



# Talk of the Township

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

## **Township Highway Commissioner Ron Johnson retires; Steve Frohling takes over as new Highway Commissioner**

Ron Johnson had been employed by St. Charles Township Road District since July 11, 1983. In 1997, Ron was elected to be the Highway Commissioner. Ron worked as the foreman prior to his election in 1997. Ron was very active and served on several boards and organization at the county and state levels to better township government.

Ron held many prestigious positions on the Kane County Township Highway Commissioners Association, Township Official of Kane County, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois and the Township Officials of Illinois.

Succeeding Ron is Steve Frohling, who was appointed St. Charles Township's new highway commissioner at our July 8 monthly board meeting. Steve took over his new responsibilities on July 20.

Steve, also has been working at the township since 1983. He stepped in as foreman 18 years ago when Ron was elected Highway Commissioner. Now, Steve is taking over as Highway Commissioner as Ron retires.

Steve brings much experience to the office of Highway Commissioner. Steve has been involved in all aspects



*Ron Johnson and Steve Frohling*

of the job, from replacing culverts, putting in drainage, equipment purchases and their maintenance to the running of all crews, including supervising the blacktop crews for all resurfacing projects.

Steve has been a lifelong resident of St. Charles and is looking forward to continue working with the township residents.

Here's wishing Ron and Steve the best of luck in their new endeavours!

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## **St. Charles Township Assessor Colleen Lang retires; Diane Hemmingsen appointed as her successor**



*Colleen Lang and Diane Hemmingsen*

Colleen Lang, the St. Charles Township Assessor has retired after 19 years of service on August 16, 2015. Colleen has been employed by the township since June, 1996, serving as the Assessor for fifteen years, since April, 2000. We wish Colleen all the best in her retirement.

Diane Hemmingsen, a 17-year employee of the St. Charles Township Assessor's Office, was appointed on August 12th by the Town Board as the St. Charles Township Assessor to complete Colleen's 4 year term. Congratulations Diane on your appointment.



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  
Terry Cross,  
Clerk..... 630-584-9342  
Steve Frohling  
Highway Commissioner ..... 630-584-3496  
Diane Hemmingsen,  
Assessor ..... 630-584-2040

### Township Trustees

Jeff Jerdee  
Peter Smith  
Mary Lynn 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

## 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

1.....Daylight Saving Time Ends  
**11.....Closed: Veterans Day**  
11.....6:30pm — Public Hearing/Adopt Levies  
11.....7pm — Town Board Meeting  
**26.....Closed: Thanksgiving**  
**27.....Closed: Thanksgiving**

### December

2.....7pm — Cemetery Board Meeting  
9.....7pm — Town Board Meeting  
**24.....Closed: Winter Holiday**  
**25.....Closed: Winter Holiday**  
**31.....Closed: 1/2 Day New Year's Eve**

### January 2016

**1.....Closed: New Year's Day**  
13.....7pm — Town Board Meeting

### February

10.....6:30pm — Public Hearing/Adopt Levies  
10.....7pm — Town Board Meeting  
**15.....Closed: Presidents Day**

### March

9.....7pm — Town Board Meeting  
13.....Daylight Saving Time Begins  
16.....7pm — Cemetery Board Meeting  
**25.....Closed 1/2 Day Spring Holiday**

### April

12.....7pm — Annual Town Meeting  
13.....7pm — Town Board Meeting

*Additional Meeting Dates are available online.*

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## Cemetery Notification:

Cement flower pots that are not maintained for a summer season will be moved to the Cemetery Office at Union Cemetery, 1206 N. 5th Avenue. Contact the Cemetery Office for more information at 630-584-8699.

# The Salvation Army Pantry Receives Freezer Donation



Eight new, stainless steel, commercial freezers line the wall of The Salvation Army's Food Pantry. Due to a generous donation from an anonymous donor, The Salvation Army was able to upgrade and increase their freezer and cooler space, and the freezers are a physical reminder of the power of community demonstrated in the Food Pantry every day.

Open 5 days a week, The Salvation Army Food Pantry provides food for over 500 families in the Tri-Cities area each month. The pantry is run almost entirely by the 30 regular volunteers who not only give their time, but also connect with families on a personal level – remembering their names and needs, helping them find additional resources for their family. The shelves are stocked through generous donations from local churches, such as St. John Neumann Catholic Church of St. Charles, Geneva United Methodist Church and Christ Community Church. A partnership with the Northern Illinois Food Bank connects the pantry to local retailers, such as Jewel, Costco and Blue Goose Market, for donations of fresh produce distributed twice a week.

“The pantry is really a great example of different parts of the community coming together,” said Lt. Betsy Clark, corps officer at The Salvation Army. “Each volunteer, donor and business knows they are working to help make life better for families here in the Tri-Cities. I think that’s what motivates them to be so generous with their time and resources.”

Belen Hood, Community & Family Services Director for The Salvation Army, remarked, “The best part of the food pantry are the people. Our volunteers know what service they are providing and they are the ones who make it happen.”

The freezer donation impacted not only the Tri-Cities area, but the Greater Chicago Region.

Those interested in supporting The Salvation Army Food Pantry as a volunteer or through a donation may contact The Salvation Army.

## ***About The Salvation Army***

The Salvation Army was established in London in 1865, has been supporting those in need without discrimination for 130 years in the United States.

Nearly 30 million Americans receive assistance from The Salvation Army each year through the broadest array of social services that range from providing food for the hungry, relief for disaster victims, assistance for the disabled, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing and shelter to the homeless and opportunities for underprivileged children. 82 cents of every dollar The Salvation Army receives is spent to support those services in 5,000 communities nationwide.

### ***For more information:***

**630-377-2769 • [www.satricity.org](http://www.satricity.org).**

**Fall Behind One Hour on  
Sunday, November 1, 2015.  
Set your clocks back.  
Gain an extra hour of sleep!**

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## **Home Repair Help Line**

**630-375-7227**

If you are on a limited or fixed income, in need of minor household repairs and can't afford to hire a commercial service contractor, help is near.

Health, safety and quality of life repairs are provided to homeowners in the Tri-City school boundary areas.

Labor is FREE and work is provided by a group of trustworthy volunteers experienced in plumbing, electrical, carpentry and other types of repairs. All volunteers are insured. Charges for materials will vary according to need and project. Depending on circumstances, materials may be free to low-income homeowners.

For assistance and more information, call 630-375-7227. A volunteer will set up a meeting to assess your needs. Work is then scheduled based on those needs, repairs are evaluated and materials are assembled.

### **Home Repair Assistance services include:**

- Handicap ramps • Railings and grab bars
- Stairs and steps • Light switches and light bulbs
- Plumbing fixtures/drains • Doors and windows
- Furnace filters • Shower stalls
- Smoke detectors ...and numerous other repairs

If you are a tradesperson and would like to volunteer or donate, monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday at the Congregational Church of Batavia, 21 S. Batavia Ave., at 7:30 p.m.

# St. Charles Township Road District News

## “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, **630-208-3841**.

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## 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.

## Safety Tidbits - Changes on Township Roads

- Street Signs – you may have noticed on most of the main roads that the signs are larger now due to the changes in street sign 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 your local road district 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 aware of the deer that run out in front of the cars and the 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 35mph on Crane Road and 40mph on Burr Road.
- 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 like on Old Homestead Rd., Mallard Lake Rd. and Heritage Oaks Rd. that state the speed limit 25mph and then reads “on all streets unless otherwise posted.”
- Violations – if you have a problem with speeding or parking on your street, please let the first call be to the sheriff’s department at 630-232-6840.
- Reminder: Watch your speed limit on all Township Roads, the speed limit 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!

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE Digging, Building, Planting in Road Right-of-Way

The road right-of-way is the area usually 33’ feet from the center of the road (some roads vary). That area (33’ feet from the center of the road) belongs to the Road District. You must get permission from the Highway Commissioner to do anything in that easement area. Boulders, underground fencing and sprinkler systems must be kept out of the road right-of-way. Stay in your property line when installing these things.

Also, MONUMENT MAILBOXES on road right-of-ways are illegal and not safe to the motoring public. Mailboxes must not be bigger than a 4x4 post per Post Office Regulations. When these regulations are not followed properly and things are built or planted in the road right-of-way, it cost the taxpayer because the township is forced to pay legal fees to have these situation remedied. Contact the Road District before putting anything in the easement (right-of-way) in front of your house.



**Know What's Below!  
Call J.U.L.I.E.**

**800-892-0123**

## **Snow Season**

The winter weather will soon be here, and I am asking everyone to buckle up and drive safely throughout the season.

We will make every effort to keep your streets clear and safe for you. We will also have it done for you in a timely manner. But, we can only do that with your cooperation, by not parking your vehicle along the roadways until after they have been plowed and widened. We have been having a problem with parents parking by school bus pickups. Remember, we can't plow if cars are parked on the road. Please be considerate of our plows and move if our trucks are in the vicinity trying to plow the roads. We are doing this for you and the safety of your children.

Remember, if your mailbox is accidentally pushed over during a snowfall by one of the township snowplows only, please call us and we will correct the situation as soon as possible. In the meantime try to place the mailbox temporarily upright so your mail will get delivered. However, we do not fix mailboxes if they are knocked over by someone backing into them, another vehicle hitting them or possibly a hired snowplow company clearing a drive and pushing the snow into your mailbox. Remember, no one knocks 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

### ***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 that 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.

## **Closing from Highway Commissioner Steve Frohling**

I would like for 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 almost 90 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 to you. Remember, we can't help if we don't know you need it, so remember to call the Township Road District 630-584-3496 besides calling Kane County Office of Emergency Management in the future when help is needed in emergency situations. Kane County Office of Emergency Management phone 630-208-2050.

This past July, Ron Johnson, the Highway Commissioner decided to retire after over 32 years of service to the Township. He will be greatly missed. I have been appointed to take Ron's place as the new highway commissioner. I was born and raised in St. Charles and have lived here my whole life. Ron and I started working for the township at the same time so we worked together for over 32 years. When Ron was elected as Highway Commissioner in 1997, I became the Foreman for the township. Over the past 18 years, I have overseen many of the projects that township has been involved in as well as the purchasing of most of the equipment for the past 18 years.

I want to thank you for your support and if you have any questions or problems don't hesitate to call me at my office.

In closing I would just like to say that as the new highway commissioner, I am looking forward to working for you, the taxpayers, for many years to come.

***Steve Frohling, Highway Commissioner***

# Elderday Center: Support for Seniors & Caregivers

William Shakespeare once said, “A friend is one who knows you as you are and understands where you have been, accepts what you have become and still gently allows you to grow.”

At Elderday Center, we promote the idea that everyone has something important to contribute to the world. By accepting who we are and what we have become, we can live fuller and more rewarding lives at home and in the world at large.

Celebrating 25 years in 2015, Elderday Center specializes in dementia and age-related illness care. Our activities help promote cognitive stimulation and socialization, which can help slow the progression of dementia, minimize depression and increase the overall quality of life. As the only non-profit, adult day program in the Tri-Cities, we use evidenced-based techniques to engage senior citizens affected with these diagnoses.

From the moment seniors walk through the door, every activity offered has a therapeutic value. Each is selected with care to keep bodies, brains and spirits healthy and actively engaged. Year after year, our program has been shown to slow the progression of cognitive and bodily decline so our clients’ lives are enriched, and they can remain in their homes with their families longer.

Another important aspect that Elderday focuses on is caregiver respite and support. Caregivers must care for

themselves to be able to provide the best for those they love. Elderday offers an open-to-the-public support group on the third Thursday of each month from 1:30 to 3pm. These sessions provide a safe haven for caregivers to share experiences and to find support for their own needs. We often have special guests who touch on topics relevant to our seniors, their needs, and how to best navigate the intricacies of their illnesses.

On November 19, our meeting will cover the stresses placed on us throughout the holidays and how to cope.

On January 21, join us for a presentation entitled *Dealing with Alzheimer’s – A Retrospective, What I Learned Along the Way*, by John McNeely, who will discuss different care-giving options, mistakes, financial issues, and suggestions for those facing the same path.

Please plan to come to Elderday’s caregiver support group meeting – all are welcome and no registration is required.

Additionally, if you know a senior citizen suffering from dementia, Alzheimer’s, depression or isolation and think Elderday Center might be a good fit, please call us at **630-761-9750** or online at [www.elderdaycenter.org](http://www.elderdaycenter.org). We are at **328 W. Wilson Street, Batavia**. Call today to schedule a tour of our facility and to meet our staff to see how Elderday can help be a positive addition to your family!



## Seeking Dental Professionals

If you are a St. Charles Township newsletter reader, then you may have heard about the Free Medical/Dental Clinic in downtown St. Charles. There are those who say that “nothing in life is free,” but this is not true when it comes to Tri City Health Partnership (TCHP) services. Because of the unique delivery of healthcare wherein volunteer medical professionals are assisted by the small staff to provide patients care and because of a generous community, TCHP is able to care for local residents who are low-income, uninsured and underinsured for FREE.

**SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEER MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**, TCHP is seeking a few kind hearted Volunteer Dental Professionals.

If you or someone you know is a dentist or hygienists who would enjoy providing the gift of care within the clinic’s NEW, beautiful dental operatory during a 2-4 hour shift each month (or every other month), please contact the clinic staff, or better yet, stop by and check out the dental room. Treatment provided is based on the dental professional’s requests.



**Tri City Health Partnership**  
**318 Walnut Street, St. Charles, IL 60174**  
630-377-9277 • [www.tchpfreeclinic.com](http://www.tchpfreeclinic.com)

## Lazarus House News

What do you think of when you hear “homeless person?” One definition is: An individual without permanent housing who may live on the streets, stay in a shelter, abandoned building or vehicle. But, the reality is ... it could be any one of us, our neighbors, our friends or the clerk at your favorite grocery store. Homelessness has no face, no gender, no age. All individuals and families want a home, food and a job that pays enough to afford their bills. Unfortunately this is not always possible for a variety of reasons and circumstances. That is why we strive to provide services to these men, women and children who are in need.

Lazarus House offers emergency shelter, transitional living and homeless prevention programs to individuals from St. Charles, Batavia, Geneva and western rural Kane County. Our mission is to offer people who are homeless or in need hope for the future by providing hospitality, food, safe shelter and education – the tools for life.

It is a great privilege to assist those in their most frightening time and to witness the amazing transformation from despair to hope. If you know someone who needs shelter, encourage him or her to call Lazarus House. If you are in a position to help, please consider a monetary donation and/or urgent needs items posted on our website. For those wishing to volunteer, orientations are held about every six weeks to hear about the different aspects of lending a hand at Lazarus House. Without the generous support of this community, Lazarus House would not be able to continue to provide help to those in need.

The community is invited to share in our “potluck style” Thanksgiving and Christmas buffets. Everyone is welcome. More information about this and other events is available online.

**Community Thanksgiving Feast** ~ 11:30am – 2pm on Thanksgiving Day, November 26 at the St. Charles Salvation Army at 1710 South 7th Avenue

**Community Christmas Brunch** ~ 11:30am – 2pm on Christmas Day at the St. Charles Free Methodist Church at 214 Walnut Street

Lazarus House cordially invites all to a very special fundraising dinner “**Unmasking the Face of Homelessness**” on Saturday, January 16, 2016, at the St. Charles Country Club. Mingle during the cocktail hour, bid on silent auction items, enjoy a delicious dinner with background music, and take part in the exciting live auction. Dinner tickets are \$100 each. Sponsorships are available too! For more information, contact Darlene at [darlener@lazarushouseonline.com](mailto:darlener@lazarushouseonline.com).

**Lazarus House**  
214 Walnut Street, St. Charles, IL 60174  
630-587-2144 • [www.lazarushouseonline.com](http://www.lazarushouseonline.com)

## Introducing

### ***Diane Hemmingsen, St. Charles Township Assessor***

I have enjoyed working in the St. Charles Township Assessor’s office for 17 years, the past 10 years as the Chief Residential Deputy Assessor, earning the Certified Illinois Assessing Officer (CIAO) designation in October 2000.

My staff and I look forward to serving the Township into the future and will continue to follow the Illinois Property Tax Code Statutes in assessing properties in St. Charles Township. I encourage you to review your parcel assessment information on our website, [www.stcharlestownship.org](http://www.stcharlestownship.org). We strive to maintain accurate data for all of the townships 20,900+ parcels.

As a native resident of St. Charles, my husband, Dean, and I have also raised our two sons in St. Charles. We continue to enjoy all the amenities our beautiful town has to offer. I am an active member of the Tri-Cities Exchange Club serving on the board, and enjoy being involved in our community.

You are always welcome to stop in or call the office. Our office hours are 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday and the phone number is (630) 584-2040. We are here to help you and answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding your assessment.

## What’s Happening in Downtown St. Charles

### ***Friday, November 27:***

Visit with Santa at the Santa House in the Plaza. Evening events include merry carols and an appearance by Santa.

Lighting of the Lights on 1st Street Plaza: 5pm. Mayor Ray Rogina will flip the switch to turn on the holiday lights over the city streets.

### ***Saturday, November 28:***

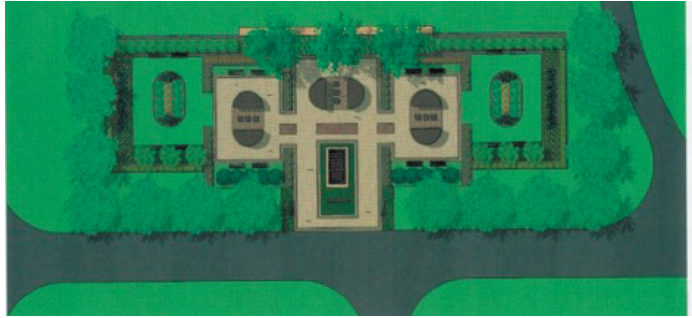
Electric Holiday Parade on Main Street: 5:30pm. Everyone loves a parade. Join us downtown for a light spectacular parade to celebrate the holidays.

## *Columbarium at Union Cemetery Ready for Late November*

### *John Arthur Anderson, Supervisor*

The first set of columbarium will be delivered in late October. Landscaping will then be completed and sales of the columbaria niches will begin by Thanksgiving 2015.

St. Charles Township Cemeteries are very proud of our new addition to Union Cemetery. This will allow the interment of cremains to be in a beautiful picturesque setting. There will be a one-time charge for the niche and opening/closings to inter the ashes. The only other cost will be for the engraving of the marble front.



Please contact the Cemetery office for more information or any questions you may have at 630-584-8699.

### **Meeting Space is Available**

**The Donald E. Scheib Town Meeting Hall is available to local, not-for-profit, non-political groups and organizational meetings at nominal rates.  
For more info, contact Sharon Bober at 630-584-9342.**

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