

Spring
2018

Public Works Newsletter

2018 Annual Asphalt

The plan is complete, and the contractors have been selected. Check the Public Works page of the City's website for this year's list of streets and treatments that will be completed. www.stcharlescitymo.gov/837

FREE Rain Garden Seeds



Did you pick up a FREE packet of Rain Garden Seeds? There is still time and seeds still available!

Visit www.stcharlescitymo.gov/698 for a list of locations.

Stay Up To Date



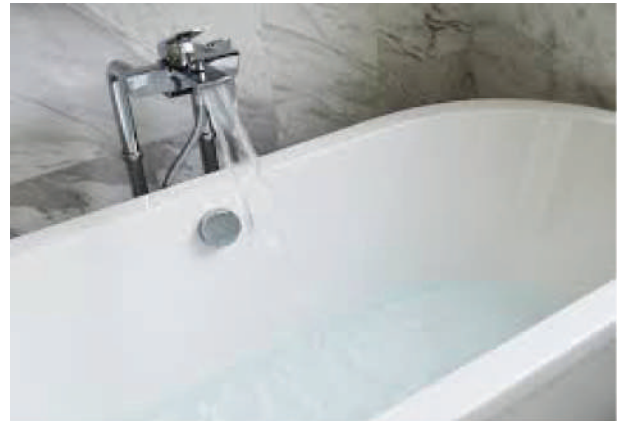
stcharlescitymo.gov/179/Public-Works

Welcome to the first edition of the Department of Public Works Newsletter. This newsletter will be published twice a year, and delivered to every City water customer. Newsletter content will focus on Public Works programs and initiatives, but also include something fun. We want your ideas for future content! If there is something you would like to know about, contact us at public.works@stcharlescitymo.gov. We look forward to hearing from you!

HOT, HOT, HEAT

With the recent heat, the City of Saint Charles water treatment facility has been working hard to keep you hydrated with clean, refreshing water. With recent temperatures, now would be a good time to evaluate the water use in our daily routine.

- Water lawns and gardens in the early morning or the late afternoon and evening. More of the water will soak in to the soil and less will evaporate. As much as 30 percent of water can be lost to evaporation by watering during midday.
- Consider using drip irrigation or a rain barrel to water your outdoor plants, and water in the early morning.
- Turn sprinklers and hoses off overnight. If grass turns brown in the heat, it is not dead, it has just gone dormant until the moisture returns.
- Set your lawn mower one notch higher. This will make your lawn more drought-tolerant.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your sidewalk, driveway or patio.
- Wash your vehicle with a bucket and sponge rather than a hose. A bucket will use only a few gallons of water. A hose left running can waste as much as 6 gallons per minute.
- Run dishwashers and clothes washers when they are full. If you have to do a smaller load, adjust the water level of your washing machine to match the load size.
- Keep a pitcher of tap water in the refrigerator. This will provide your family with cold refreshing water without running the faucet.
- A short shower is better than a bath. A full bathtub can require up to 70 gallons of water. Taking a 5-minute shower uses only 10 -25 gallons
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth. It is estimated that 95% of water that flows through a home runs down the drain.
- Regularly check your toilet, faucets and pipes for leaks and have them fixed promptly.



Hot dry periods of Missouri weather becomes manageable for the utility and customers when users make a few simple changes.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

This weather is perfect for starting construction projects or planting new trees and bushes. The City would like to remind residents to call 811 for a utility locate, before you dig. Placing a utility locate request is free, and easy. Whether you are planning to do the work yourself, or hiring a professional, calling 811 can help ensure any digging is done safely. 811 representatives are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by dialing 811, or visit their webpage at www.call811.com

Concerned? We Want to Know

Residents and business owners have options for reporting concerns to the Department of Public Works. One option can be accomplished day or night, through the "Report a Concern" button on the Public Works page of the City website. This button links users to an easy to follow form, which generates an email to the appropriate Division. When the email is opened, a Service Request is then generated for the appropriate supervisor. Do you have a concern? Report it by visiting the Public Works webpage.



Navigating the FOG

Keeping the City of Saint Charles sewer system flowing properly requires the assistance of every resident. Liquefied fat, oil, or grease (**FOG**) is often washed, or poured down the kitchen sink. This material can cause serious impacts within your homes plumbing and the City sewer system. FOG clings to the insides of pipes, and over time, will completely block them. Wastewater that cannot move freely through the sewer system, can back up into your home. These backups cause damage, unsanitary conditions and expensive repairs. Not even running

boiling water down the sink will dissolve fat and grease - it does not work. No amount of oil should be poured down the kitchen sink. You can help keep FOG out of the sewer system by:

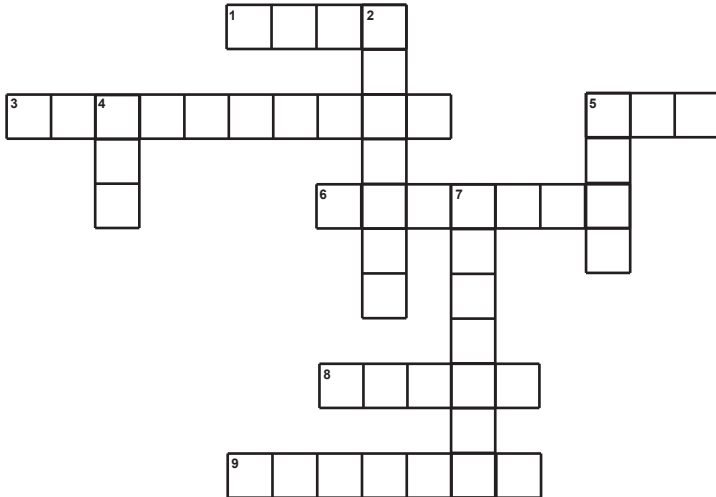
- Never pouring grease down the sink or toilet
- Scrape grease and food scrapes from plates, pots and utensils into the trash for disposal
- Pour FOG into a container, such as an coffee can. Allow the can to cool, and then place it into the trash.

Will it Flush, NO!

Marketed as flushable, the damp little wipes that may just be sitting on the back of your toilet are causing headaches among your wastewater staff. Although convenient, and flushable, some wipes are not biodegradable. As a result, these wipes are costing our nation's water and sewer systems millions, and the problem is in every system. Because they are not biodegradable like toilet paper, wipes are clogging screens and pumps in your wastewater system. Wastewater staff have even seen issues in private lines. The wipes will become caught on tree roots, pile on each other, block the pipe, and then cause backups in homes. Before a wipe is determined flushable, they must pass a series of tests. The testing procedure replicates the conditions found in wastewater systems. If the wipes in your home include a do not flush symbol (a person tossing an item into a toilet with a slash through it), throw these used items in the garbage after they are used. Learn more by visiting: <https://www.stcharlescitemo.gov/816>



Public Works Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Adjust this when washing a smaller amount of clothes.
- 3 Sewer backups can cause damage, expensive repairs and _____ conditions.
- 5 Abbreviation for Fats, Oils and Grease.
- 6 If the wipes include a do not flush symbol, these items should be placed here after being used.
- 8 95% of water that flows through a home runs down this.
- 9 Residents and businesses can report concerns via the Public Works _____.

DOWN

- 2 Grass that turns brown in the heat is often _____.
- 4 A garden hose left running can often waste this many gallons of water a minute.
- 5 Residents can pick up a package of Rain Garden seeds for _____.
- 7 Not even _____ water will dissolve fat and grease.

Across 1. Load 3. Unsanitary 5. FOG 6. Garbage 8. Drain 9. Webpage Down 2. Dormant 4. Six 5. Free 7. Boiling