



THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

March 2014
www.stcharlesil.gov

Happy Birthday St. Charles!

From the Mayor's Desk



Raymond Rogina
18th Mayor of St. Charles

suggests a community with a rich heritage that supports our promising future.

In early May, our town will celebrate its 180th birthday. My review of "St. Charles: Culture and Leisure in An All-American Town" by Costas Spirou

- The first general store in town was built in 1836 by Ira Minard.
- Lester Norris invested \$500,000 to build the Arcada Theatre which opened on Labor Day in 1926.
- Built by Colonel Edward J. Baker, the Hotel Baker opened its doors on June 2, 1928.
- On May 20, 1912, Pottawatomie Park was established as the first public park in Illinois.
- The St. Charles Country Club was established in 1924 and the golf course was opened in 1926.
- In 1940, the Municipal Building was completed and entered the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

Consider some of the milestone events that have shaped our community:

- In 1834, Evan Shelby, Ira Minard and Read Ferson founded the town and named it Charleston after a town in Mr. Ferson's home state of Vermont.
- In 1874, St. Charles became incorporated with Dr. James K. Lewis as the first mayor.
- The first bridge across the Fox was built in 1836 and was 18 feet wide. An ice storm and flood destroyed the bridge in 1849 and ferry service provided transportation across the river.

ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS



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Early Voting Available at City Hall

Early voting for the 2014 General Primary on March 18 is available at the St. Charles Municipal Building, 2 E. Main St., for Kane County residents who are registered to vote. Early voting times are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, March 3-7, and March 10-14.

St. Charles residents in DuPage County should consult the [DuPage County website](#) for early voting locations and hours.

To vote early, you must present an Illinois driver's license, a non-driver ID issued by the Illinois Secretary of State, or another government-issued photo ID. For more information, contact the Kane County Clerk's Office at 630-232-5990 or visit www.kanecountyelections.org.

City Council and Committee Meetings

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

City Council

3.3.14 7:00 pm

Government Operations

3.3.14 7:05 pm

Planning & Development

3.10.14 7:00 pm

City Council

3.17.14 7:00 pm

Government Operations

3.17.14 7:05 pm

Government Services

3.24.14 7:00 pm

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CITY OF
ST. CHARLES

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#1 City for Families
St. Charles named by FamilyCircle

Here's What's New with Charlestowne Mall

Activity Update

On Feb 10., the developers of the Charlestowne Mall property provided an update on the project to the Planning and Development Committee. The Krausz Companies, Inc., purchased the site in 2013 and are planning to redevelop and relaunch the property as an enclosed mall called "The Quad" St. Charles.

Although there is no construction activity going on at the site right now, there is plenty of action behind the scenes. The development team is working to finalize redevelopment plans and the construction phasing. Meanwhile, they also are working to market the project to prospective retailers and begin the process to secure tenant leases.



The Quad

Construction at the site is expected to begin this spring, with

the goal of completing all exterior work to the mall building during the 2014 construction season. Work this year will include demolition of the former Sears building and the existing foodcourt, site utility work and parking lot construction to regrade portions of the property.

Later this year, when the exterior work is complete, renovation of the mall interior will begin in earnest. The goal is to complete all work to the mall building itself to open by Fall 2015.

The anchor stores and theater will remain open during the duration of the construction.

More information is available on the [Charlestowne Mall](#) page of the City website www.stcharlesil.gov.

Matthew O'Rourke Named Economic Development Division Manager

The City of St. Charles has named Matthew O'Rourke Economic Development Division Manager. O'Rourke previously served as a Planner in the Community & Economic Development Department, a position he held for six years.

Under direction of Community & Economic Development Director Rita Tungare, O'Rourke will be responsible for coordinating the City's economic development efforts and serving as the City's liaison to the business community.

O'Rourke's experience with the City includes serving as staff liaison to the Plan Commission, Corridor Improvement and Housing Commissions, managing numerous development projects, and working on the CMAP Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Study. Before coming to St. Charles, he worked on planning and economic development initiatives for four years at the Village of Romeoville.

"We conducted a thorough and comprehensive search of candidates throughout the area," said Tungare. "I'm confident Matt will continue the City's efforts in working collaboratively with local organizations and the business

community to enhance the economic vitality of the City and promote St. Charles as a desirable location for businesses and industries."

"I am thrilled to have this opportunity to leverage my past and present experience in Community and Economic

Development in my new role at the City. I look forward to working with City officials and local businesses to strengthen the economic base of St. Charles."

O'Rourke, a St. Charles resident, holds a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana; a Bachelors of Urban Planning from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio; and also has earned AICP certification.



From the Mayor's Desk

...Continued from p. 1

- In 1962, Edward McArdle opened a restaurant called Pheasant Run.
- In 1972, Dellora and Lester Norris donated 70 acres of land where St. Charles East High School was built. Additional Norris grants were responsible for construction of the Dellora Norris Cultural Arts Center, the Lester Norris Sports Complex and the John B. Norris Recreation Center.
- The Flea Market moved to St. Charles in 1967 and has become a monthly event for residents and visitors.
- Our Scarecrow Fest, established in 1985 and ready for its 30th birthday next year, is nationally recognized as one of our country's best. And in 2011 St. Charles was named #1 for families by Family Circle magazine.

Ms. Alice Davis reflected about our City's future back in 1940:

"But the same natural beauty of our river town is here, the same spirit of honest pride and independence exists, and the same love of home and town thrill us. As we have kept the natural beauty, so we will hang onto the St. Charles spirit. Public spirited citizens, some with money, more with energy and loyal fondness will increase its attractiveness and keep it a true home town."

I certainly believe Ms. Davis was a visionary and I firmly believe that energy and loyal fondness will add to the wonder of our proud community. Happy Birthday St. Charles!



Citizen Police Academy is Back

Applications Due March 7

Applications for the St. Charles Police Department Citizen Police Academy are due March 7. The nine-week class runs from March 18 to May 15.

This program gives participants a better understanding of how the Police Department operates. Topics 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. Students may participate in an activity, such as processing a "crime scene" for fingerprints or getting a radar reading on a moving vehicle.

Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m. Most classes are held in the St. Charles Police Department

training room, 211 N. Riverside Ave. A graduation ceremony includes congratulations from the Chief of Police and the Mayor.

Applications are in the Police Department lobby or can be downloaded 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 Ave., St. Charles, Illinois 60174
Or email to btynan@stcharlesil.gov.

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

Home Security Tips for Vacationers

If you are traveling during Spring Break this year, take a few simple steps to make sure your home is secure while you are away.

"Let your neighbors know when you will be on vacation and ask them to watch your home while you are gone," said Interim Police Chief Steve Huffman. "We rely on residents to be our 'eyes and ears' when we can't be there. No one knows the neighborhood better than the people who live there."

Chief Huffman also encourages citizens to call 911 when something seems wrong, no matter how insignificant it may seem at the time.

Home Security Tips

1. Make your home to look 'lived-

in' while you are away. Unshoveled snow, and piles of newspapers or mail are a magnet for a would-be burglar.

2. Put inside lights and a radio or TV on timers. The police department can loan you up to two light timers.
3. Lock all your doors and windows and arm your alarm, if you have one.
4. Ask a neighbor to watch your house while you are way.
5. Let the Police Department know you will be away and ask if they can perform a vacation check.

For more information, contact the Police Department at 630.377.4435 or police@stcharlesil.gov.



National Flood Safety Awareness Week

March 17-24, 2014

Every year, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) uses Flood Safety Awareness Week to educate homeowners about flooding and how they can safeguard their lives and property.

This year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is partnering with NOAA to introduce flood insurance as an important element in flood preparation and protection. The City of St. Charles has joined FEMA and NOAA to help get the word out.

Whether flooding is from rivers or overland flow, it is important that you are aware of your flood risk and what you can do about it. Flood Safety Awareness Week information can be found at www.floodsafety.noaa.gov.

To determine floodplain risk of a property by address, contact the City's Public Works Engineering Division at 630-377-4486. Also, check the [Floodplain](#) page of the City website www.stcharlesil.gov for information on Flooding and related topics.

Being outside the flood zone is not necessarily safe. More than 25% of all flood claims are from outside the mapped flood zone. There are a number of protective measures to take to avoid flood damage:

- Keep downspouts, drainage channels, storm grates free of debris.
- Confirm your sump pump is working and has backup power.
- Raise generators, electrical outlets, appliances and shelving above flood water levels.
- Move outdoor storage and parking above the potential flood water level whenever possible.
- Anchor buoyant items such as



tanks or firewood to keep them from floating away.

- Install a check valve in sanitary lines to prevent sewage backups.

Flood insurance, building smart, and protective measures are the best way to avoid the impact of flooding. Just a few inches of water can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage.

Flood insurance is the best protection and is available in the City of St. Charles. Flood damage is not covered under regular business, homeowner's, or renter's insurance. However, flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is available through most insurance agencies.

The NFIP insures buildings, including mobile homes, with two types of coverage: building and contents. Building coverage is for the walls, floors, insulation, furnace, and other items permanently attached to the structure. Contents coverage may be purchased separately, if the contents are in an insurable building.

The City has been rated as Class 5 through the Community Rating System, which provides a savings to our citizens who purchase flood insurance.

For more information, contact the City's Public Works Engineering Division at 630-377-4486.

Natural & 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.

A Note about Ice Safety



Never walk on ice-covered bodies of water because there is no way to guarantee ice thickness or stability—especially with warmer temperatures causing ice to thaw. If your pet runs out on the ice, don't go after it or attempt to rescue it if it falls through the ice. Call 911 immediately and the Fire Department will assist you.

Red Gate Bridge Receives Awards

Since its opening in 2011, the Red Gate Bridge has received numerous industry awards and recognitions.

In April, the City will be presented with an Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies, after earning an award from the organization's Illinois chapter. Also in April, the City will be presented with an award from the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for the project's landscaping and its connectivity to trails and other amenities.

In 2013, the Red Gate Bridge was recognized by the Fox Valley Branch, Chicago Chapter and National organization of the America Public Works Association, which named the Red Gate Bridge its Project of the Year for Transportation Projects between \$5-\$25 million. The bridge also received recognition from both the St. Charles and Illinois Chambers of Commerce, and was ranked #6



in the Top Ten List of Roads and Bridges in the November 2013 Roads & Bridges magazine.

Construction of the Red Gate Bridge began in August 2011 and it opened to traffic December 15, 2012.

New Senior Citizens Resource Guide is Available

Back by popular demand! We recently updated the Senior Citizens Resource Guide.

SENIOR CITIZENS RESOURCE GUIDE 2014

The Guide is packed with phone numbers, contacts and general information about services throughout St. Charles that are important to seniors. The Guide is free and can be downloaded from the [Senior Resource page](#) of the City website www.stcharlesil.gov. For more information, contact the City at 630.377.4400.



Make A Compost Bin

Yard trimmings and food waste make up 27% of the solid

waste stream in the United States! Instead of adding to the landfill, make a compost bin. The mix you make of fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds and other leftover food scraps will help make your garden lush, and improve soil structure and water retention. Bonus: You'll save money on fertilizer! More ideas at www.stcharlesil.gov/green

Save \$ on Your Electric Bill

Be Energy-wise

You can save on your electric bill with a few simple steps:

- Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs or LED bulbs.
- Use caulk and weather-stripping to stop drafts around windows & doors.
- If you have storm windows, make sure they're closed.
- Close vents in unoccupied rooms.
- Heating and cooling costs are a big part of most home energy bills. One of the best ways to save on your energy bill is adjusting the thermostat. In the winter, set the thermostat lower at night or when no one is home. In the summer, do the reverse. Install a digital thermostat that adjusts the temperature automatically.
- Make sure that the temperature near your thermostat is consistent with other areas of your home. A cold draft or warm lamp nearby can cause an inaccurate reading.

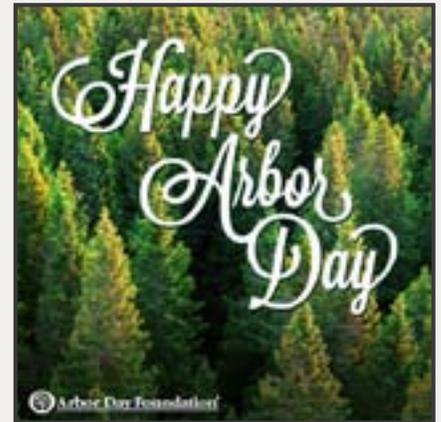


Think Spring! Plan for the 2014 Arbor Day Celebration

Spring is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for the annual Arbor Day event in St. Charles, Friday, April 25. This event will be held 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 [Arbor Day](http://www.stcharlesil.gov) page of our website www.stcharlesil.gov.

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



Tree Spotlight: Yellowwood

Our arbor staff has been working on diversifying tree species within the St. Charles urban forest. Have you spied the yellowwood? Several have been planted as replacements for recently removed ash along Ashbrooke Court, Concord Court, Independence Avenue, and Tower Hill Drive.

The yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) tree is chosen for its excellent shade in a small to medium-sized landscape area. It also has deep roots, so other plants can grow easily underneath. It is native to North America. Other facts:

- Height: 30 to 50 feet high and 40 to 50 feet wide; rounded form
- Uses: Shade, ideal for patios and sidewalks and is tolerant of alkaline soils
- Leaf: Alternate, oddly-pinnate compound leaves, 8 to 12 inches long; leaflets 2 to 3 inches long, ovate, bright green, fall color a clear yellow
- Seeds: Flat, papery brown pod containing 4 to 6 seeds, 2 ½-4" long. Pods often persist into winter
- Flower: Drooping clusters (panicles) of white pea-type flowers. Clusters are 8-14" long and resemble white

wisteria. Flowering tends to occur in alternate years (heavy flowering one year and lighter flowering the next)

- Bark: Smooth gray to brown, Interior wood is yellow
- Should be planted in the spring. Is tolerant of high pH soils and prefers moist, well drained areas.

What is an "Urban Forest"? The urban

forest of our city is comprised of all trees, including those in parkways, parks and private property, and trees that naturally occur in public spaces.

Sources: *Cirrus Digital* and the *National Resource Conservation Service*.



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

Before beginning any project that requires digging, be sure to call JULIE to locate underground lines to prevent costly damage or an emergency. Call JULIE at 800-892-0123 or 811 before you dig.

Call J.U.L.I.E.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

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:	<i>**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 <u>cannot guarantee</u> that the tree will be planted exactly where you recommend.</i>

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

PUBLIC WORKS INTERNAL OFFICE USE ONLY		<i>To be completed by Public Services Staff</i>	
Approval Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined	Date:
Completed by:		Pkwy Location:	<input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Side <input type="checkbox"/> Rear
Markings for Planting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (in white paint)	Location:	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Marked
Species Recommendation:		Comments:	

2014 Street Sweeping Schedule

With the onset of spring, the City will resume street sweeping. K. Hoving Companies will assist with sweeping all public City streets according to the following schedule:

March - Last Week
May - First Week
June - Last Week
August – Mid Month
September - Last Week
October - Last Week
November - Mid Month and 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. To ensure the streets are kept as clean as possible, please make every effort to park off the street during the weeks scheduled for sweeping.

The City sweeps streets to remove debris that has accumulated on the roadway. Not only does street sweeping keep our City streets clean and presentable, it also helps to eliminate potential pollutants from entering the storm sewer system. For more information, contact Public Works at 630-377-4405 or pw@stcharlesil.gov

Prepare Now for Spring Storms

Harsh weather sometimes means unavoidable springtime power-outages. If your power goes out:

- Check your circuit breakers.
- See if neighbors have lost their power, too, and then call the electric outage line 1-866-444-0016.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors shut. A closed refrigerator will stay cold for up to 12 hours.
- Leave on one light switch so you'll know when power is restored. Unplug other appliances so they aren't damaged when the power comes back on.
- If you have a back-up generator, equip it with a double-throw switch that will disconnect your home's circuits from ours. Throw the switch if you turn on the generator.

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.

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.

2014 Brush Pick Up Schedule

East Side	West Side
April 21	April 28

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 to complete.

Do not tie bundles of brush with rope or wire. Brush must not be piled higher than 4 feet and never piled in the street. Don't park in front of the piles, crews will be unable to pick up the brush. For more information visit the www.stcharlesil.gov/services/brush

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

Commuters, Plan Ahead

Do you have a commuter emergency plan? The Federal Emergency Management Agency suggests you have alternative routes planned out that you can use to get to your destinations in case of a disaster. Download a form [here](#) to help you organize your routes. For more information visit www.ready.gov.

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!

Get 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.

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.

Remember to "Spring Forward" One Hour on March 9



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		