



# THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

May 2014  
[www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov)

## Wish St. Charles a Happy 180th Anniversary!

**May 5, Council Chambers, 7 p.m.**

This month, St. Charles turns 180 and the City would like to invite all citizens to a special 180th Anniversary recognition.

At the May 5 City Council Meeting, Mayor Raymond Rogina will deliver brief remarks, then cake and ice cream sundaes will be served, courtesy of Blue Goose and Colonial Café and Ice Cream. Join us to celebrate our rich heritage.

### Event Details

#### St. Charles 180th Anniversary

May 5, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
2 E. Main Street



ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS



Please RSVP at 630.762.7097 or **RSVP@stcharlesil.gov** to let us know if you will be attending. See you there!

### City Council and Committee Meetings

To see a complete list of meetings go to [www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings)

#### City Council

5.5.14 7:00 pm

#### Government Operations

5.5.14 7:05 pm

#### Special City Council Meeting

5.6.14 6:15 pm

#### Planning & Development

5.12.14 7:00 pm

#### City Council

5.19.14 7:00 pm

#### Government Operations

5.19.14 7:05 pm

#### Government Services

5.27.14 7:00 pm

## Remember Spring Clean Up Dates

**May 3 for East Side; May 17 for West Side**

Spring Clean Up is back. Residents can place unwanted items at the curb for pickup on May 3 for those east of the river and May 17 for west side residents. This is a



service for residents within St. Charles city limits only.

Advanced Disposal

will pick up items which must be placed on the curb (not in the street) before

7 a.m. to ensure pickup. Once they have passed through an area they will not come back. Also, please do not place items out more than 48 hours before the collection.

Please mark containers used to hold items with "Do not throw can away." They cannot be retrieved once they have been collected.

For more information about Spring Cleanup, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405, or visit the City website [www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov).

### Prohibited from Spring Cleaning Pick Up:

- Electronics. (Recycle electronics at our Public Works Facility, 1405 S. 7th Ave., Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.)
- Large home appliances
- Loose batteries
- Household hazardous waste (paints, solvents, auto fluids, pesticides, etc.)
- Devices containing mercury (thermostats, thermometers, etc.)
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Liquids and gases
- Contractor construction debris (doors, windows, large amounts of lumber, masonry products, drywall, siding roofing materials)
- Tires
- Yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, brush, garden waste, rocks)
- Household refuse normally collected each week

### Connect With Us

Connect with the city right from your mobile device. Download our St. Charles Connect app at [www.stcharlesil.gov/connect](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/connect)

### Subscribe

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



CITY OF  
ST. CHARLES

ILLINOIS • SINCE 1834

# Celebrating St. Charles' 180th Anniversary

ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS



Enjoy this look back at Public Works Streets and Police services through the years, photos courtesy of the St. Charles Heritage Center. And when you're in town, stop by to see the Heritage Center's historical exhibits in the display windows of the Municipal Center.

**Public Works - Streets** By the 1950s, city streets were no longer made of dirt or planks, but as the photos below show, plenty of equipment was (and still is) need to maintain them.



## Police Department

In the 1920s, St. Charles police protection included two officers working 12-hour days, 7 days-a-week. Things have changed a bit through the years. Take a look.



St. Charles Police Officers after raiding an illegal still, circa 1920



Earl Nippert on the first motorcycle used by the St. Charles PD, circa 1920



Members of the St. Charles PD, circa 1950

## View the FY14-15 City Budget

The Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget for the City of St. Charles was passed unanimously by the City Council on April 21, 2014.

Over the course of the last several years, the City has made prudent financial decisions which have contributed to a strong and sustained financial performance.

Overall, the City has prepared a balanced budget with a forward-looking focus that continues the trend of integrating fiscal responsibility with projects that help to sustain the City's economic growth and quality of life for its residents.

### 2014-15 Budget Highlights

- The City's budget is balanced and reflects stable revenues and expenses
- Budget and expenditure decisions are based on "living

within our means"

- FY 2014-15 expenditures are budgeted approximately \$1 million below 2008 levels and in line with revenue streams
- No tax increases or new taxes are proposed
- Continued implementation of concepts from the 2011 utility rate study provides enhanced financial stability while maintaining the lowest utility costs in the Tri Cities.
- Significant Capital Improvements planned for FY 2014-15 include construction of Water Tower #3 at RT. 25 and Red Gate Road; Tyler Road resurfacing from Route 64 to Kirk Rd; and reconstruction of the north 5th Avenue Water Main.

View the entire budget document on the [City's Budget Plan page](#) or contact the Finance Department at 630.762.7002 or [finance@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:finance@stcharlesil.gov).

## Reporting a Crime

The St. Charles Police Department appreciates alert, concerned citizens who can help keep an eye out for suspicious activity. Remember, there are two convenient, anonymous ways to report any suspicious activity: with the Drug & Crime Tip line at 866-DRUG-COP (1-866-378-4267) or the online submission form.

When reporting a tip, please give as much information as possible and remember all information is kept strictly confidential. As always, dial “9-1-1” for an emergency. For non-emergencies or to speak to an officer, call 630.377.4435.

The tip phone line rings directly into a voice mailbox where callers can leave a message. When submitting a tip online,

photographs can be uploaded as well.

To access the online form, go to the City website at [www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov),

select “About” from the top menu bar,

then under “City Departments” select “Police.” Scroll down the Police page and click on the Anonymous Drug & Crime Tip Line badge.

For more information, visit the [Police Department web page](#) or email [police@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:police@stcharlesil.gov).



## Keeping Watch for Spring Storms

April is famous for its showers; however May is historically the rainiest month of the year. As the weather warms and the springtime temperature fluctuations widen, the potential for severe weather increases.

The City’s Emergency Management Agency (EMA) monitors the weather constantly to make sure we issue the necessary information and warnings regarding upcoming storms.

St. Charles has 12 Outdoor Warning Sirens that provide coverage for the entire city. Please remember, these sirens are designed as a notification system for those outdoors, which means you may not hear them while you are indoors.

You can keep up on the latest weather developments with a weather alert radio. These devices broadcast alerts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). They cost about the as much as a smoke detector and many let you set alerts specifically for your area. Severe weather

alert apps also are available for smartphones or tablets. Many of these apps are free, such as those from the National Weather Service (NWS) or Red Cross.

### Some Severe Weather Terms

**Thunderstorm Watch** - a severe thunderstorm is possible

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning** - a severe thunderstorm is occurring or imminent and you should get inside immediately.

**Tornado Watch** - a tornado is possible. These watches can last for hours if the weather is unstable and could turn severe should conditions deteriorate.

**Tornado Warning** - a tornado is either occurring or is imminent and you should seek shelter immediately. Tornado warnings issued by the NWS historically only give 15-20 minutes of advance notice of the tornado.

For more information, contact Paul Bumba at 630-762-7091 or [pbumba@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:pbumba@stcharlesil.gov).

## Downtown Overlay District Promotes Foot Traffic

St. Charles’ Downtown Overlay District has been in the news lately. But what exactly is it and what does it mean to businesses here in St. Charles?

The Downtown Overlay District was established in a 2006 Zoning Ordinance to identify the type of businesses that should occupy street-level spaces downtown. Simply put, the ordinance reserves ground-floor spaces for businesses that are expected to generate foot traffic downtown or fit in with the walkable shopping, dining and entertainment businesses in the area.

In general, the Council feels it is best to foster a downtown that offers the economic and lifestyle benefits of a walkable downtown with pedestrian access to a variety of venues.

### Why Walkability Downtown Matters

Having a downtown that is fueled by pedestrian traffic

enhances not only the economic competitiveness of the businesses located there, it also creates a vibrant, inviting space for residents and visitors alike to enjoy the shopping, entertainment and cultural options available.

For more information about the Downtown Overlay District, contact Rita Tungare, Director of Community and Economic Development, at [rtungare@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:rtungare@stcharlesil.gov) or 630-377-4443.





## May's Shop St. Charles Winner



Caleb Redelman is the next winner of the Shop St. Charles Challenge after his name was picked in a random drawing of applicants. Redelman visited three local businesses and then told us about his experiences. He will receive a rebate up to \$100 for successfully completing the Challenge.

The Shop St. Charles Challenge shines a spotlight on the businesses we have right here in town. Redelman had this to say about shopping locally: "First it feeds our local

economy and builds our city's tax base, which helps our local government to continue to improve our city, school district, and (hopefully) keep property taxes at a reasonable rate. It also encourages local unique businesses to stay here, which gives residents dining/entertainment options that they wouldn't be able to find anywhere else."

Read his reviews of the three businesses he visited: Cost Plus World Market, Isacco Kitchen, and Hobbytown at [www.stcharlesil.gov/shop-local/winners](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/shop-local/winners).

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

## Rebates Available for New Furnace & Air Conditioners

City of St. Charles Electric Utility customers who also are Nicor customers are eligible for rebates through an energy efficiency program from Nicor.

Rebates are available for residential customers who replace a furnace or boiler with a new energy efficient model. In addition, for a limited time, residents who also replace their central air conditioning unit at the same time as their furnace will receive additional incentives.

Homeowner rebates of \$200-\$400 are available for qualified furnace replacements, and \$700-\$1,000 for combined furnace/air conditioner upgrades. Units must have been installed after Oct. 10, 2013. The furnace replacement rebates are part of a continuing Nicor-sponsored program. However, the additional rebate for air conditioner replacements is funded through a grant from Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and once the grant money is disbursed, the program will cease. More information is at

[www.nicorgasrebates.com](http://www.nicorgasrebates.com).

"This is a great opportunity for residents who are planning to make furnace and central air conditioner upgrades," says Thomas Bruhl, Electric Services Manager. "While Nicor intends to make the furnace replacement rebates available for some time, the additional DCEO grant rebates for central air conditioning upgrades will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The Nicor website has a helpful indicator which illustrates how much funding is remaining."

The DCEO grant is being distributed to qualifying residents in St. Charles, Naperville, Winnetka, Princeton, Rantoul, Rock Falls and Farmer City. The DCEO grant is administered by the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA), the City's wholesale electric supplier.

For more information, contact Bruhl at [tbruhl@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:tbruhl@stcharlesil.gov) or 630.377.4407.

## Street Sweeping Schedule

May - First Week

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](mailto:pw@stcharlesil.gov) or visit the City website [www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov).

## May Brush Pick Up Schedule

**East Side    West Side**

May 19      May 27

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. No piles should 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.** For more information visit the [www.stcharlesil.gov/services/brush](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/services/brush).

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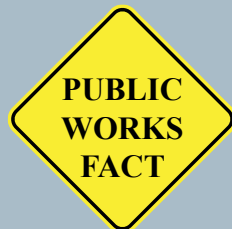
# Hydrant Flushing is Underway

As part of the regular maintenance of the St. Charles' water distribution system, the Public Works Water Division performs annual hydrant flushing.

The water system is split into two zones which will be flushed separately, one in spring and one in fall. Flushing or opening hydrants to allow water to flow rapidly through water mains reduces mineral build up and improves water quality. It also ensures that hydrants are ready for emergency use.

St. Charles is divided into four quadrants for hydrant flushing: Northwest, Southwest, Southeast, and Northeast. Main Street (Rt. 64) divides the north/south quadrants, and the Fox River divides the east/west. Spring hydrant flushing takes place between 5 a.m. and 3 p.m. according to this schedule:

- Northwest – Monday April 28-Friday May 2
- Southwest – Monday May 5- Friday May 9
- Southeast – Monday May 12- Friday May 16
- Northeast Week One – Monday May 19- Friday May 23
- Northeast Week Two – Tuesday May 27-Friday May 30



You also may visit the **My Neighborhood** section of the City's website, enter your address and click on the City Services tab. Signs announcing hydrant flushing also will be posted throughout the scheduled area.

Please note water is safe to use and consume during hydrant flushing, however, residents may temporarily notice rust-colored water. During hydrant flushing:

- If possible, limit your water use.
  - If you notice rust-colored water, wait until flushing has subsided then turn on the cold water until it runs clear.
  - Remember rust-colored water is safe, but it may stain laundry. If this happens, keep clothes wet and treat them with stain remover.
- The City offers a stain removal product at no cost to residents at the following locations:  
Public Works, 1405 South 7th Avenue  
City Hall, Reception Desk, 2 East Main Street  
Police Department, 211 North Riverside Avenue

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405 or [pw@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:pw@stcharlesil.gov).

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# Caring for Newly Planted Trees

Did you receive a new parkway tree this spring? The City works to minimize transplant shock for new trees and promote healthy plantings in several ways:

- New trees are planted with the trunk flare several inches above grade. If the tree is planted too deep, it's difficult for new roots to develop because of a lack of oxygen.
- Most newly planted trees will receive a gator bag to help with watering. They are designed to slowly release water (within 24-48 hours) at the base of the tree. 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 no more than twice per month during normal weather conditions. Visit our **Tree Care web page** for instructions on how to add water to a gator bag.
- Properties with in-ground sprinkling systems need to turn off watering zones for a period of two months from the date the tree has been planted to prevent overwatering.
- 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 grass seed is provided at the time the landscape is restored around the tree. The City takes care to add mulch to a depth of 2-4 inches and several inches away from the tree trunk. Piling mulch right up against the trunk causes decay. Instructions on proper mulching can be found on our **Tree Care web page**. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at [pw@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:pw@stcharlesil.gov) or 630.377.4405



Tread lightly! Use public transportation, carpool, walk, or bike whenever possible to reduce air pollution and save on fuel costs. Leaving your car at home just two days a week will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 1,600 pounds per year. If you can work from home, you'll reduce air pollution and traffic congestion - and save money.

## Remember Watering Regulations

The City of St. Charles actively promotes the responsible use of the underground aquifers that supply all the water for our city. The City's infrastructure is also managed to moderate peak water use periods.

Effective May 1, the water conservation ordinance once again is in force (St. Charles Municipal Code Section 13.16.205).

The Water Conservation Ordinance places limits on the days and times portable sprinklers and in-ground sprinkling systems may be used; the use of hand-held hoses is not regulated.

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** Lawn sprinkling is not allowed at any City address on any day between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. or 10 p.m. and 12 a.m. from May 1 to August 31. For more information, contact Public Works at [pw@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:pw@stcharlesil.gov) or 630-377-4405.

## Water Permits Available for New Lawns

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 new lawns. The permit allows watering for 10 consecutive days, from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. This permit must be displayed in a front window. Residents can obtain a permit for \$10 from the Utility Billing Office, 630.377.4426 or [utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov), and at the Public Works Facility 630.377.4405 or [pw@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:pw@stcharlesil.gov).

## Building Improvement & Floodplain Management Standards

The National Flood Insurance Program requires that if the cost of improvements to a building or the cost to repair damages (from any cause) to a building exceeds 50% of the market value of the building (excluding land value), the entire building must be brought up to current floodplain management standards.

Building improvement projects include exterior and interior remodeling, rehabilitation, additions, repairs, and reconstruction projects.

Additionally, the cost of currently planned improvements will be added to the cost of previously made improvements and compared to the existing market value to determine if the improvements exceed 50% of the structure's value. For more information, contact Brian Hermann in the Public Works Engineering Division, at 630-377-4486 or [bhermann@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:bhermann@stcharlesil.gov).

## Hats Off to Public Works!

National Public Works Week is May 18-24.

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.



## 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.



## The Downtown Partnership Wants Your Opinion

The Downtown St. Charles Partnership needs your help! They are asking residents to take a brief survey to tell them what is important to you, so they can do a better job serving your needs and making Downtown St. Charles an even better place to live and visit. All of

your answers are anonymous and will remain confidential. You can even take the survey right from your smart phone. Please take just a few minutes and tell them what you think. Access the survey [here](#). For more information, contact the Partnership at 630.443.3967.

**16th Annual**

**ST. CHARLES  
FINE ART  
SHOW**

- Live music through the weekend
- Artist Meet & Greets
- Art Talks/Demonstrations
- Free Trolley Tours
- VIP Preview w/ Patron Pledge

**Memorial Day  
Weekend  
May 24 & 25**

**May 24 & 25**

[www.stcharlesfineartshow.com](http://www.stcharlesfineartshow.com)



# Memorial Day Events

## 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 the grave sites of our veterans at each of the cemeteries in St. Charles. Ceremonies include an honor guard, firing squad and posting of colors.

Cemetery ceremonies will begin at the **South Cemetery** (east side of 7th Ave., north of Madison), 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 6th and Main streets, and continues to Riverside Ave.

## Memorial Ceremony Event - 10:45 a.m.

A special memorial ceremony at the Freedom Shrine will immediately follow the parade. It will take place along the river, west of the St. Charles



Police Department, 211 N. Riverside Ave. In the case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held inside the St. Charles Fire Station 1, at 112 N. Riverside Ave.

For more information, please contact Mark Powell, VFW Officer, at 630.587.6444 or [mark.powell@edwardjones.com](mailto:mark.powell@edwardjones.com).



## Parking Lot to be Dedicated to Ald. Martin on May 26

Following the 10:45 a.m. Memorial Ceremony at the Freedom Shrine on Memorial Day, May 26, please join us for a special dedication of the parking lot at 119 N. 3rd St. (site of the former VFW).

The "City of St. Charles Veterans Parking Lot" will be dedicated to recognize Alderman Jim Martin in honor of his military service to the United States of America, his commitment as Alderman serving the City of St. Charles for more than 35 years, and his overall general civic service.

### PLEASE NOTE

Refuse Collection will be delayed one day all week due to the Memorial Day Holiday Monday, May 26. Also, brush pick up will be conducted Tuesday, May 27.

## City of St. Charles Directory

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