



Fall 2012

Talk of the Township

*Your St. Charles Township Newsletter
Exclusively for Township Residents*

Meet John Arthur Anderson, your new Township Supervisor

It is my privilege and honor to be your St. Charles Township Supervisor. On June 11, 2012, Jerry Swanson retired as supervisor after 17 years of service. The board of trustees appointed me to complete his term. Prior to this appointment, I served as a trustee on the Township board since 1999.

Some of my other involvements in the community over the years include 20 years on the St. Charles Zoning Board of Appeals; board member, past president and co-chair of the building committee of the Tri-City Salvation Army on 7th Avenue in St. Charles (the building is named after my father, Joe K. Anderson); TriCities Exchange Club for over 30 years; treasurer of Pioneer Sholes School Board located in the LeRoy Oaks Forest Preserve; and a charter member of Hosanna! Lutheran Church; and St. Charles Chamber of Commerce member.

I am a fourth generation St. Charles resident with my great grandfather settling in the area in the 1870s. My grandfather started Anderson Dairy/Colonial Ice Cream in 1901. My brother Tom and his son Clinton are now running the Colonial Cafes.

With my wife of 32 years, Lynette, we have four grown children: three daughters, Andrea, a bilingual social worker at an elementary school; Joni, a preschool director in New York City; Courtney, a manager at the American Bar Association in Chicago (she lives in all places Andersonville); and son Steven, a supply chain manager in Yorkville who lives in St. Charles. Lynette and I thoroughly enjoy our two grandsons.

Since I have become supervisor I have started township participation with a discount prescription card and reinstated Emergency Assistance. More information on this is in this issue of *Talk of the Township*. Check it out.

I will always remember that I work for YOU!



Township Board Meetings

All Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and begin at 7pm at the Township Offices in the Donald E. Scheib Hall.

NOVEMBER

4.....Daylight Savings Time Ends
14.....6:30pm – Public Hearing/Adopt Levies
14.....7pm – Town Board Meeting
21.....Closed 1/2 day – Thanksgiving
22.....Closed – Thanksgiving
23.....Closed – Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

05.....7pm – Cemetery Board Meeting
12.....7pm – Town Board Meeting
24.....Closed – Winter Holiday
25.....Closed – Winter Holiday
26.....Closed – Winter Holiday
31.....Closed – New Year's Eve

Additional Meeting Dates are available online.



**1725 Dean Street
St. Charles, IL 60174**

www.stcharlestownship.org

Supervisor's Office: 630-584-9342

Supervisor's Fax: 630-584-7082

Assessor's Office: 630-584-2040

Assessor's Fax: 630-584-7963

Road District Office: 630-584-3496

Road District Fax: 630-762-0861

Cemetery Office: 630-584-8699

Cemetery Fax: 630-584-4301

Elected Officials

John Arthur Anderson,

Supervisor 630-584-9342

Jack Brainard,

Clerk..... 630-584-9342

Ron Johnson,

Highway Commissioner 630-584-3496

Colleen Lang,

Assessor 630-584-2040

Township Trustees

Terry Cross

Paul Lencioni

Jerry Swanson

Todd Wallace

Township Office Hours

Supervisor's Office

8am to 3:30pm • Monday through Friday

Road District Office

8am to 3pm • Monday through Friday

Assessor's Office

8am to 4pm • Monday through Friday

Kane County Sheriff

Non-emergency: 630-232-6840

EMERGENCY: 911

Kane County Animal Control

630-232-3555

Kane County Environmental

630-208-3841

Fox River & Countryside Fire/Rescue District

630-584-3473

News from Lazarus House

For our neighbors who find themselves without a place to call home, Lazarus House provides safe refuge. Lazarus House, an emergency shelter in downtown St. Charles, serves people who are homeless or on the verge of being homeless and connected to St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia and western rural Kane County.

In addition to meals and safe lodging, shelter guests receive showers, laundry and other essentials, life skills and job preparedness training, customized case management and more to help them overcome the unique issues that caused them to be homeless. If you know someone who needs shelter, please have that person call Lazarus House at **630-587-2144**.

Lazarus House also administers rental assistance grants for qualifying individuals. Unfortunately, grant funding remains limited at this time, but staff will do their best to connect people to any resources that may be available. If you know someone who needs help with rent, please ask that person to call **630-587-5872**.

It is a privilege to help people at a time in their lives when they feel very vulnerable. It is a joy to watch them as they move forward toward independence: getting a job, attending school, paying off debt, and so forth. It is only with the support of countless volunteers and generous donors that it is possible for Lazarus House to be there, providing a "hand up" to those in need.

We welcome everyone — those who know us and support us along with those who are just learning about us — to attend our traditional Thanksgiving Feast and Christmas Brunch and enjoy fellowship. Event details are on the Events page of our website: www.lazarushouseonline.com

For those interested in participating in our community of support, donations of our needs list items (toilet paper, over-the-counter medications, laundry detergent, etc.) are always welcome. Our Needs Lists is also posted on the website.

Last Brush Pick-up for INSIDE the City Limits of St. Charles...

East Side of the Fox

November 19

West Side of the Fox

November 26

When available, free mulch is offered at the City's facility on Rt. 38/Lincoln Hwy., west of Peck Road. Hours are Mon- Fri, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please bring a shovel and containers. The City does not deliver or load mulch.

Where Do My Property Taxes Go?

Are you aware that out of every tax dollar collected for the various taxing bodies, St. Charles Township receives only 1.6¢?

For just about a penny and a half, your Township provides General Assistance, maintains the Township's six cemeteries, takes care of 87 miles of township roads and provides township property assessments.

The graphic below illustrates the approximate usage of each tax dollar collected. Residents who reside within the city limits of St. Charles pay a portion of each tax dollar to the City.

*Includes County of Kane and the Forest Preserve District of Kane County.



Emergency Assistance Reinstated

Township Supervisor, John Arthur Anderson, and the Township Board of Trustees authorized the reinstatement of Emergency Assistance at the October 10 board meeting.

Emergency Assistance is offered to all Township residents. Assistance is based on household size and income, and will cover past-due rent or utilities up to \$400 per household, payable one time in an 18-month period.

Township residents will need to complete an application at the Township offices, 1725 Dean Street, and will be subject to the same process as is required under the General Assistance program.

More information is available at **630-584-9342** or email at **HKatz@stcharlestownship.org**.

Red Gate Bridge Update:

During the first week of October, McHugh continued their work on the main Red Gate bridge over the Fox River. Additional spans of structural steel were set.

Illinois Route 31 was paved up to binder level and the traffic signals there were also worked on. Acura continued their preparations for pouring the concrete pavement east of the river. Utility work on at both intersections is nearing completion.

For more updates and FAQs on this project, go to: **www.redgatebridge.org**.

News From Fox River & Countryside Fire/Rescue Dist.

Ron Benson, Fire District Chief

"Safe At Home"

Developing a safe community starts at home. Fox River & Countryside Fire/Rescue District has launched our Safe at Home campaign this fall. This community risk-reduction program developed by Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Tarczynski is designed to increase residents' fire safety by visiting neighborhoods and going door to door.

Firefighters have confirmed homes have operating smoke detectors, File of Life, and have provided safety handouts for residents to share with family members. Firefighters installed detectors if none are present or replaced batteries if needed. Firefighters have been visiting neighborhoods throughout the district on September 14 & 15, 2012. The importance of detectors in homes cannot be understated. National Fire Protection (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) have found that forty percent (40%) of all home fire deaths occurred in homes with no smoke detectors. Twenty five percent (25%) of deaths occurred in homes where detectors were inoperable because batteries were dead or missing. It was reported that often detectors were disconnected due to nuisance alarms. Technological advances during the last 10-15 years have brought changes to detector sensors that reduce nuisance alarms.

Unfortunately firefighters have not been able to visit all of the 1500+ homes in the district this year. Please contact the district office at **630-584-3473** or by email at **admin@frcfr.org** if you would like to schedule a safety visit.

A variety of preparedness and safety handouts will be available in addition to checking on the presence and operation of smoke detectors. A district-developed "Home Fire & Safety Checklist and Escape Plan" is available at: **www.frcfr.org/documents/HomeFireSafetyChecklist.pdf**.

The above articles are excerpted from the Responder Newsletter. The full version is available at: **http://www.frcfr.org/documents/September_October2012_ResponderNewsletter_000.pdf**

Who Knew?

Improperly installed and maintained clothes dryer vents account for 3,000 fires nationwide each year. Improper venting and failing to clean lint after each load and maintain dryers are all leading causes of property loss fires. Accumulations of lint and blockage in dryer vents from birds' nests will compromise the vent system leading to an increase in fire or carbon monoxide dangers. CO detectors are also mandated and critical for our families' safety.

Emergency Scene Safety

Each year firefighters, EMS and police officers are injured or killed while working at roadway emergency scenes. Governor Quinn recently signed Public Act 097-0828 prohibiting motorists from using mobile phones when driving within 500 feet of an emergency scene. This legislation is designed to reduce distracted driving near emergency scenes thereby reducing injuries and fatalities to emergency responders. Talking on cell phones, taking pictures or video is also prohibited. The full act can be found at: **www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0828**.

From the Kane County Sheriff's Office: October is National Crime Prevention Awareness Month

Designated in 1984, National Crime Prevention Awareness Month promotes the awareness of volunteering and creating safer, more connected communities. You can do your part by....

- Becoming involved with your Neighborhood Watch Program or starting one
- Getting to know your neighbors
- Safeguarding personal property by closing garage doors, locking vehicles and removing valuables from your car
- Reporting all suspicious activity

Discount Prescription Program Available

St. Charles Township in conjunction with Township officials of Illinois are now offering a free discount prescription card to all residents of the Township through the "Rx SavingsPlus" plan.

The plan offers an average savings of 22% on medication depending on the prescription. It can be used by anyone at more than 60,000 pharmacies nationwide, and offers discounts on medical visits at local walk-in clinics. No fee is ever charged for the use of the card, and it can be used in conjunction with health insurance plans if the use of this card would result in a lower co-pay.

Rx SavingsPlus can also be used for any pet medications that you would pick up at the pharmacy, such as insulin.

Cards can be obtained at the Township offices, 1725 Dean Street or at our St. Charles partner organizations:

- Salvation Army, 1710 S. 7th Avenue
- Tri-City Health Partnership, 318 Walnut Street
- Lazarus House, 214 Walnut Street

Interested residents may also go online at:
<http://stcharles.rxsavingsplus.com>.



Holiday Food and Gift Distribution Program

To assist families that live in the Tri City area with the zip codes of: 60174, 60175, 60134, 60510, 60184 with Thanksgiving and Christmas, The Salvation Army Tri City Corps will be hosting registration for holiday food and gift distribution.

When: October 8th & 10th, 2012, 9:00AM – 11:00AM & 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
October 9th & 11th, 2012, 5: 00PM – 7:00 PM

**** No interviews will be taken after 11:00AM & 4:00PM****

Where: The Salvation Army Tri City Corps, 1710 S. 7th Ave, St. Charles

What to Bring for registration:

- A valid photo I.D. of the person that is registering (State ID, DL, or Matricula)
- **Current** utility bill, lease, or mortgage statement of the person registering, to show proof of residency. **Letters from landlords, roommates or cell phone bills will NOT be accepted**
- 30 days (1 month) proof of **all current household income**(pay check stubs, SSI, SSDI, pension, child support, TANF, unemployment, etc...) of adults 18 years and older living in the household
- **Birth Certificates of all CHILDREN in household are required.** Photo copies, Passports, Medical Cards, or Social Security cards **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- Either **Birth Certificates OR Photo ID of all adults in household.** A birth certificate of the person registering is **NOT** needed.

Photo copies of any identification will not be accepted.

PLEASE NOTE: For us to better process your information in a timely manner, we ask that you bring all of the above with you at the time of registration. If you do not have all of the information at the time of registration, we will be unable to process your request. You must be 18 years and older to register.

WE REQUEST THAT YOU TO LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME WITH AN ADULT, DUE TO THE LENGTHY REGISTRATION PROCESS.

For further information or to answer any questions, please feel free to call us at (630) 377 -2769

Road District News



Leaf Disposal and "Brush Only" Burning Regulations

Kane County has a burn ordinance that prohibits the burning of "landscape waste," which means all accumulations of grass cuttings, shrubbery cuttings, leaves, flowers and weeds. Residents may, however, still burn "brush" as long as they follow the Standard Restrictions.

Standard Restrictions:

- Only on the property where the landscape brush was generated;
- Only on sunny days from 10am to 3pm;
- Not when wind exceeds 10 mph;
- Not within 20 feet of any building, structure or property line;
- Not during announced inversion conditions or ozone alerts

Any burning must be supervised until the fire is extinguished; a fire extinguisher, garden hose or water source must be available at the burning site.

Exemptions:

- Any property zoned or used for agricultural purposes.
 - Burning for prairie restoration or firefighter training.
 - Burning of brush for recreational fires, but the fire cannot be larger than 3 ft. x 3 ft. x 3 ft.
 - Ceremonial fires for a scheduled public or private event.
- Notice must be given to the local Fire Department, and a permit obtained from the Kane County Health Dept. at 630-208-3801.*

Penalties:

- Any person who violates any provision shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$100 for a first offense and a fine of \$500 for subsequent offenses.

Complaints:

- Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm, please call the Kane County Health Department at 630-208-3801. All other days/hours, please call the Kane County Sheriff's Office at **630-232-6840**.

More Information is available from the Kane County Department of Environmental Management, 719 Batavia Ave., Geneva, IL 60134. Phone **630-208-3841**.

2012 Brush Pick-up

We have concluded our brush pick-up for the UNINCORPORATED Township roads and will start up again in spring, usually April.

2013 schedules will be available on our website, so please bookmark: www.stcharlestownship.org

Managing Your Leaves

- Mulching - Place shredded material on lawn and around trees and shrubs, in gardens or in adjacent wooded areas.
- DO NOT put leaves or grass for mulching in roadway or ditches. They will plug up storm drains especially in subdivisions that have curbs and will cause flooding.
- Composting - Produces a valuable soil amendment for garden areas.
- Bagged Collection of Leaves & Other Landscape Wastes - Local garbage companies provide this service for a fee.

Suggestions:

- No single approach will easily handle all your leaves. Try mulching as many as you possibly can, composting some, and then maybe bag the rest for your garbage pickup.
- Shred or chop your leaves. Chopped leaves work best for mulch, compost faster and fill fewer yard waste bags.

Mowing:

If you live in a curbed subdivision, please keep your grass clipping from going into the road. They clog the drains that causes flooding.

A Word about Yard Waste

Residents in the unincorporated areas who would like yard waste pickup service (not brush pickup) should contact their refuse hauler for details. St. Charles Township does not provide yard waste pickup; however, many of the contracted waste haulers do offer this service.

J.U.L.I.E.

Remember to call before you dig unless you have a contractor doing the work. Then they are to call J.U.L.I.E. **CALL: 800-892-0123 and be sure to have the following information ready:**

- **Your name, address, and telephone number**
- **County and City or Unincorporated Township**
- **Location of the dig site**
- **Extent of work involved (reason for dig)**
- **Date work will begin**
- **Permit number (if applicable)**
- **Section and quarter section numbers (if available)**

Please do not dig without marks unless utility has indicated there are no facilities in the dig area. For more info visit: www.illinois1call.com.

Safety Tidbits - Changes on Township Roads

- Street Signs – most of the main road signs are larger now due to the changes in regulations. We also have had a large number of street signs disappearing in our Township. It is against the law to take any signage posted by the road district and those caught stealing these signs will be prosecuted. These signs are not to be used for decoration in your children's room, and if you should see these signs anywhere but posted on the road where they belong, please call us or the Sheriff's Department.
- People driving on Burr Road or Crane Road should be aware of the hidden driveways on the top and bottom of hills and around curves. Be watchful for deer that run out on the road along with bicyclists who sometime use the road right-of-way. These roads are very hilly and potentially dangerous to people who travel over the speed limit of 40 mph.
- School Speed Limits and Work Zone Speed Limits should be strictly adhered to – let the kids and road crew come home safe.
- Watch for new speed limit signs in subdivision entrances that state the speed limit and then reads "on all streets unless otherwise posted."
- Be aware of new school traffic on Crane Road for St. Pat's Mission Church school.
- Violations: If you have a problem with drivers speeding or parking on your street, please call the Sheriff's Department at **630-232-6840**. They enforce the law.
- Reminder: Watch your speed limit on all Township roads. Speed limits must be adhered to and will be enforced! There have been a number of complaints and the Sheriff's Office is aware of this. **WATCH YOUR SPEED** for your safety as well as your neighbors!

Junk Cars

If you have a problem with vehicle parking, please call the Sheriff's Office first. If you have a problem with junk cars that are abandoned in your neighborhood please call the Kane County Health Department because it is a health problem. Their number is **630-208-3801**.

See Highway Commissioner Ron Johnson's Closing Remarks to Township residents on the last page of this issue.



Snow Season

The winter weather will soon be here, and we at the Township are asking everyone to buckle up and drive safely throughout the season.

We will make every effort to keep your streets clear and safe. We will also have it completed for you in a timely manner. But, we can only do that with your cooperation. Please do not park your vehicle along the roadways until after we have plowed. In the past, we have had a problem with parents parking by school bus pickups. Remember, we can't plow if cars are parked on the road. And please be considerate of our staff and move if our trucks are in the vicinity trying to plow the roads.

Remember, if your mailbox is accidentally pushed over by one of our Township snowplows, please call the Township and we will correct the situation as soon as possible. This does NOT apply to private contractors plowing your or your neighbors' driveways. We do not fix mailboxes if they are knocked over for any other reason or accident. Keep in mind that our drivers do not knock these mailboxes over on purpose; they are just trying to move the snow and most of the time it's the weight of the snow pushed up against an old post that causes the post to break.

If the Township has to replace a mailbox, it will be replaced with a legal mailbox and post as required by the Postal Service not the fancy mailboxes that may have been there before. In the meantime, try to place the mailbox temporarily upright so your mail will get delivered.

Also, please be aware of the following:

605 ILCS 5/9-130. Deposit of snow or ice upon public highway—Prohibition. Section 9-130. No person, firm, corporation or institution, public or private, shall plow or remove or cause to be plowed or removed ice or snow from any shopping center, parking lot, commercial or institutional service area or driveway or any other public or private service area or driveway and deposit such ice or snow upon a public highway or along the shoulder or edge of a public highway. Any person, firm, corporation or institution, public or private which violates this Section is guilty of a petty offense.

ALSO NOTE: No Parking on any Township road until after all snow has been cleared. Please use your driveway for parking so we can clear the roads of snow without having to dodge parked cars.



St. Charles Township
1725 Dean Street
St. Charles, IL 60174

To the St. Charles Township Resident at

Road District News... Closing from the Highway Commissioner

I would like you to know that the Road District receives 1% of the 1.6% that the taxpayers pay to the Township for their taxes. With this 1%, we provide such services as: resurfacing, road repair, edge of road repair, culvert and drainage work, plowing and salting of the roads, brush trimming and mowing, brush pickup program, signage on the road, truck and equipment repairs and maintenance, and various other jobs on over 87 miles of road.

We also provide emergency services when needed and we are on call 24 hours a day and can be reached through the Sheriff's Office if needed after our regular office hours. Please be sure to call the Road District phone number not the Supervisor's Office if you have flooding problems, signs down, trees down, or any other emergency situation that needs immediate assistance. If the situation arises and you are in need of sand and the bags because of flooding, please call our office and we will get them out right away. Call the Township Road District at 630-584-3496 in addition to calling Kane County Office of Emergency Management when help is needed in emergency situations. Kane County Office of Emergency Management phone is **630-208-2050**.

St. Charles Township Road District opened up the new Burr Road Bridge and approach to the motoring traffic on Friday, September 14, 2012. The engineering firm of Wills, Burke, Kelsey and Associates, Kane County Division of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Transportation were all involved in the project and its completion. The bridge was built by Illinois Contractors Corporation along with many other sub contractors. The bridge replacement process started three years ago and went through three phases before completion. I want to thank everyone for being so patient and cooperative during the road closure this past summer. This bridge is a good addition to our road system.

In closing I would just like to say that I am looking forward to working for you, the taxpayers, for many years to come. Thank you for your support and if you have any questions or problems don't hesitate to call me at my office.

Ronald C. Johnson, Highway Commissioner