



# CityScene



October / November / December 2012

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

573-883-5400

## Cool Temperatures Make Way for Cool Happenings

Regardless of the time of year, Ste. Genevieve always has something going on and we know how to celebrate past and present. Fall and winter are no exception. In case you were looking for family-friendly events to celebrate the season, take a look at what your hometown has to offer!

October offers a variety of events, beginning with a celebration of art and color with the Plein Air Art Contest and the Promenade des Arts. Walking through downtown you may see many artists who converge on the town to paint the beautiful buildings and landscapes Ste. Genevieve has to offer.



This year's Promenade des Arts will celebrate the spirit of art in Ste. Genevieve with the 80th anniversary of the Art Colony. October will end with Rural Heritage Day and Déjà vu Spirit Reunion. Rural Heritage Day celebrates 19th Century rural mid-America and this year's event will include demonstrations of farming techniques, wood carving, blacksmithing, leather working and the Fashion Show.

This year's celebration will also include an exhibition vintage baseball game played to the rules of 1860.

Déjà vu Spirit Reunion is an opportunity to meet the founding families of Ste. Genevieve as the spirits emerge from the crypts and tombs of Historic old Ste. Genevieve's Memorial Cemetery. Tour the cemetery via lantern light and chat "face-to-face" with spirits clad in traditional dress and enjoy a hauntingly good time.



December will kick off with the 28th Annual Holiday Christmas Festival which will feature the annual Christmas parade and feature free performances by local and regional musicians including prodigy students from Southern Illinois University, Lindenwood University, and Southeast Missouri State University - covering over 500 years of multi-dimensional musical heritage. Downtown will be decorated for the

holiday and the stores and boutiques will be open with specials and deals for your holiday shopping.

Mid-December will feature Le Réveillon (A French Christmas) at the Felix Valle State Historic Site. Enjoy this annual celebration highlighting the music, customs, and crafts of an early French Colonial Christmas in Ste. Genevieve.

If you are looking for a fun and unique way to ring in the New Year, La Guignolée (A French New Year's Eve) will delight as Revelers wander from place-to-place singing a beggar's song for favors. You can see and participate with these singers and musicians as they celebrate this 275+ year old tradition each New Year's Eve in the streets, cafes and pubs of Ste. Genevieve's National Historic District.



Don't miss the chance to enjoy a little hometown reverie! There is plenty to do around town for families and couples. Take the opportunity to experience something unique.

If you would like more information, the Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center is open daily 9am - 5pm through October 31st and 9am - 4pm beginning November 1st. Feel free to stop by or call 573-883-7097. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Police Department Reports Increase in Vehicle Thefts

The Ste. Genevieve Police Department has had a recent rise in "Stealing from Motor Vehicle" investigations. Many of these incidents involved unlocked vehicles, and most of the victims had small articles taken, such as cash or change, GPS units, phones and other small electronic items.

The Ste. Genevieve Police Department would like to remind the citizens of Ste. Genevieve to lock their vehicles and houses, hide all valuables from sight, and

immediately contact the Police Department if they see anything suspicious or out of place. There have been several occasions where property owners have come out of their houses to go to work, and catch somebody rummaging through their vehicle. They run the suspect off, but not call for police until later in the day when they come home from work.

In an effort to protect your property, and potentially your neighbor's property, please

call 911 immediately to aid us in our effort to protect the citizens of Ste. Genevieve.



## Ste. Genevieve Parks Department

Even with the drought this summer, the City of Ste. Genevieve Park crew remained busy weed eating, working on ball fields, painting park benches, keeping the restrooms clean and helping in the street department when needed. This crew is also

called on to do maintenance at the Welcome Center and at City Hall; and now that the rains have come again, there is a lot of grass to keep up with along with keeping the soccer field mowed and striped for league play. Regardless of the temperature

or weather conditions, these employees maintain the quality appearance that our City has come to appreciate. Get out and enjoy one of the City's Parks while good weather allows.

## What is the Purpose of Building Codes?

"The purpose of various Building Codes is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location and maintenance of all buildings, structures and certain equipment within this jurisdiction." "This is my property; I should be able to do what I want with it!" If the city of Ste. Genevieve could collect a dime for every time this phrase is spoken, then having to find the budget wouldn't be an issue!

The first building codes were enacted in cities across the United States at the beginning of the 20th century – usually spurred by the tragedy of a fire or building collapse (some cities lost entire blocks to one fire). There is a reason why construction of brick buildings suddenly began to replace the construction of wooden buildings and it wasn't because of any maintenance or cost-effectiveness issues! A century later we have come to understand the worth and value of building codes, not just for protection from fire, but also for protection from shabby construction, work conducted by fly-by-night "contractors" and the use of cheap

materials to cut financial corners. They also protect one of the largest investments most of us will make in our lives – our homes. Codes ensure that this investment not just maintains its value but that it grows in worth rather than diminishes with time. Who does not expect at least an equal return on their investment when they sell their home or business? Building codes and inspections are put in place to protect your investment and to insure that the investment that you have made is a good one.

Building codes provide numerous advantages for the community and for the tax payer; due to space limitations, we would like to list just a few of these, and perhaps give the building code Naysayer some food for thought...

1. Most of us are not contractors: how are we supposed to know if something has been built correctly (besides relying on our contractor's promise). Building plan review and approval and building inspections are in place to give you peace of mind.

2. Building Plan Review and Approval and building inspections guarantee the use of correct building materials and the use of correct construction practices. This can save the consumer money if a job is done

incorrectly and has to be redone by someone else.

3. Building plan review and approval and building inspections produce sustainable buildings within our community. There is only so much residential space within the city limits- what happens when there is no place left to build and annexation is not possible (or popular).

4. Building plan review and approval and building inspections produce safe environments for our children and for the community in which to shop, visit, play, pray and learn.

5. Building plan review and approval and building inspections reduce the number of building fires in the community, thus reducing the risk of loss of life.

6. Building plan review and approval and building inspections produce safe environments for our emergency personnel to maneuver. It guarantees that if you cannot get out of a building, then emergency personnel can get in and reach you in time.

7. Building plan review and approval and building inspections allow the flow of information pertaining to new products, services and construction practices which

may save the consumer money and time in the long run.

8. Building plan review and approval and building inspections ensure a property owner that the building under construction next door will not bring down his property's value or the property value of the neighborhood.

9. Building plan review and approval and building inspections ensure that the consumer gets what he is paying for and ensures that the contractor's work will not be compromised by a consumer who would rather save money and cut corners than follow good construction practices, (which

could harm a contractor's professional reputation in the long run).

10. Building plan review and approval and building inspections ensure consistency in the building industry; everyone knows what to expect and everyone knows what is required.

## Progress on the Streets

By the time you read this, our fiscal year will be over. A lot of work has been done this past year. To start, we purchased a 2003 Freightliner dump truck, new roller with trailer, chip spreader for chip and seal projects and a new street sweeper.

The Street Department crew has worked hard patching streets to prepare for the chip and seal projects. We have poured over 100 yards of concrete to patch holes. The use of concrete instead of asphalt is because the concrete will not sink like asphalt, the patches will stay

smoother, and the price is comparable for a four man crew. Ten streets were chipped and sealed in the 2012 budget year and we would like to thank Ste. Genevieve County for the equipment and manpower they provided; they did a great job and without them we would not have been able to do as much as we did. The chip and seal process is to heat the oil to a temperature at which it can be sprayed out, and then dump trucks follow and spread rock on top of the oil. At this point, it is rolled and then after a few days the excess rock is picked up by

the street sweeper. This makes a good seal on the road and gives the road a few more years of life.



## Small Leaks Can Create Serious Water Loss

The last few weeks have been very busy in the water and sewer departments. The aging system needs constant attention. The treatment personnel continue to monitor and make adjustments to ensure the highest quality of product to the citizens. The maintenance staff, continue to perform needed maintenance and upgrades to both the water and wastewater systems. Everyone knows that this summer was one of the driest we have seen for many years, the hot dry weather caused many problems for our water and wastewater system. The demand for water caused the water treatment plant to extend hours of operations. The water plant had to be staffed 24 hours a day for part of the summer. Staff increased the amount of weekly well testing. These tests are performed to show how the wells are holding up and how the pumps are performing.

The dry weather also causes the ground to move and you may have noticed the

large cracks in your yard. When the ground moves it causes water mains to break. Water department crews repaired many water leaks this summer; however even with the hot dry summer the system continued to perform and supply our community with a great finished product.

The amount of water metered is something that should always be of concern to our community; sometimes the amount of water metered should and could be much less. There are many ways to reduce water usage in a community and one of those ways is to replace the worn parts in your faucets and toilets. It is recommended to replace the flapper in your toilet twice a year (basically the same times you change the batteries in your smoke detectors).



A leaking toilet can cause the monthly metered water to increase by as much 3000 gallons. Those 3000 gallons cost everyone, and can easily be prevented with simple maintenance. That 3000 gallon is water that was not used and in many cases it will have to be pumped into the sewer collection system and finally treated at the wastewater plant. You may not be concerned about 3000 gallons of water, and feel that clean water doesn't need to be treated at the wastewater treatment plant, but that water still goes through the system and

is treated the same as “dirty” water. Just 3000 gallons of water leaking in a toilet causes the pumping of 3250 gallons from the well field, adding 0.19 lbs. of chlorine, 9.3 lbs. of liquid lime, and pumping that 3000 gallons as many as

three more times in the water system before it is bought and enters the wastewater system. Once it enters the wastewater system it will be pumped again and traces of that 3000 gallon will spend approximately 26 days in the

treatment plant before it is discharged into the receiving stream.



## Fire Department Puts Rural Water Supply Apparatus In-Service

In the Ste. Genevieve Fire Department’s rural fire jurisdiction, as is the case in most rural areas of our county, there are no fire hydrants. This means that it is imperative for fire departments to gain access to alternative water sources like lakes, ponds, rivers and creeks. The department’s Rural Water Supply Truck #7149 is a small, one ton, four wheel drive vehicle capable of delivering a large volume of water from these alternative water sources.

Over the years the department has taken government surplus vehicles and transformed them into useable emergency response vehicles such as our Rural Water Supply truck. This was possible due to the talent and expertise of the volunteer members of the department.



In about 1995 the department acquired a 1985 Chevrolet, one ton, four wheel drive truck chassis from government surplus property. The motor was rebuilt, a new fuel tank installed, the cab was painted and emergency lights and siren added. A winch was mounted and the body was designed and built, all by members of the department.



Due to age and mechanical issues, the '85 chassis had become unreliable. The department recently purchased a 2005 one ton, four wheel drive truck chassis to replace the aging apparatus. Originally white, the cab was painted red to match the department color scheme. Before the original body was installed on the newer chassis, the truck was gone over from bumper to bumper by the department mechanic to make sure it was mechanically sound.

The current body was removed from the 1985 chassis and installed on the newer 2005 chassis. Back in 1995 the body was designed and built from scratch specifically to meet the needs of the department. The body is constructed entirely of aluminum and included a 300 gallon water tank, a fixed 700 gallons per minute (gpm) pump and two 400 gpm pumps that float on the water. The combination of the fixed and floating pumps enables the department to supply 1,000 to 1,500 gallons of water per minute from a water source to the fire trucks at the scene of a fire. Again, all this work was done by the maintenance staff and members on the fire department.

For the fire department, this will be a vehicle of many uses. The primary function of the Rural Water Supply Apparatus is to access a water source in areas where large fire apparatus cannot

go and to deliver a large volume of water to apparatus at the scene of a fire.



In many areas of our county a water source can be several miles from the scene of a fire. Many fire departments in our rural area use tank trucks called “Tankers”, to shuttle water from a water source to apparatus at the fire. Our Rural Water Supply truck can access these water sources in the same way as explained above and can fill these tankers in a fast and efficient manner.

Because we included a water tank and a fixed mounted fire pump in the design of the body, the truck can be used to fight brush fires. This small 4 wheel drive vehicle is essential when fighting fires in wooded timber and fields in our area. These features combine to make this apparatus one of the most valuable pieces of equipment in our fleet.

Cooperation between fire departments is essential and is accomplished by what is called a “Mutual Aid” agreement that allows neighboring departments to assist one another with specialized equipment such as our Rural Water Supply truck. This apparatus will respond to many fires throughout our County to assist our neighboring departments with fires in their jurisdictions as well.

# 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](http://www.stegenevieve.org).

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Recycling Center of Ste. Genevieve  
17690 U.S. Highway 61  
1<sup>st</sup> 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



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