



THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

January 2016
www.stcharlesil.gov

Upcoming Meetings

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

- Youth Commission**
1.4.16..... 6:00 pm
- City Council**
1.4.16..... 7:00 pm
- Government Operations**
1.4.16..... 7:05 pm
- Plan Commission**
1.5.16..... 7:00 pm
- Historic Preservation Commission**
1.6.16..... 7:00 pm
- Planning & Development**
1.11.16..... 7:00 pm
- Tree Commission**
1.14.16..... 7:00 pm
- Liquor Control Commission**
1.19.16..... 4:30 pm
- City Council**
1.19.16..... 7:00 pm
- Government Operations**
1.19.16..... 7:05 pm
- Plan Commission**
1.19.16..... 7:00 pm
- Historic Preservation Commission**
1.20.16..... 7:00 pm
- Government Services**
1.25.16..... 7:00 pm
- Housing Commission**
1.28.16..... 7:00 pm

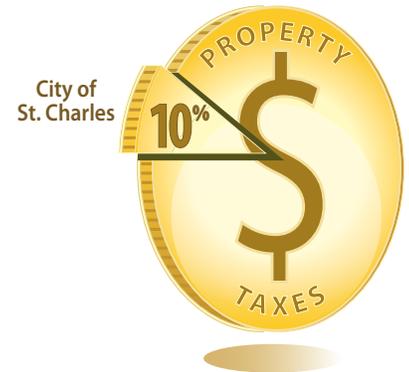


City's Portion of Property Taxes in a 7-Year Deep Freeze

A lot of things have changed since 2009: Blackberry is no longer a popular phone choice, the number of Facebook users jumped from 360m to 1.55b, and a dozen eggs will cost you 50 percent more, to name a few. One thing that hasn't changed in the last seven years—the City's tax levy. And we're pretty proud of that.

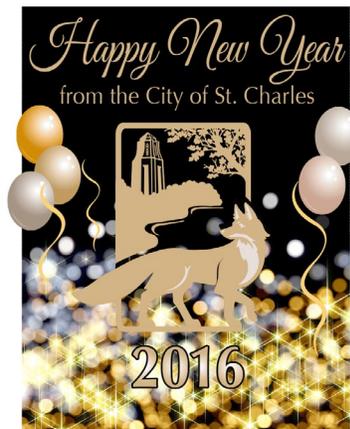
Responsible financial stewardship has kept the City's operating tax levy flat since 2009. We're continuing that streak as aldermen unanimously approved another frozen operating levy at the Dec. 7 City Council meeting.

The City's portion of your property taxes is less than 10 percent of your entire property tax bill. On a \$300,000 home, that means \$928 pays for a full year of City services, including Police and Fire emergency services, street maintenance and 24-hr snowplowing, planning, engineering, economic development, and more.



State Budget Update

There is good news out of Springfield. While there still is no state budget, recently passed legislation has allowed funds the state collects on behalf of local municipalities to be released to those municipalities. Withholding these funds would have created a sizable hole in the budgets of many cities and towns—including the City of St. Charles. For more information, contact the City Administrator's Office at cao@stcharlesil.gov or 630.377.4422.



We look forward to serving our residents and businesses in 2016!

BUSINESS REPORT

First Street Update

First Street Phase 3 construction continues as work on Building #1 rolls on. The concrete floor for the basement was poured and a crane is erecting steel beams and placed the precast floors for the first floor. The foundation walls were waterproofed. Weather permitting, excavation for the public parking deck will begin and footings will be framed.

Building #1 will include retail/commercial uses on the ground floor and the corporate headquarters of ALE Solutions on all three upper floors. The basement level will include private parking to serve the tenants of the building. The City is building a public parking deck just east of Building #1.

More at www.1ststreetstc.org. Or, contact the Community & Economic Development Department at 630.377.4443.



Building #1 basement parking

Site overview



First floor precast is installed

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

2015 Shop with a Cop

On December 12, 13 members of the St. Charles Police Department came out to the St. Charles Super Target for some holiday shopping with 12 children in need served by the local chapter of the Salvation Army. The officers helped the children shop, check out, and wrap gifts, and then just hung out with them for a while. This is the third year for this annual event.

A huge thank you to Air-Ric's Aviation, Metropolitan Alliance of Police Patrol 27, and the St. Charles Target for making this event possible. The holidays certainly were a little brighter for these families thanks to the kindness and generosity of all involved.



Prepare Your Vehicle for the Winter

Winter storms usually can be accurately forecasted about two or three days in advance. Please heed the National Weather Service's warnings. Eliminate some winter travel hazards by not venturing out unless absolutely necessary. Tips for winterizing your vehicle:

- Have a mechanic check belts and hoses, heat and defrosting units, brakes and transmission, filters and fluids.
- Regularly check wipers and wiper fluid, tires and tire pressure, lights and battery, antifreeze and oil levels. Lubricate door and trunk locks to prevent them from freezing. Keep fuel tank full.
- Prepare a Winter Storm Survival Kit and carry it in your vehicle – even for short trips. If you have an accident or breakdown, you may be waiting several hours for assistance.



Know Your Winter Weather Terms

We see the posts on social media, watch the forecasts on TV, maybe even get the alerts on our phones. But what exactly do those weather alerts mean?



Wind Chill Advisory

Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be a major inconvenience to life with prolonged exposure. If caution is not used, exposure could be hazardous.

Wind Chill Warning

Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be hazardous to life within several minutes of exposure.

Winter Weather Advisories

Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences. If caution is not used, Winter Weather Advisories could lead to life-threatening situations.

Winter Storm Watch

Alerts to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain or heavy sleet. Winter storm watches are usually issued 12-48 hours before a winter storm is expected to hit.

Winter Storm Warning

Hazardous winter weather with heavy snow, blizzard conditions, heavy freezing rain or heavy sleet is approaching or occurring.

Blizzard Warning

Sustained or gusty winds of 35 mph or more; falling or blowing snow with visibility $\leq \frac{1}{4}$ mile; these conditions persist for at least 3 hours.

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The Latest Issue of Police Beat is Out

The latest issue of the St. Charles Police Department Crime Prevention Newsletter is out. [Read it here](#). Police Beat offers helpful crime prevention tips, public safety information and police news. In this issue: What You Need to Know About Chip-and-PIN Cards, Protect Against Car Burglaries, Quarterly Crime Stats, and more.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Bill Tynan at btynan@stcharlesil.gov.



PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

Winter Heating Safety Messages



- ❄️ Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- ❄️ Never use your oven to heat your home.
- ❄️ Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- ❄️ Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- ❄️ Always use the right kind of fuel specified by the manufacturer.
- ❄️ Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room
- ❄️ Test smoke alarms every month.
- ❄️ If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of snow, ice and debris for easy access by the fire department.

Source: National Fire Prevention Association

Buckle Up, No Matter Where You Sit



The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Illinois State Police (ISP) remind you that anyone who rides in a motor vehicle needs to buckle up, no matter where they are sitting.

In 2003, Illinois passed a primary seat belt law requiring drivers and front seat passengers to wear a seat belt. In 2012, the law was expanded to require every passenger to wear seat belts, regardless of where they are seated in a vehicle.

This one simple action greatly reduces preventable injuries and fatalities.

Be Sure to Enroll in the CodeRED Emergency Notification System

Kane County has implemented the CodeRED[®] Emergency Telephone Notification System. The system allows County officials to telephone targeted areas or the entire County if an emergency requires immediate action such as a boil water order, missing child alert or evacuation notice. CodeRED[®] is capable of dialing 50,000 phone numbers per hour and delivers a recorded message.

Be sure to visit the secure Community Notification Enrollment page and add your contact information so you will receive emergency call notifications. This is especially important if you have an unlisted number, no landline, a VOIP or mobile number, or TDD/TTY requirements. For more information, visit the [Kane County Office of Emergency Management website](#).



PUBLIC WORKS

Christmas Tree Pickup

Christmas trees will be picked up during the weeks of Jan. 4 & 11, 2016. Trees will be picked up on both sides of the river on the regular scheduled refuse day. After this two-week period, a sticker will be required. Trees are not to be placed in disposal bags. Residents should note that all decorations, including tinsel, must be removed. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at [630.377.4405](tel:630.377.4405) or pw@stcharlesil.gov.

Plowing State, County and City Roads

The City of St. Charles maintains approximately 171 miles of main and secondary roads, alleys, side streets, parking lots and cul-de-sacs within the City.

The following roads are plowed and maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) – 847.705.4228.

- Rt. 31 north of the railroad trestle
- Rt. 25 north of Johnor Ave.
- Rt. 64 west of Randall Road
- Rt. 64 east of 13th Ave.



The following roads are plowed and maintained by the Kane County Highway Department – 630.584.1170.

- Kirk Road south of Rt. 64
- Kirk Road north of Royal Fox Drive
- Country Club Road from Persimmon Drive to Dunham Road
- Randall Road

All other City streets are maintained by the Public Works Department – 630.377.4405.

The City's snow program includes salting/anti-icing and plowing operations. During winter weather events, residents' cooperation and understanding will greatly enhance our efforts to provide the best service possible.

Keep Water Pipes from Freezing

Public Works receives a lot of questions about how to “winterize” water pipes. You may need to winterize your water service if your home will be vacant (due to a move, sale, extended vacation, etc.) or when home renovations require the water to be shut off.

To avoid frozen water pipes:

- Allow heated air to circulate around pipes and water meters. Insulate problem areas and leave cabinet doors open.
- In empty/vacant homes, don't turn off the heat – instead turn down thermostats to maintain a minimum temperature to keep pipes from freezing. Installing a programmable thermostat is recommended to regulate the temperature when needed.
- Allow water to slowly drip from faucets if water pipes are adjacent to an outside wall.
- Do not use an air compressor to “blow out” a private water service. This can allow dirt and other contaminants to enter the private and public water supply causing a potential health risk to residents and others drinking City water.

If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Meter Division at [630.377.4404](tel:630.377.4404).

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

50/50 "Share the Cost" Parkway Tree Program

Now is the perfect time to think Spring and take advantage of the City's 50/50 "Share the Cost" Parkway Tree Planting Program. Residents can request a new parkway tree and the City will pay half the cost of the tree and plant it for you.

Please note: Parkway trees must be reviewed and approved for planting before a tree order will be placed. To request a review of your parkway, simply fill out a Pre-Order Approval Form. You can fill out the [form online](#) or [download a printed form](#) and send to the address listed by March 1, 2016.

Please do not send payment now. Once approved, you will receive a confirmation letter, order form and details on how to order your tree.

Available tree species for spring of 2016 and your cost:

Prairie Fire Crabapple.....	\$150	Good under power lines
Red Jewel Crabapple	\$150	Good under power lines
Japanese Tree Lilac	\$155	Good under power lines
Accolade Elm.....	\$150	
Hackberry.....	\$150	
Redmond Linden.....	\$150	
Skyline Honey Locust.....	\$150	
London Planetree	\$165	
Chanticleer Pear	\$150	Spring Only
Swamp White Oak.....	\$170	Spring Only

Larger size trees are available at an additional cost of \$100 per ½-inch diameter upgrade. More information on tree species is available on the [50/50 Parkway Tree webpage](#). If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Department at pw@stcharlesil.gov or **630.377.4405**.

Sign Up for the Electric Outage Reporting System

If you are a St. Charles Electric Utility customer, 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 on our [Electric Outage Reporting](#) sign up page.

Perform an Energy Audit for Your Home On Our Website



The City of St. Charles Electric Utility provides our customers the ability to perform energy audits on their homes.

The program is web-based and offered in conjunction with our energy supplier, the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA). Customers can access the program from the City's website at www.stcharlesil.gov, click on the "Green St. Charles" icon on the home page and then 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 also a Library section for energy information and a Fun area for kids and teachers to learn about energy savings.

Got a New Mobile Gadget this Holiday? Take Us with You!

Download the St. Charles Connect app and stay connected with the City.

What It Is

St. Charles Connect is an easy, convenient way to get in touch with us to let us know if you have an issue we can resolve or to ask us questions.

How You Can Use It

- Report a maintenance issue, such as a downed tree, pot hole or a streetlight that's out. You can even snap a picture to show us.
- Want to know where public parking is? Ask us, right from your smartphone.

What It Is Not

- It should not be used to report an emergency or any time-sensitive issues; in those cases dial 911.
- It is not a 24/7 service. It is only staffed during regular business hours.
- And it's not a replacement for the power outage reporting system; for that dial 866.444.0016.

You also can log in online at www.stcharlesil.gov/connect.

For more information, contact Penny Lancor at plancor@stcharlesil.gov.



ST. CHARLES CONNECT

Streetlight Out? Let Us Know



<http://stcharlesil.gov>

The St. Charles Electric Utility proactively maintains City streetlights, however, your help is always appreciated. If you notice a streetlight (not traffic signal) is out, flickering or needs repair, notify us either through the St. Charles Connect mobile app, with the [online service form](#) or call us at 630.377.4407. Include your name and telephone number so we may contact you if more information is needed. Streetlights are generally repaired on Fridays. Thanks for your help!

Holiday Light Recycling

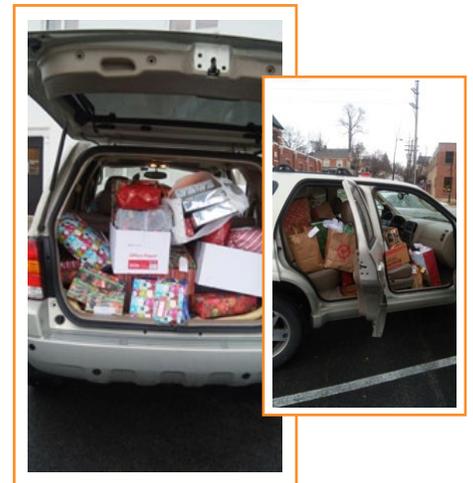
Recycle strands of holiday lights and electronics at the City's Electronics Recycling container at the Public Works



Facility, 1405 South 7th Avenue. The container is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call the Public Works Office at 630.377.4405.

Thank You for Donating to Our Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who selected tags and donated gifts for the City Hall Giving Tree. Because of your overwhelming generosity, we were able to deliver gifts in time for the holidays to Elderday Center and local children from the St. Charles school district. In fact, our vehicle was literally stuffed with gifts!



A total of 24 children from three schools each received gifts of warm clothing, books, a fleece blanket and a toy. Three children also received donated bikes and a homeless family of four received \$575 in gift cards.

The Elderday Center received a healthy stock of cooking, crafting and cleaning supplies.

We appreciate everyone's generosity. A strong sense of community is alive and well in St. Charles!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Help a Neighbor in Need

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 to help local families.

If you would like to donate, please list the amount to give on the payment stub of your utility bill and add it to the amount of your payment. 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** or utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov.



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Where Can You Recycle Batteries?

While there seems to be many options for recycling just about everything from refrigerators to electronics, finding an environmentally safe way to dispose of old batteries can be a challenge. Many places will take rechargeable batteries, but not the old-fashioned alkaline types.

The new City of Naperville Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 156 Fort Hill Drive accepts materials such as batteries, antifreeze, fertilizer, cleaning solutions and oil from anyone who visits the collection center. The center is one of four in the state that accepts hazardous materials year-round. Others are located in Rockford, Gurnee and Chicago. For more information on the Naperville facility, visit <http://www.naperville.il.us/hhw.aspx>

Offices are open Monday, January 18, 2016, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, but there are no public meetings.

City of St. Charles Directory

<i>Building & Code Enforcement</i>	377.4406	<i>Fire Administration</i>	377.4458
<i>City Administrator Mark Koenen</i>	377.4422	<i>Fire Prevention Bureau</i>	377.4457
<i>Community Development</i>	377.4443	<i>Human Resources</i>	377.4446
<i>Development Engineering</i>	443.3677	<i>Mayor Raymond P. Rogina</i>	377.4444
<i>Economic Development</i>	443.4093	<i>Police Administration/Investigation/ Crime Prevention</i>	377.4435
<i>Electric Division</i>	377.4407	<i>Public Works: Water/Sewer/Street</i>	377.4405
<i>Engineering Division</i>	377.4486	<i>Refuse Pickup Information</i>	587.8282
<i>Emergency Management Agency</i>	377.4416	<i>TDD</i>	800.526.0844
<i>Flood Protection Assistance</i>	377.4486	<i>Utility Billing: Electric/Water/Sewer</i>	377.4426
<i>Finance/Accounting</i>	762.7002	<i>Electric Outage Hotline</i>	866.444.0016