

Outdoor Dining Opens

Portion of 1st Street Closed for Outdoor Dining Downtown

The St. Charles City Council approved guidelines and requirements establishing a temporary permit process to allow expanded outdoor dining for restaurants and bars in St. Charles.

The action followed Governor J.B Pritzker’s announcement that our area is in Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan. Restaurants and bars may reopen to provide outdoor dining services, while promoting recommended social distancing as part of COVID-19 health and safety measures.

[A list of participating restaurants is available here and will be updated frequently.](#)

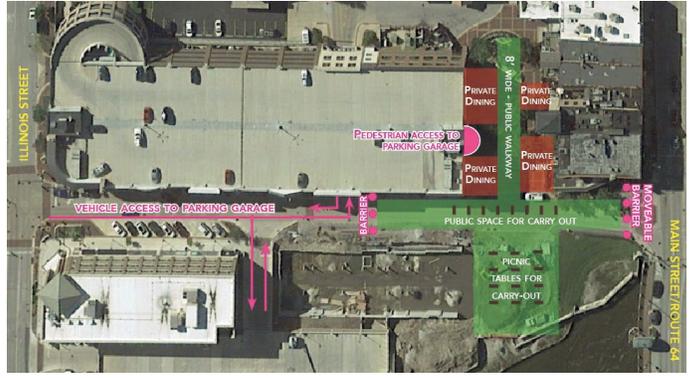
“It’s been a trying two-and-a-half months for all of us,” said Mayor Raymond Rogina. “Let’s view Phase 3 as a stepping stone to renewal in our city.”

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.

Outdoor dining is allowed until 11 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, and midnight Thursday through Saturday.

1st Street Offers Outdoor Dining Space

A portion of 1st Street is closed to vehicle traffic to accommodate outdoor public seating. The closed area and the new plaza space east of 1st Street are outfitted with picnic tables to offer a space for patrons to enjoy carry-out meals. Special thanks to the St. Charles Park District for providing the tables. The existing plaza on the west accommodates outdoor dining for restaurants along the plaza. Access to the 1st parking structures will be maintained.



1st Street Outdoor Dining Concept

[Click here for more information about temporary outdoor dining in St. Charles](#)

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 of The Den.

Meetings

To see a complete list of upcoming public meetings, including City Council, Committee and Commission meetings, visit our website at www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings. Agendas are generally 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](#)



City Buildings Open on a Limited Basis

Online & Phone Services Still Encouraged

Following Governor J.B. Pritzker's announcement that our area is in Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan, the City of St. Charles will resume some services that had been suspended with the Governor's original Stay-at-Home Order.

Phase 3 allows businesses in several industries to reopen, including City of St. Charles offices. Beginning June 1, City buildings will reopen on a limited basis. Plexiglass partitions have been installed where transactions with the public are routinely conducted, and signage provides visitors with instructions.

City Buildings Reopen with Restrictions

Beginning June 1, City buildings are open with some health and safety restrictions. However, conducting business online or over the phone when possible is still strongly encouraged.

- The Municipal Building, Public Works facility, and Fire Stations will reopen to the public by appointment only, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- The Police Station 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.
- All visitors must wear a mask before entering a building and use hand sanitizer provided upon entrance.
- Visitors must maintain a 6-foot distance from others; floors are marked to indicate appropriate distancing, where necessary.
- No more than 10 people may gather in one area at a time.

Some City Services Resume by Appointment Only

- 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
 - 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 taken by appointment only, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Municipal Building
- Building permits and applications
- Drop off plans and applications in the Municipal Building lobby/reception.
- In-person meetings are by appointment only, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Municipal Building.
- Public Works service counter – Open by appointment only, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Public Works facility, 1405 S. 7th Ave.
- Meetings with City staff are encouraged to be conducted remotely by phone or video conference when possible. In-person meetings are by appointment only, with recognized 6 ft. social distancing, and no more than 10 people total present.

(Continued on next page)

Non-Essential Services that Remain Suspended

- Municipal Building meeting room reservations
 - Municipal Building display window reservations
 - Notary services
 - These Police Services:
 - Fingerprinting services
 - Child safety seat checks
 - Prescription drug disposal
 - Building tours
 - Ride-Along program
 - Citizen's Police Academy
 - Issuing solicitor permits. All current solicitor permits remain temporarily suspended
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PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Police Department Annual Report Outlines 2019 Activity

What roads in St. Charles saw the most vehicle accidents last year? How many incidents did the Police Department respond to? It's all in the Police Department annual report, which documents activity for 2019. Plus read more about the extensive training, safety, and public education initiatives undertaken by the department. [Read the Police Department Annual Report here.](#)

Boating Safety Tips

With the warmer weather and boating restrictions eased, the St. Charles Fire Department wanted to share some safe boating tips to make sure your cruise out on the water is a safe one.

- Be sure your boat is well maintained. Have it inspected each year.
- Check to be sure the engine, electrical systems, and all equipment is working before using the boat.
- Check the weather forecast before you go out on the water to avoid being in a storm.
- Bring your smartphone and/or a Weather Radio to get weather alerts when you are out on the water.
- Always wear life jackets.
- Have an anchor to use in the case of mechanical problems.
- Have a way to call for help. VHF marine radios have channels that are reserved for distress calls and are monitored continuously by the U.S. Coast Guard and are more effective than mobile phones.
- Proper ventilation for engine and generator exhaust vents must be clear. Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide: headache, fatigue, confusion, dizziness, nausea, or seizures.



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. All stickers previously purchased prior to July 1 are still valid, so residents can use their current supply.

2020 rates for stickers and monthly container rentals:

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. 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.

Are You Moving in or Out?

Remember to call to start/stop utilities

Make sure you contact the Utility Billing office at 630.377.4426 to start or stop your utility service. We require one business days' notice to set up service or schedule final readings. We don't take daily readings so we are unable to back-date bills. Also, we need to speak to the account holder regarding utility service.

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 <https://bit.ly/2020WaterQualityReport>

Residents can also obtain copies of the report at the Municipal building or the Public Works facility.

What is a Water Quality Report?

A water quality report, lets you know what contaminants, if any, are in your drinking water and how they may affect your health. It lists all the regulated constituents that were detected in the water either over the preceding calendar year (2019) or the last sampling event. The frequency of testing is mandated by the Illinois EPA. For more information, contact the Illinois EPA at 217.785.4787 or the St. Charles Public Works Department at 630-377-4405 or pwadminstaff@stcharlesil.gov.

June Utility Bills Reflect Rate Changes for Water, Sewer and Electric

Annual rates for City of St. Charles water, sewer and electric utility customers were approved at the April 27, 2020 City Council meeting and will appear on utility bills in June.

City utility bills include usage for all three utilities—electric, water and sewer. Rates are directly tied to the cost of operations and maintenance, and are comparable to nearby cities.

This year, there is no increase in electric rates.

A typical residential household using 7,000 gallons of water and sewer will see an increase on their utility bill of approximately \$7.00 per month with the new rates, which includes a \$.45 per month increase in the City's EPA Mandate Compliance Fee. The Mandate Compliance Fee finances capital improvements related to changes in EPA regulations for wastewater treatment.

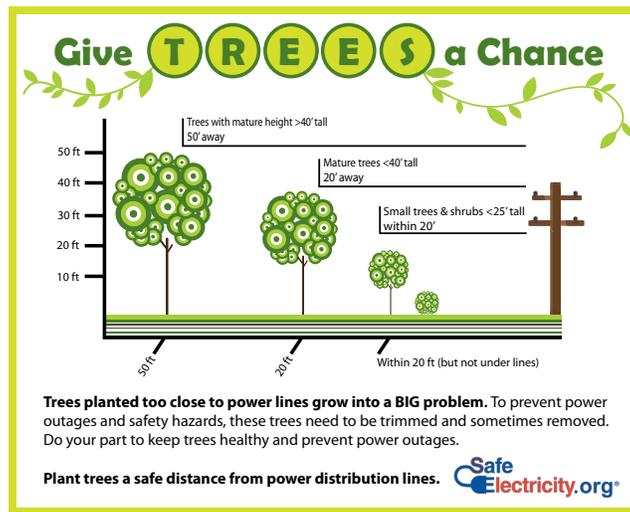


2020 Street Rehabilitation Project Underway

The City of St. Charles has contracted with J.A. Johnson Paving for the 2020 Street Rehabilitation Project. [Click here for a map of the streets included in this year's program.](#) For construction updates, visit the 2020 Street Rehabilitation Program page on the City's website at www.stcharlesil.gov/projects. Residents on streets scheduled to be resurfaced will receive a letter from Public Works with additional information. If you have questions about the program, please contact Public Works at 630.377.4405 or pwadminstaff@stcharlesil.gov.

Summer Means those Pesky Mosquitoes!

Clarke Environmental is the City's contractor for the annual mosquito control program. The objective of this program is to reduce the potential for mosquito-borne disease transmission. For information regarding mosquito annoyances, treatments and scheduling, residents may call Clark Environmental at 800-942-2555. Further questions on the city's program may be directed to Public Works at 630-377-4405 or at www.stcharlesil.gov/services/seasonal-services/mosquito-abatement



Spring Collection Service Reminders

No Spring Clean Up this Year

The 2020 Spring Clean Up program originally scheduled for June is canceled.

June Brush Collection Dates

- East Side of the river - June 15
- West Side of the river - June 22

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

Yard Waste & Compost

Materials are collected on your regular refuse day. More information is at <https://www.stcharlesil.gov/services/seasonal-services/yard-waste-collection>

For more information about these programs, contact Public Works at 630.377.4405 or pwadminstaff@stcharlesil.gov

The Finer Points of Composting

This article was submitted by Pam Otto, Natural Resources Commission



Several months ago the City activated the curbside composting clause of its contract with residential waste hauler Lakeshore Recycling Systems. For everyone who hates to see food scraps toted off to a landfill, this was good news.

Throughout the yard waste pickup season, you now can add household food waste into a yard waste bag or cart.

But you know what's even better news? You can compost at home, keeping all those nutrients on site, out of the waste stream, while enriching your landscape, garden and houseplants.

Granted, the concept of composting isn't particularly attractive. It is, after all, decomposition—a process that involves microbes, insects and other arthropods and those champions of nutrient concentration, worms. Not the stuff dreams are made of...unless you have a fondness for lush greenery. And let's admit it, you know you do.

Composting also has an undeserved reputation as being messy and smelly. But honestly, it's really not. As long as you follow a few simple steps.

First, you need to contain the process. Purchase a 33-gal. black plastic trash can and drill 3/8-in. holes around the sides and bottom. Leave the lid solid, but add bungee cord to keep vertebrate critters out.

Next, add a mix of "greens" and "browns"—items that, despite their names, aren't always green and brown. Greens can be grass clippings, lawn weeds and fruit and vegetable scraps, as well as things like coffee grounds and eggshells. Browns include fall leaves and pine needles, woodchips, cornstalks and straw, as well as paper, cardboard, and cotton fabric.

As long as you have more browns than greens in your mix, it doesn't get smelly. And those decomposers—the microbes and bugs and stuff? They show up on their own but mind their own business. Add some water with each addition, turn and roll the can about every two weeks, and wait for the composting magic to happen!

Historic Landmark of the Month

"Lillibridge House"



June's Landmark of the Month is the Lillibridge House, located at 407 S. 5th Street. Mr. Lillibridge purchased the property in 1901 and the house was finished in 1908. William

Lillibridge was a well-known business man in St. Charles. He was the manager of the St. Charles Lumber and Fuel Company in 1902 and the president of the St. Charles Net and Hammock Company in 1920. William and his wife lived in the house until they transferred the property to their daughter, Beulah, in 1947. After the transfer, the house was gutted and converted into 3 apartments. The house remained a rental property until 1996, when it was converted back into a single-family home. Built in the Prairie style, the home was constructed with multiple sized cement blocks that were probably mixed, tinted red and formed on site. This type of construction is of note, as it was unusual for the era.

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



*Lillibridge House - 407 S. 5th St.
Built ca. 1908*

City Council Meetings may be Conducted as Teleconferences

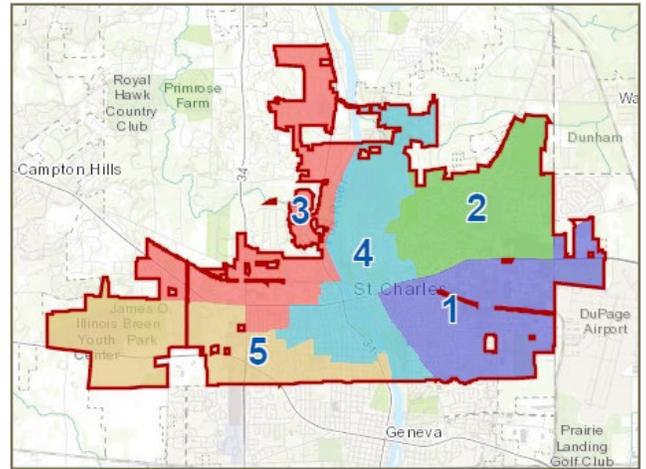
As we continue to work to serve our citizens amid the coronavirus outbreak, some City Council Meetings are being conducted as teleconferences. Check our website at www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings for the latest updates and instructions on how to participate.

If you have any questions, contact us at cao@stcharlesil.gov.



What Ward Am I In?

The City website contains a quick and easy way for you to find out what ward you are in and to contact your Aldermen. Visit the City Council section of our website, under the “Government” tab at the top of the page. There, under Ward Maps is a link to an interactive map of the City’s five wards. The map allows you to search by street or address and provides aldermen’s contact information. [Click here to see the Ward Map.](#)



Remember Pool Safety



According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, each year, nationwide, nearly 300 children under age 5 drown in swimming pools. And 2,000 more are treated in hospital emergency rooms for submersion injuries.

To promote safe swimming pools, a City of St. Charles ordinance requires a permit to construct all swimming pools 24 inches or more in height. This includes in-ground, above- and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. These permits require inspections by the Building & Code Enforcement Division to

ensure the pools are built and secured to code. Included in the requirements are proper barriers, which include both fencing and ladder specifications.

We all know that caution around pools with children is essential so please be sure you take a few moments and go over safe swimming rules with your children or grandchildren. Have a safe and happy summer!

For more information, contact our Building & Code Enforcement office at bce@stcharlesil.gov or 630.377.4406.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mentoring the Next Generation of Professionals

Three City employees participated in the Career Pathways Virtual Trailheads project at Northern Illinois University. Since students currently cannot engage in face-to-face or on-site work-based learning experiences, the Northern Illinois Regional P-20 Network links people from a wide range of occupations remotely with students. The City’s Erika Sittler, Electrical Engineer; Steve O’Neil, Environmental Biologist/Wastewater Operator; and Joan Schouten, Purchasing Manager were interviewed by Jason Klein, Ph.D., Director of P-20 Initiatives at NIU. They talked about their professions, share which skills they felt are needed in their jobs, and offered students advice. [Watch the interviews here.](#)



County Treasurer Extends Tax Payment Deadline

The Kane County Treasurer has waived late penalty fees for the first installment of 2019 property taxes if the payment is made on or before July 1, 2020, to help those adversely affected by the COVID-19 virus outbreak. More on the County Treasurer website at www.kanecountytreasurer.org/Pages/press.aspx

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. The City has no authority regarding taxes from any other taxing body—the school district, park district, etc. You can see a breakdown of your property tax bill at www.kanecountytreasurer.org. Taxes related to the City are labeled as “St. Charles City.” Here’s a quick overview:



Get Counted St. Charles!

As of May 31, nearly 70% of you have completed your Census. For those who haven’t yet, you can fill out your Census questionnaire at <https://2020census.gov>

United States[®] Census 2020

It's Not Too Late
You can still complete the census today.



Which Park Facilities are Open?

Please visit the St. Charles Park District website at www.stcparks.org/covid-19-update for an update on the latest information about programs, events, and parks and facilities openings.