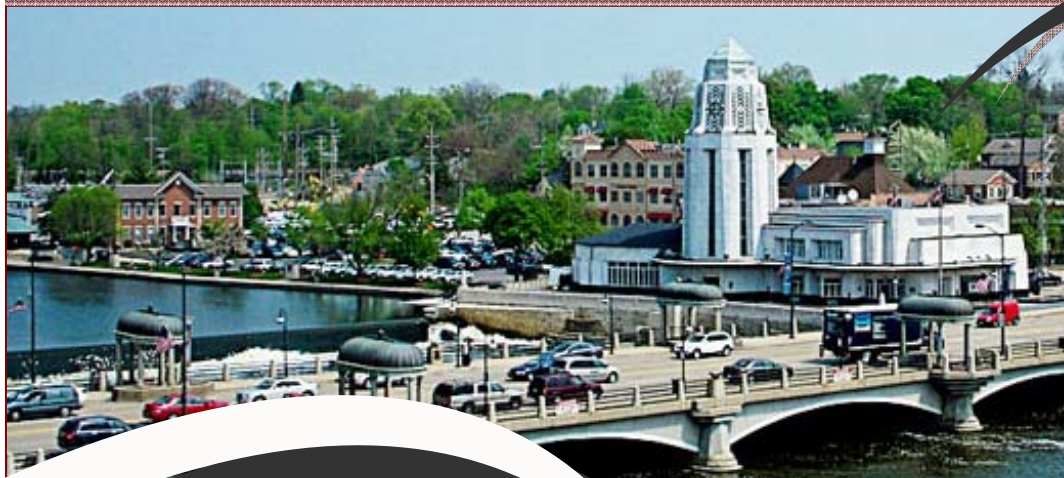


ST. CHARLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- SINCE 1922 -

One Stop, One City, Countless Opportunities

JANUARY 2012 COMMUNIQUE



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The 2012 Chamber of Commerce: Bringing Industry to the Forefront...

The 2012 Board of Directors, chaired by Jim Keller of OnPath Financial, have rejuvenated some new initiatives in the new year by resurrecting the Industrial Committee and the Ambassadors Club. With the City's East Side corridor mainly made up of industrial giants such as RR Donnelly and Armour-Eckrich, just to name two, the Industrial Committee's sole priority will be to extend a helping hand to those businesses and be the liaison between the City and Chamber of Commerce on issues that pertain to those manufacturing industries. The Industrial Committee's first meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 24, at 1:30 pm in the Chamber Boardroom. Anyone interested in joining this committee is welcome to attend.

The Ambassadors Club has been dormant for too many years now, and it's time to resurrect this age-old tradition. Mainly made up of past Chairmen (and women) of the Board, the new Ambassadors Club will be the mentors for new Chamber Members beginning in 2012. With their expertise and knowledge of how the Chamber of Commerce helps its members grow their businesses, their business knowledge, and business connections, they will play an integral part in welcoming and mentoring our new Members. The Ambassadors Club will meet on Tuesday, January 24, at 3 pm in the Chamber Boardroom. For more information, please contact the Chamber's President & CEO, Stacey Ekstrom, at (630) 584-8384, Ext. 13.

OUR DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER

The City of St. Charles

CORPORATE PLUS MEMBERS

BMO Harris Bank N.A.
St. Charles Bank & Trust Company
Pheasant Run Resort & Spa

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Colonial Café & Ice Cream
Delnor Hospital
Family Flooring of America
KCT Credit Union
MB Financial Bank
Q Center Training Facility
Sam's Club - Batavia
Total Clarity Wealth Management
Valley Ambulatory Surgery Center
Wickman Properties

ST. CHARLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

3755 E. MAIN ST., SUITE 140

ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60174

630.584.8384

FAX 630.584.6065

WWW.STCHARLESCHAMBER.COM

The 90th Annual Charlemagne Awards Dinner

The invitations have been printed, compliments of Apple Graphics, Inc. in Batavia, and have been mailed to every Chamber Member during the last week in December, 2011, so the primary contact of your business should have received it by now. If not, please call the Chamber Office. Reservations can be made by sending us your response card. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, as we will not be having place cards for seating arrangements. This year's Awards Dinner will be held on **Friday, February 3, 2012 at the Pheasant Run Resort's St. Charles Ballroom** in St. Charles. The Nominating Committee has been very busy finalizing the nominations for the Civic Image, Community Image, Community Development, LEAP and the Charlemagne Award.

Starting on January 1, 2012, the Postal Service will be closing various processing centers. Therefore, please allow for longer mail times, and mail your response card in early. We expect all responses in by January 20, 2012 in order to give a final count to Pheasant Run. We cannot process late responses.

We would like to thank all of our Sponsors and the following businesses for donating their services to make the 90th Charlemagne Awards Dinner a success this year:

- Apple Graphics, Inc. in Batavia for all the Printed Products
- St. Charles Florists in St. Charles for the Table Centerpieces
- Alex Claney Photography for the Awards Graphic Designs & Photography
- Office Depot and Sears Home Appliance for Raffle Prizes

Lastly, Raffle Tickets are for sale in the Chamber Office for \$10 per ticket. You have a chance to win an I-Pad 2 or Laptop Computer on February 3rd. Winners need not be present to win.

If you would like to help SELL Raffle Tickets (5 in an envelope - sell all five or however many you can), please call or stop by the Chamber Office as soon as possible. We would need Ticket monies back to us by February 1, 2012.



90th Annual Charlemagne Awards Sponsors

\$5000 CHARLEMAGNE SPONSOR

The City of St. Charles

\$1000 PHOTOGRAPHY SPONSOR

Wickman Properties

\$1000 RAFFLE SPONSOR

Solutions Networking Corp.

\$1000 APPETIZER SPONSOR

KCT Credit Union

\$500 DESSERT SPONSOR

St. Charles Bank & Trust Co.

\$500 CENTERPIECE SPONSOR

Inland Bank



The 19th Annual
 Rolling Down the River
 Business-To-Business Expo
 Wednesday - April 25, 2012
 Pheasant Run Resort Mega Center
 4051 E. Main Street, St. Charles
 12 noon - 6 pm



Visit the largest Business Expo in the Western Suburbs with a variety of over 200 small businesses & large corporations as exhibitors. Some of the best restaurants in the area will be exhibiting with tasty samples of what they specialize in. There is no charge to enter - just bring your business card!

Promote Your Business!

Reserve Your Booth Now!

Forms can be found on our website www.stcharleschamber.com

Click on the *Expo Tab* - Deadline March 30, 2012

For more information, contact the St. Charles Chamber Office
 at info@stcharleschamber.com or call (630) 584-8384

Presented by: Bartlett, Batavia, Elburn, Elgin Area, Geneva, Sugar Grove,
 St. Charles, and Western DuPage Chambers of Commerce

EXPO BOOTH PRICING

REGULAR

8 X 10 BOOTH = \$290

END BOOTH = \$325

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

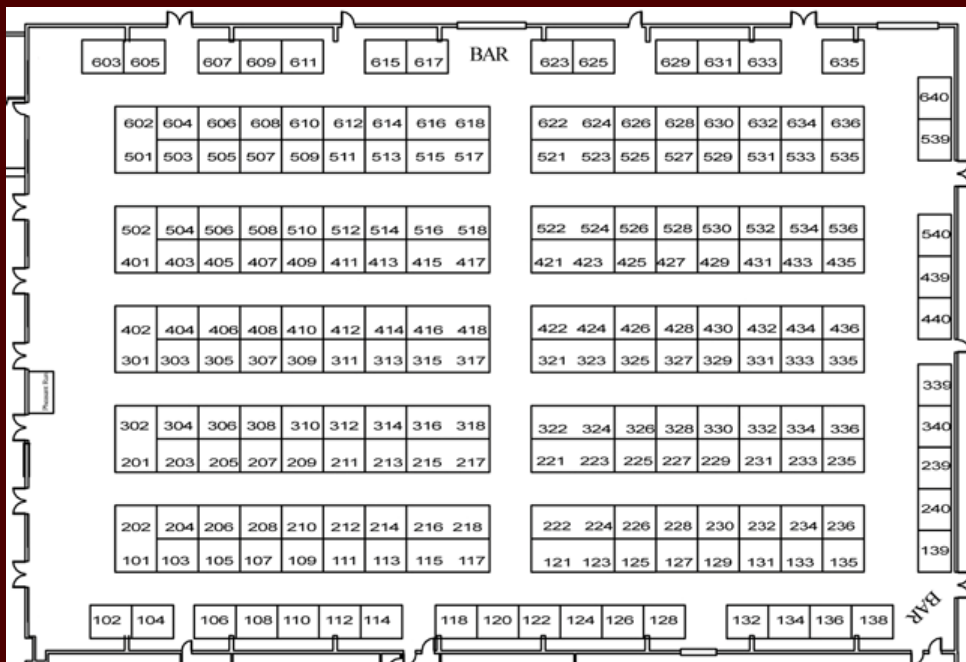
\$800 FRONT DOUBLE BOOTH

OR \$600 MIDDLE AISLE

END DOUBLE BOOTH

Each booth includes
 an 8 ft. skirted table,
 2 chairs, electricity,
 pipe and drape,
 and WI-FI capability

Booth spaces are
 reserved when
 paid in full
 and are sold on a
 first-come, first served
 basis only





The City of St. Charles St. Charles Saw Marked Growth in Industrial Sector in 2011

In spite of an otherwise sluggish regional and national economy, 2011 was a very prosperous year for industrial sector growth within the City of St. Charles. There are a number of reasons why industry continues to fare well in St. Charles. Among these are the city's outstanding access to regional transportation facilities, including two expressways (I-90 and I-88), four state highways (Routes 25, 31, 38 and 64), the Union Pacific Rail Road and neighboring DuPage Airport. The city also enjoys a local labor pool that includes percentages of professional and highly skilled persons exceeding state and national averages. Finally, the city maintains public utility capacities that facilitate economic development, particularly in the industrial arena, including its own electric utility that can offer low rates that very few, if any communities can presently match.

With respect to national manufacturing interests, 2011 saw the expansion of **RR Donnelley** and **Armour-Eckrich** in St. Charles. RR Donnelley recently purchased the former 500,000 square foot, former Pier 1 Imports building and expects to fully occupy this building over the next 18-24 months. Phase 1 occupancy will employ some 175 employees, while anticipating several hundred additional jobs to be created through build-out. Food processing giant Armour-Eckrich has begun construction on an approximately 13,000 sf expansion of its existing St. Charles facilities. To be completed next year, this addition will house eleven state-of-the-art drying chambers for cured meats.

Aside from the two previously mentioned national interests, within the St. Charles east side industrial area alone, the city has issued permits in 2011 to expand light industrial development totaling more than 125,000 sf. Included among the new businesses to St. Charles are **Bema, Inc.** an Elmhurst-based plastics packaging firm specializing in serving the food and medical equipment industries (60,000 sf); **PDS Transportation Services**, a full service transportation company serving all 48 contiguous states (31,000 sf); and **IGM Resins, Inc.**, a Dutch-based chemical import, distribution and blending company specializing in inks and coatings (12,000 sf). Existing St. Charles businesses that have undertaken expansions to their facilities include **Corrosion Monitoring Services**, a unique company that assesses and repairs corroded tubular air heaters (19,000 sf) and **Midwest Powder Coating**, who provides powder coating finishes to a national customer base, catering to the demands of the motor sport enthusiast (7,500 sf addition).

When one considers its local transportation assets, highly skilled local labor pool and city-owned electric utility, offering power costs that are among the lowest in the State, and you can readily understand why St. Charles has been long-recognized in Chicagoland as a focal point for light manufacturing activity.

RR DONNELLEY



President's Message



I look forward to working with you in 2012!

Networking is one of the keys to making your business successful. Jim Keller & I met with Jim Blaney today from School District 303. He told us how he truly believes in networking (and who you know). His daughter would come to the football games every Friday night to "be with her dad" while he was sportscasting. After several years, someone noticed her hard work and asked if she could create a Facebook page for football games for a large local college. Although she is at an out-of-state college, she is working on Friday nights by updating the local college social media pages. She's making great money for a college student. She is now getting other offers for social media positions, but she will be graduating soon and going into another field.

Use this time to see how you can network at the St. Charles Chamber. We offer volunteer opportunities with committees (Golf Outing, Legislative, Women's Business Council, LEAD\$ groups, etc.). We are also starting a few committees that we would love to have you join as well like the new mini-golf committee.

To get motivated in 2012, consider attending one of our Dale Carnegie classes starting on January 18th. See our flyer for more information or go to our website at www.stcharleschamber.com.

One of my goals for 2012 is to increase membership. This helps everyone, through networking, helping each other with the local economy, and endless other opportunities. Please let me know if you know someone who may be interested in joining the Chamber. During January, they can join for 13 months for the investment of 12 months - our "Baker's Dozen" special.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Stacey Ekstrom, President & CEO



Welcome to new Members

AUTOMOBILE REPAIR & SERVICE

Jiffy Lube

Darrell Muscolino
1970 Lincoln Highway
St. Charles, IL 60174
Phone: (630) 513-1277
Fax: (630) 513-1826
www.chicagolandjiffylube.com

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Expedia Cruise Ship Centers

Ann Marzano
7N027 Brewster Creek Circle
Wayne, IL 60184
Phone: (630) 497-1050
www.cruiseshipcenters.com/
AnnMarzano

BEAUTY SALONS & DAY SPAS

Le Belle Donne Salon & Day Spa

Enkelejda Neritani
505 W. Main Street
St. Charles, IL 60174
Phone: (630) 513-5673
Referred by Linda Stuart



CANDLES & GIFT SALES

Scentsy Wickless Candles

Kris Houck
3698 E. Lanark
Meridian, ID 83680
Phone: (887) 895-4160
www.scentsy.com

ENGINEERING

Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc.

Preston Keefe, PE
525 Dunham Road
St. Charles, IL 60174
Phone: (630) 505-1991
Fax: (630) 524-4432
www.rsandh.com

- *Change wallets & purses with the wind?*
- *Don't like carrying cash or checks with you?*
- *Plastic cards weighing you down?*

Why not purchase a *St. Charles Chamber of Commerce Event Punch Card*? You can use it to pay for Chamber breakfasts, lunches, or *ANY event...use it the same as cash! Each punch card can be purchased for 6/\$150 or 12/\$300 and never expire! Businesses can use punch cards to pay for their employee event fees. Have a friend who is a Chamber Member? Punch Cards are a great gift idea! Never forget to pay for an event again!

*Cannot be used for the Golf Outing.

JANUARY JUBILEE HOTDEAL

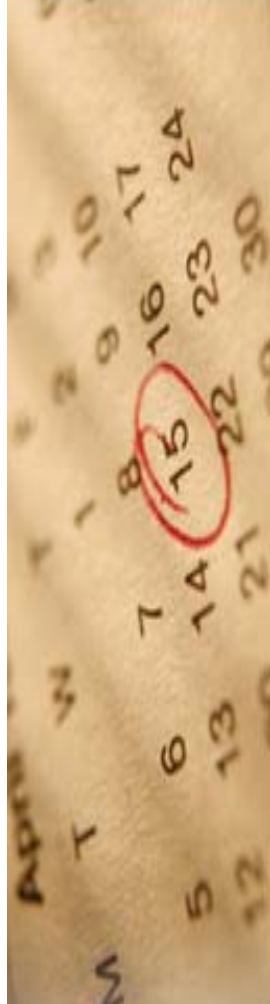
"Baker's Dozen"

Buy 12 months of

Membership

Get 1 Month FREE

(New Members Only)



Calendar of Events

CHAMBER EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2012

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 3 pm WBC Comm. Mtg. Chamber Boardroom	5 8:30 am Membership Comm. Mtg. Chamber Boardroom	6
9 3:00 pm Legislative Comm. Mtg. Chamber Boardroom	10 8:30 am Board Mtg. Chamber Boardroom	11	12	13 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Legislative Committee "Kane County Board RACE" Luncheon Members \$25 - Non-Members \$35 Hilton Garden Inn 4070 E. Main St., STC
16 OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17	18 7:30 - 9 am Dale Carnegie Workshop I "Selling in Tough Times" Members \$20 - Non-Members \$30 Colonial Café 552 S. Randall Rd., STC	19 4:30 - 6:00 pm After Hours Sensible Threadz 208 S. Kirk Rd., STC	20
23	24 1:30 pm Industrial Committee Mtg. Chamber Boardroom 3 pm Ambassadors Club Mtg. Chamber Boardroom	25	26 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Women's Business Council Luncheon "Come In From the Cold and Heat Up Your Business" Members Only \$25 Pheasant Run Resort & Spa 4051 E. Main St., STC	27
30	31			This logo next to an event means that it will be broadcasted by Batavia Access Television, Inc. on AT&T U-verse (Ch. 99) and in Batavia on Comcast (Chs. 10 & 17). RED = Event BLUE = Ribbon Cutting BLACK = Committee Meeting

CHAMBER EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2012

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 3 pm WBC Comm. Mtg. Chamber Boardroom	2 8:30 am Membership Comm. Mtg. Chamber Boardroom	3 6:30 pm Charlemagne Awards Dinner Members Only \$60 Pheasant Run Resort & Spa St. Charles Ballroom 4051 E. Main St., STC
6	7 8:30 am Board Mtg. Chamber Boardroom	8	9 8:30 - 10 am Networking Extravaganza Chamber Boardroom	10
13 3:00 pm Legislative Comm. Mtg. Chamber Boardroom	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 8:30 - 10 am New Member Orientation Chamber Boardroom 4:30 - 6 pm After Hours Bond Dental 202 S. Kirk Rd., STC	17
20	21	22	23 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Women's Business Council Luncheon "Swizzle Stick Strategy" Lori Guest Members \$25 & Non-Members \$35 Royal Fox Country Club 4405 Royal & Ancient Dr., STC	24
27	28	29		This logo next to an event means that it will be broadcasted by Batavia Access Television, Inc. on AT&T U-verse (Ch. 99) and in Batavia on Comcast (Chs. 10 & 17). RED = Event BLUE = Ribbon Cutting BLACK = Committee Meeting



DECEMBER RIBBON CUTTINGS



Dr. Sud's Car Wash
Larry Peckler
1639 E. Main Street
St. Charles
**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on
December 2, 2011**

Dr. Sud's Car Wash announced its Grand Opening on Main Street in St. Charles with a free car wash to Chamber Members all day on December 2nd to celebrate their

ribbon cutting ceremony. Jon Monken, Alderman with the City of St. Charles, cut the ceremonial ribbon with Chamber Members and Staff.



Hardesty Allstate Insurance
Michael Hardesty
405 Illinois Avenue
St. Charles
**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on
December 10, 2011**

In reflecting on his long-time business experience, Hardesty says, "The best part about my job is being there for all the families we've helped with protecting the things

they value the most."

In his agency, Hardesty offers customers a full line of Allstate Insurance products and services, including auto, homeowners, renters, business and commercial, boat, RV, life, retirement and Allstate Motor Club. Call him at (630) 584-7300 for more information or to receive a quote.

Now celebrating its 80th anniversary as an insurer, Allstate is reinventing protection and retirement to help nearly 16 million households insure what they have today and better prepare for tomorrow.



"GETTING TO KNOW YOU" Dutch Lunches

Join the **Membership Committee** at their "Getting to Know You" Dutch Lunches usually held the third (3rd) Friday of each month.

Enjoy lunch and the company of friends while patronizing Chamber Member Restaurants. Each guest will pick up the tab for his or her own lunch.

RSVP on the Chamber's Website on the Event Calendar.

All Chamber Members are welcome to come and bring a guest!

January Dutch Lunch
Friday, January 20
Gina's Subs & Pizza
2770 E. Main Street
St. Charles
(In the Butera Plaza)
12 NOON

**We need Hardworking
Volunteers who Love
to get Things Done!
Does this Sound like YOU?**

WE NEED YOU



The Chamber is looking for people to join their Golf Committee. If you are interested, please email Stacey Ekstrom at sekstrom@stcharleschamber.com.

This year, we are having a Mini-Golf Outing in addition to our Annual Golf Outing. You can volunteer for one or both!





Board of Directors

Mission Statement

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce is an inclusive and active membership organization that helps its members grow their businesses, their business knowledge, and business connections.

Vision Statement

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce will be the primary business resource connection for businesses and business people in St. Charles.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jim Keller

Chairman

OnPath Financial, LLC

Tom Hansen

Vice Chair

St. Charles Bank & Trust Co.

Debbie Fee

Treasurer

Inland Bank

DIRECTORS

Alex Claney

Alex Claney Photography, Inc.

Ellen Gallagher

Murray Properties, Inc.

Jeanne Hahn

Pheasant Run Resort & Spa

Diana McClow

Wilson Travel & Cruise

Kathy Melone

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice

Carolyn Ward

Primerica, Inc.

Christopher Aiston

City of St. Charles

Director, *ex-officio*

Jeff Meyer

Ameriprise Financial

Past Chairman, *ex-officio*

CHAMBER STAFF

Stacey Ekstrom

President & CEO

Ann Dondelinger-Migatz

VP of Operations

Christine Manisco

VP of Communications

Business of the Month

THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES

2 East Main Street
St. Charles, IL 60174

630.377.4400 ph
630.377.4440 fax

www.stcharlesil.gov

With a new year upon us, I have found myself thinking about all we accomplished in 2011. I am proud to say that the St. Charles community has continued to move forward. The economy, undoubtedly, has been tough. And, we have faced unexpected challenges, such as Springfield's latest vote to fund regional school superintendent offices with diverted personal property replacement tax revenues from local governments. But through it all, our city's finances remain stable; our budget is balanced; and our reserves are strong.

2011 also saw the commencement of construction on the decades-anticipated Red Gate Bridge project. The land preparation and site work is complete, and we now await the bidding and award process for construction of the bridge and roadway, scheduled for January 2012. The city also completed the construction of a Radium Removal facility located on Riverside Avenue, north of Fire Station 1.

Scheduled for 2012 is the East Main Street reconstruction project from Seventh Avenue to Kautz Road. This long-awaited project to be administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation will improve safety and traffic flow in the area. At the same time, the City will move forward with the construction of intersection improvements at West Main and Oak Street near the post office. These projects all bring job opportunities and much needed long-term infrastructure improvements to our community.

Finally, in what I believe confirms that we are all doing the right things in our community, we were named the #1 City for Families by *Family Circle*® magazine. This designation is a tribute to every resident, business, and organization in St. Charles who contributes to making St. Charles the outstanding community it is today. Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and a prosperous New Year....*Mayor Don DeWitte*