

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 38



July 11, 2013

By John Hoffmann

WEST COUNTY PRESISTENT DWI OFFENDERS HAVE A COMMON BOND...MUNICIPAL JUDGES AS THEIR DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Do you think there might be a problem with the system if one night a person is supposed to protect the public from serious traffic offenders, especially drunk drivers. They are part of the system in place to identify dangerous and irresponsible drivers to protect us.

However the next day they are doing their best as a criminal defense attorneys to get the people they are suppose to identify and punish off of felony drunk driving charges.

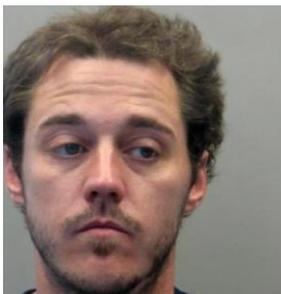
The problem is judges who need to get breaks from other local prosecutors and judges as defense attorneys will have a tendency to give them as judges.



Roy Garozzo



Paul J. D'Agrosa



Thomas Grate



Keith Cheung



Kattie Huggard



Tim Engelmeyer

Roy Garozzo & Paul J. D'Agrosa: Roy Garozzo, 53, who lives at 1080 Westmeade Drive in Chesterfield and works on Woods Mill Road in Town and Country has been arrested eight times for DWI from Kansas City to St. Louis County. His latest DWI arrest by the County Police was on March 23, 2013. He was indicted by a Grand Jury on June 5 as a felony Persistent DWI Offender.

His defense attorney of record is Paul J. D'Agrosa, the municipal judge in Olivette and the municipal prosecutor in Arnold, Missouri. He is a guy who is sworn to prosecute drunk drivers and is sworn to judge drunk drivers but at the same time is using every trick in the book to get drunk drivers off. Do you see a conflict of interest or at least a collision of ethics?

Thomas M. Grate & Keith Cheung: Thomas Grate, 31, of 16567 Clayton Road in Wildwood has been convicted of DWI three times and was recently arrested for a fourth DWI in Town and Country. Grate was arrested passed out behind the wheel of his running automobile in Town and Country wine country, the subdivision off of Clayton where the streets all have wine names. He was arrested on Cabernet Drive at 4:09 in the afternoon on June 6. He was charged as a felony Persistent DWI offender on June 28.

Grate's attorney is Keith Cheung the former prosecutor in Town and Country, whose firm Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe still provides Town and Country with a City Attorney, Planning and Zoning Attorney and prosecutor. Cheung is also the current municipal judge in Ladue, Missouri. You likely also have been reading Cheung's name in this newsletter or the Post-Dispatch as he was the prosecutor in the ill-fated impeachment of Ellisville Mayor Adam Paul.

Kathleen A. Huggard and Timothy Engelmeyer: I have been writing about Ms. Huggard of Wildwood since she started writing me and then calling my house at 2:30 in the morning. She had two prior DWI convictions, one in St. Charles and one in Wilwood after her arrest by the St. Louis County Police. Then in May she was arrested again for DWI, this time in Ellisville. (More on the last two arrests later in this newsletter) On July 1 she was charged as a felony Persistent DWI Offender.

Huggard's attorney, like D'Argosa is both a municipal prosecutor and a judge. Tim Engelmeyer is the city prosecutor in Chesterfield, Des Peres and Valley Park. He is the municipal judge in Creve Coeur. While claiming he can judge and prosecute DWIs, Engelmeyer actively advertises to defend them.

CHESTERFIELD CAN MAKE IT TOUGH TO ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING: Last Monday I attended the Chesterfield Finance Committee. It wasn't an easy task. The meeting was posted on the city's website along with an agenda. However, when I showed up, myself and a councilperson went to the large conference room behind the council chambers only to find it dark.

I went back to the lobby and saw Police Chief Ray Johnson who told me the meeting was in Room 202. The room is much smaller than the first floor conference rooms. The other problem is the sign at the bottom of the stairs that leads to the second floor conference room. It says, "No Entry Restricted Area"



CHESTERFIELD VALLEY TDD TOPS THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: Discussion of the Chesterfield Valley TDD (Traffic Development District) was moved to the top of the agenda at Chesterfield's Finance Committee meeting last Monday. A TDD allows a special sales tax to be added in the area. The TDD normally is to support road, parking lot, storm water projects, streetlight and traffic light improvements. In Chesterfield they even added the Levee Trails, which many consider to be part of a parks systems and not transportation.

The rebuilding of Kehrs Mill Road done by St. Louis County up to the southern extension cost St. Louis County \$3,600,000. That will have to be paid by incoming TDD revenue immediately.

The City of Chesterfield has three projects that are suppose to receive TDD funds in the future. They are:

- 1) The completion of the southern extension of Kehrs Mill Road including removing the blind curve.
- 2) Beautification of the Wildhorse Creek Road and Kehrs Mill intersection area.
- 3) Completion of the Levee Trail from the Doubletree Hotel to the Ice Complex .

Mike Geisel the city's Director of Public Services reported there is currently \$1.1 million set aside for completion of the Kehrs Mill Road southern extension. However it will cost an additional \$350,000. Geisel said the key thing to do is simply add a work order for the completion of the road with the County's contractor, Gershenson Construction, rather than stopping construction and rebid the work which would leave the project unfinished for a period of time and end up costing more money to complete.

Geisel said the money the City pays for the completion would be repaid from TDD funds in 2015. The city currently has about \$4,000,000 in reserves on top of money representing 40% of annual general fund budget.

Concerning the completion of the Levee Trail, Geisel estimated the cost to complete it would be \$550,000. Like the Kehrs Mill project, funds from the city's reserve would have to be used and then repaid by the TDD in 2015.

"We have been held up for the last nine months on the Levee Trail due to construction of a pump station by the Corps of Engineers."

Geisel said he was hoping to get the trail completed by the same time the I-64 Missouri River Bridge work is completed and the section of the trail by the bridge reopens.

Nancy Greenwood, who was showing herself as a financial conservative, was concerned about using the reserve to fund projects. She wanted to try and get a Municipal Parks Grant before tapping reserve funds to finish the trail. Grant applications are submitted in October and the money (generated by the Greenways Sales Tax) is issued in the spring of 2014. Chesterfield has received more money for Parks Grants than any other municipality as of figures provided last in June of 2012.

Shouldn't we wait for us to have the funds before we do the street work," said Greenwood.



Nancy Greenwood was squeezing nickels at the finance

Committee meeting.

Ward-4 Councilwoman Connie Fults spoke on the importance of finishing the road project. She said the residents were told the TDD tax would mean Kehr's Mill Road would be improved and made safer. "We owe it to the residents," said Fults.

Councilman Elliott Grissom was ready to spend money.

"We have the funds in the reserve, why don't we use them?"

Greenwood gave in on the road, but still maintained the beautification and trail projects should be put off until there is money for them besides reserve funds.

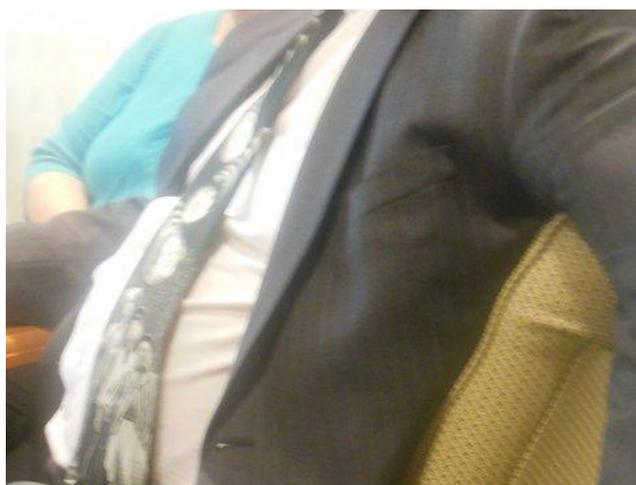
A vote was taken to recommend to the full City Council to use reserve funds of \$350,000 for the Kehrs Mill Road extension. That vote was 4-0. A second vote was taken to recommend to earmark \$1,100,000 of reserve funds for the beatification project and to complete the trail. That vote was 3-1 with Greenwood voting no.



The top of the table I the crowded conference room featured mayor Bob Nation (left), Finance Committee Chair Mike Casey (center) and City Administrator Mike Herring (left).

The highlight of the evening, besides simply finding the meeting and violating the no access signs was the wardrobe of Mike Geisel.

Mike had on a very nice suit. Since Mike often spends times out of the building looking at projects in the field, he is usually a “slacks and utilitarian sports jacket guy.” However looking beyond the suit and noticing Mike’s necktie made me smile. His tie featured The Three Stooges.



CHESTERFIELD FUNERAL FRAUD DEFENDANTS OFFERED DEALS: The U.S. Attorney offered Howard Wittner of 1315 Wildhorse Parkway and Randall K. Sutton of 1566 Treherne Court of Chesterfield special plea bargain deals in connection with their involvement in the alleged Ponzi Scheme. The plea deals were in attempt to avoid a several month long trial that is set to begin in August. Both men were charged with three others in a prepaid funeral swindle that netted, according to the fraud charges and press reports between \$240,000,000 and \$600,000,000.

Sutton took the deal and pled guilty on Tuesday. His sentencing is set for November 7. Wittner pled guilty a couple hours after Sutton.

Wittner, 76, was the lawyer for National Prearranged Services. Sutton, 67, was the CFO for the company. Sutton pled guilty to Mail Fraud, bank fraud, money laundering and insurance fraud. He will face five years in prison. Wittner pled guilty to two counts of making false statements to deceive insurance regulators and for permitting a felon to engage in the business of insurance.



Wittner



Sutton

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/former-cfo-lawyer-plead-in-st-louis-pre-arranged-funeral/article_356f5a61-e1b5-5a0b-8db2-650c797a7bf1.html

<http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/228624/0/Clayton-funeral-company-accused-of-cheating-customers-out-of-600-million>

http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/bail-is-set-for-prepaid-funerals-kingpin/article_c6c3c84a-4bb5-580e-996b-185245eb12de.html

<http://www.fbi.gov/stlouis/press-releases/2010/sl112210.htm>

The ringleaders of the Ponzi Scheme were James Douglas Cassity, 67, who lives in a rented apartment at 130 S. Bemiston in Clayton and his son Brent Cassity, 46, whose last address on record with the County Department of Revenue was 528 Polo Drive in Clayton.

James Cassity is two years behind on paying his personal property taxes. Since 2009 Brent's home was listed being owned by Brent Cassity then in 2011 and 2012 by BMO Harris Bank and now in 2013 the property is owned by Kala Trust.

Both Cassitys pled guilty on Wednesday July 3. James Cassity is expected to serve an almost 10 year sentence while the son should get about a 5-year sentence.

The Estates: Even if you had divide up between \$240,000,000 and \$6000,000,000 six ways (a Ballwin employee of the firm already pled guilty in June) you would think there would be a lot left over for some nice houses. At least that was what I thought, so I went out to take photos of the houses listed to each West County defendant according to the St. Louis County Real Estate data base. I was totally surprised. There was no sign of gross examples of housing consumption.



This is CFO Randall K. Sutton's Chesterfield digs at 1566 Treherne Ct. Nice house but not what you'd expect from the spoils from a \$250,000,000-to-\$6 million fraud.

Sutton has not had an automobile registered to him at his house since 2006. In 2006 he had a Corvette and a Cadillac. If you no longer own it, it is hard to have a judgment to seize it.



To say the National Prearranged Services attorney, Howard Wittner's home at 1315 Wildhorse Parkway is secluded would be an understatement. Here is the photo of the

driveway and mailbox. There was no view of the first house inside the Chesterfield city limits on Wildhorse Parkway from the sidewalk or the mouth of the driveway. Apparently they are having some water issues as there was a rolled up carpet pad on the sidewalk.

A 1999 Jeep is registered to the address on Wittner's name. A 2010 BMW 528i is registered to the address under the name of BMW Financial Services. In 2010 a 2008 Lexus was listed at the address to a company name of Wittner, Spewak Maylack – Usb Leasing Lt.



This is the home of National Prearrange Services investment advisor David R. Wulf at 2714 Hillcroft, off Clayton Road in Wildwood. Wulf has an Acura and a Lexus registered in his name at the address.

While these houses are nice they certainly don't come up to the \$240,000,000 category. I sure hope they have some nice vacation real estate located somewhere.

THIRD DWI ARREST, A FELONY ON MAY 11, 2013: It turns out when 24-year-old Katie Huggard decided to start writing me and then calling me in the middle of the night it was just one month after she was arrested a third time for DWI. I did a hand search of a court file from her 2011 arrest and found where the Ellisville Police arrested her for DWI on May 11, 2013.

The Ellisville arrest was made at 8:40pm on Saturday May 11. She was stopped on Manchester Road west of Clarkson. She was transported to the police station at 8:40 immediately upon her arrest. At 10:46pm she was transported from the Ellisville Police station to Mercy Hospital in Creve Coeur for "evaluation" according to the dispatch report. The actual police report will not be available until there is a guilty plea or verdict. This case was sent to the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for filing of felony DWI charges (third time DWI). Normally those charges are not issued for three to six months after the arrest. However on July 1, less than two months after her arrest in Ellisville, a felony Persistent DWI charge was filed by the prosecutor's office.



We obtained the St. Louis County Police report involving Huggard's arrest on July 1, 2011. (That alone was an ordeal...requiring three trips to Clayton and filing complaints with the State of Missouri Attorney General's Office, the St. Louis County Counselor and the St. Louis County Police Chief.)

The report was interesting. Huggard stopped her car in front of two County Police officers in two marked cars, in the middle of Ridge Road at Old State Road at 2:02AM. She then exited the car and began to walk away at which time she staggered, stumbled and then fell according to Officer Hallquist's police report.

There was a male passenger in the car who told officers the two were arguing about Huggard's driving and her condition.

"Yeah, we were in a fight and it's none of your business," Huggard told the officers according to the report. "I fell down, big deal. I scrapped my knee, so what?"

When asked if she had been drinking Huggard replied, "Yeah, a lot. So what? I wasn't driving." When Huggard was told that two police officers saw her driving her Volvo, stop in the middle of the street and then get out she had a ready answer.

"I have a bull dog lawyer. He'll get me off because you can't prove anything," she said.

Next she failed the field sobriety tests and was arrested for DWI. Officer Hallquist wrote that he advised Huggard of her rights per the Miranda Ruling and asked if she understood her rights. She said she did not and he asked what part she didn't understand.

"Fuck you! You can talk to my lawyer," was Huggard's response.

Officer Hallquist wrote that while being driven to the Wildwood Police Station she began to be verbally abusive and vulgar using strings of profanities. He reported at one point she demanded to be release from handcuffs or she would urinate in the police car.

At the station according to Hallquist's notes when he attempted to do a standard interview with questions such as what day it was and what time it was, Huggard said, "Fuck you! I'm not talking to you without my lawyer present." That proved to be a problem as Huggard could not reach her lawyer at 2:30 in the morning and refused to take the breath test.

The probation keeping her from serving six months in the County Jail from the 2011 arrest and guilty plea was suspended after the Ellisville arrest.

It also turns out much of the volunteer work Katie writes about doing is a result of a court order requiring community service to keep her out of jail in 2011.

Three DWI arrests by the time you are 24 is a pretty impressive record.

MORE FROM OUR FAVORITE 24-YEAR-OLD TWO-TIME CONVICTED DRUNK DRIVER:

Just to recap for new readers...In June I received a charming email from 24-year-old website reader Katie Huggard which I posted. I also guessed that Katie being upset with my reporting on the lack of DWI prosecutions may have had some DWI issues herself. In fact she has had two DWI convictions and a revoked probation term and a recent suspended probation sentence. The 2011 arrest was by the County Police in her hometown of Wildwood. Plus she has a third DWI arrest in May which a felony charge was issued at the prosecuting attorney's office.

In her first email she claimed I was bias, that the articles on non –prosecution of DWI defendants where I spent over 60 hours doing research, were poorly researched, that I was grandstanding and I'm negative.

From: Katie Huggard [mailto:katiehuggard@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, June 15, 2013 11:12 PM

To: johnhoffmann@charter.net

Subject: Try an unbiased approach...

Dear Mr Hoffmann,

I have read all of your various articles slamming judges for lesser dwi charges and i deem it necessary to ask... Have you ever had a dwi? Have you read the crime statistics as to how the state of Missouri spends 8 billion dollars annually to house prisoners, 60% of which are non violent offenders? I am

appalled that someone would have the indecency to fight for harsher punishments and take from the state's education budget, of course having never been in the situation you are unable to offer an unbiased approach, though i do hope in the future you do your research before grand standing for attention and being so negative. The would has more than enough negativity, so be proud that you have added to it.

Katie =

I sent her back a polite email thanking her for her note and that I didn't want to fill up the jails with drunk drivers. I simply thought drunk drivers should be convicted of drunk driving and not be given no-record probation while paying \$500 parking violation fines.

That resulted in a series of four phone calls between 2:20 and 2:45 in the morning from Katie demanding I remove her email and arrest record from our website. That in turn resulted in a call to the police and a harassing telephone report.

All this resulted in my posting of her complete traffic record that I could easily find which included the four moving violations that she got reduced to very expensive parking fines, the two DWI convictions, the probation revocation, the jail sentence that was stayed and twice having two interlock breath test devices installed on her car. And of course her comments during the middle of the night telephone calls.

I thought perhaps that was the end of it. I was wrong. Here is the latest email I received from Katie:

From: Katie Huggard [mailto:katiehuggard@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2013 12:51 PM
To: johnhoffmann@charter.net
Subject: Please stop

Sir,

You are like a dog with a bone. Your obsession with me quite frankly is creepy. I hate to have to know that some 65+ year old man is sitting at home, hiding behind his computer and googling a 24 year old. I've done what I can to resolve this amicably and your need to skew the situation, through your writing into something much bigger than it is, frankly baffles me.

The more I read the more sadistic I believe you are. I have my entire life believed that human beings are inherently good, though good people sometimes do bad things. I pray that this is the case when it comes to you and that I have not encountered someone who is truly evil. You seem angry with the world and I pray that you seek psychological help, be it medication or psychotherapy. I don't know who hurt you so badly that you need to project onto others the hurt that you feel. I am sorry for whatever it was to make you this way and I hate that anyone has to feel pain.

The fact of the matter is as human beings we make mistakes. All of us do, yourself included. A simple google search of your name reveals the mistakes you have made in your life, though I don't deem it necessary to publicly attack you for these. I have done everything possible to make up for the mistakes of my past, though I have realized that if others want to hold on to old images of me I can't let it bother me. I will continue to live my life, moving forward, making progress and caring for those around me. I have set a personal goal to do something kind for another person everyday, and doing so has made me happier. This has helped me, and I pray that you can find your own way to help others and be happy within yourself. Ask yourself, when was the last time I did something to help someone else?

The majority of the people you have written about I do not know, though the ones I do know are good people. Not only is Tim Engelmeyer a great attorney, he is a great man, with a family and your attacks on him are unwarranted. He has done nothing but his job both as a judge and as a lawyer and has been firm and fair. The same is true of Judge Draper, whom I don't have a personal relationship, though I do know that she has been more than firm in her rulings. I can only imagine the others spread across your web page are also good people with families, who don't deserve this treatment.

Additionally I will speak to my record. You seem to want to make people think I have multiple offenses that are much worse than they are and have been reduced to parking tickets, though the truth of the matter is the majority of those offenses were speeding tickets. Should I have been speeding? No, though I have more than paid my debt to society and all that I can do is move forward and try to not do it again.

I do pray for your happiness every night, and I hope that you go out in the world today and spread love. I have to forgive you and move forward, and I do forgive you for your hatred, knowing that this is a problem you struggle with internally, and not myself. This earth is a miserable place to be as it is and you can either help make it better or help make it worse. Please keep in mind that every choice you make you may help someone's day. I have, in my volunteer work, encountered many people who sleep on the concrete nightly. These people somehow find a way to smile behind their signs begging for help and routinely asking god to bless others. Let this be a lesson to us all. Please, be happy as you are free and you have all that you need.

I do ask yet again that you remove your internet attacks, though I leave it in your best judgment to know if you are helping or hurting others.

Again I wish you peace and happiness. Have a great day.

Katie

Katie Huggard

I have reread everything I have written about the correspondence and phone calls I have received from Ms. Huggard and I don't believe I have attacked her at all. I have simply posted her emails and her telephone conversations and have given readers some background information obtained through open public records. She is looking for people to follow her on twitter...check it out

<https://twitter.com/katiehuggard>

However, in the dead of summer when there doesn't seem to be much to write about... a 742 word email calling me sadistic, angry, mentally ill and hate filled comes in at a time when it is a welcomed addition to the newsletter.

THE TODD AKIN FAMILY FARM PROPERTY BULLDOZED: The reason former right wing Congressman Todd Akin moved from Town and Country to Wildwood was that his brother was selling the family farm where he (Congressman Akin) lived. There was a lawsuit over zoning and land issues that slowed things down, but the bulldozers are now moving. Here are some photos from the Conway Hill Road land that was formerly the Akin Farm.



DEAN WOLFE CRYING WOLFE ABOUT NEW DEVELOPMENT: It is interesting that recently area developer Dean Wolfe who is one of the developers of the outlet mall next to the Missouri River has announced to the press of his plans for a new retail development near the Premium Outlets. However he has not bothered do file any plans with the City of Chesterfield. I wonder if he plans to get building permits before the grand opening?

Here is an email exchange I had with Chesterfield Planning Director Aimee Nassif:

From: John Hoffmann [<mailto:johnhoffmann@charter.net>]
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2013 2:33 PM
To: Aimee Nassif
Subject: question

Aimee:

Has Wolfe and company filed any plans of any kind for the new proposed development next to the Missouri River Outlet mall...or is it still a game of development by press release?

If there is anything filed, when could I come out and look at it?

Thanks,
John Hoffmann

From: Aimee Nassif [mailto:anassif@chesterfield.mo.us]
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2013 2:47 PM
To: John Hoffmann
Subject: RE: question

Hello,

We have not received any plans or applications for new development of any kind from Dean Wolfe.

Aimee

Aimee Nassif, AICP

*Planning and Development Services Director
City of Chesterfield
690 Chesterfield Parkway West
P 636.537.4749/F 636.537.4798*

INTERESTING LETTER TO THE EDITOR: I know a lot of people no longer read the Post-Dispatch and those who still do often skip the letters to the editor. This was an interesting letter that ran on July 6.

We all know about the sleaze that infects the East Side with a culture of strip clubs that exploit women in the most demeaning ways. It is not something the St. Louis region is proud of — nor should it be. It is a dark testimony to debauchery.

But sleaze and debauchery are going mainstream thanks to the city of St. Louis and the federal government shoving it down our throats in the name of diversity. On Sunday, once referred to by most Americans as “The Lord’s Day,” a parade went down main street St. Louis for PrideFest.

Pride? Should we be proud of lining the streets with children and then parading men dressed as women past them? Should we be proud of exposing our community to floats featuring men wearing women’s underwear and gyrating against a pole and against other men? Should we be proud of a city that parades half-naked people simulating having sex in public, while the mayor waves to the crowd just a few feet away? Should we be proud of a city that lights up its government buildings to highlight this debauchery?

No, pride should not enter into this conversation. Shame should. We are perverting our children and calling it “progressive.” And anyone who criticizes this progressive movement is labeled as a judgmental homophobe. Hogwash! Government-sponsored sleaze is just that — sleaze. Call it anything you want, but sleaze by any other name is still sleaze. And it’s certainly nothing to be proud of.

Steve Rupp • Florissant

Since I did not attend the Gay Pride Parade I had to check photos on the internet. In most cases I did not need to even have my “gaydar” turned on to figure out a person’s sexual preference, but I did not see any photos of morally bankrupt behavior. I even checked the Riverfront Times postings because if anyone would post outrageous behavior it would be RFT. I didn’t see any. Sure I saw men in swimsuits wearing balloons and a few drag queens in convertibles in the parade. But heck, dress is a first amendment right. I really did not see anything X-Rated. As for Mayor Slay riding down Market Street in a 1959 Chevrolet convertible waving...geez we all know it is difficult to keep a politician away from any kind of parade.

In past years when the Gay Rights marches would occur in Washington DC, C-SPAN would set up a camera on a street corner that would show the march uninterrupted. There used to be plenty of X-Rated behavior televised nationwide.

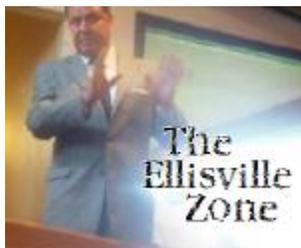
If you remember in 2010 the Stripper Mobile from the Hustler Nightclub in beautiful Washington Park, Illinois began cruising the streets of downtown St. Louis with clothed women grinding against each other or pole dancing before and after Cardinals games when large groups of males might be considering additional entertainment choices. At first Mayor Slay claimed he saw no problem with the Stripper Mobile, but within a few days the police met with people from Hustler and told them the Stripper Mobile was a safety issue as it distracted drivers and the police would cite the driver and tow the vehicle. That was the end to the stripper mobile.



(This originally appeared in the Ex-Aldermen Town and County Newsletter 90 on July 9.)

NEWS FROM ELLISVILLE: For those folks who have been following the soap opera involving the Wal-Mart TIF and the phony-baloney impeachment of the reform mayor, 32-year-old Adam Paul and his court ordered reinstatement...here is some new news. Lawyer John Maupin who was hired to be the hearing officer who was mostly responsible for having the impeachment of Mayor Adam Paul tossed out by a Circuit

Court judge simply on the first count filed by Paul's attorney was quietly FIRED last Tuesday in a closed executive session of the City Council.



FIRED

On Friday June 28 in a closed executive session of the council a motion was made to end retention of all lawyers as special counsels in the matter of the impeachment of Mayor Paul. This made some sense after Judge Vincent permanently reinstated Paul, what was the point of having special counsel defending the impeachment that has been struck down, unless the council planned to run up another \$100,000 in legal bills appealing the mayor's reinstatement.

The motion by Councilman Mick Cahill was defeated on a 4-2 vote. Newly elected Cahill and Gary Voss voted for it and Councilpersons Acup, Pool, Perrillo and Reel voted against. Paul had to abstain since the vote was in reference to his impeachment. Linda Reel normally has been voting with Voss and Cahill, but voted with the others at the last regular council meeting and in this matter.

But on July 2 in another special closed session they voted to fire John Maupin the attorney who was hired by the former board, who was the hearing officer for the impeachment and continued as the lead attorney in the unsuccessful defense of the impeachment of Paul.

The vote to fire Maupin was 4-3, with both Mayor Paul and Linda Reel joining Voss and Cahill in voting to dump the attorney who on April 11 hit Ellisville with a \$16,511 bill for services. He then started the clock running on the Circuit Court defense of the impeachment. I believe Paul did not think he had a conflict of interest in voting to fire the guy who had helped prosecute him, because Paul's position has been since Day-1 that the old City Council violated the city code by hiring Maupin without attempting to find or interview at least two other lawyers.

Keith Cheung's first bill to the city for prosecuting the impeachment was \$42,570. His second bill was \$1,250.

Apparently \$42,570 is a good number for the law firm of Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe to sell out ethics and give awful advice which is quickly overturned by the

Circuit Court. You would think that the firm would give a client a refund if their advice is so bad that it results in an immediate reversal upon review by a court.

DOORS TO ANOTHER WEST COUNTY EATERY SHUT: On June 25 I wrote that I doubted if the Frontenac Grill at 731 South Lindbergh would be around much longer after they quit paying musicians booked to perform there. That prediction was Gold! The Frontenac Grill closed five days later on June 30.



Frontenac Grill No More.

(Originally appeared in the July 9, ex Alderman Newsletter 90)

ALDERMAN FRED MEYLAND-SMITH ATTACKS THE FIRST AMENDMENT. VERBOSE ALDERMAN CALLS ME A SELF-APPOINTED SENSATIONALIST:

Town and Country Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith was on the war path at Monday's Board of Aldermen meeting. At the last Board of Aldermen meeting it was Meyland-Smith who offered the motion not to vote to allow St. Nicholas to have a 40-foot flagpole in front of their building on South Outer Road. Fred apparently along with five other alderpersons were unaware of something called the Bill of Rights and the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution that guarantees freedom of religion.

At Monday's meeting Fred continued to attack the Bill of Rights and the first amendment. However he made a little change. He attacked Freedom of the Press. Saying he doesn't think the press should be allowed to report on things such as public meetings or comments by elected officials.

Fred has been the butt of two Bill McClellan columns. The first column was about the city laying off three female employees at the end of 2009 despite having a \$17 million reserve. Fred didn't like that Bill McClellan wrote how when he contacted Mayor Jon Dalton by phone, Dalton was telling him what great reception he was getting on his cell

phone from a Colorado resort's ski lift. Fred told McClellan how "unprofessional" he was writing about Dalton being on a ski lift at a resort while laying off female employees. .

Bill didn't let the nice present from a pompous politician go to waste he used it twice in later columns.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/scrooge-crossroads-in-town-and-country-stl-sunday/article_0aeacc74-0ab1-54d3-8916-fdc85a62d8c4.html

http://www.stltoday.com/news/in-search-of-elusive-christmas-spirit/article_aa0852e4-2753-5f6e-8d0c-0c086eed620c.html

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/bill-mcclellan/civility-takes-a-hit-in-dignified-suburb/article_f86597b0-74a7-53ef-9af6-f2b336f8637c.html

When I was on the Board of Aldermen and was writing "Alderman's Newsletter." Fred tried to put a stop to that. He introduced a bill at a work session called the "Aldermen Code of Behavior" which forbid alderman writing or saying unkind things about fellow aldermen. Fred was unhappy about the newsletter. (go to <http://johnhoffmann.net> and read Alderman Newsletter 26 for details) city attorney Steve Garrett quashed the idea of Fred having an ordinance to stop people from saying or writing things about him that he didn't like, by saying his bill was unconstitutional.

Of course Fred was happy to talk to the press when then Alderman David Karney was sending him emails from an email account under the name of "J. Storehouse." Fred claimed one of the emails threatened to kill him.

That brings us to Monday night July 8, 2013. Fred was speaking from the dais when about the church flagpole issue.



Fred Meyland-Smith on Monday talking about the awful press.

"I was out of town over the holiday, but I was quite disturbed to learn there was an article about this in the newspaper. That is no place to carry on our business."

Fred also said the idea of the flagpole in front of the church was not about patriotism. Patriotism is not about 5-feet more on a flagpole," he said.

Returning his anger to the Post-Dispatch to write about an issue before an elected body he let loose one last time.

“I take exception to what was written in the newspaper!”

Fred also took time to move his aim from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch to me.

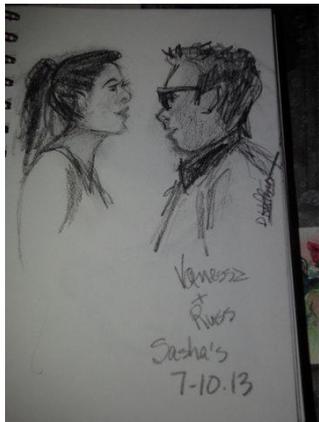
“Then there is a resident who as a self-appointed reporter made a shameful attempt to sensationalize this,” he said.

I would like to point out to Fred that I have written for PAY for over 40 newspapers, and a number of magazines in the United States and in England, plus a number of websites. So at sometime I was not “self-appointed” but employed. But now I pretty much do this as a hobby.

Of course it was very sensational of me to write about all the appeals court rulings that proclaim cities cannot enforce building and signs codes require against churches unless it deals directly with public safety. It was also sensational of me to point out how Fred, Welby, Marge and others chose to ignore them.

Also being a self-appointed reporter puts me in good company... Thomas Paine was working for himself. So were Joseph Pulitzer, W.R. Hearst and Matt Drudge.

MUSIC: BIG CROWD AT SASHA’S: Wednesday was the last time Russ Macklem, an outstanding trumpet player from Canada and his girlfriend Vanessa Fralack, a trombone player with the St. Louis Symphony will be stopping by Sasha’s on DeMun on a Wednesday night. Vanessa has taken a job with the Toronto Symphony and they are leaving town on July 14. For the final set of the night trumpeter Jim Manley sat out and let a number of area musicians sit in as the duo turned into a trio and rotated in different brass players until after 11 o’clock..



ALSO SITTING WITH JIM MANLEY ON WEDNESDAY:

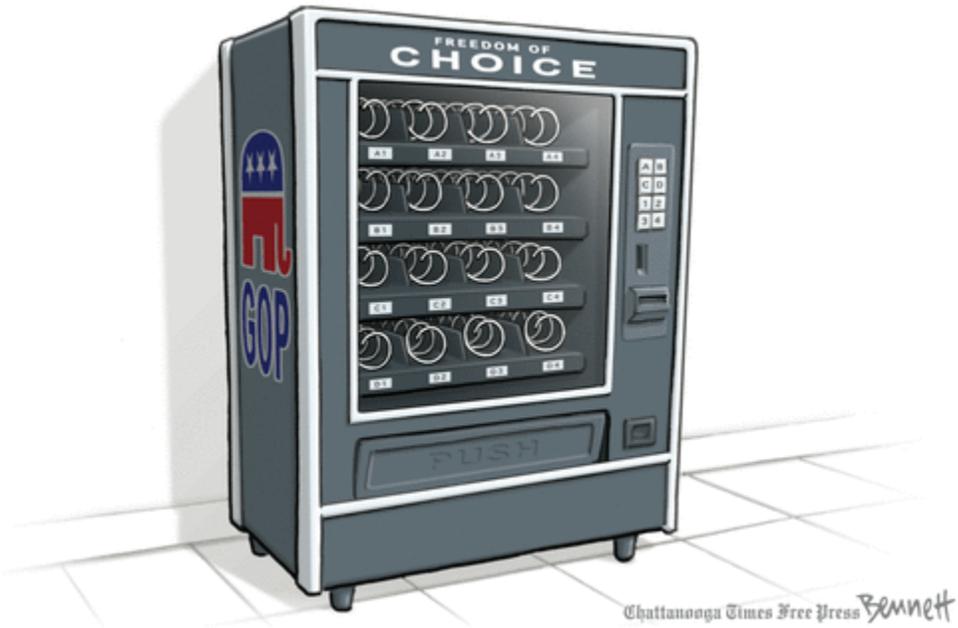
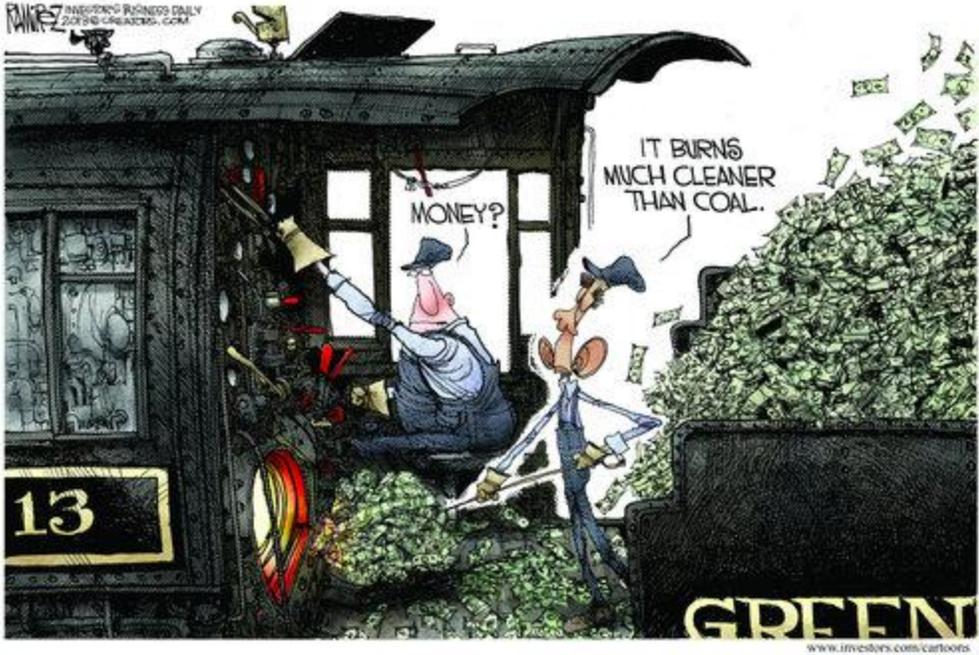


Former member of the Air Force Band of Mid-America and bass player with the Tommy Money Orchestra and Mad Brass and Rhythm Jeremy Pfeffer and his standup bass make an appearance. Rev. Scott Sandifer replaced Jim Manley for one number in the second set. A top area bass trombone man Wayne Coniglio sat in for two numbers in the final set. Chris “Lupy” Swan is on the keyboards.

CHESTERFIELD SINGER NOW A WEEKLY REGULAR AT THE CHASE-PARK PLAZA: Longtime Chesterfield resident Joe Mancuso with his jazz quartet have been regulars every Thursday night at the Café Eau from 7-10 at the Chase Park Plaza.

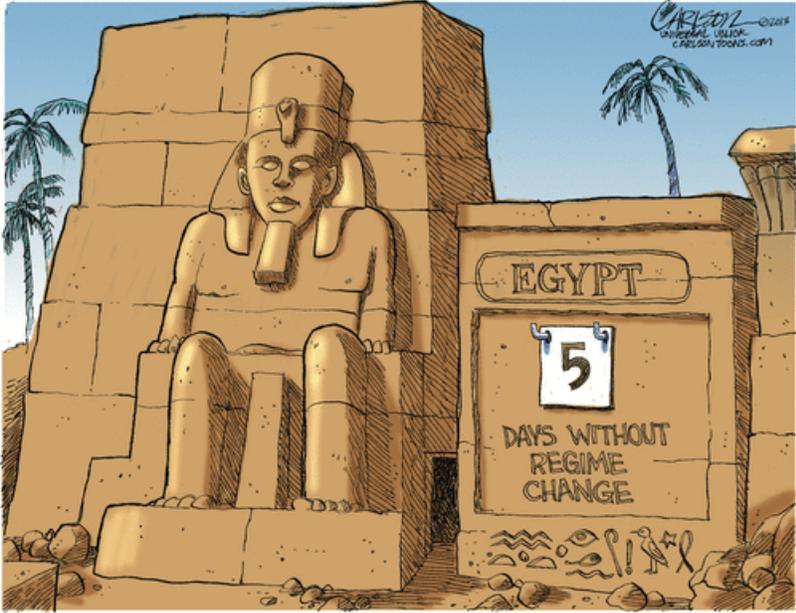


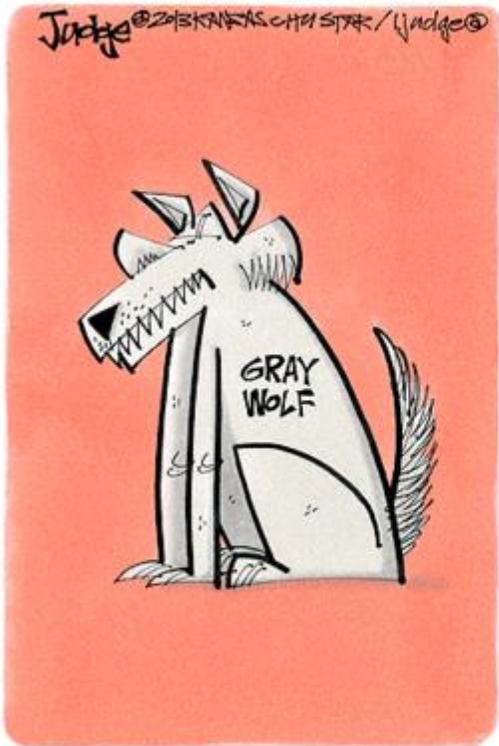
CARTOONS:











GUESS WHICH ONE IS NO LONGER ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST.