



Downtown St. Johns, Michigan

Mint City USA

www.DowntownStJohns.org

The St. Johns Downtown Management Board - 100 E. State, PO Box 477 - St. Johns, MI. 48879
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

***Planning Commission Meeting on Proposed Sign Ordinance to be held
Thursday, November 5, 2009***

An amendment to the City Sign Ordinance is being proposed to allow for sidewalk signs. (Did you know they are currently illegal?) Please review the following proposed amendment.

"Sidewalk signs may be permitted in the Central Business District, subject to the following requirements:

(a) Sidewalk signs shall be displayed only during the normal business hours of the business advertised. All sidewalk signs shall be stored indoors at all other times.

Eric Harger
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(b) Sidewalk signs shall be placed in a location so as not to impede pedestrian traffic or be a hazard to parked vehicles.

(c) Sidewalk signs shall not be placed in a location or be of a size to impede the visibility of motorists at intersections.

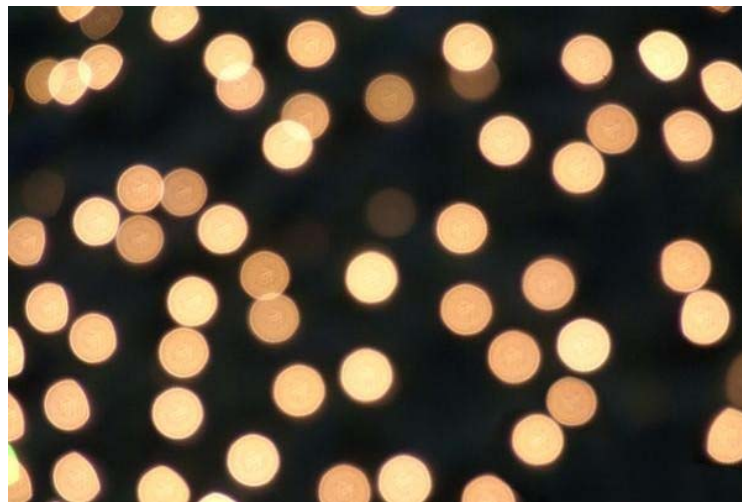
(d) Sidewalk signs shall be removed from the public sidewalk at any time weather conditions render the presence of such signs a hazard because of wind, ice, or snow.

(e) Any sign that advertises a business other than that of the adjacent storefront must be granted the permission of the building owner and/or business."

The Downtown Management Board enthusiastically supports signs in the Downtown Business District. We feel it helps promote our Historic Downtown St. Johns, bringing exposure and revenue to ALL the businesses, not just retailers. Colorful sidewalk signs are an indication of a vibrant and bustling downtown!

Interpretation can be difficult, so formal rules and regulations dictating dimensions, placement and hours of display for the signage should be in place. Therefore, the DMB is hopeful the proposed amendment to the City Sign Ordinance (Ordinance No. 510) will be enacted.

The St. Johns Planning Committee will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, November 5, 2009 to receive comment this proposed ordinance to permit and regulate sidewalk signs in the Central Business District. Please attend and share your views on the proposed City Sign Ordinance with the City Commissioners.



LET THERE BE LIGHTS!

***St. Johns Downtown Management Board begins project to Renew Lights on
Downtown Trees***

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**Executive, Finance,
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DowntownStJohns.org

The St. Johns Downtown Management Board is proud to announce the budget approval and planned acquisition of new lights to renew and refresh the ornamental lighting on our downtown boulevard trees on Clinton Avenue from State (M21) to Railroad Street.

The Downtown Management Board was instrumental in coordinating the effort to light the newly planted trees after the completion of the streetscape project in 2005 with 170 strands of mini white lights. Those original lights were replaced by the DMB in 2008 with 48 reels of LED lights, which burn cooler, light brighter and are much more energy efficient. The Board wishes to refresh the trees prior to the upcoming Holiday Season by restringing the existing lights and adding additional lights to make our downtown stand out and shine!

The tree stringing project date is set for Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 a.m. until done (around 12 Noon). Volunteers from the Saint Johns High School Student Council and the GoodWins Volunteer Group will be on hand, along with their Faculty Advisors Mr. Jason Gnegy and Ms. Kari Simon-Pieters. Mr. Steve Rademacher (the City of St. Johns' DPW Supervisor) is manufacturing some hooks on recycled 5 foot flag poles to use in stringing the lights. This will alleviate the need for ladders; making the procedure much safer for all those involved.

Pizza and refreshments will be served to the volunteers afterwards in St. Johns' historic Railroad Depot at 107 E. Railroad Street. The Depot closed to train traffic in 1985 and now houses the Clinton Northern Railway Museum and their collection of historic railroad artifacts, railcars in varying stages of renovation, and intricate model trains.

Additional information about beautiful Downtown St. Johns can be found on the website www.DowntownStJohns.org .



Santa Parade of Lights

This event helps to bring our community together to celebrate the Holidays

Join us in Historic Downtown St. Johns on Friday December 4, 2009 to watch the Annual "Santa Parade of Lights". Each entry is beautifully decorated with colorful holiday lights and also features SANTA CLAUS! After the Parade, enjoy the official lighting of the annual St. Johns Christmas Tree and the presentation of the Key to the City to Santa Claus by St. Johns Mayor Dana Beaman. This magical key opens every door in St. Johns, and enables Santa Claus to visit every boy and girl on Christmas Eve!

Families, neighbors, co-workers, local school groups, marching bands, civic organizations, church groups, dance troupes, musical groups and businesses are all welcome to participate in the parade and add to the pageantry of the St. Johns Tree Lighting Ceremony. This event helps to bring our community together to celebrate the holidays.

The parade begins at the Clinton County Courthouse on State Street and travels north down Clinton Avenue to the Train Depot Lawn at 107 E. Railroad Street. Parade goers will gather on the Depot Lawn as St. Johns City Major Dana Beaman officially welcomes Santa to the community and presents him with a Key to our Mint Festival City. Santa and the mayor will then assist our own "Little Miss Mint" as she

lights the St. Johns community Christmas Tree on the Depot Lawn to open the holiday season. Come to Downtown St. Johns on Friday December 4th for this lighted, magical event!

Organizations, businesses and individuals wishing to participate may download parade entry forms at www.DowntownStJohns.org (look for the EVENTS GUIDE tab and click on SANTA PARADE OF LIGHTS), or telephone the St. Johns Downtown Management Board for more details at 989-227-1717.



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