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ST. CHARLES COUNTY OFFERS CODING CLASS FOR VIDEO GAMES, INTERACTIVE GRAPHICS

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – Coding, or computer software programming, is opening doors to career opportunities for people of all ages and skill levels. The Missouri Job Center of St. Charles County has offered coding classes for the past two years, and this year adds an exciting new offering: object-oriented programming for those interested in creating video games or interactive graphics.

Director of the St. Charles County Department of Workforce & Business Development Scott J. Drachnik says the workshop first was offered at the County’s Hour of Code event in December and it garnered a lot of interest.

“It was successful during our initial offering, so we’re adding it to our 2018 schedule, along with our standard introduction to the basics of software programming,” says Drachnik.

These free, 90-minute workshops are hands-on and taught in cooperation with the St. Charles Community College Computer Science Department. They are held at the Missouri Job Center of St. Charles County located at 212 Turner Boulevard in St. Peters. Seating is limited to 16 per workshop and pre-registration is required. To sign-up, call 636-255-6060, or email Mariza Almstedt at MAlmstedt@sccmo.org.

The 2018 schedule is as follows:

**Intro to Object-Oriented Programming**
9 -10:30 a.m., Jan. 22, March 12, May 7, Sept. 17 and Nov. 5
Create interactive graphics with Alice software, used in video game design and other applications.

**Intro to Computer Software Coding**
9-10:30 a.m., Feb.12, April 16, Aug. 20 and Oct. 15
Learn the basics of Python software, a popular, general purpose programming language.

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Founded in 1812, St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri, and the state’s third largest county in both population and economic share. St. Charles County consistently ranks one of the healthiest places to live in Missouri in the County Health Rankings report published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. It is home to 12 scenic county parks encompassing more than 2,800 acres with additional land under development and more in reserve for future development.

With a population of 385,840, St Charles County is home to large employers including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County Government employs nearly 1,100 in more than 30 departments and offices, who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit www.sccmo.org.