

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 43



September 11, 20130

By John Hoffmann

CHESTERFIELD POLICE COMMANDER DOESN'T KNOW HOW MANY OFFICERS THE CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT HAVE: I found this amazing...I had attended the Finance and Administration Committee Meeting where Chief Ray Johnson announced he had just hired four officers to fill four vacancies and wanted to add three more officers. Chief Johnson, who I have known for over 40 years, left the meeting early before I could ask him what the current authorized manpower of the police department is.

At 9:30 I decided to call the police department and ask. A police clerk, Eric, answered the phone and I asked him. He said he didn't know but he would find out. He came back on the line and told me to call Capt. Lewis in morning. I asked him if he really didn't know how many officers the department had. He told me to hang on.

A lieutenant came on the line. I explained that I was a retired police officer who now does some reporting and had been at a meeting earlier where the chief left before I could find out what the authorized strength of the department was. The shift commander said he could not answer that question. He could call a captain at home and have the captain call me back.

This is a perfect example of a police department that really does want to get along with reporters. This is a perfectly innocent question and the police commander REFUSED answer.

I went to the Chesterfield website and spent five minutes reading through several screens and bingo...what the night watch lieutenant refused to tell was right there. The Chesterfield Police have an authorized strength of 88 officers. Perhaps some of them are either dumb simply jerks.

POLICE CHIEF GETTING MORE COPS...OUTLET MALL CALLS PUTTING STRESS OF DEPARTMENT:

Police Chief Ray Johnson went to the Finance and Administration Committee meeting on Tuesday with early police stats from the Outlet Malls and the request for three more police officers immediately and more again in 2014.

The department had been operating four short for much of the year after two officers died from heart attacks, one resigned and another was fired. He said they have just hired four people from other departments that will be starting in the next two weeks. He was asking to use the money saved with four openings to immediately hire three additional officers and added he would be requesting more officers in 2014.

Johnson said he wanted to start a special "Chesterfield Valley Unit" with six officers to handle calls and patrol the Outlet Malls, the THF stores the parks and ball fields.

"The short time the outlet malls have been open we have been inundated with calls," said Chief Johnson.



Chief Ray Johnson telling committee members why he needs to immediately add three new police officer positions.

Johnson gave an example of through the first nine-and-a-half days of September the department had handled 61 calls at the two outlet malls, plus worked 14 auto accidents that were directly related to the new malls. That is more than 7.5 new calls a day.

Johnson continued that security at both malls are not doing anything about shoplifting and add the security officers at the Taubman Outlet have been told not to get involve with shoplifters.

IN 2010 the police department cut seven positions in a move called "right-sizing." They have since restored two positions. These three and the new positions in 2014 should put the department above their authorize strength prior to 2010.

A HOPE TO USE PARK SALES TAXES TO FUND MORE POLICE OFFICERS:

While the general local sales tax collected in Chesterfield goes to the county-wide tax pool, the ½-cent Parks sales tax goes directly to Chesterfield. Johnson’s plan of having a special Chesterfield Valley unit with duties that include patrolling the Parks seem like simply a method to get funding out of the Parks’ sales-tax fund.

Where I lived and worked in law enforcement from 1990 to 2006 was Montgomery County, Maryland, bordering on the north side of Washington, DC. Montgomery County had a huge parks system. At one point they had County Police officers assigned to the parks, but the officers got called out of the parks so often to assist other officers or handle non-park calls, there were never any cops in the parks. Finally in 1953 there was a separate police department formed just for the parks with no connection to the County police. The idea was that these officers would stay in the parks.



I see a similar problem ahead for this special Chesterfield Valley Unit. Chief Johnson himself admitted that they had become “inundated” with calls at the outlet malls. He didn’t talk about the high call volume in the parks, on the levee trail or at the ball fields.

The Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Committee has three of the same councilpersons as the Finance and Administration Committee, only Bruce DeGroot is not also on the F&A Committee. That is not much oversight to make sure the police department does not charge the Parks’ Sales Tax Fund for more than the service they actually provide. It is one thing to schedule officers to spend so much time patrolling parks and it is another thing for them to actually do it due to constantly getting calls at the Outlets and the THF shopping areas.

TAXPAYER FUNDED TERM LIFE INSURANCE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS PLUS JUDGE AND PROSECUTOR TO CONTINUE: The city has been providing free term life insurance for councilpersons, the mayor, city judge and city prosecutor. There are some exceptions. Councilman Dan Hurt, Nancy Greenwood and Barry Flachsbart have always refused to accept the free insurance.

City Administrator Mike Herring stated the free life insurance was a response to the Kirkwood City Hall shootings where some of the victims did not have life insurance. He then confused things by saying the city has only been paying around \$1,744 for the life insurance since 2004. Confused? You betcha...the Kirkwood City Hall shootings happened in 2008.



Police cars from all over St. Louis County jam Kirkwood Road near the Kirkwood city Hall on February 7, 2008. City Administrator Mike Herring stated the free life insurance for officials was in response to the Kirkwood shootings and then said the price has been the same since 2004.

MAYOR WANTS PAY RAISE FOR FUTURE MAYORS AND COUNCILPERSONS

Mayor Bob Nation brought up a politically sensitive matter of giving elected officials a pay raise. The salaries of councilpersons and the mayor have not increased since 1990. Councilpersons earn \$6,000 a year and the mayor makes \$12,000.

“It seems odd there has not been an increase in pay for 23-years,” said Nation. “I don’t think the citizens would mind. I felt there was a justification for a small bump.”



Mayor Nation explains why he thinks elected officials should get a raise.

Nation suggested that the mayor’s salary should be increased from \$12,000 to \$18,000 or \$20,000. He suggested that councilpersons salary go from \$6,000 a year to \$7,500.

Councilwoman Nancy Greenwood disagreed with Nation about the need for raises.

"I'm don't agree with this at all. We all chose to run for office," she said. He added that she would not be against the raises for political reasons she is simply against the need for raises.

Councilman Elliott Grissom waffled and supported both points of view.

"I understand what the mayor is saying and what Nancy said," Grissom commented. "However you paid to get here (paid to run for office)," he added.

Committee chair Mike Casey said he had individual conversations with other councilpersons and a vote for pay raises would not be "favorably received."

"It kind of seems to be kind of a selfish thing if you don't think about the people who come after you," said the mayor.

In Missouri no elected body can vote itself a raise. They can only receive a raise after their term expires and if they are reelected.

City Administrator Mike Herring said the city tries to be in the top five percent of salaries in the area. He said he would call around and check other elected officials' salaries.

I hope he calls Wellston and Pagedale, Bel Nor and Normandy. Officials in smaller cities in poorer areas have a tendency to give themselves large salaries. The mayor in Town and Country gets \$6,000 a year or half that of Mayor Nation and alderpersons get \$5,000 a year or a \$1,000 less than in Chesterfield. In Webster Groves elected officials receive no salary.

DEBATE ABOUT EXCESS FUNDS TO GO TO EARMARKED PROJECTS

SWITCHES TO VETERANS MEMORIAL There was a debate first about using funds that occur when projects are under budget for specific non-funded projects. This discussion then turned to a Veterans group wanting the city to put up \$500,000 that would include all the \$70,000 for design services prior to construction of a Veterans Memorial.

"I don't see the value in funding projects as seed money unless they have their \$500,000 in place," said Nancy Greenwood.

I'm a veteran and I'm astonished with the amount of money they want," said Mayor Nation.

“Who are these guys and why have we not met them,” said Mike Casey.

“It has pretty much only come together in the last nine months. They will be at the parks meeting on Monday night,” said Mike Geisel, Director of City Services.

“This would be an asset to the parks program. It is going to enhance our parks,” said Greenwood, who seemed to flip from her earlier statement.

“It doesn’t seem wise,” said Mayor Nation. “\$1-million seems to be an astronomical amount. I don’t understand why we need to spend one dime until we know they have their money.”



City Administrator Mike Herring moves to move the Vet

Memorial off the table for the time being.

“Let’s just take the whole thing off the table,” said Herring.

JEAN WHITNEY’S CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Due to scheduling conflicts with Town and Country Aldermanic and Chesterfield Council meetings, former Patch.com editor and west coast news reporter Jean Whitney has agreed to cover some Chesterfield meetings for the newsletter. Here is her report on the last city council meeting.

Chesterfield City Council September 9, 2013

News AND Comment:



Jean Whitney

Unapproved Chesterfield Newsletter

City Council meeting Monday, Sept. 9

By Jean Whitney

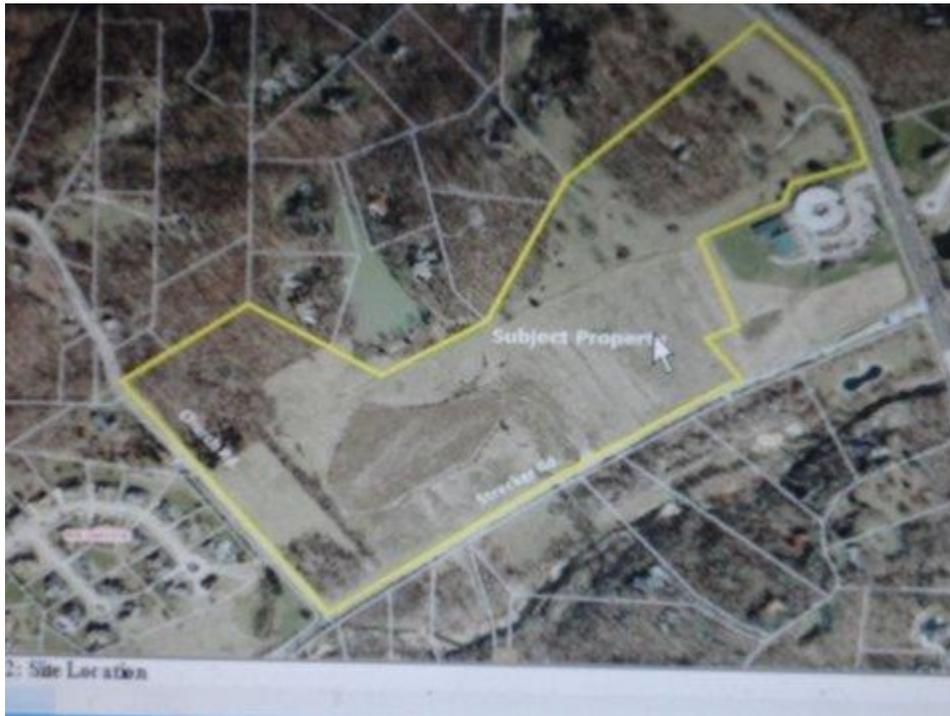
CITIZENS TO PROTEST ZONING PLAN FOR NEW HOUSES:

A public hearing for residents' protests over a city plan to reduce the size of residential lots in a tony area off Kehrs Mill near Wild Horse Creek Roads, is scheduled for Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Chesterfield City Hall.

A proposed city ordinance would apparently allow developer McBride & Son to build houses on a swath of property behind The Goddard School on Kehrs Mill.

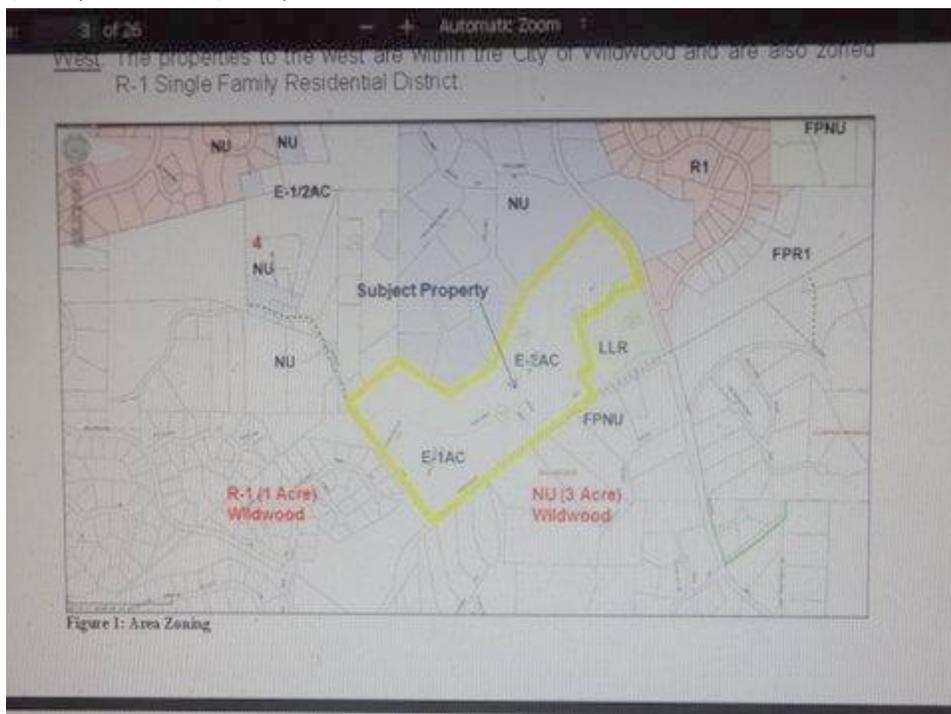
Lots could be less than the existing one-acre in the area, if the zoning change is approved.

The property in protest is described in documents as St. Mary's Institution, bounded by Strecker and Church roads.



Apparently, the intended development is known as "Arbors at Kehrs Mill."

According to website descriptions, a nearby group of houses called "Arbors at Wild Horse Creek" was developed by McBride, and offered houses for sale between \$550,000 and \$650,000.



The city added to the regular Planning and Public Works meeting scheduled Thursday, in order to listen to residents. 33-percent of nearby residents signed a protest petition.

"The hearing will be held pursuant to the Protest Petition filed for P.Z. 01-2013 Arbors at Kehrs Mill (17015 Church Rd.) and P.Z. 02-2013 Arbors at Kehrs Mill (17015 Church Rd.)"

BAN ON TRUCKS IN SUBDIVISIONS PASSES 7-1

At the regular Chesterfield City council meeting Monday night, residents spoke their minds over a new ordinance that bans certain commercial vehicles parked overnight within view, in residential neighborhoods.

Despite testimony by a Chesterfield handyman and a Chesterfield power-washing family, that banning their business trucks from their driveways would prove a hardship, the council voted 7-1 to approve a ban, with 2nd Ward Councilman Derek Grier opposing.

Grier has said since last month's discussion of the ordinance that he thinks neighborhood trustees should deal with these sorts of issues. Describing what sounded

like a "Tea Party" approach to any government regulation, Grier said: "Here's an opportunity to say we don't need this."

Other residents spoke in favor of the crackdown on commercial vehicles owned by residents and parked outside at home. The ban seems to have arisen from complaints in the Riverbend neighborhoods of Chesterfield.

One resident said after a day "out and about" seeing all kinds of commercial vehicles, she didn't want to see one at home, in her neighbor's driveway.

Others said bluntly that commercial vehicles in sight torpedoed their property values.

"I'm on the East side of Chesterfield, which is not a high-rent district," said Patrick White, who said he was a trustee in Riverbend Estates. "I think big vehicles in driveways next to me...I'd have a hard time selling the property."

White also told council members that as a Riverbend trustee, he gets lots of "complaints and nasty letters" about commercial vehicles parked overnight in the neighborhood.

"The complaints pretty much go like this: 'I moved to Chesterfield to get away from this,' " White said.

Another Riverbend resident who said she was a trustee, Carol Kenney, said one neighbor modified the height of his garage door opening so he could park his commercial vehicle inside every night. But she said two other neighbors have done nothing to hide their vehicles from view.

"How would you like to go out to get a newspaper in the morning, and see this?" Kenney asked. While the council later voted in Kenney's favor, Kenney might have found a better argument. More and more residents pick up their news off the Internet, or televisions, not driveways.

Councilman Dan Hurt, 3rd Ward, pushed through an amendment with specific wording about "licensed trucks" prior to the last vote up or down. Later, it was revealed that this may be a legal escape hatch in potential complaints about "licensed VANS," under the new ban.

GRACE PERIOD GIVEN ON TRUCK BAN. MAYOR BREAKS TIE VOTE

Councilman Bruce DeGroot, 4th Ward near Chesterfield Valley, said he wanted to "soften the blow" of banning commercial vehicles in residential neighborhoods, by giving owners six months to comply—until April 1.

"Before we turn our neighbors and friends into criminals, give them a chance to fix it," DeGroot said in a meeting prior to the council meeting.

Councilman Mike Casey, 3rd Ward, said he would give up three months, but not six. A vote over the provision resulted in a 4-4 council vote, and Mayor Bob Nation cast the tie-breaker vote in favor of six months.

"Somehow I feel it was planned this way," Nation said, about his being forced to break the tie with a public vote—hinting at a political scheme afoot. He admitted he was "conflicted over this issue" of vehicle bans overall.

Ex-Mayor and current Councilwoman Nancy Greenwood, Ward I, said earlier that neighborhood trustees came to the city looking for support in banning the commercial vehicles, and that's how the most recent proposal came about.

Just before the vote Monday, Greenwood insisted the city must deal with the issue. "It is a problem. Neighborhoods first. That's within my soul."

However, Mary Adam, a member of the power-washing family said after the vote that bans their commercial box truck: "It will be a burden."

Asked what she will do about it: "No clue," Adam said.

Lack of compliance typically results in a citation, which can go to the courts, with the potential for up-to-\$1000 in fines and 90 days in jail.

Councilman Barry Flachsbart, Ward I, said there is usually a grace period for residents to comply, and then they are made aware of potential punishments.

"It's pretty rare that we have someone just say 'I will not comply,' " City Attorney Rob Heggie said. "Then it's a battle of wills, and frankly, the city usually wins." [30]

WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE FOCUSES ON DIEHL'S CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND VOTE TO REMOVE ADULT TEENS FROM SEX REGISTRY:

An Associated Press story ran in the Washington Post that showed State Floor Majority Leader John Diehl, serving Town and Country and Chesterfield has accepted \$6,000 this year alone from Jon Rand of Dixon Missouri and Rand's tobacco retail businesses. Rand has been actively lobbying to have teenagers convicted adults removed from the Missouri Sex Offender lists. Rand's son, Anthony Keil Rand, was convicted as a 17-year-old of having sex with a 12-year-old girl.



A bill was passed this year to remove teenage adults from the sex offender list only to be vetoed by Governor Nixon.

In the article Diehl claims he has been getting contributions from Rand and his companies for years. Using the plural "years" might be a stretch.

Diehl received the \$6,000 in the first half of 2013. It was \$3,000 from Rand and \$3,000 from his discount cigarette stores. The only other contributions we could find were on Diehl's October 2010 finance report filed with the Missouri Ethics Commission. In October of 2010 Diehl received four \$250 donations from the shops, three of them using the same address and none from Rand.

Of course owning tobacco stores Rand and his wife Sharie Keil having been giving money to fight the tobacco tax increase in 2012 and other tobacco issues. However in 2013 there were no tobacco issues. Other than the \$15,000 or \$25,000 contributions from Rex Sinquefield, the \$3,000 contribution from Rand was one of the largest from an individual Diehl has received. When he was quoted as saying he has never spoken to Rand of Kiel about the sex offenders list or was aware they had a son on it, simply seemed a little hard to believe.

I guess I have to wonder is if you had a 12-year-old daughter who was raped by a 17-year-old, would you want him on a sex offender's list for as long as possible?



33-year-old Anthony Rand

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/apnewsbreak-political-donor-is-behind-mo-effort-to-remove-juveniles-from-sex-offender-sites/2013/09/06/7a30466a-1721-11e3-961c-f22d3aaf19ab_story.html

THE T-FED PLEA DEAL AND THIS NEWSLETTER GETS LOCAL

PROSECUTOR FIRED: The Ellisville City Council meeting on Wednesday September 4 started with Mayor Adam Paul using a power point presentation of the latest arrest of Chesterfield resident Theodore Federer by the Ellisville Police and how the case was handled by the city prosecutor, Paul Martin.

21-year-old “T-Fed” was arrested by the Ellisville cops for Speeding, DWI, Driving on a Revoke License, Failure to Show Proof of Insurance, Open Container of Alcohol and Possession of Marijuana.



City Prosecutor Paul Martin accepted a plea deal resulted in T-Fed pleading guilty to DWI, but being placed on a “no-record” SIS probation, with the marijuana and Open Container charges dismissed and the speeding and revoked license charges reduced to “Illegal Parking.” This was despite the fact that he was already on probation for DWI in a drunk-driving injury accident in Camden County. The Plea deals also came in less than a year after T-Fed had a Stealing (Till Tap) charge, a “Give False Info to Police” charge and another Stealing charge that also included an assault plus a destruction of property all either dismissed or reduced to “littering” in Chesterfield.



Mayor Paul pointed out that the Ellisville charges could have resulted in 26-points on T-Fed’s license and instead he left the court with NO points against his driver’s license.

Mayor Paul credited our newsletter with uncovering all this information. The city council then voted unanimously to fire Martin as soon as they could hire a replacement city prosecutor.

While Mayor Paul credited this newsletter with uncovering the facts resulting in the firing, in fact Martin was going to get fired. He had already been fired as City Attorney for being in the conspiracy with the city manager and Councilman Matt Pirrello in putting up bogus information to impeach Mayor Paul, with the impeachment being overturned by the Circuit Court.

When they fired Martin as city attorney they basically forget to hand him a pink slip as prosecutor. The mishandling of the T-Fed case gave the council grounds to fire him as prosecutor.

Councilman Gary Voss correctly commented before voting to fire Martin that the council needs to talk to city judge Donald Anderson and express their displeasure for allowing such deals on DWI cases.

After the vote City Manager Kevin Bookout made a statement that the police and court use a computer data base called REGIS and not a statewide database called MULES and did not know about Federer being on probation. It might have been one of the last comments Bookout will make at a city council meeting.

Now of course I can enter Federer's name in the "case.net" data system from my house and find this information but this is too difficult for Ellisville officials to do. Also before giving anyone probation on a drunk driving charge, shouldn't a prosecutor and judge ask the defendant if he had ever been arrested before, place on probation in the past or are currently on probation? Apparently that is also too difficult for the court officials in Ellisville.

SECOND FIRING OF THE NIGHT: Well actually it was the start of the second firing. At the end of the regular agenda of the Ellisville City Council meeting, newly elected councilman Mick Cahill made a surprise motion. He moved that the city begin the procedure to fire city manager Kevin Bookout. Bookout had assisted Councilman Matt Pirrello and former city attorney Paul Martin in bringing the impeachment charges against Mayor Adam Paul. The impeachment and three-day hearing cost the city close to \$100,000 and it was promptly overturned by the Circuit Court.

The only suspense in the vote was when Councilwoman Linda Reel paused before joining Cahill, Voss and Mayor Paul with an "aye" vote to carry the motion 4-to-3.



Mick Cahall reads a motion to begin procedures to fire Ellisville City Manager Kevin Bookout. Bookout has his eyes closed as City Clerk Leigh Dohack records the 4-3 vote to oust him.



Bookout not looking too thrilled immediately after the vote.

Prior to the vote after the citizen comment section of the meeting, Councilman Gary Voss made his unhappiness with Bookout known after learning from citizen Elizabeth Schmidt that some landlords had begun to improperly force residents from their apartments in sections of the Clarkchester Apartments the prior weekend and boarded up units. While some apartment owners do not want to sell to Sansone for the Wal-Mart project others are trying to sell as soon as possible even if they have to break leases.

“I’m not being informed! We are just now hearing about people being unlawfully evicted and I don’t know about it. It’s ridiculous,” said Voss directing his remarks toward Bookout.

THE END OF THE WAL-MART CONTROVERSY: At the time it appeared as if the firing of Bookout would be the big news. However a quick vote at the Ellisville City Council meeting 40 minutes prior to the vote to fire the city manager ultimately was the biggest of the night. The council voted to instruct the new city attorney George Restovich to investigate if the city council could terminate the agreement with Sansone Companies for the development of the property west of Kieffer Creek on Manchester Road for the new Wal-Mart store.

Sansone had not started construction or even acquired all the land within the require time per the original development agreement.

Late on Friday Wal-Mart announced they no longer would be considering building a new store in Ellisville.

The political issue has never been about Wal-Mart. It has been the TIF tax break the former city council had granted to Sansone, after it was voted down by the County TIF Commission.

The whole Ellisville City Council began to reek of corruption or general malfeasance when they impeached Mayor Paul to eliminate his vote when a new Council with two more anti-TIF votes was to be sworn in. The Circuit Court overturned the impeachment declaring it violated the mayor's constitutional rights. With mayor and Councilperson Linda Reel plus having two more anti-TIF votes with Gary Voss and Mick Cahill, Wal-Mart could clearly see nothing but problems in the future.

A DEMAND FOR A NEW ELLISVILLE COMMISSION: Bob Dalton, a Ballwin resident, spoke during the public comments part of the meeting. Dalton demanded that a commission or a committee be formed to bring a Hooters restaurant to West County. He said he was tired of having to drive all the way to South County or Florissant to eat at a Hooters. (Dalton apparently forgot about the Hooters in Maryland Heights during his rant.)



Bob Dalton after his demand of a West County Hooters.

NEW MEMBER OF PLANNING AND ZONING: I'm always amused when I see the residents at Town and Country or Chesterfield meetings in the audience wearing normal clothes, while some of the elected officials show up in their \$2,000 suits.

That is not the case in Ellisville. While Sociopath/Councilman Matt Pirrello always has the most expensive suit on and Mayor Adam Paul wears a suit, I have never seen Mick Cahill or Gary Voss with a tie on. In Town and Country Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith always overdresses, but is usually outdone by Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton with French cuffs and collar, plus shiny cufflinks. Then there is Tim Welby trying to look like Dalton, but missing the mark by a wide margin. In Chesterfield it is as if there is strict dress code.

So I had to enjoy the other night in Ellisville when two new members of the Planning and Zoning Commission were sworn in and one showed up in a pair of shorts, a shirt that was completely open and a t-shirt.



The person in the middle is the newest member of the Ellisville Planning and Zone Board. Compare him to T&C Mayor Jon Dalton...I think the guy in Ellisville is missing the handkerchief and collar stay.

THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE BOARD FIASCO: First it was a call from the FBI suggesting that it might be a good idea if 78-year-old Floyd Warmann resign from the County Police Board. Then there was the crime lab HVAC subcontract going to the President of the Police Board's new company, which after denials of any conflict of interest from County Executive Charlie Dooley and his appointed County Counselor Pat Reddington, Police Board president Gregory Sansone resigned. His resignation was followed by the resignation of Congresswoman Ann Wagner's husband.

ILLEGAL MEETINGS: If that wasn't bad enough, then came the news of the pre-police board meeting- meetings at local Clayton restaurants. Now normally such appointment as to the police board don't include a guarantee of free food. KSDK's investigative

reporter Lisa Zigman did a piece on how the lunches only cost taxpayers about \$17 per person which was not much.

However everyone apparently missed the big picture. The Police Board was holding secret meetings that excluded the public at area restaurants! If an elected or appointed public body is going to have a quorum and meet and discuss government business it supposed to be an OPEN PUBLIC MEETING. In other words, the County Police Board is breaking the Missouri Sunshine Open Meetings and records law.

This of course does not surprise me. The police department on advice from Ms. Redington's County Counselor's office was violating the Open Records law and forced me to file a complaint with the State of Missouri to obtain County Police DWI arrest reports. Basically it appears as if the County Police Do Not feel they have to follow the law when it comes to meetings or records.

In the case of the Police Board lunches, the Police Board needed to post in advance that a meeting (lunch) was going to be held and what may be discussed. Then they had to make seating available for the public.

WHAT WAS THIS GUY DOING ON THE POLICE BOARD IN THE FIRST PLACE? I was not even aware that Floyd Warmann wa on the police board until this story broke about the FBI call and Warmann's resignation.

Floyd's name has been connected with past police scandals.

Back in the 1970s the command staff of the Highway Patrol's Troop C was famous for fixing traffic tickets associated with politically connected people. It was a tradition that the lieutenant, who was the deputy troop commander, would go out and get the tickets fixed or court cases dropped.

In the early 1970s John Kiriakos was a sergeant with the Highway Patrol. He became well known through newspaper accounts of investigations he conducted into criminal rings. He was quickly promoted to lieutenant.

In 1976 as a cop in Rock Hill I was dispatched to come to the station and see the chief of police. When I arrived there was then Lt. Kiriakos in the chief's office. I was told that I had written a speeding ticket to a "friend of the highway patrol" and the chief asked that I take the ticket and write across it that it was improperly issued so it would be dismissed.

Kiriakos told me how the driver had done several favors for the highway patrol. I knew he was a well-off business man and not some undercover informant. I refused to fix the ticket much to the dismay of Kiriakos and the police chief. I said I didn't know how that would be fair to the other people cited who were not "friends of the highway patrol." Besides at the time some troopers had the reputation for not letting cops off they stopped for speeding. I was thinking, "Why should I do these guys any favors?"

Three or four years later the ticket fixing scandal broke in the media when troopers complained of their commanders trying to fix tickets issued in a DWI case and another case involving Warmann. The scandal resulted in Kiriakos, who had now been promoted to captain and his lieutenant being forced to resign and the Troopers across the state forming a labor association to provide legal services to protect them from such activities by the patrol's command staff.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=191&dat=19800805&id=yolwAAAAIBAJ&sjid=t0QDAAAAIBAJ&pg=6675,2525347>



Floyd Warman



Co. Executive Charlie Dooley

That ticket fixing scandal alone is enough reason why you would not want Warmann on a police board. However, if you were doing a background check to hire Warmann as a rookie police officer he could never pass it. Warmann has seven pages in one computer database of lawsuits, mostly against him. Many are from banks suing him. Do you think it is a good idea to have someone with a history of severe financial problems on a police board? Apparently that is no problem for County Executive Charlie Dooley.

With both current members resigning and new nominees withdrawing their names, a logical candidate for the Police Board of course would be me, since I have 30 years experience in law enforcement including command experience, I have been an elected official, and a regular critic of government. And of course such a suggestion proves that this newsletter also includes humor whenever possible.

WAS ANYONE ELSE THINKING WHAT I WAS THINKING WHEN I SAW THE COVER OF TOWN AND STYLE MAGAZINE: There it was...a cover story of the upcoming (in October) Dan McLaughlin charity golf tournament at Norwood Hills. I immediately wondered if there was going to be alcohol served.



The Cardinal TV broadcaster was arrested twice in 2010 and again in 2011 in Chesterfield while driving drunk on the way home to his Town and Country residence from a golf outing. The first time McLaughlin had pee'd in his pants, offered the arresting officer a bribe and refused to take the breath test. In the second incident McLaughlin had two accidents in his SUV about 50 feet apart, got the GMC SUV stuck on a high curb, was so drunk he could not figure out how to open the vehicle's door and later at the police station could not dial the phone.

The good news this year is the route home from the golf tournament does not include going through Chesterfield.

POST-DISPATCH CONTINUES TO BE A FOUNTAIN OF MISINFORMATION:

Wrong City: It used to be at a large daily paper mistakes were rare. How do I know? I used to work at the Kansas City Star. That paper may have been boring at times, but it rarely contained wrong information. If a reporter made a mistake it would likely be caught by one or two editors who reviewed the story. There were six different editors on the late night sports desk.

Those days are gone. I have to confess that I like newspapers. When we lived in Kansas City I got the Post and the Globe-Democrat mailed to us and subscribed to the KC Times and KC Star, which we later got for free when I worked for them part time.

We were recycling newsprint on a regular basis. It was unusual to find mistakes. Not anymore!

On Sunday September 1, Ken Leiser in his transportation column on page 2 of the Post-Dispatch by had placed the Motorist Assist office and the MoDot Traffic management Center in Chesterfield. This is an ongoing battle of local reporters not knowing where things are and people at MoDot who keep giving their post office address as an actual location.

Here is the email I sent Leiser:

From: John Hoffmann [mailto:johnhoffmann@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2013 6:58 PM
To: 'kleiser@post-dispatch.com'
Subject: Did MoDot move?

Ken,

I could not help but notice in Sunday's paper you put the MoDot Motorist Assist Office in Chesterfield. I was shocked. How could they have moved out of Town and Country where they have been for years?

I went out and checked. Gee the Motorist Assist Office where the trucks are kept the drivers report to work is still on Salt Mine Road in Town and Country.

The Traffic Management Center is still on Woods Mill and South Forty Drive in Town and Country. Even the regional headquarters office where Ed Hassinger is located is in Town and Country.

I'm sure it is in Town and Country because I was an alderman in Town and Country from 2008 to 2010. But hey politicians are known dim bulbs. But wait I worked at the Traffic Management Center for 5 years for a media contractor of MoDot and dealt with Ed Hassinger and Holly Snodgrass. So yes I'm sure all those places are in Town and Country.

I have been tired seeing new reporters incorrectly report places in wrong towns in the Post-Dispatch, but I thought the transportation guy might know the area geography a little better.

Now all these buildings are in the Chesterfield zip code, but they are not in Chesterfield. Claiming they are would be like reporting something that happened on Manchester Road in Rock Hill was in Webster Groves because it has a 63119 zip code.

All these MoDot facilities are in TOWN AND COUNTRY...in the future could you perhaps properly identify them?

Thanks!

John Hoffmann

Allowing a Known Liar on the Op Ed Page: Over the last seven months articles in the Post-Dispatch have shown how Ellisville Councilman Matt Pirrello along with the former city attorney Paul Martin and city manager Kevin Bookout were behind the ridiculous impeachment of Mayor Adam Paul, apparently because Paul did not share views held by Pirrello on development projects. The circuit court immediately overturned the impeachment on appeal.

Pirrello was labeled a clown in a couple of columns by Bill McClellan. Several editorials lambasted Pirrello. Kevin Horrigan of the three person editorial staff wrote, “Mr. Paul, 32, who was elected mayor in 2012 with the help of anti-Wal-Mart voters, was threatening to [derail](#) the train. This did not sit well with Councilman (and former mayor) Matt Pirrello and city attorney Paul Martin, who began concocting reasons to railroad him instead.”

Here is part of a Post-Dispatch editorial from April 1:

“The council ignored its constituents’ pleas, so last April voters took matters into their own hands, electing a slate of anti-Wal-Mart candidates, including Mr. Paul, a 32-year-old political neophyte.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Martin and city councilman Matt Pirrello [began scheming](#) to get rid of the new thorn in their side, Mr. Paul.”

Later in the editorial the Post-Dispatch wrote: “**Here’s what** Ellisville City Council members Linda Reel, Michelle Murray, Dawn Anglin, Troy Pieper, Roze Acup and Mr. Pirrello must know before they continue this charade: There is no way this doesn’t end badly for all of you.

Then Pirrello on the McGraw Millhaven radio show said he would resign if Adam Paul was permanently reinstated as mayor. Pirrello then refused to resign when the courts permanently reinstated Paul, saying it was because of a technicality. The reason the courts gave was that rulings in the impeachment proceeding violated Paul’s constitutional rights. Apparently Pirrello thought the U.S. Constitution is a mere technicality. When this was pointed out to him Pirrello and he was asked again why he hasn’t resigned he said “Politicians have the right to change their minds.”

So how does the Post-Dispatch reward a person they have called a “schemer” who railroads innocent elected officials and who then goes back on his word?



Liar, schemer and railroader Matt Pirrello

On September 4, 2013 the Post-Dispatch gave Pirrello a lot of free space. On the top of page 3 of the Editorial section liar, schemer and railroader Pirrello had an op-ed column about the Manchester Road Improvement initiative. Ironically the mayors of Wildwood and Ballwin are trying to kick Pirrello off the Manchester Road initiative committee, but the Post-Dispatch is letting him represent the group that is trying to get rid of him. Why would you give someone who you have repeatedly identified as an untrustworthy rat a free platform?

The more time I watch Pirrello at meetings and here him in the media the more I'm convinced he is a flat out sociopath. But the Post-Dispatch editorial page thinks he makes a good public spokesman.

THE FINE SERVICE OF AT&T: Tuesday September 3 I confirmed an email to appear on a local radio show on Wednesday. When I do radio talk shows I prefer to use a landline as they don't break up. Later in the day someone trying to reach me by telephone emailed me writing that all he got when he dialed my home number was a busy signal.

I checked and my phones were dead. I spent 15 minutes on the computer trying to find a number to call for service. Finally I found one and made an automated report without talking to a live person. The recorded voice told me that my service would be restored by Thursday night at 8pm. My God that is 3 days!



Customer Service is apparently no longer a priority with AT&T.

At 6pm I called again and reached a human. I was told the call was assigned to a service technician who tried to call a cell number I left and it wasn't answered so he went home for the day. This was reportedly at 4:30. I was home watching Jeopardy at 4:30.

A number of my neighbors had tried switching to U-Verse cable service and a lot of them switched back to Charter due to reception and service problems. Everyday AT&T technicians are at a junction box about two blocks from my house. I have been told that they are normally trying to fix U-Verse problems. On Tuesday when the phone stopped working there were four technicians at the junction box.

I now wonder if AT&T perhaps just wants to get out of the landline business all together.

On Wednesday morning at about 9 o'clock I received an automated call on my cell-phone from AT&T informing me that I had a service appointment on Thursday from 8am to 8pm. I was also given an "888" number to call if I had questions.

I called and reached the "Expedited Service Center" and spoke with "Miss Wallace." I asked if AT&T wanted me to cancel my life on Thursday and wait at home from 8-to-8 to get my phone service back. She said that was simply the way the message is worded and they know the problem is outside of my house.

I jumped to the opportunity to ask if that was a case, why on Tuesday the service tech did not fix my phone and instead went home when no one answered his cell phone call if the problem was not at my home. Miss Wallace said she needed to check the notes in her computer.

She then said according to the notes I had asked the service tech to call. Okay, so he didn't reach anyone...if it is an outside line problem which they now admit it is, why didn't he fix it?

I responded by saying, "I did not say I wanted anyone to call. I just wanted my phone service fixed. You guys wanted a cell number," I said. I asked Miss Wallace to please pretend this is 20 years ago, that my wife and I don't own a cell-phone. I have gone to a neighbors' house and called the phone company about not having phone service.

The Federal Government has a boondoggle program where it is paying to hand out free cell-phones in the inner city so anyone will have phone service. I live out here in the "land of the rich" and AT&T doesn't want me to have phone service for three days!

On Wednesday afternoon I got another call from AT&T on my cell-phone again telling me to wait for the service tech on Thursday sometime during a 12-hour window and be sure to have my dogs secure.

On Thursday morning my cell-phone rang waking me up at 8:25. Was it the service tech telling me he was on the way? No it was a recorded ad from AT&T.

Around 1pm on Thursday Keith, a longtime service tech with AT&T called and said he was on his way. As soon as he arrived and checked the phone connection box he said the problem was with the junction box two blocks away where there are a number of service techs on a daily basis trying to fix U-Verse problems.

Two trips back to the junction and box and finally 74 hours later I had phone service.

The Problem: I have been told by installers and by neighbors who are retired from AT&T that there is a huge problem of AT&T trying to stuff the U-Verse cable TV system down existing telephone lines instead of installing cable lines. This results in poor quality TV reception. Apparently to keep the company costs down AT&T is not willing to install the proper cables. Now their failure with U-Verse has knocked my regular phone service out for three days. This is an odd way to run a company based on customer service.

My wife is ready to sell our AT&T stock and buy Verizon Wireless which while having lower dividends than AT&T has been increasing in value while AT&T is stagnant.

MUSIC: It was sad last Saturday night. A Grammy nominated nationally known jazz singer was in town and played to an almost empty house. Roseanna Vitro was part of a memorial to jazz broadcaster Ross Gentile at South Illinois University-Edwardsville on Sunday. A friend arranged for her to do two sets at Robbie's House of Jazz (the old Cookie's Jazz club) in Webster Groves.

The first set was to begin at 8pm. I was there at 7:45 and was the only person there besides musicians and staff until a little after 8 o'clock. Rosanna did not start until about 8:20 where there were 21 people scattered around the club.

When she finished her second set there were only 11 people left. Just a few years ago a performer like Vitro would have had over 100 people per set at the former Finale nightclub in Clayton.



Roseanna Vitro singing at a nearly deserted Robbie's Jazz club.

ESTATE SALE FIND: I photograph an interesting piece of music history I saw in the dusty basement of a house in the Claymont subdivision off of Clayton Road.



This photo is from Harry S. Truman's 1949 Inaugural Ball at the National Armory. On the back of the photo at first I thought it said "Tommy Dorsey Orchestra" But I don't remember Tommy Dorsey have a large string section. The leader clearly is not Dorsey. I looked at the handwritten note on the back of the photo and I thought it might be "Tommy Downey Orchestra." Still it was an interesting piece of history.

CARTOONS:



