

THE DEN

NOVEMBER 2013

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES

More at www.stcharlesil.gov

November

City Council and Committee Meetings

City Council 7 p.m.

Government Operations 7:05 p.m. 4

Planning & Development 7 p.m. 11

City Council

7 p.m. 18

Government Operations 7:05 p.m. 18

Government Services 7:00 p.m. 25

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

Holiday Homecoming Driventures St. Charles St. Charle

See You Friday, Nov. 29 & Saturday, Nov. 30

Celebrate the holidays Nov. 29 and 30 at Holiday Homecoming 2013 for a free, fun-filled and festive weekend. Enjoy the traditional Lighting of the Lights ceremony on the 1st Street Plaza, free holiday movies at the Arcada Theatre, sleigh rides, visits with Santa, Fresh Christmas Trees to bring home, and a spectacular Electric Christmas



Parade on Main Street! This event is presented by the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit www.downtownstcharles.org/holidays.

Also, look for the Toys for Kids float, sponsored by the St. Charles Breakfast Rotary. They will be collecting donations of new toys at the parade.



Connect With Us!



Connect with the City right from your mobile device. Download our St. Charles Connect app for iPhone, Android and Windows 8 at www.stcharliesil.gov/connect. Blackberry coming soon.

Veterans Day Ceremony is Nov. 11, 10:40 a.m.

Honor Our Veterans During a Service at the Freedom Shrine

Veterans Day is a holiday set aside to honor and thank the men and women who served our nation in the military, both in wartime and peace. It is a day when everyone can acknowledge what our veterans have sacrificed in performing the honorable duty of guarding our national security.

The City of St. Charles Annual Veterans Day Ceremony is Monday, Nov. 11 at 10:40 a.m. at the Freedom Shrine, behind the St. Charles Police Station, 211 N. Riverside Avenue. All are welcome to attend. Please join us to show your appreciation.

The ceremony will begin with a reading of the official Veterans Day Proclamation, followed by an invocation, salute to the flag, a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.



From the Mayor's Desk

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, I want to remind our residents of a special segment of our proposed city song, "In St. Charles," written by St. Charles resident Jim Masters:

. . . I love to stroll by the riverside, ride through the countryside, smile at the people I meet; to feel that sense of community



friendship and unity, neighbors on every street.

A million moments living here, sharing and giving here friendships that money can't buy. . . .

For me, a 40 year resident, it defines all that is good about our community and, accordingly, all that we should share in Thanksgiving. As we move forward as friends and neighbors, let's be thankful for what we have and the opportunities still to come. May all of you enjoy one of the best holidays of the year.

Happy Thanksgiving!

City Moves to Adopt Official Song

At its Oct. 21 meeting, the City Council Government Operations Committee unanimously voted to recommend adoption of "In St. Charles" as the City's official song. That news was music to 5th Ward alderman Maureen Lewis' ears, after she proposed the song for consideration at the meeting, along with resident Bill Russell.

Meeting goers were treated to a performance of "In St. Charles," sung by St. Charles Singers Jeff and David Hunt, and accompanied by Barbara Masters. The song was written by St. Charles resident Jim Masters.

The City Council is expected to formally name "In St. Charles" the City's official song at its Nov. 18 meeting. Listen to the song here courtesy of the *Daily Herald*.



Please Complete the St. Charles 2013 Citizen Survey

The City of St. Charles is conducting a survey of residents to gather feedback and set benchmarks for tracking the quality of services the City provides. The 2103 Citizen Survey is being mailed to a sample of 1,200 randomly selected households in St. Charles.

If your household was selected to participate in the survey, please follow the directions for filling out the survey and return the completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Your responses will remain completely anonymous.

"This survey is more standardized than surveys we

have conducted in the past," said City Administrator Mark Koenen. "So in addition to evaluating how residents view City services, it will allow us to track our performance compared with other municipalities."

Mayor Raymond Rogina encourages residents to fill out the survey: "Participation is very important to develop a statistically representative sample. Residents' answers definitely will be useful in helping the City better serve our citizens."

If you have any questions about the survey, please call the City Administrator's office at 630-377-4422

Pride of the Fox, producers of Riverfest & Firing up the Fox, are seeking volunteers for its planning committees. There's something for everyone! For more information email info@prideofthefox.com.





November is a great time to conduct food or clothing drives to help those in need.

Especially useful are household goods you no longer use, canned and other non-perishable food and clothing items. After all, this is the time for giving and Thanksgiving! More at www.stcharlesil.gov/green.

E. Main St. Construction Complete!

All Lanes are Open

The City is running ads this month on WERV Radio (The River), in the *Daily Herald*, *Kane County Chronicle* and on Patch to spread the word.



Neighbors in Need is Underway

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 and helped 240 families. Thank you to all who have participated in this vital program.

If you would like 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. If everyone donated at least \$1, we would collect more than \$10,000. 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.

Welcome New Businesses!

DOWNTOWN

The Hauser Group Design Management Services Relocated from 100 Illinois St., Ste. 260 to 51 S. 1st Street 630-837-4700

EAST GATEWAY

Advanced Commodities Inc. Commodities Broker 2455 Dunham Rd., 630-372-9200

Two Roads Lending LLC Mortgage Broker 1118 E. Main St., Ste. 1B, 630-400-5369

Structure Salon Hair Salon & Make-up Artist 457 N. Dunham Rd., Ste. 101, 630-400-0735

EAST GATEWAY - INDUSTRIAL

Iovinelli Investments I.T. Staffing 3813 Illinois Ave., 630-818-1052

WEST GATEWAY

MK Movers, Inc.

1500 Foundry St., Ste. 2, 331-575-7966 **R&B Glass** Glass Replacement & Repair
720 N. 17th St., Ste. 10, 630-549-0280 **Truckwurx, LLC** Truck Accessories
731 N. 17th St., Ste. 3, 630-549-7490 **Cada Pool & Spa** Retail, Service & Construction
2701 W. Main St., 630-584-7195 **Out of Body Fitness**761 N. 17th St., Ste. 21, 847-436-5461

Rebates Available for Residents Replacing Heating & Air Conditioning Units

City of St. Charles Electric Utility customers who also are Nicor customers are eligible for rebates through an energy efficiency program from Nicor. Rebates are available for residential customers who replace a furnace or boiler with a new energy efficient model. In addition, for a limited time, residents who also replace their central air conditioning unit at the same time as their furnace will receive additional incentives.

Homeowner rebates of \$200-\$400 are available for qualified furnace replacements, and \$700-\$1,000 for combined furnace/air conditioner upgrades. Units must have been installed after Oct. 10, 2013. The furnace replacement rebates are part of a continuing Nicorsponsored program. However, the additional rebate for air conditioner replacements is funded through a grant from Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and once the grant money is

disbursed, the program will cease. More information is at www.nicorgasrebates.com.

"This is a great opportunity for residents who are planning to make furnace and central air conditioner upgrades," says Thomas Bruhl, Electric Services Manager. "While Nicor intends to make the furnace replacement rebates available for some time, the additional DCEO grant rebates for central air conditioning upgrades will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The Nicor website has a helpful indicator which illustrates how much funding is remaining."

The DCEO grant is being distributed to qualifying residents in St. Charles, Naperville, Winnetka, Princeton, Rantoul, Rock Falls and Farmer City. The DCEO grant is administered by the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA), the City's wholesale electric supplier.

Officers Receive Awards for Valor

Six St. Charles Police officers were honored with awards for valor at a City Council meeting Sept. 16. From whisking a woman out of the path of an erratic driver to rescuing a potential suicide victim, their inspiring stories show the dedication and commitment St. Charles police officers display every day. Read their amazing stories on the **Recognition page** of our website.

Pictured from left: Honorees Commander Erik Mahan, Traffic Safety Officer Rich Clark and Officer Steve Heike; Chief James Lamkin; Honoree Commander Jerry Gatlin; Deputy Chief Dave Kintz; Honoree Officer Craig Bahe; Deputy Chief Steve Huffman and Honoree Officer Adam Stander.

Come to the Housing Community

Workshop

The City of St. Charles is participating in the Homes for a Changing Region project that will identify area



housing needs over the next 30 years in St. Charles, as well as the surrounding communities of Geneva, Batavia and North Aurora.

As part of the project, the City is holding a community workshop to gather input from residents on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2 E. Main Street. Residents are encouraged to attend and participate. The workshop will focus on trends that shape housing supply and demand, as well as explore how the City can offer housing that will serve both current and future populations.

"We are encouraging everyone to participate in this process as it will have an impact on housing policy for the next 20 to 30 years," said Matthew O'Rourke, Planner at the City. "If you are not able to make it to the workshop please participate in the online version of the workshop at www.foxvalley.metroquest.com. The online survey will be available the entire month of November.

More information is at www.cmap.illinois.gov/homes. The plan is being developed through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's Local Technical Assistance program, which helps local communities implement recommendations from the GO TO 2040 comprehensive regional plan. The Metropolitan Planning Council, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Kane County also are key partners.



Holiday Fire Safety Tips

Decorating for the holidays is a fun tradition. Unfortunately, decorations also could create a fire hazard. Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Fire Administration, an estimated 240 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 150 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires result in 21 deaths and \$25.2 million in property damage.

By following a few simple fire safety tips, you can enjoy a fire-safe holiday season.

- Make sure exits are not blocked by decorations or trees.
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- Do not overload electrical outlets or link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires they should not be warm to the touch.
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended!
- Use only nonflammable decorations and place them away from heat vents.
- Never put wrapping paper in the fireplace. It can start a very large fire and emit dangerous embers.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.
- Make sure candles are in stable holders and keep them at least 12 inches from anything flammable. Avoid using candles in bedrooms.
- Never put lit candles on a tree or go near a tree with an open flame.



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.

Thank You to All Who Donated to help St. Charles Firefighter Don Fruland

More than \$300 was raised from donations for bracelets for 10-yr. veteran firefighter Don "Chemosabe" Fruland who was diagnosed with a rare, stage 4 nasopharyngeal carcinoma.



2013 Leaf Collection Schedule

	EAST SIDE OF RIVER		WEST SIDE OF RIVER	
	South of Main St. (Map Area 1)	North of Main St. (Map Area 2)	South of Main St. (Map Area 3)	North of Main St. (Map Area 4)
	Oct. 31	Nov. 4	Nov. 6	Nov. 8
	Nov. 11	Nov. 13	Nov. 18	Nov. 20
	Nov. 21	Nov. 22	Nov. 25	Nov. 26
Pick up is not available for:	Cumberland Green	Whittington Course, Royal Fox private streets, Dunham Place Commons, Delnor Townhomes, Delnor Glen Drive	Viewpointe & Willowgate	Wildrose Townhomes, Auburn Court, Benham Court, Oak Crest

Please consult the map on the following page for leaf collection area designations.

Leaf Collection Information

The City of St. Charles leaf pick up program is funded by a portion of the fee collected on the utility bills of eligible homeowners. Check your utility bill or call Utility Billing at 630-377-4426 if you have a question about your eligibility for leaf collection.

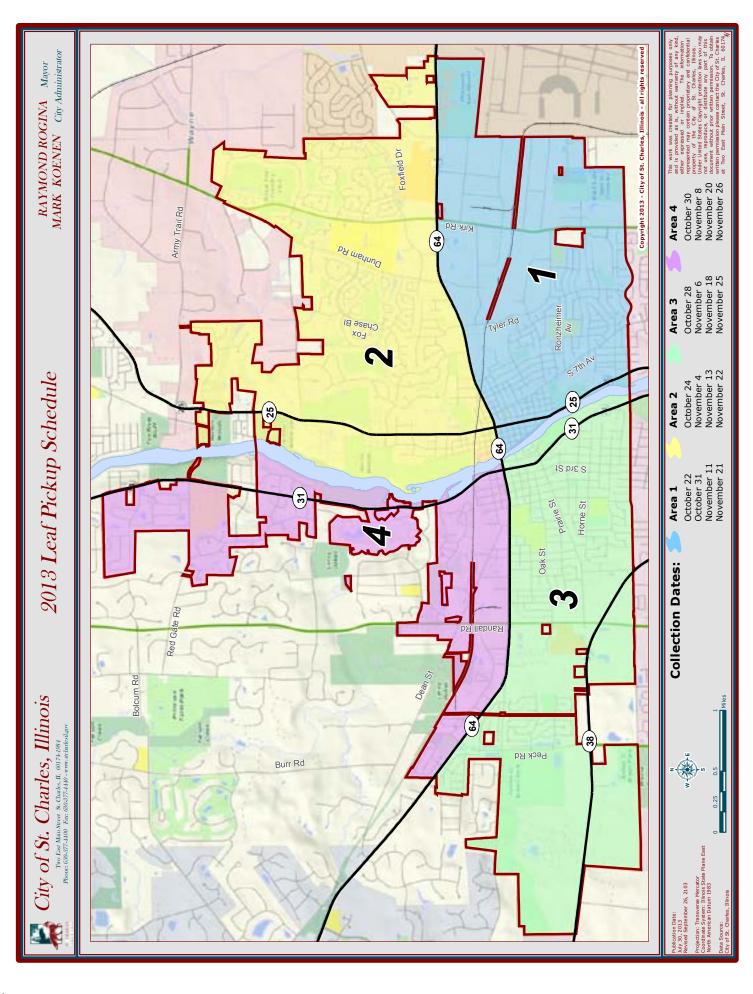
Please remember to pile raked leaves on the rightof-way or parkway in front of your home only. Do not rake, blow, or pile the leaves into the streets. Not only is this in violation of City ordinance, but piles of leaves in the street can clog storm sewer drains, create localized flooding, and make the roads slippery and dangerous for vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians.

The public storm system plays a vital role in protecting our properties and roadways from flooding during rain events. The system's ability to effectively convey storm water runoff during heavy rains can be compromised from leaves and litter being washed down the street in a rain storm and plugging the grates and inlets. Residents can help protect their property from flooding by keeping the storm sewer grating near their home free of leaves, litter, and other debris.

Personnel from Building and Code Enforcement and Public Works will enforce proper leaf collection regulations. Residents in violation will be required to remove the leaves from the street within 24 hours and may be subject to fines of up to \$500 per day.

Tips

- Inclement weather or a large volume of leaves could alter the leaf pickup schedule.
- Please don't park in front of leaf piles; crews cannot pick up leaves if they are blocked by a vehicle.
- Leaves must be on the parkway by 6:30 a.m. on your area's designated day.
- Rake leaves in a row parallel to the street at least one foot back from the curb and off of the sidewalk.
- Leaf piles will not kill grass, although they may cause it to discolor.
- Avoid raking foreign materials into leaf piles as these could damage equipment or cause injury to personnel.
- Yard waste bag pickup by Advanced Disposal ends the week of November 26.
- This schedule and other updates are available on the City website www.stcharlesil.gov/services/leaf.



Final Brush Pick Up for 2013

East Side Nov 18 West Side

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. on Monday of your scheduled pick up (or Tuesday if Monday is a holiday).

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.

Please note: Pick up in your area may take 3 to 4 days to complete. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405, or visit the www.stcharlesil.gov/services/brush page on our website.

The week of November 25 will be end of brush pick up for the season, the program will resume in April.

Final Yard Waste Collection

The last yard waste collection for 2013 will be the week of November 25 on your regular refuse day. Collections will resume April 2014.

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. Thank you!

Recycling FAQs

Can the old, orange recycling bins be recycled?

If residents don't want their old orange bins anymore, they can place them on the curb with a note attached for pick up with their normal refuse/recycling.

Can the old, orange recycling bins still be used?

Advanced Disposal will still service them.

Will used motor oil still be picked up for recycling/disposal?

Used motor oil will no longer be picked up by



Advanced Disposal. For a list of area drop-off locations, visit the Kane County Household Hazardous Waste page on their website www.countyofkane.org.

Will used batteries still be picked up for recycling/disposal?

Batteries will no longer be picked up by Advanced Disposal. For a list of area drop-off locations for batteries, visit the Kane County Household Hazardous Waste program page at www.countyofkane.org or call the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off in Naperville at 630-420-6095.

More information, including a list of these recycling resources, is available on the City's website at **www.stcharlesil.gov/green/recycling-and-waste**. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.



Municipal Center Project Update

The Municipal Center of St. Charles includes the historic Old City Hall building, built in 1892, and the iconic Municipal Building, which was built in 1940 of white Georgian marble with a black granite base. Additions to these buildings have been made over time to accommodate our City's growth.

Maintaining the Municipal Center and other Cityowned facilities is an ongoing commitment for the Public Services Division of Public Works. As part the City's facilities maintenance program, an exterior conditions analysis of the Municipal Building was completed. This analysis involved a study of the building's exterior shell and resulted in identifying key deficiencies that required repairs to keep the structure weather-tight.

Repair work began in Spring 2013 and included a new roof, brick repairs, new windows, stone repairs and painting projects. Additionally, selective brick replacement and

repair was completed on Old City Hall and the "blonde" brick elevation of the Municipal Building adjacent to the "checkerboard" parking lot. All of the windows along the Old City Hall elevation, including windows to Economic Development, Community Development, Building and Code and the Arts Council were removed and replaced, along with several doors in other areas of the building. Replacement louvers on the cupola and soffit repair all around the overhang of the building also were completed. The repairs were finished in October and will keep the building weather-tight for years to come.

Modifications to the Municipal Center will continue this fall with a complete overhaul of the lighting systems on the building and in the surrounding landscape planters. New LED lights will be installed in the landscape planters, under the building's overhang, and on the roof, which will accent this great City asset.

Remember to Call J.U.L.I.E. Before You Dig

As fall comes to a close, it's a perfect time to finish fall clean up and prepare outdoor gardens for the next growing season. JULIE, Inc., reminds homeowners state law requires contacting JULIE before any digging project, regardless of the project size or depth. Simply call 811 to request location of underground utilities before beginning any digging projects.



Most electric, gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies deliver utility services through underground lines. To avoid personal injury and damage to underground lines, contact JULIE. Even if you contacted JULIE for a project earlier this spring, you need to contact them again for any fall outdoor projects.

When you call 811, you will be connected to a call center where agents are standing by 24/7 to assist you. Or, go to www.illinois1call.com to enter a locate request online. Both methods are free of charge and easy to use. Upon receipt of your locate request, JULIE alerts utility companies to locate where you plan to dig. Once colored flags mark where underground utilities are located, it is safe to dig.

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 or can be given to the Toys for Kids float elves during the Electric Christmas Parade Saturday, Nov. 30. Contact Jim Wheeler at 630-429-0560 for more information.

Ventra is the New Easy Way to Pay for Pace & CTA

Pace and the CTA are partnering to bring customers Ventra[™] — an easy new way to access



and pay for train and bus rides. Beginning September 2013, eligible riders, including seniors and people with disabilities, were mailed a new, durable permit that also works as your fare card on Pace and CTA fixed-route buses.

The new permit can be tapped on the Ventra $^{\text{\tiny TM}}$ system for fast and easy boarding on CTA and Pace. There is no need to buy separate fare cards.

There is no cost to riders for the new permit, no fees for use, and the cost of rides will remain the same.

Cash will still be accepted on buses. Once you activate and add value to the permit, just tap it to receive the reduced fare, or ride free to board CTA and Pace.

More information is at www.ventrachicago.com.

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.

City of St. Charles Directory

Building & Code Enforcement	377-4406
City Administrator Mark Koenen	377-4422
Community Development	377-4443
	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	
Electric Outage Hotline 866-	
0	



Salvation Army-Colonial Cafe and Ice Cream 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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