

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 209 AND CHESTERFIELD 154



By John Hoffmann

January 6, 2016

AMY ANDERSON WITHDRAWS FROM BALLOT AND DROPS OUT OF REELECTION BID:

On Monday January 4, 2016 Alderwoman Amy Anderson withdrew from the April Aldermanic ballot. Anderson is the chair of the Police Commission which frankly she is very ill suited for, having very little real world experience. While we were often critical of Anderson's lack of experience or background our biggest complaint was that Anderson would move out of town for two months every summer to the family's house on Beaver Island, Michigan. It is difficult to represent the people if you flee town to become the Belle of Beaver Island and don't attend meetings or view physical things the residents complain about. Anderson's next hurdle would be staying on the newly revamped Police and Public Safety Committee that would also deal with fire and EMS services. The later, Emergency Medical Services is really something that Anderson knows nothing about, being a practicing Christian Scientist and not believing in medicine, doctors or hospitals.



DR. NAN KULKARNI FILES FOR WARD-2 AFTER ANDERSON DROPS OUT I had recommended that Anderson would be wise to drop out of the election and not spend 16 weeks of her next term on Beaver Island. I had recommended that Susan Crandall file. Crandall, a member of the Police Commission, has shown lots of ability to do research on topics and is a former emergency room nurse.

However, Dr. Nan Kulkarni of 13516 Weston Place off of Mason Road filed for the April ballot from Ward-2 when Anderson withdrew. Kulkarni is on the Arts Commission and was on the Town Square Task Force. She is an anesthesiologist, having graduated from the College of Medicine at the University of Bombay. She has been licensed to practice in Missouri since 1979. She and her husband, Satish Kulkarni, a psychiatrist, are long time Town and Country residents having lived on Weston Place for over 20 years.

While there have been times I have disagreed with Nan on topics, I have also found her refreshingly straight forward and will offer an opinion that was often contrary to the majority. If she was elected I could only hope that she keep that personality asset when dealing with Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton.

The only drawback I see with Kulkarni being on the board of aldermen is that she often leaves not just the city, but the country for month or longer trips to India. There is a chance we would be replacing one absentee alderwoman with another one.



Nan in the red sweater at a Town Square Task Force meeting. With her husband Dr. Satish Kulkarni.

Filing is open until January 19. Currently there are no contested races in Town and Country. In Chesterfield all the Wards have contested races expect in Ward 1.

ARMED ROBBER WITH TOWN AND COUNTRY ADDRESS STRIKES

AGAIN: Kalaun Gray, 26, has been arrested and charged with Robbery by the Bridgeton Police for the second time in three months. Gray has been arrested four times this year and keeps giving as his address as 14361 Cedar Springs Parkway, the Town and Country gated subdivision on Woods Mill Road, where Gray's father, attorney Anthony Gray has lived for the last two years.



Anthony Gray was one of the early attorneys representing Michael Brown's family during the Ferguson riots in 2014. Anthony Gray is also the part time "Director of Public Safety" in the scandal ridden town of Pine Lawn in North County.

Kalaun Gray was charged with armed robbery of a Phillips 66 Gas Station Mini-Mart on the St. Charles Rock Road in Bridgeton on October 13, 2015 at 3 am. He was alleged to have shoved a gun into the side of the clerk and demanded money.

His bond on that charge set by Judge John Borbonus was \$100,000. Borbonus reduced the Bond to \$50,000 and then allowed a 10-percent of that amount to be posted. Gray was released from jail on November 9, 2015.

The facts in the latest robbery seem to be equally as violent. Here is the detective's probable cause statement in the latest case.

Date: January 6, 2016

I, Matt Paxton, DSN 0251, Bridgeton Police Department, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true. I have probable

cause to believe that on December 13, 2015, at 3551 Penridge, Kalaun Gray, Black, Male, DOB 09/20/1989, 5'10", 145lbs, committed one or more criminal offense(s).

Count: 01 ROBBERY 2ND DEGREE-CLASS B FELONY

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

Defendant grabbed victim by her throat, while pushing her against the wall and choking her. Defendant took Victim's cell phone and left premises.

Matt Paxton, DSN 0251, Bridgeton Police Department

At the time of the October Bridgeton robbery, Gray was out of jail in St. Louis on a \$5,000 bond after a May 14, 2015 arrest for Property Destruction. He was also on probation for Fraudulent Use of a Credit Device in Warrensburg, Missouri after pleading guilty there on May 27, 2015 to a 2014 offense.

He was arrested again on 12/12/15 for Destruction of Property and released.

In his latest offense he was charged with Robbery that occurred on December 13, 2015 again in Bridgeton. He was formerly charged on December 17. Once again the case was in front of Judge John Borbonus.

On December 21 with Gray in custody Borbonus revoked the bond Gray was out on for the mini-mart gas station robbery and issued a new cash bond back to the original amount of \$100,000.



May 14, 2015 Dest of Prop Oct 13 Armed Robbery Dec 12 Dest of Property Dec 13 Robbery

He was in jail for the holidays so the residents, including Ald. Jon Benigas of Cedar Springs should have had a safe Christmas. However if he get out on bond, residents of Cedar Springs should give him a wide berth.



Entrance to Cedar Springs. .

SILVER BELLS, SILVER BELLS, IT'S HOLDUP TIME IN THE CITY OR ON THE NINTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME A NOTE TO TAKE TO TOWN AND COUNTRY THAT SAYS THIS IS A ROBBERY, GIVE ME THE MONEY:

On Tuesday December 22, at about 5:30 Cort Dalton, 23, of O'Fallon, Missouri joined the masses and went into a busy Schnuck's store at the Woods Mill Plaza on Clayton Road Road between Highway 141 and Woods Mill Road.

Dalton went to the U.S. Bank branch inside the supermarket, handed the teller a note announcing a robbery. He was given cash and left.

A short time later Dalton was arrested in the 17300 block of Chesterfield Commons in Chesterfield without incident by Chesterfield and Town and Country officers. The 17300 block of Chesterfield Commons is where Target and Kick's Sporting Goods are located. Maybe Dalton was going Christmas shopping with money he had just obtained from robbing a bank. According to the police all the money was recovered so he did not have a chance to do any shopping.



Cort Dalton

The Chesterfield Police media spokesman refused to make any comment or provide any information about the arrest, saying it was all Town and County's case.

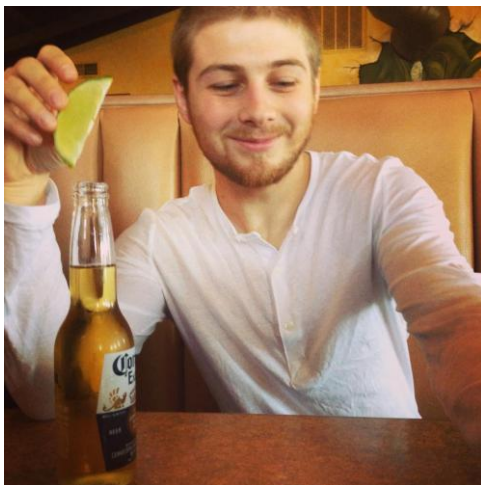
The Town and Country Police did not give the reason how Dalton was captured so quickly. In my 30 years in law enforcement I have to think of one of two reasons. They are protecting a witness who provided excellent suspect and vehicle information or there was a tracking device inside one of the packs of money.

Bond for Dalton was set at \$35,000 when he was charged on December 23. It was reduced to \$22,500 on Christmas Eve and he was allow to post 10% and was released from the County Jail.

According to Cort's 2012 Facebook page he went to Troy Buchanan High School in Troy, MO and was attending the University of Missouri. One of his posts he wrote how brilliant he was because on one day his only class was at 2:30.

His current Facebook page shows that he is working at New Latitude Moving Company and Living in O'Fallon. There was no mention of Bank Robbery as a new part time occupation.

Here is the current profile photo from Cort's Facebook page:



HE FORGOT TO LEAVE CHRISTMAS CARDS BUT LEFT SOMETHING ELSE:

Everyone is home of the holidays including people who break into unlocked cars. In the early morning hours of Christmas Eve cars that were left unlocked on Chapel Hill Estates, Roclare Lane, Brookwood Road, Topping Place. Town and Country Estates

Drive and Karlin Drive were entered with numerous items stolen. Also a car with the keys left in the ignition was stolen from Roclare Lane.

The suspect in the offenses made one rather big mistake. His cell phone was found inside one of the cars. He would have been better of leaving all of his victims unsigned Christmas Cards rather than leaving one victim his cell phone. He also left a cell phone he had stolen from one car in another car that he rifled through. On January 2 Timothy Jacob Issa of the 5700 block of Lost Brook Court of South St. Louis County was arrested.



Timothy J. Issa

Issa had an accomplice who has been identified. The stolen car was recovered in St. Louis.

Here is part of Issa's criminal record:

08/03/09	Domestic Assault	Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
	Guilty, served 60 days in County Jail.	
04/20/10	Leaving The Scene of Accident	Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
	Guilty, served 90 days County Jail	
08/22/11	Stealing Over \$500	St. Louis County Police
	Guilty 1 year prison	

On March 20, 2015 a child support judgment was issued against Issa ordering him to pay \$287 a month plus health insurance for the child. According to court records no payments have been made.

NOVEMBER HOME BURGLARS MAY HAVE BEEN FROM OUT OF TOWN: The one or two week rash of burglaries in the Des Peres, Frontenac and Town and Country areas may have been done by suspects from out of town. Police investigators report that the suspects for these daytime burglaries may not have been from the area.

This is not uncommon. In the early 1970s burglars from the East Coast would break into houses from affluent St. Louis areas and leave the area immediately after the theft. When I was a dispatcher and desk clerk at the Creve Coeur Police Department in 1973 the Busch home off of Ladue Road west of I-270 was broken into. One of the items stolen was a silver serving tray inscribed with a personal message from Lyndon Baines Johnson. It was never recovered leading investigators to believe it was melted down. Prior to 9-11 it was also common place for daytime burglars to immediately place jewelry into small self addressed and stamped packages and drop them in a mailbox so if they were stopped by the police there would not be any of the loot in car. After 9-11 the Postal Service will not process boxes dropped into mailboxes, only envelopes.

Here is what we posted from the T&C Police in Newsletter 202 on November 7 about the burglaries that had just occurred.

A witness from the burglary on Stifel Woods Drive reported seeing two Hispanic males exiting the home carrying bags and get into a gray Toyota Sienna van driven by a Hispanic female. The van sped off and left the area but not before the witness took a photo of the van with his cell phone. It is unknown if the gray Toyota Sienna van and the Hispanic suspects are connected to the other burglaries.



DOUBLE SPEAK AND HIDDEN COSTS WITH NEW 5-YEAR FIRE CONTRACT: At the December 14 Board of Aldermen meeting the new contract with the West County EMS and Fire Protection District was first read. The city did not ask for bids. Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton, a former lobbyist for the fire district, praised City Administrator Gary Hoelzer for negotiating the new contract. Dalton did not mention it was done without requesting bids or RFP from other fire departments or fire districts.

It was announced that in 2017 the contact with only go up 2-percent to \$3,443,960. Almost as an afterthought it was also mention that the City would pay \$156,898 as a Capital Improvement Fee for equipment supplied by the Fire District that had never been charged to the City in the 32-years the Fire District provided Fire and EMS service. The city's contract would increase by the CPI over the five year history of the contract as would the capital improvement payment.

While Dalton was quick to say the contract was only a 2-percent increase, **he failed if you mentioned that if you add in the new capital improvement payment, the contract is actually a 6-percent increase.**

This is anything but honest and transparent to the public however it is a typical slight-of-hand move of the Dalton administration.



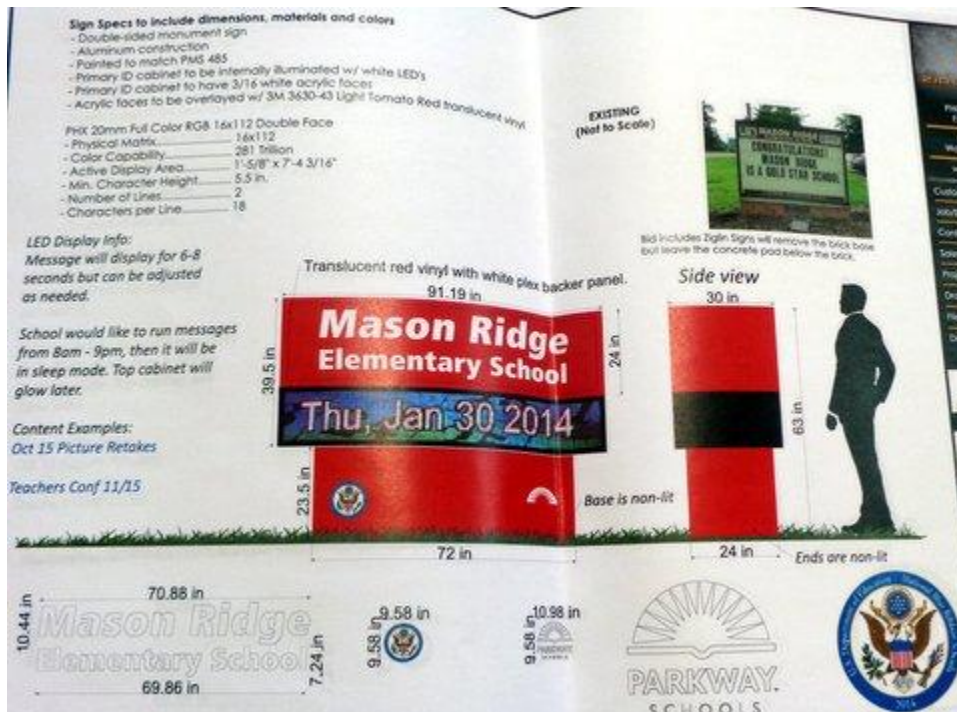
I believe that if the Capital Improvement Fee was included in a bid package Town and Country could have gotten a competitive from at least the Monarch FPD and maybe have saved some money. It is an odd way to do business for a government not to put a \$3.6 million deal out for bid.

Another note on this deal is that West County has always done Fire Inspections in town under contract and received approximately \$90,000 in billing recently. In 2017 Town and Country will take over the Fire Inspection duties and keep that \$90,000.

MASON RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FORCED TO GET A VARIANCE FOR NEW SIGN. TOO MANY COLORS BECAUSE OF ITS BLUE RIBBON STATUS.

Mason Ridge Elementary School and the Parkway School District have to apply for a sign code variance for wanting to replace the old sign with hand applied black letters with an electronic message sign with messages that can be changed from inside the office.

Longtime readers of this Newsletter know that Fred Meyland-Smith considers these signs as a danger to motorists, even though his own church has one on Clayton Road and the West County EMS & Fire Protection District has one in front of their House Two on Manchester Road and even the Manchester Police Department have such a sign.



But the other problem is that the sign has more than three basic colors. It looks like it is red, white with a blue background to the white letters on the message board. But if you look at the Seal from the Department of Education that denotes the school is a National "Blue Ribbon" School, you will see the seal has some brown in it. That is a fourth color and a violation of the city sign ordinance, which requires a variance. .

There will be a public hearing on this at the January 11, 2016 Board of Aldermen meeting at 7 o'clock.

ALDERWOMEN EXPRESSES HER COMMISSION'S UNHAPPINESS OVER THE ELIMINATION OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSIONS OR HAVING NON RESIDENTS SERVE ON COMMISSIONS.

At the work session before the December 14 Board of Aldermen meeting Alderwoman Gussie Crawford, often a woman of few words had this to say:

"The members of my commission are not happy about being dissolved and not interested in being Ambassadors," said Crawford. Dalton tried to push the Ambassador crap in 2009 only to have it rejected.



Ald. Tiffany Frautschi then mentioned how residents in her ward were questioning her why non-residents were suddenly being allowed on commissions.



Tiffany Frautschi

That brought a response from Ald. Lynn Wright who ever likes anyone questioning anything she is in favor of.



"This is not to go out and bring in someone who is not an expert," said Wright, who wants to be able to bring in one outside expert for a voting position on the Arts Commission, Parks Commission and the proposed Environment, Horticulture and Wildlife Commission.

NEW NOISE ORDINANCE BILL FACES SOME COMPLAINTS: A new proposed ordinance to allow police officers to take sound measurement readings to determine excessive noise levels and issue citations was up for a first reading but faced some questions among alderpersons. The biggest area being questioned as how private social gatherings at homes can have up to four exemptions a year for loud music with a permit issued by the City Administrator if the loud music stopped by 10 pm Sunday-Thursday and midnight Friday and Saturday.

"A working group respecting property owners rights and those of others in the neighborhood brought this to us," said Mayor Dalton of the proposal that came out of the police commission.

I think that the four exemptions a year was a sticking point. A backyard wedding reception is one thing. Four loud parties a year is another.

REAL ESTATE

Mason Knoll Remodel: Normally with a remodel of an existing home, it involves adding on a greenhouse room, sun room or maybe a bedroom. However the remodeling job on Mason Knoll at Featherstone is pretty impressive and involves more than one room:



TOPPING ACRES NEW HOME...YOU ARE CLEARED TO LAND ON RUNWAY 3:

We started with the plans for the new home to be built on Topping Acres one door off of Topping Road. The plans called for a 12-car garage with eight garage doors. We then posted photos of the garage while the house was under construction. The construction is over and for a change we recently looked at the house and not the garage. It reminded me of the nearby home of John McDonnell (of McDonnell Aircraft) that has a control tower built on one end.



Topping Acres one door east of Topping Road

MY NEW YEAR'S WISH FOR SKIP MANGE: Here is my next project idea to keep retired Ward-1 Ald. Skip Mange with a purpose in life and it is involved with something in his ward. My suggestion is that instead of moving fairly standard log cabins from Ward-4 to Drace Park, why not save one of the ranch house on the east

side of Bopp Road and move it to Drave Park. There are only a couple of 1955 era ranch homes still standing on the east side of Bopp Road.



If you look to the left of this one you can see that it is overshadowed by a McMansion.



Here is another one of the few remaining ranches on Bopp. If you look to the left you can see another McMansion going up.

CORRECTION: We reported in our last regular newsletter that the Town and Country Planning and Zoning Commission had been moved to the Fourth Wednesday of the Month, but that often changes due to difficulty having a quorum. That was backwards. It moved from the fourth Wednesday to the third Wednesday last spring. But they still have great difficulty making a quorum with some members living out of town for the winter and others gone for the summer. Being very rich can be a burden.

WRONG NAME: Also I gave Chesterfield's Director of Economic Development Libby Malberg-Tucker's husband the wrong first name in our last newsletter. In our last regular Newsletter (#208) I twice mention

Malberg-Tucker's husband name as Michael Tucker. **He is Larry Tucker**, the Director of Economic Development for Lincoln County.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 154



January 5, 2016

FORMER PARKWAY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER IN JAIL OVER HOLIDAYS FOR STEALING \$135,868 FROM PARKWAY CENTRAL MUSIC GROUPS:

We first wrote about Rice "Sandy" Jacobs, 64, a former Parkway School Board member from 1999 to 2003 and stock broker, in December of 2014. Jacobs who was the volunteer treasurer for the band, choir and orchestra charity bank accounts, was arrested for stealing large sums of money from the music accounts for his personal use.

Jacobs and his wife Terrilyn had lived at 14181 Cross Trails Drive in Chesterfield until their divorce in February of 2015.

Jacobs confessed to stealing funds dating back to 2003 for the music accounts, but had been able to cover checks until 2014 when checks were literally bouncing on a regular basis. Jacobs was called into the Parkway Central High School on Tuesday November 25, 2014 to meet with the band director, choir director and orchestra director. He was asked what happened to all the money. Here is what happened according to the police report filed by Chesterfield Detectives Wittman and Steve Queen:

`During the meeting, Jacobs was asked "Why the checks bounced" and "Where is all the money"? Jacobs sat very still with his hands in his lap and stated the "The money is gone". Jacobs further stated he wanted to pay the money back in the next three weeks. He further indicated he has been stealing money over the past two to three years.`

Rice lied about stealing for two or three years. An audit showed for at least seven years. He admitted to detectives he had been stealing from the funds since he took over as treasurer in 2003.

Here is the least amount of thefts investigators could document, again from the report:

Year	Check total	Debit card total	Other	Total
2014	\$42,487.39	\$ 2,091.04		\$44,578.43
2013	\$20,010.78	\$769.68		\$20,780.46
2012	\$14,267.11	\$1,724.44	\$1,269.00	\$17,260.55
2011	\$15,665.72	\$1,732.50		\$17,398.22
2010	\$7,950.21	\$4,590.11		\$12,540.32
2009	\$7,523.25	\$1,605.32		\$9,128.57
2008	\$4,655.30	\$55.54	\$64.00	\$4,774.84
2007	\$9,255.19	\$151.85		\$9,407.04
Totals:	\$121,814.95	\$12,720.48	\$1,333.00	\$135,868.43

It should be noted the "Other" column represents amounts believed to be used by Jacobs for personal use. Due to not having any type of receipt for the amount it is unknown if the money is a legitimate expense used for the club.



Nov 2014 mug shot



Jan 2015 Mug shot after Grand Jury indictment



On August 26, 2015 Jacobs pled guilty. He was sentenced on November 4, 2015 sentenced to 10 years in prison but was allowed to do 120 days "SHOCK TIME" and then serve a probation term.

Jacobs had been a stockbroker at Edward Jones from May 2010 to July 2014. He was then at TD Ameritrade from July 2014 until his arrest five months later. TD Ameritrade's law firm has an updated posting saying the former broker Rice Jacobs has entered into a "Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent" with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, FINRA.

Jacobs has not updated his info on LinkedIn since pleading guilty. He lists that he would like to join a Non-Profit Board of Directors. (I bet he would!)

The complete police report on this case is on our homepage.

FLOOD WATCH: While all the news media in the area was focused on Valley Park, Fenton and Arnold areas where there was severe flooding after Christmas. We went out to Chesterfield Valley and checked the water levels at 2:30 on Tuesday December 29 and returned on December 30 at the same time. The flood waters took down one levee but did not breach the main levee built to protect shopping center after shopping center build in a flood plain after the "historic" 1993 flood.

The agriculture levee that sits between the Monarch Levee District levee and the Missouri River failed around 10 am on Tuesday morning 12/29. City officials on Monday were talking about how water should just reach within four feet of the top of the main levee.

The City Parks took the biggest beating. The city evacuated the Park and Rec Headquarter building on Tuesday but it appeared as if employees were returning on Wednesday.



We spoke with Monarch Fire Chief Chuck Marsonette at the levee on Tuesday. He was concerned that people using the trail on top of the levee to sightsee at night might fall in and the fire district was hoping to avoid doing water rescues in flood water with temps hanging around 32-degrees day and night.

There was only a slight rise in water levels from Tuesday to Wednesday when the Missouri River crested.



The sign by the parking lots to two practice football fields had water just a couple of feet below it on Tuesday. On Wednesday the water had almost reached the sign, but was starting to recede.



On Wednesday water at the high mark was 20 feet from the top of levee. There had been estimates earlier it would be within four feet to the top.

Luckily for Chesterfield two things did not happen. 1) The Missouri River did not reach record flood levels like the Mississippi did. 2) There wasn't one more day of 3-to-4 inches of rainfall.

Claiming the 1993 flood was a 500-year event, some experts were almost proved wrong 22 years later.



Outfielders would have needed lifejackets on this baseball field. Normally there is enough maintenance work during the winter to keep the staff workers busy. But this winter they will have to really hustle to get these fields ready for baseball, softball and soccer this spring.

CHESTERFIELD November 2015 POLICE ACTIVITY AND CRIME STATS PLUS YTD:

Crime	Nov 2015	YTD 2015	Nov 2104	YTD 2014
Forcible Rape	0	4	0	3
Other Sex Offense	0	10	3	14
Robbery	0	11	2	5
Assault	14	164	12	169
BURGLARY				
Residential	3	43	2	34
Commercial	0	16	0	5
LARCENY				
Misdemeanor	41	528	51	430
Felony	31	226	19	212

OTHER OFFENSES

Auto Theft	0	17	1	9
Arson	0	1	0	1
Checks/Fraud	28	922*	12	127
Vandalism	22	113	8	118
Drug Violations	6	81	6	92
DWI	10	106	9	169
TOTAL	155	2142	126	1388

ARRESTS

Adult	88	1136	101	1550
Juvenile	7	155	11	172
Vehicle crashes	176	1682	150	1584
Fatalities	0	2	0	5
Injuries	41	359	26	325

Traffic Enforcement

Warnings	388	3913	360	4842
Parking Citations	7	200	17	186
Traffic Citations	571	8371	767	11,149
Recovered Stolen Autos	0	4	0	2
Radio dispatched assignments	2966	33,108	4451	51,498
Alarms	107	1,332	126	1,332

Crime for the year was still up but way below the national average. The two things that did catch our eye were with vandalism and alarm calls.

Vandalism, which had been down all year averaging about 8 incidents a month, spiked in November with 22 offenses. I asked if this was due to vandalism of cars in a parking lot at the same time or a game of mailbox baseball. Chesterfield's crime analyst said it appeared to be neither. His best guess was warm November weather or an abundance of angry people or a combination of both.

On the alarms it was interesting to see that through 11 months the police department responded to the same number of calls (1,332) in 2015 and they did in 2014.

We should have the December and yearend crime and police activity stats in one of our next two newsletters.

CLOSED MEETING CALLED OFF AT LAST MINUTE: At 11:01 on Monday morning 12/21/15 the emails went out notifying the media that the closed Executive Session

meeting of the Chesterfield City Council for 6 o'clock that night had been cancelled. However there was a closed meeting at the end of the Agenda Review meeting before the Council meeting on January 4. I have to think the subject matter dealt with hiring a city attorney and city administrator.

CHRISTMAS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MAYOR: After our last regular newsletter where we editorialized what might have happened if either Libby Malberg-Tucker or Mike Herring had not made a big deal out of Bob Nation's comments about Herring made in Malberg-Tucker's office that included a dose of obscenities.

I wrote that Bob Nation's temper at time has a low boiling point. He disagreed with that assessment.

"I believe that I have a low frustration level to nonsense in government. Especially when I perceive there are political motives," said Nation.

"Maybe part of it is I'm frustrated going along with the bureaucracy when I know it's wrong. Some of these council members are upset that I have not gone along with the bureaucracy," he said.

Nation admitted that a number of the council had supported his opponent Matt Segal and have never tried to get along after his win. He put Connie Fults, Mike Casey and Derek Grier in that group. He made an exception of Elliot Grissom.

"I appreciated his service when he was president pro tem and filled in for me. I trusted him but he betrayed that trust over one appointment I made," Nation. He was referring when he put Grissom's buddy Mike Casey as the chairman of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee which often only meets a couple times a years. Grissom pushed for the legislation that took away from the mayor the ability to appoint chairpersons and committees.

Now Nation says only half the council will talk to him even if he tries to be conciliatory. Right now he says he will talk with Barry Flachsbart, Barb McGuinness, Dan Hurt and Bruce DeGroot occasionally.

THE MOVING OF DEREK GRIER: Derek Grier was another problem for Mayor Nation. Grier, the Boy Councilman, who we later renamed Grizzly Boy Councilman when he had an untrimmed beard and hair, was elected in Ward 2. But in midterm he moved to Ward 3. While you have to live in your ward to run for office you merely have to remain a city resident to stay in office.



Derek Grier who Mayor Bob Nation said would not give him a straight answer on his residency and our favorite file phone of a frustrated Bob Nation at a City Council agenda meeting.

Nation told us he went to Grier and asked him if he was living outside of his ward and Grier refused to answer him. Nation said he felt the residents in Ward 2 had the right to know. He also suggested that his not announcing that he would not be running in 2015 kept some people from filing for his seat, allowing Bridget Nations to file at the last minute and avoid any competition.

The man who wouldn't say where he lived now wants to be the State Rep to replace Sue Allen in in November 2016 election. He will have to beat Allen's husband Mike first.

MIKE GEISEL AS NEW CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

"I have a high degree of confidence in Mike Geisel." (The original city engineer/director of public works and current director of all city services except the police department.)

"I have no problem naming him the interim city administrator," said Nation, who pointed out that the City Council appoints the permanent city administrator and the mayor only approves the final appointment.

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY HARRY O'ROURKE: We talked with Mayor Nation in October after his censure. He did not say any kind things about O'Rourke then and nothing has changed.

"He has allowed the city to be embarrassed and he is completely unqualified for the job," said Nation, who said he went along with City Administrator Mike Herring's

recommendation for keeping the "status quo" with O'Rourke coming in for Rob Heggie, who was appointed to the Associate Circuit Bench in Clayton.

"Despite O'Rourke getting paid less than Heggie since he has less experience, our legal bills have gone up," said Nation. Before July the Council as a Whole directed Herring to assist in obtaining a new city attorney. Then he ignored me and my requests that he start a procedure to look for qualified applications for city attorney."

"Other than Barry, Bruce, Dan and Barb, the others seem to be hell bent on not doing what is best for the taxpayers. We have a dysfunctional government," said Nation.

Besides Mike Geisel, the mayor had praise for one other city department head.

"I have nothing but platitudes for Police Chief Ray Johnson," he said.

KNOW THY NEIGHBORS: On August 17, 2015 Anthony Squitieri, 24, of 2156 Kehrs Mill Road in Clarkson Valley was arrested by St. Louis Police for felony drug possession and felony resisting arrest. He was indicted by a St. Louis Grand Jury on December 18, 2015. In October he was arrested by the Ballwin Police for a forgery that occurred in June. He was on probation for an assault that happened in 2012 in Ballwin.



The three mug shots of Squitieri taken in 2015.

Squitieri just pled guilty to a stealing charge in Chesterfield. He was sentenced to six months in jail and then placed on a 2-year probation term in March of 2015.

DAY BEFORE FAMILY IS SET TO MOVE IN HOUSE BURNS TO THE GROUND: It was in the Monarch Fire District, but not in Chesterfield. It was in the heavily wooded and rural area of Wildwood at 15777 Orville Road. The closest neighbor is a good

distance away. The house had been sold and the new family was set to move in on December 15.

The Monarch Fire Protection District got the call at 4:47 in morning on December 14 of a house on Orville Road fully involved in flames.

When the first firefighters arrived all they could do was "save the foundation." The roof had already collapsed into the basement. The only thing standing was the two car garage. The Monarch Fire District did not attempt to find out the origin or cause of the fire.

"It appears the garage separation required by the building codes did it job," said Monarch Fire Marshall Roger Herin, who could not provide an exact origin or cause of the fire.



MONARCH SEES \$150,000 REDUCTION IN WORKER'S COMP PREMIUM. THE FIRE DISTRICT CHANGES CARRIERS FOR 2016: The work comp losses reform campaign started by Monarch Director Jane Cunningham has paid off with a \$150,000 reduction in work comp insurance. But the entire 3-member board is not happy. They thought the district deserved even a lower bill and on December 20th they switched insurance carriers.

The Work comp insurance claims sky rocketed while the Fire District was insurance with MOFAD (Missouri Fire and Ambulance.) After beginning to rein in costs in 2013 they switched MEM (Missouri Employers Mutual) in 2014 and 2015.

Board president Robin Harris stated that over the 2-year period the District paid MEM \$2,000,000 in premiums and had only approximately \$900,000 in claims.

"They had a 43-percent reduction in claims," said Mike Hennessey the Fire District's independent insurance broker.

MEM was paid \$953,000 in 2015 and wanted \$813,721 for 2016.

The new carrier "7710" DBA South Carolina Creekwood came in with a 2016 premium bid of \$809,111. The Board voted 3-0 to switch to 7710.

BEFORE BUILDING A BUSINESS OR BUYING A HOUSE IN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE HOWARD'S BEND FLOOD PLAIN IN MARYLAND HEIGHTS, JUST BEYOND THE CHESTERFIELD CITY LIMITS CONSIDER THESE PHOTOS:



The above was River Valley Road in the center of the development plans two days before the Missouri River crested on New Year's Day.

FOOD...STARBUCKS COMING TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST DIERBERG'S:

Construction has begun inside the Dierberg's 75,000 square foot supermarket on Manchester Road at Bopp Road in Des Peres for a Starbucks. Plans for a drive through Starbucks to be constructed as part of the existing bank located just to the northeast of the Dierberg's was turned down by the Des Peres Board of Aldermen in 2015 after considerable neighbor opposition surfaced.



Food Trivia: Speaking of the 75,000 square foot Dierberg's, we were given this odd supermarket trivia question by an employee of that store. What is the number one top selling product per item? The answer is...a banana.

THE LADUE STREAK CONTINUES FOR VEIL PROPHET QUEENS: For 16 years and maybe longer if you were a rich kid from Frontenac, Huntleigh, Town and Country or Clayton you simply didn't stand a chance receiving the crown of the Queen of Love and Beauty at the Veil Prophet Ball even if Steve Harvey was hosting.



Our research shows for at least the last 15 years the college age women belonged to a set of rich parents with a LADUE ADDRESS. The pattern held true on December 22, when Charlotte Jones the 19-year-old daughter of Corrine and Meredith Jones of 2 High Downs Lane in Ladue, over by the Ladue Middle School.

The unusual thing about Jones, a graduate from Mary Institute, is that her family is just rich, not stinking rich. Their property taxes are at \$12,382. That is only twice as much as mine. However dad, Meredith Jones gets high marks for snob factor. He not only has a name that could be male or female, he is listed as a Senior Vice-President Portfolio Manager at the MSAM Asset Management Company, he is also listed as a rugby coach. That reeks as much elitism as being a lacrosse coach in the Midwest in the 1990s.



RESTAURANT NEWS: This just in...Jimmy's on Park on DeMun in Clayton has closed. After 21 years owner Jimmy Kristo shuttered the Clayton eatery on Tuesday.



This came as no big surprise as employee salaries and hours had been cut over a year ago and some popular menu items with bad cost ratios were discontinued. Kristo, a very nice guy had experience managing restaurants before opening Jimmy's with some silent partners so you will like see him again soon.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION AT THE PUMPS: I was got a bit off guard while filling up my car at the Claymont Auto Service on Clayton Road and Kehrs Mill Road and noticed Poinsettias at each pump island.



CHRISTMAS SIT INS: Around Christmas time you often see musicians with some time on their hands before New Year Eve gigs show up wanting to sit in with Jim Manley at Sasha's on DeMun.

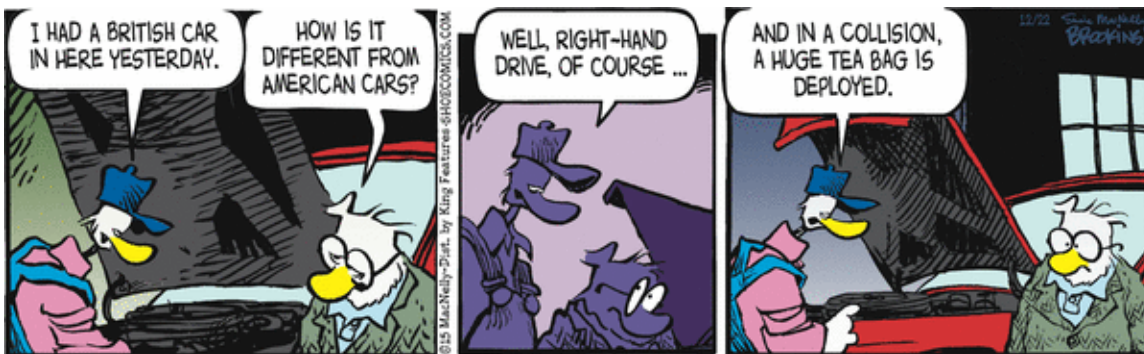
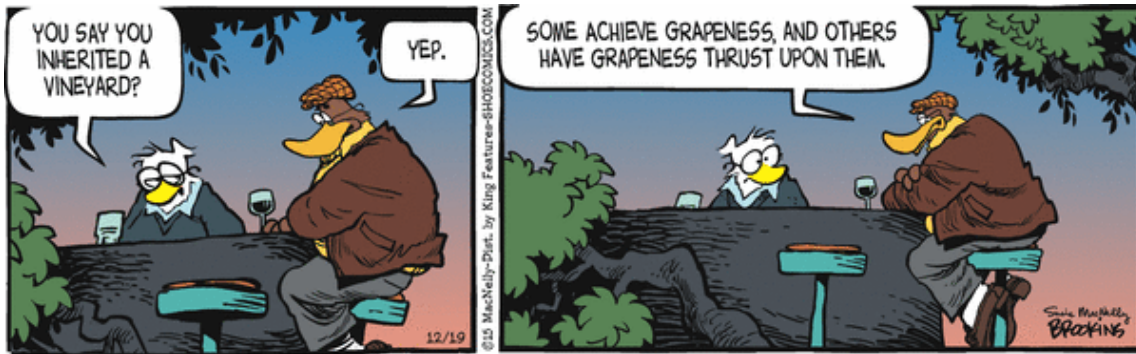


Here are Larry Johnson from St. Charles County and Joe Bayer from Warrenton with Manley the Wednesday before Christmas.



Joe Bayer is back one night before New Years Eve with Meredith Hammer on the trumpet. Chesterfield's Joe Mancuso showed around 11 o'clock having brought his own note and sang a couple songs. Seems like The One Note Samba would have been appropriate. I counted three other trumpet players and a sax guy in the crowd who didn't play.

CARTOONS: We had two weeks of Drunks and Thieves newsletters so this week we will include a couple cartoons with Santa that we missed.





"Ok, Frank, we really need to get a new HMO."



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DEFYING GRAVITY:



Dasher

Dancer

Donald



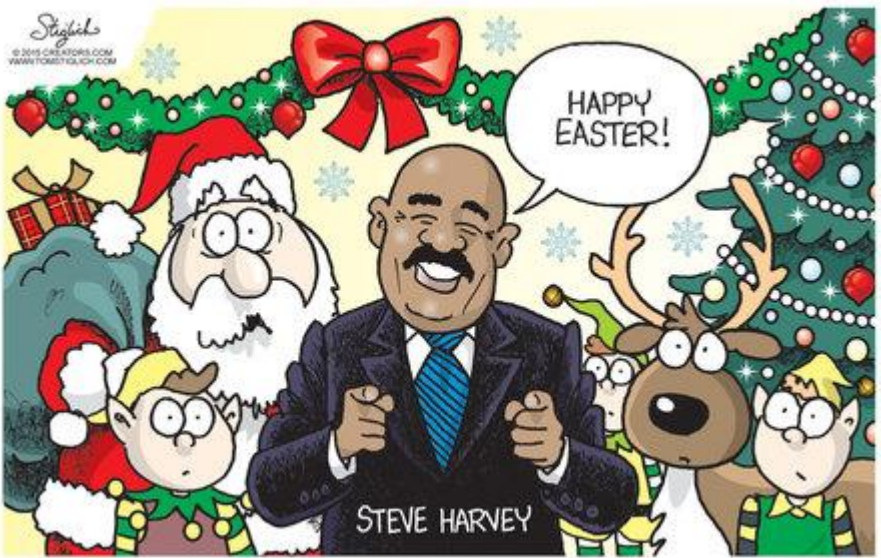
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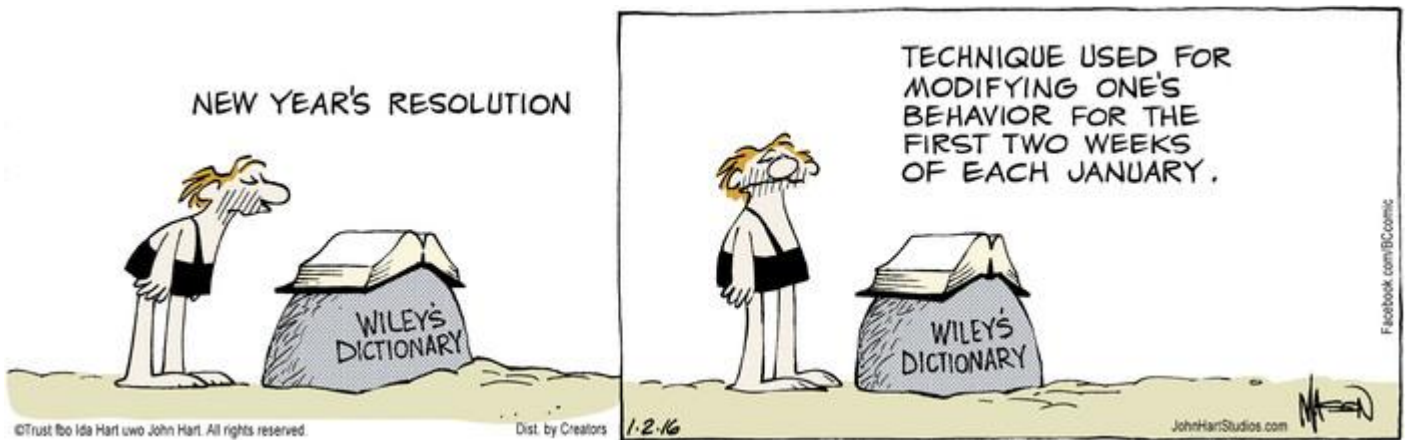


Walt Disney
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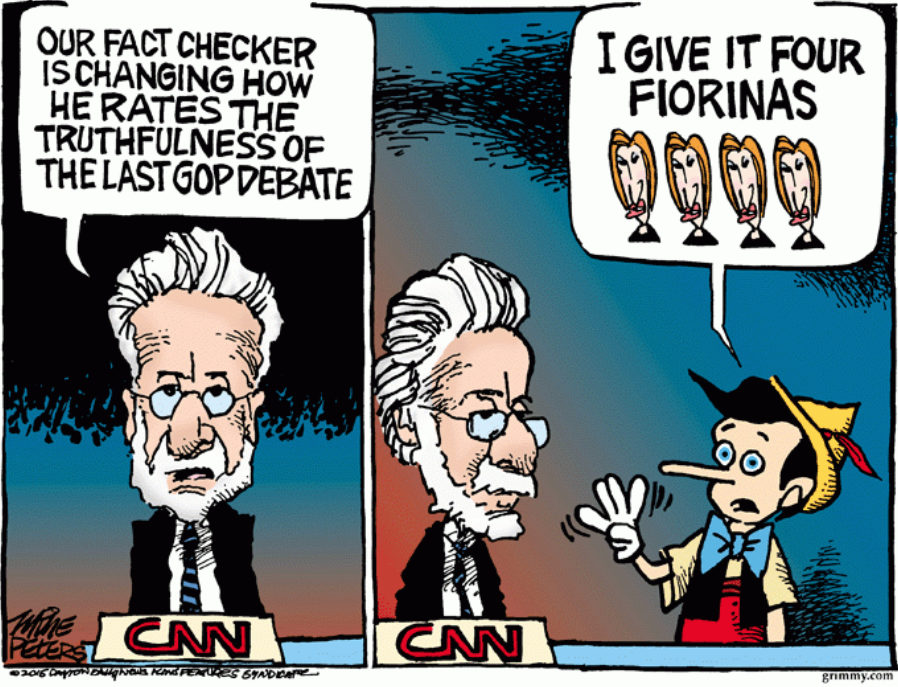
MIKE LUCKOVICH © 2015
ATLANTA FRODO BAGGINS 'GARDEN OF EDEN' 12-24-15







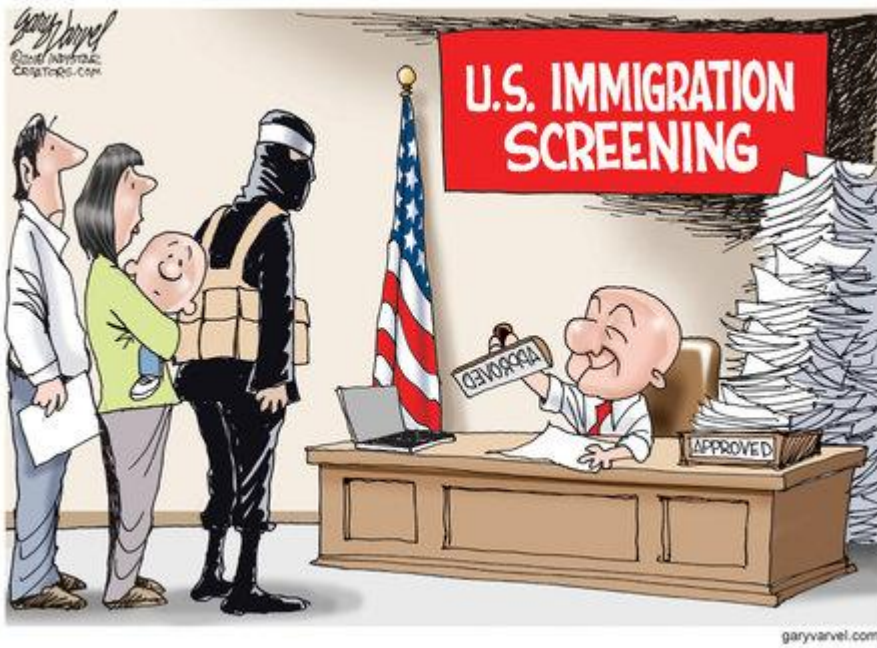
IF JESUS WERE BORN TODAY







"IT'S A CARTOONIST'S HOUSE."





Suddenly, Father Schober was not sure whether he really should have bought the new crucifix at Ikea.

