



The St. John Scoop — September-October 2026

Hello St. John neighbors! As your Mayor, I'm excited to share a quick, friendly update on what's happening around our city. If your neighbors would like to receive this newsletter by email, they can request a copy anytime at newsletter@cityofstjohn.org, we will have copies in the lobby at City Hall.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call City Hall 314-427-8700 (press 3)



The National Drug Take Back event will be held on Saturday, October 24th, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Saint John Municipal Center 8944 Saint Charles Rock Road in the City Hall lobby. This is a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our medicine cabinets. The 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 and will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical drug abuse these DEA take back days are about educating people about the importance of a Safeway to dispose of any unwanted unusual or expired prescription medications in their home. If you are unable to attend this event but have items you wish to dispose of you can bring them to the City Hall lobby during business hours and drop them in the mailbox type container in the lobby

ITEMS THAT WE CANNOT TAKE INCLUDE: Needles . Inhalers . Liquids.



Community Spotlight

Celebrating 100 Years: St. Johns Bank & Trust

In 2026, **St. Johns Bank & Trust Company celebrates an impressive 100 years of service** to St. John and the greater St. Louis community. The bank was founded in **1926 by Walter H. Branneky in St. John, Missouri**, with a focus on serving the financial needs of local families and businesses. A century later, St. Johns Bank remains **independently owned and family managed**, carrying forward the community-banking tradition on which it was founded.

Over the decades, St. Johns Bank has grown beyond its original hometown roots to serve customers throughout St. Louis and St. Charles counties while maintaining its emphasis on personal service and local involvement. The bank continues to reinvest deposits into the communities it serves and today operates four locations in the region. As St. Johns Bank marks its **Centennial Anniversary on October 2nd, 2026**, its 100-year history represents a remarkable legacy of local ownership, stability, and commitment to the people and communities of the St. Louis area.

A few housekeeping items

With fall just around the corner, we need to advise you that there are very strict standards for open burn pits and before you construct one you will need to obtain a permit from both the City and the Community Fire Protection District. The guidelines for construction of open burn pits can be obtained from the fire Marshall's office (314-428-1128). Here are some things to keep in mind with regard to **open burn pits**.

- Only seasonal wood is permitted for recreational fires. Yard waste, construction materials, treated lumber, rubber, plastics, or any other type of trash is prohibited.
- Fires must be in an approved container not less than 15 feet from any structure, the area must be free of any other combustibles, and they should be placed so that they are free of overhangs such as tree branches, utility lines, and structures.
- A means of fire extinguishment shall be available at all times and the fire shall not be allowed to cause smoke or odors which would constitute a public nuisance. The fire shall be supervised at all times by a person at least 18 years of age.
- Last, but certainly not least, a screen cover must be on the fire pit at all times the fire is burning. **There are approved fire pits that can be purchased at the local big box hardware stores that do not require a permit as long as they are in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Please see our website or contact city hall for the exact ordinance.**

Trash/recycling/Yard Waste Holiday dates



Labor Day

Mon, Sep 7

Thanksgiving Day

Thu, Nov 26

Christmas Day

Fri, Dec 25

If your service falls on or after the holiday, your pickup will be delayed by one day.

Street Repairs

The City of St. John Public Works Division is excited to announce that Orlando Avenue completed! Thank you for your patience while it was under construction.

Sanitary Sewer Lateral Repair Assistance Program

The City of Saint John's **Sanitary Sewer Lateral Repair Assistance Program** helps homeowners with the cost of repairing qualifying damaged clay tile sewer laterals.

Homeowners pay a **\$350 application fee**, which covers the sewer camera inspection and administrative costs. If the damaged clay tile lateral qualifies and the repair is located **outside the foundation wall to the sewer main**, the City will reimburse eligible repair costs **up to \$3,500**.

Property owners must submit an application through the City of Saint John before participating in the program. For more information or to obtain an application, contact City Hall at (314) 427-8700.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

A Safer Start to the School Year

Heightened visibility, consistent enforcement, and shared responsibility—focused on keeping young people and the entire community safe.

THE PURPOSE IS PREVENTION: addressing unsafe behavior early, before it becomes an injury, a victim, or a more serious offense.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ST. JOHN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Historically, over the past several years, our calls for service involving inappropriate juvenile behavior through our business district have skyrocketed during the school year. These calls include public disturbances, business disturbances, fights, trespassing, peace disturbance, general disorderly conduct, and traffic disruption.

This year alone, St. John has already had to respond to multiple incidents of juveniles being struck by a vehicle along St. Charles Rock Rd. In each case, failing to cross at a crosswalk and/or the inappropriate actions of the pedestrians were contributing factors.

As students return to school, the St. John Police Department will increase officer visibility and enforcement during arrival, dismissal, and after-school hours. Officers will focus on conduct that creates a genuine safety or public-order concern, including unsafe pedestrian behavior, fighting and disturbances, trespassing, property damage, obstruction of traffic or access, truancy, and other violations of law.

This strategy is not about labeling young people or treating ordinary social activity as criminal. It is about preventing risky conduct from escalating, protecting students and motorists, respecting residents and businesses, and keeping officers available for emergencies. Enforcement decisions will be based on specific behavior and the facts of each incident—not age, appearance, or association.

Parents, guardians, and schools are essential partners. Please know where your child is after school, set clear expectations, respond promptly when contacted, and take corrective action when concerns arise. This year, we will be taking a **ZERO-TOLERANCE** stance. When the legal requirements are met, parents and/or guardians will be held accountable under applicable City ordinances. Our first goal is voluntary cooperation; when violations occur, officers will take fair, proportionate, and lawful action, up to and including arresting juvenile offenders and issuing citations to parents and/or guardians.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY CAN EXPECT**VISIBLE PRESENCE**

More attention to school routes, crossings, public spaces, and common gathering areas during peak times.

CONDUCT-BASED ACTION

Warnings, referrals, summonses, or other lawful action based on severity, repetition, evidence, and the total circumstances.

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Prompt parent/guardian and school notification when appropriate, documented concerns, and accountability when the law supports it.

OUR GOAL: safe students, safe streets, respected businesses, and fewer incidents requiring police action.

Questions: 314-427-8700 • Non-Emergency Police Dispatcher: 636-528-8210 • Emergency: 911



PARENT & COMMUNITY GUIDE

What Families Should Know

Clear expectations help young people make safer choices—and help officers resolve concerns before they grow.

WHAT WILL OFFICERS FOCUS ON?

Specific conduct that threatens safety, disrupts public order, interferes with lawful access, or violates the law. Examples include unsafe street crossing or walking in the roadway, fighting, threats, disturbances, trespassing, obstruction, and property damage.

WILL EVERY INCIDENT RESULT IN A TICKET?

There will be less focus on warnings and increased focus on what corrects the behavior. Officers will consider the facts, safety risk, seriousness, repetition, evidence, and available lawful options. If the incident meets the legal requirements, citations will be issued.

IS THIS TARGETING YOUNG PEOPLE?

No. Enforcement will be based on observable conduct, calls for service, and individualized facts. The same safety and public-order expectations apply to everyone.

ARE PARENTS AUTOMATICALLY CITED?

Depending on the circumstances, officers may have discretion. A child's conduct alone does not automatically establish parental guilt.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A MINOR IS DETAINED?

When the parental-responsibility ordinance applies, the department will notify the parent or guardian and document the notification. Prior written notice may become relevant if a minor later commits another criminal act. Guilt and any penalty are determined through the court process.

WHY INCREASE ENFORCEMENT NOW?

The return to school creates predictable periods of heavier pedestrian activity and youth gatherings. Early, consistent intervention can reduce traffic danger, prevent conflicts from escalating, protect access to homes and businesses, and keep public spaces welcoming.

HELP YOUR CHILD HAVE A SAFE START

- ✓ Review safe walking routes, crossings, and sidewalk rules.
- ✓ Set clear after-school destinations and check-in times.
- ✓ Discuss behavior expectations for businesses, private property, and public spaces.
- ✓ Respond promptly to police, school, or business concerns and follow through.

THE BOTTOM LINE

This is not about criminalizing youth. It is about protecting young people, preventing victimization, and making responsibility a shared community commitment.

Public code references: St. John City Code §§210.090, 210.115, 210.230–210.240, 210.335, and Chapter 340. [View the City Code](#)

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Community safety through partnership

8944 St. Charles Rock Rd St. John, Missouri 314-427-8700

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