

# WEEKLY WIRE



February 26, 2010

## Inside this issue:

Census Fact & Trivia	2
Economic Development	2
Public Works	2
Do You Know...	3
Human Resources	3
Fire Department	4
Finance	4

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS...

### *City of St. Charles Transit Circulator/Shuttle Plan*



***Are you concerned about rising fuel prices?  
If one was offered, would you ride a shuttle service around town?***

Please join us for the *Planning Workshop & Open House* to discuss this potential shuttle service.

We will be meeting **Wednesday, March 3, 2010**  
from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
at  
the City of St. Charles Council Chambers  
2 E. Main Street  
2nd Floor.

By attending this Open House you will hear a presentation and an overview of the Preliminary Service Design options for the City of St. Charles Transit Circulator/Shuttle plan. You will be asked to help weigh the merits of each option and share your overall thoughts about this potential shuttle service opportunity.

## **CONTACT**

City of St. Charles  
Phone: 630-443-3678

RSVP:  
E-mail: [kdobbs@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:kdobbs@stcharlesil.gov)

## Public Meetings for Week of...

### March 01

- 4:30pm Liquor Commission Hearing
- 6:00pm Youth Commission Meeting
- 7:00pm City Council Meeting
- 7:05pm Government Operations Meeting

### March 02

- 7:00pm Plan Commission Meeting

### March 03

- 8:00am Firemen's Pension Fund Board Meeting
- 11:00am Housing Commission Meeting
- 7:00pm Corridor Improvement Commission Meeting
- 7:00pm Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

## **CENSUS FACT**

### **Irish-American Heritage Month (March) and St. Patrick's Day (March 17): 2010**

Originally a religious holiday to honor St. Patrick, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century, St. Patrick's Day, has evolved into a celebration for all things Irish. The world's first St. Patrick's Day parade occurred on March 17, 1762, in New York City, featuring Irish soldiers serving in the English military. This parade became an annual event, with President Truman attending in 1948. Congress proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month in 1995, and each year a proclamation is issued by the President.

### **Census Trivia Question**

Did you know, more than 36.6 million U.S. residents claimed Irish ancestry in 2008? This number was more than eight times the population of Ireland itself (4.4 million). Irish was the nation's *second* most frequently reported ancestry, trailing only \_\_\_\_\_ (which ancestry)?

Contact Beth Mund at 630-443-3744 or [bmund@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:bmund@stcharlesil.gov) with your answer.

### **Yardwaste Collection**

*Veolia's curbside yardwaste collection resumes on your regularly scheduled garbage day beginning Monday, March 1.*

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

*BY MICHAEL MERTES*

The City's Available Sites inventory is very beneficial to the City's business attraction and retention efforts. The Economic Development Department collects data on available properties throughout the City, whether it is retail space, office space, industrial property, or vacant land. This is accomplished in a variety of ways, usually done through area commercial and industrial brokers who provide us with the information such as sale/lease pricing.

The Economic Development office uses GIS to verify information such as parcel acreage and building size. The data received is put into an Access database, which allows our office to create customized reports for businesses that are interested in moving to St. Charles.

The IS Department has also set-up a webpage for available sites that can be found at <http://www.stcharlesil.gov>

[departments/edd/sites.html](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/departments/edd/sites.html). The Available Sites webpage allows business or realtors looking for particular properties within St. Charles to locate them via different criteria (permitted use, district, building size, etc). This webpage is updated daily with the information entered into the Economic Development available site database.

When a broker or business wants more information on a site that they've located, they can do so by either clicking on the location's icon on the webpage's map, or by clicking a link provided during a property search. This pulls up a variety of information such as zoning, broker contact information for the site, and a picture of the property (if available). This is advantageous compared to many other communities' available sites web pages, which often just lists properties by address but gives no details as to the site's location within the community.

## **PUBLIC WORKS THIS WEEK** *BY PUBLIC WORKS STAFF*

For the upcoming week the Department will be involved with the following:

- The Electric Division continues substation upgrades at the Dunham Road Substation and conductor replacement along South Tyler Road. Directional boring of new conduits is underway along Fox Chase Boulevard prior to cable replacement. Meter and Communications Divisions are working on normal meter activities including change-outs and meter rebuilding. Work is also underway on new key scan equipment at various well sites and sewer lift stations.
- The Public Services Division will cold patch main snow routes and eastside side streets; if temperatures allow, crews will apply salt brine to the snow routes and secondary streets. Ash trees on 37<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> Avenues infected by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) will be removed and trees in the Harvest

Hills Subdivision will be trimmed. Maintenance on trailers will be performed and weather permitting, street sweeping will begin.

- The Environmental Services Division will continue to clean and inspect sanitary sewers in the Hunt Club and Foxfield Plaza Subdivisions. The Water Division crews will continue activities on chemical feed systems rebuilds and monthly preventative maintenance at the well houses.

*If you have any comments or questions please call Public Works at 630-377-4405.*



# DO YOU KNOW...

**Thomas Bruhl**  
COSC/Public Works/Electric Division

**What is your favorite kind of music or favorite musical artist?**

The majority of my music listening time is while I am in the weight room. I get healthy doses of hard rock and alternative. Zeppelin, Guns N' Roses, Rollins Band, Metallica, Social Distortion, Motley Crue, REM, Big Head Todd, The Tragically Hip, Local H...and what else would you expect from an Electric guy...AC/DC.

**What is your favorite food or meal?**

Pizza, hence a need for, and an appreciation of, the Biggest Loser competition.

**Where is your favorite place?**

Great Barrier Reef, Australia. The most amazing SCUBA diving experience. I spent 4 days on a live-aboard boat for my honeymoon, diving twice a day with sharks, turtles, eels, stone fish, and cod the size of children.

**What is your favorite pastime?**

With three small children, we have learned to enjoy the simple things. Lifting weights and training for sprint triathlons is my alone time. We watch a lot of movies on Netflix. We go swimming as a family at the YMCA. In the summer, we get outside as much as possible. Bike rides and catching bullfrogs after dark at the local retention ponds are favorites.



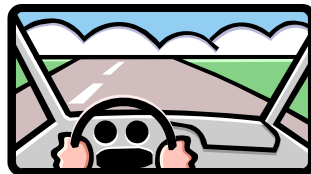
## HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

BY JENNIFER KUHN

### Saving Lives...Defensive Driving

Sitting in a stadium with 46,000 other excited spectators can be an exhilarating experience. However, if you consider that the same number of people die in car crashes each year in the United States, this becomes a sobering thought. Breaking it down even more, 5 people die each hour in motor vehicle accidents, and car crashes are the leading cause of death for people age 15-24. Tony Dominik, Forensic Investigator from the St. Charles Police Department, presented these statistics and many concrete ways to become a safe driver at the recent Defensive Driving class attended by 84 City employees. The City offers this class approximately every two years for those who drive City vehicles.

Tony put the topic of safe driving in perspective by stating, "Think about the five most important people in your life. Write down their names and put this list on your dashboard. Take time to think about them every time you get in your vehicle, and this is the reason for you to drive defensively." He also pointed out that most of us learn the rules of the road as high school drivers. (We were likely



more concerned about Friday night's football game or whether John Doe liked us rather than at what distance we had to stop for the oncoming school bus!) Taking a defensive driving class would be helpful for most adults.

Tony emphasized that driving is a full-time job, and that giving it our full attention is one of the most important steps we can take. Another recurring theme was, "Slow Down!" Driving the actual posted speed limit and slowing down in hazardous conditions is paramount for safe driving. We all identified driving behaviors that "drove" us crazy, and Tony's answer to tailgating was to pull over and let the driver pass (many of us are tempted to slam on our brakes). Since speeding, failing to yield the right of way, driving left of center, and tailgating were the "fatal four" causes of car crashes, we would do well to take his advice. Some other safe choices are time management (so you're not always in a rush), monitoring car speed, checking mirrors every 10 seconds, keeping a safe 3-second distance between you and the car in front of you, and being careful and alert at all times. Each time you get behind the wheel, think of your five most important people, and choose to give driving your full attention. You might be saving your own life or the life of someone else's loved one.

# ST. CHARLES FIRE DEPARTMENT

BY CHIEF PATRICK MULLEN

## Code Enforcement and Revision: Part II

Two weeks ago we discussed the review and evaluation process used by staff of Community Development and the Fire Department to determine the appropriateness of updating the regulations applied by the City to the design and construction of commercial and residential structures. We outlined the historical purpose and intent of building codes as well as the impediments to regular revision.



This week's narrative will concentrate on a brief description of one of the more notable provisions of the recommended code updates, the requirement to install residential fire sprinkler systems in newly constructed 1 and 2 family homes beginning January 1, 2011. First applied to abate the fire risk hazards in large factories and textile mills in the New England states, fire sprinkler technology has existed since the 1880's. More than 100 years of experience have proven fire sprinklers to be the single most effective means for controlling fires, reducing property damage, and preventing loss of life and injury due to fire. Unlike other methods of fire detection, sprinkler systems both warn of a fire and initiate extinguishment of that fire while it is still small and manageable.

Organizations like the U.S. Fire Administration, the National Fire Protection Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the International Association of Firefighters have worked with the fire protection industry since the 1980's to promote the development of safe, reliable, and affordable fire sprinkler systems for residential use. They have also worked with Underwriter's Laboratories and the National Institute of Standards and Testing to develop the scientific evidence to justify the inclusion of residential fire sprinklers in the base building code.

The nature of residential building construction and the characteristics of residential fires have changed significantly over the last 30 years. Today newly constructed homes reflect the wants of consumers and the needs of home builders. They consist of much larger and more open floor plans. Interconnected rooms that flow into one another and atriums open to multiple floors have replaced the compartmentation and room separations characteristic of older homes, enabling the more rapid spread of smoke, heat, and flames in the event of a fire. In order to construct the great rooms, vaulted ceilings, atriums, and unobstructed views buyers request, homebuilders have turned to lightweight, engineered lumber components. Though strong and economical for the most part, these components do not have the mass and redundancy to maintain their structural integrity when exposed to fire conditions as do traditional, dimensional lumber construction, resulting in much earlier structural failures and collapses. Finally, the elements and furnishings we put into our homes have changed significantly over the years. The contents of the modern home are dominated by synthetic materials; polymers, plastics, and resins of all types. Although stylish, durable, and in most cases affordable, these furnishings burn like the petroleum products that comprise them when exposed to fire.

Technological improvements in manufacture, materials, and installation have enabled the development of reliable and more economical residential fire sprinkler systems. The professional organizations that construct the model building codes have evaluated the experience and examined the data of modern residential structure fires. They have determined that a limited and affordable residential fire sprinkler system represents an appropriate measure of safety in response to the fire and life safety hazards posed by modern construction and lifestyle.

City of St. Charles  
2 East Main Street  
St. Charles, IL 60174

Phone: 630 377-4400  
Fax: 630 377-4440

Any questions regarding this publication, you may contact

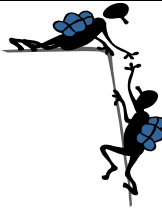
**May Foster** at  
**630-762-6908** or  
e-mail at  
**mfoster@stcharlesil.gov**

or

**Tina Nilles** at  
**630-377-4422** or  
e-mail at  
**tnilles@stcharlesil.gov**

Visit our Web Site  
[www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov)

*Pride  
of  
the  
Fox*



## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

BY KIM DIEHL

HELPFUL TIPS AND REMINDERS FROM ACCOUNTS PAYABLE—Please remind your Vendors...

⇒ We have an email address for Accounts Payable to send Invoices, Statements, and Certified Payroll: [accountspayable@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:accountspayable@stcharlesil.gov).

⇒ The City issues payment for services and or products 30 days from the date of the invoice.

⇒ If your Vendor is doing work on City property, they must supply us with Certified Payroll. The only exception is if the owner/owners of the company perform the work. If this is the case they need to supply us that information on the company's letterhead. Please remember that it is your responsibility to inform the vendor of these requirements.

As always, please give us a call in A/P if you have any questions and or suggestions.