



THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

September 2016

www.stcharlesil.gov

Upcoming Meetings

To see a complete list of meetings go to www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings

- Youth Commission**
9.6.16.....6:00 pm
- City Council**
9.6.16.....7:00 pm
- Government Operations**
9.6.16.....7:05 pm
- Corridor Improvement Commission**
9.7.16.....7:00 pm
- Historic Preservation Commission**
9.7.16.....7:00 pm
- Tree Commission**
9.8.16.....7:00 pm
- Planning & Development**
9.12.16.....7:00 pm
- Housing Commission**
9.15.16.....7:00 pm
- Liquor Control Commission**
9.19.16.....4:30 pm
- City Council**
9.19.16.....7:00 pm
- Government Operations**
9.19.16.....7:05 pm
- Plan Commission**
9.20.16.....7:00 pm
- Historic Preservation Commission**
9.21.16.....7:00 pm
- Government Services**
9.26.16.....7:00 pm

Connect with Us

Connect with the city right from your mobile device. Download our St. Charles Connect app at www.stcharlesil.gov/connect



CITY OF
ST. CHARLES

ILLINOIS • SINCE 1834

Heritage. Community. Service. Opportunity.



Slow Down and Enjoy Our Beautiful Downtown

In an effort to calm traffic as it travels through the heart of our downtown, the City is encouraging motorists to Slow Down Downtown.

To bring awareness and enforce the posted 25MPH speed limit downtown, temporary radar speed display signs have been installed and extra police patrols are out on Main Street.

To ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists downtown and encourage drivers to obey the 25 MPH speed limit, the Police Department will be utilizing temporary radar speed signs that will display the speeds of vehicles as they drive through our downtown. Extra police patrols also will be out on Main Street.

“Our local Main Street is a state highway—Illinois Route 64—that also connects other state highways nearby—namely Illinois Routes 31 & 25. So Main Street does accommodate a lot of vehicle and truck traffic,” said Commander of the St. Charles Police Department Traffic Division Erik Mahan. “We want to make sure whether you are walking or driving in downtown St. Charles, it’s a safe, comfortable experience.”

The City also is looking into expanding the 25 MPH zone to 7th Street and 7th Avenue. “It is my goal to work with staff to convince the Illinois Department of Transportation to expand the 25 MPH speed limit zone,” said St. Charles Mayor Ray Rogina. “I believe it would encourage foot traffic and be favorable to our downtown businesses.”

For more information, contact Commander Mahan at emahan@stcharlesil.gov or [630.377.4435](tel:630.377.4435).

First Street Update

The parking deck construction is moving along, as interior plumbing and electrical work continue. Constructed of precast concrete panels, individual sections of the floor and walls of the parking garage were trucked on to the site and hoisted into place by a crane.

The parking deck has two levels. Soon, the concrete floor for the lower level will be poured. The lower level entrance is at street level from Illinois Street. It slopes down to the north, providing access to basement-level parking beneath the adjacent buildings. The upper level will be accessed from a ramp on First Street.



Work is proceeding on the streetscape in front of Building 1 (ALE headquarters) and the parking deck. Pedestrian access to the future riverwalk will be provided from both levels at the north end of the deck. More on the project at www.1street.org.

City of St. Charles Mission: **Heritage. Community. Service. Opportunity.**



Opportunity. Opportunity is what's created when the City effectively incorporates its Heritage, Community, and Service into its core values and traditions. All of the components of our mission work together to create a thriving environment for opportunities to

prosper. When everything is in place, anything is possible.

Heritage reminds us where we come from and plays an important part in our sense of identity. Our past has laid the ground work for where we are now, and helps guide us where

our next steps should be. It is important that we recognize how our heritage has given us the opportunities we have today.

Having a strong sense of community gives St. Charles the opportunity to share together and grow together. A community with opportunity is a community worth being a part of.

Service to the community—whether through reliable, effective City services or active community volunteerism—creates even more opportunity for St. Charles to flourish.

Each of the four elements of our mission are strong enough and important enough to stand on their own. But when they come together, that's when St. Charles' true potential shines.

BUSINESS REPORT

The City Welcomes these Business!

DOWNTOWN

Mixology Aveda Salon Spa

116 W Main St
630-253-8619
Salon & Spa

Destination Knitting

107 W Main St, Ste A
630-444-0480
Yarn, Classes & Gifts

The Painted Vine Cellar

1 W. Illinois St., Ste. 110
331-422-7301
Paint & wine entertainment venue

Forthright Financial Planning

200 W Main St., Ste. 102
815-895-8885
Financial Planning

EAST GATEWAY

Fox Valley Volkswagen

4050 E Main St
630-231-9900
Automobile Dealership & Service

CherPak II

4053 Pheasant Ct
513-238-5488
Sales/Mktg for Packaging

EAST GATEWAY INDUSTRIAL

Global Drivetrain, Inc.

601 Sidwell Ct., Unit A
630-584-2136
Supplier of gears

Truckwurx, LLC – 2nd STC Location

1900 E Tyler Rd., Ste. 400
800-910-9497
Truck Accessories

WEST GATEWAY

Alexander's Café

1650 W Main St
630-549-0514
Breakfast & Lunch Restaurant

American Mattress – 2nd STC Location

923 S Randall Rd
630-549-0514
Breakfast & Lunch Restaurant

Double Twouble, Inc.

3727 Antoine Ct
312-890-6314
Software

E-Appliance Recycling Corp.

1500 Foundry St, Ste 7
917-337-2971
Appliance Warehouse

Fox Valley Buyers, LLC

219 S 17th St
773-263-6658
Real Estate Investment

Fun Republic Inc.

731 N 17th St, Ste. 14-18
630-344-9541
Kids Playground & Education Ctr.

Performers

731 N 17th St, Ste 6
630-417-0600
Flooring & Remodeling

SAFETY UPDATE

Do You Know Cell Phone Laws for School Zones?

Schools are back in session and kids are out at bus stops, buses are stopping on the roads, and parents are driving their children to and from school. So please proceed with extra caution around our schools and in our neighborhoods, especially during the morning rush hours.

“There are more vehicles out on the roads so allow time for increased traffic and please use extra caution when driving,” says St. Charles Chief of Police Jim Keegan, “It only takes a few minutes to wait for a school bus or stop for a crossing guard. We will have additional patrols on the roads to ensure safety and compliance because we want to be sure our children have a happy and safe school year.”

Help us keep children safe and review these traffic laws:

Cell Phone Use

- Illinois law bans the use of all hand-held devices while driving. Only hands-free technology such as speakerphones, bluetooth, and headsets are permitted.
- Any wireless/cellphone use while driving, including a hands-free device, is prohibited for drivers under age 19, except in the case of an emergency to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider or emergency services agency.
- All Illinois drivers are prohibited from texting.



Don't Pass a Stopped School Bus

- On a two-lane road, you must stop in either lane before meeting or overtaking a school bus loading or unloading passengers. The school bus driver will give a warning at least 100 feet in advance of a stop by flashing their amber and red lights on the front and rear of the bus and extending the stop signal arm. You must come to a complete stop.
 - (1) You may proceed when the school bus resumes motion or the bus driver signals you to do so.
 - (2) You also may proceed when the flashing lights are turned off and the stop arm is no longer extended.
- You do not always need to stop when meeting a stopped school bus on a roadway with four or more lanes.

Watch for Children Walking and Biking

- Please watch for young children walking and riding their bikes especially around our schools and in residential areas.
- Take extra care when backing out of driveways.
- Come to a complete stop when approaching stop intersections and give kids a chance to cross safely.

SAFETY UPDATE

Carbon Monoxide

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. Vehicles, heaters and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a long period of time.

CO Safety Tips:

- Install CO alarms in a centrally located area outside the bedrooms and on every level of the home.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- If the alarm sounds, check for low batteries and replace them if needed. If the alarm still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the alarm sounds, immediately move to an area with fresh air outside or by an open window. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location.
- If you need to warm up your car, pull it out of the garage. Do not run a vehicle indoors, even if the garage doors are open. And make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Only run a generator in a well-ventilated area outside, away from windows, doors and vents.
- Inspect fuel-burning heaters and chimneys every year.
- When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation and never use your oven to heat your home.

Source: National Fire Protection Association, 2016

Find Information on Air Quality

Do your allergy symptoms seem worse on some days than they do on others?

It actually has a lot to do with the quality of the air, which can change from day to day depending on many factors. You can stay up on air quality at www.airnow.gov. There the air quality is broken up by county, with ratings of *Good, Moderate, Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, Unhealthy, Very Unhealthy, and Hazardous*.

Know about the Electric Outage Hotline?

If you are a St. Charles Electric Utility customer, be sure to register your phone number with the automated telephone notification system. You can report an outage and get updates.

Call [630.377.4426](tel:630.377.4426) to register up to three phone numbers go online [here](#).

PUBLIC WORKS NOTES

Cities Band Together to Save Money

In an effort to take advantage of more competitive pricing gained through economies of scale, the St. Charles Electric Utility has joined the City of Naperville in bidding out an electric pole inspection project. “By combining the two bids, St. Charles increased its pole quantities 56%, and Naperville’s count rose 44%,” said St. Charles Electric Services Division Manager Tom Bruhl. “Not only is this a more cost-effective way of doing business, it also is good to work together with neighboring communities.”

PUBLIC WORKS NOTES

Fire Hydrant Flushing This Month

Fall hydrant flushing will be conducted from September 12-29:

September 12 - 15 - North of Rt. 64 and East of Rt. 25

September 19 - 23 - Begins on the west side of the Fox River south of the Timbers subdivision and continues south to Gray Street and west to North/South 16th Street.

September 26 - 29 - Begins on the east side of the Fox River south of Iroquois Avenue and continues south to Division Street and east to North/South 14th Avenue.



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

Please note that hydrant flushing could temporarily cause rusty-looking water even if the flushing is not taking place in your neighborhood. The

discoloration is caused by minerals that get stirred up in the water mains.

Water is safe to use and consume during hydrant flushing. If you notice your water is rusty:

- Stop all water use and wait. Several hours may be required to rid the cloudiness from the water mains that serve your home or business.
- Turn on outside spigots, cold water bathtub faucets, flush toilets, and run a cycle through the washing machine to clear the water in your service line.
- Do not wash clothes or run a dishwasher during or immediately after flushing takes place. Washing clothes with discolored water can cause laundry stains.
- Be certain discolored water is out of your water service line before using large amounts of water or doing laundry.
- Clean any home filters and manually regenerate home softeners.
- If laundry gets stained, keep clothes wet and treat them with stain remover. The City offers a stain remover at no cost to residents at:
 - Public Works facility, 1405 South 7th Avenue
 - City Hall, Reception Desk, 2 East Main Street
 - Police Department, 211 North Riverside Avenue

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at [630-377-4405](tel:630-377-4405) or pw@stcharlesil.gov



Matt Wilson is Water Division Manager. A St. Charles native, Matt grew up on the City's eastside. He has worked at the City of St. Charles for more than four years. Prior to that, he was Vice President of a local civil engineering firm in charge of water and wastewater operations.

Why does the city flush hydrants?

Fire hydrants are periodically opened to flush water mains in the system. Flushing hydrants improves water quality and primarily is performed in the spring and fall. The goal of the program is to make sure the hydrants operate properly in the event of a fire and to remove sediment from the pipes in order to maintain water clarity and quality.

How long does it take to flush the entire City?

Hydrants are flushed from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Typically the entire City is flushed in four to six weeks. Signs are placed in neighbourhoods to remind residents that the program is underway in their area.

Why is the water sometimes rusty in a particular neighborhood when hydrant flushing isn't even happening there?

In addition to the scheduled flushing in the spring and fall, the St. Charles Fire and Public Works departments routinely use hydrants to assess whether adequate pressure and flow are available to satisfy normal system demands as well as the increased demand required to fight a fire. These flow tests, as well as some construction activities, may result in brief periods of discoloration in your tap water. Please contact the Public Works Water Division at [630.377.4405](tel:630.377.4405) or pw@stcharlesil.gov if you notice rusty water.

PUBLIC WORKS NOTES

Be Careful with Mylar Balloons

Did you know that each year there are hundreds of thousand power outages caused by party balloons? Mylar balloons, the shiny foil-like balloons, can make an occasion more festive, but if you don't dispose of them correctly or keep an eye on them to make sure they don't float away, they could be the culprit of a power outage.

Because of the metallic properties of mylar balloons, when they come in contact with power lines, they can cause an electrical surge, which causes the power to short out. Keep these tips in mind the next time you buy mylar balloons:



- Keep them tied down with a weight or tie to solid structure.
- Puncture the balloons before disposing of them so they can't float away.
- If you see that a balloon has gotten caught on a line, do not attempt to retrieve it. Call Public Works for assistance, 630.377.4405.

For more information, visit www.safeelectricity.org.

Drainage System Maintenance

It's important to remember that keeping smaller ditches and streams free of debris can dramatically improve the flow of water run-off from low lying areas, this includes clearing obstructions of fallen tree, 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 the August 2007 and September 2008 flood events, as well as for more recent flooding which may help in the assessment of the drainage problems you may be experiencing

Brush Collection Pick-Up for 2016

EAST SIDE OF RIVER

September 19
October 17
November 14

WEST SIDE OF RIVER

September 26
October 24
November 21

YARD WASTE

Yard waste bags will be picked up on your weekly refuse pickup day.

Fall Leaf Pickup Program



2016 Leaf Pick Up Program Starts Next Month

A sure sign of fall: the City's leaf pick up program will begin October 24 and run through November 23

Collection will follow an East/West schedule similar to the City's brush pick up program for a total of 3 pickups for the season. Routes may vary from week to week, so be sure to place all leaves out on the parkway by 7 a.m. on your scheduled pickup date. Please remember, it may take up to 3 to 4 days before your specific area is picked up. Once the crews move through your area they will not return until the next scheduled pick up.

For the complete schedule and pick-up procedures, check the City's website www.stcharlesil.gov and click on the Leaf Pick Up icon on the home page. It also will be in the October issue of the *Den*.

Remember, leaves make wonderful mulch in garden beds (and this is an environmentally friendly way to dispose of them). In addition, leaves may be disposed of in yard waste bags through Tuesday, November 29 on your regular refuse day.

PUBLIC WORKS NOTES



Protect Your Property From Flood Damage

Reduce damages on property that is susceptible to flooding by:

- Apply watertight seals to brick and block walls to protect against low level flooding. (less than 2 feet)
- Elevate furnaces, air conditioners, water heaters and major appliances on platforms, or move them to higher floors.
- Sandbag and remove items from areas prone to flooding.
- Elevating or relocating the entire structure may also be a feasible option.

For more information visit www.fema.gov, the floodplain page of our website or contact the Public Works Engineering Division at 630-377-4486.

Fall 50/50 Parkway Trees are In!

The fall tree planting program, which includes trees in the 50/50 program, will begin in early October with approximately 250 sites.

All trees ordered by residents are in. (Orders were due at the beginning of August.) In preparation for the planting season, the city urban forestry staff will begin marking white hash marks on the curbs indicating where the trees will be planted. Most newly planted trees will be fitted with a gator bag to provide a slow drip of water to the roots. In addition, the tree crew has begun to remove the gator bags off all the trees that were planted in the spring.



If the fall season is dry, please place a hose at the end of the tree drip line and let the water flow at a slow trickle for approximately 20 minutes. Watering once a month should be sufficient. Please note: overwatering symptoms present the same drought/under watering symptoms for trees, i.e., leaves falling off, turning brown or wilted in appearance.

If you have any questions regarding this seasons planting program or watering needs for newly planted trees, please call Public Works at 630.377.4405 or visit the City's website for information on the care of new trees at www.stcharlesil.gov and search for "Tree Care: Watering Trees."

FEMA to Hold Open House on Flood Insurance Study for 7th Avenue Creek

Thursday, Sept. 8 from 5-7p.m. in St. Charles City Council Chambers

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are hosting a Flood Risk Information Open House at the City, where residents can review the preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the 7th Avenue Creek and 7th Avenue Creek Tributary.

Digital copies of the FIRM and FIS materials also are available on FEMA's website www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata or on the City's 7th Avenue Creek project website at www.stcharlesil.gov/projects/7th-avenue-creek-project.

The FIS and the FIRMs provide base flood information, delineate areas subject to significant flood hazards within Kane County, and offer information public officials may use when permitting development in the floodplain. For more information, contact Karen Young, Assistant Director or Public Works, at kryoung@stcharlesil.gov or 630.377.4486.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Fire Dept.'s Lt. Tony Cavallo Earns Statewide Recognition

Tony will be Honored at the Sept. 6 City Council Meeting

Congratulations to the Fire Department's Lieutenant Tony Cavallo who was named a finalist in the 2016 American Legion Firefighter of the Year Award. Lt. Cavallo had to meet stringent eligibility guidelines and professional criteria to be considered for the award, which includes nominees from fire departments across the state.

"We are pleased and proud that Lt. Cavallo received this distinguished recognition," said St. Charles Fire Chief Joe Schelstreet. "Throughout his career, Lt. Cavallo has shown he is a well-rounded, caring professional who is dedicated to his community, his profession and his Fire Department."

Lt. Cavallo has received multiple citations for his competence, courage and compassion. His nomination highlights incidents such as rescuing a wheelchair-bound resident from a second floor apartment that was on fire by bringing him down a ladder to safety. It also notes a time he extinguished a large grill fire at the VFW after last year's Memorial Day Parade and personally bought groceries to replace what was ruined in the fire so the veterans could enjoy their picnic.

"That's the kind of behavior that got Tony noticed," said John DePauw, Commander of the American Legion #342 in St. Charles. "It was not only his service record, but what he did when not on duty."



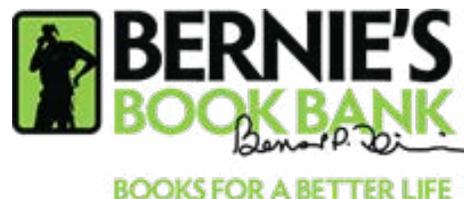
American Legion Immediate Past State Commander Paul Gardner, Chief Schelstreet & Lt. Tony Cavallo at the award ceremony.



Vote for St. Charles Video with Your Likes on YouTube!

Video is Part of the America in Bloom Competition

"Like" this amazing [video](#) on YouTube showcasing St. Charles to help our City win the America in Bloom video competition! Thank you to all the volunteers and businesses and Stagefright Productions for making this year's America in Bloom entry a success. For more about what America in Bloom is all about, visit our [website](#).



Children's Book Drive a Success

Thank you to everyone who donated books for our children's book drive at city hall. We collected 1,015 books as of this news deadline (our goal was 1,500 books)!

The books are at Bernie's Book Bank now, being sorted by volunteers. They will be packaged by age in sets of 12 and distributed to local schools and social service organizations who will then put them in the hands of at-risk children to read with their families and enjoy. Visit <http://berniesbookbank.org> for more information.



Design the New Library Card!

Get Your Designs in by Sept. 9

The St. Charles Library is looking for artists of all ages who live within the St. Charles Library District to submit designs for new library cards. They will unveil new designs created by a local kid, teen and adult this fall. Each winner will receive a \$100 gift card! Details at www.stcharleslibrary.org.

2nd Installment of Property Taxes Due Sept. 1

The Kane County Treasurer's Office is responsible for preparing the property tax bills, mailing them out and then collecting the required taxes for the local taxing bodies within Kane County. More information is at www.kanecountytreasurer.org.

Since 2009, the City of St. Charles has kept its operating tax levy at about 10% of your entire property tax bill. On a \$300,000 home, that means \$911 pays for a full year of City services, including police and fire emergency services, street maintenance and 24-hr snowplowing, planning, engineering, economic development, and more. [Click here](#) for more information on the City's portion of property taxes.



What's Up with the Kane County Electronic Recycling Program?

Kane County is looking to resume its Electronics Recycling Program with three potential partnering pick up sites throughout the County: in Dundee for a northern drop-off, South Elgin centrally, and Batavia in the south.

The County's contracted recycler, eWorks, will be charging a recycling fee to residents for TVs and computer monitors – both tube and flat screen - at all drop-off locations. The fees are \$25 for screens 20 inches and under (measured diagonally) and \$35 for screens 21 inches and over. Fees can be paid online in advance or onsite by cash or card.

Watch for more details including confirmation of dates and sites, and visit the Kane County website for more <http://www.countyofkane.org/Recycling/pages/electronics/electronicsBooks.aspx>.



September is National Preparedness Month

This is a good time to take action to prepare for natural and/or manmade disasters.

Please keep these preparedness tips in mind:

- Be Informed
- Make a Plan
- Get an Emergency Kit

For preparedness ideas and more information, visit www.Ready.gov.

Get Your Scarecrow Fest Entry Forms In

Entry forms received by Sept. 15 get a pair of limited edition Scarecrow Fest puppets! More at www.scarecrowfest.com.

GOT AN OPINION ON GETTING AROUND IN ILLINOIS?

The Illinois Department of Transportation wants to hear from you! Take part in their very brief [online survey](#).

COMMUNITY NEWS



City offices are closed and refuse collection will be delayed one day all week due to the Labor Day holiday, Monday, Sept. 5

City of St. Charles Directory

<i>Building & Code Enforcement</i>	377.4406	<i>Fire Administration</i>	377.4458
<i>City Administrator Mark Koenen</i>	377.4422	<i>Fire Prevention Bureau</i>	377.4457
<i>Community Development</i>	377.4443	<i>Human Resources</i>	377.4446
<i>Development Engineering</i>	443.3677	<i>Mayor Raymond P. Rogina</i>	377.4444
<i>Economic Development</i>	443.4093	<i>Police Administration/Investigation/ Crime Prevention</i>	377.4435
<i>Electric Division</i>	377.4407	<i>Public Works: Water/Sewer/Street</i>	377.4405
<i>Engineering Division</i>	377.4486	<i>Refuse Pickup Information</i>	587.8282
<i>Emergency Management Agency</i>	377.4416	<i>TDD</i>	800.526.0844
<i>Flood Protection Assistance</i>	377.4486	<i>Utility Billing: Electric/Water/Sewer</i>	377.4426
<i>Finance/Accounting</i>	762.7002	<i>Electric Outage Hotline</i>	866.444.0016

The Den is produced by The City of St. Charles, 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174
 Questions? Please contact Lisa Garhan, Editor at lgarhan@stcharlesil.gov 630.443.3744