



# CityScene



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

573-883-5400

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## Explore Your Hometown During Rural Heritage Day

Have you been thinking 'I really need to get out and enjoy this great fall weather and do something fun!' Would you be looking for a fall festival full of nostalgia, plenty of shopping, great food and interesting exhibits?

Ste. Genevieve's Rural Heritage Day on October 25 is the perfect chance to experience the days of yesteryear, see demonstrations of how things 'used to be done' and explore the shops and attractions of your hometown's charming historic district.



Sponsored by the Ste. Genevieve Lion's Club, the annual Rural Heritage Day festival celebrates rural skills and traditions with 'living history' demonstrations like old time plowing methods, dogging, outdoor cooking, food preservation, fur trading, a tractor parade, and children's games.

Watch an old-fashioned baseball game, try your hand at apple cider making, see a straw house demo, watch antique tractors and vintage military vehicles putting along, admire the fashions that used to be both functional and pretty – it's all there for your exploration!



Although many of the farming and rural lifestyle demonstrations take place on the 'Big Field' below town, other displays and demonstrations occur in the shops throughout the historic district. Sprinkled through the downtown area will be demonstrations of wool spinning, paper filigree ("quilling"), basket weaving, chair caning, loom weaving and knitting.



"This is a family-friendly event that offers something for everyone," said Sandra Cabot, Welcome Center Director. "Pick up a map and a schedule of events at the Welcome Center, and watch for signs indicating the location of festival-related activities. Remember to patronize our downtown merchants, many of whom offer special merchandise or sale items during festivals."

Festival hours for Rural Heritage Day will be 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, October 25. Activities are located throughout the historic district and near the Creole house on St. Mary Road. A donation of \$2 is appreciated. For more information on this or other local festivals, go to [www.visitstegen.com](http://www.visitstegen.com) or call the Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center at 883-7097.

## WEEDS – A Good Neighbor Approach vs. Code Violation

With the summer season coming to an end, there is a sense of relief at City Hall that disputes about weeds and tall grass will fade into winter. In Ste. Genevieve, we ask all residents and businesses to keep their grass mowed on a regular basis, after all, tall grass and weeds that exceed 7 inches in height are considered a nuisance under our Municipal Code and are subject to fines up to \$100 per day if a violation continues after being cited. It is our hope that all residents and businesses operate under a good neighbor policy; that is, to maintain their property and

not cause harm or distress to your neighbors with unsightly weeds and tall grass. Remember that besides the ugly visual, mosquitos and varmints love tall grass and weeds and can be noxious to your neighbors, even if you like the little buggers. And, darn it, when it rains the grass grows.

We all know this, so it should not be surprising that you must mow your yard/grounds regularly! But for those who disregard this simple civilized approach, the City will continue to prosecute those property owners who fail to maintain their yards/grounds.

Why? Because it is unfair to our residents and visitors that some folks ignore the basic rules of civility and the law. The City adopted nuisance laws to protect our citizens and visitors. And, it makes a great effort, through our Community Development Department inspectors and staff to our police force, to bring property owners who refuse to join our social compact and be good neighbors. You have a choice: so be a good neighbor and mow your property regularly!

## Winter Roads

We don't need to tell you last winter was rough. Low temperatures together with abnormally heavy snow and ice made travel difficult at times. Wintery conditions stretched city resources as the street department worked hard to keep your roads passable and safe. Area communities struggled to fight the elements. The cost of chemicals to put on the roads nearly doubled while supplies dwindled. The effects of last winter are still being felt.

Local governments have reported difficulty getting bids for salt. When a source is found, the price is well over \$100 per ton, depending on the amount ordered. Small cities like Ste. Genevieve pay a premium. Fortunately, the City has secured enough salt to make it through a normal winter. While long range weather predictions are notoriously inaccurate, we must be prepared. Accordingly, the following policy will be

implemented during winter weather events this year.

The highest priority is the snow routes in the city. They will be plowed and treated first. Next, the crews will concentrate on hills and intersections in the most heavily travelled areas. Finally, we will plow and treat residential areas. We must be conservative in the use of salt and we will mix it with sand to improve traction. Every effort will be taken to ensure that people can get to work, that our businesses can remain open and that we all can move about as safely as possible.

The citizens of Ste. Genevieve have enjoyed excellent snow removal services over the years. Hopefully you will notice little difference this winter. However, if it takes a little longer to get your street plowed or for the ice to melt, please be patient. As always, the Board of Aldermen and the city staff will do their

best to use the City's resources in the most effective manner.



## Street & Park Departments

The street department has been patching holes and mowing grass around town. Additionally, assistance is given to the organizers to set up and remove tents for events like Jour de Fete and Rural Heritage Day.

Micro seal on the downtown streets turned out well and is holding up. Please continue to help fight the mosquito battle even though it is getting chilly; please empty any containers that hold water. The preparation of equipment for the winter will soon begin.

Please give way to snow plows and try not to park on the streets when there is snow.

The park crew has been maintaining the ball fields as well as taking care of the restrooms in the park and around town.

## Jimmie Jones to Retire as the City's Building Inspector



Jimmie Jones is retiring in early October as the Building Inspector for the City of Ste. Genevieve. Jimmie will be leaving the City after over twelve (12) years of service. Before his retirement, he finalized the code review changes to bring the City from the 2003 International Building Code to the current 2012 International Building Code and the 2002 National Electric Code to the current 2011 National Electric Code. During his time with the City, Jimmie has been involved with building and occupancy inspections, code enforcement, plan review, nuisances and various other duties as needed. Everyone at the City would like to make sure that Jimmie knows that he will be missed and that we all wish him a happy retirement.

The new building inspector to take the place of Jones, is Bob Bonnell. Bob is currently the City's Assistant Fire Chief and has already stepped into the role of building inspector. There will be no break in services that are provided by the building department.

## Maintenance to Water Lines and Pipes

### Why are hydrants flushed?

During the week of October 20-24 you will see Ste. Genevieve Public Works personnel releasing water from hydrants. Hydrant flushing is necessary to test the hydrants to make sure adequate flow and pressure is available. Flushing is also done to remove sediment from the pipes in order to maintain water clarity and quality in the distribution pipes.



### Is my water safe to drink after flushing?

Your water is safe to drink. Occasionally, water becomes discolored after hydrant flushing. If this happens, run your cold water tap for a few minutes until the water clears. If it doesn't clear the first time, wait a few minutes and run the water again. You should avoid washing clothes until the water clears.

### Colder weather is coming soon!

Now is the time to get ahead of winter! Outside spigots are susceptible to freezing and may require some basic maintenance to ensure they survive the cold. Different types of insulating devices are available to keep the sub-freezing temperatures from causing damage and costly repairs. Any water lines that cold air can reach also need addressed before it is too late. A little insulation goes a very long way!



## Fall is a Great Time to Start Worm Composting

Many people compost, but have you ever considered worm composting? Worms are a tiny but formidable force, eating their way through organic matter and leaving a trail of rich humus in their wake. Worm composting or **vermicomposting** is a simple biotechnological process of composting, in which certain species of earthworms are used to enhance the process of waste conversion and produce a better product of compost.

These help to break the waste and the added excreta of the worms makes the compost very rich in nutrients. Furthermore, this process is faster than typical composting.

### It doesn't take much to get started...

#### CONTAINER

A wood or plastic container works well. Build, buy or recycle something like an old dresser drawer, trunk, or discarded barrel. Some prefer wood because it is more absorbent and a better insulator for the worms. Some use plastic containers but find that the compost tends to get quite wet. Experiment and find out what works for you and your worms.

#### BEDDING

It is necessary to provide damp bedding for the worms to live in, and to bury food waste in.

Suitable bedding materials are shredded newspaper and cardboard, shredded fall leaves, chopped up straw and other dead plants, seaweed, sawdust, compost and aged manure. Try to vary the bedding in the bin as much as possible, to provide more nutrients for the worms, and to create richer compost. Add a couple of handfuls of sand, soil or cornmeal to provide necessary grit for the worm's digestion of food.

It is very important to moisten the dry bedding materials before putting them in the bin, so that the overall moisture level is like a wrung-out sponge. The bin should be about three-quarters full of

moistened bedding. Lift the bedding gently to create air spaces which help to control odors, and give better movement for the worms.

#### WORMS

The best type of earthworm suited for worm composting is the red worm (commonly known as red wiggler, brandling, or manure worm). Please do not use dew-worms (large size worms found in soil and compost) as they are not likely to survive.

#### Q - Where to get your worms?

**A -** If you feel adventurous, find a horse stable or farmer with a manure pile and collect a bagful of manure with worms. You can also purchase worms, check online for places to buy red worms for composting.

#### Q - How Many Worms Do I Need?

**A -** A good ratio of worms to food waste should be: for one pound per day of food waste, use two pounds of worms (roughly 2000). If you are unable to get this many worms to start with, reduce the amount of food waste accordingly while the population of worms steadily increase.

#### Q - What Do I Feed My Worms?

**A -** You can compost food scraps such as fruit and vegetable peels, pulverized egg shells, tea bags and coffee grounds. It is advisable not to compost meats, dairy products, oily foods, and grains because of problems with smells, flies, and rodents. No glass, plastic or foil. To avoid fly and smell problems, always bury the food waste by pulling aside some of the bedding, dumping the waste, and then cover it up with the bedding again. Bury successive loads in different locations in the bin.

#### Q - Where Should I Locate My Worm Bin?

**A -** Worm bins can be used indoors all year round and outdoors during the milder months. The advantage of mobile bins is that they can be moved when

weather conditions change. If used indoors, basements are excellent locations (warm, dark and dry), but any spare space can be utilized, as long as temperatures are between 40°-80° F. Outdoor bins can be kept in sheds and garages, on patios and balconies, or in the yard. They should be kept out of hot sun and heavy rain. If temperatures drop below 40° F, bins should either be moved indoors, or a well-insulated place outdoors.

#### Q - How Do I Maintain My Bin?

**A -** If you have the correct ratio of surface area to worms to food scraps, there is little to do, other than adding food, until about two and a half months have passed. By then, there should be little or no original bedding visible in the bin and the contents will be brown and earthy looking worm castings. The contents will have substantially decreased in bulk too.

It is important to separate the worms from the finished compost; otherwise the worms will begin to die. There are several ways to do this. The quickest is to simply move the finished compost over to one side of the bin; place new bedding in the space created, and put food waste in the new bedding. The worms will gradually move over and the finished compost can be skimmed off as needed.

If you have the time or want to use all the compost, you can dump the entire contents of the bin onto a large plastic sheet and separate the worms manually. Most children love to help with this process and you can turn it into a fun lesson about worms for them. Watch out for the tiny lemon-shaped worm cocoons which contain between two and twenty baby worms!

**Happy and successful composting!**

## Fifth Street to Become One-Way



Due to very narrow roadway widths, the city of Ste. Genevieve has passed an ordinance restricting Fifth Street to One-way traffic, from Market Street to Washington Street. This comes at the request of many local residents and property owners.

On October 9, 2014, the Board of Alderman approved the ordinance ordering the restriction. The traffic will be restricted to northbound traffic only, and therefore eliminate traffic from

Washington Street onto southbound Fifth Street.

After sufficiently publicizing the change in traffic flow, the city will look at implementation of the changes by November 1, 2014.

## Check Out the New Businesses in Town

**181 Pub & Grill**  
(Pub is open/ Grill opening soon)  
181 Washington Street  
573-883-8811

**Embrace Yoga & Wellness**  
115 Basler Drive (Lower Level)  
573-535-1415  
[www.embraceyogawellness.com](http://www.embraceyogawellness.com)

**Dollar Tree**  
80 Plaza Drive  
573-883-2637

**Julie Rousey, Architect**  
591 Jefferson Street  
916-698-3332

**Och's Home Furnishings**  
6 Trautman Industrial  
573-883-2821

**Sticks N Stones**  
185 Market Street  
573-608-5000

# Directory

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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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