



THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

February 2020
www.stcharlesil.gov



Enjoy St. Charles Restaurant Scene and Get 20% Off Your Bill

From February 24 - 28, visit participating St. Charles restaurants and receive a 20% discount off your total bill when you present a special coupon—either printed or on your phone.

Getting a coupon is easy. Simply:

1. Click online and social media ads to download the coupon and show it on your phone.
2. Print one out from the City of St. Charles website at www.stcharlesil.gov/restaurant-week or download to your phone. The list of participating restaurants and their menus will be available there.

Please Note: A minimum purchase of \$20 is required, and the 20% discount excludes tax, tip, and alcohol. Restaurants may impose up to 18% gratuity on pre-discount total. This offer is not valid with other promotions the restaurants may be running and is for dine-in only, no carry-out. For more information,

contact the Community & Economic Development Department at 630.377.4443 or cd@stcharlesil.gov.

When dining downtown, take advantage of more than 1,000 free public parking spaces available. [Click here to see a Downtown St. Charles Parking Map](#)

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*.

Upcoming 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.



CITY OF
ST. CHARLES

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Heritage. Community. Service. Opportunity.

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 are joined by Special Guest St. Charles Police Chief Jim Keegan. Chief Keegan outlines the new recreational cannabis law the State of Illinois enacted Jan. 1.

[Click here to watch.](#)

BUSINESS REPORT



City Purchased 1 W. Main Street Property for 1st Street Plaza Project

At its Jan. 6 meeting, the St. Charles City Council approved the purchase of the parcel of land at 1 W. Main Street (the site of the former Manor Restaurant at the southeast corner of Main & 1st streets). The property will be developed into additional public recreational space connected to the 1st Street Plaza-East extension and riverwalk, which began construction in 2019. The new space will create a public commons area and incorporate

solar-powered features. For more information, visit [Think St. Charles, the City's Economic Development Portal](#).

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

St. Charles First Responders to Take the Plunge for Charity



Members of the St. Charles Police and Fire Departments along with their families & friends will "Be Bold & Get Cold" March 1, as they go jump in a lake for the 2020 Polar Plunge. The event is at 1 p.m. at Loon Lake in Yorkville, and fundraising benefits the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois.

The team is led by Police Officer Jennifer Larsen, who will be participating in her 6th Polar Plunge. Ofc. Larsen will be joined by St. Charles firefighter/paramedic Stephen Siwy, St. Charles Park District Officer Tim Timberlake, along with their families and friends.

For more information about the Polar Plunge or the St. Charles Police, Fire & Friends Team, [visit the Special Olympics Illinois website](#).

Look Out for Dangerous Ice



Our Fire Department reminds you to be careful near frozen bodies of water. It is often difficult to tell how thick ice truly is, especially with

the fluctuating temperatures we have experienced this winter. If you see a person or pet fall through the ice, DO NOT venture onto the ice to attempt to rescue them yourself. Stay calm and call 911. St. Charles Firefighters are properly equipped and trained to perform ice rescues, and are ready to assist as necessary.

“Remember to use caution and always keep a close watch on children and pets when near any body of water, whether frozen or not,” said Acting Fire Chief Scott Swanson. “Water showing through any part of the ice indicates an especially thin and dangerous ice sheet that should be avoided.”

KEEP SAFE
AND WARM
THIS WINTER

Always place space heaters on a **steady surface** away from flammable items

Inspect **furnace** annually

Check **electric blankets** for damage

Keep chimney clear and use a fireplace screen

For more tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

Sign up for the Citizens Police Academy



Program Dates: Every Thursday, March 12 - May 28, 2020, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Location: Most of the classes will be held in the St. Charles Police Department Community Room at the new police station – 1515 W. Main Street.

Why You Should Sign Up:

The Citizens Police Academy is meant to give residents and business owners a better understanding of how the St. Charles Police Department operates. Participants will get to meet officers face to face, and discover what daily life is like for them. Some of the areas covered in the CPA are criminal and narcotics investigations, arrest and search procedures, courts, traffic stops, the SWAT team, and crime scene processing among many others.

What You will Do:

When possible, the curriculum makes use of both classroom instruction and outside demonstrations. Students may get an opportunity to do the activity being demonstrated, such as deploying a Taser or Pepperball Launcher. The CPA has an added benefit of being a sounding board on how the police department is meeting the needs of our citizens. The last class is a graduation ceremony which will include congratulations from the chief of police and the mayor.

Application Deadline: The last day to submit an application for the program is **March 9, 2020.**

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St. Charles Police Department Hosting Citizens Police Academy (cont.)

Applications can be picked up at the front lobby of the Police Department (630.377.4435) or [download one here from the city website](#). Completed applications can be dropped off, mailed or e-mailed to the St. Charles Police Department in care of Officer Jim Burden at: 1515 W Main St, St. Charles, Illinois 60174, or jburden@stcharlesil.gov.

All applications are subject to approval, and include a background check. The class is open, **free of charge**, to St. Charles residents, property and business owners and their employees, and approved St. Charles high school juniors and seniors.

For more information, contact Officer Jim Burden at 630-443-3835 or jburden@stcharlesil.gov.



The Latest Crime Prevention Newsletter is Out

Police Beat, the crime prevention newsletter from the St. Charles Police Department, offers helpful crime prevention tips, public safety information, quarterly stats, and police news. **Read it here.**



PUBLIC WORKS NOTES



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. [More information about yard waste collection is on our website.](#)



Think Spring: 50/50 Parkway Tree Program is Back

The City offers a cost-sharing program for planting parkway trees. The “50/50 Parkway Tree Program” allows residents to request additional trees for planting in the city parkways.

Please contact the Public Works Department at 630.377.4405 or pw@stcharlesil.gov to make a request. Once you submit your request, the City arborist will review your parkway to ensure it is suitable for planting an additional tree. After approval, you will receive confirmation, which includes ordering and payment information for the new parkway tree. Orders are due March 1 for planting in Spring. Tree species vary based on availability and the City’s diversification plans for your area.

[To review available trees, their prices and program guidelines, visit our website.](#)

Who Plows Which St. Charles Streets?

Public Works staff closely monitors the weather and is ready to respond around-the-clock. The City maintains approximately 171 miles of main and secondary roads, alleys, side streets, parking lots and cul-de-sacs within City limits. However, the City is not responsible for clearing all roads. Generally, our crews plow the downtown area and most City-owned streets. However, some roads are maintained by St. Charles Township, State, or County departments of transportation.

IDOT

The following roads are plowed and maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) – 847.705.4228.

- Rt. 31 north of the railroad trestle
- Rt. 25 north of Johnor Ave
- Rt. 64 west of Randall Rd
- Rt. 64 east of 13th Ave

KDOT

The following roads are plowed and maintained by the Kane County Highway Department (KDOT) – 630.584.1170.

- Kirk Rd south of Rt. 64
- Kirk Rd north of Royal Fox Dr
- Country Club Rd from Persimmon Dr to Dunham Rd
- Randall Rd

St. Charles Township

The following roads are plowed and maintained by the St. Charles Township – 630.584.9342

- Peck Road from the bike path on the north end of Rt. 64
- All of Oakwood Drive in the Rainbow Hills subdivision
- Crane Road from Rt. 31 to the entrance of Crane Rd Estates
- All of Dover Hill

All other City streets are maintained by the Public Works Department. For more information about salting and plowing services, visit <https://www.stcharlesil.gov/services/seasonal-services/snow-removal>

Historic Landmark of the Month “Andreson Cottage”



February’s Landmark of the Month is the Andreson Cottage. Built in 1921 by Thomas Burke, the home was built for August and Kathryn Andreson and embodies several Craftsman Style elements. One of the key architectural elements of the home is the deep open front porch that extends the full width of the front of the home, and features a recessed stairway at the side of the porch rather than a protruding stairway centered on the porch. The home also features a “Chicago” style bay window on the second floor dormer on the south façade. The west façade includes a pair of windows tied together with a Craftsman panel design with an exterior window sill supported by small wood brackets. The eaves substantially overhang and are finished with bead board and exposed rafter tails.

Although there have been some additions added to the home, those additions included many of key architectural design elements like the exposed rafter tails and divided light window details.

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



*Andreson Cottage - 70 Horne St.
Built ca. 1921*



Make a Greener Resolution

It's not too late to make new resolutions for 2020! Did you ever think of making 2020 a greener year for your family? Every year it seems to be getting easier to be green – here are a few ideas:

As the holiday lights are being taken down, any that no longer work can be dropped off at the St. Charles Public Works building at 1405 South 7th Avenue, until Feb. 7. Bins for recycling lights are inside the building. And while you're there, take advantage of the household battery recycling bin for all the batteries that you used during the holiday season.

What to do with all the Styrofoam that was safeguarding package contents? Dart Container Corporation at 310 Evergreen Drive in North Aurora has bins for recycling packaging as well as food containers (CLEAN). They ask that you bring these in a plastic bag so they won't blow away in the wind.

If you received a gift card and would like to get something to help make 2020 greener, possibly purchase some reusable produce bags. Many grocery stores sell them.

Prescription drugs that are no longer needed can be dropped off at the new St. Charles Police Department 1515 W. Main St. Call for details of what can be dropped off. Bring medications in their original pharmacy containers to the front desk from 7:30 am to 10:30 p.m. Monday – Friday, and Saturday from 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m. No Sunday or holiday times are available.

Leftover prescription drug bottles can be mailed to Matthew 25 Ministries at 11060 Kenwood Road, Blue Ash, OH 45242 (the bottles are not recyclable in our area.)

Old electronics can be recycled at the former site of the Kane County Correctional Facility, 517 East Fabyan Parkway in Batavia. Hours are Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m. There is a charge to recycle televisions.

Lastly, composting of food waste is easy to do and helps with the waste stream. Watch for future information concerning food composting from the Natural Resources Commission.

Keep Lawn Debris Away from Streams



Graphic: Montgomery County, MD

It is important to remember that keeping smaller ditches and streams free of debris can dramatically improve the flow of water from low lying areas. This includes the clearing of obstructions such as fallen trees, leaves, and beaver dams. Please note: It is illegal to dump materials into waterways and

violators may be fined.

If you are experiencing drainage or flooding problems and would like to schedule a site visit with City staff, please contact the Public Works Engineering Office at 630.377.4486. The City has photos and flood data for numerous flood events which may help in the assessment of the drainage problems you may be experiencing.

CITY OF ST. CHARLES ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION 2020

Save the date! New location!

Celebrate trees and join the annual Arbor Day celebration hosted by the City of St. Charles Natural Resources Commission. The event will be held on Friday, April 24, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at Mt. St. Mary Park on Prairie Street, east of Route 31.

For more information, please check *The Den* and the City's website in March or call Public Works at 630.377.4405.

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago – the next best time is now."



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The City & District 303 Team Up for Career Readiness

The Career Pathway Job Shadow initiative is an innovative partnership between District 303 and the City that provides interested students from North and East high schools with an inside view of local government careers. What makes this program so exciting is that high school students are learning first-hand about a wide variety of education and certification options, work environments, tasks, and tools associated with positions from all eight City government departments before choosing a higher education career path.

To date, 41 students have participated in two job shadow events on non-attendance school days (11/13/19 and 1/6/20), exploring a total of 25 different municipal professions. Students may engage with three departments at each event, with the hope that they will learn about a variety of professions; one student shadowed an arborist in public works and a network specialist in information systems. Others have learned about city government management, human resources, planning and development, and finance careers. Several have gotten the inside scoop about training to become a police officer or a firefighter and steps to take for these high demand service careers. [Click to continue reading this article for more information about the Job Shadowing Program, including the next shadow date.](#) Or contact Susan Kempf at 630.377.4423 or skempf@stcharlesil.gov.

Answers to Common Questions Installing Solar in Your Home

By Paul Hopkins, Electric Utility Engineering



The current tax incentives and solar renewable energy certificates program have significantly changed the economics of rooftop solar. Currently, almost two-thirds of the total cost of the installed system is covered by these credits, in most cases. We're happy to say that the City has seen a swell in applications in the last six months.

For our citizens who might be interested in solar, we would like to share some of the frequently asked questions and dispel common myths we hear from residents interested in installing solar.

[Continue reading this article on our blog, Inside St. Charles,](#) for more information on residential solar including answers to common questions, such as:

- *How do I get started with solar?*
- *Does my roof have to face south to work?*
- *Are there any limitations on the size of the array that I can install?*
- *How long will it take me to recoup my investment in a solar installation?*
- *Will my electric bill go away?*
- *Are there any special considerations for St. Charles because the City operates a municipal electric utility?*

St. Charles Police Station Wins Award

The American Public Works Association named the new St. Charles Police station a Public Works Project of the Year in the \$5-\$25 million structures category. This award promotes excellence in project management, safety, community relations, environmental impact, and construction innovation.

The new 56,000 sq. ft. facility at 1515 W. Main Street replaces the former police station at 211 N. Riverside Ave. [Click here for more information about the project and the award.](#)





Four \$1000 Scholarships Available from IMUA

Deadline to Apply: March 6, 2020

The City is partnering with the Illinois Municipal Utilities Association (IMUA) to offer four, \$1000 scholarships to eligible high school students. To qualify, applicants must be high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are residential customers of City of St. Charles utilities. Eligible students must submit an application and essay of 500 words or less addressing their choice of one of three utility-related questions. Applications and essays are due March 6, 2020.

[The list of essay questions and applications can be downloaded here.](#) They also are available at the front desk of the Municipal Building, 2 E. Main Street, St. Charles. Winners will be announced in April. For more information, contact IMUA at 217.789.4632.

Fox River Seminar Series Highlights Life on the Fox River

The Conservation Foundation is partnering with local organizations to bring you a new series of talks about life in the Fox River Valley. The Fox River Program is a monthly series running through May. All meetings will be held on the third Wednesday, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room of the Pottawatomie Community Center, 8 North Avenue, St. Charles. February's topic: Winter Birds of the Fox River: How Are They Doing? What Are We Seeing? with Bob and Kathy Andrini from the Kane County Audubon. For details, including upcoming seminar topics, visit www.theconservationfoundation.org.

Be a Part of the St. Patrick's Parade

The St. Charles Business Alliance is now accepting parade entries and is in need of volunteers

Be a part of the St. Patrick's parade Saturday, March 14 at 2 p.m. on Main St./Rt. 64 in St. Charles. The parade features Irish dancers, authentic Irish music, floats and more! Get into the Irish spirit and join us in downtown St. Charles.

Parade Entry Deadline: February 14, 2020. Apply at www.ststpatricksparade.com.

How can I help? Parade pacers, marshals and banner carriers are needed. Visit www.ststpatricksparade.com for details.

