

## From the Mayor's Desk

### *New Late-Night Closing Times for Bars & Restaurants*



In the interest of minimizing the spread of COVID-19 amid fluctuating regional metrics, I recently issued an Executive Order placing new late-night closing limits on bars and restaurants. Effective Aug. 28, 2020, St. Charles bars and restaurants are required to close by midnight, Monday through Sunday.

All late-night liquor permits are temporarily suspended and late-night permit fees have been refunded.

The goal is to avoid our area regressing under mitigation efforts or returning to Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan. It's in the late-night hours that following proper social distancing and other public health recommendations tend to become more lax. Signs are pointing to backsliding to Phase 3 if we don't do something now. I want St. Charles to do its part in helping slow the spread of COVID-19 in our area.

On Aug. 14, the Kane County Health Department warned that Kane County was added to the Illinois Department of Public Health Watch List for significant increases of COVID-19 transmission. Kane County was removed from the list Aug. 21. But the warning highlights the need to remain vigilant and act proactively to keep the metrics down.

I've thought long and hard about this. I feel this action is in the best interest of the health and safety of the public. I want to take a measured approach and keep our area moving in the right direction. I ask everyone to follow recommendations to wear a mask, watch your distance, and wash your hands.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Raymond Rogina  
*Mayor*



CITY OFFICES ARE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPT. 7  
FOR THE **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**

REFUSE COLLECTION IS DELAYED ONE DAY DUE  
TO THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY.

### Ask Us

Have a question you would like to ask? Send it to [info@stcharlesil.gov](mailto: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](http://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](#)



# 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 Sept. 8 Government Operations Meeting, which immediately follows the 7 p.m. City Council Meeting. Due to the coronavirus, we encourage public participation using Zoom online conferencing. More information about public meetings, including how to participate, is at [www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings).

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

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Beware of Electric Disconnection Scam

Please remain vigilant of scams. Residents have reported a company claiming to be ComEd is calling and threatening immediate disconnection of electric service. The caller instructs the resident to go to a convenience store and purchase a specific kind of pre-paid cash card in the amount of \$500. If you are contacted about your electric services and the caller demands payment or threatens electric disconnection, hang up and notify the St. Charles Police Department at 630.377.4435.

How the City's electric utility billing works:

- The City of St. Charles maintains its own electric utility. Any contact about your electric services will come from the City of St. Charles Utility Billing office.
- The City never calls to demand payment on the spot to avoid immediate disconnection.
- The City will not accept payment with pre-paid money cards, gift cards, or wire transfers.
- The City's Utility Billing division only calls during regular office hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you ever have questions about your rates or bill, contact our Utility Billing Office directly at 630.377.4426 or [utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov).

### Support Special Olympics Illinois!



**SUPPORT SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS**

We Accept Cash and Checks

**\$15---HAT**  
**\$20---T-SHIRT (SIZES S-3X)**

For Hats and T-Shirts please make checks payable to SOILL (Special Olympics Illinois)

Please call or email Sara Cass at [scass@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:scass@stcharlesil.gov) or 630.443.3777 to coordinate your purchase.

**RAFFLE**

\$10 to win a Harley Davidson motorcycle (value of \$20,000)

For the raffle please make checks payable to the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

THE RAFFLE WILL BE HELD ON

**October 16th**



Due to COVID-19, the Special Olympics Illinois fundraisers our police officers organize every year have been cancelled and fundraising is down substantially. To continue helping this wonderful organization, we have several items available to purchase to show your support. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics Illinois. If you have questions or would like to make a purchase, please contact Sara Cass at [scass@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:scass@stcharlesil.gov) or 630.443.3777.

### Police Department Reminder

Keep car doors locked and don't leave keys, key fobs, garage door openers, or other valuables inside unlocked cars. St. Charles and nearby communities have reports of thefts from vehicles as well as stolen vehicles when keys had been left inside unlocked cars. Often criminals are simply trying door handles hoping to find unlocked vehicles. It is an all too common problem that can be prevented by simply locking your car.





# We are Testing Sanitary Sewers on the West Side

## *Two Phases: Sewer Smoke Testing & Manhole Inspection*

The City is testing its sanitary sewer system to identify faulty lines or connections where water runoff from rain or snow melts may enter the system or where sewer gases may escape. The testing is required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and includes two phases: Smoke Testing and Manhole Inspection. The testing will take place on the west side of the City. [Click here for a map of the areas to be tested.](#) All affected residences and businesses have been notified prior to testing. Signs also will be posted in the neighborhoods being tested. Engineering Enterprises, Inc. of Sugar Grove, Ill., and Dukes Root Control of Crystal Lake, Ill. are the contractors for this project.

### **Phase I: Smoke Testing – Aug. 31 to Sept. 11**

Smoke testing pushes air combined with liquid smoke into sewer lines to disclose the location of leaks and faulty connections to the sanitary sewer system. The smoke is non-toxic, and safe for humans and pets. It is similar to the special effects smoke used in concerts and haunted houses. During the test, smoke may be seen coming from vent stacks on the roof and out of the ground.

Smoke will not enter homes or buildings unless the plumbing is defective or drain traps are dry. The smoke has no odor, is non-toxic, non-staining, does not create a fire hazard, and will dissipate in a few minutes. Pouring water into any floor drains and into any unused sinks prior to the test will seal the drain traps so smoke will not enter through the drains.

### **Phase II: Manhole Inspections – Aug. 31 to Sept. 25**

Manholes are inspected with 360-degree imaging. There will be no interruption to sanitary sewer service during the test. Residents may notice the contractor's vans parked outside and workers lowering imaging equipment into manholes. Some of the city-owned manholes are in the backyards; crews will be entering yards to complete these inspections.

“We appreciate everyone’s cooperation during the sanitary sewer assessment process,” said Environmental Services Manager Tim Wilson. “While we have notified businesses and residents in the neighborhoods to be tested, we ask residents to help us get the word out, especially to elderly neighbors. We want to be sure people are aware of the testing so they are not alarmed by the smoke.”



### **Why Test the Sanitary Sewer Lines for Faults?**

- **Reduce Inconvenient Sanitary Sewer Backups** - When a significant amount of ground water flows into the sanitary sewer system through faulty lines, it can overwhelm system capacity and cause sanitary sewer backups.
- **Eliminate Unnecessary Wastewater Treatment** - All water in sanitary sewer lines is treated at the City’s wastewater plant. Significant amounts of groundwater flowing into the sanitary sewer mains can lead to millions of gallons of water being treated unnecessarily.
- **Identify Location of Sanitary Sewer Gas Leaks** – Faulty sanitary sewer mains or connections could allow sewer gases to escape.

For more information about the manhole inspections or smoke testing, call St. Charles Public Works Department at 630.377.4405 or visit the [2020 Sewer Smoke Testing & Manhole Inspection Page on the City’s website](#)



## PUBLIC WORKS NOTES

### Collection Service Reminders

#### Brush Collection

- East Side of the River - Sept. 21
- West Side of the River - Sept. 28

For the complete schedule and more details about brush pick up, visit [www.stcharlesil.gov/services/brush](http://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](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/services/seasonal-services/yard-waste-collection)

## Be Aware of Flood Warnings



Sometimes flooding can be predicted days in advance, giving ample warning for preparation and evacuation. There also are warnings for conditions that may create flash flooding which are released from the National Weather Service.

Flash flooding is defined as a flood caused by heavy or excessive rainfall in a short period of time, generally less than 6 hours. Flash floods are usually characterized by raging torrents after heavy rains. They can occur within minutes or a few hours of excessive rainfall. They can also occur after a sudden release of water by a debris jam.

If you notice flash flooding call the Public Works Department at 630.3774405. If there is a flooding emergency that

requires life saving efforts, dial 911. And watch for alerts from the National Weather Service on radio, television, social media, online or from the agency's mobile app.



## CITY NOTES

### Seasonal Needle Drop is Normal

*Submitted by Loren Nagy, Natural Resources Commissioner, on the [Inside St. Charles](#) blog*



Natural  
Resources  
Commission



City of St. Charles

The time of year is approaching where arborists often hear the following: “I think there is something wrong with my pine tree. Can you come and look at it? It looks sick and the needles are turning brown.” There is probably nothing wrong with your pine tree. What it probably has is seasonal needle drop. Seasonal needle drop is a normal part of the life cycle of an evergreen. It is most noticeable on White Pine trees and sometimes Arborvitae.

All evergreen plants will shed or drop older needles, but it is not nearly as noticeable as the White Pine and Arborvitae. The White Pine is the most dramatic as their older needles will turn yellow and drop. These older needles are typically 2 to 3 years old. Seasonal needle

drop is often mistaken for a disease or insect problem and can cause the homeowner a great deal of distress. Is there cause for alarm? Probably not.

Interested in more information about seasonal needle drop? Check out the link below:

[www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-and-plant-advice/horticulture-care/seasonal-needle-drop](http://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-and-plant-advice/horticulture-care/seasonal-needle-drop)

## City Outlines Diversity Hiring Targets

As an Equal Opportunity employer, the City has developed an Equal Employment Opportunity Utilization Report that includes the City's policy statement, objectives and steps, and analysis charts. The report identifies how the City will continue good faith efforts to seek qualified candidates from a diverse background, focusing on areas of under-utilization. For more information about our applications process and to view the report, visit [www.stcharlesil.gov/jobs/application-information](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/jobs/application-information)

## Historic Landmark of the Month

*"Carlson House"*



September's Landmark of the Month is the Carlson House, located at 325 S. 6th Street. The brick home was built as early as 1924-1925 for Fritz and Mary Carlson. The home was built in the Prairie architectural style. Although not officially built by Frank Lloyd Wright, the design of the home is typical of the prairie style originated by Wright and copied by many other architects and builders.

Brick and stucco construction, banded casement windows and a hip roof with very wide overhang are prominent features of the home. The inside of the home features narrow board hardwood floors and distinctive wide oak woodwork.

Fritz Carlson was a St. Charles Businessman. He owned the Fritz G. Carlson Co., which sold clothing, gents furnishings and men's and boy's footwear. The business was located at 121-123 W. Main St., which is currently a parking lot.

For more information about Historic Preservation, please visit [www.stcharlesil.gov/historic-preservation](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/historic-preservation)



*Carlson House*  
325 S. 6th St.  
Built ca. 1924-1925

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

## High School Grad Honored for Life-Saving Actions



Mary Kate Phillips, a recent St. Charles North High School grad, received the Citizen's Lifesaving Award from Mayor Raymond Rogina Aug. 17 for performing CPR on her 8-year-old neighbor, Brooke, who was choking.

Mary Kate's parents, as well as Brooke's parents and representatives of the Fire Department attended the award presentation outside the St. Charles Municipal Building.

Mary Kate credits a high school physical education program for the CPR training. Rob Rooney, the teacher who leads the program, also was in attendance.

## Early Concepts Presented for the 1st Street Plaza Expansion Project

Are you eager to see what will come of the grassy area at Main Street and 1st Street? Efforts are underway to develop this area, along with enhancements to the existing east plaza, to improve and extend the public space along the river. With a vision to create *a unique gathering place that celebrates the natural beauty and heritage of St. Charles*, the St. Charles Initiative has focused on this project to benefit the community. An initial design concept was developed, which offers a gathering space that includes engaging artwork, river views, and a space for various public events. Next steps include design refinement, an engineering study, cost estimation, and City Council approval.



Led by an independent advisory committee of community leaders and residents, the St. Charles Initiative offers a new approach to help projects move forward by funding capital projects, programs, and other improvements. The Initiative is a partnership between the City of St. Charles and the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. This public-private partnership provides funding through donations and endowments, as an alternative to tax-based financing sources. Several projects are envisioned, and donors may connect to projects that fit their passions, and contribute to enhancing the quality of life in St. Charles. For more information, visit the [St. Charles Initiative page on the City website](#).

## The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Special thanks to the St. Charles Business Alliance for gifting the new Be You Sculpture to the City! We love the buzz it has created. And the positive “Be You” message is a perfect fit!



## St. Charles Receives Dementia-Friendly Designation

At the Aug. 17 City Council Meeting, Mayor Raymond Rogina read a proclamation recognizing the Tri-Cities as Dementia Friendly communities. The mayors of Batavia & Geneva did the same at their respective meetings.

The Dementia Friendly Tri-Cities group was launched to create a community that is informed, safe and respectful of individuals with the disease, their families and caregivers, and to provide supportive options that foster quality of life. The group is spearheaded by Jackie Mulshine of Silverado Memory Care and Vicki Montgomery of Strohschein Law Group.

Mayor Rogina has served as a champion of the group and has been instrumental in helping achieve the current level of support.

The key priorities for the Dementia Friendly Tri-Cities Initiative are:

- Building awareness of the signs and symptoms of dementia for area families,
- Making training available, adaptable and easily accessible for this growing population and their caregivers,
- Providing practical tools and guidelines for our first responders and other critical support services,
- Fostering and communicating dementia-friendly practices for the benefit of our entire community, and
- Championing and coordinating the contributions of local services, government agencies, and social services to drive common messages and minimize complexity.

“Venturing out in public can be daunting for someone with dementia, resulting in isolation at home,” Mayor Rogina said. “Building awareness of the challenges those with dementia and their caregivers face will help our community become more supportive.”

Jim DiCiaula, president of the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce, said the Dementia Friendly Tri-Cities group said the group “believes creating a dementia-supportive community enriches the lives of families, service providers, schools, government, and businesses. With compassion, respect, and understanding for those seniors and their families who suffer in silence and isolation, we strive to enhance the vitality of our communities.”

For more information contact the group at [Dementia.friendly.tricity@gmail.com](mailto:Dementia.friendly.tricity@gmail.com).

## Chamber of Commerce is Hosting Q&A Series with Political Candidates



The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce is hosting a series of discussions with local candidates in the upcoming election. Each candidate will present their experience, platform, and top priorities if elected. Q&A follows. Registration is required. For the complete line up of candidates, dates, and times, and to register, visit [www.stcharleschamber.com](http://www.stcharleschamber.com)



## St. Charles Jazz & Art Weekend

Sept. 10-13



An array of St. Charles venues will be a part of year’s event featuring numerous jazz artists, including Grammy award winning Saxophonist Frank Catalano. Patrons can enjoy jazz music from lunch through the evening, and also visit the many public art installations around the city. Featured this year:

- 16 Venues
- 25 Jazz Performances
- 31 Public Art Attractions

For more information visit [www.stcjazzweekend.com](http://www.stcjazzweekend.com). Brought to you by the [St. Charles Business Alliance](http://www.stcharlesbusinessalliance.com).

## Join the “It’s Our Fox River Day” Clean-up

Sept. 19, 9 a.m. to noon



The Conservation Foundation and the River Corridor Foundation of St. Charles are partnering on a volunteer river clean-up on Saturday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. to noon. Come to Ferson Creek Park on Rte. 31 to show the Fox River some love by picking up trash along the river. Land side and water side pick-up “teams” are encouraged, and canoes and kayaks are welcome to join in. Details are at [www.stcrivercorridor.org/events.php](http://www.stcrivercorridor.org/events.php)

## Scarecrow Stroll

October 9-11



The 35th annual Scarecrow Fest will look very different this year. The St. Charles Business Alliance planned this year’s activities to encourage social distancing, while also supporting local businesses.

Scarecrows entered in the contest will be placed around town and will be paired with local businesses. Stroll along downtown to admire the scarecrows and visit the businesses, which will offer Scarecrow Stroll related deals, specials, and events.

There’s more fun to be had with a Drive-In Concert organized with the St. Charles Park District, a scavenger hunt downtown, a live-streaming pumpkin carver, and a photography station in Lincoln Park.

Take home some Scarecrow fun with a local Craft Beer Box featuring St. Charles brews for adults or a Scarecrow in a Box for kids to make their own scarecrow at home. For details, including how to volunteer, visit [www.scarecrowfest.com](http://www.scarecrowfest.com).



# Be a Part of Project Daffodil

Oct. 17



The River Corridor Foundation of St. Charles has announced a new initiative to plant 5,000 daffodils along the western edge of Mount St. Mary Park, centered around the popular Mr. Eggward sculpture. The Foundation hopes “Project Daffodil” will become an annual event resulting in almost 100,000 blossoms each spring along this gateway to the city.

For more information, including information on sponsorships, donations, and volunteering, visit [www.projectdaffodilstc.com](http://www.projectdaffodilstc.com).

Sponsored by [Heinz Brothers Greenhouse Garden Center](#), the [River Corridor Foundation](#) and the [St. Charles Park District](#).



National Preparedness Month is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

## PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS...

### Please Wear a Mask



## September is Last Call for the Census!

The Census Bureau will wrap up data collection September 30. If you haven't filled out your Census, visit [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov). St. Charles is currently is trailing the other Tri-Cities communities with a response rate just above 79%. Let's sprint to the finish and cross that line into the 80s!