



THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

March 2015
www.stcharlesil.gov

Upcoming Meetings

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

Youth Commission

3.2.15..... 6:00 pm

City Council

3.2.15..... 7:00 pm

Government Operations

3.2.15..... 7:05 pm

Plan Commission

3.3.15..... 7:00 pm

Corridor Improvement Commission

3.4.15..... 7:00 pm

Historic Preservation Commission

3.4.15..... 7:00 pm

Planning & Development

3.9.15..... 7:00 pm

Tree Commission

3.12.15..... 7:00 pm

Liquor Control Commission

3.16.15..... 4:30 pm

City Council

3.16.15..... 7:00 pm

Government Operations

3.16.15..... 7:05 pm

Plan Commission

3.17.15..... 7:00 pm

Historic Preservation Commission

3.18.15..... 7:00 pm

Housing Commission

3.19.15..... 7:00 pm

Government Services

3.23.15..... 7:00 pm



CITY OF
ST. CHARLES

ILLINOIS • SINCE 1834



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

A Closer Look at First Street Redevelopment Plans

Here's a look at the latest details on the First Street redevelopment. An updated proposal for the third phase of the project was recommended for approval by the Planning and Development Committee during a special meeting Feb. 17. The plans are scheduled to be voted on by the City Council March 2.

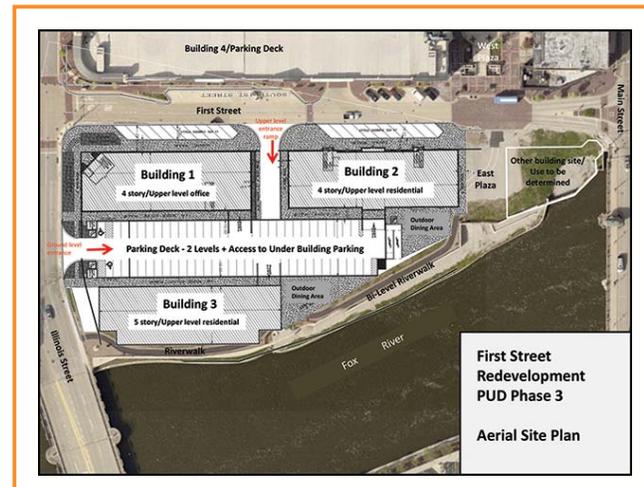
The third phase covers an area bounded by First Street, Illinois Street and the Fox River, with plans for three mixed-use buildings and a 110-space parking deck. All three buildings will have ground floor retail space.

Building 1 will have upper level office space and will be fully occupied by ALE Solutions, which currently has offices across the street at Fox Island Square. Buildings 2 & 3 will have residential space on their upper levels.

The parking deck will offer public parking. Private parking will be available under the buildings. The bi-level riverwalk along the river front and an east plaza across from the existing First Street plaza remain part of the site layout.



Corner of First St. & Illinois St.



Construction is slated to begin in spring, with preliminary site work and construction of Building 1 and the parking deck planned to begin in earnest this summer.

Anticipated construction for Building 2 is spring 2016, and spring 2017 for Building 3.

For more information on the latest developments, visit the project's website at www.1ststreetstc.org. Or, contact the Community & Economic Development Department at 630.377.4443, or email 1ststreet@stcharlesil.gov.

State Leans on Local Towns to Help Solve Its Budget Woes

Mayor Ray Rogina was among a group of local mayors in the Metro West Council of Government who recently shared concerns about Gov. Bruce Rauner’s proposal to cut local governments’ share of the state income tax, known as Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF).

The governor proposes cutting the LGDF distribution in half. In St. Charles, that would mean a reduction of about \$1.6 million from the City’s budget. The City already reduced its budget throughout the recession and has made tough decisions that kept its share of the property tax levy constant over the last six years.

“The City cut about \$5 million from its budget between 2008 and 2010,” said City Administrator Mark Koenen. “We already are operating on bare bones. In fact, the City spends less today from its general operating fund than it did seven years ago.”

More information about the LGDF and the core services it supports is available from the Illinois Municipal League [here](#).

Fire Chief Joe Schelstreet Earns International Accreditation



Fire Chief Joe Schelstreet has been designated a Chief Fire Officer (CFO) by the Commission on Professional Credentialing. The designation is awarded for meeting professional, educational, technical and community service achievements, and fulfilling prescribed standards of performance, ethics and conduct. An official presentation will be made at the March 2 City Council Meeting.

Schelstreet is one of only 1017 designated CFOs worldwide. To maintain the designation, CFOs must show future achievement in four areas: Professional Development, Professional Contributions, Active Association Membership and Community Involvement.

“Achieving this credentialing status is a significant accomplishment for Chief Schelstreet,” said City Administrator Mark Koenen. “He has provided exemplary service to the department and the community for many years, and this designation clearly illustrates his commitment

to provide the highest quality of service to the citizens of St. Charles.”

In 2013, Chief Schelstreet led the St. Charles Fire Department to earn accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and our Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to achieve accreditation through the Illinois EMA in 2014.

Hats Off to Our Police Department Honorees

St. Charles Police Commander Jerry Gatlin (left) and Deputy Police Chief David Kintz (right) were honored at a recent City Council Meeting. Commander Gatlin was recognized for his graduation from the FBI National Academy in December. Academy graduates make up less than 1 percent of the country’s law enforcement officers. Deputy Chief Kintz was recognized for being appointed as the 2015 president of the Kane County Chiefs of Police Association and also received the Award of Merit for 24 years with the St. Charles Police Department.



The Latest Issue of the Crime Prevention Newsletter is Out

The St. Charles Police Department recently debuted its new Crime Prevention newsletter, **Police Beat**. The newsletter offers helpful information for protecting you, your family and home against crime. Read it [online](#). For more information, please contact Crime Prevention Officer Bill Tynan at btynan@stcharlesil.gov.



Be a Part of the Adirondack "Chair-ity" Promotion

Entry Forms Due April 15

The Downtown St. Charles Partnership (DSCP) is coordinating a "Chair-ity" event that will place decorated Adirondack style chairs throughout downtown St. Charles this summer.

Interested participants are encouraged to create imaginative and unique works of art appropriate for public display. Any individual, group or business can participate, with the option of donating the chair for auction at the conclusion of the event. You can supply your own Adirondack chair or the DSCP has worked with ACE Hardware of St. Charles to purchase chairs at a discounted price. Bring your "Chair-ity" entry form to ACE to secure your discount of \$39.99 for an unassembled Adirondack chair, or for \$44.99 the store will put the chair together for you. All proceeds for the event will go back into downtown beatification efforts.



For more information or to sign up to participate in the event, go to the DSCP's webpage at www.downtownstcharles.org/events/chair-ity. All entry forms are due by April 15, 2015.



* **Door Prizes**

* **Giveaways**

* **Raffles**

* **Food**

* **Entertainment**

Saturday, April 11, 2015 10am- 4pm

St. Charles Sportsplex

1400 Foundry St., St. Charles

The St. Charles Consumer Expo is a fun-filled day for area residents where local businesses showcase their products and services.

For more information, contact the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce at 630.584.8384 or visit www.stcharleschamber.com

The 2015 Consolidated Election is April 7

Be sure to get out and vote. Early voting is available at the Municipal Building weekdays from Monday, Mar. 23 to Thursday, April 2, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For a complete list of early voting sites, visit the [Kane County Elections website](http://www.kane-county.com/elections).

Need to register to vote? Now you can register online at <https://ova.elections.il.gov>. For other ways to register to vote, visit the [Kane County Voter Registration webpage](http://www.kane-county.com/voter-registration).

Citizens Police Academy Application Deadline is March 13

The St. Charles Police Department is hosting its annual Citizens Police Academy March 17–May 14, from 7–9 pm, on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the department's training room at 211 N. Riverside Ave. Come and learn what it's like to be part of the law enforcement profession.

The class is open, free of charge, to St. Charles residents, property and business owners and their employees, and approved St. Charles high school juniors and seniors. Download an application or stop into the Police Department and pick one up.

Applications are due March 13, are subject to approval, and include a background check. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Bill Tynan at 630-443-3847 or btynan@stcharlesil.gov.

Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains

As we head into spring, the melting snow and inevitable rain storms highlight the importance of floodplains. The benefits of floodplains go beyond providing natural erosion control and open space to reduce future flooding. Floodplains also 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.



The City of St. Charles Retains its Aa1 Credit Rating from Moody's Investors Service



Moody's Investors Service, a leading provider of credit ratings, research, and risk analysis, once again affirmed the City of St. Charles' impressive Aa1 bond rating. The Aa1 rating is the second highest rating offered by the independent credit rating agency.

"We are very pleased to retain this outstanding rating that distinguishes us among top fiscally sound organizations," said Chris Minick, Director of Finance for the City of St. Charles. "It's especially significant coming out of the difficult economic climate we have experienced recently. This independent report verifies that the City of St. Charles is on solid financial ground."

The report cited St. Charles' strong financial operations and solid reserve levels among several positive financial performance factors. For more information, contact Chris Minick at cminick@stcharlesil.gov.



Looking for a way to get involved in the St. Patrick's Parade? Well you're in luck. The Downtown St. Charles Partnership is looking for volunteers to help out with the parade on **Saturday, March 14, at 2 p.m.** [Download the volunteer application](#) from the Partnership's website and email it to info@downtownstcharles.org.

Prepare Now for Spring Storms

Harsh weather sometimes means unavoidable springtime power-outages. If your power goes out:

- Check your circuit breakers.
- See if neighbors have lost their power, too, and then call 1-866-444-0016.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors shut. A closed refrigerator will stay cold for up to 12 hours.
- Leave one light on so you'll know when power is restored. Unplug other appliances so they aren't damaged when the power comes back on.
- If you have a back-up generator, equip it with a double-throw switch that will disconnect your home's circuits from ours. Throw the switch if you turn on the generator.



Beware of Utility Scam

We have received reports of our electric customers being the target of a scam. If you get a call from someone claiming to be from the City or ComEd demanding immediate payment via Green Dot Money Pak for an overdue bill, hang up and report the incident to the Police Department 630.377.4435.

Volunteers Wanted to Help with St. Charles America in Bloom Program

It may be cold outside, but our thoughts are on summer, when the St. Charles community will be showcased in the 2015 America in Bloom national awards program. With the support of the St. Charles City Council, an America in Bloom committee has been established to organize our community's participation in this highly anticipated annual event.

Program Details

- America in Bloom promotes nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements.
- Participants are evaluated on six criteria: Floral Displays, Landscaped Areas, Heritage Preservation, Urban Forestry, Environmental Efforts, and Overall Impression.
- Judges will be looking at St. Charles' business, government and residential areas, as well as community involvement.



“The America in Bloom program fosters a sense of community and boosts civic pride by bringing together volunteers from community organizations,” said 5th Ward Alderman Maureen Lewis, member of the America in Bloom Steering Committee. “With everyone working together we can really make St. Charles shine.”

For more information or to volunteer, contact Steve Amatangelo at Steve.amatangelo@sartorius-intec.com, Diane Cullen at dianecullen@sbcglobal.net or Maureen Lewis at mlewis@stcharlesil.gov.

Scholarship Opportunity for Local Students



From the American Public Works Association (APWA) Fox Valley Branch Scholarship Program

Awards: A minimum of six \$1,000.00 Scholarships

Who's Eligible: Students who plan to attend an accredited university during the Fall 2015 semester at the undergraduate or graduate level, either part-time or full-time, whose major course of study encompasses

the field of Civil, Environmental or Traffic Engineering, Public Works Administration, or other programs within the public works field. Candidates must reside or be employed within McHenry, DeKalb, Kane, or Kendall counties; or the cities of West Chicago, Warrenville, Aurora or Naperville.

How to Apply: Students must complete an application and answer the required essay questions. Submit these, along with a copy of transcripts and a reference. Application packets and complete instructions are available at <http://chicago.apwa.net>.

Deadline: All application materials must be postmarked, emailed or faxed to the contacts listed on the application by March 27, 2015.

About the Program: Offering educational scholarships to support students working towards a degree in a public works-related field furthers the APWA mission of promoting professional excellence and understanding of competency and credibility in public works.

No Spring Clean Up This Year

There is no citywide Spring Clean Up program this year. The next Spring Clean Up is anticipated for 2016, subject to council approval. As an alternative, you may want to participate in the park district's Communitywide Garage Sale April 24 & 25. For more information, contact Darby Beasley at 630.513.4321 or dbeasley@stcparks.org.



City Launches Study of 7th Avenue Creek Flooding Issues

Input Requested from Affected Residents

The City of St. Charles is developing a concept plan to address recurring flooding along the 7th Avenue Creek and the 7th Avenue Creek Tributary. Along with mitigating flooding impacts, the project aims to minimize stream erosion, improve stream ecology and identify options that will improve aesthetics along the project corridor.



An initial informational meeting was held Jan. 21 to seek input from affected residents. Attendees also heard preliminary results of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) study and saw revised flood insurance maps. Additional meetings will be held as the project progresses.

If you live or own property in the 7th Avenue Creek area, we want to hear from you. Updates on the project will be posted on the front page of the City website, www.stcharlesil.gov, under the City Projects tab. There you will find the latest information as well as a link to the [project portal](#). You can sign up for updates there or submit questions, flooding documentation, observations and more. There is even an interactive mapping tool where you can highlight the issues you feel are affecting the area.

The City would like to thank all who attended the initial project meeting and offered comments. This is an important study for our community. We encourage stakeholders who live or own property along 7th Avenue Creek, or those who were impacted by previous flooding in this area, to provide input on this project. By taking a few minutes to fill out the survey on our website you will provide our project team valuable information that will be evaluated as part of the project study.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 630.584.5353 or email stormwater@stcharlesil.gov.

Street Sweeping Schedule for 2015

With the onset of spring, the City will resume street sweeping. St. Charles will utilize the services of K. Hoving Companies to assist with sweeping all public City streets according to the following schedule:

April – Mid Month

In addition, there will be special sweepings for parades, festivals, special events, emergencies, accidents, leaf pick-up and severe weather events. To ensure the streets are kept as clean as possible, please make every effort to park off the street during the weeks scheduled for sweeping.

The City sweeps its streets to remove sand, stone, debris, refuse, dirt and other materials which may have accumulated on the roadway. Not only does street sweeping keep our City streets clean and presentable, it also helps to eliminate potential pollutants from entering the storm sewer system.

For additional dates, visit the [Street Sweeping page](#) of the city's website or call Public Works at 630-377-4405.



Brush Collection Resumes in April

The first collection will be April 20 for the East Side and April 27 for the West Side. The complete schedule is at www.stcharlesil.gov/services/brush.

Curbside yard waste collection resumes April 6 as well.

"Spring Forward" One Hour

Sunday,
March 8



March Green Idea



When shopping for electronics and appliances there are a few things to keep in mind. There are two price tags – the purchase price and the operating cost. Those with an Energy Star rating will have an EnergyGuide label that tells you how much it will cost to operate every year.

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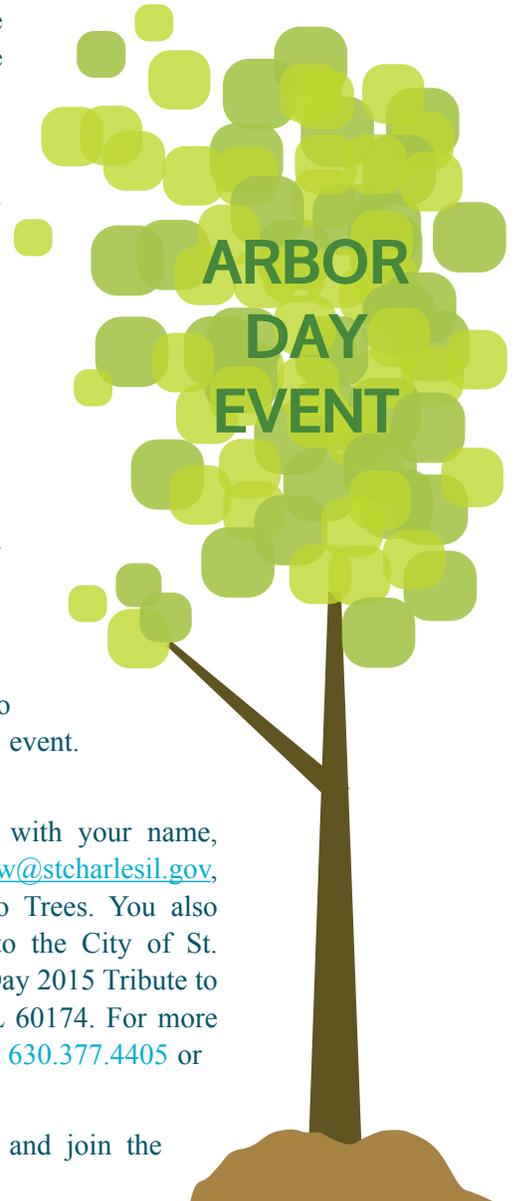
Arbor Day 2015

The City of St. Charles' Tree Commission invites you to join in the celebration of Arbor Day on Friday, April 24 at 4 p.m. in Lincoln Park on Main Street, west of Route 31. This annual event features something for everyone – music, art, a tree raffle, tree care demonstrations, and educational material for homeowners.

In addition, all ages are welcome to take part in the annual Tribute to Trees. Using the medium of your choice - photography, sculpture, watercolor, music, dance, computer or pencil and paper - create an expression of your appreciation of trees. Your work will be displayed at the Municipal Building throughout April and at the Arbor Day Celebration. You also will be recognized the day of the event. Submissions are due Friday, April 6.

Email your Tribute to Trees entry with your name, address, and phone number to pw@stcharlesil.gov, subject: Arbor Day 2015 Tribute to Trees. You also may drop off or mail your entry to the City of St. Charles, Attn: Public Works–Arbor Day 2015 Tribute to Trees, 2 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174. For more information, contact Public Works at 630.377.4405 or pw@stcharlesil.gov.

So, get the creative juices flowing and join the Tribute to Trees celebration!



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