



Installation Dinner - Friday, June 2

Upcoming League Meetings

- Friday, June 2, Annual Installation Dinner, Doubletree Hotel, Chesterfield
- Thursday, June 15 Golf Tournament, Golf Club of Florissant

The League will hold its Annual Installation of Officers Dinner on Friday, June 2 at the Doubletree Hotel, 16625 Swingely Ridge Rd. in Chesterfield. (From Highway 40 exit at Chesterfield Parkway West, just west of Olive/Clarkson.)

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

The music group Chasers Fore will provide music throughout the evening along with after dinner tunes for listening and dancing.

The cost of the dinner is \$40 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 John Nations of Chesterfield;
Vice President: Mayor T.R. Carr of Hazelwood;

Finance Chairman: Mayor Joe Adams of University City;

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

We hope that a large contingent from your city will be able to join us on June 2 to welcome the League's new leadership team and enjoy the company of your fellow officials.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>April Meeting Synopsis</i> | 2 |
| <i>Bylaws Changes Approved</i> | 2 |
| <i>Joe Adams Selected for Buzz Westfall Award</i> | 2 |
| <i>Zoning Denial Leads to Damage Awards</i> | 3 |
| <i>Transit Oriented Development Update</i> | 3 |
| <i>Federal Economic Development Grants Offered</i> | 3 |
| <i>Legislative Update</i> | 4 |

League Golf Tournament Set for June 15

The City of Florissant is once again generously hosting 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 buffet lunch. Prizes will also be presented.

Registration information has been mailed to mayors and chief administrative officers. It is also on

our website, www.stlmuni.org under the Current Events link.

We hope you will be able to join us for this enjoyable event.

We would like to thank Florissant Mayor Robert Lowery and Councilman Tom Schneider for their efforts in putting together the tournament.

April Meeting Synopsis

At the April 27 League meeting the membership heard a presentation from State Representative Margaret Donnelly. Also, Jill Miller, outlined the Sierra Club's Cool Cities Program.

Representative Donnelly discussed HB 1944, the Eminent Domain bill that had been passed by the House and sent to the Senate. She indicated that the House version would prohibit eminent domain for proposals that were "solely" for economic development purposes. This would still allow cities some ability to assemble land for development purposes. She also noted that TIF legislation may not pass this year as the House and Senate have widely different

opinions on the definition of blight.

Other bills mentioned by Representative Donnelly included:

- the MOHELA student loan proposal, which may be tied to a bill to provide \$1000 scholarships to most college students;
- the state budget, which is in a conference committee and must be passed by May 5;
- The voter ID bill, which could be difficult to implement by the November 2006 election;
- and the AT&T video bill which is dead for the session barring a last minute amendment.

Jill Miller said that the Cool Cities program was the brain-

child of the Mayor of Seattle, WA. 8 Missouri cities have signed on to help reduce energy costs and carbon dioxide emissions. Cities can help by: using renewable energy; use green fleets, including hybrids for city vehicles; and use energy efficient lights. For more information go to sierraclub.org/coolcities.

Also at the meeting the membership elected new officers and board members and approved several bylaws changes (see article below).

Thanks to President Betty Humphrey and the staff and officials of Richmond Heights for their warm welcome as hosts of the meeting.

Membership Approves Bylaws Changes

The League membership approved three amendments to the Bylaws at the April meeting.

The first modified the dues structure by adding 1% annually for four years to the population base amount paid by all cities. In addition, the supplement paid by some "A" cities will be phased out. League reserves are sufficient to cover any shortfalls that may occur over the next several years.

The second amendment fol-

lowed last fall's vote to allow all continuing serving past presidents to serve on the League Board. The newly approved amendment will allow any past president who leaves elected office and returns to also serve on the Board. This will allow Creve Coeur Mayor Harold Dielmann to join the Board.

The final amendment authorizes the use of electronic meeting notices. Currently notices are sent to mayors, board chair-

men of villages and chief administrative officers (2 notices per member municipality). We will now be able to e-mail notices to any elected official desiring the materials. We are also intending to replace mailed newsletters with e-mail versions, again for those interested.

This will help you get information about our meetings more quickly and save a considerable amount in postage, printing and staff time.

Joe Adams 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 note-

worthy accomplishments benefiting the community and/or the region.

This year the Board unanimously voted to recognize Mayor Joe Adams of University City. He served as a council-

man for 20 years and the last 10 years as Mayor. He served as President of the MML in 1999 and also served on the Board of the National League of Cities

The award will be presented at our June 2 Installation Dinner.

Zoning Denial Leads to \$ Damages

The Missouri Municipal Attorney's Newsletter reports that the City of Kansas City was required to pay damages and court costs and fees to a developer after the City denied a rezoning. City staff had determined that the preliminary plat met all of the conditions and recommended that the plat be approved.

After the Council denied approval, the developer sued the City to approve the plat which was granted along with a 1983 Civil Rights action for damages. The circuit court awarded \$224,000 in damages to the developer along with \$148,000 for costs and legal fees.

On appeal, the Missouri Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's decision although it did reduce the damages to \$174,000. The Court stated that the Council decision to deny the preliminary plat was truly irrational after staff and legal recommendations for approval.

Officials should review the case with legal counsel to avoid problems with zoning decisions. The case is *Furlong Companies, Inc. v. City of Kansas City*, (SC86741, 3/21/06).

Pub. Works Course

Bhasin Associates is offering a 2 hour course entitled Enhancing Street Maintenance Skills for Street Crews. It will cover the fundamentals of street repair work and help show the correct methods and skills to provide high quality repairs.

The course takes place in a small group setting at a location convenient for city crews. Discussion is based on examples of public works topics and will show the correct use of methods and materials.

For more information, contact Vijay Bhasin 921-9090 or by e-mail at bhasinassociates@hotmail.com

Transit Oriented Development Becoming More Popular

The Newsletter from Citizens for Modern Transit reports that study groups for the Northside-Southside Metrolink corridor studies will examine Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and broader neighborhood development opportunities within the two corridors. This will include looking at land use policies and new technologies for these routes in order to ensure that economic development is an

outcome of the extensions.

TOD is mixed use development that capitalizes on the locations near rail transit stops that feature walkable, sustainable neighborhoods. It creates land use plans that include a mix of residential, commercial and retail space which cluster around a transit stop. By mixing these uses within walking distance, the development creates an atmosphere that is safe, envi-

ronmentally friendly and functional.

Dallas, Texas has experienced dozens of new buildings, many designed like parts of mini-downtowns around new light rail stations. The Boulevard in Richmond Heights and the housing development at the Emerson Park Metrolink Station in East St. Louis are local examples of TOD.

Federal Economic Development Grants Available for Poor Areas

The Federal Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), is soliciting proposals for FY 2006 funding to support economic development assistance programs under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965. Proposals are accepted on a continuing basis. The EDA will consider grant-based invest-

ments that will promote comprehensive, entrepreneurial, and innovation-based development efforts to enhance the competitiveness of regions, resulting in increased private investment and higher skill, higher wage jobs in areas experiencing economic distress.

Distress may exist in a variety of forms, including, but not

limited to: high unemployment; low income levels; significant decline in per capita income; population loss due to the lack of employment opportunities; business failures; and sudden major layoffs.

Proposal information is available at www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/FFON.xml.

PRSRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT # 3754

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

**Plan to Attend our Annual Installation
Dinner on June 2 and our Golf
Tournament on June 15!**

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

*See our website at
stlmuni.org*

Electronics Recycling

Did you know that most people have several pieces of outdated or non-working electronic equipment? There are a few places where you can donate or take your electronics to a recycler where parts can be reused. There may be a small charge for dropping off computer monitors.

What electronics can you recycle? Computers (hard drives, monitors, keyboards), printers, TV's, cell phones, cordless phones, corded phones, DVD players, VCR's, hand held devices, cameras, electronic games, pagers, answering machines, batteries, and much more!

Go to www.ecyclestlouis.org for a complete list of items and locations where they can be recycled. Here is a list of electronic recyclers in St. Louis City and County.

St. Louis County: **University City Recycling Center**

Lynnette Hicks
314-862-6767
www.ucitymo.org
M-F 8-5; Sat. 8-Noon

DCAL Services

Darrel Schmidt
314-918-8833
www.dcalervices.com
M-F 8-5; Evening/Weekend
by appointment

St. Louis City:

Gunther Electronics
Don Gunther
314-367-9933
www.guntherelectronics.com
M,T,Th,F 8-5, Wed. 8-7

Hi-Tech Charities

Francis Onukwue
314-389-5737
www.hitechcharities.org
M-F 8-5; Call for weekend/
evening hours

RIMCO (URI)

Ann Hughes
630-562-8101
ahughes@unitedrecycling.com
M-F 7:30-4, Sat. 8-12

WITS

Angela Haas
314-382-1650
witsinc@witsinc.org
www.witsinc.org
M-Sat. 9-5

Legislative Update

HB 1944, the eminent domain bill, was passed by the General Assembly on May 5. Some of the main features of the conference committee substitute include:

- Establishment of a state ombudsman to help property owners;
- Homestead properties will receive 25% more than the appraised value. Legacy homes owned over 50 years will receive 50% more;
- Each property must be examined for blight, but the area must be judged by a preponderance of blight.
- Farmland cannot be taken for development;
- Buyer or property owner may seek court review to determine if blight determination for an area is supported by substantial evidence.

Issues not completely resolved by press time include: TIF; public safety sales tax; paying for billboard removal affected by zoning changes; lobbying laws applying to those who try to influence LOCAL government bodies; telcom tax formula; and eliminating TV franchising.

Following the session, the League will send a recap to all city halls outlining major issues for local governments.