THE DEN
News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

Audit Confirms $1.46 Million City Surplus

The City of St. Charles continued its strong financial performance in 2013, reporting a surplus of $1.46 million in the General Fund. According to the audit for fiscal year 2012-2013 performed by Sikich, LLC, FY13 revenues totaled $39.5 million and expenditures $38 million.

Apart from a small deficit in FY2011 at the height of the Great Recession, the City has posted a surplus in the General Fund from 2008 through 2013. This was achieved through:

- **Reductions:** Expenditures were cut 11.7% from FY2008 to FY2010.
- **Revenue:** The City instituted a 2% tax on alcohol sales. Also fees for services were adjusted for building permits, special events, towing, impounding of vehicles and arrest bookings.
- **Restraint:** Programs and services were maintained, while holding the City's portion of the property tax levy steady.

Chris Minick, Director of Finance, notes the same principles of responsible financial stewardship enacted during the Great Recession continue today at the City: "The expenditure reductions we established in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 during the economic downturn continue to benefit St. Charles citizens. FY2013 expenditures remain $4.7 million lower than FY2008 levels and the City's tax levy has been held steady for five consecutive years."

For more, contact Chris Minick at 630.762.7002, cminick@stcharlesil.gov.

City Retains Moody's Aa1 Rating

In related and equally encouraging news, Moody's Investor Service acknowledged the City's strong financial performance by reaffirming the City's Aa1 bond rating. Moody's noted several positive financial performance factors in its report stating: *'The City's financial operations remain sound following prudent and proactive management practices during the economic downturn. The City continues to be supported by solid operating reserves, a demonstrated history of reacting quickly to budgetary challenges…'*

For more information, contact Chris Minick at 630.762.7002 or cminick@stcharlesil.gov.

We've refreshed and simplified *The Den* to make it easier for you to read and keep up on the latest news from the City. We hope you enjoy it.

Connect With Us

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

Subscribe

Encourage a friend to sign up for their own copy of The Den at *www.stcharlesil.gov and click on "Subscribe to City eNews"*

CITY OF ST. CHARLES
ILLINOIS • SINCE 1834

#1 City for Families
St. Charles named by FamilyCircle

City Council and Committee Meetings

To see a complete list of meetings go to www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings

City Council
2.3.14 7:00 pm

Government Services
2.3.14 7:05 pm

Planning & Development
2.10.14 7:00 pm

City Council
2.18.14 7:00 pm

Government Operations
2.18.14 7:05 pm

Government Services
2.24.14 7:00 pm

Welcome New Businesses!

DOWNTOWN

Benistar Admin Services
Health Care Plan Administrator
100 Illinois St., Ste. 260
630-443-8300

Arbitrage LLC *Property Acquisitions*
1200 S. 2nd Street, 630-404-7689

Brandweavers *RX Marketing*
210 S. 5th St., Ste. 101, 630-945-1787

EAST GATEWAY

Green, Plagge & Shaw, Ltd *CPA*
1650 E. Main St., Ste. 201
630-587-0193

EAST GATEWAY–INDUSTRIAL

KI Associates, LLC *Manufacturing*
3820 Ohio Ave, Ste. 12
312-455-8578

Thermolex, Inc
Electric Motors Distribution
3820 Ohio Ave, Ste. 5, 630-690-3898

HCI *Kitchen Cabinet Wholesaler*
Relocated from 1855 Wallace Ave. to
3820 Ohio Ave., Ste. 8-10
630-584-0266

WEST GATEWAY

IG Commercial, Inc.
Custom Windows & Entrances
1860 Dean St., Ste. A, 630-513-8860

Macarena Tapas St. Charles
1890 W. Main St., 630-945-3458

Pro Martial Arts
2422 W. Main St., Ste. 4C
630-584-2340

Salsa Verde Mexican Restaurant
1850 Lincoln Hwy, 815-325-4147

Barton Staffing & Solutions, Inc
555 S. Randall Rd., Ste. 204
630-897-3591

And...

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Armour Eckrich
40 Years in St. Charles!
410 Kirk Rd.
630-584-5900

Rosati's Pizza
30 Years in St. Charles!
550 N. Kirk Rd.
630-513-9222
&
20+ Years in St. Charles!
615 S. Randall Rd., 630-513-6555

Enjoy Local Flavors of St. Charles

Restaurant Week is February 24-28

St. Charles Restaurant Week returns! From February 24-28, you can visit more than 25 participating restaurants and receive a 25% discount off your total bill when you present a special coupon.

Whether you're visiting an old favorite or looking to try something new, St. Charles offers one of Chicagoland's best dining scenes. Also, Restaurant Week is a great opportunity to support your local businesses. There are four easy ways to get your hands on a coupon:

1. Watch your mailbox for the Restaurant Week postcard. Present it at any participating restaurant for the discount.
2. Look for Restaurant Week ads in the Daily Herald Feb. 20-26. Simply clip out the ad and bring it to a participating restaurant.
3. Go to our website at www.stcharlesil.gov/restaurant-week to see a list of participating restaurants and their menus. There you can download and print as many copies of the postcard as you like.
4. Scan the QR code on the postcard to get the coupon on your smartphone.

For more information, contact Karla McCleary at 630.443.4093 or kmccleary@stcharlesil.gov.

Please note only one bill per table is eligible for the discount, a minimum purchase of $20 is required, and the 25% discount excludes tax, tip, and alcohol. This offer is not valid with other promotions the restaurants may be running. The offer also is for dine-in only.

Water Main Breaks are a Consequence of the Season

Water main breaks are common in the colder weather, especially with the extreme conditions we have experienced this season.

To report a water main break, please call the main Public Works Department number, 630.377.4405. If it is after hours, you will be prompted to leave a voice message in the appropriate mailbox. Include your phone number and address and the public works staff member on call will get back to you. If it is an emergency, please call 911 immediately. Also, please be reminded, that St. Charles Connect is not monitored after hours and should not be used to report an emergency situation.

If you notice rusty-colored water, simply turn on the cold water tap until the water runs clear. 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 remover at no cost to residents at the following locations:

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

Back by Popular Demand: Citizen Police Academy

Applications Due March 4

Ever wonder what it's like to be a part of the Law Enforcement profession? Sign up for the St. Charles Police Department Citizen Police Academy, March 5 - April 30, and you can find out.

This annual program gives participants a better understanding of how the Police Department operates. Some topics covered include:

- Criminal & narcotics investigations
- Arrest and search procedures
- Courts
- Traffic stops
- K-9 unit
- SWAT Team
- Crime scene processing

Both classroom instruction and outside demonstrations are used when possible. And CPA students may get an opportunity to participate in an activity, such as processing a "crime scene" for fingerprints or getting a radar reading on a moving vehicle.

The class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m., for nine weeks. Most of the classes are held in the St. Charles Police Department training room at 211 N. Riverside Ave. A graduation ceremony includes congratulations from the Chief of Police and the Mayor.

Citizen Police Academy activities

Pick up an application in the lobby of the Police Department (630.377.4435) or download it from the Crime Prevention page of the City website www.stcharlesil.gov. Drop off or mail completed applications to:

St. Charles Police Department
c/o Officer Bill Tynan
211 N. Riverside Avenue
St. Charles, Illinois 60174

Or email the application to btynan@stcharlesil.gov.

Applications are subject to approval, and include a background check. The class is open, free of charge, to St. Charles residents, property and business owners and their employees, and approved St. Charles high school juniors and seniors. Applications are due March 4, 2014. Contact Officer Tynan at 630.443.3730 or btynan@stcharlesil.gov for more information.

Deputy Chief Kintz Named VP of Kane County Chiefs Association

St. Charles Police Department Deputy Chief David Kintz recently was sworn in as Vice President of the Kane County Chiefs of Police Association. The appointment was made at the organization's January meeting. Deputy Chief Kintz previously served as Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms.

The association is comprised of command officers from law enforcement agencies throughout Kane County. The group shares the latest information about legal and technology issues, as well as management best practices.

Deputy Chief Kintz also chairs the Kane County Accident Reconstruction Team as well as the Awards Committee, which recognizes the top cop in the county each year.

The association provides funding for several task forces in the county, including the Major Crimes Task Force, Kane County Accident Reconstruction Team, and the Fire and Arson Task Force. It also awards college scholarships to children of officers in Kane County.

Deputy Chief David Kintz

A Winter of Extremes...

From sub-zero temperatures and wind chills to 40° F highs--or freezing rain to frequent snowfall, this has been an interesting (and infamously record-setting) winter so far!

One of the most important winter responsibilities of Public Works is to clear the roads of snow and ice for safe travel. Most people see the plows out working, but may not realize there is an entire interdepartmental team collaborating "behind-the-scenes" to support snow/ice control efforts 24/7.

Public Works has 15 frontline snow removal vehicles ready for deployment

Before the Weather Hits

Winter preparations start long before the first snowflake falls. Heavy equipment is prepared; crews take practice runs; maps are reviewed and routes planned; shifts are coordinated and assigned; and supplies are ordered and stored.

The first line of defense against winter precipitation is the application of a salt-based brine solution. Used as a pre-wetting application, the solution aids snow/ice removal snow and acts as a de-icing agent. The City stores more than 7,000 tons of road salt and has an ample supply of brine solution.

Tracking the Storms

Staff watches the weather using a computer alert and forecasting system to help plan snow operations. City snow crews are scheduled around the clock when necessary. This winter, St. Charles snow crews have worked day and night--even on holidays--through more than 18 winter events.

Quick Response

Direct radio communications with crews on the road allow for quick response to reports of hazardous road conditions. Our Police Department, Tri-Comm and observant residents often are first to accurately report current conditions.

Winter 2013-14 By the Numbers (So Far)

Snowfall: 29.65 inches (as of 01/14/14)

Extreme Cold: Crews have worked in temperatures as low as -17° F

Equipment: 15 Front line snow removal vehicles and up to 36 pieces of snow removal equipment

Streets Cleared: 171 centerline miles of roadways; 179 cul-de-sacs; 22 alleys

City Employees Named Among the Best

Congratulations to the these City employees who were recognized for outstanding achievements.

Rob Surratt, Code Enforcement Officer, was named Code Enforcement Officer of the Year by the Illinois Association of Code Enforcement.

Mayor Raymond Rogina; Chris Marschinke; Paul Marschinke; John Lamb, Environment Services Manager; and Mark Koenen, City Administrator

Paul Marschinke, Water Division Manager, was named Manager of the Year - Water Resources by the American Public Works Association Fox Valley Branch.

Greg Chismark, WBK; James Bernahl; and Peter Suhr, Interim Director of Public Works

James Bernahl, P.E., Engineering Division Manager, was named Manager of the Year - Engineering and Technology by the American Public Works Association Fox Valley Branch.

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

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:	***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 cannot guarantee that the tree will be planted exactly where you recommend.*

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

PUBLIC WORKS INTERNAL OFFICE USE ONLY		*To be completed by Public Services Staff*	
Approval Status:	☐ Approved	☐ Declined	Date:
Completed by:		Pkwy Location:	☐ Front ☐ Side ☐ Rear
Markings for Planting:	☐ Yes (in white paint)	Location:	☐ Not Marked
Species Recommendation:		Comments:	

Tree Care: Right Tree in the Right Place

Proper tree selection and placement enhances property value, prevents costly maintenance trimming and lowers the risk of damage to your home and property, according to the International Society of Arboriculture.

Plan for Proper Planting

Planning before planting can help ensure the right tree is planted in the right place. The City of St. Charles arbor staff is dedicated to the planning process. As our arbor team prepares to plant new trees this spring, many aspects are considered. For each planting space the team reviews above and below ground planting space, local utilities present, existing plantings, soil type and wet/dry zones.

Trees and Utilities

Proper selection and placement of trees around overhead utilities can help eliminate power outages, reducing utility expenses. If tall growing trees are planted under utility lines, they require pruning to maintain clearance. Tree limbs making contact with the wires can result in service interruptions. In addition, utility pruning can result in the tree having an unnatural appearance.

Much harder to recognize are problems involving underground utilities such as water, sewer, and natural gas. The root area of a tree is usually larger than the branch spread above ground. The City will determine the location of utility lines below ground before planting begins. In most cases, a distance of at least ten feet from any underground utility, including streetlights and driveway aprons, is required.

Source: www.treesaregood.org

For more information contact Public Works at 630.377.4405.

GREEN ST. CHARLES

An annual attic inspection may not be high on your priority list, but delaying it could result in costly critter removal or serious health hazards. Rodents chewing on attic wires cause approximately 15,000 residential fires each year. And if there isn't proper air ventilation, your attic could become a breeding ground for mold. More ideas at www.stcharlesil.gov/green.

Curbside yard waste collection and brush pick-up will resume April 2014.

Think Spring! Plan for the 2014 Arbor Day Celebration

Spring is just around the corner--we hope. It's time to mark your calendars for the annual Arbor Day event in St. Charles, Friday, April 25, 2014. This event will take place at Lincoln Park on Main Street, between 4th and 5th Streets. All ages are welcome to this annual celebration of trees. Come and enjoy live music, a tree raffle, tree care demonstrations, delicious cookies and more! The fun begins at 4:00 p.m.

The St. Charles Tree Commission invites you to participate in the 2014 Tribute to Trees as part of our annual Arbor Day celebration. Using the medium of your choice - photography, sculpture, watercolor, music, dance, computer or pencil and paper - create an expression of your appreciation of trees. Your work will be displayed - or, if you would like, performed - at the Arbor Day Celebration. For more information and details on how to enter, visit the City's Arbor Day Page www.stcharlesil.gov/services/public-trees/arbor-day.

So, get your creative juices (or sap) flowing and join the city-wide Tribute to Trees!

Stay in Touch with Kane County Connected

Kane County is a wonderful place to live, work & invest, with gems peppered all up and down the Fox River Valley. Kane County Connected aims to bring County residents together through shared interests and passions.

You may be a Veteran, Mom or Dad, pet owner, gardener, or working toward a greener environment… through Kane County Connected you can get "connected" to others with similar interests. To learn more, visit www.kanecountyconnected.com, email KCC@co.kane.il.us or call 630.444.3399.

Trinket Boxes Make the Perfect Valentine's Day Gift

Streetlight Out? Let Us Know

The St. Charles Electric Utility proactively maintains City streetlights. But 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 through St. Charles Connect with your mobile device or on the website at www.stcharlesil.gov/connect. Streetlights are typically repaired on Fridays. Thank you!

Recycle Your Electronics

The City of St. Charles Electronic Recycling container is located at the Public Works Facility, 1405 S. 7th Avenue. The container is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call the Public Works Office at 630.377.4405.

Kane County offers electronics and book recycling on the second Saturday of each month. Winter hours for February/March are 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles, 630.208.3841. For more information, visit www.countyofkane.org.

Everyone is Irish for the St. Patrick's Parade!

The Downtown St. Charles Partnership is accepting Parade entries for the 2014 St. Patrick's Parade! Forms are due by February 14th. Organizations, businesses, school groups, service clubs and more are invited to participate in this community event on Saturday, March 15th at 2pm. Forms and more information is at www.downtownstcharles.org.

Electric Outage Hotline

Report an Outage to 866.444.0016

St. Charles Electric Utility customers, 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.

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 & Vistor's Bureau, and the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. Sign up at 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 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 Administration/Investigation/ Crime Prevention	377.4435
Public Works: Water/Sewer/Street	377.4405
Refuse Pickup Information	587.8282
TDD	800.526.0844
Utility Billing: Electric/Water/Sewer	377.4426
Electric Outage Hotline	866.444.0016

The Den is produced by The City of St. Charles, 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174
Questions? Please contact Lisa Garhan, Editor 630.443.3744, lgarhan@stcharlesil.gov