



NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES

#1 CITY FOR FAMILIES - FamilyCircle 2011

Meetings

December

Planning & Development	
7 p.m.	12
City Council	
7 p.m.	19
Government Operations	
7:05 p.m.	19
Government Services	
7 p.m.	27

Neighbors in Need Program is Underway

Please consider donating to our annual Neighbors in Need fund to help struggling St. Charles residents pay their City utility bills.

The City's Neighbors in Need program is conducted with the Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul. These organizations help determine which residents require assistance and then work with the City to distribute funds to those residents' utility accounts.



Over the last six years, residents have generously donated nearly \$12,000 and helped 175 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 City of St. Charles residents--none of the funds are used for administrative costs. Questions? Contact Utility Billing at 630-377-4426.



From the City of St. Charles!



And be sure to visit the City Administrator's blog at www.insidestcharles.com

This Season, Shop Local -- Shop St. Charles

In this unpredictable economic climate, shopping locally is more important than ever. When you patronize local shops and restaurants, you are reinvesting in the community. The sales tax dollars paid in St. Charles are put back into the community, unlike with online purchases. Furthermore, a purchase in a St. Charles store is a vote of confidence in the owner's efforts to create a better, more diverse business environment within the city.

St. Charles is fortunate to have a balanced and varied commercial base that is lacking in so many other municipalities. This holiday season, please consider doing your shopping at the multitude of retail options within St. Charles. For a directory of businesses in our community, please visit www.stcharlesil.gov/departments/edd/listings.html. And for more information on the wide range of shops and dining options in St. Charles, please take a moment to visit these websites:

- www.visitsstcharles.com
- www.stcharleschamber.com
- www.downtownstcharles.org



Important Winter Flood Information

At this time of year, we often focus on preparing for ice or snow storms. However, winter flooding can pose a risk. During the winter, warmer temperatures after a large snowfall can produce large amounts of melted runoff in a short period of time. Because the ground is hard and frozen and cannot absorb the water, flooding can result.

Property Protection Measures

If your property is susceptible to flooding, there are some things you can do to reduce damages.

- Apply watertight seals to brick and block walls to protect against low level flooding (less than 2 feet).
- Elevate furnaces, air conditioners, water heaters and major appliances on platforms or move them to higher floors.
- Take temporary measures, such as sandbagging and removing items from the flooded area.
- Elevating or relocating the entire structure may also be a feasible option.

Flood Safety

Observe the following safety rules to avoid flooding dangers:

- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around barriers.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive. Six inches of water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. If your house is about to be flooded, turn off the power at the service box. Electrical current can travel through water. Electrocution is the second leading cause of death during floods.
- Be alert to gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house before it floods. If you smell gas, report it to your gas company. Do not use candles, lanterns or open flames if you smell gas or are unsure if your gas has been shut off.
- Keep children away from the flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains. Flood waters can carry items that can dislodge and culverts can suck smaller people into them.
- Clean everything that has been wet. Flood water could be contaminated with sewage and other chemicals which pose severe health threats.
 - Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their home may seek shelter in yours.
- Do not use gas engines, such as generators, or charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious health hazards.

Additional Sources for Flooding Information

- www.fema.gov
- City of St. Charles Public Works Engineering Division, 630-377-4486
- The floodplain page on the city website www.stcharlesil.gov/flood
- St. Charles Public Library

Natural and 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.

Welcome New Businesses!

WEST GATEWAY

Jet Hockey Training Arena

761 N. 17th St., #1, 630-762-6600

DOWNTOWN

Arbor Avenue Antiques

116 E. State Ave., 630-293-3930

Dallas Seasonal Decor

115 Cedar Ave., 630-715-3767

Li'l Red Schoolhouse Antiques

108 State Ave., 630-393-1040

EAST GATEWAY

First State Bank

2601 Oak St., 630-584-4433

Goodwill

2750 E. Main St., 630-513-5681

Marquee Youth Stage

Charlestowne Mall, 630-762-0354

Michelangelo Gallery

Charlestowne Mall, 630-443-4949



City Crews are Prepared for Winter Weather

The Public Works Department staff is prepared to maintain safe road conditions for St. Charles this winter. The foundation of our successful snow program has been the ability to mobilize our equipment and personnel to react to any storm event, including light or heavy snowfall and ice storms.

The City maintains nearly 184 lane miles of main, secondary and side streets, alleys, parking lots and cul-de-sacs.

Our plowing and deicing operations tackle the main routes, connector roads, school zones and downtown areas first to keep the majority of regular traffic and emergency routes cleared. Once these areas are cleared and safe for travel, City crews and contractors begin clearing neighborhood streets, cul-de-sacs, alleys and parking lots.

• **Weather** The City uses a computerized forecasting system to monitor the weather. This system alerts staff to incoming weather systems including type (snow, ice, etc.) duration, and expected onset. It also provides us with treatment recommendations customized to our snow program.

• **Brine** The City uses brine as a pre-wetting application before most snowfalls. The brine provides a buffer between the street surface and the snow which aids in removal. The City produces its own brine, which is a mixture made of salt, water and beet juice. The brine is applied to the streets from a liquid tank truck which spreads the material across the pavement when snow or ice is expected.

Your cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated as we perform our winter operations. For more information, please call Public Works at 630-377-4405.



Clearing State and County Roads

The following state roads are plowed and maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) 847-705-4228:

- Rt. 31 north of the railroad trestle
- Rt. 25 north of Country Club Road
- Rt. 64 west of Randall Road
- Rt. 64 east of 13th Avenue

The following roads are plowed and maintained by the Kane County Highway Department (KDOT) 630-584-1170:

- Kirk Road south of Rt. 64
- Kirk Road north of Royal Fox Drive
- Country Club Rd from Persimmon Drive to Dunham Road
- Randall Road



Yardwaste Collection

Yardwaste collection has concluded for 2011. Collection will resume April 2, 2012.

Refuse Pick Up Holiday Schedule

Veolia will delay refuse pickup one day the week of December 26, 2011 and January 2, 2012 for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Christmas Tree Pick Up

Christmas trees will be picked up during the weeks of January 2 and January 9, 2012, on BOTH sides of the river on the regularly scheduled refuse day. After the two week period, a sticker will be required.

Trees are NOT to be placed in disposal bags. Residents should note that all decorations, including tinsel, must be removed.



Helpful Winter Reminders

Snow Plow Safety

As we gear up for another northern Illinois winter, the Public Works staff is requesting residents' help in keeping the streets safe and clear. What you can do:

- Remind children to stay clear of snowplows.
- When driving, stay back at least 100 feet from moving plows and do not pass moving plows.
- Drivers, remember to yield the right of way to any vehicle displaying flashing lights and engaged in construction, maintenance, snow plowing or salting work.
- Do not place snow removed from driveways and sidewalks in the street. It creates dangerous situations for others and violates city ordinances.
- Clear snow and ice from the walk adjacent to your property. This makes pedestrian travel safer and easier for everyone.
- Clear snow away from fire hydrants to permit easy access, in case of emergency.
- Pile snow away from the edge of the road, on the left side of the driveway as you face the house. Should the snowplow pass by again, this will prevent the plow from pushing snow back into your driveway.
- If you believe your mailbox was hit by a City plow during snow removal, contact Public Works at 630-377-4405, Mon-Fri., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Giving Tree at City Hall

The City of St. Charles employee Wellness Team is again coordinating a Giving Tree program for the upcoming holidays. The Giving Tree, located at City Hall, will benefit local single moms from Embrace A Family (www.embracefamily.com) and local seniors at Elderday Center (www.elderdaycenter.org).

To participate, just select a tag, purchase the item(s), and return the unwrapped gift(s) to the Giving Tree at City Hall by Dec. 15. Items on the tags are at all price levels, starting 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. Cash donations may be left with the receptionist at City Hall. Please feel free to call the Human Resources office at 630-377-4446 with questions.



Avoid Frozen Pipes

To avoid frozen water pipes, allow heated air to circulate around pipes and meters. Latch basement windows and vents to prevent drafts on pipes. When remodeling, do not locate water pipes against exterior concrete walls. If pipes have been frozen in the past, insulate problem areas and leave cabinet doors open. If you have any questions, please contact the Meter Office at 630-377-4404.

City of St. Charles Window Clings

We have a limited quantity of St. Charles #1 City for Families window clings available in the lobby at City Hall. Stop by and pick one up. They are perfect for home, car or office windows. Only one per person please.



Free Holiday Light Recycling

Have a Green Holiday Season by recycling those burnt out strings of lights! Recycle your lights and other electronic equipment free of charge at:

Kane County Monthly Electronics and Book Recycling Collection Event

540 S Randall Road
St. Charles, IL
630-208-3841
Second Saturday of each month
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



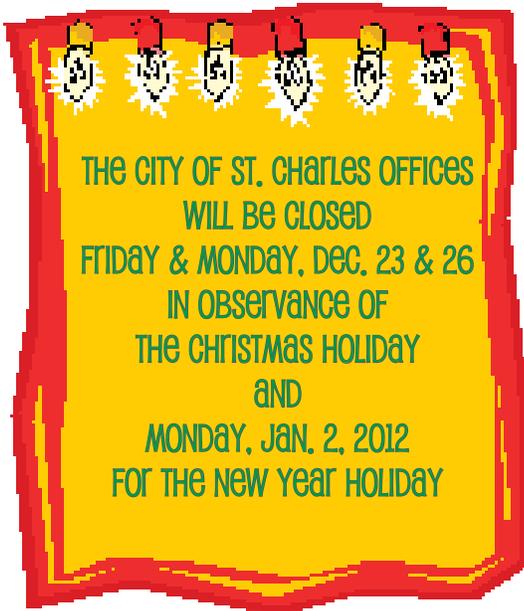
For more information, visit www.countyofkane.org or contact Jennifer Jarland, Kane County Recycling Coordinator at recycle@countyofkane.org, 630-208-3841.

Visit the St. Charles Tree During Holiday Magic at Brookfield Zoo

The City of St. Charles has a decorated tree on display at Brookfield Zoo for the Holiday Magic festival. The festival takes place from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on three magical weekends, December 3-4, 10-11, and 17-18 (Saturdays-Sundays), and the week of December 26-31 (Monday-Saturday).

Strolling along the walkways on the malls zoogoers can view hundreds of trees decorated with handmade ornaments by local communities.

Look for the City of St. Charles tree, #86!



The Den is produced by
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