

Celebration to be held in honor of 1st Street

By Lynne Senne

Though it seems a bit contradictory, the Downtown St. Charles Partnership is planning to close 1st Street in celebration of the opening of 1st Street. Marketing Director Bethany How appeared at the Monday night Government Services Committee meeting to request permission to close the road between Prairie and Indiana streets.

The celebration is slated to take place from 4 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29, but the road will be closed as of 7 a.m. in order to set up throughout the day. Beer and wine will be served during the event.

"Initially, we looked at a Class E-1 license, but now we need an E-2," said Police Chief James Lamkin.

Since mid-August when Lamkin submitted the request to the committee, the Partnership has made an agreement to have a company provide liquor sales. As a result, the liquor license request was altered.

Alderman and Commission Chairman Jim Martin, expectedly, took issue with the liquor license and whether or not it was necessary. How explained the event will be separated into two halves.

"The first half is more family friendly; we wouldn't start beer service until 6 p.m.," she said.

The first half of the block party, How

said, will be dedicated to children. The Partnership's mascot will be on hand to meet children and pose for pictures, and there will be other activities for the younger crowd as well.

John McGuirk, 3rd Ward alderman, asked if this was really the ideal location, given the party will close down the very road of which the opening prompted the party.

"We considered holding it in the parking lots, but closing the street takes up less parking spots than closing a parking lot," How said. "So yes, we are celebrating the opening of 1st Street by closing it."

According to 5th Ward Alderman and Partnership member David Richards, the Partnership is in the process of coming to an agreement with a radio station to participate in the party.

"The Partnership is in discussion with 95.9 to do a remote broadcast," Richards said, addressing his concern with how this would fit into the agreement. "It wouldn't be recorded music, it would be coming from speakers."

According to Lamkin, 95.9 conducted a similar broadcast not long ago, and there were not any issues as a result.

"Leaving at 10 is actually a little bit earlier than we have had for other bands," he said.

The City Council will now vote on this issue at its next meeting.