

CITY VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLAYTON BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL CITIZENS

JUNE 2004

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3



Mayor
Ben Uchitelle

Benjamin Uchitelle Elected Mayor

In April, Ben Uchitelle, who ran unopposed, was elected Mayor of the City of Clayton.

Mayor Uchitelle's service to Clayton is a testament to his dedication to the City and its citizens. He previously served as an alderman, and from 1991 to 1997 as Mayor, leaving office due to term limits. To name just a few highlights during his prior tenure, the City turned a budget deficit of over \$600,000 into an ample operating reserve; and the Clayton Recreation, Sports and Wellness Commission (C.R.S.W.C.) was established to oversee the process of planning and constructing The Center of Clayton. The capital improvements to residential neighborhoods that also occurred during his previous term as mayor served as the catalyst for an upsurge in home renovations and additions.

Mayor Uchitelle and his wife, Susan, have lived in Clayton since 1965. They raised three children, all of whom attended and graduated from Clayton High School. Their son, Elliott, also resides in Clayton with his wife and children. Mayor Uchitelle serves as counsel to Husch & Eppenberger, a major regional law

Clayton Appoints New City Manager

The City of Clayton recently announced the appointment of Michael A.



City Manager
Mike Schoedel

Schoedel as the new Clayton City Manager, effective June 1, 2004. Mr. Schoedel served as the Richmond Heights City Manager since June 1998, and has over ten years of public sector experience working in three different communities. A native of Kirkwood, Missouri, he received his Bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University in 1990 and his Master's degree in public administration from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, in 1993.

As Clayton City Manager, Mr. Schoedel will oversee activities of seven different departments with 177 full-time employees, and an annual City budget of over \$26 million.

Mr. Schoedel has an impressive background in public administration and is familiar with many of the issues facing Clayton due to his work on joint city projects. "He has a reputation as an excellent communicator and team-builder, and for his commitment to providing exemplary public services to the communities he serves," said former Mayor Frank Kenney.

IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Mayor 2

COMMUNITY NEWS

Strategic Issues 3

June Meetings 3

Boards & Commissions ... 4

Oak Knoll Pond 5

Olympic Torch Update 5

Public Art 5

SPECIAL EVENTS

Community Theatre 6

Taste of Clayton 6

Farmers' Market 6

Jazz Festival 7

Facts about Clayton 8



Mayor
Ben Uchitelle

Continuing Our Strengths

Thank you for giving me the honor of serving you again as the Mayor of Clayton for the next three years. At the outset, I would say that Clayton overall is in strong shape due to the able work of former Mayor Kenney, our six fine Aldermen, and our dedicated and professional staff of some 180 persons.

A City of distinction is the result of continuing quality efforts by its citizens, by its employees and by its elected officials. Clayton exemplifies those criteria, and as a result, has long been a wonderful place to live, work, or visit.

So what are my goals for the coming years:

* Working with our new City Manager, Mike Schoedel, to ensure a smooth transition and to support his leadership of the day to day operations of Clayton. Hopefully you will all soon have an opportunity to meet Mike. I think he will bring strength and vibrancy to his position. And on that note, I'd like to personally thank the Acting City Manager Lenore Toser-Aldaz for her excellent leadership during the past nine months. She has done a truly first rate job during a difficult transition period, and we are most pleased Lenore will continue in her job as Assistant City Manager.

* Working more closely with the Clayton School District. The well-being of our City is dependent upon the continued academic excellence of the Clayton School District, and likewise, the School District depends importantly upon the ongoing strengths of the City. The School District has a number of major upcoming issues, and the role of the City will be to be as supportive as possible in helping to resolve those challenges.

* Our distinct and vibrant neighborhoods define and enhance our quality of life. Clayton residents are proud to say they live in Wydown Forest or Davis Place or Ellenwood or Old Town or one of our other fine neighborhoods. I want to work hard to strengthen each of these residential areas. That makes good sense and is a key to an overall strong community.

* MetroLink is coming to Clayton in 2006. In a true sense, this event can have more positive economic impact on our City over the next fifty years than just about any other development. MetroLink will shape the way people come to, view, work, and live in Clayton. So we must be ready to welcome and benefit from MetroLink's arrival. Our intention is to establish a separate Committee of residents, aldermen, staff, school representatives, and business owners to work together over the next several years preparing for, and seeking to assure, the successful arrival of MetroLink in 2006.

* I want to work hard on economic development. We need to address the recent closings of some of our galleries, retail stores, and also the increasing pressure on our fine restaurants. Competition is increasing from Richmond Heights and the University City Loop area, and this needs to be addressed in a proactive way. So I will work as hard as possible to try to bring about renewed retail and commercial activity in Clayton.

* One of the important recommendations of our Strategic Issues Committee was to examine personnel matters. Therefore, in the months ahead, we will be taking a hard and new look at overall staff issues. We want to assure that all our employees - police, fire, public works, parks, and administration - are fairly compensated and benefited within our resources and as compared to our surrounding municipalities. We will be taking a fresh view at this overall situation and making changes as may be necessary or appropriate.

* Our final challenge will be to continue and increase cooperative efforts between our neighboring communities. Recently the East Central Dispatch Center started operations. The Center handles all police and fire dispatch calls for Clayton, Richmond Heights, Maplewood, Webster Groves and Shrewsbury alike. It is off to a good start with better service and lower cost than was done by Clayton separately in the past. This has been a successful joint effort that has taken a number of years to reach reality. And now I would like to explore with the aldermen other possible cooperative efforts, such as joint trash collection, closer fire service provisioning, and other areas of mutual benefit.

So, there is much to be done to continue to enhance the vibrancy of our City of Clayton. But with the current and very able and dedicated Aldermen, the excellent and highly qualified staff, and certainly our concerned and enlightened citizens, these goals will be realized. Thank you.

Strategic Issues Committee Submits Recommendations

Mayor continued from Page 1

firm headquartered in Clayton.

He succeeds Frank Kenney, who served as Mayor from 1998 until April of this year.

The Strategic Issues Committee, a group of Clayton residents appointed by the Board of Aldermen, recently convened to review the City's current revenue sources, service levels and expenses. The committee was asked to study the current projections and make recommendations to the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor.

On April 23, 2004, the final report with 28 recommendations was submitted. The evaluation was divided into three sections: revenue, expenses and general. The following is a summary, which does not include all recommendations.

REVENUE - Recommendations concerning revenue included: moderately increasing parking fines; increasing court costs in order to cover related expenses; developing a systematic approach to payment in lieu of taxes from tax exempt entities; increasing building permit fees with higher rates for commercial versus residential; and increasing the Special Business District tax assessment to pay for special services needed in the central business district.

EXPENSES - To curb expenses, the committee recommended: outsourcing all or part of the City's fleet services; sending more newsletters and brochures via e-mail; exploring further opportunities for co-op programs with other communities; and examining ways to attract retail and multi-use projects to the central business district.

GENERAL - General recommendations involved: collaborating more closely with the St. Louis County Assessor's Office to get new construction on tax rolls sooner and at the correct value; considering the use of economic incentives to develop more retail opportunities; possibly working with the State legislature to change the Hancock first year assessment rules; modifying the holiday lighting program in the central business district; and aggressively seeking Homeland Security Funds.

The Aldermen and Mayor will study the recommendations and work with staff to implement ones that most favorably impact the City.

To view the entire Strategic Issues Committee Recommendations Final Report – April 23, 2004, visit the City's web site: www.ci.clayton.mo.us click Government then Strategic Issues.

June 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.

- June 3 Board of Adjustment
The Center - 5:00 p.m.
- June 7 Plan Commission/ARB
The Center - 5:30 p.m.
- June 8 Board of Aldermen
The Center - 8:00 p.m.
- June 14 Art Commission
The Center - 7:00 p.m.
- June 17 Landscape Committee
Clayton High - 5:00 p.m.
- June 21 Plan Commission/ARB
The Center - 5:30 p.m.
- June 22 Board of Aldermen
The Center - 8:00 p.m.
- June 25 C.R.S.W.C.
The Center - 7:30 a.m.
- June 10 Ecology & Environ.
Clayton High - 5:30 p.m.
- June 28 Parks & Recreation
The Center - 7:00 p.m.

City Manager continued from Page 1

The selection of Mr. Schoedel culminates a six-month process, which generated over 110 applications from 26 states, and as far away as Japan. After extensive evaluation, Mr. Schoedel was unanimously identified by the Board as the best candidate to assume the position of City Manager in Clayton.

Mr. Schoedel will succeed Lenore Toser-Aldaz, who served as Acting City Manager following the resignation in September 2003 of former City Manager Scott Randall.

Calling All Board and Commission Members. . .

The City of Clayton and Clayton Board of Aldermen is aided by the dedicated service offered by so many community volunteers. Their input helps to shape the policies by which the City operates. This interaction helps make your City government reflective of citizen attitudes and sets the standard for services offered to and expected by our residents.

If you are interested in sharing your skills and experience as a member of a City advisory board, committee or commission, please return a completed Request for Information form by mail, fax or e-mail.

Board of Adjustment: Considers applications for variations to the City's Zoning ordinance.

BOCA Board of Appeals: Hears appeals from property owners regarding the interpretation of the International Building and Fire Codes.

City Plan Commission/Architectural Review Board: Advises the Board of Aldermen on all requests for rezoning, resubdivisions, site plan approval, and conditional use permits. Reviews developments for compatibility with the architectural standards established by the City.

Clayton Art Commission: Supports a process for incorporating artist services and art works into the City of Clayton; defines policies and guidelines for acquiring and commissioning art; and promotes the acquisition, maintenance, and upkeep of works of art on sites within the City.

Clayton Recreation, Sports and Wellness Commission: Oversees the operation of The Center of Clayton, a joint use athletic/recreational facility owned by the City of Clayton and Clayton School District.

Ecology and Environmental Awareness Committee: Develops and supports ecologically sound programs and practices for Clayton's municipal government, the Clayton community and the metropolitan St. Louis region.

Economic Development Advisory Committee: Recommends the use of funds collected within the Special Business District; and makes recommendations regarding significant matters related to the vitality of the Clayton business community.

Housing Council: Assists the City in its continuing efforts to maintain and enhance the City's housing stock.

Industrial Development Authority: Provides tax-exempt financing to eligible industrial and manufacturing facilities in accordance with federal and state tax laws.

Landscape Committee: Develops and implements comprehensive landscaping plans for all City parks, public spaces and right-of-ways.

Non-Uniformed Employees Retirement: Administers the non-uniformed employees' pension plan.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Advises the Board of Aldermen on programs and facilities designed to promote recreational opportunities for all residents of the community.

Strategic Issues Committee: Determines and prioritizes strategic issues with which the City is faced and periodically prepares a strategic plan for the Board of Aldermen.

Uniformed Employees Retirement Board: Administers the uniformed employees' pension plan for sworn Police and Fire personnel.



Request for Information

If you would like a copy of the City of Clayton's Guide to Citizen Advisory Boards, Committees and Commissions which outlines specific conditions and terms of citizen participation, please complete the following:

Name:

Street Address:

City, State, Zip:

Mail to:

City of Clayton
227 S. Central
Clayton, MO 63105
Attn: City Clerk

Fax: 314.863.0295

E-Mail: cmoore@ci.clayton.mo.us

City Completes Oak Knoll Pond Renovation

Clayton City officials proudly announced the completion of the Oak Knoll Pond renovation project. City staff did the majority of the work because construction bids submitted as a result of the Request for Proposals were over the original \$100,000 budget. Clayton's Public Works Department was asked to serve as general contractor. The Parks & Recreation and Public Works staff collaborated to complete the work. The project which included sidewalk extensions, landscaping, amphitheater repair, installation of a fountain, and a new monument sign was completed within budget. A \$50,000 grant from the Municipal Park Grant Commission helped fund the trail extension, landscaping, and amphitheater repair, while the City's Recreation and Stormwater account covered the balance.



A special event is planned for this fall to celebrate completion of the project and to encourage residents to visit Oak Knoll Park and its new surroundings. Event details will appear in the August issue of CityViews.

Olympic Torch Run Update

On August 13, 2004, summer Olympic Games will begin in Athens, Greece. Prior to the opening of the games, the Olympic Torch will be carried in cities throughout the world. The torch will be carried in only four American cities: Los Angeles, St. Louis, Atlanta, and New York. It will arrive in St. Louis on June 17. The torch run through St. Louis will begin at the Gateway Arch, and will eventually pass through the City of Clayton. The torch is scheduled to enter Clayton at approximately 7:20 p.m. It will go north on Brentwood from Clayton Road, east on Bonhomme and north on Central. On its way east along Forsyth, it will enter Washington University's Francis Field at approximately 7:45 p.m. for a ceremony commemorating the 1904 Olympics. At 8:00 p.m., the torch run will leave Francis Field and go north on Big Bend into University City. The torch run is scheduled to end at the foot of Art Hill at 8:45 p.m.

For more details, visit the U.S. Olympic Team web site www.usolympicteam.com.

Board Accepts Gateway Artwork



Computerized rendering of Man on a Horse at the proposed site at Hanley Road and Wydown Boulevard

The Clayton Art Commission seeks to make public art intrinsic to community life in the broadest and most inclusive sense. Through its interaction with organizations like the St. Louis Art Museum, Washington University and the Gateway Foundation, the Art Commission facilitates the installation of temporary and permanent works of art on loan within the City.

Last fall, the Gateway Foundation approached the Clayton Art Commission (CAC) with a proposal to loan the City of Clayton a sculpture by world-renowned artist Fernando Botero. In March, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Aldermen to

accept Gateway's offer. At its April 27 meeting, the Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the loan agreement with Gateway. The sculpture, *Man on a Horse*, will be installed on the median at the intersection of Wydown Boulevard and Hanley Road this fall. In addition to installing, maintaining, preserving and insuring the artwork, the Foundation has agreed to relandscape the portion of the median surrounding the sculpture at no cost to the City.

The 11'6" tall sculpture is typical of Fernando Botero's distinctive style of smooth, rotund shapes, which play on traditional art themes. "The loan of this work is a wonderful addition to the diverse and growing public art collection in Clayton. It raises the bar of excellence within our community, and we are extremely grateful to the Gateway Foundation for providing this opportunity," said Clayton Art Commission Chair Joan Cohen. In conjunction with the installation of the Botero, the Clayton Art Commission will present educational programming related to the sculpture, the artist, and public art in general.



Clayton Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to noon

June 5, 12, 19, 26 - July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

North Central Avenue
(Clayton's central business district)



- 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
TASTE OF CLAYTON
- restaurant specialties
- Fanfare & Brett Daniels
- on-site radio & TV broadcasts
- chefs' demonstration 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30

Twelfth Annual Taste of Clayton Sunday June 6 in Shaw Park

- 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
TASTE PLUS
- restaurant specialties & beverages
- 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
TASTE, JR.
- everything for kids
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
TASTE-Too!
- The Ralph Butler Band
- desserts & refreshments
- 9:00 p.m.
FIREWORKS

Clayton Community Theatre Presents The Wizard of OZ

The tale is about a young Kansas girl, Dorothy, and the characters she meets “somewhere over the rainbow.” This production is based on the classic 1939 MGM motion picture starring Judy Garland, and it suitable for all members of the family.

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. Evening performances \$15, matinees \$12. Tickets go on sale June 1st at: Spicer's 5 & 10 in Ladue, The Center of Clayton & Metrotix (314.534.1111). Tickets are available at the box office one hour prior to performance, subject to availability. For more information contact CCT @ 314.854.6646 or www.placeseveryone.org

July 29-August 1 and August 5-8

Clayton High School Auditorium
#1 Mark Twain Circle

U.S. Bank Saint Louis Jazz Festival

June 25 & 26

Friday - 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday - 3:00 to 10:00 p.m.

in Shaw Park



Wynton Marsalis



Oleta Adams



Aaron Neville

Wynton Marsalis and Aaron Neville head up an award-winning array of musical talent spanning 40 years of jazz, R&B, contemporary pop, soul, and Latin big band at the fourth annual U.S. Bank Saint Louis Jazz Festival. The festival will be held in Shaw Park on June 25 from 5:00 until 10:00 p.m. and 3:00 until 10:00 p.m. on June 26.

This year, the two-day jazz festival will offer an expanded musical selection to appeal to a broader market. "Although our core offering will be jazz, we're kind of blurring the lines that separate jazz, R&B, contemporary pop, soul, Latin and big band," says Cynthia Prost, president/executive director, Saint Louis Jazz Festival.

Four-time Grammy Award winner Aaron Neville will perform on the Emerson Jazz Stage on Saturday, June 26 at 8:30 p.m. Sharing the program with Neville will be Grammy nominee Carla Cook and Oleta Adams. Nine-time Grammy award winner Wynton Marsalis will perform Saturday evening on the Michelob Stage. John Pizzarelli's brilliant guitar work will open the festival on Friday night.

Rounding out the list of talent performing will be John Scofield and the Jazz at Lincoln Center's Afro-Cuban Latin Jazz Orchestra.

A one-day jazz festival pass for lawn seating costs \$20.00 and can be purchased at any St. Louis metro area U.S. Bank ATM, Border's or by calling Metrotix at 534.1111. Passes can also be purchased at the gate. Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by a parent or guardian. For general festival information, call 314.863.0278 or visit the Web site at www.saintlouisjazzfest.com.

FACTS ABOUT CLAYTON

Q. When will the new Shaw Park Drive Garage & Transit Center open for public parking?

A. The Shaw Park Drive Garage & Transit Center will be open to the general public starting June 7th. The Transit Center will also serve as the Clayton MetroBus Center, the Metro bus layover and transfer station, which has been located at the southeast corner of Forsyth Boulevard and Central Avenue.

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, 227 S. Central, 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)	721.9566
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

227 S. Central Avenue
Clayton, Missouri 63105

PRSRSTD
U.S. Postage
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MAYOR

Benjamin Uchitelle

BOARD MEMBERS

Ward I

Beverly Wagner
Judy Goodman

Ward II

Linda Goldstein
Jill Belsky

Ward III

Alex Berger III
Steven Lichtenfeld

CITY MANAGER

Michael Schoedel

CITY VIEWS EDITOR

Judy Kekich



"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."