



JANUARY 2007

January 25 Meeting at Olivette Community Center

Upcoming League Meetings

- Thursday, January 25, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, Olivette
Tuesday, January 30, Annual Conference, Sheraton Westport, 3 pm
Thursday, February 15, Membership Meeting, Site TBD
Wednesday, February 21, Legislative Luncheon, 11:30 am, Jefferson City, Prior to MML Legislative Conference

The first League meeting of 2007 will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 25 at the Olivette Community Center, 9723 Grandview Dr. (Directions: From the intersection of Lindbergh and Olive, go east on Olive a short distance to Warson Rd. Go

north on Warson to Grandview and turn right (east). The Community Center will be on the left.)

Program: The St. Louis Area Regional Response System ("STARRS") is a regional organization developed to coordinate

planning and use of federal funds to prepare for large-scale critical incidents.

Executive Director Nick Gragnani will explain the agency's role in planning for emergency situations and its importance for local governments.

Annual Conference - January 30

The League will hold its 3rd Annual Conference on Tuesday, January 30 at the Sheraton Westport Chalet. The cost is \$60 per person.

Concurrent sessions will run from 3:00-4:30 p.m. and 4:30-6:00 p.m. Following will be a reception and hors d'oeuvres buffet. Our evening speaker will be Tripp Frohlichstein, President of Media Masters who will provide an entertaining program on media relations featuring video examples. Learn how to keep your foot out of your mouth and get your message out!

Sessions offered at 3:00 pm include: Wireless Internet Options

- presenters from the County Economic Council and the City of Maplewood will discuss local and countywide efforts to establish a WiFi system.

Ethics for Local Officials - This session will be a lively, highly participatory discussion of the ethical dilemmas facing city officials.

Recycling and Solid Waste Grants - Speakers will offer tips on how cities can comply with the new County recycling ordinance.

Sessions at 4:30 are:

Infill Housing and ARBs Municipal architectural review board members and local developers

will discuss options for quality infill housing. Bonds and Debt Financing - Speakers will discuss borrowing options and advantageous ways for cities to complete capital projects.

CERT Training & Citizen Volunteers - Municipal police officers will describe current programs that utilize citizen volunteers for the benefit of cities.

Registration flyers have been mailed to city clerks. It is also available on the League website (www.stlmuni.org) under the Current Events link.

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## November Meeting Synopsis

At the November League meeting the membership heard a presentation from Denny Coleman, President and CEO of the County Economic Council.

Mr. Coleman complimented the efforts of the many municipal officials who have been working in their communities to enhance economic development. He said that St. Louis County has 18% of the state's population but produces 36% of the income tax, demonstrating the dramatic impact that high paying jobs in the County has on the rest of Missouri. He also noted that the County job totals have increased by 25,000 in the last few years.

Some of the recent major development plans announced include: the Edward Jones Campus in Maryland Heights; North Park, in Berkeley, Ferguson and Kinloch, which includes the Express Scripts headquarters; Pfizer in Chesterfield; Chrysler in Fenton, along with several part supply companies in the area; and two Pinnacle casinos, one downtown and one in Lemay.

In addition an Economic Development Collaborative has been formed to allow the Economic Council to work directly with cities and local chambers of commerce on development projects. Initially, this group is work-

ing on a countywide wireless initiative.

The membership also added three policy statements to the Legislative booklet, which had been approved in October. These are:

- Cable and Video Franchising and Taxation (added as a 7th priority that was presented at the Legislative Breakfast);
- Limits on City Liability for Accidents; and
- Primary Seat Belt Law.

We would like to thank the officials and employees of the City of Brentwood for hosting the meeting.

## Minimum Wage Law Impacts Fire/Police Overtime

The new minimum wage law approved by voters in November may have the unintended consequence of creating new liabilities for cities.

Firefighters and police have traditionally worked out special 14 day or 28 day cycles, rather

than the standard 7-day, 40 hour week, but the new law may require overtime pay in the 14/28 cycles.

Until the courts and/or legislature can solve the question of overtime pay, cities should consider adjusting regular pay and

overtime to break even, adjusting schedules, or paying the overtime in order to avoid penalties. In the meantime, cities are seeking legislative and court action that have widespread support among both employees and officials.

## Solid Waste District Offers Recycling Grants

The St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District has notified local governments of the availability of approximately \$2 million in grant funds to assist cities with recycling efforts. The District is strongly encouraging cooperative efforts between groups of municipalities and others. Projects designed to increase diversion and participation in residential recycling programs are also encouraged. In previous grant rounds, the average amount awarded has been approximately \$40,000, with some

grants over \$100,000. The District requires a minimum 10% match. Eligible costs include equipment, consulting, salaries, education, and direct costs associated with a project. District applications are currently available online at [www.swmd.net](http://www.swmd.net) and must be submitted by February 9, 2007.

For more information contact the District office at 314-645-6753. The League office also has copies of the application forms available and can assist cities by contacting Cody Hawkins at 314-726-4747.

## Congratulations To

Congratulations to Mayor Robert Lowery of Florissant; Wayne Oldroyd, Director of Community Development for Maryland Heights; and the East Central Dispatch Center, comprised of the Cities of Clayton, Maplewood, Olivette, Richmond Heights, Shrewsbury and Webster Groves.

Each was among the winners of the Outstanding Local Government Achievement Awards presented at the East-West Gateway Annual Meeting in November.

## Park Commission Awards Grant

The Municipal Park Grant Commission of St. Louis County has awarded \$4.1 million in grants to 20 cities for park improvements for the recently completed grant cycle. Since 2001, the Commission has awarded 145 grants totaling \$16.3 million.

Those awarded new projects are:

**Ballwin** - Vlasik Park

**Bridgeton** - Athletic Complex  
**Chesterfield** - Athletic Complex  
**Clayton** - Center of Clayton  
**Creve Coeur** - Millennium Park  
**Edmundson** - Edmundson Park  
**Eureka** - Legion/Lions Park  
**Ferguson** - Forestwood Park  
**Glendale** - North Glendale School  
**Manchester** - Aquatic Center  
**Maryland Heights** - Parkwood and McKelvey Wood Parks  
**Normandy** - Hoelzel Park  
**Richmond Heights** - The Heights

**Rock Hill** - Stroup Field  
**University City** - Heman Park  
**Valley Park** - Meramec River Trail  
**Velda Village Hills & Beverly Hills** - Greenwood Park  
**Warson Woods** - Royal Oak Park  
**Webster Groves** - Ice Arena  
**Woodson Terrace** - John Brown Park

## Legislature Convenes

The General Assembly convened on January 3 and a number of bills of municipal interest were prefiled in December. In mid-January the League will begin sending weekly email and fax updates on legislative actions.

Some of the bills we will be tracking include:

TIF Restrictions: SB 20 (Griesheimer), which requires a super majority for residential TIFs in greenfields, requires voter approval or super majority for TIFs opposed by the TIF commission, allows a referendum on TIF projects and prohibits greenfield TIFs in the St.

Louis area.

SB 176 (Green) would limit retail TIFs and add a restrictive definition of blight. (Oppose)

HB 103 (Portwood) adds a lengthy definition of blight, requires a super majority for TIFs opposed by the commission and sends all property taxes to school districts in residential TIFs unless the district reps on the commission support the TIF. (Oppose)

Telecommunications Taxes: SB 209 (Griesheimer) and HB 165 (Cooper) would dismiss all city lawsuits against cell companies. DOR would establish tax rates and collect taxes. (Oppose)

Red Light Camera Regulations:

SB 192 (Crowell) would allow cities to use cameras but would prohibit companies from receiving a percentage of fines.

Predatory Lending Prohibition: SB 74 (Coleman) would prohibit flipping of home loans and limits high cost loans. (Support)

For those attending the MML Legislative Conference, make plans to attend the County League's Annual Legislative Luncheon which will be held at 11:30 am on Wednesday, February 21 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Info will be mailed to city clerks.

## Legislative Breakfast Draws Large Crowd

The League's Annual Legislative Breakfast on November 18 attracted a crowd of over 120 municipal elected officials, staff and state legislators.

Thanks to Legislative Affairs Committee Chairman Tom Schneider of Florissant and the members of the Committee for their efforts in craft-

ing the 2007 Legislative Policies and also for their presentations of the priorities to our legislators.

(L-R) State Senator Harry Kennedy confers with MML Executive Director Gary Markenson and Brentwood Mayor Pat Kelly at the Breakfast.



St. Louis County Municipal League  
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Plan to attend our membership meeting on  
January 25 in Olivette and our Annual  
Conference on January 30 at Westport Plaza.

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

## County Thinks BIG on Recycling, small on Trash

The St. Louis County Council recently enacted new legislation to require curbside recycling to be offered to all households as part of basic service, following the practice in many cities. The provisions are applicable to municipalities as well as the unincorporated area.

By January 15, 2007 in cities that do not have a solid waste hauling contract, haulers operating within the city must provide to their customers, at a minimum, weekly collection of trash and weekly curbside collection of recycled materials for a base fee. Those that recycle will not be charged extra. (Haulers may offer more services for extra fees.)

For cities that have a solid waste hauling contract, the above provisions shall be effective on

January 15, 2008 or the expiration of the current contract, whichever is later.

In addition, the hauler shall make provisions for the collection of yard waste.

A city may be exempted from these provisions if:

- 1) it provides/operates a drop off facility for recyclables; and
- 2) after January 1, 2008 the city demonstrates that it has achieved a 40% waste diversion rate in the preceding six months and, after January 1, 2010 a 50% waste diversion rate.

In short, mandatory curbside recycling must be offered to all single family residences. However, cities with a recycling site will have one year to increase diversion rates to 40% (and 50% by

2010) to avoid these requirements.

Many cities have already changed to such a system ending the practice of charging extra for recycling pick-up. Citizen best practices call for recycling almost all household items in bigger curbside containers, while future trash consists of small containers holding just food scraps, Styrofoam, and soiled items like diapers.

Haulers pay close to \$30 per ton to drop off trash while recycling centers charge little or nothing. In the long run, citizen savings should benefit their pocketbook while environmental goals are met.