



Talk of the Township

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

Changes to Your Township Board of Directors

John Arthur Anderson, Supervisor

The members of the St. Charles Township Board of Trustees have changed during the winter months. In December, Jack Brainard, Town Clerk, retired from the board. Jack has served on the St. Charles Township Board since 1989.

Senior Trustee, Terry Cross, stepped up and was appointed as St. Charles Township Clerk at the January 14, 2015, monthly board meeting. Terry has been an elected trustee since 2003 when Jack Brainard was appointed Clerk. Terry was born and raised in St. Charles Township and currently resides in St. Charles Township. He graduated from St. Charles High School in 1981 and graduated from Elmhurst College. He has 3 children and is employed by Fermi Lab.



Newly appointed Peter Smith is sworn in by Town Clerk, Terry Cross, at the February 2015 Town Board Meeting.



Terry Cross is sworn in by Town Deputy Clerk, Micheal Wurtz, at the January 2015 Town Board Meeting.

The board then needed to appoint a replacement for Terry as Trustee. That position was filled at the February 11, 2015, monthly board meeting by Peter Smith. Peter and his wife Judy and 3 children have resided in St. Charles since 1999. He is a dentist at St. Charles Dental of which he is an Owner/ Partner of Partners in Care. Peter is also a board member of his Homeowner's Association (for the last 10 years) and is a board member of St. Charles Breakfast Rotary (last 11 years).

Congratulations, Terry Cross and welcome Peter Smith!

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.

April

3.....Closed — 1/2 Day Spring Holiday
8.....7pm — Town Board Meeting
14.....7pm — Annual Town Meeting

May

13.....7pm — Town Board Meeting
25.....Closed — Memorial Day

June

10.....7pm — Town Board Meeting
17.....7pm — Cemetery Board Meeting

July

3.....Closed — Independence Day
8.....7pm — Town Board Meeting

August

12.....7pm — Town Board Meeting

September

7.....Closed — Labor Day
9.....7pm — Town Board Meeting
16.....7pm — Cemetery Board Meeting

October

12.....Closed — Columbus Day
14.....7pm — Town Board Meeting

November

1.....Daylight Saving Time Ends
— Fall back one hour

11.....Closed — Veterans Day
26-27...Closed — Thanksgiving

Additional Meeting Dates and/or changes are available online.

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.

Ride in Kane:

Residents of **Unincorporated** St. Charles Township who are disabled or over age of 65 can participate in Ride In Kane, sponsored by St. Charles Township. Call 630-584-9342 to register.

The riders can ride within Kane County for 2 round trip rides per week or 4 one ways. The purpose of these rides may be for Medical, Dental, Therapy or Chiropractic appointments, a Job, to the Elderday Center or to School.

The fee to the rider is \$4 each way. St. Charles Township, as the Sponsor will fund the balance. The average cost of a one way ride is approximately \$15.

Residents **within the city limits** of St. Charles can receive information about their ride program by calling 630-377-4426. To schedule rides, please contact the Ride In Kane Call Center at 866-727-6842. To cancel a ride, please call 866-727-6842 with at least a 2-hour notice.

Rides should be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. Same day reservations are not guaranteed. Reservation hours are 6am to 6pm Monday–Friday, and from 8am to 5pm, Saturday and Sunday. Trips can be reserved up to 7 days in advance.

Transportation services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year including holidays.

St. Charles Township Provides the Following Services:

Voter Registration
Notary Public (no fee)
Ride in Kane (See above for more information)

Soliciting Guidelines:

Anyone soliciting in unincorporated St. Charles Township must register with the Kane County Sheriff's Office at 37W755 Route 38, St. Charles, IL.

Township Newsletter Website Update...

Sign up for a notification as to when the *Talk of the Township* Newsletter will be available online.

You can find the sign-up notice at the bottom of the home page on the St. Charles Township website. Go to: **www.stcharlestownship.org** and scroll down to where it reads: "Sign up for our Email Newsletter."

From there, you can register your email address and you will receive an email notification when future newsletters are available. Your email address will **only** be used for receiving St. Charles Township information. Should you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call at 630-584-9342.



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
Ron Johnson,
Highway Commissioner 630-584-3496
Colleen Lang,
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

Did You Know...

The Town Clerk

The township clerk is clerk of the town board of trustees and is keeper of all records except general assistance case files. The clerk is required to keep accurate records of all meetings of the town board. The clerk is the local election authority. The town clerk is ex-officio clerk of the road district.

The Township Board of Trustees

Each single township has four trustees elected at large. They and the supervisor comprise the town(ship) board of trustees.

Generally speaking, the town board is the legislative branch of township government that establishes policy for the township to follow. Policies established by the town board are generally carried out by the supervisor and clerk in their capacities as administrators. The township trustees are responsible for certifying tax levies for the township and road district. The trustees are also responsible for adopting the annual budget and appropriation ordinance for the town, cemetery, general assistance and the road and bridge funds. Another responsibility is approving all town expenses and auditing bills submitted for payment by the highway commissioner.

Of Interest in the Area...

Kane County Fairgrounds

This gem in St. Charles is host to monthly shows, festivals and events. From antiques to animals, family fun is right here. Most notably of all is the annual Kane County Fair, July 15-19, 2015. Check out the fairgrounds' website at: www.kanecountyfair.com.

St. Charles Heritage Center:

Visit and learn about your city's history at www.stcmuseum.org or 215 E. Main Street.

St. Charles is entering the 2015 America in Bloom Program:

America in Bloom promotes nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements.

Participants are evaluated on six criteria: Floral Displays, Landscaped Areas, Heritage Preservation, Urban Forestry, Environmental Efforts and Overall Impression.

Judges will be looking at St. Charles' business, government and residential areas as well as community involvement.

"The America in Bloom program fosters a sense of community and boosts civic pride by bringing together volunteers from community organizations," said 5th Ward Alderman Maureen Lewis, member of the America in Bloom Steering Committee. "With everyone working together, we can really make St. Charles shine."

To volunteer, contact Alderman Lewis at mlewis@stcharlesil.gov

St. Charles Township Road District News

Safety Tidbits - Summer Construction, Driving with Cell Phones and Texting...

As of January 1, 2014, it is **ILLEGAL** to drive and talk while holding a cell phone in the entire state of Illinois. If you must talk and drive, you must be using a hands-free device or have the phone on speaker. It must be out of your hands.

“If I have that phone up to my ear and I’m talking and driving, I’m subject to a citation,” said David Byrd, Illinois State Police.

The law does have exceptions. In an emergency, a phone to driver’s ear is allowable. And there are other caveats: Stopping at a red light and checking your email, making a phone call or texting can only be done after you put your car in neutral or in park. If not, you are subject to a fine.

“The first offense is \$75 and it increases \$25 after that,” said David Byrd, Illinois State Police. And if you are stopped three times in one year, you will lose your driver’s licence.



**Before you DIG,
Know What’s Below!
Call J.U.L.I.E.**

**800-892-0123
or 811**

Resurfacing Projects for Summer 2015

Bids on the contracts for resurfacing are in and these roads are scheduled for resurfacing:

- Five Islands Farm: Scott Ave., Blackhawk Dr., Kearns Ave., Smith St., Joseph St., Cary St. and Elgin St.
- Fox River Heights: Greenlawn Ave., Goodrich Ave., Halsted Ave., Thompson Ave., Irwin Ave.
- Cranston Meadows: Barb Hill Dr. and Glenview Dr.
- Three Lakes Subdivision: Steven’s Glen Rd. from Steven’s Rd. to just past Wagontire and Pine Roads
- Heritage Oaks Dr. from Burr Rd. west past cul-de-sac
- Henricksen Rd. from Heritage Oaks Dr. to Mallard Lake Rd.
- Dean St. from Peck Rd. to the Township line.

Safety Tidbits - Changes on Township Roads

- Street Signs – 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 or Crane Road should be aware of the hidden driveways on these hilly and curving roads. Be watchful for deer as well as bicyclists. Obey the posted speed limits at all times.
- 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.
- New signage will be going up at Crane & Bolcum Roads along with a 4-way flashing stop sign installed to help traffic coming onto Bolcum from Crane.
- 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! **WATCH YOUR SPEED** for your safety as well as your neighbors!

Sign Shop & Signage

With the expansion of a new sign shop in our garage, we are able to make our own signs with the help of computer software and a cutting machine. We now make about 95% of all the signs that we put up in our township.

2015 Brush Pick-up

St. Charles Township Road District has contracted with Kramer Tree Service to pick up the brush in unincorporated St. Charles Township again this year.

The following procedures **must be followed to ensure your brush being picked up:**

- Brush/limbs are to be by the road, not in the road, BY 7 a.m. on the Monday of the scheduled week of pick up
- Maximum diameter is 12 inches and Maximum length is 12 feet
- Stack brush in **large** piles, not small piles like before, with cut ends facing the road while keeping away from mailboxes, utility poles/boxes, hydrants and parked cars
- Brush should be placed in the front or side parkway and will not be picked up from vacant lots
- Do not tie or bundle brush/limbs or put brush/limbs in containers or bags
- Do not place stumps, roots, landscape material, lumber, firewood, or foreign objects in piles
- This program is strictly for residentially generated brush only, **NOT FOR CONTRACTOR REMOVALS OR TRIMMINGS**

A Word about Yard Waste

Residents in unincorporated areas who need yard waste pickup service (not brush pickup) should contact their refuse hauler for details. We do not provide yard waste pickup.

- If you hire a tree service to cut down any tree(s), **they** are responsible for taking away all logs and brush
- We do not pick up after any vacant lot clearings
- Residents who have tree limbs/brush exceeding the outlined requirements for the Residential Brush Pickup Program can contact a private service to have them removed at the resident's expense
- If your brush was out at 7a.m. on Monday of the scheduled pickup week and was **not** collected by the end of the workday on Friday, please notify the Road District no later than the following Monday. For calls on missed brush received after that Monday, they will be picked up on the next scheduled brush pickup

Here are the WEEKS scheduled for the 2015 Brush Pickup that start on the MONDAY on each week. Please mark your calendar:

- April 27 • May 26th (Holiday observed on Monday, May 25) • June 22 • July 27 • August 24 • September 28
 - LAST pickup is October 26
- If you have any questions, please call 630-584-3496.

Junk Cars

We hope you do not have this issue in your neighborhood, but if you do, here is the number to contact.

For problems with abandoned or what may seem to be abandoned vehicle parking, please call the Kane County Health Department, because this is a health problem based on the Ordinance for Property Maintenance; Chapter 15, Sections 1 and 2. Their number is 630-208-3801.

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**.

Road Right-of-Way

The Township Road District owns the road right-of-way in front of your property. This could vary from 20 feet from the center of the road to 33 feet from the center of the roadway.

- Nothing is to be placed in the right-of-way that could cause bodily harm to an individual or vehicle.
- Nothing should be put in the road right-of-way without first contacting the us.
- The only mailboxes allowed are the standard 4x4 in. wood post with a standard mailbox on top. See our website under mailbox guidelines for more info on what the United States Postal Service regulations are for mailboxes.
- Rocks or boulders should not be placed in the road right-of-way, either. If you are not sure, please call the us and we will answer any questions you might have. St. Charles Township passed a Mailbox Ordinance and the number is #02-09-05-04.

Your neighbor wouldn't want you to build something in his yard, the township doesn't want you erecting on township property, either.

Homeowner's Association Information

St. Charles Township is in need of Homeowner's Association information for subdivisions that are in the unincorporated township boundaries. We would like to keep you informed of any road improvements that may be happening in your subdivision, for instance blacktopping or road closures.

Please call us at 630-584-3496 during normal business hours to supply any information. If you call after hours, please leave a message and we'll call back if we need to. Thank you in advance for all your help and to those who have already called to keep us up to date.

Closing from Highway Commissioner, *Ronald C. Johnson*

Winter 2014-2015 took a while to get here so now it seems like it doesn't want to leave! But just wait a few hours and it could be 60 and sunny!

We've used more than 2,000 tons of salt along with 1,000+ ton of sand to help stretch out the salt in case we had a winter like last year. We started out mixing in the very beginning of the season and then turned to straight treated salt as the season went on to handle to cold conditions. We prefer to use salt alone, but felt we needed to be sure to have enough treated salt for the very icy roads in the coldest part of the winter. Therefore since the roads are the responsibility of the Road District and we are responsible for the safety of the motoring public, we had to use both salt and sand. Our crews this spring will be street sweeping and repairing lots of potholes due to the extreme temperatures we received this year. It's been a long winter for all of us!

We can also look forward to the next season in Illinois and that is "Construction" season. With the county and state having projects going on all the time, we can always expect some kind of traffic detours, so be careful.

With costs of blacktop escalating because of the increase in fuel prices, the 10-year schedule for resurfacing is more like 15 to 20 years now. Today, the price now is about \$80 per ton. With these price increases and more 89 miles of roads to maintain, we are scheduling less miles of road resurfacing than we have done in previous years.

Just a reminder to those of you who may have trouble with flooding, if you need immediate assistance, please FIRST call Kane County Office of Emergency Management, Don Bryant at 630-232-5985. Then call the Township for sand bags or sand during regular office hours

at 630-584-3496 or you can call the Sheriff's Department if after hours at 630-232-6840. In an emergency after hours, they can get a hold of us. Remember, we can't help if we are not contacted.

Last year we contracted with Kramer Tree Service to pick up the residentially generated brush, and we've extended it for this year, also. The brush program was getting too big for our crew and equipment to handle effectively. This new program ran smoothly last year with the only these differences:

1. You no longer have to call for brush pickup and;
2. You will be putting brush in **large piles** rather than smaller ones. We have posted a schedule with all the rules and regulations in this newsletter, so be sure to read and post the dates on your home calendars for the scheduled pickups.

I am still currently President of Kane County Township Highway Commissioners Association. This association is made up of the all the township highway commissioners in Kane County. There are 16 townships in Kane County. The association meets once a month with other Kane County departments and the Sheriff's Office to help keep us informed on activities happening in the various townships in Kane County.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve - my foreman, his entire crew and my office manager, Marie, for all the good work they have accomplished throughout the year.

Please feel free to call me at my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks to all . . . Ronald C. Johnson

Salvation Army Family Store now Open in St. Charles

Ever wonder where your donations go once you've dropped them off at the Salvation Army on 7th Avenue in St. Charles?

Salable donations are distributed to various locations for resale, and now St. Charles has a store. Using the former Dominick's location on Rt. 38 just east of Randall, (2067 Lincoln Highway) the seventh Salvation Army retail store features lots of clothing, books, furniture, home decor and lots of other useful items.

Proceeds from sales go toward the Salvation Army's rehabilitation center in Chicago. The center provides job training and other services to those in need.

In addition to The Salvation Army Tri-City Corps building at 1719 S. 7th Avenue, St. Charles, donations are also accepted at the new retail location. Hours are 9am to 9pm, Monday through Saturday. The store is closed on Sundays, but donations are still accepted on that day via a drive-thru area at the store.

Lazarus House News

Speaking of donations, Lazarus House in downtown St. Charles is always in need of the following:

- All-purpose cleaner and glass cleaner
- Disinfecting wipes and disinfecting sprays
- Paper towels and toilet paper
- Liquid laundry detergent and bleach
- 13-, 33- and 30-gallon garbage bags

A complete listing of all needs is available at www.lazarushouseonline.com/needs.php

Upcoming Events...

"Golfing for Good" Golf Outing & Dinner
Monday, June 8

The St. Charles Kiwanis and Lazarus House are partnering on a benefit golf outing and dinner auction on Monday, June 8 at the beautiful Royal Fox Country Club in St. Charles. This event benefits both agencies equally. You can register as a golfer or for the evening event only. All-day event cost is \$175 and evening only just \$55. See website home page for more details and other benefit events.

Lazarus House • www.lazarushouseonline.com
214 Walnut Street, St. Charles • 630-587-2144

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 Batavia, Geneva and St. Charles school district boundaries.

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.

Elderday Center Adult Day Program & Caregiver Support

When you're at Elderday Center – you're with family.

Elderday Center specializes in day memory care to enhance quality of life, cognition, socialization and overall wellness. Elderday Center's program uses an abundance of therapeutic activities to help participants retain a sense of independence and enjoy life.

Elderday's services can benefit those with dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Lewy Body dementia, Huntington's Disease, cognitive impairments, and other age related disease. Those suffering from fragility, loneliness, isolation, anxiety and depression have been shown to benefit tremendously from our services.

Elderday Center
328 W. Wilson, Batavia, IL 60510
630-761-9750
elderday@elderdaycenter.org



The Need for a Free Clinic Continues

Tri City Health Partnership (TCHP), the free medical/dental clinic in St. Charles, serves uninsured/underinsured individuals who have or qualify for low-income status and reside or work part time in central Kane County.

Healthcare reform has provided insurance coverage for many citizens; however, there are many local residents who cannot afford insurance and certainly cannot afford to pay for medical services. Individuals utilizing the free clinic often comment they, "I never thought I would have the need for charity services." They are typically surprised by the understanding staff and by the expertise of the medical professionals providing the compassionate care.

Most people today are not aware there are "Hardship Exceptions" outlined in the affordable care act that may qualify an individual exempt from the penalties for not having health insurance coverage.

A few of the exemptions are as follows for individuals:

- Evicted from housing/residence in the past 6 months
- Facing eviction or foreclosure
- Received a shut-off notice from a utility company
- Recently experienced domestic violence
- Recently experienced the death of a close family member
- Filed for bankruptcy in the last 6 months
- Experienced unexpected increases in necessary expenses due to caring for an ill, disabled, or aging family member

- Has not been a legal citizen for 5 years. In cases such as these an individual can apply for a hardship exemption
- **Note, there are additional hardship exemptions not listed here. See HealthCare.gov for more information**

With the rollout of healthcare reform, is there really still a need for a free medical clinic?

There is! In 2014, there were 510 individuals who visited the clinic on 1,825 occasions in need of care for their acute and chronic medical needs. The same individuals received 283 additional appointments in the offices of local specialists who volunteer their services for the free clinic. Of the 510 individuals who received care, 269 (53%) of them were new patients in 2014. During the 12 months, medications were provided to patients of the clinic at a value of \$691,239. More than 75% of the 510 individuals, indicated they have not seen a dentist in more than 5 years; some in 10+ years.

There are still gaps in the system and there remain a good number of our friends and neighbors who are in need of care. Care that can be provided by TCHP, the free medical/dental clinic at 318 Walnut Street in St. Charles. For further information call: 630-377-9277

Clinic hours are Monday through Thursday, 8am – 4pm.

Meeting Space 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 information, contact Sharon Bober at
630-584-9342**

