



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

More than 5,000 Cross Red Gate Bridge on First Open Work Day

First 24-hour Traffic Count Taken Dec. 17-18

January City Council and Committee Meetings

City Council	
7 p.m.	7
Government Operations	
7:05 p.m.	7
Planning & Development	
7 p.m.	14
City Council	
7 p.m.	22
Government Operations	
7:05 p.m.	22
Government Services	
7 p.m.	28

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

The first official traffic count for the newly opened Red Gate Bridge showed 5,198 vehicles crossing the bridge on the first open workday, Dec. 17, 2012. The counts were pretty evenly split between eastbound and westbound crossings.

The roadway portion of the Red Gate Bridge opened to vehicle traffic Dec. 15 after its official ribbon cutting that drew an enthusiastic crowd of more than 170 people.



The new Red Gate Bridge is open to traffic.



City officials cut the ribbon to open the bridge.

State, County and City officials, along with mayors from surrounding cities and members of the general public and press were in attendance. Pictures of the ribbon cutting are on the City's Flickr page www.flickr.com/photos/stcharlesil.

Construction continues on the pedestrian and bicycle pathway that will connect to existing trails on either side of the river. The pathway is scheduled to open in the spring of 2013. Stay informed of the progress of the Red Gate Bridge project with regular updates and real time webcam feeds at www.redgatebridge.org.



Special thanks to School District 303 and the St. Charles Park District for their help with the Red Gate Bridge Ribbon Cutting event.



Mayor DeWitte presented City of St. Charles Public Works Director Mark Koenen with a special award recognizing his work on the Red Gate Bridge project.

Looking Back on the Highlights of 2012

From the "Inside St. Charles" Blog of the City Administrator



Below is an excerpt of the Top Ten Blog Posts for 2012 from Brian Townsend, City Administrator, in his blog, "Inside St. Charles," www.insidestcharles.com.

In 2012, the City's reign as the "#1 Town for Families" ended. Our #1 designation was well-deserved, but that does not mean we rest on our laurels. We have continued to accomplish things to make St. Charles even better.

#10. Credit Cards Accepted for City Utility Bills

City utility customers can now pay charges via credit card.

#9. City Trains for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response

City staff and representatives of other local government agencies participated in a week-long education and training session on community response to disasters and emergencies.

#8. Electric Reliability Hits 10-year High

The City of St. Charles electric utility obtained its best reliability performance in 10 years. The average number of minutes a system customer was without power decreased 67% from 2007.

#7. Completion of Radium Removal Facility for Water System

The City completed the construction of a radium removal facility located on Riverside Avenue. It ensures compliance with federal mandates regarding drinking water and enhances system capacity and conditions the water.

#6. New Electronics Recycling Program Offered

St. Charles residents can dispose of electronic items such as computers, televisions, DVD players, printers, and power tools at the Public Works facility. These items were banned from landfills in Illinois as of January 1, 2012.

#5. Bob Leonard Riverwalk Completed

The Bob Leonard River Walk project was completed, which includes stabilization of the west shoreline of the Fox River and development of a bicycle/pedestrian path that stretches from Illinois Street to the Prairie Street bridge. The project is part of the Downtown Strategy Plan, the River Corridor Master Plan, and the Kane County Bike Plan.

#4. Main Street Construction

Work on E. Main St. began in April and is on target for a Summer 2013 completion. The project will reconstruct, widen, and resurface Illinois Rt. 64 (Main St./North Ave.) from 7th Ave. to Rt. 59. Street lighting, retaining walls, and sidewalks also will be installed. In addition, the West Main St. & Oak St. intersection was widened to 5 lanes and a new traffic signal was installed.

#3. Crime Rate Hits 10-Year Low

Service calls to the St. Charles Police Department dropped to their lowest level in 10 years. Also, the department was recognized by the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation with the "Accreditation with Excellence" award.

#2. St. Charles Sustainability Initiative Saves \$3 million

The St. Charles Sustainability Initiative developed in 2010 identified ideas and suggestions that resulted in over \$3 million in cost savings or revenue generation. This has helped the City hold the Property Tax Levy at the same level for the 5th year. And, Moody's Investors Service recognized the City's fiscal management, affirming its outstanding Aa1 bond rating.

#1. Red Gate Bridge Opens

The long-awaited Red Gate Bridge opened to traffic on Saturday, December 15. Motorists are reportedly saving 5-10 minutes or more on trips across the Fox River.

Happy New Year, St. Charles! I look forward to sharing more good news with you in 2013!

Winter Fire Safety Tips



As the temperatures dip, the St. Charles Fire Department would like you to keep these winter safety tips in mind:

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

- Be sure your fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.
- Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. They could easily ignite from a spark.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper helps the fire heat up again, forcing toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. NEVER break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

Furnace Heating

- Have your furnace and furnace flues inspected annually.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt them yourself.

- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

Other Fire Safety Tips

- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the house/garage. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house/garage.
- Never use a range or an oven for supplemental heating. It is a safety hazard, and can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- If you use an electric space heater, do not overload the circuit. Also, avoid using extension cords to plug in space heaters.
- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a torch or other open flame; this may cause a fire in the wall space. Call an expert if necessary.

FINALLY...

- If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the St. Charles Fire Department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow.
- Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and check and clean it every month.
- Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.

Contact the St. Charles Fire Department 630-377-4457 for advice if you have a question about home fire safety.



Winter storms often cause power outages. Prevent waste by keeping rechargeable batteries rather than disposable ones stored throughout your house with your flashlights.



Welcome New Businesses!

DOWNTOWN

Chicago Turtle Factory Candy and Confectionaries
10 S. Riverside Ave., 630-991-7038

Devon Bank Home Loan Center
440 S. 3rd St., #206, 630-549-0930

Treasure Broker Antiques, 218 State St., 630-383-8758

EAST GATEWAY

3D FigureWorks 3D Photo Studio
Charlestowne Mall, 630-524-2044

Chapple West, Inc., Construction Management
103 N. 11th Ave., Unit 2R, 630-406-1500

Children of America Childcare Facility
155 S. Tyler Rd., 630-444-1443

Curfew Teen Dance Club, 2400 E. Main St.

SMH Solutions Property Maintenance
951 State Ave., Unit K1, 224-402-3020

That Little Salon, 1150 N. 5th Ave., 630-945-7332

The Spotted Fox Tavern/Restaurant
3615 E. Main St., 630-584-2239

Vero Voce Visual & Performing Arts School
951 State Ave., Suite F, 630-965-0825

EAST GATEWAY - INDUSTRIAL

DG Jr Records Inc Management Services
3720 Illinois Ave., 630-464-4740

KC Cleaning, 1830 Wallace Ave. #218, 630-907-9880

Mid Valley Special Education Cooperative
602 Sidwell Ct., Unit I, 331-228-4873

Phoresight Group Inc Management Consulting
1820 E. Production Dr., Suites D&G, 888-874-0999

Ritmo Manufacturing Co. Engineering & Machine
Manufacturing, 3540 Stern Ave. #109, 630-444-0744

WEST GATEWAY

Brown's Chicken, 1910 Lincoln Hwy., 630-584-2411

Charm Thai, 1415 W. Main St., 630-277-2300

Fox Valley Mathematics
902 S. Randall Rd., Suite B, 630-209-2600

JM Baker Graphic Design
611 Katherine St., 630-797-5168

Massage World, 2460 W. Main St. #106, 630-303-7466

Olympia Chiropractic & Physical Therapy
1615 W. Main St., 630-513-0600

State Farm Insurance (Bill Nelson)
1930 W. Main St., 630-443-5100

Time Out Sports Pub, 2051 Lincoln Hwy., 630-444-0732

Brush, Leaf & Yardwaste

Brush, leaves and yard waste collection has concluded for 2012. Curbside yard waste collection will resume April 1, 2013.

Tip: If you have any leaves left in your yard, use them for mulch around your garden plants during the winter months.

Christmas Tree Pick Up

Christmas trees will be picked up without a refuse sticker the weeks of Jan. 7 & 14, 2013, on **BOTH** sides of the river on regularly scheduled refuse days. After the week of Jan. 14, a sticker will be required for Christmas tree collection.

Please do not place Christmas trees in disposal bags and remove all decorations, including tinsel, before disposing. For questions, please contact Advanced Disposal Services, Inc. (formerly Veolia Environmental Services) at 630-587-8282 or the City's Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.

Free Holiday Light Recycling



Recycle Christmas/holiday lights at:

- **City of St. Charles Electronics Recycling Container** at the Public Works Facility, 1405 S. 7th Ave., Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Public Works at 630-377-4405 for more information.
- **Kane County Monthly Electronics & Book Recycling Collection Event** held the second Saturday of each month, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 540 South Randall Road, St. Charles, 630-208-3841. www.countyofkane.org

Spring 2013 50/50 Parkway Tree Program

The City again is offering trees for planting in parkways through its "50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program." Please call the Public Works office at 630-377-4405 to request a review of your parkway if you are interested in participating in this program. Order forms will not be accepted without an approved parkway review. Once approved, our tree consultant will plant, mulch and provide a gator bag, if necessary to assist with watering the tree. The gator bag is the property of the City of St. Charles.

Trees will be planted in early April/May. Each tree delivered is balled and burlapped and averages 2.5" in diameter. Larger size trees are available at an additional cost. Please discuss larger tree requests with the Public Works office. Species may vary upon availability and diversification needs for your area. Each tree is covered by a one-year warranty. If the tree dies or looks unhealthy, call 630-377-4405. Choose from these carefully selected trees:

Prairie Fire Crabapple \$130 *Good under power lines.* Mature height: 20 ft. Leaves deep red-purple, mature to dark green, bright orange fall foliage; attract songbirds.

Red Jewel Crabapple \$130 *Good under power lines.* Mature height: 15 ft./Width: 12 ft. Pink buds open to pure white blooms in early May, strong medium green leaves turn a slight burgundy bronze in the fall, lively 1/2 inch bright red "jewel" fruits lasting all winter.

Accolade Elm \$165 Mature height: 75 ft. Vigorous growth, excellent drought tolerance and good strong yellow fall color. Excellent disease resistance to Elm Yellows and Dutch Elm Disease.

Chanticleer Pear \$160 *Spring only.* Mature height: 25-35 ft. Pyramidal tree that is much narrower than other ornamental pears. It has attractive white flowers, green foliage and red fall color.

London Planetree \$170 Mature height: 60 ft./Mature width: 40-50 ft. Excellent shade tree; large, lustrous, green foliage in summer and yellow fall color. Wonderful park or street tree.

Redmond Linden \$165 Height: 40 ft./Mature width: 35 ft. Light green leaves with showy yellow fall color.

Skyline Honey Locust \$165 Mature Height: 50-70 ft./spacing: 60 ft. An excellent street tree for providing filtered shade with small leaves; early golden yellow fall color and fruitless.

State Street Maple \$165 Mature height: 60 ft./50-ft. spread at base. Excellent branching character, clean foliage and good yellow fall color; superior heat/drought tolerance.

Swamp White Oak \$215 *Spring only.* Mature Height: 50-60 ft. Leaves are medium green with white undersides; bark exfoliates when young exposing reddish-tan color; fall color is yellow with a red margin.



Chanticleer Pear

Upon approval, mail or deliver the order form below, along with a check or money order payable to the City of St. Charles. Order forms also may be downloaded from the Public Trees page under City Services at www.stcharlesil.gov. Send to Utility Billing Office, 2 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174. Orders will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. March 25.

50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program Order Form

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # (Daytime) _____

Choice of Tree(s) from the above list

Total Order Amount: _____

DBH Size: _____

Think Spring!

It may be winter, but it's not too early to mark your calendar for the annual Arbor Day Celebration on April 26, 2013. Sponsored by the City's Tree Commission, each year the Arbor Day Celebration is a popular community event. This year there will be new exciting activities and old favorites as well. Watch the City's website for details at www.stcharlesil.gov.



Perform an Energy Audit on Your Home

Program Available through Our Website

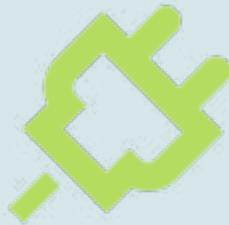


Want to find out more about your electricity usage and costs? City of St. Charles Municipal Electric Utility customers can perform an energy audit on their homes right from our website. This online program is provided in conjunction with our energy supplier, the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency. Customers can access the program from the City's website at www.stcharlesil.gov. Click on the "Green St. Charles" icon on the homepage and scroll down and click the "Home Energy Calculator" box. The program allows customers to enter data about their residence, calculate total energy costs, and calculate the cost and energy savings expected by making specific improvements. There is even a library section for energy information and a fun area for kids and teachers to learn about energy savings.

The Buzz Around Municipal Aggregation

Many residents have received solicitor calls or mailing advertisements from alternative electrical suppliers. Also, municipal aggregation, in which multiple communities band together to purchase electricity for their citizens, has been in the news lately. The City of St. Charles operates its own municipal utility and already participates in an electricity cooperative with other area municipalities (since 2006), including Naperville. It's called the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) and it provides power to 32 municipal systems in Illinois. St. Charles also has a representative who sits on the IMEA Board of Directors.

IMEA provides reliable, environmentally responsible energy to its members at a consistently stable rate. It offers a diverse mix of resources, including part ownership of two power-generating plants, contracts with Ameren for power, part ownership of the Lee-DeKalb wind farm, backup generators in certain cities, and spot-power purchases off the market.



The contracts that marketers currently are promoting are short-term arrangements, typically one year, with no guarantee of what costs will be beyond that window. While the offers may seem attractive, they do not include delivery charges for the electricity and are subject to the volatility of the market, which could see spikes in costs in the coming years. Most industry experts agree that the current imbalance of supply and demand in the electric bulk power market cannot, and will not, last. The City, along with 31 other municipalities, has chosen a longer-term approach to keep costs more stable and predictable. The City's contract with IMEA runs through 2036.

Providing reliable, cost-competitive services are the guiding principles of the City of St. Charles Municipal Electric Utility. Through our commitment to cost containment, reliability, customer service, and green power, our electric utility works to provide the best experience for our customers. For more information, contact Tom Bruhl, Electric Services Manager, at 630-377-4407.

Citizen Police Academy Coming in March

Applications Due Feb. 26

Ever wonder what it's like to be a part of the Law Enforcement Profession? The St. Charles Police Department is once again hosting their annual Citizen Police Academy starting March 5, 2013, and running through April 30, 2013. The CPA is meant to give its students a better understanding of how the St. Charles Police Department operates. Some topics covered include:

- Criminal & narcotics investigations
- Arrest and courts procedures
- Traffic stops
- K-9 unit
- SWAT Team
- Crime scene processing
- Domestic violence
- Firearms Training Simulator



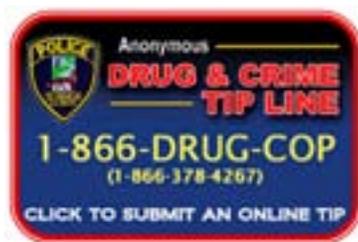
The class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m. for eight weeks. The class is open, free of charge, to St. Charles residents, property and business owners and their employees, and approved St. Charles high school juniors and seniors. Applications can be picked up at the Police Department or downloaded from the crime prevention page on the City website, www.stcharlesil.gov. All applications are subject to approval. The last day to submit an application is Feb. 26, 2013. Drop off or mail applications to:

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

For more details, contact Officer Bill Tynan at 630-443-3730 or btynan@stcharlesil.gov.

Now You Can Report a Crime Online

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



Floodplain Information

Floodplain Permits

All developments in the 100-yr. floodplain (not just construction of buildings, but filling, excavation, fences, etc.) are required to obtain a city permit. Applications must be made prior to doing any work in a floodplain area. Contact the City of St. Charles Public Works Engineering Division for information at 630-377-4486. You may report illegal development activities to the above number as well.

Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains

The benefits of floodplains are numerous. Floodplains can offer aesthetic pleasure, while performing important functions, such as filtering nutrients and farm chemicals in run-off so these areas can maintain biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability. Floodplains enhance the habitats of waterfowl, fish and other wildlife habitats, sustain feeding/breeding grounds, and provide natural erosion control and open space to reduce future flooding. Floodplains even contain historic and archeological sites that offer opportunities for education and study.

Find out more on the City website www.stcharlesil.gov/flood.

Find Us on Your Smartphone

Have you seen the mobile-friendly version of our website?

You can access information from the City of St. Charles on the go. Check us out on your smartphone or tablet at www.stcharlesil.gov.



Plan Your Public Transit Trip with Goroo®

Many commuters want to enjoy the benefits of saving time and money by using transit but they don't know where to start. The Regional Transportation Authority designed the goroo® trip planner with this in mind.

With goroo®, you simply input a starting address and destination and the site generates different routing options based on what is quickest or the lowest fare. It even tailors the schedule to the desired time and day of the week of travel. It's free to use and can be found at goroo.com.

The site is operated by the Regional Transportation Authority so the results include Pace bus routes, Metra train lines, and CTA train lines and bus routes. The goroo® trip planner provides specific boarding and transfer locations as well as the fare associated with each leg of the trip. Other information, including environmental benefits and money saved by choosing transit for the planned trip also is given. For more information, visit PaceBus.com.



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 and click on the "Subscribe to eNews" tab to have Community eNews emailed directly to you.

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

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 Donald P. DeWitte.....	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

