



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

December
City Council and Committee Meetings

City Council	
7 p.m.	2
Government Operations	
7:05 p.m.	2
Planning & Development	
7 p.m.	9
City Council	
7 p.m.	16
Government Operations	
7:05 p.m.	16

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

Connect With Us!



Connect with the City right from your mobile device. Download our St. Charles Connect app at www.stcharlesil.gov/connect.



As the holidays and winter bring their annual presence to our community, I hope you will consider a few resolutions as we celebrate the season this year and the New Year beyond.



Mayor Raymond P. Rogina

❄️ Resolve to do what you can to help those less fortunate, particularly as it relates to bringing joy to the holiday season. Several service organizations in our community always are in need of volunteers to help provide assistance with the many projects they assume. Donations are accepted in a variety of venues.

❄️ As you purchase gifts for family and friends or prepare holiday get-togethers, resolve to support our local merchants. Great varieties of gift certificates, merchandise, food choices and service options associated with holiday parties and dinners are available from an abundance of St. Charles' businesses. Or enjoy a night out and celebrate in one of our numerous restaurants. They will certainly appreciate your patronage.

❄️ Make a resolution to engage your aldermen, mayor and City staff to discuss issues that will improve the well-being of all residents. We are always available to respond to your emails and phone messages.

❄️ Resolve to get involved in your community. Whether is it volunteering and/or joining a service organization or making a commitment to seek an appointment to a City committee or commission, the knowledge that you made a difference in your town will draw you closer to the essence of what makes our community truly great.

❄️ Above all, resolve to have a happy and safe holiday season.

Take some time to make St. Charles a part of your holiday experience. Let your visitors and out-of-town relatives enjoy St. Charles in all of its holiday glory.

May you and your family enjoy the wonder of the holiday season and best wishes for a prosperous 2014 for our town.

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 generously donated nearly \$16,000 to help 240 families.

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. 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 more, contact Utility Billing at 630-377-4426 or utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov.

Another Shop St. Charles Winner

Shop Local this Holiday Season

Jamie Symons is the next winner of the Shop St. Charles Challenge after her name was picked in a random drawing of applicants. Symons visited three local, independent businesses and then told us about her experiences. She will receive a rebate of up to \$100 for successfully completing the Challenge.

The Shop St. Charles Challenge shines a spotlight on the independent businesses we have right here in town. Symons had this to say about shopping locally: "To me, shopping locally means our town will thrive. The owners and employees get to know our family which creates a pleasant atmosphere for everyone. We moved to St. Charles three years ago. We decided to raise our family here because of the small town feel and the family friendly atmosphere."

Read her reviews of Eliza Jane, Charlestowne 18, and Colonial Cafe-West on our website at www.stcharlesil.gov/shop-local/winners.

For more information, including a program entry form and rules, visit the Shop St. Charles Challenge web page, www.stcharlesil.gov/shop-local or contact the Economic Development at 630-443-4093. You could be the next winner!



Parking Reminder

As you're out shopping in downtown St. Charles this holiday season, remember parking is available at the new 85-space parking lot at 119 N. 3rd Street, the former site of the VFW Post 5036 building.

Also, the parking lot on the corner of Riverside Avenue and Main St. is open again, after rehabilitation work on the Municipal Building was completed in October.



Photo of the VFW lot after completion earlier this year

Welcome New Businesses!

DOWNTOWN

Puebla Modern Mexican Restaurant

51 S. 1st Street, 630-649-4900

White Oak Family Wellness, SC Chiropractic

405 Illinois Ave, Ste. 2B, 630-442-0057

EAST GATEWAY

A Salute Inc. Restaurant & Pub

2400 E. Main St., Ste 112, 630-605-4343

John Granata Art Studio & Classroom

1020 Cedar Ave., Ste. 2nd F1, 630-244-4525

Midwest Community Bank

3755 E. Main St., Ste. 140, 815-235-6138

Tastee Freez & Pikul Dog

818 E. Main St., 630-444-0644

EAST GATEWAY - INDUSTRIAL

CJ Motorsports Machine Shop for Auto Parts

1815 Wallace Ave., Ste. 305, 630-632-1911

Flamingo Surprise, Inc. Signs

3820 Ohio Ave., Ste. 3, 630-350-1280

GIGK, LLC Molecular Distillation Sales

3955 Commerce Drive, 630-204-0211

Global Controls, Inc. Automation Solutions

1720 Wallace Ave., Ste. A, 630-377-5548

WEST GATEWAY

Empower Training Corporation Yoga Studio

2000 W. Main St., Ste. 1B, 630-377-5548

Syndeo Networks, Inc. Communication Technology

300 Cardinal Dr., Ste. 110, 630-524-9545

Floodplain Permits

All developments within the 100-yr. floodplain (not just construction of buildings, but filling, excavation, fences, etc.) are required to obtain a City of St. Charles Permit. Applications must be made prior to doing any work in a floodplain area. Contact the City of St. Charles Public Works Engineering Division for information at 630-377-4486 or www.stcharlesil.gov/flood. You may report illegal development activities to the above number as well.



Thousands of paper and plastic shopping bags end up in landfills every year.

Reduce the number of bags thrown out by bringing reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping. Tell store clerks you don't need a bag for small or oversized purchases. More ideas at www.stcharlesil.gov/green.

Police Chief James Lamkin Retires

James Lamkin has announced he will retire as Chief of the St. Charles Police Department effective Dec. 27, 2013, after serving in that role for 10 years. Lamkin has accepted the position of Chief of Police with the Village of Schaumburg, Ill., effective Dec. 30, 2013. Chief Lamkin has more than 38 years in law enforcement. Prior to coming to St. Charles, he served as Deputy Chief of the Elgin Police Department.

Of his tenure in St. Charles, Chief Lamkin said: "These past ten years have been a wonderful opportunity for me to grow personally and professionally. St. Charles is a great community with much to offer our residents and visitors. As Chief of Police, I have enjoyed our accomplishments and give credit to all the staff at the Police Department, both sworn and non-sworn. I am very proud of everyone for their service to the community and for always respecting those we serve."

Chief Lamkin has served under three Mayors and three City Administrators. His commitment to elevating the safety and security of the community is evident by the steady decrease in calls to the Police Department for service over the last several years, with the number of calls at their lowest since 2001. This is a notable achievement, especially during a time of tightened budgets during the recession of the past few years.

Enhancing officers' tactical abilities and knowledge was an important initiative under Chief Lamkin. In 2012, the Police Department completed a new, full-service firing range for regular firearm practice and training. The new range has become a valuable resource for the St. Charles



Police Department and 21 other area police departments and two specialized teams who regularly utilize the facility.

And, as chair of the Tri-Com Board, Chief Lamkin promoted a spirit of collaboration among local law enforcement agencies to maximize resources and improve services to the community.

City Administrator Mark Koenen expressed appreciation for Chief Lamkin's accomplishments: "I have worked with Jim over his 10 years at the City and am impressed with the relationships he has built both within the City and among local organizations. This has resulted in first-rate emergency response to incidents within the community. I wish him well in future professional endeavors."

Chief Lamkin sits on the boards of several organizations, including Tri-Com, Kane County Emergency Telephone Systems, Northeastern Multi-Regional Training, and the North Central Narcotics Task Force.

"I have worked hard to develop an excellent staff who will continue to serve the community in the years to come. I know I am leaving St. Charles in good hands," Chief Lamkin said.

An interim appointment will be named.

Prevent Holiday Shopping Crime

The Police Department offers these tips to protect against shopping crimes this holiday season:

1. Pay attention to your valuables 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 or place your wallet in a front pocket.
 3. Do not carry large sums of cash.
 4. Beware of strangers who approach you or bump into you.
 5. Conceal your PIN during credit/debit card transactions.
 6. Throngs of shoppers can lead to frustrations or rage. 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 hand when approaching your car and don't leave items unattended while loading the car.
 10. Check your account balances frequently 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 your shopping bag 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/public-safety or contact Bill Tynan, Crime Prevention Officer, at 630-443-3847.



Holiday Refuse Services



No Changes to Refuse Pick-Up for the Holidays

There will be regularly scheduled refuse pick up on Dec. 24 & Dec. 31.

Christmas Tree Pick Up

Christmas trees will be picked up during the weeks of January 6 & 13, 2014, 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.

Brush, Leaf & Yard Waste Collection

Brush, leaf and yard waste collection has concluded for 2013. Collection will resume April 2014.

More at www.stcharlesil.gov/services/refuse.

PLEASE NOTE: Refuse and tree pick up is for residents within the St. Charles city limits only. Check the “My Neighborhood” application on the City website, www.stcharlesil.gov, or call Public Works at 630-377-4405 if you are unsure of your eligibility.

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 a commercial product that lowers the temperature range for which brine is effective. 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, call Public Works at 630-377-4405 or visit www.stcharlesil.gov.



Clearing State & County Roads

The following 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

City Roads

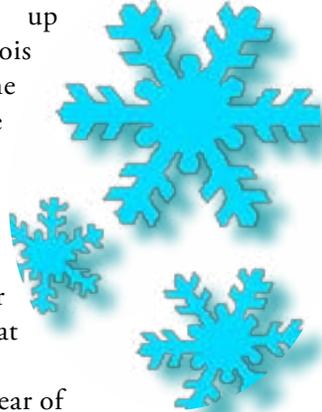
All other city streets are maintained by the City of St. Charles Public Works Department, 630-377-4405.

Anti-icing/salting and plowing operations are all parts of the City's snow plan program. City personnel maintain the nearly 171 lane miles of main, secondary, alleys, side streets, parking lots and cul-de-sacs. Citizen cooperation and understanding will greatly enhance the efforts to provide the best service possible.

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. Around-the-clock crews are ready to respond to winter weather conditions. 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.
- 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.
- 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., or email pw@stcharlesil.gov.
- Please remove any objects that overhang the curbs e.g., portable basketball hoops.
- Do not park on streets after 2" a 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.

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 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 or pbumba@stcharlesil.gov.



Tri-City Toys for Kids Toy Donation is Back

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 30th 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, which can be dropped off at these locations: Pottawatomie Golf Course, Pottawatomie Community Center, Baker Community Center, Norris Recreation Center, District 303 Grade Schools, St. Charles North High School, Hosanna Lutheran Church, St. Charles Library, Second Street Tavern, the Arcada Theatre, Heartland Elementary School and Geneva High School. Donations are being accepted up to Monday, Dec. 16. Contact Jim Wheeler at 630-429-0560 for more information.



Street Light Out? Let Us Know

While the St. Charles Electric Utility proactively maintains City streetlights, we also rely on alert residents letting us know when a streetlight is out, flickering or has other maintenance concerns. If you notice an issue with a streetlight (not traffic signals), please contact us at 630-377-4407, You also can report it on the website, www.stcharlesil.gov. Click on the St. Charles Connect icon on the home page, and then click on "Check the Map." Please also include your name and telephone number so we may contact you if additional information is needed. Streetlights are typically repaired on Fridays.



Free Holiday Light Recycling



Kane County Monthly Electronics & Book Recycling Collection Event

Second Saturday each month, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles, 630-208-3841

For more information, visit www.countyofkane.org.

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

The Downtown St. Charles Partnership and the City have teamed up to run ads in local publications to promote shopping in St. Charles for the holidays. Have you seen

New Pace Bus Schedule for Rt. 801

Pace has revised the weekday schedule for Rt. 801 Elgin to Geneva, serving St. Charles. Please consult the new schedule at pacebus.com.



Ride in Kane

Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, the Ride in Kane fare will increase \$1 per trip, for a total fare of \$4 per trip. This increase is necessary to meet the demands of this door-to-door paratransit service, which serves more than 12,000 riders each month throughout Kane County. Call 1-866-727-6842 or visit www.countyofkane.org for more information.

City of St. Charles Directory

Building & Code Enforcement.....	377-4406
City Administrator Mark Koenen.....	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 Raymond P. Rogina.....	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

Giving Tree Holiday Gift Donations

The City's employee Wellness Team is again coordinating a Giving Tree. Donations will benefit three local charities: Adopt a Family through TriCity Family Services www.tricityfamilyservices.org, CASA Kane County <http://casakanecounty.org>, and Presence Pine View Care Center www.provena.org/pineview.



To participate, simply select a tag off the Giving Tree on display at City Hall, purchase the item(s) on the tag, and return the unwrapped gift(s) to the 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 City receptionist. Contact the Human Resources office at 630-377-4446 with questions.

Salvation Army/Colonial Cafe Match Day

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec. 14. If the Tri-Cities Salvation Army receives \$20,000 in red kettle collections that day, Colonial Café and Ice Cream restaurants will match the \$20,000! Donations will benefit the Salvation Army Corps here in the Fox Valley. More at www.usc.salvationarmy.org/tricity.



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