



CITY VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLAYTON BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL CITIZENS

JUNE 2006

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3



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I-64 Rebuild Update

Throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area, commuters are bracing for the impact the New I-64 project will have on the region. According to the project website, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) will rebuild a 12 mile stretch of Highway 40 from west of Spodee Road to Sarah Street, and it will take 4 years to complete the work. MoDOT has confirmed that contrary to some reports, it will not close the entire roadway for the duration of the project. It is expected, however, that the entire project or sections of the project will be under construction throughout the 12 miles at all times during the construction period.

This year, MoDOT will be involved in procuring a design-build contractor team and buying property for the project. The Request for Proposals for the project contract will be issued early this summer, and the design-build contractor team will be selected in late 2006. Upon selection, the contractor will begin design work immediately. Details on the contractor's plans for the phasing of construction work and lane, ramp, interchange and road closure information will be determined in late 2006.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2007 and be completed no later than October 2010. For the latest, visit www.thenewi64.org.

MetroLink and Forest Park Parkway Updates

When significant portions of Forest Park Parkway opened last month, the relief was almost audible. "It's a good time to be a business owner in Clayton," said Mayor Ben Uchitelle. "No longer will workers, customers, clients and visitors to Clayton be required to deal with detours and delays due to construction on the Parkway."

Coinciding with the opening of the Parkway, Metro announced that the Cross County extension of MetroLink will open this fall. With the MetroLink expansion, Clayton will become an integral part of the area's travel routes. Two passenger stations at Forsyth/Forest Park Parkway and Central Avenue/Shaw Park Drive are part of the MetroLink expansion through Clayton. The Central Avenue station represents an added benefit with its connection to the Shaw Park Garage & Transit Center, where passengers will be able to park, visit and conduct business in Clayton or take MetroLink to the ball game or other entertainment venues.

MetroLink's expansion and passenger stations facilitate travel throughout the Metropolitan area, increase Clayton's viability as the area's "second downtown" and enhance its reputation as the most desirable business location.



Fourteenth Annual
Taste of Clayton in Shaw Park
Sunday, June 4
1:00 to 9:30 p.m.

*** FIREWORKS *
at 9:00**

Enjoy a day of food, fun and music, while helping the less fortunate. For details, call Clayton's Special Events Hotline at 314.290.8474.

LAST YEAR'S
CONTRIBUTION
TO CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATIONS
BROUGHT THE TOTAL
CONTRIBUTED
SINCE THE EVENT'S
INCEPTION TO
\$717,600.



Mayor Ben Uchitelle

State of the City

I thought I would take this opportunity to present a brief State of the City report. In summary, Clayton is in overall strong shape, moving forward in many related directions, and with broad citizen participation on our numerous Committees and Boards. Of course, we have plenty of challenges ahead, as we should, but here is a current snapshot:

Forest Park Expressway

At the time that you read this report, the Forest Park Expressway should be open in major part and fully opened by the end of June. What a relief! Clayton residents and all who come to our City have endured years of construction, delays and inconvenience. Hopefully, now that the Expressway is opening it will help to greatly facilitate traffic movements.

Metrolink

Yes, it will be opening this Fall and I firmly believe that it will become a tremendous economic benefit for Clayton now and in the decades to come. Certainly it has been the biggest single construction project affecting the City in its history. With its completion, we can look forward to a new convenient mode of transportation and new commercial developments that will key into the Clayton stations.

Central Business District Development

Two major construction projects are underway and a third is in the development stages. Maryland Walk, an 18-story condominium development at Brentwood Boulevard and Maryland Avenue, is nearing completion with openings scheduled starting this Fall. This is a beautiful building with dramatic views of Clayton and many different styles of units. As people move in, it should bring new vitality to our area.

And at the eastern end of the City, The Crescent, is in early construction. This is a 72 unit high-end condominium building with over 25,000 square feet of retail. Directly across the street from the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, The Crescent should prove to be an extremely attractive addition to Clayton.

And finally, the Centene development is in the architectural planning stages. This has certainly been a controversial project, but I believe it will be a tremendous benefit for Clayton and the region, bringing 800 plus new jobs to our City, hundreds of thousands of dollars of additional taxes for the School District and our City and new retail to the downtown area.

In the discussion and early planning wings are several other possible important and exciting projects. Of course, we will advise you promptly as and when they become more definite.

Joint Study Committee

The large joint committee of residents of Clayton and Richmond Heights has been meeting monthly now with subcommittees beginning intensive examinations of all aspects of our two Cities in order to consider a possible merger or combining of one or more essential services. Of course, all meetings are open to the public and the JSC maintains an excellent web site – www.mergerstudy.org, fully reporting on its activities. In addition, the JSC plans to hold a public forum in the Fall to give status reports and invite additional citizen comments.

Highway 40/64 Construction

Looming on the horizon and starting as early as next year, the major reconstruction of Highway 40/64 will commence. The City has been working with a task force created by St. Louis County to endeavor to both minimize the disruptions to Clayton from such construction and also to try to achieve some benefits from the changing traffic patterns that will occur during the construction.

Festivals

The City is honored to host and to participate annually in the Taste of Clayton, the Jazz Festival and the nationally famous St. Louis Art Fair. These have become part of the fabric of Clayton and our region with hundreds of Clayton volunteers helping to make it happen. This Fall a new event will be occurring in downtown Clayton. The Big Read, created by Cultural Festivals, will present a broad range of book events for all interests and all ages.

In summary, Clayton is a vibrant place made so by the interests, participation and desires of its residents. And I am honored to serve you during these exciting times.

Thanks,

Ben Uchitelle
Mayor

June Ballot Changed to August

The City of Clayton had planned to ask registered voters to determine if eminent domain should be significantly limited in future economic development projects on a special June 6 ballot initiative. At its April 11, 2006 meeting, the Board of Aldermen ratified Ordinance # 5923, which changes the date of the ballot to August 8th. City Manager Michael Schoedel reported that the language was originally placed on the ballot with the understanding that the State Legislature would be finished with its discussions on the topic of eminent domain. Since it became apparent that the new State legislation would not be adopted until May or later, the Board requested the City Attorney to file the necessary court documents to remove this language from the June 6th ballot. The Board recommended that the language be placed on the August 8th ballot. The City had until 5:00 p.m. on April 25th to remove the language from the June 6th election by court order; after April 25th, not even a court order could remove the ballot language. The change provides additional time to review proposed State legislation.

April 4, 2006 Municipal Election Results

On Tuesday, April 4, 2006 the City of Clayton voters went to the polls to elect individuals to serve in one Aldermanic position for each of the City's three Wards. Judy Goodman was reelected to another term as Alderman of Ward I. Michelle Harris was elected to represent residents in Ward II. In Ward III, Steven Lichtenfeld was reelected.

The newly elected Aldermen were officially sworn in at the April 25th Board of Aldermen meeting.



Assistant City Clerk June Waters, Mayor Ben Uchitelle, Ward I Alderman Judy Goodman, Ward II Alderman Michelle Harris, Ward III Alderman Steve Lichtenfeld

Pet Ordinance

Warm weather brings an increase of outdoor activities by pets and their owners. The City has subsequently received several calls about cleaning up after pets. An ordinance passed earlier this year stipulates that pet owners must pick up fecal matter from public and private property of others before leaving the immediate area. If a violation is witnessed, residents should report it to the Clayton Police Department. It will probably be necessary for the complainant to agree to appear in court as a witness to the offense, in order for a summons to be issued. Even if the claimant does not agree to appear in court, the responding officer will still attempt to contact the offender regarding the complaint.

Residents are required to pick up after their own pets in their own yards at least once every 24 hours. If a report is received about feces accumulating, an officer will document the incident and forward the complaint to Clayton's Department of Planning & Development services, which will investigate the allegation. Fines for violation range from \$20 to \$100, depending on number and frequency.

Leash Requirements

Dog owners should also be aware of the leash requirements. The ordinance states that it is a misdemeanor for any one to permit a dog to run at-large or go off the owner's premises, unless it is securely tied or led by a line or leash no more than 6 feet long. For more information about City ordinances, visit the City's website www.ci.clayton.mo.us, click Ordinances under the City Hall menu item.

Fire Station Mural

In coordination with the Clayton Art Commission, an event is planned to raise funds to commission a mural for the Clayton Fire Station. Artist Heather Shore has been selected to paint a large mural on the back wall of the station which is visible from Forsyth Boulevard. The mural will showcase the history of the fire service.

The fund raising event, "Red Hot" evening of food and wine, will be held on Wednesday, June 7, at Bar Napoli, 7750 Forsyth Boulevard from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. To request an invitation or receive more information, please send an e-mail to jbelsky@rcirealty.com.

National Night Out

*America's Night Out Against Crime
Tuesday, August 1st*

The Clayton Police Department will take part in the National Night Out (NNO) program again this year. The Department was encouraged by the participation of resident groups at last year's event, and hope that it will be even better this year. Last year, residents turned their porch lights on and secured their residence. They conducted activities that included: ice cream socials, flashlight walks, block parties, swim parties, and games for the kids.

Clayton police officers would like to schedule appearances in participating neighborhoods between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. during the event. For more information and to provide details about your neighborhood activities, please call Community Services Officer Jim O'Brien at 314.290.8424. "We would like to thank all those who were involved in last year's National Night Out," stated Police Chief Tom Byrne, "and encourage others to help make their neighborhoods more secure by participating this year on Tuesday, August 1st."

National Night Out is designed to: heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and demonstrate to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Emergency Warning Sirens

Two hundred sirens provide early warning of severe weather to citizens throughout St. Louis County. Two are located in Clayton – one at 7900 Carondelet in the central business district and one on Big Bend Boulevard at Southmoor. St. Louis County activates the sirens when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for a Missouri county adjacent to St. Louis County and when the storm path poses a threat to St. Louis County. If a tornado warning is issued for St. Louis County, the sirens will be activated a second time. The dual alerts enable county residents additional time to seek shelter and obtain information from the news media, such as local television (Weather Channel) and radio stations (KMOX 1120 AM) or monitor National Weather Radio (KDO89 on frequency 162.550), for storm related details. Immediate evacuation may not always be warranted, so monitoring media reports throughout the warning period is important. Since the sirens can be heard best from outdoors, residents are encouraged to stay tuned to radio stations and TV channels during threatening weather. The system does not sound an all-clear message. In an effort to ensure that the siren system is working properly, a county-wide siren test is conducted on the first Monday every month at 11:00 a.m., weather permitting.

City of Clayton Spring Blood Drive

In cooperation with the Community Blood Center, the Clayton Fire Department will host the annual spring blood drive on June 1, 2006. The blood drive will be held at Clayton City Hall from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor. Donors must bring a photo ID and must eat before donating blood.

For additional information about this event or about donating blood, visit Community Blood Center of St. Louis' website at www.stlouisblood.org or contact the Clayton Fire Department at 314.290.8485.

Clayton Fire Department Adjusts Ambulance Transport Fees

In January 2006, the U.S. Department of Health adjusted the Medicare reimbursement system. Subsequently, the Clayton Fire Department asked the Board of Aldermen to amend the current ambulance service billing system to bring Clayton into compliance with these changes. The changes included the elimination of charges for medications given during treatment by Paramedics. The medication costs are now included in the basic ambulance transportation fee charged by the City. As a result, the City will be increasing its basic service fees to reflect this change.

The cost for Basic Life Support Services assessment by a Paramedic and treatments not requiring medication administration or advanced medical skills and devices will remain at \$325. The cost for Advanced Life Support Level 1 Care in which the patient receives an assessment by a Paramedic and advanced skills care, such as starting an IV, ECG monitoring or medications, will increase by \$25 to \$450. Patients who require intensive care services and multiple advanced procedures will be charged \$650, which is a \$50 increase. This is the first time Clayton has changed ambulance fees since 2002.

The Clayton Fire Department, which had one of the first Paramedic ambulances in the St. Louis area, has provided ambulance service to the area since 1932 and responds to over 1,400 emergency calls per year. For more information about the ambulance service or the Fire Department, refer to the Department's page on the City's website www.ci.clayton.mo.us.

Joint Study Committee (JSC) Update

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

In September 2005, Clayton and Richmond Heights city officials selected 20 individuals from each municipality to serve on the Joint Study Committee (JSC). The group is charged with studying the possibility of merging the Clayton and Richmond Heights municipal governments. The JSC meets on the last Wednesday of each month, alternating the location of the meetings between The Center of Clayton at 50 Gay Avenue and The Heights at 8001 Dale Avenue. The public is encouraged to attend.

Preliminary issues, such as schedules and subcommittees, were discussed during the first meeting. In subsequent meetings, Guiding Objectives and a Statement of Purpose were drafted and categories for subcommittees discussed. In January 2006, the JSC formed ten subcommittees: organizational structure, personnel, public safety, planning and zoning, infrastructure, finance, parks and recreation, information technology, library and public awareness. These subcommittees have been meeting on a regular basis. At the April 26 JSC meeting, the Organizational Structure, Parks & Recreation, Infrastructure and Public Awareness & External Issues subcommittees reported on their progress; the Finance and Library subcommittees provided informational presentations.

The JSC has been given eighteen months to complete their study. The Committee is then expected to make a recommendation to the two cities' respective legislative bodies. If both the Clayton Board of Aldermen and the Richmond Heights City Council approved the merger in separate votes, the issue would be presented to the St. Louis County Boundary Commission for approval. At that point, the issue would be placed on a ballot for voters of both cities to decide.

The two cities have created a website: www.mergerstudy.org that is maintained by a Clayton resident. Meeting dates and minutes, committee member lists, and other details about the study are available there. Information is also available on each of the two cities' web sites: www.ci.clayton.mo.us and www.richmondheights.org. The JSC meeting in June is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, starting at 7:00 p.m. at The Center of Clayton, 50 Gay Avenue.

For the latest about Clayton, sign up for the City's e-mail updates. Go to the HOME page on the City's website and click the e-communications icon.

Sign up for

Clayton  Communications

[click here for more information](#)

Clayton Parks Foundation to Launch the *Enhance Clayton Parks Initiative*

The Clayton Parks Foundation, a private nonprofit organization, was formed in 1992 to help enhance the development of the Clayton park system. This independent organization cooperates with the City of Clayton and the Department of Parks and Recreation to promote the parks and ensure their long-term service to Clayton residents through additional independent funding so the full potential of the parks may be realized. The mission of the Clayton Parks Foundation is to enhance the parks and recreation system by providing significant opportunities for conservation, recreation, and relaxation through special projects for which City funding is not available.

Park improvements sponsored by the Parks Foundation have included the aquarium at The Center of Clayton, sculptures, facility accessories, trees and picnic tables. The Foundation also provides financial assistance to enroll Clayton residents in Parks and Recreation programs who otherwise would not be able to participate, and to support new and existing Clayton Parks and Recreation Department projects.

Additionally, the Clayton Parks Foundation and the City cosponsor the exciting concert series, Musical Nights in Oak Knoll Park on the fourth Sunday of each month May through September.

Enhance Clayton Parks

A tribute is a thoughtful way to celebrate special occasions or to remember a loved one. Trees are an enduring way to recognize an individual or organization. The Parks and Recreation Department has trees, picnic tables and benches available for this special program. To dedicate a 6'-8' tall tree, a contribution of \$300 is required; for benches - \$600; and for picnic tables - \$900.

To create a tribute, download, print and complete the form available on the Parks & Recreation Department's page on the City's website www.ci.clayton.mo.us. Return the form to Enhance Clayton Parks, Attention: Denise Ucinski, 50 Gay Avenue, Clayton, Missouri 63105. Please make checks payable to "Clayton Parks Foundation."

Clayton Farmers' Market

Saturdays, June 3, 10, 17, 24

8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

North Central Avenue

Activities at this chef-run farmers' market includes live music, chefs' demonstrations on how to prepare the ultimate in fresh produce, and booths serving coffee and omelets using eggs and produce from the market. For more information, call: 314.645.5807.



Parties in the Park

Wednesday, June 14

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Shaw Park

Parties in the Park, the original outdoor after-work party, returns to Clayton in 2006 with a fresh, new perspective. Visit beautiful Shaw Park for the second Wednesday of each month events -- the unique opportunity to meet new people and relax with old friends. Best of all, every Party is free and open to the public. For details, call the Clayton Chamber of Commerce at 314.726.3033 or visit: www.partiesinthepark.org.

Musical Nights in Oak Knoll Park

Sunday, June 25

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Oak Knoll Park (NW corner of Big Bend Boulevard & Clayton Road)

In its second year, this exciting concert series in Oak Knoll Park features some of the best local talent. On June 25th, The Bottoms Up Blues Gang will perform. The event is free to the public. Guests are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and blankets. For more information, call: 314.290.8544.

Stray Dog Theatre

July 13-16, 20-23, 27-30, 2006

Thursday – Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

The Little Theatre, #1 Mark Twain Circle

A dark comedy, *The House of Blue Leaves* by John Guare, directed by Gary Bell, tells about how a working class New York family follows a madcap search for the ever-elusive All American Dream. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors, \$5 for Clayton students. For tickets and information, call 314.531.5923.

Wally Lundt Day

For more than 20 years Wally Lundt has managed the Shaw Park Aquatic Center, and he continues to serve the City of Clayton at the age of 78.

Additionally, Mr. Lundt was recently inducted into United States Water Polo Hall of Fame having contributed 60 years to St. Louis area Water Polo programs. He is the 184th individual to receive the honor of being inducted into the United States Water Polo Hall of Fame since the late 1800's. Supporters think of him as a founding father of Water Polo in St. Louis.

The event that had originally been planned to recognize Mr. Lundt's career and accomplishments was postponed. It has been rescheduled, and the public is invited to celebrate with family, friends and staff on Sunday, June 25 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Shaw Park Aquatic Center. For details, contact Patty DeForrest at 314.290.8464.

June 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.

June 5	Plan Commission/ARB City Hall - 5:30 p.m.
June 12	Art Commission City Hall - 6:00 p.m.
June 13	Board of Aldermen City Hall - 8:00 p.m.
June 15	Landscape Committee City Hall - 5:00 p.m.
June 16	CRSWC The Center - 7:30 a.m.
June 19	Plan Commission/ARB City Hall - 5:30 p.m.
June 26	Hanley House Council The Center - 5:00 p.m.
June 26	Parks & Recreation The Center - 7:00 p.m.
June 27	Board of Aldermen City Hall - 8:00 p.m.
June 27	Board of Aldermen City Hall - 8:00 p.m.

U.S. Bank Saint Louis Jazz & Heritage Festival

Friday – June 23 from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday – June 24 from 2:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Shaw Park

The U.S. Bank Saint Louis Jazz & Heritage Festival returns, rain or shine, to Clayton's Shaw Park for the sixth season on Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24 as the region's premier music festival. On Friday night, a "Tribute to New Orleans" with the traditional jazz style of New Orleans' own Preservation Hall Jazz Band and the trademark cackle of Dr. John will be featured. The David Sanborn Group, the sultry sounds of vocalist Lizz Wright and from the worlds of jazz, funk, fusion and R & B, bassist Stanley Clarke and keyboard wizard George Duke are scheduled to perform on Saturday. Additional performances by local and regional acts include, Denise Thimes, LaMar Harris, Craig Russo Latin Jazz Project, Readus Miller Project, Anita Rosamond, New World Harmonica Jazz and Rick Hayden & the SIUE Jazz Ensemble.

The festival expands its offerings this year to include The Marketplace, a distinctive showcase of handmade crafts, art and inventive items, available for sale during the festival. The Improv will offer hands-on experiences for all age groups. Shake, Rattle and Roll, in collaboration with The Magic House, is where guests can create their own musical instruments from found objects, and learn how to turn everyday household items into musical stylings. The Instrument Petting Zoo, in collaboration with The Music Center of Kirkwood, will be the place for discovering the musician within by using trombones, guitars, saxophones, trumpets, flutes, violins and an array of percussion instruments. Children of all ages will have the chance to pick up and play an instrument of their choice. Turn a piece of paper into a talking musical note at Musical Puppets, in collaboration with the St. Louis Puppet Guild. Soul School is an area featuring the best regional jazz artists in an intimate setting for conversations and performances.

Located next to the American Family Insurance Garden Seating Area will be the Festival's food court, featuring restaurants and concessions. Beer, wine, soda and water will also be available to purchase during the Festival.

One-day general admission wristbands can be purchased for \$20.00 on the festival website at www.saintlouisjazzfest.com, by calling Metrotix at (314) 531-1111, or at the gate Jazz Festival weekend. Preferred seating is available in Pavilion Seating for \$35.00 each day or VIP seating for \$75.00 each day.

Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by a parent or guardian (general admission only). No animals are allowed at the festival except for support dogs per Clayton ordinance 4-13, and no in-line skates, skateboards, bicycles or segways are allowed per Clayton ordinance 21-26. No backpacks, coolers, food or beverages are allowed to be taken into the Festival.

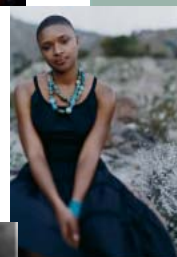
For complete information, please visit www.saintlouisjazzfest.com, or call (314) 863-0278.



The David Sanborn Group



Stanley Clarke
& George Duke



Lizz Wright



Dr. John



Preservation Hall Jazz Band

FACTS ABOUT CLAYTON

Q. What’s the latest on the Centene Plaza project?

A. David Malmuth, Managing Director for Robert Charles Lesser & Co., LLC (RCLCo) and development advisor to the Centene Corporation on their new redevelopment project, made a presentation at the Board of Aldermen meeting on May 9, 2006. He confirmed that a “world-class” architect is being sought, and hoped to have one selected by the end of May. He indicated that the development partner for Centene should be named by the end of June. More updates will be provided about the new Centene project in future CityViews.

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
Community Outreach	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

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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.



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COVER: Aerial photo by Srenco Photography