



CITY VIEWS

Clayton Is One of Only Three AAA Rated Cities in the State

The City of Clayton recently joined an elite group of municipalities when Standard & Poor's Ratings Services raised Clayton's standard general obligation bond rating to AAA. The upgrade from an AA+ rating reflects the strength of Clayton's healthy operations, maintenance of very strong financial reserves and good economic growth.

"This is the highest rating we can achieve and reflects a strong track record of sound policy and management practice as well as confidence of the investment community that Clayton has an excellent future," said City Manager Craig Owens.

Standard & Poor's rates only 3 Missouri cities and a total of 9 Missouri government entities AAA. Nationally, this elite AAA group includes 220 government entities. Standard & Poor's cites four key factors when assigning an AAA rating to a municipality: a strong and proactive administration; effective debt management policies with moderate to low debt ratios; a vibrant and diverse economy; and a strong track record of financial management supported by sufficient reserves and policies that guide management practices.

Evaluating the financial management team is also part of the rating process. Management must have strong, interactive relations with elected officials, favorable budgeting results and a track record for managing through good and bad economic periods. The team must demonstrate a focus on the

future, which includes good revenue and capital forecasting and tax base development, and the ability to react during the fiscal year to ensure the city's financial position.

Factors that also contribute to Clayton's AAA rating status are the city's strong median household income which is 155% and 142% of state and national levels, respectively. The city's tax base shows strong growth mainly through redevelopment with an average annual growth rate of 6.4% since 2005. The city's 2008 market value totaled \$3.874 billion, translating to an extremely strong \$303,524 per capita. Median home values in 2008 were 317% of the national average or \$561,947.

AAA rated communities exhibit common characteristics. They carry easily manageable debt loads and have high per capita property values, which represent a significant investment in property. In economic downturns, higher-valued properties typically retain value through recessions.

Despite the challenges that come with a weak economy, the City of Clayton maintains solid financial footing. Standard & Poor's expects Clayton's healthy financial performance and strong general fund balance reserves to continue. The management team is expected to monitor and control the city's diverse revenue streams and demonstrate the ability to successfully manage through all economic cycles.



Mayor Linda Goldstein

Clayton continues to build its status as a force on a national level. This powerful image is due in no small part to a competent and conscientious city staff that works daily to perfect performance and provide higher levels of services.

- In February, Standard and Poor's Rating Service upgraded the city's general obligation bond rating to AAA, which is a result of diligent and persistent monitoring of the city's financial situation and strategic planning for the future. The city maintains its strong financial footing and has upgraded its bond rating, all during challenging economic times.
- Clayton's Police and Fire Departments are dedicated to protecting our citizens and to maintaining a safe and secure environment. Currently, the Police Department is undergoing an assessment to be reaccredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). If the department is awarded reaccreditation in July, Clayton will be one of only seven cities in the State to have sustained accreditation standing for over a decade.
- Our beautiful streetscapes are maintained by the hardworking Public Works Department. For the seventeenth consecutive year, Clayton is a Tree City USA. The ever-present Public Works crews are hard at work trimming trees, collecting leaves and planting flowers and shrubs. This summer they will also be busy with microsurfacing projects in several subdivisions.
- The Parks & Recreation Department manages operations at the busy Center of Clayton, where the fitness center was recently renovated. Parks & Recreation staff is also responsible for maintaining the city's ten parks; crews are busy preparing the parks for spring and summer. The city is gearing up for the start of the its impressive lineup of special events and activities, and the Parks & Recreation staff is at the heart of these preparations.
- The city is working toward increasing interactivity with the public. Recently, Municipal Court staff introduced a online payment service, which allows customers to pay traffic tickets via the Internet.
- To better understand our residents' perception of city operations, a survey was conducted. Questionnaires were sent to 1,500 randomly selected households asking for input about the services the city provides to the community. The results of this process will help staff make modifications to resources and provide services that meet the needs and expectations of Clayton citizens.
- Clayton is taking the lead in a new Red Cross program. The Ready Rating Program helps businesses, organizations and schools prepare for emergencies. As a pilot municipality, Clayton has a leadership role in a program that will eventually effect the safety of the entire community.
- And, how many communities, even on a national level, have development projects underway? The developers of the Centene Plaza project continue to move forward. The former Library Ltd. building has been razed, and the contractor has been conducting site preparation and foundation work for the Phase 1 office tower.

To say I am proud to be a resident, let alone the Mayor, of such a fine city is an understatement. I hope all citizens, businesses and residents, recognize the benefits of being a part of this community and realize the outstanding job each city department does to accomplish its respective goals and responsibilities. Clayton city staff not only efficiently conducts daily operations but also provides the foundation for the city's respected reputation.

April 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.

- Apr. 2 Board of Adjustment
City Hall - 5 p.m.
- Apr. 6 Plan Commission/ARB
City Hall - 5:30 p.m.
- Apr. 6 Parks & Recreation
The Center - 7 p.m.
- Apr. 13 Art Commission
City Hall - 6 p.m.
- Apr. 14 Board of Aldermen
City Hall - 7 p.m.
- Apr. 20 Plan Commission/ARB
City Hall - 5:30 p.m.
- Apr. 23 Ecology & Environ.
City Hall - 5 p.m.
- Apr. 24 C.R.S.W.C.
The Center - 8 a.m.
- Apr. 28 Board of Aldermen
City Hall - 7 p.m.

News from Ward III



Alderman Alex Berger III

We welcomed 2009 with a less than robust national economy. However, the City of Clayton has been working diligently to improve the quality of life and services for our citizens. The City budget includes many infrastructure maintenance projects and improvements to keep our City in the lead for safety, aesthetics, and functionality. Our citizens may have experienced many of the improvements in process with more to come, including:

- Fitness Center renovation at The Center of Clayton with the addition of thirty new pieces of exercise equipment.
- Tree replacements in the 8100 block of Maryland Avenue.
- Roadwork in 2009 including crack sealing west of Hanley



Alderman Steve Lichtenfeld

- Road; microsurfacing of Brentwood Boulevard, Maryland Avenue and Wydown Boulevard; replacement of the asphalt layer in the Davis Place Subdivision; streetscape sidewalk caulking along many of the north-south streets in the Central Business District; and Shaw Park service roads resurfacing and sealing.
- Water main replacement along South Meramec Avenue by Missouri American Water. Our professional City staff is to be commended for their leadership.
- The City bond rating has been upgraded to AAA; this is the highest rating awarded by Standard and Poor's and has been a goal of the City for many years and will allow the City to pay a lower interest cost on the refunding of General Obligation Bonds.
- A citizen survey to evaluate the City's performance on key service indicators is currently being conducted.
- Our Police Department continues to be a recognized leader within the law enforcement community and has maintained International Accreditation for the past twelve years.

As we look forward to the warmer weather of Spring, the Clayton Farmers' Market returns on May 23 for another exciting summer of farm-to-you fresh products. Feel free to contact your Ward III Aldermen with comments about the City of Clayton.

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City Adds New Online Payment Service

Municipal Court staff recently announced the availability of a new online payment service. Customers can now pay traffic tickets via the city's online payment site <https://www.ipaycourt.com/clayton>. A convenience fee based on the rate of the ticket will be added for this service. However, customers will have the opportunity to terminate the payment online process, if they choose. This payment service is only for traffic tickets.

"Municipal Court staff is very excited about the advancement toward enhanced customer service and a paper-free court," said Court Clerk Debbie Aston. "We are working to make other online payment services available in the near future."

The Parks & Recreation Department offers another online service. Participants in Parks & Recreation activities can research programs and pay to register online via the Parks & Recreation Department page on the city's website www.ci.clayton.mo.us.

April 2009 Municipal Election

On Tuesday, April 7, 2009, the City of Clayton will hold an election for the purpose of filling three Aldermanic positions in each of the city's Wards. Running unopposed are Judy Goodman in Ward I, Michelle Harris in Ward II and Steve Lichtenfeld in Ward III.

For information about polling locations, contact the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners at 314.615.1800, or online at www.co.st-louis.mo.us/elections.

MSD Rain Barrels

Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) recently announced the sale of rain barrels to customers. MSD customers qualify to purchase rain barrels if they live within MSD's service area and are not delinquent on MSD bill payment.

The environmental benefits of rain barrels are numerous. Water collected in a rain barrel can be used to water a lawn or a garden. Rain barrels can reduce water pollution by reducing stormwater runoff, which contains pollutants like sediment, oil, grease and bacteria. Rain barrels can often take the place of splash blocks.

MSD rain barrels cost \$45 per barrel. Customers can purchase a maximum of four barrels and are responsible for picking up and installing them. Detailed installation instructions will be included with the purchase.

To purchase a rain barrel, call the MSD Billing Department at 866.281.5737 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday from March 2 to March 20. Payment is required at the time of purchase. There will be no discounts on MSD bills for purchasing rain barrels. For more information, call 314.768.6238.

Clayton Leads in Emergency Preparedness

The City of Clayton takes the lead again – this time working with the Red Cross on an emergency preparedness program. The Red Cross Ready Rating Program is a first-of-its-kind membership program. It helps businesses, organizations and schools become better prepared for emergencies. The program kickoff was held on March 18 at The Center of Clayton.

A FOCUS St. Louis community task force report identified emergency preparedness as a top priority. Residents believe it is important and socially responsible for employers to take steps to become better prepared.

Being part of the program requires participants to establish a commitment to steadily improve emergency readiness over a one-year period. Participants then conduct an analysis of disaster vulnerability and develop an emergency response plan. Employees are educated, and the emergency response plan is implemented.

"The city is proud of its role as a pilot municipality for the Ready Rating Program and of our collaboration with the Red Cross," said Mayor Linda Goldstein.

For information about getting involved in the Ready Rating Program, call Tanya Blakely at 314.516.2812 or email her at tblakeley@redcrossstl.org.

Clayton Salutes . . . Tony and Kelli Almond



Dreaming of owning a restaurant since he was 14, Tony Almond finally opened his small, family-owned business on Maryland Avenue in 1997. As business picked up, Tony decided it was time to expand. In 2001, Almonds Restaurant space doubled; a bar and more outdoor dining were added. Kelli, who worked as a counselor for the Clayton School District for ten years, began working at the restaurant full-time. Almonds continues to be a popular Clayton gathering spot.

The Almonds live in Clayton with their children, Dylan and Nicholas. The family moved to Clayton because of the School District's strong reputation, cutting-edge curriculum, resources and continuous updating of the facilities. Dylan, 14, attends Wydown Middle School and is looking forward to singing in the Clayton High School choir. Nicholas, 9, attends Meramec Elementary School, plays on the Greyhound Basketball team and sings in the Meramec choir. "The kids love school and their learning experiences in Clayton," said Kelli Almond. "The Clayton School District stands for what is best for kids, and we admire that philosophy."

As residents and business owners, the Almonds are committed to Clayton. They enjoy a great relationship with their business neighbors and appreciate their loyal, supportive customer base. "The City of Clayton is a wonderful place to own a business and raise a family. We have always felt a tremendous amount of support from the city officials and community members," the Almonds wrote. "We especially appreciate that Clayton is a progressive community and attribute that to the hard work of the city officials, staff and residents."

CALEA Public Comment Session

Monday, April 6, 2009
7 p.m.
The Center of Clayton

As part of the Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) assessemnt process, the community is invited to offer comments.

ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT

On April 4, 2009 a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) began the process of examining all aspects of the Clayton Police Department’s management and operational practices. There are 460 standards that the department must satisfy to maintain its international accreditation through the commission.

The department initially obtained accredited status in 2000, and successfully achieved reaccreditation in 2003 and again in 2006. Clayton's Police Department is one of only seven cities in the State of Missouri that has sustained accreditation standards for more than a decade. Successful compliance for its third re-accreditation will be a significant achievement that underscores the department’s long-standing commitment to excellence.

As part of the four-day on-site assessment, the community is invited to offer comments at a public session on Monday evening, April 6, at 7 p.m. at The Center of Clayton or by calling 314.691.0250 on the 6th between 1 and 5 p.m. Written comments should be mailed to: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030-2215.

The findings will be reported to the full commission to decide if re-accreditation will be granted. A favorable ruling means the department’s accredited status will again be in force for an additional three years, during which time the department must continue its compliance with current CALEA standards.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., please write the commission at the above address, call 1.800.368.3757 or visit its web site at www.CALEA.org.

Bicycle Helmets
the safe thing to do



With spring and the increase of outdoor acitivities, Clayton's Police Department reminds bicyclists that they and their passengers under the age of 17 are required by ordinance to wear helmets. Not only is it the law, it's the safe thing to do.

City Hires Public Works Director

Clayton City Manager Craig S. Owens recently announced the appointment of Michael Pratt as the new Public Works Director/City Engineer effective March 9, 2009. Mr. Pratt has over thirty years of experience, most recently overseeing the operations of the St. Charles office of HDR/Archer, which is staffed by a team of seven engineering professionals. Prior to HDR/Archer, he worked for Cole and Associates; he also served as Director of Public Works for the City of St. Charles. He had a lengthy career in the U. S. Army, having retired in 2002 as an Engineer Colonel. Among other assignments during his tenure, he served as Commander and District Engineer of the New England District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the Director of Public Works for Fort Hood, Texas.



Michael Pratt

"Mike has an impressive engineering background and extensive experience successfully leading public works organizations," said Mr. Owens. "Having worked for the military, at the municipal level and in the private sector, he comes to Clayton with a well-rounded career and a wealth of knowledge. I look forward to his assistance on the many ongoing projects in Clayton and am pleased he has agreed to accept this new challenge."

Mr. Pratt received his Bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky. He has also received Master’s degrees in civil engineering from Purdue University and in management from Webster University. He is a registered Professional Engineer and a member of the American Public Works Association.

Mr. Pratt succeeds former Public Works Director Paul Wojciechowski, who left in October 2008 to take a position with CH2MHill.

Time to Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries

the safe thing to do



The Clayton Fire Department encourages citizens to replace homesmokedetectorbatteries. It is a small and easy task that can mean the difference between life and death. Fresh batteries are critical to insuring smoke detectors work when fire breaks out.

Right Tree - Right Place Program

For the second year, Clayton's Public Works Department is working with Ameren UE on the Right Tree - Right Place Program to remove trees growing into overhead wires. In 2008, Ameren contract crews removed 60 trees for which the city was reimbursed \$100 per tree. These funds pay for stump removal and reforestation. In 2007, the funds were used to reforest areas adjacent to Big Bend Boulevard in Oak Knoll Park.

Trees removed as part of this program are recycled. Limbs are processed and used as wood chips and mulch for landscaping. Annually, the city generates approximately 4,000 cubic yards of wood chips from tree trimming and removals. Large logs are hauled by solid waste haulers and sent to a recycling processing facility where they are ground into mulch and chip material also used in landscaping.

Even after trees are removed, they continue to beautify Clayton.

2009 Mulch Deliveries

Annually, the leaf collection program generates approximately 12,000 cubic yards in a three-month period. Leaves are turned and ground to produce a quality compost, which is available to the public and delivered to residents for a modest delivery charge. Residents should call 314.290.8540 to make a mulch delivery appointment.

2009 Spring Leaf Collections

Leaves will be collected during the first two full weeks in April, the weeks of April 6 and 13. Leaves will be collected according to the Street Sweeping Schedule. A link to the schedule is available on the HOME page of the city's website: www.ci.clayton.mo.us

2009 Residential Tree Trimming Schedule

Public Works Forestry crews trim trees in the city's public subdivisions on a 5 1/2 year rotation program. The crews will trim trees in the following subdivisions during 2009.

Clayton Gardens Subdivision
- 8100 block Stratford Drive

Moorlands Subdivision
- 7500 block Wydown Boulevard, Somerset Drive, Forest Court

Wydown Forest Subdivision

Hillcrest Subdivision
- Dartford Avenue, University Lane, Arundel Place

Hi-Pointe Subdivision
- 6300 & 6400 blocks San Bonita Avenue and 6300 & 6400 blocks Alamo Avenue

To report hazardous, low-hanging limbs in areas not on the 2009 tree trimming schedule, please call 314.290.9540. The city's foresters will follow up on these reports as quickly as possible.

Busy Construction Season Planned for Spring and Summer

The Public Works Department has a busy construction schedule planned for this spring and summer. Many of the improvement projects involve the city's roadways and will impact traffic. The following locations are included in this year's project schedule:

- Cecil Avenue – Starting in May, the roadway including driveway approaches, sidewalk ramps and isolated areas of curb and gutter will be completely removed and replaced. Anticipate partial road closures and isolated periods of restricted access to driveways.
- Brentwood Boulevard and Maryland Avenue – Starting in May, curb and gutter replacement will begin. Microsurfacing of the pavement is scheduled for weekends during the month of June. Anticipate major road closures and detours.
- Wydown Boulevard - Microsurfacing of the pavement is scheduled for weekdays during the month of June. Anticipate partial lane closures and isolated periods of restricted access to driveways.
- Davis Place Subdivision – Starting in June, there will be spot pavement repairs and curb ramp upgrades followed by milling and asphalt overlaying the full width of the pavement in July.

More details about these and other Public Works projects can be found on the city's website www.ci.clayton.mo.us under City Hall, Public Works Department, the Capital Improvements page.



BUNNY HOP
 Saturday, April 4
 10 - 11:30 a.m.
 Oak Knoll Park

The 2009 Bunny Hop will include an egg hunt, a petting zoo and craft activities by the Artists' Guild. The event will be held at The Center of Clayton, 50 Gay Avenue if it rains. Call 324.290.8561 for details about the event and its location. To register, contact The Center Welcome Desk at 314.290.8500.



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
 Saturday, April 18
 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Shaw Park

At the Earth Day event, we celebrate our progress and create new visions for protecting the environment. Join family and friends for a fun-filled day of games, crafts and music. Learn what you can do at home, work and in your community to protect our planet for generations to come. Call 314.290.8505 for details.



CLAYTON FARMERS' MARKET
 Saturdays
 May 23 - October 31
 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Straub's west parking lot

Clayton's weekly Farmers' Market supports local farmers, spotlights organic items and unique, seasonal specialties and educates the public about the preparation of local, seasonal products. For more information, visit www.claytonfarmersmarket.com.



PARTIES IN THE PARK
 Second Wednesday
 May - September
 5 - 8 p.m.
 Shaw Park in Clayton

The Clayton Chamber of Commerce hosts the original after-work party with live music, food and refreshments. It's a unique opportunity to meet new people and relax with old friends. Best of all, every Party is free and open to the public. For more information, call 314.726.3033.



HANLEY HOUSE

TOURS
 Saturdays & Sundays
 noon - 4 p.m.

The Historic Hanley House is open to public on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4:00 p.m. Tours of the museum cost \$3 for adults; children 12 and under are free. Weekday tours are available by appointment only.

TEA SERVICE & HERB SALE
 Saturday, May 2
 9 a.m. - noon

Purchase herbs and stay to enjoy a special Tea Service on the grounds of the Historic Martin Franklin Hanley House. Limited seating available. Advanced reservations required. Tea Service will NOT include a tour of the museum. All proceeds from the Herb Sale will support future programs at the Historic Martin Franklin Hanley House.

Call or e-mail Sarah Umlauf to schedule a tour and to register for the Herb Sales at 314.226.9893 or sumlauf@ci.clayton.mo.us.

SILENT AUCTION SALE
 May 1 - May 31
 The Shops of Clayton Row

Participating stores will provide silent auction bid sheets on many items. Silent Auction items will change regularly. Drop by often to change your bid -- you may have a winner!

Participating businesses:

Twigs & Moss
 Davis Place Antiques
 Finches by Robinson Ltd.
 The Designing Block
 Byron Cade

For more information,
 call 314.454.0447.

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Printed on Recycled Paper Stock

**Deliver by
 March 27, 2009**

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.

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.

Q. Is the city ever recognized for the outstanding job it does in maintaining its tree population?

A. Clayton was named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to the community forest. This is the seventeenth consecutive year Clayton has received this national recognition. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

An effective community forestry program is an ongoing process of renewal and improvement. The trees planted and cared for today cool and beautify the community, increase property values, help clean the air and water and conserve energy for years.

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
Customer Service.....	290.8441
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