



Saint Louis COUNTY DIRECT

Charlie A. Dooley, County Executive

www.stlouisco.com

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Dear St. Louis County Residents,

I am certain that every St. Louis County resident recognizes that it has been a very difficult few years for the average American citizen. With relatively high unemployment and a weak housing market, the national economy has seen some difficulty in this period of slow-growth recovery. Every single person has had to make one hard decision after another. St. Louis County government is no different.



Let me tell you why I think that is a *good thing*. What do you do when you have a shrinking pool of resources? You put everything on the table and you decide what is important. It forces you to prioritize. You continue to do the things that are working and reduce or eliminate those things that are unsustainable.

The result is a tougher, leaner, smarter plan for moving forward. It is not easy getting there, but the results are what matters. As County Executive, these rough economic waters have forced me to focus on what I truly believe will sustain this region and help us not only weather the current economic storm, but come out of the "Great Recession" in better condition than we were going in.

Aside from controlling costs, our aim must also include an aggressive plan that spurs economic growth. Government cannot create private sector jobs, but it can create the environment that

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Welcome to the St. Louis County DIRECT!

The St. Louis County DIRECT is a quarterly newsletter designed especially for the citizens of St. Louis County. Its aim is to better inform citizens on the new initiatives and continuing efforts of St. Louis County. Here's what you'll find:

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attracts investment in the region; as evidenced by the recent opening of the NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) Facility in Spanish Lake and the newly planned expansion of the River City Casino in Lemay.

I also believe that the future of our Country in general and our region specifically, are in the highly skilled service and manufacturing fields; these will include areas like biosciences, pharmaceutical, health care and information technology. St. Louis County has been active in attracting companies like Gallus Biopharmaceuticals (Berkeley, MO) to the region, as well as retaining existing enterprises like Leinco Technologies (Fenton, MO) by fostering additional expansion opportunities. However, it will be our responsibility as a community, to be trained to fill these well-paid and highly-skilled positions. Education and vocational training of our workforce will become critical to the long term success of the St. Louis region.

Moreover, I think we also have to look beyond our own local or even national boundaries for regional growth. St. Louis County must prepare itself to compete in a global economy. Our recent designation as a Free Trade Zone moves us in that direction.

As a community, we have to decide where we want to be in 5, 10 or even 20 years from now; our short term, medium term and long term priorities must be reflected in those 5, 10 or 20 year plans. Sometimes things may be difficult because some sacrifice will be required; however we must do what's necessary to make sure our St. Louis community is a competitive, 21st Century region.

Charlie G. Doherty

Recycling Becomes Me

Did you know that by recycling just 5 percent more than last year, St. Louis County could fill the Edward Jones Dome three feet high, 25 times over with the amount of recyclables collected? Increasing curbside recycling is the goal of the St. Louis County Department of Health's new public education initiative called "Recycling Becomes Me." Featuring preposterous visuals that interject common recycling containers into unexpected situations, the campaign makes the point that everyone can recycle and that it can be a part of many different lifestyles.

Residents can see the campaign and learn more about recycling at www.RecyclingBecomesMe.com. The campaign is being promoted at local events throughout the next year. Contests and prizes are part of the fun! To get involved, residents can "like" the fan page on Facebook (www.Facebook.com/RecyclingBecomesMe) and even post a photo. Each week, the photo with the most "likes" wins a prize. As a fan, you also will be updated on upcoming recycling events and new recycling-related happenings in the county.

The campaign was created at no cost to the county through a partnership with Curbside Value Partnership (CVP). CVP is a national, invitation-only program designed to increase participation in curbside recycling programs through education and measurement. CVP receives funding from corporations in the container industry who need an immediate supply of recycled materials to make products. St. Louis County is honored to be one of only two communities selected as a 2011 CVP partner.





Volunteers Needed at New Animal Shelter

The new St. Louis County Animal Care and Control Adoption Center, which opened November 7, is providing expanded services to the region and improved care for dogs and cats that come to the state-of-the-art facility.

“We are expanding our volunteer program, along with other services,” said Rebecca Smail, program manager for Vector Control and Veterinary Services.

Smail said her staff in both animal control and vector control got a morale boost after moving from two inadequate buildings into the new facility at 10521 Baur Boulevard in Olivette.

“This new center will double the space for cats and dogs and will highlight our program for offering spayed and neutered pets for adoption,” Smail said.

The center includes:

- Separate areas for dog and cat adoptions
- Meet-and-greet rooms for potential adopters to interact with pets
- A state-of-the-art veterinary suite for spay and neuter surgeries
- Separate areas for quarantined and aggressive animals
- An outdoor play and training area

The new shelter will also help the county expand its partnerships with the Humane Society of Missouri and the Animal Protective Association.

The center is accepting applications for the first phase of a new volunteer program that will allow the public and county employees to assist in the care and adoption of animals.

The center is launching the HALO Team (Helping Animals Lives and Outreach), which will provide exercise, enrichment and mental stimulation for the dogs and cats in the facility's adoption area.

Volunteers must be at least 18 and be available at least two hours per week. Candidates may apply in person, online, by email, or by calling 314-615-0672. For more information, visit www.stlouisco.com/HealthandWellness/AnimalandMosquitoControl.



Local Students Participate In Lemay Area Cleanups

As part of the service learning initiative adopted by Hancock High School, over 60 seniors teamed up with St. Louis County on October 28 to help improve properties in Lemay. Under the leadership of high school faculty members Keith Touzinsky, Anna Eyre and Nikki Herman, students in the senior class removed trash, debris and brush from over 13 properties and 2 alley ways. They collected and transported enough brush to fill a 20 yard and 40 yard dumpster, enough trash to fill a 40 yard dumpster and over 4,000 pounds of scrap metal.

Hancock High School seniors are now required to perform service hours in order to walk across the stage at Graduation, but they didn't feel as if it were a requirement to be there. “It felt good to get out and do something for the community,” admitted Eldin Dedakovic. “Seeing the conditions that some of these houses were left in makes me very grateful for what I have,” commented senior Miranda Rogers. “This was an eye opening experience.”

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St. Louis County recognizes their efforts in a special presentation on December 9 during their Senior Advisory assembly. County Executive Charlie A. Dooley commented, "It is truly gratifying to see our young citizens engaged in such worthwhile activities. With their help and dedication we will certainly make St Louis County clean, green and beautiful."

In 2010, under the direction of County Executive Charlie Dooley, County staff from multiple departments joined together to form the Clean, Green and Beautiful program. The program's mission is to engage every neighborhood to express community pride through anti-litter, clean-up and beautification activities and education.

Free Income Tax Assistance to Senior Citizens

Free assistance with simple federal and state income tax forms and the Missouri Property Tax Credit Claim (Mo-PTC or "Circuit Breaker") is available through the St. Louis County Department of Human Services' County Older Resident Programs (CORP).

Tax assistance is provided by appointment to St. Louis County residents who are 60 years or older, with income of \$50,000 or less. South County locations include: South County Government Center (Mehlville), St. Louis Deaf Community Center (Brentwood) and Oak Bend Library (Oakland). North County locations include: North County Government Center (Hazelwood), Dellwood City Hall and St. John Municipal Center. Appointments may be scheduled, beginning January 30, 2012, Monday-Thursday, 9 am – 2 p.m. For South County locations, please call 314-615-4037. For North County locations, please call 314-615-7447. Persons with hearing impairments may call 314-615- 4425.

YOUR DIRECT CONTACT TO ST. LOUIS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Customer Service Line		314-615-5000	
Office of County Executive			
County Executive	Charlie A. Dooley	314-615-7016	cdooley@stlouisco.com
County Council			
1st District	Hazel Erby	314-615-5436	herby@stlouisco.com
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3rd District	Colleen Wasinger	314-615-5438	cwasinger@stlouisco.com
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7th District	Gregory Quinn	314-615-5443	gquinn@stlouisco.com

All County Council meetings are open to the public and normally held on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., County Council Chambers, Lawrence K. Roos Administration Building, 41 South Central Avenue in Clayton. For directions, accommodations for the disabled, or more information, contact the St. Louis County Council at 314-615-5432 / TTY (800) 735-2966. Past Council agendas, journals, ordinances, and resolutions also can be found on the St. Louis County website at www.stlouisco.com/YourGovernment/CountyCouncil.

News from Your Neighborhood

North County



NARA Facility Opens in Spanish Lake

Where else can you see Elvis Presley's fingerprints? How about Humphrey Bogart's application for enrollment or fascinating correspondence between former United States presidents? None other than the National Archives and Records Administration Facility (NARA) in Spanish Lake.

The new facility is one of the largest repositories of personnel-related records for both military and civil service employees. As a tourist destination, it features museum-quality exhibits; viewing rooms for archivists, researchers and genealogists; and a hub for historical education via Internet broadcasts. With its treasure trove of historic documents, the nation's record-keeper and its more than 100 million documents are expected to draw over 10,000 visitors annually.

The construction of the facility in Spanish Lake pumped \$435 million into the local economy and involved more than 300 construction jobs. NARA's local workforce of nearly 800 employees represents the largest group of its personnel outside of the greater Washington, D.C. area.

South County

Trivia Night at Jefferson Barracks

Masters of the esoteric and those that possess infinite knowledge of the obscure will rise to center stage when they take the cup at the Friends of Jefferson Barracks Trivia Night on Saturday, January 28 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.). This exciting evening will take place in the Jefferson Barracks Visitors Center in Jefferson Barracks Park and is open to anyone 18 years and older.

Be challenged by the best and brightest while enjoying complimentary snacks and soft drinks or bring your own. Prizes will be presented to the top three winning teams.

The cost for the Trivia Night is \$100 per team of eight. Those interested in attending but unable to acquire eight team members may request to be added to a team for a \$15 entry fee. There is limited space for this event and advanced registration is required. All proceeds will benefit the Friends of Jefferson Barracks and its historic preservation efforts.

For more information about Jefferson Barracks Trivia Night, call 314-544-6224 or email Marc at mkollbaum@stlouisco.com.

Date
January 28
Time:
7 p.m.
Cost
\$100 per team

River City Expansion is a Winning Hand

River City Casino is expanding in a big way! Pinnacle Entertainment announced its plans to add a new, 200-room hotel, 10,000-square-foot event center and 1,700-space covered parking garage. With the addition of its latest \$82 million expansion,

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Pinnacle's total investment in the St. Louis region is just shy of one billion dollars!

The company continues its commitment to Lemay. In fact, Pinnacle intends to begin marketing River City Casino as a tourist destination when the expansion is complete. These wonderful new amenities will not only benefit Lemay, but the entire region.

Central/West



Sweethearts Dinner at Faust Park

A unique Valentine's dinner will take place on Saturday, February 11, 2012 in Faust Park at Thornhill, the home of Fredrick Bates, Missouri's first elected governor. This once-a-year adult event will include a candlelit four-course dinner in a home listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The meal is served by staff dressed in period clothing. The park's curator, Jesse Francis, will talk on Governor Bates' tenure as both Governor and Recorder of Land Deeds as well as the restoration of his home in Faust Park. Seating is limited to 40 guests per seating both at 5 p.m. or 8 p.m. Cost is \$65 per person with proceeds going to Historic Preservation. Advance registration required by calling Faust Park at 314-615-8328.

Date
February 11

Time
5 or 8 p.m.

Cost
\$65 per person

A Game Plan for Growing Our Economy

There's no doubt that the closure of the two Chrysler assembly plants in Fenton carved a huge hole in the regional economy. It's a loss still rippling through the St. Louis area today.

AECOM, a nationally-recognized consultant, spent the past 18 months conducting interviews and collecting data on the auto plant closure to better assess its economic impact and determine a strategic plan for recovery. The study culminated with the creation of a comprehensive Regional Economic Adjustment Strategic Plan and the following recommendations:

- Build upon capacity for advanced manufacturing, plant and life sciences, and clean technology
- Streamline and improve resources to assist entrepreneurs and small businesses
- Enable local companies to better penetrate global markets
- Address critical infrastructure needs to sustain long-term economic growth
- Organize and align workforce training with business retention and expansion efforts
- Improve regional economic development collaboration and leadership
- Enhance collaboration between St. Louis City and St. Louis County

"With this study we seek to better understand the scope of the impact and our regional economic strengths," said St. Louis County Executive Charlie A. Dooley. "And in so doing, develop a game plan for growing our economy."

The State of Missouri, St. Louis County Economic Council and City of Fenton commissioned the AECOM study with funding provided by a United States Economic Development Agency grant.

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Countywide

Registry To Help County Residents Prepare for Emergencies

The Department of Human Services is pleased to announce it is developing an Access and Functional Needs Registry for St. Louis County residents. Expected to launch in the next few months, the registry will allow individuals with access or functional needs, including the elderly, individuals with disabilities or temporary mobility issues, to provide emergency response agencies with information about their needs. This information will assist emergency response agencies to better plan to assist individuals that, due to a medical condition or physical impairment, may have difficulty responding to a disaster or other emergency safely and in a timely manner.

Registries are quickly becoming indispensable tools for emergency planning. The City of St. Louis, as well as a handful of other counties in Missouri already offer this service to their residents. Participating in the registry will be free and strictly voluntary. Eligible residents will be able to register online, via mail or with assistance from an approved volunteer. For more information, contact the Office of Family and Community Services at 314-615-4416.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY PARKS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN
January		
Ice Skating Sessions	Kennedy Recreation Complex	January 1–March 8
Little Hoopsters Basketball	North County Recreation Complex	January 7–March 10
Adult Coed Volleyball Leagues	Affton Community Center	January 19–March 8
Trivia Night	Jefferson Barracks Park	January 28
February		
Tickets go on sale for the Adult Egg Hunt	Jefferson Barracks Park	February 1
NCRC Friday Night Hoops 3-on-3 League	North County Recreation Complex	February 3–April 16
Civil War in the West exhibit	Jefferson Barracks	February 1–November 4
Sweetheart Ice Skating Competition	Kennedy Recreation Complex	February 10-12
Sweethearts Dinner	Thornhill in Faust Park	February 11
Fun Friday Puppet Show	Faust Park	February 17–March 23
March		
Children's Garden Club	Sherwood Forest Garden Center	March 3
Annual Ice Show	Kennedy Recreation Complex	March 10-11
Adult Egg Hunt	Jefferson Barracks	March 30-31

For more information on these and other programs, or to sign up to get advance notice of programs, please visit the St. Louis County Park's website at www.stlouisco.com/parks



Children's Garden Club

St. Louis County Parks sponsors monthly Children's Garden Club events at interesting locations in St. Louis City or St. Louis County. The Children's Garden Club is designed to educate as well as bring delight in gardening and horticulture. Participation in the club helps children build self-esteem and learn respect for the environment by learning about and caring for plants. Since the results of gardening are highly visible, eye catching and fragrant, children will be proud of their accomplishments. Children may take their projects home to enjoy watching them grow.

All meetings start at 9 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month (except July and September) at various locations. Each event is complimentary and no reservations are required. For dates and locations visit the website at www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation/ChildrensFun/ChildrensGardenClub.

From the Ordinance Guidebook

In every issue of the DIRECT newsletter, the Department of Planning highlights an entry from the Ordinance Guidebook that pertains to the season. For more information, visit the Ordinance Guidebook at: tinyurl.com/OrdinanceGuidebook

Bonfires

Bonfires are exempt from St. Louis County and State of Missouri Open Burning rules. Prior to any type of recreational burn, residents must contact their local fire protection district. Only clean, untreated wood may be burned, and the burn is limited to 16 square feet. Bonfires must be monitored at all times and a means of extinguishing the fire must be readily available. The smoke, soot or cinders of bonfires must not become a nuisance to any neighbor.

Snow removal

When it snows, St. Louis County first plows and salts roads that are part of the St. Louis County arterial and collector road system, due to their importance in connecting people to emergency services and businesses. After these streets are cleared, snowplows begin to clear and de-ice subdivision roads. St. Louis County-maintained routes should be addressed no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of a storm.

During snowstorms, the Department of Highways & Traffic asks for residents' assistance in parking cars off streets to allow plows easier access when clearing and to wait 24 hours before calling to inquire about the status of snow removal. For more information, please contact the St. Louis County Department of Highways & Traffic at 314-615-8535 or the 24-hour dispatch hotline at 314-615-1131.

