



Fall 2018

Talk of the Township

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

STC Youth Invited to Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting for the Township was held at the Donald E. Scheib Hall in the Township offices on April 10, 2018. And the moderator for this yearly meeting was Claire Pienkowski, an 18-year-old senior from St. Charles North High School.

By Illinois State statute, the annual town meeting is held after 6pm on the second Tuesday in April. This statute was established in 1850s.

The Annual Town Meeting is an opportunity for residents — who are registered to vote (electors) — of St. Charles Township to have a voice in all matters discussed and vote on any agenda items presented at the meeting.

Any new agenda items relevant to the powers granted to the Township must be requested by a group of 15 or more registered voters and presented to the Township Clerk by March 1 each year.

Attending residents elect the Moderator for the meeting. This year, 25 constituents were present. Claire did an excellent job of running the meeting and keeping all in order per the statute.

Township History

Township government, established in Providence, Rhode Island in 1636, is the oldest existing unit of government continuing to serve on the North American continent. Township government was in existence for 140 years prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The wording of the Declaration of Independence reflects the fact that 38 of its 56 signers had experienced the benefits of township government.

The Declaration's statement that "government should derive its just powers from the consent of the governed" is demonstrated at the Annual Town Meeting held on the second Tuesday of each April.

The Annual Town Meeting is still an important function of our nation's 17,000 townships after more than 360 years. The Illinois Constitution of 1848 gave voters in each county the opportunity to adopt Township Government. By 1850, the first township governments began operation. Today, 85 of Illinois 102 counties operate under the township form of government and the 1,428 townships serve more than 8 million citizens.

For more history on Township Government, see page 6.



Senior Claire Pienkowski of St. Charles North High School, Moderator for the Annual Town Meeting, April 10, 2018.

PLEASE BE ADVISED:

To save taxpayer dollars, The Talk of the Township Newsletter is available only on our website at: www.stcharlestownship.org
Also NOTE that URLs are now linked for your convenience.



1725 Dean Street
St. Charles, IL 60174

Supervisor's Office: 630-584-9342
8am - 3:30pm

Assessor's Office: 630-584-2040
8am - 3:30pm

Road District Office: 630-584-3496
8am - 3pm

Cemetery Office: 630-584-8699
7am - 3:30pm

Elected Officials

Ron Johnson.....Supervisor
Terry Cross..... Clerk
Steve Frohling..... Highway Commissioner
Diane Hemmingsen..... Assessor

Township Trustees

Jeff Jerdee
Jerry Swanson
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 3:30pm • 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 Town Board Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month and begin at 7pm at the Township Offices in the Donald E. Scheib Hall.

Cemetery Board of Trustee meetings are held quarterly on the first Wednesday of the month for March, June and September.

OCTOBER

8 **CLOSED** — *Columbus Day*
10 @7pm — *Town Board Meeting*

NOVEMBER

4 *Daylight Saving Time Ends (Fall back 1 hr.)*
14 @ 6:30pm – *Public Hearing/Adopt Levies*
14 @ 7pm — *Town Board Meeting*
23-24.....**THANKSGIVING** — *Closed*

DECEMBER

5 @ 7pm – *Cemetery Board Meeting*
12 @ 7pm – *Town Board Meeting*
24-26 *Winter Holiday* — *Closed*
31 ... *New Year's Eve* — *Closed*

JANUARY 2019

1 **NEW YEARS DAY** — *Closed*
9 @ 7pm — *Town Board Meeting*

FEBRUARY

13 @ 6:30pm – *Budget Hearing*
13 @ 7pm – *Town Board Meeting*

MARCH

6 @ 7pm – *Cemetery Board Meeting*
13 @ 7pm – *Town Board Meeting*

APRIL

9 @ 7pm – **ANNUAL Town Meeting**
10 @ 7pm – *Town Board Meeting*

Meeting Space is Available

The Donald E. Scheib 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 Road District News

Steve Frohling, Highway Commissioner

Greetings from the Township Road District.

DID YOU KNOW... that the Road District receives 1 percent of the 2 percent that the taxpayers pay to the Township for their taxes. With this 1 percent, 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 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 is 630-208-2050.

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

Homeowner's Association Information

The Township is seeking homeowner's association information for subdivisions that are in our unincorporated area. We want to keep you informed of any road improvements that may be happening in your subdivision, such as blacktopping or road closures.

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.

Monument Mailboxes...

On the road right-of-ways are illegal nor safe to the motoring public. Note that per USPS, mailboxes must not be bigger than a 4x4 post.

Please contact us (the Road District) before placing anything in the easement/right-of-way in front of your home. We are happy to help guide you.

Safety Tidbits - Township Roads

- 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. Also be aware of the deer population in these areas while driving at dusk or night. These roads are very hilly and potentially dangerous to people who travel over the speed limit of 35 mph on Crane Road and 40 mph 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.
- 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! 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!



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

We will conclude our brush pickup for the Unincorporated Township Roads the week of October 22 and will start up again next spring, probably the fourth Monday of April. We will be posting the schedule of brush pickups for the 2019 season on the website and in the spring newsletter.

Managing Your Leaves

- Mulching - Leave shredded material on lawn and around trees and shrubs.
- Place shredded material 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 - Produce a valuable soil amendment for garden areas.

Bagged Collection of Leaves & Other Landscape Wastes - Please Note that local garbage companies provide this service to Township residents 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.
- Always 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**.

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.

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.

REMEMBER TO CALL J.U.L.I.E.
BEFORE YOU DIG UNLESS YOU HAVE A
CONTRACTOR DOING THE WORK AND
THEN THEY ARE TO CALL IT IN!

Please do not dig without marks unless utility has indicated there are no facilities in the dig area. For more info about J.U.L.I.E. visit them online at www.illinois1call.com.

Winter weather will soon be here. Please 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 the township 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, which violates this Section, is guilty of a petty offense.

ALSO, PLEASE REMEMBER: NO PARKING ON ANY TOWNSHIP ROADS UNTIL AFTER ALL SNOW HAS BEEN CLEARED.



Know What's Below!

Call: 800-892-0123
or Click:
www.illinois1call.com

RIDE IN KANE

Currently residents of unincorporated St. Charles Township are sponsored for 2 round trip rides (or 4 one way) per week for medical visits, employment, school and to the Elderday Center in Batavia. For any questions, please call 630-584-9342.



Homelessness among families continues to be an issue in our area. These families are often struggling with incomes that are far less than they need to pay for housing and oftentimes something pushes them over the top – a lost job or reduced hours, conflict with family members they are staying with, an unanticipated expense, or violence within the home - leading them to homelessness. Lazarus House has been blessed to step in and help 22 families recently by providing safe shelter, nutritious meals and assistance in helping them get back on their feet.

Lazarus House offers emergency shelter, transitional living and homeless prevention 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.

We are so fortunate to be amongst such a caring community of neighbors willing to help their neighbors in crisis. If you know someone who needs shelter, encourage them to call Lazarus House at 630-587-2144. If you are in a position to help, please consider a monetary donation and/or urgent needs items such as paper towels, bottled water or others posted on the website. For those wishing to volunteer, orientations are held on various days/times of the week to accommodate every schedule. Come 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.

Please join us to share in our “potluck style” Thanksgiving and Christmas buffets. Everyone is welcome to share in a wonderful meal and fellowship. More information about events and volunteering or donating a food item/supply is available at www.lazarushouse.net.

Community Thanksgiving Feast ~ 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, at the Salvation Army Tri-City Corps, 1710 South 7th Ave. Dining begins at noon.

Community Christmas Brunch ~ 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM on Christmas Day at 214 Walnut Street - St. Charles. Dining begins at noon.

Lazarus House cordially invites all to a very special fundraising dinner “Unmasking the Face of Homelessness” on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at the Q Center in St. Charles. Enjoy social hour, auctions, mystery wine, entertainment & dancing. All proceeds will benefit Lazarus House! Sponsorships are available! For more information contact Darlene at darlener@lazarushouse.net.

Township History: Functions of Illinois Townships

By law, Illinois townships are charged with three basic functions: 1) general assistance for the indigent; 2) the assessment of real property for the basis of local taxation; and 3) maintenance of all roads and bridges outside federal, state, and other local jurisdiction.

Road and Bridge Maintenance

Township Government maintains over 71,000 miles of roads in Illinois - a full 53 percent of all thoroughfares in the state.

Property Assessment

Townships establish the value of all real property in the township. The township assessor, in fact, is the only elected governmental official who must pass approved courses of instruction before standing for election to office.

General Assistance

Townships provide food, shelter and emergency relief for needy people until they are able to support themselves. Many townships in Illinois operate food banks that guarantee the necessities of life for children.

Other Services

Beyond the three mandated services, Township Government provides other vital services to the people next door. This may include senior citizens programs, youth programs, assistance to the disabled, parks and recreational facilities, health services and cemetery maintenance. In this regard, township government serves its neighbors from the cradle to the grave.

Since 2001, Tri City Health Partnership has provided quality medical care to low-income, uninsured residents of Central Kane County. We have had more than 30,000 on-site visits to thousands of residents.

Tri City Health Partnership offers patients a warm, inviting, and mutually respectful environment. We do not receive any state or federal funding, but are completely funded by grants and donations from the local community, and fundraisers. A tight-knit staff and a group of 100+ dedicated volunteers operate our clinic in St. Charles.



Are you ready to go **All In for Healthcare**? Tri City Health Partnership is very excited to be hosting our Casino Fundraiser.

Join us on Saturday, 7pm, October 20 at the beautiful St. Charles Country Club, 1250 Country Club Road. Enjoy amazing food, an open bar, a live auction with incredible trips and packages, and all the fun of Monte Carlo! CALL for all the details.

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



Fox River & Countryside
Fire Rescue District
34W500 Carl Lee Road,
St. Charles, IL 60174
(630) 584-3473
<http://www.frcfr.org>

Rural Fire Address Signs:

Can we read your address? Is your sign missing? Go online to fill out a form, then send it to us. Questions?
info@frcfr.org



Elderday Center

providing quality life since 1990

For the past 28 years, Elderday Center has had the privilege of serving senior citizens and their caregivers from the Tri Cities while providing quality Adult Day Services for thousands of seniors, along with support and education for thousands of their caregiving spouses and family members. We specialize in dementia and age-related illness care. Our program is unique because the specialized day program promotes cognitive stimulation and socialization, which can help slow the progression of dementia, minimize depression, and increase the overall quality of life. As the only community-based not-for-profit adult day program in the Tri-Cities, Elderday Center uses evidenced-based techniques to engage senior citizens affected with these diagnoses.

The Elderday Center program offers a wide variety of services and activities in which clients can participate:

- Daily exercise
- Outings
- Lively discussions of current events
- Hot lunches and two nutritious snacks
- Daily nurse monitoring
- Professional case management, and much more

Here are some of our programming activities:

Licensed Music Therapy – Music is a therapy used with a professional board certified music therapist. Evidence-based, dignified, and creative interventions to promote expression, adaptive/constructive skills, behaviors and strategies to enhance well-being.

Men's & Women's Groups – Everyone doesn't always like the same thing and we understand this. We try to incorporate our members' likes and interests to provide enjoyable experiences in sharing memories and discussions.

Pet Therapy – Animal lovers everywhere understand the effect animals have on our moods. Elderday Center is proud to offer this service.

Reminiscence Groups – Memory and brain exercises are used to sharpen memory and slow cognitive decline. These groups have been very popular at Elderday Center.

Arts and Crafts – While many think these activities are “just fun,” there is a strong therapeutic reason behind our arts and crafts program. Members are able to exercise fine motor skills which help with things like buttoning shirts or using utensils and have an opportunity for self-expression which decreases depression and increases self-worth.

Games – Every day we include a game that exercises gross motor skills such as bowling, indoor golf, bags, bocce ball etc. These games help with range of motion and improve flexibility which helps reduce fall risks.

Intergeneration & Community Programming – Elderday Center strives to help members connect with our community. We have local partnerships with Batavia Nursery School, Association for Individual Development and local assisted living facilities.

Outings – Periodically we schedule field trips in the community. In the past we have visited the Peck Farm Butterfly House, gone out to ice cream and visited the Fabyan Gardens.

If you know a senior citizen suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's, depression, or isolation and think Elderday Center might be a good fit or you'd like to learn more about the available programs, please call 630-761-9750 or visit online at www.elderdaycenter.org.

We are open from 8am – 5:30pm, Monday through Friday, at 328 W. Wilson Street in Batavia. 630-761-9750

Union Columbaria

Beautiful, Peaceful Place

5th Avenue • North of Main Street



Cemetery General Guidelines:

- Cemeteries are open from dawn until dusk.
- The Cemetery Office is open from 7am to 3:30pm Monday through Friday, except on designated Township holidays.
- Shepherds hooks must be removed by November 1 of each year.
- Winter decorations, such as holly, evergreens or artificial wreaths, may be placed on graves beginning November 1 and may remain until the following March 1, after which date all such decoration will be removed as soon as weather permits. If these are to be kept for future use, they must be removed and cared for before March 1..

For a full list, see Cemetery Rules & Regulations at: www.stcharlestownship.org/index.php/cemetery/general-information