

# CITY VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLAYTON BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL CITIZENS

DECEMBER 2005

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## CLAYTON for the Holidays

Gift-giving ideas are abundant throughout Clayton's diverse array of shops and boutiques during the holidays, and Clayton store owners are looking forward to personally assisting customers with their gift purchases.

This year, to enhance the traditional holiday experience that has become Clayton's trademark, shoppers will be whisked through Clayton's winter wonderland in horse drawn carriages.

Merrymakers can take a carriage ride through the central business district, which is filled with thousands of twinkling lights and exquisitely designed holiday window displays, to dine at one of Clayton's award-winning restaurants and to find the perfect holiday gift in a charming Clayton boutique.

The carriage rides, sponsored by the City of Clayton, represent one of the numerous approaches the City uses to partner with its business communities. Two of the newest members of the retail business community joined the row of antique shops and boutiques along Clayton Road. Owners of Expressions, the exclusive furniture and accessories showroom, selected a Clayton address for their move from Frontenac. "Clayton is the right market for us," said Expressions owner Susie Knops.



"We felt that not only the Clayton Road location, but the City itself, presented all the right opportunities for our business to flourish." Next door neighbor, Fox Kitchen & Bath Showroom at 7811 Clayton Road, also recently selected Clayton for an additional location. "Businesses choose to move to Clayton," stated Mayor Ben Uchitelle, "I encourage Clayton citizens to help the City demonstrate its appreciation by supporting these businesses."



Clayton residents and visitors are invited to take advantage of the wealth of shopping and dining opportunities in its five charming business districts along DeMun and Clayton Road, in the Hanley-Wydown district, on Brentwood Boulevard and in the central business district. Enjoy Clayton's traditional holiday experience!

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### HOLIDAY CARRIAGE RIDES

From 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Thursday in December (except the 29th), take a horsedrawn carriage ride to your favorite Clayton restaurant or to one of Clayton's charming boutiques. See Page 5 for details.





Bev Wagner  
Ward I Alderman

## There is much news to report from Ward I

In April, all City Parks benefited from “Clean Up the Park Day.” In Alamo Park, stairs were repaired and a border trim was installed; in DeMun Park, a playhouse was replaced; and in Concordia Park, several diseased trees were removed.

On May 5, the HiPointe/DeMun District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a “Place of Significance.” Currently, it is being considered for Landmark Status, in recognition of renowned urban planner Henry Wright who designed the area as a model New Town. This is a great honor for the neighborhood and Clayton.



Judy Goodman  
Ward I Alderman

Also in May, Walgreens was officially welcomed to the neighborhood with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Original Parkmoor ceramic tiles were sold, and the \$2,000 collected was matched by Walgreens for a total contribution of \$4,000 to the Clayton Art Commission.

In June, Washington University’s Phase 4B Dormitory Plan was approved by the Board of Aldermen with modifications to reflect sensitivity to the residential neighborhood. Additional University actions included a Revised Landscaping Plan with more extensive plantings and approval to relocate the Student Health and Wellness Center to the South 40 Campus, with a mandatory parking review six months after its opening.

On September 20, Concordia Seminary installed its tenth president, Dr. Dale A. Meyer. The impressive inaugural ceremony took place in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. We welcome Dr. Meyer and his wife, Diane, from Collinsville, Illinois to our community.

Dr. Dennis Golden, President of Fontbonne University, is pleased to announce receipt of a \$1 million matching grant from the Sisters of St. Joseph for a study in Catholic Thought.

Wilson School celebrated the completion of its underground gymnasium and rooftop field, and the graduation of sixth graders in the new facility. Captain School’s Roots and Shoots playground enabled both teachers and students to enjoy enriched learning opportunities. Wydown Middle School dedicated a new piece of art in its eastside courtyard. Both St. Michael and St. George and First Congregational are flourishing with expanded play areas. At the Clayton/Skinker Intersection, the City of Clayton financed double left traffic signals and new striping, in response to neighborhood requests to mitigate increased cut-through traffic at this busy intersection. The Alamo Alley Project is proceeding in coordination with MSD for alley replacement and improved drainage structure.

On October 25, the Board of Aldermen approved an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to establish the Clayton Road Urban Design District. After an extended period of public input, the guidelines now provide a ceiling for respectful development that incorporates architectural details, landscaping and setback requirements, mandatory shadow studies and residential uses for commercially-zoned Clayton Road.

On October 26, the Joint Study Committee for a possible merger between Clayton and Richmond Heights held its second meeting. Representing Ward I are Sally Cohn, Bob Denlow, Claire Halpern and Richard Hyde. A number of subcommittees will look into specific issues such as: organizational structure, human resources, public safety, planning and zoning, infrastructure, finance, parks and recreation, information technology and public affairs. Residents are encouraged to serve, by contacting Acting City Clerk June Waters at 314.290.8460.

### December Meeting Schedule

The following list of public meetings contains 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.

- Dec 1 Board of Adjustment  
City Hall - 5:00 p.m.
- Dec 5 Plan Commission/ARB  
City Hall - 5:30 p.m.
- Dec 5 Parks & Recreation  
The Center - 7:00 p.m.
- Dec 12 Art Commission  
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.
- Dec 13 Board of Aldermen  
City Hall - 8:00 p.m.
- Dec 15 Landscape Committee  
City Hall - 5:00 p.m.
- Dec 19 Plan Commission/ARB  
City Hall - 5:30 p.m.
- Dec 20 Board of Aldermen  
City Hall - 8:00 p.m.

## April 2006 Municipal Election

On Tuesday, April 4, 2006, the City of Clayton will hold an election to fill one Aldermanic position for each of the City's three wards.

Persons interested in running for the office of Alderman are required to file a Declaration of Candidacy form with the City Clerk. A filing fee of \$50.00 is due at the time of candidacy declaration. The first day for filing the forms for the April election is December 13, 2005 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Filing will close at 5:00 p.m. on January 17, 2006.

Candidates for the position of Alderman must: be at least 25 years of age; be a registered voter; have lived in the City of Clayton two years prior to the election date; and be a resident of the ward from which they are elected.

Candidates who file a declaration on the first day of filing will be placed on the ballot per random drawing. Candidates filing after December 13 will be placed on the ballot in the order that their declarations are received.

For more information and for the location of the City Clerk's Office, contact June Waters at 314.290.8460.

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## Landscape Committee

The Landscape Committee develops and implements comprehensive landscaping plans for all City parks, public spaces and right-of-ways. Currently, Clayton officials are looking for an individual with landscape background to fill a position on the City's Landscape Committee. Applicants must be 18 years of age; live in Ward II; and be willing to serve a two-year term. For more information or to obtain an application packet, please contact June Waters at 314.290.8460.

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## Emergency Preparation

The City of Clayton has long placed a strong emphasis on emergency management. Training is a key element to preparedness, and on October 11, 2005, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen participated in an "orientation" type emergency training exercise prior to their regular meeting session.

Facilitated by Police Department personnel, the exercise involved a simulated explosion and focused on the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and Board during an emergency situation. The exercise addressed such topics as the declaration of a citywide State of Emergency, the establishment of a Public Information Center, the adoption of emergency legislation and/or appropriations bills and communications links. It is anticipated that similar programs will be held on a periodic basis in the future.

Consistent with its concern about emergency management, the City encourages Clayton citizens to establish their own line of defense. To obtain disaster preparedness information and emergency kits for families and businesses, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). There are links to other informative sites on the Fire Department's page on the City's website: [www.ci.clayton.mo.us](http://www.ci.clayton.mo.us). Click on City Hall, City Departments, then select Fire Department.

## Joint Study Committee (JSC)

40-member panel will study the possible consolidation of Clayton and Richmond Heights

As has been reported, consolidation of the Cities of Clayton and Richmond Heights is being considered. To ensure that the study of the possible consolidation undergoes thorough scrutiny, a 40-member Joint Study Committee (JSC) has been created. In September, City officials selected 20 individuals from each municipality to serve on the JSC. It was decided that the JSC would meet on the last Wednesday of each month for eighteen months, alternating the location of the meetings between The Center of Clayton at 50 Gay Avenue and The Heights at 8001 Dale Avenue.

Preliminary issues, such as schedules and subcommittees, were discussed during the first meeting held in Richmond Heights on September 28.

The second meeting took place on October 26 at The Center of Clayton. The JSC reviewed drafts of Guiding Objectives and a Statement of Purpose. Each document emphasized the importance of insuring long-term strength and vitality of the communities and enhancing the quality of life of the residents. Members tentatively decided to include a statement that would assure employees from both municipalities that no jobs would be eliminated as a result of a consolidation, except through retirement or attrition. The next JSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, at The Heights from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

For complete and continuing details, visit the merger website [www.mergerstudy.org](http://www.mergerstudy.org).

## Helpful Holiday Tips

Fire mishaps are more prevalent during winter months and especially during the holidays. The Clayton Fire Department offers the following safety tips to help citizens prevent unnecessary hardships.

### Fire Never Takes A Holiday

The following are holiday safety tips:

- Make sure your holiday tree is fresh; cut at least 1 inch off the bottom before placing it into tree stand in water.
- Keep trees away from sources of heat such as fireplaces and space heaters.
- Do not place your tree where it will block exits.
- Make sure artificial trees are flame-retardant.
- Make sure that electric lights are U.L. listed and that there are no frayed wires.
- Never run electric cords under rugs.
- Unplug lights before going to bed.
- Be sure that electrical decorations used outside are rated for outdoor use.
- Avoid hanging stockings near an open flame.
- Never burn paper (wrapping paper) in a fire place, which is a major cause of chimney fires.
- Keep poisonous plants such as poinsettias, holly and mistletoe out of reach of pets and children.



### December, peak month for home candle fires

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Clayton Fire Department warn that candles are an open flame that can easily ignite any combustibles nearby. These organizations offer the following safety tips:



- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or before going to sleep.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy, are made from a material that cannot burn, and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Keep candles away from combustible items such as clothing, books, wrapping paper and curtains.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Keep candle wicks trimmed to one-quarter inch and extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get to within two inches of the holder. Votives and containers should be extinguished before the last half-inch of wax starts to melt.
- Never put candles on Christmas trees.
- During power outages, avoid carrying a lit candle; use a flashlight.

## Cable TV Complaint Procedures

Over the past several weeks, City staff has received several calls from residents who are experiencing problems with cable television transmission and the service provider's response. Clayton has adopted regulations that govern cable television service providers and customer service standards. The following are guidelines that will help avoid lengthy interruptions in service.

Begin by contacting the service provider directly according to the instructions listed on the monthly billing statement.

- The provider must acknowledge request for service within 24 hours.
- All appointments for service must be scheduled for a specific date and time. If a service technician is unable to make the scheduled appointment, an attempt must be made to contact the customer prior to the time of the appointment.
- Repairs and maintenance for service interruptions must be completed within 24 hours. If it is not possible to complete such work in 24 hours, work must be diligently continued until work has been completed.
- The provider may not cancel a service or installation appointment with a customer after the close of business on the business day preceding the appointment.
- Subscribers, who experience two missed appointments due to the fault of the service provider, are entitled to receive fifty percent off of one month's basic cable service for an amount not to exceed twenty dollars.
- If satisfaction is not received directly from the provider, or the subscriber is unable to reach a customer service representative, the subscriber is encouraged to contact the City Manager's Office at 314.290.8460. A representative of the City Manager's Office will contact the service provider to assist with obtaining a satisfactory solution.





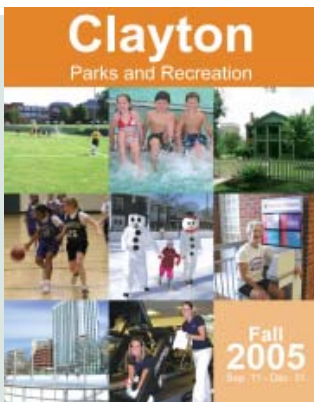
**e-communications**

Hundreds of Clayton residential and business citizens have signed up to receive the various forms of communication the City offers via e-mails. Subscribers obtain: the latest on special events, street closures and meeting schedule changes via the City's bi-weekly news e-mail; updates on The Center of Clayton activities; and agendas for the Board of Aldermen and Plan Commission meetings. Recently, the City contracted with a consultant to upgrade the format and appearance of these messages. In November, the City initiated e-communications and subscribers received their news and agendas in the new format.

All Clayton citizens are encouraged to sign up to receive the Clayton e-communications updates and meeting agendas. To register, go to the "HOME" page of Clayton's website: [www.ci.clayton.mo.us](http://www.ci.clayton.mo.us), click on the "e-communications" icon.

**City Staff Exceeds United Way Goal**

Fire Marshal John LaVenture reports that City staff far exceeded the \$6000 United Way goal set for this year's campaign. Clayton personnel donated a total of \$9231. This surpassed the previous highest contribution of \$7183, which was made in 2002.



**Parks & Recreation Activities Brochure**

Clayton's Parks & Recreation Department activities brochure is published quarterly and mailed to all Clayton households. This brochure is now available via the City's website. Just click

on the brochure link listed under City Hall Departments, Parks & Recreation.

Residents may opt to view the brochure online and be removed from the mailing list. To ensure that the correct individual is being removed from the mailing list, patrons should e-mail their name, address and telephone number to [parks@ci.clayton.mo.us](mailto:parks@ci.clayton.mo.us).

**Holiday Carriage Rides**  
 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., every Thursday in December  
 (except the 29th)  
 Downtown Clayton



Horse drawn carriage rides will transport holiday shoppers and diners along gaily decorated downtown Clayton streets alive with holiday lights and festive holiday window decorations. Clayton restaurateurs, hoteliers and retailers look forward to greeting patrons with holiday cheer. Parking is free on downtown streets evenings, weekends and holidays. For more information, call 314.290.8544.

**Skate FREE with Frosty**  
 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Thursday, December 8  
 Shaw Park Ice Rink



After a carriage ride through Clayton's festive downtown, come to the Shaw Park Ice Rink for a free skate with Frosty. Join us in the warming hut for a free cookie and cup of hot chocolate. For details, call The Center of Clayton at 314.290.8500.

**A Smart New Look for the Holidays**

Visitors to Clayton this holiday season will notice a change in the holiday décor. The City has changed how the tens of thousands of twinkle lights are displayed. The canopies of the hundreds of trees in downtown Clayton have gotten too large to effectively decorate, and the power needed to supply electricity to the ever-growing number of lights is increasing exponentially. As a result, instead of draping strings of lights over the tree branches, the Public Works Department will wrap the trunks of the trees from the base to above the fork of the tree. It is hoped that this method of addressing the situation will result in a sophisticated holiday look.

# FACTS ABOUT CLAYTON

Q: Is there a way to discourage door-to-door solicitation?

A: Clayton residents, who do not welcome door-to-door solicitors, canvassers, peddlers or charitable organizations, should contact Clayton's Finance Department at 314.290.8443. Individuals will receive an application to be added to the "No Solicitation" list, which makes it unlawful for solicitors to visit addresses that appear on the list. The application can also be found via [www.ci.clayton.mo.us](http://www.ci.clayton.mo.us). Go to City Hall, then City Departments, select "No Solicit List" on the Finance Department page.

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](mailto:jakekich@ci.clayton.mo.us)

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<b><i>In Case of Emergency</i></b> .....	<b>911</b>
City Manager .....	290.8400
Communications .....	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
Human Resources .....	290.8448
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  
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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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