A Few Minutes with Newly-Elected Alderman David Pietryla

Last month, we announced the election results of new and returning aldermen, and offered a brief introduction of newly-elected Ward 4 Alderman David Pietryla. This month, David shares his thoughts about his office below.

What are you looking forward to regarding serving on City Council?
I am really looking forward to engaging with people, particularly with my constituents as well as city staff and my fellow aldermen. I really enjoy meeting and talking to new people and building personal connections.

Why was it important for you to run for your position?
As a long-time resident, I care about what happens in St. Charles. It was important for me to run because I wanted to be part of the processes and discussions that are currently guiding and will guide our city’s development in the coming years. The city and the greater community are just too important. To sit on proverbial sidelines and just watch things happen wasn’t going to cut it for me - again, it was important for me to be a part of the process.

What do you see as a great opportunity for St. Charles?
There are so many opportunities; however, the greatest, in my opinion, has to be continued development of St. Charles as a sought-after destination, particularly downtown. Not every city has a beautiful river running through it; we must capitalize on this unique geographic asset. If done right, residents as well as new and returning visitors alike will choose St. Charles to visit, spend their time, and (importantly) their money.
As summer approaches our fair city, it is time for a bit of reflection. We began a new budget year on May 1 and introduced a new City Council on May 5 (thank you Steve Gaugel for your contributions over the past four years; welcome David Pietryla, my best for a wonderful tenure).

Most recently, I have participated in, made preparations for, or supported some wonderful events that reflect the huge heart that is St. Charles.

While I will not brag about the score, I enjoyed a night of bowling at St. Charles Bowl with my colleagues Batavia Mayor Jeff Schielke and Geneva Mayor Kevin Burns at a benefit for Marklund, an organization that serves infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities. The event was sponsored by Baird & Warner Fox Valley.

The previous night, I enjoyed the School District’s first “Shark Tank” as 6 teams from North and East High School made “pitches” for seed money for businesses created in class under the Incubator Program at both schools. Much thanks to community sponsors and the sharks themselves who gave of their time to make this a rewarding, active educational experience.

CASA and Tri City Family Services and Living Well had wonderful spring fundraisers and we all know the contributions these organizations make in our community. I look forward to emceeing Hand for Hope Annual Garden Party fundraiser in June.

Mayor Kevin Burns and I enjoyed our night of guest “bartending” at the Office Restaurant for the Hope for Haitians charity fundraiser. And...I received more tips.

As I write this, I just finished an interview where I joined Gregg Wittstock (the Pond Guy from Aquascape) in discussing Domestic Violence with Wings Executive Director Rebecca Darr. Wings is an advocacy agency to end domestic violence while providing victim support. Greg and Aquascape are hosting a Purple Rain (80s theme) Wings fundraiser on June 15 at Aquascape.

After a short vacation, I came back to see fresh plantings around City Hall courtesy of the Pottawatomie Garden Club. And there was the Third Annual Golf. Give.Gala. sponsored by ALE Solutions.

This, my friends, simply scratches the surface of the benevolence and volunteerism in our community.

May this spirit continue as we kicked off the establishment of a Community Foundation with a breakfast at City Hall to explain how you can, through philanthropy, create a legacy while partnering with the City.

On a side note, I am very excited about the recent purchase of the Arcada Theatre to local ownership, the Hurst family. It has always been a vision of mine that the best days of the Arcada are still ahead; I am retaining that view and vision and I congratulate the new owners.

Some gentle reminders. Summer in St. Charles can provide a variety of amenities for a variety of lifestyles. Enjoy our restaurants and all services provided by our various merchants. Enjoy the golf, the swimming, the biking, the trails, the open space. Let your mind wander or read a book in one of our coffee shops or on a bench along the meandering Fox River. Be safe, have fun and I hope to see you around town.

Ray Rogina, Mayor

The City Welcomes these Businesses!

And check out more than 2,000 businesses listed on our website at www.stcharlesil.gov/business/listings to see all you can choose from right here in St. Charles. Remember to Think St. Charles when you shop!

**DOWNTOWN**

**Hoarders Trading Post**  
Buy-Sell-Trade Pre-owned Toys, Records, CD’s, etc.  
504 E. Main St.  
331-901-5920

**EAST GATEWAY**

**Valley Fire Protection Systems, LLC**  
Fire Sprinkler/Plumbing Installation and Service  
555 S. Kirk Rd., #A&B  
630-761-6138

**Larsen Packaging Products, Inc.**  
Packaging Products  
425 37th Ave.  
630-384-1130
Thank You!
(We’re Shouting it from the Rooftops!)

Thanks to everyone who came out to support our Cop on a Rooftop events. Because of your generosity, our police department raised $4,673.65 for Special Olympics Illinois. So far this year through various events, our police have raised nearly $10,000 for this worthwhile charity. Thank you for your giving spirit St. Charles! And special thanks to the Dunkin’ donuts stores at 1711 W. Main St. and 1566 E. Main St. for once again hosting this amazing event.

Officer Jennifer Larsen event organizer, with St. Charles resident & Special Olympian David Kelly—a gold medalist power lifter going to state, who also participates in softball and golf.

Practice Fire Pit Safety

Please remember there are important safety guidelines for outdoor fires. According to the City’s Fire Prevention Code:

• Place outdoor fireplaces/fire pits in an open area at least 15 feet from any structure or combustible material, i.e., house, garage, deck, fence, etc.
• Recreational fires not contained in an outdoor fireplace/fire pit (bonfires) must be at least 25 feet from any structure or combustible material, in an open lawn area and require a permit.
• Outdoor fireplaces built on a foundation are allowed but require a building permit.
• Use only clean, well-seasoned wood—no leaves, compost, brush, waste materials or holiday decorations/trees.
• The fire must be constantly attended until extinguished.
• Some type of fire extinguisher or hose must be available.
• Fires must be no greater than 3 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. high.
• Burning is prohibited when weather conditions or local circumstances make fires hazardous. Be alert to wind speed/direction and courteous to neighbors who may experience respiratory difficulties. A City Fire Code Official may order the extinguishment of any open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

Contact the Fire Department at 630.377.4458 if you have a question.

It’s Police vs. Fire in Salvation Army Fundraiser

Donut-Eating Contest at the Blue Goose June 7

On June 7 at 7:30 a.m. head to The Blue Goose Market to see who will be crowned champion in a donut-eating contest benefitting the Salvation Army – Tri-City Corps. Participating from the City of St. Charles, it’s police vs. fire.

A special shout out to the Blue Goose for sponsoring the event and serving free donuts and coffee for all!

Funds raised will help provide services and programming for individuals and families within the Tri-City region. More information about the event is here https://donate.salarmymetro.org/campaign/tri-city-donut-eating-contest-and-fundraiser/e221355. To access the Police/Fire Team page, visit https://donate.salarmymetro.org/team/231626
**Scam Alert**

We have heard that residents are getting phone calls with the caller ID displaying ComEd. An automated message says you have an hour to pay your bill or have your electricity turned off. As a reminder, the City of St. Charles operates its own electric utility services. ComEd does not provide electric services to our residents. Also, the City will not call to demand immediate payment. Please share this information and report any suspicious calls to the Police Department 630.377.4435.

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**Street Rehab Program Underway**

The 2019 Street Rehabilitation Program launched in May. All roadway work is scheduled to be completed mid-August, with parkway restoration to take place in September. Residents on streets scheduled to be resurfaced will receive a letter from Public Works with additional information. The list and map of streets to be resurfaced is on our website. Regular updates are on the 2019 Street Rehabilitation page of our website.

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**Summer Means those Pesky Mosquitoes!**

Clarke Environmental is the City’s contractor for the annual mosquito control program. The objective of this program is to reduce the potential for mosquito-borne disease transmission. For mosquito annoyances, treatments and scheduling, please call Clark Environmental at 800.942.2555. For further questions about the program, contact the Public Works Department at 630.377.4405 or visit the Mosquito Page of our website.

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**Brush Collection Schedule**

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<td>November 18</td>
<td>November 25</td>
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**BRUSH COLLECTION REMINDERS**

- Brush should be put out before 7am on Monday of the scheduled pick up week.
- Cut ends facing the street, branches must be at least 3 feet in length and less than 12 inches in diameter. Do not tie bundles of brush with rope or wire and do not pile higher than 4 feet.
- Branches must be put on the parkway, in front of your house or along the frontage where refuse/recycling is collected.
- Please make every attempt not to park in front of the piles; crews will be unable to pick up the brush.
- For more information visit the City’s website at www.stcharlesil.gov.

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**YARD WASTE**

Yard waste is collected on regular refuse days.
Promoting Safe Swimming Pools

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, each year, nationwide, about 300 children under age 5 drown in swimming pools. And 2,000 more are treated in hospital emergency rooms for submersion injuries.

To promote safe swimming pools, a City of St. Charles ordinance requires a permit to construct all swimming pools 24 inches or more in height. This includes in-ground, above- and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. These permits require inspections by the Building & Code Enforcement Division to ensure the pools are built and secured to code. Included in the requirements are proper barriers, which include both fencing and ladder specifications.

A detailed pool packet is available in the Building & Code office or download one from our website.

We all know that caution around pools with children is essential so please be sure you take a few moments and go over safe swimming rules with your children or grandchildren. Have a safe and happy summer!

For more information, contact Bob Vann, Building & Code Enforcement Division Manager at bvann@stcharlesil.gov or 630.377.4406.

June Utility Bills Reflect Rate Changes for Water, Sewer and Electric

Annual rates for City of St. Charles water, sewer and electric utility customers were approved at the April 15, 2019, City Council meeting and will begin showing up on utility bills in June.

Bills Include Charges for All Three Utilities: Electric, Water & Sewer

City utility bills reflect monthly meter readings and include usage for all three utilities—electric, water and sewer. Estimates are done only when meters cannot be read. While rate structures will differ by usage and season, a typical residential household using 1,200 kwh of electricity and 7,000 gallons of water and sewer will see an increase on their utility bill of approximately $5.58 per month with the new rates, which includes a $0.35 per month increase in the City’s EPA Mandate Compliance Fee. Proceeds from the Compliance Fee finance capital improvements related to changes in EPA regulations for wastewater treatment.

City of St. Charles electric, water and sewer costs are comparable to nearby cities. Rates are directly tied to the cost of operations and maintenance.

“The City of St. Charles prides itself on providing reliable, well maintained and cost-effective utility services to its customers,” said City Administrator Mark Koenen. “Our utility rates are extremely competitive with rates in the surrounding area and include maintenance and capital improvement costs aimed at continued improved reliability.”

Are You Moving in or Out?

Remember to call to start/stop utilities

Make sure you contact the Utility Billing office at 630.377.4426 to start or stop your utility service. We require one business days’ notice to set up service or schedule final readings. We don’t take daily readings so we are unable to back-date bills. Also, we will only work with the account holder regarding utility service.
First Installment of Property Taxes Due June 3

City’s Portion is about 10% of Your Tax Bill

The first property tax installment is due June 3. The Kane County Treasurer’s Office is responsible for preparing the property tax bills, mailing them out and then collecting the required taxes levied by the local taxing bodies within Kane County.

Anyone can view their property tax bill and the breakdown of how much goes to which taxing body. Visit www.kanecountytreasurer.org and click on “Print a Property Tax Bill.” There you can input your name and address, (or parcel number, if you know it) to access an itemized tax bill to review. Taxes related to the City are labeled “St. Charles City.”

The City is one of nine taxing bodies itemized on your bill. The City’s portion of your entire property tax bill is about 10 percent. On a $300,000 home, that means $854 pays for a full year of City services, including Police and Fire emergency services, street maintenance, 24-hr snowplowing, planning, engineering, economic development, and more.

What is the City doing to Manage Property Tax Levels?

The City uses multiple tactics to reduce its reliance on property taxes and keep its share of the property tax bill manageable.

• Abate Taxes to Save Residents Millions: Historically, the City has abated tax levies related to the debt issued to pay for large capital projects. When bonds are issued to pay for projects, such as the new police station, the City does not collect property taxes to pay those back. Instead, the City utilizes sales, liquor, hotel/motel taxes, and other general revenues to pay the debt. In 2018, the City’s tax abatement efforts reduced the entire levy by 40% – or $8.3 million total in property tax savings!

• Utilize Millions in Grants: The City always works to manage its resources as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. One way we do that is by taking advantage of grants that are available to us for certain projects. In 2019, the city was awarded $1.5 million in grants for 7th Avenue Creek flood mitigation, fire department radios and police safety equipment and programs.

• Maintain a Balanced Tax Base: Careful planning for community and economic development means St. Charles enjoys a healthy mix of nearly 2000 retail, commercial and industrial businesses. This diversification provides economic stability and means businesses, visitors and area consumers share in the cost associated with keeping St. Charles running successfully.

More at www.stcharlesil.gov/departments/finance. You also can read about the City’s levy-setting process on our website.

Engaging the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

Natural Resources Commission Welcomes St. Charles High School Commissioners

Last year we expanded the goals of the commission, which led to changing our name from the Tree Commission to the Natural Resources Commission. We have changed the commission make up to include the next generation of environmental stewards. We have four non-voting high school students on the commission at this time. They all have a great interest in our environment, bringing a wealth of thoughts and ideas to the table. Their time of service will range from at least a semester, or until graduation. If you were at Arbor Day celebration in Lincoln Park on April 26, you heard three of the students speak of their love of trees and our earth.

Our meetings are held at Public Works the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend these meetings. Many of our visitors have had a specific idea that they would like to propose to the commission, others have come to just see what goes on or to ask questions of the group. We introduce the visitor at the beginning of the meeting, when they address their reason to visit, after which they may leave or are welcome to stay for the entirety of the meeting.

We frequently need people to help with our various ongoing projects, like the cleanup of Langum Woods, recycling events and more to come. We announce these needs via social media and this publication. You can keep up with us on our Facebook page: St. Charles, IL Natural Resources Commission.

We commissioners plan on bringing you pertinent information concerning both trees and the environment in future publications of The Den. Some of the topics that will be covered are tree mulching, soils, night lighting, woodland restoration, water quality, the 3 Rs, and seasonal programs. If you have any ideas for future articles, please let us know. We want these articles to be of interest to our residents.

We are excited about our new endeavor. Watch for us in next month’s Den.
St. Charles Enjoys
a Storied History of Entertainment

Throughout its 185-year history, St. Charles has been a destination for entertainment. That tradition continues to this day. Here is a look at Entertainment–St. Charles Style!

Minard Hall & Judge Barry’s Law Office
201 E. Main St.
Minard Hall was the city’s first opera house. Built in the 1840s, it featured local entertainment talent, concerts, and political speeches. William and Alonzo Barry also had a law office in the building, and it is believed that Abraham Lincoln visited the Barrys here. This building also functioned as the first St. Charles Public Library from the 1880s until 1906. It is now The Office restaurant. **Photo and information: St. Charles History Museum**

Arcada Theatre
105 E. Main St.
The Arcada was built in 1926 by philanthropist couple Lester and Dellora Norris, for $500,000. With 1,009 seats it was not the biggest theatre in the Chicago area, but it was certainly the most beautiful with its Spanish-inspired style. By the time of the grand opening, it was so popular that hundreds had to be turned away at the door. The opening feature was The Last Frontier, and attendees were also treated to a recital from the famous $25,000 Marr and Colton silver and red organ. The organ is still there today, and rises from beneath the stage floor. Today, the Aracada continues to host many famous entertainers. **Photo: St. Charles History Museum; Information: Arcada Theatre website & St. Charles: Culture and Leisure in an All-American Town**

Hotel Baker
100 W. Main St.
The Hotel Baker was built by Colonel Edward J. Baker at the site of the old Haines Mill, which was destroyed by a fire in 1919, and had become a garbage dump. Baker commissioned local architects and craftsmen to construct his vision of an elegant, 55-room resort. He spared no expense to build and furnish the most luxurious small hotel in the country. The Hotel Baker officially opened on June 2, 1928, with 300 people from St. Charles and neighboring cities at the opening dinner. Over the years, the colorful Rainbow Room has featured many famous entertainers, such as Tommy Dorsey, Guy Lombardo, Louis Armstrong and Lawrence Welk. The Hotel Baker continues to draw distinguished guests from all over. **Photo: St. Charles: An Album from the Collection of the St. Charles Heritage Center; Information: Hotel Baker website & St. Charles: Culture and Leisure in an All-American Town**

Pheasant Run Resort
4051 E. Main St.
Pheasant Run Resort has been a fixture of St. Charles for more than 55 years. Edward J. McArdle, a real estate developer, opened the resort on Feb. 15, 1963. It featured the first hotel indoor-outdoor pool, plus two theaters, a spa, comedy club, golf course, restaurants, 100,000 square feet of meeting space and a Bourbon Street replica. Throughout the years, Pheasant Run has hosted celebrities from stage, film and television. Entertainment is still a mainstay, with Zanies Comedy Club, Mainstage Theater at Pheasant Run, Bourbon Street Entertainment, iPANic Escape Rooms, and various Fun at the Run Activities. **Photo: Chicago Tribune; Information: Pheasant Run website**
D303 High School Internship Program
A Win-Win
By Jenn McMahon, Director of Human Resources, from our Inside St. Charles Blog

On May 3, I was given the opportunity to attend the Employer Appreciation Banquet for Community Unit School District 303’s Cooperative Education and Internship Programs. This year, the City participated in the District’s newly launched Project Synergy. This program offers junior and senior students at North and East high schools an opportunity to explore careers. Synergy focuses on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). St. Charles’ Information Services (IS) Department was fortunate enough to have junior Tim Schioptu from East High School work with us. Tim has been exposed to all aspects of the IS Department as they provide internal services to our operating departments making sure the technology those departments need to deliver citizen services are working properly. While I’m sure Tim is grateful for this experience, the City is the real winner in this scenario. We’ve been allowed to watch a young mind grow while reaping the benefits of his knowledge and his enthusiasm to learn. Tim is an asset to the organization.

At the banquet, I sat with Tim as we listened to employers and students relay their experiences. Did you know that District 303 has over 30 employer participants and over 140 students working at local employers? I was so impressed with the work these students are doing and a bit jealous that I wasn’t afforded such an opportunity when I was in high school oh so many years ago. Students participated in preparing cases for court, shepherding a manufactured good from raw material to final product, co-piloting a plane, or (in Tim’s case), ensuring the mobile data terminal (MDT) in a police squad car was up and running.

Go back to those formative years – 16, 17, 18. Did you know what you wanted to do? Did you know how to accomplish it? I didn’t know what I wanted to do. I switched majors at least once while in college. When I landed my first internship after college, I panicked thinking that I had made the wrong choice. With the Cooperative Education and Internship Programs provided by District 303, our young people get to test drive jobs and fields helping them make a future career choice. We, as St. Charles employers, get a chance to meet these amazing students, help develop them and then reap the benefits of their young minds. One employer was so impressed with his student’s work that the employer will be paying for his schooling so the student will return to that employer and begin his career. In such a tight job market, this doesn’t surprise me; a win-win for employer and student alike.

As Director of Human Resources for the City, it will be my goal to enhance our participation in these important programs. The world of local government is experiencing a huge loss of talent as baby boomers retire and there are few to take their place. For the City to continue to employ the best so we can deliver top notch services to our citizens, our burden will be to get young people interested in the field of local government. District 303’s Cooperative Education and Internship Programs is a mechanism to do that.

Historic Landmark of the Month
“Charles S. McCornack House”

June’s Landmark of the Month is the Charles S. McCornack House. Located at 412 Fulton Ave, the Charles S. McCornack House was built in the Colonial Revival style in 1931. This house has seen minimal changes over the years, with only the original shutters and ironwork stairs rails to the roof being removed. Windows, doors, trim, fascia, brick work, foundation, lead arch glass window, gutters, chimney and standalone garage, which was built in a similar style, are all original. The preservation of this house can be contributed to the fact that there have only been three owners since it was built. The original owner, Charles S. McCornack, is best known for establishing the McCornack Oil Company in 1904. The company prospered by providing oil and kerosene throughout the area. In 1934, the McCornack Oil Company formed a relationship with Texaco Oil, which led to two service stations being built in town.

For more information about Historic Preservation, please visit www.stcharlesil.gov/historic-preservation.
The Farmers Market is Back Outside

The St. Charles Farmers Market offers fresh, locally produced foods, produce, flowers, honey, garden products, jewelry, and more. The Farmers Market is open outside on Fridays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. June through October. It is located at 4th Avenue and Main Street, near Baker Memorial United Methodist Church. Visit their Facebook page for more information.

STC Live! provides summer fun in Downtown St. Charles every Wednesday and Friday evening. From June through the beginning of September, enjoy live, free entertainment at a variety of venues. These may include a local jazz combo, an aspiring vocalist, a magician, a dance troop, or an aspiring band. Visit the Downtown Partnership’s Facebook page each week for time, locations, and performers.

City of St. Charles Directory

Main Line: 630.377.4400

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building &amp; Code Enforcement</td>
<td>630.377.4406</td>
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<td>City Administrator Mark Koenen</td>
<td>630.377.4422</td>
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<td>Community &amp; Economic Development</td>
<td>630.377.4443</td>
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<td>Mayor Raymond P. Rogina</td>
<td>630.377.4444</td>
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