

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 26

March 09, 2013

By John Hoffmann

NEWSLETTER IS GOING ON VACATION: This newsletter will be taking a vacation and will return at the end of the month. Please be advised our house will not be empty. Besides being guarded by two dogs, a well armed County Police officer's mom will be house- sitting. We hope to have some interesting reading for you by the end of March.



The newsletters staff will be enjoying English civility on the Queen Elizabeth.

THE ROCKWOOD DILEMMA: When I was writing columns on Chesterfield politics the Rockwood School district kept giving me gift after gift which translates into plenty of material for 800-word columns.

In December of 2011 I wrote a Patch.com column nominating Kim Cranston and Gina Tarte, the media specialists for the Rockwood School district for “employees of the year” for having to deal with all the bad press generated by the school board and management staff in 2011. Here is a brief roundup:

- * Superintendent Bruce Borchers, recently hired from Minnesota, hired two friends from Minnesota as special consultants for a few weeks over the summer for \$17,000.
- * Next Borchers hired his friends as fulltime employees at salaries of \$138,000 and \$125,000 a year.
- * The hiring caused a firestorm and a special Board of Education meeting was called. The new superintendent made sure taxpayers were not allowed to address the Board at the meeting.

- * Glenn Construction Company had been overseeing Rockwood construction projects since 1992. In 2004 Glenn Construction hire school board president Stephen Smith as a project manager.
- * The Post-Dispatch reported that Glenn Construction received new construction contracts without the sealed bids from other construction companies ever being opened.
- * The Post-Dispatch reported that Glenn Construction was given free office space at a Rockwood School district Building.
- * I determined that Glenn Construction was using the address of the office space on Rockwood School district property as their official corporate address with the Missouri Secretary of State's office.
- * Eureka Police charged a Rockwood teacher with using a district credit card for personal purchases .
- * In November of 2011 Rockwood paid a retiring teacher \$100,600 for sick days not used.
- * Just before the end of the year a school board member announced they were disgusted with all the problems and resigned.

Normally media information specialists have to really work to get PR fluff pieces in the local media. Here was a case of too much scandalous information over a short amount of time received saturated media coverage.

AUDITOR'S FINDINGS: As a direct result of the events of 2011 Rockwood taxpayers managed to get a special state audit of the school district.

Missouri Auditor Thomas Schweich announced the results of the audit last week. Not so surprisingly Schweich found fault with the district claiming they overspent \$1.2 million in payments to Glenn Construction.

While Board president Stephen Smith claimed he always abstained from votes involving payments to Glenn Construction, apparently he did not abstain from votes that awarded contracts and projects to Glenn Construction, where he was a fulltime employee. The auditor did not miss this fact.

Superintendent Borchers' contract called for a \$150,000 in life insurance, but the school district was providing him \$500,000 worth of life insurance.

The auditor found a lack of competitive bidding and poor credit card control and review.

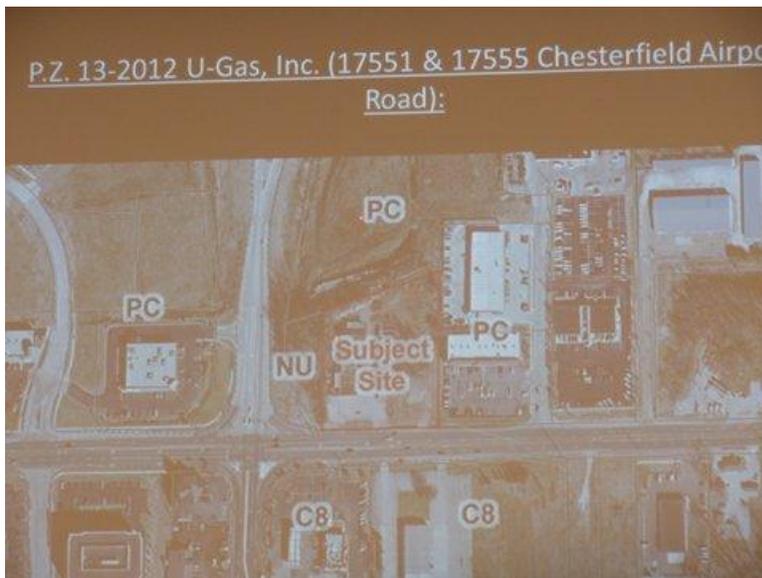
The school district's responses to the audit were laughable. On the lack of competitive bidding, their answer was that by law they don't have to always have competitive

bidding. Concerning Smith's conflict of interesting voting on new contracts for his employer Glenn Construction, Rockwood simply said Smith did not vote on issuing payment for the work that Smith had voted for.

On the \$1.2 million in overpayments to Glenn Construction, the school district did not rebut the findings. They simply said they payments were allowed under the terms of the contract.

Within a week of the audit Smith resigned from the School Board, something most people were thinking he should have done in 2011.

U-GAS GAS STATION AND CONVENIENCE STORE GETS APROVAL PENDING TRAFFIC STUDY FROM PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: The gas station and convenience planned for the north side of Chesterfield Airport Road east of Long, across from the McDonalds got tentative approval from the PW and Planning committee on Thursday, but don't expect construction for the U-Gas station to start immediately.



At an earlier Planning and Zoning meeting the owner of the BP station across the street complained about the U-gas stating there was not a need for another gas station. That was not exactly the American way, trying to stop competition. The proposal passed. The property has no exit onto Long Road.

At the Public Works and Planning level Councilwoman Connie Fults from Ward-4 was not in a big hurry.



“I’m very, very concerned about the traffic. I’m concerned we have a median to restrict left turns,” said Fults. “They better not get in a rush. We are going to call it back and look at it,” she added. (Unlike the BP and McDonalds the U-Gas would not have an entrance/exit point on Long road where traffic could use a stop light for left turns.) don’t expect any final action from the Council until after more traffic studies.

RENEWABLE ENERGY: This was a subject where some councilperson would like to form some legislation to stick their noses into what property owners can do and not do about putting up solar panels and wind generators. However, the ruling by a Jefferson City circuit judge on the Clarkson Valley case has created case law restricting cities from regulating solar power.

Committee Chair Randy Logan, who as if he isn’t pretentious enough with his Porsche 911 with illegally tinted license- plate covers parked outside, mentioned that he is installing solar panels at his “dock at the lake” added, “I think it is time we are attacking this issue.” He then thought after speaking and added, “Maybe I shouldn’t have said attack.”

Councilpersons also made light of a resident who is using solar power to heat their pool.

It was also brought up that wind energy is not practical in this part of Missouri as there is not enough sustain wind on a daily basis, but they need to have regulation for people who want it anywhere. For a bunch of Republicans these people sure want a lot of regulations.

SNOW REIMBURSEMENT TO SUBDIVISIONS AND CONDO COMMUNITIES: City Director of Public Services, Mike Geisel, used 13 years worth of data to show there has been unfair reimbursements to some private subdivision and condo areas for snow removal. These areas with private non-gated streets have to provide their own snow removal, but the city will reimburse a portion of the costs. In 2013 the city has set aside \$75,000 to reimburse for snow plowing.

Geisel showed that the city has paid as little as \$16 per living unit and as much as \$50 in the same year to these people controlling private streets. In 2005 one of the lightest snow years, the difference was as much as \$2 for some compared to \$48 per unit for others. .

Geisel said he feels the city has been reimbursing some groups for extra service that shouldn't be paid for, such as sidewalk and driveway clearing.

He proposed a reimbursement rate at either \$40 per housing unit or \$4500 per centerline mile, whichever is larger.

OLD NAVY IS ON THE MOVE ALONG WITH GOLF GALAXY: Planning director Amiee Nasiff told the committee that Old Navy will be leaving Chesterfield Mall and should be moving into the current location of the Galaxy Golf store in Chesterfield Valley and Galaxy Golf will be moving into the empty Big Lots store.

CANDIDATE SEGAL SOWS HIS CAMPAIGN TREASURER NEW CAMPAIGN MATERIAL ON HIS CITY TABLET: When I walked into the Planning and P/W Committee meeting in the rear conference room, outgoing mayor Bruce Geiger who is also Matt Segal's campaign treasurer was sitting next to Segal at the conference table. Segal was showing him campaign material with a red background and Segal for Mayor Banner.

The only problem was the material being shown Geiger was on Segal's city issued tablet. When I sat down behind them, Segal switched off the campaign material before I could snap a photo.

This may be a little nitpicking, but I don't think Chesterfield residents paid for computer tablets for councilpersons to be used for political campaigns.



Matt Segal left in front of his city provided computer tablet with his campaign treasurer, Mayor Bruce Geiger to the right.

CITY'S OFFER FOR A FREE ROOM FOR HOMEOWNERS COMES WITH A PRICE:

It is odd but city hall conference rooms and auditoriums are made available to homeowner associations to hold meetings, but the groups consisting of city residents are not allowed to use the audio visual equipment in the room to do a power-point presentation or even use the speaker system in a larger room. Of course the citizens in theory paid for the equipment and do not want to use it for a commercial purpose...but are forbidden to.

For the power point it would involve turning on a switching and plugging in their laptop to the existing system. City rules recently changed says only city employees can operate the systems. However at all of these meetings two councilpersons, the mayor and a police officer (Community Relations Officer) normally are in attendance.

Contested Municipal Election to the Rescue: Here is a recent email from a trustee of one of the larger subdivisions in town trying to use the system. At first he was turned down flat. He got an estimate from an A/V company that wanted to charge just under \$500 to bring in their equipment. This started with a request to have a microphone available and the speakers working. Then they realized they would not be able to make their power-point presentation either. Suddenly a councilman looking for votes in a reelection bid comes to the rescue for the sound system, but not the power-point.

From: Pamela Dagestad [<mailto:pdagestad@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 11:56 AM

To: Jeanie Black

Subject: Claymont Woods Subdivision Meeting

Hi Jeanie,

I wanted to make sure that we will have access to a microphone for the Claymont Woods subdivision meeting planned for March 14th. Please let me know if there is anything special I need to do for this request. I believe I put it on the application form.

Thanks,

Pam Dagestad

Secretary, Clamont Woods Resident Association

From: Jeanie Black <JBlack@chesterfield.mo.us>

To: Pamela Dagestad <pdagestad@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, March 1, 2013 12:12 PM

Subject: RE: Claymont Woods Subdivision Meeting

Hi Pam,

We do not have equipment available to the public. I'm sorry for this inconvenience.

Thanks,

Jeanie Black

Customer Service Representative

Chesterfield City Hall

690 Chesterfield Pkwy W

Chesterfield, MO 63017

From: Pamela Dagestad [<mailto:pdagestad@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Sunday, March 03, 2013 9:39 AM

To: Todd Williams; Rick Van Bokkelen; Chip Obert; Richard Anderson

Subject: Fw: Claymont Woods Subdivision Meeting

Based on this response from Chesterfield, we need to provide a sound system. Is this possible from the AV provider?

I have updated the presentation, version 4, with the slide for Retention Pond update. Richard, I tried to update the font color to be black on the master but I was not able to accomplish that. If you want to make the font color consistent feel free and then give me a powerpoint lesson.

The powerpoint is on the files on the website under annual meeting.

Pam

From: D. Todd Williams [<mailto:dtoddw@charter.net>]

Sent: Sunday, March 03, 2013 11:29 AM

To: Randy Logan; 'Randy Logan'; Mike Casey; Mike Casey
Cc: Bruce Geiger
Subject: FW: Claymont Woods Subdivision Meeting/Chesterfield City Hall AV issues

Councilmen Logan & Casey,

We realize that bringing out projectors and screens has not been possible for the citizens, but is there no way we can use the audio system without too much trouble. It seems a little excessive for a Neighborhood meeting to spend close to \$500 for rental equipment when we as citizens have paid for all the equipment in the building.

We appreciate any help you can assist us with.

Best Wishes,

D. Todd Williams
Central District Trustee
Claymont Woods Subdivision

From: Mike Casey [<mailto:mcasey@metalexchangecorp.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 6:13 AM
To: D. Todd Williams
Cc: rlogan@wallachtrading.com
Subject: RE: Claymont Woods Subdivision Meeting/Chesterfield City Hall AV issues

I will ask staff to respond to your request.

Michael Casey
Metal Exchange Corporation
111 West port Plaza Suite 700
St. Louis, MO. 63146-3016
314-542-7277 (O)
314-614-5971 (M)
314-851-4927 (F)

From: D. Todd Williams [<mailto:dtoddw@charter.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 2:06 PM
To: 'Mike Casey'; Randy Logan; 'Randy Logan'
Cc: 'Bruce Geiger'
Subject: RE: Claymont Woods Subdivision Meeting/Chesterfield City Hall AV issues

Councilman Casey & Councilman Logan,

I have attached a copy of our invoice for the equipment we must rent to hold a meeting in our City Hall. I realize \$500 is a small amount when you are talking about the budget for the city, but we are a neighborhood and we are trying to be good stewards of every dollar we collect.

If there is another person I can take this matter up with please forward me their contact info.

D. Todd Williams
Central District Trustee
Claymont Woods Subdivision

From: Randy Logan [<mailto:rlogan@wallachtrading.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 10:22 AM
To: D. Todd Williams; 'Mike Casey'; 'Randy Logan'
Cc: 'Bruce Geiger'
Subject: RE: Claymont Woods Subdivision Meeting/Chesterfield City Hall AV issues

Todd,

Sorry I was out of pocket yesterday. I will be attending your meeting, and will have the audio turned on for your use. Per our discussion last year, it is city policy that staff alone may use the video equipment, and then only for city business. I am sorry for your inconvenience, and hope you understand.

Randy Logan
Wallach Trading Co., Inc.
16052 Swingley Ridge Rd, Ste 202
Chesterfield, MO 63017
Office: 636-536-0065
Cell: 314-574-9996

We understand all the candidates for city council from Ward-3 including Randy Logan will be there plus candidates for the fire district.

IS JOHN DIEHL ON A DIET OR JUST WAITING FOR THE GOOD STUFF: This just in from Jefferson City, State Rep. John Diehl, who last year accepted \$4950 in free food, gifts and tickets from lobbyists must be on a diet. In January of 2013, one of the

greediest state representatives of 2012 accepted a mere \$17.21 meal from the cable industry's lobbyist. His staff got two meals totaling \$14.

Recently Craig Cheatham on KMOV did a story on an Illinois lawmaker who despite getting a \$100-plus a day per diem had accepted over \$2,600 in free meals from lobbyists. I laughed...a mere \$2,600 in free stuff...that is nothing compared to the Missouri floor majority leader, John Diehl of Town and Country.



I wrote to Cheatham pointing out that Diehl raked in \$4950 in food and gifts from lobbyists in 2012. Plus Diehl has raised over \$1,000,000 in campaign contributions to run unopposed since 2008.

Diehl is paid \$36,000 a year for the four-month legislative session plus \$98.10 per diem for food and lodging. Guess what that comes out to just under \$500 a week to try and survive on in Jefferson City, where hotel rooms at the "government rate" should still leave \$35 a day for food.

In January of 2012 Diehl accepted \$2,660 in food and gifts from lobbyists, including a nice winter trip to San Diego that included meals valued at \$70, \$100 and \$155. His total in free meals for January of 2012 came to \$391.20. Do I think that Diehl is suddenly avoiding lobbyists and their gifts? No. I think he must be on a diet.

THE SURVEY SAYS...THE SESSION IS OVER AND I JUST WASTED A LOT OF MONEY: I thought it was more than a little odd when I received a Legislative Survey from John Diehl in the last week of February. Diehl seemed rather insincere in his desire to get my opinion. Instead of getting my opinion on issues before the start of the 2013 Legislative Session, he sent out the survey half way through the session.

By the time Diehl would get the surveys back and tabulate the results the four-month long session will be over.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING AT FIRE DISTRICT MEETING: I received an email on Thursday that I should attend the Monarch Fire District meeting that night. There was no reason given, but I hated to ignore a tipster.

At the start of the meeting Board President, Kim Evans, along with Fire Chief Tom Vineyard were missing. They were both at the Central Country E911 Dispatch Board meeting in Ellisville. Evans arrived after the start of the meeting.

Board member and treasurer, Robin Harris opened the meeting. When it was time for his report he ended it making several statements. The first was that he was tired of people claiming the fire district is not following state law by not having a balanced budget.

“Every year the budget is balanced,” said Harris.

Harris is supporting former State Senator Jane Cunningham who is running against



former State Rep Cole McNary for Evan’s seat.

McNary has been claiming the district’s budget is not balanced and is using that as a campaign issue.

Next Harris stated that the position of the new public education officer would relieve first line firefighters and paramedics from attending school and community association talks. He said he attended several talks in recent weeks and saw both the public education officer, whose salary is \$90,000 plus firefighters and medics in attendance. He commented that the point of the public education officer was to keep the firefighters and medics in service.

Finally Harris began reading from a script about a possible sunshine law violation.

“I have copies of emails between you, Steve (looking at board member Steven Swyers), and Kim discussing district business without copying me, excluding the public and me as an elected official.”

Steve Swyers looked at Harris and asked, “What office are you running for Robin?”



Steve Swyers accusing fellow board member Robin Harris of making a campaign speech.

At this point Kim Evans arrived and announced, “I certainly walked into something unpleasant. I feel like I walked into a campaign.”

The Fire District Problem: If a Board of Aldermen or City Council with eight elected members have five or more members present discussing city business, it is a quorum and a public meeting per Missouri law. Since Monarch has kept its Board of Directors at only three, anytime two members discuss anything related to the fire district it is technically an official meeting. Frankly all emails between two members should include a copy to the third member just to avoid this claim.

After the meeting I went to Harris and asked when the emails were sent and what were they about. He said the emails were sent about a year ago. He added that he did not want to divulge them without first checking with the District’s attorney. I reminded him that he just minutes earlier claimed the public was being withheld information and now he was withholding it.

It seemed to me that Harris should have been prepared to release the emails before bringing the subject up.

I asked Swyers about what the emails were about and he said he didn’t know, because Harris had just handed them to him and he had not read them yet.

Swyers added that when he was first elected two years ago he suggested that the Board be increased to five members so two board members talking would not be in violation of the Open Meeting and Sunshine laws by having a conversation.

“If I talked to Robin about anything to do with the district just before walking in for the meeting or on the parking lot after a meeting it’s technically a violation,” he said.

CHESTERFIELD RESIDENTS STUCK PAYING TOO MUCH FOR FIRE

DISAPTCHING: I spoke with the departing Board president Kim Evans after the meeting about CCE911 still charging Monarch residents far more than Frontenac, Des Peres or other original members of the dispatching service. She said it is a concern of hers. She added they are hoping to get the Chesterfield resident’s fire dispatch property tax down from 5-cents to 3-cents on the \$100 valuation. (They are paying 5-cent property tax plus a 9-1-1 sales tax.)

She thought it would not be until 2015 before Monarch was charged the same as all the other districts and departments per each dispatched call.

The dispatch center is adding all the south county fire departments on July 1 and some North county departments are talking about joining the service, which is currently hiring more dispatchers and call takers.

MOVIE TIME: I was not up to speed on this one, but Fire Marshal Roger Herin is proposing the district hold movie nights at an engine bay at headquarters or fire stations.

“We would invite families to come and view a movie and then give them a fire safety talk too,” he said.

He did not mention the titles of movies he was planning to show. Families going out to see old movies is a bit passé since they now just download old movies at home.

This tells me that the Monarch Fire District really does not have that many calls to answer if they have time to double as a movie theater.

BOTH CANIDATES AT MEETING: Cole McNary and Jane Cunningham where both at the meeting.

AN ADMISSION OF GUILT IN ELLISVILLE: The battle between the first year mayor and political newcomer Adam Paul in Ellisville and the City Council plus City Attorney that was reported in our Special Newsletter continues. With the mayor currently suspended, on Wednesday March 6 the Council voted to hire a public relations firm.

Things are looking so bad with not only the local residents but the St. Louis area public in general over the trumped up charges the city council has filed to impeach 32-year-old mayor and political novice Adam Paul. Paul was elected 11 months ago on a platform of being against giving a TIF to Wal Mart to build a new store on Manchester Road at Clarkson Road.

Recently the Missouri History Museum hired a well known St. Louis PR firm after it was reported how the Museum had squandered tax money on a real estate purchase of contaminated land belonging to board member and former St. Louis mayor Freeman Bosley and giving extravagant salaries and benefits to the former director Robert Archibald.

When you have to hire a PR firm to handle all the bad press you have basically already admitted you are guilty.

In the case of Ellisville the PR firm Casey Communications was hired on Wednesday night.

ELLISVILLE DROPS SOME CHARGES AGAINST MAYOR: If you read our special report on Ellisville Gone Crazy...we mention some of the charges for impeachment against Mayor Adam Paul included that he may have been drinking clear liquid that might have been an intoxicant at an unknown time on an unknown date. We also wrote how he was being charged with using the words "shit" and "shitty" in a closed executive session meeting.

Here are some lyrics recently sang for two weeks of sold out performances at the Fox Theater:

I'm on way

Soon life won't be so shitty

Now salvation has a name

Sal Tlay Ka Siti (Salt Lake City)

(some of the other songs in this musical do have X-rate lyrics. Do not expect to see the Book of Mormon at the Muni anytime soon.)

On Wednesday night the city attorney, Paul Martin who originally wrote the charges announced those two charges would have to be dropped because even if they were proved they were not impeachable offenses. Isn't it the city attorney's job to know what charges can be brought against an elected official before writing the document?

It seems as if they are trying to get rid of the wrong person. It should be an incompetent city attorney and not the mayor.

MERCY HOSPITAL REALLY SHOULD SIMPLY STAY AWAY FROM BASEBALL:

First we find out that the hospital originally founded by the Sisters of Mercy had a luxury suite at the new Busch Stadium. I think about that luxury suite every time I get a bill from them. I now plan to stop some rehab treatment with Mercy because every time I write a check for the portion not covered by insurance I think how I'm paying for the luxury suite.

I only knew about the luxury suite because of the laser pointer incident at Busch Stadium in 2012. That was during the 2012 baseball season when a laser dot appeared on an outfielder for a visiting team. The Cardinals' manager Mike Matheny saw the laser was coming from a luxury suite. Stadium security (which is off-duty cops) went to the suite and was at first denied entrance by a woman. They arrested a 17-year-old Creve Coeur resident and Ladue High School student, who was identified by Matheny and a police officer who was standing in the Cardinals' dugout.

It turned out the suite belonged to Mercy Health. Two days after the arrest of the 17-year-old, Mercy PR exec Marie Glancy of Ladue who was at the suite that night resigned.

All this bothered me a lot. But the clincher to give up on Mercy Health was on the pages of Ladue News, the weekly magazine that has almost no news about Ladue, but plenty of photos of the swells of West County. Here is an ad that appeared from Mercy:



Any baseball fan (you don't even have to be a Cardinal fan) knows that the uniform jersey number "1" was retired sometime ago. The idea that Mercy thinks it is a good idea to use Ozzie Smith's number for their commercial advertising is appalling. This is offensive to baseball fans. Let's face it there are an unusually large number of them in St. Louis. Whatever ad agency that came up with the ad campaign should be fired.

PLAY BALL OR COLD BALL: My baseball season started on Sunday and Monday March 3 and 4th doing the PA for Webster University at the GCS Ballpark on I-255 in Illinois. It was supposed to start on March 1, but the three nine-inning games that day were postponed as were the games on Saturday as the temps never got above 35 with snow. Sunday the first pitch was at 11am and the last was at 8:50pm...three nine-inning games with four teams. I don't think the temperatures got above 41 and there was a late snow in the evening.

GCS Ballpark, where the Gateway Grizzlies play, has artificial turf some snow can be removed and you do not have to worry about a frozen field. However, the warning track area does get slick when you have melting and refreezing snow piled up against outfield walls.



The white stuff at the bottom of the billboards is snow. The two rows of box seats down the leftfield line were reserved for Polar Bears or Penguins who ever arrived first.



If you are a baseball fan...this photo spells trouble for the home team as the bases are loaded and the infield is in as North Park University north of Chicago bats.

By the way the Webster University games are free at GSC Ballpark. Check the Webster U Athletics website for game days and times. It is always good to get your baseball eye back in shape for following fly balls, plus you can sit in nice seats right behind the plate.

MUSIC AND FOOD:

BBQ We had been reading about the joint so we finally decided to try it and were more than pleased with the outcome. The place is Sugarfire BBQ on Olive just west of Price Road in Olivette. No table service here. You get in line, but do not take a tray. They will hand you the tray with your order on it.

They put down a clean piece of butcher's paper on a tray and plop your meat or sandwich onto the paper.

Everything we tried was excellent, including the baked beans, cole slaw and hand cut fries. My wife liked her ribs and my brisket was excellent...moist and flavorful. The menu has smaller portions available. Instead of only a full rack and half rack of ribs, they offered a smaller and less expensive option of four ribs.

My wife was eyeing the Brussels sprouts and an employee said that they were the last of the sprouts and he would pass on them as they were little dried out. Thoughtful suggestions like that are always appreciated.

The interior decoration was fun. Every table and chair were different. Some of the chairs even included the old style metal outdoor patio chairs from the 1950s.



They serve your meat on butcher paper on your tray. Close to 8 o'clock after the dinner rush.

No fancy dishes, but the brisket was GREAT!...at the **Sugarfire B-B-Q** in Olivette on Olive just west of Price Road.

FISH SANDWICH BETTER THAN THE TACOS...TRIVA NIGHT IS FUN: Fuzzy's Tacos in the Yorkshire Plaza in Webster Groves on Watson at Laclede Station Road has had quite a bit of success and is planning on expanding to Manchester Road in the Old Orchard Shopping Center this spring.



Frankly I'm not crazy about their tacos, but I love their battered fish sandwiches. I have been going to the Webster location on Thursday nights and playing trivia. Recently the place was packed. My team finished tied for first, thanks to having a 30-something high school softball coach, who could handle all the current music questions,

while the rest of us handled all the history and pop culture stuff prior to 1980. They actually had 98 people playing.



The crowd for Trivia Night in WG.

The tie breaker, which meant the difference between a \$15 or a \$25 gift card to Fuzzy's was this question: How many Os are there in a 15 oz can of SpaghettiOs. Both teams guessed way low...but we were the lowest and left with the \$15 gift card to split between 4-people. The answer was: There are approximately 1,750 Os in a 15oz can of SpaghettiOs.

CHINESE FOOD AND TALAYANAS: How does this make sense? Try and follow me.

After I wrote favorably about the Hot Wok Café someone suggested I try the Summer Palace on Olive near Highway 141. On Friday March 1, my wife suggested we go out for Chinese at the Hot Wok. I mentioned that someone said I should try the Summer Palace. She was fine with that idea. Off we went. When we arrived at 6:50 on a Friday night...there was no one there. It was open, but no customers...not a good sign.

My wife then said we should go to the Hot Wok. I was about to pull out of the parking lot, when I suggested Talayana's just down the street on Olive. She had no objection with the change from Chinese to Italian. There were plenty of people at Talayana's at 7pm on a Friday night. We split a pizza and a Caesar salad.

The only thing that puzzled me was the guitar player performing. He was sitting in front of a big screen TV. Now I understand the TV is there for sporting events. But there were no games on. Instead the sound was muted and Anderson Cooper was doing a newscast. I mean what is the point of that.



The new Frontenac Grill on Lindbergh was opened by the Talayana family. I really like their St. Louis-style thin crust pizza and their seafood chowder. However, I have been put off when they booked two of my favorite groups for a few times and then quit hiring them. The people running the place have no idea about music.

But the real reason I can't go there is my wife is soooooo pissed over the bad service there from August. She had an art show opening at the Art Guild in Clayton. Afterwards she had 18 guests show up for dinner and to listen to one of our favorite groups that was performing there that night. The service was beyond awful. She refuses to go back.

Luckily we determined that the Chesterfield Talayana's was purchased as a franchise decades ago and has no connection to the folks at the Frontenac Grill.

ONE-19: I wrote about the One-19 in Kirkwood at 119 North Kirkwood Road, just north of Argonne and the train station in connection with my surprise birthday party. We regularly go there for music groups and were there last Saturday to hear Carolbeth true on the keyboards and jazz guitarist Randy Bahr.

The food is greeeeeeeeat! My favorite is the sliced tenderloin of beef. However they normally have melted blue cheese on the steak, which I hate. Instead I ask them to put the sauce they use for their specialty roasted potatoes on top of the steak. It is delicious.

The one thing you have to watch out for is that the place is a Tapas restaurant. This means they serve food on plates that looks like the large square ashtrays I used when I was a smoker. While each entre is not expensive, you can run up a bill quickly by thinking main dishes are small and not very expensive and ordering several per person.

“That looks good! I think I’ll try that too.” Suddenly those \$10-\$13 items plus a \$5 side and a drink times 2 and your bill is up to \$60.



Carolbeth True and Randy Bahr started last Saturday night off at One-19. Trumpeter Jim Manley did not have a gig that night and stopped by sitting in on the last set.

PART OF TOWN AND COUNTRY CROSSING TO BE TORN DOWN FOR NEW RESTAURANT: On Monday night March 5 the Town and Country Planning and Zoning Commission approved plans to tear down the part of the Town and Country Crossing Shopping Center where Eugene’s Custard was located. The original plans of the shopping center had a free standing building for the restaurant, but it was never built.

Under the new plans the new restaurant would be connected to the remaining section of Eugene’s.

The new restaurant, part of a chain of high dollar restaurants out Countryside, Illinois called Cooper’s Hawk Winery and Restaurant. There is currently one on The Plaza in Kansas City. The Cooper’s Hawk website lists the new “St. Louis” restaurant opening in the winter of 2013. Wow that is just nine months away!

Here is the plan:

The surprise visitor: Mayor Jon Dalton, who rarely bothers to visit and sit on the P&Z Commission, where he is a member, showed up. There were two agenda items that are tied to former campaign contributors of Dalton involving the Town and Country Crossing,

Dalton issued a veiled threat that seemed to be directed toward Bolazina.

“The presentation (by the developer/Cooper’s Hawk) made a very good comment...what you present will be very well received in the area...the outside dining experience. **I would caution those who would be upset about a reduction of sidewalk,**” said the mayor/lobbyist and failed developer.

Meyland-Smith jumped in.

“We have a shopping center that still has empty space. I would describe this tenant as high quality.”

The response:

“Tenants come and go. Restaurants come and go. But when you give away public space it is gone forever,” said Bolazina.

A vote was taken and only Bolazina voted against it.

FOR ONE NIGHT... MUSIC BACK AT JIMMY’S ON THE PARK: An out of town customer who was a big fan of the Wednesday night Rat Pack show at Jimmy’s on the Park in Clayton paid to bring back the Charley B. Trio for one night last Thursday. The Charley B. Trio featuring Jim Manley on trumpet had been at Jimmy’s for seven years until January of 2011. There was a huge turnout for the one night event which included a number of well known area musicians who sat in. One of restaurant’s owners told me the crowd has them thinking of bringing back live music for one or two nights a month.



Dean Christopher (front) joined Charley B as they both sang Birth of the Blues as Sammy Davis, Jr. at Jimmy's on the Park.

CHRISTOPHER AT MINEO'S: Following the success of the Charley B Trio at John Mineo's on Clayton Road and Mason in February, Dean Christopher with Carolbeth True and Glenn Smith will perform at Mineo's on Friday March 15 from 7:30 to 10:30. You might call ahead and reserve a table in the upstairs section of the bar.



THE ANITA ROSAMOND EXPERIENCE AT SMITTY'S TODAY: If you are reading this before 3pm on Saturday March 9 you still have time to catch the Anita Experience at Smitty's (from 3-6) it is unique.



There is nothing like Anita Rosamond performing at Smitty's. It is a unique experience.

CHESTERFIELD'S JOE MANCUSO AT THE CHASE: It is tough for vocalists since 2008, when the recession cut hotel and bar's entertainment budget. It used to be they would pay for a singer and a trio. Now it is down to duos and in some cases a singer who can also play keyboards. A case in point, Chesterfield's Joe Mancuso who specializes in singing standards from the American Songbook will be at the Chase lobby bar, Chasers on Friday March 15 backed up by the talented Tom Byrne on guitar.

Joe Mancuso & Tom Byrne at The Chase Park Plaza

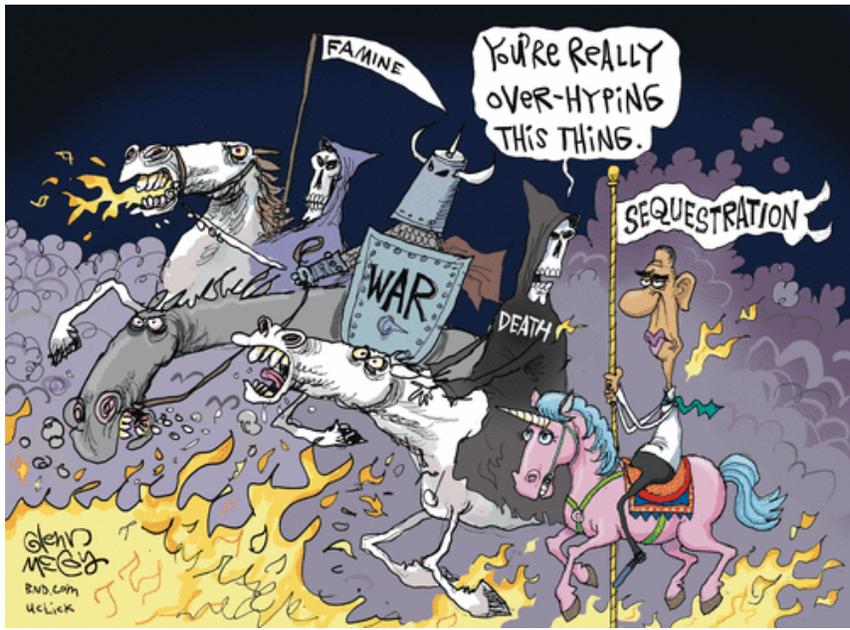


Chaser's Lounge
Friday March 15h, 2013
8pm to 12 midnight

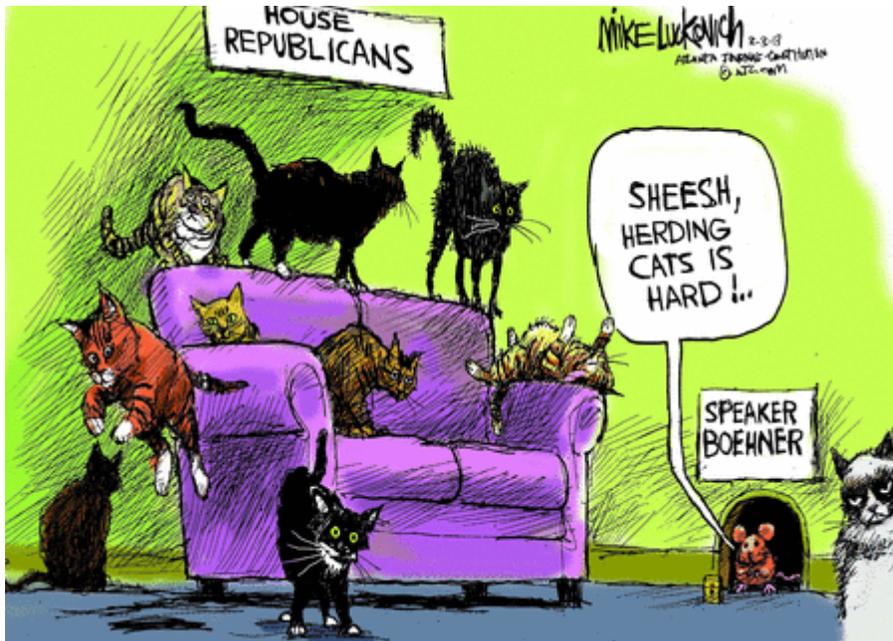
The Chase Park Plaza
212 N. Kingshighway Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
(314) 633-3000

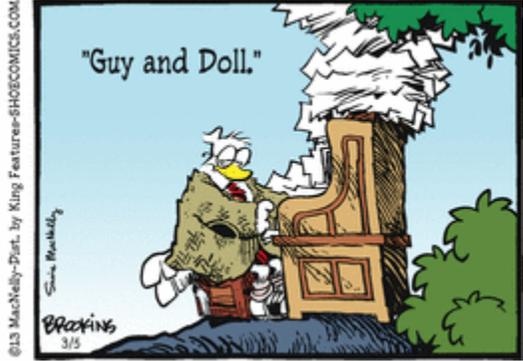
MancusoJazz.com Productions ⇄ 2013

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