

CITY VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLAYTON BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL CITIZENS

FEBRUARY 2005

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Town Hall Meeting Scheduled

Clayton's Mayor and Board of Aldermen have scheduled a Town Hall meeting for Tuesday, February 22, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor at City Hall. Citizens will have an opportunity to voice their opinions about whether the City should move forward with a study of a possible merger or combining one or more essential services with Richmond Heights.

Over the past several years, the Cities of Clayton and Richmond Heights have worked together in a number of important areas, such as cooperative police and fire dispatch, certain common purchasing, sharing of certain assets and cooperative street repairs. Because of proximity and areas of commonality, cooperation has worked well, and as a result, the Mayors of each city concluded the idea of the study of a merger or the combining of one or more essential services could have added benefits.

So that all stakeholders might have a voice in the process, a joint meeting of city officials and residents was held on November 11, 2004 at Wydown Junior High School. Amy Liu, Deputy Director and cofounder of the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., made a presentation on municipal mergers and the Mayors of both cities answered questions from the audience. Both communities emphasized they intend to keep citizens well-informed. Clayton arranged to have the November 11 meeting taped and aired on the cable television Public Access Channel. Then at the December 14 Board of Aldermen meeting, Aldermanic discussion and citizen comments about a possible study were also received. The purpose of the February 22 meeting is to continue the dialogue with the public prior to the Board of Aldermen officially voting about whether to proceed with a study.

The City's Website provides the latest information available on the exploratory process. For additional background, we invite you to visit the HOME page on Clayton's Website: www.ci.clayton.mo.us and click *Merger Updates*.

Clayton Road Urban Design District

Clarion Associates of Denver is in the process of assisting the City with the development of Urban Design District Standards for Clayton Road from Big Bend Boulevard to the east City limits. The Urban Design District Standards represent a proactive approach to development within a specific location by establishing design criteria tailored to the character of that area. The Urban Design District elements to be addressed can include such standards as requiring building materials to match the neighborhood, mitigation of height differences between new and existing structures, protection of green space, and the orientation of the building on the site.

The first phase of the process involved soliciting input from interested parties to use in the formulation of the standards. On December 6, 2004, Clarion held the first public workshop at Concordia. Approximately 60 residents and other stakeholders had the opportunity to discuss important characteristics of the neighborhood and to rank design elements. Clarion has recorded the public input, and along with their professional assessment, will present an analysis of the existing conditions and preliminary concepts for design standards at the second public meeting to be held Wednesday, February 16th, 7:00 p.m. at the Concordia Auditorium, 801 Seminary Place. Comments generated at this meeting will become a major component of the draft standards Clarion will submit this spring, and the public is welcome to attend.

NOTICE: City administrative staff will be moving back to their offices at 10 North Bemiston on **FEBRUARY 11**. We hope you will excuse any inconveniences that you may encounter, and we look forward to seeing you back at CITY HALL.



Mayor Ben Uchitelle

2005 - A Good and Challenging Year Ahead

The year 2005 for Clayton should be exciting and productive on many fronts. Clayton's position as county seat, education center, commercial hub, inner-ring key location and a neighbor to Forest Park and the City of St. Louis all result in making it a center for the 2005 opportunities and challenges of our region. So what's directly on our plate for 2005? Let me list some of the key items:

Clayton and Richmond Heights Study

As highlighted on page one, there will be another open meeting on February 22 on the subject of whether to go ahead with a study of a possible merger or the combining of one or more essential services of Clayton and Richmond Heights. Citizen input again will be welcome at the meeting. If both Cities thereafter agree to move forward with such a study, then this will involve major citizen participation extending over many months. It is essential that any such undertaking be open and public, with resident input at every step and opportunity for all viewpoints.

For such a study to produce good results, it is imperative that all residents and interested individuals be kept apprised of discussions and decisions made in an ongoing public manner. I and our Aldermen again assure you that, if the study goes forward, this will be the case.

Economic Review

Clayton has never offered incentives as such for economic development. Yet all of our surrounding cities have elected to provide such incentives in various degrees. Are we losing a competitive advantage as a result? Should we continue our present policy? Should we begin to offer incentives and if so, to what degree? These are new steps for Clayton and we will want to move forward with care and thoughtfulness.

To address these issues our Economic Development Advisory Committee, meeting over the past several months, together with our Aldermen, has recommended, and the Aldermen have authorized the contracting of a consulting firm to advise Clayton on these matters. The selected firm should be chosen and starting its work in the immediate future.

Our Diverse Residential Areas

Nothing is more important than maintaining the high quality of our residential areas. Clayton has a wide range of different housing – single family, apartments, condominiums, high-rises, townhouses. Each has its own strengths and needs and it is essential to maintain and enhance this quality residential diversity. All the ongoing areas of street repair, cleaning, garbage collection, building permits, code enforcement and the like are key to enhancing the pleasure of living in Clayton.

Schools and Universities

Perhaps more so than any other city in our region, Clayton is blessed with superior schools and universities. The Clayton School District, Washington University, Concordia Seminary, Fontbonne University, the Family Center, Wilson School, Forsyth School, St. Michael and St. George Central School for the Young Years, Central Christian School, Clayton Academy and Clayton Child Center, all provide superb education opportunities for our children. So our challenge as a City is to be supportive in every appropriate way of these institutions and I am sure we will continue our many efforts in that regard.

MetroLink

The past year of construction has been a very difficult challenge for Clayton. Closed streets, traffic jams, starts and stops have not been fun. And, unfortunately, 2005 will be another difficult year of construction challenges. We will have to continue to push as hard as possible to make sure that our residential and commercial areas are not undergoing undue burden by the continuing construction.

But the end is beginning to be seen and we believe that MetroLink, in the long-run, should prove to be a great asset for Clayton in so many different ways: economic attraction, greater ease of movement, strengthening Clayton as the center of light rail destinations and the like. In fact, we already are in conversations with several significant developers who are interested in new residential opportunities near and importantly as a result of the upcoming Clayton MetroLink station locations.

Web Site

Clayton's web site has dramatically improved over the past few months. I invite you to go to our home page and check it out. It's filled with good information and continually updated. Please visit it at www.ci.clayton.mo.us.

Many Other Areas

And, of course, for 2005, we will have the Art Fair, the Jazz Festival, the Taste of Clayton, the Farmers' Market, the completion of the renovation of our fire station and City Hall, and the renovations to our park system. All of these and many more will keep Clayton active and busy in 2005. As Mayor and on behalf of all of our Aldermen, we look forward to your ongoing input, suggestions and ideas. Thank you.

City Manager Selected to 40 Under 40 List

The City of Clayton is proud to announce that its City Manager Michael A. Schoedel has been selected by the *St. Louis Business Journal* as one of its 2005 40 Under 40 winners. This is the eleventh year that the Business Journal has honored 40 outstanding young business people. Selected from nearly 300 nominations, the 40 Under 40 is a prestigious group of young men and women committed to strong business and community involvement.



Clayton City Manager
Michael A. Schoedel

The 40 Under 40 list was published in the January 21, 2005 issue of the *St. Louis Business Journal*.

Clayton hires a new Public Works Director



Public Works Director
Paul Wojciechowski

City Manager Schoedel recently announced the appointment of Paul Wojciechowski as the new Public Works Director/City Engineer. Mr. Wojciechowski has over twenty years of experience, most recently working as a transportation group leader in Parsons Brinckerhoff's St. Louis office, supervising a team of ten transportation professionals. Prior to Parsons Brinckerhoff, he worked for the Missouri Department of Transportation in a number of capacities, including highway designer, district traffic engineer and director of planning.

Mr. Wojciechowski received his Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Missouri – Rolla in 1983. He is both a Certified Professional Engineer as well as a Certified Planner. He is a member of the American Planning Association, the American Institute of Certified Planners, and the Missouri Bicycle Federation. He also currently serves as a Ward 8 City Councilman in Wildwood. Mr. Wojciechowski began his employment with Clayton on January 3, 2005.

Gross Receipts Tax

To ensure that the City of Clayton is receiving gross receipts to which it is entitled, residents are encouraged to check all utility bills. When an individual moves from one municipality to another, occasionally the funds continue to go to the former municipality even when the new mailing address is in Clayton. To ensure that the municipal tax is going to Clayton and not another city, residents are asked to be sure that on the Laclede Gas bill under Bill Details, Clayton tax is indicated and on the AmerenUE bill Clayton Muni Chg appears.

GET OUT Magazine readers' choose Clayton restaurants

Clayton is proud of its status as the mecca for outstanding and award-winning restaurants. The City congratulates the eleven Clayton restaurants who were named winners in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch "readers recommend" survey in the following categories:

BEST RESTAURANT

Miso on Meramec

BARBECUE

Bandana's

BRUNCH

The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis

CHINESE

House of Wong

COFFEE

Starbucks

Kaldi's

Saint Louis Bread Co.

FRENCH

Cafe de France

INDIAN

India's Rasoi

SUSHI

Miso on Meramec

THAI

Blue Elephant

Additionally, two Clayton restaurants ranked among Post-Dispatch Food Critic Joe Bonwich's choices for ten best overall restaurants: The Crossing and Pomme.

The GET OUT survey supports Clayton's status as the region's dining mecca which has an unparalleled selection of dining opportunities just waiting to serve you!

Trolley System Study

The Chamber of Commerce Leadership Clayton Class of 2005 is exploring the feasibility of a trolley system in the City of Clayton. Annually, the Chamber selects a group of business leaders who attend sessions that review various aspects of business and government. Since the City is considering a trolley system to complement and take advantage of the new Metrolink stops and the central transportation hub, the 2005 class was asked to research plans and designs for a trolley system.

The group has gathered information and held meetings with Metro and City officials. Trolley designs from other cities have been reviewed. The group met with trolley manufacturers and explored numerous options in the design of the trolley. In developing plans for possible routes, several factors have been explored, such as time-per-circuit, left-hand turns, right-side stops, and maximized use of existing bus stops with a minimal loss of parking meters. These factors will be integrated into any recommendations in order to create the best working plan.

The class anticipates finalizing their initial plans for trolley design and route selection within the coming weeks. "We are looking forward to presenting our findings to Clayton's Board of Aldermen within the coming months," stated class member and project chair David Forth. "If implementing the circulator system is approved by the Board, and they approve of our design and route plans, we would then focus on funding and marketing of the proposed system."

Urban Planning Services

With the assistance of the Economic Development Advisory Committee, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen are currently in the process of reviewing proposals from urban planning firms to assist the City in the evaluation, planning and implementation of redevelopment opportunities. While Clayton continues to have a thriving business environment, the City would like to further capitalize on available opportunities by retaining a firm with significant redevelopment planning experience with demonstrated results. With the introduction of MetroLink and the new rider stations in Clayton, one geographic area that has been identified as having potential for redevelopment is on Forsyth Boulevard, east of Hanley Road. The consultant may also be called upon to review development-related items in other parts of the Central Business District.

The three firms the Mayor and Board are currently considering are Development Strategies, HDR, and PGAV Urban Consulting. The Board hopes to make a final decision on how best to proceed by February.

MSD Inspects Clayton's Infrastructure

MSD is working with RJN Group to address Clayton's sewer infrastructure issues. RJN Group will be performing inspections and will be smoke testing the sewers to locate openings, which may result in smoke entering buildings. A flyer about the testing procedures will be distributed to all property owners, who are asked to review the flyer. The work should begin in two to four weeks and will include accessing manholes, including those at the rear of properties in easements. The process is weather dependent. The City will post the location of the testing on a daily basis on the City's Website: www.ci.clayton.mo.us, click "MSD Testing" under the IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS section. Smoke testing will be done in the Central Business District on weekends only. Inspectors are uniformed and carry identification badges. They will not need entrance into businesses or residences. Citizens are asked to review the testing procedures flyer and to contact Clayton's Public Works Department at 314.290.8540 with questions.

The City of Clayton recognizes some of its long-time businesses.

OPENED FOR BUSINESS IN CLAYTON FOR MORE THAN 65 YEARS!

1931 - Wydown Shoe Service

7637 Wydown

- Ambruster Donnelly Funeral Home

6633 Clayton Road

1933 - Byron Cade, Inc. (gift shop)

7901 Clayton Road

1937 - Edward L. Bakewell, Inc. (real estate)

7716 Forsyth

1938 - Adrian Baker & Company (insurance)

8301 Maryland

1939 - Gladys Manion, Inc. (real estate)

8227 Maryland

Lectures and Tours

June 2005

Barbara Decker, a member of the Clayton Art Commission, an artist, writer and educator, will conduct a two-part presentation about the role of public art in the community. Part I, a lecture with slides and discussion, will explore the history of public art in the St. Louis area. The lecture will demonstrate how these works serve as powerful markers in the community. The lecture will be held on Friday, May 6, from noon to 1:00 p.m. at The Center of Clayton. The audience is encouraged to bring sack lunches. Lecture fee is \$5.00. During Part II, a walking tour through the streets of Clayton, tour participants will discover the many significant pieces of public art in the Central Business District and surrounding area. The tour will begin at Clayton City Hall at Forsyth and Bemiston on Saturday, May 7, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Tour fee is \$5.00. A light snack will be served. Preregistration is required. Please call 314.290.8500.



Artwork at Hanley and Wydown

This spring, work will begin on the median at the intersection of Hanley Road and Wydown Boulevard. The median will be converted into the staging area for the installation for artwork, an 11'6" cast bronze sculpture, *Man on a Horse*, by world-renowned artist Fernando Botero. The piece is on permanent loan to the City of Clayton through a collaboration between the City of Clayton and the Gateway Foundation. At recent joint meetings of the Clayton Art Commission and Landscape Committee, Christy Fox, Director of the Gateway Foundation, presented a site plan proposal. Members from both groups approved the proposal. The Board of Aldermen will review the final site design in February.



Fernando Botero's
Man on a Horse

Picasso at the Lapin Agile, a play set in Paris in 1904, is an imaginary meeting between a passionate Pablo Picasso and a fiery Albert Einstein, both in their 20's and on the verge of greatness. Young Elvis joins them and the three experience the magic of forever altering the future. The play was written by comedian Steve Martin, directed by Michael Jokerst and will be performed at The Little Theatre by special arrangement with Samuel French on March 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 & 18, 19 and 20, 2005. Evening performances begin at 8:00, Sunday matinees begin at 2:00. Tickets are available at Spicer's 5 & 10, The Center of Clayton and Metrotix. The Little Theatre is located in Clayton High School at #1 Mark Twain Circle. For details call 314.854.6646 or visit www.placeseveryone.org.



The Clayton Symphony Orchestra with Edward Dolbashian, Artistic Director Timothy Pfeiffer, Concertmaster and Mark Laverty on piano present Russian Classics on Tuesday, March 22nd at 8:00 p.m. The program will include the Prelude to Khovanchina by Mussorgsky; the Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 18 by Rachmaninoff and Pictures at an Exhibition (Ravel Orchestration) by Mussorgsky. The performance will be held at Clayton High School, 1 Mark Twain Circle. Admission: adults \$10; students \$5.



Centennial Greenway

The City of Clayton has joined Creve Coeur, Maryland Heights, Olivette, St. Louis, University City and The Great Rivers Greenway District to implement plans for the Centennial Greenway. The Greenway is part of The River Ring, a regional, interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails being developed by Great Rivers Greenway. The Greenway will connect Forest Park, Creve Coeur County Park, the KATY Trail and several municipal trail systems to each other. It spans more than 20 miles, linking St. Charles and St. Louis counties and the City of St. Louis.

The Great Rivers Greenway District, formerly known as the Metropolitan Park and Recreation District, was established in November 2000 by the successful passage Proposition C, which funds Great Rivers Greenway through a one-tenth of one cent sales tax.

Great Rivers Greenway works for a clean, green, connected St. Louis region. To achieve its mission, the district is developing The River Ring, an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails, which follows large and small regional waterways, to provide economic, environmental and social benefits across St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County.

The City of Clayton will be connected to the Centennial Greenway through branches from Shaw Park and Oak Knoll Park. In early 2005, a series of public forums were held to kick off the planning effort and engage residents in developing goals and objectives. The plan is targeted for completion in late 2005 with the identification of pilot projects for construction in 2006.

For more information about Centennial Greenway and Great Rivers Greenway visit www.greatrivers.info or call 314.436.7009.

February Meeting Schedule

The following list contains all regularly scheduled public 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. 3 Board of Adjustment
The Center - 5:00 p.m.

Feb. 7 Plan Commission/ARB
The Center - 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 8 Board of Aldermen
The Center - 8:00 p.m.

Feb. 14 Art Commission
The Center - 6:00 p.m.

Feb. 17 Landscape Committee
Clayton High - 5:00 p.m.

Feb. 22 Board of Aldermen
TOWN HALL MEETING
City Hall - 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 22 Board of Aldermen
City Hall - 8:00 p.m.

Feb. 23 Plan Commission/ARB
City Hall - 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 25 C.R.S.W.C.
The Center - 7:30 a.m.

Feb. 28 Ecology & Environ.
Clayton High - 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 28 Parks & Recreation
The Center - 7:00 p.m.



Cupid's Ball

Monday, February 7
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

It doesn't have to be leap year for girls to ask their favorite guy (Dad, Uncle, Grandfather, etc.)

out on this special evening. Join in the fun at the Ritz-Carlton for a fun-filled evening that includes a buffet dinner, dancing, a commemorative photo, and a Valentine's gift for the girls. Registration fee: \$19 for residents and \$23 for nonresidents. To register, call The Center of Clayton at 314.290.8500.

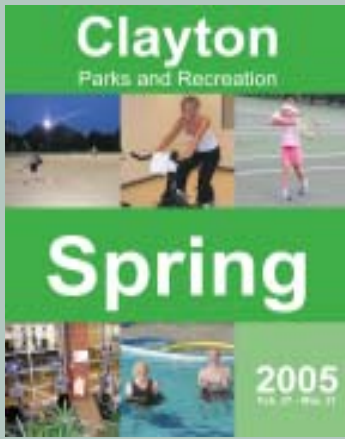
Bunny Hop

Saturday March 19
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Kids from 1 to 7 are invited to a morning of fun at the Bunny Hop in Oak Knoll Park. Festivities will include a petting zoo and craft activities provided by the St. Louis Artists' Guild. Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras because there will be lots of eggs to gather and photo ops with the bunny. Registration fee: \$5 for residents and \$6 nonresidents. To register, call The Center of Clayton at 314.290.8500.



Parks & Recreation Brochure Now On-Line



Clayton's Parks and Recreation Department and The Center of Clayton offer a wide range of programs. To keep the community abreast of activities and programs available, an activities brochure is published quarterly and mailed to all

Clayton households. This brochure is now available in PDF format via the City's Website. For program information, please click on the brochure link listed under City Hall Departments, Parks & Recreation.

To help the Parks Department reduce printing and postage costs, residents may ask to be removed from the program brochure mailing list and view the brochure on-line. To ensure that the correct individual is being removed from the list, patrons should e-mail their name, address and telephone number to parcs@ci.clayton.mo.us. Requests will be processed upon receipt.

Parks & Recreation Department Receives the Merit Garden Award

Wydown Park is recognized by the Missouri Botanical Garden

The Missouri Botanical Garden recently announced that Clayton's Wydown Park had become the first local garden to be recognized with a Merit Garden Award. In order to be considered for this award: Plants of Merit must grow in the park; the park must be open to the public; and Plants of Merit signs must be present for at least one full season. This program was started in an effort to encourage gardeners to utilize plants that do well in the region but are generally underutilized by local gardeners. The horticulture staff at the Missouri Botanical Garden developed a list of over 50 plants with outstanding qualities and dependable performance that are suitable for the St. Louis area. Susan Renard, staff horticulturist with Clayton's Parks & Recreation Department, recognized the importance of highlighting these plants and incorporated them into the Wydown Park gardens and in the other parks throughout Clayton. Residents are invited to visit Wydown Park and enjoy the beautiful plants that have helped it qualify as a Merit Garden.

Perennials for Your Sun Garden

For those planning a sun garden, Susan Renard, horticulturist for the City of Clayton, will share her expertise on low maintenance, long blooming, heat and drought tolerant plants that will make your garden look its best all year long. Class will meet on March 12 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at The Center of Clayton. Registration fee: \$5.00 per person. To register, call The Center at 314.290.8500.

**For more information about the following activities or to register,
call The Center of Clayton at 314.290.8500.**

2005 Spring Break Sports Camps

During spring break, March 28 – April 1, Clayton Parks & Recreation Department will offer the following 2005 Sports Camps: Spring Break Aquatic Camp, Paul Zarky's "Get High on Sports!" Camp, Climbing Wall Camp for kids ages 5 through 15. Registration fee: \$90.00 for residents and \$110.00 for nonresidents.

Forensic Science Solving a Mystery

This fun and imaginative workshop for kids age 8 to 11 will explore the forensic science techniques used to solve mysteries including collecting evidence, analyzing clues and making a fingerprint. Intergenerational program presented by OASIS. Class will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. at The Center of Clayton. Registration fee: \$7.00 for members, \$8.00 for residents and \$9.00 for nonresidents.

Tickles and Tunes

Enjoy active music making with your toddler/preschooler (birth to 3 years). Explore rhythm and melody through singing, dancing, rhyming and instruments. Instructor Judy Sadoff is a certified early childhood music specialist. Class will meet March 1 - 22, 9:30 - 10 a.m. at The Center of Clayton. Registration fee: \$32.00 for members, \$36.00 for residents and \$40.00 for nonresidents.

FACTS ABOUT CLAYTON

Q: I have questions about how to prepare my garden before spring planting time. I know the City has a horticulturist on staff, and I wonder if I would be able to ask her a few questions.

A: You can contact the City's horticulturist Susan Renard with questions by e-mailing her at srenard@ci.clayton.mo.us. To read Susan's monthly garden tips, visit the "HOME" page of the City's Website: www.ci.clayton.mo.us, click "Gardening Tips" under the "IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS" section.

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)	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)	645.3000
Public Works	290.8540
TDD	290.8435

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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Ben Uchitelle

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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."



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by Srenco Photography