



February 16 Meeting in Woodson Terrace

Upcoming League Meetings

- February 16, Thursday, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, Woodson Terrace, MoDOT on I-64 Project
February 22, Wednesday, Legislative Luncheon, 11:30 am, Jefferson City
March 23, Thursday, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, Valley Park
March 30, Thursday, League Conference, 9:00 am, Sheraton Westport
April 26, Wednesday, Newly Elected Officials Conference, 4:30 pm, Sheraton Westport
April 27, Thursday, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, Richmond Heights

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The City of Woodson Terrace will host the League for the first time at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 16 at the City Hall, 9351 Guthrie Ave, just south of Lambert Airport. The meeting will be held on the third Thursday to avoid a conflict with the Missouri Municipal League's Legislative Conference.

(Directions: from northbound I-170, exit at St. Charles Rock Rd. and go west (left) approximately one mile to Woodson Rd. (Dairy Queen on the left). Turn right on Woodson

and go about one-half mile to the traffic light at Guthrie. Turn right on Guthrie and City Hall will be on the left.

From eastbound I-70, exit at Airlight, in front on Lambert Airport. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp in front of the Marriott Hotel and follow the south service road of I-70 to Woodson Rd. Turn right on Woodson and go to the first stoplight, which is Guthrie and turn left to City Hall. Extra parking is available in the shopping center across the street from City Hall.)

We will send a map with the meeting an-

nouncement sent to city halls prior to the meeting.

Program: There has been a great deal of discussion in the region about the plan to rebuild Highway 40/I-64 beginning in 2007. Much of this concerns how traffic will be handled on that highway and surrounding State, County and municipal roads.

Ed Hassinger, District Engineer for MoDOT will discuss the plans that have been initiated to help solve traffic problems and the time frame for completion of the massive rebuilding of the highway.

League to Host Legislative Luncheon

League members planning to attend the MML Legislative Conference in Jefferson City are also invited to attend a Legislative Luncheon for our members prior to the start of the MML Conference on Wednesday, February 22 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. The lunch-

eon will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Lincoln Room. The cost is \$22.

The focus of the program will be to provide an overview of legislative issues affecting cities in St. Louis County that typically would not be covered by the MML program.

Senator John Griesheimer, Chairman of

the Senate Local Government Committee, will be the speaker.

Registration materials will be sent to all member municipalities in early February.

Copies of the forms are also available on the League's website at www.stlmuni.org under the "Current Events" link.

January Meeting Synopsis

At the January 26 meeting, the membership had the unique opportunity to visit the Emergency Dispatch Center at Ameren UE. The company coordinates its response to power outages throughout the region in this huge room.

The company also set up computers through which any address could be entered and the history of power outages, including the length and cause, was chronicled.

Mr. Richard Mark, Senior Vice President for Energy Delivery, along with staff from his department, explained how the company responded to the massive storms that hit St. Louis City and County in mid-August. At its peak, approximately 217,000 customers were without power,

with downed trees being the primary cause. Over 1600 workers, including linemen and dispatchers restored power to 51% in 24 hours and 94% within 72 hours.

Mr. Mark and staff explained how emergency response is prioritized to repair the largest lines serving the greatest number of customers first. An individual household with a downed tree could be the last in line.

The speakers asked city officials to urge citizens to keep trees trimmed to help avoid future occurrences. While Ameren spends \$30 million annually for tree trimming in its right-of-way, over 80% of the damage from the August storm came from trees that were not in the right-of-way.

Ameren officials indicated that there is an e-mail distribution list

for officials who would like to receive storm related updates. Contact Ameren by e-mail at storminfo@ameren.com to be added to the list.

We appreciate Ameren's invitation to explain how their emergency response system is used when power is out.



L-R, Ameren representatives Otie Cowan and Richard Mark meet with Black Jack Councilmembers Brenda & Delsie Boyd.

Green Building Seminar Offered

On Tuesday, February 21, the City of Chesterfield is hosting a seminar on Green Buildings, which focuses on energy efficiency and environmental responsibility. The session will

be held at the Chesterfield City Hall, 690 Chesterfield Parkway West from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Participants will see examples of sustainable, award-winning buildings, which anchor

community growth and pride.

Seating will be limited so please RSVP by Friday, February 17 to Kathy Duepner at 636-537-6720 or by e-mail to kduepner@chesterfield.mo.us

Boundary Commission Accepting Map Plans

The Boundary Commission has begun accepting municipal map plans which, when completed, will limit municipal annexation plans through 2010. The deadline for submitting map plans is June 30, 2006.

After a 9 month review period by the commission, and appropriate time for municipal amendments to the plan, annexation proposals can be submitted beginning April 15, 2007.

The Commission has enacted new electronic provisions regarding the submission of map plans, which will allow the plans to be added the Commission's website. For more information on the map plan process, contact the Boundary Commission Director, Courtney Irwin, at 863-3005.

In other Boundary Commission news, the mayors and board chairmen of municipalities under 10,000 population are being

asked to meet at 7:00 on Thursday, February 16 to consider a representative to the Commission for cities in this population group. The meeting is being held prior to the monthly League meeting at Woodson Terrace to avoid holding 2 separate meetings.

The current representative for cities under 10,000 is Ted Armstrong of Frontenac, who is eligible for reappointment.

Legislative Update

As the Legislature moves into its second month, there have been some hearings on bills of municipal interest but none of the bills had come out of committee by press time. Please see the weekly legislative update that is sent to all city halls by e-mail or fax for the latest information.

The League's top priority is HB 1361 (Fares), which would authorize a public safety sales tax for cities in St. Louis County, subject to voter approval. The tax would be shared in the same manner as the capital improvements sales tax, with cities having the option of keeping 85% of receipts or opting for a pool distribution based on population. Only those cities that pass the tax would receive the pool share.

Other bills of interest include:

HB 1123 and HB 1128 (both by Wildberger) would qualify certain diseases for police or firefighters as occupational diseases. **OPPOSE**

SB 582 (Griesheimer) would correct the formula for collection of cell phone taxes. It was heard in the Senate Commerce Committee on January 24. **SUPPORT**

HB 1167 (Young) would negatively change "knowing" violations of the Sunshine Law to "negligent" violations. **OPPOSE**

SB 719 (Crowell) would prohibit cities from setting up traffic cameras to reduce accidents following traffic light violations. **UNDER DISCUSSION.**

SB 746 (Klindt) and HB 977 (Whorton) would allow small 4th

class cities to elect alderman at-large, rather than by wards.

HB 1288 (George) allows public employees, including police, to bargain collectively with binding arbitration. **OPPOSE**

HB 1475 (Nance) prohibits police in 4th class cities from pursuing suspects outside of city limits, even if the crime occurred in the city.

There have been numerous bills introduced to curb the use of eminent domain and TIF. The Senate Local Government Committee has heard several bills and was working on acceptable language for the definition of blight. This will probably be incorporated into one bill or a combination of bills for the consideration of the full Senate.

To date the House has heard only HB 1070 (Bob Johnson). This bill has some provisions that the League could support, but there still need to be changes made before our organization would back passage of the bill. It was heard in the Local Government Committee on January 19.

SB 816 (Griesheimer) would allow AT&T and other phone companies to provide video services (cable TV). The bill presents many issues for local government, which we have summarized below.

Trust - In recent years, the telecom industry promoted anti-city legislation dealing with rights-of-way, changing the compromise on business license fees last year, and seeking to preempt court review of back taxes (alleged to be owed to cities.)

System Footprint - The bill would allow AT&T to serve a limited area within a city. This is unlike cable TV which must serve an entire city. Most officials find it difficult to support AT&T's proposal to provide a utility-like service to only some areas within the city and leave others without competitive cable TV service.

AT&T opposes local franchising - AT&T supports state franchising for itself and for other cable companies when the current franchise expires. This would likely lead to reduced quality control as complaints would be handled by bureaucrats in Jefferson City, if at all, rather than concerned local officials.

Local Collection of Fees - Instead of payments directly to cities, like cable TV, AT&T would send the fee to the State. The State will keep 1% and return the funds to cities, which further erodes local revenues. To add insult to injury, AT&T would have the State keep city interest on the funds.

PEG Programming - This public, educational and government programming, underwritten by cable companies would be reduced under the AT&T proposal.

The bill was heard in the Senate Commerce Committee on January 18 but the Committee has not acted on the bill.

St. Louis County Municipal League
121 S. Meramec Ave.
Clayton, MO 63105

The February 16 League Meeting will be held in Woodson Terrace. The topic will be the I-64 reconstruction.

*Serving Municipalities in St. Louis County
since 1918.*

*See our website at
www.stlmuni.org*

Nominees Sought for Westfall Local Government Award

Last year the League's Executive Board established an award to commemorate the life of former County Executive Buzz Westfall by recognizing a local government official, city or program in St. Louis City or County for effective leadership and commitment to quality services. The Buzz Westfall Award for Excellence in Local Government will be presented at the League's Annual Installation Dinner on June 2.

The criteria for the award, as established below, define the attributes Mr. Westfall embodied during his many years of public service. Nomination submittals must specify how the individual, city or program has demonstrated many of these 6 criteria.

Nominations must be 350

words or less on a single sheet of paper. They should be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the League office at the address below.

The League Board will review the nominations and make the final decision on the award winner.

The deadline for receiving nominations is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2006.

AWARD CRITERIA (Nominations need not meet all 6 criteria)

1 Project or Program is regional or multi-jurisdictional in nature, based on thoughtful planning and management of urban resources.

2 Project or Program shows significant community impact with demonstrated or measurable results.

3 Project or Program involves successful public, private, non-

profit partnering.

4 Nominee upholds grass roots or family values, with a particular commitment to youth.

5 Nominee demonstrates honest and effective leadership.

6 Impact is recent (last three years), innovative, and likely to continue or influence future events positively.

Please send nominations to:

- Mail: St. Louis County Municipal League, 121 S. Meramec Ave., Clayton, 63105
- E-Mail: staff@stlmuni.org
- Fax: 314-726-1520

Last year's winner was Hazelwood Mayor T.R. Carr for his work on regional economic development projects.

Call the League office at 314-726-4747 for more information.