



Resident Surveys to be Mailed Soon

You can Choose to Complete the Survey Online

It's that time again. The City of St. Charles is conducting a survey of residents to gather feedback regarding the quality of services the City provides. The 2020 Residents Survey will be mailed to a sample of randomly selected households in St. Charles. The City has been conducting the survey since 1996.

If you receive a survey in the mail, please follow the directions for completing it either online or fill out the paper form. Your responses will remain completely anonymous. Participation is very important to develop

a statistically representative sample. Your answers are useful in helping the City better serve you.

“The City is excited to partner with the ETC Institute to administer the 2020 City of St. Charles Resident Survey,” said City Administrator Mark Koenen. “This is a fantastic opportunity for residents to contribute feedback that the City can use to provide the best quality service possible.”

If you have any questions about the survey, please call the City Administrator's office at 630.377.4422.

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 a future 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.



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ST. CHARLES

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Contact Us

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



From the Mayor's Desk



In the Mayor's video letter this month, Mayor Ray Rogina and City Administrator Mark Koenen talk about the City's Resident Survey, the upcoming Census, the St. Patrick's Parade, baseball, and more.

[Click here to watch.](#)



2020 Spring Clean Up Dates Announced

The Spring Clean Up program is back for 2020. Offered every two years, Spring Clean Up allows residents to place unwanted items at the curb for pick up. This is a service for residents within St. Charles city limits only.

2020 Collection Dates

- **June 6** for residents on the east side of the river
- **June 13** for residents on the west side of the river

Lakeshore Recycling Systems will pick up items placed at the curb (not in the street). Have items out before 7 a.m. to ensure pickup. Once collection crews have passed through an area they will not come back. Also, please do not place items out more than 48 hours before collection.

Loose materials should be put in containers when possible. However, don't use your recycling cart as a spring clean up container.

Prohibited from Spring Clean Up - These Items Won't be Collected:

- Any items weighing more than 50 lbs.
- Any carpet rolls larger than 5 feet in length
- Electronics
- Home appliances
- Batteries
- Household hazardous waste (paints, solvents, auto fluids, pesticides, etc.)
- Devices containing mercury (thermostats, thermometers, etc.)
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Liquids and gases (no propane tanks, fire extinguishers)
- Contractor construction debris (doors, windows, large amounts of lumber, masonry products, drywall, siding, roofing)
- Tires
- Yard waste (grass, leaves, brush, garden waste, rocks)
- Household refuse normally collected each week

For more information on how to properly dispose of unacceptable items, visit the Kane County Recycles website www.countyofkane.org/recycling.

Severe Weather Takes the Spotlight in March



Soon we will start to see severe storms. It's a good idea to know what to do before the weather turns bad. A couple of terms that are important to know:

Severe Weather Watch – A Severe Thunderstorm Watch or a Tornado Watch means severe weather is possible in and near the watch area. Stay informed and be ready to act if a Severe Thunderstorm Warning or Tornado Warning is issued.

Severe Weather Warning – A Severe Thunderstorm Warning or a Tornado Warning means a severe thunderstorm or a tornado has been reported by spotters or indicated on radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. The St. Charles Emergency Management Agency uses a combination of both trained severe weather spotters as well as radar monitoring in the City's Emergency Operations Center.

Safety Tips

- Listen for the City's outside warning sirens for a tornado warning.
- Pick a safe place in your home to gather during a thunderstorm away from windows, skylights and glass doors that could break by strong winds or hail.
- Don't drive through a flooded area. Your vehicle could get stuck or swept away.
- Don't walk through flowing water. Six inches of flowing water can knock you off your feet.
- 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.
- 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.

More is at www.illinois.gov/ready or contact St. Charles Emergency Management Coordinator Mark Chmura at 630.762.7091 or mchmura@stcharlesil.gov.

Information about the Coronavirus and the Flu

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has commanded a lot of attention. The Kane County Health Department (KCHD) wants you to know it is actively monitoring the situation and is ready to investigate any potential cases of the coronavirus if necessary. So far, there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Illinois, [according to the Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#). **If you have questions about the Coronavirus, call the IDPH hotline at 1.800.889.3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov.**

It's important to remember the greatest risk factors for the coronavirus are a history of travel to Wuhan City, China, or close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 while that person was ill. For more information and current updates on the coronavirus situation, visit the KCHD website at www.KaneHealth.com.

Here in Kane County, [the KCHD reports a spike in Influenza A & B](#), resulting in a rise of ER visits. The KCHD reminds you that, to prevent the flu and other viruses, limit your exposure to people who are sick, if possible. Wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. You also can take preventative measures to avoid the flu by receiving the flu vaccine every year. Flu shots are available at the KCHD, 1240 N. Highland Ave. in Aurora, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you have the flu—stay home from work or school to avoid spreading it to others and consult your doctor promptly for the best treatment. For more information, visit www.KaneHealth.com or call 630.208.3801.

Enroll in CodeRED Emergency Notifications

Kane County offers the CodeRED Emergency Telephone Notification System. The system allows County officials to telephone targeted areas or the entire County if an emergency requires immediate action such as a boil water order, missing child alert, or evacuation notice. CodeRED can dial 50,000 phone numbers per hour and delivers a recorded message.

To sign up for CodeRED alerts, Visit the Kane County website www.countyofkane.org, and click on the Code Red link under Alerts at the bottom of the page. Registering your contact information is especially important if you have an unlisted number, no landline, a VOIP or mobile number or TDD/TTY requirements.



2020 Spring Hydrant Flushing Begins in March

As part of the regular maintenance to the City’s water distribution system, the Public Works Water Division performs spring and fall hydrant flushing. Flushing hydrants (allowing water to flow rapidly through them) improves water quality and reduces mineral build-up in the water mains (pipes). Hydrant flushing also ensures that hydrants are ready for emergency use.

St. Charles is divided into quadrants for hydrant flushing: Northwest, Southwest, Southeast, and Northeast. Main Street (Illinois Route 64) divides the north/south quadrants, and the Fox River divides the east/west quadrants.

Spring 2020 Hydrant Flushing Schedule

- Northwest – Monday March 16 - Friday March 20
- Southwest – Monday March 23 - Friday March 27
- Southeast – Monday March 30 - Friday April 3
- Northeast (West of Dunham Road) – Monday April 6 - Friday April 10
- Northeast (East of Dunham Road) – Monday April 13 - Friday April 17

Watch for signs announcing hydrant flushing. Flushing may start as early as 5 a.m. and continue through 4 p.m.

Please note water is safe to use and consume during hydrant flushing. However, water may temporarily be discolored. During hydrant flushing:

- It is best to limit your water use, if possible.
- If you experience rusty water, wait until flushing has subsided then run the cold water tap in your bathtub or utility sink until it runs clear (or in 10 minute increments).
- Remember rust colored water is safe, but it may stain laundry. If this 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 South 7th Avenue
- Municipal Building Reception Desk, 2 East Main Street

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



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TWO WEEKS OF FREE YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Get a jump on spring yard clean up. During the weeks of March 23 & 30, Lakeshore Recycling Systems will pick up yard waste on your normal refuse collection day for free - no sticker required. Then beginning April 6, regular yard waste collection will begin and stickers will be required.

Are You Considering Flood Insurance?

Because the City of St. Charles is a participating member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), anyone can purchase flood insurance through his or her local insurance agent via the NFIP. There is a 30-day waiting period for flood insurance coverage to begin.

A home located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) has a 26% chance of being damaged by a flood over the life of a 30-year mortgage, and your homeowner's insurance will not cover flood damage. Please check with your insurance agent and mortgage company regarding the insurance and mortgage requirements for buildings in the floodplain.

Your home does not have to be in a flood zone to get flooded. Flood insurance is available at a reduced rate for these properties. Also, the City of St. Charles currently has a FEMA "Community Rating System" rating of 5, which helps to further reduce insurance premiums. For more information contact the Public Works Engineering Division at 630-377-4486.

Calling All Qualified Vendors: Register to Receive Bid Notification Email Alerts

The City is implementing new eProcurement software that will automatically notify registered suppliers when a new bid, quote, or proposal opportunity is available. When registering, vendors select categories for which they want to receive email notifications regarding solicitation opportunities and status updates.

There is no cost to vendors to register or participate. Step-by-step directions guide interested suppliers through the entire registration and solicitation process.

Coming Soon: The City is moving to an all-electronic solicitation process—from solicitation and submittal to evaluation. Stay tuned for updates.

For more information, send an email to procurement@stcharlesil.gov.

Historic Landmark of the Month "Alice Davis House"



The March Landmark of the Month is the Alice Davis House. Built between 1893 and 1896, Alice Davis moved into the home with her family at the age of ten. She continued to live in the home until 1964. Alice Davis was a school teacher at the St. Charles Junior High School (Haines Middle School) starting in 1918. She later became the principal of the school. Alice remained with the St. Charles School District until 1958. Because of her dedication to the St. Charles school system, Alice Davis Elementary School was named in her honor.

The Alice Davis House is an excellent example of Queen Anne Style architecture. It possesses typical Queen Anne features, such as the steeply pitched hipped roof with lower cross gables, patterned scales in the gable areas, and a wrap around porch. The foundation is limestone, and the home itself is frame construction.

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



*Alice Davis House- 633 Geneva Rd.
Built ca. 1893-1896*



Natural Resources Commission

City of St. Charles

Curbside Composting is Coming to St. Charles

Learn More at the Information Session March 12, at 6 p.m.

Beginning April 6, 2020, residents can put food scraps and other organic composting materials out at the curb along with regular yard waste for collection.

How the Program Works

Mix the composting materials in with your regular yard waste (grass, leaves, twigs) in either a:

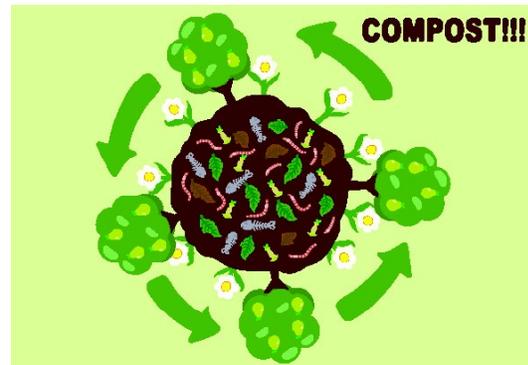
- Brown paper yard waste bag with a sticker
- Lakeshore Recycling Systems yard waste cart (subscription required)

When is Compost Pick Up Available?

This is a seasonal program that is available only when yard waste pick up is offered, generally April through November.

Accepted Items

- Fruits and vegetables
- Halloween pumpkins
- Dairy and eggs, including shells, but no liquids
- Breads, grains, pasta, and cereal
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags
- Paper products, including paper towels, napkins, and tissues



Not Accepted

- Meat, poultry and seafood
- Bones and shells
- Fats, grease, oil, and liquids
- Packaging
- Paper plates and utensils
- Plastic, styrofoam, glass, metal
- Diapers
- Pet waste

More Information

If you have questions about this new service, come to the information session hosted by the Natural Resources Commission March 12, at 6 p.m., at the City's Public Works facility, 1405 S. 7th Avenue. Members of the Natural Resources Commission and City staff will be there to answer your questions.

For details about the composting program and to enroll, contact Lakeshore Recycling Systems at 773.685.8811 or email them at StCharles@lrsrecycles.com.



This Year's Arbor Day Celebration is Getting Back to Its Roots

Please Note Event Time & Location



This year, the St. Charles Natural Resources Commission is marking Arbor Day with an old-fashioned tree planting April 24 in Lincoln Park at 10 a.m. The St. Charles Natural Resources Commission recognizes the importance of trees, plants and clean environments that enhance our community for everyone to enjoy.

For questions, contact the Public Works Department at 630.377.4405 or pw@stcharlesil.gov.

Thank you from America in Bloom - St. Charles!

Thank you to everyone who properly recycled unused or broken holiday lights. We collected 3154 lbs! That's nearly 500 lbs. more than last year.



And a thank you to all of the businesses and organizations that served as drop-off locations:

Ace Hardware, Blue Goose Market, District 303 schools, Heinz Brothers Greenhouse Garden Center, Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, Pottawatomie Community Center,

St. Charles History Museum, St. Charles Public Library, St. Charles Public Works facility, and St. Charles Township Offices. The program was brought to you by America in Bloom – St. Charles, the City of St. Charles, and Elgin Recycling.

Elgin Recycling will donate net profits from the recycled lights to the America in Bloom – St. Charles effort.

Census Results can have a Direct Impact on St. Charles



Once every 10 years, America counts its residents, as mandated by the United States Constitution. The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.

In April, every address in the U.S. will receive a mailed census questionnaire. Your participation is essential to get an accurate population count. When you fill out the census, your personal information is kept confidential.

Why is the Census Important?

Census results impact decisions about education, transportation, political representation, and more for the next decade.

A Proper Head Count Means \$ for St. Charles

An accurate population count has a real financial impact here in St. Charles. The State of Illinois collects taxes, such as income tax, motor fuel tax, and state use tax. The State then distributes these taxes to Illinois cities based on their official population counts in the Census.

The City of St. Charles receives approximately \$180/resident from the State of Illinois tax distributions. According to the last Census, St. Charles had approximately 33,000 residents, which adds up to nearly \$6 million in state funding. And, the financial impact of this year's Census count will last until the next Census is conducted in 2030.

1790 Census



Completing the Census is Easy

You can complete the Census online, in a paper survey mailed to you, by phone, or in-person. [Click here for Frequently Asked Questions about the Census.](#)

St. Charles Quick Facts

[Click here to see the interesting facts the Census reveals about St. Charles.](#) For more information, visit www.census.gov



Early Voting is Underway

Early Voting for the March 17, 2020 General Primary Election is underway. Visit the Kane County Clerk's Office website www.kanecountyclerk.org/elections for more information, including early voting locations, hours and requirements. St. Charles residents in DuPage County, visit www.dupageco.org/election.

Job Opportunities for Students this Summer

Apply by March 22, 2020

Are you, or do you know, a college student thinking about what to do this summer? The City has employment opportunities for full-time college students. We offer both paid internships and laborer positions that will work 40 hours a week, Mon. to Fri. during business hours – no nights or weekends! Internships are in the Civil Engineering and Environmental Services divisions. The laborer positions are needed in various Public Works divisions. Applicants must have a valid driver's license, be at least 18 years of age at the time of hire, and enrolled in college full-time for the fall of 2020 (documentation required). Internships pay \$14/hr. and laborer positions pay \$12/hr. For more information and to apply, go to www.stcharlesil.gov/jobs by March 22, 2020.



The St. Patrick's Parade is March 14

The parade steps off March 14 at 2 p.m. on Main and 6th streets. The route continues down Main Street and concludes at 4th Avenue. For more information, visit the St. Charles Business Alliance website at www.stcstpatricksparade.com.