



# ST. LOUIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Linking Local Communities - Strengthening Local Government

# The LINK

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## JUNE 2006

### New Officers Installed - Adams Receives Award

#### Upcoming League Meetings

Membership Meetings will be held beginning in September. The dates are:

- Thursday, September 28
- Thursday, October 26;
- Thursday, November 16

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The League held its Annual Installation of Officers Dinner on Friday, June 2 at the Doubletree Hotel with a crowd of over 175, including municipal, county and state officials, in attendance.

New officers and Board members are:

**President** - Mayor John Nations, Chesterfield;

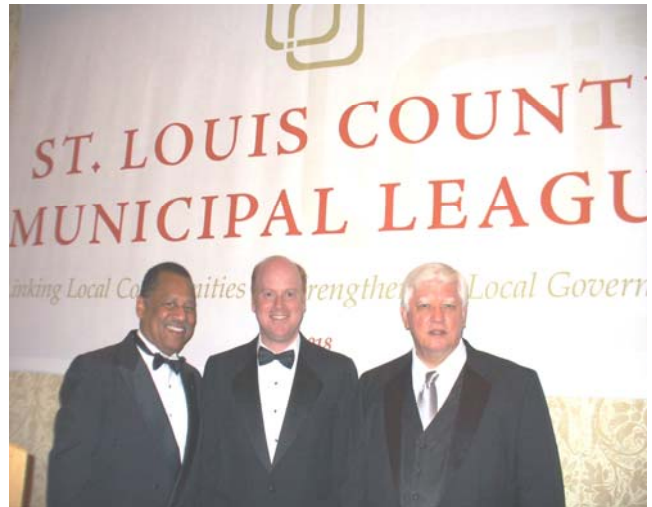
**Vice President** - Mayor T.R. Carr, Hazelwood

**Finance Chairman** - Mayor Joe Adams, University City;

**New Board Members:** Mayor Carrie Cafazza, St. Ann; Mayor Harold Dielmann, Creve Coeur; Mayor Pat Kelly, Brentwood; and Mayor Robert Lowery, Florissant.

Also at the dinner, the Buzz Westfall Award for Excellence in Local Government was presented to Mayor Adams. The award recognized his 30 years of service to his City. Mayor Adams has also served as President of the Missouri Municipal League

and a Board Member of the National League of Cities. He has also served on several committees of the local, state and national municipal associations.



The League's new officers for 2006-07, Joe Adams, Finance Chairman, John Nations, President, and T.R. Carr Vice President, (L-R) are shown with the new banner.



Joe Adams receives the Buzz Westfall Award from outgoing President Betty Humphrey.

## League Redesigns Logo and Other Corporate Images

As you may have noticed with this issue of our Newsletter, which has been renamed "*The Link*", the League has a new corporate image. The old logo was over 35 years old and the color were extremely dated.

Following the recommendations from a communications audit, the League Board asked the Media and Communications Committee to work with McCord Design Group to redesign our logo, newsletter, stationary, banner, and website.

The new logo features interlocking links which, when combined with our new tagline symbolizes the League's mission. The tagline is "Linking Local Communities, Strengthening Local Government."

As a part of this redesign, we will become more efficient in our delivery of information to you, our members. In August we will begin sending the Newsletter by e-mail whenever possible. Many cities have website with e-mail address for elected officials. We will incorporate these addresses into our e-mail database. If your city does not have a website with e-mail and you

would like to receive the Newsletter at a home e-mail address we would be happy to do so. Please contact the League office at [staff@stlmuni.org](mailto:staff@stlmuni.org) and provide your preferred address. For those that do not have e-mail, we will still send *The Link* by regular mail.

In addition, starting in September we will be sending our monthly meeting notices by e-mail as well to the same database as *The Link*. This will enable more of our members to receive meeting notices, minutes, and agenda items.

The ability to provide information to our members in a much more timely fashion was a major focus for the Committee and the League Board. We think you will agree.

The Media and Community Relations Committee undertook these major tasks during the last year under the very capable leadership of Clayton Alderman Judy Goodman. Their expertise and insights helped smooth the process and made for a very easy transition to our new look.

In addition to Chairman Goodman, the other Committee

members are:

Claire Budd, Public Information Officer, Kirkwood;  
Alderman Chandra Coughley, Greendale  
Irene Johnson, Public Information Officer, Richmond Heights;  
Councilmember Sandy Muller, Black Jack;  
Mayor Ann Purzner, Overland;  
Paul Thompson, Public Information Officer, Maryland Heights;  
Mayor Gerry Welch, Webster Groves

Many thanks to Judy and the Committee!



Clayton Alderman Judy Goodman, Chair, Media & Community Relations Committee.

## Park Commission Offers Planning Grants

In the past the Municipal Parks Grant Commission has only funded major park improvements.

Beginning this summer, however, the Commission will make **needs assessment grants** available as part of a demonstration project designed to continue to improve facility grant applications available

each fall. The Commission will pay **80%** of the costs, not to exceed **\$4000** in Commission funds to any one city. **\$6000** grants are available to a group of cities also on an 80/20 basis. For the demonstration project, you may use consultants involved in park planning with at least 2 years experience.

Application packets were

sent to all mayors in early June.

Cities should act quickly to prepare for the fall 2006 round. We ask that you return the application by June 30.

A second grant period is also planned with applications due by December 31. Contact the League office for more information.

## League Participates in Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition

Recently the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* featured an editorial, which referred to lead poisoning as “the monster that just won’t go away.” Populations most affected by lead poisoning are often found in high poverty areas where many homes were built before 1978 and particularly before 1960.

Lead poisoning is a condition caused most often by breathing or ingesting lead dust or swallowing lead paint chips. The most common sources of lead exposure are deteriorating lead based paint that is chipping, peeling, flaking, chalking or cracking. Lead dust is created by high friction surfaces containing lead based paint such as windows, doors and stairs.

Any one at any age can be poisoned, but lead is most dangerous to pregnant women and children under the age of six. Lead in a pregnant woman's body may transfer to the unborn baby. Small children are the

most easily poisoned because very small amounts of lead can affect them; their growing bodies keep more lead in them than adults. Children spend most of their time close to the floor and put everything in their mouths so that a few tiny grains of lead can be enough to poison a child.

Although not completely curable, lead poisoning is completely preventable through education and environmental interventions (such as painting and replacing windows).

A common assumption is that lead poisoning most often occurs when children chew on paint chips; actually the dust from deteriorated lead paint is the main problem.

Parents should make sure that children are tested for lead poisoning! There are 12 zip codes - 63105, 63117, 63119, 63122, 63124, 63125, 63133, 63134, 63140, 63143, 63144, 63074 - in St. Louis County that the Missouri Department of

Health and Senior Services has identified as targeted high risk areas for universal testing. These areas may have been designated because they have a large percentage of pre-1978 housing and very low numbers of children tested for lead, not necessarily because they are showing high numbers of children lead poisoned. Unless the children are tested it is impossible to determine if these areas can be removed from the high risk designation.

League staff participated in the St. Louis Lead Prevention Coalition. We encourage members to make citizens aware of the dangers of lead poisoning. [A sample article for use in your municipal newsletter is available on our website under the Current Events link or you may request a copy from our office.](#)

## County Older Resident Program (CORP) Offers Services

St. Louis County residents age 60 and over are eligible for a wide variety of programs, services and opportunities from the CORP office in the County Department of Human Services.

Since 1975, CORP has been providing transportation (by appointment) to and from medical appointments for older residents who do not drive and have no other transportation alternatives.

Additionally, CORP provide home care and repair services to homeowners who are no longer able to climb a ladder to paint, clean gutters, etc.

Volunteer attorneys provide

legal consultation and assist with the preparation of simple wills, quit claim deeds and other documents.

Trained volunteers will telephone socially isolated senior to check on their well-being, remind them to take medications or just chat as part of the Care Calls program.

Other programs include tax preparation assistance, computer skills training, grocery shopping, and referrals to other community resources.

Activities that promote active aging are also sponsored by CORP. Broadway Fantasies, an

annual song and dance revue, just completed a successful four performance run. Proceeds from the show support CORP’s 600 plus registered volunteers.

Volunteer opportunities are available in all program areas. CORP is presently looking for drivers and volunteers willing to help with socialization programs such are card clubs, book clubs, A Night Out, garden clubs and more.

For more information on CORP programs and services call 314-615-4516.

## County Urges All One Way Lane Closures for I-64 Construction

County Executive Charlie Dooley created a task force to study scenarios available for detouring traffic during the rebuilding on Highway 40/I-64 from Spoede Rd. in Frontenac to Sarah St. in St. Louis (just east of Kingshighway) - about 12 miles.

Civic leaders have advocated that MoDOT use an accelerated schedule which led to the use of a design-build approach, which uses one company throughout the process. This differs from most construction projects where one company designs the project and then bids are sought from one or more companies to complete the construction. The design-build process may allow the entire project to be built in less than four years. Design-build also places all responsibilities on just one company and, therefore, can eliminate multiple firms from blaming others when problems arise (a la Metrolink) and can reduce requests for increased funding after the project begins.

There is no easy way to detour traffic for four years. However, the County task force is encouraging a plan that calls for closing all of the highway lanes in one direction for all 12 miles, rebuilding those lanes, and then closing all the lanes in the other direction. The plan is nicknamed the 3-0 plan because three lanes are open while three are closed.

The analysis notes the following:

- Trying to keep parts of overpasses open while only 1 or 2 lanes are rebuilt requires that temporary overpasses

be built. These temporary bridges add tens of million of dollars to the cost. With MoDOT limiting construction costs to about \$400 million, this option is eliminated.

- Closing the entire highway in one direction gives the contractor total access to this 12 miles of highway without interference from traffic. Construction can proceed much more quickly. Workers are also safer without cars nearby.
- Commuters will not have to deal with changing detours every few weeks as the orange barrels move around the construction zone. Commuters can better plan their detours when few detour changes are made.
- The roads handling the detours can be adjusted for the 18 to 24 month period, without requiring frequent readjustments.

The task force believes that a certain percentage of vehicles, especially those that normally travel completely through this 12 mile stretch, will use other freeways like I-70 or I-44.

Those that need to begin or end their trip near the corridor will have to rely on nearby parallel roads like Olive, Clayton or Manchester. This will place an unavoidable burden on them.

The north-south roads serving the area, such as Ballas, Spoede, Lindbergh, McKNight, Brentwood, Hanley, Skinker, Hampton and Kingshighway are not perceived as very efficient and will also be burdened. However, the task force report suggests that complete closure one-

way puts less pressure on these north-south roads than does smaller detours if the project is broken into segments.

To reduce congestion, some of the following strategies are under consideration:

- Discourage traffic from entering the zone;
- For those who must enter the zone, encourage ride-sharing, transit (including the new Metrolink line from Shrewsbury to Clayton to downtown to Illinois).
- Enhance the capacity of alternate roads through re-striping, turn restrictions, signal coordination, etc.
- Modify work schedules to reduce peak demand.

While it is challenging to picture a gate coming down on one side of the highway for two years, and then moving the gate to the other side for two years, the merits and demerits of the County proposal are worthy of consideration given MoDOT's four year, \$400 million limits on the project.

MoDOT's RFP is out on the street. It requires certain goals to be met, allows the bidders to suggest how to close sections and how to detour traffic.

We will all know more when the contractors' proposals are submitted to MoDOT in the fall.

The County task force report can be found on the County website: [www.stlouisco.com](http://www.stlouisco.com). Click on the map at the right with the words "I-64 Regional Traffic Management Plan Task Force."

## University City Thinks Big on Recycling

University City which operates the City's solid waste program with its own staff, started a new single stream recycling pilot program in May. Single stream recycling allows residents to place all recyclable material into one container with no need to separate the material. With single stream recycling you can recycle everything except #7 plastic (Styrofoam) and food waste. Regular trash trucks are cleaned and used to pick up the recycled items eliminating the need for special recycling trucks. Trucks then deliver the items to places like Resource Management or Smurfit Stone where no tipping fees are charged. Contact your hauler to have single stream implemented in your communities.

Through a grant from the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District, the City purchased an automated truck to collect the recyclable material. The automated truck only uses a driver, eliminating the need for 2 laborers to service bins at the curb, which allows the City to

reduce the program costs. The City bought 150 35-gallon recycle bins to start the program. They will also apply for future grants with the District to purchase more recycling bins and expand the program.

The single stream pilot program to date services 142 households and will last for 3-6



months. Residents have shown such a great interest, in the first week, more than 90% of the residents participated in the single stream collection program and 980 pounds of materials were collected. A waiting list has been developed for those seeking service.

Currently University City's

recycling program has an estimated 60 plus percent participation rate. In addition, the City diverts an estimated 23 percent of waste from the landfill with the expectation of the new program to greatly increase the diversion rate. University City's recycling program brings in revenues of around \$90,000 per year. All of these dollars are funneled back into the recycling program so the City can continue to provide excellent services to their residents.

Single stream encourages citizens to use large recycling containers and small trash cans – the opposite of traditional practices. In the long run, this new way of thinking not only substitute's recycled materials for raw materials, it also reduces the demand on landfills. This should help citizens save on solid waste bills while helping sustain our natural resources.

For additional information on single stream recycling and solid waste program assistance, contact Cody Hawkins at the League office 314-726-4747.

## State DED Requires Annual TIF Reports

Section 99.865 of the State Statutes requires that each municipality having a tax increment financing (TIF) district must submit to the Department of Economic Development an annual report outlining, among other items:

- Amounts and sources of revenue in the TIF fund;
- Expenditures from the fund;
- Assessed value before and

after the project is completed;

- Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) received and expended;
- Property costs; and
- A copy of the redevelopment plan.

The DED has developed a report form which includes all of the statutory requirements. It has two sections, one for a pro-

ject and plan description and one for TIF revenues.

For questions about the report or for copies of the form, contact Ann Perry at 573-522-8004. It is due by November 15, 2006.

The DED is required to compile reports from all municipalities and submit a composite report to the General Assembly by February 1.

St. Louis County Municipal League  
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Check out the changes to the League's website.

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[www.stlmuni.org](http://www.stlmuni.org)*

## Legislative Wrap Up

The League found itself in a defensive position most of the session. Eminent domain, TIF, fire district sales taxes, AT&T television, and city liability for billboard removal were topics that could have damaged cities. Only eminent domain passed (HB 1944) and the changes should be acceptable to most.

We had hoped to secure approval for a public safety sales tax, subject to voter approval. League members felt that salaries, benefits, equipment, etc. should be updated in police departments and some fire departments. Since fire districts pay up to a whopping 50% more than municipal fire departments and police are frequently paid somewhat less than municipal fire personnel, we felt our bill would lead to more pay parity. However, the fire districts insisted they be authorized to levy a sales tax too, which would make the gap worse. Both efforts failed.

**Representative Kathlyn Fares** tried on several occasions to pass the authority for the local option tax, but was unable to secure support from some House members whose communities would have benefited the most. Many thanks to Representative Fares for her hard work all session long.

Bills of interest that passed include:

**Eminent Domain** – HB 1944 – The condemning authority will have to pay more compensation and inform the property owner of the procedures and the owner's rights. Cities may continue to use eminent domain to redevelop blighted areas if it "finds a preponderance of the defined areas is blighted", after determining whether each parcel individually meets the statutory definition of blight.

**Board of Aldermen in 4<sup>th</sup> Class Cities** – HB 977 – allows 4<sup>th</sup> class cities under 1000 population the op-

tion of electing alderman at large, rather than from wards.

**Flag Display** – HB 893 – requires that the US and Missouri state flag be flown at half staff on government buildings on September 11. Mark your calendar.

**Fire department dispatching in St. Louis County** – SB 893 – allows a local fire department existing dispatching property tax of up to 3 cents to be used for equipment and services, in addition to dispatching.

**Stormwater bonds** – HB 1149 authorizes additional stormwater bonds to be sold by the state for use in St. Louis City and County and Kansas City.

Senators, Bray, Coleman, Days, Dougherty, Gibbons, Green, Griesheimer, Kennedy and Loudon, along with many House members worked with the League on a number of issues. We appreciate their cooperation.