



THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

November 2019

www.stcharlesil.gov

Upcoming Meetings

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

Youth Commission	
11.4.19.....	6:00 pm
City Council	
11.4.19.....	7:00 pm
Plan Commission	
11.5.19.....	7:00 pm
Historic Preservation Commission	
11.6.19.....	7:00 pm
Planning & Development	
11.11.19.....	7:00 pm
Mental Health Board	
11.13.19.....	5:30 pm
Natural Resources Commission	
11.14.19.....	7:00 pm
Housing Commission	
11.14.19.....	7:00 pm
Liquor Control Commission	
11.18.19.....	4:30 pm
City Council	
11.18.19.....	7:00 pm
Government Operations Committee	
11.18.19.....	7:05 pm
Plan Commission	
11.19.19.....	7:00 pm
Historic Preservation Commission	
11.20.19.....	7:00 pm
Government Services Committee	
11.25.19.....	7:00 pm



CITY OF ST. CHARLES

ILLINOIS • SINCE 1834

Heritage. Community. Service. Opportunity.



Be a Part of St. Charles Holiday Magic

Holiday Homecoming is Nov. 29 & 30

Holiday Homecoming is one of the Midwest's most spectacular holiday events and is the official kick-off to the

holiday season in St. Charles. This weekend-long event has been making holiday memories for families for more than 17 years. All Holiday Homecoming events and activities are free of charge.

Friday, Nov. 29

- Lighting of the Lights at 5 p.m. on the First Street Plaza

Saturday, Nov. 30

- Free holiday movie at the Arcada Theatre at 10:00 a.m.
- Sleigh rides and visits with Santa on the First Street Plaza beginning at 1 p.m.
- Electric Christmas Parade at 5:30 p.m. on Main Street, from 6th St. to 4th Ave.

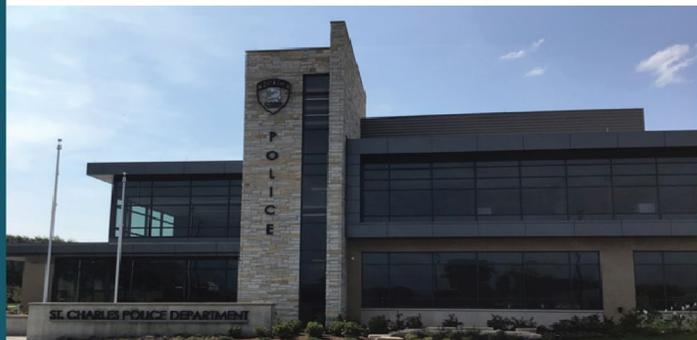
Holiday Homecoming is organized by the St. Charles Business Alliance, and made possible by sponsorship support, including presenting sponsor Fox Valley Auto Group. For more information, visit www.stcalliance.org or call 630-443-3967.

St. Charles Police Department Dedication Ceremony & Open House

November 9, 2019
10 a.m. to Noon



Please Join Us



1515 W. Main Street, St. Charles

All are invited. The Dedication Ceremony begins at 10 a.m. The Open House with tours follows and continues to noon. Parking is available on site. Let us know if you will be joining us. Please RSVP by Nov. 7, with name and number attending to: rsvp@stcharlesil.gov or 630.762.7097. We look forward to seeing you!

The City Welcomes these Business!

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!

EAST GATEWAY

Upstart USA

1720 Wallace Ave., #A

WEST GATEWAY

Chef Abdul Mediterranean Restaurant

2075 Prairie St., #101.

OTHER

Paradiso Restaurant & Bar

2051 Lincoln Hwy.

Alfa Omega, LLC

962 S. Randall Rd., #B

From the Mayor's Desk

Mayor Rogina's November letter comes to you live-on video :) [Click here to watch](#) the Mayor as he gives an overview of all the fall happenings this month.



SHOP LOCAL

THINK ST. CHARLES FOR ALL YOUR PURCHASES



TAXES FROM YOUR PURCHASES



HELP PROVIDE CITY SERVICES SUCH AS



SNOW PLOWING

INFRASTRUCTURE



POLICE

FIRE



Small
Business
Saturday
is Nov. 30

*Think St. Charles for All Your Purchases
and Support Your Local Businesses*

Local shops make a community strong. Recognizing this, ten years ago American Express launched Small Business Saturday® on the Saturday after Thanksgiving to encourage people to Shop Small and bring more holiday shopping to local small businesses.

On Nov. 30, when you're out enjoying the free Holiday Homecoming events that kick-off the holiday season in St. Charles, be sure to stop in to our local stores and restaurants too.

[Check out the list of nearly 2,000 businesses on the City's website](#) to see all you can choose from right here in St. Charles.

Sales taxes from your purchases help fund everyday City services, like police, fire and public works. So what's bought in St. Charles, really does stay in St. Charles. Remember to *Think St. Charles* when you shop.

Thanksgiving Fire Safety



For most, the kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays. Keep fire safety top of mind in the kitchen during this joyous but hectic time. Here are a few tips:

Thanksgiving Safety Facts

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires followed by the day before Thanksgiving, Christmas Day & Christmas Eve.
- Unattended cooking was the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths; faulty cooking equipment was second.

Safety Tips

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food; be home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove.
- Keep knives out of children's reach.
- Be sure cords are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children.
- Never leave children alone in a room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working

Source: National Fire Protection Association

St. Charles Police Station Provides a Safe Location to Perform Internet Transactions and Child Custody Exchange



The St. Charles Police Department has designated two parking spots outside the new police station at 1515 W. Main Street to safely conduct internet purchase transactions and child custody exchanges. The spots are indicated with signage. The lobby of the police station will continue to serve as a safe place for conducting these transactions as well.

Both the lobby and parking spots are monitored by security cameras, and their close proximity to police personnel means residents can meet there with confidence.

“The Internet Purchase and Custody Exchange locations are electronically recorded,” said Police Chief James Keegan. “When exchanging property via the internet and not using a mail service, or when custody exchanges are contentious, we encourage you to choose the police station as a safe and secure location to do so.”

For more information about the safe exchange locations or internet safety, contact Crime Prevention Officer James Burden at 630.443.3835 or jburden@stcharlesil.gov.

The Crime Prevention Newsletter is Out

The newsletter from the St. Charles Police Department offers helpful crime prevention tips, public safety information and police news. [Read it here.](#)

Refuse & Recycling Collection Reminders

Please place all refuse, recycling and yard waste containers immediately behind the curb (i.e., on the parkway) at the street, or at the alley lot line no later than 6:30 a.m. the day of collection. The earliest containers may not be put out is one day before your scheduled pickup. Remove emptied containers as soon as possible, but no later than 8 p.m. on your collection day. Read the complete ordinance here. If you have questions, contact the Building and Code Division at 630.377.4406 or bceadm@stcharlesil.gov.



Leaf, Brush and Yard Waste Collection Services

The City offers leaf, brush and yard waste bag collection services through the fall to help with your end-of-the-season yard clean up.

LEAF COLLECTION REMINDERS

- Please have leaves on the parkway by 6:30 a.m. on the beginning day of pick up for your area.
- It may take three to four days for leaves to be collected in your specific area.
- A smaller truck will collect leaves in cul-de-sacs.
- Leaves cannot be collected if the parkway is obstructed by parked vehicles or other obstacles. Leaves will be picked up on the next scheduled leaf collection when the obstruction is removed.
- Please keep a distance of approximately 10' between leaf piles and permanent structures [fire hydrants, trees, streetlight poles, etc.]. Please rake leaves in a row parallel to the street at least 1' back from the curb and off of the sidewalk.
- Pushing leaves into the street is a violation of Ordinance 12.04.170, punishable by fines up to \$500 for each offense.
- This program is funded by a portion of the fees collected on the utility bills of eligible homeowners living within St. Charles city limits. Please review your utility bill or contact the City's Utility Billing Department at 630-377-4426, if you have questions regarding your eligibility for this program.
- Be sure to check the City's website at www.stcharlesil.gov, call Public Works at 630-377-4405 or connect via email at pw@stcharlesil.gov for the any updates.

YARD WASTE PICK UP

Lake Shore Recycling will provide free bagged leaf/yard waste collection through December 24. This is in addition to regular City services.

November Leaf Collection Dates

Please note that changes in the weather may affect the collection schedule. Check the City website at <https://www.stcharlesil.gov/services/leaf> for schedule updates.

EAST SIDE OF RIVER

Nov 6
Nov 18

Pick up is unavailable for the following areas & subdivisions:

Cumberland Green
Delnor Glen Drive
Delnor Townhomes
Dunham Place Commons
Royal Fox private streets
Whittington Course
Townes of Fox Chase
Walnut Hill Townhomes

WEST SIDE OF RIVER

Nov 12
Nov 22

Pick up is unavailable for the following areas & subdivisions:

Auburn Court
Benham Court
Oak Crest
Viewpointe
Wildrose Springs Townhomes
Willowgate

FINAL BRUSH PICK UP

EAST SIDE

WEST SIDE

Nov 18

Nov 25



10th Street Water Tower Gets a New Coat of Paint



Repainting of the 10th Street Water Tower (near 10th & Illinois Streets) is underway. Resurfacing the tower protects the integrity of the structure's steel and improves its appearance.

The 300,000-gallon elevated water storage tank originally was constructed in 1956. The exterior paint on the water tower was spot repaired in the past and the current coating has reached the end of its useful life. Repainting is important to protect the steel from rust and extend the life of the tower structure.

The tower will receive a complete exterior and wet interior sandblast cleaning and repainting. In addition, the dry areas of the interior will be spot-painted. During repainting, a tent-like cover will be draped around the tower to protect the

surrounding area as sanding and painting is completed. Other work includes: foundation maintenance, roof hatches, tank vent replacement, upgraded safety requirements mandated by OSHA, and roof repairs.

Building Improvements & Floodplain Management Standards

Do you know that there are specific requirements for buildings located in the floodplain? The National Flood Insurance Program requires that if the cost of improvements to a building or the cost to repair damages (from any cause) to a building exceeds 50% of the market value of the building (excluding land value), the entire building must be brought up to current floodplain management standards. Building improvement projects include exterior and interior remodeling, rehabilitation, additions, repairs, and reconstruction projects. Additionally, the 50% threshold is a cumulative value. The cost of currently planned improvements will be added to the cost of previously made improvements and compared to the existing market value to determine if the improvements exceed 50% of the structure's value. Please contact the Public Works Engineering Division at 630-377-4486 for more information.



Please Check and Secure Your Mailbox

Before the first snowfall, the Public Works Department suggests that residents check their curbside mailboxes to be sure they are secure and stable. Please ensure your mailbox post and box are firmly anchored together, and the post is set firmly in the ground. It is possible that snow may be pushed into curbside mailboxes during

normal snow removal operations, and having your mailbox and post in good repair will help to avoid damage.

While infrequent, if your mailbox is damaged as a result of ice and snow removal operations, please note the following Public Works Department Mailbox Policy:

1. Only mailboxes that have been struck directly by a City vehicle or City equipment are eligible for replacement. Mailboxes damaged by snow or ice are not eligible for replacement.
2. Commercial and residential mailboxes shall meet City standards for installation and material, in accordance with St. Charles Code, Title 12 Streets, Sidewalks, Public Places and Special Events; Chapter 12.10 Parkways; Section 12.10.30 Mailboxes.
3. The resident or commercial property representative must notify the Public Works Department of the occurrence that caused mailbox damage within three (3) business days.

Contact the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405 if you have any questions.

Winterize Your Water Service

Public Works receives numerous inquiries on how to “winterize” a water service. You may need to winterize your home’s water service if your home will be vacant due to a move/sale, an extended vacation, or home renovations that require shutting off the water, etc.

Here are a few suggestions to avoid frozen pipes:

- Pipes **MUST BE DRAINED** when water is turned off for an extended period of time.
- Always allow heated air to circulate around pipes and water meters. Insulate problem areas and leave cabinet doors open.
- In empty/vacant homes, don’t turn off the heat – instead

turn down thermostats to maintain a minimum temperature to keep pipes from freezing. Installing a programmable thermostat is recommended to regulate the temperature when needed.

- Allow water to slowly drip from faucets with water pipes adjacent to an outside wall.
- Do not use an air compressor to “blow out” a private water service. This can allow dirt and other contaminants to enter the private and public water supply causing a potential health risk to residents and others drinking City water.

If you have any questions please contact the Public Works Meter Division at 630-377-4404.

CITY NOTES

Recycle Right



America Recycles Day is November 15—right around the corner. It seems like an appropriate time to clear up a few questions about what really can go into your curbside recycling bin.

There are plenty of items that are recyclable, but just not in your curbside bin! Here are a few tips to make recycling

more successful.

Plastic can cause some confusion with recycling. In St. Charles, we can recycle plastic numbers 1-5 and 7. A few types of plastics to keep out of your curbside bin: Styrofoam, all #6 plastics (hard clamshell with #6 on bottom); flexible packaging (plastic bags, shredded cheese bags, chip bags, toothpaste tubes, flexible hair products, etc.); plastic cutlery, and plastic straws.

Plastics to add to your bin: containers like laundry detergent bottles, hard shampoo bottles and #5 plastic tubs (cottage cheese, sour cream, etc.). It’s important to check the bottom of containers for the number. Plastic lids and caps – leave those on the containers! A good rule of thumb, if you can’t find a number, it’s best to throw it in the garbage.

Glass containers belong in your bin, but not drinking glasses, windows, mirrors or other non-container glass.

Aluminum cans and steel/tin cans (soup cans, veggie cans, etc) can go in the curbside bin while random scrap metal pieces should be kept out of your bin to be recycled elsewhere.

Cardboard, junk mail, newspapers, cereal boxes are all okay to add to your bin. Keep out cardboard egg cartons, tissues, paper towels and freezer boxes.

Recycling is an ever-changing industry as new technology becomes available and markets fluctuate.

Kane County Recycles offers a wealth of knowledge on curbside recycling and resources on where to recycle other items that can’t go into a curbside bin. www.countyofkane.org/Recycling/Pages/A-Z-Listing.aspx. This November 15, share a few tips and tricks with your neighbors so we can all do better at recycling!

Cannabis Update

The possession and private consumption of cannabis by people 21 or older for recreational use will be legal in Illinois beginning Jan. 1, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

At the Oct. 21, 2019, City Council Meeting, aldermen voted 6-3 to approve an ordinance allowing recreational cannabis sales in St. Charles. This includes two retail locations; one on the east side of St. Charles and one on the west side.



Historic Landmark of the Month “Long House”



November’s Landmark of the Month is the Long House. Located at 502 S. 4th Ave., the Long House was constructed in 1852 in the National style. Constructed of

limestone, the original structure has a simple rectangular, gable-front form. The gables are low pitched, with gable end cornice returns. The structure consists of two stories and an English basement. The south wing was added prior to 1892, and possibly as early as 1875. The wing is also constructed of limestone, with a unique decorative red brick surround, two courses wide.

Dennis Long and his wife were the first recorded purchasers of this property. Dennis was a mason who worked on the Illinois and Michigan Canal, as well as local projects like the first St. Patrick’s Church. After Dennis’ death, the house was passed to his son John, who enlisted in the Indiana Infantry during the Civil War. The home remained in the Long family until the late 1940s.

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



Long House - 502 S. 4th Ave.
Built ca. 1852

City/School District Partnership Will Shape the Face of the City



The City and St. Charles School District are partnering on a new program this year to offer job shadows to high school students. Three non-attendance dates, November 13, January 6, and April 10, have been selected in 2019 and 2020 for students to sign up for and shadow their choice

of City employees in any City department. The students can shadow one, two, or three different City professionals each day and even come for more than one of the job shadow dates.

The program was born out of the Bring Your Student to Work Day event, which invites employees to bring their children to work to learn about their parents’ careers in city government. That event has been so successful and so well received that staff wanted to open the City’s doors to other students in the community who want to learn more about what we do and, we hope, consider a career in municipal government.

The City has hosted college interns in various departments and positions for many years, but what makes this program so different and exciting is being able to expose high school students to the wide variety of municipal careers early, before they decide on a course of higher education. They will be able to see first-hand the work environments, tools, and tasks, and they will be able to discover steps they can take to prepare themselves for those careers.

Staff members from the City of St. Charles Human Resources Department and D303 Department of College & Career Readiness are working closely to coordinate the program and ensure a rich and rewarding job shadow experience for students. We are grateful for this wonderful opportunity to work collaboratively on such a positive program and feel it fits well within both organizations’ goals of building community partnerships and highlighting all St. Charles has to offer. Ultimately, we hope the job shadow program will keep talented individuals local to benefit the community and shape the municipal organizations that proudly serve our citizens for years to come.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Celebrating 185 Years: Veterans Day in St. Charles

We're getting close to the end of our yearlong celebration of the City's 185th Anniversary. As Veteran's Day approaches, this month's Anniversary article takes a look back at the veterans of St. Charles.

According to a newspaper article from Nov. 7, 1918, word of the end of World War I (the War to end all wars) prompted celebrations and marches down Main Street from 5th Street to 5th Avenue. When the official armistice was reached on November 11, celebrations again broke out and St. Charles Mayor Edwin Hunt proclaimed the day a holiday. All stores and offices were closed.

In a Veterans Day blog post from a few years back, the St. Charles History Museum noted that St. Charles has a long and proud history of military service dating back to the Revolutionary War. In fact, the Museum offers a list of known veterans from the Revolutionary War through World War II, along with several pictures. [Click here to visit the History Museum blog post.](#)

Source: St. Charles History Museum



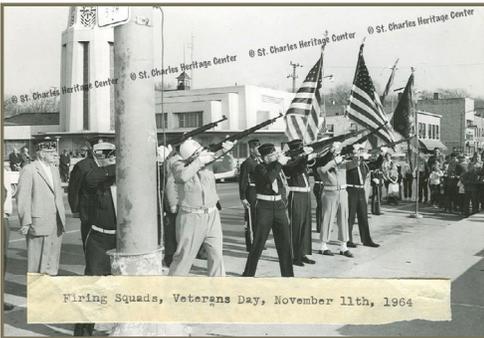
Armistice Day Parade 1919



WWI Veterans in Lincoln Park



St. Charles WWII Veterans: Seaman Billy Dewolfe & Yeoman Betty Budway.



[Visit our website to read more 185th Anniversary stories.](#)

St. Charles Veterans Day Ceremony is Nov. 11

Join Us at 10:30 a.m. at the New St. Charles Police Station, 1515 W. Main St.

The St. Charles Annual Veterans Day Ceremony is Nov. 11 at 10:30 a.m., at a **new location: inside the new St. Charles Police Station**, 1515 West Main Street. All are welcome. Please join us to show your appreciation for our country's veterans. The ceremony will begin with the National Anthem, followed by a prayer, remarks, a closing prayer, gun salute and Taps performance.

"Veterans Day is a day when we gather to say 'thank you' to our veterans for their selfless service to our country," said

Mayor Raymond Rogina. "We hope to see a large turnout at this event. At the City, we are proud of the fact that nearly 10% of our workforce is veterans. And we have been recognized for this with a Gold Medallion in the HIRE Vets program by the U.S. Department of Labor."





Getting From Giving

There's a lot of attention on Black Friday and Cyber Monday and all the gifts you can buy on those days. But on Dec. 3, consider joining the global #GivingTuesday effort (www.givingtuesday.org) or the local #ILGIVE (www.ilgive.com) and give back this holiday season.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 3, 2019



There are many opportunities right here in your community for you to donate your time, talent or treasure on Dec. 3 and beyond. Here are a few ideas:



Giving Tree at the Municipal Building

Help us Undecorate our Giving Tree at City Hall

Help us undecorate our Giving Tree and make the holidays brighter for some very special kids and seniors in our community. Trees will be located at City Hall, Public Works, and the Police Department. To participate, simply select one or more tags from a tree, purchase the item(s), and return the unwrapped gift(s) to the Giving Tree at City Hall. We have partnered with two local charities this year for our Giving Tree:

1. **Big Hearts of Fox Valley** – Makes Christmas wishes come true for D303 school children in need. Please drop off donations of board games, arts & craft kits, and gift cards by Nov. 27. www.bigheartsfv.org



2. **Elderday Center** – Offers comprehensive adult day program of socialization, recreation and health maintenance. Drop off purchased items by Friday, Dec. 20. www.elderdaycenter.org

Items on the tags 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 City receptionist. The Giving Tree is coordinated by the City's employee Project Wellness team. Contact the Human Resources Department at 630.377.4446 with questions.

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need helps financially struggling St. Charles residents pay their City utility bills. Write the amount you would like to donate on the payment stub of your utility bill and add it to the amount of your payment. 100% of donations go directly to helping St. Charles residents. Contact Utility Billing at 630.377.4426 or utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov for more information.





America in Bloom - St. Charles Holiday Lights Recycling Program

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.



Acceptable items:

- Traditional Holiday Lights
- LED Holiday Lights
- Italian Mini Holiday Lights
- Rope Lights
- Extension Cords

Unacceptable items:

Holiday string lights that are attached to garland, live greens, wreaths, Christmas trees, lawn decorations/ornaments or other non-recyclables.

Drop Off During Regular Business Hours

Ace Hardware

2650 E. Main St., St. Charles

Blue Goose Market

300 S. 2nd Street, St. Charles

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse Garden Center

2010 E. Main Street, St. Charles

Hickory Knolls Discover Center

3795 Campton Hills Road, St. Charles

Pottawatomie Community Center

8 North Avenue, St. Charles

St. Charles History Museum

215 E Main Street, St. Charles

St. Charles Public Works Lobby

1405 S. 7th Avenue, St. Charles

St. Charles Township Offices

1725 Dean Street, St. Charles

For more information, call City of St. Charles Public Works Department at 630-377-4405 or alwaysrecycle@yahoo.com.

City of St. Charles Directory

Main Line: 630.377.4400

<i>Building & 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 & 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		