

Additional Outdoor Dining Space Continues Thru October



*Public tables on the new plaza east of 1st Street.
Photo: St. Charles Business Alliance*

At a Special Meeting June 29, the City Council voted to extend the special temporary outdoor dining program through October. Restaurants and bars offering expanded outdoor dining must follow all requirements of the Governor's Executive Orders, as well as requirements from state and county health agencies, and the CDC. This includes keeping tables six feet apart.

Outdoor Dining Spaces

- **1st Street:** The two plazas off of 1st Street offer outdoor dining space for adjacent restaurants and tables for general public use. In addition, a portion of 1st Street will remain closed to vehicle traffic to accommodate more outdoor seating.

- **Parking Lots and Sidewalks:** Restaurants may continue to use parking lots for outdoor dining, subject to meeting certain permitting requirements for access and parking availability. Restaurants also may use public sidewalks for outdoor dining, subject to permitting requirements, including maintaining an open walking path for pedestrians.
- **Municipal Building Plaza:** Tables have been set up on Main St. in front of City Hall for public use.
- **Walnut Avenue:** A portion of Walnut Avenue also is closed to accommodate outdoor dining.

Ask Us

Have a question you would like to ask? Send it to info@stcharlesil.gov,
Subject: Ask Us and it could be answered in an upcoming issue.

Meetings

For a complete list of upcoming public meetings, including City Council, Committee and Commission meetings, visit our website at www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings. Agendas are posted the Friday prior to the meeting. Minutes are posted after they are approved.



Heritage. Community. Service. Opportunity.

Contact Us

[Click to view a complete list of City Contacts](#)



From the Mayor's Desk



City Administrator Mark Koenen & Mayor Ray Rogina

In Illinois, we remain somewhat stable but recent spikes are cause for concern.

It is in no one's best interest to regress to a previous phase that confines the marketplace and creates frustration, anxiety, and economic hardship. It is incumbent upon all of us to stymie the virus by wearing masks, practicing good hygiene, and social distancing.

The employers and employees of business establishments need to lead by example; there is much at stake. Customers should be responsible to others. This consistent practice keeps us moving in a positive direction; carelessness and a general disregard for the obvious science will reproduce the spikes noted above.

In the final analysis, all of us, collectively, determine the path we choose.

Raymond Rogina
Mayor

2020 Residential Survey Results are In

In March 2020, surveys were distributed to a statistical sample of St. Charles residents to gather perspectives on the overall quality of life in St. Charles. More than 500 surveys were completed, representing an accurate demographic and geographic reflection of our City. The last time the survey was conducted was in 2016.

The results of the 2020 Resident Survey will be presented at the Aug. 3 Government Operations Meeting, which immediately follows the 7 p.m. City Council Meeting. Due to the coronavirus, we encourage remote attendance using Zoom online conferencing. More information about public meetings, including how to participate through Zoom, is at www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings.

Results will be Shared

Full results from the survey also will be shared in upcoming City communications, including postings on the website (www.stcharlesil.gov), social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)) and in the September issue of *The Den*.



WATCH FOR STUDENTS AT BUS STOPS

While this school year certainly will be very different from past years, one thing remains the same: children will be standing out at bus stops. Please drive with extra caution. If you are out driving, watch for children walking or riding to school, or standing at bus stops. And as always, for their safety, never pass a stopped school bus when its lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.

The Latest Crime Prevention Newsletter is Out

The crime prevention newsletter from the St. Charles Police Department offers helpful crime prevention tips, public safety information, quarterly stats, and police news. [Read it here](#). For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Jim Burden at jburden@stcharlesil.gov.

Beware of Unemployment Scam

The St. Charles Police Department has received reports from residents who received unemployment benefits in the form of a KeyBank debit card even though they never applied for unemployment benefits. At least one resident has received a debit card in the name of a deceased relative. If this happens to you, please report it as a fraud immediately to the Illinois Department of Employment Security at www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/Reporting_Unemployment_Insurance_Fraud.aspx since your personal information may have been compromised and you may be a victim of identity theft. You also can file a report with St. Charles Police by calling 911 and an officer will contact you. We also recommend that you monitor your credit report for any fraudulent activity.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms. A working smoke alarm cuts the risk of dying in a house fire in half. Smoke alarms give early warnings of fast spreading smoke making them a key part of a home fire escape plan.

Tips you need to know according to the National Fire Protection Association:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area and in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms, when one alarm is triggered they all will sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month by pressing the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Today's smoke alarms have the capability to respond to a multitude of fire conditions and reduce false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be placed on the ceiling or high on a wall and away from the kitchen to prevent false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can use special alarms with strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

The St. Charles Fire Department has developed an outreach program to help supply senior citizens and those in need with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The program provides the following services:

- Home assessments to determine the need for smoke alarms and to identify any existing fire hazards in older adults' homes.
- Smoke alarm installation to ensure participants' homes are adequately equipped with working smoke alarms.
- Education to provide in-person fire safety messages and tips to older adults, their family members and caregivers.
- Follow-up to determine if alarms are still working; to assess any changes in the older adults' fire safety knowledge, attitudes and behaviors; and to see if any fires have occurred.

Anyone in need of assistance with their smoke detectors can contact the St. Charles Fire Department at 630.377.4458.



PUBLIC WORKS NOTES

Collection Service Reminders

Brush Collection

- East Side of the River - Aug. 17
- West Side of the River - Aug. 24

For the complete schedule and more details about brush pick up, visit www.stcharlesil.gov/services/brush

Yard Waste & Composting

Yard waste & compost are picked up on your regular refuse days. More at www.stcharlesil.gov/services/seasonal-services/yard-waste-collection

Water Conservation is Year-Round

Sprinkling time limits apply year-round:

- Even numbered addresses may sprinkle on even-numbered days, from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. & 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Odd numbered addresses may sprinkle on odd-numbered days, from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. & 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

NOTE: Lawn sprinkling is not allowed at any address within the City on any day of the week between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. or between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. We ask all residents, businesses, and industrial water users help us achieve our goals. If you have questions, contact Public Works at 630.377.4405 or check the City's website at www.stcharlesil.gov.



CITY NOTES

Tips for Saving Power in the Hot Summer Weather

We've had some searing temperatures this summer. That means we are using air conditioners, swimming pools, fans—and lots of energy. Here are some tips to help save energy and costs during peak usage times:

- A microwave uses about two-thirds less energy than a stove.
- Keeping the fridge stocked helps keep it from warming up too fast when the door is opened.
- Keeping the thermostat higher and using a fan means the air conditioner doesn't run as often, which saves energy.
- Only do full loads of laundry so the washer runs less often.
- Limit the operating time of your pool's filter and cleaning systems to about four or five hours per day.
- Use curtains or shades to help keep the heat out. For more energy-saving tips, visit energy.gov/energysaver/spring-and-summer-energy-saving-tips.

Historic Landmark of the Month

"Jessie Miller House"



August's Landmark of the Month is the Jessie Miller House, located at 423 S. 7th Street. The home was built in 1895 by Colonel Charles Miller for his daughter, Jessie. Colonel Miller served in the Civil War and Jessie is one of his seven children. After his service, he owned and operated a paper mill here in the City. The home is built in the Queen Anne architectural

style. The front two story corner bay is topped with a gable featuring fish scale shingles. The first-floor center window of the bay has a leaded glass transom. The home maintains many of its original elements. These elements include the clapboard siding, fish scale shingles and wood double hung windows. While a two-story addition was added to the home at some point in time, the original home still remains well preserved with very few alterations.



Jessie Miller House

423 S. 7th Street

Built ca. 1895

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

Monarchs & Milkweed

Submitted to our blog [Inside St. Charles](#) by Ralph Grathoff, Chairman, Natural Resources Commission



Natural Resources Commission

City of St. Charles

Consider the not so humble Monarch butterfly “king of the butterflies.” This lucky little bug begins its life cycle in our area and then travels to Mexico for the winter, leaving behind an envious naturalist-inclined resident to ponder the wisdom of living in an area where weather forecasts often include the words: polar vortex.

The *Danaus plexippus*, or milkweed butterfly, whose trajectory of evolution has led its life cycle—egg, larvae, pupa/chrysalis, adult—to require a dependence on a single species of plant. A plant with weed built right in its common name. There are 20 or so species in the milkweed family *Asclepiadaceae* in Illinois. Common milkweed *Asclepius syriaca* is the one most prevalent in our area. It is the destruction of this “weed” in the monarch’s case, and the overall destruction of habitat for pollinators in general, that has contributed to a large decline in monarch populations over-wintering in much warmer climes and an alarming reduction in pollinating insects overall.

It’s endlessly fascinating, that a relationship between a “weed” in Illinois and a seemingly fragile butterfly, again this little insect manages to hoof it thousands of miles in its migration, can be so dependent on the preservation of the weeds’ habitat.

So, go ahead and leave the milkweed to grow in the garden and encourage the preservation of open spaces. You might get lucky and catch a glimpse of a really large caterpillar and a butterfly floating around the garden on a warm July day. Something to remember when as soon enough the weather forecast will flash “wind chill warning.”



Photo credit Chuck Heidgen

Parking Time Limit Reminder

Please keep in mind that there is a 24-hour time limit to park on any street in the City of St. Charles. This parking time limit supports the idea that City streets are for the movement of vehicles, not the storage of them. If a vehicle is to be parked longer than 24 hours, it must be parked on the owner’s property—and only on driveways and other solid surface areas. Parking vehicles on front yards and parkways is prohibited. For more parking information, see www.stcharlesil.gov/transportation-parking/parking-info



COMMUNITY NEWS

Election 2020: Kane County Races

This is an election year and there are some important races right here in Kane County, including Board Chairman and State’s Attorney. Find a complete list of all candidates on the ballot on the [Kane County Clerk’s Office website](#).

Vote by Mail

The Kane County Clerk’s Office mailed Vote by Mail ballot applications for the Nov. 3 election as required by a new state law. You can also apply for a ballot online at <http://kanecountyelections.org/votbymail>.

Census Works to Begin Canvassing the Neighborhoods Aug. 11

If you haven’t filled out a census form, expect a visit from a Census worker in the near future. St. Charles has been doing great, with nearly 77% of the population completing the census, most of those online. Let’s keep it going! Census figures are used in a variety of ways, but funding allocation is one important use of the data. If St. Charles receives any COVID-related funding, for example, census figures will be used to determine how much. More information is at <https://2020census.gov/en.html>.



Call for Artists:

Cover Design of the St. Charles Chamber Membership Directory

Entries Due August 31, 2020

The [St. Charles Chamber of Commerce](#) is hosting a contest to find a design for the cover of their 2020-2021 Community Guide & Membership Directory. All artists must reside locally. Artwork submitted should represent the greater St. Charles community and is open to any style/medium, as long as it can be properly photographed and incorporated into the cover specifications. The winning artwork will grace the cover of the directory and the winner will receive either a free one-year Business Membership in the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce (\$325 value) or a \$250 St. Charles Chamber of Commerce Gift Card. In addition, two runners up each will receive a \$50 St. Charles Chamber Gift Card. For more details, including submission criteria, contact the Chamber at 630.584.8384.

Have You Seen the TV Commercial Promoting St. Charles?



The [St. Charles Business Alliance](#) has developed a commercial that currently is running on TV. If you watch HGTV, Food Network, TLC, Hallmark, CNBC, MSNBC, Fox News, etc., on your local Comcast channels, you may have seen it. The spot features local businesses welcoming people back to St. Charles during the Revitalization/Phase 4 of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan. [Watch the commercial here](#)

Fun New Piece of Public Art

When you're strolling downtown, stop to see this new sculpture on the 1st Street Plaza along the river. Be sure to snap a selfie and tag #beyouinstc. This one-of-a-kind piece of public art was installed by the [St. Charles Business Alliance](#).



The Den is produced by The City of St. Charles, 2 East Main Street,
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Questions? Please contact Lisa Garhan, Editor at
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