



APRIL 2013

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES
More at www.stcharlesil.gov

April
City Council and Committee Meetings

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Planning & Development 7 p.m. | 8 |
| City Council 7 p.m. | 15 |
| Government Operations 7:05 p.m. | 15 |
| Government Services 7 p.m. | 22 |

A complete list of meetings, including Commission, Board & Task Force meetings is @ www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings

**Curbside
Yard Waste
Collection
Has Resumed**

St. Charles Connect Mobile App Goes Live

Connect with the City Right from Your Mobile Device

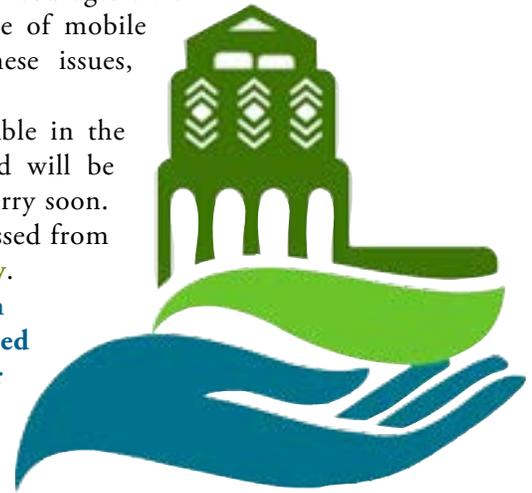
St. Charles Connect, the new City of St. Charles mobile application, is now live. St. Charles Connect is a real time, mobile tool that gives citizens direct access to the City, right from their smartphones. Simply download the free mobile app and the intuitive design makes it easy for anyone to report an issue, such as a broken streetlight, a pothole, etc. The City encourages civic engagement and recognizes the value of mobile technology in quickly resolving these issues, while saving both time and money.

St. Charles Connect is now available in the iPhone and Android app stores and will be available for Windows 8 and Blackberry soon. St. Charles Connect also can be accessed from the City website www.stcharlesil.gov.

Please Note: Reports sent through St. Charles Connect will be handled during normal business hours. For emergencies, call 911, and continue reporting electric outages to the dedicated hotline, 866-444-0016.

As new technologies emerge and create new methods of communication, the City's communications efforts have evolved right along with them. St. Charles Connect joins the City's other electronic communications, including the City website and mobile website, Den newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, Inside St. Charles blog, Community website and RSS feeds, as one more way the City is reaching out and connecting with greater efficiency to its audiences.

For more information on St. Charles Connect, please contact Penny Lancor in the Information Systems Department at 630-762-7089.



ST. CHARLES CONNECT

Support House Bill 961 to Protect Funding for City Services



When Illinois first imposed a state income tax on residents in 1969, instead of allowing municipalities to impose a separate local income tax, the state agreed to devote a portion of the income tax to local governments. This local portion of the income tax is essential to fund basic municipal services like police and fire protection, snow plowing, and much more.

Until 2011, 10% of all income tax collected was put into the state's Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF). Beginning January 1, 2011, the state increased the income tax rate, but lowered the local portion to 6%. Over the last few years, proposals have arisen to take some or all of this local portion of income tax revenue to help address the state's budget crisis.

Continued on page 2

Police Dept. Annual Report is Out Report Once Again Shows a Decline in Crime

The St. Charles Police Department has released its 2012 annual report that provides information about public safety programs as well as statistics regarding calls for service, crime and traffic accidents.

The report reveals that the number of calls for service continued its marked decline in 2012. In fact, they're at their lowest levels since 2001. Police responded to 15,727 calls for service in 2012, a 3% decline from 2011.



The report shows a continued downward trend in crime throughout the City. This includes the more serious Part 1 crimes as well as Part 2 crimes, which decreased a whopping 39% and 27% respectively since 2008. Motor vehicle accidents on public roadways also have declined in St. Charles. Statistics show the number of accidents in 2012 totaled 974, a 26% reduction from 2008. However, the City still has certain areas that are prone to more accidents. The top 3 crash sites are:

- South Randall Road between Oak Street and IL Rte. 38
- East Main Street in the vicinity of Smith/Kautz Road
- East Main Street in the vicinity of Tyler Road

The reconstruction and widening of East Main Street is a contributing factor to the accidents on that road; however, the completed improvements will improve the safety of this area.

The annual report also provides highlights of some of the other services provided by the Police Department, including the Kane County SWAT Team, K-9 Unit and Crime Prevention Unit. The Community Restitution Program, which uses laborers performing court-ordered community service, also is included in the report. This program is responsible for many tasks being completed, including daily collection of refuse in the downtown area, pick-up of trash along public roadways, graffiti removal, and mowing/weeding of foreclosed and abandoned properties. Since its inception in 2004, this program has provided services valued at almost \$2 million!

For additional information, or to view the entire 2012 report, visit the Police Department page on our website www.stcharlesil.gov.

Continued from page 1

Support House Bill 961

While so far legislators have not enacted such a measure, local governments still face the continuing problem of delayed LGDF fund distributions. Revenues must be transferred from the state's General Revenue Fund into the LGDF before they can be distributed to cities and villages. By delaying this transfer, the state helps its own cash flow, while threatening the solvency of local governments. In recent years the delay has been as much as six months.

This year, Representative Anthony DeLuca filed House Bill 961 to ensure timely distribution of LGDF funds to local governments. Commonly referred to as "LGDF Direct Deposit," this bill would require the municipal portion of tax revenue be deposited immediately and directly into the LGDF, and then promptly paid to municipalities, without the need for an intervening transfer.

Thirty-three other representatives from both political parties joined Rep. DeLuca as sponsors of HB 961, including Rep. Michael Fortner who represents a portion of St. Charles. On March 21, the bill was approved by the House Revenue & Finance Committee by a unanimous vote. The bill now goes to the House floor for a vote by the full chamber. We applaud the initiative shown by Rep. DeLuca and all the bill's sponsors.

Residents should contact their representative to encourage a "Yes" vote when this bill is brought to the House floor. It is important to let your legislator know that you value the local services made possible by these funds and to encourage the state to address financial concerns without hampering local budgets. You can find your representative contact information in the "Your Government Section," under the Residents Tab on the City website, www.stcharlesil.gov.



April 22 is Earth Day; it's also a good time to start your Spring cleaning. Properly

maintaining home appliances and keeping them clean, will help them run at peak efficiency. Remove lint and dust from your refrigerator coil, dryer, furnace and any vents. Also change or clean the filter in your furnace. Clean appliances save electricity, which conserves energy.

Marketing St. Charles

Initiatives for Attracting Business and Tourism

A central focus of the City of St. Charles Economic Development Department is promoting our riverside community to several audiences. We know St. Charles is a great place to live, work and visit. And through a variety of marketing and advertising initiatives, the department works to make sure everyone else knows it too. Over the last several years, the City has developed multiple promotions to attract business and tourism to the community. Here is a sampling of outreach efforts:

Restaurant Week

For five days in February, St. Charles holds Restaurant Week to draw attention to St. Charles' top-notch dining scene, and bring guests from all over the Chicago area to our community. More than 25 of the City's dining establishments, from east to west and everywhere in-between, offer patrons 25% off their meals. Customers receive the discount when they present either the promotional postcard mailed to all St. Charles residents, an advertised coupon from local newspapers, or a downloaded form from the City website.

Advertising

Ads showcasing all St. Charles has to offer are placed in a variety of publications. One recent campaign featured a three-piece ad series promoting St. Charles shopping, dining and entertainment that was used as a business recruitment piece. An industrial recruitment advertisement also highlighted the benefits of opening a manufacturing, distribution, or other industrial-type use business here. And, in conjunction with the Downtown St. Charles Partnership, a seasonal ad ran in select publications for the holidays to draw visitors from around the Chicago area to shop, dine, and take part in downtown holiday festivities.

Direct Mail/Promotional Items

Promotional pieces and direct mail are a great way to catch the eye of new businesses. A marketing folder for direct mail and tradeshows features inserts tailored to each potential business industry and includes information on resident demographics, incentives and employment figures. In addition, a 14-sided, pop-up marketing piece is distributed to potential businesses, along with commercial and industrial real estate brokers to keep St. Charles in mind and provide contact information.

For more information, visit the Economic Development page online at www.stcharlesil.gov.

Welcome New Businesses!

DOWNTOWN

Pro-Tek Inc. Business Products
209 S. 3rd St., 630-444-1627

Vanek, Larson & Kolb LLC Law Firm
200 W. Main St., 630-513-9800

Biggby Coffee
117 W. Main St. #120, 630-377-2215

WEST GATEWAY

Blue Sky Spa
1700 Lincoln Hwy., 312-863-1642

Integrative Family Health
1400 Lincoln Hwy., Suite C, 630-549-7199

Mathnasium Education Center
902 S. Randall Rd., Suite B, 630-444-1805

Pamper Nail Spa
615 S. Randall Rd. #111, 224-600-1836

EAST GATEWAY

Taoist Tai Chi Society Martial Arts Instruction
Charlestowne Mall, 630-443-3489

EAST GATEWAY - INDUSTRIAL

Carzmetology Auto Repair
3540 Stern Ave. #102, 630-444-0542

Elite Extrusion Technologies Plastics Extrusion
3620 Ohio Ave., 630-484-2020

ETS Environmental & Associates Consulting
1820 Wallace Ave. #123, 630-513-4710

Midwest Underground Technology Telecom Constr.
3890 Commerce Dr., 217-819-3040

Specialty Graphics Supply
3875 Commerce Dr., 630-584-8202

The Seat Guy Upholstery
1815 Wallace Ave. #301, 630-650-6002

Best of the Western Suburbs

St. Charles businesses were highlighted over 30 times in the "17th Annual Best of the West" listing published in the March/April issue of West Suburban Living Magazine. Congratulations to these that were ranked "The Best" in their categories: Animal Medical Clinic of St. Charles, Arcadium Coffeehouse, Francesca's, Jeans and a Cute Top Shop, Jump Zone, McNally's Irish Pub, Von Maur, and Wok 'n Fire.

My Neighborhood is All About Your Neighborhood



A great resource on the St. Charles website is My Neighborhood, which provides information specific to your property. Enter your address and get key information:

- Leaf, brush and trash pick-up dates
- Hydrant flushing
- School and tax districts
- Planning and zoning
- Elected officials and voting information
- Utilities
- Property location details

My Neighborhood also features an interactive map with aerial photography, flood information and more. Visit www.stcharlesil.gov and click on the My Neighborhood badge to access this useful feature.

Brush Pick Up Schedule

East Side April 15 West Side April 22

A complete brush collection schedule is available online and will be included in the May Den.

Brush (branches at least 3 ft. in length and less than 12” in diameter) must be placed on the parkway in front of the house (or along the frontage where refuse/recycling is collected), with cut ends facing the street, before 7 a.m.

Do not tie bundles of brush with rope or wire. Brush must not be piled higher than 4 ft. and never piled in the street. Also, please do not to park in front of the piles; crews will be unable to pick up the brush.

Brush also can be placed in paper yard waste bags for pick-up with regular refuse. Either bags with the City logo or generic bags can be used. Generic bags require one refuse sticker per bag.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405, or visit the brush pick up page on our website www.stcharlesil.gov.

Spring Trees Arriving Soon

It's almost time for the Spring planting of the new parkway trees for the 50/50 Parkway Addition Program and other replacement trees. More than 700 trees will be planted this month in several phases. Here's some important information:

- Please be aware of J.U.L.I.E. markings or flags. They are necessary to identify any underground utilities where new trees will be planted. Also, white markings on the curb help with the planting process.
- Trees may be delivered and planted in phases.
- A few days after planting, the planting team will restore the land, add black dirt, seed and mulch, and water newly planted trees. If necessary, gator bags will be provided for further watering.
- All newly planted trees are covered by a one-year warranty.



If you have any questions about Spring planting, please contact Public Services at 630-377-4405.

Arbor Day Celebration

Friday, April 26, 4 p.m. at Lincoln Park

Mark your calendars for the annual Arbor Day event Friday, April 26 at Lincoln Park on Main Street, between 4th and 5th streets. All ages are welcome to this annual celebration of trees. Come and enjoy live music, a tree raffle, tree care demonstrations, delicious cookies and more! The fun begins at 4:00 p.m.

Winners of two Arbor Day contests: an art contest for children up to and including 5th grade and a writing contest for students 6th grade through adults, will be recognized at the celebration. Winners also will receive prizes have their submissions displayed throughout the City of St. Charles Municipal Building, 2 E. Main Street. For more information about the celebration, visit the City's Arbor Day Page online at

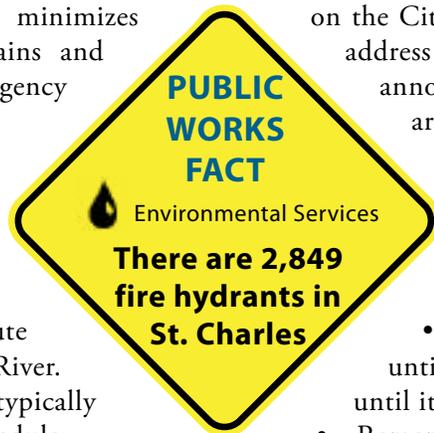
www.stcharlesil.gov.

St. Charles Water Division Begins Annual Hydrant Flushing

Hydrant flushing is an important part of the regular maintenance of the City's water main distribution system. It improves water quality, minimizes mineral build-up in the water mains and insures hydrants are ready for emergency use.

Hydrant flushing is conducted by dividing St. Charles into quadrants: Northwest, Southwest, Southeast and Northeast. The north and south quadrants are divided by Main Street (Illinois Route 64), and the east/west by the Fox River. Flushing of a particular quadrant will typically last one-to-two weeks. Here's the schedule:

- Northwest Quadrant – Monday, April 15, 7:00 a.m. through Friday, April 19
- Southwest Quadrant – Sunday, April 21, at 10:00 p.m. through Friday, April 26
- Southeast Quadrant – Monday, April 29, 7:00 a.m. through Friday, May 3
- Northeast – Sunday, May 5, 10:00 p.m. through Friday, May 17



For approximate hydrant flushing dates in your neighborhood, click on the My Neighborhood badge on the City's website www.stcharlesil.gov, enter your address and choose the City Services tab. Signs announcing hydrant flushing also will be posted around your neighborhood.

Please note it is safe to use and consume water during hydrant flushing. However, residents may temporarily experience rusty-colored water. Tips:

- It's best to limit water use, if possible.
- If you experience rusty-colored water, wait until flushing is complete, then run cold water until it is clear.
- Remember rust-colored water is safe, but may stain laundry. If this happens, keep clothes wet and treat them with stain remover. Residents can pick up a free stain remover from the City here:
 - **Public Works** 1405 South 7th Avenue
 - **City Hall** Reception Desk, 2 East Main Street
 - **Police Department** 211 North Riverside Avenue

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.

It's a Wrap on Winter

Public Services Division Readies for Warmer Weather

The Public Services Division is wrapping up winter services and is shifting gears to get ready for warmer weather.

Equipment is being transitioned as plows and brine tanks are removed from trucks and replaced with mulch hoppers and water tanks. Preparations for street maintenance and repairs to mailboxes that were damaged during the winter months is underway.

Seasonal Snow Fall Totals

2010-2011 Season: 55"
2011-2012 Season: 23"
2012-2013 Season: 34"

Inspections of ash trees for emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation already have begun. And plans are moving forward for removing infected or diseased trees, tree restoration and the Spring tree planting season.

Many more services are scheduled to begin soon, including catch basin cleaning, storm sewer maintenance and repair, stump grinding, landscape activities in the downtown area, along with a variety of other regular duties.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.

Flood Safety

Please read some important tips to help you avoid the dangers of flooding:

- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in cars than anywhere else.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires, and turn off your power before it floods. Electrical current can travel through water. Electrocutation is the second leading cause of death during floods.
- Beware of gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house before it floods. If you smell gas, report it to the gas company and don't use candles, lanterns or open flames.
- Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains. Water can carry dangerous items or may suck smaller people into them.
- Clean everything that has been wet. Flood water may be contaminated with sewage or chemicals.
- Look out for animals, especially snakes.
- Do not use gas engines, such as generators, or charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious health hazards.

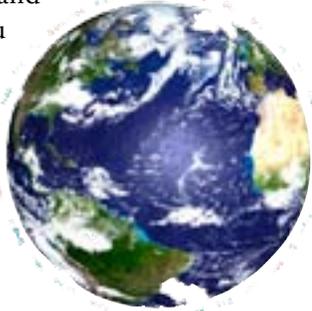
Blood Drive at City Hall

April 25, 12 to 5 p.m.

The Heartland Blood Center will hold a blood drive at City Hall April 25, 12 to 5 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but an appointment will ensure a quick and efficient donation (usually around 20-30 minutes). Giving blood is one of the most rewarding donations you can make, and every donations helps save lives. Schedule your appointment online, at <https://ht.heartlandbc.org>. The new online procedure requires donors to register with a username and password. Once registered, you will be able to track your donations and other information online and sign up for future blood drives. Contact the Human Resources Department at 630-377-4446 or email hr@stcharlesil.gov with for more information.

Celebrate Earth Day with PACE

Earth Day is April 22 and Pace would like to remind you that ridesharing/carpooling is an environmentally-friendly alternative to driving alone. Pace provides a free automated matching service to assist employees in forming a rideshare group at PaceRideShare.com.



Earth Day



IDOT has resumed construction on East Main St./IL 64

Be Sure to Vote April 9!

City of St. Charles Directory

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Building & Code Enforcement..... | 377-4406 |
| City Administrator..... | 377-4422 |
| Community Development..... | 377-4443 |
| Development Engineering..... | 443-3677 |
| Economic Development..... | 443-4093 |
| Electric Division..... | 377-4407 |
| Engineering Division..... | 377-4486 |
| Emergency Management Agency..... | 377-4416 |
| Flood Protection Assistance..... | 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./Investigation/Crime Prevention..... | 377-4435 |
| Public Works-Water/Sewer/Street..... | 377-4405 |
| Refuse Pickup Info. | 587-8282 |
| TDD..... | 800-526-0844 |
| Utility Billing - Electric/Water/Sewer..... | 377-4426 |
| Electric Outage Hotline..... | 866-444-0016 |

**Join us in honoring
St. Charles Mayor
Donald DeWitte!**

**Wednesday, April 17
7:30 p.m.
Arcada Theatre
105 E. Main St.
630-962-7000**

The evening will recognize Mayor DeWitte for his many years of dedicated service to the St. Charles, its residents, businesses and community

Contact Tina Nilles, 630-377-4422, for more information

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The Den is produced by
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