



## Manchester to Host January 22 Meeting

### Upcoming League Meetings

- Thursday, January 22, Manchester City Hall
- Thursday, February 19 (3rd Thursday due to MML Conference) Hosted by Des Peres
- Thursday, March 25
- Thursday, April 22

The first League meeting of 2004 will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 22 at the Manchester City Hall, 14318 Manchester Rd., just west of Highway 141.

(Directions: from I-270, exit at west-bound Manchester Road and continue for about 3 miles. Just after passing under Highway 141 and passing the Shell Station,

enter the City Hall parking lot on the left (south side of Manchester)

**Program:** St. Louis 2004 has many exciting events planned for the coming year. The New Year's Eve celebration kicked off the efforts to promote a fun-filled year recognizing St. Louis' unique history. Numerous local entities have established ties with

St. Louis 2004 for sponsorships of local events.

Peter Sortino, Executive Director of St. Louis 2004, will highlight some of these upcoming events and explain how local governments can link up with 2004 for sponsorships of festivals, carnivals and other city functions.

### ST. LOUIS 2004

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## New Staff Member Hired

Cody Hawkins has joined the League staff in the position of Solid Waste Project Coordinator and Staff Associate. He has previously worked in the Cities of Chesterfield and Hazelwood.

Cody will help manage the park grant program and assist our member cities in upgrading solid waste recycling efforts and to develop solid waste grant applications.

He replaces Kevin Bookout, who is now the Assistant City Manager in Ellisville.

We welcome Cody to the League.

## League Priorities Presented at Legislative Breakfast

About 125 municipal officials and legislators attended the League's Annual Legislative Breakfast in November.

The seven legislative priorities adopted by the membership were pre-

sented to legislators. Local officials met informally with state senators and representatives to discuss issues of local concern.

State Senator Mike Gibbons (center) confers with Warson Woods Alderman Gordon Gosh

(left) and Glendale Alderman Rich Magee at the Breakfast.



## November Meeting Synopsis

Members of the Normandy School Board and the mayors of six area communities welcomed the membership to the new Lucas Crossing School for the November membership meeting.

Joe Driskill, who was at the time Director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, discussed the state's

Joe Driskill addresses the membership.



efforts to attract and retain businesses (See story on page 4).

We appreciate the warm welcome from the Normandy School Board and the mayors who hosted the meeting: Mayor Clarence King of Beverly Hills; Mayor Felton Flagg of County Club Hills; Mayor Monica Huddleston of Greendale; Board Chairman Carmen McClendon of Uplands Park (who was instrumental in setting up the meeting); Mayor

Robert Hensley of Velda City; and Board Chairman Vicci Brown of Velda Village Hills.



Mr. Driskill meets with County Executive Charlie Dooley and Greendale Mayor Monica Huddleston following his presentation.

## Cities Can Enact New Regulations for Taxicabs

The Metropolitan Taxicab Commission of St. Louis City and County was appointed to develop standardized rules and procedures for taxicabs in the region. This was to provide uniformity in service and vehicles from the companies in the area. The regulations include such items as: taxi stands; vehicle appearance; and driver appearance and conduct. The overall purpose of the new Commission is to im-

prove the safety, response time, and image of cabs in the region.

If a municipality is seeking to enforce the Taxicab Commission's ordinance, which has been adopted by St. Louis County, the municipality must also adopt the enforcement ordinance in its entirety. This will be particularly pertinent to those communities with a number of hotels and/or taxi stands.

While many of the provisions in

the ordinance are not particularly applicable for cities, the enforcement provisions will allow cities to cite drivers in municipal court for non-compliance with the appearance and conduct provisions.

The League has copies of the ordinance which can be mailed or e-mailed. For more information about the Commission, contact the Director Mike Tully at 314-241-7600.

## League Seminar on Finding New Revenue Sources

As local governments struggle with tight budgets and declining taxes it is more important than ever to consider new sources of revenue.

Tom Cunningham and Dan Vogel, of the law firm Cunningham, Vogel and Rost, will present a session on Traditional and Non-Traditional Revenue Sources avail-

able to cities. The program will be held from **3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 29** at the Lodge Des Peres, 1050 Des Peres Rd. From I-270 go west on Manchester and then loop south onto Des Peres Rd. to the City's new recreation center.

The cost is \$15, and includes

materials and light refreshments. Registration materials were mailed to all city halls in early January or you can access the form on the League's website at [www.stlmuni.org](http://www.stlmuni.org). The program will provide valuable information for both elected and appointed officials as you strive to fund services demanded by your citizens.

## Round 4 Park Grants Awarded

The Municipal Park Grant Commission of St. Louis County has awarded nearly \$2.8 million in grants to 27 cities for park improvements for the recently completed grant cycle. Since 2001, the Commission has awarded 75 grants totaling \$6.7 million

Those awarded new projects are:

Ballwin: Vlasik Park;

Bel-Nor: Incarnate Word Island;

Bellefontaine Neighbors: Miniature golf course;

Breckenridge Hills: Sims Park;

Calverton Park: Greaves Park;

Charlack: Bent Willow Park;

Chesterfield: Central Park;

Creve Coeur: Lake School Park

Ellisville: Blue Bird Park Trail;

Eureka: Kircher Park Trail;

Ferguson: January Wabash Park;

Florissant: Florissant Valley Park;

Glendale: Kirkwood Child Center;

Hazelwood: White Birch Park;

Jennings: Koeneman Park;

Kirkwood: Greentree Park;

Maryland Heights: Creve Coeur Park;

Normandy: Hoelzel Park;

Olivette: Warson Park;

St. Ann: Shafer Park;

Sunset Hills: Minnie Ha Ha Park;

Town & Country: Preservation/CBC Cadet Park;

Twin Oaks: Twin Oaks Park;

University City: Heman Park;

Webster Groves: Deer Creek Park;

Wildwood: Old Pond School Park;

Winchester: Reber Park.

## Math Class for Maintenance Staff

Public works employees must frequently calculate areas and volumes using fractions, decimals, and percents. Bhasin Associates offers a two hour class that covers the fundamentals of arithmetic and helps to strengthen computational skills. The course takes place in a small group setting of 10-12 people at a convenient location arranged with the city.

Advanced sessions, including the on-going use of critical thinking and problem solving, can also be arranged

If your city is looking for a hands-on class based on field examples, contact Vijay Bhasin, at 3939 Secretariat Dr., Florissant, MO 63034 or call 314-921-9090.

## Open Meeting Manuals

The Missouri General Assembly has again made changes to the Open Meetings Law and the Attorney General's office has updated the Open Meetings Law handbook. The League has copies of the new manual available for our members.

Please contact the League office at 314-726-4747 or e-mail us at [staff@stlmuni.org](mailto:staff@stlmuni.org) if you would like a copy.

## Gateway Plans Workshop for Federally Funded Road Projects

The East-West Gateway Coordinating Council will hold its annual Project Development Workshop at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 21 in the Board Room at Gateway's new office at the Gateway Tower Building, One Memorial Drive in Downtown St. Louis. This program provides information

to local governments interested in applying for federal funds for local transportation projects. Registration forms are available on Gateway's website at [ewgateway.org](http://ewgateway.org).

For those cities considering applying for funding, the evaluation system used by Gateway gives higher points for bridge projects

and roads with heavy vehicle traffic. So, while local bridge projects generally fare better than local roads, municipalities which have roads of regional significance have received funds to upgrade these streets.

Call Jim Wild or Terry Freeland at 314-421-4220 for more info.

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**Happy New Year!**  
**January 22 Membership Meeting at**  
**Manchester City Hall. We hope you**  
**can join us!**

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

*See our website at*  
*[stlmuni.org](http://stlmuni.org)*

## **Driskill Addresses League Membership at November Meeting**

Joe Driskill, Director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development at the time, updated the League on the current business climate in the state. Mr. Driskill noted that the last few years have been tough due to the recession, with the loss of over 7000 jobs from the airline industry alone. In addition, a larger number of manufacturing jobs have gone overseas in the last 3 years, which has led to layoffs in that sector. The current recession has lasted longer than ones in the early 1980s and early 1990s. On a positive note, Mr. Driskill indicated that 27,000 new jobs have been added in Missouri since July 2003. The long recession may slowly come to an end if new trends continue.

He also stated that sales tax revenue for state and local governments have been poor compared to the 1993 to 2000 period. This hurts service delivery across the state. New strategies include finding those services in society that will produce good jobs. The life science industry has become a major focus in St. Louis. To reach the goals of increasing jobs in this industry, St. Louis leaders must utilize the quality universities here and also encourage job training for those not seeking a college degree or those needing retraining.

Mr. Driskill indicated that Missouri ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in general taxes and 46<sup>th</sup> in business taxes, factors that help attract businesses, but the low ranking can lead to poor

education, infrastructure and other quality of life issues that send negative messages to employers and well-educated people who might consider locating in Missouri.

He also stated that tax credits of over \$175 million per year stimulate significant development in the state, but some are not capped and some programs favor certain individuals or industries over others. These credits should be reviewed to ensure that they meet objectives.

He closed by encouraging local officials to take time to express their concerns to legislators about Missouri's education, training, tax policies and quality of life issues and to help ensure the continued economic viability of our state.