



Illinois Moves To Phase 4

Governor J.B. Pritzker announced our area is in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan.

Indoor Seating Reopens for Restaurants

Phase 4 allows more industries to reopen, including indoor dining at restaurants, when appropriate [Phase 4 health and safety guidelines](#) are followed.

In-Person Public Meetings Resume

In-person public meetings will resume at the Municipal Building, 2 E. Main St. However, the City will continue to make video teleconferencing an option, making it easier for the public to participate. More information about public meetings, including how to participate in the video teleconference, is at www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings.

City Buildings Open to the Public with Continued Restrictions

While the City is open to serve residents from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in-person transactions with the public will continue to be conducted between 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. only. Appointments are encouraged. Visit www.stcharlesil.gov for online service options.

The Police Station at 1515 W. Main St. continues to be open for police-business only, from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

When at a City building, please observe the following health and safety restrictions:

- All visitors must wear a mask before entering a building and use hand sanitizer provided upon entrance.
- Visitors must maintain a 6 ft. distance from others; floors will be marked to indicate appropriate distancing, where necessary.
- No more than 50 people may gather in one area at a time.

Conducting Business at the City

Pay a utility bill – When possible, please continue to use these convenient contactless methods to pay your utility bill:

1. Online at www.stcharlesil.gov/utility-billing
2. By phone, Toll-free, 24/7 at (844) 443-9794
3. By mail
4. Use one of the convenient drop boxes:
 - East side - Foxfield Commons Shopping Center, 2700 block of East Main Street

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2020 July 4th Fireworks are Canceled

The St. Charles Park District has canceled the 2020 July 4th fireworks. More information is on their website www.stcparks.org/july-4th-celebration

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.



Contact Us

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



- Downtown - Municipal Building, 2 E. Main St.
- Southeast side of the building (on the door)
- North parking lot, next to the USPS mailbox
- West side - St. Charles Police Station, 1515 W. Main Street

5. In-person payments and other customer service requests will be conducted from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Municipal Building.

Building Permits and Applications

1. In-person meetings are by appointment only, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Municipal Building.

2. Plans and application drop off is available in the Municipal Building lobby from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 630.377.4406 upon arrival.

Public Works Service Counter

Open for in-person transactions from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Public Works facility, 1405 S. 7th Ave.

General Meetings

Meetings with City staff are encouraged to be conducted

remotely by phone or video conference when possible. In-person meetings are by appointment only. When 6 ft. social distancing cannot be maintained, masks are required.

Some Non-Essential Police Services Resume with Restrictions

- Fingerprinting services for licensing and city-related requirements only.
- Child safety seat checks by appointment only.
- Prescription drug disposal.
- Issuing solicitor permits with safety plans submitted by the applicants.

Non-Essential Services that Remain Suspended

- Municipal Building meeting room reservations
- Municipal Building display window reservations
- Police Station meeting room reservations
- Police Station tours
- Police Ride-Along program
- Citizen's Police Academy

From the Mayor's Desk



Peaceful dialogue has always existed in our community. Recently, dialogue by citizens and businesses with the Mayor, Police Chief and some Council Members took place regarding recent Black Lives Matter events, and has been ongoing after. The Mayor and the Police Chief continue to engage citizens on an individual basis.

Much of the conversation has focused on police standards of conduct particularly as it relates to the use of force.

In order to seek a universal message to our residents, staff has constructed an entry on our City web page entitled the St. Charles Police Department's [Commitment to the Community](#). In it, the standards adopted by the Department in 1989 as an accredited agency by the Commission on Accreditation for

Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) which are industry best practices, are outlined. It should be noted that transparency and outside scrutiny from a team of law enforcement assessors reviewing policy and day-to-day operations against the aforementioned best practices is Department policy.

The Mayor and the Police Chief and his staff have doors that are open to a continued constructive dialogue. Our goal is to continue working to assure our community that the intolerable acts by police in other cities causing the genesis for the national conversation at hand have no place in our community and we will work with fellow government agencies to reinforce that message.

Raymond Rogina
Mayor

**City offices are closed Friday, July 3 for the
Independence Day holiday**

St. Charles Police Department's Commitment to the Community

The deplorable circumstances that caused the death of George Floyd has sparked protests across the country. Peaceful Black Lives Matter events recently were held in St. Charles by local organizers. The St. Charles Police Department worked with organizers to ensure safe events. The City of St. Charles respects the right of all citizens to hold peaceful demonstrations and protects those exercising the basic right of free speech.

The St. Charles Police Department wanted to share the important tenets they work under every day to illustrate who they are as a department and clarify how they practice law enforcement in our community:

We Prohibit Excessive Use of Force

The St. Charles Police Department prohibits the use of excessive force and operates according to professional standards of behavior as outlined by the National Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). All Police Department standards, policies, and procedures are industry best practices and reviewed annually by outside experts in the field.

Specifically:

- Chokeholds or other moves to restrict breathing are strictly prohibited.
- Any force an officer uses must be reasonable, justified and necessary. All use of force incidents are documented, reviewed, and investigated by the Police Department command team.
- St. Charles Police Officers regularly train for de-escalation techniques, including scenario-based training, to diffuse a situation. Other de-escalation strategies are components in most aspects of officer training. In addition, many officers also are certified in crisis intervention.
- Early-warning procedures are in place that monitor behavior in the Department; any potential issues are addressed immediately. All of our officers are provided emotional support from our Employee Assistance Program, our Chaplin Program, and once a year are mandated to visit with an emotional support professional.

We Reject All Forms of Discrimination

The primary mission of the St. Charles Police Department is to provide public safety for all of our citizens, no matter race, gender, sexual orientation, or religious beliefs.

- We have a zero-tolerance approach toward racial profiling and have a policy against biased-based policing.
- Vehicle and pedestrian stops are sent to an outside entity that reviews enforcement from a gender, race, and bias perspective.

In July 2019, St. Charles Police Chief James Keegan and the St. Charles Police Department formally adopted Ten Shared Principles affirmed by both the Illinois State Conference of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. Among the values reflected in the Ten Principles are:

- Ensure that every life is valued and all persons shall be treated with respect and dignity.
- Require de-escalation training.
- Reject all forms of discrimination.
- Support fair and impartial justice.
- Endorse community policing to build relationships and trust.

[Read the full list of Ten Shared Principles of the IL NAACP & IACP here.](#)

We Utilize a Police Social Worker

Since 2014, the Police Department has utilized a police social worker to offer access to crisis intervention, mental health, or other social services. We have a full-time social worker and 24-hour system in place to respond to crisis situations.

We are an Active Part of the Community

The Police Department regularly conducts several community education and outreach programs, and organizes several fundraising events for Special Olympics Illinois. [Read about them here.](#)

We're Listening

Our residents consistently rank our police services highly in resident surveys (91% in the 2020 Survey). If you ever have an issue, please feel free to reach out to the Police Department either by phone 630.377.4435, email police@stcharlesil.gov or [online.](#)

Important Facts about Falls for Seniors

One out of four older adults falls each year. When falls result in injury, medical treatment can be costly, and it can make it hard for the person to perform everyday activities or live on their own. The St. Charles Fire Department wanted to share this important information to help older adults prevent a fall.

How Seniors can Help Prevent a Fall

Talk to Your Doctor

- Ask your doctor to evaluate your risk for falling and talk with them about specific things you can do.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist to review your medicines to see if any might make you dizzy or sleepy.
- Ask your doctor or healthcare provider about taking vitamin D supplements.

Do Strength and Balance Exercises

Do exercises that make your legs stronger and improve your balance. Tai Chi is a good example of this kind of exercise.

Have Your Eyes Checked

Have your eyes checked by an eye doctor at least once a year, and be sure to update your eyeglasses if needed.

If you have bifocal or progressive lenses, you may want to get a pair of glasses with only your distance prescription for outdoor activities, such as walking. Sometimes those lenses can make things seem closer or farther away than they really are.

Make Your Home Safer

- Get rid of things you could trip over.
- Add grab bars inside and outside your tub or shower and next to the toilet.
- Put railings on both sides of stairs.
- Make sure your home has lots of light by adding more or brighter light bulbs.

For more information, visit the CDC website www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/falls/adultfalls.html



Flood Safety Reminder

St. Charles experienced some flooding in May and it could happen again. Please keep these safety tips in mind to help protect you from the dangers of flooding:

- Do not drive through a flooded area. The road or bridge may be washed out causing the water to be deeper than it appears.
- Do not walk through flowing or standing flood water. Six inches of flowing water can knock you off your feet.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires, and turn off your power before it floods. Do not touch any electrical devices if you are wet or standing in water.
- Beware of gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house before it floods. If you smell gas, report it to the gas company, and do not use candles, lanterns, or open flames.
- Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains. Flood waters can carry dangerous items and may suck smaller people into culverts or drains.
- Clean everything that has been exposed to flooding. Flood water may be contaminated with sewage and other chemicals.
- Look out for animals, especially snakes.
- Do not use gas engines such as generators, or charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious a health hazard.

Visit www.stcharles.gov/flood for information and links to flood-related sites. Or contact the Public Works Engineering Division at 630-377-4486.



2020 Refuse Collection Rates Take Effect July 1

Stickers Purchased Before July 1 will be Honored

Beginning July 1, 2020, refuse collection fees from Lakeshore Recycling Systems will change for City of St. Charles residents. Stickers previously purchased prior to July 1 are still valid, so residents can use their current supply.

The 2020 rates for stickers and monthly container rentals are:

Stickers and Bags

- Refuse Sticker \$2.84 ea.
- Yard Waste Sticker \$2.84 ea.
- Half-size Refuse Bag \$2.18 ea.

Monthly Container Rentals

Recycling

- Standard 65-Gallon Recycling Toter \$0.00

Refuse

- 35-Gallon Refuse Toter \$18.84
- 65-Gallon Refuse Toter \$19.93
- 95-Gallon Refuse Toter \$21.02

Yard Waste

- 65-Gallon Yard Waste Toter \$27.30

For general service questions, contact Lakeshore Recycling Systems at 630.581.8650 or www.lrsrecycles.com/stcharles. For information about the collection schedule, where to buy stickers, or additional collection services, visit our website www.stcharlesil.gov or contact the St. Charles Public Works Department at 630.377.4405.

Help Keep Mosquitoes at Bay

St. Charles has a robust program for combating mosquito outbreaks, which includes surveillance, monitoring, and larval and adult mosquito control.

What you can do:

1. Discard old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles, or any containers sitting outside that hold water.
2. Drain low lying areas in the yard holding water. Before filling in any low lying areas, please contact the Community Development Department at 360-377-4443 to make sure there are no permitting requirements or drainage concerns.
3. Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater.
4. Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
5. Empty plastic wading pools & store indoors.
6. Have your pool properly cared for while on vacation.
7. Change the water in birdbaths and planters frequently.
8. Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well-trimmed.
9. To prevent bites, the Illinois Department of Public Health encourages using insect repellent, avoid being outdoors during dawn and dusk hours when mosquitoes are most active, and to wear long sleeves.

The City of St. Charles has a contract with Clarke Environmental, Inc. to help manage mosquito problems. Call Clarke directly at 1-800-942-2555 regarding mosquito annoyances, treatments, spraying schedule, dead birds, standing water, etc. Information also is available on Clarke's website www.clarke.com or the City website www.stcharlesil.gov. For additional questions, contact the City of St. Charles, Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.

Collection Service Reminders

For more information, contact Public Works at 630.377.4405 or pw@stcharlesil.gov

Brush Collection

- East Side of the river - July 20
- West Side of the river - July 27

Full schedule and details at <https://www.stcharlesil.gov/services/brush>

Yard Waste & Composting

Picked up on your regular refuse days.
Details at

www.stcharlesil.gov/services/seasonal-services/yard-waste-collection

Kane County Recycling Event

540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles
July 11, 8 a.m. – noon

Electronics, Books, Clothes &
Textiles, Paint

Details www.countyofkane.org/Recycling/Pages/electronics.aspx#Events



PUBLIC WORKS NOTES

Information about Newly Planted Parkway Trees



Did you receive a new tree in the parkway of your home this spring? The City works to minimize transplant shock for new trees and promote healthy plantings in several ways:

- New trees are planted with the trunk flare a few inches above grade. The trunk flare is where the trunk expands at the base of the tree. This point should be partially visible after the tree has been planted. If the tree is planted too deep, new roots will have difficulty developing because of a lack of oxygen.
- Public Services will have a dedicated team member who will water new trees consistently throughout the summer/fall. We feel this will allow for better results regarding tree health.
- The metal basket around the tree’s root ball and twine around the tree’s trunk will be removed at planting. This will allow for better and quicker root development and health. Removing the material from around the root ball also deters girdling roots.
- Mulch and landscape seed is provided at the time the landscape is restored around the tree. This may happen several days after a tree has been planted. The City takes care to add mulch to a depth of 2-4 inches and several inches away from the trunk of the tree. Piling mulch right up against the trunk of a tree causes decay. Please avoid this “volcano mulching” of trees.

Older Electric Meters are Being Replaced



There are homes in some of areas of the City that still have older, mechanical-dial electric meters. The City is in the process of replacing those old meters with newer solid-state digital electric meters. The new meters are easier to read and less prone to breaking down, which can lead to inaccurate billing. Also, the new meters are not wireless, and do not operate on any waveforms or bandwidth.

City meter technicians are performing the work, which requires access to residents’ yards to install them. Our technicians drive a white vehicle with a City logo, carry City ID badges, and wear a yellow or orange safety vest. They also will wear appropriate face coverings.

The technician will ring the front doorbell or knock on the door to let you know they are there and that there will be a 30- to 60-second power outage while the new meter is installed. If you are home during the time of change out, but would rather schedule the work for a time that works for you, call the Public Works Department at 630.377.4405 for an appointment.



CITY NOTES



Be Neighborly Keep The Noise In Check

It’s summer and we all want to spend more time outside. Whether you’re out mowing your lawn, working on a home construction project, or just throwing a party, be a good neighbor and keep the City’s noise restrictions in mind. For residential properties and any adjacent streets:

- Outdoor maintenance activities are prohibited from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Construction activity is prohibited from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Refuse collection is prohibited from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Amplified sounds from outdoor sources are prohibited from 10:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Amplified sounds from indoor sources are subject to the noise standard from 10:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- For Single-Family Dwellings: Amplified sounds shall not be clearly audible at the property line.
- For Multiple-Family Dwellings: Amplified sounds shall not be clearly audible at the perimeter of the dwelling unit. [Read the complete ordinance on our website.](#) To report a noise issue, please dial 911.

Beware: Fishing Line can Harm Wildlife

Submitted by Tom Galante, Natural Resources Commissioner



The Fox River and numerous creeks, ponds, and nearby lakes bless St. Charles, the “Pride of the Fox.” Enjoying our waterways before, during, and after these days of social distancing by fishing has been acknowledged and encouraged as a healthy and acceptable form of recreation regardless of zones or phases. Fresh air, nature’s beauty, the great outdoors, sounds perfect, right?

One of the few events that could spoil this reverie is the “bird’s nest.” In fishing parlance, the “bird’s nest” is a frustrating, baffling, and (hopefully) rare event when a malfunction of equipment or technique causes the fishing line, usually thin but strong monofilament, to defy the known laws of physics and become hopelessly tangled with itself. I defy Fermi Lab to explain how the “bird’s nest” occurs.

The best way to handle a “bird’s nest” is to cut the offending line, angrily throw the tangled mess into the water or on the shore, and retie your tackle. Right? NO! Your momentary frustration can permanently harm the wildlife that shares our fair city. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) lists a number of harmful consequences of improper line disposal. Ironically and tragically, our feathered friends are often the victims of “bird’s nests” and broken fishing line that is left behind. It’s all too easy for them to become wrapped, snared, choked, and trapped by fishing line. They can even accidentally eat broken fishing line and hooks when they catch the fish “that got away” from you. Fish and reptiles are also victims of these baffling traps. Unrecycled line lasts for decades, at least.



Photo: Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Source: www.ifishillinois.org
(and years of mostly happy, sometimes bitter experience.)

Naturally (pun fully intended), the best solution is to recycle. Secure the fishing line until you can dispose of it in a special recycling bin like that shown in the photo. These can be found along the Fox River; maybe you wondered what these were for? Can’t find a monofilament recycling bin? IDNR also recommends mailing used fishing line to Berkley, the famous fishing tackle provider. More information, including where to mail your fishing line, is at www.berkley-fishing.com.

Alternatively, used fishing line can also go into trash containers. Just be sure not to leave it on top where our bird and animal friends can “shop” for it while scavenging or looking for nesting materials. And before you go fishing again next year, replace and recycle your line to prevent broken line frustrating your recreation and harming wildlife.

Be sure to check out www.ifishillinois.org to buy your fishing licenses and get all your fishing information.

Good fishing, see you on the water (at a responsible distance, of course)water (at a responsible distance, of course)!

Historic Landmark of the Month

“Emma Durant Lane House”



July’s Landmark of the Month is the Emma Durant Lane House, located at 403 S. 6th Street. Built in 1898, the house is a tremendous example of

the Late Victorian Queen Ann architectural style. Originally used as a single-family residence, the home served as a boarding home from 1899-1902. The home was built for Emma Durant Lane, who was a St. Charles schoolteacher. Her parents, Bryant and Jerusha, were early St. Charles residents. This home served as their final residence before their deaths.

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



*Emma Durant Lane House - 403 S. 6th St.
Built ca. 1898*

Did You See Your Annual Water Quality Report?

The City of St. Charles is committed to providing safe, reliable, and economical water to its customers. Every year the City distributes a report that summarizes the quality of your drinking water. We are pleased to report again this year that your tap water met all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water health standards. The water is tested in accordance with strict EPA regulations, so you can be assured your drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds all water quality standards as listed in the Safe Drinking Act. The Water Quality Report is available on the City website at <http://bit.ly/2020WaterQualityReport>

Mental Health Board Welcomes New Members



Molly Bryant & Family



Kaylynne Poremba & Family

Submitted by Brian Travilla, Chair

The St. Charles community has long been a strong advocate for access to proper mental health services for its residents. Each year, a portion of taxes collected contribute to a Mental Health fund. The Community 708 Mental Health Board reviews funding requests from local mental health agencies and recommends distribution of the collected funds.

I am excited to welcome two new Mental Health Board Members, Molly Bryant and Kaylynne Poremba. Molly Bryant is a middle school teacher at Geneva Middle School, as well as an Adjunct Instructor at Elgin Community College. She has lived in St. Charles for 14 years, and is mother of three boys who are active in baseball. Kaylynne Poremba is a small business owner who has lived in St. Charles for four years and has three young children. We look

forward to continuing to develop as a team with their contributions.

Both Molly and Kaylynne will serve on the board for four years and play a critical role in helping guide and support the mission of the 708 board: To serve the residents of St. Charles by supporting and funding local, community-based, high-quality programs and services for citizens with mental health needs, substance abuse needs, and developmental disabilities.

This year, approximately \$612,000 is allocated for recommended funding to 20 not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) agencies. For more information, visit the Mental Health Board page of the City website www.stcharlesil.gov/government/mental-health-board.

I do want to take a moment to thank our past board members, Barb Gacic and Michael Cohen, who served our City for a number of years. I also would like to recognize our current board members: Cheryl Denz, Ward 1 Alderman Ron Silkaitis, Ron Wendell, and Carolyn Waibel.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Water Safety in Buildings with Prolonged Vacancies

Safety measures taken to slow the spread of COVID-19 have left buildings empty for extended periods of time. A lack of usage increases water age and stagnation inside the building's plumbing. This water can become unsafe to drink or use as the water ages and pipes corrode, sediment accumulates, and disinfectant levels decrease. Harmful pathogens such as *Legionella* can grow when disinfectant levels decrease and hot water temperatures drop. Turning on water for immediate public use after extended periods of not being used can be dangerous to public health if not properly managed. There are steps which can be taken to reduce this risk. [Read more here.](#)

2020 Census Operation Update

The U.S. Census Bureau continues to monitor the impacts COVID-19 has on 2020 Census operations and follow guidance of federal, state and local health authorities to ensure the safety their staff and the public. As of June 1, they have resumed operations in our area and are working to conduct a complete and accurate 2020 Census.

So far more than 90 million households have responded to the 2020 Census, with a majority of households (4 out of 5) completing the survey online. If you haven't already, please respond to the Census online, over the phone, or by mail. Then there is no need to speak with a census taker. More at <https://2020census.gov>.

