



JULY 2013

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

July

City Council and Committee Meetings

City Council 7 p.m.	1
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	1
Planning & Development 7 p.m.	8
City Council 7 p.m.	15
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	15
Government Services 7 p.m.	22

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

Joseph Schelstreet Appointed Fire Chief

Served the Department for 25 Years, Most Recently as Acting Chief

Joseph Schelstreet has been appointed Fire Chief of the St. Charles Fire Department and was officially sworn in at the June 17 City Council meeting. Schelstreet had been serving as Acting Fire Chief since November 2012, when former Fire Chief Patrick Mullen retired.

Schelstreet joined the St. Charles Fire Department full-time in 1988 as a firefighter. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1992, Captain in 1997, and Assistant Chief in 2003. He holds a Bachelors Degree from Southern Illinois University, a Masters Degree in Management and Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University, and a Masters Degree in Fire and Emergency Management from Oklahoma State University.



Fire Chief Joseph Schelsteet

“The decision to appoint Joseph Schelstreet to the position of Fire Chief was made after careful consideration of many factors, including the requirements and responsibilities of the position, as well as his performance as Acting Chief for the past six months,” said City Administrator Brian Townsend. “He has provided exemplary service to the department and the community for many years, and has the skills and abilities to lead the department into the future.”

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Todd Bancroft Sworn In as Ward 3 Alderman



The City of St. Charles offices will be closed Thursday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day Holiday



Todd Bancroft
Alderman Ward 3

At the June 17 City Council Meeting, Todd Bancroft was sworn in to fill the open 3rd Ward Alderman seat vacated by Mayor Rogina’s election. Bancroft will serve the remaining two years left in the term.

Bancroft grew up in St. Charles and has lived in the 3rd Ward for 15 years. He works for Draper and Kramer Incorporated as Chief Administrative Officer, Senior Vice President and General Counsel.

“Todd Bancroft will bring to our City a sincere passion for his hometown. He has a genuine desire to give back to his community, and as alderman, to his constituents,” said Mayor Rogina. “He submits a resume that will bring a welcome perspective to the Council. I am proud to have him on our City Council.”

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July 4th Celebration

Pottawatomie Park is the Place to be on the 4th!

Bring your family and friends to Pottawatomie Park for some food, fun, entertainment and an amazing fireworks display at the annual St. Charles July 4th Celebration Thursday, July 4. There are plenty of activities and entertainment all day long. Fireworks begin at dark and are best viewed from either Pottawatomie Park or Ferson Creek Park. For more information, visit www.stcparks.org.



Service Facts Highlight Fire Department Annual Report

The St. Charles Fire Department recently released its 2012 Annual Report. It's packed with interesting information and service highlights, including:

- The Fire Department responded to 4,217 calls for service in 2012, a decrease from 4,511 in 2011. The main reason for the decline is the City no longer provides service to the St. Charles Countryside Fire Protection District (now called Fox River & Countryside Fire & Rescue District).
- During 2012, calls for emergency medical services represented 60% of all calls; in contrast, 4% of calls (157) were for fires.

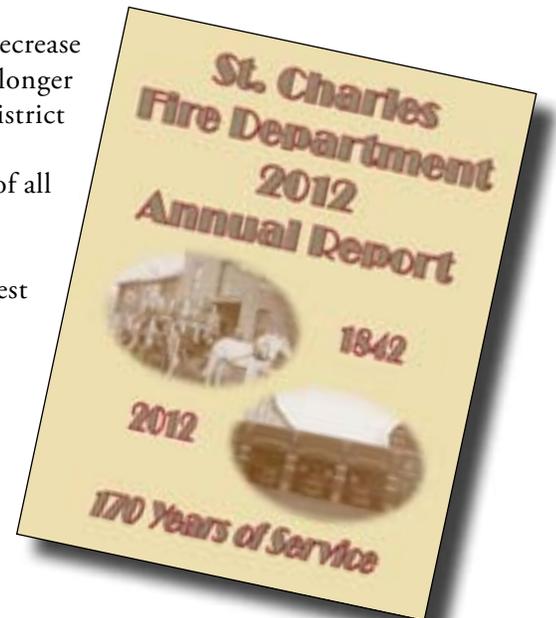
Calls per fire station:

- Station #1 (located downtown on Riverside Avenue) was the busiest station, handling 1,591 calls.
- Station #2 (on Industrial Drive) – 1,458 calls.
- Station #3 (on Campton Hills Road) – 1,168 calls.

Other highlights of the report include:

- July was the busiest month (427 calls); February was the slowest (290 calls).
- Sunday was the busiest day of the week (632 incidents); Wednesday the slowest (584 incidents).
- The peak hour for calls is between 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

In 2013, the St. Charles Fire Department is expected to be accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Achieving accreditation is just one more way the men and women of the St., Charles Fire Department continue to provide exemplary service to the St. Charles community. Review the full report on the [Fire Department page](#) of our website.



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Chief Schelstreet

As Fire Chief, Schelstreet will maintain the high quality of fire and emergency medical services for the St. Charles community, oversee the Tri-City Ambulance Service, represent St. Charles on the Tri-Com 911 Board of Directors and work collaboratively with neighboring fire departments and other emergency services agencies. Schelstreet also will oversee important initiatives, including completing Fire Department accreditation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and conducting firefighter union contract negotiations.

Mayor Rogina said of Schelstreet's appointment: "Joe is a hometown guy who has served his community well for many years. His resume is impressive; it speaks for itself."

Alderman Bancroft

Mr. Bancroft said of his appointment: "I am grateful to the Mayor and City Council members for allowing me the opportunity to serve a community that has been so important to me throughout my life. St. Charles is a very special place, with one of its most exciting aspects being truly unlimited potential. I look forward to being a part of shaping its future and representing my constituency in the 3rd Ward."

A task force interviewed 13 candidates who applied for the seat, and narrowed the slate to four. One candidate withdrew from the proceedings and the three remaining finalists were interviewed in an executive session with Mayor Rogina and the full City Council on June 10.

Outdoor Warning Sirens Alert to Impending Danger

The St. Charles Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Fire Department, operates and maintains 11 outdoor warning sirens. These sirens are intended to warn anyone who is outside of impending danger, and encourage them to seek shelter.

The sirens can be heard within an approximate 6200-ft. range and rotate to cover as much area as possible. The sirens produce up to 130 decibels, depending on proximity. They have a battery back-up system and can be activated from either the Emergency Operations Center or Fire Department Command Vehicles.

There are two distinct siren warning sounds. These are standardized warning signals established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

A tornado warning is a steady signal lasting three minutes and is activated when a tornado or funnel cloud is reported in our area. The sirens also may be activated when our nation is under attack. In this case, a three-minute warbling tone will sound.



To be clear, the only time the warbling tone will be activated is during a confirmed attack on the United States.

To provide maximum coverage, the sirens are positioned strategically throughout the community:

1. 15th and Indiana streets
2. Dunham Rd. and East Main Street
3. Tri-Com Facility @ Lincoln Highway (Route 38) & Karl Madsen Drive
4. Cumberland Green Complex
5. Cemetery, 5th and Johnr Avenues
6. Fire Station #3, 2901 Campton Hills Dr.
7. North High School, Rt. 31 & Red Gate
8. Dunham Rd. and Royal St. George Ct.
9. Pheasant Run Lift Station @ Main St./Rt. 64
10. Public Works Facility
11. Municipal Center, 2 E. Main St.

For more information, contact the St. Charles Emergency Management Agency at 630-377-4416 or visit the [Outdoor Warning Sirens](#) page of our website.

Emergency Preparedness for People with Special Needs



The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission has released a video offering emergency preparedness tips for people with special needs and functional disabilities. View the video [here](#).



Deadline to Register for FEMA Assistance is July 9

If your home sustained damage from the April/May flooding in our region, be sure to register with FEMA to see if you qualify for federal assistance--even if you have flood insurance or are renting. The deadline to register is July 9. For more information, contact the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362/(TTY) 800-462-7585 or visit www.disasterassistance.gov. More information is on our [Flood Recovery](#) page.

Property Protection Measures

If your property is susceptible to flooding, there are some things you can do to reduce damages:

- Apply watertight seals to brick and block walls to protect against low level flooding (less than 2 feet).
- Elevate furnaces, air conditioners, water heaters and major appliances or move them to higher floors.
- Take temporary measures, such as sandbagging and removing items from the flooded area.
- Elevating or relocating the entire structure also may be a feasible option.

For more information visit www.fema.gov or the [Floodplain](#) page of the city website.

Prairie State Cycling Series Returns to St. Charles



Day 8 of the Prairie State Cycling Series will be held in St. Charles July 21. This is the premiere event of the series as top riders in the nation and around the world compete on a nearly one-mile course along the Fox River--1st St., Illinois St., Prairie St., and Riverside Avenue. This is the host event for the Illinois Cycling Association State Criterium Championship. More information is [here](#).

Put City Resources Right in the Palm of Your Hand

Download the St. Charles Connect App

Since we launched the St. Charles Connect mobile app in April, many have taken advantage of this real-time, mobile tool that gives citizens direct access to the City from their tablets or smartphones. With St. Charles Connect, you have a great City resource right in the palm of your hand. Ask a question, report an issue and get information from the City wherever you are.

What People are Saying about St. Charles Connect

Now that people have had a chance to use it, what do they think about it?

"This TOTALLY ROCKS!" said Jay B. (a self-proclaimed, hard-to-impress resident). He said he is really happy the City is up with the technology and yet another reason he's glad he lives here.

When Laura R. submitted her report, she left this comment: "...heard about your new app and wanted to try it. I'm impressed!!"

Now Available for Windows 8 Devices

"We are happy to announce the app is now available for Windows 8 mobile devices," said Penny Lancor, Senior Systems Analyst/Programmer. "So far we have processed 291 reports on topics ranging from parkway tree trimming requests to questions about street closures. One of the app's useful features is the News tab. It lists frequently updated news stories from City."

Download St. Charles Connect for iPhone, Android and now Windows 8 at your device app store or access it at www.stcharlesil.gov/connect. And it's coming for Blackberry devices soon. So stay tuned. Reports sent through St. Charles Connect are handled during normal business hours. Always call 911 for emergencies. For more information, contact Penny Lancor at 630-762-7089 or plancor@stcharlesil.gov.

Connect With Us!



Green Tip

On air pollution "action alert" days, mow your lawn in

the evening when it's cooler or wait until early the next morning. You help reduce air pollution if you run gas-powered landscape equipment when it's cooler. You're also avoiding ground-level ozone during the warmest part of the day. Breathe easy!

Green Initiative

In May, the City installed a clean energy air conditioning solution with Verde Energy called Ice Bear as part of a pilot program. This technology makes ice at night, when the electric grid is generally unstressed and uses the ice to provide cold air for the air conditioner during the day, reducing electrical use at peak demand times when electric prices may be higher. Watch the video on the [Green St. Charles](#) page of our website to learn more. The unit is installed at the City's Municipal Water Treatment Laboratory building.

Brush Pick Up Schedule

East Side	West Side
July 15	July 22
Aug 19	Aug 26
Sept 16	Sept 23
Oct 21	Oct 28
Nov 18	Nov 25

Brush (branches at least 3 ft. in length and less than 12" in diameter) must be placed on the parkway in front of the house (or along the frontage where refuse/recycling is collected), with cut ends facing the street, before 7 a.m.

Do not tie bundles of brush with rope or wire. Brush must not be piled higher than 4 ft. and never piled in the street. Also, please do not park cars in front of the piles; crews will be unable to pick up the brush.

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. Generic bags require one refuse sticker per bag.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405, or visit the [Brush Pick Up page](#) on our website.

Welcome New Businesses!

DOWNTOWN

Acquaviva Tasting and Wine Bar

210 W. Main St., 630-513-6770

Shooting Star Studios Modeling/Talent Agency
15 S. 2nd St., 2nd Floor, 847-401-0406

Sportiva Sporting Goods

113 E. Main St., 630-549-7361

EAST GATEWAY

Baltria Corp. Classic Auto Showroom/Vehicle Sales & Service

4200 E. Main St., 630-443-4582

InStyle Salon & Spa Suites

457 N. Dunham Rd., 847-529-5498

Spa Vargas Wellness at Pheasant Run Resort

4051 E. Main St., 630-307-1100

EAST GATEWAY - INDUSTRIAL

Edge Machine Tools Auto Repair

3540 Stern Ave. #104, 630-444-0542

Fox Ballet Dance Training Center

3720 Illinois Ave., 630-444-1464

Refuse Collection Days are Changing for Most

Advanced Disposal (formerly Veolia), the refuse, recycling and yard waste collection contractor for the City of St. Charles, has announced collection days are changing in St. Charles beginning July 1:

- **Wednesday collection now will be on Tuesdays**
- **Tuesday collection now will be on Mondays**
- **There is no change for Monday collection**

“Advanced Disposal mailed out postcards announcing the changes,” said John Lamb, Environmental Services Manager. “Consolidating the City’s collection schedule from three days to two means more efficient collection, improved appearance (fewer days for waste to be out in neighborhoods), and reduced trips for large, heavy trucks travelling on City streets.” For questions about your pick up, please call Advanced Disposal at 630-587-8282 or the City’s Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.



Refuse and recycling should be placed on the street for collection no earlier than 7:00 p.m. on the day before your scheduled pick up and empty containers removed from the curb no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of collection. (Please refer to the City of St. Charles Municipal Code, 8.24.030 Collection Services, which is available at www.stcharlesil.gov.) This will help minimize blowing garbage and cans on streets and around neighborhoods.

Summer Maintenance Program is Underway

The City has begun an annual infrastructure and roadway maintenance project. Plote Construction, Inc., of Hoffman Estates, is the general contractor for this year's program.

Work will include repairs to the existing storm and sanitary sewer systems and water main appurtenances, in addition to street rehabilitation work.

This project has been divided into three phases to facilitate the completion in a timely manner, with as little disruption to residents as possible.

Utility work performed by Plote crews has begun on Allen Lane, Post Road, and Wing Lane. As work progresses, notification letters will be sent to residents in the designated work areas, offering information on project scheduling, what to expect while construction is underway, and detailed contact information for City staff and on-site contractors.

The proposed street rehabilitation and underground utility repair locations are below:

Streets		
Street Name	From	To
Allen Lane	West End	East End
Wing Lane	North Tyler Road	Allen Lane
Post Road	Wing Lane	Allen Lane
Williams Avenue	Ronzheimer Ave.	Midway Ave.
Independence Ave.	Madison Avenue	South Tyler Road
Concord Court	Independence Ave.	East End
South 7 th Street	Fellows Street	Oak Street
South 5 th Street	Horne Street	McKinley Street
South 4 th Avenue	Illinois Avenue	Ohio Avenue
Parking Lots		
Lot E - SE Corner	Route 31	Route 64
Lot K - NW Corner	3 rd Avenue	Route 64
Alleys		
Street Name	From	To
Fellows Street	3 rd Street	4 th Street
Roosevelt Street	2 nd Street	Elm Street

Your cooperation and patience is appreciated during this large-scale project. If you have any questions, please contact James Bernahl at 630-377-4486 or jberahl@stcharlesil.gov. Gary Long, the on-site Engineering Inspector, also is available at 630-327-5884.

How to Fill a Tree "Gator Bag"

While we have had our share of rain so far this summer, it's only a matter of time before the weather dries out and heats up.

All newly planted parkway trees the City plants receives a gator bag that slowly releases water for the tree. The bag is filled when the tree is planted. When the bag is empty and the tree looks like it needs water, here is a reminder on how to refill a gator bag. Simply lift the white "Tregator" tag to expose the hole in the bag, insert the hose and fill the bag with water. If you have questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.



New Lawn Watering Permits

A permit is required for watering newly installed sod or seeded lawns and can be obtained at the Utility Billing Office or the Public Works Facility for \$10. This permit allows watering a new lawn with a sprinkling device(s) for up to eight hours on the first day. The next consecutive nine days, watering is permitted from 12-9 a.m., and 6-10 p.m. After the initial 10-day period, watering must comply with the water conservation schedule in effect through August 31:

Even numbered addresses may water on the even numbered days of the month.

Odd numbered addresses may water on the odd numbered days of the month.

Sprinkling hours: Midnight to 9 a.m., and 6-10 p.m.

First Youth Police Academy Teaches Teens More than Police Work

The police department recently hosted its first ever Youth Police Academy for 13- to 16-year olds. Twenty students attended the five-hour classes each day for a week at different locations around town.

Students completed CPR and basic first-aid certifications at the fire department. They also learned about bullying, DUI investigation and drugs from assistant state's attorneys at the Kane County Judicial Center, and participated in a mock trial. They even participated in hands-on exercises for crime-scene investigation and evidence collection at

St. Charles North High School.

The week wrapped up with lessons on personal and internet safety, and a demonstration of the Taser device. Parents and family members attended a graduation ceremony that included Chief Lamkin, and were given certificates to document their participation in the class.

Given the glowing feedback the instructors received, it appears this program will be made an annual event. More pictures are available on our [Facebook page](#).



Police Chief Jim Lamkin Presents Concealed Carry Information

On June 24, Police Chief Jim Lamkin presented information to the St. Charles City Council Government Services Committee about Illinois House Bill 183, state legislation regarding the concealed carry of firearms. The Illinois General Assembly recently approved HB 183 and it currently is being considered by Governor Pat Quinn. The proposed legislation requires the Illinois State Police to grant concealed carry permits to qualified applicants. The full text of the bill is available [here](#).

In addition to specific permit requirements for carrying a concealed firearm, the bill prohibits firearms from being carried at a multitude of locations, including schools, parks, libraries, local government buildings, hospitals, and mass transit. It also allows private businesses to prohibit concealed weapons on their premises.

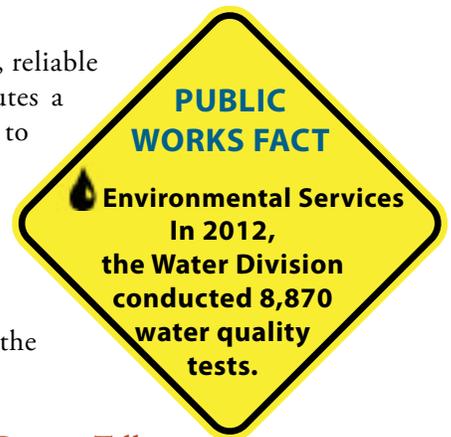


In order to create a statewide standard, the bill also preempts home rule authority, which means local gun ordinances would be voided and replaced by the statewide standard. Also, municipalities will have only 10 days from the time the state law becomes effective to enact an assault weapons ordinance. After that 10-day period expires, the legislation preempts the ability of home rule municipalities to ban/regulate assault weapons.

In his presentation, Chief Lamkin outlined the concealed carry permit process, pre-emption of local ordinances regarding firearms, places where concealed carry is prohibited, and the authority to enact a prohibition or regulation regarding assault weapons. His presentation is available on the [Police Department page](#) of our website.

Did You Read the Annual Water Quality Report?

The City of St. Charles is committed to providing a continuous supply of safe, reliable and economical water to its customers. Every year, the Water Division distributes a report that summarizes the quality of the City's drinking water. We are pleased to report that again this year, your tap water met all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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. The report is available on the [Water page](#) of the City website.



What Does a Water Quality Report Tell You?

- The source of the drinking water--river, lake, aquifer, etc. An underground aquifer supplies City wells.
- EPA regulations and health goals for drinking water contaminants.
- A list of all detected contaminants and their levels.
- Potential health effects of any contaminant detected at a level that violates EPA's health standard.
- Information about microbial contaminants for people with weakened immune systems.

For more information, contact the EPA at 800-426-4791 or the St. Charles Public Works Department at 630-377-4405 or pw@stcharlesil.gov.

Don't Block Electrical Equipment with Plantings or Fencing

Summer is a great time to landscape and enjoy outdoor plants and flowers. When installing plantings or fencing, please keep these requirements in mind:

- City Code 13.08.060 requires residents exercise reasonable care to protect electrical service equipment from alterations, misuse, modification, foreign objects, vegetation, loss or damage. Also do not attach anything, including wires, antennas, clotheslines, fences, etc., to City-owned electrical poles, pedestals, pad-mounted transformers or other structures. These may be removed from City equipment without notice at the expense of the property owner in accordance with City Code 13.08.065.
- The City requires access to read, examine, repair or remove City-owned electrical equipment. A minimum of three feet of clear working space is required in front of each electric meter. A minimum of eight feet of workspace is required in front of all equipment doors, and a minimum of three feet of space is required on non-operable sides pursuant to City Code 13.08.100.



- Finally, as a reminder, please don't forget to call J.U.L.I.E., 1-800-892-0123, before digging to plant bushes, trees and fences.

50/50 Parkway Tree PRE-ORDER Approval Form

The City is again offering trees for planting in parkways 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 qualifying for this program. 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 tree species and your cost for fall of 2013 are listed below:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Prairie Fire Crabapple \$130
Good under power lines | London Planetree \$170 |
| Red Jewel Crabapple \$130
Good under power lines | Redmond Linden \$165 |
| Accolade Elm \$165 | Skyline Honey Locust \$165 |
| | State Street Maple \$165 |

While you are awaiting approval for the parkway tree addition, you may review more information regarding the specific species available on our [website](#). 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 Office at 630-377-4405 or by email at pw@stcharlesil.gov.

Guidelines

- To begin the Approval Process, complete the form below. Send your completed form to: City of St. Charles Public Works Office, Attn: Public Services, 2 E. Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174
- Once we receive your completed pre-order form, a member of the Public Services team will conduct a parkway review. They will review the area for tree spacing, soil condition and existing utilities. All of these factors will impact the planting of a new tree. Our team looks forward to helping you select the best tree for your parkway.
- After the parkway review, a letter will be sent to your address detailing approval status for a 50/50 Parkway Tree. If your request has been approved, you also will receive an order form and instructions on where to send your order with payment.
- If at any time you have questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.

Pre-Order forms received as of August 1 will be considered for planting in the fall of 2013.
Pre-Order forms received after August 1 will be considered for planting in the spring of 2014.

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		To be completed by Public Services Staff	
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:	

It's Christmas, in July

Benefit Raises Funds for Animal Rescue



The City Wellness Team is hosting “Christmas in July” to benefit two local animal rescue organizations: Rover Rescue, www.roverrescue.org and H.E.L.P., helpinganimals.org.

Holiday trees are on display at City Hall, Public Works, and the Police Department through July 26. Simply select a tag from the tree and purchase the item listed on the tag. Then attach the ornament to the unwrapped item(s) and place under the tree. If you prefer to donate money to the charities, please leave your donation with one of our receptionists, and our Wellness Team will be happy to make purchases on your behalf.

For more information, contact the Human Resources Department at 630-377-4446.

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 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

Keeping Mosquitos at Bay

St. Charles has a robust program for combating mosquito outbreaks, but there also are things you can do keep them at bay:

1. Discard old tires, buckets or any containers sitting outside.
2. Fill in or drain any low places in the yard.
3. Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater.
4. Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
5. Empty plastic wading pools at least once each week.
6. Keep your backyard pool cared for while on vacation.
7. Change the water in birdbaths and planters frequently.
8. Keep grass short and shrubbery trimmed.
9. To prevent bites, the Illinois Department of Public Health encourages using insect repellent, avoid being outdoors during dawn and dusk hours when mosquitoes are most active, and wear long sleeves.

For more information, call Clarke Mosquito Management, Inc., the City's mosquito control contractor, at 1-800-942-2555 or contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.

Lightning Safety Tips

Lightning strikes millions of times each year, and each strike is potentially harmful. Lightning causes hundreds of injuries, and on average 54 people are killed by lightning every year in the U.S. Lightning safety is especially important during summer months when people spend more time outdoors.

The number one lightning safety tip is to take shelter. There is no safe place from lightning outside. Seek shelter indoors (a building with a full roof, walls and a floor) or in an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle when a thunderstorm approaches. Patios, open garages, picnic shelters, and tents are not safe from lightning. Neither are convertibles, golf carts, motorcycles or any open top vehicle.

Always pay attention to the weather forecast. If there is a danger of severe weather, make sure you can get to a safe location if a thunderstorm develops. Remember, if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning.

For more information, visit the National Weather Service website for [Lightning Safety Myths and Facts](#).

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