

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 120



March 17, 2014

By John Hoffmann

DALTON GONE FROM LEWIS-RICE...SECOND MAJOR LAW FIRM THAT DALTON WAS A PARTNER WITH AND THEN LEFT: Responding to a tip from a local resident and regular reader of this newsletter we checked the Lewis-Rice Law Firm website and found that Town and Country mayor Jonathan Dalton is no longer listed as a partner or a member of the firm. He is now with his third law firm in 11 years!



Dalton had been a partner with Bryan Cave, the largest law firm in St. Louis, until 2003 when he separated from the firm. I have heard rumors of the reason for him leaving, but no one I know with the firm or even those retired from Bryan Cave have ever been willing to talk about it.

However, after I read the Jo Anne Grant trust cases court files including one that listed Dalton as a defendant I could see why any law firm would want to have distance from him. He began as a lawyer for the trust when he was with Bryan Cave but was sued after he had separated from Bryan-Cave and joined Lewis-Rice.

Not only is Dalton no longer listed on the Lewis-Rice website, the Jefferson City office used by Dalton and his secretary/office manager/lobbyist Shannon Hawk is no longer listed on the website either.

In fact Hawk's Ethics Commission filing now shows Hawk working for the law firm of Armstrong-Teasdale and dropped Lewis-Rice as an employer on March 3. Also Hawk recently started her own Lobbying Company.



On Monday March 10 Dalton's Ethics Commission Lobbyist File showed a new address of 7700 Forsyth in Clayton, which is the same address of Armstrong-Teasdale.

However, Dalton's ever shrinking list of lobbying clients with the Ethics Commission on March 10 still included Lewis-Rice. He finally filed a change of status on March 11 dropping Lewis-Rice and inserting Armstrong-Teasdale. However as of Friday March 14 Dalton is still not on Armstrong-Teasdale's website. I even checked under "W" for "weasel lobbyist" and he was not there either.

Dalton is down to four lobbying clients, but Hawk has twelve.

Dalton's buddy, State Representative John Diehl is also a partner at Armstrong-Teasdale.



Armstrong-Teasdale already has a Jefferson City Office with two lawyers listed as handling "government relations" which is lawyer speak for "weasel lobbyist."

Here is the Dalton Resume of Reasons why you don't want him to represent you or work at your law firm:

1. The Jo Ann Grant Trust Case. Dalton represented Mrs. Grant. court documents show he claimed she was of sound mind when he was hired. Dalton claimed no other relatives could be found. However she had a brother in Texas who was an active attorney. Other evidence was presented that Mrs. Grant at the time of hiring Dalton had been living 20-hours a day, defecating and urinating in an easy chair before going to a nursing home and was mentally impaired.

2. Dalton has been sued by two local businesses (Midwest Carpets and Mitchell Lighting) for not paying bills for work at his house. He was also sued by a medical provider for non-payment of services.

3. Dalton was behind two LLCs that used eminent domain through the St. Louis City Land Clearance Authority, which was represented by Dalton's law firm, Lewis-Rice to seize the business and property of widow Opal Henderson for an underfunded nightclub district that never got built. Henderson sued and won a judgment over \$800,000, which Dalton and partners delayed paying until Henderson sued them in Federal Court.

4. The same year that Dalton as a lobbyist in Jefferson City was on the payroll of the West County EMS & Fire Protection District as mayor of Town and Country he negotiated a \$17,500,000 5-year contract with the fire district.

5. **July 2009:** Dalton signed a Code of Conduct document produced by Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith which stated aldermen and the mayor cannot make untoward comments verbally or in writing toward other elected officials, employees or businesses in Town and Country. So much for the first amendment! I am guessing such former publications as Common Sense and The Federalist Papers would be frowned upon by Meyland-Smith and Dalton.



Thomas Paine for political free speech.



Jon Dalton against it.

6. Ethics commissions found Dalton to have committed 27 violations of campaign reporting the last two years,

For more details see The Dalton Decade:

http://johnhoffmann.net/dalton_decade.pdf

DALTON REPRESENTING GROUP WHO WANTS TO PUT ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY INTO A RESIDENTIAL AREA IN SUNSET HILLS: In case you missed it and like irony...In October while Dalton was still working for Lewis-Rice he was representing the developers behind the proposed Grove, 70,000 square foot 90-bed assisted living facility. The Grove Assisted Living, LLC wants to build the facility on 14420 Rott Road in Sunset Hills. This is next to residential property. In October when the St. Louis Business Journal wrote about this, Dalton refused to say who the investors were behind The Grove Assisted Living, LLC.

The Sunset Hills P&Z Commission voted against the project and last week the Sunset Hills Board of Aldermen had the project before them and continued it.

The irony is that in July as mayor of Town and Country Dalton made a rare appearance and took his usually vacant seat on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission that was hearing the proposal for an assisted living facility on Clayton Road near Mason Road on property that is zoned residential. The city hall was full of angry property owners over the plan and Dalton joined the rest of the P&Z Commissioners and voted against the rezoning.

Dalton has also been the attorney on record for another LLC wanting to build an assisted living complex in the Kansas City suburb of Gladstone. Do you really want a mayor who is trying to push things on other communities that residents don't want here?

SECOND TIME IN TWO YEARS A PERSON PENDING TRIAL ON A FELONY WAS FOUND DEAD IN THE SAME HOUSE: 1941

Karlin in the Thornhill Estates subdivision is getting a reputation for attracting people charged with felonies who die in the house. The rental property was where on November 9, 2011 Doug Morgan, 65, former head of the St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Commission was found dead. He was due later that day in Federal Court concerning a case where he had been charged with bilking investors out of \$2.5 million in a fraudulent investment scheme involving an non-existent casino and with a \$1.5 million Bank Fraud involving phony loans applications. It was determined that Morgan died of natural causes.

Natural causes were not the cause of death for Kara Koriath, 44, who shot herself to death one day after posting bond in a bizarre event where she tried to kill herself and her two teenage sons in a car firebomb she set off while driving on I-270. Town and Country Police responded on March 11 to 1941 Karlin on the report of a suicide.



1941 Karlin. Currently rental property, but next door looking down at the ranch house of death to felons is a new house built by a foreign national doctor. We refer to it was the Hilton Conference Center House.

Back on November 20, 2013 she had her two sons in her GMC Acadia at 6:30am going north on I-270. She had told the boys they had to go to Mercy Hospital as their grandmother had a heart attack. But grandmother was fine. The night before Kara had fashioned her car into a mobile fire bomb having soaked part of the interior in lighter fluid and connected fireworks placed in the areas saturated in lighter fluid with fuses. She ignited the fireworks which set the car on fire, but it also caused Koriath to lose control and crash near Clayton Road. Both of her sons were burned. The Highway Patrol worked the case and found out her motive for the attempted murder and suicide was to obtain sympathy from her former boyfriend who normally drives north on I-270 every morning at that time.

The Highway Patrol found suicide notes at Koriath's home on Barrett Station Road in unincorporated St. Louis County.

Koriath was arrested for driving in a drug condition on the day of the accident, but released pending further investigation and lab tests prior to the filing of more serious charges of First Degree Assault.



Koriath moved in with a relative who was renting the house 1941 Karlin. Once the boys were released from the hospital they did not return to live with Kara. The charges of trying to kill her sons came on February 25 when an arrest warrant was issued.

Koriath was arrested the next day on February 26 and held at the County Jail on a \$200,000 bond.

On Monday March 10 a bond reduction hearing was held before Judge MARY BRUNTRAGER SCHROEDER. A bond reduction was obtained. In retrospect perhaps jail was the best place for a person who has tried to kill herself and her children in recent months.



The next day the person who tried to kill herself and two sons was successful in at least one part of that trilogy when she shot herself.

The property is owned by husband and wife Muhammad Z. Amin and Fatima Khan, who live on Weidman Road and use the house as rental property. The address in quickly becoming infamous. Besides being current rental property I have a feeling Amin and Khan may have tear down plans in the future.



DEER ACCIDENT RATE IMPROVES FOR FEBRUARY:

The deer-vehicle collision rates sky rocket for the last three months every year and then drop almost as dramatically. That was the case this February when there was only one deer-vehicle incident. That compared with 5 in February of 2013. So far in 2014 there have been four deer related accident compared to seven in 2013.

The lone February accident was on February 26 at 9:20 at Ladue Road near Hwy 141.

HERE TODAY...GONE TOMORROW: This was a really interesting ranch house located in the back of the Williamsburg Estates subdivision off of both Mason and Clayton Roads (#6 Williamsburg Est). I was there for an estate sale a couple of years ago. It was an original owner and the children just sold it. Unfortunately it will soon vanish off the face of the earth. The new house will have a large unattached garage.



PLANING AND ZONING VOTES DOWN SOLAR PANELS FOR A HOUSE IN WARD 2:

On Tuesday March 4 the Town and Country Planning and Zoning Commission voted down a Conditional Use Permit for Mitchell Wexler to install solar panels at his house on 1278 Tammany Lane.

Wexler is one of the people behind Longview Energy Exchange which deals with setting set solar energy systems.



Mitch Wexler

Apparently Town and Country officials are ignoring the court rulings out of Jefferson City against Clarkson Valley not permitting solar panels at the residence of Jim and Frances Babb. After receiving a ruling in 2012 that cities can't create restrictions in conflict with Public Service Commission regulations, the Babbs installed the solar panels.

Cash-strapped Clarkson Valley then appealed the case which went to the Missouri Court of Appeal Western District in Kansas City. Clarkson Valley lost. The small municipality has spent over \$100,000 losing court decisions on this issue. It appears as if Town and Country is headed the same way.

I think Town and Country's position is that in Clarkson Valley there was not an ordinance in place when the Babbs applied to put up their solar panels. There is an ordinance in place in Town and Country that states you cannot have solar panels on your roof that face the street. You can have them on your back roof even if they face a house to the back of you. You can have them on a side roof even if they can be seen from the street.

Wexler wants the panel on the front roof. Apparently he said he does not want to remove the skylights he has on the back roof and with the skylights there is not enough room for the panels. If you look at the below photos there is also not as much sun on the back roof...as much of it is still covered with snow.



This is where Wexler wants the solar panels.



The back roof clearly does not have enough space.

What is stupid about this Snoburbia Ordinance is that you want solar panels facing where they will get the most sun. Wexler could lose 40-to-50% of the effectiveness of the panels by moving them to the rear roof. He offered to put on a black shingle roof and installed black solar panels. The offer was not considered.

I mean they have don't have any ordinances about what kind of Santa you can put on your roof...and that could be worse than solar panels.



If Wexler takes the issue before the Board of Aldermen, which will require a super majority for passage after a defeat at P&Z, I hope the alderman wise up and pass the conditional use permit. Otherwise our budget deficit for 2014 will be growing, as will the bank account of our city attorney if a lawsuit similar to one by the Babbs filed against Clarkson Valley is filed by Wexler against Town and Country.

There was an article in Post-Dispatch on Sunday March 9 by Stephen Deere of the Clarkson Valley issue.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/couple-says-clarkson-valley-is-defying-a-court-order-to/article_e154f425-5763-5c28-b6a7-8d2816f69502.html



Looking in from the street
the Babb's house is barely visible

BOARD OF ALDERMAN MEETING CANCELLED LACK OF INTEREST: Fred Meyland-Smith and Skip Mange were out of town on vacation. Tim Welby, who is basically a travelling salesman was out of town on business. Lynn Wright planned to call in sick. But she was spotted on Wednesday in good health. That meant four out of eight no shows.

I know the website says how Town and Country is Prestigious, but really rich people take the second half of December or the month of August off while they are at Cape Cod, the Outer Banks, the house in upper Michigan...but not March 10!

Welby clearly doesn't have a lot of sense, but with travel and business demands he should not be running for office. The idea of not having a quorum on March 10 is pretty sad.

WHY ARE WE LETTING SKIP COLLECT LOG CABINS WHEN WE CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THE ONES WE HAVE NOW? There is a whole in the roof of the transplanted log cabin in Drace Park thanks to a February storm. A month after the damage was done it remains unrepaired.



Same goes for the restrooms roof at Drace



NOW OPEN BUT STILL NEEDING A LOT OF LANDSCAPING: The pre-school through kindergarten **Raintree School** built on the old abandoned Amonte subdivision site along Mason Road near the southern city limits opened the third week in February. No one was reported any traffic issues with parents dropping off and picking up kids. However due to the severe winter weather none of the landscaping has been done.



UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 65



March 17, 2014

By John Hoffmann

MARK YOUR CALENDAR HIGHWAY 40/I-64 TO BE CLOSED FOR THE FIRST WEEKEND IN APRIL:

We reported this a couple of months ago, but the western Chesterfield Parkway bridge over I-64 is scheduled to be torn down with I-64/Hwy 40 closed in both directions the first weekend in April.

PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE...AT LEAST PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE ENEMY NUMBER ONE...SWEET GUM TREES: On Wednesday March 6 the Chesterfield Planning and Public Works Committee declared war on sweet gum trees in city right of way.



Mike Geisel Chesterfield's Director of Public Services explained that the city's policy of removing trees from city right of way (easement) areas is that the tree will be removed if it is dead, dying, diseased or a hazard. There is one exception. If it is a healthy Sweet Gum tree the city will remove it upon the request of a citizen of a subdivision board of trustees.



Mike Geisel

Geisel said that the Sweet Gum removal policy was that of the Public Services Division and he suspended it until he could get approval from the P&W Committee of the City Council.

Geisel said there were currently 2,200 Sweet Gum Trees on city easement/right of ways.

Councilman Barry Flachsbart immediately spoke up and stated that he considered Sweet Gum trees dangerous and a nuisance. Councilwoman Nancy Greenwood agreed with Flachsbart.

Two trustees of the Greenville Village subdivision were present and were also against Sweet Gums, however they complained that after the city cut down four on one side of an intersection, they came back six months later and cut down four across the street and it appeared there had been clear cutting.

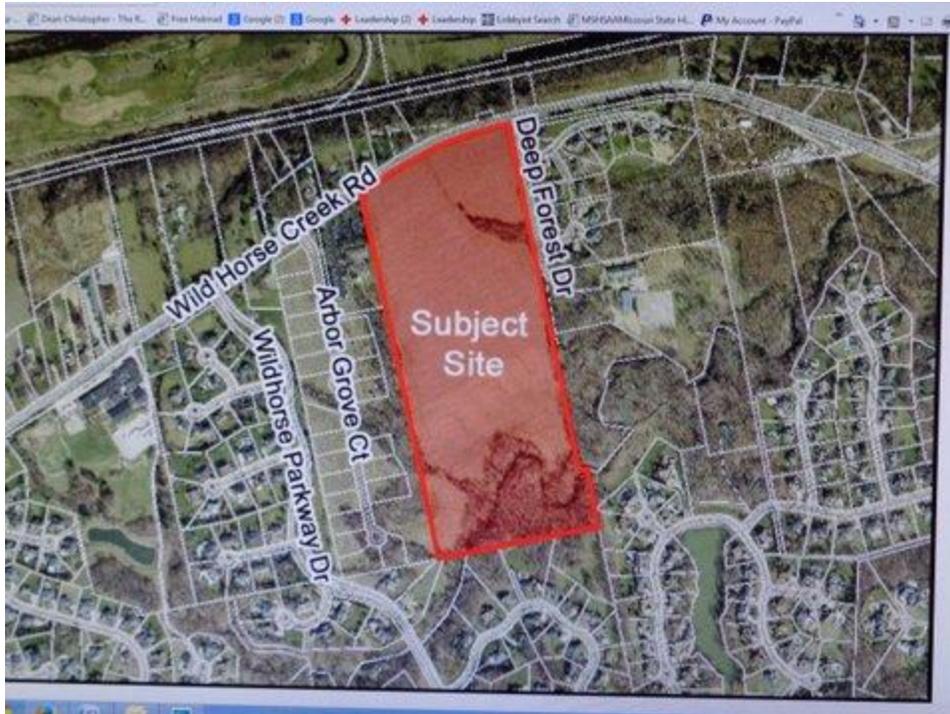


Geisel spoke up and stated now before they cut down a Sweet Gum the subdivision has to agree to plant a replacement tree. He said the policy was not in affect when they cut down the first four trees. In the future he said instead of taking down four trees, they would take down one or two a year while the new trees were planted.

Geisel he would like to remove as many as 200 Sweet Gum trees a year if they had enough complaints from residents.

49 HOME NEW SUBDIVISION PLANNED: Fischer & Frichtel Custom Homes, LLC, has submitted a request for a zoning map amendment to rezone 50.5 acres for a proposed single-family residential development of 49 homes.

The Wilmas Farm development would be south of Wild Horse Creek Road and west of Long Road at 17508 Wild Horse Creek Road. Currently plans would call for the entrance to the subdivision to be off of Deep Forest Drive.



The Planning and Zoning Commission split on the developer's request. They passed 8-0 a request to change the property from Non-Urban to E-1 One Acre Estate. The voted 8-0 to hold the request to change the development to a Planned Unit Development. Staying just with the E-1 is probably better in providing safeguard to neighbors in adjoining subdivisions. The PUD would be better for the developers.

PLANS FOR MORE STORES AT OUTLET MALLS: Aimee Nassiff, Chesterfield Planning Director reported that plans have been submitted to the city to add 79,000 square feet of new retail stores at the Blue Valley (St. Louis Premium Outlets) Outlets.

Councilwoman Connie Fults asked if there was going to be additional parking. Nassiff showed two areas for more parking. The committee had already recommended making all of Outlet Blvd, a No Parking Zone. Fults reported that during Christmas shopping parking was hard to find on the parking lots and so many people parked along the street that it was difficult for traffic to get through.



GREEN SHEETS HAVE BECOME GREEN PAGES: We reported last month how after repeatedly saying "Green Sheet" amendments Connie Fults accidentally slipped and once called them "green shit" amendments. At the first council meeting in March, Fults was referring to the amendments to bills written by staff as "Green Page" amendments instead of "green sheet" just in case.



CHESTERFIELD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: We have it on good authority that at the City Council meeting on Monday March 17 former councilwoman and longtime member of the Chesterfield Historical and Landmark Preservation Commission, **Jane Durrell** will be named Chesterfield's Person of the Year. We don't normally mention "Persons of the Year" because so many people always get overlooked or become invisible to the powers to be. But Jane was one of the first people to sign up for this newsletter when we left patch.com and we want to be sure to give her a nod. We hope

the crowd to congratulate Jane hasn't been spending the day at area Irish food and drink establishments. Or maybe a loud boisterous gathering at city hall would be a nice change of pace.

Of course our person of year for 2013 was Chesterfield college student **Blythe Grupe** who after being attacked in a bathroom at the Meramec campus of St. Louis Community Colleges by a person who later admitted he wanted to kill her, complained loudly of the failure of college police to charge the suspect or administrators to protect to students. Blythe brought down the campus police chief, college president and the chancellor of the five campus college system.



While Jane has done a lot of exhaustive work for the city, she has yet to get three high ranking officials to resign or be fired within a few months.

THE NO WINE BEFORE ITS TIME AT A DISCOUNT GUY HAS NEW COURT DATES:

If you remember from last summer Douglas L. Timkle of 2040 Country Field Drive was charged by the Ballwin and Chesterfield Police for stealing high dollar bottles of wine from nearby Dierbergs and Schnucks stores, by scanning a cheaper bottle of wine at the self checkout and then put an expensive bottle in his bag. (This is a big reason why in parts of the country supermarkets have discontinued self checkout.)



Timke wasn't satisfy with a few bottles but kept hitting the stores until he had racked up felony amounts of stolen vino. He was charged with separate felony stealing cases by the Ballwin Police and the Chesterfield Police and of course he is banned for going to the two nicest stores closest to his house.

The scheme was first detected in May of 2013 and despite being charged in July of 2013 his cases are aging like fine wines. Currently his cases that have been continued from December to January to February are now scheduled not for trial, but pre-trial conferences on April 11 in front of Judge Tom DePriest.

JUSTICE SLOW IN BOTH CRIMINAL COURT AND IN CIVIL COURT WITH ASSAULT ON SMITTY'S WAITRESS CASE: Jayne Baning, who viciously attacked Nancy Seaman a waitress and bartender for 23 years at Smitty's in January of 2013 still has not had her criminal case or civil case go to trial.



Baning

Seaman's injuries after the broken glass attack by Baning

Seaman working the late closing shift on Monday January 28, 2013 refused to continue to serve Baning who appeared to be intoxicated. Baning took exception, broke a glass and attacked Seaman with the broken glass.

Baning's criminal case is scheduled for another settlement conference on March 28, 2013. That is 14 months after the attack.

Baning who owns a house in Manchester was also sued civilly by Seaman, a single mom of a teenager who just started college. The civil case is currently set for trial on March 2, 2015 or 2-years plus a month after the attack.

MONARCH SALARY INFO: I have to thank former board member and president of the Monarch fire Protection District Rick Gans for putting the Monarch salary piece in

last week's newsletter in a little better perspective. For those of you who are regular readers, know that most Monarch firefighters according to their W-2 make between \$90,000 and \$119,000 with various overtime and extra pay. We have reported that in the past. However last week we simply used the base salary as given by Board President Robin Harris in comparing salaries with NYFD. Here is Rick's explanation:

John-

Monarch FFs/Paramedics currently top out at full base pay after FOUR years, not fifteen years as you reported. When I became a Board member full pay was achieved after five years and during my tenure on the Board, we raised it to seven years, where it remained for many years. But shortly after the Swyers/Evans Union controlled Board took charge, they reduced it to the current four years. In the current negotiations, the Harris/Cunningham taxpayer controlled Board is seeking to raise it to eight years.

Also, the base pay comparison you provided is certainly interesting and insightful, but as you point out, it doesn't take all of the other wages earned by Monarch FFs/Paramedics into account. There is not a single FF/Paramedic with wages that do not include longevity pay, overtime pay, constant manning pay, sick pay, vacation pay, Kelly Day pay and other earning opportunities. That is why the real pay for Monarch FFs/Paramedics, who are currently seeking raises, is significantly more than \$81,241 for 9-10 days a month of work. If that were not the case, there would not be over a quarter of the FFs/Paramedics with W-2 wages totaling over \$100,000 each (with many of them over \$150,000 a year including benefits).

Rick Gans

CUNNINGHAM IS MAKING MOVES FOR ANOTHER RACE: On Tuesday March 11, I received an email from Dan O'Sullivan announcing that former State Senator and current Monarch Fire District Board member Jane Cunningham would be "discussing a multi-million dollar questionable developing deal" at the County Council meeting later that night. Fire dispatching and the fate of the current dispatch center that serves a large part of the County has been a hot issue for Cunningham...however the email from O'Sullivan was making it appear to be a staged event.

O'Sullivan is a Republican Committeeman and a member of the County Central GOP. Along with the e-mail message was the standard Jane Cunningham photo.



Since this was six days from St. Patrick's Day and her last name is "Cunningham" I would have thought they would have gone with the green head shot. Jane has two favorite wardrobe looks where she even has matching eyeglasses. The looks are green and purple.

I thought I've see Jane in either purple or green outfits the most, but when I went back and checked the photos I have taken in the last 10 months of covering Monarch meetings, it is clear that Cunningham is a fashion plate...especially when compared to Robin Harris and Steve Swyers, both who are likely to show up with a Monarch polo shirt or an open collar buttoned down blue shirt. At Thursday's Monarch meeting I quizzed Jane on how many different colored pairs of reading glasses she has to match her outfits. After careful consideration the answer was NINE.

Here are the different fashion statements by Jane through the year:



TWO FOR ONE: Cunningham has said she has investigated the possibilities of holding two elected positions such as being County Executive and Monarch Fire Board member. She has said she has received some legal advice that it was possible. I

disagree...however the bigger problem is the conflict of interest it could cause in both positions.

There could be an issue that is in the best interest of the County overall but a deterrent the residents of the Fire District. What hat do you wear? Another issue could arise dealing with the new County dispatch center under construction or the Fire Academy in Wellston. Still another could involve county or state legislation for grants to municipal fire departments getting more than fire districts.

I still maintain there is no way Jane or any other Republican can win the County Executive race. If West County people want to get rid of Charlie (Scandal of the Week) Dooley they need to cross party lines and take a Democratic ballot this August in the primary election and vote for Dooley's opponent Steve Stenger.

JANE STAYING THE PUBLIC EYE: County Council: On Tuesday March 11 Jane's hyped appearance before the County Council dealt with fire dispatching. Cunningham complained that some fire districts are moving too fast to have the County take over fire dispatching. Central County E-911 dispatches most fire districts and some city fire departments in St. Louis County from a modern dispatch center in Ellisville. Some fire districts, including Monarch where Cunningham is on the Board of Directors, are part owners of the dispatch center and pay annual fees based unfairly on assessed property valuation, while others are billed.

A number of the fire districts are interested in the County taking over fire dispatching when their new dispatch center is built seeing a possible savings.

Some people in certain districts are having an additional property tax assessed for Fire Dispatching. With the addition of the 9-1-1 Sales Tax in place for four years many residents are now being double taxed for fire dispatching. Whether the County sends 9-1-1 Sales Tax funds to Central County E 9-1-1 to finance the dispatch center or the county takes over fire dispatching is not the issue to me. Residents should stop being double taxed for the same service. That's the issue.

An article written by Steve Giegerich appeared in the Post-Dispatch chronicling Cunningham's appearance before the County Council.

State Legislature In the same online edition of the Post-Dispatch was an article by Virginia Young who covers state government in Jefferson City for the Post-Dispatch. That article was about a bill introduced by Democrat State Representative and union electrician Keith English. The bill was squarely directed at Cunningham as it would not

allow Missouri to pay any pension benefits to former senators who are on elected fire districts boards. After serving 12 years in the statehouse Cunningham receives a \$16,000 a year pension.

Since both the statehouse and senate are controlled by Republicans English's bill does not have a pray in passing.



State Rep Keith English

Of course this is a Democrat versus a Republican and a Union man versus an elected official fighting a union during a fire district contract negotiations...but I find it very strange that a union man like English would want to strip someone of a pension they properly earned are entitled to.

Also while trying to pull in the reins of the union representing Monarch firefighters, Cunningham has been trying to save union jobs at the Central County E-911 fire dispatch center.

This move by English only helps Cunningham in voter appeal as a public servant being picked on and also gives her more free publicity. While I still don't think Cunningham could beat the Democratic candidate for County Executive, her chances improve with stupid stunts like this by Rep. English.

CENTRAL COUNTRY E 9-1-1 DEADLOCKED: On the issue of requesting St. Louis County to give a bid to take over the fire dispatching from Central Co. E-9-1-1, the move just to make a request to see how much it would cost died on Wednesday night. The Board of Directors of the dispatching center, which includes Cunningham representing Monarch, voted 3-to-3 after a 3-hour and 10-minute closed meeting.

To pass there must be a 4-2 majority of the remaining six original owners. Monarch, Metro West Fire and Meramec Ambulance voted against it and Creve Coeur, West Co. EMS and FPD plus Maryland Heights voted to get a bid from the County.

Big Money: Here is a map of the United States showing the highest paid state employee in each state.



REAL ESTATE: FOR JUST \$5,800,000 YOU COULD LIVE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE: Our favorite listing last week in the Ladue News was for the located near Glenwood, Missouri (population 204) in Schuyler County (population 4,370). The County Seat of Schuyler County is Lancaster (population 717). Schuyler County is located on the Iowa state line.

The listing is for a 2,800 square foot 4 bedroom 3 1/2 bath farm house. Appliances listed include a disposal, range/oven and dishwasher. The house built in 1996 is heated and cooled by a heat pump. The house happens to sit on 1,760 acres. The listing company according to Ladue News is Janet McAfee. There is one other house for sale in the Glenwood area. It was built in 1997 and is on the market for \$89,900.

The question I have is: How many readers of the Ladue News are in the market for a \$5.8 million farmhouse and 1,760 acres of land near Iowa located in a county with three convenience stores according to the City Data website?



BE HAPPY WHERE YOU ARE: The Washington DC area had a much worse winter than we did with both cold weather and snow events with large amounts of snow. There is one other thing...home prices there are still going up. What is considered the “Snoburbia Belt” in DC from Chevy Chase Circle up Connecticut Avenue to Kensington, Maryland is like going west from the City of Ladue on Clayton or Ladue Roads. Here is an example:



This 2,445 square foot 3-bedroom house on a 7,500 square foot lot just went on the market for **\$1,895,000**. The house at 116 Grafton Avenue was built in 1942 and sold for \$1,785,000 in 2007. It is located in Chevy Chase Village two blocks from the Maryland/Washington DC border and one block from the home of George Will.

Further up the street on the corner of Primrose and Connecticut Avenue is a real bargain, where the owners are willing to take a loss. Purchased in June of 2005 for \$2,105,000, the owners are willing to take a bath and have it on the market for a mere **\$1,995,000.**

The 4-bedroom house is on a 0.29 acre lot in Chevy Chase Village and was built in 1923. The west side of the house abuts 6-lane Connecticut Avenue where approximately 45,000 cars come and go to Washington DC every day.



CHURCH LADY SENDS ME A NICE FREE DINNER AFTER THE PREMATURE PASSING OF MY WIFE: I began receiving condolence cards from a Catholic Church located downtown around February 10. That was the day I was throwing a birthday party at the One-19 Restaurant for my wife. The condolence cards were for the untimely passing of my wife...who at the time was sitting across the kitchen table from me as I read them.

It was nice that I was in the prayers of an area church but it was like I was stealing those prayers. I went and did a couple quick internet searches including property tax records and came up with the correct John Hoffmann who was the widower and sent an email to the church secretary with the information.

Three weeks later I received a \$25 gift card to a restaurant and an apology from the church secretary. I felt so guilty getting the free dinner that I sent some donations to the Salvation Army and the Missouri Humane Society. I then wrote the secretary back thanking her for being the impetus of getting me off my fat ass to make a couple of charitable donations.

WHEN MEMORIES TILL MIDNIGHT AND THE 10PM NEWS

COLLIDED: The passing last week of longtime KSD-TV weather man Howard DeMere, whose iconic signoff was "That's all from here...Howard DeMere" (which I will still use once and a while to my wife to point out that I have finished speaking) brought back memories of Howard doing two jobs at the same time.

KSD radio and KSD-TV were both owned by the Pulitzer Publishing along with the Post-Dispatch. Pulitzer often got the most out of their employees. Some read news on the radio and did newscasts on TV. George Able was an announcer on TV and radio, but filled in (poorly) as old Dry Gulch whenever Harry Gibbs, best known as Texas Bruce, was on vacation away from his afternoon kids show...The Wrangler Club.

In the case of Howard DeMere, he worked both at the Radio and TV station. He had a radio show on KSD radio called Memories Till Midnight, where he played a lot of middle of the road music often by big bands or orchestras. He also was the weather man on the 10pm TV News. Every weeknight he'd start the radio show, then the studio engineer (KSD was a Union shop and had an announcer/disc jockey at the mic and an engineer who worked the controls and turntables) would play two or three long pieces of music. Howard would leave the radio studio, walk over to the TV studio, do the weather forecast at 10:10 and be back in the radio studio at 10:15.



MUSIC: Last week I went to the Touhill for the FREE Air Force Shades of Blue Big Band Concert.

Let's start off with the negatives: The band never played two songs in a row without an interruption to plug the Air Force, the United States and to re-introduce members of the band five times over.

The worst of this was probably when the following was said by the lead female vocalist:

"Ok now, put up your hands if you love America." Was she suspecting to find some socialists or anarchists or maybe Canadians in the crowd who didn't put up their hands?

The positives: Great musicians...All members of the services bands have music degrees and most have graduate degrees.

Hearing the national anthem, the Stars and Stripes Forever and the military branches' matching songs with a big band arrangement is one of the reasons I like going to these concerts. The 16 years I lived in the Washington, DC area I counted going to hear military Big Bands from all the services for free as one of the few positive reason to live in the area. The highlight was in the early 1990's going to a concert featuring Henry Mancini with the Air Force Band shortly before Mancini died. Mancini was an arranger for the Glenn Miller Army Air Corps band during World War II.

My favorite of the military marches is the Coast Guard March, which was written over five years by an active duty Coast Guard cutter captain. The Coast Guard's motto is Semper Paratus (Always Ready). Captain Francis Saltus Van Boskerck received his commission in 1891. Twenty-one years later while in command of a Coast Guard cutter in 1922 stationed at Savannah, Georgia he wrote the words to the song. Five years later while stationed in the Alaskan Aleutian Islands he wrote the music on a beat up stand up piano. Here is a link of a chorus singing the song:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwdafOAa6YE&list=RDUwdafOAa6YE#t=58>

I couldn't find any You Tube clips of just the Shades of Blue Band from Scott Air Force Base, but here is a link to a clip of a full Air Force band from the West coast having some fun with some Glenn Miller songs:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hf5kApNJ_cQ



A couple of snaps from the Shades of Blue Concert at Touhill. I like the fact that half of the trumpet section are women.

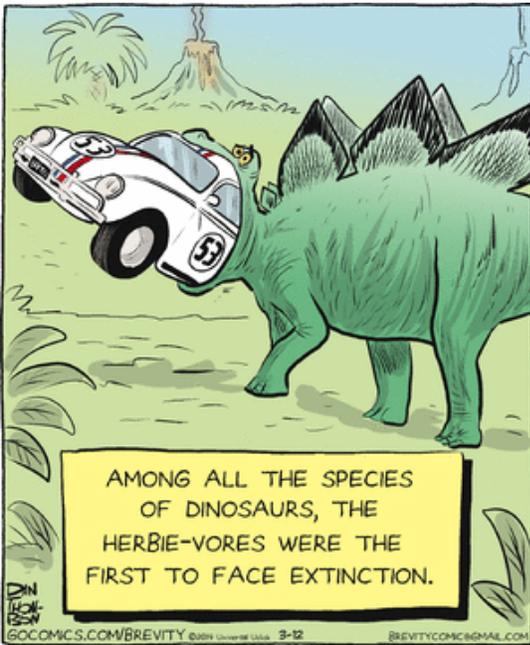
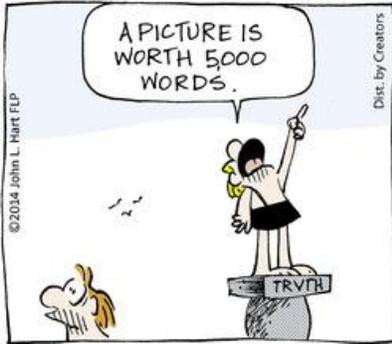
Later that night: Our trio of music goers went to Sasha's where three people were sitting in or giving Jim Manley a breather.



From watching the rather well attired Air Force big band, we travelled to Sasha's on DeMunn in Clayton for a more Bohemian setting. Old pro jazz trumpeter Jim Manley took a break while young Zack Hall, who stopped by after a Wednesday rehearsal of the Route 66 Jazz Orchestra, put his flugelhorn to good use with the Lupy and Arlen. Other trumpeters in the Sasha crowd included Fred Middlekuff and Bill Simpson.

CARTOONS:





CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON





