



THE DEN

News & Highlights from the City of St. Charles

February 2015
www.stcharlesil.gov

Regular Meetings

A complete list of meetings & locations is at www.stcharlesil.gov/meetings

Youth Commission

2.2.15.....6:00 pm

City Council

2.2.15.....7:00 pm

Government Operations

2.2.15.....7:05 pm

Plan Commission

2.3.15.....7:00 pm

Corridor Improvement Commission

2.4.15.....7:00 pm

Historic Preservation Commission

2.4.15.....7:00 pm

Planning & Development

2.9.15.....7:00 pm

Liquor Control Commission

2.17.15.....4:30 pm

City Council

2.17.15.....7:00 pm

Plan Commission

2.17.15.....7:00 pm

Special Planning & Development

2.17.15.....7:05 pm

Historic Preservation Commission

2.18.15.....7:00 pm

Housing Commission

2.19.15.....7:00 pm

Government Services

2.23.15.....7:00 pm

From the Mayor's Desk

Restaurant week is just around the corner (Feb. 23-27). In my time as mayor, I have had the privilege of partaking in many wonderful meals in St. Charles. It's safe to say that I have savored the fares of most city establishments. It's my humble opinion that our merchants provide a wide array of choices and ambiances. From casual to formal, there's something to suit your palate.

What are your dining options in St. Charles? Let me help you.

There is no question that a good Chicago style hot dog or a variety of hamburgers can be found quickly. The same is true of a fine sandwich.

Residents and visitors who love Mexican food can savor chile relleno or an assortment of enchiladas, tostadas, and tacos. That's a start; there many more choices. Bring on the hot sauce.

For our Italian lovers, you certainly can find quality pasta and risotto. Add some mussels or clams if you like. I even found my grandmother's favorite, polenta.

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Mayor Raymond P. Rogina

Enjoy Local Flavors of St. Charles Restaurant Week is February 23-27

St. Charles Restaurant Week returns! From February 23-27, you can visit more than 30 participating restaurants and receive a 25% discount off your total bill when you present a special coupon.

Whether you're visiting an old favorite or looking to try something new, St. Charles offers one of Chicagoland's best dining scenes. Also, Restaurant Week is a great opportunity to support your local businesses. There are four easy ways to get your hands on a coupon:

1. Watch your mailbox for the Restaurant Week postcard. Present it at any participating restaurant for the discount.
2. Look for Restaurant Week ads in the Daily Herald Feb. 19-25. Simply clip out the ad and bring it to a participating restaurant.

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#1 City for Families
St. Charles named by FamilyCircle 2011

Enjoy Local Flavors of St. Charles Restaurant Week is February 23-27

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3. Go to our website at www.stcharlesil.gov/restaurant-week to see a list of participating restaurants and their menus. There you can download and print as many copies of the postcard as you like.
4. Download the coupon to your mobile device.

For more information, contact Karla McCleary in the Community & Economic Development Department at [630.443.4093](tel:630.443.4093) or econdev@stcharlesil.gov. Please note only one bill per table is eligible for the discount, a minimum purchase of \$20 is required, and the 25% discount excludes tax, tip, and alcohol. This offer is not valid with other promotions the restaurants may be running. The offer also is for dine-in only.



From the Mayor's Desk

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And pizza...too many combinations to mention. You can try a different presentation every day of the week. *Mama mia*. And there's quality Italian beef and Italian and Polish sausage too!

I have enjoyed quality fish. Grouper, salmon, tilapia and pike all made me feel like I was in Seattle or Boston.

Opa. Yes, you can get a gyros fix or an assortment of Greek delicacies like kabobs. Personally, I love flaming cheese.

Whether it's chicken satay, noodles, pad thai or red or green curry, you will find what you are looking for in St. Charles. Medium hot please.

Those who love Chinese cuisine can get their fair share of kung pao chicken, sweet and sour pork or beef and broccoli, not to mention a delicious egg roll. I also found some outstanding garlic scallops that kept me quite content.

And let's not forget sushi and sashimi combinations that permit your Japanese taste buds to holler for more.

Did you think I would forget steaks? Never. The carnivores in our community can slice into succulent New York strips, rib-eyes, porterhouses and beyond. I even came across a 35-ounce tomahawk cut.

Ribs are available without having to prepare the grill. I had ribs Italian style that were out of this world.

Fried chicken plus a gallery of wings in assorted sauces and flavors are always a hit. And there's Himilayan Kashmiri chicken or a number of other specialty dishes.

If you're on a diet, are a vegan, or just want a fresh salad, let me tell you I have enjoyed every salad imaginable.

For dessert...well, do you like ice cream? Our long-time residents know that I really do not have to say anything more.

And of course, your favorite old fashioned or traditional breakfast is always available at the crack of dawn and beyond.

We are a wonderful community with a number of assets. Good food is one of them. Use restaurant week as an opportunity to explore our wonderful cuisine at value prices. And if the service is good, leave our hard-working servers a generous tip for their effort.

Ray Rogina,
Mayor & St. Charles Restaurant Lover

“We are a wonderful community with a number of assets. Good food is one of them.”

Update on First Street: New Development Plan proposed for First Street Riverfront Site

First Street Development II, LLC has filed an application for PUD Preliminary Plan approval for development of a portion of the vacant riverfront property located at the northeast corner of Illinois and First streets. The property is part of Phase 3 of the five-phase First Street Redevelopment Project that began in 2007.

The proposed site plan includes three mixed-use buildings and a parking deck, consistent with the 2006 approved plan. The public spaces around the site, including a plaza and bilevel riverwalk, remain a part of the site planning.

The current development proposal is similar to the Concept Plan presented in January 2014, except that Building #1, located at the corner of Illinois and First streets, is now proposed as all office on the upper floors (instead of residential use). No street level office uses are proposed in any building.

The Preliminary Plan has been recommended for approval by the Historic Preservation and Plan Commissions and will be presented to the City Council in the coming weeks. If approved by the City Council, construction could begin this spring.

For more information on the latest developments and to view updated renderings, visit the project's website at www.1ststreetstc.org. Or, contact the Community & Economic Development Department at 630.377.4443 or 1ststreet@stcharlesil.gov.



Cold Weather Can Mean **Water Main Breaks**

Water main breaks are common in the colder weather, especially with the extreme conditions we have experienced this season. To report a water main break, call the Public Works Department at [630.377.4405](tel:630.377.4405). If it is after hours, you will be prompted to leave a voice message in the appropriate mailbox. Include your phone number and address and the public works staff member on call will get back to you. If it is an emergency, call 911 immediately.

Sometimes when a main breaks, you notice rust-colored water. If this happens, simply turn on the cold water tap until the water runs clear. Rust-colored water is safe, but it may stain laundry. If that happens, keep clothes wet and treat them with stain remover. The city offers a stain remover at no cost to residents at:

- Public Works, 1405 S. Seventh Ave.
- City Hall, Reception Desk, 2 E. Main St.
- Police Department, 211 N. Riverside Ave.

Permits Needed **for Work in Floodplain**

All developments within the 100-year floodplain (not just construction of buildings, but filling, excavation, fences, etc.) require a permit. Applications must be made prior to doing any work in a floodplain area. Contact the Public Works Engineering Division for information at [630.377.4486](tel:630.377.4486); illegal development activities may be reported here as well.

Coming Soon: Citizens Police Academy

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be part of the law enforcement profession? The St. Charles Police Department is hosting its annual Citizens Police Academy March 17–May 14, from 7–9pm, on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the department's training room at 211 N. Riverside Ave. Pick up an application at the Police Department or download one from the City website, www.stcharlesil.gov.

The Citizens Police Academy gives participants a better understanding of how the St. Charles Police Department operates and what daily life is like for our officers. These free classes cover criminal and narcotics investigations, arrest and search procedures, courts, traffic stops, the K-9 unit, Taser, SWAT team, crime scene processing, and more.

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. [Download an application](#) or stop into the Police Department and pick one up.

Applications are due March 13, are subject to approval, and include a background check. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Bill Tynan at [630-443-3847](tel:630-443-3847) or btynan@stcharlesil.gov.



Look Out for Dangerous Ice

The St. Charles Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the dangers of walking on ice-covered bodies of water. Ice thickness and stability are never guaranteed. In fact, there is simply no such thing as “safe ice.”

Many unseen conditions and dynamics can impact the ice stability such as:



- The temperature of the current day and the preceding days as well
- The depth of snow cover
- The depth of water under the ice
- The size of the body of water
- Sustained fluctuations in temperature
- Extent of ice coverage

The overall stability of ice can be deceptive and should not be trusted. Danger/warning signs of unstable ice include:

- Flowing water near or at the edges of the ice
- Water flows in or out
- Cracks, breaks or holes
- Ice that appears to have thawed and refrozen
- Abnormal surfaces that you have not seen before—e.g., pressure ridges caused by currents or winds.

It is especially dangerous to chase after pets that are walking on the ice or have fallen into water. If your pet does fall through the ice, DO NOT attempt to rescue the animal yourself. Call 911. Firefighters have special protective equipment for cold water rescue and are ready to assist as necessary.

Get a Charge at No Charge

Our Electric Vehicle Charger Continues to Grow in Popularity

In December 2013, the city installed a dual Electric Vehicle Charger (EVC) on the fourth floor of the First Street Garage at First & Illinois streets. If you drive an electric car, you can charge it free with the EVC for up to two hours. A handy app lets you monitor charger availability and get real-time updates about your charging status.



To date, the EVC has logged in 395 charge sessions, with 328 of those sessions occurring in the last six months alone, for a total energy consumption of 3,150 KWH.

Please remember, if you don't have an electric car, please don't park in the charger spots. You will be ticketed. Those spots are for EVC users only.

The City received a 50 percent matching grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to install the unit.

"We are always looking to implement new green technologies and practices in St. Charles," says Tom Bruhl, Electric Services Manager. "This EVC is just one way the City promotes sustainable solutions for the community."



Saturday, March 14 2:00 P.M.

The St. Patrick's Parade on Main St. in downtown St. Charles features Irish dancers, authentic Irish music, floats and more! Get into the Irish spirit and join us!

Entry forms are due to the Downtown St. Charles Partnership Friday, Feb. 13. More at www.downtownstcharles.org.



Curbside yard waste collection and brush pick up resume April 2015

stop the flu it starts with you

Clean your hands
Wash your hands with soap or hand sanitizer and warm water after coughing, sneezing, caring for the sick, using the bathroom or handling garbage or animal waste. Teach your children too.

Cover your nose and mouth
Use a tissue when coughing or sneezing, if you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve – not your hands.

Contain your illness
Stay home if you are sick for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free or 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.

Get your seasonal/annual flu vaccine now

For more information on flu prevention:
visit kanehealth.com or call 630-208-3801
1240 North Highland Ave., Aurora, IL 60506
1750 Grandstand Place, Elgin, IL 60123

Stay connected: StacyHealthychy:
www.facebook.com/kanehealth or
www.twitter.com/KaneCoHealth

K Your Health, Our Commitment 25
Kane County Health Department

City of St. Charles 2015 Arbor Day Celebration

Spring is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for St. Charles' annual Arbor Day event Friday, April 24. Come to Lincoln Park on Main Street for live music, a tree raffle, tree care demonstrations, delicious cookies and more! All ages are welcome. The fun begins at 4:00 p.m.

The St. Charles Tree Commission organizes the event. More information to come. Check the [Arbor Day page](#) of our website or the March issue of The Den. Want to be a part of the celebration? Contact Public Works at 630.377.4405 or pw@stcharlesil.gov to see how you can participate in this year's event.

Streetlight Out? Let Us Know

The St. Charles Electric Utility proactively maintains the city's streetlights. However, we also rely on residents to notify us when streetlights are out, flickering, or have other maintenance issues. If you notice a streetlight (not traffic signal) is malfunctioning, submit a service request either through the St. Charles Connect mobile app or with the [online service form](#), or call us at 630.377.4407. Include your name and phone number so we may contact you if additional information is needed.

Spring 50/50 Parkway Tree Program



The City again is offering trees for planting in the parkway for the “50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program.” Contact the Public Works Department to request a review of your parkway if you are interested. Parkways must be reviewed and approved for planting before an order

will be placed. Please do not send payment now. Once approved, you will receive a confirmation letter, order form, and details on how to order.

Available Trees for Spring 2015

Chanticleer Pear \$170

Accolade Elm \$175

Redmond Linden \$175

Skyline Honey Locust \$175

London Planetree \$180

Hackberry \$195

Swamp White Oak \$225

More information on tree species is available on the [50/50 Parkway Tree](#) page of our website www.stcharlesil.gov. Larger size trees are available at an additional cost of \$100 per ½-inch diameter upgrade. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at pw@stcharlesil.gov or 630.377.4405.

Good Under Power Lines

Prairie Fire Crabapple \$135

Red Jewel Crabapple \$135

Japanese Tree Lilac \$175

Need Utility Bills for Filing Your Taxes?

Tax time is approaching. Copies of last year’s utility bills are available online at www.stcharlesil.gov. We don’t keep a running total for the year, but can provide a history of the past year or copies of any bills. For a full 12-month history, contact us as soon as possible at 630.377.4426.

Also, note the new P.O. Box return address on your utility bills. (Continue sending all other payments—including alcohol tax—to 2 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174.)

Beware of Utility Scam

We have received reports of our electric customers being the target of a scam. If you get a call from someone claiming to be from the City or ComEd demanding immediate payment via Green Dot Money Pak for an overdue bill, hang up and report the incident to the Police Department 630.377.4435.

Homes for a Changing Region Housing Study Now Available

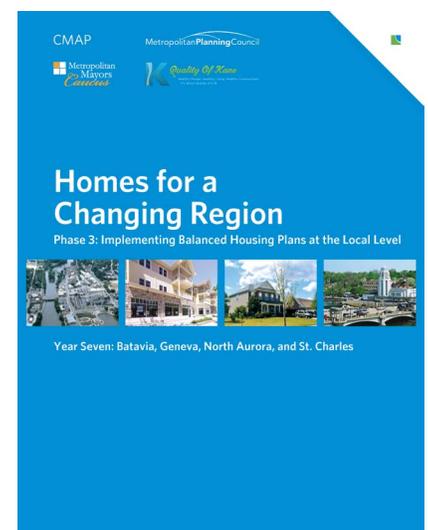
A nearly two-year planning process has come to a close with the completion of the Homes for a Changing Region multi-jurisdictional housing study. The Homes study was developed through a partnership between the communities of St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia and North Aurora. It was completed free of charge thanks to a Local Technical Assistance grant from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).

The Homes study charts future demand and supply trends for housing in St. Charles and surrounding communities to the year 2040. Recommendations focus on short-term actions and long-term policies to create a balanced mix of housing types, serve the needs of current and future residents, and enhance livability.

In November 2013, St. Charles residents were invited to attend a public workshop to contribute to the planning process or fill out an online survey. A total of 131 residents provided input that helped to guide the plan’s recommendations and creation of focus area redevelopment visualizations.

The St. Charles City Council formally adopted the Homes study as a policy document in November 2014, making the study a guide for housing decisions.

For more information on the City’s housing initiatives and to view the Homes study, visit www.stcharlesil.gov/housing or contact the Community and Economic Development Department at 630.377.4443.





Tip: This Valentine’s Day, show your love for the earth by sending recycled content greeting cards. Consider making new cards from scrap paper or by attaching new backs to the fronts of old cards—this can be a craft project for family and friends that helps everyone reduce paper waste while saving money! Also consider sending electronic valentines.



Your Trees Need Health Check Ups Too

Winter is a good time for a health check-up for your trees, while they are dormant and without leaves. Please consider taking some time to examine your trees for signs of stress:

- Splits and cracks in the bark or wood of the tree can weaken the tree and allow moisture to enter inside the tree which can cause rotting.
- Sprouts are clusters of small, bushy branches growing from the base of the tree or from splits or cracks in the bark.
- Bark should be examined for bumps or other growths and any discoloration. A dark stain on the bark may be sap flowing out of the tree. Or bark that appears white or yellow may indicate fungus is present.
- Joints of the tree where branches meet the trunk often have cracks. Check branches to ensure they are strong and secure.

If you have any concerns about your parkway trees, please contact the Public Works Department at [630.377.4405](tel:630.377.4405) or email us at pw@stcharlesil.gov. You also may contact a certified professional arborist for questions regarding your private trees.

New Saturday Hours at Police Department

Beginning Feb. 7, Saturday business hours for the St. Charles Police Department will change to 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Business hours Monday through Friday are 6 a.m. - midnight; closed on Sundays and holidays.

Subscribe

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Connect with Us

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

The City of St. Charles offices are open Feb. 16, Presidents’ Day, but there are no public meetings.

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