



## Creve Coeur to Host January 27 Meeting

### Upcoming League Meetings

- Thursday, January 22, Creve Coeur City Hall
- Thursday, February 17, St. John City Hall (3rd Thursday due to MML Conference)
- Wednesday, February 23, Luncheon at MML Legislative Conference
- Thursday, March 24, St. Ann City Hall
- Thursday, April 28, Glendale City Hall

The first League meeting of 2005 will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 27 at the Creve Coeur City Hall, 300 North New Ballas Rd., between Olive Blvd. and Ladue Rd., just east of I-270. The meeting will be in the council chambers on the upper level.

(Directions: from southbound I-270, exit at Olive Blvd. and turn left. Go to the traffic light at New Ballas and turn right. City Hall will be

approximately 1/2 mile on the left. From northbound I-270, exit at Ladue Rd. and turn right. Go to the traffic light at Ballas and turn left. City Hall will be approximately 1/2 mile on the right.)

**Program:** The effort to attract successful retailers is an important consideration for city officials, particularly in areas such as St. Louis County that are heavily dependent on sales tax.

The Buxton Company of Forth Worth, Texas works with both cities and retailers to analyze retail potential of cities and the buying characteristics of the consumers in particular trade areas.

Tim Root, Territory Business Manager for Buxton, will discuss how cities can more successfully attract retailers by thoroughly analyzing interests of future shoppers and by developing marketing strategies.

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## League to Hold Session at MML Legislative Conference

At the direction of the League's Executive Board, the staff is coordinating a luncheon session for County League members prior to the start of the MML's Legislative Conference on Wednesday,

February 23 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City.

The focus of the program will be to provide an overview of legislative issues affecting only cit-

ies in St. Louis County. All of our members attending the MML Conference are invited to attend. There will be a separate fee for the luncheon. Look for reservation materials in late January.

## League Priorities Presented at Legislative Breakfast

About 130 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. League members met informally with state senators and representatives to discuss issues of local concern.

(Right—Warson Woods Alderman Gordon Gosh (L) confers with County Executive Charlie

Dooley at the Breakfast.



## League Members Receive Outstanding Achievement Awards

Several League members were recognized for outstanding achievements during the last year at the recent East-West Gateway Council of Governments annual meeting. Two cities in St. Louis County were selected for Innovation in Local Government Awards. These were the City of **Maplewood** for downtown redevelopment and the City of **Kirkwood** for redeveloping affordable housing in Meacham Park.

One of the winners in the Collaboration in Local Government award included **St. Louis County**, along with the Cities of **Berkeley, Ferguson, Kinloch**

and **St. Louis**, who worked to produce a redevelopment agreement for the large area of vacant land east of Lambert Airport. This nomination was sent in by the League office.

A new category this year was the TravelSafe Communities Award, which is a new undertaking by Gateway. The winner was the City of **Maryland Heights** for an accident reduction program on I-270.

Individual winners of the first Leadership in Government Awards included Alderman **Chandra Coughley** of Greendale. She personally raised funds for the City's first Na-

tional Night Out and pays for and updates the City's website.

The last award was perhaps the most touching. It was the Gateway Lifetime Achievement Award which was given posthumously to **Kathleen Mansfield**, Assistant City Administrator for Creve Coeur for over 16 years. She passed away this summer. Remarks of her nominators describe her as a "shining beacon of unselfish and professional public service to the entire St. Louis region and an enviable example for all who strive to serve the public with honor."

Congratulations to all!

## Model Domestic Violence Ordinance Available for Cities

The St. Louis County Council recently adopted a new Domestic and Family Violence Ordinance that applies in the unincorporated area. The Council and the County Executive have also requested that municipalities adopt this ordinance to ensure continuity in the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases.

The Model Code was crafted

to facilitate parallel ordinance development with respect to domestic and family violence among the municipalities and unincorporated area of St. Louis County. The enactment of similar codes by all jurisdictions will enhance both the uniformity and quality of justice for victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence throughout the area.

The County mailed copies of the ordinance to all cities in early December. In addition, it is available on the League's website, [www.stlmuni.org](http://www.stlmuni.org), under the Model Ordinances link. The model contains user-friendly notes explaining each section.

We hope all cities will enact this important ordinance.

## November Meeting Synopsis

At the November 18 League meeting, the membership heard an interesting statistical presentation on the current status of the region from Mike Duncan, Research & Statistics Manager for the County Planning Department. (See the related article on Page 4.)

Also at the meeting, President

Schuster presented a proclamation to Rock Hill Mayor Michael Conran in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the City's incorporation.

We appreciate the warm welcome from Mayor Jeff Khoury and the officials of the City of Ellisville who hosted the meeting at the impressive new parks building.



Rock Hill Mayor Michael Conran (L) accepts the proclamation from President Schuster.

## Round 5 Park Grants Awarded

The Municipal Park Grant Commission of St. Louis County has awarded nearly \$3.4 million in grants to 27 cities for park improvements for the recently completed grant cycle. Since 2001, the Commission has awarded 97 grants totaling \$9.6 million.

Those awarded new projects are:

Bellerive Acres - Community Park,  
 Bel-Ridge - Gutknecht-Arrowhead Park,  
 Berkeley - Jackson & Frostwood Parks,  
 Black Jack - Evangelista Park,  
 Brentwood - Brentwood Park,

Bridgeton - Bridgeton Athletic Complex,

Chesterfield - Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex,

Crestwood - Whitecliff Park,

Creve Coeur - Bierne Park,

Dellwood - Pool Complex,

Des Peres - Des Peres Park,

Eureka - Bowlby Park,

Ferguson - Robert-Superior Park,

Florissant - Sunset Park

Greendale - Greendale Park,

Lakeshire - Figi Park,

Maplewood - Junior High Park,

Oakland - Oakland Park,

Olivette - Stacy Park,

Pasadena Park - Water Tower Park,

Richmond Heights - The Heights,

Riverview - Riverview Gardens Pk.

Town & Country - Longview Farm Park,

University City - Heman Park,

Uplands Park - Tribute Park,

Webster Groves - Recreation Complex,

Wildwood - Hamilton-Carr Greenway.

## Neighborhood Leadership Academy

The University of Missouri – St. Louis' Public Policy Research Center and other agencies are sponsoring a 9-week Neighborhood Leadership Academy for local officials and citizens. It runs from February 7 to May 16, 2004 and the fee is \$300, with partial scholarships available in some cases.

It is a comprehensive program that trains the people who shape a community. Participants will de-

velop leadership skills and learn more about community development principles and strategies, organizational leadership, and management practices. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a Certificate of Neighborhood Leadership from the Chancellor and receive 3.30 Continuing Education Units.

For more information contact Becky Walstrom at 314-516-5960.

## Enterprise Zone Summary

The League has an electronic version of a 38 page slide presentation which highlights the legislative changes to the State Enterprise Zone law.

For a copy, please contact the League office at 314-726-1520 or e-mail at [staff@stlmuni.org](mailto:staff@stlmuni.org).

For more information about the program contact Mike Heimericks at the Missouri Department of Economic Development at 573-751-9051.

## Mayor May Break Tie on Vote to Remove Police Chief

Howard Paperner, City Attorney for Maryland Heights and Winchester, has provided an update on a recent Southern District Missouri Court of Appeals Case related to the removal of the police chief in a 4th class city. The case is *Hardesty v. City of Buffalo*, case #26036.

In this case the court finds that the Mayor can break a tie on "any question" in which he does not have an interest under the provisions of Chapter 79.120 RSMo.

The attorney for the police chief argued that Section 79.240 should take precedence. This section states that the mayor and a majority of the

board of alderman must vote to remove an elected or appointed officer.

The court rejected that interpretation, citing a 1984 case from the Eastern District Court of Appeals which reached the same conclusion. Copies of the *Hardesty* case are available from the League.

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

**Happy New Year!**  
**January 27 Membership Meeting at**  
**Creve Coeur 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)*

## Trends in the St. Louis Region

Mike Duncan, Manager of Research and Statistics for the County Planning Department, helped local officials better understand regional and County trends when he addressed League members at the November meeting.

He pointed out that St. Louis County remains the economic engine for both the region and the state but the growth in the economy has been slow in the last few years. On a positive note he indicated that the region had the 4<sup>th</sup> greatest job increase in the country during mid-2004.

Mr. Duncan presented maps that show the continued out migration of residents from the City of St. Louis and the inner ring suburbs and population loss in some areas of west county, in part due to the “growing” of suburbs. Well-educated residents continue to choose St. Louis County more than other locales.

He noted that much of the housing in older areas of the County met the needs of the 1950s but may not satisfy

all of today’s home buyers. These needs are more likely being met with new housing in surrounding counties, although some areas of far north, west and south St. Louis County still have new development. In older areas, infill or updated housing is selling well. The need for in-fill housing with modern amenities will become greater if new home buyers are to be attracted back to these neighborhoods.

The income statistics, adjusted for inflation, show an increase at both the high and low end of the scale when comparing 1999 to 1979. Households with incomes over \$100,000 demonstrated the largest growth, while low income families also grew as a percentage. The number of middle income families declined in comparison.

Mr. Duncan also presented maps showing that the areas with the highest median age are in the central part of the County, while North County had the lowest median age.

In discussing future issues, Mr.

Duncan noted that cities are becoming increasingly dependent on the sales tax, but growth in that revenue source has been much slower than in the 1990s. Receipts actually decreased during 2002 and 2003. In addition, internet sales, consumers spending more on non-taxable services instead of goods, and an aging population yield less money needed to support services cities provide to citizens.

Another important issue concerns aging baby boomers who may choose warmer climates, rural areas, new urbanism settings or others, but their future actions are difficult to predict.

In closing, Mr. Duncan stressed the need to devise public policy in the County and the region to: 1) reverse the long term trend of slow growth relative to the national average, 2) avoid too much separation of the wealthy and poor, and 3) address the age of older housing stock.

The charts and graphs he presented are available from the League office.