

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 20

January 08, 2013

By John Hoffmann

THREE WAY RACE IN WARD 4: Richard Kastel of 16031 Clarkson Woods Drive filed as a city council candidate on Wednesday December 26. This makes it a 3-Way race so far in Ward-4. With incumbent Bob Nation filing for the mayor's spot, the three candidates so far are attorneys Bruce DeGroot, Pari Sheth and now Kastel.

Like the other two Kastel has had some problems with paying taxes. His 2004 real estate taxes were two months late. He has a history of paying his taxes on the last day of the year.

Personal property records show he and his wife Karen drive a 10-year-old Honda CRV and a nine-year-old Lexus RX330.

The Chesterfield political rumor mill believes that City Clerk Judy Naggiar will be seeing a number of visitors by the closing for filing on Tuesday January 15 so there will likely be some interesting races.

MOTHER MAKES PLEA BEFORE CITY COUNCIL TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT NEWEST DESIGNER DRUG HITTING THE TEEN SCENE. Carley Brunner Alves spoke at the start of Monday's City Council meeting. Alves is a worried and a pissed off mom.



Carley Brunner Alves just before addressing the City Council on Monday night.

Her 15-year-old daughter (who attends a private school) went to a New Year's Eve party in Wildwood at the house of a Marquette High School student. She told me that the party started at 7:30 and for her daughter was over by 11:30pm, when some of her daughter's friends brought her home and carried her inside. She believed her daughter was drunk. She was told by the kids her daughter was drinking vodka and Mountain Dew.

The next day the father of a boy at the party called her and told her that her daughter's drink had been spiked with a new synthetic drug that has taken the place of "Bath Salts" that have now been banned in most states.

The drug, called SMILES, N-Bomb, or 25-I, is mostly manufactured in Asia and is a hallucinogen, similar to LSD that can cause kidney and respiratory failure according to doctors who deal with drug overdoses. The drug has mostly been found on the West Coast, but recently was added to the banned scheduled list of drugs in Louisiana.

Alves (whose brother is John Brunner of Ladue, recent candidate for the U.S. Senate) said when she found out her daughter had been drugged the night before, she went to the Wildwood police station but County Police assigned to Wildwood refused to take a report or investigate. She also said she went to the Chesterfield Police, but they could not take action because the party was out of their jurisdiction. She said she has since received assistance from both a County Police officer assigned to Narcotics and a Chesterfield officer.

Council Bob Nation suggested that Mrs. Alves address the next Public Health and Safety Committee meeting about the problem.

<http://wjbk.membercenter.worldnow.com/story/20140689/new-designer-drug-smiles-linked-to-handful-of-deaths?clienttype=printable>

<http://theadvocate.com/home/4387604-125/la-bans-synthetic-drug>

THE THREE AND 12 MINUTE MEETINGS: The Chesterfield City Council has not met in a month. Almost all commission and committee meetings in December had been cancelled and the Public Works and Planning Committee Meeting for January 9 was cancelled. The pre-meeting agenda meeting was changed from a one-hour meeting to a 15-minute meeting earlier on Monday.

As the councilpersons arrived they all wished each other happy New Years and made jokes. The longest discussion in the room was before the agenda meeting started. It was about the Alabama and Norte Dame Football game.

One piece of legislation called for City Administrator Mike “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” Herring to enter into an agreement with MoDot. Councilman Barry Flachsbart asked if someone else could enter into the agreement since Herring’s skill set no longer even included shaving.



Do men with little hair on top do anything other than look even older when they grow a grey beard?

I AM MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU GUYS: The meeting was over in under four minutes, even with Councilman Randy Logan taking a cell phone call before Mayor Bruce Geiger could adjourn the meeting.



Councilman Randy Logan didn’t turn off his cell phone when it went off toward the end of the agenda meeting. He actually took the call.

The regular meeting lasted all of 12 minutes even with Mrs. Alves speaking and the Council taking three votes. Logan received no phone calls during this meeting.

PIZZA JOINT GETS LIQUOR LICENSE: One of the three votes was to issue a liquor license to Stefanina's Pizzeria at 103 Chesterfield Towne Center. The pizza joint moves into the original location of PM B-B-Q, which moved into a much larger space at the opposite end of the shopping center on Long Road. .

HOW WILL THE SECOND MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN CHESTERFIELD DEAL WITH THIS ONE (Warning this piece is filled with sophomoric humor and might offend some people): It will be interesting to see the Chesterfield city prosecuting attorney Tim Engelmeyer, doing his job in nearby Des Peres and how he manages to sweep two recently filed cases under the carpet the way he reduces DWI charges and lets drunk drivers pled guilty to parking violations with \$500 fines.

In the Des Peres cases, two Chesterfield women Jufang Long, 62, and Cuizhen Wu, 40, of 15481 Duxberry Way Walk were charged with prostitution for performing sex acts as part of the massage service at the Rong Hua D-Stress Sauna and Massage at 11730 Manchester Road in August. Des Peres has revoked the business license of the establishment. The first complaint came from a man with actual back pain who went to Rong Hua for what used to be called a regular massage. The staff attempted to perform the other kind of massage and the customer went to the police. His complaint was followed up a visit by undercover County police detectives.

"We had a complaint that there was inappropriate behavior there, so we worked with the St. Louis County Police Department and did a sting," Des Peres Police Department Capt. Charles Milano told the Webster-Kirkwood Times without missing a beat.

Read more: <http://www.websterkirkwoodtimes.com/Articles-Des-Peres-i-2013-01-04-184491.114137-Des-Peres-Massage-Parlor-Shut-Down-For-Prostitution.html#ixzz2HB3SNPGd>

While I seriously doubt Ms. Long or Ms. Wu will be getting off, I doubt they will see a stiff sentence either as they are being prosecuted by Engelmeyer.

Myself and a lawyer friend who formerly worked for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington DC were kicking around what offenses Engelmeyer might reduce the charges to and accept a huge fine for a minor violation. (It is always nice to see a soon to be 60-year-old and an almost 50-year-old can still manage to come up with sophomoric humor.)

We both thought some sort of building code violation would be a starting point, such as “Erecting without a Permit.”

The other one that came to mind was the parking violation of “Unloading in a No parking or No Standing Zone.”

My friend acknowledged that the rub is unless something is out of whack with Engelmeyer’s history of reducing charges this case is likely to get pleaded down.

YOU SHOULDN’T BE ABLE TO DO BOTH: Tim Engelmeyer is supposed to prosecute DWIs, but in his role as a municipal prosecutor he rarely does. However, it seems to do be a clear conflict of interest to defend DWI suspects too.

On Engelmeyer’s law firm’s (Engelmeyer & Pezzani, LLC) website he gives advice on DWI and solicits DWI defense work. How can you be paid to supposedly actively prosecute DWI cases and then defend them at the same time?

Engelmeyer also needs to check his geography. His office is the office building at 13321 N. Outter 40 Road in Town and Country. Engelmeyer claims it is in Chesterfield.

The building was built by Republican township chairman Mark Dunn after the failure of the Town and Country Board of Aldermen to rezone the property for two elderly sisters from residential to commercial. Dunn bought the property cheap and it suddenly got rezoned in 2003 to commercial. One of the people on the Town and Country Board of Aldermen at the time was John Diehl, who would later have his law office in the commercial building that Dunn built thanks to the rezoning.

CHESTERFIELD POLICE ARE NOT ACTUALLY IN EVERY SCHOOL: From the recent headlines in several news outlets you might think there was going to be a police officer assigned to every elementary, middle school and private school in Chesterfield. That is not going to happen. There would not be any cops left to arrest shoplifters or Dan McLaughlin for DWI.

The police department is transferring one officer from the Community Relations Unit to the School Resource Unit and that officer will have 13 schools. So the odds are less than 1-in-10 the officer will be at any one of the schools.

Police chief Ray Johnson did tell me that daily activity sheets that must be filled out by patrol officers now have a section for stopping by schools without a permanent officer as part of their regular patrol.

DIEHL CAN COLLECT MONEY BUT HAS HAD PROBLEMS PAYING IT: Unlike St. Louis County we continue to do the difficult task of checking to see if elected officials (our employees) have a good record of paying their taxes.

State Rep. John Diehl, who represents Town and Country and Chesterfield in the state house and is the House Majority Floor Leader, was three months and four days late in paying his \$858 personal property tax bill in 2004. He paid a penalty with interest of \$54 when he finally paid on April 4, 2005. In 2006 it was worse. Diehl was six months and 24 days late in paying his \$1,231 personal property tax bill. He got around to paying it on July 24, 2007 after paying a penalty and interest of \$200.52.

It is nice to see a guy in a position to raise our taxes have a record of not paying them.

Diehl was much better about paying his taxes on his house. He has never been late in paying real estate taxes on his home on the corner of Clayton Road and White Stable Lane.

THE ONE-TWO PUNCH DALTON AND DEIHL OR THE ZOMBIE AND MILLIONAIRE: If you don't have Charter Cable and if you were not watching a few shows on cable you missed the act of the buddies Jon Dalton and John Diehl going back to back doing Christmas messages.



Jon "Zombie" Dalton



John "Million Dollar" Diehl

Dalton went first and as the mayor of Town and Country read his message off a teleprompter. It was as if he was a Zombie. He clearly was not a human, which simply reinforced what I have been saying for years. After all he is a tobacco lobbyist and snatched a business and commercial property from a widow using eminent domain for an under financed nightclub district. I don't think Dalton blinked once during his

message. It was like he had escaped from the Twilight Zone Marathon on the Sci-fi Channel.

Diehl went next. He was wearing an open collar shirt and seemed to be the opposite of Dalton. He was very relaxed, as if he had a couple of shots before the taping. He went on to remind people not to drink and drive during the holidays. It could have been a personal message for the Dalton clan, since Jonathan Dalton, Jr. was arrested for Drunk Driving last New Year's Eve and arrested for DWI again on June 23. (We are guessing he was either celebrating Clarence Thomas' birthday or had left a late night wake on the first anniversary of the death of Peter Falk.) I was waiting for him to stare in the camera and say, "Hey Jay Dalton, I talking to you bro."

CHESTERFIELD PATCH LIES: Recently the Chesterfield Patch ran a type of story they are becoming famous for...one that requires no reporting. The story was "Top 10 Stories of 2012." The newest editor, Frank Johnson, listed 10 stories. I know several of them were not in the Top 10 of stories. Oddly I know of at least two of my columns that went viral including one that was a top hit maker for over a month that were not listed.

My column on the 200th Anniversary of the New Madrid Earthquake and what would likely happen today if a similar quake occurred was the top story for most of the month of February and for 2012.

<http://chesterfield.patch.com/articles/the-200-year-anniversary-of-the-new-madrid-earthquake-what-would-happen-today>

Also my columns on Rush Limbaugh getting a statute in Jefferson City got huge numbers of hits. It was so widely read that newspaper editors contacted me about writing separate pieces for them.

<http://chesterfield.patch.com/articles/here-is-a-suggestion-of-people-to-join-rush>

<http://chesterfield.patch.com/articles/we-need-to-give-a-second-thought-about-hall-of-fames>

National press articles about patch.com are reporting that after cost cutting moves that reduced coverage the sites have seen a drop in readership. Here is the way they eliminated all of my stories which received some of the top number of hits for the year and some of Jean Whitney's reporting...they put this editor's note with the story:

editor's note: This list is based primarily on the most popular stories for the year with some changes made to avoid redundancy and adjust for their news value.

Yes of course, the list was based “primarily” on the most popular stories, but not entirely despite the headline of “Top 10 in 2012” because they cut the most popular stories from the list.

I ran into Johnson at the Chesterfield City Council meeting. Here is how the exchange went:

Me: Frank I need to ask you a question.

Frank: Sure (he had no idea who I was)

Me: When you ran that top 10 story of the year list, I have to believe my piece on the 200th anniversary of the New Madrid Earthquake was one of the top stories and you didn't list it. Was it Kurt (Kurt Greenbaum, regional Patch editor) that made you cut my stuff from the list?

Frank: Oh, you are John Hoffmann. Nice to meet you! No that disclaimer was mine.

Me: Frank are you trying to tell me that the earthquake and Limbaugh columns were not in the top 10?

Frank: No that earthquake story was the most read story of the year by a wide margin.

Me: So why didn't you list it as the top story?

Frank: I had not met you.

Me: Have you met Jean Whitney?

Frank: No

Me: Well you listed two of her stories and you never met her.

Frank: It was just my decision.

My advice to readers...don't believe what you read in the Patch, if they are going to run a story on the top ten stories of the year and then they don't tell what the number one story is you have to wonder.

HOLIDAY MOMENTS: The **Kids at Channel 5** went to the barn and put on a **New Year's Day newscast**. It was just like watching a Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney movie to see where the kids at KSDK (where Gannett has stopped paying people over 50 who might know something about St. Louis) decided by golly they could put on a newscast.



Mickey and Judy before putting on the big show...it was just like watching the kids at Channel 5 put on a newscast over the holidays.

A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE: The night started with a heavy snow, but none of it was sticking to anything but the grass. Educator and musician Larry Johnson had a CD release party that featured a two-hour concert on the Friday before New Years at the Sheldon. I knew it was going to be an unusual evening when during the concert one of St. Louis' top jazz trumpet players was featured doing the standard "That's All" with a string quartet.



After the concert we went to O'Connell's Pub on Kingshighway and Shaw for a late dinner. We arrived at 10:30 on a Friday night and there were exactly two customers in



the place on a Friday night...that was our Christmas Miracle for 2012. There were two waitresses for two tables. Our waitress shrugged..."people must be afraid of the snow," she said.

Goodbye 2012: Let's see...2012...I started the year with three jobs and ended it with one job that is only from mid-November to May. I broke my shoulder and will no longer be able to throw a baseball or shoot a free throw (honestly I had not been doing a lot of either prior to the injury) and had a heart procedure.

The highlight of the year might have been driving up to a roadside produce stand in the State of Washington and buying Honeycrisp apples for \$1.99 a pound that had just been picked that day.

SOMETHINGS JUST AREN'T FAIR: As I get older it is harder to get a goodnight's sleep. Sure I might doze off during the evening network newscast, but try and get seven hours sleep straight. However things seem to be just the opposite as my dog Sadie gets older. Before last year she and our other dog would get us up to feed them breakfast. Now we're up and showered and have to wake up the 11 ½-yr-old Springer Spaniel so she can eat.



RADIO DAYS: I used to work in radio so when someone asks me to be on their radio show, I normally accept. I used to be a regular guest on the Mike Murphy Show in Kansas City and had a weekly ten minute guest spot on a Baltimore sports talk station when I was a baseball writer. Jamie Allman from KFTK (97.1) asked me if I would appear on his show once a week and talk about West County politics, I accepted even though it meant setting my alarm clock.



97.1's morning man Jamie Allman

Of course if you are talking about West County politics you are talking about mostly Republicans. If you are a regular reader of these newsletters you know I both report news and make fun of some of the local politicians. I'm happy to make fun of Democrats and have done so at the expense of a number of West County Deer Lovers, Charlie Dooley and Claire McCaskill. But let's be realistic, Democrats are scarce out here. The majority of the players in Town and Country plus Chesterfield are from the GOP.

I was on with Marc Cox, who was filling in for Jamie at the end of the year and did a run down on my local state officials serving in Jefferson City starting with Senator Jane Cunningham. I then went to Rep. Sue Allen and finished with Rep. John Diehl, who has collected \$1.078-million in campaign contributions from out of state special interests to run unopposed three times.

Within minutes of being on the air I received an angry email from a listener of the radio show asking how dare I appear on a conservative radio station and make fun of Republicans. He said he would begin immediately getting me removed from the air. I have received exactly three emails about appearing on the Allman in Morning program. Here they are:

From: ssramfan@aol.com [mailto:ssramfan@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 8:04 AM

To: johnhoffmann@charter.net

Subject: Who are you?

Heard you on Allman show this morning, with Marc Cox. Why, I don't know. Are you his illegitimate father or something?

97.1FM is a Conservative Talk station. So he has you on to put down Conservatives. Very funny! NOT!!

I will be advising Jeff Allen to not allow you on the air wave of 97.1, again.

Steve Shull

Sent from my HTC EVO 4G LTE exclusively from Sprint

-----Original Message-----

From: Mitch Murphy [mailto:murphyclan748@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 8:07 AM

To: johnhoffmann@charter.net

Subject: Real news about time

Mr. Hoffmann:

I heard you this morning on the radio. I think honesty, the kind you and Jaimie report, are lacking in St. Louis and the rest of the country.

Thank you for your service.

Mitch Murphy

Sent: Sunday, November 04, 2012 8:41 PM

To: John Hoffmann

Subject: RE: ex alderman newsletter

[I heard you Friday morning on 97.1 while I was driving to KC. You sound taller on the radio.](#)

SPEAKING OF RADIO On Saturday December 29 it was revealed that 81-year-old Richard Miller, former president of the Truman Bank died apparently of natural causes. Prior to the banking business Miller owned two radio stations, KXLW AM 1320 and KADI FM 96.5 and later 96.3.

As a former employee of Miller's as a disc jockey I am amazed he managed to die of natural causes instead of being a murder statistic. His mistreatment of the office staff was legendary. But I have a couple of unique memories working at KADI.



When I was hired I didn't force anyone out. The midnight jock was leaving to go to a Top-40 station in Peoria. Miller apparently was a listener to my weekend morning radio shows that featured a lot of folk music and some rock plus jazz. I interviewed at his apartment on Lindell late on a Sunday morning. He and his blond live-in girlfriend were still in their bed clothes having coffee when I arrived. I have no idea what was discussed other than the money which was a lot to me, almost three times the minimum wage.

KADI had switched from a jazz format that featured legendary black St. Louis radio announcers, such as Spider Burks, Lou "Fatha" Thimes and Leo "The Man in the Red Vest" Cheers, to a bad sounding Top-40 format that lasted about a year. Richard J. Miller then decided to go after what was becoming the fastest rising music station in St. Louis, KSHE. (Back in those days you described St. Louis radio ratings as KMOX and then all the music stations.)

KADI took a short lived slogan of the "KADI Takes You Higher."

It was funny KADI and KXLW were in the same building. The studios were across from each other but were decades apart. KADI had the newest studio, with the newest equipment, plush chairs, deep soft red carpeting and indirect lighting. It was as if it was Miller's alter ego.

Meanwhile KXLW which was on the air during the daytime only had a crummy tile floor, equipment from the 1940s, harsh overhead lights and old furniture. The format at KXLW was Black Gospel. The one announcer I remember was "Brother Columbus Gregory." He was very gifted at selling himself as a friend and pitching sponsors' products and services.

The other big difference between KADI and KXLW was that KXLW was the station that made money. The people working in the studio with the old equipment and broken

furniture were the ones keeping KADI jocks with relatively high pay and nice working conditions. It was grossly unfair.

Back in the 1971 all the TV stations signed off the air between midnight and 1:30am. Most of the radio stations also went off the air late at night. So being a midnight disc jockey means you got a lot more listeners than today. But still there were few advertisers after midnight. The stations aiming at younger people had to stay on the overnight, but often the midnight jocks were as much a station security guard as a disc jockey.

So I was amazed when every night at 12:30am I played a commercial for Eastern Airlines with Orson Wells doing the voice over saying, "Eastern Airlines...The Wings of Man." Even as an 18-year-old I could figure out this made no sense whatsoever. Our sponsors were head shops, clothing stores and concert promoters. I finally asked someone in sales about the commercial and they laughed.

"We recorded that ad off of KSD and you play it at 12:30 every night so we can put it on our list of advertisers when we go out and call on clients. It impresses them and Eastern Airlines has no idea they are advertising on the station."

Miller would do off the wall things like hire people he met on airplanes as disc jockeys, without thinking that he would have to fire someone.

Art Blair was the one clean cut straight arrow at the station. He was from Kansas, wore his hair short and came to work every day in an ironed button down shirt. He worked the 10am to 2pm shift. The first part of his shift there were absolutely no listeners. Kids were either still asleep, at school or listening to Jack Carney on KMOX like everyone else in St. Louis was doing. We all liked Art a lot because he was a regular guy.

Miller met someone on a flight and hired him flying over Ohio. When he got to St. Louis he informed the program director and the decision was made the new guy would take Art's spot. All the hippy disc jockeys were pissed. So was the admin staff. They briefly gave Art a job of ripping the news off the AP wire machine and reading it for newscasts on both stations. He was the only white guy on KXLW. Art was smart and quickly found a job at a small station in the middle of Kansas and moved his family west.

The guy Miller hired turned out to be a Jehovah's Witness and refused to play about a third of the albums in the station's library for religious reasons.

The station's program director at the time was Ron Elz, who was best known as the first Johnny Rabbit at KXOX and later Pete Bunny at WIL. Ron's office was under the studio and if you were playing something he didn't like he would take a broom stick and start pounding on his ceiling which was also the studio's floor to let you know his displeasure.

We thought due to Ron's years in Top-40 radio he would try and restrict what we played by taking a grease pen and marking over about half the cuts on any new rock album. The evening jock started hiding a can of lighter fluid and a cloth in the drop ceiling so we could play tracks that Ron had forbidden. It turned out Zippo lighter fluid was great for removing grease pencil marks.

While others credit Miller with hiring Gary "Records" Brown, I always blamed him for driving several creative formats into the ground, especially when KADI was a jazz station and then giving up too soon on competing against KSHE.

He did the same thing with banks. Federal regulators closed Truman bank in September.

SLICE OF ST. LOUIS: I enjoyed seeing the Al Hirschfeld exhibit at the Sheldon Art Gallery just after New Years. Unfortunately the show has now closed.



Most people associated Hirschfeld with Broadway show, Hollywood movies, the New York Times and The New Yorker. Too many of us forget that Hirschfeld was born in St. Louis in 1903 and moved to New York when he was 10.

He grew up in St. Louis on Kensington Ave, the same street at about the same time where Sally Smith Benson grew up. In 1941 a book of memoirs by Benson called "5135

Kensington Avenue” was serialized in The New Yorker and was what the movie “Meet Me in St. Louis” was based on.



Drawing of the original Smith House



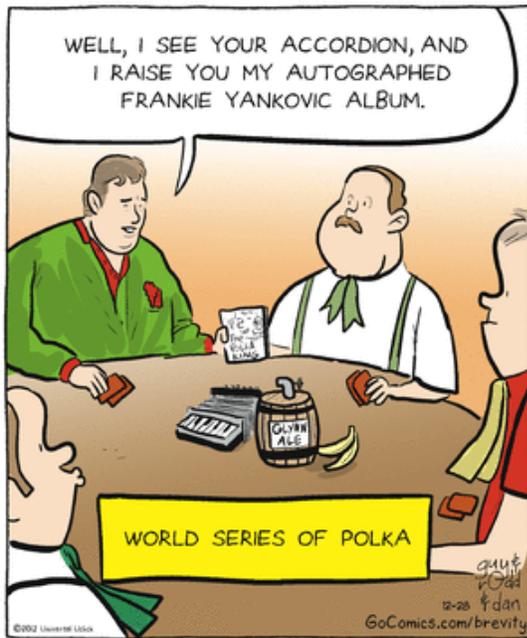
The empty lot where it used to stand



This is the house built by MGM for the movie

HIRSCHFELD ON NETFLIX: If you belong to Netflix I would highly recommend the 1996 documentary movie on Hirschfeld titled, “The Line King.” It is just 86 minutes long. Unfortunately you cannot download it. The movie has to be sent out on DVD, but is highly entertaining if you spent years looking for the “Nina’s” in Hirschfeld’s drawings

CARTOONS:





While driving on County Route 17 in Utah, Boyd and Carl encounter the Fiscal Cliff.

I have been wondering about this for some time. When Congress goes over the Fiscal Cliff do they drive into the Anacostia River in Southeast DC or the Potomac north of Georgetown?

