



**JANUARY 2009**

**January 22 Meeting in Webster Groves**

**Upcoming League Meetings**

- Thursday, January 22, Membership Meeting 7:30 pm, Webster Groves
- Thursday, January 29, Planning & Zoning Seminar, 5:00 pm, Brentwood Community Center
- Wednesday, February 18, Legislative Luncheon, 11:30 am., Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City
- Thursday, February 26, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, St. Ann

The first League meeting of 2009 will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday, January 22 at the Webster Groves Recreation Center, 33 E. Glendale Ave., off of Elm Ave., just south of I-44. (Directions: from Highway 40/64 and I-170, go south on Brentwood Blvd. (which changes to Kirkham) approximately 2 miles to Elm Ave. Turn left at traffic light at Elm and continue south passing under I-44. The recreation center will be on the left, just past the junior high school.)

**Program:** The need to spend millions of dollars to meet basic FCC requirements for our emergency radio systems continues to motivate us to seek a tax increase in order to replace our antiquated system with a state-of-the-art interoperable system. It is not fiscally prudent to make some piecemeal updates when all police and fire systems can be replaced and offer better service. State law allows a sales tax, property tax or use tax for this purpose.

League leaders, County officials and police and fire chiefs are continuing to meet to discuss the best option for financing an integrated emergency communications system for all providers.

Several 2009 election dates are possible. League officials are seeking input from the membership and would like to discuss the options with you at the January 22 meeting, as well as discuss how to create a successful campaign.

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**P & Z Seminar - January 29**

The law firm of Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O’Keefe will again conduct a Workshop on Municipal Planning and Zoning at 5:00 pm on Thursday, January 29 at the Brentwood Community Center, 2505 S. Brentwood Blvd. The center is located about 1 mile south of Highway 40/64 or 1/4 mile north of Manchester Rd. Refreshments will be available at 4:30 pm.

The program includes an opening general session to review planning

and zoning laws and practices.

Following will be two breakout sessions – one defining the role of the planning commission and the second on the rules and procedures of the board of adjustment.

Planning commission members and board of adjustment members are encouraged to attend, along with staff and elected officials.

The cost is \$30 per person, which includes materials and refreshments. Registration in-

formation has been sent to all city halls and is also on the League’s website at [www.stlmuni.org](http://www.stlmuni.org) under the Current Events link.

**In Memoriam**

Tim James, Mayor of St. Ann and League Board member, passed away on December 26.

We will remember his good counsel and warm spirit.

## November Meeting Synopsis

At the November meeting the membership heard presentations from Dr. Terry Jones of UM - St. Louis and Jeff Theerman, Executive Director of MSD.

Dr. Jones indicated that political change in the U.S. and Missouri is slowly following demographic changes. As the suburban communities grow, these areas will be the largest voting blocs in future elections and will help determine outcomes at both the state and federal levels. He believes St. Louis County and the Kansas City suburbs could form a group similar to Ohio's 1<sup>st</sup> Suburbs Coalition to help advance the suburban agenda.

Dr. Jones believes that the sales tax structure is weak due to internet and other "remote sales escaping taxation. Modernization is needed. He did indicate that federal revenue sharing is a possibility under the Obama administration.

At the state level, Dr. Jones

said that the original \$500 million budget surplus is now a \$500 million deficit for FY 2009 and possibly \$1 billion in FY 2010 unless drastic cuts are made. He believes that local taxing entities will be in a defensive position in the legislature until the economy rebounds.

Mr. Theerman discussed the new impervious surface charges that will be appearing on customer bills. The new fee is 12 cents per one hundred square feet of impervious surface, replacing the old flat fee of 24 cents per month. This will gradually increase the amount of revenue for stormwater control in the district.

He indicated that residential concerns will be addressed by polling and discussing options for management of stormwater. Some areas may be more suitable to detention basins, while others may need funds to buy out impacted properties.

Also at the meeting, President Joe Adams presented a clock to Parliamentarian Jesse Stroup in recognition of his 50 years of League involvement, beginning with his election as a Rock Hill Alderman in 1957 and subsequent election as Mayor. Upon his retirement from public service he continued his participation by volunteering to serve as parliamentarian.

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



Jesse Stroup (L) receives recognition from President Joe Adams for 50 years of service.

## Park Commission Awards New Grants

The Municipal Park Grant Commission recently announced the awarding of 20 grants in 19 municipalities totaling \$3.6 million dollars for park and recreation improvements.

The municipalities and parks are:

- Ballwin - The Pointe "Kid Fit Zone" and City Golf Course
- Bellefontaine Neighbors - Bissell Hills and St. Cyr Parks
- Crestwood - Sanders Park
- Creve Coeur - Beirne and Lake School Parks
- Eureka - Drewel Park
- Hazelwood - Truman Park Trail
- Kirkwood - Fillmore and Little Mitchell Parks
- Maryland Heights - Eise Park

- Oakland - Backstoppers Park
- Pagedale - Baerveldt Park
- Pine Lawn - Community Park
- St. Ann - Tiemeyer Park
- St. John - St. John Park
- Valley Park - Vance Road Park
- Velda Village Hills - Greenwood Memorial Park
- Vinita Park - Forrester Park Trail
- Webster Groves - Margaret Atlanta Park

Including the current round, the Commission has awarded about 180 grants totaling over \$22 million to improve municipal facilities. The Commission was created in 2001 to award grants to cities from the 1/10 cent sales tax for parks and trails.

## E-Verify Required

HB 1549 passed in 2008 requires public employers to use an employment verification process known as "E-Verify". The federal program uses a computerized system to check the immigration status of newly hired personnel against the Social Security Administration database.

To start the online registration visit the website [www.vis-dhs.com/employerregistration](http://www.vis-dhs.com/employerregistration).

For questions about E-Verify, call 1-888-464-4218.

This does not replace the I-9 forms, which should be kept by cities for 3 years following the employee's departure. E-Verify records are permanent.

## St. Louis County Requires Bicycle Helmets for All Children

St. Louis County recently passed an ordinance to require anyone under the age of 17 to wear protective headgear when riding a bicycle, scooter, roller blades or skateboard when operating or a passenger on the

equipment. Although some cities have already enacted a similar ordinance, for those that have not, the County ordinance applies in municipalities as well as the unincorporated area because the County charter allows

for countywide ordinances regulating public health and safety.

Any person receiving more than two notices of violation within a twelve month period shall be mailed a summons with a fine of \$10.

## Sales Tax Receipts Continue to Decline

As all municipal officials are aware, the impact of the economic slowdown is being felt at the local level. Sales tax revenues are off significantly due to shoppers holding more tightly to the purse strings.

The gross amount for the countywide one cent tax was off 4% in 2008.

These results show that Missouri leaders should consider a more modern system of taxation that allows for collections of online and out-of-state

sales and perhaps services as well as tangible goods.

The number of tax exempt items should also be restrained so that the base is not narrowed. This could help the state and its political subdivisions become less reliant on traditional retail sales and help lessen the impact of economic downturns on local tax collections.

## Pool Regs. Delayed

St. Louis County recently passed an ordinance that would delay enforcement of its regulations for swimming pool drain modifications. Municipal attorneys were concerned about liability for violating a County ordinance that could not be met.

The problem is that manufacturers do not yet have the required drain covers.

Cities should continue to seek similar action at the federal level.

## Congrats to Gateway Local Award Winners

The League would like to congratulate the following winners of Outstanding Local Government Achievement Awards from the East-West Gateway Council of Governments. The awards were presented at Gateway's Annual Meeting in November.

Local winners included:

- Sergeant Dan Donnelly of the Pacific Police Department for establishing a backpack program for school children;
- The City of Ferguson for developing a cooperative fuel center;
- The County Economic Council and the City of Creve Coeur for continuing development of the Danforth Plant Science Center;
- Alderman Joe Roddy and the St. Louis Development Corporation for the rebirth of the Grove District on Manchester Rd.; and
- Marty Corcoran, City Manager of Maplewood, who received the Lifetime Public Service Award after 33 years in the public sector.

## Business Licensing Software Luncheon Offered

Mitchell Humphrey Software and REJIS are hosting a complimentary luncheon for local officials to introduce a new software called FastTrackGov, an on-line business licensing software. This is a new technology that can help cities reduce costs, enhance revenues and upgrade citizen services. The luncheon will also include a presentation on the Microsoft Citizen Relationship Management (CRM) system.

It is scheduled from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm on Wednesday, January 21 at the Hyatt Riverfront (formerly the Adam's Mark). Sign up at [www.fasttrackgov.com](http://www.fasttrackgov.com). For more information call Brad Schnell at 314-991-2440, extension 3004 or email at [bschnell@mitchellhumphrey.com](mailto:bschnell@mitchellhumphrey.com)

St. Louis County Municipal League  
121 S. Meramec Ave.  
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The January 22 Meeting will be at the Webster Groves Recreation Center.

We will hold a P&Z Seminar on January 29 at the Brentwood Recreation Center.

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

## Business License Update

*The following has been prepared by the law firm of Cunningham, Vogel and Rost for use by the League.*

With the new year here and city business license renewal processes likely in progress, cities should be aware of new requirements of SB 30, which took effect on January 1, 2009, amending Sections 144.083.2 and 144.083.4 RSMo to now require a city to possess a statement from the Department of Revenue showing that no sales or income taxes are due by the licensee before a city license is issued.

The changes require only the possession by a city of a statement of no tax due before issuing or renewing a business license. There appears to be no affirmative obligation to obtain the no-tax-due statement for the licen-

see, only that no license be issued if the city does not have one. Therefore, cities may be able to place the burden of acquiring a statement on the licensee by alerting the applicant of the statutory obligation on the license application or elsewhere. Alternatively, the city may, but is not required to obtain the statement for the applicant.

The Missouri DOR is implementing an on-line system for cities to access the Department's tax system to determine if a potential licensee has no tax due. To access the system, cities must complete form 4379A. The information from the on-line system is subject to the confidentiality requirements of Section 32.057. The DOR website is [dor.mo.gov/tax/business/sales/nowtaxdue/](http://dor.mo.gov/tax/business/sales/nowtaxdue/)

## TIP Funds Workshop

The East-West Gateway Council of Governments and MoDOT will hold a workshop for cities interested in applying for federal funds for local transportation projects. It is scheduled for Thursday, January 22 at the Webster Groves Recreation Center, 33 E. Glendale Rd. **Advance registration is required** with a deadline of January 16. Registration information is available on the Gateway website, [ewgateway.org](http://ewgateway.org).

Speakers will provide information on: funding programs, amounts of funding available under each program, and competing and submitting applications forms for funding. Workshop attendance is encouraged but not required to apply for funding. For more info contact Jason Lange at 314-421-4220.