



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

May City Council and Committee Meetings

City Council	
7 p.m.	6
Planning & Development	
7 p.m.	13
City Council	
7 p.m.	20
Government Operations	
7:05 p.m.	20
Government Services	
7 p.m.	28

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



City of St. Charles offices will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day

Near-Record Flood Engulfs Region

The City was Prepared and Activates Effective Response

April went out with a bang as storms reportedly dropped nearly 4-1/2 inches of rain in St. Charles in about a 24-hour period April 17. The entire region experienced excessive amounts of rain, which caused the Fox River to crest at approximately 12.8 feet above flood level before it was all over.

St. Charles experienced some areas of localized flooding, and the City closed some roadways. The Illinois Street/Avenue bridge remained closed until April 25 to allow waters to recede enough to allow for a proper inspection. Through it all, there were no major power outages, only a few momentary disruptions.



City staff had been monitoring the weather closely before the storm hit and was prepared with



a response plan. "Crews worked throughout the night to close off flooded streets and answer emergency calls," said Brian Townsend, City Administrator. "All available Public Works personnel (Streets, Sewer, Water, Electric, and clerical employees) responded to calls. Sandbags were delivered to the areas that needed them. And both Police and Fire departments had extra staff on hand."

This week, the City held a special flood debris collection for residents who needed to dispose of flood-damaged items. Also, the State of Illinois, Kane County and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency have released helpful information and links to resources regarding the recent flooding in the area. You can find these materials on the front page of our website www.stcharlesil.gov.

CANCELLED: May 4 Ribbon Cutting for the Red Gate Bridge Pedestrian Crossing



The ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the pedestrian/bicycle crossing of the Red Gate Bridge has been CANCELLED. Recent flooding and rains over the last couple of weeks has slowed work on the project. In the interest of public safety, the paths and boardwalks will not be opened in time for the event, which was scheduled for May 4. Stay tuned for further updates.

Red Gate Bridge Receives National Award



The American Public Works Association has named the Red Gate Bridge its Project of the Year for 2013 in the Transportation category for \$5-25 million projects. The award recognizes outstanding individuals, groups and chapters representing the best in the public works profession.

Congratulations to Mark Koenen, Director of Public Works, Jim Bernahl, Engineering Division Manager, and all City staff who helped make this longtime plan a reality.

Construction of the Red Gate Bridge began in August 2011 and opened to traffic December 15, 2012. Latest traffic counts show a steady stream of more than 7,000 vehicles cross the bridge each day, outpacing projections. For more information, visit www.redgatebridge.org.

Pardon Our Dust

Exterior Maintenance of the Municipal Building Gets Underway May 6

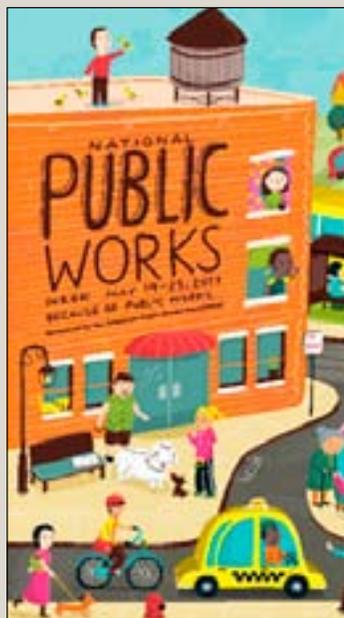
As part of ongoing maintenance of City-owned facilities, the Public Works Department is beginning a significant exterior construction project at the Municipal Building, 2 E. Main Street.

“The project will address deficiencies in the exterior shell of the building caused by natural aging of the facility,” said Peter Suhr, Assistant Director of Public Works. “The facility will receive a new roof, brick repair, new windows, stone repair and painting. This maintenance project will ensure the building remains weather tight for years to come.”



The project will start the week of May 6, and is scheduled to take six months to complete. The building will remain open during normal hours and all City business will continue as usual throughout the construction period. The parking lot at the corner of Main Street and Riverside Avenue (also known as the “checkerboard lot”) will be closed during the duration of construction, along with the south entrance to the building. Public access to the building will remain open on the north side and short-term parking will be available close to that entrance for visitors.

More information about the project, including updates, progress reports and other news can be found on the City website, www.stcharlesil.gov. Or call Public Works at 630-377-4405.



2013 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK MAY 19-25

This week recognizes the quality of life public works departments and employees bring to our communities. In St. Charles, our Public Works Department provides clean water, efficient electric services, and well maintained streets and neighborhoods.

Small Acts, Big Impacts

City Employee Gives More than He Gets from His Usual Run

Even the smallest things can really add up to something big. Just ask Chris Adesso, Public Services Division Manager, who is part of a running club that together collected \$400 last year for a local charity by picking up loose change they came across on their weekly run.

The Next Steps Running Club, organized by the local Dick Pond Athletics store in St. Charles, meets bright and early at 7 a.m. each Saturday morning at the store on 303 N. 2nd St. Adesso has been running with the club for three years. Store manager Glen Kamps coordinates the club's activities and launched the change pick-up effort. Last year, the money collected was used to purchase groceries that were distributed by the Salvation Army to families in need at Thanksgiving.

Foraging for change has become somewhat of a personal challenge, with runners stretching their distances until they find something to add to the collection jar, according to Kamps. But more than the amounts collected, it's the spirit of giving back that means so much to our

community. That's an inspiring message Adesso was able to share with his 13-year-old son, Cole. "We were out walking together one afternoon and found five dollars," Adesso said. Cole thought it would be a good idea to donate it to the running club's cause. So they got on their bikes and delivered the money to the store.

Small Acts, Big Impacts



Adesso, a resident of St. Charles, took up cross country running in high school and has been competing in marathons and triathlons for about five years. Last year, he ran in both the Fox Valley and Chicago marathons, finishing first in his age division in the Fox Valley Marathon with an impressive time of 3 hours, 14 seconds. As Public Services Division Manager, he is responsible for maintaining City facilities, forestry services, street maintenance, plowing, and special event road closures.

"It's a great thing," Adesso said of the running club program. "I'm glad to be a part of it." So far this year the group already has collected \$101.39. The biggest find? \$50!

Youth Police Academy Debuts

The St. Charles Police Department will host its first ever Youth Police Academy June 10-14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The academy is open to kids ages 13-16 and will showcase careers in police and fire work, encourage team work, and grow self-esteem.

Participants will learn about becoming a police officer and firefighter, personal safety/self-defense, internet safety, bullying, crime scene evidence collection and more. Thanks to funding by the St. Charles Youth Commission, participants will be certified in CPR and first aid by the St. Charles Fire Department free of charge. A day also will be spent at the Kane County Judicial Center for classes led by state's attorneys.

The academy is limited to the first 25 registrants. Registrants must be a resident of St. Charles, and/or attend a District 303 school. Preference will be given to residents within the city limits first.

Registration packets can be picked up at the St. Charles Police Department or at either high school's main office. The registration deadline is Tuesday, May 28. For more information, please contact Crime Prevention Officer Bill Tynan at 630-443-3847, or Detective Eric Majewski at 630-762-6941.

Welcome New Businesses!

DOWNTOWN

Forever Yogurt

117 W. Main St., 630-549-6076

Greenleaf Yoga & Meditation

16 N. Riverside Ave., 630-917-9171

Mr. Cromwell's Basement Antiques

17 N. 2nd Ave., 630-549-5217

WEST GATEWAY

Happy Life Nutrition and Wellness

546 S. Randall Rd., Suite B, 313-218-2203

Ratliff Enterprises, LLC Land Development

761 N. 17th St. #20, 630-878-9055

EAST GATEWAY

Bosi Performance Institute, LLC

Private Business Accelerator

125 N. 11th Ave., 847-815-8956

Tips to Keep Storm Water Draining

After the recent storms, it's important to remember that keeping smaller ditches and streams free of debris is a simple way to 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 for the August 2007 and September 2008 flood events, as well as for the most recent flooding last month. If you are experiencing drainage or flooding problems and would like to schedule a site visit with City staff, or for more information, contact the Public Works Engineering Division at 630-377-4486.



When designing a new landscape or rethinking your current one, grouping plants with similar

watering needs into specific "hydrozones" reduces water use and protects the plants from both underwatering and overwatering by allowing you to water to each zone's specific needs.

Water Conservation Now in Effect

We've had a pretty wet Spring so far, but remember conservation regulations are now in effect. The ordinance (St. Charles Municipal Code Section 13.16.205) regulates day and time limits on the use of portable sprinklers and in-ground sprinkling systems (not hand-held hoses) to:

- Promote responsible use of the underground aquifers that supply all of our water needs.
- Moderate our peak use periods to make the best use of our existing infrastructure.

Sprinkling Time Limits from May 1 to August 31

- Even numbered addresses may sprinkle on the even numbered days of the month, from 12 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Odd numbered addresses may sprinkle on the odd numbered days of the month, from 12 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Lawn sprinkling is not allowed at any address within the City on any day between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., or between 10 p.m. and 12 a.m., from May 1 to August 31. We ask all residents, businesses and industrial water to users help with water conservation. If you have any questions, please contact Public Works at 377-4405.

Water Meter Change-Outs

The City of St. Charles' Water Meter Maintenance Program changes out older water meters. The program ensures fair and accurate metering for all water users, at no cost to residents. Residents whose meters are scheduled to be changed out will be notified and asked to contact the City to make an appointment. Your water meter is located where the water first enters the home, most likely in the basement, crawl space, or utility room. The process should take approximately 20 minutes. For more information, contact the Meter Division at 630-377-4404.

Hydrant Flushing Schedule Wraps Up

The City of St. Charles Water Division will finish flushing the water main distribution system with the Northeast quadrant beginning Sunday, May 5 at 10 p.m. Flushing will continue to Friday, May 17.

For approximate hydrant flushing dates in your neighborhood, visit www.stcharlesil.gov and click on the "Residents" tab. Under "Local Resources," click on "My Neighborhood Info." Enter your address and choose the "City Services" tab. For more information, contact Public Works at 630-377-4405.

New Lawn Permits

New lawns require special care until they are established. It's important for homeowners to apply for a Sod Laying and Seeded Lawn Installation Permit to allow extra watering for lawns with new seed or sod. The permit allows watering for 10 consecutive days, between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m., and from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. This permit must be displayed on a front window. Residents can obtain a permit for \$10 from the Utility Billing Office in City Hall, 630-377-4426 or Public Works facility 630-377-4405.



Keeping Newly Planted Trees Healthy

Did you receive a new tree in the parkway in front of your home this spring? The City wants to make sure your young tree stays healthy so you can enjoy it for years to come. The City will work to minimize transplant shock for new trees and promote healthy plantings in several ways:

- New trees are planted with the trunk flare (where the trunk expands at the base of the tree) several inches above grade. This point should be partially visible after the tree has been planted. If the tree is planted too deep, new roots will have difficulty developing because of a lack of oxygen.
- Most newly planted trees will receive a gator bag to help keep the tree hydrated. The City will fill the bag at the time of planting and again when the landscape is restored. Homeowners may take the initiative to fill the gator bag. Visit our website www.stcharlesil.gov for instructions on how to add water to a gator bag. Please note a new tree should be watered no more than twice per month during normal weather conditions. Gator bags are designed to slowly release water at the base of the tree. It should empty within a 24-48 hour period on its own.
- The green baskets around the base of newly planted trees are made of a biodegradable material. These baskets are designed to disintegrate within a few months.
- Mulch and landscape seed is provided at the time the landscape is restored around the tree. This may happen several days after a tree has been planted. The City takes care to add mulch to a depth of 2-4 inches and several inches away from the trunk of the tree. Piling mulch right up against the trunk of a tree causes decay.



Watering Thirsty Trees

Trees grow best when soils are moist to a depth of six inches. As a rule of thumb, it takes one inch of water to wet six inches of soil.

To properly water trees, take a drip or soaker hose and coil it under the dripline of the tree. Turn the hose on and let it run at the base of the tree for 20-30 minutes.

Please note: The City's Water Conservation Ordinance is now in effect. Please check the website at www.stcharlesil.gov for appropriate days and times to water your landscaping.



Proper Mulching is Key to Keep Trees Healthy This Summer

Mulching is very beneficial for your trees. Mulch:

- Promotes growth and survival by helping water get into the soil and reduces the evaporation of moisture in the soil.
- Insulates the soil from temperature extremes.
- Helps control weeds that compete with needed moisture and nutrients.
- Maintains a layer of well-aerated soil near the surface available for long periods of root growth.

Two common mistakes of mulching are applying mulch too thickly or deeply and mounding up the mulch on the plant stems. These lead to too much moisture, reduced oxygen, fungus growth and even animal or pest homes. Each year, to prevent mulch buildup, you should rake the old mulch out towards the drip line of the tree (the area directly under the outer circumference of the tree branches). By doing this, you will stir up the old mulch, expose it to air and light, and keep the mulch at healthy levels. For more information contact Public Works at 630-377-4405.

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Since the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation was first found in the City in 2008, the Public Works Department has been actively inspecting and evaluating the City's ash trees. Public right-of-way (parkway) ash trees that have been confirmed with EAB are marked with a purple dot. Depending on the severity of the infestation, a confirmed EAB tree may be selected for removal and replacement and is marked with a pink dot.

Homeowners adjacent to the parkways will receive two notification letters, one when infestation is confirmed and then again when the tree is scheduled for removal. It may take more than a month before the tree is actually removed. Once the tree is removed, stumps will be removed and the disturbed parkway restored.

Replacement trees are planted in the fall (Oct./Nov.) or spring (April/May/June). Information regarding the care of the newly planted tree will be left on your door or check the City's website www.stcharlesil.gov.

This spring will mark one of the final stages for this program as it relates to public ash trees. More than 700 replacement trees will be planted beginning April 15. Removal of 1,000 more trees will begin May 1, and will be replaced this fall and spring 2014.

Please check your private property for EAB infested ash trees. If any ash tree shows signs of deterioration, you are encouraged to take the necessary steps, including pruning, treating or removing the tree to help abate this nuisance.

Visit the City's website for the most current and accurate EAB information or call the City's EAB hotline 630-584-5353, or Public Works at 630-377-4405.

Brush Pick Up Schedule

East Side

May 20

June 17

July 15

Aug 19

Sept 16

Oct 21

Nov 18

West Side

May 28*

June 24

July 22

Aug 26

Sept 23

Oct 28

Nov 25

***Brush pick up is Tuesday, May 28 due to the Memorial Day Holiday Monday, May 27**

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

Do not tie bundles of brush with rope or wire. Brush must not be piled higher than 4 ft. and never piled in the street. Also, please do not to park in front of the piles; crews will be unable to pick up the brush.

Brush also can be placed in paper yard waste bags for pick-up with regular refuse. Either bags with the City logo or generic bags can be used. Generic bags require one refuse sticker per bag.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405, or visit the brush pick up page on our website www.stcharlesil.gov.

2013 Street Sweeping Schedule

The City sweeps its streets to remove sand, stone, debris, refuse, dirt, and other materials which may have accumulated on the roadway. Not only does it keep our City streets clean and presentable, street sweeping also helps eliminate potential pollutants from entering the storm sewer system. This year, the City has hired K. Hoving Companies to assist with sweeping all public City streets on a regular basis according to the following schedule:

Last week of **March**
First Week of **May**
Last week of **June**
Mid-Week of **August**

Last Week of **September**
Last Week of **October**
Mid-Week of **November**
Last Week of **November** (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 streets during the weeks scheduled for sweeping.

For more information, please call Public Works at 630-377-4405 or visit www.stcharlesil.gov.

Memorial Day Activities

Monday, May 27

Flag Raising - 6:00 a.m.

Baker Community Center, 101 S. 2nd St.

Cemetery Ceremonies - 6:30 a.m.

Boy Scouts from Troop 1 will place flags on gravesites of veterans at each of the cemeteries in St. Charles, accompanied by an honor guard, firing squad and posting of colors. The cemetery ceremonies will begin at the **South Cemetery** (east side of 7th Ave., north of Madison), then continue on to the **North Cemetery** (west side of IL 25/5th Ave, north of Johnor Ave.), and then conclude at the **Union Cemetery** (east side of IL 25/5th Ave., north of Stonehedge Road).

Parade - 10:00 a.m.

The parade steps off at step off at 6th St. & Main St. and continues to Riverside Ave.

Memorial Ceremony Event - 10:45 a.m.

A special memorial ceremony at the Freedom Shrine along the river follows the parade (west of the Police Dept., 211 N. Riverside Ave.). For inclement weather, the ceremony will be held inside Fire Station 1, 112 N. Riverside Ave.

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



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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