

FROM THE DEN

The logo for 'FROM THE DEN' features a stylized fox in the foreground and a building in the background, both within a square frame that forms the letter 'D'. The fox is depicted in a reddish-brown color, and the building is a white structure with a steeple. The word 'DEN' is written in large, teal, serif capital letters to the right of the 'D'.

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TAKE NOTE

June 6

Farmer's Market begins and runs through October, every Friday
7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at 4th Avenue and Main Street

June 6, 7, 8

Pride of the Fox RiverFest, Downtown St. Charles,
www.prideofthefox.com.

June 2, 16 and July 7, 21

Brush collection for residents on the east side of the river.

June 9, 23 and July 14, 28

Brush collection for residents on the west side of the river.

June 18

Joe K. Anderson History Roundtable discussion, Pottawatomie
Community Center, 1-2:30 p.m., Topic: Camps, Resorts and
Cottages

June-July

Fox River Trail Closings (May 15-July 11)
www.kaneforest.com.

June 12- August 14 (Thursdays)

Concerts in the Park, Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.
www.st-charlesparks.org/links/concerts.htm.

July 4

4th of July Fireworks, Pottawatomie Park or Ferson Creek Park,
after dark, www.st-charlesparks.org/links/july4.htm.

City offices will be closed for Independence Day

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design or C.P.T.E.D. is a crime prevention philosophy based on the proper design of the physical environment with the intent to reduce crime and the fear of crime, thereby improving the quality of life. C.P.T.E.D. involves the design of physical space in relation to the actual needs of the intended users. The following are four principles of C.P.T.E.D:

·Surveillance – the ability to look into or out of a certain area.

·Access control – the ability to control the ingress/egress to a certain area.

·Territoriality – creating an impression that an area is well cared for.

·Activity support – encouraging the intended users to displace the deviant users.

The underlying benefit of using environmental design is to prevent criminal activity by reducing the ability for potential known factors to happen. For example, this can involve things such as landscaping properly to maintain visual observation points. The St. Charles Police Department can assist local businesses or residents with recommendations. We prefer to help identify potential problems in order to reduce future ones. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Tim Beam at 630.443.3730.

National Night Out

In past years, the St. Charles Police Department has hosted a community picnic at Pottawatomie Park in



conjunction with National Night Out Against Crime. The purpose is to bring members of the Police Department and citizens together to promote crime awareness and prevention.

This year the Police Department is moving this community event into the neighborhoods. We are looking for volunteers to organize and host a gathering in their respective neighborhoods. This could take the form of a block party or a casual get together in a specific neighborhood location such as a park or a backyard. The National Night Out Committee will be available to assist with planning or any questions that residents might have.

Interested citizens or neighborhood associations may contact Crime Prevention Officer Tim Beam at the Police Department for further details or to volunteer. The deadline for applying is June 15th. Officer Tim Beam may be reached at 630.443.3730.

1st Street Update

In early July, the Plaza (Building 4) will be open for free public parking! There will be a total of 430 public parking spaces, with five well-lit levels of parking available, including long and short-term. The Plaza allows for convenient parking for West Main Businesses, and will contain 55,300 square feet of retail and office space.

Outdoor Fire Pits

As a reminder, the City's Fire Prevention Code (www.stcharlesil.org/code/ in Chapter 15.28) allows the responsible use of outdoor fireplaces without a permit. The unit should be at least 25 ft. from any structure and in an open lawn area. Use clean, well-seasoned wood (no leaves, compost, brush, waste, etc.). The fire should not burn for more than 2 hours and must be constantly attended until extinguished. Some type of extinguisher must be available. The City may order the extinguishment of open burning that creates a hazardous or objectionable situation. A "good neighbor" policy is recommended.



Brush Pickup

Brush pickup is available for residents who pay an additional monthly fee on their utility bill (please call Utility Billing 377-4426 if you have any questions).

2008 Brush Collection	
East Side	West Side
June 2	June 9
June 16	June 23
July 7	July 14
July 21	July 28
No collection June 30-July 4	

For additional information on the Brush Pickup Program, go to <http://www.stcharlesil.org/departments/PublicWorks/SeasonalServices/brushcollection.html>

Hidden History

A special feature from the St. Charles Historic Preservation Commission

As St. Charles nears its 175th birthday next year, it is important to reflect, embrace, and preserve our history for future generations. We have an amazing history and we should be proud of it. We are reminded of how important it is to be aware of it once again with the Landmark Designation of 606 Cedar St., an 1837 home that is in the process of becoming the first St. Charles verified Underground Railroad Home.* When Faith and John Peloso purchased the home, it was very nondescript, covered in aluminum siding years ago, and was said by some to be a good tear down. But Faith and John knew it was old and decided to restore it. What they didn't realize was what amazing hidden history the home held.

The Pelosos began to unveil the house and discovered that the original home was actually made of limestone, with an old frame addition. Even though the home was not located within the Central Historic District, the Pelosos asked for guidance and research assistance from the Historic Commission and City Staff.

During this cooperative effort and additional exploration done by the Pelosos, it was determined the home was built in approximately 1837, with the original owner being Gideon Young, an abolitionist and member of the Kane County Anti-Slavery Organization. This would make 606 Cedar the second Underground Railroad home discovered within the last two years. The other home was slated for teardown, but at the last minute the owner decided to keep the home and renovate it. During the renovation, a well, tunnel and hidden room were discovered. That home was built in the early to mid 1850's and was originally owned by another member of the Kane County Anti-Slavery Organization.



606 Cedar St., a 1837 home that is in the process of becoming the first St. Charles verified Underground Railroad Home.

During the explorations by the Pelosos, they discovered what is believed to be sleeping berths along with many artifacts.

Thanks to their real estate agent Marian Boveri, the African Scientific Research Institute (ASRI) is now working to verify this site as part of the Underground Railroad, and hopes to use it as a research project and possible educational tool. ASRI has begun researching the role St. Charles played in the Underground Railroad, and they are amazed at how many "known" sites we have.

Significant early residents of St. Charles, such as Wheelers, The Youngs, The Finleys, The Footes, The Moodys, The Wards, and of course The Farnsworths, were members of the Kane County Anti-Slavery Organization. Many of their homes still stand today, and it is very possible there are hidden historic areas, in the basements, attics, staircases, or storage areas. Although some of these homes were grand, like the Farnsworth Mansion, many others were simple and small.

If you own a home that was constructed prior to 1861, we suggest you do a little exploration and investigation of your own. Research the history of your home and find out who the original owners were. If you would like more information on how to research your home please contact the City of St. Charles Community Development Department at 630-377-4443. There is no doubt that we have lost some homes, like the Farnsworth Mansion, that had connections to the Underground Railroad, such as filled-in tunnels, but we can preserve those we still have. You just never know what hidden history your home may be holding.

Note: Many homes have been thought to be stops on the Underground Rail Road, however, due to the illegal nature of the URR, no documentation was kept, and reference to these homes as URR stops are not verifiable.

Fertilizer Tips

Fertilizers used to promote plant growth and lush green lawns also have the potential to contaminate water sources if applied improperly. Residents can prevent ground and surface water contamination by observing the following practices when applying fertilizer:

Use a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer.

Slow-release or Water Insoluble Nitrogen (WIN) provides a more controlled release of nitrogen thereby limiting the amount of fertilizer leaching into groundwater.

Slow-release fertilizer will provide nutrients throughout the summer and need less moisture and seldom burn turf. Follow the instructions to be sure that you do not use too much, as it has the potential for runoff.



Use organic products on the lawn.

Organic products are carbon-based and are not harmful to the environment.

Choose the proper spreader and calibrate it correctly.

Using a drop spreader instead of a rotary spreader near water supply sources and storm drains will decrease the risk of fertilizer contamination. Also, limiting the application of fertilizer on slopes decreases the potential for runoff.

Use buffer strips.

Leave a strip of unfertilized grasses or natural vegetation near any water body. This helps against erosion and produces a trap for unwanted nutrients.

Prevent misapplication of fertilizers.

Take care when applying fertilizers around sewers and drains. Shut off spreaders before crossing sidewalks or driveways and sweep up any spills. Rinse your spreader over the lawn area and not on the driveway in order to minimize fertilizer runoff.

Chemical Weed Control

Herbicides are used to control weeds. There are two types of herbicides, pre- and post-emergence. Pre-emergence herbicides are applied before the weed seedlings emerge from the soil. Post-emergence herbicides are applied to weeds after they have emerged from the soil. Spot application of herbicides where weeds are present is recommended, as opposed to using them on the entire lawn. This helps reduce the amount of chemical used and the possibility that it may cause water contamination.

Whenever any pesticide is used, be sure to read, understand, and follow all label directions for the safest and most effective handling and application.

Water Conservation

To ensure that outdoor watering is effective and efficient, City Code Section 13.16.205 regulates lawn sprinkling. The City's water conservation ordinance is in effect May 1 to August 31 and establishes automatic and sprinkler watering schedules.

Please visit www.stcharlesil.gov/PW/WaterAndSewer/ or call the Public Works Office at (630) 377-4405 with questions or for more information,



Here are some additional helpful water conservation tips:

Look for landscaping plants that don't need much water.

Use ground covers and mulches around plants.

Use an automatic sprinkler system with a timer.

Leave grass tall (2"-4"), as taller grass helps retain moisture in the soil.

When washing your car, use a hose with a shut-off nozzle. and, wash your car on the grass instead of the driveway.

Before you Dig In, Make a Phone Call!

So you are sprucing up the place by building a deck or replacing that old fence? Or maybe you are finally going to plant that big vegetable garden in your back yard.

Wait! There could be more than dirt and worms waiting for your shovel to turn the earth. There could be electric lines, phone wires, gas lines or cables buried in your yard.

It only takes one call to find out if there are lines under your yard. Call JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information Excavation) at 1-800-892-0123. There is no charge for this service. You should

know within 48 hours whether it is OK to dig where you planned (excluding weekends and holidays).

Sculpture in the Park

Want to see a 12-foot-tall giraffe or a boy riding on a giant turtle, right here in St. Charles? Come to Sculpture in the Park, where you can view 17 unique sculptures in the picturesque setting of Mt. St. Mary Park, alongside the Fox River in downtown St. Charles at Route 31 and Prairie Street, now through September. Last year's exhibit was a Top Three Finalist in Lt. Governor Pat Quinn's Main Street "Award for Excellence." Sculpture in the Park is brought to you by the Design Committee of the Downtown St. Charles Partnership, in conjunction with the St. Charles Park District.

Hook, Line & Sinker

River View Miniature Golf
Dads! Bring your children for a Father's Day fishing derby June 14 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Bring your rods and bait to fish for the biggest and best catch in the Fox River. Prizes awarded to every child for their catch of the day and participants will receive a round of River View Miniature Golf.

Make Tracks to First Street Raffle

During the construction closure of the intersection of 1st and Illinois Streets in downtown St. Charles, the 1st Street businesses are running a special "Make Tracks to 1st Street" promotion that features weekly prize drawings. For further information, visit the Downtown St. Charles Partnership's website at www.dtown.org.

·June 14 – Charm Glow 12,000 BTU Heavy Gauge, Stainless Steel Gas Grill, with side burner; also includes Omaha Steak Gift Package, courtesy of Sage Bistro

·June 21 -- \$300 assortment of fine wines, from The Wine Exchange

·June 28 -- Grand Prize Drawing! Includes dinner for 4 at Sage Bistro, a night at Herrington Inn (courtesy of Shodeen Management), a selection of fine cigars from Bull & Bear Tobacco Shop, and a fruit & cheese basket from Blue Goose Market.

Alternative Fuels Fair

Saturday, July 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Renewable Energy Vehicle (REV) from The Field Museum will be visiting our Library. The REV runs on fuel produced from used cooking oils. Environmental educators who staff the veggie diesel van will provide mini-demonstrations and break down the mystery behind your alternative fuel choices. Experts with information about electric cars and solar energy also will be on hand. Will you be driving these cars in the future? Drop by the fair to investigate these fuel choices.

July 4th Celebration- Free!

Pottawatomie Park, Fireworks at DARK Entertainment for the whole Family! Have a picnic. Go swimming. Play mini-golf. Food is available for purchase at the River View Concessions. Enjoy a "Red Woody" Band Concert at 6 p.m. In case of rain, the fireworks will be scheduled for the next clear evening. Come early – parking is limited.

Summit 303 Reaches Halfway Mark

St. Charles Community Unit School District 303's community engagement initiative, Summit 303, has reached its halfway mark. Summit 303 has been meeting monthly since last fall to study the challenges facing District 303 and seek out potential opportunities. To date, participants have studied topics such as student achievement, class size, demographics, facilities, staffing, and school choice.

The issues discussed at Summit 303 meetings have, at times, been sensitive ones. According to Summit Co-chair Sherry Schmidt, "We've been presented with difficult choices with respect to facility needs, class size and enrollment. These are complicated issues but ones we need to sort through and determine what the community members want from their school district. I'm very proud to be a part of this program." Additional meetings are scheduled this summer and fall – with a final report to the Board of Education set for November 2008.

Scarecrow Fest License Plates Available

The award-winning annual Scarecrow Festival that showcases St. Charles is October 10-12. St. Charles and Illinois residents can help promote and support the fest by purchasing Scarecrow Festival



License Plates. Order now and the festival plates will be delivered in time to display on your car or truck from August 14th-October 12th.

For information on license plates, scarecrow entry forms and sponsorship details, call 630-377-6161. Additional information regarding the festival, which will celebrate its 23rd year this October, can be found at www.scarecrowfest.com.



Vol. 29, No. 2 April/May 2008 St. Charles, Ill	St. Charles Public Library ~ One S. 6th Ave., St. Charles, IL 60174		
	Web Site: www.stcharleslibrary.org		Email: scplref@stcharleslibrary.org
	Phone 630-584-0076	Home Deliv. - Ext. 219	Mtg. Rms. - Ext. 230
	Fax 630-584-3448	Night Owl - 630-584-4563	Study Rms. - Ext. 210
		Youth Svcs. (ASK ME) -630-584-9390	

Get in the Game: READ!

You should have received your copy of **Discover Your Library** – our new publication of events and information in your mailbox!

Get in the Game—Read! is the theme for this summer's book clubs, programs, and special events for children, young adults, and adults with St. Charles Public Library cards. The Friends of the Library and local businesses provide incentives for the Book Clubs.

Youth Services Book Clubs are designed for listeners and readers according to individual ability. The goal is to reinforce, sustain, and extend enjoyable reading experiences beyond the books at home. The Read-With-Me option is designed for parent-child interaction, including infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and children not yet reading independently. Book Club I is for independent readers, while Book Clubs II and III are for intermediate readers and GTGR (Got to Go Read) is for middle and high school students. Register now for the Book Clubs and programs.

The Youth Services staff is available to discuss all the Book Club options.

Summer will be filled with programs for everyone. Multi-age story time will be offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., and monthly family story times in the evening. A Gaming Overnight Lock-In for middle school students, babysitter training, costume making demo, and Internet workshops are on the calendar. Families can overnight it at Camp Library. Over twenty different programs are scheduled through August including concerts, puppets, the Yo-Yo Man and the Spoon Man, and a flea circus. There even will be a children's used book sale. **Program registration began Saturday, June 7** – in person and online (details on our web site).

For further information about the Book Clubs and program registration, please call Youth Service at 630 584-9390.

The Library **Book Discussion Group** will meet July 8, at 10:00 a.m. OR 7:00 p.m.

To reserve books for either group, please call the Circulation Desk at 630-584-0076, extension 210.

The St. Charles Writers Group meets from 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. on Saturdays, June 28 and July 12 and 26 as well as June 17 at 6:30 p.m. Please call Merilee Curtis at 630-584-0076, extension 240 for further information.

Books@Noon meets in the lower level meeting room on Wednesday, June 18 at 12:05 p.m. Author Bruce Steinberg, writing as B.R. Robb, will discuss his new book *River Ghosts*. Coffee and tea will be served. You may bring your lunch.

Imagination—Student Art Show. Artwork by CUSD #303 students will be on display during July. Everyone is invited to an Open House honoring the student artists on Saturday, July 19 from 2-3 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Browse the Library's website, where you will find hours, how to get a card, program information and online registration, recommended reading lists, and the Read@SCPL blog.

The Tree Corner

The threat of stormy weather didn't keep visitors away from the 10th annual celebration of Arbor Day.

Mary Dieter of St. Charles was the winner of the first Cherished Tree Memories Contest and read her essay to the many visitors gathered around the podium. Mary received a 6' Myabi Maple and a one-year family membership to the Morton Arboretum in Lisle for her account of the fond memories she and her husband share of the "stately and majestic Sugar Maple" that resides in the yard of her former home in Massachusetts. The Cherished Tree Memories Contest was a new addition to the Arbor Day ceremony and will be repeated next year.



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Is Your Address Number Visible?

Having clear address numbering on buildings allows those not familiar with a building or home to locate it more easily, especially for emergency response.

House numbering was not always common practice. During the Civil War, the U.S. Post Office began free door-to-door delivery of mail; contingent upon numbering of houses, and house numbering came into common use.



The following is from the St. Charles Municipal Code, Title 12, "Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places," Chapter 12.12, "Street Numbering."

It is the responsibility or duty of the owner and occupant of a single-family or multiple-family dwelling to post the address numbers on the building.

For one-family and two-family dwellings the address is to be posted within 10-feet of all exterior doors.

In the event your front door is not on the side of the building or structure facing the street, the requirement of being within ten-feet of the front door does not apply.

Address numerals shall be in Arabic numerals (not Roman numerals) and shall be a minimum of three-inches in height and of proportionate width, be of contrasting color to the mounting surface and be in such a place that is in plain view from the street.

During construction, buildings shall have temporary numbers affixed to or painted on the structure.

We would recommend you take a couple of minutes and check to see if your street numbers on your dwelling are visible from the street. If you have any questions on your address numbers, please contact the Building and Zoning Division at 630.377.4406.

2008 Road Maintenance

The Engineering Division scheduled annual road maintenance activities for city streets listed below. The streets scheduled for a grind and overlay will begin July 27 and be completed August 28. The streets scheduled for a heat scarification process will begin September 1 and be completed October 1. Whitetopping of 4th Street (McKinley to Fellows) and Ohio Avenue (3rd to 4th Ave) will occur after Labor Day. Residents affected by these activities will receive a flyer with details. Please call 630.377.4486 with questions or for more information.

Streets for Grind & Overlay		
Street	From	To
5th St	Main St	Indiana St
6th St	Main St	Oak St
McKinley St	2nd St	Ash St
Streets for Heat Scarification		
Illinois Ave	7th Ave	Bridge
Lucylle Ave	Jewel Ave	Moore Ave
Prairie St	Bridge	Randall Rd
Long-meadow Cr	Iroquois Ave	Iroquois Ave
5th St	Gray St	Deadend
Industrial Dr	Production Dr	South End
Foxfield Dr	Dunham Rd	West Deadend
Lakeside Dr	Main St	Cul-de-sac
Kautz Rd	Main St	Illinois Ave
White Topping		
Ohio Ave	3rd Ave	4th Ave
4th St	McKinley St	Fellows St

RESOURCES

St. Charles Municipal Center
2 E. Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174
(630) 377-4400

Billing - Electric/Water/Sewer	
Turn Ons & Turn Offs	377-4426
Building & Zoning	377-4406
City Admin./Clerk.....	377-4422
Electric Division	377-4407
Electric/Water/Sewer	
after 5 p.m./weekends.....	443-3681
Emergency.....	911
Engineering Division	377-4486
Emergency Management Agency.....	377-4416
Flood Protection Assistance and Map Eng.	377-4486
Finance/Accounting	762-7002
Fire Administration	377-4458
Fire Prevention Bureau.....	377-4457
Human Resources	377-4446
Mayor Donald P. DeWitte.....	377-4444
Police Admin./Invest./Crime Prev.	377-4435
Public Works-Water/Sewer/Street	377-4405
Community Development	377-4443
Economic Development	443-4093
Refuse Pickup Info. (Veolia)	587-8282
TDD.....	800-526-0844

Community Numbers

Animal Control	232-3555
Chamber of Commerce.....	584-8384
Heritage Center	584-6967
Visitors Bureau	377-6161
Downtown St. Charles Partnership	513-5386

MEETING SCHEDULE		
Meeting	June	July
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	28
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	4	2
HOUSING COMMISSION preserve affordable homes, address housing issues/needs, promote awareness	19	17
<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>		

St. Charles City Council

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Warren J. Drewes, City Treasurer

Nancy Garrison, City Clerk

What's on your mind? Your suggestions and questions are valued by the Mayor and City Council. To assure a response, please include your name and address below. Mail to: City Administrator's Office, 2 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174, or email to: CAO@stcharlesil.gov.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____