### Upcoming Meetings

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

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Government Services Committee</td>
<td>9.23.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>708 Mental Health Board Meeting</td>
<td>9.26.19</td>
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**St. Charles Holding September 11th Remembrance Ceremony**

**Join Us on Sept. 11, 2019, 7:30 a.m., at the Fire Department Memorial Monument**

The City is holding a September 11th Remembrance Ceremony Sept. 11, 2019, at 7:30 a.m., at the Fire Dept. Memorial Monument, 2 E. Main St. Everyone is invited to come together as a community to honor the first responders who put duty before self and remember those who lost their lives that day.

“We hold remembrance ceremonies because it is our privilege to do so,” said Fire Chief Joe Schelstreet. “In this case, we honor 343 firefighters and 60 police officers who paid the ultimate price without thinking of the consequences. Let us take a few brief moments and honor their devotion and their absolute commitment to putting other people ahead of themselves.”

The ceremony will begin with the posting of the colors, followed by remarks from speakers, firefighter’s prayer, placing the memorial wreath, ringing of the fire bell, gun salute and Taps performance.

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City offices closed Monday, Sept. 2 for the Labor Day holiday
From the **Mayor’s Desk**

*Reflections of Thompson Middle School Ribbon Cutting and Open House, Tuesday, August 20, 2019*

I had the privilege of attending the School Board’s ribbon cutting and open house a couple of weeks ago.

For me, the event was laced with emotion and a profound sense of satisfaction for what was and what is.

One of the tenants of our mission statement is the word Heritage. Our community relishes the various opportunities to preserve our past while meeting the demands of societal changes.

The School Board here in St. Charles has done a remarkable job in blending future demands with our rich history in the “remake” of Thompson Middle School.

Built in 1926 as the high school for St. Charles, Thompson has always been a stoic building, sitting up on 7th St. overlooking the valley.

Fifty years ago, an Illinois State University senior drove down Main Street, past the Arcada and Municipal Building, up the hill, to meet his student teaching instructor, Jim Bannon.

Three years later, that student teacher began a 30 year career in St. Charles as an instructor of Business courses spending his first five years at “Thompson High School.”

I was humbled at the Thompson ceremony when current superintendent, Dr. Jason Pearson, called that student, now the city’s mayor, a “friend of education.”

It is very interesting to note that two of the four living mayors of St. Charles are Thompson graduates, Mayor Fred Norris and Senator Don DeWitte. May I also point out that three alderman matriculated from Thompson, Maureen Lewis, Ron Silkaitis and Rita Payleitner.

The open house allowed the opportunity to see a blend of old and new. The mayor’s old classroom has been upgraded; the faculty mailboxes are as pristine as ever symbolizing an amazing faculty that were inspirational and truly an honor to be associated with as fellow educators; the gym has been overhauled but I still hear the roar of a St. Charles Saints basketball game. Kudos to Alison Costanzo and the St. Charles History Museum for the poignant artifacts placed around the school. So many fine historical touches compliment the modern features and facilities that take the students of this middle school, along with its sister, Wredling Middle School, to their final educational stop in St. Charles, North or East High School.

As I sat listening to speeches prior to the open house, it occurred to me that once again Thomas Wolfe was wrong when he titled his book, “You can’t go home again.” School Board president, Carolyn Waibel, a product of St. Charles schools, talked to a crowd filled with alumni and former members of the faculty who are home again and have been home in St. Charles, Pride of the Fox.

Labor Day is upon us. We honor working America and say goodbye to summer. Enjoy the last warm days as Friday night lights and high school football take a spotlight in our community. Go Saints and North Stars.

See you around town.

*Ray Rogina, Mayor*
PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

School is Back in Session:
Watch for Students when Driving

Students are back in school. Drivers, please remember to watch out for children standing at bus stops, or walking or riding a bike to school—especially during morning rush hour.

Back-to-School Safety Tips

Drivers

- Holding a cellphone, tablet or laptop while driving is illegal.
- Only hands-free cell phone use is permitted—bluetooth, speakerphones, headsets. Holding a phone in your hand and talking, even if it’s on speaker, is illegal.
- Watch for children walking and biking and when backing out of your driveway.
- Drivers must stop for a crossing guard in the street with the stop sign raised.

Parents

- Children’s clothing or backpacks should not have long ties or straps. They could get caught when kids are climbing on or off the bus.

Students

- Be alert. Don’t listen to music, text, or talk on your cell phone while walking.
- Don’t wear hoods that block your vision.
- Follow all traffic rules, especially when crossing the street.

Firefighters Honored for River Rescue

On June 30, 2019, at 1:23 p.m. the St. Charles Fire Department was dispatched to a reported river rescue north of the Fox River. By 1:24 p.m. Fire Units were on the scene.

Fire Lt. David Chmelar, firefighter paramedics Michael Pyzyna, Chad Tinsley, and Brandon Paus were honored at a recent City Council meeting for their bravery rescuing two adults and one teenager who were in a boat with a failed motor.

The boat experienced engine trouble after a storm affected the area. Witnesses on the shore called 911. Fire Fighters launched a rescue boat from Pottawatomie Park and arrived just as the boat approached the dam.

The victims were rescued; however the boat went over the dam. Wet and distressed, the three victims were transported to the dock behind the Police Department where they were attended to by paramedics. All three victims were wearing their personal floatation devices and had no physical injuries.

We thank the witnesses who promptly called 911 and the brave firefighters who sprang into action when they were needed the most.

Police Station Construction Nears Completion

Construction is nearly complete, with an anticipated move-in date of mid-September 2019. The interior finishes are just about completed with furniture crews on-site completing workstations and interior offices. The landscaping and parking areas are being finalized with grass and sod, followed by the final coat of asphalt. More information about the project is at www.stcharlesil.gov/projects/st-charles-police-station

PREPARED, NOT SCARED
National Preparedness Month 2019

Week 1: Sept 1-7
Save Early for Disaster Costs

Week 2: Sept 8-14
Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters

Week 3: Sept 15-21
Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters

Week 4: Sept 22-30
Get Involved in Your Community’s Preparedness
Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains

A floodplain is any land area susceptible to being inundated by floodwaters from any source. When left in a natural state, floodplain systems store and dissipate floods without adverse impacts to residents, buildings, roads, and other infrastructure. Natural floodplains provide multiple benefits for the community including flood protection, erosion control, improved water quality, recharged aquifers, enhanced wildlife habitats, and recreational opportunities.

Update on Recreational Cannabis in St. Charles

Two public discussions around whether to allow recreational cannabis sales in St. Charles were held at the Aug. 15 & Aug. 19, 2019, Government Operations Committee Meetings.

Initial Vote Held

At the Aug. 19 meeting, Aldermen, as a Committee of the Whole, voted 6-3 to direct City staff to begin the zoning process for two recreational sales facilities, one on the east side of St. Charles and one on the west side.

Next Steps

• The City will file a General Amendment Application to change the current zoning ordinance.
• The Plan Commission will hold a public hearing.
• The Planning and Development Committee of the City Council will consider the Plan Commission’s recommendation(s).
• The City Council will consider and vote on the recommendation(s) of the Planning and Development Committee.

Illinois Law Goes into Affect Jan. 1, 2020

The possession and private consumption of cannabis by people 21 or older for recreational use will be legal in Illinois beginning Jan. 1, 2020. However, municipalities may choose whether or not to allow retail cannabis stores in their communities, and if so, how many stores are allowed, and where they can be located.

Official agendas are posted on the City of St. Charles website 48 hours prior to a meeting at www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings. Minutes of previous meetings also are posted there.
Wind Farm Blade Signing

Recently, St. Charles Electric Services Manager Tom Bruhl participated in a “Blade Signing” on a 200-ft long wind turbine blade for the new Green River Wind Farm. The Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA), the wholesale supplier of energy for the City of St. Charles, will purchase approximately 25% of the energy produced from the wind farm. IMEA is always looking to diversify their portfolio to include more renewable energy resources, and was also a partner with the City in building the St. Charles solar plant in the Legacy Business Park in 2017.

Downtown Comprehensive Plan Update

Thank you to all who attended the April 24 Open House. Your feedback is appreciated. A summary and report of the information gathered at the Open House as well as more information on the plan is on our website at www.stcharlesil.gov/projects/downtown-comprehensive-plan-update

Upcoming Meetings

Sept. 3, 7pm in the Century Station Training Room, 112 N. Riverside Ave., Lower Level (Enter on State Ave.)
The Plan Commission will review revised recommendations for the east and west sides discussed at the Aug. 8 & 20 Commission meetings.

Sept. 9, 7pm in City Council Chambers, 2 E. Main St.
The Planning & Development Committee will review the Comprehensive Plan preliminary recommendations.

Overnight Parking for Recreational and Commercial Vehicles

The City does not ban parking on city streets overnight for most vehicles. There are, however, restrictions on parking Recreational and Commercial vehicles overnight.

Which vehicles are allowed to park on City streets overnight?

One passenger car or a truck with a “B” license plate, such as a pickup truck.

How long can allowed vehicles be parked on the street?

No longer than 24 hours.

Which vehicles are not allowed to park overnight?

1. Any vehicle with a “D” license plate or higher, and vehicles such as motor homes, pop-up campers, trailers, boats, boat trailers, tow trucks, buses, cargo trucks, semi trucks, etc.
2. Pickup trucks equipped with a snow plow—even though they may have a “B” license plate

Can prohibited vehicles ever park overnight on the street?

1. Permission may be granted by the Police Department to park one unoccupied motor home for a maximum of 48 hours on a residential street. A permit must be obtained in advance and displayed in the front windshield of the vehicle. No more than 2 permits shall be granted in any 12-month period.
2. One recreational vehicle only may be parked on a driveway or other hard surface from April 15 to October 15. From October 15 to April 15, no recreational vehicle shall be parked or stored in the required front yard or exterior side yard except for a period of 48 hours for loading or unloading. Building and Code Enforcement staff will be enforcing the front yard and exterior side yard parking restriction.

Storage of Recreational Vehicles

Recreational vehicles may be stored outside all year in residential districts according to these regulations:

- Only one per lot
- On a hard surface

For more information, contact the Building and Code Division at 630.377.4406 or review the ordinance 17.24.120 - Commercial Vehicles and 17.24.130 - Recreational Vehicles online.

Be a Part of the Action:
St. Charles EMA is Hiring

Our Emergency Management Agency is hiring part-time technicians. The work is both scheduled and paid-for-response and pays $12/hr. There are two mandatory meetings a month and continuous training to effectively respond to local emergencies and planned events throughout the year. Visit www.stcharlesil.gov/jobs for information and to apply.
Second Installment of Property Taxes Due Sept. 3

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

The second property tax installment is due September 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 helps pay 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, police and fire 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 information about taxes at www.stcharlesil.gov/departments/finance. You also can read more about the City’s levy-setting process.

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One Utility Payment Drop Box is Moving

The City offers five convenient locations for you to drop off your electric, water or sewer bill payments. One of those locations, the west side drop box for utility payments will move Sept. 12, 2019, to the new Police Station at 1515 W. Main Street.

Other Payment Locations:

- Utility Billing office in the Municipal Building, 2 E. Main Street
- Slot in the door near south entrance of the Municipal Building
- North Municipal Building Parking Lot drop box
- Drop Box in Foxfield Commons Shopping Center on E. Main St., in front of SuperCuts

Boxes are emptied daily around 9:00 am. All payments received in them after this time will post the next business day.

You also can pay your utility bill online. Sign up at www.stcharlesil.gov/services/utilities. Contact Utility Billing for more at 630.377.4426 or utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov.
Historic Landmark of the Month

“Locke-Marchialette House”

The September Landmark of the Month is the Locke-Marchialette House. Located at 215 N 3rd Ave., in the original town of St. Charles, the Locke-Marchialette House was built in the Queen Anne style in 1898. The house was built for Lee and Laura (Locke) Marchialette on property purchased from Laura’s father, Amos E. Locke, a painter and paperhanger in St. Charles. Amos E. Locke’s father, Amos N., was an early settler of the area and member of the Kane County Anti-Slavery Society, who operated a woolen mill in St. Charles for 30 years.

The home has original gables and three beautiful stain glass windows. During a 2015 renovation, it was discovered that original clapboard siding is also in place under the current aluminum siding. On the inside of the home, many original features have been preserved, including wood trim, moldings, an elaborate fireplace and a beautiful oak staircase.

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

From the Natural Resources Commission

What am I?

I am light and I am heavy.
I am strong enough to hold up a skyscraper.
I am fragile enough to be blown away in the wind.
I am an anchor. I am a home. I am a sponge.
I am one substance made of many different things.
I am loose enough to flow like a river.
I am solid as a mountain.
I can be fertile. I can be barren.
I am living and I am dead.

What am I?

If you guessed “soil” you are correct. (Not dirt, that’s the stuff that you get under your fingernails.)

Soil is the foundation of life. It is one of our most useful natural resources. From the soil we get food, clothes, fuels, and materials for the houses we live in. Basically everything we need for life starts with the soil. Let’s trace a loaf of bread back to the soil: bread-flour-wheat-soil. How about ice cream? Ice cream-cow-grass-soil. How about a book? Book-paper-lumber-tree-soil. Think of things that you use during your average day, now try to link them back to the soil. Ah, ha, pretty good thing we have healthy soils, right?

Air, water, minerals and organic matter (decaying plants and animals) make up a healthy soil. One teaspoon of healthy soil can contain millions of living organisms.

There are more than 600 different kinds of soils in Illinois. Drummer silty clay loam was designated the official state soil of Illinois in 2001 to recognize its value to agriculture and the overall economy of the state. Drummer soil is deep, dark black topsoil named for Drummer Creek (in Drummer Township, Ill.). The prairies that used to cover Illinois created these rich soils.

It can take 500 years or more to form one inch of topsoil. Yes, that’s a fact. Hopefully when you look down to the ground from now on, you will think about how great a natural resource we have in our soils.
Celebrating 185 Years
Traveling through St. Charles’ Civil War History

As the City of St. Charles celebrates its 185th Anniversary year, this month we are focusing on our City’s connections to the Civil War.

• In the mid-1800s, St. Charles was only a community of less than 500 families. However, it was a community of passionate unionists. The 8th and 7th Illinois Cavalry and the 52nd, 127th, and 141st Infantry were filled with 450 boys and men from St. Charles. From start to finish, our residents were ready to participate.

• ‘Rallying to the flag’ was one of our contributions, but the City also housed a major Illinois Civil War training camp. In 1861 and through 1864, Camp Kane was created. Later this area would become Langum Park.

• Camp Kane was a training facility first for the 8th Illinois Cavalry, and later for the 17th Illinois Cavalry. More than 2,000 men who would join the war effort were trained here. Of these 2,000, 194 were killed in action or died from disease/accident, 185 were wounded, and 5 died in Confederate prisons.

• Pictured are line drawings of Camp Kane and the Jones Law Office, and a photo of the Jones Law Office today. While the building has been moved from its original location, it has been preserved to this day by the efforts of the Thornapple Questers.

• St. Charles’ John Franklin Farnsworth was a lawyer, congressman, and supporter of the anti-slavery movement. He asked President Lincoln for permission to raise a cavalry troop of 1,200 men in Illinois. In September 1861, most of his men had arrived to form the Eighth Cavalry Regiment at Camp Kane.

• His nephew, Elon Farnsworth, also joined the Regiment as a first lieutenant.

• The women of St. Charles gave members of the military boxes of bandages and old linens to take with them into battle.

• According to Lt. Col. Abner Hard, “Of the 200 regiments of brave and loyal troops that Illinois sent out to battle in the war of the great rebellion, none had a more brilliant career or shed a brighter light upon the State of the Nation than the Eighth Illinois Cavalry. No regiment was made up of a better class of men, mentally, morally, or physically than the Eighth.”

• Local drugstore owner J.S. Van Patten supplied rations to the regiment for 16 cents each. In the entire Union army, the regiment became known as the best fed, best equipped, least expensively maintained, and one of the most quickly prepared.

• Not only did St. Charles have several brave and courageous soldiers, but it also had a brave and courageous horse. Charley was a cavalry horse in 1861 that was ridden in service for four years.

Photograph of John F. Farnsworth courtesy of Library of Congress. All other photographs courtesy of the St. Charles History Museum. Information provided by the St. Charles History Museum.
Arts Fest  
**Sept. 6-15**  

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St. Charles Jazz Weekend  
**Sept. 12-15**  
Jazz Weekend is a four-day event where you can enjoy live jazz music at an array of downtown St. Charles venues. Information at [www.stcjazzweekend.com](http://www.stcjazzweekend.com)

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The Classic Car Show  
**Sept. 13, 5 - 8 p.m.**  
**Sept. 14, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.**  
At Classics & Custom Auto, 4200 E. Main St.  
This free and fun-filled car show is so big it needs 2 days! Enjoy classic automobiles, food vendors, local business booths, music, a bouncy house and more family activities. Hosted by Classics & Custom Auto in St. Charles and the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce. More at [www.stcharleschamber.com](http://www.stcharleschamber.com)

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An Afternoon of Random Acts  
**Sept. 15 2 pm - 6 pm**  
The 3rd Annual Afternoon of Random Acts is a fundraising event focused on the community taking action to help the community. Relax with friends and family as you enjoy music and games. For more information visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/events/409440153247923/](http://www.facebook.com/events/409440153247923/)

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Fox Valley Marathon  
**Sept. 22**  
Participate in the 10th Annual DuPage Medical Group Fox Valley Marathon, Half Marathon and Fall Final 20. For more information visit: [www.fv26.com](http://www.fv26.com)

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Scarecrow Fest  
**Oct. 11-13**  
Join us at Lincoln Park in St. Charles to make your own scarecrow, vote for your favorite, an arts and crafts show, and live music at the Scarecrow Fest. More at [www.scarecrowfest.com](http://www.scarecrowfest.com)
Public Transportation Options for St. Charles

**Pace On Demand**

Pace On Demand (formerly Call-n-Ride) offers reservation-based, shared-ride service. Book online or call to reserve your trip at least one hour in advance, and pay with Ventra ($2.00 per trip) or cash ($2.25) when boarding. On Demand is open to the general public, so anyone can book a trip and ride the service, as long as the trip starts and ends within one of the On Demand zones. Reserve a ride online at [www.pacebus.com/sub/schedules/on_demand.asp](http://www.pacebus.com/sub/schedules/on_demand.asp) or call 630.379.2452.

**Pace Rt. 801 – Elgin to Geneva**

Provides weekday and Saturday service between Elgin and Geneva, serving the Elgin Transportation Center, Elgin Metra Station, South Elgin, Geneva Metra Station, Kane County Judicial Center and businesses on Randall Road between IL 38 and Hopp's Road. Connects with Route 802 for service to Aurora as well as the Pace On Demand service for St. Charles. Regular fare with Ventra ($2.00 per trip) or cash ($2.25) when boarding. Schedule and details at [www.pacebus.com/sub/schedules/route_detail.asp?RouteNo=801](http://www.pacebus.com/sub/schedules/route_detail.asp?RouteNo=801).

**Ride in Kane**

Ride in Kane provides door-to-door paratransit services to more than 10,000 senior, disabled, and low-income riders throughout Kane County each month. The fare is $4/trip. Registered riders may call 1.866.727.6842 to schedule a ride. To find out if you’re eligible, call Ride in Kane at 888.480.8549 or visit [www.rideinkane.org](http://www.rideinkane.org).

Bake Sale at City Hall October 25

City employees are hosting a bake sale and raffle Oct. 25 benefitting the Kane County Specialty Courts Foundation. All kinds of goodies made by City employees will be for sale in the Municipal Building lobby from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Raffle tickets also will be sold for $3 each for a chance to win some amazing prizes from local businesses.

The Kane County Specialty Courts Foundation is a 501C3 non-profit organization that supports the three Kane County specialty courts: Drug Rehabilitation, Treatment Alternative (for those with mental health issues), and Veterans Treatment courts.

These three specialty courts provide an alternative to incarceration for defendants whose criminal behavior is linked to drug abuse or mental health disorders. Justice professionals work together with substance abuse professionals and local social service programs to help these defendants.

The Foundation raises funds to help pay for items used as rewards for modifying behavior. Items purchased include gift cards, educational and medical expenses, and bus and Metra passes for transportation to treatment.

To learn more about the three specialty courts, please visit [http://courtservices.countyofkane.org/](http://courtservices.countyofkane.org/) and click on “Specialty Courts.” To learn more about the City’s bake sale and raffle, contact the Human Resources Department at 630.377.4446.

City of St. Charles Directory

**Main Line:** 630.377.4400

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<td>Building &amp; Code Enforcement</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Administrator Mark Koenen</td>
<td>630.377.4422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Economic Development</td>
<td>630.377.4443</td>
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<td>Fire Department</td>
<td>630.377.4458</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayor Raymond P. Rogina</td>
<td>630.377.4444</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Department</td>
<td>630.377.4435</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Works: Electric/Water/Sewer/Street</td>
<td>630.377.4405</td>
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<td>Utility Billing</td>
<td>630.377.4426</td>
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<td>Refuse Pickup Information</td>
<td>630.581.8650</td>
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<td>TDD</td>
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<td>844.443.9794</td>
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<td>Electric Outage Hotline</td>
<td>866.444.0016</td>
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<tr>
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The Den is produced by The City of St. Charles, 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174 Questions? Please contact Lisa Garhan, Editor at lgarhan@stcharlesil.gov 630.443.3744