



Installation Dinner Set for Friday, May 20

The League will hold its Annual Installation of Officers Dinner on Friday, May 20 at the Junior League of St. Louis, 10435 Clayton Rd., just west of Lindbergh.

The evening begins with a cocktail reception (cash bar) at 6:30 on the outdoor patio, followed by dinner at 7:30.

The after dinner entertainment will feature local comedy club veteran Joe Marlotti.

The cost of the dinner is \$39 per person. Registration materials have been sent to municipal clerks. Please make reservations

through your clerk. Assigned seating will be on a first-come first-served basis.

In addition, all City and County legislators have been invited as guests of the League. We make every effort to seat legislators with cities from their districts. You may wish to extend invitations to legislators as well.

At the dinner the League will install the new officers and Board members elected by the membership in April. They are:

- President** - Mayor Betty Humphrey of Richmond Heights;
- Vice President** -

Mayor John Nations of Chesterfield;

Finance Chairman - County Councilman Skip Mange;

Board Members - Mayor Joseph Adams of University City, Alderman Linda Goldstein of Clayton, Mayor Paul Marti of Oakland, and Mayor Jim Murphy of Normandy; and

Past President - Mayor Bert Gates of Shrewsbury.

We hope that a large contingent from your city will be able to join us on May 20 to welcome the League's new leadership team and enjoy the company of your fellow officials.

Upcoming League Meetings

- Friday, May 20, Annual Installation Dinner, Junior League
- Thursday, June 2, Recycling Seminar, Creve Coeur Government Center
- Thursday, June 30 Golf Scramble, Golf Club of Florissant

Inside this issue:

League Holds Two April Seminars	2
April Meeting Synopsis	2
Declining Cable Viewers Affect Municipal Revenue	2
TR Carr Selected for Buzz Westfall Award	3
Urban Land Institute Program	3
Livable Communities Symposium	3
Legislative Update	4

League Plans Recycling Workshop

The League and the Solid Waste Management District will hold a free Solid Waste and Recycling Workshop for local officials and citizens serving on local advisory committees.

It is scheduled for 3:00 - 6:00 pm on Thursday, June 2 at the Creve Coeur Gov-

ernment Center, 300 N. New Ballas Rd., in the lower level.

The workshop will focus on:

- A recent study measuring recycling rates in selected cities;
- Program elements that yield high recycling rates;
- Model bid speci-

cations designed to promote recycling;

- Grant opportunities for cities.

The goal is to promote more recycling, which tends to lower overall trash bills and extend the life of landfills.

Registration materials will be mailed to all city halls.

League Holds Two April Programs

April was a busy month for the League as we held two successful programs for our members. On April 7, our first annual conference featured three tracks of programs focusing on: 1) municipal finance; 2) development; and 3) best practices.

Over 20 speakers participated in the program and nearly 100 League members attended. The evaluation forms that were returned gave the program positive comments and we will use these to help plan for our next conference.

We very much appreciate the work of our Membership and Programs Committee, chaired by Mayor Betty Humphrey of Richmond Heights, which helped plan the program and hosted all of the concurrent sessions.

We are also very grateful to our conference sponsors who contributed to help keep the fee reasonable. They are: Ameren UE; Charter Communications; the Concrete Council; Curtis, Heinz, Garret & O'Keefe, PC; Midwest Waste; Municipal Collection Services, (MCS); and

PGAV.

Also held last month was the Annual Newly Elected Officials Conference. Nearly 60 new officials, along with a few experienced members, attended the program. The featured speakers were municipal attorneys Kevin O'Keefe, Ken Heinz, and Stephanie Karr, along with Des Peres City Administrator Doug Harms.

We could not offer these types of programs without the time and effort volunteered by our speakers. Thanks to all who contributed!

April Meeting Synopsis

The April meeting was held in Glendale, the City of outgoing League President John Schuster, who is retiring from municipal office. The City did a great job hosting the meeting.

In addition, to electing new officers and board members, the League presented certificates of appreciation to those

who volunteered on League committees and the Board.

The meeting program featured Todd Antoine of the Great Rivers Greenway Park and Trail District. He updated the membership on some of the new construction of trails and corridors that are underway in the region. One of these would run from Ches-

terfield to Florissant along the Missouri River. A second would follow the Meramec River in Kirkwood, Valley Park and Eureka, while a Grant's Trail extension will be built through Crestwood, Kirkwood and Oakland. Additional trails are planned from Forest Park to Normandy and along River Des Peres.

Cable Subscriber Decreases Impact Municipal Revenues

Recent figures show that cable market control is down to 72%, while satellite service has increased to 25%. Satellite service is not subject to local franchise fees.

Even though cable sub-

scribers are down, cable revenues increased by 11% in 2004, largely due to high speed internet service. Internet and cable telephone accounts for 27% of operator revenues in the U.S.

What this mean for local

governments is a decrease in revenues from cable, as the internet service is not subject to municipal taxes.

With rapid changes in technology, lower tax revenues may force cuts in local services.

T.R. Carr to Receive Westfall Award

In the summer of 2004, the League's Board of Directors recommended the establishment of the "Buzz Westfall Award for Excellence in Local Government" to recognize an official or municipality for noteworthy accomplishments benefiting the community and/or the region.

The Board unanimously selected Hazelwood Mayor T.R. Carr to receive this initial award based on the tremendous accomplishments he has spearheaded in the field of economic and community development.

Under Mayor Carr's leadership, Hazelwood attracted the new Mills Mall, along with a nearby business park. But, perhaps his greatest accomplishment was convincing Ford Motors to keep the Hazelwood plant open until at least 2007, perhaps longer. He worked with State and County officials on a plan that would benefit both the company and the State by focusing on reinvestment in the plant.

The award will be presented at our May 20 Installation Dinner.

League Golf Event

The League and the City of Florissant are planning what is anticipated to be an annual golf outing for our members.

It will be on Thursday, June 30 at the Golf Club of Florissant, St. Louis County's only 18-hole municipal course. The course is located on Old Halls Ferry Rd.

Details will be finalized soon and information will be mailed to all city halls. We will also post the registration form on our website, www.stlmuni.org. We hope you will be able to join us!

Urban Land Institute Plans Development Program

The Urban Land Institute is hosting a program entitled "Investments in Progress - the Urban Marketplace" on Thursday, May 19 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis. The cost is \$50.

The program will bring together the area's top developers and industry experts to discuss the latest develop-

ment trends and strategies for established neighborhoods. Speakers will focus on some of the area's most successful redevelopments.

In addition to the presentations, a limited number of exhibits spaces are available. Several local governments have participated in this session in the past.

Exhibitors can meet with developers, banks, brokers and more. This is an excellent opportunity for your city to showcase viable real estate redevelopment opportunities. Exhibitor cost is \$500.

For more information, contact Ann Culp at 314-963-7608 or by e-mail at coordinator@St.Louis.uli.org

Livable Communities Symposium

On May 21, UM-St. Louis will host the annual symposium on Creating Livable Communities. The program will feature presentations by representatives of community organizations from across the state on the establishment and preservation of livable

communities.

The fee for the session is \$30. For a registration form, contact the League office at 314-726-4747. For additional information on the program, contact the UMSL Public Policy Research Center at 314-516-5276.

CDBG Contacts

Recently the League contacted Senators Bond and Talent to thank them for their support for the reauthorization of Community Development Block Grant Funds. Letters were also sent to area Congressman urging their support as well.

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

**Plan to Attend our Annual Installation
Dinner on May 20!**

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

*See our website at
stlmuni.org*

Legislative Update

As the legislature enters its final week, three main issues remain for local officials. HB 209, the telcom tax bill, was revised significantly by the Senate Local Government Committee. Future class action lawsuits will be prohibited and existing suits would be dismissed. Municipal gross receipts taxes in 2006 would be capped at an amount determined by adding 2005 land line gross receipts plus 1/2 of what would be been received in 2005 had wireless been taxed. Expanding the base will lower rates, but voters could raise the rate to 5%. Authority for cities to audit the cell companies would be

added.

Both HB 64 and HB 135 address the sales tax holiday. Each would make the holiday permanent and allow cities to opt out beginning in 2006. However, in 2005 cities would be bound by whatever action was taken in 2004. Those that opted out would be out in 2005.

HB 58 has been amended to allow cities in St. Louis County to levy a public safety sales tax of up to 1/2 cent, with a sharing provision identical to that of the capital improvements sales tax. The point-of-sale option would allow cities to keep 85% of the revenue generated. The re-

maining 15% would go to a pool for cities choosing a sharing distribution based on population. The sharing would only be among those cities that pass the tax. Cities that have previously passed a fire department sales tax would not be allowed to use these new funds for fire service.

HB 58 also would authorize fire districts to levy a sales tax. The League opposed this provision because of the perception of problems with district finance and governance issues that may be shortchanging taxpayers in some districts.