



April 27 Meeting in Richmond Heights

Upcoming League Meetings

- 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, Doubletree 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, April 27 at the Heights in Richmond Heights, 8001 Dale Avenue, just east of Hanley Rd. (Directions: from I-64/Highway 40, exit at southbound Hanley Rd. Make an immediate left onto Dale Avenue. The Heights is down the hill one block on the left.

Agenda items include the election of officers and board members for the 2006-07 year and consideration of 3 minor changes to the League bylaws related to dues, past presidents on the board, and electronic

meeting notices.

The reports of the Nominating and Bylaws Committees will be mailed to mayors, board chairmen and chief administrative officers prior to the meeting.

In addition to the election, President Betty Humphrey will present certificates of appreciation to all who served on League committees during the past year.

Program: State Representative Margaret Donnelly of Richmond Heights, will provide an update on legislative issues that are likely to be addressed.

Also on the program will be Jill Miller, St. Louis-based organizer

for the Sierra Club's Global Warming & Energy Program, who will introduce the "Cool Cities" campaign to address global warming one city at a time with practical, cost-saving solutions. The effort is based on the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement initiated by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels last year, which more than 225 mayors around the country have joined so far - including seven cities in Missouri. No matter how large or small the community is, there's something every city can do to reduce global warming pollution and be recognized as a "Cool City."

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Newly Elected Officials Seminar - April 26

The League will hold its Annual Seminar for Newly Elected Officials at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, April 26 at the Sheraton Westport Inn.

The cost is \$50, which includes materials and a buffet dinner.

We hope our new mayors, councilmem-

bers, aldermen, and trustees will join us for an informative and entertaining introduction to municipal government presented by Municipal Attorneys Kevin O'Keefe, Ken Heinz, and Stephanie Karr from the Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe law firm.

While the program is

designed for new officials, experienced officials are welcome as well. The deadline for reservations is Monday, April 24.

Invitations and registration materials have been mailed to all newly elected League members and to all municipal clerks.

## March Meeting Synopsis

At the March League meeting the membership heard an interesting and informative presentation about the use of red light traffic cameras to reduce accidents.

Mark Etzbach, Regional Sales Manager of Redflex Traffic Systems, showed a video which demonstrated the dramatic collisions that can occur when drivers are unwilling to follow traffic laws.

Mr. Etzbach indicated that his company currently has contracts with 83 cities in 16 states.

The program to install and implement an electronic ticketing system has no cost to cities. The company's fee is based on

a percentage of each ticket. After a review and approval by local police via the internet, the tickets are mailed to the violator (who can also view the violation online).

Some states require that the cameras photograph the driver as well as the vehicle license. In others, only license plate photos will be used and no points will be assessed to drivers.

Mr. Etzbach noted that in cities where red light enforcement has been implemented, there has been a reduction in the number of accidents, which is the main goal of the program.

Also at the meeting Bylaws Committee Chairman Bert Gates

presented the committee report, which recommends a dues increase of 1% annually for four years and a gradual elimination of the added amount paid by "A" cities. Also, past presidents who leave office and return would be allowed to serve on the Board and electronic meeting notices would be authorized to save money and staff time. These proposals will be voted on at the April 27 meeting.

We appreciate the warm welcome from our hosts, Mayor Jeff Whitteaker and the officials and staff of Valley Park.

## League Golf Tournament Planned

The League and the City of Florissant are planning the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament for our members.

It will be on Thursday, June 15 at the Golf Club of Florissant, St. Louis County's only 18-hole municipal course. It is located on Old Halls Ferry Rd, south of

Lindbergh Blvd.

The format will be a 4 person scramble with a shotgun start beginning at 8:30 am. The \$50 fee include a continental breakfast and lunch. Prizes will also be offered.

Registration information will be mailed to all city halls. We

will also post it on our website, [www.stlmuni.org](http://www.stlmuni.org) under the Current Events link. We hope you will be able to join us for this enjoyable event.

All participants will be attempting to defeat last year's champions, the team from Shrewsbury.

## Annual Conference Held

On March 30, the League held our 2nd Annual Conference at the Sheraton Westport. Speakers presented to nearly 70 League members.

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.

We are also very grateful to

our conference sponsors who contributed to help keep the fee reasonable. They are: Ameren UE; the Concrete Council; and Curtis, Heinz, Garret & O'Keefe, PC.

The League has new information on the following topics listed on our website under 2006 Conference Handouts: master planning; personnel issues; municipal purchasing and Sunshine Law.



Presenters at the League conference included: (L-R) Municipal Attorney Howard Paperner, Maryland Heights City Administrator Mark Levin, and Municipal Attorney Kevin O'Keefe.

## Legislative Update

As the Legislature approaches its final month, the focus is on floor debate. See the weekly legislative update that is sent to all city halls 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 and was scheduled to be heard in the Senate Local Government Committee on April 12. Other bills of interest include:

SB 582 (Griesheimer) would correct the formula for collection of cell phone taxes. It passed the Senate on March 28 as a Consent (non-controversial) bill. SB 582 has been assigned to the House Ways & Means Committee. SUPPORT

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.

The House version, HB 977 (Whorton) would allow this for 4th class cities under 1000 population. It passed the House and was scheduled to be heard in the Senate Local Government Committee on April 12. (There are seven 4th class cities in the County are under 1000).

SCS SB 832 would modify provisions related to TIF. It is on the Informal Perfection Calendar. The bill addresses a variety of issues including: residential use of TIF; use of TIF on vacant land; condemnation powers; TIF commission disapproval of 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 and is assigned to the Senate Local Government Committee.

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. AT&T demands a statewide franchise, which it claims is needed to roll out service quickly, but little is known about its intended service area. We urge cities to contact AT&T to learn about service for 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 has been debated sporadically before being laid over.

## Metro Forum Seeks Examples of Cooperative Efforts

On behalf of the Metropolitan Forum, the East-West Gateway Council of Governments is building a "catalogue of cooperation" from local governments.

Gateway is asking that cities complete a short survey telling about cases of local government cooperation your city is involved in or has knowledge of.

The survey can be completed online by going to [www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=202221905457](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=202221905457).

It can also be completed by going to [www.ewgateway.org](http://www.ewgateway.org) and downloading it in a Word or PDF document. Then fax it to 314-231-6120 or mail it to Renee Orabka at Gateway, One Memorial Dr., 63102

The catalogue will be shared

with leaders of the Metropolitan Forum and with interested local government representatives throughout the region so we can all learn about successful government collaborations.

The Metropolitan Forum is comprised of Gateway, the Regional Chamber and Growth Association (RCGA) and FOCUS St. Louis.

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

**New officers will be elected at our April 27 meeting in Richmond Heights.**

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

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

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## Solid Waste District Officers Targeted Recycling Grants

The St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District has approximately \$950,000 available for a **special targeted grant round** to assist cities and other entities with curbside residential recycling and household hazardous waste efforts. The District is specifically targeting projects designed to increase diversion and participation in

residential recycling programs. This includes single-stream recycling and pay-as-you-throw projects.

Household hazardous waste projects are also included as a target project. Cooperative projects with other local governments and service providers will receive priority. The District requires a minimum 10% match, which may

be either a cash or in-kind contribution. Some eligible costs include: equipment; consulting; salaries; education; and direct costs associated with a project.

District applications are currently available on-line at [www.swmd.net](http://www.swmd.net) and must be submitted by May 26, 2006. For more information, contact the District office at 314-645-6753.

## Mark Your Calendar - Installation Dinner June 2

The League will hold its Annual Installation of Officer Dinner on Friday, June 2 at the Doubletree Hotel in Chesterfield. A cocktail reception (cash bar) will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Tables of 10 will be assigned on a first come-first served basis. In addition, legislators from St. Louis City and County will be invited as guests of the League. We make every effort to seat Senators and Representatives with cities from their district. A personal invi-

tation from city officials can help encourage attendance from legislators.

Registration information will be mailed to municipal clerks in late April.

We hope to see you there!