



THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

June 2014
www.stcharlesil.gov

Summertime and the Livin' is Easy

From the Mayor's Desk



Mayor Raymond P. Rogina

Here in our community, I certainly hope the living is easy as we embark upon another summer season in St. Charles.

Riverfest is a community/family celebration that allows us to relax and have some fun shopping, eating, and listening to good music in our downtown.

I hope you will have a chance to support the Relay for Life at Cougars' Stadium on June 13. Other ancillary activities to show your support will also take place.

Of course, summer will not be complete without biking, walking and running on all of our wonderful trails. For those of you starting your training for the Fox Valley Marathon/Half Marathon and Fall Final 20, I'll see you out there.

A paddleboat ride, round of golf, picnic or softball game in Pottawatomie Park will certainly be a great addition to your summer menu.

Our fireworks display, viewed from numerous beautiful venues, certainly will be a highlight to a fine and patriotic summer holiday weekend.

A myriad of other events will allow visitors and residents to enjoy summer in St. Charles. For the continued vibrancy of our community, your continued patronage of our merchants will make the summer season for you and them that much more enjoyable.

Enjoy a cold beverage, dine alfresco, have another ice cream cone, put on a pair of sandals, be safe and responsible and welcome summer to St. Charles.



Riverfest is June 6-8



Riverfest has been the official kick off of summer in St. Charles for more than 30 years. Come and join the fun!

Enjoy events on the water, in the sand and up on stage. And don't forget about the Live Bachelor Charity Auction this year. The weekend is packed with plenty of family-friendly activities.

For more information, including a full schedule of events, visit www.prideofthefox.com

City Council and Committee Meetings

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

City Council

6.2.14 7:00 pm

Government Operations

6.2.14 7:05 pm

Planning & Development

6.9.14 7:00 pm

City Council

6.16.14 7:00 pm

Government Operations

6.16.14 7:05 pm

Government Services

6.23.14 7:00 pm

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#1 City for Families
St. Charles named by FamilyCircle

Celebrating St. Charles' 180th Anniversary

It's summertime in St. Charles. Time to get out and enjoy the beautiful parks, relaxing riverwalk and miles of trails throughout the city.



The original Pottawatomie Park Pavilion circa 1900



Our community's love of the outdoors stretches back more than 100 years, when St. Charles earned the distinction of designating the first public park in the state of Illinois: Pottawatomie Park. According to the Heritage Center, the pavilion that stands today is a newer version of the original pavilion built in 1892.

Lightning Facts & Myths

Along with the warmer temperatures, comes the potential for severe weather. Our Emergency Management Agency would like you to be aware of the dangers of lightning.

Lightning is the second largest killer due to storms and the most common thunderstorm threat. Lightning occurs in all thunderstorms and strikes the earth 20 million times per year.

Lightning Facts & Myths

Myth: *If it is not raining, there is no danger from lightning.*

Truth: Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and can occur 10 miles away from rainfall.

Myth: *Rubber soles of shoes or tires of a car will protect you.*

Truth: These provide NO protection. The steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle increases protection if you are not touching any metal inside the vehicle.



Myth: *Heat lightning poses no threat.*

Truth: Heat lightning is still lightning. It is the result of a thunderstorm too far away for the thunder to be heard.

A good rule of thumb is *When Thunder Roars Go Indoors!*

For more information on lightning safety visit lightningsafety.noaa.gov or contact Paul Bumba, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, at pbumba@stcharlesil.gov or 630.762.7091.



Be green from the ground up! Test your home for radon. Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless gas that can seep out of the ground and into your home. As the second leading cause of lung cancer, radon is responsible for over 20,000 deaths a year. Fortunately, a home radon test is easy to do, and homes with high radon levels can be fixed.

Welcome New Businesses!

DOWNTOWN

Button Man Printing

9 E. Main St., 630.549.0438

TGM Insurance Agency, Inc.

314 Walnut St., 630.315.5472

Berry's Barbershop

117 E. Main St., 630.584.2503

EAST GATEWAY

Robinette Plumbing Inc.

206 S. 13th Ave., 716.868.8655

Premier Car Sales

4200 E. Main St., 703.395.7943

AK Furio Artist/Photographer

1020 Cedar Ave., Ste. 205

630.222.8101

Pride of the Fox, Inc. Events

103 N. 11th Ave., Ste. 110

630.296.7683

EAST GATEWAY-INDUSTRIAL

Erasistable Vintage Rentals & Styling

Event Vintage Rentals

600 Industrial Dr., 331.472.6428

ABRA Auto Body & Glass

2891 Dukane Dr., 763.585.6401

Elite Auto Factory Car Detailing

1815 Wallace Ave., Ste. 303

630.506.2135

Hot Bags, Inc. Delivery Bag Supplier

1820 Wallace Ave. Ste. 123

630.802.5195

Training to Win Wrestling,

Strength & Personal Training

1820 Wallace Ave., Ste. 110

281.202.7436

WEST GATEWAY

St. Charles Motor Cars

2901 W. Main St., 630.377.9900

Mathnasium of St. Charles Math

Learning Center

902 S. Randall Rd., Ste. B

630.444.1805

RELOCATED BUSINESSES

Airline Pilot's Historic Society

707 Columba Ct., 630.584.7490

The Hair Shoppe Salon

546 S. Randall Rd. Ste. B,

630.513.1307

James Keegan Appointed Police Chief

City Administrator Mark Koenen recommended the appointment of James T. Keegan as Chief of the St. Charles Police Department at the June 2, 2014, City Council Meeting. The Council approved the recommendation unanimously. Keegan's first day will be June 30, 2014, and he will be officially sworn in as Chief July 7, 2014. Keegan comes to St. Charles from the Village of Streamwood, Ill., where he served as Chief of Police since 2011. He had been with the village police department for the last 21 years, rising through the ranks to ultimately earn the position of Chief.

Keegan's major accomplishments in Streamwood include participating in the planning and construction of a new 56,000-sq. ft., \$12M police facility; leading the revision of the village's Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan; implementing bar-coded evidence processing and upgrading in-car computer systems for the entire police fleet.

"We conducted a thorough and comprehensive search of candidates throughout the area before choosing Chief Keegan," said Koenen. "I'm confident he has the experience and foresight to lead the St. Charles Police Department and uphold the high standards of service our community has come to expect."

Throughout the six-month search process for a new Police Chief, Deputy Chief Steve Huffman has served as Interim Chief for the department. He was appointed to the position after

former Chief Jim Lamkin retired in December. "I want to acknowledge the efforts of Deputy Chief Huffman and the entire police force for seamlessly maintaining daily operations, continuing to provide high quality police services, and working collaboratively with City staff, the community and neighboring police agencies during this time," said Koenen.

"I am both honored and humbled to be selected as the next Chief of Police in the City of St. Charles," said Keegan. "I am anxious to get started in working alongside the fine men and women of the St. Charles Police Department in providing our citizens, businesses and visitors with the best possible community-oriented public services we have to offer."

Keegan holds an A.A. from William Rainey Harper College, Palatine; a B.A. from Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago; and an M.S. from National Louis University, Chicago. He is a member of the FBI National Academy Associates, the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Kiwanis Club International.



Final Shop St. Charles Winner

Yearlong Program Draws to a Close

Liz Schuetz is the next and final winner of the Shop St. Charles Challenge. The yearlong promotion kicked off July 2013 and spotlighted businesses we have right here in town. We would like to thank all of our participants who helped stimulate interest in our local businesses, encourage residents to spend their shopping dollars in St. Charles, and draw positive attention to the community.

Schuetz visited three local businesses and then told us about his experiences. She will receive a rebate up to \$100 for successfully completing the Challenge.

Schuetz had this to say about shopping locally: "Our local economy should be supported by the people who live here. Attracting people from other areas to come to St. Charles to shop should be a bonus and not a necessity."

Read her reviews of the three businesses she visited: Jeans and a Cute Top Shop,

Macarena Tapas and St. Charles Chrysler Jeep Dodge at www.stcharlesil.gov/shop-local/winners.

For more information, visit the Shop St. Charles Challenge web page, www.stcharlesil.gov/shop-local or contact Karla McCleary in the Community and Economic Development Department at 630-443-4093 or kmcclary@stcharlesil.gov.



Recycle Your Old Fridge; Get \$50



There's an easy way to get rid of old, energy guzzling refrigerators and freezers in your basement or garage.

As City of St. Charles Electric Utility customers, residents can schedule a free pick up of an old refrigerator or freezer with the Appliance Recycling Centers of America and receive a \$50 prepaid card. Call 877.341.2313 (toll free) or visit www.RecycleMyFridge.org to schedule a pick up.

Since the program began in 2011, 920 units have been recycled, netting a savings of more than 1.4 million kWh annually. For more information, contact the City of St. Charles Electric Utility at electric@stcharlesil.gov or 630.377.4407.

Promoting Safe Swimming Pools

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, each year, nationwide, about 300 children under age 5 drown in swimming pools. And 2,000 more are treated in hospital emergency rooms for submersion injuries.

To promote safety around pools, a City of St. Charles ordinance requires a permit to construct all swimming pools 24 inches or more in height. This includes in-ground, above- and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. These permits require inspections by the Building & Code Enforcement Division to ensure the pools are built and secured to code. Included in the requirements are proper barriers, which include both fencing and ladder specifications.

A detailed pool packet is available in the Building & Code office and on our website at www.stcharlesil.gov/forms. Open the link for Permit Applications and in the Residential

Permit Applications you will find an Information Packet for **Swimming Pools (Inground & Above) and Spas**.

We all know that caution around pools with children is essential so please be sure you take a few moments and go over safe swimming rules with your children or grandchildren. Have a safe and happy summer!

For more information, contact Bob Vann, Building & Code Enforcement Division Manager at bvann@stcharlesil.gov or 630.377.4406.



Drainage System Maintenance

It's important to remember that keeping smaller ditches and streams free of debris can dramatically improve the flow of run-off from low lying areas. It is illegal to dump materials into a required waterway and violators may be fined. There are also numerous drainage districts within the county that will relieve certain areas from congestion from fallen trees, leaves and beaver dams.

The City has photos and flood data from the August 2007 and September 2008 flood events, as well as for more recent flooding. If you have drainage or flooding problems and would like to schedule a site visit with City staff or for more information, contact the Public Works Engineering Office at 630.377.4486.

Summer Means those Pesky Mosquitos!

The City has again entered into a contract with Clarke Mosquito Management, Inc., for the mosquito control program. The objective of this program is to reduce the potential of mosquito-borne disease transmission. For more information about mosquitos, treatments and schedules, call Clark Mosquito Management at 800.942.2555. The City website, www.stcharlesil.gov, also has information on its **Mosquito Abatement page**. Or, contact Public Works at 630.377.4405.



Street Sweeping Schedule

June - Last Week

August – Mid Month

September - Last Week

October - Last Week

November - Mid Month & Last Week (after leaf collection)

In addition, there will be special sweepings for parades, festivals, special events, emergencies, accidents, leaf pick-up and severe weather events. **Please try to park off of the street during the weeks scheduled for sweeping.** For more information, contact Public Works at 630-377-4405 or pw@stcharlesil.gov or visit the City website www.stcharlesil.gov.

Brush Pick Up Schedule

East Side	West Side
June 16	June 23
No pick up in July	
Aug 18	Aug 25
Sept 15	Sept 22
Oct 20	Oct 27
Nov 17	Nov 24

Brush (branches at least 3 feet in length and less than 12 inches in diameter) must be placed on the parkway, in front of your house (or along the frontage where refuse/recycling is collected), cut ends facing the street before 7 a.m. on Monday of the scheduled pick up

(or Tuesday if Monday is a holiday). **Please note:** Pick up in your area may take 3 to 4 days.

Do not tie bundles of brush with rope or wire. Piles should not be higher than 4 feet and never put in the street. **Don't park in front of the piles, crews will be unable to pick up the brush.** More is at www.stcharlesil.gov/services/brush.

What to do After a Storm

When a severe storm hits, it can create potential electrical hazards for residents. Here are a few good reminders:

- If your power is out, call 1.866.444.0016. Calls to this number page our field crews and are visible to them via laptop computers in their trucks. Using the 1.866.444.0016 line is the fastest way to let us know your lights are out. The system uses caller ID to automatically link your address to the outage call. You can register up to three phone numbers to your account. Contact Utility Billing at 630.377.4426 to register phone numbers.
- If you must venture outside, stay away from downed power lines and be aware that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume any dangling wires are electrical, and treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away, and contact the St. Charles Electric Utility at 1.866.444.0016.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle and contact emergency personnel or the electric utility. Also be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals out as four-way stops.
- Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your



electric utility to shut off power at the meter.

- Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords, or wires while you are wet or standing in water.
- When using a generator, follow all manufacturers' recommendations. Keep the generator dry, and never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring. This could inadvertently energize the utility lines and injure yourself or others who are working to restore power. Visit the [Electric Safety Tips](#) page of our website for more information.

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

Before starting any projects that require digging, be sure to call J.U.L.I.E. at 800-892-0123 or 811 to locate underground lines. Call before you dig to prevent costly damage or an emergency.

Checklist for a Locate Request

- Name, address, a phone number at which you can be reached, an email address and a fax and/or pager number, if available
- The location of the planned excavation, including county, city or unincorporated township; section and quarter section numbers if available; address, cross street (within 1/4 mile), subdivision name, etc.
- Start date and time of planned excavation
- Type and extent of excavation involved
- Whether the dig area has been outlined with white paint, flags or stakes

Call J.U.L.I.E.



Locate requests received after 4 p.m. are logged in for the next business day. If you are starting your project on a weekend, remember to contact JULIE by 4 p.m. Wednesday. You will be provided with a dig number that identifies specific information about your locate request.

FY2014-15 Utility Rate Changes

The City's electric, water and wastewater utility rates have changed for fiscal year 2014-2015. The changes are effective for bills due after June 1, 2014. Even with the rate changes, St. Charles residents still have the lowest annual municipal utility bills in the Tri-Cities.

The rate changes are part of a multi-year plan to address deficiencies in the utility rate structure. In 2011, the City approved a utility rate study completed by RW Beck and Co. The rate study was undertaken to assure that the City's utility rate structure was sufficient to meet current operating and future capital replacement needs. The rate study serves as a guideline for utility rates. The City evaluates the financial condition of the utilities on an annual basis and provides rate structure recommendations.

Example Monthly Bill

A residential customer who uses 1200 kwh of electricity and six thousand gallons of water and sewer would have been billed \$151.88 under current rate calculations. Effective June 1, the bill for the same usage in the new rate structure would be \$157.05.

A link to the City of St. Charles' utility rates is available online at www.stcharlesil.gov/ubills. Or, contact the Utility Billing office at 630.377.4426.

2014 Street/Utility Maintenance Schedule

The City's annual road and infrastructure maintenance program is underway. Crews from Hardin Paving Services will repair water mains and storm and sanitary sewer systems, in addition to street repair. The project will be completed in three phases: Phase I-Underground Utility Work, Phase II-Street Rehabilitation, and Phase III-Parkway Restoration. Work is expected to be complete by August 15, 2014. For more information, contact the Public Works Engineering Division at pw@stcharlesil.gov or 630.377.4486. Work locations:

Street Name	From	To
Squire Lane	Dunham Road	West End
Foxfield Road	Kirk Road	Fox Chase Drive
Frontage Road	38th Avenue	West End
Cambridge Drive	S. Tyler Road	Cumberland Green Dr.
Midway Avenue	Cambridge Drive	Jeanette Avenue
Jeanette Avenue	S. Tyler Road	Cambridge Drive
Cumberland Green Dr.	Cambridge Drive	Cumberland Pkwy.
Kehoe Street	S. 8th Street	Horne Street
Ash Street	Horne Street	Roosevelt Street
McKinley Street	S. 4th Street	S. 6th Street
Ohio Avenue	S. 3rd Avenue	S. 6th Avenue
Lakeside Drive	East Main Street	South End
Parking Lots		
Lot H – NE Corner - Route 31 and State Street		
Alleys	From	To
Between 4th & 5th St.	McKinley Street	Horne Street
Between 4th & 5th St.	Horne Street	Cutler Street

Fall 50/50 Parkway Tree Program

The City again is offering trees for planting in the parkway this fall for the "50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program." Contact the Public Works Department to request a review of your parkway if you are interested. Parkway must be reviewed and approved for planting before an order will be placed. **Please do not send payment now.** Once approved, you will receive a confirmation letter, order form, and details on how to order. Orders must be placed by Aug. 1, 2014.

Available Trees for Fall 2014

Accolade Elm \$175
 London Planetree \$180
 Redmond Linden \$175
 Skyline Honey Locust \$175
 State Street Maple \$175

Good Under Power Lines

- Prairie Fire Crabapple \$135
- Red Jewel Crabapple \$135
- Japanese Tree Lilac \$175

More information on tree 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. For more information, contact the Public Works department at pw@stcharlesil.gov or 630.377.4405.

Thank You for a Successful Arbor Day 2014

There was great support for the annual St. Charles Arbor Day celebration again this year! The Tree Commission thanks everyone who made this in this event a success, including:

- Munhall Elementary School, Mrs. Tieche and her 4th-graders for their Tribute to Trees
- Wredling Middle School, Munhall Elementary School, Davis Primary School for their beautiful artwork
- Pedersen Company for the generous donation of a Swamp White Oak tree
- Graf Tree Care, Chris and Henry Scott for their Interactive Tree Experience
- Midwest Groundcovers for the donation of beautiful perennial plants
- Russ Altersohn and Rick Weals for providing great music
- St. Charles Park District for the use of lovely Lincoln Park



2014 Youth Police Academy Registration Deadline is June 6

Class is July 7-11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Open to Ages 13-16

The St. Charles Police Department will host its second annual Youth Police Academy this summer. The academy is intended to showcase careers in police and fire work, and also encourages teamwork and self-esteem.

Several topics will be covered, including steps to becoming a police officer and firefighter, personal safety/self-defense, internet safety, bullying, crime scene evidence collection, and more.

Thanks to funding from the St. Charles Youth Commission, participants will be certified in CPR by the St. Charles Fire Department free of charge. Participants also will spend a day at the Kane County Judicial Center for classes led by state's attorneys. The class will be limited to the first 25 registrants. Registrants must be a resident of St. Charles, and/or attend a CUSD 303 school. Preference will be given to residents within the city limits.

Registration packets can be picked up at the St. Charles Police Department, and the main offices at both high schools, as well as Wredling, Thompson and Haines middle schools. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Bill Tynan at btynan@stcharlesil.gov or 630.443.3847; or Detective Eric Majewski at emajewski@stcharlesil.gov or 630.762.6941.

Thank You Troop 4622!

On May 19, local Girl Scout Troop 4622 stopped by to give our Police and Fire departments boxes of Girl Scout cookies in honor of First Responders Day.



Deputy Police Chief Dave Kintz and Interim Police Chief Steve Huffman with members of Troop 4622

Thanks for the Beautiful Flowers!

The Pottawatomie Garden Club once again adorned the outside areas of the Municipal Building with beautiful plants and flowers. When you pass by you will be treated to a lush, colorful display.



Mortgage Relief Project Workshops to be Held in Kane County

Working in partnership with state agencies and officials, the Kane County Foreclosure Task Force will host two “Mortgage Relief Project” workshops in Elgin and Aurora. HUD-certified housing counselors will be on hand at both events to assist homeowners interested in avoiding foreclosure and/or learning about mortgage options/modifications. To register for the event or for more Mortgage Relief Project information, call toll-free at 1.800.532.8785 or visit www.idfpr.com.

Elgin Community College

Saturday, June 14, 2014

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Registration until noon)

1700 Spartan Dr., Elgin

Building 8, in the Community Room

Prisco Community Center

Saturday, July 12, 2014

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Registration until noon)
150 Illinois Ave., Aurora

Please bring the following items:

- Mortgage Statement
- 2012 & 2013 W-2 and tax returns with all schedules
- Copy of rental agreement, if necessary
- Two months of recent paystubs
- Budget of household expenses
- Documentation of other income
- Two months of recent bank statements
- All Recent Utility Bills
- If you are self-employed, a Profit/Loss statement for the past 6 months

Don't worry if you do not have all the documents on the day of the event. You can still meet with a HUD-Certified counseling agency or your lender and get the process started.

Go To 2040 Plan Update

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has initiated an update of the GO TO 2040 comprehensive regional plan. The draft update will be available for public comment from June 13 to August 1, 2014.

CMAP will hold a series of public open house meetings throughout the region during the comment period. Each event will feature posters and plan update materials for review, as well as the draft 2014-19 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), with comment cards available and CMAP staff on hand to answer questions. And beginning June 13, residents also may review the plan and submit written comments at www.cmap.illinois.gov.

To learn more, contact Jessica Gershman at jgershman@cmap.illinois.gov or 312-386-8631.

Kane County Open House

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Kane County Government
Center Auditorium

719 S. Batavia Avenue
Geneva, Illinois 60134

Community Shredding Event

Do you have tax-season paperwork that you need to destroy, safely and securely? The St. Charles Police Department will host another FREE shredding day on June 28 from 10 a.m. to noon. Come to the Police Department parking lot, 211 N. Riverside Ave. Everybody is welcome, and there is no limit on what you can bring to have shredded. Contact the Police Department at 630.377.4435 for more information.

City of St. Charles Directory

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

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