



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

**January
City Council and
Committee Meetings**

City Council 7 p.m.	6
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	6
Planning & Development 7 p.m.	13
City Council 7 p.m.	21
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	21
Government Services 7:00 p.m.	27

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



Electric Vehicle Charging Available in the 1st Street Garage

Residents Can Charge their Cars While Shopping or Dining Downtown

St. Charles now is plugged into the green community even more with the recent installation of an Electric Vehicle Charger. The Charge Point, Level 2 charger now is available on the fourth floor of the 1st Street Parking Garage at 1st and Illinois streets. The dual charging unit is available to residents to charge their electric vehicles free for up to two hours.



(Photo: Sandy Bressner, Kane County Chronicle)

The technology allows users to monitor station availability and receive notifications about the progress of their charging through a mobile app. It also puts St. Charles on a map of national network of charging stations.

The City received a 50 percent matching grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to install the \$12,000 unit. City Administrator Mark Koenen likes that visitors to our downtown can be thinking green while they spend some green: “We feel the station not only benefits our residents, but it is another plus for our City and downtown and further strengthens our commitment to embracing greener technologies.”

Special thanks to Nissan of St. Charles, Don McCue Chevrolet and resident Julia Davies for bringing their electric cars for demonstration at the charging station ribbon cutting.

For more information, contact Tom Bruhl, Electric Services Manager at tbruhl@stcharlesil.gov.

Got a New Mobile Gadget this Holiday?

We have an App for You!

If you got a new mobile phone or tablet for the holidays then you'll want to install St. Charles Connect, the app that keeps you connected with the City of St. Charles. St. Charles Connect is an easy, handy way to let us know about issues--like a street light that's out--or to ask us questions.

It should **NOT** be used to report an emergency or any time-sensitive issues, and is **NOT** a replacement for the power outage reporting system. St. Charles Connect is available for iPhone, Android, Windows 8 and now Blackberry. You also can log in online at www.stcharlesil.gov/connect.



Tungare to Lead Community and Economic Development

The St. Charles City Council approved Rita Tungare as Director of Community Development and Economic Development, merging the two departments into one, at its Dec. 16 meeting.

In addition to executing the rewrite of the City's Comprehensive Plan, Tungare has been instrumental in managing complex redevelopment projects for the City, including First Street, Lexington Club, Eastgate Commons and Charlestowne Mall. In her new position, she will direct a coordinated and efficient development process with a one-stop customer friendly experience.

"The decision to recommend Rita for this position was made after careful consideration of many factors, including the requirements and responsibilities of these two important City functions," said City Administrator Mark Koenen. "I have worked with Rita over her 13-plus years with the City and know she has the skills and abilities to lead the department into the future."

Tungare joined the City in 2000 as a community planner. She was promoted to Senior Planner in 2001, Assistant Director of Community Development in 2006 and Director in 2008. Prior to joining the City of St. Charles, Tungare worked as a senior planner for the Village of Addison. Tungare holds a Master of Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a Master of Architecture from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Bombay, India. She also holds accreditation from the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Recruitment has begun for an Economic Development Division Manager.



Another Shop St. Charles Winner

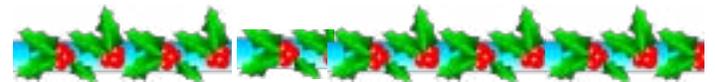
Supporting the Local Economy

Laurie Tiesch is the next winner of the Shop St. Charles Challenge after her name was picked in a random drawing of applicants. Tiesch visited three local 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 businesses we have right here in town. Tiesch, a 20-year resident of St. Charles, had this to say about shopping locally: "There are many new and existing stores and eateries in St. Charles, and this is a great opportunity to try something different. If you find a local business that you like, be sure to share your experiences with your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers so that they too will shop local."

Read her reviews of Blue Goose Market, the local Olive Garden and Aldi 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 and Community Development Department at 630-443-4093. You could be the next winner!



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.**

Do **NOT** place trees in disposal bags. Residents should note that all decorations, including tinsel, must be removed.

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.

Free Holiday Light Recycling



Kane County Electronics Recycling

Second Saturday of each month, 8 a.m. – noon
540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles, 630-208-3841

For more information, visit www.countyofkane.org.



A programmable thermostat gives you more control over the temperature in your home and could save approximately \$150 a year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. One model, the Nest Learning Thermostat, learns when and how it should be set. You can even control it from your phone. Programmable thermostats generally cost between \$50-\$250.

Huffman Named Interim Police Chief

Steven Huffman has been appointed Interim Chief of the St. Charles Police Department, effective Dec. 27. Huffman has served in the department for 20 years, most recently as Deputy Chief of Administration.

Huffman's appointment comes after outgoing Chief James Lamkin announced his retirement from the St. Charles Police Department to accept the position of Chief of Police for the Village of Schaumburg, Ill.

The City will be seeking applications for the Chief of Police position after Jan. 1, 2014, with the goal to fill the position in the spring.

"Steve's appointment will provide excellent continuity during this time of transition," City Administrator Mark



Koenen said. "His experience, knowledge and commitment to the safety and security of the St. Charles community are evident in his many years here in the Police Department."

Huffman started with the St. Charles Police Department in 1993 as a patrol officer. He rose through the ranks, holding positions of Detective Sergeant in Charge of Investigations, Deputy Chief of Operations and most recently Deputy Chief of Administration. Prior to joining the department, Huffman was an Aviation Mechanic with the United States Marine Corps. Huffman holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia Southern University.

First-Ever "Shop with a Cop" Aims to be an Annual Event

On Dec. 15, 17 St. Charles police officers were armed with gift cards and ready to shop. The St. Charles Police Department union partnered with the Super Target in St. Charles to shop with six children whose families are being assisted by Lazarus House in St. Charles. The union donated \$500 and officers volunteered their time to shop and wrap the gifts. Target

donated \$200, applied a 20 percent discount on all items purchased and made associates available to assist in the effort. The holidays certainly were a little brighter for these families thanks to the kindness and generosity of the officers and Target. The Police Department hopes to make the Shop with a Cop an annual event.



Detective Charles Pierce, Officer Richard Clark & Officer Bill Tynan with shopper Logan

Officer James Burden with Sergeant Roger Anderson & shopper Jonathan



St. Charles Police Officers' Compassion is Well-Known

Beyond the organized charity events the St. Charles Police Department regularly participates in, such as Special Olympics fundraising, our officers often will quietly go out of their way to help someone in need. "I have seen many officers of the St. Charles Police Department provide personal care to people in need," said Sergeant

Roger Anderson. "I've seen officers reach into their wallets, buy meals, buy gas, give a dog crate, and follow up with someone who lost a loved one. They often don't speak of their generosity. They are embarrassed by the attention. I am proud to work with these officers who routinely show compassion and care for those in need."

It's Open Season on Potholes

Our Public Works crews are busy during the winter not only with snow and ice removal, but repairing potholes. Potholes can occur very quickly. Various factors may cause potholes to form, such as the freeze/thaw weather cycle; the introduction of chemicals, such as road salt; wear from snowplow blades; and constant heavy load movement of busy road traffic. With all this going on, potholes are inevitable.

Fortunately, the City of St. Charles Public Works Department is well-prepared to handle potholes. When a pothole is reported, crews will work to repair it by applying a material called cold patch as a temporary repair. Cold patch is a pliable temporary blacktop mix, which can be shoveled and groomed better in cold weather than the typical blacktop mix used during hot summer months. To repair a pothole, the crew will clean and prep the hole, then fill it with cold patch mix. The patch is then compacted so the roadway can be immediately opened to traffic. The process is quick and efficient.

Residents can assist the City by reporting potholes when they are noticed. When reporting a pothole, please describe the exact location, which will help us determine the type of equipment needed to complete the repair. If you see a pothole, please call Public Works at 630-377-4405, email pw@stcharlesil.gov or report it with St. Charles Connect mobile app.

PLEASE NOTE: Some St. Charles roads are maintained and repaired by the Kane County Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation or St. Charles Township. The City's Public Works team can assist in identifying the appropriate area of responsibility for the repair and maintenance of our roadways.

Report a Crime Online

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



Weathering a Winter Storm

Winter safety is a consideration indoors and out this time of year. Ice and heavy snow can bring down tree limbs and power lines. Make sure you know how to weather the storm. Keep these safety tips in mind.

Outside Tips

- Stay away from downed power lines.
- A power line does not need to be sparking or arcing to be energized; equipment near power lines also can be energized and dangerous.
- Assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed or sagging line, contact the St. Charles Electric Division at 630-377-4407.
- Motorists should never drive over a downed line. Snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.
- Be careful approaching intersections where traffic or crossing lights may be out.



Inside Tips

- Before a winter storm, you should have supplies on hand, and know how to stay warm.
- If you plan to use a generator, know how to operate it safely.
- Always keep a battery-powered radio or TV, flashlights, a supply of fresh batteries, water, blankets and non-perishable food.
- When power goes out, it often comes back in spikes. This can damage electronics. So unplug them when the power goes out. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.



- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.

- If your power is out, keep warm by staying inside and dress warmly in layered clothing. Close off unneeded rooms. If

you live with a child or elderly person, you may need to take them somewhere with power so they can stay warm. When using an alternate heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate. More at www.stcharlesil.gov.

Firefighters Serve Up a Holiday Feast

For the fifth consecutive year, the St. Charles Professional Firefighters Association Local 3322 has prepared a pasta dinner for residents of a local senior facility. This year, the tradition brought the firefighters to Hunt Club Village where they served a full-course dinner to celebrate the holidays.



All costs, cooking, serving and clean-up are provided by the firefighters. Both the residents and the firefighters enjoy this event and a good time was had by all. The event, which rotates annually among senior housing facilities in the City, has grown in popularity since its inception in 2008. Mayor Rogina, City Administrator Mark Koenen and Aldermen Rita Payleitner and Art Lemke joined the festivities this year, along with firefighters' family members and the department's administrative staff.



Winter Safety Messages

Home Heating Fire Safety

- In 2011, space heaters accounted for one-third of home heating fires. Keep anything that can catch fire at least three feet away.
- Make sure your alternative heaters have 'tip switches,' designed to automatically turn off the heater if it tips over.
- Kerosene heaters may not be legal in your area and should only be used where approved by authorities.
- Only use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer and follow suggested guidelines.
- Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot. Refuel heaters only outdoors.
- Do not use the kitchen oven range to heat your home. In addition to being a fire hazard, it can be a source of toxic fumes.
- Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a back-up battery and install a new battery at least once a year.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of snow, ice and debris for easy access by the fire department.

Source: National Fire Protection Administration

Hypothermia

When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. Prolonged exposure to cold will eventually use up your body's stored energy. The result is hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature.

- Body temperature that is too low affects the brain, making the victim unable to think clearly or move well.
- Hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, but it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water.
- Warnings signs of hypothermia:
 - o shivering, exhaustion
 - o confusion, fumbling hands
 - o memory loss, slurred speech
 - o drowsiness
- If you notice any of these signs, and the person's temperature is below 95°, the situation is an emergency—get medical attention immediately.

Source: National Center for Environmental Health

50/50 Parkway Tree Program PRE-ORDER Approval Form

The City again is offering trees for planting in the parkway through its “50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program.” Please contact the Public Works department to request a review of your parkway if you are interested in participating. All requests must have an approved parkway review before an order will be placed. Please do not send payment at this time. Once approved, residents will receive a confirmation letter, approved order form, and details on how to order a parkway tree.

Available Trees and Costs for the Spring 2013 Program

Prairie Fire Crabapple \$135 - <i>Good under power lines</i>	London Planetree \$180
Red Jewel Crabapple \$135 - <i>Good under power lines</i>	Redmond Linden \$175
Japanese Tree Lilac \$175 - <i>Good under power lines</i>	Skyline Honey Locust \$175
Accolade Elm \$175	State Street Maple \$175
Chanticleer Pear \$170 - <i>Spring Only</i>	Swamp White Oak \$225 - <i>Spring Only</i>

More information regarding the specific species is available on the 50/50 Parkway Tree page of our website www.stcharlesil.gov. Larger size trees are available at an additional cost of \$100 per ½ inch diameter upgrade. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works department at 630-377-4405 or email pw@stcharlesil.gov.

Guidelines

1. To begin the Approval Process, complete the form below and send it to the City of St. Charles Public Works Department, Attn: Public Services, 2 E. Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174
2. Once we receive your completed pre-order form, a Public Services team member will conduct a parkway review to determine tree spacing, soil condition and existing underground utilities. All of these factors impact planting a new tree. Our team looks forward to helping you select the best tree for your parkway.
3. After the parkway review, a letter is sent detailing approval status. If your request has been approved, you also will receive an order form and instructions on where to send your order with payment.
4. If at any time you have questions, please contact Public Works at 630-377-4405.

Pre-Order forms received as of March 1 will be considered for planting in the spring. Forms received by August 1 will be considered for planting in the fall.

Date	
Name	
Address	
Phone # (Daytime)	
Comments:	<i>**Please provide us with your recommendation regarding the location of where you would like to have the new tree placed in your parkway. Due to space requirements for healthy growth of trees, we <u>cannot guarantee</u> that the tree will be planted exactly where you recommend.</i>

**** PLEASE DO NOT SEND PAYMENT AT THIS TIME ****

PUBLIC WORKS INTERNAL OFFICE USE ONLY		<i>To be completed by Public Services Staff</i>	
Approval Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined	Date:
Completed by:		Pkwy Location:	<input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Side <input type="checkbox"/> Rear
Markings for Planting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (in white paint)	Location:	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Marked
Species Recommendation:		Comments:	



Thank you to all who donated to the City's Giving Tree and Neighbors in Need programs. Once again you made a difference for people in need this season.

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

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.

Reminder

**City offices will be closed
Jan. 1, New Year's Day**

**Offices are open Jan. 20,
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,
but there are no public
meetings**

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