



NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES

#1 CITY FOR FAMILIES - FamilyCircle 2011

St. Charles is Number ONE!

Named Best Town For Families by Family Circle Magazine

Meetings

August

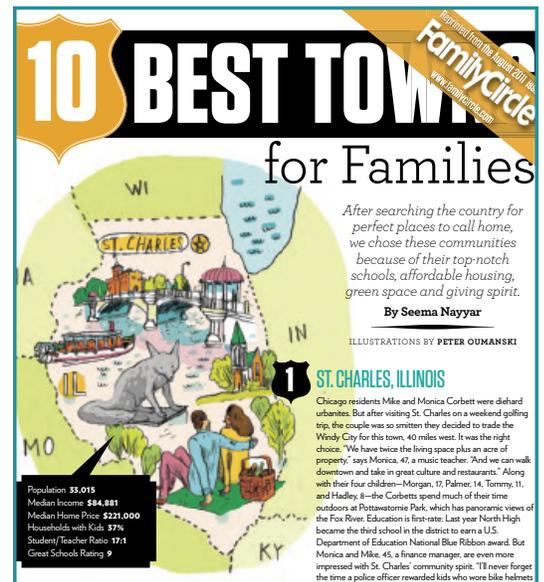
- Plan Commission 7 p.m. 2
- Planning & Development 7 p.m. 8
- City Council 7 p.m. 15
- Government Operations 7:05 p.m. 15
- Plan Commission 7 p.m. 16
- Government Services 7 p.m. 22

Family Circle named St. Charles #1 in its Annual Survey of Best Towns and Cities for families. The survey looked at communities from across the country and is featured in the magazine's August 2011 issue.

The communities in the magazine's annual roundup of perfect places to call home combine affordable housing, good neighbors, green spaces, strong public school systems and giving spirits. Those qualities describe St. Charles perfectly.

"We are so happy to be chosen number one in Family Circle's 10 Best Towns and Cities for families across the nation. Now everyone knows what we have known all along—that St. Charles is a wonderful place to live, work and play. We pride ourselves on maintaining a safe, affordable community and a high quality of life," said Mayor Donald P. DeWitte.

St. Charles has friendly neighborhoods, innovative schools and beautiful parks. With a variety of cultural amenities, unique architecture and thriving businesses, there is so much to offer residents and visitors.



Read the article at www.stcharlesil.gov

Kane County Board Recognizes St. Charles for its #1 Status

Proclamation Presented to City Officials at County Board Meeting



A proclamation recognizing St. Charles being named Number One city for families was presented to City officials by Kane County Board member Phil Lewis on July 12, at the Board's regular monthly meeting.

Follow us on

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

City Again Offering 50/50 Parkway Tree Program

Choose from an Assortment of Trees

Parkway trees will be available once again through the City's 50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program. When you purchase a tree, the City's tree consultant will plant your tree, mulch around it and provide a "gator bag" for watering.

Trees will be planted in late October or early November. Each tree is delivered balled and burlaped and is 2.5" in diameter on average. Species offered vary upon availability and come with instructions on how to care for the tree. Each tree is covered by a one-year warranty.

Japanese Lilac \$155

Mature height: 20-30 feet, mature width: 15-20 feet. Grows with pronounced vigor, blooms mid-summer producing white flowers.

Autumn Blaze Maple \$155 - Height: 65 feet. Has green foliage with a red cast in summer, yellow with a red margin in fall.

Greenspire Linden \$155 - Height: 40 feet, spacing: 35 feet. Has light green leaves with showy yellow fall color.

Prairiefire Crabapple \$115 - Mature height: 20 feet. Leaves are a deep red-purple when young and mature to dark green; favorite of songbirds.

State Street Maple \$155 - Mature height: 60 feet, mature 50 foot spread at base. Excellent branching character, clean foliage and good yellow fall color; superior heat/drought tolerance.

Triumph Elm \$155 - Mature height: 50-60 feet, mature width: 40-50 feet. This is an excellent shade tree; large, lustrous, dark green foliage in summer and yellow fall color. Wonderful park or street tree.

Orders may be mailed or delivered using the order form below, along with a check or money order made payable to the [City of St. Charles](#). Send payment to:

Utility Billing Office
2 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174

Orders will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 30, 2011. Please contact Ben Deutsch at 630.377.4405 or bdeutsch@stcharlesil.gov 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 \$ _____



Brush Pick Up Schedule

| East | West |
|----------|----------|
| Aug. 15 | Aug. 22 |
| Sept. 19 | Sept. 26 |
| Oct. 17 | Oct. 24 |
| Nov. 21 | Nov. 28 |

Twigs and leaves also can be placed in paper yard waste bags for pick-up with regular refuse collection. Either bags with the City logo or generic bags can be used. However, generic bags require one refuse sticker to be placed on each bag.

Free mulch is offered when available at the City's facility on Rte. 38/Lincoln Hwy., west of Peck Road, Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please bring a shovel and containers. The City does not load or deliver mulch.



Register Your Phone Number with New Electric Outage Reporting System

System for Residents Living within St. Charles City Limits Only

Last month the City of St. Charles Electric Utility launched a new automated telephone notification system to streamline the reporting process when an electric outage occurs. It 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

The system had its first test during the severe storms that raged through the area in July and it proved to be effective, efficient and reliable.

There also is a new phone number to report outages, 866-444-0016. This number is for reporting electric outages within the city limits of St. Charles only.

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.



Reminder: Water Conservation is in Effect

Remains in Force May 1 – August 31

The City's Outdoor Water Conservation Ordinance is in effect May 1 through August 31, limiting the days and times for automatic and manual sprinkling.

Sprinkling regulations

- Even-numbered addresses may sprinkle on even numbered days of the month.
- Odd-numbered addresses may sprinkle on odd numbered days of the month.
- In addition, sprinkling is allowed only from 12 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

There is a \$50.00 fine for violating this ordinance. If you have any questions contact the Public Works Office at 630-377-4405 or visit the City website www.stcharlesil.gov



Please Note

This service is only applicable for residents who live within the city limits of St. Charles. If you currently receive electric service from ComEd, please call their 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.

Changes to the RTA Seniors Ride Free Program

All new applications for the Seniors Ride Free program are being means-tested with the Department on Aging Circuit Breaker program. Those who qualify will receive a new Seniors Circuit Ride Free permit; all others will receive a Reduced Fare permit. Seniors who already have Seniors Ride Free permits do not need to re-apply. The RTA automatically will mail the appropriate permits in August. For more information, contact RTA Customer Service at 312-913-3110 or visit www.RTAchicago.com.

Beware of Extreme Heat

Important Tips for Keeping Your Cool in the Hot Weather

Summer has arrived. For many of us, this means heading to the beach, ballgame, picnic or some other outdoor activity. Unfortunately, the heat also can be dangerous if you are not careful. It's important to be aware of how excessive heat can affect you so you can prepare for it and avoid heat-related injury.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), from 1979 to 2003, excessive heat exposure caused 8,015 deaths in the United States. That's more deaths than from hurricanes, lightning, tornadoes, flood and earthquakes combined for that same time period.

Normally, sweating is the body's cooling mechanism. However, sometimes this isn't always enough. When body temperature rises very quickly, there is a very real risk of damage to the internal organs and the brain. High humidity can inhibit normal cooling because it prevents sweat from evaporating as quickly as it normally would, limiting the body's ability to release heat. Underlying health conditions such as obesity, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation and prescription drug or alcohol use also can increase the risks of heat-related illness significantly.



While young children and healthy people can succumb to excessive heat if they don't take the necessary precautions, the elderly, very young and those with chronic diseases are at highest risk. Air conditioning is the best all-around protective measure to guard against the heat. If your home isn't air conditioned, take advantage of air-conditioned public places and local cooling centers. You also should minimize activities, drinking plenty of fluids (nonalcoholic), replace salt and minerals with sports drinks, wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing and use sunscreen. Sunburn impacts your body's ability to cool itself and results in a loss of body fluids.

Fun in the sun is something that we all look forward to. Take simple precautions to make these summer days both fun and safe.



Cooling Centers in St. Charles

**St. Charles Public Library, 1 South 6th Avenue
Charlestowne Mall, E. Main Street & Kirk Road**

Please visit these facilities or other air-conditioned areas during normal operating hours to cool down and get out of the heat.

Heat Exhaustion

Heat exhaustion is the body's response to excessive loss of water and salt, usually from heavy sweating. Symptoms:

- Muscle cramps
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Nausea and/or vomiting

What To Do

Get out of the heat and into an air-conditioned area. Drink, cool nonalcoholic liquids. A cool shower/bath also can help. Wear loose, lightweight clothing.

Heat Stroke

Heat stroke is much more serious and is a true emergency. It occurs when the sweating mechanism fails and the body can no longer regulate its temperature. Internal temperature can rise to 106° degrees or more, possibly resulting in permanent injury or death. Symptoms:

- Red, hot, and dry skin (no sweat)
- Rapid, strong pulse
- Throbbing headache
- Dizziness, nausea, confusion
- Unconsciousness

What To Do

Quickly move the person to a cool environment and call 911. Don't give anyone with heat stroke fluids to drink. Instead cool them down whatever means possible until help arrives—spray with the garden hose, place in a cool bath or wrap with a cool, wet sheet.

Hang Up When Driving

Know the Traffic Laws Regarding Cell Phone Usage

On January 1, 2010, the State of Illinois passed new traffic laws regarding cell phone usage while driving a motor vehicle. The laws received a lot of media attention, yet a year-and-a-half later, St. Charles Police Officers still witness and stop many drivers violating these laws. Please take a minute to review and understand these laws aimed at making our roadways safer against distracted driving.



- In an effort to minimize distractions, wireless/cell phone use while driving is prohibited for drivers under age 19, except in the case of an emergency when contacting law enforcement, a healthcare provider or emergency services. Statistics show less experienced drivers are at a greater risk of being involved in a crash under normal circumstances, when combined with a distraction, the likelihood nearly doubles.
- It is illegal to be on a handheld cellular phone while

driving in a construction zone at any time. Workers do not need to be visible or present. Since 2005, there have been 336 fatalities and 40,000 injuries to construction workers in the United States.

- It is against the law to be on a handheld cellular phone while in a school zone when students are present.
- It is illegal to use an electronic device (or smart phone) while a vehicle is in drive. This includes texting, checking emails, or viewing web pages.

The fines for violating any of these laws is \$120.00 plus court costs. For questions regarding these or other traffic laws, contact Traffic Safety Officer Rich Clark at 630-443-3721, or Commander Erik Mahan at 630-443-3841.

First Comprehensive Plan Community Workshop is Scheduled



Wednesday, August 31, 2011
7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Please join us for the first interactive workshop of the Comprehensive Plan re-writing process. Topics to be covered:

- An introduction to the project, the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan, the process to be undertaken, and the schedule.
- An opportunity to share your views and concerns.

The Comprehensive Plan is the City's official Land Use and Development Policy Guide. The Plan is intended to be referenced when annexing property, changing zoning, reviewing development and redevelopment projects, and identifying public infrastructure improvements. The Comprehensive Plan is advisory and does not regulate or control use of private property. The City's current Comprehensive Plan was drafted in 1990 and was significantly updated last in 1996.

You are encouraged to attend and participate. Future workshops will focus on specific areas of the City (eastside, westside, downtown). There also will be as a business-specific workshop. For more information, please contact Russell Colby in the Community Development Department at rcolby@stcharlesil.gov or 630-377-4443.



Visit the City's homepage
www.stcharlesil.gov and click
on the "Comprehensive
Plan Project Website" icon
for:

- **News and updates**
- **Documents posted throughout the process**
- **To provide feedback**
- **Using the interactive Planning Mapper tool to offer input**

Blood Drive at City Hall Aug. 31

Heartland Blood Center Welcomes Donors from 2 to 6 p.m.

The Heartland Blood Center Mobile Coach will be in the parking lot at City Hall (corner of Riverside Ave. and Main Street) on Wednesday, August 31, from 2 to 6 p.m., for a blood drive. Visit www.heartlandbc.org for details or to schedule an appointment. Both City employees and residents also may call our Human Resources office at 630-377-4446 to make an appointment. Walk-ins always are welcome, but preference will be given to scheduled appointments.

Blood donors must have a photo ID; be at least 17 years old (16 yrs. old with written permission); weigh at least 110 pounds; be symptom free of cold, flu, and allergies; and generally be in good health. All donors will receive a certificate for a free quart of Oberweis ice cream.

There is always a need for blood donors. Heartland serves 38 hospitals in 12 counties, including Delnor Hospital and Provena Mercy Medical Center. Hospitals generally need 600 units of blood each day and count on a steady supply of donors. Please consider becoming a donor.



Recycle Your Old Fridge or Freezer

Schedule a Free Pickup and Receive \$35



Got an old refrigerator you have been meaning to get rid of? Well now's the time. The City of St. Charles is participating in the Recycle My Fridge Program, which offers residents free pickup and recycling of their old refrigerators and freezers. Simply call 877-341-2313 (toll free) or visit www.RecycleMyFridge.org to learn more and to schedule a free pickup of your old, 10-to-30-cubic foot secondary refrigerator or freezer. The appliances must be in working condition, owned by the resident, and picked up from the residential address listed on the billing account. As a thank you, you will receive a \$35 prepaid rebate card within four to six weeks.

The program is conducted by the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency, in conjunction with the Appliance Recycling Centers of America (ARCA), Inc. There is a limit of two appliances per household per year. For more information contact Glynn Amburgey in the St. Charles Electric Utility at 630-377-4407.



St. Charles Quick Facts

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Population | |
| 2016 Projection* | 34,083 |
| 2010 Census | 32,974 |
| Households | |
| 2016 Projection* | 12,526 |
| 2010 Census | 12,424 |
| Average Household Size* | 2.66 |

*Numbers are based on 2011 estimates provided by Nielsen Claritas

**The Den is produced by
The City of St. Charles
2 E. Main Street St., Charles, IL 60174
630-377-4400**