



THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

November 2014

www.stcharlesil.gov

Regular Meetings

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

Youth Commission

11.3.14.....6:00 pm

City Council

11.3.14.....7:00 pm

Government Operations

11.3.14.....7:05 pm

Plan Commission

11.4.14.....7:00 pm

Corridor Improvement Commission

11.5.14.....7:00 pm

Historic Preservation Commission

11.5.14.....7:00 pm

Planning & Development

11.10.14.....7:00 pm

Tree Commission

11.13.14.....7:00 pm

Liquor Control Commission

11.17.14.....4:30 pm

City Council

11.17.14.....7:00 pm

Government Operations

11.17.14.....7:05 pm

Plan Commission

11.18.14.....7:00 pm

Historic Preservation Commission

11.19.14.....7:00 pm

Housing Commission

11.20.14.....7:00 pm

Government Services

11.24.14.....7:00 pm



CITY OF
ST. CHARLES

ILLINOIS • SINCE 1834

#1 City for Families
St. Charles named by FamilyCircle 2011

See You at the Holiday Homecoming Friday, Nov. 28 & Saturday, Nov. 29

Celebrate the holidays Nov. 28 and 29 at Holiday Homecoming 2014 for a free, fun-filled and festive weekend. Enjoy the traditional Lighting of the Lights ceremony on the 1st Street Plaza, free holiday movies at the Arcada Theatre, sleigh rides, visits with Santa, fresh Christmas Trees to bring home, and a spectacular Electric Christmas Parade on Main Street! This event is presented by Fox Valley Buick GMC and Fox Valley Volkswagen and organized by the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit, www.downtownstcharles.org/holidays.



Veteran's Day Ceremony November 11

The Annual Veterans Day Ceremony to honor and thank all who served our country is Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 10:40 a.m. at the Freedom Shrine behind the St. Charles Police Station, 211 N. Riverside Ave. All are welcome. The ceremony will begin with a reading of the official Veteran's Day Proclamation, followed by an invocation, salute to the flag, a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps. In the case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to Fire Station #1, 112 N. Riverside Ave.



Veterans will be honored in Annual Ceremony

Giving Tree Makes the Holidays Bright

The City of St. Charles employee Wellness Team is coordinating a Giving Tree program with Tri-City Family Services to ensure a spectacular holiday for one local family.

Beginning Monday, Nov. 17, Giving Trees will be on display at the Municipal Building, Public Works, and the Police Department with tags for wishlist items for the family.



If you would like to help out, simply select a tag from one of the Giving Trees, purchase the item(s), and return the unwrapped gift(s) to the Giving Tree at the Municipal Building by Dec. 10. Items on the tags start at \$5. The gifts will be wrapped and delivered in time for Christmas.

Cash donations are welcome too and will be used to purchase items on tags not selected. Give donations to Kristi Dobbs at the Public Works Facility, Lynn Creedon in Human Resources at the Municipal Building, or Sara Cass at the Police Department.

Contact the Human Resources Department at **630.377.4446** with questions.

We sincerely appreciate your giving spirit this holiday season!

From the Mayor's Desk



Mayor Raymond P. Rogina

Fall is here and the season is brimming with happenings all over our City. I've been pretty busy over the last few months with several ribbon cutting events launching new businesses around St. Charles. I encourage you to support our local entrepreneurs with your continued patronage.

Remember mid-term elections are Nov. 4. Make a point to get out and vote. And, join us for our Veterans Day celebration Nov. 11 to honor our area veterans.

The holidays will be here before you know it. Please make an effort to support our community and SHOP LOCAL. Along those lines, keep in mind that while construction continues on The

Quad St. Charles, the stores in the mall will remain open throughout the site's redevelopment. And I'll see you at the Holiday Homecoming and Electric Christmas Parade after Thanksgiving.

I know everyone gets busy with family, work and school, but be sure to take a moment to relish the fall colors along the river. I recommend visiting one of the lookout points on the pedestrian walkway of the Red Gate Bridge. The views are simply breathtaking.

As the fall season draws to a close, please have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends, and celebrate all that we have here in St. Charles.

The Best Plans Take Time to Unfold

ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

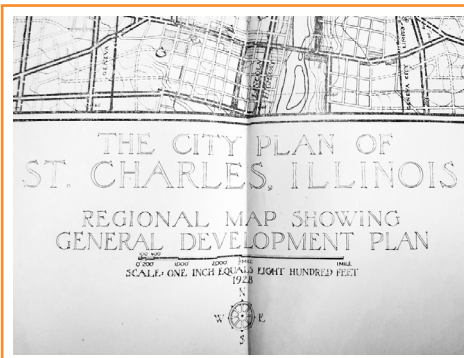
The Red Gate Bridge turns two—after spending several decades on the books



We are coming up on two years since the Red Gate Bridge opened to traffic. The innovative two-tiered crossing over the Fox River accommodates vehicle traffic on top and pedestrian traffic below.

The Red Gate Bridge originally was conceived in the 1920s, as part of the City's "Official City Plan." The Plan, which was passed by City Council and approved by Mayor Henry Roehlk in April 1928, mentions a river crossing at Red Gate Road.

Fast forward to 2014, and latest traffic counts show 10,570 vehicles use the bridge daily. Those early architects of St. Charles sure knew what they were doing when they laid out their plans for the community!



Promoting the City as a Business Destination



One of Economic Development's core goals is to promote St. Charles as a great business destination and attract new businesses to our City. To that end, the Economic Development Division recently participated in the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) annual Chicago Deal Making conference at Chicago's Navy Pier Oct. 7-8. The conference provided an opportunity to showcase St. Charles to representatives of retail companies, developers, commercial brokers and fellow municipalities.

Economic Development staff created materials for the City's display booth that highlighted St. Charles' desirable demographics and opportunities for new investment. Our booth was very active with visitors stopping to ask questions to learn more about St. Charles. Based on the large amount of interest experienced at this show, the City plans to attend future ICSC events to continue promoting St. Charles as a prime destination for businesses.

For more information about the ICSC conference or Economic Development, contact Matthew O'Rourke, Economic Development Division Manager, at morourke@stcharlesil.gov or **630.443.4093**.

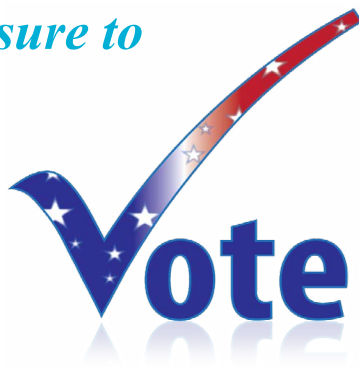
The Police Department Wants to Hear from You

The St. Charles Police Department is comprised of dedicated sworn officers and civilian support staff. We believe strongly in community-oriented public service. If you need a police officer for any reason, whether it's a simple service call or an emergency, please call 911. Many people are reluctant to call 911 not wanting to bother emergency personnel for calls regarding barking dogs, parking complaints or loud music. We do not view our residents or businesses as a bother. If it is of concern to you, please let us know. We believe, "If you see it, say it!" Call 911. Remember, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility.



November 4 is the 2014 General Election

Be sure to



For a polling place near you, visit www.kanecountyelections.org

Keep it Local!

Small Business Saturday is Nov. 29, the same Saturday as the Holiday Homecoming Parade! While you're downtown enjoying the festivities, stop into our local businesses and celebrate this annual day of shopping local.



Police Department Debuts Crime Prevention Newsletter

The St. Charles Police Department recently debuted its new Crime Prevention newsletter, *Police Beat*. The newsletter offers helpful information for protecting you, your family and home against crime. *Police Beat* is available on the [City website](http://www.stcharlesil.gov). For more information, please contact Crime Prevention Officer Bill Tynan at btynan@stcharlesil.gov.

Winter Fire Safety Tips

With the holiday and winter heating seasons rapidly approaching, the St. Charles Fire Department would like to offer the following tips for having a safe and enjoyable winter:

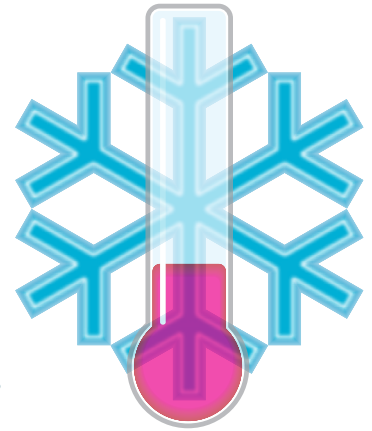
Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

- ❖ Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- ❖ Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used recently.
- ❖ Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.
- ❖ Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. They could be easily ignited by a spark.
- ❖ Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
- ❖ If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. NEVER break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

Furnace Heating

- ❖ It is important that you have your furnace and furnace flues inspected annually to ensure they are in good working condition.
- ❖ Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself.
- ❖ Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

And please, keep fire hydrants clear of snow. For more tips, contact the St. Charles Fire Department at **630-377-4458**.



St. Charles Farmer's Market Moves Inside for the Winter

Move Makes it a Year-Round Market!

The St. Charles Farmers Market goes indoors beginning Friday, Nov. 7, 2014, through May 29, 2015. The farmer's market is open Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon in Baker Hall at the Baker Memorial United Methodist Church, 4th Avenue and Main Street in St. Charles. More information is on the St. Charles Community website, www.st-charles.il.us or visit the [market's Facebook page](#).



Street Sweeping Reminder

Mid November

Last Week of November
(after leaf collection)

Try not to park on the streets scheduled for sweeping. For more information, contact Public Works at pw@stcharlesil.gov or **630.377.4405**. Or check the [Street Sweeping page](#) of the website.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

The last yard waste collection for 2014 by Advanced Disposal will be the week of Nov. 24 on your regular day. Collection will resume April 2015.

New Biosolids Building Opens

The City of St. Charles recently celebrated the completion of the new Biosolids and Operations Building at the Main Wastewater Treatment Plant. The new building replaces the previous structure that dated back to the 1930s, and had several modifications performed on it over the years. Aging equipment also was replaced with more efficient technology.

“The new building showcases state-of-the-art equipment, improved process efficiency and energy saving practices for wastewater treatment,” said John Lamb, Environmental Services Manager.

The building is the power and control center for the Eastside Wastewater Treatment Plant and houses equipment that produces biosolids, a by-product of the a high nutrient value and are applied on City-owned and some neighboring farm Environmental Protection Agency regulations.



The new Biosolids and Operations Building at the City of St. Charles Public Works Facility, 1405 S. 7th Ave.

The \$8.8 million project, which began November 2012, was funded through an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency low-interest loan. For more information, contact John Lamb at jlamb@stcharlesil.gov or **630.377.4405**.

2014 Leaf Pick Up Schedule



EAST SIDE

Nov. 7

Nov. 19

WEST SIDE

Nov. 13

Nov. 24

Please Note: Pick up is not available for Cumberland Green, Whittington Course, Royal Fox private streets, Dunham Place Commons, Delnor Townhomes, Delnor Glen Drive, Willowgate, Viewpointe, Wildrose Springs Townhomes, Auburn Court, Benham Court, and Oak Crest.

The leaf pick up program has been modified this year. It will run similarly to the brush pick up program, with the collection areas divided on the east and west sides of the river. Leaves must be on the parkway by 6:30 a.m. on your area's designated day of pick up, but it may take three to four days before the leaves are picked up in your specific area.

Leaf Collection Tips

- Leaf piles will not be picked up if obstructed by parked vehicles or other obstacles. The piles will be picked on your next scheduled pick up when the obstruction is removed.
- Please keep a distance of approximately 10' between leaf piles and permanent structures e.g., fire hydrants, trees, streetlight poles, etc.
- Rake leaves in a row parallel to the street at least 1' back from the curb and off of the sidewalk.
- Inclement weather or a large volume of leaves could alter the leaf pickup schedule.
- **Pushing leaves into the street is a violation of Ordinance 12.04.170, punishable by a fine up to \$500.00 for each offense.**
- Leaf piles will not kill grass although they may cause it to discolor.
- Avoid raking foreign materials into leaf piles as these could damage equipment or injure personnel.
- This program is funded by a portion of the fee collected on the utility bill of eligible homeowners living within the city limits of St. Charles. Check your utility bill or call Utility Billing at **630.377.4426**, if you have a question regarding your eligibility for this program.
- For residential leaf collection schedule, map and updates, be sure to check the City website www.stcharlesil.gov/services/leaf or contact the Public Works Department at **630.377.4405** or pw@stcharlesil.gov.

Also, yard waste bag pickup by Advance Disposal ends the week of November 24.

Municipal Building Parking Lot is Back in Business

Replacement of the parking lot to the north of the Municipal Building is now complete. The lot, bordered by the Municipal Building, Police Department, the river and Riverside Ave. is now open. If you park there you will notice a simplified traffic flow pattern, easy-to-pull-in diagonal spaces, pedestrian walkways, a public plaza and additional green space. What you won't see—but just as important—is the much-needed water main, electric systems and storm sewer infrastructure replacement.

For more information, contact Peter Suhr, Director of Public Works, at psuhr@stcharlesil.gov or **630.377.4405**.



Winter Tree Care for Your Yard

Winter brings extreme temperatures, icy winds and plenty of snow. Just as people are challenged by winter weather at this time of the year, so are trees, with one important difference: trees can't avoid exposure to the elements. Although trees appear to be in a state of hibernation during the winter, exposure to severe winter weather can stress them.

You can help your trees, shrubs and lawn get through the cold winter months with some easy, low cost tips:

1. Place composted organic mulch under trees in the fall or early winter to help retain water and reduce temperature extremes. A thin layer of mulch will act like a blanket and give tree roots a little extra winter protection. Recycled leaves make excellent mulch.
2. Rather than disposing of leaves this fall, rake leaves beneath trees and shrubs to insulate the soil from extreme temperatures and to hold moisture. As leaves break down, they also add nutrients to the soil. Rake shredded leaves through your grass to help your lawn as well.
3. Prune trees on private property, but limit pruning to deadwood and poorly placed branches. ***Please do not prune the City's parkway trees; Public Works takes care of trimming and maintenance of public trees located in the parkways.***
4. Wrap the base of young trees with burlap or plastic cloth to help prevent temperature damage. Just remember to remove the wraps in the spring to allow the tree to grow.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at pw@stcharlesil.gov or **630-377-4405**.



Fall Yard and Garden Safety from J.U.L.I.E.

As you complete yard and garden clean-up this fall and prepare for winter, J.U.L.I.E., Inc. reminds homeowners to call 811 before beginning any digging projects, small or large.

Call J.U.L.I.E.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Most electric, gas, water, sewer and telecommunications utility services are delivered through underground lines. Avoid damage to underground lines and prevent personal injury by contacting JULIE before any digging project, regardless of the size or depth of the project – it's an Illinois state law. Even if you contacted JULIE for a project earlier this spring, contact JULIE again for fall outdoor projects.

When you call 811, you will be connected to a JULIE call center where representatives are available 24/7 to assist with your locate request. Additionally, all homeowners can enter their own locate requests online at www.illinois1call.com. Both methods are free of charge and easy to use. Upon receipt of your request to locate underground utilities, JULIE alerts utility companies to locate where you plan to dig. You may notice colored flags marking where certain utilities are located underground. It is then safe to proceed with your outdoor projects.

Based in Joliet, Illinois, JULIE Inc. provides Illinois excavators and underground utility owners with a continuously improving, one-call message-handling and delivery service committed to protecting underground utilities and the safety of people working or living near them.

Maintenance Closes Riverside Ave. between Illinois & Walnut Avenues

Riverside Avenue between Illinois and Walnut avenues will be closed for approximately two weeks beginning Monday, Nov. 3 as routine maintenance is performed on the sanitary sewer system on and near the Illinois bridge. Traffic on the Illinois Bridge also will be reduced to one lane in either direction.

“Signs alerting motorists of the road and lane closures as well as detour routes have been installed throughout the scheduled work area,” said Mike Burnett, Environmental Services Division Manager. “Contractors will be working to repair failing infrastructure and perform preventative maintenance.”

For more information, contact Mike Burnett at mburnett@stcharlesil.gov or 630.377.4405.



Protect your pipes. When water freezes, it expands. If water is inside a pipe when it expands, it breaks the pipe and leaves you with a large repair bill. To prevent this, shut down your sprinkler system and disconnect your hose from the spigots before the first big freeze of the year. To protect your indoor pipes, never set your thermostat below 55 degrees F (even if you’re going out of town for an extended period of time).

Connect with Us

Connect with the city right from your mobile device. Download our St. Charles Connect app at www.stcharlesil.gov/connect

Final Brush Pick Up	
EAST SIDE	WEST SIDE
Nov. 17	Nov. 24

This is the final brush collections this year for residents who live within the City of St. Charles limits

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. 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. Or contact the Public Works Department at pw@stcharlesil.gov 630.377.4405.

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City of St. Charles Directory

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