



Ameren UE to Host January 26 Meeting

Upcoming League Meetings

- January 26, Thursday, Membership Meeting, at Ameren UE, 7:30 pm
January 30 & 31, Monday & Tuesday, Incident Management Training, Maryland Heights City Hall, 6-10 pm
February 16, Thursday, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, Woodson Terrace
February 22, Wednesday, Legislative Luncheon, 11:30 am, Jefferson City
March 23, Thursday, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, Site TBD
March 30, Thursday, 2nd Annual League Conference, 9:00 am, Sheraton Westport

The first League meeting of 2006 will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 26 the Headquarters of Ameren UE, which is located at 1901 Chouteau Avenue (the intersection of 18th Street and Chouteau) near Downtown St. Louis. (Directions: from eastbound I-64/Highway 40, exit at Jefferson Avenue southbound (right). Turn left at the first traffic light, which is Chouteau. Go to the first traffic light, which

is at the entrance to the Ameren headquarters. Turn left into the property and park in the visitors lot.)

Program: Last summer powerful storms knocked out power for several days in parts of St. Louis City and County. Municipal officials and citizens were very concerned about the amount of time it took to return electricity to some areas.

Ameren crews worked to restore power as quickly as possible,

but the amount of damage, and the removing tree limbs near wires caused long delays for some residents.

Ameren officials have invited the membership to their headquarters to tour their Emergency Dispatch Center and to hear a presentation on how the Center is used to help prioritize service restoration. The speaker will be Richard Mark, Senior Vice President - Missouri Energy Delivery.

Incident Management Training Offered

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Local governments have a major role in planning for responses to disasters. Training of elected officials has been mandated by the Federal and State governments. To meet the requirements, the University of Missouri Fire and Training Rescue Institute has designed a curriculum and the League is working to add local ingredients, based on the governmental structure in our area.

The League along

with the Fire and Rescue Training Institute will be hosting a two 3-hour training sessions for local officials on Monday and Tuesday, January 30 and 31 at the Maryland Heights City Hall, 212 Millwell Ave., off of Dorsett Rd. about 3/4 mile east of I-270. Each session begins at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The programs are a part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and are entitled IS-700: An Intro-

duction and ICS-100 Introduction to Incident Command.

There is no fee but registration is required so please contact the League office by phone at 314-726-4747 or by e-mail at staff@stlmuni.org to make reservations.

Additional sessions will likely be held during 2006.

The courses may be taken on-line at training.fema.gov.emiweb.

## November Meeting Synopsis

At the November meeting in Ballwin the membership heard two presentations focusing on environmental issues. First was Dan Imig, a solid waste consultant who has worked with several cities to develop recycling programs. Mr. Imig noted that single stream recycling, where all recycled items are co-mingled in a container and separated at a recycling center, has proven successful. Citizens can place anything except food, soiled items, or Styrofoam in the recycling cart when single stream is utilized. Cities should think in terms of big recycling carts and small trash containers and just one pick-up each week. Less trash lengthens the life of landfills, reduces energy and raw materials needed to create packaging, and saves money.

He said that a model request for proposals (RFP) had been developed with the League and the District, and it is available for all cities at [www.swmd.net/library.htm](http://www.swmd.net/library.htm)

He commended Ferguson for developing a new trash hauling and recycling contract that implemented single stream in a community that traditionally had a very low recycling rate. The

city received a grant to provide recycling bins and the recycling rate is increasing significantly.

Also on the program was Erin Shank, Urban Wildlife Biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation. She has been actively involved with several cities dealing with management of geese and deer.

She indicated that urban parks, detention basins, and golf courses provided ideal habitat for geese as they allow easy access to water and no place for predators to hide. She advised that citizens not feed geese as this causes aggressiveness and a congregation at feeding time.

She suggested the following ways to control geese:

- Scare tactics, such as mylar streamers, dogs and pyrotechnics;
- Repellants;
- Habitat modification to make ponds less desirable by letting grass grow higher around the edges, or making the surrounding ground steeper; and
- Coating eggs (addling) to prevent hatching

Ms. Shank also worked with the cities on the West St. Louis County Deer Task Force.

She said that fawns are born in May or June. Does typically have a home range of ¼ square miles to 1.5 square miles. She noted that suburban areas often provide an edge habitat that is ideal for Missouri whitetails as there are no predators and no firearms, which allows the deer to overpopulate. Deer cause landscape damage, bodily harm due to auto collision and damage with an average repair cost of \$2500, and possibly transport ticks with lyme disease. Currently West County has twice the number of deer recommended by DOC.

The Task Force met for two years and issued several control recommendations. These include:

- Reduce the number to 20 per square mile
- With state approval, archery hunting, limited firearm hunting, limited use of sharpshooters, and trapping and euthanasia as a last resort when other methods fail.
- Trap and relocate and birth control methods are not currently cost effective or feasible.

## Gateway Local Government Award Winners

Congratulations are in order for Mayor Virginia Bira of Vinita Park and City Manager Frank Ollendorff of University City, and the City of Chesterfield who each received awards from the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council at the Annual Meeting in November.

Mayor Bira, who is a past

president of the League, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award. She was elected Mayor in 1984 and is the longest serving mayor in St. Louis County.

Mr. Ollendorff received the Leadership in Local Government Award. He has been City Manager for 26 years and in that time

he has been a pioneer in promoting diversity.

Chesterfield received the Collaboration in Local Government Award for the creation of the Catch 22 Miracle Field with artificial turf and special features serving disabled youth. The plan was the idea of former Cardinals catcher Mike Matheny.

## Park Commission Awards Grants

The Municipal Park Grant Commission of St. Louis County has awarded nearly \$2.8 million in grants to 20 cities for park improvements for the recently completed grant cycle. Since 2001, the Commission has awarded 117 grants totaling \$12.4 million.

Those awarded new projects are:

**Bellefontaine Neighbors** - Tanglewood & Klein Parks

**Bel-Ridge** - Abernathy Park  
**Clayton** - Glenridge Elementary Park

**Cool Valley** - Redwood Rest Area Park

**Florissant** - Sunset Park

**Greendale** - Greendale Municipal Park

**Hazelwood** - Musick Park

**Kirkwood** - Walker Park

**Maplewood** - Family Park

**Maryland Heights** - Parkwood Park

**Olivette** - Stacy Park

**Pagedale** - Baerveldt Park,

**St. Ann** - Tiemeyer Park

**St. John** - Reed, Home Heights & St. John Parks

**Shrewsbury** - Wehner & Ackfeld Parks

**Sunset Hills** - Minnie Ha Ha Park

**University City** - Kaufman Park

**Velda City** - Velda City Park

**Webster Groves** - Larson Park

**Winchester** - Reber Park

## Legislature Convenes - Numerous Bills Bear Scrutiny

The Missouri General Assembly convened on January 4 with a number of important issues to be considered. One of the most contentious issues promises to be proposals to limit the use of tax increment financing and eminent domain. Numerous bills on this subject have been prefiled, with some of them proposing serious restrictions that could stifle economic development efforts. Some of the bills that would limit TIF and/or eminent domain are:

SB 560 (Gross), SB 611

(Engler), SB 672 (Green), SJR 28 & SJR 29 (both by Engler) and HJR 30 (Henke).

HB 1070 (Johnson) offers amendments to TIF legislation that are more in line with League policy, including limits on retail and requiring a pass through of taxes to school districts.

Other bills of interest include:

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

SB 582 (Griesheimer) would

correct the formula for collection of cell phone taxes.

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

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

Legislative e-mails or faxes will be sent each Friday to keep members up-to-date. Contact the League office to be added to the e-mail list.

## Family Court Seeks Male Mentors

What do court involved youth need? They could use "A Few Good Men to Heed the Call to Duty". Male mentors are needed to build productive relationships with the 20 plus youth on the Court's waiting list.

Mentors teach youth (ages 12 to 16) lessons in team building, personal responsibility, and social skill development. Inter-

ested mentors must be 21 years of age and willing to give only 8 hours of volunteer time per month. Training is provided, in addition to ongoing supervision by Court staff.

Contact Barbara Ann Hughes, Deputy Juvenile officer, at 314-615-8446 if you are interested in helping out.

## Welcome To . . .

The officials and employees of our newest member municipality, the City of Bridgeton, which recently joined the League. Membership now stands at an all time high of 89 (out of 91) County municipalities along with St. Louis City and County. Non-members are Champ and Kinloch.

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

**Plan to attend the January 26  
membership meeting at Ameren UE.**

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

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

## November League Programs Well Attended

The League held two programs in the month of November that drew a large number of representatives from our member communities.

The Legislative Breakfast on November 5 attracted a crowd of 120 elected officials, staff and state legislators. Speakers presented the League's priorities for the 2006 session to legislators.



State Senator John Loudon (L) confers with Hazelwood Mayor TR Carr at the Legislative Breakfast.

On November 29, attorneys from the law firm Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe presented a program on Planning and Zoning issues for elected officials, staff, planning and zoning commissioners and board of adjustment members. Over 100 officials were in attendance.

Kevin O'Keefe and Ken Heinz presented an overview of the planning and zoning process. The program then broke into two groups. One provided more information on the role of the planning commission and the other covered the duties of the board of adjustment. The planning and zoning segment was presented by Ken Heinz and Steve Garrett, while the board of adjustment program was handled by Stephanie Karr and Paul Martin.



Attorney Steve Garrett emphasizes a point at the League's Planning and Zoning Seminar.

The staff received numerous compliments for the quality of the presentations. The League very much appreciates the contributions by the Curtis Heinz Law Firm and the five attorneys who donated their time to help our local officials better understand their roles.