



MML Conference in St. Louis

The Missouri Municipal League will be holding its annual conference beginning **Sunday, September 8 through Wednesday, September 11** at the Millennium Hotel in Downtown St. Louis. The registration fee is \$140 if paid in advance, or \$160 if paid on-site or billed. Contact the MML or the County League for copies of the registration materials.

The featured speaker will be Mayor Robert Knight of Wichita, Immediate Past President of the National League of Cities. Other sessions will include such important topics as: economic development tools, open meetings and records law, election laws, municipal land use planning and the Fair Labor Standards Act. The issues discussed provide veteran officials with important updates while helping new officials learn the basics of municipal government.

On **Tuesday, September 10** the Annual Business Meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of adopting the 2002-2003 Missouri Municipal Policy and the election of officers and board members for the MML. Currently, Mayor Mike Swoboda of Kirkwood serves as Vice President.

We hope a large delegation from St. Louis County municipalities will attend the Conference and use this opportunity to share information with your colleagues from across the State.

Governor Signs Fire District Sales Tax Bill

Despite urgings from the County League Board, the MML and others, the Governor signed SB 1107 on July 12. This bill allows any fire district, except those in Greene, Platte, Clay, St. Charles and St. Louis Counties, to levy a sales tax of up to ½ cent, with a corresponding property tax rate reduction equal to 50% of the sales tax revenue. The League successfully fought to prevent this new sales tax authority for fire districts in St. Louis County. Expect another battle next year. The bill also removes requirements that fire districts document costs of emergency services in TIF districts for reimbursement by cities and increases the minimum amount of reimbursement from 25% to 50%, which hurts other taxing entities. Most districts have very healthy revenue. Local sales taxes have largely been reserved for cities and local transportation efforts which will be threatened by sales taxes in fire districts.

Legislative Affairs Committee Appointed

League President Gerry Welch has appointed the 2002 Legislative Affairs Committee. This group will meet during the next few months to review the current League legislative policy and suggest additions, deletions and revisions. The final recommendations will be presented to the Board and membership in October.

The main priorities, as suggested by the Committee and approved by the membership, will be presented to area legislators at the **League's Annual Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, November 16** at the Junior League. Please mark your calendar for this important date. The Breakfast is particularly timely this year as it will give League members the opportunity to meet many of the new senators and representatives that will be elected in November.

If any member has suggestions for issues the Committee should consider, please contact the League office. The Committee will begin meeting in August.

The members are:

Councilwoman Dotty DeLassus, Webster Groves, Chairman

Councilman Delsie Boyd, Black Jack

Councilwoman Connie Fults, Chesterfield

Councilman Tom Schneider, Florissant

Alderman Rich Magee, Glendale

Councilwoman Connie Karr, Kirkwood

Barb Matthews, City Administrator, Manchester

Mayor Jim Murphy, Normandy

Alderman Dan Gaeng, St. Ann

Brent Hobgood, City Administrator, Town & Country

Mayor Joe Adams, University City

Financial Disclosure Ordinance Adoption

When the legislature adopted the ethics/personnel financial disclosure law, it was amended to allow municipalities to adopt their own simplified personal disclosure requirements by ordinance. This law only affects municipalities with an annual operating budget over \$1 million. The legislature requires each political subdivision to re-adopt the ordinance every two years. However, to avoid the significant consequences of the failure to readopt the ordinance, we recommend that each municipality with an operating budget over \$1 million adopt the ordinance by September 15 and forward a copy to the Missouri Ethics Commission, PO Box 1370, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

Upcoming Seminars & Conferences

Investing Public Funds in the 21st Century

The Missouri State Treasurer's Office will be holding a seminar on **August 20 and 21** on the Investment of Public Funds. It will be held at the Memorial Student Union at the University of Missouri—Columbia. The cost is \$75 if paid prior to August 16 or \$85 if after that date. The fee includes lunch both days and an evening reception on the 20th.

Sessions include: Trends in E-Government and Services; Investment Fundamentals in Today's Economy, and Economic Development Finance Trends, among other topics. Featured speakers, in addition to Treasurer Nancy Farmer, include representatives from the Missouri Department of Revenue, the Missouri Office of Information Technology and the University of Missouri.

For copies of the registration form call the League office at 314-726-4747 or on-line registration is available at <http://www.cpac.missouri.edu/STC>. The website also has hotel information.

Governor's Conference on Clean Water

Local officials are invited to attend the Governor's Conference on Clean Water which will be held on **August 26 and 27** at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Clayton. The cost is \$195, which includes all meals.

Sessions of particular interest to municipal attendees include: Planning Wastewater Facilities for Developing Areas; Managing Stormwater; and Building Public Support for Wastewater Facilities. Speakers scheduled to address the Conference include: Senator Kit Bond; Tim Daniel, Missouri's Director of Homeland Security; and Steve Mahfood, Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Registration is available on the conference website, www.cleanwaterconf.com, or from the League office.

Missouri Census Data Center Annual Conference

On **September 5 and 6** the State Census Data Center will hold its annual conference at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. The registration fee is \$65, which includes lunch on the 6th. A pre-conference training session on Census 2000 Resources and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is also offered on the morning of September 5 for an additional \$45.

The Census Data Center will highlight new data released this summer from the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire, population estimates since Census 2000, demographic web applications, Census 2000 geography, and the use of GIS with census data.

Call the League office for a copy of the registration form. Contact the Capitol Plaza directly at 573-635-1234 for hotel reservations.

Grants Available For Promoting Sustainable Recycling and Waste Reduction

With costs for municipal solid waste collection continually increasing and landfill capacity in the region decreasing, it is becoming more and more important to investigate efficient, nontraditional and creative approaches to solid waste and recycling collection. One tool for aiding change and moving up the recycling ladder is the utilization of various grants offered to cities.

In conjunction with St. Louis County Department of Health and the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District, the League is working with member municipalities to encourage the submittal of grant applications for the purpose of implementing or improving recycling programs. The goal is to increase participation so that recycled material is not sent to a landfill.

St. Louis County offers two grant programs, Source Reduction and Mini-Grant, which are both funded by voter approved landfill surcharge fees and focuses on sustainable recycling and waste reduction programs. Neither grant program requires matching funds by the receiving municipality.

The Source Reduction Grant Program limits awards to \$100,000, except for community educational/promotional projects, which cannot exceed \$52,500. Some funding categories include:

- **Traditional Waste Reduction/Recycling Programs**, such as the purchase of recycling bins and/or other efforts to reduce the cost to homeowners. More and more cities are changing to programs where cities pay for recycling (sometimes by building the cost into a flat fee for both trash and recycling services). Those that recycle pay no more than those that do not. Grant funds may be available to help make the transition.
- **Non-Traditional Waste Reduction/Recycling Programs**, such as unit-based pricing, also known as Pay-As-You-Throw, which charges by the pound or by the container for trash pickup and offers an unlimited recycling program at no additional cost, thereby creating an economic incentive to recycle. Also, specific items could be the focus of a recycling grant. For example, University City recently conducted a successful electronics recycling event.
- **Closing The Loop.** A recent recipient of funds in this category is the City of Northwoods. They received \$27,800 to fund the construction of a pavilion in the city's park made of materials that include recycled plastic. If "plastic" lumber and other recycled goods are purchased, the haulers will encourage more recycling of such items. If there is no market for the plastic, haulers will have no buyers and recycling will end. Some newer items, such as "plastic" lumber, may not catch on unless cities buy recycled products.

- **Local Educational/Promotional Projects.** Recycling only works if the material is used to manufacture other products. Included in this category are one-time events to promote recycling and the design, development and distribution costs for informational flyers, recycling guide magnets, et cetera.

Eligible expenses for both grant programs include development, printing and distribution of educational materials, planning and implementation of educational forums/workshops, equipment for the collection, processing, manufacturing or transportation of recyclables, overhead directly related to the project and engineering and consulting fees.

The Mini-Grant Program is designed to help identify small-scale projects that best meet city's needs and to offer an easy, streamlined approach for receiving technical and financial assistance throughout the year. This program is intended to target projects of \$15,000 to \$20,000, but can be much smaller if so desired. Some funding categories include: 1) residential curbside recycling service, such as the purchase of recycling bins, or the implementation of a program with one flat fee for the collection of trash and recycling, as noted earlier; 2) residential recycling needs assessment, and; 3) community education programs. The two remaining quarterly grant deadlines are September 30 and December 31 for both.

The St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District Grant Program

The St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District was created pursuant to Section 260.305 of the Missouri Solid Waste Management Law. The District includes the counties and cities in St. Louis, Jefferson and St. Charles counties, and the City of St. Louis. The District's objective is to assist local governments, businesses, industries, private organization, and citizens in implementing an integrated solid waste management hierarchy to achieve an overall 40% reduction in the amount of solid waste being sent to landfills. The source of these funds is a \$1.98 per ton fee levied at solid waste and demolition landfills and \$1.32 per ton at transfer stations for solid waste transported out of the state for disposal. For the 2001 fiscal year, the District received approximately \$1.3 million from the State Solid Waste Management Fund. Of that amount 60% is allocated for grants to municipalities, organizations, et cetera located within the District.

The District's grant program has no dollar maximum. In previous grant rounds, the average amount awarded has been approximately \$40,000, with a range of less than \$5,000 to well over \$100,000. The District requires a minimum 10% match, which may be either a cash or in-kind contribution. A District goal is to leverage as many additional resources as possible.

Eligible projects include: waste reduction, recycling and education, with priority consideration given to projects that increase residential participation; multi-family recycling; and pay-as-you-throw projects.

Some eligible costs include:

- 1) Collection, processing, manufacturing or transportation equipment, such as collection bins, vehicles or recycling center machinery.
- 2) Engineering or consulting fees, i.e. expenses for design plans for a recycling center or for a consultant to develop and implement a complete recycling education program for your community.
- 3) Equipment installation costs;
- 4) Salaries directly related to the project, such as personnel support for recycling efforts.
- 5) Development and distribution of education materials This would cover all design and print work along with mailing costs.
- 6) Development and implementation of education forums, such as a one-day event in the city designed to promote recycling in the community.
- 7) Overhead costs directly related to the project.

District applications are available on October 1 and must be submitted by **December 20, 2002**.

Municipal officials may evaluate current recycling efforts by asking the following questions:

- Do citizens have to pay extra for recycling service? If so, does this become a barrier and reduce participation? Would a single rate for both trash and recycling collection increase participation?
- Would a grant to provide free recycling bins to residents serve as an incentive?
- Would requiring recycling be acceptable to your residents, assuming enforcement does not create "trash patrols" by municipal staff?
- Ideally, a program structured to require citizens to pay to send trash to the landfills, but to receive free collection of recyclable goods would place incentives in the right place. Would your residents support such a program in order to prolong the life of the landfills?
- Are there other types of goods that could be recycled such as colored glass, magazines, corrugated board, or chipboard/food boxes?
- Can you work with apartment complex owners to implement multi-family recycling programs?

If you feel your municipality could benefit from either County or District grant opportunities, please contact Kevin Bookout at the League office (314-726-4747). He would be happy to work with your city in applying for grant funds to help initiate or enhance recycling efforts.

Upcoming League Meetings

- Thursday, September 26, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, Chesterfield City Hall.
- Thursday, October 24, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, County Council Chambers in Clayton
- Saturday, November 16, Legislative Breakfast, 9:00 am, Junior League of St. Louis
- Thursday, November 21, Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Normandy City Hall

Trauma Service to Continue At DePaul

SSM DePaul Health Center recently announced that short-term funding for trauma service, in the form of additional reimbursement from the State of Missouri, will be available for up to one year as a one-time, emergency measure to keep trauma services available in North County. Trauma centers are emergency rooms that pledge to offer a very high level of service, such as specified doctors to deal with most emergencies within a few minutes. Ambulances tend to take victims to trauma centers for all but minor conditions. With ambulances frequently denied access to emergency rooms at various times due to overcrowding, eliminating trauma designations at DePaul would worsen the situation around the region and subject North County victims to long ambulance rides.

On the ballot in November will be a "Healthy Missouri Trust Fund" initiative, proposing to raise \$342 million for health care services by increasing cigarette taxes by 55 cents per pack. Trauma services statewide would benefit from this measure; the fund would also increase health care coverage for the uninsured, and support other health and life science initiatives.

Several League members were active participants in the discussions of these funding issues. There was a

great deal of cooperation among municipal officials, County leaders, state legislators and the health care community that led to the November funding proposal.

Mandel Resigns from League Board

The League Board has regretfully accepted the resignation of Creve Coeur Mayor Annette Mandel. Mayor Mandel had served on the Board for 4 years and provided valuable insights and leadership for the membership. She cited health and time constraints as the reasons for the resignation. The League Board will appoint a new member for the remainder of the term, which ends on May 31, 2003. The Board thanks Mayor Mandel for her commitment and years of service.

Updates to League/County Websites

On the website of both the League (www.stlmuni.org) and the County (stlouisco.com), there is a link for municipalities which lists information for elected officials and some municipal staff. It is maintained by the League staff, rather than the County. If you have corrections for this site, please call or e-mail the League office. The phone number is 314-726-4747 and our e-mail address is staff@stlmuni.org. We will do our best to keep the site up-to-date.

