



# THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

December 2014

[www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov)

## Regular Meetings

To see a complete list of meetings go to  
[www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings)

### Youth Commission

12.1.14.....6:00 pm

### City Council

12.1.14.....7:00 pm

### Government Operations

12.1.14.....7:05 pm

### Corridor Improvement Commission

12.3.14.....7:00 pm

### Historic Preservation Commission

12.3.14.....7:00 pm

### Planning & Development

12.8.14.....7:00 pm

### Liquor Control Commission

12.15.14.....4:30 pm

### City Council

12.15.14.....7:00 pm

### Government Operations

12.15.14.....7:05 pm

### Plan Commission

12.16.14.....7:00 pm

### Historic Preservation Commission

12.17.14.....7:00 pm

### Housing Commission

12.18.14.....7:00 pm

The City of St. Charles offices  
will be closed Wed. & Thurs.,  
Dec. 24 & 25, 2014 for the  
Christmas holiday  
and Thurs., Jan. 1, 2015  
New Year's Day



CITY OF  
ST. CHARLES

ILLINOIS • SINCE 1834



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



## Happy Holidays!

The holiday season is upon us once again. Last year, as the holiday season approached, I made a few gentle reminders for your consideration.

- It is my fervent hope that you keep the less fortunate in mind as you begin your gift-purchasing adventures. Lazarus House, the Salvation Army, the Northern Illinois Food Bank and a host of other charitable institutions stand ready to accept your donations of cash and goods.

- I also reminded you of the importance of supporting our local merchants as you purchase gifts and merchandise/food for your holiday gatherings and reunions.

- Entertain your visitors and family guests in St. Charles. Our restaurants, three live theatres, and other venues allow you to have great celebrations locally.

As the year 2014 comes to a close, we are happy with our successes and look to 2015 for further progress.

- We broke ground on THE QUAD and will work with the Krausz Companies as they use 2015 to lay the foundation for a 2016 opening.

- We completed a much-needed replacement of the parking lot north of the Municipal Building. Enjoy the public plaza and additional green space along the river.

- We realized a net influx of business activity in our community with the promise of an equally prosperous 2015.

- We revised our liquor code and have made proposals for a tighter tobacco code. Our intent is to be firm but fair; we always want to work with our merchants. We want a fun, vibrant community that is safe for all of its citizens.

- With leadership from the River Corridor Commission, the Park District, the Forest Preserve and the City embarked on an Active River Study. The goal is to increase utilization of our great natural asset, the Fox River. We welcomed our first Regatta to St. Charles courtesy of Row America and the St. Charles Rowing Club, which triggered rowing fever on the Fox.

- We celebrated our city's 180th Anniversary.



Mayor Raymond P. Rogina



(continued on following page)

# welcome!

## NEW BUSINESSES

### DOWNTOWN

#### **Clean As A Whisker** (Pet Grooming)

322 W. Main St., 630.444.0840

#### **Wunderlich Securities** (Finance)

303 W. Main St., 630.463.9250

#### **The Bend General Store** (Deli & Specialty Food Shop)

320 W. Main St., 630.797.5253

#### **The Diamondaire Jewelry Store**

117 W. Main St., 630.355.7464

#### **La Belle Donna Day Spa**

Relocated to: 113 E. Main St.  
630.513.5673

### EAST GATEWAY - INDUSTRIAL

#### **Gerber Collision & Glass**

3415 Stern Ave., 630.513.9770

### EAST GATEWAY

#### **Fydoland** (Pet Care)

1317 W. Main St., 847.650.6662

#### **Edge Salon** (Hair Salon)

3755 E. Main St., 630.940.2927

#### **Healing Space**

2075 Foxfield Rd., 847.304.5526

#### **Dave's Burritos**

3677 E. Main St., 630.513.1760

#### **Green Glass Door** (Vintage Decor)

206 S. 13th Ave., 716.868.8655

#### **Detour Graphic Design & New Media**

451 Dunham Rd., 630.479.7580

### WEST GATEWAY

#### **Integrated Fitness Solutions**

2422 W. Main St., 630.443.7582

#### **Discount Tire**

121 S. Randall Rd., 630.549.2767

#### **Destination XL** (Clothing Store)

962 S. Randall Rd., 630.584.4575

#### **Salvation Army Family Store**

Opening Dec. 4  
2063 Lincoln Hwy., 312.738.4367

## Mayor's Letter (Continued from p. 1)

- With the help of a group of determined citizens, we moved the Jones Law Library to Langum Park and rededicated Camp Kane at its southern boundary.
- Conversation continues about further development and how best to utilize our new Comprehensive Plan.
- We will embark upon the creation of a new Strategic Plan that will focus our vision while fine-tuning our mission and vision.
- We ended the year with another budget surplus and a level dollar tax levy.
- Yes, we have procured what we hope to be a sufficient salt supply in the event of another harsh winter.
- Finally, we proclaimed 2015 as the YEAR OF THE SCARECROW in honor of the 30th celebration of our fall festival.

Please enjoy the season in a safe and sound manner. St. Charles puts on a great holiday face. Your holiday guests will enjoy its majesty. And remember, many members of our staff will be working around the clock to ensure a safe environment.

On behalf of all of our elected officials and staff, I want to wish you and your family our best during the holiday season.

May 2015 be prosperous and joyful for our wonderful community.

## A Hometown Holiday

ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS



This past week, St. Charles welcomed the opening of the holiday season at the Holiday Homecoming celebration, just as we have for last 16 years. As our 180th Anniversary Year comes to a close, please enjoy this look back at Christmas celebrations of days gone by. *Photos courtesy of the St. Charles Heritage Center.*

*Below: St. Charles High School Choir, circa 1950*



*Right: Roger Beels, Alderman Maureen Lewis' grandfather and former City employee, as Santa, circa 1949*



## Help a Neighbor in Need

Please consider donating to our annual Neighbors in Need fund to help struggling St. Charles residents pay their city utility bills. Over the last eight years, residents have donated generously to help local families.

If you would like to donate, please list the amount to give on the payment stub of your utility bill and add it to the amount of your payment. 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** or [utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov).

## St. Charles Earns Top Honor from Illinois Municipal Electric Agency

The City of St. Charles recently was awarded the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency's President & CEO's Municipality of the Year award. The award recognizes St. Charles' commitment to reliable and innovative service for its electric customers. St. Charles Electric Department serves more than 15,500 homes and businesses in the community.

"It is an honor to receive this award," said Tom Bruhl, Electric Services Manager for the City of St. Charles. "Our team is passionate about safely executing our mission of providing the citizens of St. Charles with reliable, cost-effective electric service."



Illinois Municipal Electric Agency President & CEO Kevin Gaden (left) presents the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency's President & CEO's Municipality of the Year Award to St. Charles Electric Services Manager Tom Bruhl (center) and City Administrator Mark Koenen (right).

## Giving Tree Makes the Holidays Bright

The City of St. Charles employee Wellness Team is coordinating a Giving Tree program with Tri-City Family Services to ensure a spectacular holiday for one local family.

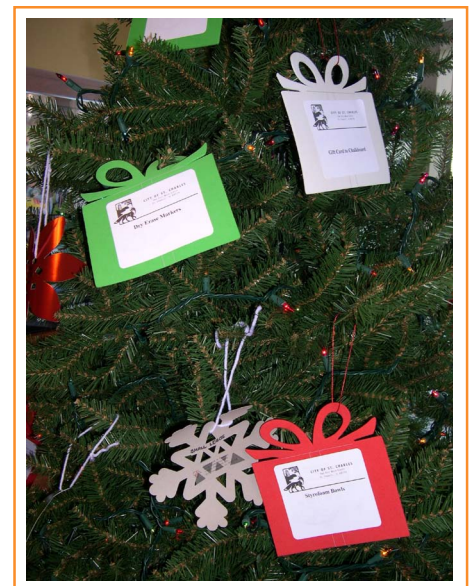
Giving Trees are on display at the Municipal Building, Public Works, and the Police Department with tags for wishlist items for the family.

If you would like to help out, simply select a tag from one of the Giving Trees, purchase the item(s), and return the unwrapped gift(s) to the Giving Tree at the Municipal Building by Dec. 10. Items on the tags start at \$5. The gifts will be wrapped and delivered in time for Christmas.

Cash donations are welcome too and will be used to purchase items on tags not selected. Give donations to Kristi Dobbs at the Public Works Facility, Lynn Creedon in Human Resources at the Municipal Building, or Sara Cass at the Police Department.

Contact the Human Resources Department at **630.377.4446** or [hr@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:hr@stcharlesil.gov) with questions.

We sincerely appreciate your giving spirit this holiday season.





## Prevent Holiday Shopping Crime

*The St. Charles Police Department wants you to have a safe holiday shopping season.*

“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 your shopping bag or a purse resting in a shopping cart is all the time a criminal needs.”

### *Some tips:*

- Wear your purse diagonally across the front of your body or place your wallet in a front pocket.
- Do not carry large sums of cash.
- Beware of strangers who approach you or bump into you.
- Conceal your PIN during credit/debit card transactions.
- Never park in an unlit or poorly lit parking lot.
- Never leave packages visible inside your car. Store them in the trunk instead.
- Have your keys in your hand when you approach your car. While loading your car, do not leave handbags or purses unattended.
- Check your account balances frequently for unauthorized purchases, and report lost or stolen cards immediately.

For more information, contact Officer Tynan at **630.443.3847** or [btynan@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:btynan@stcharlesil.gov).



## Police Department Will Dispose of Unused Meds

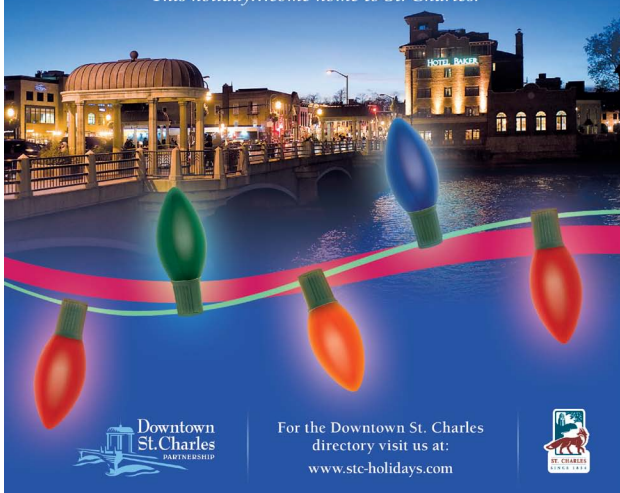
The Police Department offers safe and secure prescription drug disposal for St. Charles residents. The program has been a great success in keeping medications out of the environment (landfills, water supply, etc.) and in preventing possible substance abuse.

Simply bring leftover or expired medications to the front lobby of the Police Department. You will be provided with an evidence bag and asked to empty the contents of the bottles into the bag. Then seal the bag and hand it over to the Records Personnel who will immediately place the bag into the secure disposal bin. It's as easy as that! Please contact the Police Department at **630.377.4435** or [pw@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:pw@stcharlesil.gov) with any questions.

SEE DOWNTOWN ST. CHARLES IN A  
*whole new light*


Downtown St. Charles,  
known for its natural charm and distinctive culture, caters to  
people with a desire to be pampered with its superb dining scene, boutique  
shopping, night life, entertainment and the beautiful Fox Valley.

*This holiday...come home to St. Charles.*



Downtown  
St. Charles  
PARTNERSHIP

For the Downtown St. Charles  
directory visit us at:  
[www.stc-holidays.com](http://www.stc-holidays.com)



**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**

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**CASA KANE COUNTY**

Thanks to all who supported our CASAtober fundraiser in support of CASA Kane County. The final tally from the bake sale (our best ever), City employees' Giving Fridays, and the Blue Goose and JP Jewelers raffles was \$2,312!

**Your generosity is truly appreciated.**

## Shop City Hall for the Holidays

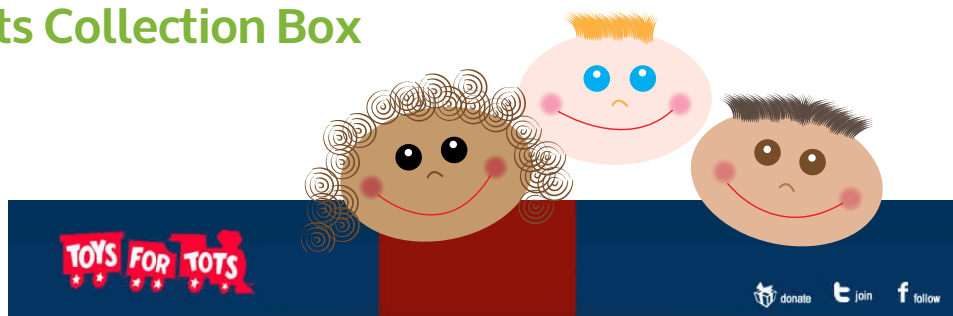


*Is there someone on your holiday gift list who loves St. Charles as much as you do? Then consider a special St. Charles-inspired gift this season. Come to the lobby of the Municipal Building for:*

- A beautiful **Trinket Box** that features the peacock window at Hotel Baker \$27, Provided by the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. *Proceeds benefit the purchase and maintenance of public art downtown.*
- **Note Cards** with scenes from around St. Charles – A set of 5 for \$10 Provided by the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. *Proceeds benefit the purchase and maintenance of public art downtown.*
- **Post Cards** showing scenes from Riverfest – \$1 each, *Provided by Pride of the Fox. Proceeds benefit Pride of the Fox community festivals and events.*
- **Gift Certificates** that can be used at several businesses here in St. Charles – In various denominations *Provided by the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce.*

## We Have a Toys for Tots Collection Box

Drop off new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine's Toys for Tots Program at the Municipal Building, 2 E. Main St. There is a collection box right in the lobby. Toys can be dropped off through Dec. 15. Visit [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org) for more information.



### PLEASE NOTE

**Refuse collection will follow the normal pick up schedule for the weeks of Dec. 22 & 29.**

## Utility Bills Have a New Payment Address

The City of St. Charles is moving to a lockbox system to process utility bill payments. The only change customers may notice is a different return mailing address on the utility bill. Beginning with bills mailed out in late December or early January, payments will be sent to a P.O. Box instead of the Municipal Building address. Utility billing staff will continue to handle all customer service calls and issues, just as before. In addition, you can continue to make payments online, at the utility billing counter or leave payments in any of the City's drop boxes. Please contact the Utility Billing office at [utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov) or **630-377-4426** for more information.

## Ride in Kane is a Handy Transportation Option

Ride in Kane provides door-to-door paratransit services to more than 12,000 senior, disabled, and low-income riders throughout Kane County each month. The fare is \$4/trip.

Registered riders may call 1-866-727-6842 to schedule a ride. To be eligible, residents need to be 65 years or older and/or have an RTA Reduced Fare Card. Residents living in St. Charles City limits who qualify can call the City's Utility Billing office at **630-377-4426** to register.



## Christmas Tree Pickup

Christmas trees will be picked up during the weeks of Jan. 5 & 12, 2015, 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** or [pw@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:pw@stcharlesil.gov).

## Caring for Parkway Trees Planted this Fall

Did you receive a new parkway tree this fall? Newly planted trees need minimal care during the winter months.

If your new tree has a green “gator bag” around the trunk of the tree, 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 next summer.

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 2–4 inches in depth and flat, not mounded.



correct mulching



incorrect mulching

If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Meter Division at or **630-377-4404**.

## Winter Safety Reminders

We're gearing up for another northern Illinois winter. Staff is hard at work preparing the equipment and making sure de-icing supplies are ready to keep city streets safe and clear. The City uses a computerized forecasting system to monitor the weather and crews are scheduled and ready to respond around-the-clock.

### *Please keep these winter safety tips in mind:*

- Remind children to stay clear of snowplows.
- When driving, stay back at least 100 feet from moving plows and do not pass them.
- 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.
- Pile snow away from the edge of the road, on the left side of the driveway as you face the house. Should the snow plow pass by again, this will help prevent the plow from pushing snow back into your driveway.
- 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 an emergency.
- Please remove any objects that overhang the curbs, such as portable basketball hoops.
- Do not park on streets marked within the Snow Route after a 2" snowfall. And, a citywide parking ban on all streets goes into effect when 3" or more of snow has accumulated. The Police Department will begin enforcing the parking regulations one hour after accumulations.
- If you believe your mailbox was damaged by a City plow during snow removal, contact Public Works at [pw@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:pw@stcharlesil.gov) or **630-377-4405**, Monday – Friday from



# Keep Your Water Pipes from Freezing

Public Works receives a lot of questions about how to “winterize” water pipes. You may need to winterize your water service if your home will be vacant (due to a move, sale, extended vacation, etc.) or when home renovations require shutting the water off.

Here are a few suggestions to avoid frozen pipes:

- Allow heated air to circulate around pipes and water meters. Insulate problem areas and leave cabinet doors open.
- In empty/vacant homes, don’t turn off the heat – instead turn down thermostats to maintain a minimum temperature to keep pipes from freezing. Installing a programmable thermostat is recommended to regulate the temperature when needed.
- Allow water to slowly drip from faucets if water pipes are adjacent to an outside wall.
- Do not use an air compressor to “blow out” a private water service. This can allow dirt and other contaminants to enter the private and public water supply causing a potential health risk to others drinking City water.

If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Meter Division at or **630-377-4404**.



Check your furnace and change the filter or make repairs if needed. Properly maintaining your furnace will conserve fuel by keeping it running efficiently and preventing leaks.



## Connect with Us

Connect with the city right from your mobile device. Download our St. Charles Connect app at [www.stcharlesil.gov/connect](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/connect)



### Public Works Fact:

The City of St. Charles provides water service for 12,429\* customers. \*2013 Data



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## City of St. Charles Directory

<i>Building &amp; Code Enforcement</i> .....	377.4406	<i>Fire Administration</i> .....	377.4458
<i>City Administrator Mark Koenen</i> .....	377.4422	<i>Fire Prevention Bureau</i> .....	377.4457
<i>Community Development</i> .....	377.4443	<i>Human Resources</i> .....	377.4446
<i>Development Engineering</i> .....	443.3677	<i>Mayor Raymond P. Rogina</i> .....	377.4444
<i>Economic Development</i> .....	443.4093	<i>Police Administration/Investigation/</i>	
<i>Electric Division</i> .....	377.4407	<i>Crime Prevention</i> .....	377.4435
<i>Engineering Division</i> .....	377.4486	<i>Public Works: Water/Sewer/Street</i> .....	377.4405
<i>Emergency Management Agency</i> .....	377.4416	<i>Refuse Pickup Information</i> .....	587.8282
<i>Flood Protection Assistance</i> .....	377.4486	<i>TDD</i> .....	800.526.0844
<i>Finance/Accounting</i> .....	762.7002	<i>Utility Billing: Electric/Water/Sewer</i> .....	377.4426
		<i>Electric Outage Hotline</i> .....	866.444.0016