

## UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 39



July 19, 2013

By John Hoffmann

**RESTAURANT NEWS:** Let's face it...all the local politics and latest serial drunk driver news is only of interest to some of the people...but restaurant news interests everyone.

**Another Try:** The city has issued a liquor license to Vito's in the Valley, which will move into the former Picasso's in the Chesterfield Town Center. Picasso's was owned by a cardiologist who offered heart healthy entrees. The healthy restaurant went out of business over a year ago.



Picasso's at 138-140 Chesterfield Town Center.

Vito's in the Valley to moves into

**Ownership change:** The city council also issued a new liquor license to the Emperor's



Palace at 17360 Chesterfield Airport Road due to an ownership change.

**CHANGE OF GAMES BETWEEN MEETINGS:** It was as if the game suddenly changed when resolutions left the finance committee and made their way to the City Council. If you remember in our last newsletter, we mentioned how at the finance committee meeting members were given specific costs for three projects that need special funding from the general fund reserve to continue or wait until 2015 when TDD money is available.

At the finance committee the projects were broken down into three separate funding issues.

The first project was to finish the Kehrs Mill Road extension which would require an additional \$350,000

The second project was to do a \$200,000 beautification project on Kehr's at Wildhorse Creek Roads.

The final project was to spend \$550,000 to finish the east side portion of the levee trail from the Doubletree Hotel to the Ice Complex.

However, a week later at the City Council meeting all three projects had been lumped into one \$1.1 million resolution.

It was like they were playing baseball at the finance committee but at the city council the game suddenly turned into football.

Councilman Dan Hurt tried to get them separated, but his motion was voted down. Councilwoman Nancy Greenwood complained about all three funding projects being lumped into one.



Councilpersons Dan Hurt and Nancy Greenwood conferring before the start of the agenda meeting.

Interesting when it came to a final vote, Greenwood and Hurt voted to approve the \$1.1million spending resolution.

Mayor Bob Nation pointed out that the city would be reimbursed by TDD revenue in 2015. Hurt did point out that while the economy appears to be improving no one can be sure how much revenue the TDD sales tax will generate in two years.

It appears as if good government was tossed out the window for convenience. The right thing would have each elected official vote on each funding issue since they all have different levels of importance and need.

**CITY MANAGER DISSES COUNCILMAN:** During the debate on the resolution to use \$1.1 million from the city reserve to fund projects as a bridge loan until TDD funds were generated, Councilman Dan Hurt made a motion to separate the spending issues. He prefaced his motion by saying he talked to several people after the pre-meeting “agenda meeting.” Hurt asked, “My question is...will staff do anything further, like seek a Park’s grant to funds for the trial.”

City Administrator Mike Henning then made an odd comment that was somewhat snide and untoward directed at an elected official.

“I wished we knew about this motion so we could have discussed this in the pre-meeting,” said Henning.



City Administrator Mike Herring taking Councilman Dan Hurt to task for making a motion.

It seems to me it is Henning’s job to serve the council and not scold the council. Any councilman has every right to make a motion during a regular meeting.

Henning should have been aware having attended the finance committee meeting that that all the projects were discussed separately and it should not have been unusual for a councilperson to bring up the issue.

**FLACHSBART TO THE RESCUE:** At Monday's meeting Councilman Barry Flachsbart gave you another good reason to like him, even if you don't agree with him on all issues. When Dan Hurt made the motion no one was ready to second it. I thought Nancy Greenwood would have but she didn't.

Flachsbart spoke up.

"I'll second it so it can be heard and voted on," said Flachsbart who voted against the motion.



Barry Flachsbart listening to debate on Dan Hurt's motion which he seconded but voted against.

**ANOTHER DIP INTO THE RESERVES TO SAVE \$25,000:** The city council on Monday also voted to spend \$180,000 to pay on some bonds early. The move will save \$25,000 in interest.

**LADUE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2014:** The City Council voted to enter into an agreement where MoDOT will fund the reconstruction of Laude Road from Olive to Hwy 141. This is part of a deal where MoDOT drops control over Highway AB (Ladue) and gives it to the city.

"It (Laude Road) will finally be brought up to our standards," said Mike Geisel, the city's Services Director. The city also entered into a similar deal involving Greentrails Road from Ladue Road to White Road.

**SOLAR THERMAL UPGRADE:** Again it was only Nancy Greenwood and Dan Hurt asking questions about spending \$34,500 for upgrades to the solar tubes on the roof of city hall. These solar tubes do not produce electricity like solar panels, but they provide heat for fluids used to operate certain systems in city hall.

“I wish we had a cost benefit on this,” said Greenwood in the agenda meeting.

Services Director Mike Geisel could not provide that information to Greenwood or Hurt but said the backup pump is important to keep the system operating in the event the primary pumps fails.

The measure passed 7-0 in the regular meeting. (Councilman Bruce DeGrot was absent.)

(This originally appeared in our Ex-Alderman Newsletter 91)

**MILLION DOLLAR DIEHL KEEPS RAKING IN THE MONEY:** From 2008 to date, State Representative John Diehl has never run against anyone in a primary election or a general election. You could nickname him “Unopposed Diehl” if it wasn’t for one thing. There are so many better nicknames for Diehl. I like “Million Dollar Diehl” while others prefer John “Let’s Make a Diehl.”

From 2008 until April 1, 2013 Diehl had collected \$1,132,251 in campaign contributions to run against no one. In the last three months he has added another \$106,465 in contributions, which brings his **total of money collected to run against no one to an amazing \$1,238,716.**



In the past we have pointed out how Diehl has spent campaign contributions on air fares to Washington, DC, Las Vegas and Kansas City. The campaign contributions have paid for luxury hotel rooms in Clayton, Missouri a dozen miles east of his house on Clayton Road just past I-270. The same campaign money has paid for high dollar dinners all around the country and in Clayton, but none in his district.

So let’s look and see who among the big donors gave Diehl money this last quarter and where he spent it.

\$5,000	Right Choice for Managed Care	Cincinnati, OH	Healthcare
\$2,500	The Travelers	Hartford, CT	Insurance
\$2,500	Missouri Ins Coalition PAC	Jefferson City MO	Insurance

\$5,000	Blue Cross and Blue Shield PAC	Kansas City, MO	Insurance
\$1,000	Missouri Chamber PAC	Jefferson City, MO	Retail
\$1,000	American Family Ins PAC	St. Joseph, MO	Insurance
\$1,000	CenturyTel	Monroe, LA	Telephone Co
\$2,500	MO Optometric PAC	Jefferson City MO	Healthcare
\$1,000	Home Building Industry PAC	Creve Coeur	Building
\$1,000	Assoc Gen Contractors PAC	St. Louis, MO	Building
\$1,000	Laclede Gas PAC	St. Louis, MO	Utility
\$3,000	Cigarette Retailer using the same address at 4400 Woodson Rd under three different names	Overland, MO	Tobacco
\$2,500	Ameren PAC	St. Louis, MO	Utility
\$2,000	The Dope Run Company	Maryland Heights	Lead Producer
\$1,000	Stinson, Morrison, Hecker LLP	Clayton, MO	Law firm/Lobbyist
\$3,000	Jon Rand, Land developer	Dixon, MO	Developer
\$1,000	Dealers Interested in Government	Jefferson City MO	???
\$2,500	Mo State Farm Agents PAC	Jefferson City, MO	Insurance
\$3,500	Realtors PAC	Columbia MO	Real Estate
\$1,000	HEAL PAC	Creve Coeur, MO	Health Care
\$2,283	Anheuser Busch	St. Louis, MO	BEER
\$2,500	Supermarket Merch & Supply	St. Louis	Retailer
\$ 500	Anthony Sanfilippo Pinnacle Entertain	Las Vegas	Gambling
\$5,000	Friends of Tilley	Perryville MO	former speaker of the house/lobbyist
\$2,500	Ford Motor Company	Dearborn, MI	Car maker
\$1,000	Rudolph Farber	Neosho, MO	Banker
\$1,000	Dr. Stephen Waltman	Frontenac, MO	Health Care
\$1,000	Pfizer, Inc.	Memphis, TN	Pharmaceuticals
\$1,000	TC Loan Service	Fort Worth, TX	Financial
\$1,000	MO Independent Bankers	Liberty, MO	Financial
\$1,000	Sam Hamra	Springfield MO	Hotels and restaurants
\$2,880	Crown Point Golf Club	Farmington, MO	Golf/country Club
\$2,500	FEAPAC of Missouri	Overland Park, KS	Education
\$2,500	Burns and McDonnell	Kansas City, MO	Construction/engineering
\$5,000	Missouri Healthcare PAC	Jefferson City, MO	Healthcare
\$5,000	Express Scripts	Cool Valley, MO	Healthcare
\$5,000	Mo Society of Anesthesiologists	St. Louis, Mo	Healthcare
\$2,500	Strategic Link Consulting	Atlanta, GA	Political Research
\$2,500	Blue Global Media	Scottsdale, AZ	Payday Loans
\$1,000	MBA Capitol Region Bank	Jefferson City, MO	Financial

\$1,000	MARF	Jefferson City, MO	Healthcare
\$1,186	Kevin Knasel	St. Louis, MO	Retail Supply

All these were \$1,000 of better contributions with the exception of one \$500 donation from Las Vegas, because nothing looks better for a Midwest politician than getting money from casinos in Vegas.

If you looked closely there was only one large donation from inside Diehl's district. Including the small donations between \$50 and \$500 we only counted six from Diehl's district.

**HOW DID JOHN SPEND ALL THAT MONEY:** As usual it is fascinating to look at how a man who raised over \$1.2million to run unopposed spends all that money. Here is how he spent it (\$84,706) in the second quarter:

He continues to pay off credit card bills. The Missouri Ethics Commissions suggests that candidates don't use credit cards, but it is allowable.

April 1, 2013	\$5,273.78	Chase Card Service	Palatine, IL
May 6, 2013	\$2,625.85	Chase Card Service	Palatine, IL
June 17, 2013	\$1,590.43	Chase Card Services	Palatine, IL

**Other candidates:** Diehl's wants his buddies in the Missouri House to vote for him for Speaker of the House in 2015. What better way to make friends than to give \$50,000 to the Missouri House Republicans Campaign Committee?

He also gave \$1,300 to the reelection campaign of Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist John Dalton, who breezed to his third term in April, with 77% of the vote. Diehl had given Dalton \$2,023 of "in-kind" contribution in the first quarter of the year. That's \$3,323 to the Town and Country mayor who is most well known for using his law firm and eminent domain to snatch the family business and property of Opal Henderson for a nightclub district that never got off the ground.

**CAMPAIGN WORKERS:** Just because you never have opposition and run unopposed is not a reason not to have campaign workers. So far in 2013 Diehl has paid Charles Hinderlitter of Maplewood \$13,416. He has also been making payroll deductions with



the Feds and Missouri for Hinderlitter.

On June 24 Diehl paid \$200 each to “campaign workers” from Pocahontas, Illinois, Jefferson City, Missouri, Farmington, Missouri and Bonne Terre, Missouri.

In the second quarter of a non-election year the guy who has never had an opponent spent \$13,100 on political consults.

There was another bill for \$2,796 to the Minuteman Press in Farmington, Missouri for printing services. You would think a politician would have enough good sense to spend that kind of money in his district and not somewhere over 100 miles away.

**FORE:** We know Diehl likes to golf from all the free rounds of golf he accepted from lobbyists in past years, so it was not surprise for the following three expenses:

- \$1,164 Dick’s Sporting Goods West County Mall
- \$1,017 Eagle Lake Golf Club Farmington, MO
- \$1,300 Old Warson Country Club Ladue, MO

**YOU GOTTA EAT:** Diehl is receiving a lot fewer free meals from lobbyists in 2013. At first we thought it was because he might have been on a diet. That is no longer a viable reason. It appears as if he is using campaign funds for some spectacular meals. We can say this...Republican House members certainly like to eat well. Here is where John Diehl has been eating lately and once again he is not spending much money inside his own district:

- \$242.49 The Ecco Lounge Jefferson City Caucus member meal
- \$113.36 Stony River Chesterfield, Mo Caucus member meal
- \$333.13 Café via Roma Jefferson City Caucus member meal
- \$630.70 Fuji Steakhouse Jefferson City Caucus member meal
- \$439.54 Fuji Steakhouse Jefferson City Caucus member meal
- \$290.48 Hereford House Independence Mo Caucus member meal
- \$682.71 Bailey’s Range St. Louis, MO Caucus member meal
- \$152.61 Hero’s Pub Warrensburg Mo Caucus member meal

\$242.49 at the Ecco Lounge for two! My wife is from Jefferson City and I have been to the Ecco Lounge many times. It is much like Smitty's on Clayton Road. The front half is a bar and the rear is a restaurant with about 10 tables. The highest priced entrée on the menu is \$26. Most of the entrées are between \$12 and \$16.



**GOTTA GET AWAY** Diehl used more campaign funds to fly away from his district. On June 3 Diehl spent \$707 for Southwest Airline tickets.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** Diehl, a local lawyer, has in the past belonged to area Chamber of Commerce. However now instead of using funds from his business he is using campaign contributions.

June 14, 2013    \$350    Kirkwood Chamber of Commerce

June 14, 2013    \$125    Town and Country-Frontenac Chamber of Commerce

If you would like to see our break down Diehl's contributions for the first quarter of 2013 please go to check our April newsletter:

[http://www.johnhoffmann.net/chesterfield\\_29.pdf](http://www.johnhoffmann.net/chesterfield_29.pdf)

THIS IS NEW!

**LEGISLATIVE HANDOUTS:** In a huge surprise we thought the floor majority leader and Town and Country/Chesterfield state representative **John Diehl** must continue to be on a diet. That was until we saw what the kind of meals he was buying with the campaign contributions. In 2012 Diehl accepted \$4,950 in gifts, tickets and meals from lobbyists. He was one of the leaders in the state in accepting free stuff. In 2011 he accepted \$3,632 in free stuff.

So far in 2012 he has only taken \$554 in free stuff. The only non-food item listed so far by lobbyists to Diehl was \$70 in tickets on February 19 to a Missouri basketball game from lobbyist Tina Shannon who was working for Ameren. Diehl also got a \$50 free meal from Ameren on the same day. The most expensive meal Diehl has received so far in 2013 was on February 26 when he accepted a \$60 free meal from lobbyist Charles Skoda for Noranda Aluminum.

**Sue Allen** another state representative covering parts of Town and Country and Chesterfield has almost double Diehl in free stuff. So far in 2013 Allen has accepted \$985.77 in free stuff. The Missouri Council of School Administrators through lobbyist Gary Burton have kept Sue well fed. In January Burton treated Allen to meals worth \$84.31 and \$40.51 on behalf of the school administrators' group. Later in may Burton took Allen out to dinner twice more for \$59.13 and \$52.65 on behalf of the Missouri American water Company.

Allen also got dinners worth over \$50 from lobbyists for the Centene Corporation (\$72.55) and The Missouri Energy Development Association (\$57.60).

**State Rep Don Gosen** from western Chesterfield collected only \$505.75 in free meals and tickets from lobbyists in 2013 and just one meal over \$50. That was a \$67 meal from the Farmers Insurance, which was interesting in itself since Gosen is a State Farm Insurance agent when he is not in Jefferson City.

**Jill Schupp** the State Rep for Creve Coeur and northern parts of Chesterfield gets our good government award. So far she has accepted **NOTHING** from lobbyists in 2013 and has managed to live on her approximately \$100 a day per diem.

Of course Schupp is a Democrat, the party in the minority in both the Missouri House and Senate. However, Schupp has had a track record of not having her hand out or mouth open when lobbyists are around. In 2012 she accepted \$15.45 in free food from lobbyists. In 2011 Jill took just \$13.50 of nourishment from lobbyists.



You might not agree with Schupp's politics, but you certainly have to admire her ethics in avoiding lobbyists

Earlier in 2013 she announced she would run for the Senate in 2014 and has set up a campaign committee. Her largest contributor to her Senate campaign has been herself. Unlike Diehl, Schupp wrote herself a check for \$500. She also transferred to \$59,694 from her House election campaign fund to her Senate campaign fund. Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster's campaign gave Schupp \$5,000, her largest contribution.

Two other differences between her and Diehl...most of her contributors are individuals and many from within the Senate district. Secondly she has accepted a number of contributions from labor unions.

**DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ IN THE POST-DISPATCH OR ON PATCH:** Here are three headlines:

**RAINTREE SCHOOL> Private School Construction begins.** St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
Monday July 15, 2013

**This one from StIToday:**

**Construction Begins in Town & County on Missouri's First Forest School**

BY JuliaCross | Posted: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 12:06 PM

**ST. LOUIS** (July 10, 2013) – Construction has just begun on the new \$2.3 million [Raintree School](#), the area's only **Reggio Emilia-inspired Forest School**. The new kindergarten and preschool facility, located in Town & Country, will encompass 6,800 square feet of learning space with four child-centered classrooms, a large Atelier (art studio) for hands-on science and art exploration, a teaching kitchen, dining room, an outdoor piazza, a nature-based playground with a large garden, and acres of woodland for exploration and learning. Scheduled to open in late 2013, the new school, located on Mason Road just north of Manchester, will serve approximately 70 children from age two to six. **Brandi Cartwright** and **Ilya Eydelman** started Raintree in Ballwin in 2006.

**AND THIS ONE FROM PATCH.COM:**

**Construction Underway as School Leaves Ballwin For Town and Country**

Construction is underway on the new Raintree Learning Community as the school moves from Ballwin to a new Town and Country location.

Posted by [Gabrielle Biondo](#) (Editor), July 17, 2013 at 02:33 pm

**REALITY:** As of 4pm on Thursday July 18, 2013



Perhaps someone with a better eye than me could find where the construction is that has been reported to have started. I'm sure it will start sometime, but contrary to published and posted reports it has not started yet.

**PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS MERRELL HANSEN FOR P&Z SEAT.** Connie Fults, chairwoman of the Planning and Public Works Committee enthusiastically endorsed the nomination of Merrell Hansen to a vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Hansen, a communications and PR consultant is currently on the board of directors of the chesterfield Arts Foundation. However she doesn't have any experience in building, planning or engineering.

She was at the Planning and PW committee meeting on Thursday for a public interview. Fults started her off with a big softball by asking, "What programs do you think we have done good?" (That's not a typo...she said "good.")

Hansen was a true professional. Without getting into specifics she gave a general answer.

"I don't think houses have to be big to be wonderful," she said.

Barry Flachsbart maybe the senior member of the city council and may as a college professor look like a kindly sort, but he can be as sly as a fox.

“I’d like to continue on Councilperson Fults’ question, he said. “What do you think we have done bad?”

Hansen looked around, then closed her eyes, then hummed. She finally came up with this.

“I think Marquette High School is a mess,” she said.

It pays to know your geography. Marquette High School is not in Chesterfield. It sits on the old Kuhnert farm property in Clarkson Valley. Clarkson Road in front of the school is in Chesterfield, but the campus and buildings are all in the City of Clarkson Valley.



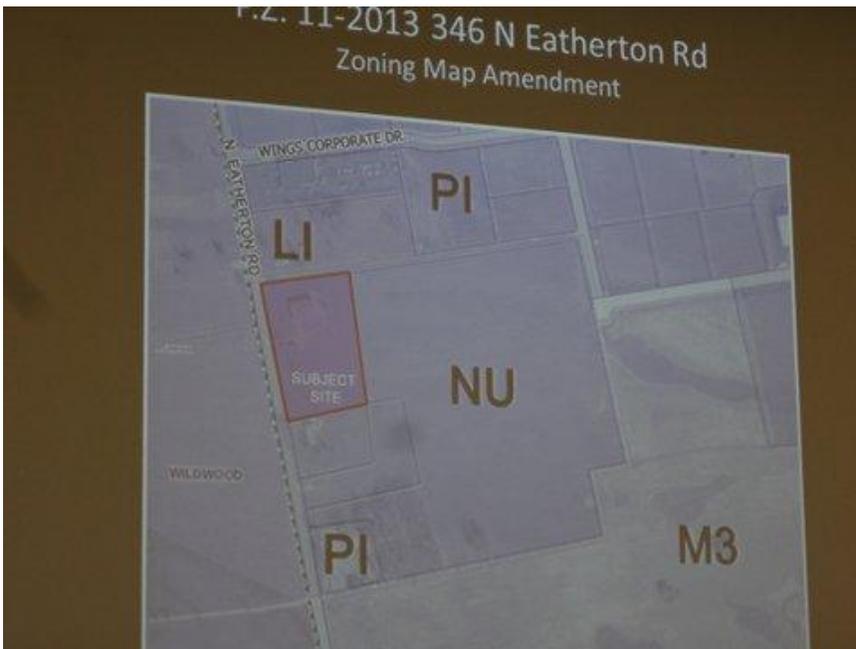
The committee voted unanimously to recommend to the full City Council to approve Ms. Hansen for the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**JUST WHAT CHESTERFIELD NEEDS ANOTHER MEDICAL BUILDING;** The committee approved plans for a new medical building to be located to the east of the Kemp Auto Museum. The planning department staff requested an amendment to change restrictions of hours of operations. The plans came out of the full Planning and Zoning Commission with retail business restrictions of hours no earlier than 7am and no later than 11pm. Medical facilities are exempt from those hours. The project was voted to be moved on to the full council with an attached amendment removing the business hour restrictions for medical offices and keeping them if any retail businesses are in the new building.



**FOR YOUNG BUSINESSMAN THE FUTURE IS NOW...FOR COUNCILMAN HURT IT IS IN 2033:** For ten years Paul Denninger has had a landscaping company, called Denninger Enterprises it is currently located at 1865 Schoettler Valley Road. He wants to move the company to western Chesterfield at 346 N. Eatherton Road. There he have more room. He could grow and sell plantings and store lawn care equipment. .

The planning staff recommends approval.



Note what appears to be a road at the top of pink site area.

Councilman Dan Hurt announced how it is important when looking at plans to look 20-years ahead. Hurt said Highway 109 was eventually come in a replace Eatherton Road and he was concerned about too many curb cuts becoming a safety issue and an eyesore like Manchester Road is in the cities of Manchester and Ballwin.

Hurt suggested that Denninger Enterprises not have any curb cuts on Eatherton Road and instead connect to the road at the very top of the property which appears to have access to Eatherton Road.

Denninger got up and pointed out that the road Hurt is referring to is a private road, is not on his property and it is currently closed at Eatherton. He also pointed out there is a steep hill from his property to the road.

Hurt appeared to blow off the costs to modify the terrain, saying that was no big deal. (Expensive yes, but no big deal if you have the money!)



Councilman Dan Hurt

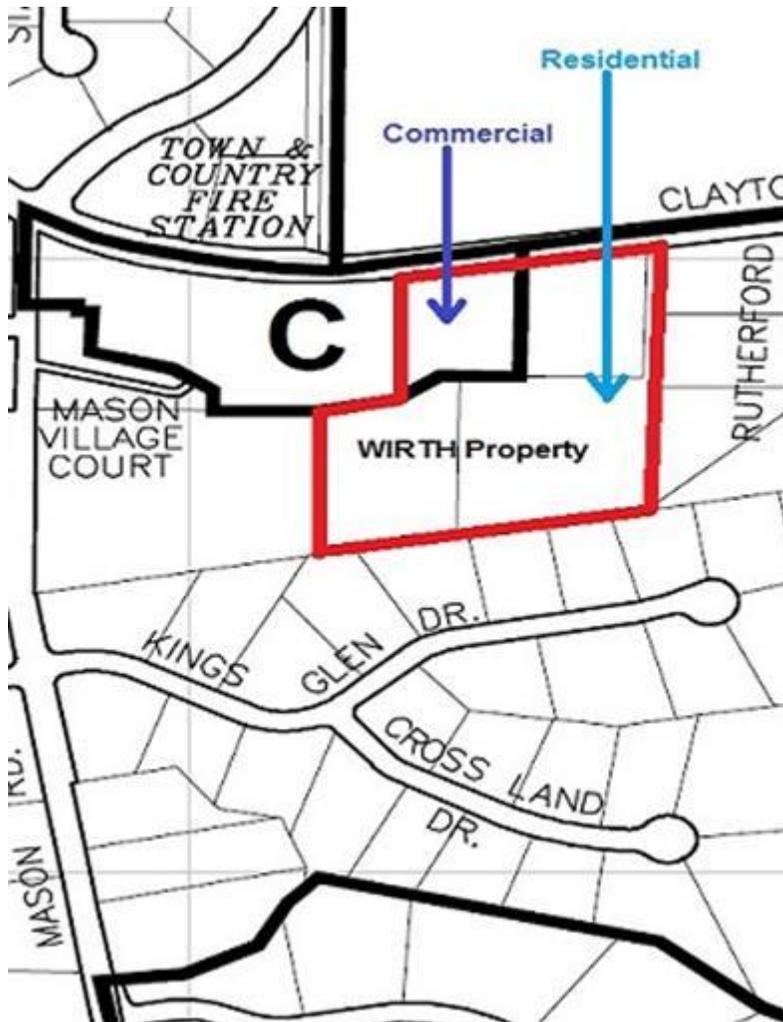
This was a conflict with Hurt wanting things to be good 10 or 20 years from now. Meanwhile, there was a young businessman who wants to move to a larger area and grow his business. Without a curb cut on Eatherton Road he would currently have no way to access the property. The planning staff pointed out that when Highway 109 replaces Eatherton Road it will not be limited access and will have curb cuts.

In this battle of “now” versus “back to the future”...I have to side with Mr. Denninger.

**ANOTHER DEVELOPER WANTS A CID (community improvement district):**

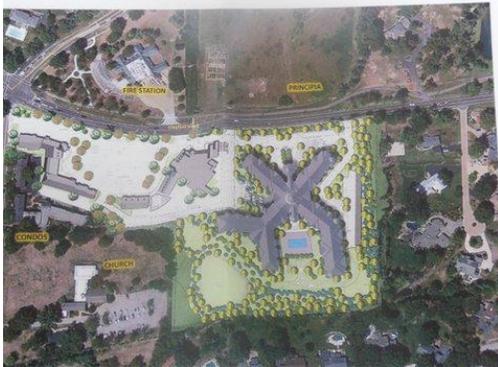
This has been a big issue in Ellisville over the TIF tax abatement to Sansone Development for a WalMart in Ellisville. In Chesterfield former mayor Nancy Greenwood was elected to the City Council because she was against giving sales taxes in the form of a CID to Premium Outlet Malls and a TDD (traffic development district) for Prestige Outlets. Mayor Bob Nation ran on a similar platform.

Now there is a new proposed plan where a developer wants to use a CID sales tax to help pay of the improvements to a 40-year old shopping center and to help pay for the construction of a 150 unit luxury retirement community, to be built on land currently zoned residential. .



The proposal is on Clayton Road in Town and Country. The developer, Love Companies, have owned the Mason Woods Village shopping center with Straubs on one end and John Mineo's on the other end at Clayton and Mason Roads for 40 years.

Love wants to combine the shopping center with nine acres of land to east. Of that land (the Wirth Property) one acre is zoned commercial where a former Standard (Amoco) gas station used to sit. The remaining seven acres is zoned residential. Love wants to combine with Allegro Senior Living and put in a 150 unit retirement community on par with the Gatesworth.



**{Planned development}**

At the same time they want to expand and remodel the shopping center. To do this they want the city to give them a CID tax.

Apparently the people at the Love Companies feel that no one will notice adding 1-percent to the prices at Straubs. Love claims the CID will go to the improvements at the shopping center, but those improvements will be tied directly into entrance, driveways, lighting for the retirement center also.

Here is a problem... Red Schoendienst helped back Joe and Georganna Linneman in building Mari de Villa in 1960. (My grandfather was one of their first residents and died there in 1963.) They did it with investment money and hard work. They did not have a special tax that helped pay for the development.

Delmar Gardens didn't get sales tax money to construct their facility on the south Outer Forty Road, nor did the Cedars facility just west of Mason Road on the South Outer Forty Road. The senior living complexes on Clayton Road in Chesterfield and Ballwin did not get tax breaks.

Down the street at the Schnuck's store on Clayton at Woods Mill, they did not ask for a special sales tax when they remodeled and upgraded the store in 2007.

**MUSIC:**  
**This week at Sasha's:**

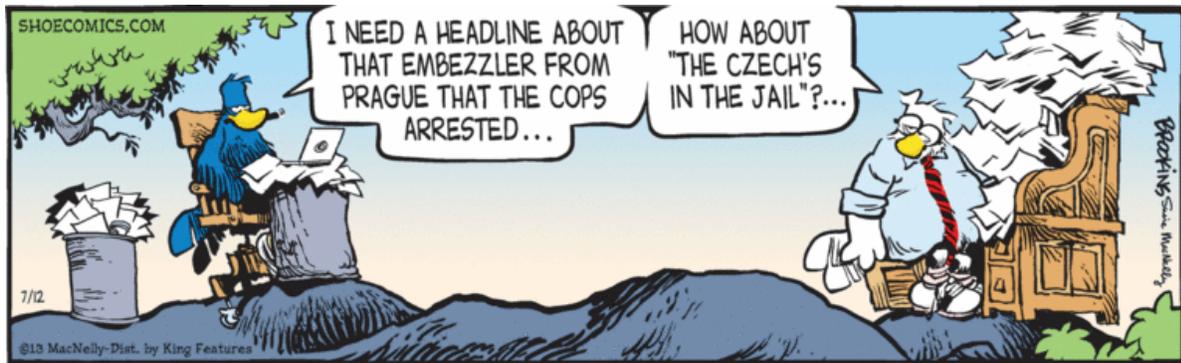


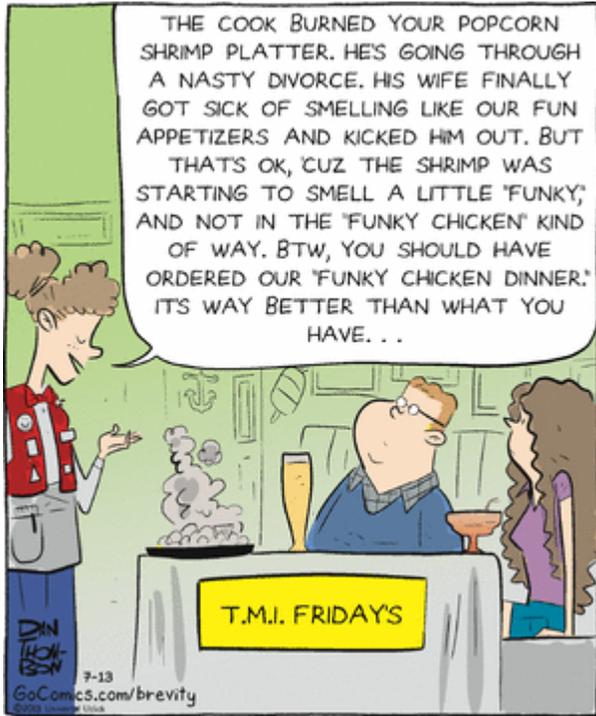
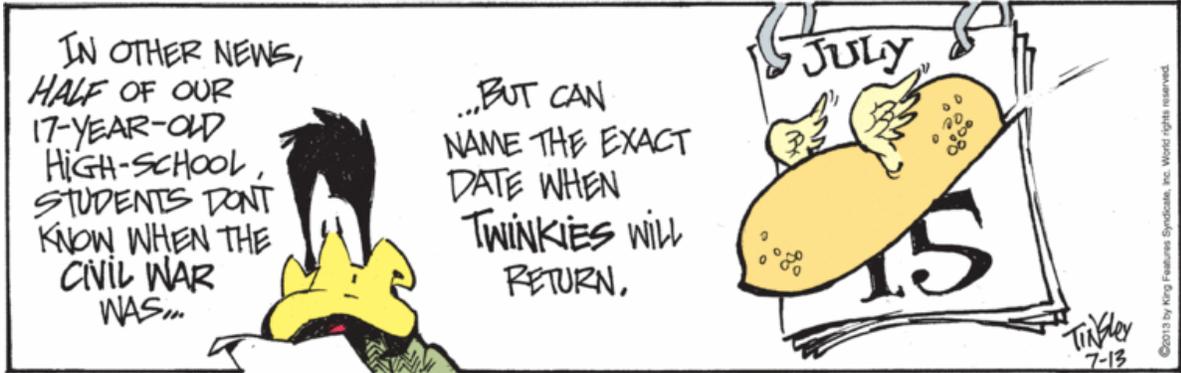
Chesterfield's Joe Mancuso stopped by for some scat singing



A visiting trumpet player from Phoenix and a flugelhorn player join Chris "Lupy" Swan and Jim Manley for the closing number. A total of five top musicians sat in with Jim Manley and Lupy last Wednesday at Sasha's.

**CARTOONS:**

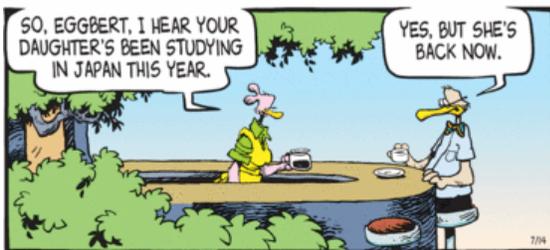






SHOE

BY GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY



WOLFF PRINCIPAL  
ARTIST: [signature]



www.investors.com/cartoons

