amounts of effort in the planning, application and coordinating of resources have all been truly worthwhile. This joint venture between local government, a national non-profit, and Corporate America has truly impacted our community. A neighborhood remains stable because residents can live safely and independently in the comfort of their home and community.

April 5th, 2016 Election Filing Dates

The 2016 Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. The following seats will be open:

Mayor (Tom Halaska) • Councilperson - Ward I (Justin Saffell) • Councilperson - Ward II (Bill Bales)

Filing for this election opens at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016. 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 City, County, and State 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.
Recently the City of St. John and Rebuilding Together - St. Louis have developed a partnership to provide funding opportunities to homeowners for property repairs and improvements.

“Rebuilding Together - St. Louis” mission is to revitalize neighborhoods by rehabilitating the houses of low income homeowners, particularly the elderly, disabled, and veterans. Their goal is to allow homeowners to live independently in the safety and comfort of their own homes.

They can provide the following repairs: Electrical, Plumbing, Painting, AC/Heating, Flooring, Roof repairs and Handicap accessibility improvements. Skilled and experienced volunteers provide these services at NO COST to the homeowner.

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 17½ 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.
NEW ORDINANCE

On March 16, 2015, the St. John City Council, in response to the increasing use of inhalants within the City limits of St. John, passed Ordinance # 1064 – Possession, Use, or Inducement to Use Solvents Prohibited. Although the illicit usage of these chemicals had not become a widespread threat to our citizens, the Police Department had seen a noticeable increase in the incidents of usage within the City of St. John. Prior to this Ordinance, the City of St. John did not have an effective means to prosecute these types of crimes.

**Ordinance # 1064 is described as follows:**

A. A person shall be in violation of this Ordinance if he or she:

1. Intentionally smells or inhales the fumes of any solvent, gas, aerosols, propellants, alkyl nitrites, or nitrous oxide to induce symptoms of intoxication, elation, euphoria, or for the purpose of changing, distorting or disturbing the audio, visual or mental process. (This does not apply to the lawful administration of anesthesia for medicinal purposes.)

2. Induces or causes another to do the conduct prohibited in the preceding sub-paragraph.

3. Intentionally possesses or buys any solvent, gas, aerosols, propellants, alkyl nitrates, or nitrous oxide for the purpose of using it in a manner prohibited by Section 210.395A.1.

**Signs and symptoms of usage of these types of chemicals can consist of the following:**

- Loss of inhibitions or control
- Periods of drowsy feelings
- Lingering headache
- Confusion
- Nausea
- Vomiting

If you have questions about this ordinance, or believe that someone you know is utilizing these chemicals to their own detriment, you can contact an officer at 314-427-8700 ext. 5 between 8am and 5pm or after hours at 636-529-8210.

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

ST. JOHN’S ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The City of St. John will hold its Annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. SHARP! Doors will open at 9:30 am. Tickets are limited and are only available for children and grandchildren of St. John residents, 9 years of age or younger. Tickets are available now. They are free and can be picked up at the St. John Municipal Center, City Hall Office, 8944 St. Charles Rock Road, Suite 100, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Proof of residency is required. Tickets are available until 5 pm, Friday, December 11, 2015 OR until they run out. In order to allow the maximum amount of children to attend, adult tickets are limited to 2 per family.

Don’t Forget To Bring Your Cameras For A Photo With Santa!

ANNUAL CHILDREN’S EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 11 am SHARP !!!
Marvin Elementary School • 3510 Woodson Road
(NW Corner of St. Charles Rock Road & Woodson Rd)
(Check the City’s website (www.cityofstjohn.org) closer to time for the date tickets will be available)

2016 RABIES CLINIC

The clinic will again be held in April 2016. The exact date is still being worked on. Be sure to watch for our April Newsletter (delivered the end of March) for the exact date. You can also find the information on the City’s website (www.cityofstjohn.org) and digital sign board once the date is confirmed.

GREAT BATTERY ROUNDUP

Helping To Keep Members On-the-Go and Make the Earth a Little Greener at the Same Time

AAA realizes that the environment is important to you, and it’s important to us too! 2016 AAA’s annual Great Battery Roundup® campaign, held from April 17th to the 23rd in commemoration of Earth Day. The purpose of this event is to seek the public’s help in corralling the millions of used, lead-acid batteries that have not made their way back to their natural habitat: the recycling plant. The campaign augments the year-round collection efforts of the AAA Battery Service, which is available in select areas and removes used batteries for recycling each time a replacement automotive battery is installed.

Lead-acid batteries can be dangerous to children and pets and can pollute soil and groundwater. Just one of these batteries contains 21 pounds of lead, three pounds of plastic, and one gallon of sulfuric acid, all of which can be reprocessed into new batteries.

AAA Approved Auto Repair Facility and Floyd’s Tire & Car Care are pleased to provide this recycling opportunity to the public in the St John area. Just bring your old car, truck, boat, and motorcycle batteries in for proper recycling.
UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Looking to increase your activity level?

AEROBICS

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.

T’AI CHI CHIH

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.

SENIOR CITIZEN UTILITY TAX REBATES

Utility tax rebates for the year 2015 will be issued February 1, 2016 – April 30, 2016. 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 2015;
2) Currently reside in the City and have previously resided in the City for the entire calendar year of 2015; 
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 2015 and one bill for December 2015 reflecting the address which they reside at and are requesting the rebate for.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at 427-8700, ext. 3.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING & DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT COMING IN 2016

The electronic recycling event has been very popular since the City started holding it three years ago. With the addition of the document shredding truck last year, its popularity increased tremendously.

Coordination of the 2016 event is currently in progress. Watch for the date & time in the April 2016 Newsletter, on the City’s Digital Reader Board and website.
SNOW PLOWING

With the winter snow season approaching we want to take this opportunity to again remind residents of how they can help the Street Department with snow removal. The Street Department works very hard to try and get the snow and ice off City streets in a timely manner. And every year we find that cars left parked on the streets during and after a snow event can slow down that process.

When snow is being forecasted for our area, please make arrangements to park your car off the street. This is particularly critical on the narrow streets. If cars are parked on both sides of a narrow street it makes it very difficult for the snow plows to make their way down the street to clear it off. And when the snow is pushed up against the driver’s side of a parked car it will be harder for you to get your driver’s side door open. So help us out and make arrangements to park your car off the street when snow is in the forecast.

As always, we apologize in advance for pushing snow onto a driveway approach that has already been cleaned off. It can’t be helped and we are sorry for the additional work it may cause you. We appreciate your assistance and understanding as we work to make your streets safe and passable.
The fall limb chipping schedule began on November 2 and will run through April 25-26, 2016. This is a service the City provides to its residents who may need to trim tree limbs or large shrubs from their property. The Street Department runs the limb chipper through the City on the following schedule:

**East side of town (Marshall to the east City limits)** - First and third Monday of each month.

**West side of town (Marshall to the west City limits)** - Second and third Monday of each month.

Please remember that the limb chipper can only take limbs that are 3˝ in diameter or smaller. Place all limbs to be chipped at the curb with the fat ends out toward the street. We ask that you not block sidewalks with your limbs, nor put them out in the street. Just lay the limbs out behind the sidewalk if you have one and we will pick them up. Thanks for your cooperation.

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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 in at the Police Department to receive your light.
City of St. John
8944 Saint Charles Rock Road
Suite 100
St. John, MO 63114-4200

www.cityofstjohn.org

Did you know……?
The City Hall has extended hours on the first & third Wednesday of every month? On those days (unless they fall on a holiday) the City Hall is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. for City Hall business.

Newsletter can be interpreted upon request.