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THE Link



MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
OF METRO ST. LOUIS

LINKING LOCAL COMMUNITIES | STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

September 2019

UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETING

Thurs., September 26
Membership Meeting
City of Ballwin

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September Membership Meeting Ballwin City Hall

The City of Ballwin will host the next Membership meeting on Thursday September 26 at their new City Hall located at 1 Government Center, Ballwin MO 63011; ([MAP](#)). The City Hall is located just north of Manchester Road at Seven Trails Dr. Refreshments will be served at



6:30 and the meeting will begin at 7:15.

The City of Ballwin was incorporated in 1950 but was originally part of a 400 acre Spanish land grant given to Ballwin's founder, John Ball in 1800. Manchester Road, established as the first State Road in St Louis County in 1835, became a mail route to the newly established Missouri State Capital in Jefferson City.



Program: Arch to Park LLC was co-founded by Jason Hall an entrepreneur who created this new civic-minded investment organization focused on economic growth in the urban core of St. Louis. Prior to launching his latest venture, Jason was Vice-President of Entrepreneurship & Innovation with the

St. Louis Regional Chamber, a member of Missouri Governor Jay Nixon's cabinet leading economic development, and the founder of the new Missouri Technology Corporation, a public-private partnership that leads Missouri's first comprehensive statewide entrepreneurship investment programs.

Jason's presentation will focus on some of the exciting economic development projects and opportunities in and around St. Louis in an effort to attract more business, investment and people to the region.



Board of Freeholders



All the signatures required to start the Board of Freeholders process have been collected. The last batches will be submitted to the Election Boards for St. Louis City and County in mid-September. The Missouri Constitution specifies that the Mayor and County Executive must appoint nine members within 10 days of the signatures being certified. The Constitution goes on to say that the appointment of the board shall be completed within thirty days after the certification of the filing of the petition, and at ten o'clock on the second Monday after their appointment the members of the board shall meet in the chamber of the board of aldermen in the St. Louis City Hall. This means the first meeting of the Board of Freeholders will be held sometime toward the end of October 2019.

The League's Executive Board would like to thank all of you that helped collect signatures to establish the Board of Freeholders which will allow the residents of St. Louis City and County the opportunity to discuss our governmental structure in a public, open and transparent forum. It will also ensure that if a plan is presented to the voters, the outcome will be determined at the local level by a local vote.

Call for Nominations



Outstanding Local Government Achievement Awards 2019



Nominations must be received
by Monday, September 9, 2019

Each year, the East-West Gateway Council of Governments presents its Outstanding Local Government Achievement (OLGA) Awards to recognize the extraordinary work of municipal, county, special purpose and school district officials in the St. Louis region. Help celebrate the accomplishments of local governments by submitting the individuals, projects and partnerships that represent the best in the public sector.

Nominations are due by Sept. 9 and may be submitted using the online nomination form available at www.ewgateway.org/olgas-2019, by email to awards@ewgateway.org or by mail to East-West Gateway Council of Governments, 1 Memorial Dr., Suite 1600, St. Louis, MO 63102. The winners will be announced at East-West Gateway's 54th Annual Meeting on November 13.

Governor Calls Special Session

Governor Parson has called for a special legislative session to undo a court ruling on vehicle sales taxes.

Parson says he's directing lawmakers to work on the issue beginning September 9; two days before the regularly scheduled veto session is to begin.

In June Missouri Supreme Court ruled that people can only count the money earned from selling one vehicle as a tax credit against the sales tax of a replacement car.

Previously, revenue officials allowed people to count earnings from selling multiple vehicles against the sales tax of a replacement car.

At this time there appears to be no vetoed legislation impacting local government.



St. Louis County has dozens of boards and commissions

that provide important public service functions. County Executive Page is seeking volunteers who are will to serve in order to fill vacant and expiring terms. For more information and a complete listing of all boards and commissions you can go to the St. Louis County Boards and Commissions website at; <https://boards.stlouisco.com/>.



Park Grant Commission Update

The Round 20 park grant application process closed on August 30. During early September, applications will be scored by the staff and Advisory Board. The list of recommended projects will be presented to the commissioners for final approval on October 9. New this year is an 18 month time frame for project completion. This will allow recipients more time to finish projects without the need to come back to the commission for an extension.

Also new this fall is the opportunity to submit planning grants at any time during the year, rather than on a quarterly basis. The commission has given the staff authority to approve planning grants so that applicants can begin the planning process sooner. The planning grant application can be found [here](#).

Lastly, we want to stress to those receiving grants that major changes to the grant cannot be made without commission approval. Too often we are receiving reimbursement requests that have significant changes to the project scope that were not authorized. While we try to work with recipients to fully fund all grants, some non-approved changes may not be reimbursable. We strongly encourage all grantees to contact the League office if changes are being considered.



Dellwood Park



Ballwin North Pointe Aquatic Center



Crystal Lake Park Hunter Park



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Legislative Affairs Committee

The Legislative Affairs Committee reviews and updates the League's legislative policy statements and recommends the legislative priorities for the upcoming session. The policy statements and priorities help facilitate the flow of information between our members and the State Legislature, and a reciprocal flow of information from our legislators to our members.

The first meeting will be held in mid-September. If you have suggestions for policies for the committee to review, please contact the League office at staff@stlmuni.org.

Some items that will be discussed include:

- Failure to Appear - Court reform
- Collection of internet sales tax following the U.S. Supreme Courts ruling overturning the previous court decision in 1992.
- Missouri Municipal Government Expenditure Database.

The Committee will be Chaired by Alderman Tim Woerther of Wildwood. The entire legislative

packet will be submitted to the membership for approval later this fall.

Other invited committee members are:

- Alderman Errol Bush, Northwoods
- Mayor Mike Clement, Manchester
- Mayor Jon Dalton, Town & Country
- City Manager Amy Hamilton, Richmond Heights
- Mayor Tim Lowery, Florissant
- Mayor Grant Mabie, Crestwood
- Mayor Edward Mahan, Rock Hill
- Mayor Tommie Pierson, Bellefontaine Neighbors
- Mayor Tim Pogue, Ballwin
- Councilwoman Cindy Pool, Ellisville

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For the past 16 years, the Fundamentals of Planning and Zoning Chancellor's Certificate has educated hundreds of members of the St. Louis planning community. Fundamentals of Planning and Zoning is taught by a team of senior practitioners, who have extensive knowledge and experience in local government planning in Missouri, Illinois and across the nation. Course modules cover planning practices, processes and topics that are crucial for local government success. Certificate consists of seven modules that include lecture and discussion. Participants will earn a noncredit UMSL Chancellor's Certificate in Fundamentals of Planning & Zoning

by completing six of the seven modules in this year. Click [here](#) to register for the Entire Session, or for Individual Sessions.

If you have any questions, please contact Frank Johnson at frank.johnson@ewgateway.org or 314-421-4220.

St. Louis County Charter Commission

In November 2018, County voters approved the creation of a charter review commission to consider possible changes to the County charter. This question is submitted to voters each decade in years that end in 8. The County Executive appoints 7 members and each of the 7 County Councilmembers appoints 1 member for a total of 14. The Chairman is former County Executive Gene McNary. Two municipal officials are required to be appointed. Those serving are Dellwood Mayor Reggie Jones and Wellston Mayor Nathaniel Griffin.

Many of the topics under consideration might be considered "clean up" issues in the Charter. However, there are two major items that are receiving a great deal of attention. The first is the call for the creation of a county administrator or manager position to add a professionally trained chief administrative officer to oversee all County operations. Several mayors and city administrators attended the August 21 meeting to stress the need for this position. Speakers from the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) also spoke to the Commissioners earlier this summer to provide background information. There appears to be some resistance to this recommendation from some of the commissioners and it remains to be seen if it will be a part of their proposed changes.

Also under consideration is a change to non-partisan elections for County offices. All other local government elections in the County are non-partisan (municipalities, fire districts, school districts) and the need for partisan elections at the County level is being questioned. Some qualified candidates who have not declared a political party could be precluded from running for County office.

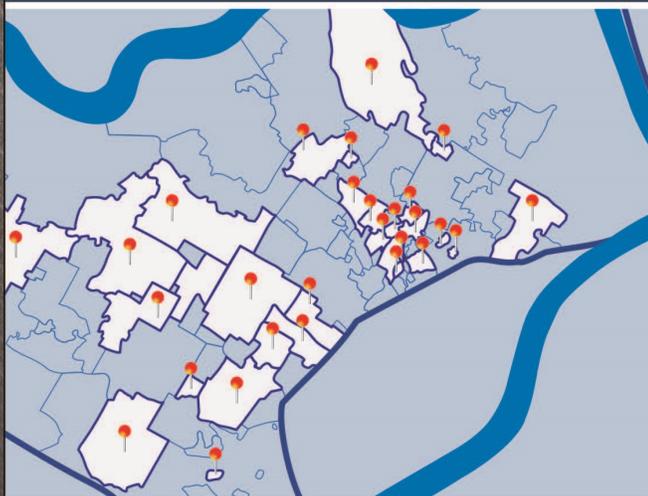
If you are interested in attending the meetings, the Commission meets at 1:00 pm on Wednesdays in the County Government Center in Clayton. The Charter Commission has until the end of the year to present their recommendations, if any. These could be voted on in April 2020.

Regional Employment Numbers

On August 1, the St. Louis Regional Chamber released the "Greater St. Louis Employment Summary", a look at the employment numbers for the Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The nation's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in June 2019, up from 3.6 percent in April and May. The St. Louis MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.4 percent, down a bit from 3.5 percent in May. The region's unemployment rate remains below the national rate. Nationally, preliminary seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment numbers for June payroll employment increased by 224,000 jobs over-the-month for an increase of 0.1%. The region's seasonally adjusted payroll increased by 1,600 jobs, growing at the same pace as the nation. The region's not seasonally adjusted payroll employment data series showed solid growth over the year. Employment in the region rose by 25,100 jobs from June 2018 to June 2019, for a 1.8 percent increase. The region outperformed the national employment pace of growth 1.5%. The entire report can be found on the St. Louis Regional Chamber website at: <http://www.stlregionalchamber.com/regional-data/economy>.

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Recycle Responsibly – NO WISHCYCLING!

Wish-cycling is the practice of tossing questionable items in the recycling bin, hoping they can somehow be recycled. Acting on those good intentions can do a lot of harm. The best case scenario is that the items are separated then landfilled, which costs time and money. The worst case scenario is that items contaminate other recyclables, rendering the entire batch useless. Wishcycling can also damage processing equipment, like when plastic bags end up tangled in sorting screens and conveyor belts. Wish-cycling is one of the biggest issues facing recycling today.

When unsure if an item is recyclable, follow these simple rules:

- If it is a household bottle or container and it is metal, glass, or plastic, it is recyclable. Containers need to be empty and dry. Keep lids ON.
- Recycle your paper* and cardboard.
- Recycle your empty and dry cartons (i.e. orange juice, milk, broth etc.).

If it doesn't fall under these categories, throw it away, or check www.stlcityrecycles.com/database to see if it's recyclable elsewhere.

**Paper towels, toilet paper, tissue paper are not recyclable.*



County Executive Release 100 Days Report

County Executive Page has been busy over the summer working to improve the operations of County Government. For a look at the County Executive's First 100 Days Report, go to: <https://www.stlouisco.com/Portals/8/docs/document%20library/CountyExecutive/Press%20Release/2019/100%20Days%20Press%20Release.pdf> .

Some of the changes include the appointments of some key staff members including:

- Chief of Staff, Winston Calvert
- Chief Operating Officer, Garry Earls
- Senior Policy Advisor, Shannon Koenig
- Director of Policy, Cora Faith Walker
- Legislative Liaison to the County Executive, Kevin McKenna
- Executive Assistant to the County Executive, Katherine Dockery



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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 8–11
MML Annual Conference

<https://mocities.site-ym.com/page/AnnConf>

Missouri Legislative
Veto Session

September 12– 13

October League
Meeting

October 24, Ameren
Headquarters



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