

City looks ahead to a new First Street

Building 7A East Elevation

Building 7B East Elevation

Blue Goose - North Elevation

Building 4 - East Elevation

Manor Building West Elevation

Building 1 East Elevation

Blue Goose

7A

7B

6

8

4

4

3

2

1

Manor

Manor Building West Elevation

SECOND STREET

FIRST STREET

GENEVA ROAD

PEABODY STREET

ILLINOIS STREET

INDIANA STREET

WALNUT STREET

MAIN STREET

MILESTONE ROW

LIMESTONE DR.

ROCKSTONE DR.

BROWNSTONE DR.

FOX RIVER

PARKING DECK

YOU ARE HERE

BUILDING 1ST STREET

A GREATER ST. CHARLES

First Street Walking Tour

Please visit the various locations to learn more about them.

(Courtesy image)

Story and photos by Peter Booth

Under clear skies, over 150 interested residents, elected officials, and guests attended the City's First Street Redevelopment and Ground Breaking Ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 6. A reception to begin the event was held at 5 p.m. on the northwest corner of First Street and Walnut. Local restaurants and the Blue Goose supermarket provided food and beverages.

At 5:30 p.m., the program began with Brian Townsend, city administrator, welcoming everyone for coming and saying that the First Street Redevelopment Project has come to a point in planning that infrastructure improvements will commence on Oct. 1.

He further noted that City Council final approval is needed, but in the next 30 days the plans for the First Street Project will be presented in a number of forums.

"While there may be some things that you won't like, I am certain that there will be much more that you will like."

Mayor Don DeWitte followed by introducing and welcoming all the special guests, elected officials and the many members of the First Street Redevelopment Project. DeWitte said the new downtown would be both "people-friendly and business-savvy."

He went on to say that the long term vision for St. Charles' downtown will not be a copy of neighboring communities but will create a new standard of excellence.

"The key to downtown economic viability in any community is its ability to draw customers to its marketplace," he said.

DeWitte recognized the following individuals and organizations that have helped the City of St. Charles in creating the vision for the First Street Redevelopment Project: Larry Maholland, Nick Peppers and Brian Baugh from the law firm Storino, Romello and Durkin; The Downtown St. Charles Business Partnership; The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce; Maurice McNally of the Manor Restaurant;



Members of the St. Charles City Council enjoyed throwing some dirt with the Mayor at the Sept. 6 First Street Redevelopment Event. Pictured from left to right are: Ron Silkaitis, 1st Ward; Jo Krieger, 4th Ward; John McGuirk, 3rd Ward; Don DeWitte, mayor; David Richards, 5th Ward; Betsy Penny, 2nd Ward; Jim Martin, 4th Ward; and Bill Turner, 3rd Ward.

Joe Salas of the Baker Hotel; and Bob Rasmussen, Project Developer of First Street LLC.

After a series of ground-breaking ceremonies, the attendees were treated to walking tours of the area.

The First Street Redevelopment Project will encompass the area bounded by The Fox River, Main Street/Route 64, Second Street/Route 31, and Prairie Street. The project could take six years to complete and cost over \$100 million.

It will include 22 acres of retail, office/commercial and residential structures along with public areas. There will be 933 parking spaces with improvements to streets, sidewalks, a riverfront pedestrian walkway plus numerous other changes. The tallest building will be five stories or 68 feet high. Construction is expected to commence in the fall of 2006.

To learn more about the St. Charles First Street Redevelopment Project, see www.1stStreetSTC.org. To ask questions or express concerns, readers are encouraged to telephone the First Street hotline at 762-6097 or e-mail 1stStreet@stcharlesil.gov.



There were many ground-breaking ceremonies at the Wednesday, Sept. 6, First Street Kickoff Redevelopment event. Pictured are (Left to Right): David Richards; Betsy Penny; Jo Krieger; Harry R. Ramey Jr., IL House of Rep. Dist. 55; John Millner, IL State Senate Dist. 28; Tim Schmitz, IL House of Rep. Dist. 49; Mark Davoust, Dist. 14, Kane County Board; Caryl VanOvermeiren, Dist. 13, Kane County Board; Don DeWitte; John McGuirk; Bill Turner; and Ron Silkaitis.