



FEBRUARY 2012

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES
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#1 CITY FOR FAMILIES - FamilyCircle 2011

Council & Committee Meetings

February

Planning & Development	
7 p.m.	13
City Council	
7 p.m.	21
Plan Commission	
7:00 p.m.	21
Government Operations	
7:05 p.m.	21
Government Services	
7:00 p.m.	27

A complete list of all meetings, including Commission, Board and Task Force meetings is available at www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings

We're Doing More with Less

Remaining Responsible Stewards of Public Tax Dollars

There's no doubt the lingering effects of a sagging economy have been difficult for both individuals and organizations alike. Especially in times like these, local governments often hear how they need to operate more like the private sector and "do more with less." The City of St. Charles has in fact been operating leaner and would like residents to know how we are "doing more with less."

Between April 30, 2008, and

April 30, 2010, the City slashed \$5 million in expenditures from the General Fund, cutting back spending from \$42.7 million in 2008 to \$37.7 million in 2010. That's an 11.9% reduction. This



reduction was highlighted by a wage freeze that every employee of the City took during fiscal year 2009-2010. The result was more than \$1.2 million in savings for taxpayers. Other measures included suspension of the spring clean-up program, elimination of staff travel and training, deferral of vehicle replacement funding, and deferring or eliminating various capital and maintenance projects.

And the City's cost containment strategies are continuing. Expenditures in the General Fund for FY2011 were just under \$40 million--\$2.7 million lower than they were in 2008, a 6.30% reduction. Additionally, the City has decreased staff by an equivalent of 54 full-time positions, representing a 16% drop. Incidentally, this staffing reduction was achieved through attrition of positions and did not involve laying off any employees.

Projections for the current fiscal year ending April 30, 2012, show estimated expenditures of \$40.2 million, approximately 6% lower than FY2008. This would mark the fourth consecutive fiscal year in which expenditures would be lower than in FY2008. Additionally, this represents a slight 0.5% increase in expenditure levels over FY2011.

Continued on page 2

**Curbside
Yard Waste
April 2
Collection
Resumes**

We're Doing More with Less

Continued from page one

The City has managed its revenue sources in a similarly prudent manner. For calendar year 2012, the City is maintaining its operating property tax levy for the third straight year at approximately \$12 million. This means the City is not asking taxpayers to pay more in property taxes to the City for the third consecutive year. Many property owners actually have seen the City portion of their property tax bills decline.

Our fiscal responsibility was noted by Moody's ratings service which affirmed the City's Aa1 debt rating in September of 2011. Moody's cited "strong financial operations and solid reserve levels," as well as a "demonstrated history of reacting to budgetary challenges."

The City's guiding fiscal principle during these challenging economic times has been to "match our expenditure level to the level of our revenues."

Everyone has been impacted by the current economy. Recognizing and reacting to the situation in a timely manner has been essential to the City's ability to maintain its fiscal health. We have quietly and efficiently gone about the business of reducing expenditures to coincide with the level of revenues expected and continue to operate as responsible stewards of public tax dollars. This process has been so quiet and efficient, you may not even have been aware it was happening!

New City Website Set to Debut

Check It Out Friday, Feb. 10



Coming Friday, Feb. 10, the City of St. Charles will unveil its updated website <http://stcharlesil.gov>. The new site will feature a fresh new look, more multimedia content, and improved search capabilities and site navigation.

Audience-focused navigation blocks will make it easier than ever to find whatever you are looking for. Stay up-to-date with new sections focused on **City Services**, **Public Safety** and **Education**, with information targeted to **Residents**, **Business** and **Visitors**. Further details will be coming as we roll out the new site. Stay tuned!

Remember to Vote

Registration & Early Voting Available at City Hall

Voter Registration

Tuesday, Feb. 21 is the last day to register to vote in the 2012 General Primary Election, which will be held March 20.

Kane County residents can register at City Hall, 2 E. Main St., or at the St. Charles Public Library, 1 S. 6th Ave.

Early Voting

Early voting for the 2012 General Primary Election also is available at City Hall, 2 E. Main St., Monday, Feb. 27 to Thursday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 pm.

Get Election Information

Read the latest blog post by Brian Townsend, City Administrator, at www.insidestcharles.com for helpful information on local district changes and useful links to additional information.



New Events Debut at the St. Patrick's Parade

This Year Enjoy an Irish Festival and Other Fun Activities

The 13th Annual St. Patrick's Parade will step off at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 10 on Main and 6th streets. The theme is "A Family Friendly Town."

The event is newly-organized this year by the Pride of the Fox, Inc., along with the St. Patrick's Parade Committee. In addition to the parade, this year's event will feature an Irish Festival, complete with bag pipers, Irish dancers, food, and hands-on children's activities. There also will be a dog costume contest. The festival, located in the



Riders on the McNally's Traditional Irish Pub Float

Municipal Center parking lot, will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come for the parade and stay downtown for the day!

Parade entries are being accepted now through Feb. 17. Sponsorships also are being sought to help defray costs, allowing not-for-profit organizations to participate at no charge.

Community members can support the parade by pledging \$25 for a Pride of St. Charles Sponsorship. For more information, visit www.prideofthefox.com.

Restaurant Week is Coming Soon

Enjoy the Local Flavors of St. Charles Feb. 19-23

Come out to celebrate St. Charles' 2nd Annual Restaurant Week Feb. 19-23 and receive a 25% discount off your bill when you present a special coupon at more than 30 participating local restaurants. Whether you're visiting an old favorite, or looking to try something new, St. Charles offers one of Chicagoland's best dining scenes. Besides enjoying delicious food and charming atmosphere, Restaurant Week is an opportunity to support local businesses and help the local economy.

There are three easy ways to get your hands on a coupon:

- **Watch your mailbox.** A postcard will be mailed to St. Charles residents in early February that can be presented at any participating restaurant for the discount.
- **Read your local newspaper.** Look for Restaurant Week ads in the *Kane County Chronicle* beginning Feb. 16 and in the Time Out! section of the *Daily Herald* Feb. 17. Simply clip out the ad and bring it into a participating restaurant.

- **Go online.** Visit www.stcharlesil.gov and click on the Restaurant Week link to download your coupon and see a list of participating restaurants and their menus. Download as many coupons as you like.

Please note only one bill per table is eligible for the discount, a minimum purchase of \$20 is required, and the 25% discount excludes tax, tip, and alcohol. This offer is not valid with other promotions the restaurants may be running.

Our local businesses greatly appreciate your patronage and support in their efforts to make St. Charles an eclectic place to shop and dine.



Important Winter Safety Reminders

Even though we're enjoying unseasonably mild weather so far this year, snow and cold weather could be just around the corner. Please keep these important winter safety tips from the St. Charles Police Department in mind.

Don't Leave Cars Running while Unattended

It is against state law to leave a vehicle "unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, and removing the key from the ignition." That means you may not warm engines or go into a store for a 'quick minute.' Not only is it not safe, but car thieves often target unattended, running vehicles.

City Snow Routes and Parking Restrictions

From Nov. 1 to April 30, it is unlawful for any vehicle to be parked on streets designated as snow routes when an accumulation of snow is two inches or more, until the street has been cleared. This allows for proper plowing of the streets.

You also may not park a vehicle on any public street or other public place for a period of longer than twenty-four (24) consecutive hours.

And, parking on a sidewalk is against the law (except between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. when vehicles may be parked in residentially zoned districts on the portion of the sidewalk that connects the driveway to the driveway apron).

Also, please remember to keep fire lanes open at stores and schools! Emergency vehicles must be able to respond quickly during crisis situations.



Larger Recycling Cart Available

Veolia Environmental Services, refuse and recycling provider for the City of St. Charles, is offering residents an opportunity to rent larger, wheeled recycling carts, if they prefer.

For \$3 per month, residents can get a 65-gallon, rolling cart with a cover. The new recycling carts provide some definite advantages, according to John Lamb, environmental services manager for the City of St. Charles. "One wheeled recycle cart holds more than a current recycle bin and is easier to transport to the curb. The lid also will better contain material in the cart, even on blustery days."

The new cart rental program is a voluntary option. Residents do not have to participate and may choose to continue using their current recycling bin.

Veolia will send a flyer explaining the new cart rental program soon. Anyone interested in renting the new recycling carts must make arrangements directly with Veolia. More information will be included in the flyer.

For general questions about the recycling cart program, contact the City's Environmental Services department at 630-377-4405.

Electronic Disposal and Recycling Update

On Jan. 1, a new state law went into effect prohibiting the disposal of electronics in regular trash for burial in landfills. This includes televisions, computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, DVRs, etc. Residents can no longer place refuse stickers on these items and place them at the curb for disposal from Veolia; electronic items placed at the curb will not be picked up.

These products typically contain many valuable metals that can be recycled. There are several options for City residents to recycle their electronics equipment. Kane County conducts electronics recycling the second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Best Buy stores in Geneva and South Elgin will accept electronics, along with Goodwill Retail Stores in St. Charles, Batavia and South Elgin.

Call these locations first for hours and list of acceptable items. Other nearby locations may be found by entering your home location information into the search engine at <http://earth911.com>.



Welcome New Businesses!

WEST GATEWAY

Art of Music

830 W. Main St., Suite A, 773-301-5973

Parent Petroleum Automobile Fluids Wholesaler

3340 W. Main St., 630-584-2505

DOWNTOWN

Alan Hughes Media Design

360 S. 1st St., 630-549-6196

Consultant Services LLC

22 N. 4th St., 630-444-3555

Dailey Method Fitness Center

9 N. 2nd St., 630-788-1844

Eleanor's Unique Boutique

218 State St., 630-549-6287

Li'l Red Schoolhouse Antiques

108 State Ave., 630-393-1040

Luxe Hair Lounge

501 Illinois Ave., Unit A, 630-443-9378

EAST GATEWAY

The Door Coffee Shop, 630-444-0910

Charlestowne Mall

Poblano Pepper Grill

3677 E. Main St., 630-244-9817

Premium Dollar Discount Store

Charlestowne Mall, 630-444-1446

Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc. (RS&H) Architecture

& Engineering

525 Dunham Rd., 630-505-1991

EAST GATEWAY - INDUSTRIAL

Hydro-Flo Technologies Wastewater Equipment

Manufacturing

3955 Commerce Dr., 630-762-0380

St. Charles Industrial Sector Grows in 2011

In spite of an otherwise sluggish regional and national economy, 2011 has been a very prosperous year for industrial sector growth within the City of St. Charles. There are a number of reasons why industry continues to fare well in St. Charles. First, St. Charles enjoys ready access to regional transportation, including two expressways (I-90 and I-88), four state highways (Routes 25, 31, 38 and 64), the Union Pacific Rail Road, and neighboring DuPage Airport. The City also enjoys a local labor pool that includes a high percentage of professional and highly skilled persons. Finally, the City maintains public utility capacities that facilitate economic development, particularly in the industrial arena, including its own electric utility that offers low rates that very few, if any, communities presently can match.

National manufacturing interests also grew in 2011 with the expansion of RR Donnelley and Armour-Eckrich in St. Charles. RR Donnelly recently purchased the 500,000-sq. ft., former Pier 1 Imports building and expects to fully occupy it over the next 18-24 months. Phase 1 occupancy will employ some 175 employees, while creation of several hundred additional jobs is anticipated for the build-out. Food processing giant Armour-Eckrich has begun construction of a 13,000-sq. ft. expansion of its existing St. Charles facilities. To be completed next year, this addition will house eleven state-of-the-art drying chambers for cured meats.

In addition, within the St. Charles east side industrial area alone, the City has issued permits to expand light industrial development totaling more than 125,000 sq. ft. New businesses to St. Charles include Bema, Inc., an Elmhurst-based plastics packaging firm specializing in serving the food and medical equipment industries (60,000 sq. ft.); PDS Transportation Services, a full service transportation company serving all 48 contiguous states (31,000 sq. ft.); and IGM Resins, Inc, a Dutch-based chemical import, distribution and blending company specializing in inks and coatings (12,000 sq. ft.). Existing St. Charles businesses that have undertaken expansions to their facilities include Corrosion Monitoring Services, a unique company that assesses and repairs corroded tubular air heaters (19,000 sq. ft.) and Midwest Powder Coating, which provides powder coating finishes to a national customer base, catering to the demands of the motor sport enthusiast (7,500 sq.ft. addition).

With accessible local transportation, a highly skilled labor pool and city-owned electric utility that can offer power costs among the lowest in the state, it is easy to understand why St. Charles has long been recognized as a focal point for light manufacturing activity.



Arbor Day Celebration 2012 50/50 Parkway Tree Program

4 p.m. April 27

With spring just around the corner, it's time to mark your calendars for the annual St. Charles Arbor Day celebration. Join us on Friday, April 27 at 4:00 p.m. in Lincoln Park on Main Street, between 4th and 5th streets. All are welcome to this annual celebration of trees, featuring live music, a tree raffle, tree care demonstrations and more!



This year, a coloring contest for children has been added to the festivities, along with a photography contest for contestants, from sixth graders through adults. There will be cool prizes for contestants! Check the City website for more details www.stcharlesil.gov/pw/PublicTrees/arborday.html.

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're perfect for home, car or office windows.



Once again the City is offering trees for planting in parkways through its 50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program, in which the City shares the cost of planting trees with homeowners. Residents simply choose the tree they want and submit payment. The City does the rest!

Trees will be planted in late April/May. Each tree delivered is balled and burlaped, averaging 2.5" in diameter. Species may vary upon availability. Call for pricing on larger trees.

Residents who order a tree will receive a letter informing them how to care for their new tree. Each tree is covered by a one-year warranty. If the tree dies or looks unhealthy, please call 630-377-4405.

- Japanese Lilac \$210**
- Autumn Blaze Maple \$125**
- Linden \$160**
- Purple Prince Crabapple \$120**
- State Street Maple \$150**
- Accolade Elm \$135**
- Redspire Pear \$150 – Spring Plant Only**
- Red Oak \$180 – Spring Plant Only**

Orders may be mailed or delivered using the order form below, along with a check or money order payable to the City of St. Charles. Send to the Utility Billing Office, 2 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174. Orders will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on March 30, 2012. Please contact Public Works at 630-377-4405 with questions.



50/50 Parkway Tree Program Order Form

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please indicate your choice of tree from the list above:

Total Order _____

Amount \$ _____

Register Your Phone Number with the Electric Outage Reporting System

Available for Residents Living within St. Charles City Limits Only

Last July, the City of St. Charles Electric Utility launched a new automated telephone notification system to streamline the reporting process when an electric outage occurs. The new system can:

- Handle heavy call volumes
- Relay outage information faster to reduce crew response times
- Use caller I.D. to identify an outage location
- Offer an optional call back feature to confirm power has been restored

Based on caller I.D. technology, the new system links customers' phone numbers to their accounts so the location of the outage can be identified automatically when they call to report an issue. It also allows customers to receive updates regarding the outage and a return call to confirm power restoration.

Residents can register up to three phone numbers by calling Utility Billing at 630-377-4426 or registering online at www.stcharlesil.gov/ubills/ubo.aspx.



**Report
Electric Outages
866-444-0016**

The new system and new phone number to report outages -- 866-444-0016 -- is for reporting electric outages within the city limits of St. Charles only.

Please Note

This service is only available to residents who live within the city limits of St. Charles. If you currently receive electric service from ComEd, please call the toll-free number, 1-800-334-7661, to report an outage.

The City's Public Works Emergency Phone Line, 630-443-3681, will continue to be used for reporting water, sewer, street and other public works related emergencies.

Citizen Police Academy Starts Soon

March 6 - April 26

The St. Charles Police Department is once again hosting the annual Citizen Police Academy, an interactive experience which offers participants the chance to see how the St. Charles Police Department operates. Some topics covered include:

- Criminal and narcotics investigations
- Arrest and courts procedures
- Traffic stops
- K-9 unit
- Tactical Response Team
- Crime scene processing
- Domestic violence
- Firearms Training Simulator (F.A.T.S.)

Class meets Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m., from March 6 to April 26. Most classes are held in the St. Charles Police Department training room, 211 N.



Riverside Avenue. A graduation is usually held the Tuesday following the last class. Applications can be picked up at the front lobby of the Police Department (630-377-4435) or downloaded at www.stcharlesil.gov/pd/programs. Drop off or mail applications to:

St. Charles Police Department
c/o Officer Bill Tynan
211 N. Riverside Avenue
St. Charles, IL 60174

All applications are subject to approval. The class is free of charge and open to St. Charles residents, property and business owners and their employees, and approved St. Charles high school juniors and seniors. For more details, contact Officer Bill Tynan at 630-443-3730 or send an email to btynan@stcharlesil.gov.

City of St. Charles Directory

Building & Code Enforcement	377-4406
City Administrator	377-4422
Community Development	377-4443
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



**City Offices are Open
Presidents' Day
Monday, Feb. 20.
However there will be no
public meetings.**

2012 IMUA Scholarship Program Applications Available

Four, \$500 Scholarships to be Awarded

The City of St. Charles, in partnership with the Illinois Municipal Utilities Association (IMUA), is offering four (4) \$500 scholarships to eligible high school students. To be eligible, applicants must be high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are residential customers of City of St. Charles utilities. Eligible students must submit an application and essay of 500 words or less addressing their choice of one of three (3) utility-related questions.

Applications and questions were sent to area high schools, can be downloaded at <http://www.cwlp.com/scholarship.htm> and also are available at the front desk of City Hall, 2 E. Main Street. Applications are due March 9.

The scholarship program seeks to promote and recognize scholastic achievement, as well as create greater awareness among young adults of the many issues facing consumers and public power municipalities.

“Today’s energy providers, including municipally-owned and operated utilities, face a myriad of economic, environmental and other challenges which warrant creative and innovative solutions,” said Glynn Amburgey, manager of Electric and Communication for the City of St. Charles. “Creating awareness of these issues among tomorrow’s leaders can be the first step in helping determine effective, long-term solutions, both now and into the future.”

This will be the 14th year IMUA has offered the program. A committee of municipal utility officials will select four (4) finalists, each of whom will receive a certificate and \$500 scholarship award. Winners will be announced in April. For more information, contact IMUA at 217-789-4632.

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