



# THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

December 2019

[www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov)

## Upcoming Meetings

To see a complete list of meetings go to [www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings)

### Public Hearing on Tax Levies

12.2.19.....6:45 pm

### City Council

12.2.19.....7:00 pm

### Government Operations Committee

12.2.19.....7:05 pm

### Plan Commission

12.3.19.....7:00 pm

### Historic Preservation Commission

12.4.19.....7:00 pm

### Planning & Development

12.9.19.....7:00 pm

### Natural Resources Commission

12.12.19.....5:45 pm

### Housing Commission

12.12.19.....7:00 pm

### Liquor Control Commission

12.16.19.....4:30 pm

### City Council

12.16.19.....7:00 pm

### Government Operations Committee

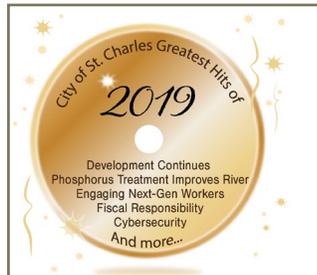
12.16.19.....7:05 pm

### Plan Commission

12.17.19.....7:00 pm

### Historic Preservation Commission

12.18.19.....7:00 pm



## 2019 City Highlights

*Many good things happened in our city this past year. Here are some highlights:*

### Development News

- The shopping center at East Main Street and Tyler Road (formerly Tin Cup Pass) is undergoing renovations under the new ownership. The new center will be called Stone Creek and includes a Southern Café restaurant.
- The First Street Development project along the river nears completion, with the third and final building (adjacent to the new public plaza and riverwalk) to be completed spring 2020. Plans include first floor retail/restaurant uses, second floor office space and 15 residential condominiums. Alter Brewing will occupy the first floor and features an outdoor patio/bar overlooking the river.
- Downtown continues to be an entertainment destination. The Arcada Theater building has new, local owners and is undergoing upgrades and renovations. The City is transferring the neighboring George’s Sports building to the same owners who plan improvements to complement the theater. Those same owners also have invested in the former Chord On Blues building at the northeast corner of Illinois & Riverside Aves. Polyanna Brewery and Flagship on the Fox now occupy the fully renovated building.
- Gia Mia’s restaurant is an anticipated to open in January 2020 on the 1st Street plaza.
- There are potential development opportunities on the former Police station site at 211 N. Riverside Ave. Concepts also have been presented for pedestrian and recreational enhancement to the riverfront in this area. The City initiated an update to the vision for the downtown in the 2013 Comprehensive Plan, focusing on the area north of Main Street, between 2nd Avenue on the east and 4th Street on the west.
- Three retail commercial outlots are under development at the Meijer site on the southwest corner of Rt. 38 and Randall Road. One of the buildings is Wahlburgers restaurant, which is currently under construction with a soft opening anticipated in March 2020.
- Nearby, construction continues on Prairie Center, a 27-acre multi-phase mixed use development which will include 670 residential units and up to 116,000 square feet of commercial space. One building has already been completed and the second building is nearing occupancy. Anthony Place, a 75-unit senior living building also is under construction. Construction on two more residential buildings will begin in spring 2020.

Keep up with all the latest development news at [www.stcharlesil.gov/projects/development](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/projects/development).



CITY OF ST. CHARLES

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## **Taxes and City Finances**

- Finance produced the City's very first Popular Annual Financial Report to make it easier to understand City finances. [Read it here.](#)
- Purchasing is developing a standardized contract form for vendors to enhance transparency and competitive bid opportunities.

## **Working Smarter**

- Finance acquired a 'smart safe' and changed the process for depositing daily receipts. A smart safe increases overall cash management, employee productivity and efficiency. It is designed to keep cash secure from risk of theft, counterfeit bills and human error.
- Purchasing analyzed the entire purchasing process from identification of need through contract close out to identify areas of improvement and opportunities for efficiencies.

## **Securing Future Talent**

- Comprehensive workforce development planning is underway to create a succession plan for City staff.
- A high school student job shadow program was a success. The program, in partnership with St. Charles high schools, exposed students to government careers and opportunities to intern with our engineering, public works, information systems, city administration, and finance departments.
- Human Resources rebid the City's benefits administration contract, which realized \$12,000 annual savings.

## **Infrastructure Improvements**

- The Phosphorus Removal and Digester projects at the City's Main Waste Water Treatment Plant were completed. The \$14 million project included the rehabilitation of the egg-shaped digesters and the introduction of Phosphorus treatment. This is required by the EPA to improve the overall health of the Fox River and its receiving streams.
- A new electric substation in the Legacy Business Park (near the East Side Sports Complex off Kirk Road) improves electric reliability by relieving heavily loaded circuits and providing additional contingency options for emergency restoration.
- The 10th Street Water Tower received a new coat of paint, along with necessary steel repairs.
- The lift station at 7th Ave. and Division was replaced and will improve reliability and wastewater capacity for the area.

## **Public Safety**

- The Police Department moved into the new police facility at 1515 W. Main Street in September 2019. This project was finished early and under budget.
- Two new police officers were assigned to Thompson and Wredling Middle Schools in partnership with School District 303.

## **Technology**

- Launched the first phase of replacing core network infrastructure by installing new equipment and extending the City's computer network to the new Police Station.
- Implementation of the City's information security program to protect critical information and business processes continues.

## **Special Recognition**

- Showcased our beautiful city to 300 visitors from cities around the country for the America in Bloom Symposium and Awards Program.

## From the Mayor's Desk

Mayor Rogina's December video letter features a special guest, City Administrator Mark Koenen. [Click here to watch.](#)



## BUSINESS REPORT

### Promoting St. Charles to Developers & Real Estate Professionals

*This post is from our [Inside St. Charles blog.](#)*



In October, staff from the City's Community and Economic Development Department attended the annual Deal Making Convention at Navy Pier in Chicago hosted by the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC). St. Charles was just one of several municipalities that were present at the conference. The event is an opportunity to promote the City of St. Charles as a place to do business and network with developers, real estate professionals and retailers looking to expand their presence in the Chicagoland area.

The City created a booth display that highlighted key demographic information for St. Charles and some of the recent development projects happening around the city. At the ICSC conference, the booth caught the attention of both people familiar with St. Charles and others who were not. In particular, the First Street redevelopment received a lot attention. [Click here to see the booth.](#)

For those who were familiar with St. Charles, many commented on just how much downtown, particularly First Street, has evolved over the past decade and how the development vision is coming to life. For those less familiar with the city, developers and contractors mainly, they were still interested to hear about the mixed-use redevelopment along the river front that First Street is known for. Anyone interested in similar redevelopment opportunities were informed about the downtown Comprehensive Plan update and the forthcoming RFP that will go out early 2020 to redevelop the former police station site on North Riverside Avenue.

In the end, the ICSC Deal Making convention was a worthwhile event. Staff heard from commercial real estate brokers who work in the Tri-Cities area that they met new leads on potential tenants at the conference. Additionally, staff was able to attend seminars on the latest trends in the restaurant and retail industries and gain knowledge that they will bring back to the community. And the opportunity to engage with other municipalities and see what they are doing in terms of economic development and municipal marketing were some of the key highlights.

## Determining the Property Tax Levy

Determining the property tax levy is a multi-step process that incorporates several public meetings which allow for resident input. That process kicks off in the fall with the presentation to the City Council of a preliminary estimate of next year's (2019) property tax levy.

The property tax levy collected by the City helps fund 24/7 police, fire and public works services, planning, engineering and much more.

### Why is it the 2019 Levy and Not the 2020 Levy?

Illinois property taxes are paid one year in arrears. Any payments made in 2020 actually will be applied towards 2019 taxes. Property tax bills sent in 2020 reflect 2019 taxes.

### Steps in the City's Levy Setting Process

1. Preliminary Estimate of Levy – November 2019
2. Public Hearing - December 2, 2019
3. Consideration of Levy Ordinance - December 2, 2019
4. Debt Abatements - January 2020
5. Levy Finalized - April 15, 2020

The schedule of public meetings is on our website at [www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings).

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## We Debuted a Simpler Financial Report

### *Streamlined Report Offers a Clear View of City Finances*

Our Finance Department has produced the Popular Annual Financial Report for our fiscal year ended April 30, 2019. This is our inaugural version of this report, which is meant to make City finances clear and understandable. The City of St. Charles has a proud tradition of responsible financial stewardship under the direction of our City Council. This simplified financial report offers a transparent vision of City finances. [Read it here](#).

This Popular Annual Financial Report is a streamlined version of the lengthier Comprehensive Annual Financial Report we produce every year. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report provides detailed financial information as required by the State of Illinois. For the last 33 years, it has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Producing an easier-to-read financial report is not required, but we felt it was important. We believe increasing the transparency of the City's financial information is good government and promotes accountability to the citizens we serve. We hope this report clearly presents the City's financial information and illustrates how resources are allocated to provide the citizens of St. Charles with professional, reliable services and a well-maintained infrastructure. You are entitled to this information and everyone benefits when our residents and businesses have an interest in their government.

For more information or to view all City financial documents, visit the [Finance page of our website](#).

## Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

### Deter Theft – Lock Your Vehicles

Unlocked Vehicles are the target of burglars. With the holiday shopping season underway, please be aware that a vehicle stuffed with bags and packages is enticing to a would-be thief. Often, these burglars enter vehicles left unlocked. An unlocked vehicle in the driveway also could put a garage door opener within reach and grant access into a garage or even home. Police Department investigations show the offender(s) also are looking to steal cars that are left with the keys in them to commit crimes in other jurisdictions.

### Practice Parking Safety

When you're out shopping, keep these parking safety tips in mind.

1. Park in a well-lit area.
2. Pay attention when you walk to your car. Don't be distracted by phones or other mobile devices. There are several smartphone security apps that can sound a loud alarm or help emergency services quickly locate you.
3. Try to familiarize yourself with the area you are parking in. Don't just rely on map apps.
4. Walk with a friend or coworker to your car if possible.

### Emergency Phones

There are emergency phones in the multi-level parking garage on 1st Street and the garage on Walnut Ave. Each of the levels has a call box near the level entrance/exit, by the staircase, and/or at the midway point of the level.



## Tips for Safe Holiday Lighting

- When decorating outside, look up and look out. Never throw holiday lights or decorations into trees near power lines.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- Use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets are not equipped with them. GFCI protection is very important outdoors, where weather conditions can create dangerous electrical situations.
- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords, and do not attach cords to utility poles.
- Outdoor holiday lights are for seasonal use, up to 90 days. Bring them inside after the holidays.
- Avoid decorating outside on windy or wet days. Decorate in favorable weather conditions and during daylight hours.

To learn more, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safepower.org/).



### REFUSE PICK-UP SCHEDULE DURING HOLIDAYS

*Refuse will not be affected by the holidays.*

Lakeshore Recycling Systems will collect bagged leaves free of charge through Dec. 24, 2019 on your normal refuse pick up day.

Brush and yard waste collection resumes April 2020.

### CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Christmas trees will be picked up (no sticker needed) the weeks of Jan. 6 & Jan. 13, 2020.

Trees will be picked up on BOTH sides of the river on the regular scheduled refuse day.

After the two-week period, a sticker is required.

Trees are NOT to be placed in disposal bags. And all decorations, including tinsel, must be removed.



### Winter Preparations at Public Works

While Public Works is busy completing concrete and asphalt projects, tree planting, hydrant flushing and street sweeping, winter preparations are also underway.

Careful planning and scheduling are just part of what we do in advance of winter to prepare for snow and ice removal during the winter months.

Equipment is winterized, plows are attached to trucks, de-icing supplies are inventoried, 24-hour crew shifts are scheduled and snow routes are planned. The routes are designed to establish priority removal of snow and ice from roads most utilized by commuters, emergency vehicles and school buses. All levels of Public Works staff, including our front office administrative staff, attend “snow sessions” to inform and prepare for the City’s quick response to winter weather safety.

The City uses brine solutions for de-icing streets. For warmer temperatures, a clear/white solution is used; at colder temperatures a brown solution and green/blue solution are used for de-icing. All brine solutions contain organic materials and are more than 90% less corrosive than salt.

A computerized weather forecasting system is used by the City to monitor the weather. This system alerts staff to incoming weather systems, the type of weather and its expected onset and duration.

If you have any comments or questions, contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405 or [pw@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:pw@stcharlesil.gov), or visit the City’s website at [www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov).

## Procurement: Our Business is Your Business

The City of St. Charles wants to transform our outreach to the business community.

We are restructuring our Procurement process to streamline the dissemination of our long- and short-term purchasing needs to interested vendors. This automated process will alert registered businesses in real-time, of city sourcing opportunities in the businesses' self-defined areas of interest. Participating businesses will be automatically notified of activity throughout the sourcing, evaluation and award phases of the solicitation process. The system is expected to be fully functional in the first quarter 2020. Once fully implemented, this business management tool will provide a view into the city's plan for future solicitations as well as information on the city's current contractual commitments. Proactively designed to be "green," solicitations and responses will be "data driven" vs. "paper driven."

For more information, contact [procurement@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:procurement@stcharlesil.gov).

## Work on the 1st Street Riverwalk & Plaza is Coming Along Nicely



*Work on the 1st Street Riverwalk is progressing nicely.*



*And construction has begun on the First Street plaza extension across the street from the existing plaza.*



## Municipal Building Display Window Information

*Now accepting reservations for your business or community event for 2020*

The Municipal Building has two display windows available to promote your St. Charles business or community event at no cost to you. One is an external window that faces Main Street; the other is an internal window located in the lobby. Both windows tend to book up quickly. While the external window has been partially reserved for 2020, there are some openings. The internal window has more available dates. For window dimensions and reservation information, call the Reception Desk at 630.377.4400.



## Historic Landmark of the Month

*“Ferson, Butler, & Satterlee”*



December’s Landmark of the Month is the Ferson, Butler, & Satterlee House. Located at 304 N 2nd Ave., the house was constructed in 1854 in the Midwestern Greek Revival style. The wood constructed home

sits on a stone foundation and the style is distinguished by a gable roof of a low pitch, symmetrical faced façade, wide band or trim under the eaves and a front door surrounded with transom and side lights.

The home was first owned by George Ferson, a son of one of the founding families of St. Charles. George was active in public service, having served two terms as Supervisor of St. Charles and holding several township offices. He was married to Elmira Butler, who was the sister of two very prominent businessmen in the area.

The Ferson, Butler, & Satterlee House is also on the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places. However, the national landmark name is the Joel H. Hubbard House, named after the carpenter who originally built the home

For more information about Historic Preservation, please visit <https://www.stcharlesil.gov/historic-preservation>



***Ferson, Butler & Satterlee House -***  
304 N 2nd Ave.  
Built ca. 1854



## The Great Pumpkin Collection was a Success!

The St. Charles Natural Resources Commission’s 2nd annual pumpkin collection

was a success.

Number of pumpkins diverted from the landfill for composting: 560

Number of cars dropping off: 124

A special thank you to the Natural Resources Commissioners, St. Charles East High School volunteers, Lakeshore Recycling Services and the Public Works Department!



## Use Winter Salt Wisely

We rely on salt to keep our roads and sidewalks safe in the winter and to soften water in our homes year round. Using more salt than is needed comes with high price. Chloride from salt is infiltrating into our lakes, streams and groundwater putting aquatic life and freshwater resources at risk. By following a few simple guidelines, you can help out:

- Shoveling the snow before it freezes is the most important step.
- If you need to salt after shoveling, scatter it sparsely leaving space between grains.
- The salt in one 12-ounce cup is enough to treat a 20 foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares.
- When pavement temps drop below 15 degrees F, salt won’t work. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.

You can be safe and help the environment this winter. Learn more at <https://www.wisaltwise.com>



## SPECIAL RECOGNITION



### Celebrating 185 Years: On Becoming "The Pride of the Fox"

As we wrap up our year-long celebration of our 185th Anniversary, we wanted to highlight a significant event in our history that most St. Charles residents still talk about to this day...

50 years ago, the City of St. Charles officially became known as *The Pride of the Fox!*



William Ross

In early 1969, the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce sponsored a contest to select a slogan for the town. Long-time St. Charles resident William R. Ross, who was 69 years old at the time, submitted the winning entry: "The Pride of the Fox." He was awarded a contest certificate, \$25 savings bond, and a photo in the newspaper. The City also held a ceremony awarding the top contestants at the Rainbow room of the Hotel Baker.

Ross passed away in 1975 at the age of 75. He is remembered as a friendly, well-read, entrepreneurial and creative person. His love for his community lives on through his award-winning slogan that St. Charles still proudly uses today. We are grateful to William R. Ross for using creative talents to better his community. And thank you to his grandson, Tom Buchwald for sharing his story with us. [Read all of our 185th Anniversary stories on our website.](#)

### Help us Undecorate our Giving Tree at City Hall



Help us undecorate our Giving Tree and make the holidays brighter for some very special seniors at the Elderday Center. The Elderday Center offers a comprehensive adult day program of socialization,

recreation and health maintenance [www.elderdaycenter.org](http://www.elderdaycenter.org)

Trees are in City Hall, Public Works, and the Police station. Select one or more tags, purchase the item(s), and return the unwrapped gift(s) to the Giving Tree at City Hall. Drop off purchased items by Friday, Dec. 20.

Items are at all price levels. 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. The Giving Tree is coordinated by the City's employee Project Wellness team. Contact the Human Resources office at 630.377.4446 with questions.

### Neighbors in Need



Neighbors in Need helps financially struggling St. Charles residents pay their City utility bills. If you would like to donate, write an amount on the payment stub of your utility bill and add it to the amount of your payment. Online payers can drop off a check or mail it to: Neighbors in Need, City of St. Charles, 2 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174. 100%

of donations go directly to helping St. Charles residents. Contact Utility Billing at 630.377.4426 or [utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov) for more information.

#### Thank You American Powder Coatings!

Special thanks to Dave Suvagia from American Powder Coatings, 420 S. 38th Ave. in St. Charles, for the very generous donation of \$2,500 to the Neighbors in Need program this year. American Powder Coatings is a family owned and operated manufacturer of high quality powder coatings for thousands of metal products found in everyday life, such as street lights, play grounds and school lockers. For more, visit their website [www.americanpowder.com](http://www.americanpowder.com).



## Recycle Your Holiday Lights

*Nov. 1, 2019 to Jan. 31, 2020*

Do you have strings of holiday lights that don't work, are hopelessly tangled, or are no longer wanted? Don't throw them out where they'll sit for years in a landfill—recycle them! Beginning Nov. 1, St. Charles residents and businesses can drop off lights (working or non-working) and electrical cords at convenient locations around town. Elgin Recycling will haul them away at no cost. A ton of lights were collected last year—literally.

For a full list of acceptable items and drop off locations, [visit our website](#). For more information, call City of St. Charles Public Works Department at 630-377-4405 or e-mail [alwaysrecycle@yahoo.com](mailto:alwaysrecycle@yahoo.com).



## Census Results can Impact Community Initiatives

Once every 10 years, America counts every resident in the United States. In March 2020, every address in the U.S. will receive a mailed census questionnaire and your participation is essential to its success. In order to get an accurate representation of the population in the U.S., everyone needs to participate. When you fill out the census, your personal information is kept confidential.

### Why is the census important?

Residents benefit from the census in a number of ways. Census results impact decisions about housing, education, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy. It's all about accurate representation. Census results drive decisions on the allocation of more than \$675 billion in federal funds to states and communities each year. And population numbers affect legislative representation.

The City often uses population and demographic information from the census to illustrate to real estate developers and potential new businesses why they should locate their projects in St. Charles. And, the census provides benchmarks for city planners tracking local trends in population.

Census results also impact planning for public safety needs, new schools, transportation needs, and hospitals.

### Do you want to get involved and earn extra income?

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people to assist in the 2020 Census count. For more information, visit <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html>.

## Toys for Kids Drop Off at the Municipal Building



A long-time advisory board member for The Salvation Army Joe K. Anderson Community Center in St. Charles, Jim Wheeler made it his life mission to make sure no child in the Tri-Cities went without presents on Christmas morning. The program Jim started 32 years ago continues on. Drop Boxes are located at several places around town, including the lobby of the Municipal Building. Contact the Salvation Army at 630.377.2769 for more information.



## The Farmers Market has Moved Inside

Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon enjoy the St. Charles Indoor Farmer’s Market. It’s in Baker Hall at Baker Memorial Church, 307 Cedar Ave. Enter on the north side of the Church via the Cedar Avenue entrance.

For more information, visit them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/STCFarmersMarket](http://www.facebook.com/STCFarmersMarket)



**Need Help?**

Kane County 2-1-1 can put you in touch with organizations **ready to help you with:**

- Emergency Shelter
- Health Resources
- Rent or Utility Assistance
- Food Pantries
- Elderly Care
- Employment Assistance

... and more. *It's Easy and Free!*

**CALL 2-1-1**  
Get Connected. Get Answers.  
There's always an answer 24/7!

## City of St. Charles Directory

*Main Line:* 630.377.4400

<i>Building &amp; Code Enforcement</i> . . . . .	630.377.4406	<i>Refuse Pickup Information</i> . . . . .	630.581.8650
<i>City Administrator Mark Koenen</i> . . . . .	630.377.4422	<i>TDD</i> . . . . .	800.526.0844
<i>Community &amp; Economic Development</i> . . . . .	630.377.4443	<i>JULIE</i> . . . . .	800.892.0123
<i>Fire Department</i> . . . . .	630.377.4458	<i>24-Hour Hotlines:</i>	
<i>Mayor Raymond P. Rogina</i> . . . . .	630.377.4444	<i>Utility Payment Line</i> . . . . .	844-443-9794
<i>Police Department</i> . . . . .	630.377.4435	<i>Electric Outage Hotline</i> . . . . .	866.444.0016
<i>Public Works: Electric/Water/Sewer/Street</i> . . . . .	630.377.4405	<i>Events Hotline</i> . . . . .	630.443.3959
<i>Utility Billing</i> . . . . .	630.377.4426		