

CITY VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLAYTON BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL CITIZENS

APRIL 2003

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April 8 Election Day Approaches

Two City of Clayton Propositions on Ballot



As previously reported, the City of Clayton is faced with a significant budgetary quandary of diminished revenues and increasing expenses. Cumulative City revenues are expected to increase by only .83 percent in the coming year, while operating expenses are slated to grow at more than double that rate. Labor costs, including salaries and fringe benefits, are expected to increase by 10 percent, even with the elimination of 5.5 permanent positions from the City's work force in FY 2003. Although the FY 2003 budget is 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 number of revenue generating options, in addition to the cost-cutting measures already effectuated. Consequently, the Board of Aldermen has placed two propositions on the April 2003 ballot.

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PROPOSITION ONE: 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 gross receipts tax to the City. City staff studied the issue and found that 22 Missouri municipalities are currently receiving gross receipts on wireless communications. Therefore, staff recommended and the Board of Aldermen endorsed an initiative to impose an eight percent gross receipts tax on all wireless communication services, in order to subject all telecommunication services, whether hard-wired or wireless, to the same tax burden as all other utilities. The reasons are threefold:

- 1) to potentially generate more than \$300,000 annually;
- 2) although the burden falls both upon those who live in Clayton as well as upon those who work in Clayton, the City estimates that more than two-thirds of the tax will be paid by the business community; and
- 3) to establish a process in which all telecommunications services are subject to the same tax burden, and that the unfair advantage enjoyed by wireless is eliminated.

PROPOSITION TWO: 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.

The election will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2003. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

METROLINK CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

METRO (formally the Bi-State Development Agency) recently communicated its multi-phased construction schedule for the portion of the MetroLink extension through Clayton. As previously reported, the MetroLink alignment will follow Forest Park Parkway, from DeBaliviere to west of Brentwood Blvd. The first phase of construction will begin in the area between Skinker and Ritz-Carlton Drive, beginning this month; with work between Ritz-Carlton Drive and Brentwood Blvd. scheduled to begin in December; and construction along the abandoned railroad right-of-way, between Forest Park Parkway and Clayton Road, scheduled to begin in June. As a result of this construction sequencing, portions of Forest Park Parkway will be closed for up to twenty-six months — or through May, 2005. Specific road closure information will be posted on road signs prior to the actual closures.

ROAD AND RAMP CLOSURES IN CLAYTON

Forest Park Parkway	Earliest Closure Date
- (Westbound) Big Bend to Ritz-Carlton	April, 2003
- (Eastbound) Central to Big Bend	April, 2003
- Big Bend to Skinker	June, 2003
- (Westbound) Ritz-Carlton Drive to Central	September, 2003
- (Eastbound) Brentwood to Central	May, 2004
- (Westbound) Central to Brentwood	May, 2004
- (Eastbound) Bemiston On-Ramp	April, 2003
- (Westbound) Ritz-Carlton On-Ramp	September, 2003
- (Eastbound) Central Off-Ramp	May, 2004
- (Westbound) Meramec On-Ramp	May, 2004

The Brentwood Blvd. on and off-ramps will never be closed. However, lanes will be restricted and construction will take place "under traffic". Upon completion, the on and off-ramps will be increased.

Shaw Park Drive

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| - Hanley to Central | December, 2003 |
|---------------------|----------------|

Shaw Park Drive, between Central and Brentwood Blvd. will never be closed, however, one lane of traffic will be maintained at all times.

Forsyth Blvd.

Beginning in April, Forsyth Blvd. at Forest Park Parkway will be disrupted as part of the Forsyth Station construction. Although Forsyth will never be closed to traffic, there will be periods of significant interruption. During morning and evening rush hours (before 9:00 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m.), a minimum of two lanes will remain open. Between these hours, there will be times when the roadway will be reduced to one lane, under control of a flagman.

Visit us at www.ci.clayton.mo.us

City's Web Site Gets a New Look

The City is working with a consultant on the redesign and upgrade of the City's web site, which will include a new look and a number of technology upgrades. "We wanted the new design to illustrate the cosmopolitan character of Clayton, and for the upgrades to facilitate maintenance and enhance the quality of information provided on our site," said MIS Director Wil Dieken. Eventually, interactive elements will be included. The transformation should be completed and the new site up and running by spring of 2003.

TrafficControl

No Tolerance Speed Zones

The imminent closure of Forest Park Parkway due to MetroLink construction will certainly present a myriad of traffic problems for Clayton. One, which is of particular concern, is the safety of non-vehicular traffic on Wydown Blvd. and Forsyth Blvd. Joggers, bicyclists, walkers, and children continually use the sidewalks and designated bicycle lanes on these roadways. The expected increase in traffic raises concerns about speeding, and its effect on the safety of others using these streets.



Therefore, the Clayton Police Department will be designating Wydown Blvd. and Forsyth Blvd. as “No Tolerance Speed Zones”. After installation of these signs, the Police Department will begin ticketing drivers traveling above the posted speed limit. The goal is to reduce the average speed of all vehicles, so they are traveling at or below the posted speed limit.

The Public Works Department will conduct ongoing traffic studies to determine the net effectiveness of this enforcement. Should this program be found to be successful, it may be extended to Brentwood Blvd. and residential streets in Davis Place Subdivision that may see increases in traffic when additional portions of Forest Park Parkway are closed.

“The safety of those using Clayton’s streets is of paramount concern to the Police Department,” stated Chief of Police Tom Byrne. “It is hoped that this program will produce a significant drop in speeding in these highly traveled areas which will produce a safer environment for all who use these roadways.”

Traffic Signal Modification

The City of Clayton is in the process of developing new timing plans for all signalized intersections affected by the closure of Forest Park Parkway. These new timing plans will include the signals located throughout the City’s Central Business District (CBD), the City of Ladue’s signal at Ladue and Hunter, and St. Louis County’s and MoDOT’s signals along Hanley Road and Brentwood Blvd. (from the Clayton area south of Eager Road) as well as Ladue Road and I-170.

In order to develop the plan, Clayton has conducted vehicle counts at all Forest Park Parkway access points as well as key locations elsewhere to establish the baseline condition. Traffic reassignments will be made to represent each closure’s impact to the area roadways. Based on this data, new timing plans will be developed for each traffic signal. A series of observations will take place following each closure to monitor each performance at each intersection. Once the diverted traffic patterns are stabilized, the City will perform additional traffic counts at each location. This data will be used to identify any deviations in traffic flow compared to the baseline counts. This “fine-tuning” process will take several weeks following the first closure.

April 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.

- April 3 Board of Adjustment
The Center - 5:00 p.m.
- April 7 Plan Commission/ARB
The Center - 5:30 p.m.
- April 8 Board of Aldermen
The Center - 8:00 p.m.
- April 11 C.R.S.W.C.
The Center - 7:30 a.m.
- April 14 Art Commission
The Center - 7:00 p.m.
- April 17 Landscape Committee
Clayton High - 5:00 p.m.
- April 21 Plan Commission/ARB
The Center - 5:30 p.m.
- April 22 Board of Aldermen
The Center - 8:00 p.m.
- April 25 C.R.S.W.C.
The Center - 7:30 a.m.
- April 28 Parks & Recreation
The Center - 7:00 p.m.

Wydown Park Grand Opening

Join us on Saturday, May 3, at 10:00 a.m. for a ribbon cutting ceremony of the recently renovated Wydown Park. Amenities in the Park include the 5-foot acorn sculpture by artist Todd Frahm, beautiful landscapes, café and bench seating, pathways and green space. Enjoy the tranquility of this new neighborhood park. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 290.8516.



On loan from Washington University Gallery of Art, St. Louis.
Gift of Mrs. Mark C. Steinberg, 1964

Washington University Extends Loan for Calder

In late February, the City was delighted to learn that Washington University approved extending its loan to the City of Clayton for the sculpture by Alexander Calder for two more years. The original two year loan term was set to expire in July of this year. The extension will take the loan through July of 2005.

The 10' X 8' X 10' piece of painted sheet metal was built in 1964 by Alexander Calder. It is on loan from Washington University's School of Art during the renovation of the school's building and parking lot, and is located in Centennial Garden in Shaw Park.

Mulch/Wood Chips

Leaf mulch and wood chips are available to Clayton residents for pickup or delivery. Please call the Public Works Department at 290.8540 to make arrangements for pickup, or stop by the office to complete an application and prepay for delivery.

Spring Leaf Pickup

Spring leaf collection will take place the first two full weeks of the month of April. Pickup will begin on Monday, April 7th and end on Friday, April 18th. Curbside vacuuming will be done in conjunction with the regular street sweeping schedule. Leaves must be raked into a pile at the curb. Please do not bag leaves or rake them onto the islands, parkways, common areas or alleys. If you have any questions regarding this schedule, call the Public Works Department at 290.8540

CLAYTON'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Public Works Department Helps Maintain the City's Infrastructure

Clayton's Public Works Department continues to maintain an aggressive capital improvement project schedule this year and intends to make improvements to public infrastructure in the following areas:

Concrete Repairs – This project includes spot sidewalk and curb replacement in the Hi-Pointe/DeMun & Wydown Forest Subdivisions, as well as Oak Knoll, Shaw and Taylor Parks. Any sidewalk slab with a deflection of more than one inch is targeted for replacement. Work is scheduled to begin in the spring and conclude by midsummer.

Microsurfacing – The Microsurfacing Program is an integral component of the City's Preventive Pavement Maintenance Plan, which is in its fourth year. Last year, Wydown Boulevard and the streets in Clayton Gardens and Parkside Subdivisions were microsurfaced. This year, in July, the City will microsurface the streets of the Clayshire Subdivision, Moorlands Subdivision, Forsyth Boulevard, North Meramec and all streets in the Central Business District.

Carondelet Plaza Streetscape – The scope of work includes the City's standard Central Business District streetscape reconstruction on the north side of the 7600 block of Carondelet Plaza, between Hanley Road and the north-south alley, for a distance of approximately 150 feet. The project is anticipated to be completed by this summer and is being paid for by THF, Inc., developer of The Plaza in Clayton.

Alley Repairs – Beginning this spring, concrete slabs will be replaced in the following alleys:

- the east-west alley located between the 6300 block of S. Rosebury Avenue and Southwood Avenue
- the north-south alley located between the 7600 block of Walinca Terrace Drive and Wydown Boulevard.

Traffic Signal Improvements – This project includes the installation of advanced video detectors to help optimize traffic operations along Brentwood Boulevard and traffic signals at the intersection at Brentwood Blvd. and Carondelet. Work is scheduled to begin this spring and be completed by summer of 2004.

Ellenwood Subdivision – The scope of work includes installation of new exposed aggregate concrete curbing, driveway approaches, sidewalk, storm sewer inlet improvements, a new asphalt street, lighting, entrance monuments, a gate on Fauquier at Skinker, and a traffic restrictor on Alexander Way.

City Hall/Fire Station Update

The City Hall/Fire Station reconstruction project is well underway with external building demolition having begun in March on the portion of the building east of the existing Fire Station. The new Fire Station will be built at that location. When completed, Fire Department personnel will move into their new quarters. Work will then begin on remodeling the existing Fire Station, transforming it into offices for City Hall administrative staff.

This project is expected to be completed in August, 2004.

Shaw Park Pool Renovation Update

Fortunately, the above average annual snow fall has not put a damper on the Shaw Park Pool Renovation Project schedule. The floor and walls of the children's pool, 50 meter lap pool and diving tank are completed. The filter building and additions to the bathhouse are under roof. The mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough-in and interior walls are also completed in the bath house and the ceiling has been installed.

The City is still optimistic about opening these new pools on May 24, 2003.

Water Service Line Capital Repair Program

In 2000, the Missouri State Legislature passed Section 66.405 RSMo authorizing a residential water service line repair program, and in November 2000 St. Louis County voters approved the program. The Residential Water Service Line Repair Program has been in effect since March of 2001. St. Louis County, which administers the program, has repaired or replaced more than 2000 residential water service lines. Clayton residents are eligible to apply for funding from the program.

Capital funding from the water service line program will pay for work done on residential water service lines only. The program covers the portion of the water line owned by the homeowners.

For additional information or to obtain a funding application packet, contact the St. Louis County Department of Public Works, Residential Water Service Line Repair Program office at 314.615.8408.

Clayton Farmers' Market

North Central Avenue
(Clayton's central business district)

May 31 through October



The City of Clayton will once again host the Clayton Farmers' Market. The 2003 season is scheduled to begin on Saturday, May 31st. The market will set up on North Central Avenue between Forsyth Blvd. and Maryland Avenue in Clayton's central business district every Saturday morning through October between 8:00 a.m. and noon.

The market has become a weekly, summer ritual for those looking for just-picked products. June through October, shoppers can select from a wide array of locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, nuts, flowers and plants...plus farm eggs, antibiotic and hormone free, humanely treated lamb and chickens, and chevre. "Everyone, the farmers as well as the shoppers, looks forward to the beginning of the market season," stated Market Master Julie Ridlon.



Weekly activities will include live music; chefs' demonstrations on how to prepare the ultimate in fresh products; chefs' tours of farmers' booths to discuss the various products; booths serving Companion Breads products, coffee, and omelets using eggs and produce from the market. Representatives from St. Louis University's Nutrition and Dietetic Department will be on hand to provide helpful information. There will be book signings by cookbook authors, weekly drawings for restaurant gift certificates, as well as occasional festivals. Twice each month, master gardeners will give lectures on sustainable gardening and preserving.

The Clayton Farmers' Market is sponsored by the Missouri Chapter of Chef's Collaborative, a consortium of commercial chefs from throughout the region, who are committed to the use of locally grown produce and to educating the public on how best to cook local, seasonal produce.

Bunny Hop

Saturday, **April 12 at 10:00 a.m.** (NOTE CORRECTED DATE)

Kids (ages: 1 - 7), join us for a morning of fun in Shaw Park for the Bunny Hop. Meet the bunny. Enjoy the petting zoo and an egg hunt. Parents, don't forget to bring your cameras. \$5 for residents; \$6 nonresidents. Registration required; call 314.290.8508.



Season Passes for 2003

Clayton residents and Clayton business employees can purchase a season pass to Shaw Park Municipal Pool, Ice Rink and Tennis Center. Passes may be purchased at The Center of Clayton at 50 Gay Avenue. Residents must provide proof of residency (photo ID, and an unpaid utility bill with current address). Corporate employees must provide proof of employment (current pay stub). Proof of Clayton residency is required to renew your pass for the 2003 season. New cards will be issued this year, so all family members will need to be updated. Passes are not sold at outdoor facilities.

Pass Option	Rink	Tennis	Pool	Pool/Tennis	Tri-Pass
Resident					
Family	\$65	\$65	\$125	\$140	\$205
Adult	\$45	\$45	\$65	\$85	\$125
Senior/Youth	\$35	\$35	\$45	\$60	\$90
Non-Resident					
Family	\$80	\$80	\$155	\$175	\$255
Adult	\$55	\$55	\$85	\$105	\$155

The Eleventh Annual Taste of Clayton in SHAW PARK



Sunday, June 1

The eleventh annual Taste of Clayton, is set for Sunday, June 1st. From 2:00 until 9:00 p.m., Shaw Park will be the site of the finest alfresco dining in the region.

In addition to sampling the region's best cuisine, guests will be treated to live entertainment throughout the day and evening with music by the Ralph Butler Band and Fanfare. Radio and television personalities will be on-hand with live broadcasts. There will be special appearances by area media and sports celebrities who will judge the booths for the most creative design.

Taste Jr., the "everything for kids" area, will include an array of games and inflatable sports activities, T-shirts, and cuisine just for the younger set. Taste too! with a selection of delicious desserts, specialty coffees, beer and wine starts at 7:00 p.m. and features music by the Ralph Butler Band. At 9:00 p.m., a fireworks extravaganza will be "the icing on the cake" of a perfect day.



The event is known for its generosity to its charitable organizations: St. Vincent's Ministries and Lift for Life. Additionally, each year the event selects an organization to fill its "rotating charity" position. This year, S.T.A.R. (Supporting Teens at Risk) was chosen. Last year \$80,000 was donated to the charities, which brought the total contributed since the event's inception to \$550,000.

For details, call Clayton's Special Events Hotline at 314.290.8474.



Volunteering Makes ALL the Difference

Enthusiastic individuals to volunteer for the Eleventh Annual "Taste of Clayton" and "Taste too!" are still needed. Earn a free refreshment and a Taste of Clayton volunteer T-shirt. By volunteering, you will join the City of Clayton and the Clayton Restaurant Association in throwing one of the hottest food festivals and charitable benefits in the entire region. Shift times are from **noon to 3:00 p.m.**, **3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**, and **6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** Please contact Volunteer Director Kathy Hitchell at 314.290.8449 to sign up.

FACTS ABOUT CLAYTON

Q: I live in and love the DeMun neighborhood. I am curious about how the area originated.

A: The area of Clayton just west of the St. Louis City limits, is named for Jules DeMun. Jules DeMun was a wealthy landowner in early St. Louis. Most of the three-story apartments in DeMun Park between Hillcrest and Hi-Pointe were developed in the 1920's on land formerly owned by Jules (Jules DeMun's son) and Isabella DeMun (Louise Isabella Gratiot, the daughter of one of St. Louis' leading merchants) who were married in May of 1812.

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
Clayton, Missouri 63105

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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."



COVER: Aerial photo
by Srenco Photography

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