



OCTOBER 2009

October 22 Meeting at MO American Water Co.

Upcoming League Meetings

- Thursday, October 22, Membership Meeting 7:30 pm, MO American Water Company Central Plant, 901 Hog Hollow Rd.
Thursday, November 19, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, New Manchester Police Headquarters

The next League meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday, October 22 at the Missouri American Water Central Plant, 901 Hog Hollow Road, Chesterfield, MO 63017. (Directions; Take Olive Street Road west from I-270. Proceed west approximately 5 miles to Hog Hollow Road adjacent to Suburban Lawn Care Center. Turn right on Hog Hollow Road and proceed approximately 1/2 mile down the hill and across the railroad

tracks. You will see the main building on the left. Turn left through the gate for parking.)

The main item of business will be the adoption of the Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee. The report will be mailed or emailed one week prior to the meeting.

Program: 1) A representative of the St. Louis County Health Department will attend to provide an update on H1N1 flu preparations.

2) Mayor Welch, the chair of the Prop E -911 sales tax educational committee, will update members on the education effort.

3) Frank Kartmann, the newly named President of Missouri American Water company, will highlight some of the successes and challenges his company faces in the coming years. Tours of the water plant and informational exhibits will also be available.

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November Election on E-911

On November 3, two countywide ballot proposals and several local propositions will be on the ballot.

Prop E-911 would provide a 1/10 cent sales tax to make three major improvements in the emergency communications systems that serve all Countians.

Police/fire/EMS radio system. Currently, our first responders use radios linked by a frequency to each agency

tower. Problems with the current system are:

- 1. Departments cannot talk to each other when trying to assist.
2. If travelling more than a few miles to provide mutual aid, chase a criminal, or even serve a warrant, the signal dies due to the distance.
3. Radios interfere with each other, which the FCC says must stop - and which is expensive to fix.

4. Signals do not penetrate large buildings, underground garages, some valleys, etc., leaving responders without radio service during emergencies.

5. The system does not accommodate wireless computer/data reporting very well.

The solution is to build a system of (continued on page 2)

September Meeting Synopsis

At the September League meeting the membership heard two presentations. Mayor Gerry Welch of Webster Groves, the chair of the education committee for Prop E-911 outlined what League members could do prior to the November election to inform voters about the interoperable sales tax proposal. She noted that it will provide funding for a new integrated communications system for all public safety providers in the County and also link all surrounding counties in the region. It will also allow sufficient funds for operations and ongoing upgrades to the system. In addition the tax will provide upgraded and expanded emergency sirens in the County. Lastly, it will allow our dispatching centers to see the address of

those calling 911 from cell phones. Following the presentation a resolution indicating League support for Prop E-911 was approved. Many officials also pledged to undertake specific educational efforts in their communities. (See page 1 article)

Also on the agenda was County Councilmember Barbara Fraser who discussed how St. Louis County's proposed indoor smoking limit was developed. It will also be on the November ballot. She indicated that the exemptions for bars and casino floors are a compromise and were needed to secure Council support to place the issue on the ballot. The membership also approved a resolution supporting the proposed limits on indoor

smoking.

Prior to the meeting, Assistant Director Steve Ables was recognized for 25 years of service to the League.

We would like to thank Mayor Robert Lowery and the officials and employees of the City of Florissant for hosting the meeting at the City's impressive new Nature Lodge overlooking the Missouri River. Florissant officials are justifiably proud of this wonderful addition to their parks and recreation facilities.

NOTE: The City of Olivette has prepared a sample resolution urging voters to become informed about the smoking ban ballot proposal. It can be viewed on the League website www.stlmuni.org under the *Current Events* link.

E-911 Ballot Issue (continued)

(from page 1)
large, shared antennae, switch to new 800 mhz frequencies provided by the FCC that must be used or given to other areas, provide all new vehicle and on-the-hip radios that work on all the new frequencies.

Many metro areas have built these new systems and surrounding counties have passed taxes to do the same. Now it is up to County voters.

Sirens - The emergency warning system in St. Louis County is quite old, does not extend to newer areas, is difficult to repair due to obsolete parts, does not allow for local voice broadcasts during emergencies and can lose power during storms. A new system would expand cov-

erage and replace worn out sirens with modern, solar powered sirens.

Cell Phone Calls to 911 - When calling 911 from a traditional home or business phone on a wired system, an address appears on the dispatcher's screen. This is extremely valuable - some callers such as baby sitters or a confused adult may not know their address. But cell phone calls to 911 do NOT provide an address. Travellers, kids, teens and others may not know the address so dispatchers cannot send emergency personnel.

About 2/3 of all 911 calls now come from cell phones, increasing the chances of a problem. Cell phones are ad-

vancing but the dispatching centers must be upgraded in order to pinpoint the signal sent by the cell phone.

Mayor Gerry Welch of Webster Groves is chairing the League's committee that is focusing on voter education. Voters can then make an informed decision at the polls.

Officials from around the County volunteered an array of educational activities that could be undertaken.

These involved 1) linking city websites to the committee website - Prop E-911.org; 2) making educational material available at city buildings; 3) speaking to local groups, including church groups; 4) conducting an open house at city (cont. on Page 3)

hall; 5) providing handouts at the polls; 6) providing educational materials to employees.

The League, along with the Emergency Communications Commission and others asked the County Council to place the measure on the ballot. We now feel that we have an obligation to let voters know why. For information on the countywide ballot measure limiting indoor smoking, see the top of page 2.

MML Salutes Gary Markenson; Gerry Welch Elected President

At the recent MML conference the members thanked retiring Executive Director Gary Markenson for his 40 years of service. Representatives of the city managers', city clerks' and city attorneys' associations lightly "roasted" him to the delight of the banquet crowd. Gary has been playing tennis for years so he and his wife received a trip to New York to see

next year's US Open tennis tournament, compliments of the MML Board. Mizzou surprised Gary by sending two Golden Girls to perform at the banquet.

At this point Gary plans to attend both the October 22 and November 19 League meetings so we encourage you to attend to give him your own good wishes.

We would like to congratulate Webster Groves Mayor Gerry Welch who was elected MML President.

Elected to the MML Board were University City Councilman Arthur Sharpe and Shrewsbury City Administrator Barry Alexander. Re-elected was Kirkwood Councilman Paul Ward.

DED Schedules Annual TIF Report Webinar

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has scheduled a free webinar for Tuesday, October 27, from 10 a.m. to noon. The **Local TIF Annual Report** webinar will walk communities through required

reporting for designated local TIF's. The presenter will be Hal VanSlyck with Business and Community Services. Go to <http://www.ded.mo.gov/pdfs/LocalTIFWebinarRegistration.pdf> to register for the session.

Under new state law, if the reports are not filed cities would be unable to establish a new TIF project for 5 years, so compliance is imperative.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Offs Available

The St. Louis County Health Department will be hosting household hazardous collections at 3 locations during the fall. The times are from 8 am - 3 pm, rain or shine.

The dates and locations are:

- Saturday, October 17 at the
- Saturday, November 14
- Saturday, November 21 at

South County Shopping Center;

Westminster Christian Academy - Town & Country Campus, 800 Maryville Centre Dr. (south of Highway 40);

Florissant Valley Community College - I-270 at W. Florissant Ave.

These drop-offs are free and open to all St. Louis County residents.

Park Grant Applications Due October 30

Friday, October 30 is the deadline for submitting park grant applications to the Municipal Park Grant Commission at the League office. \$3 million has been budgeted by the Commission for the current

round.

You should ensure that all steps in the application have been completed, including appropriate approvals from the governing body, all required signatures and cost sheets.

Successful applicants will be notified in late December or early January.

Please call the League office at 314-726-4747 if you have questions about the application process.

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

The October 22 meeting will be at the Missouri American Water Company plant 901 Hog Hollow Rd. in Chesterfield.

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Survey Shows Local Governments Like to Tweet

American City and County reports the results of a recent survey by the Public Technology Institute (PTI) shows that 72% of local government respondents use Twitter to “push” news to residents, particularly emergency and public safety alerts. These short messages are called “tweets.” The same number use Facebook to communicate with residents, sometimes targeting specific groups, such as youths, seniors or visitors.

The League recently held a seminar on social networking where attendees learned examples of how social tactics have been helpful and created new opportunities for local governments and other agencies. It included a discussion of the top ten forms of social media and the benefits for an open discussion of city issues by electronic messaging.

There are several examples of cities using these forms successfully. For example, Decatur, GA has used Facebook to help facilitate an open city hall to encourage interaction with citizens. ICMA has recognized Decatur as one of America’s best interactive cities. Their ability to go above and beyond a simple website allows citizens to communicate more efficiently with elected officials and staff. The power point presentation from the seminar has been posted on the League website, www.stlmuni.org under the Training Academy link.

The seminar speakers were Rock Hill City Administrator George Liyeos and Melissa Hamilton a digital marketing specialist who also teaches advertising principles at St. Louis University.

Thank You from Steve Ables

At the September membership meeting I was recognized for 25 years of service with the League and presented with some very nice gifts. I have also received personal congratulations from many of you. I wanted to express my thanks to the Board and membership for the wonderful opportunity to work with the League members and for allowing my family to share in the reception. - Steve