

## UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 51



**November 21, 2013**

**By John Hoffmann**

**CRIMINALS ALONG SCHOETTLER ROAD:** There were two arrests of Chesterfield men in the last week. Both live in subdivisions off the south end of Schoettler Road.

**\$6.3 m BANK FRAUD:** When the headline reads, Pulaski Bank Customer from Chesterfield Charged with Bank Fraud, you take notice. You even take more notice when the reporter's byline is Robert Patrick, who covers the Federal Courts for the Post-Dispatch.

51-year-old Michael Edward Filmore of 4 Sir Ryan Drive off Schoettler Road in the Brook Hill subdivision consisting of extra large houses on smaller lots, was charged with defrauding the already troubled Pulaski Bank. After the charges were announced Pulaski restated its financial earnings.

It is alleged that Filmore, a long time customer of the bank's loan department used phony information to secure over \$6,000,000 in 15 different loans.

In a search of what he spent the money on we checked several records. His County real estate records showed that he is up to date with his last real estate tax payment for 2012 at the amount of \$9,645. This is not an extreme amount in real estate taxes to pay in parts of Snoburbia.



4 Sir Ryan Court

Here are some of the cars that have been on the tax rolls registered at one time or another at 4 Sir Ryan Drive:

2009 BMW X5	BWM Financial Services	last on rolls in 2012
1999 Ford Mustang	Laura Filmore	last on the rolls in 2012
2003 GMC Denali	Michael Filmore	Active
2012 Land Rover Sport	Healthcare Partners, LLC	Active
1995 Chevrolet ¾ ton	Hospital Support Services	last on the rolls 2002
2012 Infiniti Q56	Nissan/Infiniti Leasing	Active
2005 Toyota Sequoia	Michael Filmore E-USB	last on rolls 2009
2001 Volvo V70	Volvo Leasing	last on rolls 2004

Oddly enough there are no lawsuits in Missouri courts that we could find involving Filmore.

**CHESTERFIELD RESIDENT AND TENNIS INSTRUCTOR CHARGED WITH SEX OFFENSE...IT IS ANOTHER LETTER HOME FOR VILLA DUCHESNE STAFF:** It was the second letter home this semester to the parents reference a problem person associated with the school. A month ago a letter went home after a teacher was escorted off campus in the middle of giving a test, when he was abruptly fired. The rumors flying around were concerning inappropriate contact with a student at the all-girls high school.

The latest letter went out last week after a Chesterfield resident, Javier Pozo, who gives tennis lessons to students at Villa was arrested for statutory rape and statutory sodomy. Pozo might have thought May was bad when he had to pay a \$55 fine after being cited by the Highway Patrol for speeding outside of Rolla. But it was nothing compared with what the Chesterfield Police have charged him with.



Pozo was charged last Friday with statutory rape and statutory sodomy. The charging document filed by Chesterfield Police Detective Carrie Brandt alleged that Pozo had sex with the victim, who is under 17-years-of-age between June and November 14 of this year. The charging document claimed the offense occurred on Summer Blossom Lane. Pozo lives at 14625 Summer Blossom.



The Pozo residence off Schoettler Road.

**WHAT'S THE BIG SECRET? CHESTERFIELD FAILS TO POST RECENT BUDGET MEETING OF THE FIANANCE AND ADMINSTRATION COMMITTEE:**

The Missouri Sunshine Law says government meetings are to be open to the public with certain exceptions and the meeting dates and locations have to be posted. Guess what? A meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee was held Monday.

The only way anyone knew about it was that it went long and Jean Whitney covering the agenda meeting for this newsletter (I was working as a table referee at a college basketball game) and Mary Shapiro working for the Post-Dispatch showed up expecting to hear the agenda meeting that was posted at 6:45, only to find out that there was a lively discussion about the 2014 budget.

The meeting was not listed on the city's website homepage. Nor was it listed on the website's "calendar." We next checked the agenda link for the F& A committee. The last agenda listed was for the October 7, 2013 meeting.

However, if you randomly went through all the committees' home pages you would have eventually found that the meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday from 5:30-7:00pm. This of course would mean that the regular council agenda meeting actually advertised for 6:45 would not have had a quorum.

Councilman Mike Casey, who doesn't like to tell residents why he changes his vote, is the committee chair. Also on the committee are Councilwomen Nancy Greenwood and Connie Fults and Councilman Elliott Grissom. The Chesterfield Council, likes to complain about the city not being a "point of sale" sales tax city, but takes in plenty of money for the council to spend on feel good projects that are not traditional municipal services of many other cities. I have to think someone persons did not want the press or public present for this meeting.

Here is the calendar item from the city's website for Monday November 18 that never mentioned the budget review meeting.

n 11/17	Mon 11/18	Tue 11/19
	6:45p - 7p	
	Agenda Review	
	7p - 8p	
	City Council Meeting	

**THE COUNCIL FLIPS AND FLOPS:** As mentioned in our last newsletter, it appeared as if Councilman Mike Casey had decided to change his vote on the rezoning of property at the site of the old Linda Vista Catholic School for a McBride and Son housing development.

The issue had been that the area is zoned as one-acre lot residential and McBride wanted to squeeze in lots well under one-acre in size. While the entire area is 58 acres, McBride wants to build 44 homes, the streets, easements, common grounds and right of ways that would leave all the lots under one-acre in size.

Nearby residents were not against new homes, but were against the zoning change for smaller lots. Since there was a petition field with enough nearby homeowners opposed to the change a super majority of a 6-2 vote was required.

The measure only got a 5-3 favorable vote and failed.

Now only a person voting against a measure can ask for it to be reconsidered. Bruce DeGroot and Dan Hurt were not changing their vote, but Mike Casey apparently would. Casey brought it back for another vote.

It passed on a 6-2 vote with Casey changing his vote.

A number of residents spoke on the bill and only one was for it, not oddly it was a woman who claimed her husband is a developer.

Many accused of Ward-4 Councilwoman Connie Fults ignoring residents and voting for developers, since the project was in her ward.

Casey never made a public statement concerning his flip-flop during the meeting according to Jean Whitney who attended the meeting for me. However he did tell Mary Shapiro of the Post-Dispatch that he more carefully reviewed the plans after the first vote and decided the plans adequately buffered neighboring property.

**THE CRITIQUES:** There is someone closely associated with Chesterfield city government who actually reads these newsletters and works almost as an unpaid editor, if and when they find mistakes. Thanks to emails from this person I have corrected several newsletters that have been posted online.

Here is the most recent exchange, which made me happy...no factual mistakes...this time it was a grammar and word usage issue.

**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2013 7:55 AM  
**To:** John Hoffmann  
**Subject:** RE: chesterfield news

Re: My curiosity was peaked...

peaked is not the correct word: <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/peaked>

Perhaps you meant piqued: <http://www.mtdesk.com/Piqued,+peeked,+peaked>

**From:** John Hoffmann [mailto:johnhoffmann@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2013 10:09 AM  
**Subject:** RE: chesterfield news

No...it rose to a high level and then began to decrease. My curiosity is like that.

### **MONARCH MEETING...MORE PICKETS AND MORE THEATHER OF THE ABSURD!**

There were easily 30 or more firefighters from Monarch and other union districts and departments picketing in front of the Monarch FPD headquarters before Tuesday's 4 o'clock meeting.

My favorite sign held by a picketer was one that read "**Keep Politics Out of the Fire District.**"

Now how are you going to do that? The fire district is a government agency run by elected officials. Maybe Local 2665 will be the first to keep politics out of the fire district and stop giving huge amounts of money to candidates to run for one of the three board of director seats.

In the latest election the fire union gave Jane Cunningham's opponent, Cole McNary \$27,100 just before or after the election. In fact the final donation from the fire union to McNary wiped out his campaign debt.

Perhaps if Local 2665 wanted to keep politics out of the fire district they should lobby for the City of Chesterfield to create a city fire department and take over operations within the city limits and give the other areas to the adjoining fire districts. There is a lot less "politics" in the Chesterfield city government.

Of course maybe the fire union should think and simply not have any more signs on a picket line as stupid as the "keep politics out of the fire district" sign.



There were so many picketers that there were no spaces for non-pickers who showed up to attend the meetings. This included Jane Cunningham, who was late after having to find a place to park.

The Chesterfield Police were called on a complaint that the picketers were blocking the driveway to the district building. The fire union later denied this, but photos show they were not on the sidewalk or the grass, but while not in a lane, they were clearly on the roadway including the shoulder directly next to the WB lanes and in the driveway.

What is really crazy is that on the picket line are two of the people that were appearing before the Fire Board in negotiations. I'm not saying they don't have a first amendment right to protest. I am saying it is akin to giving management the finger as you are about to sit down at the negotiations table. It seems counterproductive for the fire union.

Also how many taxpayers are going to have a huge amount of sympathy for some of the highest paid firefighters in Missouri who rarely have to fight a fire.

**REDUCING THE NUMBER OF CAPTAINS:** First there was a 4pm open to the public meeting, where the only thing on the agenda was the fire union giving a response to the fire board's plan to reduce the number of on-duty fire captains from seven to six.

Currently there is one captain at each of the five fire stations. There is also a captain assigned to Rescue that is over the rescue truck and ambulances. Finally there is a seventh captain, who is there in the event any of the other captains are on vacation, sick or at training. If the other five captains are at work, the seventh captain does a firefighter's job at captain's pay.

Then there are **Acting Captains** who fill in for a captain who is off and whose shift is not being covered by the "Seventh Captain" (aka as the 'Kelly Captain'). The acting captain gets paid at the rate of a captain only on a day he fills in. There are a number of firefighters who are on the "acting captain" list.



Brett Copeland in the white shirt and Andy Stecko in the black jacket.

**BACKFIRED:** Local 2665 shop steward Andy Stecko, who is also a captain, spoke against eliminating the seventh captain position.

“We would be telling the residents it is okay not to have the best officers on a fire truck,” said Stecko. “It’s okay to flip a coin on the skill sets of an acting captain,” he added.

Brett Coleman, a captain who is on the Local 2665 negotiating team claimed the district would only save \$2,800 by eliminating the seventh captains, who he said were not needed on only 46 days a year. Coleman said the district figure of saving \$25,000 a year was false.

**POINT-COUNTER POINT:** President of the Board of directors, Robin Harris spoke after the presentation and commented that from what he got from Stecko’s remarks was that acting captains are dangerous. Of course the firefighters filling in as acting captains are all union members.

**HARRIS** You said acting captains put residents at risk. So you are telling me we need fewer acting captains.

**STECKO:** Do I say an acting captain is not as qualified as a captain? Yes. Are we putting residents at risk (using acting captains)? I don’t know.

**HARRIS:** It seems you are paying both sides of the coin.

## **THE REGULAR MONARCH MEETING:**

Due to the large number of firefighters and union members, people were told that the first of only four rows of seats should be occupied only by residents of the fire district.

**Ast. Chief Discipline is done:** Whatever the discipline if any for Ast. Chief John Borgmann, who union reps claimed was brought up on charges for being insubordinate to Director Jane Cunningham over a discussion of using a fire truck to go grocery shopping, is over. We have been told whatever if any discipline is over and the matter is closed.



Pattonville Fire Chief Terry Loehrer

The first person giving public comments at Tuesday's meeting was Pattonville Fire Chief Terry Loehrer, who came to praise Borgmann over his involvement involving the new radio and dispatching set up with North County districts joining Central E-911 dispatch.

"He has been instrumental in the process. I hope he remains a part of the process," said Chief Loehrer.

**Comments:** For a change speakers did not lambast Cunningham or Harris over Pink T-Shirts or they being anti-union. In fact it was just the opposite. Larry Hoffman and Norman Baxter bashed the union campaign tactics and thanked Harris and Cunningham for hanging strong. Baxter also thanked them for going public with the latest contract negotiations.

"What I have seen so far is the union's lack of concern for the taxpayers," said Baxter.

Former MFPD director Rick Gans also spoke and gave kudos to Cunningham and Harris.

Cunningham then read a letter she received from an anonymous person complaining how Monarch firefighters who responded to an auto accident scene, left without removing glass from broken head lights from the street.

I have to admit that when I was a rookie police officer in 1974 working at Rock Hill all four of our squad cars had push brooms in the trunks just for doing that. The brooms and road flares were the most used items in the trunks. As I worked at other police department across the country, more and more stuff was being put in the trunks, including some high-tech equipment and I have to think maybe space for brooms vanished. The same is possibly true on fire trucks. If so it is too bad.

**300 APPLICATIONS:** The district received 300 applications for the single position of a general office worker at headquarters. The list will be narrowed to 15 before a final selection is made.

**WORKERS COMP:** Jane Cunningham continued to beat the Worker's Comp drum, showing how past practices had allowed worker comp costs to soar. She made a motion to re-bid work comp broker service and insurance.

"I think it would behoove us to look at overall broker services as well as work comp insurance," said Cunningham, allowing me to hear the word "behoove" used in a sentence for the first time in a number of years.

She asked if a motion would be appropriate. The question put surprised looks on the faces of fire district attorney Mike Bakewell and finance officer Michele DePew. Niether saw a problem putting out a new Request of Proposal, even though the current worker's comp policy does not expired for some time.



Surprise! Surprise!

Her motion passed 3-0.

Later in the Fire Chief's Report, Chief Tom Vineyard provide stats that showed the continued improvement on work comp loses, that possibly softened some of Cunningham's comments.

Vineyard showed how work comp claims in 2011 were \$968,800. In 2012 they were \$439,763 and through 10 months of 2013 they have dropped to just 25 claims for \$248,414.

This caused Cunningham to immediately ask how many 2013 claims were by the same person. Vineyard said he didn't know, but would find out.

**MORE LEGAL CONCERNS:** Cunningham then brought up that she had been checking the bills of the District's pension attorneys. Jane lamented that the District was paying huge bills from pension attorney Loren Ettinger. She said she checked Ettinger on his firm, Kodner Watkins' website and it did not list pension work being an area of expertise. I have to agree with Jane on this one. I checked the firm's website and saw criminal defense, personal injury and work comp being the main areas they claim they do. However, Ettinger's background is more in numbers crunching, showing his areas being banking, real estate, tax law and securities. She complained about the \$225 an hour rate from Kodner Watkins.

Cunningham's complaint is Kodner Watkins is using people at Niles Lankford, a firm in Indiana that specializes in pensions and pension law and wonders why more billing isn't being done by Niles Lankford and less by Kodner Watkins.

She then made a motion to put out a Request for Proposals for Pension Attorneys. That motion passed 3-0.

You have to give Cunningham some credit...she is squeezing a nickel and looking for ways to save money.

**IT'S MY FAULT:** Board President Robin Harris inquired why the costs for employee physicals are costing four times above the budgeted amount. Deputy Chief Nick Harper was sitting in the seat normally occupied by Assistant Chief John Borgmann who has had a run-in on meeting etiquette. Harper, replied to the question before Chief Vineyard could.

"It's my fault," was all he said.



Vineyard then explained that when the budget was prepared, the costs for different blood tests were accidentally not included. Harper had prepared that section of the 2013 budget.

#### **JANE VERSUS SANTA:**



There was a \$500 expenditure for the Santa in the Neighborhoods program. The money was to fix up the sleigh on a trailer they pull behind a reserve fire truck through the neighborhoods.

Jane Cunningham questioned this expense.

“Is this a tax expense,” she asked. “We have our duty to taxpayers. I generally have trouble voting for things that don’t pertain to people’s lives and property,” she said.

Director Steven Swyers said he gets more comments about this program than anything else. Board president Robin Harris commented how it was a “tradition.”

Inner city fire companies do not have time to drive Santa around since they are answering 12-to-20 calls a day. But in the suburbs it is different. Where I first worked as a cop the fire truck drove Santa through the neighborhoods, but would occasionally disappoint the kids if it got a call and Santa and the truck had to be somewhere else.

Where I was the assistant police chief, in toney and ritzy Chevy Chase Maryland, I don't remember Santa tours, but there were so many families out of town before Christmas at Ski lodges or beaches that some streets seemed deserted.

But where I lived 18 miles further north from the Maryland/DC border the fire department used an antique 1950 era fire truck to drive Santa through the neighborhoods, sounding an old Federal air siren that was louder than some air raid sirens in WW II.

The vote for the Santa expenditure was 2-0 with Jane abstaining.

**VIPER PIT OR MOLD HOLE:** I commented a month ago how stupid I thought it was for a suburban fire department, that does not have that many actual "fire" calls to give a big city nickname to a firehouse or engine company. Inner city engine companies on the East Coast have colorful names, like "Hell Fighters" and "Smoke Eaters." The folks at Monarch Station 1 like to call the assignment as being in the Viper Pit. Why I don't know.

But at the latest Monarch meeting expenditure was approved to continue the fight against mold in the fire station.

Maybe instead of the Viper Pit, the Mycelium Motel would be a better name for House 1.



**THE MOONARCH FIREFIGHTERS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS...RIGHT THIS WAY MR. FIRST NIGHTER!** The public session of negotiations between the firefighters and the fire board started out as good theater and then disintegrated into the Theater of the Absurd.

When the fire union fire proposed to go with the same contract they were working under with no changes, there was a concern with the Robin Harris and Jane Cunningham that the union would drag their feet and fight every change the new board of directors was trying to make. By doing so there would be no new contract.



From left to right, Robin Harris, Jane Cunningham and Steven Swyers.

In the current contract there is a clause if there is no new contract the existing one would be put back in place. The fire board doesn't want this...they want changes.

**BIG CHANGES ON BOTH SIDES:** The big news from last Tuesday's session was that the fire union now wants 48-hour shifts instead of the 24 hour shift with 48 hours off. The 48-hour shifts mean more consecutive days off. Some fire districts and fire departments have gone to these shifts.

In response the fire district now wants 12-hour shifts.

The debate over the length of new shifts was quite a show.

**HARRIS:** Delays by the union appear to prolong the process. Each of your proposals have moved further from the first one you submitted.

Now you are accusing us of bad faith.

We are paying for you to sleep.

*Brett Coleman, a fire captain and the lead negotiator for Local 2665. He has been the cool head and had been keeping his temper in check and making a professional presentation for the union. That was about to be altered.*

**COLEMAN:** You are not paying us to sleep. We are there to mitigate emergency situations 24-hours a day.

We have concerns. I'm stunned you think I'm presenting this in bad faith.

**HARRIS:** There is a concern of a lack of sleep on the 24-hour shift. You'd get more in a 48-hour shift?

**COLEMAN:** None of our employees would be in favor of a 12-hour shift. Many would favor 48-hour shifts.

#### **UNION PROPOSES:**

**Pay Increase:** While not asking for an actual wage increase for firefighters, which they haven't gotten for years after their pay went off the charts in the mid-2000s, the union did ask for a wage increase that would actually affect half of their members.

They wanted a 2 ½% increase for paramedics and 1 ½% pay raise for emergency medical technicians. All newer members of Monarch have to be EMS qualified. The ones that are only rated at firefighters are older employees. So these raises are across the board for employees meeting current Monarch hiring standards. The union's original proposal did not include these raises.

The union also wants increase in pay for **higher education levels**. Police and fire agencies have been getting away from these increases in pay that started in the early 1970s when most employees needed just a high school diploma. In the last 20 years applicants are expected to have obtained higher education and even academy training on their dime.

**POINT FOR THE UNION:** Somehow Andy Stecko who is often hostile toward the board, was allowed to complain that while the negotiations were being video cast to the engine bay at the headquarters building in even of overflow crowds and on the website, firefighters at the engine houses were not allow to watch.



Andy Stecko and Fire District President Robin Harris go head to head while fire district labor attorney holds his head.

“On duty personnel would be better not to observe these preceding, but to proceed with the task at hand,” said Robin Harris, at about 6:55pm.

That statement made me think... that if the on duty firefighters were not on a call, the task at hand would be finishing eating dinner, putting dishes in the dishwasher or watching Wheel of Fortune. I think the union may have had a point on this one.

**ANOTHER OPENING ANOTHER SHOW:** As Stecko and Harris were trading barbs, suddenly a women wearing a pink shirt and clearly there as a pro-firefighter union spectator, jumps up and interrupts the meeting.

“Due to my anxiety in this crowded room, I will leave and go to the engine room and watch it on TV,” she shouted.

Harris immediately issued an order.

“Chief Vineyard get a paramedic to attend to this woman!”

The woman suddenly started backpedaling.

“No! No! I don’t need that.”



Woman leaving the negotiating session claiming high anxiety! Mel Brooks singing the title song from his movie, High Anxiety.

**A POINT FOR THE FIRE DISTRICT:** The union wants the fire district to keep the Public Education Officer position as a union position. However, the fire district is eliminating that position effective January 1 and it is not currently filled.

The union does not want this job to be moved for a labor position to a management position if it is brought back. The District's position is that since the job does not exist it is a mute point. I think the union is wasting their breath on this one.

**IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL NEGOTIATING SESSION UNTIL...**The next issue is an old one. The District no longer wanted to deduct union dues from pay checks.

"This is an odd sticking point. I find it unusual that this is your line in the sand," said Coleman to Harris.

Harris said he didn't understand why the union can't draw dues from members' bank accounts or credit cards the same way Netflix does or a mortgage payment is made.

Keith Goldstein, a Local 2665 official, who if you wanted a type cast union guy, central casting would send you Goldstein, spoke up.

"Why does this have to be an issue,' Goldstein demanded. He then got in his line he has used at every session I have attended.

**"This is a union busting tactic!"**

"Would you have a problem if this was your union," asked Goldstein of Harris, referencing that Harris is a member of the airline pilots union.

**COMPROMISE AND A DEMAND:** The district had originally wanted the contract to eliminate the union using district property for meetings. They have compromised on this position and now will allow the union to hold meetings at two district properties.

However, the union wants on duty firefighters to be able to either attend the 1 ½ hour meetings on duty or use flex-time and take 1 ½ hours off to attend the meetings reference the contract.

“I would think taxpayers would not want to pay employees to attend a union meeting,” said Harris.

The whole point of having five fire stations spread out over an area is to ensure a quick response to an emergency. The idea of sending manned fire trucks and ambulances outside their service area to attend a meeting is crazy and not in the public interest.

The idea of allowing emergency staff to leave their jobs for 1 ½ hours is equally crazy. This is a big point in favor of management and makes the union people looked like idiots.

**THE UNION OFFICE GETS TO REMAIN AT A FIRE STATION:** In another compromise, the fire board said it would allow the union to keep an office in the basement of a fire station. However, Jane Cunningham felt it only fair that citizen groups also get an opportunity to also use the office space.

Coleman brought up the points of security and public access. Cunningham countered that they have to offer public groups the same space they offer the union.

This was a real waste of time and a non-issue. Brett Coleman pointed out that no group in their right mind would want to use space in a corner of a moldy firehouse basement. Of course there were security concerns also. The union should have realized that the district could never allow any groups to use the space and just let them make the point this wasn't just a “union arrangement” in theory.

The district would have been wise not to even bring it up. If they were dropping their demand that the union not use taxpayer property for meetings or an office anymore, what is the point on this one issue? I think most taxpayers would agree the union should not be allowed to use district property for anything.

**KICKED OFF HIRING AND PROMOTION COMMITTEES:** The District wants to remove union non-voting advisors from the hiring and promotional committees.

Coleman claims the union has day-to-day line employees whose advice would be beneficial in making hiring and promotion decisions.

Harris counters that Coleman's statement implied the command staff was unprofessional and could not make these decisions.

"There is no reason at all for the union to be involved in the promotion process. We have a professional staff that should be competent to make these decisions," said Harris.

Actually almost all the command staff came out of the union ranks and the fire chief was known as a "union man" in his former job of running a one-engine company department.

Common sense would say this is not really a legitimate issue for the union.

Likewise the union demanded that only the command staff, who just minutes earlier they had said needed help in making hiring decisions, should be the lone decider on extending an employee's one-year probation period. Harris maintained the extension of a probation period was so rare that it required board approval.

Frankly as a former police labor official I would prefer that the board has to sign off on extending a probation period. It would eliminate internal station house politics from affecting someone's job.

## **SHENANIGANS!**

As the negotiating session came to the 2-hour end, Keith Goldstein went on the attacked and said he did appreciate the fact that Harris was accusing the union of shenanigans with the picket line.

"These negotiations affect 2000 area union members," exclaimed Goldstein.

Harris retorted, "We are representing 45,000 taxpayers!"



Kyle declares Shenanigans at a crooked carnival and then the whole town joins in.

“We are going to be here. We don’t get hungry. We don’t get cold and we don’t quit,” said Goldstein of the union picket line. I was waiting for him to breakout in song of “Look for the Union Label!”

Of course it is hard to imagine that too many people have a lot of sympathy for some of the highest paid firefighters in the State of Missouri who rarely have to fight a fire.

Goldstein alleged that Jane Cunningham called the Chesterfield Police claiming the pickets were blocking the driveway to the building when in fact they were not.

“I will tell you they were blocking when I arrived,” said Harris.

They weren’t blocking the driveway when I showed up, but they were in the street.

The session came to its 2-hour end.

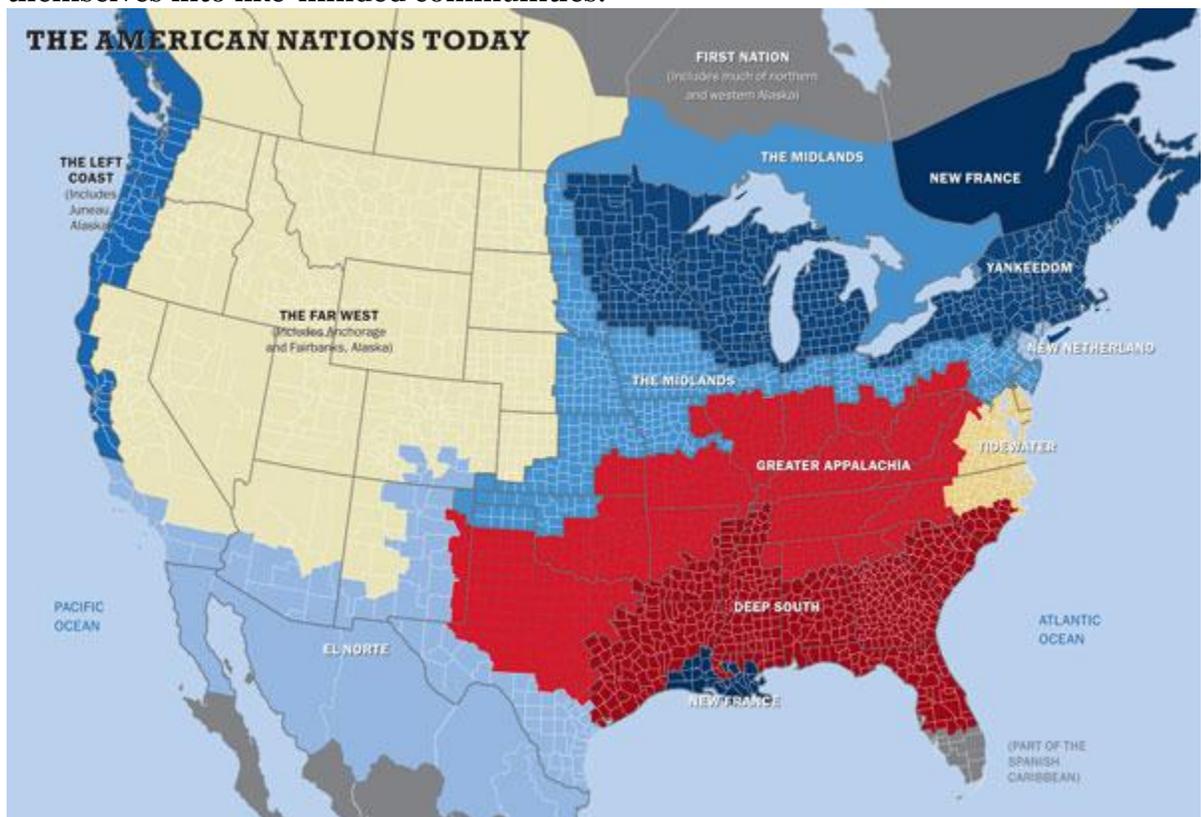
**THE REAL AMERICA:** I have posted below an article from the Washington Post that I found fascinating. (Since this is a non-profit newsletter costing me about \$2,500 a year to produce, I have merely have clipped this article to share with my friends.) According to author Colin Woodard who researched American voting patterns and opinion polls going back to the beginning...there are actually 11 distinct regions of the United States. If you live in the St. Louis area you either live in the Midlands or Greater Appalachia.

## Which of the 11 American nations do you live in?

- By Reid Wilson

o November 8 at 1:36 pm

- Red states and blue states? Flyover country and the coasts? How simplistic. Colin Woodard, a reporter at the Portland Press Herald and author of several books, says North America can be broken neatly into 11 separate nation-states, where dominant cultures explain our voting behaviors and attitudes toward everything from social issues to the role of government.
- “The borders of my eleven American nations are reflected in many different types of maps — including maps showing the distribution of linguistic dialects, the spread of cultural artifacts, the prevalence of different religious denominations, and the county-by-county breakdown of voting in virtually every hotly contested presidential race in our history,” Woodard writes in the [Fall 2013 issue](#) of Tufts University’s alumni magazine. “Our continent’s famed mobility has been reinforcing, not dissolving, regional differences, as people increasingly sort themselves into like-minded communities.”



- Courtesy Tufts Magazine

Woodard lays out his map in the new book “American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America.” Here’s how he breaks down the continent:

**Yankeedom:** Founded by Puritans, residents in Northeastern states and the industrial Midwest tend to be more comfortable with government regulation. They value education and the common good more than other regions.

**New Netherland:** The Netherlands was the most sophisticated society in the Western world when New York was founded, Woodard writes, so it’s no wonder that the region has been a hub of global commerce. It’s also the region most accepting of historically persecuted populations.

**The Midlands:** Stretching from Quaker territory west through Iowa and into more populated areas of the Midwest, the Midlands are “pluralistic and organized around the middle class.” Government intrusion is unwelcome, and ethnic and ideological purity isn’t a priority.

**Tidewater:** The coastal regions in the English colonies of Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and Delaware tend to respect authority and value tradition. Once the most powerful American nation, it began to decline during Westward expansion.

**Greater Appalachia:** Extending from West Virginia through the Great Smoky Mountains and into Northwest Texas, the descendants of Irish, English and Scottish settlers value individual liberty. Residents are “intensely suspicious of lowland aristocrats and Yankee social engineers.”

**Deep South:** Dixie still traces its roots to the caste system established by masters who tried to duplicate West Indies-style slave society, Woodard writes. The Old South values states’ rights and local control and fights the expansion of federal powers.

**El Norte:** Southwest Texas and the border region is the oldest, and most linguistically different, nation in the Americas. Hard work and self-sufficiency are prized values.

**The Left Coast:** A hybrid, Woodard says, of Appalachian independence and Yankee utopianism loosely defined by the Pacific Ocean on one side and coastal mountain ranges like the Cascades and the Sierra Nevadas on the other. The independence and innovation required of early explorers continues to manifest in places like Silicon Valley and the tech companies around Seattle.

**The Far West:** The Great Plains and the Mountain West were built by industry, made necessary by harsh, sometimes inhospitable climates. Far Westerners are intensely libertarian and deeply distrustful of big institutions, whether they are railroads and monopolies or the federal government.

**New France:** Former French colonies in and around New Orleans and Quebec tend toward consensus and egalitarian, “among the most liberal on the continent, with unusually tolerant attitudes toward gays and people of all races and a ready acceptance of government involvement in the economy,” Woodard writes.

**First Nation:** The few First Nation peoples left — Native Americans who never gave up their land to white settlers — are mainly in the harshly Arctic north of Canada and Alaska. They have sovereignty over their lands, but their population is only around 300,000.

The clashes between the 11 nations play out in every way, from politics to social values. Woodard notes that states with the highest rates of violent deaths are in the Deep South, Tidewater and Greater Appalachia, regions that value independence and self-sufficiency. States with lower rates of violent deaths are in Yankeedom, New Netherland and the Midlands, where government intervention is viewed with less skepticism.

States in the Deep South are much more likely to have stand-your-ground laws than states in the northern “nations.” And more than 95 percent of executions in the United States since 1976 happened in the Deep South, Greater Appalachia, Tidewater and the Far West. States in Yankeedom and New Netherland have executed a collective total of just one person.

That doesn't bode well for gun control advocates, Woodard concludes: "With such sharp regional differences, the idea that the United States would ever reach consensus on any issue having to do with violence seems far-fetched. The cultural gulf between Appalachia and Yankeedom, Deep South and New Netherland is simply too large. But it's conceivable that some new alliance could form to tip the balance."

**WHY AN OBSERVANT EDITOR MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA:** I have had a love-hate relationship with editors I have written for over the last 30 years at magazines, newspapers and website. Some editors drove me crazy with unnecessary changes in an article. There were a couple times I would intentionally insert a spelling or usage mistake to give them something to do so they would not screw up the basic article. On the other hand some editors made some of my work seem much better than it really was.

I have to wonder about the editor at Ladue News that let this item about my friend Jim Manley get by them...see if you can notice it.



11/15-16

**JIM MANLEY: MAD BRASS & RHYTHM** Jazz St. Louis presents a performance from Jim Manley, a modern jazz saxophone player, at Jazz at the Bistro. 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. \$10-\$20. 289-4030 or jazzstl.org.

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The cutline under the photo mentions that Jim Manley is “a modern jazz saxophone player.”

First if you know anything about music in the St. Louis area, you know that Manley is one of the top trumpet players in the region.

But even if you didn't know him, the guy has a “soul patch” under his lip, another sure sign of him being a trumpet player.

Finally the fact that he is holding a trumpet might be the biggest clue of them all that he is not a saxophone player.

## **MUSIC:**

### **UPCOMING:**

**Sunday 11/24 6pm-9pm**

**The Dave Dickey Big Band at the Kirkwood Station Brewery on East Jefferson in Krikwood.** Dave performs on the fourth Sunday of the Month and that is coming up this weekend. Dickey, a college music educator, is joined by other educators and professional musicians from across the state. Dickey is also good about filling a room. When his band takes an intermission break, the music doesn't stop. A high school jazz band is invited to play. This month it is the Lindbergh High School jazz group.



**Saturday December 7, Sunday December 8 Scottish Rite: The United States Air Force Band of Mid-America Christmas Concert:** After living 16-years in the Washington, DC area it began to wear on me. But there was one exception. I loved Christmas in Washington. One of the best things were the Air Force, Army and Navy band Christmas concerts every year at Constitution Hall. The tickets were free, but you had to write for them in advance. The Navy concert was the closest to Christmas Day and was so popular for several years it was televised on local TV for people who could not get tickets.

Now being back in St. Louis, one of the few good things about being in DC is right here. The Air Force Band of Mid-America puts on a great Christmas Concert at the Scottish Rite on Lindell. The concerts this year are on Saturday December 7 and Sunday December 8.

**Wednesday December 11, Logan College:** Also this year the Air Force Band will be performing on Wednesday December 11 at Logan College and no tickets are needed for that concert.



**Here is how you get tickets for the concerts at the Scottish Rite:**

The United States Air Force Band of Mid-America presents its annual free holiday concert twice at the Saint Louis Scottish Rite Cathedral this year. An evening performance on Saturday, December 7, 2013 (7pm) and a matinee performance on Sunday, December 8, 2013 (3pm). Tickets are available on a limited, 1st come – 1st serve basis, so please act quickly. Due to parking space limitations, the first 300 ticket requests will receive one free parking pass (limit of one parking pass per household).

The Scottish Rite parking garage entrance is at 3634 Olive St, St. Louis, MO 63108 and the skybridge is on the 3rd level of the parking garage.

To obtain free tickets (limit of six tickets per request), please send your specific date request with a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to:

Scottish Rite Cathedral  
Performing Arts Series – J  
3633 Lindell Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63108

For more information contact the Scottish Rite Office at 314-533-7410

**Wednesday: 11/13 Sasha's**



A guest vocalist for two songs!



The usual crew.

**WEDNESDAY 11/20/13 Sasha's**



Jim Manley broke out the blue plastic horn for one number with Lupy on the keys and Snaring-Arlen on the drums. Zack Hall showed up with the flugelhorn after a 2-hour practice with the Rt 66 Jazz Orchestra for their Christmas shows.

## FRIDAY: 11/15

### Robbie's House of Jazz:



I had to work as the table referee at two college basketball games on Friday night, so I only made it to Robbie's, where Anita Rosamond was performing with her band, for the third and final set. The audience had the musicians only outnumbered 2-to-1, which is unusual for Anita, but common from Robbie's. I understand it was 5-to-1 earlier. Still with an almost empty room Anita put on a show as if the place was SRO.

## JAZZ AT THE BISTRO



This was the view from the stage of the SRO crowd for Friday night's Jazz at the Bistro performance by Jim Manley's Mad Brass and Rhythm

**SATURDAY:**

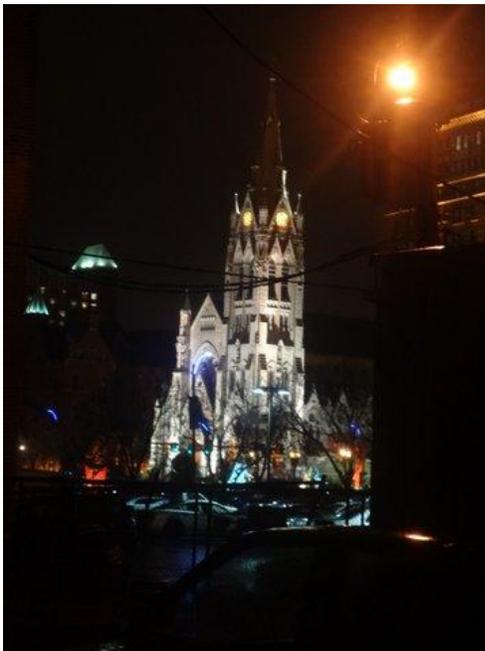


Here is the view from the sold out seats of Saturday's performance at Jazz at the Bistro. I can't figure out how 300 people will pay \$20, but you can see Manley with others for free at Sasha's on Wednesday and sometimes there are only four or five people there for the music.

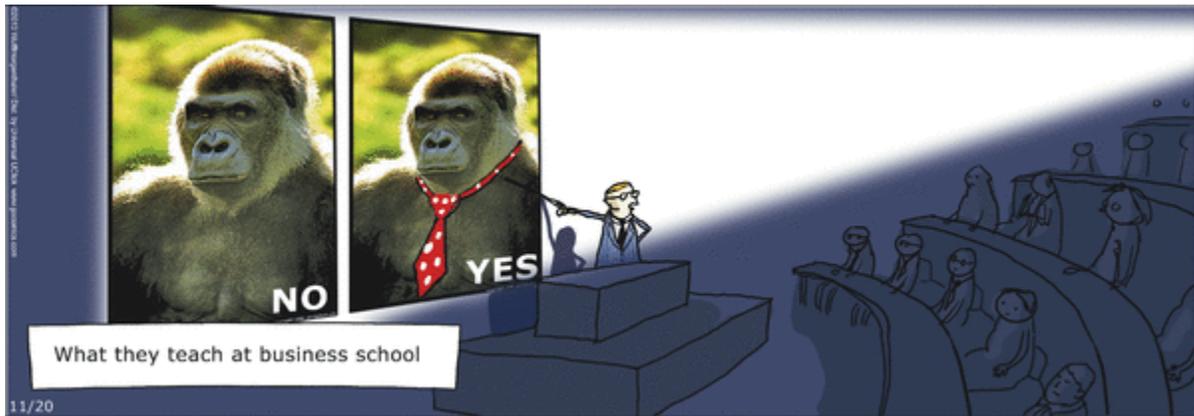
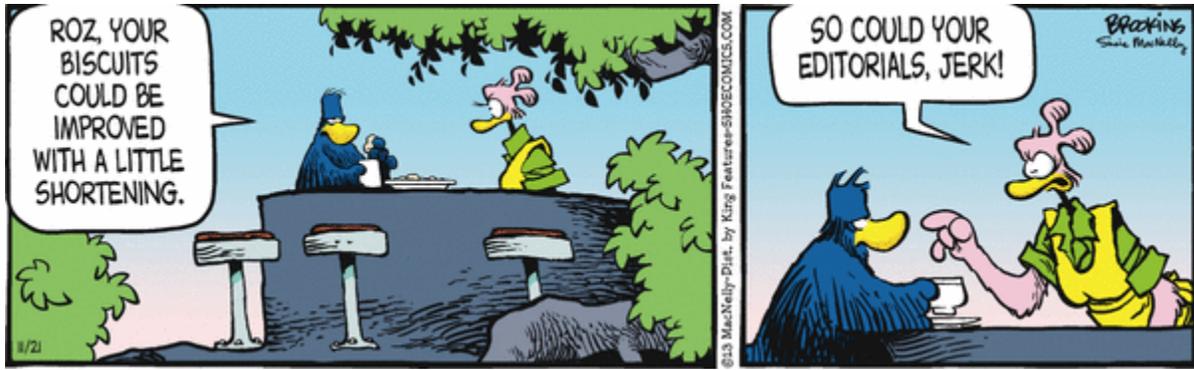


Despite what Ladue News says, here is one of the area's top jazz saxophone guys, Larry Johnson wailing at the Bistro on the very up-tempo Theme to the Rocky and Bullwinkle Show.

**A GREAT VIEW FROM A CITY PARKING LOT:** This is the view from the parking lot next to Bistro on Washington, looking back toward Grand and Lindell.



**CARTOONS:**



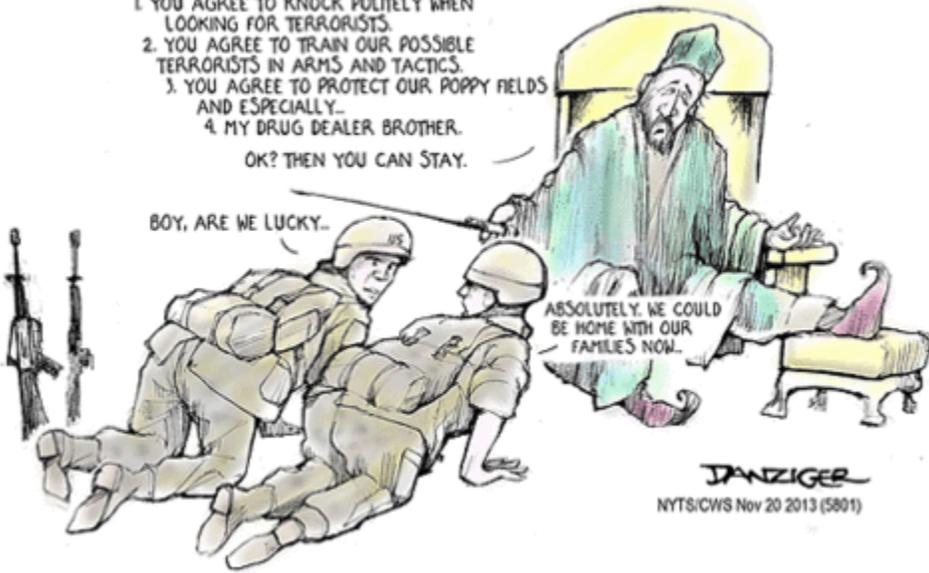
Karzai Agrees to Let US Stay in Afghanistan (with conditions)

1. YOU AGREE TO KNOCK POLITELY WHEN LOOKING FOR TERRORISTS.
2. YOU AGREE TO TRAIN OUR POSSIBLE TERRORISTS IN ARMS AND TACTICS.
3. YOU AGREE TO PROTECT OUR POPPY FIELDS AND ESPECIALLY...
4. MY DRUG DEALER BROTHER.

OK? THEN YOU CAN STAY.

BOY, ARE WE LUCKY...

ABSOLUTELY. WE COULD BE HOME WITH OUR FAMILIES NOW.

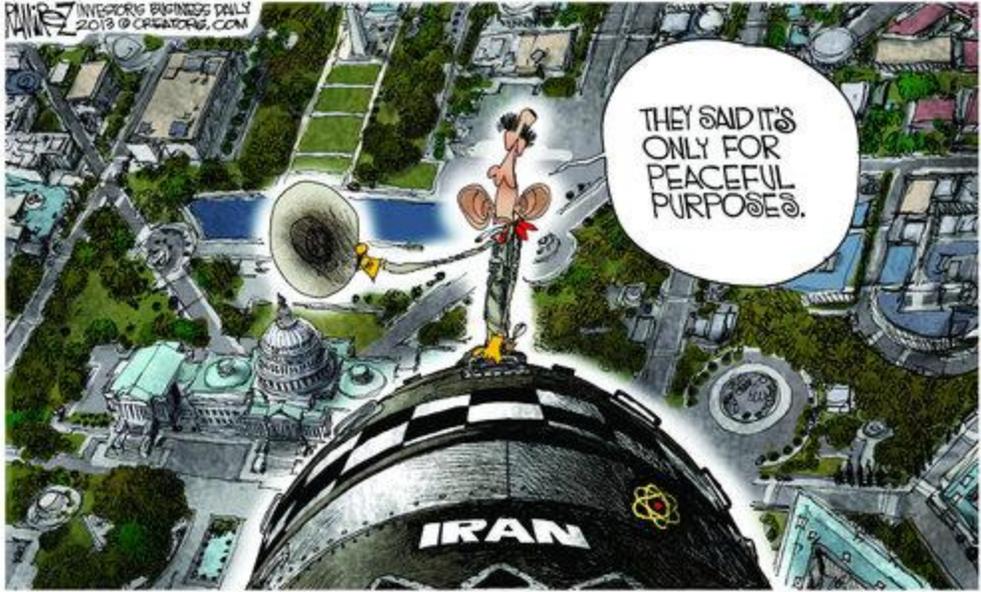


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**Dr. Strangepolicy**  
Or: How I Learned To **STOP** Worrying And **LOVE** The Iranian Bomb.



