



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

**December
City Council and
Committee Meetings**

City Council		
7 p.m.	3	
Government Operations		
7:05 p.m.	3	
Planning & Development		
7 p.m.	10	
City Council*		
7 p.m.	17	
Government Operations		
7:05 p.m.	17	

Red Gate Bridge Opens for Vehicle Traffic Dec. 15
Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting will Mark the Occasion

The two-lane car deck of the new Red Gate Bridge is set to open to vehicle traffic Saturday, Dec. 15. The city will mark the occasion with a brief ribbon cutting ceremony on the bridge.

Construction continues on the pedestrian and bicycle pathway that will connect to existing trails on either side of the river. The pathway is scheduled to open in the spring of 2013.

The new Red Gate Bridge will provide St. Charles with its northernmost Fox River crossing. The city broke ground for the bridge in August 2011.

For more information and updates on the progress of the bridge, visit the project website www.redgatebridge.org. And be sure to check out the two project webcam feeds that offer real time video of project work in action.



Installation of bridge cables, east side of bridge looking west



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



Concrete for the bridge deck was poured last month



Thank You

St. Charles Cares Day of Giving a Success

Thank you to everyone who participated in the *St. Charles Cares* Community-wide Day of Giving Nov. 16, benefitting those affected by Superstorm Sandy. The effort certainly gained steam as the day approached. And in true St. Charles fashion, our community really stepped up to help those in need. There are thousands of people out east who are thankful for your generosity.

Commercial Real Estate Brokers Tour St. Charles

Tuesday, Nov. 13, more than 35 Commercial Real Estate Brokers from around the Chicagoland area descended upon the City of St. Charles. They accepted an invitation to join the city's Economic Development staff on a 2-1/2 hour bus tour to view available properties located throughout St. Charles. The tour featured as many as 25 properties along the route, which began at 1st Street and included the downtown area, Industrial Parks, and East and West Commercial gateway corridors.



The tour was an opportunity for brokers to share information about properties they represent in St. Charles. With insights into the location, building features and specifications of the properties shown, the brokers gained a greater understanding of each site's strengths within the west suburban commercial and industrial real estate market.

After the tour, everyone gathered at "The Office" for socializing and continued professional networking. The great turnout experienced at the first St. Charles Broker Tour was in large part due to the efforts city staff received from Ann Dvorak and Sharon O'Leary at Murray Commercial, Spare Wheels transportation company and the team at The Office.

Winter Care for Parkway Trees

Getting your parkway trees ready for winter requires minimal care. Here's what you can do to prepare.

If your new tree has a green "gator bag" around the trunk, the city will remove the bag for the winter. Do not water the tree after the gator bag has been removed. You may resume watering twice per month starting in June 2013.

Also, if your tree has any wrapping around the trunk, please do not remove the wrap. The wrapping will become dislodged through weathering. However, please remove the wrap in the spring if it is still attached.

Finally, please ensure the wood mulch that has been placed around your tree is away from the base of the trunk by several inches. The mulch should be 2 to 4 inches in depth and flat, not mounded.

If you have questions, contact Public Works at 630-377-4405.



Properly mulched tree

River Tree Falls in Windstorm



After three decades, the majestic weeping willow that sat on a small island in the Fox River near Indiana Avenue was toppled during a wind storm in November. The tree had been graciously donated by Nancy Honeyman. Thanks to the continued generosity of Nancy and her daughter, Tammy Simmons, a replacement tree--a river birch--has been planted in its place.



Helpful Winter Reminders

Snow Plow Safety

City staff is gearing up for another northern Illinois winter. They are preparing the equipment and making sure de-icing supplies are ready to keep city streets safe and clear throughout the winter.

Here's what you can do to help:

- Remind children to stay clear of snowplows.
- When driving, stay back at least 100 feet from moving plows and do not pass moving plows.
- Drivers, remember to yield the right of way to any vehicle displaying flashing lights and engaged in construction, maintenance, snow plowing or salting work.
- Do not place snow removed from driveways and sidewalks in the street. It creates dangerous situations for others and violates city ordinances.
- Clear snow and ice from the walk adjacent to your property. This makes pedestrian travel safer and easier for everyone.
- Clear snow away from fire hydrants to permit easy access, in case of emergency.
- Pile snow away from the edge of the road, on the left side of the driveway as you face the house. Should the snowplow pass by again, this will prevent the plow from pushing snow back into your driveway.
- If you believe your mailbox was hit by a city plow, contact Public Works at 630-377-4405, Mon-Fri., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Please remove any objects that overhang the curbs e.g., portable basketball hoops.
- Do not park on streets after 2" snowfall; the Police Department will begin enforcing the parking regulations one hour after the 2" accumulation.

Avoid Frozen Pipes

To avoid frozen water pipes, allow heated air to circulate around pipes and meters. Latch basement windows and vents to prevent drafts on pipes. When remodeling, do not locate water pipes against exterior concrete walls. If pipes have been frozen in the past, insulate problem areas and leave cabinet doors open. If you have any questions, please contact the city at 630-377-4404.



Brush, Leaf & Yardwaste Collection

Brush, leaf and yardwaste collection has concluded for 2012. Collection will resume April 2013.

Holiday Refuse Pick Up

There will be no refuse pick up on Dec. 25 & Jan. 1 due to the Christmas and New Year holidays. Pick up will be delayed by one day for these two weeks.

PLEASE NOTE: There **WILL** be refuse pick up on Dec. 24 & 31.

Christmas Tree Pick Up

Christmas trees will be picked up during the weeks of January 7 & 14, 2013, on **BOTH** sides of the river on the regularly scheduled refuse day. After the two week period, a sticker will be required for pick up.

Trees are **NOT** to be placed in disposal bags. Residents should note that all decorations, including tinsel, must be removed.

For questions, please contact Public Works at 630-377-4405.

Free Holiday Light Recycling



Kane County Monthly Electronics & Book Recycling Collection Event

Second Saturday each month, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles, 630-208-3841.
For more information, visit www.countyofkane.org.

Fire Chief Patrick Mullen Retires after 35 Years in Fire Service

After five years of distinguished, dedicated, and honorable service to the City of St. Charles, Chief Mullen has elected to retire from the fire service. Patrick Mullen was hired by the City of St. Charles as Fire Chief on October 1, 2007, after 19 years of service to the City of Naperville Fire Department where he achieved the rank of Assistant Fire Chief.

Chief Mullen has provided tremendous leadership during his tenure as Fire Chief and has demonstrated commitment in his service to the Fire Department and residents of St. Charles. He directed the construction of a new headquarters fire station downtown, enhanced the City's emergency operations center, and established a team of City staff to work together on the purchase and deployment of a new ladder truck.



Fire Station #1, the headquarters for the St. Charles Fire Department, was completed during Chief Mullen's tenure.

In addition, under Chief Mullen's leadership, the training of all City employees in emergency and disaster planning was greatly enhanced. This included the City's selection for participation in the Integrated Emergency Management Course at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, during the Summer of 2012.

Chief Mullen is the champion behind the City's pursuit of accreditation for the Fire Department by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). Accreditation is a comprehensive self-assessment and evaluation model that enables fire and emergency service organizations to examine past, current, and future service levels and performance and compare them to industry best practices. The Fire Department is expected to be accredited in 2013.

The past five years have presented economic challenges to the City. However, the St. Charles Fire Department is better today than it's ever been, with better facilities, better equipment, better policies, and better people.

Congratulations to Chief Mullen on his retirement!



Find Us on Your Smartphone



Have you seen the mobile-friendly version of our website? It lets you access information from the City of St. Charles in a neat, little "to go" package. Check us out on your smartphone or tablet at www.stcharlesil.gov.

Salvatore Vuono/ FreeDigitalPhotos.net http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/images/view_photog.php?photogid=659

Do You Receive Community eNews?

Stay up on the latest happenings in and around St. Charles with Community eNews. It features news from the city, park district, library, school district, Chamber of Commerce, Greater St. Charles Convention & Visitor's Bureau, and the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. Sign up at www.stcharlesil.gov and click on "Subscribe to City eNews" to have Community eNews emailed directly to you.

Be Prepared for Winter Weather

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service are encouraging people to prepare for winter emergencies. The agencies joined with the American Red Cross to develop a Winter Weather Preparedness guide that includes tips for staying safe at home, in the car and at work or school. Download the guide at www.ready.illinois.gov.

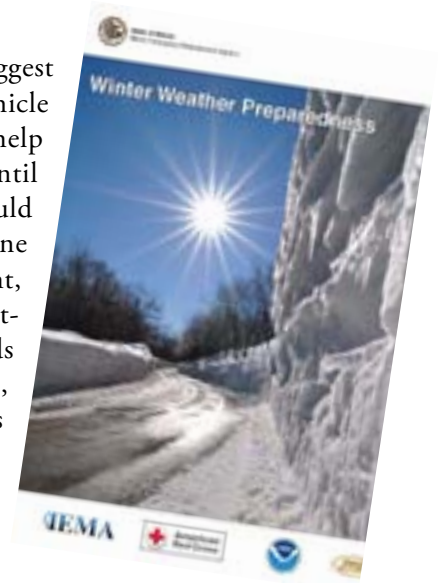
“An emergency situation does not need to be a large magnitude to be life threatening,” said Paul Bumba, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with the City of St. Charles. “It can be as personal as being without power in your home for an extended period of time or being stranded on a roadway overnight during a severe winter storm or weather event. We urge citizens to take the proper precautions before the cold weather hits.”

According to the IEMA and NWS, a home emergency supply kit should be stocked with items to last for at least three days and should include a battery-powered weather alert radio, a flashlight, extra batteries, non-perishable food, water, a first-aid kit, extra medications and special items needed for babies, disabled or elderly family members

and family pets.

They also suggest preparing a vehicle emergency kit to help stay safe and warm until help arrives. It should include a cell phone and charger, flashlight, extra batteries, first-aid kit, snack foods and water, blankets, extra clothing, gloves and hats, sand or kitty litter, shovel, windshield scraper and a tool kit.

For more information, contact Paul Bumba at 630-377-4416.



The Effects of Hard Water can be Noticeable

Our Public Works Department often gets questions from residents about the water in St. Charles. Most of the time, they notice deposits around faucets, film on glasses and soap residue that is difficult to rinse out of clothes. If you have noticed these conditions in your home, what you are experiencing are the effects of hard water. Hard water can be a nuisance, but it's perfectly fit for drinking. Generally a water softening system can mitigate the effects of hard water.

Hard water is very common and can be found in more than 85% of the country. Water becomes hard naturally when it soaks through the ground, passing through rock and soil, and picks up minerals, such as calcium and magnesium. It's these minerals that produce the "hardness" in water.

In St. Charles, our water is drawn from seven underground wells. The water from these wells ranges in hardness from 12-28 grains per gallon.



More information about the city's water hardness levels and a map of water hardness zones can be found on the water page of our website at www.stcharlesil.gov.

The City of St. Charles Water and Laboratory Divisions perform approximately 11,000 tests per year on the water to ensure it is safe and meets all regulations. Each year, the Water Division distributes a report that summarizes the quality of the city's drinking water. The 2012 report confirmed once again that our tap water meets all Environmental Protection Agency drinking water health standards. The water is tested daily in accordance with strict EPA regulations, so you can be assured that your drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds all water quality standards as listed in the Safe Drinking Act.

For more information about the city's water, contact John Lamb, Environmental Services Manager, at 630-377-4405.

City Crews are Prepared for Winter Weather

Public Works staff is prepared to maintain safe road conditions for our community this winter. The foundation of our successful snow program has been the ability to mobilize our equipment and personnel for any storm event, including light or heavy snowfall and ice storms.

Our plowing and deicing operations tackle the main routes, connector roads, school zones and downtown areas first to keep the majority of traffic and emergency routes cleared. Once these areas are cleared and safe for travel, city crews and contractors begin clearing neighborhood streets, cul-de-sacs, alleys and parking lots.

- **Weather.** Many of our functions are weather dependent. The city uses a computerized forecasting system to monitor the weather. This system alerts staff to incoming weather systems by type (snow, ice, etc.), and gives information about duration and expected onset. It also provides treatment recommendations customized to our snow program.

- **Brine.** The city uses brine as a pre-wetting application before most snowfalls. The brine provides a buffer between the street surface and the snow which aids in removal. The city produces its own brine, which is a mixture of salt, water and beet juice. The brine is applied to the streets from a liquid tank truck which spreads the material across the pavement when snow or ice is expected. For more information, please call Public Works at 630-377-4405.



Pour a Pitcher Full of Savings

Instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool, save water by filling a pitcher with water and storing it in the fridge. An ice-cold pitcher of water makes a great addition to your holiday table.

Neighbors in Need is Underway

Please consider donating to our annual Neighbors in Need fund to help struggling St. Charles residents pay their city utility bills. Over the last seven years, residents have generously donated nearly \$14,000 and helped 210 families. Thank you to all who have participated in this vital program.

If you would like to donate, please list the amount of your donation on the line provided on the payment stub of your utility bill and add it to the amount of your payment. If everyone donated at least \$1, we would collect more than \$10,000. All donations go directly to helping St. Charles residents--none of the funds are used for administrative costs.

The city works with the Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul to administer the program. For questions, please contact Utility Billing at 630-377-4426.

Clearing State and County Roads

The following state roads are plowed and maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation, 847-705-4228:

- Rt. 31 north of the railroad trestle
- Rt. 25 north of Johnor Ave.
- Rt. 64 west of Randall Road
- Rt. 64 east of 13th Avenue

The following roads are plowed and maintained by the Kane County Highway Department, 630-584-1170:

- Kirk Road south of Rt. 64
- Kirk Road north of Royal Fox Subdivision
- Country Club Road from Persimmon Drive to Dunham Road
- Randall Road

Please Help
if You Can

Prevent Holiday Shopping Crime

Thanksgiving weekend marks the traditional start of the holiday shopping season. The St. Charles Police Department would like to offer 10 tips for protecting yourself against shopping crimes this holiday season:

1. Pay attention to your valuables (bags, purses, wallets, phones, etc.) at all times and avoid distractions such as talking on your cell phone or listening to an MP3 player.
2. Wear your purse diagonally across the front of your body or place your wallet in a front pocket.
3. Do not carry large sums of cash.
4. Beware of strangers that approach you or bump into you.
5. Conceal your PIN during credit/debit card transactions.
6. Throngs of shoppers can lead to frustrations, rage or even mob violence. If you find yourself in a mob scene, remain calm and carefully move to the outside of the mob. Search out protective barriers like walls, and avoid bottlenecks.
7. Never park in an unlit or poorly lit parking lot.
8. Never leave packages visible inside your car. Store them in the trunk instead.
9. Have your keys in your hand when you approach your car. While loading your car do not leave handbags or purses unattended.
10. Check your account balances frequently to check for unauthorized purchases and report lost or stolen cards immediately.

“Shoppers really need to keep track of their valuables and be aware of who is around them at all times,” warns Bill Tynan, Crime Prevention Officer in the St. Charles Police Department. “Turning your back briefly on a bag of purchases or a purse resting in a shopping cart is all the time a criminal needs to take those items.”

For more information, visit www.stcharlesil.gov or contact Bill Tynan, Crime Prevention Officer at 630-377-4435.

Now You Can Report a Crime Online

Submit a tip online at www.stcharlesil.gov or call the Drug & Crime Tip Line 866-DRUG-COP.



Final Comprehensive Plan Task Force Meeting

Residents, property owners, and members of the business community are encouraged to



come to the last Task Force Meeting to review and discuss the final draft of the city’s Comprehensive Plan before it is sent to the Plan Commission for review. The meeting will be held Wed., Dec. 12 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2 E. Main St. For more information, contact Russell Colby, Planning Division Manager, at 630-377-4443 or visit www.stcharlesil.gov.

Tri-City Toys for Kids Toy Donation

The Tri-City Toys for Kids program is asking for support in helping make this Christmas special for area children in need. Now in its 29th year, the program collects toys for distribution by the Salvation Army to boys and girls in the Tri-City area.



The program is looking for gifts of new toys, games, or monetary donations. Donations can be dropped off at Pottawatomie Golf Course, Pottawatomie Community Center, Baker Community Center, Norris Recreation Center, District 303 Grade Schools, St. Charles North High School, Geneva High School, Hosanna Lutheran Church, Coach House Restaurant, St. Charles Library, and the Arcada Theatre.

The needy boys and girls in our area thank you for making their Christmas special. Please call Jim Wheeler at 630-429-0560 for more information.

Giving Tree Holiday Gift Donations

The City of St. Charles Employee Wellness Team is again coordinating the Giving Tree program for the holidays. Donations will benefit two local charities:

Association for Individual Development, www.the-association.org and local seniors who attend Elderday Care Center, www.elderdaycenter.org.

A tree will be displayed at City Hall beginning Nov. 20. To participate, simply select a tag, purchase the item(s) on the tag, and return the unwrapped gift(s) to the Giving Tree by Dec. 10. Items on the tags range from \$5 to \$25. The gifts will be wrapped and delivered in time for Christmas. Cash donations to purchase items are welcome, too, and may be left with the receptionist at City Hall. Contact the Human Resources Department at 630-377-4446 with questions.

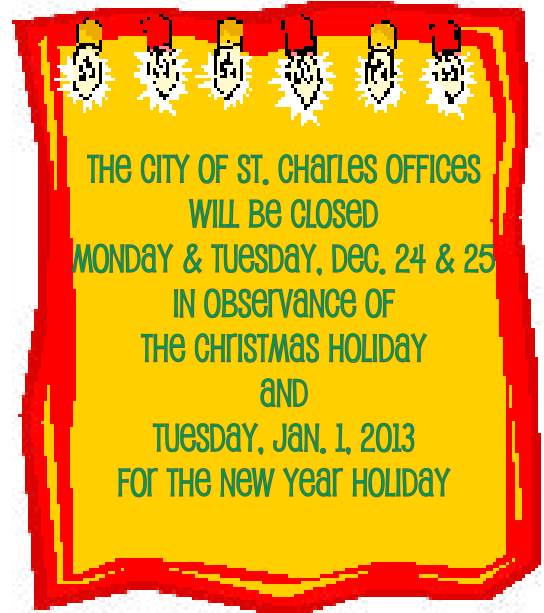


City of St. Charles Directory

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. (Veolia).....	587-8282
TDD.....	800-526-0844
Utility Billing - Electric/Water/Sewer.....	377-4426
Electric Outage Hotline.....	866-444-0016

Looking for Volunteers

The Salvation Army currently is seeking volunteers to lead money management (budgeting) classes for guests. The time commitment is minimal, about 6 hours over three months. If you have skills in this area and are interested in helping a small group of people with their home finances, please contact Cathy Winters at The Salvation Army at 630-377-2769, ext. 210. Thank you.



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The City of St. Charles
2 E. Main Street St., Charles, IL 60174
Questions? Please contact
Lisa Garhan, Editor
630.443.3744

#1 City for Families
St. Charles named by FamilyCircle 2011