



# St. John

## Where Everyone Wants to Live

### St. John's Surging Population

- 2007: 13,981
- 2004: 11,079
- 2000: 8,382
- 1990: 4,921

### Residential Building Permits

- 2006: 288
- 2005: 386
- 2004: 305
- 2000: 152
- 1995: 70

### Major St. John Accomplishments Since 2004

- New 1 million-gallon water tower
- New Water Treatment Plant
- New Public Safety Facility
- New Public Works Facility
- Renovated St. John Town Hall and administrative offices
- Upgraded and added to water and sewer infrastructure
- Built state of the art Baseball/Softball complex
- Installed Decorative Street Lighting
- Acquired New Fire Department Aerial Truck
- Acquired Advanced Life Support Ambulance Service
- Established animal control facility
- Developed Code Enforcement Department
- Added bike trails and park equipment
- Initiated Annual Christmas Festival of Lights, Annual Town Festival and Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, and Haunted House

*Just how fast is fast?*  
Consider St. John, Ind., a charming town nestled along U.S. 41 that had a population of just 4,921 in 1990. Ten years later, the population soared to 8,382. The most recent population count in 2007 showed St. John leaped again to a total of 13,981. Such exponential growth – an increase of 9,060 persons or 184 percent – has resulted in St. John being among the 10 fastest growing towns in Indiana.

In other towns across the country, that kind of dramatic proliferation over such a short period of time has triggered negative consequences, including inadequate city services and a higher crime rate.

But St. John has been immune to those detrimental effects in large part because of a dedicated and progressive group of community leaders that have transformed the town into a community highlighted by its remarkable quality of life.

“That is why people move here,” says St. John Town Manager Stephen Kil. “They truly love this town. They want to see the town progress and they want us to do the right things.”

Jack and Lynn are among those who

are Illinois transplants to St. John. The couple moved with their three children from Crete, Ill. 12 years ago because of the respected school system. It’s a move they haven’t regretted.

“We just fell in love with the small town feeling,” said Lynn. “Everything we need is here – our schools, our church, our restaurants. I couldn’t imagine living anywhere else. Everyone wants to be here.”

That desirable charm is due in some measure to the 2003 election of members of the Citizens Party to the St. John Town Council. The newly-elected town leaders took a more proactive approach to getting things done, which has meant enhanced city services and a more family-oriented community. There are festivals, parades, and other family events throughout the year, which Lynn said helps to bond the community together even more.

A renovated town hall, new public safety and public works buildings, water and sewer upgrades, new baseball fields, and the creation of several festivals have attracted more people to move to St. John. Possessing the highest median income of



Salute to Americas's Heros Town Parade

any town in Lake County, St. John is the place many former Illinois residents call home.

"We consider ourselves a suburb of Chicago. It's just as easy to live southeast of Chicago as it is to live northwest of Chicago," says St. John Director of Operations Bob Pharazyn.

Only 24 miles from the Windy City, St. John is a quick commute for those who work in Chicago and live in this mid- to upper-class community. In addition to the fine school systems and vast recreational opportunities, the cost to build a home in St. John is 40 percent less for the same home in Chicago.

The average price for a newly built home in St. John is \$400,000. At such a price, quality is inherent in the design and the construction of the homes.

"Things here are done to a high level of quality. People have come to expect that here and people move here because of the



Public Safety Facility

*"Things here are done to a high level of quality. People have come to expect that here and people move here because of the high standard of quality."*

St. John Town Manager Stephen Kil

high standard of quality," Kil said.

St. John will continue to grow in the years to come. An annexation strategy has been formed, in which 7,000 acres have been identified south of town for commercial development to be added over the next 20 to 30 years. St. John officials made

sure sewer and water lines were sized on the town's southern end to accommodate the future growth.

Building and development standards are in place, which prevent outlandish residential and commercial design. Meticulous attention to design doesn't dissuade developers from coming to town. In fact, it helps the town better regulate the

kind of business it wants to attract.

City officials receive at least two calls a month from developers interested in commercial opportunities. Since the community is highly attractive to new development, the town council doesn't have to lure developers with incentives, such as tax increment financing, thereby easing the tax burden on existing residents.

Town leaders have engineered a blueprint for success that has ensured St. John's quality of life has more than kept up with the community's growing population. ♦

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### TOWN OF ST. JOHN

Throughout the year, St. John offers numerous festivals and events for our residents and visitors. So whether you have a growing family, are empty nesters or somewhere in between you'll find we are close enough to urban areas to make it a short drive there and yet far enough away to be a refuge of quiet simplicity.



#### APRIL

- Kinder Music (4th)
- Dog Obedience class (12th)

#### MAY

- Weekly Farmers Market opens (4th)
- Town wide garage sale (29th thru 31st)



#### JUNE

- Hershey's Track Meet (TBD)
- Town Festival (5th thru 9th)
- Parade (7th)
- Bulls Basketball camp (10th)
- White Sox camp (16th)



#### JULY

- Fireworks Display (5th)
- Chamber Golf outing (9th)



#### AUGUST

- Chamber Corn roast (8th)
- Float/Fly Model Airplanes (TBD)

#### SEPTEMBER

- Concert in the Park (TBD)

#### OCTOBER

- Haunted House (17th & 18th / 24th thru 31st)
- Taste of St. John (25th & 26th)
- Art in the Park (25th & 26th)



#### NOVEMBER

- Christmas in the Park Santa's arrival (28th) (Visit w/ Santa Fri/Sat thru Dec. 24th)

#### DECEMBER

- Special needs visit w/ Santa (3rd)
- Chamber Breakfast w/ Santa (13th)

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