

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 22

February 01, 2013

By John Hoffmann

SENIOR COUNCILMAN ISSUED STRONG ENDORSEMENT FOR BOB NATION:

Barry Flachsbart one of the founding fathers of the City of Chesterfield, has come out with a strong endorsement of Councilman Bob Nation over Matt Segal in the Chesterfield mayor's race. Flachsbart in his statement stated he felt Nation had the interest of residents first while Segal was more interested in looking after the interests of commercial developers.



Councilman Barry Flachsbart makes it clear why he is endorsing Bob Nation for mayor.

Here is the complete endorsement emailed to us from Flachsbart:

I have endorsed Bob Nation for Mayor of Chesterfield.

Bob is a practical person who looks out for citizen interests.

When the citizens who lived in what is now Chesterfield first worked for the incorporation of a City, they were concerned that the area needed to have good quality development that always kept neighborhood interests in mind. Nancy Greenwood, when she later ran for Mayor, coined the slogan "Neighborhoods First." This fits precisely what those early incorporation advocates intended.

The other candidate for Mayor, Matt Segal, is basically a developer. He worked for a number of years for THF, precisely as a developer. He later moved to other jobs, but always involved in the development industry. I feel I would betray the founders of Chesterfield if I endorsed a person who is a member of the development industry for Mayor.

We need, as Mayor of Chesterfield, someone who is NOT beholden to development interests, but who is concerned first about neighborhood interests. We need someone who favors good development, but with whatever restrictions are needed to ensure that it doesn't adversely impact neighborhoods. Bob Nation is such a person.

MEANWHILE THE CURRENT MAYOR ENDORSES THE OTHER GUY: Since in December shortly after Ward 1 Councilman Matt Segal filed for mayor, current mayor, Bruce Geiger has come out and announced his endorsement of Matt Segal. However, Geiger has not yet gone into the detail of his reasoning as has Flachsbart for his endorsement of Nation.



Mayor Bruce Geiger chats with City Clerk Judy Naggiar about two minutes before the 5pm deadline for filing for municipal office on January 15. Unopposed Ward-2 Councilman Derek Grier looks on.

Geiger and Segal shared one thing. They both lectured residents who spoke at a public hearing against giving special sales taxes to developers of the outlet malls to pay for the mall's construction, in favor of more taxes and the developers.

FIRE BOARD RACE IS DOWN TO TWO WELL KNOWN CANDIDATES: The five-person race for a single seat on the Monarch Fire Protection Board of Directors is now down to two. Current Board President Kim Evans and challenger Russell Lake have withdrawn from the race. Earlier former board president Rick Gans had withdrawn from the race.

The former state GOP office holders, Cole McNary a two-term State Representative and former Senator Jane Cunningham are the lone candidates. Reports indicate the union firefighters are afraid of Cunningham and are backing McNary.

Former fire board director Rick Gans is throwing his support behind Cunningham. When asked why current president Kim Evans is not running, Gans said while he made some mistakes during his time on the board he felt that Evans made even more and those mistakes would be used against her in campaign.

Those mistakes include the scathing audit from the Missouri Auditor that found open meeting law as were being ignored and in one case the board met in secret to fund a \$25,000 employee party. The sex discrimination suit that was started under Gans' helm and finished under the leadership of Evans after Gans lost his bid for reelection could hurt both of them. In October of 2011 the "Evans Board" was supporting the fire district's command staff and when they lost the suit in November the command staff was fired. My question has always been why didn't the "Evans Board" simply settle the suit instead of allowing it to go to trial?



Jane Cunningham



Cole McNary

IRONY: I was on the Jamie Allman morning radio show last week doing a terrible job of explaining how fire districts with 3-person boards and staggered six year terms can be controlled by people who are pro union or anti-union. We of course talked about Jane Cunningham versus Cole McNary. After I was off the air it dawned on me how I missed the irony of the situation, which I was in the middle of 35-years earlier.

In 1978 I was a police detective in Rock Hill. Well, not just a police detective, but THE DETECTIVE on the 13-officer police force. I would try and use my unmarked car and patrol late into the night on at least one weekend night.



My unmarked police car was a 1976 Chevy Nova, like this one.



The last souvenirs from days at the Rock Hill Police Department, a patch, a badge and a photo snapped of me after a liquor law arrest making a phone call from my desk. (Note the liquor bottle on the desk and wall size Miranda Warning behind the bottle, so no one could claim we tried to get them to talk without knowing their rights.)

On this particular Saturday night things were uneventful and at 2:45am I was bringing my gear from the car into the station and planning on going home, when there was a fire call for the Rock Hill fire truck and crew to respond to a fire at a small manufacturing company in University City.

At the time the University City Fire Department had been shut down by a strike of the union firefighters. U-City was depending on neighboring fire departments to answer calls. U-City dispatchers would have to jump over neighboring departments that were staffed by union firefighters to answer Mutual-Aid calls because the union firefighters refused to respond to U City. Some U-City firefighters had threatened violence against any non-union firefighters coming to U. City on a call.

I decided to follow the Rock Hill fire truck to U-City early that morning and provide protection to our firefighters if it was needed.

When we arrived there was a fire that had been set on the loading dock of a small container manufacturing plant which was starting to spread inside the building.

I had parked my car, taken a shotgun and was standing on the Rock Hill fire truck with the firemen. On one street corner there was a surprising large group of striking U-City fireman for 3am. On another corner were several U-City cops. A person carrying an axe handle walked from a group of firefighters walked up to our fire truck. He was drunk and said he was a U-City fire captain. He gave orders like he was in charge of everything and said no one could fight the fire or their fire truck would be damaged and they could be injured. As if he was the Pope he gave his blessing that firefighters could protect nearby houses from blowing embers.

The Rock Hill fire captain in charge of the pumper told me not to intervene decided with all the other fire captains in charge of other fire trucks from neighboring cities not to fight the fire.

All the while the drunken U-City fire captain with the axe handled threatened us, the U-City cops did not budge from their corner.

I stayed with the fire truck until about 9am and watched a company that employed people and paid taxes go out of business as their building burned to the ground from what started as a small fire on a loading dock that could have easily been put out.

After getting some sleep I wrote a detailed report of the incident on how responding firefighters were threatened with violence and damage to their equipment by strikers while U-City cops did nothing. I sent the report to the County Executive, who after receiving it declared a County State of Emergency.

County police officers were assigned to fire trucks in cities neighboring U-City with the orders to take command of the fire truck and firefighters on calls into U. City and to arrest anyone who attempted to interfere with firefighters assigned to that truck. This action help break the strike that ended about a week later.

The county executive who issued the State of Emergency and broke the strike was **GENE MCNARY**, that father of Cole McNary who is now being supported by the union firefighters of the Monarch Fire District. Ironic or what?



Gene McNary who in 1978 as County executive broke a firefighter strike.

CANDIDATES NO SHOW AT MEETING: We went to the January 22 Monarch fire District as we wanted to see the two candidates. Neither showed up! I have seen Jane Cunningham at past meetings and have never spotted McNary.

There were only two of the three members present. Normally Robin Harris is the one missing if there are only two members, as Harris is an airline pilot. But this time Harris was there even with a cough and a cold. It was Steven Swyers who was missing. Swyers was on the phone during most of the meeting, before the connection from Maui went bad.

The meeting was pretty much a snooze with routine business matters plus the annual report from the managers of the employee health care insurance provider and the district's property and casualty provider. After several years of high medical claims and even higher costs of defending lawsuits the insurance company representatives report claims numbers were down significantly.

BOARD SKIPS TERRORISM COVERAGE: The Board did vote to forgo purchase additional "terrorism coverage." The moved saved \$2,783. District attorney Charles Billings stated that for the coverage to go into effect declarations would have to be made from the Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of State and the Attorney General.

"To get three branches of government to agree on something is almost impossible," commented Billings.

Despite this savings the overall premium for insurance coverage has gone up slightly due to the increase in property value after the addition of a new ladder truck by the fire district.

CITY COUNCIL CANCELS FEBRUARY 4 MEETING: The Chesterfield City Council had cancelled its February 4th meeting. This is a sign of good government...no new laws for the first half of February.

AT THE BETTING WINDOW: 2-TO-1 AOL folds up the St. Louis area Patch.com sites by the end of the first quarter. **EVEN MONEY:** The St. Louis Patch.com sites cease to operate by the end of the AOL/Patch fiscal year on June 30. Patch has cut itself to bare bones eliminating non-editor employees. There is almost no local advertising and the editorial content with the reduced staff has been almost laughable at times.

FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

EATING OUT...It's been hard to find a lot of good Chinese restaurants in West County. Some are okay and others are below average. However on the recommendation of a few people on the T&C Newsletter email list, we tried the **Hot Wok Café** on the South 40 Outer Road at Woods Mill in the same shopping center the smoke filled Dave's Famous Bar and the just as smoky Morgan LeFay's.

When we walked in we figured the food would probably be pretty good. There was a large table of Korean-Americans, a smaller table with Chinese-Americans and in a booth were former Town and Country Alderman Larry Satz and his wife. Larry is in China about six times a year on business and was speaking to a waiter in Chinese and using chopsticks. First impressions were correct...the food was very good.



Hot Wok Café dining room.

ESPINOS: Our friend Chris "Lupy" Swan was playing the keyboard on a recent Saturday at Espino's Mexican restaurant located on Chesterfield Airport Road next to Villa Farotto's. My wife and I, plus a friend stopped by to be entertained and have dinner. We arrived at 7pm and the place was PACKED! We got a table on the bar side

so we could still hear Chris play. The line waiting for tables didn't end until about 8:45. I have to say the food was good and reasonably priced.



JAZZ AT MINEO'S: Last Friday night the Doug Bert Quartet was at John Mineo's in the second floor area on top of the bar...The place was packed for the first two sets of the performance between 8-11. It would be a nice touch if Mineo's started having some more jazz nights in the feature. We hear that Mineo's at the corner of Clayton Road and Mason Road will be having some more music events in February, March and April, in celebration of their 40th anniversary.



A drawing of three of the four musicians at Mineo's last weekend. Dave Troncoso on bass, Doug Bert on trombone and Tom Byrne on guitar.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22 AT MINEO'S: The Charley B Trio will be doing songs of Sinatra and the rest of the Rat Pack from 7:30 to 10:30 at Mineo's. Charley, who replaced Walter Scott with Bob Kuban, has been singing with Jim Manley groups now in their second decade.



Charley B at the mic, with Jim Manley on trumpet and Mark Fredrichs on the keyboard.

DEAN CHRISTOPHER, A TOP RAT PACK PERFORMER WILL BE IN WEST COUNTY: Everyone's favorite Rat Packer, Dean Christopher will be doing three Valentine weekend shows at the Dramatic License Theater in Chesterfield Mall. The shows are at 8pm on Friday February 8 and Saturday February 9 with a 3pm show on Sunday February 10.

He will be doing a free show on Sunday February 24 at 3pm with the Big Little Big Band at the Scottish Rite on Lindell.

We are hoping Dean will also be at Mineo's for an appearance in March.



Dean Christopher is one of the best nightclub singers in St. Louis.

THE SCHLAFLY BAR: Wednesday night normally include a trip to Sasha's Wine bar on DeMun in Clayton. It is suppose to be a jazz duo of Jim Manley on trumpet and Chris Swann on the keyboards, however more often than not a number of the musicians show up just to sit in. You never know for sure who will be there but that music is always good.



Sasha's on DeMun.

On this late fall Wednesday night, Joe Bayer from Warrenton was on the sax. Next to him is Colleen Farquhar on the sax before leaving town as a musician on Holland America Lines, Russ Macklem on trumpet who just moved to town from British Columbia, Chris Swan, Jim Manely and a local guitarist all closing the night at Sasha's.

However, a couple of Wednesdays ago we started the night by going to Maplewood and stopping by the Schlafly Brewery. In the bar there is a house band, but different musicians and singers are allowed to come up to do a couple of songs.

The bar side of the restaurant was unique. You could get anything on the menu, but there was no table service. You have to go to the bar and order your drinks and food, which meant screaming at a bartender over a row of people. The drinks would be handed to you but the food would be delivered to your table.

The house band on Wednesday nights allowed different singers and musicians to come up and sit in. Our friend Jerry Moser, the retired athletic director from Hancock Place High School in South County was one of those who often will sit in on Wednesdays. .

Most of the people sitting in would do a rock n' roll or blues song. Jerry on the other hand sings Sinatra songs and other classics from the American Songbook. During our 90 minutes it was a varied visual scene. A lesbian couple was necking in a corner and another same-sex couple was dancing. A pair of hippies easily in their 70's sat at the end of the bar. As Jerry walked toward the stage a guy in biker garb got into a shoving match with someone who was seated at a table....All pretty entertaining.

We had heard mixed reports on the food and ordered a number of side dishes and no main courses. The sides were all delicious.



Our buddy Jerry Moser skews on the old side for the house band at Schlafly's on Wednesday night, by signing a couple of tunes from the Great American Songbook..

JAZZ AT SASHA'S: Really you just never know who will show up and play at Sasha's on Wednesdays...here are seven talented musicians including two from Big Bad Voodoo Daddy a touring show who were in town for a show at the Lumiere. It was Sasha's Big Band that closed the night playing B-Flat Blues.



CARTOONS:





