



CityScene



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www.stegenevieve.org
573-883-5400

Visit Historic Ste. Genevieve For One of Our Annual Events!

Spring is here! The annual signature events in Ste. Genevieve are just around the corner and the historic downtown invites you to come in for a visit!

The 26th Annual École du Soldat will take place the weekend of April 20 and 21st. The French encampment will be on the Jour de Fete grounds and lectures will be held at the Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center both Saturday and Sunday morning. The Route du Vin will also be celebrating Earth Day that same weekend with the Jour de la Terre.



The month of May will start off with the Civil War Living History Encampment, May 4 and 5. The encampment will be on the Jour de Fete grounds. There will be a reenactment of the Union Troops Removal of Bank Funds on May 4 at 1pm.

The Annual Ste. Genevieve Garden Walk, sponsored by the Ste. Genevieve Master Gardeners, will be May 18 and 19. Tour private and public gardens, find your spring plants at the plant sale and enjoy fresh produce at the Farmer's Market. The Route du Vin will be hosting a Progressive Meal the same weekend. The Classic Cruisers Car Show will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2013.



June 8, 2013 will be the French Heritage Festival. Celebrate our French Heritage and dance the night away at the Creole Street Dance on Saturday night.

The Fourth Friday Art Walks are back and will be held the fourth Friday of each month: April 26, May 24 and June 28 from 6 to 9pm.

Police Department News

The Ste. Genevieve Police Department was recently approached by concerned property owners in Ste. Genevieve who wanted to form a Neighborhood Watch program. The citizens, who are very passionate about maintaining safe and aesthetically pleasing neighborhoods, came to the police department with their plan to successfully implement the program in Ste. Genevieve's downtown area. The program is eligible for grant funding to complete projects to beautify the city and also fund programs to enhance citizens' awareness of potential criminal activity.

The Neighborhood Watch is a well-established organization, whose goal is "to bring community members together to prevent crime by communicating with law enforcement." For more information, contact Chief Eric Bennett at 573-883-5707.



Sewer Rates to Be Set in April

The City of Ste. Genevieve will reset residential sewer charges for the 2013/2014 calendar year. For residential contributors, monthly user charges will be based on the

average monthly water usage during the months of January, February and March. If a residential contributor has not established a January, February and March average, their

monthly bill shall be the average of the first full three (3) month of usage at their residence. This rate will be established on the April billing.

Street

The street department seals cracks in the roads, when the weather permits, to try to keep moisture from getting into the sub grade and causing damage to the roads. This is a long slow process and it is difficult to get to every street, but they will be working hard to make sure that as many as possible are completed.



Park

The park department has been replacing benches and cleaning up park equipment in preparation for the new

mowing season. Trees have been planted and dead trees cut down and replaced.

Baseball season has begun and work has been done to make sure the fields are ready for the spring sporting events.



Spring is in the Air and Roots are in the Ground

With Spring fast approaching water and sewer customers are urged to take time and give their water and sewer service lines some attention. This time of year especially roots have a tendency to grow at a fast rate and the small young roots can easily cause sewer blockages for residents.

Maintenance and care of the sanitary sewer service lines from the home up to and including the connection to the City's main sewer line are the responsibility of the homeowner. Therefore, it is important for homeowners to understand the steps they can take to help prevent sewer backups, as well as what to do if a backup does occur. The City of Ste. Genevieve does not cut, clean or televise residential service lines.

If you experience slow draining or a plugged line from your home or business, call the Wastewater Division at

573-883-3251. (After 4:00 P.M. or on weekends, call 573-880-1175) and we will check the City's main sewer line. If the problem is not in the City's main sewer line, you may need to rent a sewer service cleaning machine, or call a plumber or drain cleaner to clean your service line.

If the problem turns out to be roots, it can usually be controlled through cutting and clearing of the roots and periodic chemical application. Treat the service line with a chemical containing the active ingredient dichlobenil. This chemical does not damage trees; it only kills the roots in the line. This chemical can be purchased at most hardware stores under a different brand name. CHECK THE LABEL FOR CONTENTS. Do not use Copper Sulfate.

In addition to roots, grease and paper products can also cause service line backups. To avoid these problems, do

not dispose of grease or food waste through a garbage disposal or by pouring it down the drain. Additional items such as paper towels, hygiene products, diapers and old rags should also be placed in your trash and not in the sewer system.



Board Vacancies

Would you like to be involved in some of the decisions being made at city hall? Then consider becoming a member of one of the city government’s advisory boards or commissions!

There is currently a vacancy on the Board of Adjustment. The **Board of Adjustment** is a quasi-judicial body designated by the city’s zoning ordinance and by Missouri state law for the

purpose of interpreting the zoning ordinance and granting variances from the strict letter of its provisions. Anyone who feels aggrieved by the zoning ordinance or by the building code or feels that there has been a misinterpretation by the city may also file an appeal to the Board of Adjustment for a variance.

Board members serve five year terms and meet only when an appeal or variance request has been submitted for their consideration.

If you think you might be interested in serving on this board, call City Hall at 883-5400 or stop by and pick up an application form for board membership.

Nuisance Violations and Weed Complaints

With the arrival of spring time showers comes the sudden growth spurt of a fresh new lawn, complete with wildflowers, dandelions, poison ivy, chickweed and other colorful vegetation. The City of Ste. Genevieve wishes to remind everyone that Ste. Genevieve’s nuisance ordinance defines a property with grass that is over 7 inches high as a nuisance. Occupants of properties found in violation of the ordinance may receive a citation from the Ste. Genevieve Police Department, which would require a municipal court appearance as well as a hefty fine.

We ask that you also be mindful of any plants, shrubbery or trees whose growth near streets may create a traffic hazard by blocking the vision of motorists. Plants and trees next to public sidewalks should also be trimmed to allow free, unimpeded use by pedestrians. Nothing spoils an evening stroll like being slashed across the face by a sticky bush or kissed by poison ivy!

If you would like to submit a high weed/grass complaint or any nuisance concerning a vehicle, complaint forms can be picked up at City Hall, 165 S. Fourth Street. These should be returned

to the Ste. Genevieve Police Department or contact the Police Department at 573-883-3999. The City will not release the names of those who submit complaints.



Garage Sale Mania



Please spread the word that Ste. Genevieve’s new sign ordinance prohibits posting any signs or flyers on city right of way, utility poles, light standards, public trees or any

other public facility.

Although permits are not required for garage sale signs, there are a few rules that must be observed. According to the Ste. Genevieve sign ordinance, **“Signs advertising garage sales or yard sales are permitted, provided that no sign shall exceed four (4) square feet in area and is not erected more than four (4) days prior to the event. One (1) yard sale sign shall be allowed on premises. All off-premise signs shall be removed forty-eight (48) hours after the close of the sale.”**

Other signs that do not require a permit include: on-premises **security signs** (i.e. “no trespassing”,

“no soliciting” etc.); temporary **real estate signs**;; **memorial plaques or building identification signs** when cut or carved into the masonry surface of a building; **vehicular signs** (i.e. signs placed on the surface of a vehicle when the primary purpose of the vehicle is not to display the sign, such as the Channel 7/98 Truck); **holiday decorations**; **informational signs** (i.e. signs indicated address, number or name of occupant of the premises); **decals** affixed to a window or door; **flags, emblems** and insignia of government agencies, religious, charitable, public or non-profit organizations; **private drive signs**; **public signs**.

Exemption from the necessity of securing a permit shall not be construed to relieve the owner of the sign involved from responsibility for its erection and maintenance in a safe manner



and in a manner in accordance with all the other provisions of the ordinance.

Ste. Genevieve’s **new sign ordinance** prohibits posting any signs or flyers on city right of way, utility poles, light standards, public trees or any other public facility.

Spring Home Maintenance Checklist

It doesn't matter if your home is an 1890 Queen Ann, a 1960's ranch or 2012 contemporary and it doesn't matter if you reside in a house or rent it out, all houses – all buildings – require routine maintenance if they are expected to survive.

Conducting maintenance inspections on your home in the spring and again in the fall will guarantee that your house will give back to you **double** of what you put into it. It will also save you money in the long run: find and plug that leak in the roof now, or wait and replace the *entire* roof, along with a rotten decking, fascia and soffit later!

To assist you with your spring home maintenance routine use the checklist below!

1. Check the roof for leaks, broken/missing /curled shingles.

Checking for leaks in your roof will require an interior inspection. Look for water stains on ceilings in each room of the house. If you suspect a leak(s) the best way to find the source is to wait for a heavy rain and inspect the rafters in your home's attic.

On the exterior of the house, check for water damage under any broken or loose shingles or in areas where shingles are missing. If the decking has not been damaged by the weather, replace any broken or missing shingles and nail loose shingles back in place. If decking needs replacement, submit a building permit application!

2. Check the chimney (if you have one) for broken, missing or loose brick.

Determine if re-pointing of the mortar is necessary. While you are up there, make sure the flashing around the base of the chimney is still doing its job!

3. Check your windows.

Loose panes may need to be re-glazed; rotten wood can easily be

repaired with the right materials. Check your insect screens for holes that may need to be patched.

4. Check your entry doors.

Gaps between the door and the frame or the frame and the wall will let in moisture and air. While you are at it, check to make sure the locks are in working order too!

5. Check the exterior envelope of your house.

Brick, stone, wood, or vinyl- **no home is maintenance free!** Check the exterior of your house for places where moisture may be finding its way in. Cracked mortar, missing brick/stone, siding that is cracked or that is not adhering properly to the house, rotten or missing boards, holes, etc.

- Peeling paint means that moisture has gotten in where it shouldn't be! Scrap any peeling paint and give your home a coat of good paint (If your home was constructed prior to 1978, first educate yourself on lead-safe practices!).
- Check for rotten wood around the exterior framing which may be allowing moisture to infiltrate the house.
- Vinyl and aluminum siding should be washed with a mixture of vinegar and water to remove any mold growth (that yucky green stuff on your house!)
- If the brick or stone on your home is missing mortar or has cracks, hire a professional mason to re-point it. A professional mason should know the correct

mortar mixture to use on your unique home.

- Check your home's foundation –inside and out- for cracks and clues of moisture infiltration.

6. Check your guttering and downspouts.

- Conduct a thorough cleaning to insure there is no blockage.
- Make sure that downspouts are securely fastened to the guttering.
- Check for any cracks or holes in the guttering.
- Make sure the downspouts are pointing **away** from your homes foundation, and that they are not diverting water unto your neighbor's property.

7. Trim your trees and shrubs.

- *Trim any tree limbs* that are hanging over the roof or a public right of way (sidewalk, street, etc.) or that may interfere with phone or electric lines.
- *Trim any vegetation* that is located next to your home. Vegetation can draw moisture into your home, leaving it with rotten wood, moldy vinyl, cracked mortar, etc.
- Remove any vines that have been growing on your house or behind the siding. Vines will grow *behind* vinyl siding, allowing moisture behind it and eventually damage the siding itself. Wood and brick are both porous materials which mean that vegetation will attach itself to it and grow! It

may look pretty, but the damage occurring underneath is not!

- Look for trees that have been damaged over the winter or trees that are not blooming. Dead trees need to be removed before they cause any damage to your property or your neighbor's!!
8. **Relocate that stack of wood** you were using for the fireplace! Wood attracts all sorts of unwanted pests as well as *moisture*. (Remember, moisture against your house is *bad*.)
 9. **Change the filter in you're A/C unit** and check the hose connection for any leaks.
 10. **Check out the condition of any decks, porches or sidewalks.**

- Replace or repair any rotten or missing boards.
- Check porch posts for stability.
- Repair any broken sections of sidewalk to prevent accidental falls. Cracks and holes in sidewalks that are not repaired now will grow to become a *huge, expensive* problem in the future! Don't put off the inevitable!

(Note: property owners are responsible for any sidewalk adjacent to their property, not just for the sidewalk that runs up to the front door!)

11. **Inspect any fencing or retaining walls on your property.** Is painting required? Are there rotten or missing boards? Is there mold on your

vinyl fencing? Is your retaining wall losing any bricks or stones?

- Vinyl fencing requires a good yearly washing just like your home
 - Any stones falling from your retaining wall are a danger to the public and are a huge, neon sign stating that the wall is need of repair
12. **Make sure your address is clearly visible ON YOUR HOME** so that emergency personnel and pizza drivers can easily locate you. House numbers should be at least 4" in height and in a contrasting color to that of your home. Numbers placed on mailboxes are NOT clearly visible at night!
 13. **Now, that you are done with your home inspection, it's time to inspect that garage and shed too! Repeat #1-#7.**

City Pet Licenses are Due May 1st



City Pet Licenses are due May 1st. If your dog is spayed or neutered they are \$5.00 if they are not, the tags are \$8.00 Feline tags are free. Stop by City Hall and get your pet license today.

Directory

CityScene is published quarterly by the City of Ste. Genevieve located at 165 S. Fourth Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670. For information call 883-5400 or visit our website at www.stegenevieve.org.

City Contacts

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Mayor – Richard Greminger	573-883-5400
City Administrator – Martin Toma	573-883-5400
City Clerk – Pam Meyer	573-883-5400
City Treasurer – Sue Schweiss	573-883-5400
Utilities	573-883-5400
Planning & Zoning – Brenda Schloss	573-883-5400
Building Inspector – Jimmie Jones	573-883-5400
Court Clerk – Lisa Kemper	573-883-5707
Street Department – David Pinkley	573-883-3507
Sewer Department – Steve Wilson	573-883-3251
Water Department – Steve Wilson	573-883-9240
Welcome Center – Stephanie Bell	573-883-7097
Park Department – Darrin Jacob	573-883-9264
Police Department – Eric Bennett, Chief	573-883-5707
Police Department – Dispatch	573-883-5215
Fire Department – Mick Schwent, Chief	573-883-5321
Emergency	911

Board of Alderman

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Recycling Center of Ste. Genevieve
17690 U.S. Highway 61
1st bldg. south of St. Mary Road on left

Hours of Operation
Monday – Friday: 8 am – 5 pm
Saturday: 8 am – 12 noon

Items accepted at the center include paper, cardboard, paperboard, steel and aluminum cans, plastic, glass (clear & colored), batteries, clothing, shoes and linens.



Ste. Genevieve Community Access Television



Studio: 165 S. 4th Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670

Mailing Address: Ste. Genevieve Community Access Television
P.O. Box 51
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670

Phone: 573-883-7675

E-mail: stegentv@stegentv.com

Website: www.stegentv.com



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