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**'MOST BEAUTIFUL' CHESS CLUB IN THE COUNTRY WILL OPEN SOON
IN HISTORIC CENTRAL WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAINT LOUIS**

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI, June 20, 2008 -- The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, which founder Rex Sinquefield promises will be the “most beautiful and technologically advanced” chess club in the United States, opens its doors to aficionados and novices alike on Thursday, July 17.

The goal of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis is to promote the ancient game of chess across the metropolitan area by offering materials and mentors to individuals, schools and other groups. The Center will host tournaments and exhibitions as well as sponsor lectures and classes. Most importantly, the Center is designed to supply members with a place to play and opponents to challenge, afternoons and evenings, six days a week.

The Center is located at 4657 Maryland Avenue, just east of the intersection of Euclid and Maryland. In addition to playing tables on all floors, the three-level facility houses a waiting area on the main floor and a board room on the second floor. The lower level features a small kitchen, lounge area, and a classroom for teaching chess. A dozen or so flat monitors will be situated throughout the building, and monitors in the front window will showcase chess tournaments for the public.

“Chess offers an opportunity for social gathering as well as testing mental agility and analytical skills,” says Sinquefield, a retired financial analyst and local philanthropist who now devotes his time to various social and economic causes. “We hope to introduce the game of chess to thousands of

youngsters and adults throughout the Saint Louis area, and to help people benefit from the mental strength and discipline which the game fosters among players.”

Chess is the oldest skill game in the world, played many centuries ago in China, India and Persia. Moorish soldiers brought chess with them when they invaded Spain in the Middle Ages, and players on the chess board represent different levels of medieval European society. Chess has a long and illustrious history as a game played by people regardless of income or education level.

The underlying goal of the Center is to create a destination for chess players, both beginning and advanced, to draw and build membership to the club. Additionally, the Center will support any existing chess programs in local school districts and encourage the development of chess within regular school curricula.

Idaho is the first state in the nation to offer a statewide chess curriculum. Idaho uses a curriculum called First Move, which was developed by America’s Foundation for Chess, a non-profit, Seattle-based organization that promotes teaching chess in school. First Move is now taught to 25,000 students in 18 states. First Move differs from other chess-in-school programs in that it is taught by classroom teachers and is intended as a curriculum enhancement for second and third graders, incorporating elements of history, mathematics and vocabulary.

The Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization. Membership dues will be \$80 per year for adults, \$30 for students or young people under 21 and \$120 for families. Monthly and daily memberships also are available. The Center will be open Tuesday through Sunday.

For more information contact the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis, PO Box 4641, Saint Louis, MO 63108 or visit www.saintlouischessclub.org.

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