



## St. Charles Countryside Fire Protection District

112 North First Avenue  
P.O. Box 4132  
St. Charles, Illinois 60174  
(630) 762-3900  
[www.sccfpd.org](http://www.sccfpd.org)

# St. Charles unveils new firehouse downtown

Taken in part from the article by James Fuller | Daily Herald Staff Contact writer with additional photos and comments supplied by the Saint Charles Fire Protection District trustee and staff.

St. Charles officials ushered in a new era of emergency services to the city by dedicating a new firehouse downtown.



The bagpipes began to warm up a full hour before the actual ceremony began. The three bay doors stood open, looking onto First Street and across at the location that served as the home of Fire Station One. The old firehouse was a refurbished lumber shed with dimensions too outdated to accommodate modern firefighting equipment. Now a new parking lot exists where the old firehouse stood, looking out over the Fox River behind city hall.

That's perhaps fitting as the \$14.5 million in bonds the city issued last December is funding both the new firehouse and the reconstruction of a wall that provides a barrier between city hall and the Fox River. The firehouse itself came in under its \$5.7 million budget. The river work is still under way, but the shiny fire engine and fire truck that will call the new firehouse home stood at the ready and on public display for a healthy crowd of area residents and current and former firefighters who came to celebrate the dedication of the new house Thursday.



"I think perhaps there is no greater representation of stewardship of man to fellow man than a firehouse," Fire Chief Patrick Mullen said. "When people see a firehouse they intuitively know this is a place where they can receive help without reservation."

Mayor Don DeWitte said he expects the new station will be a fixture in the downtown for the next 50 years. DeWitte also took a moment to reflect on the process behind the construction of the new firehouse.

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**Robert Handley**  
Treasurer

**John Gamboa**  
Secretary

**Chuck Dunham**  
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It was a process that, for a time, featured some political tensions. The costs and features of the firehouse, and the need for a firefighter wage freeze to balance the budget, were debated by DeWitte and the city council. Despite that, DeWitte said he kept the need for a new firehouse in perspective.

"Make no mistake that this administration is committed to ensuring the men and women of this fire department are well-equipped, well-trained and well-prepared."



Visitors check out the three engine bays of the new St. Charles firehouse after Thursday's dedication ceremony.



Attendees for the dedication of the new St. Charles firehouse find shade beside one of the engines during Thursday's dedication ceremony.



Dozens of citizens and city workers attend the dedication ceremony for the new St. Charles firehouse Thursday.

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Capt. Nick McManus, Lt. Steve McCormick and firefighter Dan Vidusek perform the raising of the flags ceremony at the start of Thursday's dedication of the new St. Charles firehouse.



St. Charles Fire Chief Patrick Mullen and Assistant Chief Joseph Schelstreet join the crowd to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of Thursday's dedication ceremony for the city's new firehouse downtown.



From Left to Right: Terry Jeglum, District Trustee; Mayor Don DeWitte; Assistant Chief Joseph Schelstreet; District Administrator Julia Glas; and Capt. Nick McManus in front of one of the three bays at the new firehouse downtown.

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City Administrator, Brian Townsend, who worked hard to accomplish this new station, is talking with St. Charles Fire Chief Patrick Mullen and Assistant Chief Joseph Schelstreet just prior to the dedication.



Craig Hanson, Battalion Chief with two of the ace firefighters looking relaxed but in ready for any task.



Special thanks needs to go out to is Nonda Anderson, Sr. Administrative Asst. and Sandy Dunham, Office Assistant and Carole Murphy, Office Assistant (not pictured). This remarkable Saint Charles Fire Department administration staff kept all the right people on task, informed and worked tirelessly during the renovations, constructions numerous moves and the set up of the dedication.

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