



SEPTEMBER 2013

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES  
More at [www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov)

**September**  
**City Council and Committee Meetings**

City Council 7 p.m.	3
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	3
Planning & Development 7 p.m.	9
City Council 7 p.m.	16
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	16
Government Services 7:00 p.m.	23

A complete list of meetings, including Commission, Board & Task Force meetings is @ [www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings)

**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.stcharlesil.gov/connect](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/connect). Blackberry coming soon.

**Mark Koenen Appointed City Administrator**

**Koenen Previously Served as Director of Public Works**

Mark W. Koenen has been named City Administrator for the City of St. Charles. At its Aug. 19 meeting, the St. Charles City Council approved Koenen's appointment, effective Aug. 31. Koenen has served as the Director of Public Works at the City for the last 23 years.



"Mark Koenen's acceptance of the position of City Administrator provides a seamless transition in this important responsibility in our town," said Mayor Rogina. "Mark is a well-respected leader in one of our City's major departments. His professionalism, organization and devotion to quality resident services make him a natural."

Koenen said, "I am proud to represent the City of St. Charles in this new capacity. I have lived in St. Charles for 30 years and raised three children here. My family has long enjoyed all our community has to offer. We are glad to call St. Charles home. Looking ahead, I am anxious to partner with residents and commercial and industrial citizens who make our City their home."

As Director of Public Works, Koenen has led the City's largest department of 96 employees, with a budget of \$92 million. Koenen holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and is pursuing a Master's degree in Business Administration. In 2012, he was awarded the Life Membership status to the American Public Works Association. Before joining the City, he practiced civil engineering at a private consulting firm.

**Rt. 64/Main St. Reopens to Four Lanes of Traffic from 7th Avenue to Kirk Road**

**Chamber to Celebrate with a Ribbon-Cutting Event**

The long-awaited conclusion of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Rt. 64/Main Street reconstruction project is in sight, with the first portion of the road, from 7th Avenue to Kirk Road, reopening to all lanes of traffic. According to IDOT, work on the roadway is substantially complete, although occasional lane closures may be necessary to finish landscaping and perform other final restoration activities.

IDOT launched the project in April 2012 to reconstruct, widen and resurface Illinois Rt. 64 from 7th Avenue east to Illinois Rt. 59. Work includes road resurfacing, installing new traffic signals and lighting, and adding retaining walls, turn lanes, and public sidewalks.

"We are so glad this project is finishing up so we can get back to business as usual along that strip of major roadway," said incoming City Administrator Mark Koenen. "We know it has been tough for businesses located in and around the construction. The City is running print, online and radio ads to let everyone know that construction is complete and to draw traffic back to those businesses."

*Continued on p. 2*

Continued from p. 1

## Rt. 64/Main Street Reopens

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce is holding a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the reopening of the road and create awareness. All are invited to attend. Stacey Ekstrom, President and CEO of the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce said: "Our businesses are excited for residents to enjoy the newly paved roadway and increased ease of access to their businesses. Please join us in celebrating the roadway expansion on Sept. 12th. We also look forward to the October completion when all our businesses will benefit."

**St. Charles Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting**  
**Thursday, Sept. 12, 4:30 p.m.**  
**Foxboro Plaza**  
**2400 East Main Street**

The final portion of the reconstruction project, from 38th Avenue to IL Route 59, is on track to be completed by October 1.

For information about the ribbon-cutting event, please contact the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce at 630-584-8384. For information about the Rt. 64/Main St. construction project, contact Jim Bernahl, Public Works Engineering Division Manager, at 630-377-4486, or visit [www.dot.state.il.us](http://www.dot.state.il.us).

## Kids are Back in School; Drive with Extra Caution



Students are back in school and the City of St. Charles would like to remind motorists to proceed with extra caution. Please be aware of children out walking and riding their bikes to school or waiting in neighborhoods at bus stops, especially during the morning rush hour.

And please remember it is illegal to talk on a cell phone in a construction or school zone, and never pass a stopped school bus when its lights are flashing and stop arm is extended.

## Welcome New Businesses!

### DOWNTOWN

**A Thimble Change** Alterations  
211 S. 3rd Street, 630-234-4794

### Salon Agape

111 W. Main Street, Lower Level, 630-587-0602

### Water Street Studios

 Print Lab

117 W. Main Street, 630-761-3528

### WEST GATEWAY

### Green Scene

 Landscaping/Lawn Care

1041 Porter Court, Ste. A, (formerly located at 3515 Stern Ave.), 630-513-6050

### Benefit Health & Fitness

1450 W. Main Street, Ste. F, 630-965-2341

### Pomodoro E. Mozzarella Pizzeria, Inc.

1850 W. Main Street, 630-549-0589

### EAST GATEWAY - INDUSTRIAL

### Allied Painting Services

707 Colomba Ct, Ste. 107, 630-392-1242

### ICT Power

 Power Electronic Products Distributor

3960 Commerce Drive, 888-428-8600

## First Shop St. Charles Challenge Winner Announced

### It Pays to Shop Local--\$100 to Be Exact

Jean Cabel is the first winner of the Shop St. Charles Challenge after her name was picked in a random drawing of applicants. Cabel visited three local, independent businesses, one each from downtown, the east and west sides of the City and then told us about her experiences. She received \$100 for successfully completing the Challenge.



The St. Charles Challenge looks to shine a spotlight on the independent businesses we have right here in town. Cabel, a 23-year resident, said this about shopping locally: "We have to support the efforts of those who are willing to add to our community. The value of having store fronts filled is beneficial to everyone." Read her glowing reviews of Animal House Veterinary Hospital, Kevin's Auto Repair and the Spotted Fox Ale House on our website at [www.stcharlesil.gov/shop-local/winners](http://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](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/shop-local) or contact the Economic Development Department at 630-443-4093. You could be the next winner!

## Brush Pick Up Schedule

### East Side

Sept 16

Oct 21

Nov 18

### West Side

Sept 23

Oct 28

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.

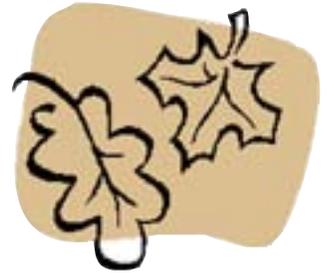
For more, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405, or visit the [Brush Pick Up](#) page on our website.

## Leaf Pick Up Schedule

It's almost that time of year again to rake those falling leaves. Leaf pick up will begin October 22 and continue through November 26.

The complete schedule will appear in the October issue of the Den and currently is on the [Leaf Collection](#) page of our website.

Residents also are reminded that leaves make a wonderful mulch in garden beds and are an environmentally friendly way to dispose of the autumn season's waste product. Additionally, leaves also may be disposed of in yard waste bags.



## Refuse and Recycling Services Update

The current refuse and recycling contract with Advanced Disposal recently was renewed. Beginning October 1, 2013, the following fees will be in effect:

Refuse Sticker	\$2.85 ea.
Yard Waste Sticker	\$2.85 ea.
Refuse Bag	\$3.07 ea.
Half-size Refuse Bag	\$1.54 ea.
65-Gallon Yard Waste Toter	\$25.00/mo.
35-Gallon Refuse Toter	\$19.00/mo.
65-Gallon Refuse Toter	\$18.03/mo.
95-Gallon Refuse Toter	\$21.00/mo.
White Goods Pick Up*	\$30/item

*\*Call Advanced Disposal to schedule a pick up. Prepayment is required.*

Please note the following service updates:

- 35-gallon refuse toter is now available in addition to the 65- and 95-gallon sizes.
- 65-gallon toter is now available for yard waste.
- Yard waste bags will no longer be available once the current stock is gone. Yard waste stickers can be used on generic yard waste bags. Advanced Disposal will

honor current yard waste bags.

- New recycling toters will be delivered to residents in the later part of September. There is no cost for these toters. Residents should have received information on this new program from Advanced Disposal.
- Residents may continue to use the orange recycling bins.
- Waste oil and batteries will no longer be picked up by Advanced Disposal. Motor oil and batteries can be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off in Naperville, 630-420-6095.
- Refuse containers that are not Advanced Disposal toters must be no larger than 32 gallons and weigh no more than 50 lbs.
- Refuse and recycling containers should be at the curb by 6:00 a.m. Please consider that while refuse may be picked up the same time most weeks the pick-up time can vary.

If you have any questions please contact Advanced Disposal at 630-587-8282 or call the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.

## St. Charles Police Department Receives State Traffic Award

On August 21, the St. Charles Police Department was awarded the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge Award for Agencies in their size category.

Now in its 20th year, the Challenge was created by the Illinois Chiefs of Police to enhance traffic safety on Illinois roadways. The St. Charles Police Department took first place in the 36-50 Sworn Officers Category, as well as the Occupant Protection/seat belt category.

Agencies are judged and compared on training of officers, incentives and recognition, public information and education, enforcement activity, and effectiveness of efforts.

Police Chief James Lamkin said, "The members of the St. Charles Police Department make safety on our roads a priority. In 2012, the City of St. Charles continued a downward trend for the past five years with another reduction in the number of traffic crashes. Safety belts have been proven to save lives, and we have made enforcement of safety belts and child safety seat installations an important part of keeping our roads safe."



## Reminder about Door-to-Door Soliciting

Door-to-door soliciting is permissible within the City of St. Charles. Charitable and commercial solicitors are required to obtain approval and register with the Police Department prior to soliciting in St. Charles according to City code, sections 5.36.020 & 5.36.030.

However, City code also prohibits soliciting when a "No Soliciting" notice is posted. If you do not want solicitors at your home, St. Charles Police and Public Works Departments have "No Soliciting" cards available for residents.



## Fire Department Awarded International Accreditation

The St. Charles Fire Department has received accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), and is one of only 186 agencies to achieve this status.

CFAI is dedicated to assisting the fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through self-assessment and accreditation in order to provide continuous quality improvement and the enhancement of service delivery to their communities. The CFAI process is voluntary, and provides an agency with an improvement model to assess their service delivery and performance internally and then works with a team of peers from other agencies to evaluate their completed self-assessment.

"Our achievement of Accredited Agency status demonstrates the commitment of the Fire Department to provide the highest quality of service to our community," said Fire Chief Joseph Schelstreet. "We have been able to use the Commission of Fire Accreditation International's process as a proactive mechanism to plan for the future of this department and locate areas where we can improve upon the quality of the services we provide."



*Pictured after the accreditation hearing l to r: Asst. Chief Kevin Christensen, Battalion Chief Marty Friel, Sr. Administrative Asst. Nonda Anderson, Accreditation Evaluation Team Leader Neil Rosenberger, Fire Chief Joe Schelstreet, Accreditation Evaluation Team Member Kevin Haines, Battalion Chief Scott Swanson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Paul Bumba.*

## Remember to Fill the Gator Bags

Summer is waning, but the weather has remained hot and dry. You may want to check your gator bags to see if they need water. Every new parkway tree the City plants receives a gator bag to help with watering. The City will fill the gator bag initially when the tree is first planted, but asks that residents fill the bag thereafter. If your parkway tree appears thirsty, please fill the gator bag no more than once every two weeks, as long as we have not had significant rainfall.

A quick check of the soil underneath the mulch will tell you if the tree needs water. If the soil is moist, there is no need to water; if it's dry, fill the bag. To add water to the gator bag, lift the white "Tregator" tag to expose the hole in the bag, then insert a hose to fill the bag. More information is on the city website [www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov).



## Flood Insurance Information

Because the City of St. Charles is a member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), anyone can purchase flood insurance through his or her local insurance agent via the NFIP. There is a 30-day waiting period for flood insurance coverage to begin.

A home located within a Special Flood Hazard Area has a 26% chance of being damaged by a flood over the life of a 30-year mortgage, and your homeowner's insurance will not cover flood damage. This is why flood insurance is mandatory for all federally backed mortgages for buildings in the floodplain.

Your home does not have to be in a flood zone to get flooded. Flood insurance is available at a reduced rate for these properties. Also, the City of St. Charles currently has a FEMA "Community Rating System" number of 5, which helps to further reduce insurance premiums. For more information contact the City's Engineering Division at 630-377-4486.

## Guidelines for Draining Your Swimming Pool

Your swimming pool is filled with chlorinated water. Chlorinated water discharged directly to surface water (wetlands, lakes, streams, and rivers), roadways or storm sewers has an adverse impact on local water quality. High concentrations of chlorine, as are present in swimming pools, are toxic to wildlife and fish. Appropriate preparations should be made prior to draining down a pool during pool winterizing. It is recommended that one of the following measures be used:

- De-chlorinate the water in the pool before draining, either mechanically or chemically. These products are readily available at local stores.
- Or, drain the pool across your lawn over a period of several days using the following additional guidelines:
  - 1) Allow pool water to sit at least 2 days while receiving a reasonable amount of sunlight, and without further addition of chlorine or bromine. It is recommended that the chlorine level be tested after 2 days to ensure that safe levels are met (below 0.1 mg/l).
  - 2) Pool discharge should be directed across your lawn, not down your driveway or into nearby storm sewer inlets. Our storm sewer system leads directly to wetlands, streams, lakes or rivers.

These recommendations are based on guidance from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Please do your part to help promote cleaner wetlands, streams, lakes and rivers. More at [www.epa.state.il.us](http://www.epa.state.il.us) or contact the City of St. Charles Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.

## September is National Preparedness Month

FEMA has designated September as National Preparedness Month. This is a good time to take action to prepare for natural and/or man made disasters. Please keep these preparedness tips in mind: Be Informed, Make a Plan, Get an Emergency Kit, and Get involved. For preparedness ideas and more information, visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov).



## Fire Pit Safety

The St. Charles Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the guidelines for using outdoor fireplaces and fire pits following the City's Fire Prevention Code, Title 15, Chapter 15.28.

- Outdoor fireplaces/fire pits shall be at least 15 feet from any structure or combustible material (i.e. house, garage, deck, fence) and in an open lawn area.
- Recreational fires not contained in an outdoor fireplace/fire pit must be at least 25 feet from any structure or combustible material and also in an open lawn area.
- Large outdoor fireplaces that are built on a foundation are allowed however, require a building permit from the City Building and Code Enforcement Department.
- Use only clean, well-seasoned wood--no leaves, compost, brush, waste materials of any kind or holiday decorations/trees.
- The fire must be constantly attended until extinguished.
- Some type of fire extinguisher must be available for immediate use (i.e., garden hose or fire extinguisher).
- The fire must be no greater than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high.
- Open burning is prohibited when atmospheric



conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. Be alert to wind speed/direction and courteous to neighbors who may experience respiratory difficulties.

- A City Fire Code Official may order the extinguishment of any open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

The City recommends good communication with neighbors and encourages a "good neighbor" policy to minimize complaints and allow the Fire Department to be available for emergencies. For more information, contact the Fire Department at 630-377-4458.

## Fall Hydrant Flushing Begins at the end of the Month

Fall hydrant flushing will be conducted September 30-October 7, according to the following schedule:

### Sept. 30-Oct. 4

West side of the Fox River south of the Timbers subdivision to Gray St. and west to North/South 16th St.

### Oct. 7-10

East side of the Fox River south of Iroquois Ave. to Division St. and east to North/South 14th Ave.



Watch for signs announcing hydrant flushing that will be posted in specific areas of the City. For approximate hydrant flushing dates in your neighborhood, visit the [My Neighborhood](#) page of the City website, enter your address and click on the City Services tab.

Please note water is safe to use and consume during hydrant flushing. However, residents may temporarily experience rusty colored water. Please read these tips:

- It is best to limit your water use, if possible.
- If you experience rusty water, wait until flushing has subsided then turn on the cold water tap until the water runs clear.
- Remember rust colored water is safe, but it may stain laundry. If this happens, keep clothes wet and treat them with stain remover.

The City offers a stain removal product at no cost to residents at the following facilities:

- Public Works, 1405 South 7th Avenue
- City Hall, Reception Desk, 2 East Main Street
- Police Department, 211 North Riverside Avenue

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

# Get Paid to Get Rid of Your Old Fridge

## Electronic Recycling Program Offered for Residents

Lower your monthly energy bills and get paid to do it! The City of St. Charles, working through the Recycle My Fridge Program, will recycle your old, working fridge or freezer and give you \$35. Plus, your refrigerator will be picked up, free of charge, without you having to lift a finger.

Residential customers of the City of St. Charles Electric Utility can schedule a free pickup by calling 877-341-2313 or by visiting [RecycleMyFridge.org](http://RecycleMyFridge.org).

Refrigerators must be in working condition and be a customer's secondary refrigerator or freezer.

By recycling that old, energy guzzling appliance you can save as much as \$100 a year on your energy bill. Those are big results for very little effort.

The City participates in the Recycle My Fridge Program through its affiliation with the Illinois Municipal



Electric Agency. No City funds are expended to pick up or recycle the refrigerators, or offer the \$35 pre-paid card.

The Illinois Municipal Electric Agency has contracted with Appliance Recycling Centers of America (ARCA) to implement the program. When you call or visit the website to schedule a pickup, ARCA employees will schedule the pickup, come to your home, take your old refrigerator, drive it to the ARCA recycling facility in Springfield, and then mail you a \$35 pre-paid card. The refrigerators are dismantled, and ARCA processes and recycles all possible parts. Materials that cannot be recycled are destroyed in an environmentally sound manner.

If you have questions about the program, please contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.

## St. Charles' Electronic Recycling Program Celebrates One Year of Success!

In August 2012, the City of St. Charles started an Electronics Recycling Drop-Off Program. The program has been well-received by residents as a convenient way to properly dispose of unwanted home electronics. Since the inception of the program, a total of 112,000 pounds of electronic materials have been collected for recycling as of June 2013. Televisions and computer monitors account for 40% and 11% (respectively) of the materials recycled.

The Electronics Recycling Drop-Off container is located at the St. Charles Public Works Facility at 1405 South Seventh Avenue. Drop off hours are Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (excluding holidays). Please note there is no unloading assistance available at the facility.

For a complete list of electronic items acceptable for recycling, please visit the [Recycling and Waste](#) page of City website.

## Register for the Electric Outage Reporting System

If you are a St. Charles Electric Utility customer, then be sure to register your phone number with the automated telephone notification system.

Based on caller I.D. technology, the system links customers' phone numbers to their accounts so the location of the outage can be identified automatically when they call to report an issue. It also allows customers to receive updates regarding the outage and a return call to confirm power restoration.

The system can handle heavy call volumes and quickly relays outage information, reducing crew response times.

Residents can register up to three phone numbers by calling the Utility Billing office at 630-377-4426 or registering online at the [Electric Reporting Sign Up](#) page of our website.



Sort through old school supplies. Many can be reused or recycled. Notebooks, folders, and binders can be reused. Recycle unwanted papers and reuse your old folders and binders. Share your used books with friends, relatives, or younger schoolchildren.



## Pace Student Haul Pass Now Available



The monthly Student Haul Pass from Pace is now available. The Haul Pass provides unlimited rides on Pace for high school and younger students for only \$30. The pass is valid on regular Pace fixed route buses and Pace Call-n-Ride services. Some Pace bus routes have special trips designed to serve schools at the beginning and end of the school day. Visit [www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com) for more information.

Thank You to All Who Donated at the City's Aug. 28 Blood Drive!



## Do You Receive Community eNews?

Stay up on the latest happenings in and around St. Charles with Community eNews. It features news from the City, park district, library, school district, Chamber of Commerce, Greater St. Charles Convention & Visitor's Bureau, and the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. Sign up at [www.st-charles.il.us](http://www.st-charles.il.us) and click on the "Subscribe to eNews" tab to have Community eNews emailed directly to you.

## 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
<b>Electric Outage Hotline.....</b>	<b>866-444-0016</b>

## City Offices Closed Labor Day Monday, September 2

Garbage Pick Up Delayed One Day All Week



The City of St. Charles would like to remind residents that City offices are closed Monday, Sept. 2, for the Labor Day holiday and that there will be no refuse or recycling pickup that day. Scheduled collection will be delayed one day all week. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.

Did you receive this issue from a friend? Sign up for your own copy of *The Den* at [www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov) and click on "Subscribe to City eNews"

Follow us  
Visit the City Administrator's  
blog at [www.insidestcharles.com](http://www.insidestcharles.com)

The Den is produced by  
The City of St. Charles  
2 E. Main Street St., Charles, IL 60174  
Questions? Please contact  
Lisa Garhan, Editor  
630-443-3744



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