



CITY VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLAYTON BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL CITIZENS

Amendment to City's Charter and Tax on Wireless Telecommunications TWO LOCAL PROPOSITIONS PLACED ON APRIL ELECTION BALLOT

The City of Clayton, like most other units of local government, is faced with a significant budgetary quandary. As has been previously reported, the City's FY 2003 budget resulted in a number of austerity measures, including:

- although modest, the first property tax increase in seven years, amounting to \$88,000
- significantly reduced expenditures, including deep cuts in operating expenses and deferring numerous capital expenses
- eliminating 5.5 permanent positions from the City's work force.

Unfortunately, this trend of diminishing revenues and increasing expenses is not improving. Cumulative City revenues are expected to increase by only .83 percent in the coming year, while operating expenses are slated to grow by 1.3 percent, and personnel services (including salaries, fringe benefits and pensions) are expected to grow by more than 10 percent. Although the FY 2003 budget remains balanced, prospects for future years are dim. The City's forecast for FY 2004, beginning in October, anticipates a budget deficit of \$994,228, growing to more than \$2.5 million in each of the following years. Based upon this dire outlook, the City has been forced to explore a wide variety of cost-cutting and revenue generating options.

In an effort to be the "fiscally responsible government" called for in Clayton's Mission Statement, the Board of Aldermen has placed two propositions on the April 2003 ballot.

Gross Receipts Tax on Wireless Communications

The City has imposed a gross receipts tax on all utilities, including electricity, natural gas, water and telephone service, since 1947. The original tax rate in 1947 was 6 percent; increasing to 7 percent in 1975; and last adjusted to 8 percent in 1980. However, with changes in technology, most notably the proliferation of wireless communications, these communication services currently pay no tax to the City. Therefore, City staff recommended, and the Board of Aldermen has endorsed, an initiative to impose an eight percent (8%) gross receipts tax on all wireless communication services. This initiative received unanimous support from the Board of Aldermen for two equally compelling reasons — it has the potential to generate more than \$300,000 annually, which is needed to maintain traditional City service levels; as well as a matter of equity, in that all telecommunication services, whether hard-wired or wireless, would be subjected to the same tax burden.

Charter Amendment — Taxation on Telecommunication Services

The City Charter, originally adopted in 1957, authorizes the City to "license, tax and regulate all businesses, occupations and vocations" within the City limits. However, recognizing that the technology of wireless communications did not exist at the time that the Charter was adopted, it was felt that the City Charter should be amended in order to clarify that the City is empowered to regulate and tax such services.

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CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

April Ballot, *continued from Page 1*

Thus, the following two ballot propositions will appear on the April municipal ballot.

PROPOSITION ONE

Shall the City of Clayton impose an occupational license fee on all persons engaged in the business of providing or furnishing telephone, telecommunications, data transmission or similar services, whether through wire or wireless transmissions but excluding direct broadcast satellite services, in a sum equal to 8 percent (8%) of the gross receipts of such business?

Yes

No

PROPOSITION TWO

Shall the Charter of the City of Clayton be amended to include a new subsection (39) to Article II, Section 15 (regarding Powers of the Board of Aldermen), to read as follows:

“License, tax and regulate all persons engaged in the business of providing or furnishing telephone, telecommunications, data transmission or similar services, whether through wire or wireless transmissions, to the extent allowed by law.”

Yes

No

February Meeting Schedule

The following list of public meetings contain all regularly scheduled meetings of the City of Clayton. Meetings may be added, canceled or rescheduled, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as the need arises.

Feb 10	Art Commission The Center - 7:00 p.m.
Feb 11	Board of Aldermen The Center - 8:00 p.m.
Feb 14	C.R.S.W.C. The Center - 7:30 a.m.
Feb 19	Plan Commission/ARB The Center - 5:30 p.m.
Feb 20	Landscape Committee Clayton High - 5:00 p.m.
Feb 24	Parks & Recreation The Center - 7:00 p.m.
Feb 25	Board of Aldermen The Center - 8:00 p.m.
Feb 28	C.R.S.W.C. The Center - 7:30 a.m.

City Hall/Fire Station Complex Construction Project Update

With demolition, construction and renovation of City Hall having begun in January, administrative staff has been temporarily relocated to the Clayton Police Department building at 227 South Central. The Finance Department, including Municipal Court and Traffic Violations Bureau staff, have been moved to the first floor; with City Management, City Clerk, Personnel, Planning and Development, Public Works and MIS staff on the second floor. The move took place during the weekend of December 20, 2002.

“A lot of effort went into getting everything packed and ready for the move. It went very smoothly, due in no small part to the cooperation of our dedicated personnel,” stated City Manager Scott Randall. Fire Department employees will remain at City Hall throughout the project.

With assistance from the City’s MIS, Public Works and Police Departments, employees had their phones and computers up and running immediately, and the City’s Cable Channel 10 made the switch without a problem.

The Clayton City Hall/Fire Station renovation and construction project includes demolition of the eastern portion of the existing City Hall complex; construction of a new 18,000 square foot Fire Station; a new three-level, 53-space parking structure; with the remaining 22,000 square foot western portion of the structure being renovated for City Hall operating staff.

A total of ten bids were received from companies interested in the project. “The level of interest in this project by the construction community was impressive. The lowest bid was received from BSI Constructors, Inc. for \$5,477,000, which was \$112,164 less than the most recent cost estimates,” said Mr. Randall. The City has revised the overall project budget, which includes asbestos abatement and permanently relocating the MIS Department to the second floor of the Police Department. The revised budget equals \$7,258,011, which is \$337,454 less than the amount originally budgeted.

City staff plans to return to the 10 North Bemiston location in approximately 20 months. In the meantime, all City Hall business will continue to be conducted at 227 South Central Avenue.

The “Greening” of Clayton

The Ecology and Environmental Awareness Committee (EEAC) was formed by the Board of Aldermen in 1997 to promote “ecologically sound programs and practices within Clayton’s municipal government, the Clayton community and the metropolitan St. Louis region.” Thanks to work done by the EEAC, the City has become more ecologically aware and environmentally friendly. Over the past year, the EEAC helped City staff negotiate the current residential trash, yard waste and recycling contracts; helped organize and host the very successful Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event; supported the City’s recent shift to cleaner burning bio-diesel and ethanol fuels in all city vehicles; and monitored the plans for renovating City Hall/Fire Station to make sure they incorporated environmentally-friendly designs and materials.

“The City of Clayton is well on its way to being a 'green' leader in the St. Louis area,” stated Ecology and Environmental Awareness Committee Chair Liz Forrestal Reinus. “It’s rare to find a community with services like free recycling and yard waste pickup, weekly street cleaning, and one-for-one tree replacement on city property. It benefits from a farsighted Public Works Department, which routinely adopts innovative energy conservation methods such as using low-voltage lights at City Hall. But there is still a lot of work to be done.”

In order to prioritize the boggling number of environmental issues that can affect a city and its citizens, the Ecology and Environmental Awareness Committee is developing a strategic plan.

Among the topics on the table for future study are: carpooling incentives to reduce traffic and improve Clayton’s air quality; ways to reduce noise and light pollution; promotion of green spaces and planted setbacks in the business district; and promotion of “green” building practices. “As you can see, our committee isn’t short on ideas. But the challenge now is to focus our energies on the issues that make the most sense for this community, as well as those that top the list for our residents” said Ms. Reinus. “The environment of Clayton is what we all make it - after all, what any one of us does affects all of the rest. At stake is not only the quality of life in our community, but the health of our region and of our planet.”

World-renowned artist Alice Aycock selected to develop piece

The City of Clayton Approves Proposal for New Sculpture



In 1998, the Clayton Board of Aldermen issued a \$25,000 challenge grant to the Clayton Art Commission (CAC) for the commissioning of a public art piece to be located in front of The Center of Clayton. In December, the Art Commission recommended that the Board of Aldermen accept the site-specific

design by Alice Aycock for a sculpture to be installed at The Center. It is the first major commissioning process conducted by the Art Commission and represents a milestone in the City’s new municipal art plan.

“The Aycock proposal was selected because it responds so well to the goals set forth for this project by the Clayton Art Commission,” says CAC Chair Joan Cohen. “The artwork animates the front of the building, complements the buildings architecture, is of a scale appropriate to the site and it will engage the diversity of users of the building. We are very excited to have the opportunity to work with an artist who understands public space and responds to its needs and uses.”

To attract established artists of international stature, the Art Commission set a budget of \$100,000 for the project. The City of Clayton, the Clayton Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Arts Commission have committed funds to the project. The balance will be raised from businesses, foundations and interested individuals over the next several months.

Clayton Chamber of Commerce Donates \$10,000 to The Center of Clayton Art Project

At its State of the City breakfast meeting on December 5, 2002, the Clayton Chamber of Commerce presented Mayor Frank Kenney with a check for \$10,000 to help fund The Center of Clayton art project. Elizabeth Robb, a co-chair of the Chamber’s 50th anniversary celebration in November, announced that the contribution represented a significant portion of the proceeds generated from the banquet.

This is a very positive investment in Clayton’s future and helps establish Clayton’s leadership role in public art in the region.



Francis L. Kenney III
Mayor

From the Mayor's Desk

My wife would have fresh cut flowers in the house all the time. I say it is a waste. They last for such a short period of time. But I have mellowed somewhat, particularly during the last calendar year. I say calendar year because it makes me feel better to say it is behind us and to start anew. The deaths of my mother-in-law and my 57 year old sister and the extended recoveries of my mother and wife from life threatening circumstances have contributed to my mellowing. You tend not to sweat the small stuff as much. At least I think I don't. But so what? We all have problems.

No earth shattering answer, but everything does change and we need to both adapt to change, attempt to shape change, look for the good in each change – a kind of smell the flowers concept (even if they are cut ones)- and, most importantly, realize that it is people that are important and that make our community what it is.

On a practical level, since 1999, Clayton's general fund revenues have increased from \$14,027,000 to \$14,830,127, a 5.7% increase. Over that same period, general fund personnel costs (employee salaries and benefits) have increased from \$8,314,907 to \$10,358,545, a 24.6% increase and gone from 59% of general fund revenues to 70%. Along with the Hancock amendment and the economy, the issues raised by these facts will come to the forefront in future budgets. In the current budget, despite these facts and trends, the Board of Aldermen approved a five percent (5%) pool for employee pay raises (based on performance). Very few comparable governmental entities have done as much. Many have been unable to fund any raises. And larger governmental entities, county and state, are making substantial cutbacks. This Board believes that our employees are our greatest asset. They deserve to be paid a competitive living wage and be rewarded for their performance. And we do have excellent employees.

The Board does all this cognizant of its duty to the tax payers to spend their money prudently while trying to balance the opportunities that may arise if the above trends continue.

A couple of years back the Board, with prodding from the employees, examined the pension plans for both the uniformed and non-uniformed employees. The Board made what it believed were significant improvements in the plan benefits, knowing it would take one of the plans from a fully funded condition (only recently achieved) to an under funded condition requiring an increased funding commitment by the city. With the downturn in the economy and the markets, the under funded situation, certainly not beyond any compliant status, increased, all still very manageable but needing attention. This, coupled with the increased cost of health care coverage, has made the budget process interesting.

As all this occurred, the Board was sued by the International Association of Firefighters of St. Louis County, Local 2665, and the Clayton Police Officers Association, which represent some of Clayton's uniformed employees, alleging that money from the City that should have been collected from a voter approved tax, that was never collected, should be paid to them (not into the pension fund). That lawsuit has been dismissed, but the plaintiffs appealed and the cost to defend it continues to climb. It certainly makes one pause.

Hopefully without seeming paternalistic or patronizing, this Board is committed to the City's employees, but within the confines of available resources. We hope the employees understand and maybe appreciate that because we, the Board, believe it is people that matter.



Shaw Park Pool Renovation Update

Work on the Shaw Park Pool Renovation Project has continued on schedule despite the snow events mother nature has sent our way. The floor and walls of the children's pool, 50 meter lap pool and diving tank were completed in January. The filter building is near completion, and construction on the bathhouse additions is moving rapidly.

Project manager John Wulf stated that the project is on schedule and the City anticipates reopening the pool on May 24, 2003.

Clayton Realizes Gains through Innovative Financing

Clayton officials are constantly looking for ways to improve the City's financial standing. Due to changes in the financial market, the City modified the method for paying for the \$7.25 million City Hall/Fire Station construction/renovation and the \$6 million Shaw Park Pool renovation projects. The original plan called for using existing City funds. It was anticipated that the City would borrow from itself and repay the borrowed funds over the next seven to ten years. However, with the prevailing short-term, tax-exempt interest rates being in the low, single digits, combined with substantially higher interest rates for governmental deposits of a comparable time frame, the City decided to issue special obligation bonds with a 5-year term. At the same time, the City will invest existing funds, which had originally been committed to these projects, for longer terms at interest rates approximately 100 basis points above the cost of borrowing. The City negotiated a 5-year, \$9.95 million bond which sold at a rate of 2.65 percent, and reinvested the existing City funds for a similar term at 3.75 percent. With the 110 basis point spread, plus the nominal interest on the additional \$9.95 million over the next two year spend down period, the City anticipates realizing \$761,000 in surplus interest income over the five year period.

CRSWC Appointment Available

The Clayton Recreation, Sports and Wellness Commission (CRSWC) is currently accepting applicants for an At-Large Director to be appointed by the Commission. The CRSWC oversees the management of the Center of Clayton. The six-member CRSWC Board of Directors is composed of two members from the Board of Education, two members from the Board of Aldermen and two At-Large Directors (citizen representatives). Individuals interested in serving on the CRSWC as a citizen representative are asked to complete an application by February 18, 2003. Applications are available at the welcome desk at The Center of Clayton, 50 Gay Avenue, Clayton. For more information about the At-Large Director position, contact Kris Fulford at 290.8503.

The Shaw Park Ice Skating Rink will be open to the public until March 2, 2003



Public Ice Skating Hours

Monday	3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Thursday	3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(adults only)	6:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
Friday	3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
	6:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
Saturday	noon – 2:00 p.m.
	6:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
Sunday	noon – 2:00 p.m.
	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Special Holiday Hours

Extra public sessions will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Feb 14 and 17. There will be no public skate session February 8 from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Shaw Park Ice Rink Hotline (746.0433) offers current session information.

Clayton's Police Department Comes Through

Annual Missouri Special Olympics 10K Run

On November 10, 2002, the Clayton Police Department hosted its second annual Special Olympics 10 K Run. The event generates funds to benefit the more than 13,000 athletes, who participate in year-round Special Olympics sports and training activities.

As a result of the combined effort of the Clayton Police Department, St. Louis Track Club, Special Olympics Missouri, the City of Clayton, and many volunteers, \$12,400 was raised through race receipts and donations from corporate and individual sponsors. In December, the Clayton Police Department's efforts were recognized by the Special Olympics for the highest percentage increase in funds generated with an increase of 396% over the inaugural event.

The 2003 Missouri Special Olympics 10K Run is tentatively set for November 9. Those interested in learning more about participating, volunteering or fundraising should contact Captain Kevin Murphy, Detective Sergeant Bob Walsh, or Detective Rob Wood at the Clayton Police Department at 314.727.4130.



From left: Officer John Bennett, Officer Bob Walsh, Officer Jennifer Brown, Captain Kevin Murphy, Gwynne Eckelman, Officer Rob Wood, Tom Eckelman, Officer Jon Weindenbenner

Citizens' Police Academy

The Clayton Police Department conducted its sixth Citizens' Police Academy during October and November of 2002. A graduation ceremony was held on November 26, 2002. "It was an educational experience, and the Clayton Police Department made it enjoyable," stated academy graduate Cheryl Shelton. "Participants not only gain an appreciation of the work done by police officers and fire fighters, they develop a greater awareness of the people and events around them.

I would encourage all residents to participate."



2002 Citizens' Academy Class Graduates from left: Kim Whittle, Cheryl Shelton, Betty Rothman, Karen Neilson, Doug Murdoch, Barbara Bianco, Allan Kalb, Mary Ellen Cotsworth with Officer Jim O'Brien

Participation in the annual fall program is by application only. Applicants must be 21 years or older, and a resident or business owner in the City of Clayton. Participation is limited to 15 people per class.

The Citizens' Academy is a unique opportunity for citizens to experience the rigors that a police officer must endure. Classes are conducted on such topics as law, patrol procedures, use of firearms and crime scene procedures. Role playing is also done to emphasize this training.

For additional information concerning the Citizens' Academy, please contact Community Services Officer Jim O'Brien at 290-8424.

Details about the seventh Citizens' Police Academy will appear in the August 2003 CityViews.

**Valentine's Day
Splash-n-Party**
Saturday, February 8
 [7:00 - 9:00 p.m.]



Party in the Pool at The Center of Clayton for children ages 9 - 12. Games, activities, and treats provided. \$8 - members; \$10 - resident nonmembers; \$12 - nonresidents. Preregistration is required.

Cupid's Ball

Monday, February 10
 [6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.]



Young ladies (ages 3 -12) and their escorts (dad, granddad, uncle or special man in your life) will enjoy an evening of dining, dancing, special crafts and a commemorative photo at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis. \$19 - residents; \$23 - nonresidents.

Bunny Hop

Saturday, March 23
 [10:00 a.m.]

Kids (ages: 1 - 7), join us for a morning of fun in Shaw Park for the Bunny Hop. There will be lots of eggs to gather. Enjoy the petting zoo. Meet the bunny and some of his favorite friends, so don't forget your cameras. \$5 - residents; \$6 - nonresidents. Please register by Friday, February 28.



RUMORS

*in Clayton High School's Black Box
 at #1 Mark Twain Circle*

Four couples are at the townhouse of a Deputy New York City Mayor and his wife to celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary. The party never begins because the host has shot himself in the head (its only a flesh wound) and his wife is missing. The Mayor's lawyer wants to cover-up the situation, which gets progressively more difficult to sustain as the other guests arrive and nobody can remember who has been told what about whom. Doors slam and hilarity abounds as the couples get more and more crazed trying to sort things out. (There is some adult language.)

Performances are scheduled for March 28, 29, 30 and April 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13. On Fridays and Saturdays productions begin at 8:00 p.m., with Sunday performances beginning at 2:00 p.m. Tickets for evening performances cost \$12; Sunday matinee tickets are \$10; group rates are available. Tickets are available at Spicer's and The Center of Clayton. For ticket information, call 854.6646. For details about the theatre, visit on-line at www.placeseveryone.org.

FACTS ABOUT CLAYTON

Clayton takes pride in the fact that it offers its employees competitive compensation and an excellent fringe benefit package, an exciting and progressive work environment with state of the art resources, while working in a vibrant and diverse community. This may be why 44 (representing 24.5%) of the City's 180 full-time employees have been with the City for more than 20 years!!

What would you like to know? Clayton citizens are invited to ask questions of their City officials. Forward your questions to: City of Clayton, ATTN: Judy Kekich, 10 North Bemiston, Clayton, MO 63105; Fax them to 314/863-0295; E-mail them to: jakekich@ci.clayton.mo.us

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<i>In Case of Emergency</i>	911
City Manager	290-8400
Economic Development	290-8473
Finance	290-8443
Fire (non-emergency)	290-8485
Planning and Development	290-8453
Mayor/Board of Aldermen/City Clerk	290-8469
Parks and Recreation	290-8500
Park Program 24-Hour Registration	290-8501
Personnel	290-8449
Police (non-emergency)	727-4130
Public Works	290-8540
TDD	746-0495

STATEMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL CITIZENS

It is the City of Clayton's goal to make programs and facilities accessible to all individuals. If you or someone you know has a disabling condition and would like more information and support for accessibility of all programs and facilities, please contact us at 290-8501(V). Sign interpreters may be scheduled upon request. Suggestions for future programs are welcomed.

City of Clayton
 10 North Bemiston Avenue
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"The Mission of Clayton City Government is to foster a vital, balanced community composed of outstanding neighborhoods, quality businesses, commercial and government centers, premier educational institutions, and a healthy natural environment through an open, accessible and fiscally responsible government."



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