

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 25

February 27, 2013

By John Hoffmann

TWO COUNCILPERSON VOTE AGAINST LIQUOR AT BALLPARKS: On the agenda of Wednesday February 20th City Council meeting were two liquor license applications. One was for Pinot's Palette at 1641 Clarkson Road. The other was for the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex. This second one was to add wine sales to the already existing beer sales for the concession stands at the baseball fields.

City Administrator Mike Herring commented that there is already a 5% beer license at the ball fields and added that some tournaments require liquor licenses before they will rent a complex.

Having covered high school sports for newspapers I have to think alcohol and helicopter parents of high school athletes are a terrible mix. Parent can be obnoxious enough sober without an bad conduct booster from liquor sales.

Apparently Councilwoman Connie Fults shares the same thinking. She announced in the agenda meeting and at the regular meeting that she voted against allowing beer sales at the ball fields and will also vote against adding wine sales as she thought it was inappropriate. At the regular meeting Derek Grier joined her in voting no, as the liquor license was approved 6-2.



Parents at a Georgia Little League game duke it out.

\$361,500 FOR PARK “ENHANCEMENTS” Of the \$361,500 the Council appropriated from non budgeted reserves, the one thing I noticed right away as something that reminded me of the White Star Line, most famous for the Titanic. White Star and then Cunard who took over White Star in 1936 had first class, second class and steerage, where the Irish usually were located.

Well it seems as if Chesterfield is going to a class system as they approved \$35,000 for a VIP patio at the city’s new amphitheater. So much for all Chesterfield residents being equal on city property!



Chesterfield is spending \$35,000 for a VIP patio...common residents stay away.

The largest amount being spent on a park enhancement is \$154,000 to put covers on the baseball bleachers. Can you call them bleachers if they block the sun?



Are they still bleachers if the sun doesn’t reach you?

MAYOR GEIGER OPENS MEETING THINKING HE IS IN LADUE: It was Susan Sullivan Day in Chesterfield on Wednesday February 20. Sullivan, a math teacher at the Chesterfield Day School had received a teaching award and the city was going to recognize, but we were not sure what city at first. Mayor Bruce Geiger asked for Susan Sullivan “teacher at Country Day School” to step forward. Suddenly there was a chorus of whispers “Chesterfield Day not Country Day.”



Mayor Bruce Geiger with math teacher Susan Sullivan, who he first announced was from the famous Ladue school, Country Day.

COUNCILMAN LOGAN CALLS COLLEAGUES WUSSIES: Calling your fellow councilmen wussies might actually make you a wussie. The night before a predicted Thursday Ice and Snow storm, the City of Chesterfield cancelled all meetings scheduled for that night. At the Wednesday City Council meeting Ward-3 Councilman Randy Logan announced that the Thursday night meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee had been cancelled. He added “It’s not that I can’t make it. It was done for the other wussies,” said Logan nodded his head toward other councilpersons. You have to wonder if Logan, who drives a pretentious Porsche 911, isn’t a Wussie for calling his colleagues “Wussies.”

LONG DISCUSSION OVER CITY ADMINISTRATOR REVIEW: The City Council went into executive session 35 minutes before the regular meeting and backed into secret session at the end of the regular meeting. The topic was the annual review of City Administrator Mike Herring. I hope someone brought up the ethics of accepting World Series Tickets to a company suite in 2011 from the city’s lone trash collection contractor, who had its contract renewed without competitive bids.

FORMER CHESTERFIELD POLICE OFFICERS DISCRIMINATION SUIT SET FOR TRIAL IN AUGUST: William Whiteley, a police officer who the City of Chesterfield laid off while he was on light duty due to an off-the-job injury. He received approval to file suit against the city from the Missouri Commission on Human Rights on April 12, 2011. On July 8, 2011 Whiteley filed suit.

A well known tactic in these types of employment suits is to delay and delay some more, until the plaintiff is out of money or dead. The City of Chesterfield does not seem

to be in a big hurry to go to trial on this suit. The latest from the courthouse is the case is set for trial on August 5, 2013. Depositions are now schedule which will of course cost more money from Whiteley and for the City of Chesterfield

CUNNINGHAM BRINGS \$150,000 TO FIRE DISTRICT RACE: Let's face it Jane Cunningham was a popular state senator in the very Republican West County snoburbs. Over the years people were happy to give her campaign contributions and no one dared to run against her. This left her is a rather healthy campaign war chest when she was redistricted out of a job in 2012. Cunningham brings with her to the Monarch Fire District race \$151,140 from her preexisting campaign fund.

At the end of his unsuccessful run for State Treasurer Cole McNary, Cunningham's opponent, had \$630 left in the bank after starting with \$567,806. While Cunningham kept her committee going and her campaign finance records can be found online, McNary closed out his online committee and started a new one that is only on file with the St. Louis County Elections Board.



At the 40-day before the election filing McNary had the new committee but did not have any contributors. Cunningham had both money and contributors.

According to Cunningham's 40-day report he has had three contributors, the largest being \$1,000 from the Romney Victory Fund on February 4. The Chesterfield residents gave \$500 and \$100 to the cause, plus a campaign fund of a Parkway School District candidate that gave \$200. Going into March after having printed material produced and a mailing Jane has \$144,416 on hand.

MAYOR'S RACE OFFERS NO SURPRISES...ONE CANDIDATE GETTING FUNDS FROM HOMEOWNERS THE OTHER FROM DEVELOPERS: The Chesterfield mayor's race was framed as the candidate who puts development over residents' wishes and the other who would put new tax sources on a back burner behind the rights

of homeowners...looking at the campaign money trail that seems to be an accurate assessment.

Chesterfield's current mayor, Bruce Geiger, is **Matt Segal's** campaign treasurer. Geiger's first campaign finance filing for Segal on February 20 showed \$250 to \$2,000 contributions, many from DEVELOPERS! Segal did take in \$1,675 in contributions \$100 or under, but he is not required to identify who gave those and he did not. He also loaned his campaign \$5,000. Segal raised \$16,775 by the time he filed his first campaign finance report.



Here are some of the contributions Segal has received:

- \$250 Bill Karabas(not the former Florissant Police Chief, but the guy who lives on Ladue Farms Road)
- \$1,000 Dan Hayes with DESCO, the property and shopping center development arm of Schnucks.
- \$1,000 from Sandy King of Clayton who works for JSH Financial of Phoenix
- \$1,000 from Thomas Stern of Creve Coeur who works for Solon Gershman, the Commercial real estate company
- \$500 Décor Interiors
- \$2,500 Brinkman Construction
- \$200 The Levys of Champaign, IL
- \$200 The Levys of Beverly Hills, CA
- \$500 Wolfe Properties
- \$150 BFC Enterprises Brentwood, MO. A maker of ATMS, amusement games and Jukeboxes
- \$1,000 Ed Schweig, a Chesterfield resident, who is an insurance broker in Town and Country

Looking at these contributions the claim of opponent Bob Nation and his supporters the Segal is in the pocket of developers seems to have some credence, especially since Segal used to work for the largest commercial developer in Chesterfield.

Segal is filing paper reports at the Board of Elections which residents cannot look up on their computers.

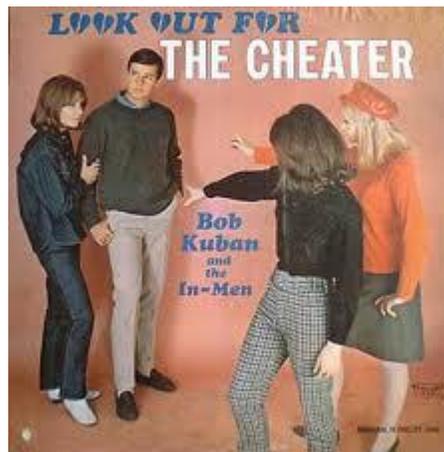
Bob Nation is filing online with the Missouri Ethics Commissions. Anyone can look up his contributors.

At the 40-day Filing deadline Nation has just \$1,672 on hand compared to \$12,593 on hand in Segal's account. This should mean you will be getting a lot more mailers from Segal in the upcoming weeks.



Of 29 contributors to Nation, 27 of them are from Chesterfield and there were no businesses. The highest amount given was \$250, but most were under \$100. The most famous person to contribute to the mayor's race was Bob Kuban who gave \$25 to Nation.

Kuban's group, "Bob Kuban and the IN-Men" hit number 12 on the top 40 charts in 1966 with a record they recorded in 1965 called "The Cheater." However, the Kuban band was known to most St. Louisians over the age of 60 because they were regulars at CYC Dances and on the river boat The Admiral.



COUNCIL RACES:

Ward 1 Nancy Greenwood has support from herself and from smaller contributors, much like Nation. You don't have to report who gave contributions under \$100. While Nation did, Greenwood did not. She reported that she received \$1,565 for people giving \$100 or less. She also loaned her campaign \$4,800

Her two contributors over \$100 was former Monarch fire District president Rick Gans, who gave \$150 and Scott Johnson who contributed \$500.

The former mayor went into March with \$6,433 on hand.

Melissa Heberle's disclosure form was handwritten. She had seven contributors before February 20, all she did not need to report since they gave \$100 or less but she did report anyway.

She had two \$100 contributions, three \$50 gifts, two \$25 donations and one for \$48.25. The biggest infusion into her bank account was a \$2,050 loan from her husband. She goes into March with \$2,293.08 on hand.

Adelaida Peterson, the beauty queen who was the first to file for the Ward-1 council seat has not yet formed a committee or filed a report. You do not have to file a committee if you spend less than \$1000.

The deadline for forming a committee is March 3.

In **Ward 3 incumbent Randy Logan** had formed a committee but had not as of February 20 accepted any campaign contributions.



Former councilman Dan Hurt had filed his committee and contributors online with the ethics commission. He listed just two local resident contributors, who each gave \$100. On February 18, Hurt had just that \$200 in his campaign bank account.

David Sodemann, Sr. had not yet filed a committee report.

Ward 4: None of the Ward 4 candidates had formed committees or filed contributions reports. Committees must be formed by March 3 for April elections, unless the candidates do not spend over \$1,000.

SMITTY'S ATTACK UPDATE: As of today there has not been an upgrading of charges from ordinance violation to felony assault in the attack on Smitty's bartender/waitress Nancy Seaman by drunken customer Jayne Baning. The attack left a deep cut on Seamon's face that required 81 stitches to close. Police officials quietly admit that writing a citation to the suspect was a mistake.

QUITE A HEADLINE: Leave it to patch.com with their skeleton staff to come up with one of the worst headlines I have seen in recent years. It comes courtesy of Frank Johnson the latest editor of the Chesterfield Patch.com.

Police Blotter: Shoplifters Target Chesterfield Mall

Check out this week's collection of incident reports from the Chesterfield Police Department.

- By [Frank Johnson](#)
- [Email the author](#)
- February 17, 2013

Now exactly where else does Mr. Johnson expect shoplifters to target? Maybe a large end appliance store or a new car dealership?

MEDIA VIEW: Gail Pennington Disses her Audience: I know newspapers want their writers to skew younger, but let's face it...it's us old people who are keeping newspapers afloat with our subscriptions and visit to their websites.

People under 30 have no use for newspapers or newspaper websites. I can remember when I would be with friends or on a date when we suddenly decided to go to a movie. The next move would be to walk up to a newspaper box take a quarter out of your pocket and buy a newspaper to get the movie listings. Often it was the same paper I

had read earlier in the day. Nowadays, you pull out your iPad. I could not even tell you where the closest newspaper box is to my house.

In her column in Sunday's Post Dispatch, the day of the Oscar telecast, Gail Pennington wrote her list of the five best and worst Oscar hosts...for the last 25 years. Apparently only those readers who watched the Oscars since 1988 needed to continue reading. For those of us who remember Julie Andrews' complete revenge in 1966 when Sound of Music won best picture after My fair Lady won in 1965 with Audrey Hepburn replacing Andrews who did the role of Eliza Doolittle on Broadway. (Andrews won best actress in 1965 for Mary Popins and Hepburn was not even nominated for My Fair Lady.)

In 1968 Bob Hope was the Oscar host and the movie In the Heat of the Night filmed basically in a St. Louis suburb, won the Best Picture, Best Actor, best Screenplay and Best Editing Oscars. While the film was set in Sparta, Mississippi, it was filmed in Sparta, Illinois south of Belleville.

Bob Hope hosted 19 Oscar Award Shows dating back to 1939. He last hosted in 1979. He must have been very good to do the hosting 19 times.

Now George Jessel hosted the Academy Awards just once in 1937. I have a feeling the jokes would have been so inside Hollywood that only members of the Hillcrest Country Club would have gotten them.

Perhaps one of the best hosts was Will Rogers, who hosted the awards in 1934. Goodness knows the few film clips from the era showed Rogers to be extremely funny. He died the next year in the plane crash with Wily Post.

Johnny Carson hosted the awards five times in years where The Deer Hunter, Kramer versus Kramer, Ordinary People, Chariots of Fire and Terms of Endearment won as best picture. But Pennington would have us forget those years. Here is what she wrote:

Here are our picks for [the five best Oscar hosts](#) of the last 25 years (honestly, who remembers at this point how Hope did when he hosted with Thelma Ritter in 1955?) — [and the five worst.](#)

Here is what I wrote in the comment box at the end of her column:

“Who can remember Bob Hope or Johnny Carson as hosts? Oh MY God Gail! Who do you think still reads newspapers and newspaper websites. It is us old people who remember Bob Hope and Johnny Carson as Oscar hosts. Throw us a bone and put them in the 1-2 position and then do the rest of your list.”

MUSIC AND FOOD:

CHARLIE B. TRIO AT MINEO'S: On Friday February 22, The Charlie B. Trio made their debut performance at John Mineo's on Clayton Road at Mason Road doing three hours of Rat Pack and Vegas style songs from the loft over the bar. They seemed to be a hit. They will be making a rare one night only performance on Thursday March 7 at Jimmy's on the Park on DeMun in Clayton from 8-11.



BIG LITTLE BIG BAND AND DEAN CHRISTOPHER FILLED UP THE SCOTTISH RITE: On Sunday February 24 there was a free concert at the Scottish Rite on Lindell, featuring some of the top big band musicians in town, many having played for the Air Force Band. I hyped the event and I have to say I didn't run into any readers, but it was a big hit.



Dean Christopher knocks out songs of Sinatra with the Scott Vignassi Big band behind him.

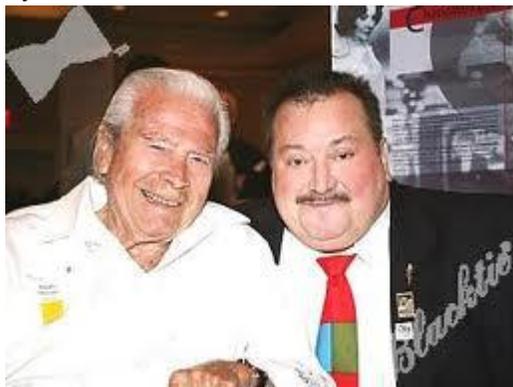


The Rhythm section of a big band is like the gasoline to an engine. Butch Gray is on the keyboard, Joe Weber on the drums and Jeremy Pfeffer on the bass. If you have ever seen Joe Weber at Jazz at the Bistro in a Jim Manley band including Wild Cool and Swinging, you will remember his drum work on Caravan or Rocky...not from the boxing movies, but from the Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoon shows.

US AIR FORCE BAND FREE PERFORMRANCE AT SCOTTISH RITE: The full Air Force Band will be at the Scottish Rite on Lindell on Wednesday March 13 from 7pm to 9pm. The event is free, but tickets are required. You can get the free tickets by going to the Air Force Band of Mid-America at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4913070125>



POPULAR JAZZ DISC JOCKEY DEAD: 60-year-old Ross Gentile died of a heart attacked on Friday February 22.



Ross at the WSIE microphone Ross with former St. Louis band leader Buddy Moreno

I had talked to Ross two days before his death at the Route 66 Jazz Orchestra concert in Ballwin at the Sky Music Lounge.

Ross had his daily Standards in Jazz radio show on WSIE for over 20 years. He also was the MC at a number of jazz concerts at the old Finale Nightclub. Ross was famous was telling fascinating stories from the world of music and records from his career as a national record promoter for Herb Alpert's A&M records.

Often he would tell a scandalous story about a well known recording artist, who he had to keep off elevators with small boys during a national tour or a temperamental diva who refused to ride in anything but a limo and was late for the Jack Carney Show at KMOX only to have Carney refuse to put her on the air because of her tardiness.



last summer.

Gentile doing the announcing for a big band concert in Webster Groves

During his 20-years at WSIE students did rip and read newscasts often with terrible results, with 20-year-olds either unfamiliar with local and world events or local street and city pronunciations. But the worst was when a young woman instead of announcing at the end of her newscast “Now for more jazz with Ross Gen-Till-ie” she made it sound like she was broadcasting from Tel Aviv when she made Ross a non-Jew and announced, “Now back to more jazz with Ross Gen-Tile.” I kidded him about that for at least two years.

CARTOONS:

