



## ST. CHARLES NAMED ONE OF MONEY MAGAZINE'S TOP 100 CITIES

St. Charles won recognition in the August edition of *Money Magazine* as being among the 100 Best Places to live in the nation. St. Charles was honored for its history as one of the oldest towns west of the Mississippi coupled with our City's modern riverfront recreation and a rapidly growing suburban community.

Mayor York indicated she's not the least bit surprised at the outcome. "St. Charles receiving this recognition underscores that we really do have a *Famous Past and a Fabulous Future*," she said. "Plus, the attention comes at a perfect time given our City will celebrate its Bicentennial anniversary next year."

Three cities from St. Charles County made the list of 100 Best Communities with populations between 50,000 and 300,000. St. Peters was 60th, O'Fallon 68th and St. Charles 82nd. The list took into account job growth, income increases, cost of living and housing, school quality, safety and other factors.

For more information, see the online link at: <http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bplive/2008/top100/>

## CITY REVERTS FROM FLOOD WATCH TO FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

Mayor York and the St. Charles City Council would like to publicly thank the Army Corps of Engineers, the Missouri National Guard, the St. Charles Fire and Police Departments, City and County staff members and a host of concerned residents and business owners for their support during recent flood relief efforts at the Elm Point levee located on the north side of town.

As Mississippi flood waters continue to recede, the community's collaborative focus centers predominantly on restoration activities.

For anyone interested in assisting restoration efforts, donations can be made by contacting the American Red Cross at 314-516-2800. The Salvation Army has also set up a flood relief fund. Donations can be made at [stl-salvationarmy.org](http://stl-salvationarmy.org), by calling 1-800-725-2769, or by mail at Salvation Army Midland Division, P.O. Box 6040, St. Louis, MO 63139.

The federal Department of Labor has set up a website to help Midwest flood victims. It has posted information on unemployment insurance, temporary jobs, personal safety during cleanup and updates on federal disaster areas. The website is [dol.gov/opa/flood-recovery.htm](http://dol.gov/opa/flood-recovery.htm). Information is also available by calling 866-487-2365 toll-free. Access is free and will not impede private wireless connections to nearby homes or businesses.

## Channel 20 Has Moved!



Attention St. Charles residents...

Recently, Charter Cable relocated your local government cable access channel.

You can still enjoy your local channel at its new location.

Regular programming includes:

- City Council Meetings
- City Board/Commission Meetings
- Special Events
- Art and Music Programs
- St. Charles School Board Meetings
- Municipal Services/Program Info
- Public Health & Safety Information
- Historical Documentaries
- and much, much more!

### Here's how you can tune in and find us in St. Charles:

- If you have a Charter set-top converter box, tune to Channel 990, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- If your cable line is connected directly to your TV/VCR which has a digital cable/ "QAM" tuner:
  1. Use the unit's auto channel setting function, set for "cable" or "digital;" after that process is complete,
  2. Tune to Channel 118 and use the "channel up arrow" to find the City Channel. It may appear as 118-20, 118.2 or 118.20.

NOTE: If the next channel up the dial is 119, you must obtain a Charter set-top converter box to view the City Channel on your current TV/VCR.

For more information, see the city's website at [www.stcharlescity.com](http://www.stcharlescity.com) or call Neal Gilb, Charter Communications, at (314) 543-6679

# ST. CHARLES HONORS THREE LOCAL EMPLOYERS

## -SERVICE- -RETAIL- -MANUFACTURING/ INDUSTRIAL-



*Nadine Boon, Economic Development Director, City of St. Charles, Stephen Kinsey and John Borisenko of ESRI, Patti York, Mayor of St. Charles*

### ESRI SERVES UP WHAT ITS CUSTOMERS NEED

One of Environmental Systems Research Institute's areas of expertise is helping companies find the best places in which to locate. So it should come as no surprise that when ESRI decided to locate on South Main Street in St. Charles some 16 years ago, success would follow.

New York-based ESRI specializes in geographic information system technology, commonly referred to as GIS. Government officials on every level have utilized the services of ESRI for years to help them do a better job of planning, and GIS technology is increasingly meeting the needs of businesses, educators and even conservationists.

Regional Manager Stephen Kinzy said the St. Charles office started out in 1991 with four employees, including him—now he has 55 employees. As of 2006, the office here had 18,450 customers. Approximately 70 percent of the office's business comes from local governments, Kinzy said.

While technological sectors continue to grow, GIS technology "has just exploded the past few years as you can tell by the number of customers we have in the area," Kinzy said.

ESRI has a variety of compensation, incentive and benefit plans to recognize employees. For example, the company's profit-sharing plan, and that can equate to as much as 8 percent of an employee's salary (over and above their merit raises during the course of the year," Kinzy said.)

ESRI also picks up the entire cost of medical insurance for its employees and their families, a rarity these days. Last year alone the medical costs for the company went up 20 percent, "so it's not a trivial matter for the company," Kinzy said.

ESRI also does its part to ensure a bright future for the region. As an example, the company probably has given the Missouri Botanical Garden more than \$1 million in software over the years, he said.

### CULVER'S SATISFIES EMPLOYEES AND CUSTOMERS

It wasn't too long ago that many fast-food restaurants in this area were begging for help. That has never been the case at Culver's during its seven-year history in St. Charles.

"I've never had trouble finding people to work," said Mary Brauer, who with her husband, Parker, own and operate the Culver's on Muegge Road. In fact, she added, "We've never advertised. We have people come in and ask for applications."

The Brauers employ more than 50 people, about one dozen of whom work full time. Employees are recognized with merit raises, bonuses, promotions and an incentive called the Stay with Us for College Program. Employees who work a minimum of 15 hours a week, carry a full-credit course and keep a 3.0 grade point average qualify for \$250 a semester that they can use to pay for whatever college expense they see fit. Employees also can apply for scholarships through Culver's corporate office in Wisconsin.

The company offers full-time employees a number of benefits, including a 401(k) retirement plan, vacation, health insurance and maternity leave.

"Parker and I have told our managers that if they ever wanted to go out on their own and open their own Culver's, we would be more than happy to help them," Brauer said. Currently, one employee is seriously considering that option.

Satisfied employees help to create satisfied customers. That seems to be the case at the St. Charles Culver's where sales grown an average 5 percent annually. "We have grown every year that we've been open. We've been very well-received in the community," Mary Brauer said.

Culver's also is active in the community. On Monday and Tuesday nights youth and not-for-profit groups work as waiters in the restaurant in return for a percentage of the sales. "It's just a great way to touch a lot of people in the community," Brauer said.



*Nadine Boon, Economic Development Director, City of St. Charles, Parker and Mary Brauer of Culver's, Patti York, Mayor of St. Charles*



*Nadine Boon, Economic Development Director, City of St. Charles, Juanita Brosal and Mike Bauer of SYSCO Patti York, Mayor of St. Charles*

### SYSCO FINDS SUCCESS IN ST. CHARLES

"There was nothing anywhere near us," said Mike Barr about the time 13 years ago when SYSCO Food Services of St. Louis built a major food distribution facility along Highway 370 in St. Charles.

That certainly is no longer the situation. Barr, the president and CEO of SYSCO St. Louis, now notes that major companies like Coca-Cola Enterprises and Glazer's Wholesale Distributors have built multimillion-dollar distribution centers nearby.

SYSCO St. Louis has contributed to that growth. The company completed a \$9 million expansion in March of last year, increasing the facility's capacity by 35 percent. "Our business has been accelerating. We just ran out of room," Barr said.

The company provides food and food-related items to numerous clients, including restaurants, hospitals and nursing homes. The company also supplies many of the region's major sports and entertainment venues.

The company conducts a good deal of employee training in-house, and at the corporate office in Houston, Texas. SYSCO also utilizes what it calls a Best Business Practices Website. The company has more than 120 operations nationwide, and each operation can submit what it thinks is a best practice, such as how to best control damage in a warehouse. Once approved, the practice goes on the website so that other operations can learn and improve their practices, Barr said.

SYSCO St. Louis offers an attractive benefits package, including medical, dental and vision insurance, tuition reimbursement, an employee stock purchase plan, and a 401(k) plan in addition to the company-funded retirement plan. There also is a wide array of incentive programs.

In addition, the company supports the community, providing donations to Operation Food Search, the March of Dimes and other worthy causes. Last year SYSCO and its employees adopted two local families, making the holidays a little brighter for 11 children.

## **Festival of the Little Hills**

**August 15-17, 2008**  
**Frontier Park & Main St.**  
**Hours: Fri 4:00 PM -10 PM**  
**Sat 9:30 AM-10 PM**  
**Sun 9:30AM-5 PM**

The largest festival of the year, draws more than 300,000 visitors and includes over 300+ craft booths.

Visit their website:  
[www.festivalofthelittlehills.com](http://www.festivalofthelittlehills.com)

## **Race for the River and Clean Water Challenge**

**August 23, 2008**  
**Frontier Park**  
 Canoe & Kayak Racing,  
 Music, Food and Fun

Visit their website:  
[www.racefortherivers.org/](http://www.racefortherivers.org/)

## **7th Annual Quilts on Main**

**September 6**  
**Main Street**

Main Street is the setting for a unique art show—hundreds of colorful quilts displayed on the facades of vintage buildings.

Visit their website:  
[www.quiltsonmain.com](http://www.quiltsonmain.com)

## **Tour of Missouri**

**September 13, 2008**

Professional cycling race makes a stop at St. Charles on Saturday, September 13. Estimated finish time: 4:15 PM finish line on Riverside drive; hospitality tent in Frontier Park.  
[www.tourofmissouri.com](http://www.tourofmissouri.com)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **Lewis & Clark Marathon & Half Marathon**

**September 14, 2008**  
**Frontier Park**

Starts at 6:45 AM at Riverport (Shuttle buses will be available)  
 More information at website:  
[www.fleetfeetstl.com/](http://www.fleetfeetstl.com/)  
[lewisandclarkmarathon/](http://lewisandclarkmarathon/)

## **Trails for Tales**

**September 14, 2008**  
**9:00AM - 1:00 PM**

The walk is a leisurely stroll around the Lewis and Clark statue in Frontier Park. Visit vendor booths, let your dog participate in dog games, enter him or her in contests or just enjoy the camaraderie of other pet lovers.

[www.stcharleshumanesociety.org](http://www.stcharleshumanesociety.org)

## **MO River Irish Fest**

**September 19-21**  
**Frontier Park**

Food, traditional crafts and Irish music, children's area, and a Rock, Paper, Scissor tournament

[www.moriveririshfest.com](http://www.moriveririshfest.com)

## **Music on Main**

**September 17, 2008**  
**100-200 Blks of N. Main**  
**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

Join us for food, drink and music featuring Arbogast Band

## **MOSAICS—FESTIVAL FOR THE ARTS**

**North Main Street**  
**September 19-21**

**Friday: 4 PM - 9PM**  
**Saturday: 11AM - 9PM**  
**Sunday: 11 AM - 5PM**

Artists sell & display art - clay, painting, sculpture, jewelry, food, music, kid's village and mentor me.

[www.stcharlesmosaics.org](http://www.stcharlesmosaics.org)

## **Oktoberfest**

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**September 26-28**  
**Frontier Park**

**Parade, music, car show & vendors.**

# TRIPS

ST. CHARLES PARKS AND RECREATION 949-3372

ONLINE: WWW.STCHARLESPARKS.COM

**"Arsenic & Old Lace" - Arrow Rock**  
 Thursday, August 14  
 242508-07

Mortimer Brewster is a theatre-hating drama critic who must deal with his insane, homicidal family and local police.

Dinner at the Settler's Inn  
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

\$89 pp Payment due immediately.

**"The Music Man" at Stages**  
 Sunday, September 7  
 34508-01

3:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Break out the brass bands as fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill rolls into town in *The Music Man*  
 Dinner at Bevo Mill

\$89 pp Payment due immediately.

**"???MYSTERY TRIP???"**  
 (Passport \$3 off)  
 Thursday, November 6  
 342508-06

6:15 AM - 7:00 PM

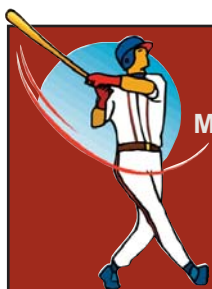
Who knows where the travelers go?? Only the "Shadow" (ok, Carl) knows. Join us as we venture to a new destination. Do you trust us?? Question: Will they feed us?? --You Betcha!  
 \$83 PP includes food, adventures, gratuities, escort & transportation.

**Precious Moments/Hammons**  
**Walnuts**

**October 14-16, 2008**

342400-06

The Pierce Arrow Show in Branson; Precious Moments Park with guided tour; Springfield Hot Glass Studio; Hammons Black Walnuts & Gift Shop, 6:15 AM - 7:00 pm. Cost of \$425 (double occupancy), \$525 per single traveler, includes 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, show, tours, admissions, lodging, baggage handling, gratuities, escort & motor coach transportation. Payment due today.



**Cardinals**  
 vs  
**Milwaukee Brewers**  
 242508-09

Wed, August 27

5:00 PM - 11:30 PM

Dinner before the game at the stadium using your "Cardinal Dollars." Cost of \$85 includes dinner, ballgame, escort & transportation.



## Spend the Day with Lincoln



Lincoln home in Springfield, Illinois

Friday, September 26  
 34508-02

6:00 AM - 7:00 PM

State-of-the-art Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois.

Amazingly well-preserved artifacts tell the entire life story and legacy of our nation's 16th President.

Lunch will be at Maldaner's with a buffet -style meal.

\$75 pp includes admission, tours, lunch, gratuities, escort and transportation.

**Christmas in Branson**  
**November 28-30, 2008**  
 342400-07

Sight & Sound Theatre for the stage production of "Noah—the Musical"; Grand Village Shops Christmas Shopping; Silver Dollar City including light displays & dinner; Branson Landing with free time for Christmas shopping in one of Branson's newest shopping complexes; lunch at Lambert's Café; 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Cost of \$425 (double occupancy), \$512 per single traveler, includes 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, show, Silver Dollar City admission, lodging, baggage handling, gratuities, escort & motor coach transportation.

# PROGRAMS

ST. CHARLES PARKS AND RECREATION 949-3372

ONLINE: [WWW.STCHARLESPARKS.COM](http://WWW.STCHARLESPARKS.COM)

## HOTSHOTS

LOCATION: Auditorium at Memorial Hall

Hotshots Intro (Ages 4-5)

310201-01 M 9/15-10/20 5:30-6:15PM

310201-02 M 11/3-12/8 5:30-6:15PM

\$46 per person

Hotshots Intro (Ages 6-8)

320201-01 M 9/15-10/20 6:15-7:00PM

320201-02 M 11/3-12/8 6:15-7:00PM

\$46 per person

Hotshots Plus - Scrimmage Program

*Players must have been in our*

*Introductory Hotshots class*

Hotshots Plus (Ages 6-8)

320201-02 M 9/15-10/20 7:00-8:00PM

320201-04 M 11/3-12/8 7:00-8:00PM

\$46 per person

## T-BALL OUTDOOR

Introduction- Learn to play ball \$46 pp

Ages 4-5

Location: McNair Park Fields 1-3

311241-01 W 8/27-10/1 5:45-6:30 PM

Beginner- Team Play \$46 pp

Ages 5-7

Location: McNair Park Fields 1-3

311241-02 W 8/27-10/1 6:00-7:00PM

T-Ball Plus- Coach Pitch \$49 pp

Ages 6-8

Location: McNair Park Fields 1-3

311241-03 W 8/27-10/1 7:00-8:00PM

## SOCCER

Learn the fundamentals while having fun and increasing your child's physical fitness!

LOCATION: St. Charles Soccer Complex

Soccer Fields 1 & 2

Intro to Soccer

Saturdays 9/06-10/11 \$46

312041-01 9:30-10:15AM 6-8 yr olds

311041-01 10:30-11:15 AM 4-5 yr olds

311041-02 11:15-Noon 4-5 yr olds

Soccer Plus

Soccer Plus is for 6-8 year olds to help develop the skills you learned in the Intro to Soccer class.

Saturdays 9/06-10/11 \$46

321041-01 8:30-9:30AM 6-8 yr olds

All rainouts are made up at the end of the class.



## BIRTHDAY PARTIES

How about a Bouncing Birthday Bash for your child's next birthday party? Use our room for up to 2 hours. Your child and their friends (ten total children including birthday child) will receive 45 minutes of supervised tumbling activities and games & you will have time for cake and presents.

Parties are booked according to availability of the New Basement at Memorial Hall in Blanchette Park and available staff. Parties must be booked 30 days in advance. Call 636-949-3372 for more information. Fee: \$95 (1st ten) and \$5 per child thereafter.

## TAE KWON DO (AGES 8 & UP)

Classes meet weekly. Physical fitness, coordination, self-defense and confidence are the main focus. NO CONTRACTS TO SIGN!! New students always welcome.

Memorial Hall— (Auditorium on Tuesdays, Legion/VFW Rooms on Thursdays)

Youth/Family Class 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Adult Class 8:15 - 9:15 PM

223501-04 1x wk 8/5-8/28 7:00P-9:15P

223501-08 2x wk 8/5-8/28 7:00P-9:15P

323501-01 1x wk 9/2-9/30 7:00P-9:15P

323501-05 2x wk 9/2-9/30 7:00P-9:15P

323501-02 1x wk 10/2-10-30 7:00P-9:15P

323501-06 2x wk 10/2-10-30 7:00P-9:15P

Fee: \$44 pp 2x week, \$29 pp 1 x week

Family Discounts available (immediate family only) in the office & at [www.stcharlesparks.com](http://www.stcharlesparks.com)!!

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The St. Charles Parks and Recreation Foundation provides funds to either children or adult CITY RESIDENTS who cannot financially afford a recreation program or trip participation fee. One scholarship per family every four months is granted. For more information call 636-949-3372 or the Foundation website at [www.stcharlesparksfoundation.org](http://www.stcharlesparksfoundation.org).

## DANCE AEROBICS

The class uses high & low impact moves and can be modified to accommodate the needs of each individual. Instructor: Sandy Buxton, AFAA Certified. Ages 18 & older—Join anytime!! Tuesdays & Thursdays—Monthly 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM \$37 per person (\$26 per month for once a week) Gould Building, Wapelhorst Park

## FAM MEETING

342508-15 FAM Meeting  
Sunday, October 26

2:00 PM Memorial Hall

Learn about Washington, DC and National Park Trips with completed itineraries available. Come for one or stay for both.

Light Refreshments will be provided.

\*\*\*FREE\*\*\*

To register, please call 636-949-3372 or visit [www.stcharlesparks.com](http://www.stcharlesparks.com)

## FELZIEN RETURNS AS PR/COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Carol Rosse-Felzien (Felzien) has returned to the City of St. Charles in the capacity of PR/Communications Coordinator. Her appointment to the position was effective May 5. She reports directly to David Rosenwasser, Director of the Greater Saint Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB).

"We couldn't be happier to once again steal Carol away from the private sector," said Mayor Patti York. "Everyone on staff is excited to have Carol back in the fold as a member of the St. Charles City team. She is a terrific asset in promoting events, projects and activities for both the City and the CVB."

Rosenwasser echoed the Mayor's sentiment indicating having a full-time PR person on board further enhances efforts to showcase local events and the greater St. Charles area as a regional destination. "We're already putting Carol's expertise to good use," he said. "She comes to us at a perfect time in advance of Tour of Missouri and all that is unique and noteworthy in this locale, especially during the height of our tourism season."

Felzien returns to St. Charles with more than 25 years of experience in corporate and civic communications, public relations and marketing. During her career, she has served as Media Relations Manager for Southwestern Bell, Director of PR for Visiting Nurse Association, PR and Marketing Manager for SSM Health Care and Director of Corporate Marketing for MTM. Most recently, she was on staff as an Account Supervisor for KolbeCo Marketing Resources in Dardenne Prairie. She previously served on the St. Charles City staff in 2004.

"It is a privilege to be selected for the St. Charles position, and have the opportunity to be a part of all that the City holds in store today and in the future," Felzien said. "I'm honored to work with Mayor York, the City Council, the CVB team, City staff members and area residents and business owners to promote our fair City. I encourage people to call me directly at 636-255-6128 or through e-mail at [CFelzien@Historicstcharles.com](mailto:CFelzien@Historicstcharles.com)

Felzien served nine consecutive terms as President of the St. Louis Chapter of Women in Communications, Inc. She has served on the Jennings School District Board of Education and was a member of Leadership O'Fallon's inaugural class in 2003. She has also served on the board for the Tri-County United Way and the Lake Saint Louis-Dardenne Prairie Chamber of Commerce, and as a member at large of the Junior League of St. Louis.

Felzien is a cum laude graduate of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a minor in Communications and Writing.

## NEW CITY WEBSITE TO LAUNCH IN LATE AUGUST



Mayor Patricia York and the St. Charles City Council are pleased to announce that the City will launch an entirely new website in late August. The new site will reside at a new address - [www.stcharlescitemo.gov](http://www.stcharlescitemo.gov).

Residents will notice some major changes at first glance such as the updated look, increased information organized by audience, improved navigation, and search capabilities.

Developed by Quilogy, Inc., [www.stcharlescitemo.gov](http://www.stcharlescitemo.gov) represents the second major redesign of the City's web site since its inception in 1996.

This new site came out of a very in-depth research process that began last fall," said Mayor York. "We visited lots of other city sites. We talked with residents. We interviewed our staff. We initiated our redesign knowing what was important to everyone."

Here are some of the best new features residents can look forward to:

- ◆ An "[I Would Like To...](#)" section on the home page will provide answers to the most commonly asked questions.
- ◆ [Navigation](#) built by key audiences - residents, businesses, and visitors - means that every user can more easily find the information they need.
- ◆ A [Forms](#) library will hold download able PDF files of most City forms and applications.
- ◆ A more robust [Calendar](#) section will feature two calendars - one for leisure events such as festivals and concerts and the other for City meetings.
- ◆ A [Feature](#) section on the home page will highlight the latest new story or a unique place of interest.
- ◆ A [Search](#) function will allow you to quickly find the information you need.

Even though the new site hasn't yet launched, further enhancements are already in the works. Watch for these items in the future:

- ◆ Streaming video
- ◆ GIS mapping

# BOND ISSUE TO BE ON THE BALLOT AUGUST 5

The City of St. Charles and ShowMe Aquatics & Fitness, a mission-based organization, have teamed up to potentially develop a new recreational facility that will allow people of all ages and disabilities to play together under one roof.

The proposed \$40 million project would be funded as a joint effort between the City and ShowMe Aquatics. ShowMe would provide \$10 million, in addition to building an endowment fund to ensure future services.

The City of St. Charles will ask voters on August 5 to approve a bond issue – Proposition C – that would authorize up to \$30 million in General Obligation Bonds.

The bond issue would not impose any new tax on residents, but authorize bonds to be paid off through the city’s general revenue fund.

If approved, the 120,000-square-foot Community Freedom Center would be located on the former K-Mart site off Veteran’s Memorial Parkway, adjacent to I-70.

The community center would include a 16,000-square-foot fitness center featuring state-of-the-art equipment and specialized program areas for people of all ages and abilities. The center would also include an indoor water park, the largest indoor track in the region, four multi-temperature pools, two full-size gymnasiums for basketball, volleyball, etc., and one auxiliary gymnasium for the purposes of indoor soccer and roller hockey.

In addition, there would be dedicated senior and teen activity centers, a



**Standing left to right: Mike Klinghammer-Ward 8, Richard Veit-Ward 1, Laurie Feldman-Ward 3, Michael T. Weller-Ward 5, Erv Ermeling- Ward 10  
Seated left to right: Dave Beckering-Ward 7, Jerry E. Reese-Ward 6, Larry Muench-Ward 2, Bob Kneemiller-Ward 4, Ron Stivison-Ward 9**

leisure lounge and cafe, community meeting rooms and outdoor play areas for children.

ShowMe Fitness & Aquatics, whose mission is “to promote health, fitness and quality of life in an environment that is accommodating, accessible and as barrier-free as possible” would manage the facility.

If approved by voters this August, preliminary work would begin in late 2008 with construction of the Community Freedom Center to start in 2009. According to the plan, the center’s opening is slated for fall 2010.

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**Community Freedom Center**

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



## St. Charles Looks Ahead to the Future

We use a number of taglines here in St. Charles that describe our City perfectly ... *The City that Works; Fun Then, Fun Now; Unlock the Possibilities; Proud Past, Promising Future.* Now we have a new theme associated with our City's strategic plan, entitled: **Famous Past ... Fabulous Future!**

What an apropos motto for a City like ours that is preparing to celebrate its Bicentennial anniversary in 2009. It is, indeed, an exciting time to honor our 200 years as an incorporated City.

As you well know, our roots are based on a tremendous history, from the site where Lewis & Clark left to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase to the first free school west of the Mississippi – the Academy of the Sacred Heart.

Afterall, St. Charles was the site of the first State Capitol of Missouri, and the federal

highway system started right here in St. Charles, heading east and west to connect the entire continent.

We've welcomed guests to our community since 1769, and today serve as the county seat of the state's fastest growing county. As the second largest City in the St. Louis area, we have an awesome responsibility for not only acknowledging our roots but planning our future wisely.

And, that's precisely the impetus behind our long-range strategic planning process. As you well know, quality of life in St. Charles is second to none. We have safe streets, excellent parks and adequate funding for future infrastructure needs. So the quintessential question of our time is...*How do we make an already great community even better?*

Michael Spurgeon, Director of Administration, is at the helm of this planning effort, which not only takes into account where we are today, but also identifies where we go from here. The strategic planning group comprising a host of City volunteers and staff are working hand-in-hand with the Truman School of Public Policy from a facilitation standpoint.

As you might imagine, smart growth coupled with riverfront development and redevelopment discussions will be at the fore-front of our public agenda over the course of the next 10 to 15 months. Another key issue to ponder in addition to maintaining and building upon our greatness will be the importance of transportation going forward.

Not only that, but we welcome and encourage your input from start to finish.

The overall planning process will:

- Achieve a shared community vision
- Pursue and plan for quality growth
- Encourage citizen engagement in our community's future
- Set goals for the community, including our local government
- Provide guidance for municipal operations

You'll be hearing a great deal more about the strategic planning process in the months ahead. In fact, I hope you'll take the opportunity to get involved in upcoming community dialogue sessions and town hall meetings.

In the meantime, please stay tuned for more information to be provided via the City's website, local cable access channel (Channel 990 or Channel 118-20), and future editions of the *City News*.

Each and every one of us brings a unique perspective to the table, and the City of St. Charles rests collectively on our shoulders. I look forward to being a part of the process and the ensuing end result...and I hope you will make time to take part in our City's future, too. Thank you in advance for your support!

P.S. I am looking for volunteers to serve on our 2009 Bicentennial Committee. Please call my office at 636-949-3268 if you're interested in being a part of this commemorative opportunity celebrating the history of Saint Charles.

## Dates to Remember

### August 15-17

—Festival of the Little Hills  
Frontier Park & Main Street

### Sept 6

—Quilts on Main

### Sept 13

—Tour of Missouri

### Sept 14

—Lewis & Clark Marathon and Half  
Marathon-Frontier Park

### Sept 17

—Music on Main 100-200 N. Main

### Sept 19-21

—Missouri River Irish Fest-Frontier Park  
—Mosaics- Festival for the Arts-  
North Main

—Check City's website calendar  
for updates and/or additional  
information—

[www.stcharlescity.com/calendar](http://www.stcharlescity.com/calendar)

CITY OF ST. CHARLES  
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