



March 23, Meeting in Valley Park

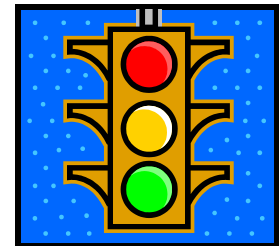
Upcoming League Meetings

- 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
• June 2, Friday, Annual Installation Dinner, Double-tree Hotel, Chesterfield
• June 15, Thursday, League Golf Tournament, Golf Club of Florissant

The next League meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday, March 23 at the Valley Park City Hall, 320 Benton St. (Directions: from I-270, exit at westbound I-44 and take it to Highway 141. Turn right and follow 141 to the 2nd traffic light at Marshall Rd. Go right on Marshall and after crossing train tracks, turn left on Beckett Memorial Rd. Go two blocks and turn right on

Benton. City Hall is two blocks up on the left.) On the agenda will be a discussion of amendments to the League bylaws as proposed by the Bylaws Committee (see article on Page 2). Program: Red light cameras are one of the newest technological advances to help reduce the number of drivers entering intersections and causing accidents after the light has changed.

Mark Etzbach, Regional Sales Manager with RedFlex Traffic Systems of Alton IL, will discuss how the cameras function and what cities need to do before selecting a vendor.



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The League will host its 2nd Annual Conference for our members on Thursday, March 30 at the Sheraton Westport Chalet. This year, the format will be an all day program with lunch and late afternoon cocktail reception. Attendees can choose all day, morning or afternoon sessions. The cost for the full day is \$70, including lunch and reception. The morning session is \$30, including lunch,

and the afternoon session is \$40, with both lunch and the reception included. The sessions are:
• Municipal Purchasing Regulations
• Technical Services Available to Cities
• Use of Public Opinion Surveys
• Sunshine Law
• Economic Development Tools
• Working with Your City Attorney
• Dealing with Sensitive Issues and the Press

- Personnel Actions Likely to Result in Litigation
• Master Planning Processes
• Property Maintenance Codes
• Personal Development and Leadership.
Registration forms have been mailed to all city clerks and are available on the League's website at www.stlmuni.org under the Current Events link. We hope you will be able to attend.

2nd Annual League Conference - March 30

February Meeting Synopsis

At the February membership meeting the speakers were, Ed Hassinger, District Engineer for the Missouri Department of Transportation, and Garry Earls, Director of the County Department of Highways and Traffic, who discussed the planned reconstruction of I-64/Highway 40, which is scheduled to begin in 2007. Mr. Hassinger noted that some sections of the highway had been built in the 1930s and 40s, with many hills and exit ramps with sharp turns. Funds received from last year's Amendment 3, along with the sale of bonds, has allowed MoDOT to commit \$535 million to the project. MoDOT hopes to

speed the project by using a design-build process, whereby the project is designed and built by one company. Currently the highway carries over 130,000 cars daily in the east end, growing to 170,000 on the west.

Mr. Hassinger noted that the highway will not be completely shut down during construction, although limited closures will likely occur.

Mr. Earls, provides staffing for the County's Highway 40 Task Force, which has been appointed by County Executive Dooley to respond to community concerns about access during construction. Mr. Earls indicated that approximately 50% of the traffic would

need to be diverted when construction starts.

The Task Force is reviewing different strategies for ways to do this, including: 1) keeping one lane open in each direction with very limited access; 2) keeping two lanes open in each direction with some access points; and 3) closing one half of the highway for rebuilding at a time, but maintain current access for the direction that is open.

We appreciate the warm welcome from Mayor Bill Ratchford and the staff and officials of the City of Woodson Terrace. The remodeled City Hall is a wonderful asset for the City.

Reminder of Nominations for Westfall Award

The League office will be accepting nominations for the Buzz Westfall Award for Excellence in Local Government through March 31.

The award was established by the Executive Board last year to commemorate our late County Executive.

Nomination forms were mailed to all cities in February and are available on the League website www.stlmuni.org under the Current Events link.

Bylaws Committee Recommends Amendments

At the direction of the League Board, President Betty Humphrey appointed a Bylaws Committee to review the dues structure and two other issues. The dues structure was set for five years in 2002.

The dues are currently based primarily on population with an added amount for "A" cities. The Committee recommended that the population part of the calculation be increased by one percent per year for the next four years. In addition, the added amount would phased out during this same period. Even-

tually, all cities will pay dues on a population basis. This is possible because League revenues are strong due to revenue received from the park commission and from solid waste grants.

The other changes the Committee is recommending would: 1) allow past presidents who leave office and then return to serve on the League Board, and 2) authorize the League to send meeting notices to willing members electronically, resulting a savings in staff time and mailing and paper costs.

The Committee report will be presented for discussion at the March meeting and will be voted on at the April meeting.

Committee members are: Mayor Bert Gates, Shrewsbury, Chairman; Mayor Joe Adams, University City; Mayor Harold Dielmann, Creve Coeur; Mayor Rich Magee, Glendale; Mayor Norm McCourt, Black Jack; Councilman Terry Salfen, Hazelwood.

Legislative Update

As the Legislature moves into its third month, there have been hearings on several important bills. 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 public safety sales tax authority for cities in St. Louis County, subject to voter approval. These provisions have been incorporated into HCS HB 1030 et al. 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. The bill would require that all revenue from the tax be allocated to public safety without reducing current expenditures. It would also grant sales tax authority for fire districts, which the League strongly opposes. HCS HB 1030 passed the House Local Government Committee on February 28.

Other bills of interest include:

HB 1128 (Wildberger) would assume cancer for firefighters is an occupational disease. It was heard in the House Retirement Committee on March 1. **OPPOSE**

SB 582 (Griesheimer) would correct the formula for collection of cell phone taxes. It was reported out of the Senate Commerce Committee on February 28 as a Consent (non-controversial) bill. **SUPPORT**

SB 719 (Crowell) relates to traffic cameras. A committee substitute has been offered by the sponsor to establish restrictions on their use, such as posting signs where the cameras are in use.

SB 746 (Klindt) would allow 4th class cities under 500 population to elect alderman at-large, rather than by wards. It has passed the Senate.

SCS SB 832 would modify provisions related to TIF. It is on the Perfection Calendar. The bill addresses a variety of issues including: residential use of TIF; use of TIF on vacant land; condemnation powers; if the TIF commission disapproves a project; local referendum authority and definition of blight.

For a fuller description, see our weekly legislative update.

HB 1070 (Bob Johnson) is the House TIF bill. This bill has some provisions that the League could support, but there still needs to be changes made before our organization would back passage of the bill. It was passed by the House on March 9.

SB 816 (Griesheimer) would allow AT&T and other phone companies to provide video services (cable TV) but to limited areas. Eventually, all TV franchises would be statewide. Given AT&T's demand for a statewide franchise, which it claims is needed to roll out service quickly, it must have a plan. We urge cities to contact AT&T and learn about the plans, if any, for service in your city. Competitive service will likely mean higher or lower cable bills in different parts of your city. The bill has been voted out of the Senate Commerce Committee and was initially debated on March 8, before being laid over.

Nominating Committee to Meet in April

The League's Nominating Committee is seeking officials interested in serving on the Board of Directors. The Committee will meet in early April after the municipal elections to make recommendations to the full membership on a slate of candidates for officers and board members.

Due to Board term limits and

retirements, there will be at least four vacancies to be filled.

The Board is open to any elected official. If you would like to be considered by the Committee please send a letter to the League office indicating your interest. Board meetings are generally held once per month, in the late afternoon.

The staff will compile all of

the letters received for the Committee for their review and recommendations.

The Committee will be chaired by Mayor Bill Bergfeld of Warson Woods, Immediate Past President. Additional members will be announced at the March membership meeting.

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**The March 23 meeting is in Valley Park.
The program topic will be Red Light
Traffic Cameras.**

*Serving Municipalities in St. Louis County
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*See our website at
www.stlmuni.org*

Ferguson a New Model for Recycling

A number of cities have redesigned their solid waste program in order to promote recycling. Ferguson is one such city. The new program consists of weekly trash, recycling and yard waste pick up. All are collected on the same day by Allied Waste.

Trash collection is fully automated as trucks pull up to the curb and pick up the trash container and dump it with a mechanical arm. Waste hauling companies are moving towards automated pick up as it allows for greater efficiency and lower costs .

In Ferguson, residents have the choice of either a 90 gallon trash container (\$15.17 mo.) or a 65 gallon container (\$15.00 mo.) for once weekly collection. Senior citizens in Ferguson receive a 25% discount for trash collection. In the long run, programs that use large recycling containers and small trash cans will cost less and aid the environment

more. The fee includes recycling, yard waste collection and once per month bulky collection. White goods can be collected weekly by scheduling in advance.

Through a new process called single stream recycling, Ferguson residents no longer have to separate recyclables and the list of recyclables includes virtually everything that is not contaminated or Styrofoam. This long list of items can be placed into one container and picked up by a single-bin compaction truck. More companies are able to use the trash truck for this without buying new trucks. The items are delivered to a recycling center that uses high-tech mechanical separators. Resource Management is the leading facility in the St. Louis area accepting single stream trucks.

Recycling participation rates in Ferguson have been steadily growing from 5% to around 20% since the start of the new program. Recycling also costs less because no landfill

fees are involved.

The League recommends the following approach to solid waste:

- Involve citizens in a review of the solid waste program, its cost and environmental impact;
- Seek input from haulers;
- Ensure that citizens who recycle do not pay higher fees than those that do not;
- Single stream makes it easy-start by throwing everything in the recycling container and putting food in a compost pile or down the disposal. The little left is trash;
- Advertise the change regularly, including in classrooms so children help recycle at home;
- Measure the results by requiring data from your hauler.

Cody Hawkins, League Staff Associate, can provide more information or assistance with grants, bids/contracts or single stream recycling.