



Upcoming League Meetings

- Thursday, October 23, Hosted by Berkeley
- Thursday, November 20, Co-hosted by several members and the Normandy School District
- Legislative Breakfast, Saturday, November 15, Renaissance Hotel in Berkeley

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October 23 Meeting in Berkeley

The City of Berkeley will host the next League meeting at 7:30 pm on Thursday, October 23 at the **Doubletree Club Hotel**, 9600 Natural Bridge Rd., just east of Brown Rd. (Directions: from eastbound I-70, pass the airport and exit at eastbound Natural Bridge Rd. and follow it for approximately 1/2 mile, just past Brown Rd., to the hotel. From I-170, exit at Natural Bridge Rd. westbound. Natural Bridge is a divided road so go to Brown Rd. and make a left turn and then another left onto eastbound Natural Bridge. The hotel is on the right.)

Program: The new law

allowing the carrying of concealed weapons contains provisions for local officials to consider in relation to the allowance or prohibition of weapons in municipal buildings. Municipal attorney Kevin O’Keefe will outline the main provisions of the law as it relates to cities.

In addition, representatives of the University of Missouri Extension Service will give a brief presentation on the services provided to the community. Cities over 10,000 population are authorized to appoint a member to the Leadership Council of the Extension Service.

The main item of



League meetings provide timely updates for our members.

business will be the consideration of the Legislative Affairs Committee Report. The Committee has recommended an updated booklet of legislative issues and priorities for the upcoming session.

The Committee report and all other agenda items will be mailed to mayors, board chairmen and chief administrative officers prior to the meeting.

Legislative Breakfast — November 15

The League will hold its annual Legislative Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on **Saturday, November 15** at the Renaissance Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Rd. in Berkeley, just east of Lambert Airport. The cost is \$15.

Members of the Legislative Affairs Committee will present the League legislative priorities for the 2004 session. In addition, the breakfast serves as an excellent opportunity for municipal officials to meet informally with legislators to discuss

issues of concern to local governments.

Registration materials will be mailed to city halls in late October. Please plan to attend this important event. Legislators attend free as guests of the League.

League to Host Seminar on Broadband Development as an Economic Development Tool

Are you looking to strengthen your economic base either by attracting new businesses or retaining your current ones?

Do you face budget shortfall issues and seek to enhance local revenues?

Are businesses and residents frustrated with current broadband services and seeking improvement?

Would offering broadband competition be of interest to you?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, please attend our *free* broadband informational seminar on **Thursday, October 30th**. Our guest presenters will be Tom Asp and Alan Kraus of Virchow, Krause & Company, LLP/ Broadband Development 3.

Location: Creve Coeur Government Center, lower level meeting room, 300 N. New Ballas Rd.

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Topic: “Ways to Advance Your Community’s Telecommunication Efforts: Learning from Other Communities Success.”

The twin challenges of creating economic growth and containing costs in the delivery of government services face all cities and counties throughout America. Learn how other communities are tackling these challenges and gain valuable ideas on how your community can advance its telecommunication services.

About the presenting firms:

Virchow Krause and BBD3 have partnered to assist communities around the nation to explore options for advanced telecommunications services. They have worked with 30 Michigan counties to advance telecommunications efforts which recently earned Michigan a top ranking for its broadband policies. Recognizing that each community has different needs, they analyze and identify alternatives to suggest strategies to serve both businesses and residents. Because they are not affiliated with any vendor or service provider, they provide an independent, unbiased examination of your community’s options.

Registration information has been sent to each city hall or see the League’s website at www.stlmuni.org under the Current Events link.

September Meeting Synopsis

At the September 25 League meeting, the membership heard a presentation from Donn Rubin, Executive Director of the Coalition for Plant and Life Sciences. This agency was formed to position the St. Louis region as an international center for biomedical and plant sciences research and industry. Currently the Coalition is working to ensure that venture capital and state-of-the art laboratory facilities

are available for firms as they evolve into mature companies.

He noted that the region has strengths in the fields of research capacity with local universities and recent capital formation in the amount of \$300 million to assist these entities.

Mr. Rubin stated that the region has tremendous

potential for high paying job growth if investment and infrastructure development continues.

We appreciate the warm welcome from Mayor James Robertson and the officials and employees of the City of Crestwood, which hosted the meeting.

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League Holds Planning and Zoning Seminar

On September 29, approximately 45 League members attended a seminar on Planning and Zoning procedures and the role of the Board of Adjustment.

Attorney Paul Rost of the firm of Cunningham, Vogel and Rost explained the legal processes involved for granting variances by the board of adjustment. He noted that the guide-

lines for the board are found in state statute, but court cases over time have helped to more clearly delineate the board’s role.

Tom Cunningham, of the same firm, highlighted the planning and zoning process as defined by state law and clarified by the courts. Copies of the outlines used by the attorneys are available from the League office.

The final speaker, Joe Vujnich, Director of Planning and Parks for the City of Wildwood, provided a staff perspective on the need to balance the interests of the citizens with those of developers so that new projects will be beneficial to the community without being a detriment to those nearby.

We very much appreciate the time given by our three presenters.

Congress May Interfere with Local Taxes

Under the false pretense of preempting taxes on accessing the Internet, Congress may listen to special interests and eliminate local gross receipts taxes and franchise fees. HR 49 and S 150 may also prevent sales taxes on goods purchased over the Internet, a huge loophole that places regular stores in our communities at a competitive disadvantage.

Ironically, voters have shown a preference for the sales tax, and no local taxes can be increased under Missouri's Hancock Amendment without voter

approval. Congressional action would greatly interfere with local revenues and reduce local services.

Multiple drafts of the legislation have added to the confusion about the impact of the proposal. Special tax breaks for some businesses will surely place the tax

burden on other businesses if the bills become law.

Local officials are urged to con-

tact Senator Bond and Senator Talent to explain the importance of the sales and gross receipts taxes, the need for taxes to change with technologies, to respect local votes on the package of taxes most desired by citizens to pay for local services, and to avoid creating certain tax-free industries which only burdens others.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that local governments would lose \$80-\$100 million. The Multi-State Tax Commission, which has been working to make retail and internet sales tax equal, estimates losses as high as \$22 billion.

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Resources on Bike-Friendly Communities Available

The St. Louis Regional Bicycle Federation, has several publications that can help local governments plan bicycle facilities, optimize their roads for cyclists and apply for designation as a "Bicycle Friendly Community." The materials include "Basic Improvements for Bicyclists" by John Williams; "The Best Cycling Guide" from *Bicycling Magazine*; the "Safe Routes to School Planning Guide,"

a Bikeability checklist, and "Your Guide to Becoming a Bicycle Friendly Community," from the League of American Bicyclists. In addition, the Bike Fed can provide information on model bicycle parking ordinances or



selecting bicycle parking racks and can offer suggestions for promoting commuting and shopping by bike. Contact the St. Louis Regional Bicycle Federation, 239 Spring Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119, or info@stlbikefed.org. For detailed info visit the Bike Fed website at www.stlbikefed.org or www.bicyclinginfo.org.

Utility Relocations

It is often necessary to move utility lines when rebuilding streets and sidewalks. Because utilities are guests in the city's right-of-way, they must relocate their utilities at their cost. However, some companies are now trying to claim that the city (ie taxpayers) must pay. Your city attorney should be consulted when such situations arise.

Code Updates Wanted

The League office has code books for over 50 municipalities. Some of these are updated regularly, while others have not been revised for quite some time. The staff uses these for research when we get calls from our members for sample ordinances.

We would appreciate receiving any updates to help us do a better job.

Congratulations To ...

Municipal Attorney Kevin O'Keefe, who received the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Municipal League at its recent conference.

Kevin has a long history of involvement in both the MML and the County League and has volunteered many hours to present training programs.

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October 23 Membership Meeting in Berkeley. Please plan on joining us.

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

*See our website at
stlmuni.org*

District and County Recycling Grants Available

The St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District and the St. Louis County Department of Health have each notified local governments of the availability of grant funds to assist cities and other entities with recycling efforts.

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.

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 or schools designed to promote recycling in the community.
- 7) Overhead costs directly related to the project.

District applications are currently available online at stlouisjeffersonswmd.org and must be submitted by **December 12, 2003**.

The County program offers two types of grants: a larger recycling and source reduction program, and a smaller recycling mini-grant program. The source reduction grants are geared towards such programs as: 1) traditional waste reduction/recycling; 2) non-traditional waste reduction/recycling; 3) integrated waste management projects; 4) closing the loop to help sustain markets for recycled goods; and 5) community educational/promotional projects.

Numbers 1-4 have a maximum grant amount of \$100,000 while number 5 is limited to \$52,500.

The mini-grant is designed to encourage cities to seek assistance for improving residential recycling and waste management. It is most applicable to those communities with limited staff or small projects. The maximum amount is \$20,000.

County grant applications are due by **December 31, 2003**.