



APRIL 2012

#1 CITY FOR FAMILIES - FamilyCircle 2011

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES
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Council & Committee Meetings

April

Planning & Development	9
7 p.m.	
Government Services	9
7:05 p.m.	
City Council	16
7 p.m.	
Government Operations	16
7:05 p.m.	
Plan Commission	17
7:00 p.m.	
Government Services	23
7:00 p.m.	

IDOT to Begin Rt. 64 Road Work April 16

Message Boards will be In Place Soon

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is launching a project to reconstruct, widen and resurface Illinois Rt. 64 from 7th Avenue east to Illinois Rt. 59. General contractor Martam Construction is scheduled to begin work April 16, 2012, with anticipated completion in August 2013. Message boards will be in place about one week before work starts to provide lane closure information and project updates.

Along with the road work, enhancements will be made along Rt. 64, including lighting, retaining walls and sidewalks. IDOT will have more information available, on its website at, www.dot.state.il.us/IL64/index.html.

In addition to the IDOT project on Rt. 64, the City of St. Charles is making intersection improvements at Rt. 64 and Oak Street. Work will extend west of this intersection to Campton Hills Road. The project includes widening the roadway and installing new sidewalks, traffic signals and driveway apron approaches. Work is expected to begin May 1 and be completed by July 30, 2012. Curran Contracting Co. is the contractor for the project. Minimal preemptive work by the City and private utilities will be taking place over the next few weeks to prepare for this project.

As with any construction project, motorists should allow extra travel time, be patient when driving through construction zones and consider alternate routes. Also, please remember using a cellular phone or other communication device in a construction zone is prohibited by state law. For more information about these Rt. 64 improvement projects, contact Jim Bernahl, Public Works Engineering Division Manager, at 630-377-4486.



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

**Curbside
Yard Waste
Collection
is Now
Available**

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Have you seen the mobile-friendly version of our new 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.

Decline in Crime Highlights Police Department Annual Report

Positive Trend Continues

The number of calls for service to the St. Charles Police Department is the lowest it's been in 10 years. That statistic and many others are highlighted in the department's 2011 Annual Report. The report showed that police responded to 16,168 calls for service in 2011, a 7% decline from 2010 and 16% lower than 2008.

The report outlines a continued downward trend in crime throughout the city. There has been a 24% decrease in more serious Part 1 crimes since 2007, as well as a 15% decrease in Part 2 crimes for that same period.

Motor vehicle accidents on public roadways also have been reduced in St. Charles. The number of accidents in 2011 totaled 997, a 24% reduction from 2007. However, the city still has certain areas that are prone to more accidents. The top 3 crash sites are:

- South Randall Road between Oak and IL Route 38
- East Main Street from 7th Avenue to Dunham Road (The reconstruction of East Main Street, which includes the addition of a center turn lane, should help.)
- West Main Street/IL Route 31



The annual report also provides highlights of some other Police Department services, including the Kane County SWAT Team, K-9 Unit, Crime Prevention Unit and the Community Restitution program. The Restitution program uses court-ordered community service labor for various tasks, such as 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. In 2011, this program provided services valued at over \$125,000! To view the entire 2011 Annual Report, click [here](#).

Also, in 2011, the St. Charles Police Department was recognized by the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation with the "Accreditation with Excellence" award, presented to law enforcement agencies that display excellence in public safety professionalism. That recognition, along with the results of the 2011 Annual Report, demonstrate the positive impact that the St. Charles Police Department has on the quality of life in our community.

Recreational Fire Code Requirements

Enjoy Safely and Responsibly

With planning for spring and summer projects underway, residents often have questions about the use and/or installation of outdoor fireplaces. The St. Charles Fire Department would like you to be aware of the following fire prevention code requirements:

- Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. (A wooden deck is part of a structure.)
- Recreational fires not contained in an outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or fire pit, shall not be located within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material.
- All types of outdoor fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
- An approved method of extinguishment (e.g., garden hose or fire extinguisher) shall be available for immediate use.
- Size of the fire shall be three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height or adhere to manufacturer's instructions.
- Bonfires are not allowed without first obtaining a permit from the St. Charles Fire Department.
 - Please note: Large outdoor fireplaces built on a foundation are allowed. However, a building permit is required and may be obtained from St. Charles Building and Code Enforcement. For more information, contact the St. Charles Fire Department at 630-377-4457.



Preliminary Budget a Solid, Sustainable Financial Plan

As the City prepares to wrap up its current fiscal year (FY11-12) on April 30, the budget for the next fiscal year (FY12-13) is in the final stages. The City Council will vote on the proposed FY12-13 budget at the April 16 Council meeting.



The City is projecting a \$369,000 surplus for the current year, primarily due to successful cost containment efforts. Also, the mild winter meant lower than anticipated costs for snow and ice control, which is expected to save approximately \$250,000.

A preliminary look at the proposed FY12-13 budget shows a solid, sustainable financial plan that:

- Includes no new taxes or fees and no tax or fee increases
- Proposes restoring some programs/services that were suspended during the worst of the economic downturn, such as the popular “Spring Clean-Up” program which allows residents to dispose of unwanted items.
- Completes much-anticipated capital projects including the Red Gate Bridge and East Main Street reconstruction.

The city’s efforts to achieve financial sustainability are paying off. In fact, the city is expected to enjoy surpluses through FY13-14. Unfortunately, the economic downturn has resulted in underperformance of several Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts, which will require subsidies to repay bonds previously issued. However, the City has set aside funds for this purpose and the General Fund reserve (the city’s “savings account”) still are expected to be 32% of expenditures at the end of the 5-year forecast – well above the city’s target of 25%. Read the full budget online at www.stcharlesil.gov or click [here](#).

April is Safe Digging Month

Call J.U.L.I.E. @ 811 Before You Dig

Spring is here and the unseasonably warm temperatures have coaxed many gardeners out to work on their yards or given homeowners a head start on improvement projects. The City of St. Charles would like to remind all residents to contact J.U.L.I.E., the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators, by calling 811 before you dig.

“J.U.L.I.E. is a free Illinois one-call system for locating underground facilities,” says Richard Gallas, Assistant Director of Public Works. “It’s state law that J.U.L.I.E. be contacted at least 48 hours before you dig. This allows utilities time to

identify and mark their buried pipes, cables, and other facilities with paints and/or flags. Whether you’re planting a tree or building a home addition, remember to call 811 first.” When you call, be ready to provide:

- Your name, address & phone number
- Company name & address (if applicable)
- Date work will begin
- Location of dig site
- Reason for dig
- Permit number (if applicable)

3 For more information, contact J.U.L.I.E. at 800-892-0123. For general questions, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Brush Pick Up Schedule

East Side	West Side
April 16	April 23
May 21	May 29
June 18	June 25
July 16	July 23
Aug. 20	Aug. 27
Sept. 17	Sept. 24
Oct. 15	Oct. 22
Nov. 19	Nov. 26

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. However, generic bags require one refuse sticker on each bag.

Free mulch is offered when available for pick up at the City’s facility on Rt. 38/Lincoln Hwy., west of Peck Road, Mon.- Fri., 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Questions? Contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405 or visit www.stcharlesil.gov/services/seasonal-services/brush-pick

Hydrant Flushing Schedule

The City of St. Charles Water Division will begin flushing the water main distribution system over the next few weeks. The flushing is conducted by dividing the City into quadrants and usually lasts one week in each area. The quadrants are as follows: North/South quadrants are divided by Main Street (Rt. 64), and East/West by the Fox River.

Northwest Quadrant – Monday, April 16, 7 a.m. to Friday, April 20
Southwest Quadrant – Sunday, April 22, 10 p.m. to Friday, April 27
Northeast Quadrant – Sunday, April 29, 10 p.m. to Friday, May 4
Southeast Quadrant – Monday, May 7, 7 a.m. to Friday, May 11



For the approximate dates in your neighborhood, please check the “My Neighborhood” section of the City’s website: www.stcharlesil.gov, or click [here](#).

Flushing will remove accumulations of insoluble iron from the inside of the water mains. Residents may experience rusty colored water during this time. If

you experience rusty water wait until flushing has subsided, then run the cold water tap until it runs clear. Although the water is safe, it may stain laundry. If this happens, keep clothes wet and treat them with a stain remover. The City offers a product at no cost to residents at the following facilities:

- Public Works, 1405 S. 7th Avenue
- City Hall Front Reception Desk, 2 E. Main Street
- Police Department, 211 N. Riverside Avenue

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

Even Trees Get Thirsty

Trees grow best when soils are moist to a depth of six inches. As a rule of thumb, it takes one inch of water to wet six inches of soil. Most of the soil in our area has a lot of clay and are very slow to absorb water (0.1 to 0.25 inches per hour).

Contrary to popular belief, running the sprinkler system on your lawn won’t give your trees the water they need. It’s best to take a drip or soaker hose and coil it under the dripline of the tree. Turn the hose on and let it run at the base of the tree for 20-30 minutes, 2-3 times a week or as needed through April 30. After May 1, the city’s Outdoor Water Conservation Ordinance is in effect. therefore, please check the website at www.stcharlesil.gov for appropriate days and times to water your landscaping.



Arbor Day Celebration

4 p.m. April 27

A seed falls into the open hands of a child. The child is entrusted with the seed, the last of its kind. "Plant it. Treat it with care," says a voice from above. "Give it clean water. And feed it fresh air." Sound familiar?

The seed, the child, and the giver of the seed come from the Dr. Seuss classic, *The Lorax*.

This April, there is a way to carry out the mission of the story, in real life at the City of St. Charles' annual Arbor Day celebration Friday, April 27, at 4 p.m. The event will take place at Lincoln Park on Main Street, between 4th and 5th Streets. There will be live music, a tree raffle, tree care demonstrations and more! Included in this year's celebration are two contests. There will be a coloring contest for kids, as well as a photography contest open to students 6th grade through adults.

Arbor Day dates back to 1872, when J. Sterling Morton called attention to the value of trees in Nebraska. On April 10 that year, he organized the planting of nearly one million trees. The holiday has grown to global proportions, and people around the world celebrate the value of trees on Arbor Day.

Arbor Day is more than a one-time party in honor of trees. It is a call to action. It is a time to realize our role as stewards of trees, landscapes, forests, wildlife, and the environment. Be part of it, and join us on April 27!



City of St. Charles Directory

Building & Code Enforcement.....	377-4406
City Administrator.....	377-4422
Community Development.....	377-4443
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

Happy Easter!



Margie Smith

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