



Talk of the Township

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

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Townships have three mandated functions by Illinois State Law:

Roads and Bridges, Assessment of Property and General Assistance

St. Charles Township added Cemeteries around the early 1900's. St. Charles Township currently maintains six cemeteries.

St. Charles Township levies total less than 2% of your Real Estate Tax Bill. The Road District maintain 89 miles of roads in unincorporated St. Charles Township, which has the largest miles of roads maintained by any township in Kane County. Kane County maintains 320 miles of roads while all 16 townships in Kane County maintain 542 miles of roads.

The Assessor's Office evaluates and assess over 22,000 properties in the City of St. Charles and unincorporated St. Charles Township, per the Illinois Property Tax Code. The Supervisor's Office assist residents with General Assistance concerns and the maintenance of St. Charles Township cemeteries.

The Cox Report "Local Government Efficiency and Size in Illinois: Counting Tax Revenues not Governments" can be found at www.toi.org under "Resources, downloads" – select **2016 Updated Cox Report.pdf**. In this report it states "There is a strong relationship between the size of cities, villages and towns

in Illinois and their financial performance. In all three general financial indicators received, the data shows that smaller governments, tax less per capita, spend less per capita and borrow less per capita." "The level of property taxation cannot be determined by the 'number of lines' on a property tax bill. Taxes are assessed in dollars, not in counts of governments. In Illinois (and other states) smaller local governments are associated with lower taxes, lower expenditures and lower debt levels."

Hopefully, this article has provided some information to help our residents understand what St. Charles Township does for you. Township Government is the closest form of government to the people. You can call the township offices and talk directly to your elected official or take a short drive to our offices on Dean Street for a personal meeting.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to call our office and talk to your Elected Official.

John Arthur Anderson, Supervisor
Steve Frohling, Highway Commissioner
Diane Hemmingsen, Assessor

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.



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

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: Serving our Seniors

History of Golden Diners

The Salvation Army Golden Diners Senior Nutrition Program began in Kane County in 1974 with three sites. In 1987, we opened sites in McHenry County.

The program has grown from serving 225 meals a day in 1974 to presently serving 950 meals daily. Currently, more than 3,000 seniors are registered members of the Golden Diners program.

When the program began, almost 90% of the meals were eaten at the congregate sites, and 10% were delivered to homes of seniors.

With the population growing older and developing more of the frailties of old age, just over 70% of the meals each day are Home Delivered Meals (HDM).

Volunteer Opportunities (Mon-Fri):

- Home meal delivery
- Serve lunch at Dining Sites
- New! Pet food delivery to our homebound seniors with pets
- Office assistance in Geneva location
- Thanksgiving meal delivery to homebound seniors
- Donut Days Fundraiser – May & June weekends TBA

Interested? Call Kathy 630-232-6676
kathleen_loubsky@usc.salvationarmy.org

What is the Golden Diners program about?

In 1972, Congress enacted the National Nutrition Program to provide nutritious meals for persons, age 60 and older.

Congregate Dining For Seniors

Our program offers not only the opportunity to have a good meal, but also encourages seniors to come out and enjoy lunch with their peers at our community dining sites located throughout Kane and McHenry Counties. Several sites have activities surrounding the mealtimes. We want the seniors to enjoy food, fun and fellowship.

For Township seniors, visit Geneva Township Senior Center, 400 Wheeler Drive, Geneva, IL

Lunch served Tues. – Wed. – Thurs. at 11:30 A.M.

Meals for Homebound Seniors

Those who are unable to get out, or who are unable to shop or prepare meals on their own, can have meals brought to their homes. Delivery of the meal also provides a “well being” check on the senior each day. Contact our office at 630-232-6676 to find out how to get home delivered meals.

What is the Cost?

The actual current cost of the meal averages \$7.08. We suggest a donation of \$3.50 per meal, but no one is turned away due to an inability to contribute.

COLUMBARIUM AT UNION CEMETERY

The first set of Columbaria and the landscaping are completed. There are just a few items left to touch up when the weather allows. Please stop by Union Cemetery at 1206 N. 5th Avenue to view the columbarium site.

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

Please contact the cemetery office for a brochure, more information or to purchase a niche at 630-584-8699.



St. Charles Township Road District News

Steve Frohling, Highway Commissioner

Well, this was a pretty mild winter overall. We can now 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 the costs of blacktop at about \$75 per ton, we are only able to resurface about 3 miles of road each year as opposed to about 10 miles of road like we used to do many, many years ago. When determining what roads to resurface each year, I always look at how long it's been since it was resurfaced last and what condition it is in. Therefore, roads in the worse condition and the longest time since resurfaced will come first. All roads being resurfaced are anywhere from 15 to 20 years since they were last resurfaced. We try to patch other roads as quickly as we can to help with their longevity.

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.

Just a reminder to those of you who have any trouble with flooding, if you need immediate assistance, first please call Kane County Office of Emergency Management, Don Bryant at 630-232-5985. Then call the Township for sand bags or sand if during regular office hours 630-584-3496 or the Sheriff's Department if after hours 630-232-6840 for an emergency and they can get a hold of us. Remember, we can't help if we are not contacted.

In closing I would just like to say that as the new highway commissioner, I look forward to working for you, the taxpayers, for many years to come. I want to thank you in advance for your support, and if you have any questions or problems, please don't hesitate to call me at my office.

Spring brings renewal

But don't forget to call before you improve

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

2016 Resurfacing Projects

Bids on the contracts for resurfacing will be out soon for the following roads or subdivisions:

- Three Lakes Subdivision: Steven's Glen Road, Wagontire Road and Foxglove Court
- Heritage Oaks Subdivision: Heritage Road from Burr Road to Mallard Lake Road
- Heritage on Burr Road Subdivision: Promontory Court and Mallard Lake Road (east to Heritage Oaks Road)
- Crane Road from 36W885 east to city limits
- Crane Road from Bolcum Road north to cemetery
- Country Club Road (Township portion between city limits and Village of Wayne)

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!

Homeowner's Association Information

St. Charles Township is in need of homeowner's association information for subdivisions that are in the unincorporated area of our Township.

We would like to keep you informed of any road improvements that may be happening in your subdivision, such as blacktopping or road closures. If we have a way to get a hold of your homeowner's association, we would be able to pass this information on to you so that you will be prepared.

Please call the Road District at 630-584-3496 to leave any info. If you call after hours, please leave a message and we'll call back if needed. Thanks in advance for all your help and to those who have already called to keep us up to date.

Even in Spring & Summer, You Can Manage 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.

"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**.

Brush Pickup for Unincorporated St. Charles Township Not the City of St. Charles

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 out by the road, not in the road, no later than 7am on the Monday of the scheduled week pick up
- If your brush was out at 7am on Monday of the scheduled pickup week and not collected by the end of the workday on Friday, please notify us 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
- Maximum diameter is 12 inches
- Maximum length is 12 feet
- Stack brush in large piles, not several small piles like before, with cut ends facing the road 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**
- If you hire a tree service to cut down any tree(s) then they are responsible for taking away all logs and brush
- We do not pick up after any lot clearings
- Residents with limbs/brush exceeding the requirements for the Residential Brush Pickup Program can contact a private service to have them removed at the resident's expense

Here are the weeks scheduled for the 2016 Brush Pickup that start on the 4th Monday of each month, April thru October:

April 25 • May 23 • June 27 • July 25
August 22 • September 26 • LAST pickup Oct. 24

**If you have any questions, please contact us at
630-584-3496.**

Summer Construction & Safety

Please be aware and watch for construction workers on the roads. Whether they are Township, County, State, Municipality, Utility or Blacktop Crews, their safety is part of your responsibility as a driver. Please reduce your speed, stop talking or texting on your cells and pay attention to the road signs and the Flaggers!

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.

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 at 630-208-3801 because it is a health problem.

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.

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

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.



Benefit Dinner, Drinks & Show

Saturday, April 30 • 6pm • \$75 per person
Shannon Hall • Eastside Community Center
14 N. Van Buren Street, Batavia

Information & Tickets, call 630-377-9277



Written by Mary McHale & Susan Gaspar
Directed by Susan Gaspar

SISTER B HAD THE HOTTEST BINGO GAME IN TOWN UNTIL SHE DISCOVERS HER BINGO BOARD MYSTERIOUSLY BROKEN.

NEVER LOSING HOPE, SHE ENLISTS FATHER MARTINI AND SISTER CHERISSE TO HELP ORGANIZE A TRAVELING BINGO GAME...

AND SO BEGINS THIS DELIGHTFUL DISASTER!

Elderday Center Events

For more than 25 years, Elderday Center, an adult day program, has worked to ensure older adults receive quality care, therapeutic programming that promotes independence and provides respite to caregivers. Last year, Elderday Center served more than 20,537 hours of compassionate care to older adults. Participants come from the Tri-Cities and a high number of St. Charles residents enroll in programming.

Elderday Center believes that caring for the older adult also means caring for the caregiver. The Caregiver Support program is open to the community. A loved one does not need to be enrolled for a caregiver to attend a monthly support group. Support groups are held at the Center at 1:30 pm on the following dates. Please contact Mollie Blum, MSW for more details at 630-761-9750.

- April 21: Knowing Your Care Options. Caregivers have an important decision to make about the care and living arrangements for their loved one.
- April 30: Annual fund-raising gala, Caring from the Heart. Lincoln Inn Banquets, 1345 S. Batavia Ave., Batavia at 6pm. Special performance by Ms. Kayla Mickelsen, American Idol Contestant. Emcee for the evening will be Mr. Ron Onesti. Tickets are \$75 each.
- May 19: Planning for the Future: Join us to learn about long term care insurance and how to maximize benefits.
- July 21: Introduction to Power of Attorney, Elder law, Medicaid, Veteran's Benefits and Estate Planning.

For more information, contact the Center at: 630-761-9750 or online at www.elderdaycenter.org
328 W. Wilson St., Batavia

Lazarus House News

One of the biggest issues surrounding homelessness in our area is the misunderstanding of who the homeless are. Often stereotypes get in the way and make it hard for us to reach out and help others. Understanding that many different paths can lead to homelessness and that each person has their own unique story to tell, can be the first step. Some homeless individuals have lost everything due to medical bills. Others are educated, but have suffered a major setback due to job loss. Some are fleeing domestic violence with their children. No matter their story, they deserve help. Learning about homelessness and spreading the word can help eliminate many misconceptions. The power of one individual can be great and lead to the power of many!

Lazarus House offers emergency shelter, transitional living and outreach (rental assistance) programs to individuals from Batavia, Geneva, St. Charles, and western rural Kane County. Its mission is to offer guests connected to these communities, who are homeless or in need, hope for the future by providing hospitality, food, safe shelter, and education – tools for life. Its goals are to:

- Help the homeless return to independent living with the skills and habits needed for long-term success
- Offer services and referrals to help those in need in our community in order to prevent homelessness and support the well-being of individuals and their families.

Lazarus News, continued on back page

Lazarus News, continued from page 7

It is a great privilege to assist someone in their most frightening time and to witness the amazing transformation from despair to hope. If you know someone who needs shelter, encourage them to call Lazarus House. If you are in a position to help, please consider a monetary donation and/or urgent needs items posted weekly on the website: www.lazarushouseonline.com For those wishing to volunteer, orientations are held about every six weeks with a chance to hear about all 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.

Lazarus House has some great special events coming up this summer. Please plan to join us on June 3 for the "Golfing for Good" outing and/or dinner event to benefit

Lazarus House and the St. Charles Kiwanis. There will be golfing at Mill Creek Golf Club, games, great food, auctions, entertainment and more! The weekend of June 9-11, the SADD group from Geneva High School will be hosting their annual garage sale to benefit Lazarus House. So pencil in the date for some great bargain hunting. Then plan to start your July 4th off with a bang at the 10th annual Great Western Freedom 4 Run and Walk. This event offers a competitive 4-mile run and a 2-mile scenic walk suitable for all age groups. Details about all of these events and how to donate or volunteer are on the website www.lazarushouseonline.com

Lazarus House

214 Walnut Street • 630-587-2144

For details on all events, please visit

www.lazarushouseonline.com

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