

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 217 AND CHESTERFIELD 162



By John Hoffmann

March 1, 2016

### **PUBLIC WORKS & STORM WATER COMMISSION VOTES TO SPEND \$2,000 TO REPAIR STORM BOX CULVERT ON A PRIVATE STREET, BUT TABLES \$11,000 TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT CONSISTENT WATER COMING FROM NEW**

**MCMASION.** I live in the Thornhill subdivision. With 120 homes it is one of the larger subdivisions in town. All the subdivision streets are private. It also has a swimming pool and tennis courts that are not subsidized by user fees, but like the streets are paid for by all the homeowners, including those who have never set foot on the tennis courts and have a pool at their home.

As a subdivision resident I was very happy to see that the city's Public Works Commission voted to recommend to the Board of Aldermen to pay \$2,000 to fix a concrete box culvert. I have to admit if I lived elsewhere in Town and Country I would be pissed believing that the box culvert into a storm water creek is a road project and should be paid for by the subdivision.



Notice the damage the street in front of the failed box culvert

If you look closely at the photo of the failing concrete box culvert you will be something that the subdivision has been negligent about for some time. The massive over growth of Honeysuckle needed to be removed years ago and is not helping the storm water issues. They could certainly plant something to replace the invasive Honeysuckle to maintain the storm water creek's banks.

**And then there is the other problem:**



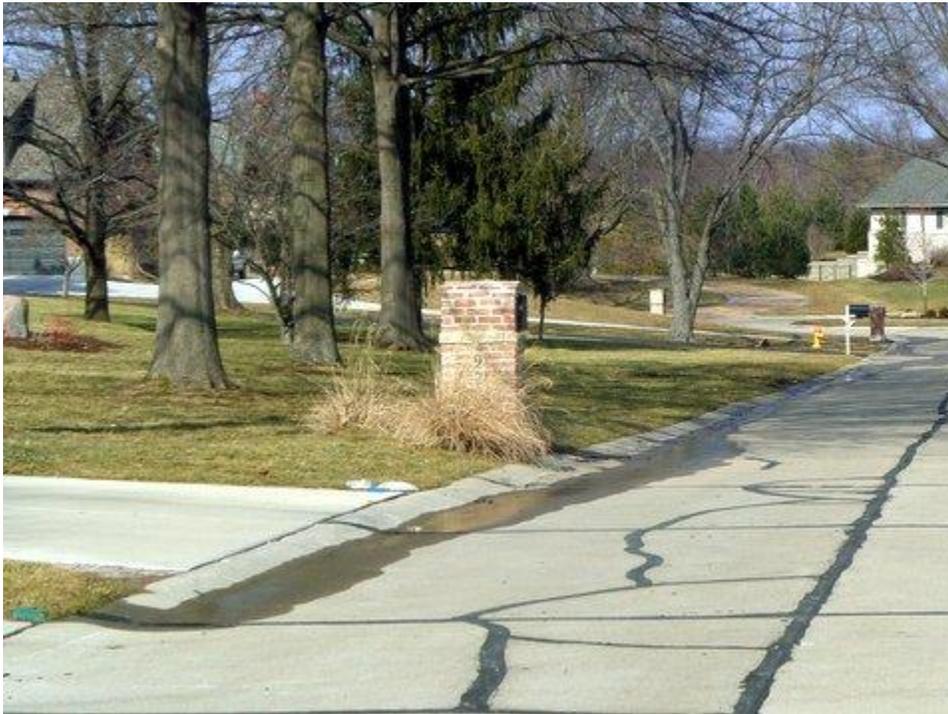
The driveway from a large house (owned by a couple of ex-convicts and ministers) out of the photo's view includes high level of storm water runoff from that property and some from the driveway and the gutters of the large white house next door.

The Commission voted to recommend approval.

**The next issue was a constant flow of water on a city street, Claymark** from the underground water holding system of a new McMansion.

In this case the water garden underground holding area for storm water at 923 Claymark was releasing water continually except during droughts causing the street pavement to remain wet 24/7. The city staff was recommending an \$11,000 expenditure for a French drain for the water to reach the cul de sac and then add piping to have it flow to a storm water creek.

The next door neighbor at 917 Claymark, John Zeman was there. He stated that excessive water runoff from the new giant house next door killed two trees he planted in 1968 when he built his house. However he was against the project. He stated in his experience French drains don't work. He added that his other next door neighbor at 909 Claymark complains that she always has to stand in water to get the mail out of her mailbox because of the constant running water from 923.



On a dry day and on an otherwise dry street notice the flow of water from an exit point at 923 Claymark, down the street across all the sealed cracks.



The additional concrete plus all the new square footage of roof is causing excessive water runoff from the storm water storage system.

Based on neighbor John Zemen's harping how French drains don't work the committee was about to table the proposal indefinitely, when one member said, "We send these guys (staff) out there. They come up with a solution. We should back them up."

This caused Chairperson Tiffany Frautschi to recommend continuing this, invite more neighbors to the March meeting. That was done.

However, this is another example how these 8,000 or more sq foot monster houses have a continuing impact on the city and other property owners.

**WORDS FROM THE MAYOR:** At the February 22, 2016 Board of Aldermen meeting the party for members of city commissions was discussed. For the second year Fred and Mary Kay Wiesehan have thrown a party for the various commission, board and committee members in Town and Country at the Maria de Villa retirement community.

Of course with all the older people on these commissions and committees the party is almost a business development function for the Wiesenhans.

There was one moment of typical politician speak that made me laugh.

Mayor, Cigarette Lobbyist, Snatcher of a widow's business and property by private eminent domain for an underfunded nightclub district Jon Dalton then made the following announcement:

"We had a record crowd!"

Dalton failed to mention the 2016 party was just the second ever. He also failed to mention that the 2015 party was held on February 20, 2015 at the same time a snow and freezing rain storm was hitting the area and people were advised to avoid travel. But Dalton is not a man to ever let facts get in the way of a good quote.

**MORE CONFLICTS FOR MAYOR Jon CONFLICT OF INTEREST Dalton:**

Mayor Jon Dalton is now lobbying for a group named "Taxed Enough Already." Lobbyists are supposed to give the address and telephone number of their clients. The address and phone number for "Taxed Enough Already" is Dalton's Clayton law office. Actually the phone number rings directly to his secretary.

In an attempt to find out about "Taxed Enough Already" we found out it was a LLC with a registered address of Dalton's Clayton office of Armstrong Teasdale. The register agent is Cindy Morrison, a paralegal at Armstrong Teasdale.



Cindy Morrison

Here another interesting fact. Dalton listed "Enough About Taxes" as a lobbying client with the Missouri Ethics Commission on 02/18/16. But "Enough About Taxes" didn't exist until 02/25/16 when the LLC was filed with the Missouri Secretary of State.

If Dalton was truly a person claiming "Enough About Taxes" why did he as mayor help push through legislation with the Town and Country Board of Aldermen for an April ballot issue to return a municipal sales tax, that had been struck down by the courts on purchases of used cars from non-dealers and cars from out of state dealerships? Instead that ballot legislation passed and there was no Dalton veto in January.

**Second New Conflict:** Also listed as a new client for Dalton is the City of Crestwood. So now Dalton is on the payroll of the City of Crestwood and the City of Town and Country. Which one does he owe allegiance to if there is a conflict of interest?



Doing The Dalton Two Step



He still represents as a lobbyist the St. Louis County Municipal League. How is that not a conflict of interest? There are many cities in St. Louis County whose interests are far different than those of the City of Town and Country.

**DEALING WITH THE DES PERES POST OFFICE:** Town and Country residents living in the 63131 zip code know about mail problems, while those living in the 63017 have relatively few. Having lived in four different areas of the country and dealt with about six different post office stations, I have to say that the Des Peres Post Office has been the worst for service and most unfriendly of them all.

Our current regular carrier is great as is his once a week fill-in. But when we did not have a regular carrier or when our current carrier is on vacation or medical leave the service rapidly plummets.



While the window service at the Des Peres post office is anything but friendly our worst story deals with the day I was sitting in my home office and watched the carrier drive up, put items in our mailbox and drive off. A few minutes later I walked out to get the mail and found a printed form saying "We tried to deliver a package but no one was at home. Bring this receipt to the post office to pick up your package."

No One Was At Home! I was not only at home I was watching the mail carrier through the window. It was not even a large heavy box. It was socks from Ireland my wife had ordered that needed a signature.

My wife went to the post office and signed for the package and filed a complaint. The next day the phone rang at 6 AM waking us up. It was the carrier complaining about my wife complaining about her.

Now let's fast forward three or four years to early in February 2016. On a Monday I got the mail and found with our mail a bank statement addressed to a doctor who lived on Point Oak Drive in the Berkley Manor subdivision off of Bopp Road in eastern Des

Peres. I left the statement vertical in the mailbox sure they would take it and get it delivered to the proper address the next day.



The next day on Tuesday I went to get the mail and the bank statement to the doctor in Des Peres was still there with my newly delivered mail. I left it vertical and I was sure the carrier would see it was the wrong address and get it on its way to the doctor.

On Wednesday it was still there with my Wednesday mail. I again left it standing vertical so the carrier was sure to see it on Thursday. On Thursday it was still there and for the fourth day it was with my regular mail lying flat in the mailbox. I did not leave it in the mailbox again.

On Friday I took it to the Des Peres Post Office. I asked to speak with a carrier supervisor. There wasn't one, but a station supervisor said she could handle any complaint. When I started my story she rolled her eyes and muttered, "It is substitute carrier." I put on a pretty good show for everyone in line. "And then on Wednesday I was sure it would get picked up on Thursday and I set it back up in the mailbox," I said in an almost comedy monologue style voice.

The next week I put my Netflix envelope in the mailbox on a Wednesday. On Thursday I went to get there mail, and there it was along with my Netflix movie that was now crammed in the back of my mailbox instead of going back to Netflix.

I'm hoping the doctor got his bank statement six days after it arrived in my mailbox.

**LAST OPPONENT AGAINST FRED MEYLAND-SMITH IS MOVING:** In 2014 Mary Steward ran against Town and Country's Official Windbag Fred Meyland-Smith for the

Ward-3 seat that Meyland-Smith has held for over a decade. She lost. Now less than a year after that election her house at 24 Williamsburg Estate is for sale for \$2,295,000.



## UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 162



**March 1, 2016**



**January 2016 Chesterfield Crime Report and Police Activity Report**

<u>Crime</u>	<u>Jan 2016</u>	<u>Jan 2015</u>
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS</b>		
Non-forcible Rape	1	0
Forcible Rape	1	0
Robbery	0	1
Assaults	20	27
<b>BURGLARY</b>		
Residential	0	3
Business	3	1
<b>LARCENY</b>		
Felony Over \$500	12	25
Misdemeanor Under/500	49	35
Auto Thefts	2	2
Checks/Fraud	19	13
Vandalism	13	11
Drug Violations	13	6
DWI	10	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>ARRESTS</b>		
Adult	122	126
Juveniles	11	18
<b>TRAFFIC</b>		
Vehicle Crashes	135	135
Injury Crashes	27	26
Warnings Issued	678	437
Parking Citations	36	29
Traffic Citations	862	937
Recovered Stolen Veh	0	1
Radio Assignment	4391	4249
Alarm Calls	130	141

**POLICE BLOTTER:** Here is the list of last week's police calls and on-view incidents.

# CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Media Report February 17, 2016 - February 23, 2016



Time of Occurrence   Generic Address Business/Location   Name Incident Type

02/23/2016, 0101 1198 CABINVIEW CT   **Drugs Paraphernalia**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 17 yo female in possession of marijuana paraphernalia and fake ID after suspicious vehicle investigation. 25 yo male in the vehicle charged with providing tobacco to a minor.

02/23/2016, 1511 4X CHESTERFIELD MALL Macy's   **Possession of Stolen Property Clothing**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 22 yo female in possession of stolen clothing after being stopped for a traffic violation.

02/23/2016, 1840-1845 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Chesterfield Mall   **Larceny under \$500 from Person**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took money and gift cards from wallet after it was left unattended on countertop.

02/21/2016, 2300 - 02/22/2016, 0745 11XX CANTINA DR   **Property Damage to Vehicle**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject damaged two tires on victim's vehicle.

02/22/2016, 1755 4X CHESTERFIELD MALL Macy's   **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting (Retail Store)**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 26 yo male concealed clothing and left store without paying. Also in possession of other stolen clothing and prohibited theft device.

02/16/2016, 1200 - 02/19/2016, 0000 14XX WESTMEADE DR   **Fraud Credit Card**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject used victim's credit card information to make purchases.

02/22/2016, 0252 14XX WOODBRIDGE CROSSING DR   **Harassment/Threat Texting**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 30 yo male sending unwanted text messages to victim.

02/22/2016, 1735 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL NestleToll House   **Larceny under \$500 Business**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 34 yo female distracted employee and took money from cash register.

02/22/2016, 1854 14XXX PEMBURY DR   **Assault Common - Actual Assault**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 24 yo male struck victim in face after argument causing no injuries.

02/22/2016, 1902 14XX WESTMEADE DR   **Assault Common - Actual Assault**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 17 yo male pushed victim after argument causing no injuries

02/22/2016, 2246 2246 CLARKSON RD & KEHRS MILL RD   **Drugs Possession - Felony**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 19 yo male in possession of hallucinogenic drugs, marijuana, and paraphernalia after being stopped for a traffic violation. 20 yo female in the vehicle also in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

02/21/2016, 1500 3X CHESTERFIELD MALL Spencer's **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**  
(Retail Store)  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Two 13 yo males took hat and walked out of store without paying.

02/20/2016, 2200 10XX E CHESTERFIELD PKY Fairfield Suites **Runaway Juvenile**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 16 yo female ran away from family member while visiting hotel.

02/19/2016, 1345 1345 13XX PACLAND PL **Assault Common - Threat**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 52 yo male threatened victim over money.

02/17/2016, 2120 - 2246 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Chesterfield Mall **Larceny under \$500 from Person**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took cell phone charger from victim's purse.

02/20/2016, 1230-1405 16XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Hardee's Ice Complex Ordinance Violation **Leaving Animal in Vehicle** **Brief Narrative Description:** 42 yo female left dog unattended in vehicle.

02/20/2016, 1449 BENT TREE DR & WILSON AVE **Drugs Possession - Felony**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 31 yo female in possession of marijuana, paraphernalia, and narcotic medication after DWI arrest.

02/20/2016, 1640 18XXX OUTLET BLVD Burlington Coat Factory **Assault Common - Actual Assault**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 23 yo female threw wallet at victim causing no injuries and created a disturbance in a store

02/19/2016, 1530-2030 1XX HILLTOWN VILLAGE CTR Harpo's **Larceny under \$500 from Auto**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took license plate off of vehicle.

02/20/2016, 1800-1906 17XXX CHESTERFIELD AIRPORT RD **Larceny over \$500 Person**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 17 yo female took cell phone which was left unattended at table.

02/17/2016, 1200-02/20/2016, 1940 5XX OAKLAND HILLS DR **Burglary Residential - Home**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 50 yo male entered home of ex-wife and damaged property.

02/19/2016, 1024 I-64 HWY E & TIMBERLAKE MANOR **Drugs Possession - Misdemeanor**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 21 yo male in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia after stranded motorist investigation.

02/18/2016, 1945 17XX CLARKSON RD Dierberg's **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting** (Retail Store)  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 43 yo male took alcohol and walked out of store without paying.

02/19/2016, 20001XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Dillard's **Fraud Checks**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject passed counterfeit travelers checks to business.

02/19/2016 1715 CLARKSON WILSON CTR & CLARKSON WOODS DR **Assault Aggravated - Other**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 39 yo male struck victim with car after argument causing moderate injuries.

02/05/2016, 1200 14XXX DINSMOOR DR **Fraud Credit Card**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject used victim's credit card information to make purchases.

02/18/2016, 1100-1300 15XXX COUNTRY RIDGE DR **Burglary Residential - Home**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject broke out rear window door on residence and took a tablet computer and jewelry.

02/11/2016, 1505 14XXX BRITANIA DR **Larceny under \$500 from mailbox**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took mail and package from victim's mailbox.

11/01/2015, 1200 16XXX TODD EVAN TRL **Larceny over \$500 Business**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 23 yo male failed to return company property and being terminated from employment.

02/18/2016, 1817 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Chesterfield Mall **Possession of Stolen Property Clothing**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 19 yo female in possession of stolen clothing from multiple stores.  
02/16/2016, 1218 1XX THF BLVD Sam's **Larceny under \$500 Business**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took used car batteries from rear of business.  
02/17/2016, 1600 23XX WELLINGTON ESTATES DR **Fraud Identity Theft**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject used victim's information in attempted scam to send money.

02/17/2016, 1630 16XXX RIVERDALE DR **Fraud Identity Theft**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject used victim's information to open up a prepaid debit card.

02/17/2016, 2000 18XXX OUTLET BLVD Nike **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting (Retail Store)**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subjects took clothing and ran out of store without paying.

02/08/2016, 1200 1200 13XX AMHERST TERRACE WAY **Fraud Identity Theft**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject used victim's information to open up loan account.

## **MUNICIPAL COURT REFORM BILL MOVED FORWARD, DESPITE BEING**

**CONTRADICTORY:** On Monday February 22 the Finance and Administration Committee reluctantly voted to move the Municipal Court Reform Bill out of committee to the full City Council. The bill written by Committee Chairman Councilman Barry Flachsbart makes it illegal for future municipal prosecutors and judges to also be defense attorneys in the region.



Barry Flachsbart opening discussion on his muni court reform bill.

This is a good thing since we have documented how it is a terrible conflict of interest for Chesterfield prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer and Judge Rick Brunk to represent people in the next city over expecting to get charges dropped the same way to do for defense attorneys appearing in Chesterfield.

In discussing the bill Dan Hurt ask Bruce DeGroot, an attorney what he thought of the bill. DeGroot, a friend of Engelmeyer said he had "mix emotions" about it. He then

didn't say another word. Hurt asked him what the mix emotions were and he declined to say.

Flachsbart asked for a second and there was silence for about 20 seconds before there was a second. The motion to recommend the bill to the full council passed on a 4-0 vote.

The ethical problem with this bill is the committee admits having future prosecutors and judges also to act as defense attorneys in the area is unethical. But it does not affect the current ones who are allowed to continue practicing as defense attorneys. It is saying that this behavior is unacceptable except our buddies Engelmeyer and Brunk can continue to do it.

**EXPERT COMES IN AND ANNOUNCES THAT THE MAYOR HAS CONTROL OF DAILY ACTIONS OF RUNNING CITY BY ORDINANCE WITH REVIEW BY CITY COUNCIL.** Christopher Graville is a local area lawyer who just like Chesterfield's problem lawyers, Judge Rick Brunk and prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer practices as either city attorney, city judge or prosecutor in towns all over the area. He is a prosecutor for seven towns, city attorney in four cities or villages and a judge in one city.

He was asked by State Rep Sue Allen to look at the state laws and Chesterfield local ordinances and then report back to Chesterfield council people. He admitted that Sue Allen and her staff did some of the research.



Christopher Graville begins his presentation

- 1) He first stated that he found no conflicts between city code and state law. However he later admitted he believed all existing ordinances in effect were codified into the Code Book. It was later pointed out this is not true. There are some ordinances that were never repealed and are not in the code book according to another attorney who has also been reviewing the ordinances, policy and state law pointed out.
- 2) Graville pointed out that by ordinance the MAYOR is in charge with review by the City Council. This point Councilwoman Connie Fults, only elected by one-quarter of the

voters in the city wanted to change and take over that role as President-Pro-Tem of the Council when it came to hiring a new city administrator.

3) In a bill proposed by Fults that never reached the council at the last meeting on February 17 she wanted to name Mike Geisel as the "City Administrator Pro-Tem." Graville pointed out that a "City Administrator Pro-Tem" fills in when there is an existing City Administrator who is not at work, due to being at out-of-state meetings, on vacation or on medical leave. A person filling the position when there is a vacancy until a permanent administrator is hired would with be an Acting Administrator or an Interim Administrator under contract for a specific period or until the permanent replacement is named.

Committee Chairman Flachsbart moved to have a committee including a lawyer hired specifically to review and advise on city ordinances and if they are all in the code book.

The original city attorney Judge Doug Beech was present and defended his work in writing the first city laws of Chesterfield.



The lawyers were dancing around subjects with so much legalees instead of English and I almost joined Connie Fults in nodding off.

A motion was made to make Flachsbart on the special committee. The fact the Flachsbart, well in his 70's is on the faculty at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla (90 miles out I-44) and on many days drives back and forth to Rolla when he has to attend city meetings. He was not looking forward to serving on this committee but reluctantly agreed to to move the matter forward.



Councilman Dan Hurt, who runs a business in town, suggests that Barry Flachsbart who works 90 miles away be on the committee to review ordinances, the codebook and state statues.

There was also a discussion if the Interim City Attorney Harry O'Rourke shouldn't sit on the committee. There is so much wide spread displeasure with O'Rourke's work with council members and the public, making that not likely.

Then Graville was asked if he could sit on the committee. He said he possibly could. The problem with Graville is that he has so many jobs with other municipalities that his time is limited and he has a bit of a conflict.

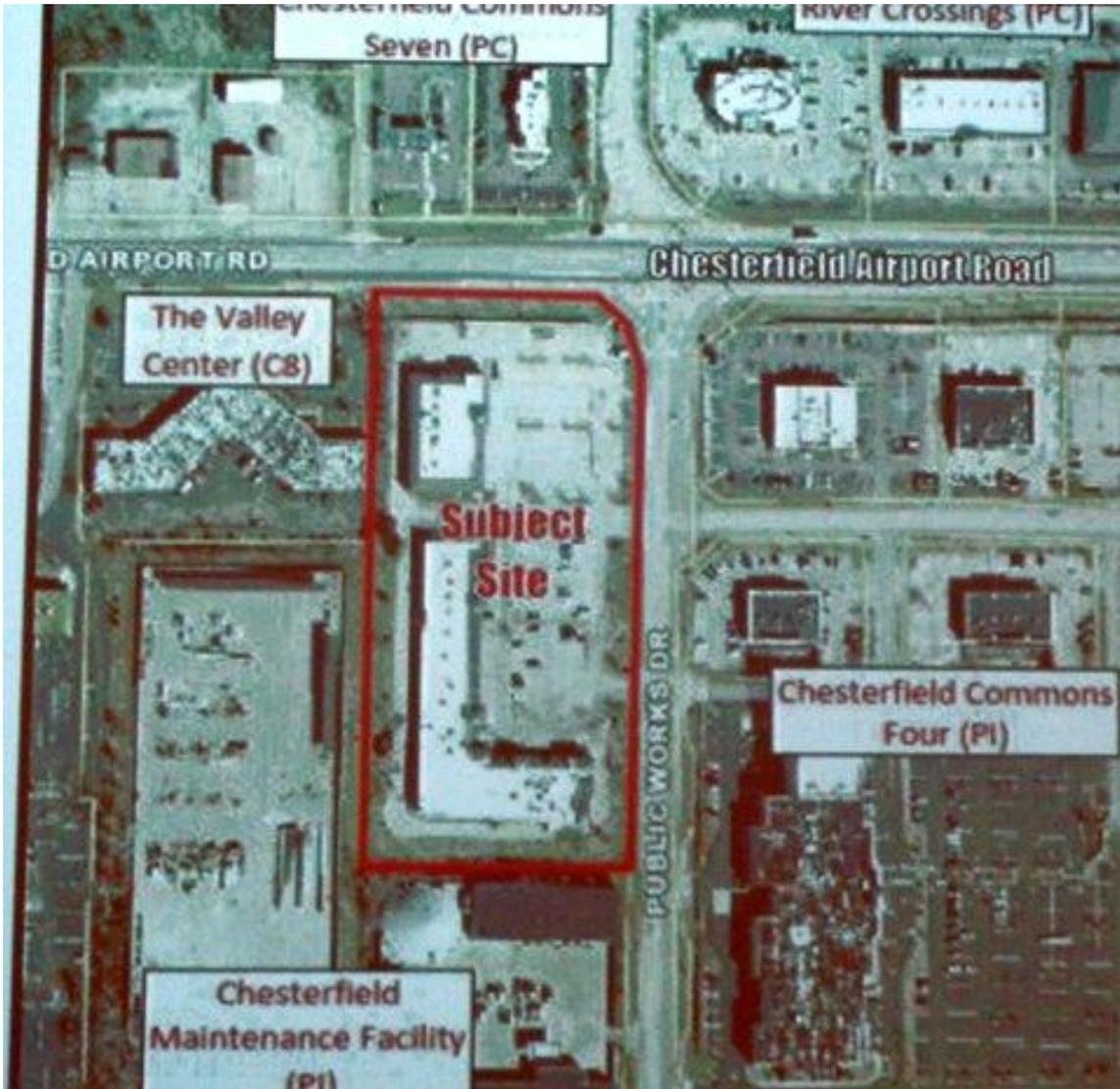
It was then decided to hold the first meetings with elected officials and staff and then see if an attorney is needed.

**YOU CAN GET YOUR DOG'S HAIR CUT, BUT YOU CAN'T GET YOUR HAIR CUT:** There are some odd zoning laws in Chesterfield Valley and one councilmember wants to keep it that way.

If you were not well aware of some of the very peculiar zoning requirements you would have no idea that a tattoo parlor is okay, but a beauty shop is out of the question and Councilman Dan Hurt wants to keep it that way. Hurt is not against barber shops, but he is against changing zoning districts. Ironically before a zoning change in the late 1990's barber shops and beauty parlors were fine for this location. The landowner has had several interested beauty shops, but has not been able to rent space to them.

This is the commercial strip where Bar Louie is located, the popular restaurant with bad reviews where young people hangout. Across the street is the Chesterfield Cinema.

Both locations are zoned "Industrial." Dan Hurt doesn't want to change that even if the developers already have for all intents and practical purposes.



Here is what is very odd. Planning Director Aimee Nassif produced a list of what is acceptable at the location zoned PI and what is not, but would likely be if it was zoned commercial.



The red on green might make you think Christmas but it is impossible to read.

Here are the things you can't put in this development (in red):

Community Center	Library	Auditorium
Banquet facility	Private Club	Gym
Museum	Reading Room	Recreation Facility
Union Halls	Barber Shop	Beauty Parlor
Film Drop off Kiosk	Oil change facility	College or University
Kindergarten	Private school	

Here are some interesting things that makes this so stupid.

- 1) You can get your dog a haircut, but you can't get a haircut
- 2) You can have an art gallery, but not a museum
- 3) You can have an auto dealer with showroom and a shop that does oil changes but you can't have a Oil Change business

- 4) You can get a tattoo but you can't get your hair colored
- 5) There can be a newspaper store (what are newspapers?) where you can stand around reading a newspaper or magazine but reading rooms and libraries are outlawed.
- 6) There can be a Vo-Tech school but no other kind of school.
- 7) You can have a day-care facility but not a kindergarten
- 8) You can have a coffee shop, drive thru restaurant, a regular restaurant but you can't rent a room for a banquet.
- 9) You can't have a film drop off and photo pick up kiosk. (That would be a lonely job today)
- 10) You can get your teeth cleaned but you can't get your hair washed unless you are a dog.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ON PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING CONTINUE TO PUT PUBLIC SAFETY LAST WHEN TALKING ABOUT HIGH GRASS ON TWO LADUE ROAD MEDIANS.**

The city now maintains and Ladue Road through the Ladue Trails subdivisions having taken over the road from St. Louis County Highways. However the City claims that it does not control or maintain two medians in the middle of the street The City's position is the medians belong to the subdivision and it was up to the subdivision to cut the grass. The subdivision claims the median belong to the City.



The problem is when the grass and weeds grow to a certain height motorist wanting to turn left or make a U-Turn cannot see oncoming traffic.

The staff announced their plans for 2016 at the Planning and Public Works Committee meeting. The plan is to send letters to the subdivision when the grass is higher than 10 inches. There was no discussion of the city doing anything to make it safe for turning cars and through traffic when the drivers can't see oncoming vehicles.

The city could cut the grass in five minutes and bill the subdivision. Of course there is nothing to put a lien on since the subdivision claims it does not own the property. There was also no talk about issuing citations to the subdivision or to the president of the subdivision's trustees.

The one thing that is forgotten that nobody seems to be concerned about is the safety of motorists and their passengers.

Frankly the way both sides seem to be dug in and inflexible, it appears as if the proper thing to do is to get a court order. However, I think both sides like to talk tough but fear their position might be weak in the event of a court ruling.

Director of Public Works Jim Eckrich provided this information on the current plans:

**From:** Jim Eckrich [mailto:JEckrich@chesterfield.mo.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2016 3:54 PM  
**To:** John Hoffmann (johnhoffmann@charter.net)  
**Cc:** Michael Herring; Mike Geisel; Ray Johnson  
**Subject:** Ladue Islands

John, the letter is being sent to the residents of the Ladue Trails subdivision this week. We are sending this now in hopes that the problem will be rectified before the grass grows in excess of ten inches. When/if that occurs the matter will be referred to code enforcement, which is handled by the Police Department. If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know.

**THE WARD 2 RACE:** On the day of the filing for City Council closed it was clear there would be a three way race in Ward 2. I emailed each candidate and offered to give them space with no smart ass comments from me for their bio, platforms and their position of tax subsidies for commercial development.

Here are the responses in the order I received them (the only one I received was one from Pat Flynn):

## Pat Flynn



I am running for Ward II in Chesterfield. In answer to your questions, I support the Missouri State Motto, “The Welfare of the people shall be the supreme law”.

Per your question on the TIF, CID and TDD, I speak to that directly on the issues section of my attached introduction piece when I noted, "I oppose taxpayer subsidies to private developers." With that said, I did agree with the TIF after the flood in 1993 when the area was "blighted," and that was a successful TIF that was paid off early. My opinion is that Chesterfield is an attractive destination for residential, retail and businesses and none of them need subsidies to entice them to our city.

My bio includes;

Education            Washington University St. Louis, MO  
                                 Master of Business Administration EMBA 1997

### Associations & Civic Involvement

Mortgage Bankers Association of St. Louis  
                                 Member  
Missouri Association of Mortgage Brokers  
                                 Board Member, Past President  
Rotary Club of Chesterfield  
                                 Board Member, Past President  
Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce Chairman Presidents Circle  
                                 Chairman Government Affairs  
Progress 64 West & Chesterfield Civic Progress  
                                 President/Chairman of the Board  
Chesterfield Challenge Community Foundation  
                                 President/ Chairman  
Boy Scout Troop 803  
                                 Scoutmaster/ Troop Committee Chairman  
Ascension Athletic Association  
                                 Baseball Coach  
St Louis Association of Realtors  
                                 Member  
Chesterfield Master Plan Committee  
                                 Member  
Chesterfield Parks Committee  
                                 Member

Chesterfield Master Plan  
Member  
Chesterfield Parks  
Member

## Bio

Pat has been very involved in Chesterfield since 1976 and continues his involvement today.

Pat and his family moved to Chesterfield in 1976 and built a new home in Shenandoah Subdivision. He was a business owner and real estate investor. From 1976 to 1987 he was active in the community in many ways including cub scouts, boy scout scoutmaster and troop committee chairman at Shenandoah Valley school. He was also boy's baseball coach and girl's softball coach. He taught Sunday school for grades 5 and 8.

In 1990, he moved back to Chesterfield and became active with Rotary, Chesterfield Chamber serving on 2 committees and was appointed to the Chesterfield Master Plan by then Mayor Nancy Greenwood. He also served on the Chesterfield Parks Committee.

Pat formed a not for profit organization and then worked with Rotary, Kiwaunis, Chesterfield Chamber and the Lions club, to put together 2 fundraisers which then purchased the Dare vehicle for the Chesterfield Police department.

He joined Chesterfield Area Civic Progress and was soon appointed to the board.

Civic Progress changed to Progress 64 West to expand it's influence to better serve Chesterfield. Pat became President in 2004 and Chair in 2006. He then served another term beginning 2014 as President and will serve another 2 year term as Chairman this June.

Progress 64 West works with all community issues to better the lifestyle of its residents and businesses. We do so by asking our membership, composed of business and political leaders to identify the various needs of the region so we can bring them to the decision makers at all political levels.

**WARD FOUR RACE:** In Ward 4 it is challenger Tom Decampi against incumbent Connie Fults. We received an email from Decampi's wife Gloria announcing the campaign and quoting her husband on his positions. Here is the email:

### **DeCampi Announces Campaign for Chesterfield Council Seat**

CHESTERFIELD--Medical equipment sales manager Tom DeCampi revealed today that his concerns about the direction of municipal government motivated him to seek the position of Chesterfield councilman, ward four.

"We have a wonderful community," he said. "But storm clouds have residents asking if leadership has lost its way."

DeCampi cited recent actions by some council members that did not comply with state law and the council's lack of authorization to spend \$17,000 to conduct an unnecessary personnel investigation.

The fact that more council seats are contested in this election than in the history of the city indicates that voters are seeking change, he said.

"There seems to be a need for re-focusing, for reform and for a return to principles that make any town great," he said. "I believe it is time for a fresh start."

A resident of the community for 22 years, DeCampi is regional manager for Corindus Vascular Robotics. He, his wife Gloria and three children are Ascension Church members. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration at the University of Missouri.

"Chesterfield has extraordinary potential, exceptional residents and the will to excel," he declared. "We can be the best there is and still keep taxes low, while following a path of limited government. But we must return to basics. That includes trust, integrity and listening to residents who pay the bill."

DeCampi said he seeks transparency for council operations and will work to give citizens a greater voice in municipal decisions.

"I intend to bring team building, reason and harmony to council deliberations and interactions," he stated. Another goal is to wait until after the voters elect the new council April 5 before replacing the retiring city administrator. "Citizens deserve a say in this critical decision," he added.

DeCampi remarked that he is opposed to a city/county merger, should that possibility surface. He supports "Pool Cities" legislation, which would prevent Chesterfield's sales taxes from being redistributed to other municipalities. The candidate said his committee is Taxpayers for Tom DeCampi.

**WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO LOOK LIKE AT THE END OF MARCH:** I took the photo below of the American and Missouri flags flying in front of the Chesterfield City Hall on February 18. As badly ripped as the flags are and with the March winds still headed our way I have to wonder what they are going to look like on March 31. With a City Council willing to illegally spend money on lawyers without contracts being issued, I have to wonder what it takes to buy some new flags.



**DON GOSEN:** Here is the thing with the Don Gosen scandal in Jefferson City. It used to be when you were cheating on your spouse you tried to hide it not take sex photos and videos. It is not like Gosen didn't know what could happen to you screwing around in Jefferson City. Here is a photo taken in Jefferson City in 2015 of Gosen delivering pizzas to the office of then Speaker of House John Diehl where Diehl was barricaded avoiding reporters after his sex scandal with a college intern became public. Diehl resigned the next day.



**SEX SELLS:** Prior to February 2016 the biggest one day for hits on this website was on August 8, 2013 when we posted the story and police reports of West County EMS and Fire Protection District president Richard Rogan getting caught in a prostitution sting where he was emailing to an undercover Velda City cop who he thought was a 19-year-old UMSL coed making some extra money by turning tricks in her apartment on Lucas and Hunt Road. The day after that was posted we had 775 hits. The next day we had 470 hits.



The old record holder.

The story of Don Gosen, the Donald Ducking sex texting, sex videoing, wife cheating former state rep's story has set a new record. In the first 14 hours after the Gosen story was posted the site had 840 hits. We had 431 the next day, followed by 320 and 270 hits. We have been averaging between 80 and 100 hits on a normal day prior to the Gosen story. In February we average 141 hits a day, thanks to Don Gosen.



The new record holder.

**CANDIDATES FOR 101 DISTRICT TO REPLACE GOSEN:** Here is the list of candidates who filed on the first day for the Republican Primary ballot to replace the former Don Gosen who resigned after being outted for having affairs, sending Donald Ducking sex texts, having a sex video shot in the Capital and having a girlfriend think he was going to marry her while he was still married:

**Joy B Krieger** 534 TRITON WAY DR ELLISVILLE MO 63011

**Bruce DeGroot** 16814 CRYSTAL SPRINGS DR CHESTERFIELD MO 63005

**Anne Gassel** 16309 AUTUMN CREST CT ELLISVILLE MO 63011

**Noreen McCann** 18124 WILD HORSE CREEK RD CHESTERFIELD MO 63005

Three of the four candidates are women. Clearly after the resignations of three elected male officials serving in the Missouri House from West County due to sex scandals perhaps women would be preferred as representatives. However, looking at this early ballot they might split the vote allowing Chesterfield Councilman Bruce DeGroot to win.



Joy Krieger



Bruce DeGroot



Anne Gassel



Noreen McCann (right) with Cong. Anne Wagner

**Joy Krieger** is a nurse and executive director of the St. Louis chapter of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation. She has lived for little over a year in a condo that once was a display home in the Villas at Fountain Plaza in western Ellisville. She drives a 2008 Lexus. The only legal action involving Krieger was a divorce action filed against husband Mark in 2009 that was later withdrawn and a divorce action filed in 2014 that was finalized on February of 2015.



**Bruce DeGroot** is in his second term on the City Council in Chesterfield. He will occasionally make a strong statement such as the one that he hates soccer. But more often than not he will waffle and dodge saying anything too controversial. He is a corporate lawyer who is currently working out of his house. DeGroot voted to censure Mayor Bob Nation for swearing in a closed office in 2015. He is also one of the city councilmen who violated the state law by agreeing to hire a lawyer to represent the council in a possible impeachment of the mayor without an official vote or entering into a contract. He is also on a bill as the "council of the whole" to name a new city administrator where the Missouri Open Meetings and Sunshine law was apparently violated.

On the positive side he has not been involved in a sex scandal. However neither had State Representatives John Diehl or Don Gosen up until they resigned due to sex scandals.

DeGroot has one lawsuit filed against him. He was originally represented by attorney Karl Dickhaus who was later disbarred. With new representation DeGroot lost the lawsuit and was hit on 02/10/09 with a \$30,676 judgment. He appealed the judgment and lost. He satisfied the judgment on over two years later on 04/26/12.

The DeGroot motor vehicle fleet is politically correct consisting of a 2012 Cadillac SRX, a 2009 Nisan and a 2006 Jeep.

**Anne Gassel** was active in Missourians Against Common Core, a school funding program. She and others sued Governor Jay Nixon for Missouri taxpayer funds being sent out of state and won.

FRED N. SAUER,

ANNE GASSEL, and  
GRETCHEN LOGUE,

Cause No. 14AC-CC00477 Plaintiffs, Division II vs.

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON, et al., Defendants.

JUDGMENT On January 15, 2015, the Court called and heard arguments on Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment and Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment. Having heard counsel and reviewed the pleadings and other submissions of the parties, the Court GRANTS Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment and DENIES Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment. The Court finds that the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, a.k.a. Smarter Balanced, Smarter Balanced at UCLA, SBAC, and SB, is an unlawful interstate compact to which the U.S. Congress has never consented, whose existence and operation violate the Compact Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Article I, § 10, cl. 3, as well as numerous federal statutes; and that Missouri's participation in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium as a member is unlawful under state and federal law. Accordingly, the Court DECLARES that any putative obligations, including the obligation to pay membership fees, of the State of Missouri to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, Smarter Balanced at UCLA, Smarter Balanced, SBAC, SB, the University of California, and/or the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing (collectively, "SBAC") are illegal and void; DECLARES that no Missouri taxpayer 2 funds may be disbursed to SBAC in the form of membership fees, whether directly or indirectly; and PERMANENTLY ENJOINS Defendants, and each of them, and all those in active concert with them, from taking any action to implement or otherwise effectuate any payment of Missouri funds as membership fees to SBAC, whether directly or indirectly. Each party to bear their own costs pursuant to RSMo. § 527.100.

Gassel is the current Republican committeewoman of the Wildhorse Creek Township.

She and her husband have lived in their current house in Ellisville since 2004.

She and her husband Matt have only one politically incorrect vehicle. That would be the 2009 Mercedes Benz E350. They also have a 10-year-old Honda van and a 19-year old Toyota Camry.

**Noreen McCann** McCann and her husband have lived on Wild Horse Creek Rd for at least 18 years. The currently pay \$4,145 in real estate taxes. The only court action against her is a 2011 moving violation from the Highway Patrol that got turned into a \$160 parking violation.

She has a list of endorsers on her facebook page including:

[Noreen McCann for State Rep District 101](#)

February 19 at 11:38am ·

Great endorsements in first 24 hours!

Phyllis Schlafly

Peter Kinder

Jane Cunningham

John Lamping

Don Hinkle

Ed Martin

George and Janet Engelbach

Peter Kinder and John Lamping would represent the current Republican Party. Of course Kinder has the track record of hanging out at East Side strip clubs and having former strippers talk about him being a nuisance, but still he is the Lt. Governor of Missouri.

Jane Cunningham is certainly someone from the further right side of the party and Phyllis Schlafly is someone even further from the right.

However Ed Martin is a former state employee (chief of state for Boy-Governor Matt Blount) who disregarded open records laws and then fired a state employee who was simply following the law and doing his job. In 2006 the Springfield News-Leader field a sunshine request for certain emails from Martin. He denied they existed and further stated that the Blunt administration did not save emails which is in violation of State policy and the Open Records Law. Scott Eckersley, then chief counsel for Blount claimed the emails existed and should be made available for review. For following the law Eckersley was fired.



After court challenges from Eckersley over his firing and from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the Kansas City Star for refusing to release emails Blount's office wasted \$2,000,000 in defense fees or judgments. Martin was fired.

If you want to tell people that Ed Martin thinks you are the best for a job, I have to look at someone else.

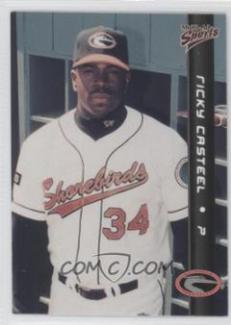


## HOT STOVE LEAGUE:

## THE PROBLEM FOR TALENTED BASEBALL PLAYERS FROM THE SOUTH WAS FOOTBALL:

**FORCED FOOTBALL:** We have learned life can be tough for a well built baseball player during his high school days in traditional big-time football states like Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. But the "football comes first at high school" rule was even seen in Indiana and on the east side of St. Louis.

Delmarva Shorebird **pitcher Ricky Casteel** was from Texarkanna, Texas. He said he was threatened with not being able to play basketball or baseball if he didn't go out for football in his freshman and sophomore years of high school. "In middle school I was the quarterback of the football team and could throw 50 and 60 yard passes. I was in summer baseball leagues and the football coaches would call and want to know why I wasn't at practice. I almost changed schools over it."



We interviewed Casteel in 1999 when he was a starting pitcher. He finished with a 3-14 record and a 5.01 ERA. At the end of the season he was released by the Baltimore Orioles organization. Over the next two years he pitched for three teams in non-affiliated leagues before hanging them up. He has moved back to Texarkanna where he coaches a 11-12 year-old baseball team.



Ricky on the mound with some of his players gathered around.

**Bowie Baysox outfielder Johnny Isom** is from Ft. Worth, Texas had similar problems and did play outside linebacker on the football team. "If you had any talent or size you were out there on the football field. During the spring you had to do at least one hour of football training before you could go join your baseball team after school. It didn't bother me at the time, because that was the way it was. Now looking back at it I think they were a little overboard. Summer baseball leagues had to be at night because they expected us to work out with weights during the day three times a week," Isom said.

Isom who many of his teammates, coaches and front office people considered the nicest player and one of the nicest persons they had ever met, hit .345 in Triple-A Rochester in 1999 when I interviewed him. He was released at the end of the season.



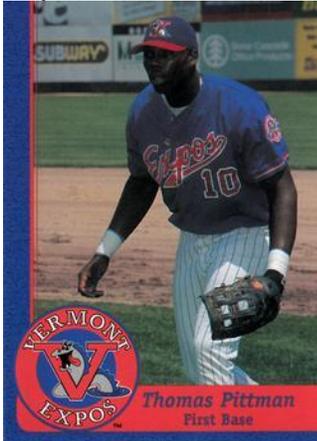
1999 OF Johnny Isom



2016 Head Coach Johnny Isom

Isom returned to the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He has a Education Management Degree from Northern Texas University and is head baseball coach at Liberty Christian Prep School.

The Cape Fear Croc's power hitter, **Thomas Pittman** grew up in Louisiana having conflicts with baseball and football. He received a \$700,000 signing bonus from the Expos. "The football coaches were always mad at me because I'd be out of football shape by playing baseball all summer," Pitman said, who in 1999 had his best year ever in minor league baseball hitting .283 with 22 HR and 97 RBI for the Cape Fear Crocs in Fayetteville NC.



Pittman had second thoughts about baseball and went back to football at University of Florida, but still played baseball the following summer.

"I asked God for advice and God told me to do what I wanted to do," he said.

This from the Florida Sun-Sentinel:

I always had it in the back of my mind that football was what I really wanted," said Pittman, who signed a letter-of-intent to play at Auburn in 1997 but passed on it for a \$700,000 baseball signing bonus.

Pittman, whose official height and weight is unknown because of his status, is not the typical walk-on. He had 33 sacks in his last three years at Reserve East St. John in Louisiana. And in two fall practices, he is physically ready to contribute to the Gators' defense.

"It's been three full years since I even put on football pads," said Pittman, 20. "I've missed it a lot. I've watched on Saturdays, and I've seen people I was on recruiting visits with get drafted. It was tough for a while. But now I'm just back out here trying to fulfill my goals.

"Leaving football was one of the toughest decisions I've ever had to make," he said. "I thought long and hard before I signed."

In Pittman's first two years of baseball, he struggled. But as a first baseman for a long-season Class A team in North Carolina last season, he hit .283 with 22 home runs and 97 RBI.

He's not convinced he can't make it as a baseball player

"Now it's time to let the aggressive part of me come back through again," Pittman said.

"It feels good to hit somebody."

Pittman played two more partial seasons in the minor leagues but struggled after going back to college football. In his one year at Florida under Coach Steve Spurier Pitman played in the SEC championship game and in the Sugar Bowl. The next year he signed

with the Cleveland Browns. He was on the Browns roster for two seasons and one year with the Denver Broncos apparently on their practice squads. In 2004 he played DE for Amsterdam in the NFL Europe Football League.

**Marcus Thames**, an outfielder with the Yankees Double-A team in Norwich, CT went to high school in Louisville, Mississippi. Thames, at 6'2 and 205, described the football-baseball conflict simply..."It was football, football, football all year long."

Thames never had a tremendous minor league season, but ended up playing in the big leagues for all or parts of 10 seasons for the Yankees, Tigers, Rangers and Dodgers. I saw him three straight years in the AA Eastern League. His best year was in 2010 with the Yankees when he hit .288.



**TYLER THOMPSON:** Tyler was from Indiana and had a very good high school football and baseball career. In fact he was heavily recruited by schools in the Big 10, Norte Dame and FSU. But he went with baseball, first playing at Indiana State University.



"At just 6'0 I knew where my future was and it wasn't as a football player," said Thompson.

He played just three years of A-Level minor league baseball for the Toronto Blue Jays where he hit .265. In 1991 he led the Hagerstown Suns with 17 home runs and 81 RBI, but only batted .261

**Byron Gettis** a star quarterback and a Reebok All-American in 1997 for Cahokia, IL High School, was still a baseball guy at heart. He turned down a football scholarship at

the University of Minnesota and signed as a free agent with the Kansas City Royals. However he was another person conflicted between baseball and football. I interviewed him in 1999.

"I have always loved baseball. My heart was in baseball and not football. My mother wanted me to go to college, but my father thought I should be happy and play baseball. I think the fact that I had the football scholarships kept teams from drafting me. I was expecting to be drafted before the 20th round," he said.

In 1999 when I interviewed Gettis he was the largest player on the Charleston Alleycats at 6-foot and over 200-pounds. "You are not going to believe this but in high school I played shortstop, catcher and pitcher. In my senior year I hit .520 with 13 home runs and 22 stolen bases."



Gettis said being a St. Louisian and a Cardinal fan it was tough not to sign a free agent contract with the Cardinals. "It was very hard turning the Cardinals down, but the Royals' scout was always there when I was going bad and going good. I appreciated that," he said.

Gettis hit over .300 three times over eight minor league seasons. He did make it to the big leagues with Royals in 2004 and played outfield in 21 games but just hit .179.

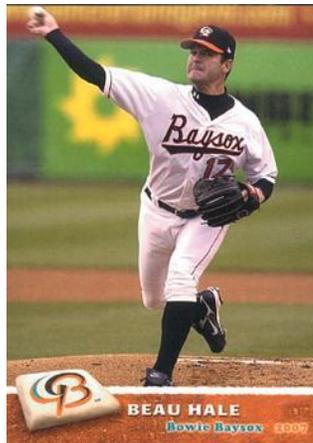
In 2005 his last year in baseball Gettis was in the minors with the Detroit Tigers and hit .249 between playing in Double-A and Triple-AAA.

Part of his contract with the Royals included they pay for Gettis college. In 2006 having hung up his spikes he enrolled at Southern Illinois University and put on a pair of cleats and was a walked on for the football team. He didn't play in 2006, but did in 2007 being voted team captain by the players. He eventually went to McKendree College where he was a NAIA All-American receiver despite being 30 years old his senior year.



Gettis was an assistant football coach upon graduating at McKendree and then went to Lindenwood-Bellville University as an assistant coach and then interim head coach in 2015. He is now the director of Athletic Facilities.

**BEAU HALE** was a guy out Texas who could say no to football. Unfortunately it was college baseball that made him a millionaire as a number-one draft pick but also ended his career.



Beau Hale was a first round draft pick out of the University of Texas of the Baltimore Orioles. He signed for \$2,250,000. He had been a Central Texas College Player of the Year and a second team All-American.

He told me how growing up in Texas he was constantly goaded by the football coach to play football and baseball. He refused to play football believing football injuries would ruin his baseball career.

He was a 22nd round draft pick by the New York Yankees out of high school, but refused to sign going instead to Texas on a baseball scholarship.

The Orioles took a gamble on Hale. His numbers and performance all were worthy of being a #1 pick, but the Texas baseball coach had over used Hale. In 2000 before the draft he had thrown as many as 150 and 160 pitches in a game.

2001 as a pro ballplayer he got off to a good start with a 1-2 record with the Frederick Keys but with a 1.15 ERA in five starts for a very bad team. He got promoted to the Double-A Bowie Baysox where he was 1-5 with a 5.11 ERA. The Orioles noticed that Beau lost some of his velocity on the fastball.

In 2002 Beau was 10-8 in 22 minor league starts, but his season ended early due to shoulder and arm problems. Beau would miss the 2003 season with Tommy John surgery and 2004 with shoulder surgery.

In 2005 was 1-2 with a 5.23 ERA in just 22 games. He was shut down in July and I last saw him while he was rehabbing with the Aberdeen Ironmen in the NY-Penn League (owned by Cal Ripken).

"I want to give the Orioles their money's worth but I don't think I can go through more major surgery," Beau told me in late August of 2005. He would pitch in 46 games over the next two years, never finding his velocity from his college days. He hung em up after the 2007 season with a minor league record of 25-28 and a 4.31 ERA.

Beau is married with four kids and is still in the real estate business in Austin, Texas.



## MY CARDINAL NATION:



**FOOD:** We updated late year's Fast Food for lent by adding a new mini-review. As good as their chicken sandwich is the fish sandwich is awful. Here is a link to the entire review:

[http://johnhoffmann.net/review\\_fast\\_food\\_for\\_lent\\_022316.pdf](http://johnhoffmann.net/review_fast_food_for_lent_022316.pdf)

**CHIC-FIL-A** Okay they say you shouldn't order fish at a steakhouse or steak at a seafood restaurant. But, the most popular fish sandwich is at a hamburger place (McDonald's) and the best tasting fish sandwich is at a hamburger place (Culver's) plus the best tasting fish sandwich at a cheaper price is at a roast beef place (Arby's.)

So I had to go to a Chicken place and try the Chic-fil-a fish sandwich during the 2016 lent. I got the deluxe with cheese, lettuce and tomato (\$3.79) while my wife got the regular (\$3.29). The best part of my sandwich was the cheese, lettuce and tomato. The best part of my wife's was the bread. In other words the two sandwiches were awful. My wife kept muttering, "I really like McDonald's Filet O' Fish.

The fish was actually tough and stringy. I had to floss to get remnants off this awful fish that was caught between my teeth. Do yourself a favor and only order chicken when you go to Chic-fil-a.



**MUSIC** Last Wednesday it was the Route 66 Jazz Orchestra at the Riverbend Restaurant on Big Bend in Richmond Heights. Many folks thought the noise level would be deafening, but it wasn't that bad. You couldn't talk across the table during some selections but nobody's ears started to bleed either.



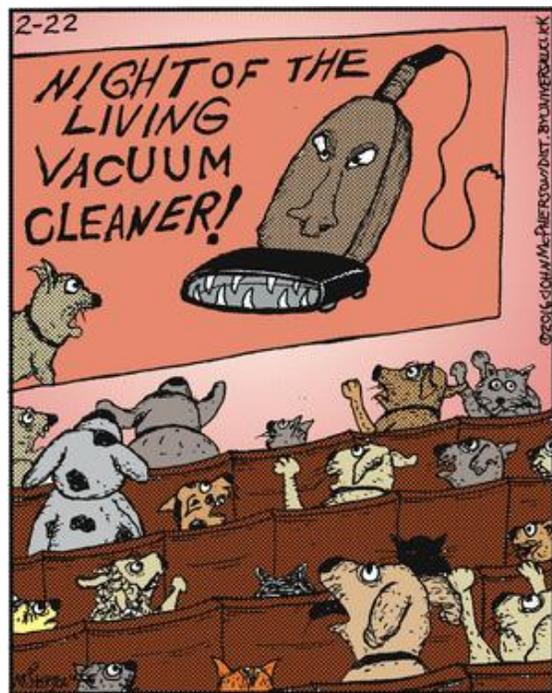
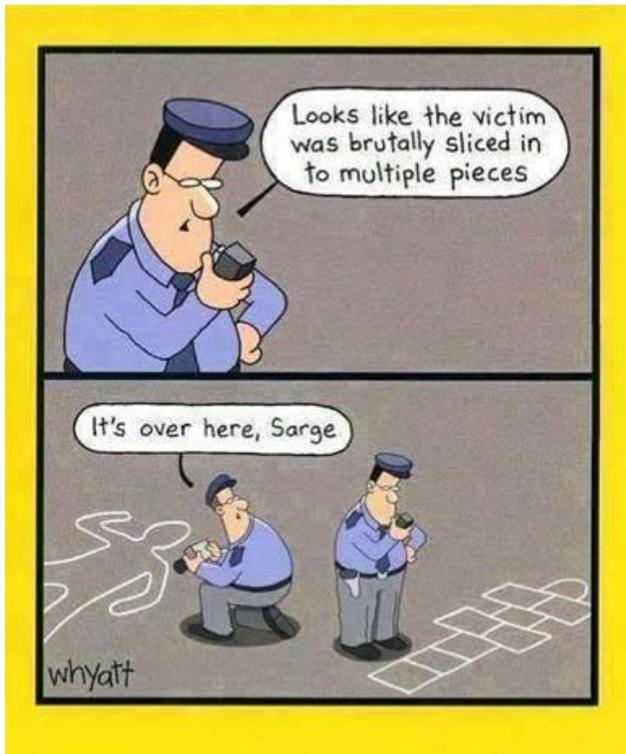
Vocalist Valerie

Tichacek with most of the band



Bill Simpson and Fred Middlekauf on the trumpets Unexpectedly Dean Christopher climbed onto a ledge to knock out a Sinatra classic as Valerie Tichacek acts as if it is just another opening of another show.

## CARTOONS



Horror movies for pets.



BREVITY

BY DAN THOMPSON



