



THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

February 2016
www.stcharlesil.gov

Upcoming Meetings

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

- Historic Preservation Commission**
2.3.16.....7:00 p.m.
- Planning & Development**
2.8.16.....7:00 p.m.
- Liquor Control Commission**
2.16.16.....4:30 p.m.
- Mental Health Board Meeting**
2.16.16.....5:30 p.m.
- Plan Commission**
2.16.16.....7:00 p.m.
- City Council**
2.16.16.....7:00 p.m.
- Government Operations**
2.16.16.....7:05 p.m.
- Historic Preservation Commission**
2.17.16.....7:00 p.m.
- Housing Commission**
2.18.16.....7:00 p.m.
- Government Services**
2.22.16.....7:00 p.m.
- Mental Health Board Annual Meeting**
2.25.16.....5:30 p.m.

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CITY OF ST. CHARLES

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2015 Strategic Plan Finalized

Next Step: Developing Action Items

Heritage. Community. Service. Opportunity.

If you had to sum up who we are as a City, where we are headed and where we've been, these four words would be it. They also forge the new mission statement for the City of St. Charles as outlined in the 2015 update to its Strategic Plan. Review the report summary [here](#).

For the next five years, all that we do as a City organization will be viewed through the lens of our city's heritage, community, service and opportunities. Our Guiding Principles remain the same: to operate with respect, engagement, a sense of community, accountability and excellence.

In October 2014, the City began the process of updating its 2008-2014 Strategic Plan which identifies a vision for the City's future. Working with

Sikich LLP, input was gathered from nearly 200 community stakeholders, City staff and elected officials. This feedback helped shape the long- and short-term goals and priorities for the City. Information was collected from:

- 1) Data from the City's 2013 National Citizen's Survey
- 2) 18 interviews with key community stakeholders and City leaders
- 3) 8 focus groups with individuals from the community, business, schools and City
- 4) 2 community workshops



Heritage. Community. Service. Opportunity.

"We received valuable feedback and appreciate the effort of all who participated in the strategic planning process," said City Administrator Mark Koenen. "The Strategic Plan serves as our North Star, helping us shape our community's future and navigate to our future successes."

Next step: Develop an action plan to accomplish goals identified in the plan.

Enjoy Local Flavors of St. Charles

Restaurant Week is February 22-26

St. Charles Restaurant Week returns! From February 22 to 26, you can visit more than 30 participating restaurants and receive a 20% discount off your total bill when you present a special coupon.

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Thank You from the Mayor



Mayor Raymond P. Rogina

The City Council adopted the City's new Strategic Plan Feb. 1, 2016. Included are numerous short and long term goals—some routine, some complex. The final document was a product of much interaction among elected officials, staff and the community. Input was received by 200 stakeholders who generously took the time to be part of focus groups designed to capture a vision of their city's future.

On behalf of our elected officials and staff, I want to compliment all of these individuals for their time, effort, ideas, and desire to share. I sincerely thank them for making this process a holistic approach in defining what our community is and what it can be.

How Does the City Keep its Portion of Property Taxes at Just 10%?

We're pretty proud of the fact that responsible financial stewardship has kept the City's operating tax levy at 10% of the entire property tax bill since 2009. On a \$300,000 home, that means \$928 pays for a full year of City services, including Police and Fire emergency services, street maintenance and 24-hr snowplowing, planning, engineering, economic development, and more.

Lessening the Tax Levy

One way the City holds the line on its property tax levy is through a strategy called Tax Abatement, where a portion of the tax levy is lessened---or abated. Historically, the City has chosen to abate tax levies for repaying its General Obligation Bonds issued to pay for large capital projects.

What's Bought in St. Charles Stays in St. Charles

Simply put, when bonds are issued to pay for projects, such as the IL Rt. 64 improvements or the East Side Parking Deck, the City does not use property taxes to pay those back. Instead, the City pays for those projects from general revenue sources—such as sales tax, liquor tax, hotel/motel tax.

So every time you shop in St. Charles and use local services, or visitors come here for our festivals, to dine or stay in a hotel, those taxes literally pour right back into our community. In 2015, the City's tax abatement efforts reduced the entire levy by 40%—that's an \$8 million total property tax savings!

Restaurant Week is February 22-26 continued from page 1



Whether you're visiting an old favorite or looking to try something new, St. Charles offers one of Chicagoland's best dining scenes. Restaurant Week also is a great opportunity to support your local businesses. There are five easy ways to get your hands on a coupon:

1. Watch your mailbox for the Restaurant Week postcard. Present it at any participating restaurant for the discount.
2. Look for Restaurant Week ads in the *Kane County Chronicle*, *Kane County Magazine*, *Tri-Cities Republican* and *Daily Herald* Feb. 18-23. Simply clip out the ad and bring it to a participating restaurant.
3. Click on online and social media ads to get your coupon.
4. Go to our website at www.stcharlesil.gov/restaurant-week to see a list of participating restaurants and their menus. There you can download and print copies of the coupon.
5. Download the coupon to your mobile device.

"From sushi to pub fare, pizza to fine dining, St. Charles has it all," said Economic Development Manager Matt O'Rourke. "Restaurant Week is a great time to explore St. Charles dining scene at value prices."

For more information, contact Karla McCleary in Economic Development at 630.443.4093 or econdev@stcharlesil.gov. Please note only one bill per table is eligible for the discount, a minimum purchase of \$20 is required, and the 20% discount excludes tax, tip, and alcohol. This offer is not valid with other promotions the restaurants may be running and is for dine-in only.

BUSINESS REPORT

The City Welcomes these Business!

EAST GATE WAY

Evolve Chiropractic

451 Dunham Rd., Ste. G, 847-345-7676

Fred Astaire Dance Studio

2400 E Main St., Ste. 107B, 414-403-4938

President's Lounge Company

3800 E Main St., Ste. E104, 630-301-9189
Office Meeting Space

Shopping for Knowledge

3800 E Main, Ste. C115, 630-220-5994
Child & Adult Tutoring

U.S. Sauce, LLC

1315 E Main St., 630-762-8880
Hot Sauce Manufacturer

EAST GATE WAY INDUSTRIAL

Hairy Ant, Inc.

601 Sidwell Ct., Unit F, 630-258-4590
Screen Printing

One Source Roofing & Maintenance

601 Sidwell Ct., Unit G, 630-513-3001

WEST GATE WAY

Annie Nail Salon

546 S. Randall Rd., 630-940-2488

Dreams Dance

2460 W. Main St., Ste. 110-111,
630-443-2181

Evergreen Pub & Grille

1400 W. Main St., 331-901-5142

Illinois Gastroenterology

2320 Dean St., 630-208-7388

Montessori Stepping Stone

1700 Lincoln Hwy., Ste. I, 630-492-0407

NAPA – Genuine Automotive Parts

2025 Lincoln Hwy., 630-513-8900

Self Esteem 4Life Foundation

2325 Dean St., Ste. 600, 630-234-9506

Vanishing Ink

2020 Dean St. L2B, 630 549-7440
Tattoo removal

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT

Blackberry Baking Company

320 W. Main St., 630-330-0945

Fox Build

15 S. 2nd St., Upper Floor, 630-935-4363
Software Creation

Golden Valley Jewelers

213 W. Main St., 224-465-9873

Heel or Hide Leather Shoe Repair

218 State St., 630-401-2649

McNally's Pub

109 W. Main St., 630-513-6300

Skin and Soul Spa

4 N. 3rd St., Upper Floor, 773-706-0356

First Street Building #1 Takes Shape

Did you notice the steel decking being installed for Building #1 of the 1st Street project? Things are shaping up nicely. Outside electric work along the First Street right-of-way currently is out-to-bid and we continue to fine-tune the streetscape plans. Parking Deck Update: The goal is to have the parking deck open sometime this summer.



Building #1 will include retail/commercial on the ground floor and the corporate headquarters of ALE Solutions on all three upper floors. The basement level has private parking for the building's tenants. The City is building a public parking deck just east of Building #1. More at www.1ststreetstc.org. Or, contact the Community & Economic Development Department at 630.377.4443.

Coming Soon: Citizens Police Academy

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be part of the law enforcement profession? The St. Charles Police Department is hosting its annual Citizens Police Academy March 22–May 19, from 7–9 p.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the department's training room.

The Citizens Police Academy gives participants a better understanding of how the St. Charles Police Department operates and what daily life is like for our officers. These free classes cover criminal and narcotics investigations, arrest and search procedures, courts, traffic stops, the K-9 unit, Taser, SWAT team, crime scene processing, and more.

The class is open to St. Charles residents, property and business owners and their employees, and approved St. Charles high school juniors and seniors.

Applications are due March 14, are subject to approval, and include a background check. Pick up an application at the Police Department or [download](#) one from the City website. Applications can be dropped off, mailed or emailed to Crime Prevention Officer Bill Tynan, 211 N. Riverside Ave., btynan@stcharlesil.gov. For more information, contact Officer Tynan at 630.443.3847.



Look Out for Dangerous Ice

The St. Charles Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the dangers of walking on ice-covered bodies of water.

Ice thickness and stability are never guaranteed. In fact, there is simply no such thing as “safe ice.”

Many unseen conditions and dynamics can impact the ice stability such as:

- The temperature of the current day and the preceding days as well
- The depth of snow cover
- The depth of water under the ice
- The size of the body of water

- Sustained fluctuations in temperature
- Extent of ice coverage

The overall stability of ice can be deceptive and should not be trusted. Danger/warning signs of unstable ice include:

- Flowing water near or at the edges
- Water flows in or out
- Cracks, breaks or holes
- Ice that may have thawed and refrozen

- Abnormal surfaces that you have not seen before—e.g., pressure ridges caused by currents or winds.

If your pet falls through the ice, DO NOT attempt to rescue the animal yourself. Call 911. Firefighters have special protective equipment for cold water rescue and are ready to assist as necessary.

Know Where Your Local Warming Centers Are

While it's always best to stay inside to avoid dangerously cold weather, sometimes that's not possible. It's important to prepare for the cold before you venture out. Visit these facilities during normal operating hours if you need to get out of the cold and warm up:

St. Charles Public Library, 1 South 6th Avenue

Charlestowne Mall, 3800 East Main Street

Municipal Building, 2 E. Main St. (during weekly office hours)

St. Charles Park District Pottawatomie Community Center,
8 North Avenue

Lazarus House, 214 Walnut St., offers shelter overnight, based on availability

You can find more information and tips on being ready for winter weather and extreme cold temperatures at www.ready.gov/winter-weather

PUBLIC WORKS NOTES



St. Charles 2016 Arbor Day Celebration

Spring is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for the annual St. Charles Arbor Day event April 29, in Lincoln Park on Main St. All ages are welcome to this annual celebration of trees. Come and enjoy live music, a skit by D303 students, a tree raffle, tree care demonstrations, delicious cookies and more! The fun begins at 4 p.m.

The St. Charles Tree Commission is currently organizing this year's festivities. Check the March issue of *The Den*, the Arbor Day page of City's website mid-February or contact Public Works at 630.377.4405 or pw@stcharlesil.gov to see how you can participate.

Winter Parking Reminder

Please help our plow crews by not parking on the street when it snows to allow them to properly clear the roads. Remember you will be ticketed if you park on a street within the marked Snow Route after a 2" snowfall or on any street after 3". If you have a snow plow concern, please contact the Public Works Department at 630.377.4405 or pw@stcharlesil.gov.

Winter Check-Ups for Trees

Winter is a good time for a health check-up for your trees while they are dormant and without leaves. Please consider taking some time to review your private trees and the parkway trees in front of your home for signs of stress, which can be seen in many different ways:

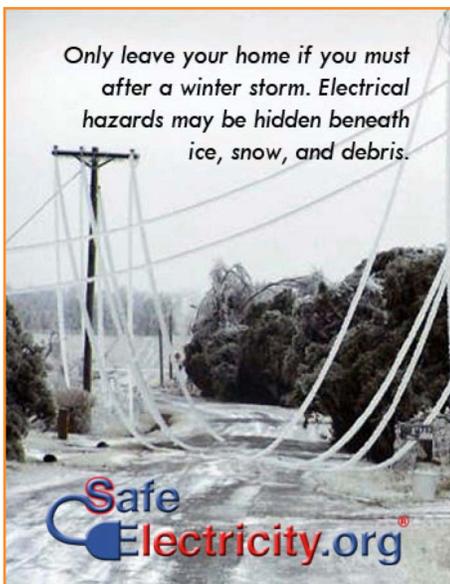
Splits and cracks in the bark or wood of the tree can weaken the tree and allow moisture to enter inside the tree which can cause rotting.

Sprouts which are clusters of bushy small branches growing from the base of the tree or from splits or cracks in the bark can be a sign of stress.

Bark should be examined for bumps or other growths and any discoloration. A dark stain on the bark may be sap flowing out of the tree, or bark that appears white or yellow may indicate fungus is present.

Joints of the tree where branches meet the trunk are often the location of cracks. Check branches to ensure they are strong and secure to the tree.

If you have any concerns about your parkway trees, please contact the City of St. Charles, Public Works Department at telephone number 630.377.4405 or via email at pw@stcharlesil.gov. You may also contact a certified professional arborist for questions regarding your private trees.



Red Gate Water Tower Construction Complete

The construction phase of the new Red Gate Water Tower is complete. Once the site is cleaned up, no further activity is anticipated until the spring, when the painting and electrical crews will go to work. The project is on schedule to be complete this summer and fully operational by fall.

PUBLIC WORKS NOTES

Electronics Recycling to Close

The City is ending its Electronics Recycling Program. The program began in 2012 in response to the state ban on electronics in landfills.

The recycling vendor that works with Kane County to conduct the program changed program parameters, making it more difficult and costly for individual municipalities to continue to participate.

Batavia and Geneva recently closed their programs, leaving St. Charles and West Dundee the only municipalities in the county providing the service.

Since then, we have been inundated with materials. In addition, items not included in the program, such as furniture have been left at the drop off site at the Public Works Facility.

You can still take your electronics to the Kane County Electronics and Book Recycling events. The County's monthly collection is held from 8 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday of each month, April through November, at the County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, 540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles. More information is on the [Kane County recycling webpage](#).

Curbside yard waste collection and brush pick-up will resume in April 2016.

50/50 "Share the Cost" Parkway Tree Program

Now is the perfect time to think Spring and take advantage of the City's 50/50 "Share the Cost" Parkway Tree Planting Program. Residents can request a new parkway tree and the City will pay half the cost of the tree and plant it for you.

Please note: Parkway trees must be reviewed and approved for planting before a tree order will be placed. To request a review of your parkway, simply fill out a Pre-Order Approval Form. You can fill out the [form online](#) or [download a printed form](#) and send to the address listed by March 1, 2016.

Please do not send payment now. Once approved, you will receive a confirmation letter, order form and details on how to order your tree.

Available tree species for spring of 2016 and your cost:

Prairie Fire Crabapple....	\$150	Good under power lines
Red Jewel Crabapple	\$150	Good under power lines
Japanese Tree Lilac	\$155	Good under power lines
Accolade Elm.....	\$150	
Hackberry.....	\$150	
Redmond Linden.....	\$150	
Skyline Honey Locust....	\$150	
London Planetree	\$165	
Chanticleer Pear.....	\$150	Spring Only
Swamp White Oak	\$170	Spring Only

Larger size trees are available at an additional cost of \$100 per ½-inch diameter upgrade. More information on tree species is available on the [50/50 Parkway Tree webpage](#). If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Department at pw@stcharlesil.gov or **630.377.4405**.

You Can Rely on the Quality of St. Charles Water

The City of St. Charles is committed to providing a continuous supply of safe, reliable and economical water to its customers. Every year the Water Division distributes a report that summarizes the quality of the City's drinking water.

Our water is tested in accordance with strict EPA regulations, so you can be assured your drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds all water quality standards as listed in the Safe Drinking Act. You can read the [2015 Water Quality Report](#) on the City website. You can also get a copy of the report at the Municipal Building or the Public Works facility.

For more information, contact the EPA at **800.426.4791** or the St. Charles Public Works Department at **630.377.4405** or pw@stcharlesil.gov.

Special Recognition



Deputy Chief of Police David Kintz & Commander Jerry Gatlin with their awards.

Deputy Police Chief Kintz & Commander Gatlin Recognized by Kane County Chiefs of Police

Kane County Chiefs of Police Association recently recognized St. Charles Deputy Chief of Police David Kintz for serving as the organization's President and Commander of Police Investigations Division Jerry Gatlin for completely overhauling the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force. Their awards were presented at the organization's January meeting.

The association is comprised of command officers from law enforcement agencies throughout Kane County. The group shares the latest information about legal and technology issues, as well as management best practices.

The association also funds several task forces in the county, including the Major Crimes Task Force, Kane County Accident Reconstruction Team, and the Fire and Arson Task Force. In addition, it awards college scholarships to children of officers in Kane County.



Michael Drake, Senior Systems Analyst; Chris Wacker, CEO of Laserfiche; Jackie Uhler, City Records Division Manager; and Larry Gunderson, Director of Information Systems at the award ceremony.

Our IS Department Received the 2105 Laserfiche Run Smarter Award

Hats off to our Information Systems Department for winning the 2015 Laserfiche Run Smarter Award for Best Integration of the Laserfiche Enterprise Content Management System.

The new system streamlines accounts payable procedures, reducing invoice processing time by 80 percent and eliminating paper from the process.



American Public Works Association Honors One of Our Own

Congratulations to Kristi Dobbs, Administrative Coordinator in the Public Works Department, for receiving the Award of Merit from the American Public Works Association Fox Valley Branch. Kristi was nominated by Public Works Director Peter Suhr. "Kristi tackles her responsibilities with a great attitude and keeps our department running efficiently. Her coordination of local APWA Education Committee events benefitted not only the City, but members of the Association's local chapter as well."

2016 St. Patrick's Parade



March in the St. Patrick's Day Parade!

The Downtown St. Charles Partnership (DSCP) is now accepting entries for the 2016 St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Parade will be held on Saturday, March 12th at 2 p.m. down Main Street in downtown St. Charles. You can find entry forms on the DSCP's website www.downtownstcharles.org or on Facebook. Deadline for entry applications is February 12th, 2016. This St. Patrick's Day, discover your Lucky Side in Downtown St. Charles.

Please remember to check your license plate stickers to be sure they haven't expired. The Illinois Secretary of State is no longer mailing out reminders. Stickers can be renewed online, over the phone, or in-person at a Secretary of State facility or currency exchange. More at www.ilsos.gov/greenmail.

IDOT Launches Two Rt. 31 Construction Projects St. Charles Area Traffic Could Be Impacted

Please be aware of two road construction projects on IL Rt. 31 getting underway by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The projects will impact travel in and around St. Charles as traffic on IL Rt. 31 could be reduced to one lane at times throughout the length of the projects. Please expect delays and allow extra travel time.

IL Route 31 – South of Crane Road to Ferson Creek Road

IDOT is replacing the culvert under the roadway at Ferson Creek, and widening and resurfacing the road. Utility relocation work has started. The project is expected to be completed fall 2016.

IL Route 31 & Silver Glen Road

IDOT is installing a traffic signal at IL Route 31 & Silver Glen Road, and widening and resurfacing IL Route 31 south of Silver Glen Road, extending north approximately .3 miles through St. Charles Township. Also, widening and resurfacing Silver Glen Road west of IL Route 31 will be completed. Utility relocation work has started. The project is expected to be completed summer 2016.

For more information, contact Chris Kustes at IDOT at christopher.kustes@illinois.gov or 224.238.7720.

Lazarus House is Looking for Volunteers

Have you wanted to get involved with Lazarus House but wasn't sure how to go about it? Join them at an upcoming orientation! More at www.lazarushouseonline.com/volunteer.php

Or email Donna Bauer at volunteer@lazarushouseonline.com.



New County Health Portal Puts Info at Your Fingertips

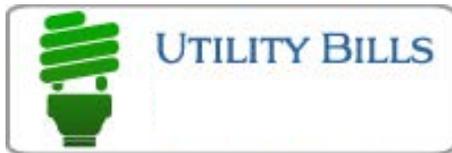
The Kane County Health Department has launched a new website [Kane Health Counts](http://www.kanehealthcounts.com). It has a wealth of information about Kane County, including health data, demographics, reports and more. Visit the site and you can learn information such as the mean travel time to work for Kane County residents is 29.3 minutes. You also can see how Kane stacks up in the areas of health, transportation, economics, housing and more.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Need Utility Bills for Filing Your Taxes?

Tax time is approaching. Are you looking for a copy of your utility bills from last year? If you're registered online, you can access your utility bills when you sign into your account. We also can provide a history of the past year or copies of bills. Contact us at 630.377.4426.



Winter storms often cause power outages. Prevent waste by keeping rechargeable batteries rather than disposable ones stored throughout your house with your flashlights.

Ride in Kane is a Handy Transportation Option

Ride in Kane provides door-to-door paratransit services to more than 10,000 senior, disabled, and low-income riders throughout Kane County each month. The fare is \$4/trip. Registered riders may call 1.866.727.6842 to schedule a ride. To be eligible, residents need to be 65 years or older and/or have an RTA Reduced Fare Card. Residents living in St. Charles City limits who qualify can call the City's Utility Billing office at 630.377.4426 to register.

More information about the program, including a recently completed program assessment report is available at www.rideinkane.org.

Early Voting Available for Primary Election

Early Voting for the March 15, 2016, General Primary Election is available at the Municipal Building, 2 E. Main St. at the times listed below. New this year, residents also can register to vote here during these times as well.

St. Charles Early Voting & Grace Period Voter Registration Hours

February 29 – March 4 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 March 7-11 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



City Offices are open
 President's Day
 February 15
 but there are no
 public meetings

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/ Crime Prevention</i>	377.4435
<i>Electric Division</i>	377.4407	<i>Public Works: Water/Sewer/Street</i>	377.4405
<i>Engineering Division</i>	377.4486	<i>Refuse Pickup Information</i>	587.8282
<i>Emergency Management Agency</i>	377.4416	<i>TDD</i>	800.526.0844
<i>Flood Protection Assistance</i>	377.4486	<i>Utility Billing: Electric/Water/Sewer</i>	377.4426
<i>Finance/Accounting</i>	762.7002	<i>Electric Outage Hotline</i>	866.444.0016

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