

April/May 2007
St. Charles, Illinois

STC BUSINESS



BEAT

This Issue

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Business Incentive Program

Is the Business Beat in step?

Does this newsletter have the information you want and need as a business owner in St. Charles?

We want to make this the ONE publication you take time to read. Let us know . . .

Phone - 630.377.4917

Email - cao@stcharlesil.gov

TAKE NOTE

April 5, 12, 26

Weekly 1st Street Project update meetings, City Hall, 8 a.m.

April 9

1st Street Public Space Design Committee meeting, City Hall, 8 a.m.

April 16

Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2007/08 City Budget, City Hall, 6:45 p.m.

April 19

Special 1st Street Project update meeting to discuss the utility work and closure of Rte. 31/2nd St., City Hall, 8 a.m.

April 20-22

Sisters Weekend, www.sistersweekend.com

April 25

Sculptures in the Park, Mt. St. Mary Park, www.st-charlesparks.org/links/specialevents.htm

April 27

Arbor Day Celebration, Lincoln Park, 4 p.m.

May 2

Business to Business Expo, Pheasant Run Resort Mega Center, 2-7 p.m., www.stcharleschamber.com

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Weekly 1st Street Project update meetings, City Hall, 8 a.m.

May 12

Bob Leonard River Walk, Pottawatomie Park, 9 a.m., 630.513.5386

May 26-27

Downtown Fine Art Show, 1st Ave., Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., www.stcharlesfineartshow.com

May 28

Memorial Day - City offices will be closed.

City Hall Office Hours:
Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
City Web Site: www.stcharlesil.gov

Utility Billing and Building & Zoning Office Hours:
Mon. 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tue.- Fri. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Community Web Site: www.st-charles.il.us



First Street Project Update

www.1stStreetSTC.org ~ Hotline 762-7097 ~ Email 1stStreet@stcharlesil.gov

Utility infrastructure work has moved to Illinois Street, which will be closed in April while the utilities under this street are upgraded. 1st Street from Rte. 64/Main Street to Prairie Street, is now open.

Construction has also begun on the first private buildings—the new Blue Goose Supermarket and Harris Bank. Both of these buildings will be

located in the block south of Indiana and between Rte. 31/2nd Street and 1st Street. Indiana has been vacated as a street and will become part of the new Blue Goose parking lot. Phasing of the private buildings is as follows:

- Phase 1 (Blue Goose and Harris Bank) – started April 2007/estimated to open Nov. 2007
- Phase 2 (parking garage, north and south side of Walnut) – estimated start June 2007/open June 2008
- Phase 3 (buildings on west riverbank) – estimated start Nov. 2007/open Mar. 2009
- Phase 4 (block between Illinois and Indiana) – estimated start summer 2008/open summer 2009
- Phase 5 (corner of Illinois and Rte. 31) – to be announced

Illinois Rte. 31/2nd Street will be closed between Illinois and Walnut in early May. A meeting will be held on April 19, 8 a.m., at City Hall, to review the schedule and phasing. Construction crews have been contracted to work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The job should take about two weeks. The City will

First Street Public Space Design

The First Street Public Space Design Committee will solicit input from the community and make recommendations on the design and use of public spaces in the First Street project. Their first meeting will be April 9, 8 a.m., at City Hall. The meetings are open to the public and will be posted on the First Street web site.

monitor the work and may authorize a schedule adjustment to be sensitive to construction noise issues while ensuring the work stays on schedule.

The reconstruction of 1st Street will follow. This should begin in early summer and will include new curbs as well as the final layer of asphalt. The work will begin at the south end of 1st Street and proceed north in phases to limit disruption. It is targeted to be completed by fall 2007.

A free public parking lot, located on the corner of 1st and Illinois Streets, will be paved later in April and remain until the end of the project. It will have approximately 50 spaces. Other on-street and off-street parking areas will be designated but may vary depending on the construction phase. City staff are working with area business owners now to address future parking and loading zone needs as the project progresses.

New directional signs for the area are being installed in April. The April/May issue of the resident newsletter contained a map to help residents navigate around road closures and to area businesses. Banners directing motorists to the 1st Street area from Main Street were hung in the One W. Main building (our thanks to Mr. Salas and his partners for accommodating the banners). A 1st Street ad has been included in the City's portion of St. Charles street maps, which are being updated and will be distributed this spring. The City also prepared flyers for truck delivery vendors to help navigate around the construction. Community organizations will be coordinating additional marketing and promotional activities to assist area businesses through the construction.

As always, feedback, questions, and comments are always welcome through the weekly meetings, web site, email or phone number listed above.

Corridor Improvement Grants

Does your business property front Main Street/Rte. 64, Kirk Road, or Randall Road? Would you like to improve the curb appeal of your property to enhance your business? If so, you are eligible for one of three landscape grant programs offered by the City of St. Charles through its Corridor Improvement Program.

Through these grants, the City encourages and assists owners of highly visible commercial properties to make landscape improvements and enhance the physical appearance, overall economic vitality, and character of the properties along the City's most public auto and pedestrian corridors. The program features three

types of grants: Corridor Grants, Downtown Grants, and Four Season Grants (intended for smaller projects), which are funded through hotel/motel tax receipts. Please contact Shubhra Govind, Senior Planner, at 630.762.6925, email sgovind@stcharlesil.gov, or visit www.stcharlesil.gov/cdd for details.

New Loan Program for Small Businesses

The Illinois Small Business Development Center (IL SBDC) at Elgin Community College (ECC) was appointed a technical assistance provider for financial institutions participating in the new Small Business Administration (SBA) Community Express Loan Program. The SBA guaranteed loan program is available to start-up and growing

businesses that are majority owned by women, veterans, or minorities.

The loans are made through a licensed financial institution and guaranteed by the SBA. The SBA views management and technical assistance as a critical component to the development, growth, and success of the potential borrower. This program is structured to ensure the borrowers receive

appropriate pre-loan and post-loan closing management and technical assistance. Highlights include rapid response, no collateral, affordable monthly payments, 7-10 year repayment, and loans up to \$25,000.

Please contact Kriss Knowles, director of the IL Small Business Development Center at ECC, 847-214-7488 or online at www.elgin.edu/sbdc.

Hydrant Flushing Schedule

The Water Division will flush the water main distribution system by quadrant as follows (Main St./Rte. 64 divides north/south; the Fox River divides east/west):

Northwest Quadrant

Starts Apr. 16, 7 a.m. - all week

Southwest Quadrant

Starts Apr. 22, 10 p.m. - all week

Northeast Quadrant

Starts Apr. 29, 10 p.m. - all week

Southeast Quadrant

Starts May 7, 7 a.m. - all week

The flushing will remove iron from inside the water mains. Customers may experience rusty water and should run cold water until it clears. Please call Public Works at 630.377.4405 with questions.

Handicap Parking Fine Increase

The City recently approved an increase in the fine for handicap parking to \$250. This change mirrors the state statute. Businesses with handicap parking spaces in private lots should update the signs for those spaces to reflect the new fine. The

Police Department is enforcing the new fine amount, and this creates confusion if the ticket says \$250 and the sign says \$100. Please contact the Police Department at 630.377.4435 with questions or more information on handicap parking signs and fines.

Need to Relocate in St. Charles?

The Economic Development Dept. (EDD) maintains a database of commercial property to minimize vacant properties in St. Charles and match businesses with appropriate site location or relocation options. To search available commercial property online, visit www.stcharlesil.gov/edd or call 630.443.4093.

Featured Property: 1750 E. Main

6,000 sq. ft. available, Free turn key build-out. One of three professional, colonial style, three-story office buildings in elegant, wooded office park. Many upgrades! Loaded with technology. Ample private parking.



Business Incentive Program

The Economic Restructuring Committee of the Downtown St. Charles Partnership is designing a Business Incentive Program to recruit and retain targeted businesses downtown. The team is seeking participation from the business community that could be offered as part of the incentive package and serve as a cross promotional opportunity. Be a part of this exciting program! Call Theresa Fawcett at 630.443.3685 for more information.

Shine at Scarecrow '07!

The Scarecrow Festival draws more than 60,000 visitors every year, making it a major contributor to our local economy and a spectacular promotional opportunity for sponsors. The Visitors Bureau produces the festival and created two new sponsorship opportunities:

- Sponsor a sign on the two free trolleys used to transport folks throughout the festival.
- Become a Scarecrow Supporter for \$300, used to help pay behind-the-scene expenses.

Contact the Visitors Bureau for complete details: 630.377.6161 or kathy@visitscharles.com.

RESOURCES

Phone Numbers

- City Reception - 377-4400
- Building & Zoning - 377-4406
- Community Development - 377-4443
- Economic Development - 443-4093
- Electric Utility - 377-4407
- Electric/Water Sewer Emergency/After Hours - 443-3681
- Engineering - 377-4486
- Emergency Management Agency - 377-4416
- Fire Administration - 377-4458
- Fire Prevention Bureau - 377-4457
- First Street Hotline - 762-6097
- Flood Protection Assistant and Map Engineering - 377-4486
- Mayor's Office & City Administration - 377-4422
- Police Admin./Invest./Crime Prevention - 377-4435
- Public Works (water/sewer/street) - 377-4405
- Utility Billing (electric/water/sewer/turn ons & turn offs) - 377-4426

Web Sites

- City Web Site: www.stcharlesil.gov
- Community Web Site: www.st-charles.il.us
- Economic Development Web Site: www.stcharlesil.gov/edd
- First Street Project Web Site: www.1stStreetSTC.org
- Red Gate Bridge Project Web Site: www.redgatebridge.org

MEETING SCHEDULE		
Meeting	April	May
CITY COUNCIL	2 & 16	7 & 21
PLAN COMMISSION review & hold public hearings for rezoning, special use & new developments	3 & 17	8 & 22
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT zoning, annexation, boundary lines, downtown, comprehensive plan, code enforcement	9	14
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS** budget, personnel, insurance, economic development, administration	2 & 16	7 & 21
GOVERNMENT SERVICES utilities, city property, streets, sidewalks, sewers, water, parking lots, stormwater	23	N/A
HISTORIC PRESERVATION review facade impr. & bldg. permits for exterior work within historic dist.	4 & 18	2 & 16
TREE COMMISSION manage city owned trees (trimming, Tree City USA, disease & pestilence, etc.)	11	9
YOUTH COMMISSION* direct services & grants to support the welfare of the City's youth	2	7
CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION aesthetic improvements to City's corridors	5	3
HOUSING COMMISSION preserve affordable homes, address housing issues/needs, promote awareness	10	8
<i>All meetings start at 7 p.m. unless noted: *Starts at 6 p.m. ** Starts at 7:05 p.m. or right after the City Council meeting. Please call the Mayor's Office at (630) 377-4445 to confirm a meeting, or visit www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings.</i>		

City of St. Charles
2 E. Main Street
St. Charles, IL 60174

Did you know . . .
Bella Bridal & Formal Wear, 60 Indiana St., has opened a store in the Charlestowne Mall (3800 E Main St.) called The Ultimate Prom Shop that will be open until mid May. They offer prom dresses, tuxedos, and accessories. You can also visit them on the web at www.bellabridalandformal.com.