



THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

December 2015

www.stcharlesil.gov

Upcoming Meetings

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

Youth Commission

12.7.15.....6:00 pm

Public Hearing: 2015 Property Tax Levy

12.7.15.....6:55 pm

City Council

12.7.15.....7:00 pm

Government Operations

12.7.15.....7:05 pm

Plan Commission

12.8.15.....7:00 pm

Tree Commission

12.10.15.....7:00 pm

Student Government Day

12.14.15.....7:30 am - 2 pm

Planning & Development

12.14.15.....7:00 pm

Historic Preservation Commission

12.16.15.....7:00 pm

Housing Commission

12.17.15.....7:00 pm

Liquor Control Commission

12.21.15.....4:30 pm

City Council

12.21.15.....7:00 pm

Government Operations

12.21.15.....7:05 pm

The City's Greatest Hits of 2015

Many good things happened in our city this past year, even amid the challenges of operating without the local distribution of State funds—a casualty of the continued budget stalemate. While things are stalled in Springfield, locally we enjoyed many accomplishments. Here are some highlights:



Community & Economic Development

- First Street Phase 3 started up as construction got underway for Building #1, which will include retail/commercial uses on the ground floor, and the corporate headquarters of ALE Solutions on all three upper floors. The basement level will include private parking to serve the tenants of the building.
- Work on the City's public parking deck east of Building #1 also began.
- 70 new businesses opened from East Main Street to Randall Road and everywhere in between.

Taxes and City Finances

- For the seventh straight year, the City froze its operating levy, keeping the City's portion of property taxes constant.
- We retained our Aa1 Credit Rating from Moody's Investors Service.
- Our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended April 30, 2014, received its 29th consecutive Certificate of Achievement from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

Council News

- We said a fond farewell to retiring Fourth Ward Alderman Jim Martin, and welcomed Steven Gaugel elected April 7 as Alderman of the 4th Ward.
- These aldermen also were reelected in 2015: Dan Stellato Alderman Ward 1; Rita Anne Payleitner, Alderman Ward 2; Todd Bancroft, Alderman Ward 3; Ed Bessner, Alderman Ward 5.

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CITY OF ST. CHARLES

ILLINOIS • SINCE 1834



Letter From The Mayor



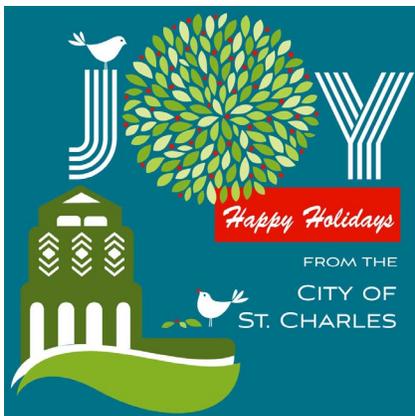
Mayor Raymond P. Rogina

*“You better watch out,
You better not cry,
better not pout, I’m
telling you why.
Santa Claus is
coming to town.”*

As Santa gets ready for his annual visit to St. Charles, in preparation for his visit, you might want to include on your checklist the following gentle reminders from your mayor:

- ✓ The less fortunate of our area certainly should be kept in mind. Contributions of time, funds or goods to Lazarus House, Salvation Army, Northern Illinois Food Bank or any other charity of your choice is always welcome, but particularly at this time of the year. You also can participate in the city’s “Neighbors in Need” program to help those unable to pay their utility bill during these winter months.
- ✓ Our local merchants deserve and appreciate a boost at this time of the year; many of your holiday purchases, services and holiday party venues can be taken care of through the fine businesses here in St. Charles.
- ✓ Be sure that your out-of-town guests enjoy St. Charles’ festive holiday trimmings and happenings.
- ✓ Consider one of your New Year’s resolutions to be joining the multitude of volunteers whose various talents contribute to the well-being of our city.
- ✓ With all the merry making that takes place as you await Santa and ring in the arrival of a New Year, be sure to enjoy the holiday in a safe and sound manner.

I wish all of you a wonderful holiday and may our city be blessed with prosperity and opportunity in 2016.



The City's Greatest Hits of 2015

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Infrastructure Improvements

- Miles of city streets were resurfaced with about 4505 tons of asphalt.
- Volunteer Plaza, the redeveloped green space and walkway at the Municipal Building was finished and opened to the public.
- 7th Avenue Creek Project was launched to develop a long term master plan to relieve flooding along the 7th Avenue Creek watershed.
- A new 1.5 million gallon water tower project was initiated at the intersection of IL 25 and Red Gate Road.

Police News

- Commander Jerry Gatlin was recognized by the City Council for graduating from the FBI National Academy. This put him among less than 1 percent of law enforcement officers nationwide.
- Deputy Chief Kintz was appointed president of the Kane County Chiefs of Police Association.

Fire Accomplishments

- The City was awarded an elite Class 1 rating for Fire Protection from the Insurance Services Office, offering the chance for lower fire insurance rates for St. Charles residents and businesses.
- Fire Chief Joe Schelstreet received Chief Fire Officer designation by the Commission on Professional Credentialing.

Special Recognitions

- The City received a rating of 4 out of 5 “Blooms” from the America in Bloom program, which promotes beautification, community involvement and environmental enhancements.
- The Municipal Building turned 75 and the City celebrated with tours, live music, a trivia contest and of course, cake.
- The Volunteer Plaza Reflections Sculpture was installed and dedicated to longtime community volunteers Max and Doris Hunt.
- The City received a Community Service Award from the St. Charles Park Board for its sponsorship of the annual July 4th Celebration and Sculpture in the Park exhibit.
- The City received the Star Award from the Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley for preserving the historic Jones Law Office and moving it to its new home in Camp Kane in Langum Park.

BUSINESS REPORT

welcome new business!

DOWNTOWN

Bombshell 56
Hair Salon
56 Indiana St.
630-549-7277

Isacco Kitchen
Restaurant
131 S. First St.
630-464-3035

Romano Mercato Italiano
210 Cedar St.
9 N 2nd St.
630-945-3042

WEST GATEWAY

Dazzling Nails
Nail Salon
1870 W. Main St.
630-940-2487

Lotus Spa
Massage Therapy
1700 Lincoln Hwy.
630-513-6429

Parlour Beauty Bar
2460 W. Main St.
630-584-0772

EAST GATEWAY

Allterrain, Inc.
Automotive Detailing
1501 Indiana Ave/Ste. 1
630-841-7431

BaseballCoachJeff.com
3800 E. Main/Ste E206
847-695-3057

Bent Dog Yoga
1560 E. Main St.
630-695-1403

Industrecycle, LLC
Recycling
1501 Indiana Ave/Ste. 3
617-429-8494

Kayli's & Keya's Playground
Minigolf, Food/Bev.
3800 E. Main/Ste. A102
630-930-9028

Pit Stop
Auto Repair
1302 E. Main St.
630-377-5823

EAST GATEWAY

St. Charles Trading, Inc.
Food Ingredient Distributor
160 Lakeside Dr.
630-377-0608

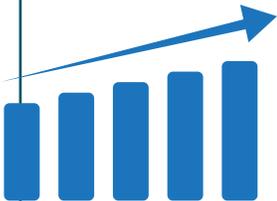
EAST GATEWAY - INDUSTRIAL

Best Way Rug Furniture
Area Rug, Carpet & Furniture Cleaning
3540 Stern Ave
630-940-2601

Biron Homes & Design, Inc.
Home Design & Construction
1830 Wallace Ave
630-650-7393

Grand Slam Enterprises, Inc.
Environmental Consulting
3809 Illinois Ave
630-377-0297

Other Business News



Congratulations **Insurance Program Managers Group (IPMG)**, 225 Smith Rd., for being named one of the Best Places to Work in Insurance by Business Insurance. IPMG has been a Best Place to Work in Insurance every year since 2011.

The Pride of St. Charles BP Gas Station at the corner of Lincoln Hwy. and Bricher Rd. is expanding to the neighboring property, a former car wash, to construct a new building for the company's Urban Counter food concept which serves breakfast, burgers, sandwiches, salads, and shakes. A packaged beer and wine store is also planned for the building.

Fox Valley Volkswagen Breaks Ground



It was a great day for the groundbreaking for Fox Valley Volkswagen Nov. 4. Mayor Ray Rogina, Ward 2 Alderman Rita Payleitner, Ward 5 Alderman Maureen Lewis, City Administrator Mark Koenen and city staff were there with Emir Abinon and the Fox Valley Volkswagen organization. The dealership is relocating from West Chicago to the former DuPage Expo site, at 4050 E. Main St. in St. Charles. The new location will allow nearly double the number of service bays the dealership operates at its current location.

What's the Construction Happening off of Kirk Road?



Have you seen the big construction equipment pushing the dirt around in a location off of Kirk Road near Legacy Blvd.? It's AJR Filtration Inc., a manufacturer of custom filters used in liquid processing, medical equipment, automotive and natural gas applications. They are preparing to build on the site. AJR has been in St. Charles since 2001 at 3635 Swenson. The company has continued to grow and already have expanded into additional buildings around their current location. To accommodate even more growth, they are planning to construct a new 180,000-square foot manufacturing building. Thanks to the City's business retention efforts, AJR will remain in St. Charles and are building their new building on S. Kirk Road, directly west of the East Side Sports complex. Keeping this business in St. Charles means their existing 250 employees will continue to work and shop here, and we will see an additional 150 new jobs over the next three years.

Location is Important When Calling 911 for Help

According to the 9-1-1 National Emergency Number Association, about 240 million calls are made to 911 in the U.S. each year. The Federal Communications Commission estimates that 70 percent of those calls are made from cell phones.

While many cell phones can plot a location for dispatchers on a map, those locations usually are not exact, often leaving emergency responders a large area to check. Therefore, it's important to know your exact location or the nearest intersection and provide that information right away so emergency services can respond more quickly.

Also, provide the emergency operator with your cell phone number so if the call gets disconnected, they can call you back.

Prevent Holiday Shopping Crime



The St. Charles Police Department wants you to have a safe holiday shopping season. "Shoppers really need to keep track of their valuables and be aware of who is around them at all times," warns Bill Tynan, Crime Prevention Officer in the St. Charles Police Department. "Turning your back briefly on your shopping bag or a purse resting in a shopping cart is all the time a criminal needs."



Some Tips



- Wear your purse diagonally across the front of your body or place your wallet in a front pocket.
- Do not carry large sums of cash.
- Beware of strangers who approach you or bump into you.
- Conceal your PIN during credit/debit card transactions.
- Never park in an unlit or poorly lit parking lot.
- Never leave packages visible inside your car. Store them in the trunk instead.
- Have your keys in your hand when you approach your car.
- While loading your car, do not leave handbags or purses unattended. Check your account balances frequently for unauthorized purchases, and report lost or stolen cards immediately.

For more information, contact Officer Tynan at [630.443.3847](tel:630.443.3847) or btynan@stcharlesil.gov.

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. Please review these safety tips from the National Fire Protection Association.

- Keep the tree three feet away from any heat source: fireplace, radiator, candle, vent, lamp.
- Don't block an exit with the tree.
- Keep the tree watered.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for the maximum number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree; also avoid paper decorations or other flammable materials.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Also, the St. Charles Fire Department reminds you to:

- Make sure there is a working smoke alarm in every bedroom and at every level of your home.
- Practice a home escape plan with your family.
- Always keep fire hydrants in your yard clear of snow.



PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

We're Ready for ^{more}~~the~~ Snow

Mother Nature tested our preparation early this year with approximately 8 inches of snow, but staff had the equipment and de-icing materials ready to keep city streets safe and clear. The City uses a computerized forecasting system to monitor the weather and crews are scheduled and ready to respond around-the-clock. As we continue through the season, please keep these winter safety tips in mind:

- Remind children to stay clear of snowplows. When driving, stay back at least 100 feet from moving plows and don't pass them.
- Drivers, yield the right-of-way to any vehicle with flashing lights performing construction, maintenance, snow plowing or salting work.
- Do not place snow removed from driveways and sidewalks in the street. It creates dangerous situations for others and violates city ordinances.
- Pile snow away from the edge of the road, on the left side of the driveway as you face the house. If the snow plow passes by again, this will help prevent snow being pushed back into your driveway.
- Clear snow and ice from the sidewalk adjacent to your property. This makes it safer and easier for anyone walking.
- Clear snow away from fire hydrants for easy access in an emergency.
- Remove any objects that overhang the curbs, such as portable basketball hoops.
- Do not park on streets marked within the Snow Route after a 2" snowfall. A citywide parking ban on all streets goes into effect when 3" or more of snow has accumulated. The Police Department will begin enforcing the parking regulations one hour after accumulations.



If you believe your mailbox was damaged by a City plow, contact Public Works at pw@stcharlesil.gov or **630-377-4405**, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Secure Your Mailbox

Prior to the first snowfall, please check your curbside mailbox to be sure it is secure. Your mailbox post and box should be firmly anchored together, and the post firmly set in the ground. Because snow may be pushed into mailboxes during normal street plowing operations, having your mailbox and post in good repair will help it withstand being pushed over by snow.

Contact the Public Works Department at **630.377.4405** or pw@stcharlesil.gov if you have any questions.



Plastic bags and plastic wrap/film are recyclable, but only at grocery store drop-boxes.

Please do not put your recyclable materials in plastic bags inside your recycling collection bin. Empty all recyclable items from plastic bags and place items loose into the recycling bin for collection.

Please note, plastic bags are the #1 contaminant at recycling sorting facilities.

Check your local store for their plastic bag drop-box and to verify what materials are accepted. Please visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org for more information.

Yard Waste

Yard waste bag pickup by Advanced Disposal ends December 1, 2015.

Yard waste collection will resume April 2016

There will be regularly scheduled refuse pick-up the weeks of Dec. 21 & 28, 2015

Brush, Leaf & Yard Waste Collection has concluded for 2015. Collection will resume April 2016

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Holiday Tree Pickup

Christmas trees will be picked up during the weeks of Jan. 4 & 11, 2016. Trees will be picked up on BOTH sides of the river on the regular scheduled refuse day. **After this two-week period, a sticker will be required.** Trees are NOT to be placed in disposal bags. Residents should note that all decorations, including tinsel, must be removed. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at [630.377.4405](tel:630.377.4405) or pw@stcharlesil.gov.

Preparing New Parkway Trees for the Winter

Did you receive a new parkway tree this fall? Newly planted trees need minimal care during the winter months. Our planting team will water all new trees immediately after they are planted. The green “gator bags” will not be placed on trees this late in the planting season to avoid them freezing and damaging the tree or the bag. You don’t need to water trees planted in the fall of 2015 until June 2016, if necessary.

But you can ensure the wood mulch that has been placed around your tree is away from the base of the trunk by several inches. The mulch should be 2-4 inches deep and flat, not mounded. Please avoid “Volcano Mulching” as illustrated below.



correct mulching



incorrect 'volcano' mulching

Contact the Public Works Department with any questions or concerns at [630.377.4405](tel:630.377.4405) or pw@stcharlesil.gov.

We're Prepared for Winter

While Public Works is busy completing concrete and asphalt projects, tree planting, hydrant flushing and street sweeping, several winter preparations also are underway.

Careful planning and scheduling are just part of what we do long before the first flake falls to ensure safe road conditions during the icy and snowy winter months.

Equipment is winterized, plows are attached to trucks, de-icing supplies are inventoried, 24-hour crew shifts are scheduled and snow routes are planned. The routes are designed for the safety of the residents, emergency vehicles and school buses. All levels of Public Works staff, including our front office administrative staff, attend “snow sessions” to inform and prepare for the City’s quick response to winter weather safety.

Brine solutions are used for de-icing streets. For warmer temperatures, a clear/white solution is used; at colder temperatures a brown solution and green/blue solution are used for de-icing. All brine solutions contain organic materials and are more than 90% less corrosive than salt.

We constantly monitor the weather with a computerized weather forecasting system. This system alerts staff to incoming weather systems, the type of weather and its expected onset and duration.

If you have any comments or questions, contact the Public Works Department at [630.377.4405](tel:630.377.4405) or pw@stcharlesil.gov.

St. Charles Chamber of Commerce
Young Professionals Council

Third Annual
Holiday Ugly Sweater Party

Thursday, December 10, 2015
4:30 - 6 PM

{STCYP} **Filling Station Pub & Grill**
300 W. Main Street, STC

Costs: FREE
\$10 for Non-Members
(If you join the Chamber within 30 days, the \$10 will go toward your Membership)

Join the YPC for a Networking After Hours!

FOX VALLEY FITNESS **HOOPIS FINANCIAL Group**
CHICAGO DELRUID LOS ANGELES NAPERVILLE

Rock the ugliest sweater of the evening and win a Prize!
Prizes will be awarded at the end of the evening and you must be present to win.

TO REGISTER:
LOGON: WWW.STCHARLESCHAMBER.COM
CALL: 630.584.8384
EMAIL: MARKETING@STCHARLESCHAMBER.COM

Downtown St. Charles offers an authentic holiday experience that can't be missed. From celebrations to preparations, downtown St. Charles is your holiday destination for unique dining, boutique shopping and social gatherings.

Discover your Festive Side!

DOWNTOWN ST. CHARLES
DISCOVER YOUR CITY SIDE

The Downtown St. Charles Partnership and the City have teamed up to run ads in local publications and on the radio to promote shopping in St. Charles for the holidays. Have you seen or heard them?

Hot Spot to Go

Check ... It Out!



The library has always been one of the hottest spots in town. Now you can take their hot spots with you.

The St. Charles Public Library has 10 Wi-Fi Hotspots available for checkout. Hotspots enable you to connect wirelessly to the Internet wherever you are. That's right, now you can now checkout the Internet at the Library! Hotspots may be borrowed by St. Charles Public Library cardholders for up to three weeks. Several wireless

devices can be simultaneously connected to a single Hotspot (fun for the whole family!) Hotspots may be used anywhere there is Sprint data coverage in the United States.

For more information visit the library's [hotspot webpage](#) or contact the library at **630.584.0076**.

Connect with Us

Did you know the City has a convenient way to report issues? Download our St. Charles Connect app for your mobile device from your device's app store or access it online at www.stcharlesil.gov/connect.



ST. CHARLES CONNECT

COMMUNITY NEWS

Getting from Giving #GIVINGTUESDAY

December 1, 2015

The season of giving is upon us.

It's the perfect time to think about giving back. Join in the global #GivingTuesday effort (www.givingtuesday.org) Dec. 1 and give some real gifts this holiday season. There are many opportunities right here in your community for you to donate your time, talent or treasure on Dec. 1 and beyond. Here are a few ideas:

Giving Tree at the Municipal Building

Select a tag from the tree, purchase the item and drop it off in our lobby. We'll thank you—and wrap it for you. Call our Human Resources Department for more information at [630.377.4446](tel:630.377.4446).

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need helps financially struggling St. Charles residents pay their city utility bills. Write the amount you would like to donate on the payment stub of your utility bill and add it to the amount of your payment. 100% of donations go directly to helping St. Charles residents. Contact Utility Billing at [630.377.4426](tel:630.377.4426) or utilitybilling@stcharlesil.gov for more information.

Toys for Kids

A long-time advisory board member for The Salvation Army Joe K. Anderson Community Center in St. Charles, Jim Wheeler made it his life mission to make sure no child in the Tri-Cities went without presents on Christmas morning. The program Jim started 31 years ago continues on. Drop Boxes are located at several places around town, including the lobby of the Municipal Building. Contact the Salvation Army at [630.377.2769](tel:630.377.2769) for more information.

Salvation Army Golden Diners

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to deliver meals and “good-will” to homebound seniors in the Tri-Cities. Volunteer a day or two a month, Monday to Friday, 10am-noon. You can make a difference! Contact Kathy at [630-232-6676](tel:630-232-6676).

Lazarus House

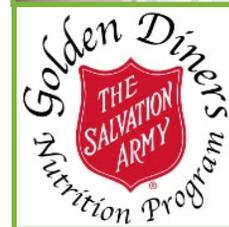
Lazarus House offers shelter, food and support to the Tri-Cities' homeless. Volunteer, donate needed items or participate in the annual Lazarus House Christmas Brunch. More information on how to get involved is at www.lazarushouseonline.com.

Join the St. Charles History Museum's #GivingTuesday Movement

More information is at www.stcmuseum.org/givingtuesday.

Share the Good

Because the wonderful feeling you get from giving is contagious, send us a selfie of your give-back moments so we can share the joy and inspire others. Either attach your photo to a message on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/CityofStCharles or email it to lgarhan@stcharlesil.gov.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Shop City Hall for the Holidays

Is there someone on your holiday gift list who loves St. Charles as much as you do? Then consider a special St. Charles-inspired gift this season. Come to the lobby of the Municipal Building for:

- A beautiful Trinket Box that features the Hotel Baker’s peacock window design – \$27. *Provided by the Downtown St. Charles Partnership. Proceeds benefit the purchase and maintenance of public art downtown.*
- Post Cards showing scenes from Riverfest – \$1 each. *Provided by Pride of the Fox. Proceeds benefit Pride of the Fox community festivals and events.*
- Gift Certificates that can be used at several businesses here in St. Charles – In various denominations. *Provided by the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce.*

And be sure to make a stop at the St. Charles History Museum Gift shop for a wide selection of unique St. Charles-themed items. More information at www.stcmuseum.org/gift-shop or call 630.584.6967.



Looking for the Perfect Gift for the Holidays? Stop by the St. Charles History Museum and Shop Local!

All Items are made locally or Made in the USA
211 E. Main Street, St. Charles, IL 61031-1111 | www.stcmuseum.org

The City of St. Charles offices will be closed Thurs. & Fri., Dec. 24 & 25, 2015, for the Christmas holiday and Fri., Jan. 1, 2016, New Year’s Day

City of St. Charles Directory

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