

ASSOCIATION ENDORSES PROPOSED SALES TAX DISTRIBUTION PLAN.....

The Directors of the Association, at their meeting on January 22nd, voted to endorse the plan proposed by County Executive Buzz Westfall to alter the distribution of sales-tax money generated in St. Louis County. A letter indicating that support has been sent to Mr. Westfall.

The present distribution of sales-tax revenue is based upon the concept of point of sale "A" cities which receive all the sales-tax generated within their borders, and pool "B" cities (which includes unincorporated St. Louis County). Sales-tax revenue generated within the pool cities' boundaries is distributed on a per capita basis to those cities (and the County). This plan was adopted by the State Legislature in the 1970's as a compromise to allow communities with major commercial development to retain the sales-tax generated for their own use. The law stated that all municipalities incorporated in the future would be pool cities. Currently, 41 of the more than 90 municipalities in St. Louis County are point of sale cities. Those municipalities, which account for 27 percent of the area population, now receive 50 percent of all the sales-tax revenue in the County. The per capita distribution to pool cities in 1991 was \$73 per resident, whereas all of the point of sale cities received more, up to \$240 per resident.

The point of sale cities have launched a major lobbying and media campaign to keep the system unchanged. The success of this plan will be largely dependent upon the active support of those who will benefit the most, namely the three-fourths of the County population who reside in the pool cities and unincorporated St. Louis County.

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ARCHEOLOGICAL LECTURE AND EXHIBIT ON OLD FORT BELLE FONTAINE....

The Fort Belle Fontaine Historical Society in conjunction with the Historic Site Foundation of St. Louis County-Department of Parks and Recreation will present an archeological lecture and exhibit

Sunday Afternoon

March 7, 1993 2:00-4:00 PM

General Daniel Bissell House Barn
10225 Bellefontaine Road

Guest Speaker: Joe Harl
Archeologist
University of Missouri-St. Louis

Mr. Harl will announce the results of the 1992 archeological excavation of the Old Fort Belle Fontaine, and exhibit some of the artifacts discovered. The plans for 1993 excavations of the Fort and possible investigations of the old slave quarters of the Daniel Bissell House will be discussed.

Admission is FREE, but due to limited seating
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED Call 889-3356

This lecture was first presented on February 23rd, but due to public demand, a second presentation has been scheduled for March 7th. Those attending the Association meeting last October will remember the interest in the presentation by Ron Brunnert on the initial excavations at Fort Belle Fontaine.

COMPOSTING FACILITY APPROVED.....

The Conditional Use Permit required to operate a yardwaste composting facility located on the site of a former landfill near the intersection of Highway 367 and North Highway 67 has been approved by the County Planning Commission. The facility will be privately operated through a lease agreement administered by the County Parks Department on property owned by the County. The improper closure of the landfill when it ceased operation in 1967 has caused the property to be unsuitable for use as a park. The County has indicated that a portion of the material composted may be used to restore the site to suitability as a park sometime in the future. The County Council had approved in January the rezoning request to change the property from Non-Urban to Park District. The CUP approval was required for the operation of the composting facility.

The Association has taken an active interest in this project since it was presented at the public hearing last August 24th. From the beginning, the Association has supported the concept of composting and agreed that, all factors considered, the proposed site was a suitable location. The Association has urged the County to:

1. Develop a County Plan for Composting Yardwaste
Establish a network of compost facilities distributed throughout the County, to be regulated by the County, and administered by the Parks Department, and operated by the private sector. The compost product would be made available free to County residents.
2. Develop a Regulation for Operating Compost Facilities
The County has ordinances to regulate virtually every other aspect of solid waste disposal, such as landfills, hazardous waste, medical waste, and incineration. Do not authorize composting facilities without regulations to monitor their operation.
3. Educate the Residents of the County
Implement the solid waste education program authorized by the YES vote in 1991 that increased landfill tipping fees. Emphasis would be on the benefits of composting, the practice of backyard composting, and of the plan to construct facilities throughout the County.
4. Implement High Standards in All Aspects of the Program
Insure to residents in the vicinity of a proposed composting facility that the design, construction, operation, and regulation will be accomplished according to the highest standards.

The Association has seen little evidence of action that will incorporate these concerns into the total program. The Conditional Use Permit just approved authorizes the same proposal, with no changes, that was originally proposed last August 24th. The Association has, in the meantime, provided technical literature to the County that documents the failures in other communities when composting facilities were authorized with no regulations to govern their operation.

The Association has provided the County with a set of model regulations for Municipal Composting of Yardwaste that have been developed by The Compost Council, a national organization addressing this issue. In addition, since this is a pilot project and following procedures used elsewhere in the County, the Association has called for the County to establish an oversight committee to monitor this project during the developmental stage. The committee would be representative of all involved parties including residents from the Old Jamestown and Missouri Bluffs Areas. The Association will continue to urge the County to adopt operating regulations for the composting of yardwaste.