CITY OF ST. CHARLES
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THE DEN

NOVEMBER 2012

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

November City Council and Committee Meetings

City Council 7 p.m.	5
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	5
Special Planning & Development Committee Meeting* 7:05 p.m.	5
Planning & Development 7 p.m.	12
City Council 7 p.m.	19
Government Operations 7:05 p.m.	19
Government Services 7:00 p.m.	26

* A special meeting of the Planning & Development Committee has been scheduled for Nov. 5, immediately following the Government Operations Committee meeting to discuss the Groves at Corporate Reserve.

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

Get Ready for the Holiday Homecoming Lighting of the Lights & Electric Christmas Parade

The Fun is Set for Friday, Nov. 23 & Saturday, Nov. 24

Celebrate the holidays Friday, Nov. 23 and Saturday, Nov. 24 at the Holiday Homecoming in beautiful, historic downtown St. Charles 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, and a spectacular Electric Christmas Parade on Main Street! This event is presented by the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit **www.downtownstcharles.org/holidays**.

Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11

Honor Our Veterans During a Service at the Freedom Shrine

Please join us for the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony to honor and thank all those who served our country. The ceremony is Sunday, 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.

Annual City Update Luncheon Delivers Latest News to Chamber of Commerce Members

Mayor Don DeWitte, First Ward Alderman Dan Stellato and city staff offered an updated look at current and pending projects and fielded questions at the City Update Luncheon hosted by the Chamber's Legislative Committee Oct. 16 at the Royal Fox Country Club.

Finances. Mayor DeWitte delivered good news about the city's finances. Despite dismal economic conditions over the last few years, responsible financial management has kept the city's tax levy flat this year. In addition, St. Charles earned an Aa1 rating from Moody's Investors Service as part of the city's bond issue for construction of the Red Gate Bridge and the replacement of trees infested by the Emerald Ash Borer.

City Council. Alderman Stellato briefed attendees on several issues that the City Council is expected to address in the coming months, including Lexington Club, Corporate Reserve, and rental licensing & property maintenance codes. He also discussed the municipal election in April 2013, where the offices of Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer, and five aldermanic seats will be filled.

Charlestowne Mall. Chris Aiston, Economic Development Director, offered insight into the benefits of establishing the Charlestowne Mall/East Gateway area as a business TIF district that would stretch from Hunt Club Dr. to the city's eastern boundary. He also outlined recommendations for Charlestowne Mall from a recent feasibility study that proposed replacing mall ownership, developing new branding and making physical changes to the mall building.

Comprehensive Plan. Rita Tungare, Director of Community Development, offered updates on the Comprehensive Plan and the status of the Lexington Club, Corporate Reserve, and Regency Estates developments. Also, attendees learned more about the new Advanced Auto Parts store coming to the former Baker's Square site.

Infrastructure. Mark Koenen, Public Works Director, detailed the investments the city has made to improve infrastructure. He discussed the completion of the Red Gate Bridge construction, which is set to open to vehicle traffic Dec. 15; work on Main Street, including intersection improvements at Oak St., pedestrian signal improvements between 7th St. and 7th Ave, and coordination with IDOT on the Main St./Rt. 64 project.

Rt. 64 Update

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, Rt. 64/Main St. will open to four-lane traffic by mid-November, as previously scheduled, while major construction winds down for the year. Please note there may be periodic lane closures to accommodate smaller scale work in the winter months. For more information, contact Jim Bernahl at 630-377-4486.

Pace Metra Feeder Vanpool Program Connects You to Public Transportation

Many commuters save thousands of dollars each year by using public transportation. Unfortunately, many businesses are not located near a Pace bus route or a Metra station. That's why Pace's Metra Feeder Vanpool Program was developed. This program allows a Pace van to be parked overnight at a Metra station so that 5-13 participants can take the train and then use the van to complete their commute to work. For more information about the Pace Metra Feeder Vanpool Program visit **PaceBus.com.**

Recycle Old Electronics at the City's Drop-Off Site

Supports State Landfill Ban of Home Electronics

Be sure to bring your old electronics to the city's Public Works facility, 1405 S. 7th Ave., Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for recycling. (No drop off on holidays).

This service offers residents a way to properly dispose of home electronics, which were banned from landfills in Illinois as of Jan. 1, 2012.

Computers, televisions, DVD players, printers and power tools are some examples of what can be recycled. A complete list of acceptable items is available on the city website **www.stcharlesil.gov**, on the Recycling and Waste page. Items not accepted include: white goods (large appliances) extra-large wood speakers, loose batteries, household hazardous waste.

There will be signs at the public works facility directing residents to the drop-off container. Items should be put in the boxes provided. Large televisions should be placed on the floor to the rear of the container. Please note there is no unloading assistance available at the facility.

Final Brush Pick Up for the Year

East Side	West Side
Nov. 19	Nov. 26

Please place your brush along the street in front of your home. Brush (branches at least 3 ft. in length and less than 12" in diameter) must be placed on the parkway, cut ends facing the street before 7 a.m. The City also asks that residents place brush as close to collection day as possible to minimize damage to grass and maintain the attractiveness of our neighborhoods.

Do not tie bundles of brush with rope or wire. Brush must not be stacked higher than 4 ft. and never piled in the street.

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 Public Works at 630-377-4405, or visit **www.stcharlesil.gov.**

Last Yard Waste Pick Up is the Week of Nov. 26

The last yard waste collection for 2012 will be on your regular refuse day during the week of Nov. 26. Collections will resume April 2013.

Don't Be Left in the Dark

Help us By Reporting Faulty Streetlights

It's getting darker sooner, leaving all of us to rely on streetlights a little more. The St. Charles Electric Utility proactively maintains the city's streetlights. However, we also rely on residents to notify us when streetlights are out, flickering, or have other maintenance issues. If you notice a streetlight (not traffic signal) is out or malfunctioning, please contact us at 630-377-4407 or submit a customer service request on the city website **www.stcharlesil.gov.** Simply click on the Service Requests link under the "Popular" tab on the home page. On the right of the page is the "Support Topics" menu. Click on the last topic link, "Street/Sidewalk Maintenance and Reconstruction" and you will see a list of service request options. Click "Streetlights - damaged or broken" and create a service request. Please include your name and phone number so we may contact you if additional information is needed.

2012 Leaf Pick Up Schedule

Below is the 2012 Leaf Pick Up Schedule for the remaining dates of the year. Please consult the map on the following page for corresponding area boundaries.

NOVEMBER				
	EAST SIDE OF THE RIVER		WEST SIDE OF THE RIVER	
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4
1ST PICK UP				NOVEMBER 2
2ND PICK UP	NOVEMBER 5	NOVEMBER 7	NOVEMBER 9	NOVEMBER 13
3RD PICK UP	NOVEMBER 14	NOVEMBER 16	NOVEMBER 20	NOVEMBER 26
4TH PICK UP	NOVEMBER 27	NOVEMBER 28	NOVEMBER 29	NOVEMBER 30
Pick up is not available for these subdivisions/ areas	Cumberland Green	Whittington Course, Royal Fox private streets, Dunham Place Commons, Delnor Townhomes, Delnor Glen Drive	Viewpointe & Willowgate	Wildrose Townhomes, Auburn Court, Benham Court, Oak Crest

Leaf Collection Information & Tips

With the onset of Autumn comes falling leaves, which usually means plenty of raking. The City of St. Charles will provide fall leaf pick up according to the above schedule, beginning Oct. 25. An area map is provided on the next page.

Check your utility bill or call Utility Billing at 630-377-4426 if you have a question about your eligibility for leaf collection.

Please remember to pile raked leaves on the right-of-way or curb area in front of your home only. Do not rake, blow, or pile the leaves into the streets. Not only is this in violation of city ordinance, but piles of leaves in the street can clog storm sewer drains, create localized flooding, and make the roads slippery and dangerous for vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians.

Leaf collection regulations will be enforced. Residents in violation will be required to remove the leaves from the street within 24 hours and may be subject to fines of up to $500.00 per day.

- Inclement weather or a large volume of leaves could alter the leaf pickup schedule.
- Leaf piles with vehicles parked in front of them will not be picked up.
- Leaves must be on the parkway by 6:30 a.m. on your designated collection day.
- Rake leaves in a row parallel to the street at least one foot back from the curb and off the sidewalk.
- Leaf piles will not kill grass, although they may cause it to discolor.
- Avoid raking foreign materials into leaf piles. This could damage equipment or cause injury to personnel collecting the leaves.
- As an alternative to pickup, leaves also may be put into yard waste bags for disposal.
- Yard waste bag pickup by Veolia ends the week of Nov. 26 on your regular refuse day.
- This schedule and other updates are available on the city website **www.stcharlesil.gov.**

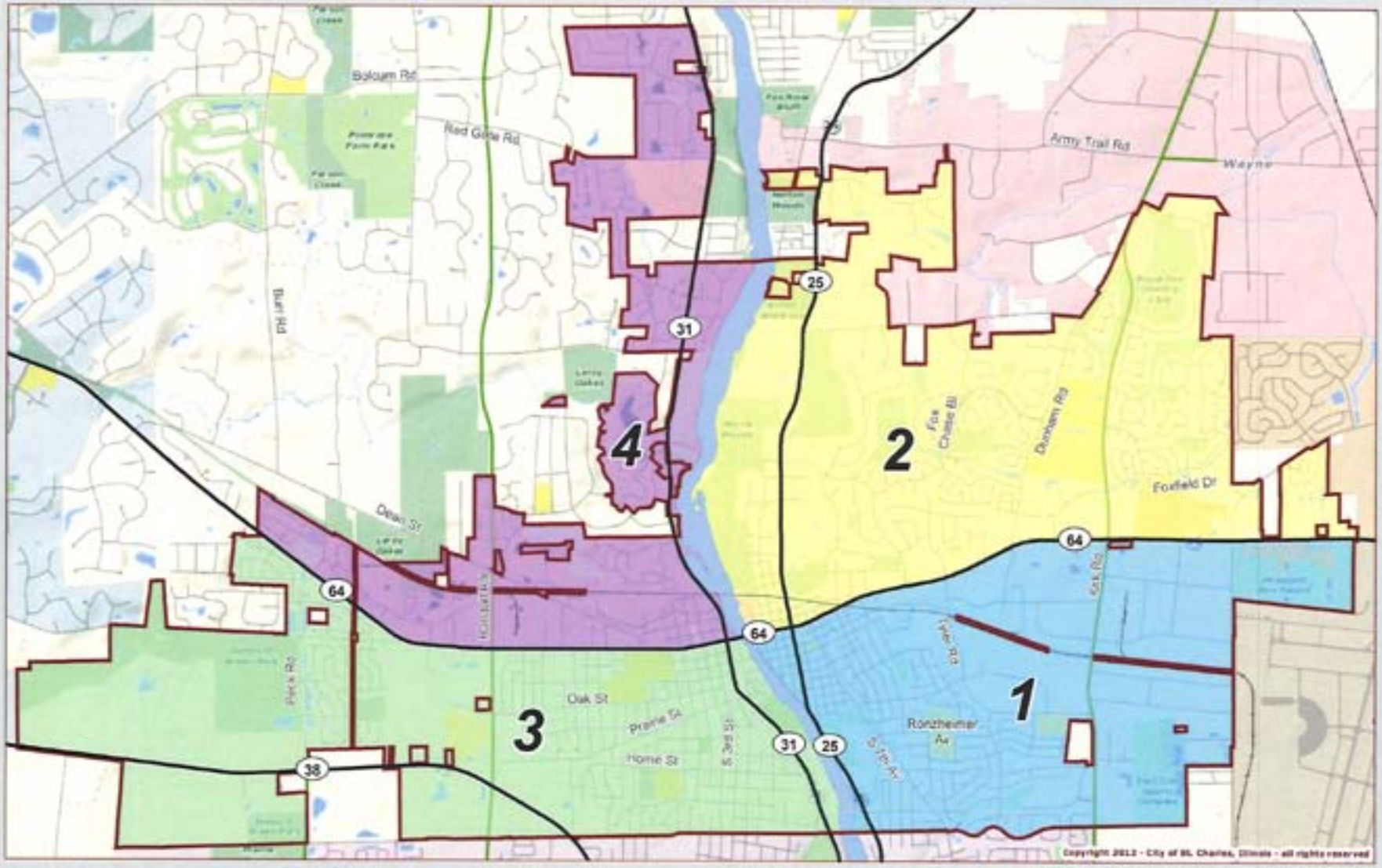
GREEN ST. CHARLES TIP...

Did you know fallen leaves are a great free resource? They contain nutrients such as phosphorous, potassium and nitrogen which break down and replenish the soil, acting like natural fertilizer. So consider mulching your leaves instead of collecting them for pickup.

City of St. Charles, Illinois

2012 Leaf Pickup Schedule

DONALD P. DEWITTE Mayor
BRIAN TOWNSEND City Administrator



Collection Dates:

Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4
October 25	October 29	October 31	November 2
November 5	November 7	November 9	November 13
November 14	November 16	November 20	November 26
November 27	November 28	November 29	November 30

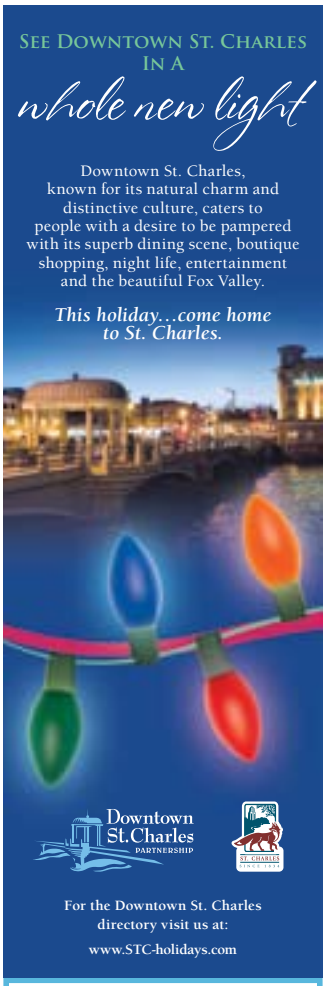
This Year, Look and Listen for St. Charles Holiday Advertising

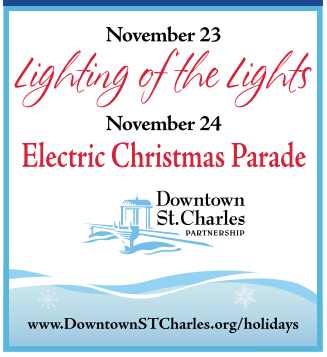
With nearly 40 eclectic shops, over two dozen restaurants and eateries, and a wide assortment of services and entertainment options, downtown St. Charles has a lot to offer this holiday season. The city of St. Charles Economic Development department and the Downtown St. Charles Partnership are teaming up this year for a series of print and radio advertisements to let everyone know what our city has to offer for the holidays. Outreach will cover the entire Chicago metro area.

Running from late November through early December, St. Charles will be featured in several radio spots on 95.9 FM WERV ("The River") and 97.1 FM WDRV ("The Drive"). Several of the spots on 95.9 will promote downtown businesses. Also, the 97.1 FM street team will be at the "Lighting of the Lights" Friday, Nov. 23, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., playing classic rock and giving away prizes.

In addition, print ads will appear weekly in the *Daily Herald* Holiday Gift Guides Nov. 16 through Dec. 21. This same ad will be featured in the November-December issue of *West Suburban Living* as well.

According to Cinda Baxter of the 3/50 Project, for every $100 you spend in a local independent store, $68 returns to the community. Zero dollars return to the community if you shop on-line or outside the city. Please keep the St. Charles business community vibrant and unique. Support your local merchants this holiday season and shop in St. Charles. For more information, contact the Economic Development department at 630-443-4093.





Red Gate Bridge Opens to Vehicle Traffic Dec. 15

Ribbon Cutting is Planned

The two-lane car deck of the new Red Gate Bridge is set to open to vehicle traffic Dec. 15. The city will mark the occasion with a brief ribbon cutting ceremony on the bridge.

Construction on the pedestrian and bicycle pathway that will connect to existing trails on either side of the river is scheduled open in the spring of 2013.

The new Red Gate Bridge at Rt. 31 and Red Gate Road will provide St. Charles with its northernmost Fox River crossing. The city broke ground for the bridge in August 2011.

For more information and updates on the progress of the bridge, visit the **www.redgatebridge.org.**

Be Sure to Vote Tues. Nov. 6!

Comprehensive Plan Events

Task Force Meeting & Open House Scheduled

Residents, property owners, and members of the business community are encouraged to come to two events for the city's Comprehensive Plan development. Both will be held in Council Chambers, 2 E. Main St.

- **Task Force Meeting** Wed., Nov. 14, 7:00 p.m., to review and discuss a draft of the plan document.
- **Open House** Wed., Nov. 28, 6-7:30 p.m., to view the documents in detail and provide comments.

For more information, contact Russell Colby, Planning Division Manager, at 630-377-4443 or visit **www.stcharlesil.gov**.

Women-owned Businesses Thrive in St. Charles

St. Charles is privileged to have 1,700+ businesses here in town. Within the Downtown, the East Gateway and the West Gateway business districts you will find a diverse offering of manufacturing, retail, restaurants, professional services and offices, many of which are owned and managed by women.

In Downtown St. Charles, Mara Hauser owns The Hauser Group, a design management services firm creating smart work environments. Mara "fell in love with the building, the ambience of the river, and the ability to walk to restaurants, shops and amenities" as well as "the energy and vitality of the downtown business area." The Hauser Group also is proud to be included on the *INC. Magazine* 500/5000 List of the nation's fastest- growing private companies.

If you are looking for relaxation and wellness with a natural, holistic approach, visit Tranquility Spa and Wellness Center located in Downtown St. Charles. Owners Beverly Miller and Loreta Lescelius chose St. Charles "because of the quaint downtown area. When we decided to expand, we were determined to stay in St. Charles because of its charm and great reputation." Tranquility has been awarded The Best of The Fox by the *Northwest Herald*, in several categories over the past two years including "the best in spa and skincare."

In the East Gateway district, Carol Frey owns and operates Sensible Threadz, a discount children's and women's clothing, bedding and bath store. "We selected St. Charles as our business location due to this being our hometown," said Carol. "We wanted to support the same town we lived in while being able to assist all different aspects of our surrounding communities." Sensible Threadz recently was awarded a Reader's Choice Award for the Best 2011 Thrift Store by Suburban Life Publications.

Megan Klein, owner of Klein's Tack & Feed Inc., in the West Gateway district, is a "store for horses. We carry all apparel, helmets, clothing, gloves, jackets, and blankets for people and horses." Megan's store also features "supplements, first aide, bridles, saddles and horse show gear." With many horse owners living in and around St. Charles, she felt this would be the ideal location to set up shop. Klein's Tack & Feed Store opened this past spring and has been well received throughout the Fox Valley area.

Please visit the City of St. Charles website at **www.stcharlesil.gov** for a complete listing of businesses.

Tri-City Toys for Kids Toy Donation is Back

The Tri-City Toys for Kids program is asking for support in helping make this Christmas special for area children in need. Now in its 29th year, the program collects toys for distribution by the Salvation Army to boys and girls in the Tri-City area.

The program is looking for gifts of new toys, games, or monetary donations. Donations can be dropped off at these locations: Pottawatomie Golf Course, Pottawatomie Community Center, Baker Community Center, Norris Recreation Center, District 303 Grade Schools, St. Charles North High School, Geneva High School, Hosanna Lutheran Church, Coach House Restaurant, St. Charles Library, and the Arcada Theatre.

Also, look for the Toys for Kids float, sponsored by the St. Charles Breakfast Rotary, in the Electric Christmas Parade Saturday, Nov. 24. They will be taking toy donations.

The needy boys and girls in our area thank you for making their Christmas special. Please call Jim Wheeler at 630-429-0560 for more information.

Neighbors in Need is Underway

Please consider donating to our annual Neighbors in Need fund to help struggling St. Charles residents pay their City utility bills. Over the last seven years, residents have generously donated nearly $14,000 and helped 210 families. Thank you to all who have participated in this vital program.

If you would like to donate, please list the amount of your donation on the line provided on the payment stub of your utility bill and add it to the amount of your payment. If everyone donated at least $1, we would collect more than $10,000. All donations go directly to helping St. Charles residents--none of the funds are used for administrative costs.

The city works with the Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul to administer the program. For questions, please contact Utility Billing at 630-377-4426.

Giving Tree Holiday Gift Donations

The City of St. Charles employee Wellness Team is again coordinating the Giving Tree program for the holidays. Donations will benefit two local charities: Association for Individual Development, **www.the-association.org** and local seniors who attend Elderday Care Center, **www.elderdaycenter.org**.

A tree will be displayed at City Hall beginning Nov. 20. To participate, simply select a tag, purchase the item(s) on the tag, and return the unwrapped gift(s) to the Giving Tree by Dec. 10. Items on the tags range from $5 to $25. The gifts will be wrapped and delivered in time for Christmas. Cash donations to purchase items are welcome, too, and may be left with the City receptionist. Contact the Human Resources office at 630-377-4446 with questions.

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. (Veolia)	587-8282
TDD	800-526-0844
Utility Billing - Electric/Water/Sewer	377-4426
Electric Outage Hotline	**866-444-0016**

Thanksgiving

The City of St. Charles offices will be closed Thursday & Friday, Nov. 22 & 23 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday

Remember to turn the clocks back one hour Sunday, Nov. 4.

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