



Our Vision for 2020

Happy New Year! 2019 was filled with good news from all over the City. We have many goals for the New Year. Here's what's in store for 2020:

Community & Economic Development

1. Completion of the East Plaza/Riverwalk by early summer 2020. This will be open to the public for enjoyment of the river.
2. Conclude the Downtown Comprehensive Plan update. After this, the City will issue a Request for Proposals for redevelopment of municipal lands along the east side of the Fox River, including the former Police Station site.

Human Resources

1. Actively pursue additional recruiting strategies, especially for the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments, where there is a decrease in applicants.
2. Execute a compensation study and analysis to ensure the City is attracting top talent while also utilizing taxpayer dollars responsibly.

Police

1. Utilize a virtual training system in 2020 that is a planned addition to our new police facility. This system will allow officers to experience practical, real-time decision making in a virtual environment.

Public Works

1. Complete final engineering plans for Phase 1 flood mitigation improvements along the 7th Avenue Creek.
2. Begin design engineering for the west side Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion with construction estimated at \$20 million. This plant is along IL Rte. 38 west of Randall Road and is needed for additional wastewater treatment capacity to support continued community growth and to incorporate additional environmental elements to improve water quality of Mill Creek and the Fox River.
3. Begin design engineering of the Riverside lift station facility replacement. Replacing the aging wastewater lift station at the intersection of Riverside and Devereaux Way is estimated at \$7 million.
4. Begin design engineering for combining Well #7 and Well #13 water treatment building located on the City's west side. Combining these facilities increases water production capabilities and achieves some financial savings by creating a centralized treatment location for these two wells.

Continued on page 2

Upcoming Meetings

A complete list of public meetings (City Council, Committee and Commission meetings) is at www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings. Agendas are posted 48 hours prior to the meeting. Minutes are posted after they are approved by the City Council or respective committee/commission.

Contact Us

[Click here for the City Directory](#)



Our Vision for 2020 (cont.)

Finance

1. Evaluate the potential replacement of several software applications over the next several years, including the City's accounting and utility billing packages.
2. Continue to work with the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley and support the activities of the [St. Charles Initiative Fund](#).

Information Systems

1. Lead an initiative to implement an integrated suite of software applications that support the City's core business processes to meet enhanced customer service requirements.
2. Implement a comprehensive redesign of the City's network to ensure the City has the capacity to meet its future computing needs.

From the Mayor's Desk



In Mayor Rogina's January video letter, he and City Administrator Mark Koenen discuss the projects, trends, and happenings to watch for in 2020.

[Click here to watch.](#)

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE



Stay Away From Sagging or Downed Power Lines

We already experienced severe winter weather this season. Ice and snow can weigh down tree limbs that fall on power lines. Remember, if you see a downed line, stay away. Always assume that the line is energized, even if it doesn't appear to be. If you see a downed or sagging power line, report it to Public Works 630-377-4405. Call 911 after hours or if it poses a public threat.

Know Your Winter Weather Terms



Wind Chill Advisory

Wind chill temperatures could pose a threat with prolonged exposure.

Wind Chill Warning

Wind chill temperatures could be hazardous to life with prolonged exposure.

Winter Weather Advisories

Accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle and sleet are expected. Be careful; Winter Weather Advisories could lead to life-threatening situations.

Winter Storm Watch

A blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain or heavy sleet are possible. Winter storm watches are usually issued 12-48 hours before a winter storm is expected to hit.

Winter Storm Warning

Hazardous winter weather with heavy snow, blizzard conditions, heavy freezing rain or heavy sleet is approaching or occurring.

Blizzard Warning

Sustained or gusty winds of 35 mph or more; falling or blowing snow with visibility at ¼ mile or less; these conditions persist for at least 3 hours.

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Discourage Coyotes from Making Your Neighborhood their Home



We can expect an increase in coyote sightings through February as young coyotes leave their parents in search of mates and territories to call their own. Coyotes also are more willing to venture out of their rural or wooded habitats and into residential areas in search of food and shelter in winter months.

While coyotes are unlikely to attack humans, they can become more aggressive if they find an area that suits their needs and they want to defend it. Tips for keeping coyotes from settling in your neighborhood:

- NEVER feed coyotes.
- Remove bird feeders and outdoor pet dishes during the winter months. These attract squirrels, which coyotes prey on.
- Make sure garbage is stored in a container with a secure lid and do not allow containers to overflow.
- Never leave children or small pets unattended outside.
- Clear or cover wood and brush piles, and check under decks. Coyotes are likely to use these for shelter.
- If coyote sightings are common in your neighborhood, consider installing a fence or motion-activated light in your yard.

If you do encounter a coyote, stand up, yell at it, wave your arms, and throw something at it from a safe distance. The response may not be immediate, but the coyote will eventually become intimidated and retreat.

For the safety of all residents, the City does not allow hunting within city limits according to [Ordinance 9.60.030](#) and firearms and/or traps are not permitted on Park District property. Trapping is risky because there is no guarantee that the only things caught in the traps will be coyotes. Besides, studies have shown that trapping or hunting programs are largely ineffective. If the conditions that lured the coyotes to an area still exist, hunting or trapping will only temporarily remove coyotes. And it won't be long before other coyotes move in to replace them.

For more information, please read the [Coyote Management Plan](#) the City developed with the Park District. You also can contact the Department of Natural Resources at 847.608.3100.



Cold Weather Can Mean Water Main Breaks and Frozen Pipes

Water main breaks are common in the colder weather, especially with the conditions we have experienced this season. To report a water main break, call the Public Works Department at 630.377.4405. If it is after hours, you will be prompted to leave a voice message in the Drinking Water mailbox. Include your phone number and address and the public works staff member on call will get back to you.

Sometimes when a main breaks, you notice rust-colored water. If this happens, simply turn on the cold water tap until the water runs clear. Rust-colored water is safe, but it may stain laundry. If that happens, keep clothes wet and treat them with stain remover. The city offers a stain remover at no cost to residents at:

- Public Works, 1405 S. Seventh Ave.
- City Hall, Reception Desk, 2 E. Main St.
- Police Department, 211 N. Riverside Ave.

To avoid frozen water pipes, allow heated air to circulate around pipes and meters. Latch basement windows and vents to prevent drafts on pipes. When remodeling, do not locate water pipes against exterior concrete walls. If pipes have been frozen in the past, insulate problem areas, and leave cabinet doors open. Leave a faucet run at a fast drip to a slight trickle to allow the moving water to transfer heat to the pipe. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works office at 630.377.4405.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Christmas trees will be picked up (no sticker needed) the weeks of January 6 and January 13. Trees will be picked up on BOTH sides of the river on the regular scheduled refuse day.

After the two week period, a sticker will be required.

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



Coming Soon: New Ways to Pay your Utility Bill

The new year will bring new, easy ways to pay your utility bill. Soon, Paymentus, the City's online payment provider, will accept payments through PayPal, PayPal Credit, and Venmo. More details to come.

Streetlight Out? Report It Online

If you notice a streetlight (not traffic signal) is out, flickering or needs repair, you can notify us with the [online service form](#). Fill it out and include your contact information so we can contact you if more information is needed. Streetlights are generally repaired on Fridays. Call the Public Works office at 630.377.4405 for more information or assistance in reporting a streetlight issue. Thanks for your help!

Parking Regulations When It Snows

When it snows, please remove your parked cars from the street so the plows can clear the streets.

Snow Route Parking Ban after 2-inch Accumulation



Snow parking restrictions in a Snow Route are in effect November 1 through April 30, in accordance with [Section 10.40.060](#) of the St. Charles Municipal Code. Snow routes are marked with blue signs. The Police Department will begin enforcing these

parking regulations approximately one hour after a 2” snowfall.

Citywide Street Parking Ban after 3-inch Accumulation

A citywide parking ban on all streets is put into effect when 3 or more inches of snow has accumulated and full plowing operations are underway. [Section 10.40.070](#) states that cars may not be parked on streets or highways for 72 hours after the 3” accumulation has been reached. Cars may be towed, per [Section 10.40.090](#), to a cleared street or designated parking lot. The Police Department will begin enforcing these parking regulations approximately one hour after a 3-inch accumulation.

Please Don't Park in Alleys

If you have visitors or contractors working on your home, please ask them not to park in/obstruct the alleys. There needs to be at least 10 feet available for refuse trucks, snow plows and other vehicles to maneuver/service the alleyways. Please see our [City Ordinance regarding Parking in Alleys](#) for more information.

Historic Landmark of the Month “Evison, Ferson, Satterlee”



Landmark of the month was originally created in honor of the 185th Anniversary of St. Charles. However, after covering the last landmark of the year, we realized there are many more wonderful local landmarks

to highlight in town. So, we have decided to bring Historic Landmark of the Month with us into the New Year!

January’s Landmark of the Month is the Evison, Ferson, Satterlee House. The house was originally constructed as a barn on the property of Thomas Clark, whose initials are carved into the clapboard. It was later owned by Tom Evison, a farmer and Civil War veteran, in 1852. In 1885, the barn was purchased by the railroad and moved to the tracks near the stockyards. At the new location, the barn functioned as a grain elevator and feed store. George Ferson, the son of one of the founding families of St. Charles, operated the store. Following George’s death in 1900, his daughter, Emma Satterlee, moved the barn structure to its present location at 214 Chestnut Ave and converted the building into a house.

In 2009, the current owners undertook a restoration project to restore the exterior to resemble the National architectural style. Removal of the aluminum siding from the 1970s revealed the original clapboard siding from the 1900 conversion to a house. Throughout the restoration, evidence of the construction method and materials of the original barn structure were discovered under the siding.

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



*Evison, Ferson, Satterlee - 214 Chestnut Ave.
Built ca. 1852*



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

City Employees Came Together to Spread Holiday Joy

The Holiday Season is a time for giving, and staff from every department at the City embraced the holiday spirit this season. A big thank you to everyone from the community who participated in these giving events.



Fire Department Serves Seniors

Acting Fire Chief Scott Swanson and members of the St. Charles Fire Department served an annual Christmas dinner for senior citizens at The Carriage Oaks of St. Charles. Working in the kitchen and waiting on tables, the Fire Department chatted with the seniors and spread the holiday spirit. There also to assist were Mayor Ray Rogina, Ward 5 Alderman Maureen Lewis, and other volunteers who helped bring joy to the seniors at Carriage Oaks.

Thank You for Giving Tree Donations

Thank you to everyone from the community who stopped by City Hall to undecorate our Giving Tree in December and make the holidays brighter for local families and seniors. Approximately 40 items to Big Hearts of Fox Valley.

In addition, numerous gift cards and cash donations totaling approximately \$500 were given to Elderday Center, which provides adult day programs of socialization, recreation, and health maintenance for older adults. Some of the items that were donated include:

- Foosball Table
- Air Hockey Table
- Old Fashion Phonograph with Radio
- Memory Games
- Puzzles
- Office Supplies
- Crock Pot
- Kitchen supplies



Thank you for giving so generously! The gifts were met with smiles and many thank yous. Special thanks to the City’s Wellness Team for organizing these donations.

Shop with a Cop



The Police Department held the seventh annual Shop with a Cop event at the Target in St. Charles and helped 10 local kids pick out presents for themselves and their families. Special thanks to the officers who participated on their own time, and to Target for generously hosting, providing employees to assist, and wrapping supplies.



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! Throughout January, St. Charles residents and businesses can drop off lights (working or non-working) and electrical cords at convenient locations around town. Elgin Recycling will haul them away at no cost. A ton of lights were collected last year—literally.

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

An Opportunity to Serve Your Community with the Police Department

Do you enjoy working outdoors and with children? We are looking for dependable individuals (21 and older) to safeguard the children of our community. The Crossing Guard program is a vital part of providing safe travel to and from school for many students. We are seeking one substitute Crossing Guard to cover when regularly scheduled guards are unable to cover their shift and to work special events for the City. Pay is \$20 per school crossing and \$10.75 per hour for special events. Does this sound interesting to you? Visit www.stcharlesil.gov/jobs for information and to apply for this exciting opportunity to serve your community.

Mark Your Calendars: Restaurant Week is Feb. 24 – 28

More details coming soon.

