

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 240 AND CHESTERFIELD 185



**By John Hoffmann**

**August 29, 2016**

### **MASON RIDGE SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT STUDENTS CONTINUES TO DROP.**

**GOOD THING AS OVERALL ENROLLMENT IS GOING UP:** Since we started asking, as parents complained that "special assignment" kids were overcrowding Mason Ridge Elementary School the numbers began to drop. Special assignment students are ones who live outside of the boundaries of Mason Ridge Elementary School but whose parents apply for their children to go a Mason Ridge, one of the top two elementary schools in the Parkway School District. These students are ineligible for bus service.



Many think the transfer is also due to social climbing. Most all of the Special Assignment kids live in Town and Country but on the edge of the city limits. These kids might be going to a school in Creve Coeur, Henry Road Elementary (another Blue Ribbon school) that has students from Ballwin and Manchester, both slightly down the snoburbia pecking order. The third school would be Green Trails in Chesterfield.

**In the fall of 2014 there were 43 special assignment students** at Mason Ridge out of a total enrollment of **430 students**. **Last year the special assignment students dropped to 35**, but overall **enrollment increased to 443**. This year the **special assignment kid count is down to 30** but overall **enrollment has soared 480**.

**PRINCIPAL MOVES:** Some Mason Ridge parents we have talked to claim that former principal Mike Schmerold's resignation on June 21 and request to return to teaching wasn't all that voluntary. We were told that Schmerold's management style was creating friction with both staff and parents. Jennifer Dieken-Buchek a five-year assistant principal at Henry Elementary School replaced him in July.



**MAYOR JON DALTON CONTINUES DOWN THE ROAD OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Back in May of 2015 I called for Town and Country mayor Jon Dalton to resign. Of course he didn't.

On May 1, 2015 Dalton signed a form with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services as the representative for Stonecrest at Town and Country. This at the time was a planned retirement home and assisted living facility that is now being built. Of course at the time Dalton was and had been the mayor of Town and Country for 10-years.

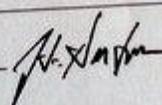
I have joked that Dalton must have had a head injury and was under a severe memory loss forgetting that he was mayor. He did not recuse himself and remove himself as their representative until a story appeared in the St. Louis Business Journal on May 5. This isn't his first conflict of interest. Here are a few others:

- 1) Was a paid lobbyist for the city's largest contractor, the West County EMS & FPD in 2005 while he was mayor. Later in 2005 he negotiated a 5-year \$17-m contract with the Fire District, who he was working for earlier in the year.
- 2) Was a lobbyist at the state capital for over 20 brands of cigarettes over a decade, while as mayor he had sworn to provide health, welfare and safety of residents.

- 3) He was sued by three local companies for failure to pay bills for work.
- 4) Represented a business locating in Town and Country.

**Certificate of Need Program**  
**REPRESENTATIVE REGISTRATION**

*(A registration form must be completed for each project presented.)*

Project Name Stonestown Town & Country	Number 5186 RS
<i>(Please type or print legibly.)</i>	
Name of Representative Jonathan F. Dalton	Title Legal Counsel
Firm/Company/Association or Representative Title (to address bills only, e.g. See Note, immediately above)	Telephone Number
Armstrong Teasdale LLP	314.259.4702
Address (Street/Box/Room/Zip Code)	
7700 Forsyth Blvd., Ste. 1800, St. Louis, MO 63105	
Who's interests are being represented? <i>(If more than one, submit a separate Representative Registration Form for each.)</i>	
Name of Individual/Agency/Company/Association/Group Represented	Telephone Number
WB Properties, LLC	314.517.4348
Address (Street/Box/Room/Zip Code)	
1795 Clarkson Road, Suite 190, Chesterfield, MO 63017	
Check one. Do you: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	Relationship to Project: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Employee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal Counsel <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Lobbyist <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain):
Other Information: <hr/> <hr/>	
<p>I attest that to the best of my belief and knowledge the testimony and information presented by me is truthful, represents factual information, and is in compliance with §197.326.1 RSMo which says: <i>Any person who is paid either as part of his normal employment or as a lobbyist to which says: Any person who is paid either as part of his normal employment or as a lobbyist to support or oppose any project before the health facilities review committee shall register as a lobbyist pursuant to chapter 105 RSMo, and shall also register with the staff of the health facilities review committee for every project in which such person has an interest and indicate whether such person supports or opposes the named project. The registration shall also include the names and addresses of any person, firm, corporation or association that the person registering represents in relation to the named project. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection shall be subject to the penalties specified in § 105.478, RSMo.</i></p>	
Original Signature 	Date 05-01-2015
© 2009-2010 (1/16/11)	<b>Attachment I</b> <b>Project #5186 I</b>

5) Dalton lobbies for the St. Louis County Municipal League which has a number of members in North St. Louis County whose interests could be wildly different than the interests of Town and Country. He also is a lobbyist for the City of Crestwood and the City of Hazelwood. He is a lobbyist for a St. Louis area taxicab coalition with members operating in Town and Country. He is also a lobbyist for two groups with no public face, Taxed Enough Already and Missourians for Local Asset Governance that give Dalton's law firm as their address and his direct telephone line as their telephone number.

6) Dalton's newest lobbying client according to the Missouri Ethics Commission is:

<b>NORTHPOINT DEVELOPMENT</b> 5015 NW CANAL STREET	A	5/5/2016
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RIVERSIDE M) 64150 816-888-7381		
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Northpoint Development manages three assisted living facilities. One in Kansas City and two in St. Louis County, including (this from their website):

# STONECREST

OF TOWN & COUNTRY

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SENIOR LIVING

Yes Mayor Dalton is doing the Dalton Two Step and lobbying for a facility in Town and Country that is under Town and Country building codes and fire codes.



The Dalton Two-Stop



In this newsletter and on our website we have written about many of the nutty things Skip Mange, former mayor and current alderman has done, including herding up deer and shipping them to rural Missouri where they died from Capture Myopathy. He has wasted tax money on pet projects, had joined with Dalton on the money pit known as the Town Square. However, if Dalton files in December for a fourth 4-year term, I would only hope that Mange would file. Mange might be a little nutty, he might spin facts but he has not fallen down a well of unethical behavior where Dalton has resided for some time.

**SOMETIME MANY PEOPLE JUST DON'T GET IT OR IS TOWN AND COUNTRY WAITING TO GET SUED OVER MUNI COURT?** The law firm of Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe has provided Town and Country with a city attorney and a prosecutor for some time. Curtis, Heinz, Garret and O'Keefe also had provided similar legal services to the City of Ferguson for some time.

Now that the Justice Department has issued a report about how unfair the poor people are treated in St. Louis County municipal courts, how the Arch Defenders are suing a number of cities over how their municipal court operate, including a number of cities represented by and with city prosecutors and city attorneys from Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe you might think people in Town and Country would pay a little more attention to their operation.

For instance for years the City of Town and Country Prosecutor has only held pre-court meetings with defense attorneys. If you are poor and cannot afford a lawyer, no pre court meeting for you. They have a printed sign posted on the door where the prosecutor is located. If you are poor you must stay out.

It is worse than that. If you are a long time reader you know how I went to Velda City in North County to look at an open court record where the President of the Board of the West County EMS and Fire Prevention District, Richard Rognan, who was arrested in a prostitution sting run by the police department. He thought he had arranged to have sex with a 19-year-old girl only to be arrested by a Velda City police officer.

I had been tipped earlier that Velda City was not generating enough revenue with speeding tickets, because no one was speeding on Lucas and Hunt Road, so they came up with the prostitution stings. They charge the person with a Prostitution Violation and then have the Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe lawyer reduce the charge to littering with a \$1,000 fine.

When I went to get a copy of the police report, I first went to the Municipal Court to get a copy of the disposition. The Court Clerk was clearly not used to someone coming and wanting to look at a court file. She said she was busy and for me to call her in the afternoon. I pulled out a new John Grisham novel and said I had been meaning to start this book and I'd just sit in the lobby of the old 7-11 store that was now City Hall until she was not busy.

20 minutes later she came to the lobby and said there was a telephone call for me. I said that was impossible because no one knew I was there. She insisted someone wanted to talk to me. It was Velda City prosecutor Pat Chassaing, who was also an assistant prosecutor in Ferguson until last month when he resigned that position. He is also a member of Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe. He said he was refusing to allow me to see a "public court file" until he received permission from city attorney Steve Garrett. Now municipal courts fall under the St. Louis County Circuit Court and the Missouri Supreme Court jurisdiction. I filed complaints with both that afternoon.

On Monday Garrett was home from vacation and sent me the information by email.



So with this great reputation you would think that elected officials in Town and Country would be sure that poor people were not discriminated against in municipal court and the signs saying only attorneys can see the city prosecutor before court would come down. But apparently no one has wised up yet.

In Chesterfield if you cannot afford an attorney you don't get the deal and you don't get the "Judge Whisperer" Rick Brunk deal where you get no-fine probation and other charges reduced to parking tickets.

The saddest thing I have ever seen in the Chesterfield City Council Chambers/Courtroom was when a Black dad and brought his teen daughter charged with shoplifting to court. Brunk tried to convince him to hire a lawyer inferring his daughter would get a better deal. The father said, "No sir! She has to learn what she does has consequences." Here is a perfect candidate for a special deal, with a concerned father being her probation officer. Not with Judge Brunk. She left with a Stealing Conviction on her record. That is not justice, but it is Chesterfield justice and the City Council refuses to do anything about it.



Chesterfield Judge Rick Brunk who believes public safety comes second if you have a lawyer.

**I REMEMBER OPAL HENDERSON WHEN LEWIS-RICE ANNOUNCED THEY ARE GOING INTO ESTATE PLANNING:** The Post-Dispatch Business Section on Friday August 19 had an article on how the law firm Lewis-Rice was entering the estate planning field. That immediately made me think of their former partner Jon Dalton, mayor of Town and Country and how he along with the Lewis-Rice law firm helped steal the property and business of then 78-year-old widow Opal Henderson .



Doing the Dalton 2-Step



Opel, her attorney Chet Pleban and her check.

Here are my online comments to the Post-Dispatch article:

Here is a good example of Lewis-Rice taking care of older folks' estate planning. Back in 2007 then Lewis-Rice partner Jon Dalton (also mayor of Town and Country) led a group of people wanting to build a night club district along South Broadway called the Ice House District. But then 78-year-old Opal Henderson and her salvage business was in their way. The business had been around since 1948 and provided income for Henderson and her adult sons.

Dalton got Lewis-Rice to represent the City of St. Louis and obtained Henderson's property under eminent domain. Henderson claimed they cheated her, but a St. Louis Court approved the eminent domain case and Henderson lost her business. She hired lawyer Chet Pleban and sued for the money she was cheated out of. A jury verdict claimed she was cheated out of over \$800,000 by Dalton and his partners. But they didn't pay Henderson and she had to sue them in Federal court, when they caved in and coughed up the money. Shortly after this Dalton was no longer a partner at Lewis-Rice.

The Ice House Nightclub district was never built, because something called Ballpark Village was built.

So when you think of Lewis-Rice helping older people with their estates, think about Opal Henderson.

[http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/lewis-rice-forms-estate-plan-firm/article\\_0089b2fb-48cd-526d-a036-27ccc80f64af.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/lewis-rice-forms-estate-plan-firm/article_0089b2fb-48cd-526d-a036-27ccc80f64af.html)

**THE GOLF CART PEOPLE ARE NOW 0-3, MAYBE THESE VAMPIRE REQUESTS WILL GO AND DIE:** Monday August 22 the Golf Cart nuts were back at the board of aldermen meeting. This time more reasoned folks also appeared. The first four speakers favored the bill to ban golf carts on streets city wide. The leadoff hitter was retired Dr. James Debnam who was a radiologist at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and in the Navy Reserves having served in Desert Storm. He spoke on the catastrophic injuries that result from golf cart accidents.



Does this kid look safe?



Do you see any seat belts? There is what looks like a gun rack.

**Irony:** If Town and Country would allow golf carts on approved streets they would never be allowed in Thornhill. The streets are too dangerous, too narrow with too many blind spots.

Dale Emge spoke and talked about his door-to-door survey where 57% of the people were firmly against golf carts in the Thornhill subdivision, but a large number people did not want to be heard and "get into the middle" of the debate.

The pro golf cart faction dropped the ruse that golf carts are safe. They began to paint the very conservative Board of Aldermen to be like liberal Democrats trying to over-regulate the world. Here is how they spoke against the bill.

Cottleville (a small town in St. Charles County of 3,800 and 5 sq miles) allows them so should Town and Country, said former Town and Country Alderdope Tim Welby.

"I am for golf carts," gushed a new neighbor of Tim Welby who showed up in flip flops.

"Bicycles will be the next target of this group. My opinion of government is it shouldn't be restrictive. First golf carts and then get rid of kids' bicycles," said Dr. Matt Boland, another buddy of Welby.

"Golf carts will improve our sense of community," said Mike Amann.

Wil Seaton who can see the neighborhood pool from his front door, made a return appearance, taking a right wing view that does not involve golf carts. "I think we are over regulating."

The final speaker was Susan Crandall, a former emergency room nurse and now an orthopedic nurse who is a member of the Police Commission. She stated how the Police Commission had studied this twice and voted down golf carts once and when Welby brought it back a second time they voted to ban them on all city streets to aid the police in enforcement and to provide public safety.



Andy Bosworth



Mike Amann



Wil Seaton



Susan Crandall

**Fred Mayland-Smith and Lynn Wright used safety as a reason to vote against Canadian Donuts at Clayton Road and Ballas Road and now flip flop on safety and refused to vote for the golf cart ban.** Yes these two cited safety in voting down the Tim Horton's doughnut shop and restaurant at the corner of Clayton Road and Ballas Road, where an empty NON-REVENUE PRODUCING lot remains. Now on the golf cart issue they threw safety out the window.

Wright also wanted to know if any other communities have banned golf carts. Lynn doesn't want T&C to be first in anything (like when I introduced a bill to ban texting and yakking on a cell phone while driving) . No worries, Frontenac has an ordinance banning them."I'm concern we have people with golf carts who have no idea this is going on," said Wright. Who back in 2009 was against my proposal to ban cigarette smoking in all restaurants and bars, not allowing the ones with less than 25% of food sales to continue to allow smoking. I don't think Lynn gives a shit about health and safety.



**The Bill to BAN GOLF CARTS FROM CITY STREETS PASSED 6-TO-2**

### **COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN AND COUNTRY SURVEY:**

Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton plus the Board of Aldermen made presentations of the survey at cost the city \$17,700 done by Terry Jones of the UMSL. They were overjoyed on how great everyone thought Town and Country was. The only negative aspect of the preliminary results was that over 70-percent of residents thought the City should sell Preservation Park. This was actually not such bad news as the City was looking to do this anyway.

Currently on the city's website the survey is broken into two reports. The Final Report takes about two hours to wade through over 300 pages. The one thing that we found of interest were the comments, which I have to think will be ignored by more of the elected officials. Some of them they should pay closer attention to.

I knew who was making one repeating comment. The person started saying that he was not in favor of drunk driving but that the overzealous DWI enforcement was hurting local businesses and making people afraid to go to bars and restaurants in Town and Country. This is a Ward-2 resident who owns a bar and grill in South St. Louis County. He was also against the County Wide smoking ban. Now he is against DWI enforcement!

There were 865 comments left in the "Biggest Concern" comment section. Of those 10 concerned the Westminster Lights issue, 10 dealt with the the **vacant lot at Clayton and Ballas**, 30 listed **crime** as their biggest concern. 26 had **too many deer** as their biggest concern. A number of people were concerned about **increasing property taxes** and also the **lack of sidewalks**, mostly on Topping Road.

The two biggest areas of comments were **TRAFFIC congestion** and **MONSTER SIZE HOUSES**.

Here are 40 of the 865 general complaints directly from report:

*Abusive alderman using their positions for personal agendas and not to benefit residents esp by ignoring residents concerns and input*

*Aldermen favoring developers over residents!!!!*

*Alderpersons are deaf to citizens' feelings*

*All the tear downs are resulting in huge homes and I am afraid the diversity in its residents is changing*

*All the tear downs and rebuilds often don't fit in to the neighborhoods; look out of place.*

Becoming too "upscale." Large homes reduce the neighborhood *atmosphere*.

*Becoming too commercial and selling out to hospitals and medical buildings. Traffic is becoming very heavy caused by the mayor and board by bending zoning laws and not looking out for the residents and their wishes.*

*Building codes need to be updated to protect our city. / houses too big and too many trees being cut down and not replaced. Building enormous residences without overall consideration for other homeowners and architectural appearance of the subdivisions.*

*Commercialization. Huge homes on the same size lots. They look goofy. More concrete More blacktop All of which reduces GREEN*

*Construction. House on the lots are getting too big and changing the open feel.*

*Continued construction of larger homes. These are putting a strain on utilities, i.e., we have issues with water pressure dropping year over year, and regularly occurring power outages. (Obviously not necessarily related to the new homes, but must have some effect.)*

*Crowding of mega-mansions in limited area.*

*Development of land/new subdivisions that allow building to take place on small lots, traffic patterns on Clayton Road; Development; loss of greenspace; McMansions; investment in housing stock by foreign investors.*

*I hate all the tear downs. It is such a nice place, but it has already become a city with nothing but huge homes. That probably draws people who want to rob us.*

*The homes are getting ridiculously large and builders are cutting down all the trees.*

*Do not feel that the residents are always the top priority. Example the new BJC complex. No tax revenue from this endeavor & the result is a huge billboard for BJC & a nuisance for anyone trying to maneuver the roundabout. It is so obtrusive unlike the other commercial buildings in our area. The majority of elected officials did not support the concerns of local residents. Public hearings were manipulated & predetermined!*

*Too many oversized houses.*

*Doing too many tear-downs to build monster houses. Bigger isn't always better. Was very, very upset to see the amount of trees being removed w/ the huge house going up on Clayton Road. Having too many of those types of houses don't make anything about Town & Country better. They're too big and take away from the feeling of our beautiful town. In my opinion, they're obnoxious. I'd rather see more trees and the houses that are already here be updated. A limit on the size of home would be wonderful. Don't need mansions and oversized houses in this area.*

*I live off Conway Road just west of Mason Road. My concern and current complaint about T&C is the fact that there is no way for me to safely walk in my community. There is no safe sidewalk along Conway from my subdivision to Mason Road and along Mason Road to where a sidewalk begins at Mason Ridge Road. I would like to be able to walk/bike with my family to Straub's, Mason Ridge, and the new town center. I would very much like to have a pedestrian option like Clayton Road has and Topping and Mason Road South will have.*

*I would like a sidewalk on Topping Road. / I am also concerned about the bikers on Clayton. They are often travel in large packs and do not obey traffic laws. I have been literally forced*

*to a stop because of a large pack crossing in front of my car. I have seen leaders of these packs move into the lanes so cars cannot pass them.*

*Something needs to be done with the property at the northeast corner of Ballas and Clayton Rd. If anything might be a negative for Town & Country it is the appearance of that property.*

*Spending a whole bunch of money on Town Square instead of putting up more money for walking/biking paths down Topping and Mason. We just want to be able to get to the parks we already have! Need Alderman limits so new ideas can come about to reflect changing*

*Spending too much money on additional parks. Current maintenance is not being performed adequately. Having enough reserve for streets.*

*too much development, too many churches, increasing noise*

*Spending too much money on additional parks. Not having reserve for street maintenance. / Frustrating being off of Bopp Road not being considered a priority compared to other areas in T & C.*

*Spending too much money without regard to future needs. Spending money on projects not necessary for T&C, like the area next to Straubs. Need to focus spending on things that are needed, like a sidewalk on Conway and on Ballas. Spending too much on parks and not enough on basic city services.*

*that I will accidently kill a biker on clayton rd*

*That nothing is being addressed regarding speeding and swerving cars on Mason Rd. between Clayton Rd. and Manchester that are crossing the center line.*

*The people who live here are cliquish and parochial*

*Too many businesses catering to the elderly*

**IRRESPONSIBLE SPENDING OF TAX MONIES AND OFFICIAL TRYING TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES.**

*Political ties of the Mayor. Why was a piece of property purchases that the city after a year + of meetings really can't come up with a use. A lot of city projects are not well thought out. They are done because someone has political advantage.*

*Remarkably stupid decisions made with City's Financial Resources such as too many parks owned that cannot be serviced properly as well as commitment of City to Unusable Property just east of Clayton & Mason. This property will end up costing 3x it's purchase price in construction of something that is feasible as well as ongoing debt service of it. It was like money was burning a hole in the City Leaders Pockets . I guess I am dissatisfied with the government. It's a club!*

*Different wards or locations within the city get treated differently*

*Elected officials have been in office too long. Time to change leadership and bring in fresh ideas. // Most important is that they are spending too much money on "green-space/parks/trails".*

*Fractious politics infecting the city*

In future newsletter we will try and list some of the comments about the Town Square, sidewalks and the final category of "Anything Else." Here is a link directly to the entire \$17,700 report:

<http://www.town-and-country.org/DocumentCenter/View/1452>

## **UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 185**



**August 29, 2016**

### **CHESTERFIELD MAN CHARGED WITH LARGE LONG-TERM EMBEZZLEMENT**

**THEFT: Thomas G. Cooke, 56, of 1340 Chesterfield Estates** has been arrested and formally charged with **stealing \$57,531** from his employer. Cooke had worked at Golder Associates on Barrett Station Road in unincorporated St. Louis County since 2011 until he was fired in 2015. Golder is an international eco-friendly building and design firm.

An internal audit caught up with Cooke and showed he had been stealing large amounts of money from the company from 2013-to-2015.

Here is the probable cause statement that lays out the case against Cooke:

Date: 8/4/14

I, Chrystal Ruhmann, DSN 3339, St. Louis County Police Department, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true. I have probable cause to believe that between August 1, 2013 and May 1, 2015, at 13515 Barrett Parkway Drive, Suite 260, [*include all dates and locations*], Thomas Cooke, White, Male, DOB 09/30/1959, 5'10", 200lbs, committed one or more criminal offense(s).

Count: 01        STEALING OVER \$25,000 - CLASS B FELONY

The facts supporting this belief are as follows: Defendant worked for victim business from 2010 until May 2015. (He started as a part-time employee in 2010 and became full-time in early 2011.) An internal audit, conducted by the business in early 2015, determined that defendant had been stealing money from the business beginning in August 2013. He did this in several different ways. Defendant had arranged with the business to obtain cash advances to cover his business travel expenses (claiming that due to personal financial issues he lacked adequate credit on his personal credit cards to cover the expenses). The audit determined that defendant had subsequently submitted expense reports, and received reimbursement, for travel expenses that were to have been covered by the cash advances. Furthermore, the audit determined that defendant had submitted \$57,531 in fraudulent expenses. This included inflating the amount of advance deposits paid for hotel reservations, submitting multiple expense claims for the same travel, claiming travel expenses for all employees that had accompanied him (even as those employees submitted their own expense claims), and submitting expenses for conferences that he had not, in fact, attended. Defendant was fired as a result of the audit's findings. Defendant turned himself in to police and declined to make a formal statement. His attorney provided police with a pre-written statement, in which defendant said he had "inadvertently" submitted expense reports for travel that had been previously covered by the cash advances.

Chrystal Ruhmann, DSN 3339, St. Louis County Police Department

[Signature] Chrystal Ruhmann 3339



Thomas G. Cooke



Cooke's home on Chesterfield Estate Drive

Cooke steals \$57,531 and he is released on a personal recognizance bond by Judge Richard Stewart on August 16.

Money problems are not new for Cooke. He has a default judgment against from the Capital One credit card folks for **\$14,793** since March 15, 2010. The judgment has not been paid.

On April 9, 2010 Cooke and his wife Virginia got hit with a **\$58,233** Circuit Court judgment. There has been no payment on the judgment.

On May 11, 2010 Cooke was hit with a default judgment in Circuit Court for **\$28,648**. There has been no payment on the judgment..

On December 13, 2010 Cooke and his wife got hit with an **\$804,686** judgment in Circuit Court. Needless to say this judgment has not been paid.

My question for Golder Associates is; how do you hire someone with \$900,000 in court judgments against them and then give them expense account authority?

**KMOV SUNSHINE REQUEST FINDS MONARCH FIRE CHIEF BUYING HARLEY-DAVIDSON AND BOAT PARTS ON THE FIRE DISTRICT CREDIT CARD.** Lauren Trager, the investigative reporter at KMOV did a Sunshine Law open records request on the credit card transactions involving Fire Chief Chuck Marsonette. I didn't do this as I was told the final audit would be a public record. Now I wish I did.

Marsonette made two purchases clearly for personal use according to Trager. A \$400 purchase was made at a Harley-Davidson store in New Orleans and \$1,000 at a boat shop in the Lake of the Ozarks. Plus there were two purchases for aircraft radios. The fire district does have a boat but not at Lake of the Ozarks and no motorcycles or aircraft. Marsonette is also a pilot.

Here is the link to the Lauren Trager story:

<http://www.kmov.com/story/32790073/news-4-investigates-purchases-made-by-monarch-fire-chief-on-government-issued-card>

Here is what troubles me about these purchases. Marsonette had a \$71,000 court judgment against him from an insurance company over a double payment for Marsonette's boat sinking back in 2008.

Fire Board member Robin Harris told Lauren Trager when these purchases were noticed Marsonette paid the district back immediately, claiming they had been a mistake. To that I say, "So What! It's time to investigate" It seems like Marsonette had made himself a short term loan with Fire District money.

I worked for city and county law enforcement agencies where I had credit cards and expense account authority. I was never once confused what was a government credit card and what was mine. I was never confused about not putting a personal purchase on a government store charge account.

These should have been red flags to the Fire District and a more thorough background check should have been done on Marsonette. Hell, if they just would have checked a Missouri Courts Website that is open to the public, they would have found both a DWI conviction and the \$71,000 unsatisfied judgment.

Everyone in charge has said what a great job Marsonette has done running the district and saving money. That is not a good enough reason to give him a pass a multiple personal charges.

The new pro-taxpayer Fire Board has done a great job in reducing costs and increasing productivity. But at least Jane Cunningham and Robin Harris need to fall on their swords on his hiring and admit to the public it appears sadly that they made a mistake. Board President Rick Gans was not on the board when Marsonette was hired, but should have reacted quickly on the non-fire/EMS related personal purchases by the Chief on the company credit card.

**LOVE FEST TURNED UGLY:** At 4:30 on Monday August 22 in the lunch room at the Chesterfield City Hall they were serving Velvet Freeze Ice Cream and cake. This was a celebration for Mike Geisel being promoted from Services Director to City Administrator. The City Council had to take a vote at a special 5 pm meeting across the hall that I knew would end in a 7-1 vote. It was clear that Geisel had enough votes for the job before the city went outside of a search firm. Two people in the final five from the search firm withdrew from consideration. They apparently saw the handwriting on the wall too. The local in-house guy was going to get the job.



Mike Geisel holding his 2-year-old granddaughter at the cake and ice cream before the vote.

Once everyone went into the chamber everything changed. The festival was over. Before getting the vote to confirm Mike Geisel as the next city administrator the public comments were opened.



Half of the people in the chamber were there to support Geisel including a number of city employees and his family. However, about half or a little less were there to not praise Geisel but to bury him. Of five speakers, three were clearly against hiring an insider to clean up the mess left by years of City Administrator Mike Herring hiding facts and finances from the public and elected officials.

The first speaker was against the informal vote to have Mayor Bob Nation and Mike Geisel vote for extending the Chesterfield Valley TDD sales tax for the Chesterfield Hockey Association. How can Chesterfield say yes to one group and not others," asked **Marjie Saiter**.

Next was **Bob Clauson** who was against the appointment of Geisel. "We need a new beginning," he said.

"I'd like to recommend that the City Administrator position to go to some fresh outside leadership. Keep Geisel in his current position and also get new leadership. We don't want business as usual," said **Patty Vietmeier**.

Councilman **Barry Flachsbart** interrupted the comments by saying, "The council's job was to go get the best person possible. We did that."

However, originally Flachsbart was against the national search and hiring a search company. Twice he made a motion to immediately hire Geisel after Herring retired.

**Ron Cawood** also commented the need to hire someone from outside the current city government. He added he hoped the City did not hire anyone to replace Geisel as "Director of Services." Geisel told me at the ice cream bash that he had no intention of filling that position. He repeated that statement when Cawood was done speaking.

He said something that coming from a Republican Party leader kind of floored me. He said the city needs to quit have a silent prayer at the start of meetings and get someone in to give a real prayer.

In 2014 the Supreme Court in a 5-4 ruling allowed prayer before legislative meetings, but put some restrictions on the kind of prays so as not to intimidate people of different faiths on non believers. The restrictions have led to many city and county governments to go to the "silent prayer" method to avoid a lawsuit.

Finally **Wendy Geckler**, a longtime liberal and opponent of Mayor Bob Nation spoke. Geckler said that she spoke in favor of immediately hiring Geisel in April for the job and

she was wrong. She said the nationwide search was the right thing to do and the city council made the right decision. Mayor Nation and Councilman Dan Hurt both asked City Clerk if she got that Geckler had admitted to making a mistake and to be sure that is in the minutes.

Then the vote was taken and it was 7-1 to confirm Geisel as the second City Administrator in the 28-year history of Chesterfield.

**ONE COUNCILMAN VOTED AGAINST THE HIRING OF CITY SERVICES DIRECTOR AS THE NEXT AND ONLY SECOND CHESTERFIELD CITY ADMINISTRATOR.** On Monday August 22 despite ice cream and cake before the short 5 o'clock meeting Tom DeCampi voted against promoting Mike Geisel to the permanent City Administrator position.

DeCampi issued a statement on way his cast a negative vote.

**STATEMENT ON DISSENTING VOTE FOR CITY ADMINISTRATOR**  
CHESTERFIELD, MO- Honoring a campaign promise to change the culture at city hall, Councilmember Tom DeCampi dissented in naming Michael Geisel as the permanent city administrator preceding a special council meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5 PM to confirm the appointment.

Citing a strong opposing candidate and an interview vetting that raised more questions than answers, DeCampi felt compelled to reject Geisel's appointment. "Although the national search was challenged from the start by a compromise that led to an abbreviated and hastened process, The Novak Consulting Group still managed to produce dozens of candidates including an impressive, experienced and talented finalist who competed well against the insider, Geisel", said DeCampi.

"Not only did this person excel during questioning by the entire council and Mayor Bob Nation, but he also won an endorsement from 75% of the city staff directors in a survey following their interview."

Concurrently, a vote of the council after the initial round of interviews elected to bring back the finalist the next day, but there wasn't enough support to move away from the "old guard" at city hall, even though one senior councilmember agreed to appoint either candidate.

"Change often comes slowly when dealing with government bureaucracy", DeCampi stated, "but while there was pressure for a unanimous Geisel vote, I won't abandon my constituents who demanded a new direction during my campaign and immediately following the swearing in ceremony in April. Mr. Geisel cannot untether himself from a 27-year association with the only other Chesterfield city administrator, Michael Herring, regardless of past accomplishments, knowledge and operational expertise."

The statement of DeCampi was issued before the meeting. I was amused that it is in the "third person" as if DeCampi had a staff and a press secretary. If we broke this down to the Andy Griffith Show standards it seem to me the Mayberry way in first person might have been better than the Raleigh way in the "third person."

**PEOPLE DEMANDING CRICKET FIELD ARE UNHAPPY WITH RENTAL PRICE:** Two weeks ago in the middle of the all the Hockey people speaking to the City Council about extending a TDD that is expected to expire sometime between 2025 and 2031 to be used in connection with their proposed Hockey Arena on the west end of Chesterfield Airport Road, Cricket popped up. Two men, Ganesh Krishnamurthy and Harish Ponnappureddy spoke about cricket pitches at the August 15th City Council meeting.

If you remember from a recent newsletter the city estimated it would cost \$11,800 to build the field on a practice football field on the river side of the Monarch/Missouri River Chesterfield Valley Levee. The cost to practice was put at \$36 an hour and \$66 an hour for games.

I find it amazing that the City is willing to build the Cricket Pitch including using artificial turf. But the group wanting cricket, whom all seem to have Indian accents, are now complaining that the field rental is too expensive at an average cost of \$45 an hour for games and practice.



Ponnappureddy was asked by Councilman Tom DeCampi how much he thought was a fair price. Ponnappureddy said, "\$45 an hour is too high. It should be \$16 an hour."

Parks Director Tom McCarthy was at the meeting and stood up and addressed the pricing. He indicated that the hourly rate given for cricket was already discounted adding that a cricket field is twice as big as a football field that they currently charge more for.

At least the cricket people are not asking for a special sales tax to be added to all the ones already in Chesterfield Valley.

**BRIDGET NATIONS CONTINUES TO BE A NO SHOW OR LATE SHOW FOR MEETINGS:** We have been writing how Bridget Nations has been a chronic no-show or late-show for meetings. Bruce DeGroot had the same problem recently while he was campaigning for State Rep, but since winning the primary he has been 2-for-2 and early to boot. That has not been the case for Bridget.



On August 15 Bridget Nations missed the entire Agenda Meeting. At 7pm a large crowd in the council chamber and the staff plus the mayor and 7-members of the Council were standing waiting on Nations to show up so they could say the Pledge of Allegiance and start the meeting.



Three days later the 5:30 PM Planning and Public Works meeting was only 15 minutes long. Nations missed half of it by showing up late.



**POLICE BLOTTER:** Here is what the Chesterfield Police were up to last week:

## CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT Media Report August 17, 2016 - August 23, 2016

**Time of Occurrence    Generic Address Business/Location Name    Incident Type**

08/22/2016, 2030-08/23/2016, 0700 15XXX GOLDEN RIDGE CT **Larceny under \$500 from Auto**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject entered victim's unlocked vehicles and took a wallet and loose change. Credit card later used outside jurisdiction.

08/22/2016, 1200-1600 3XX E CHESTERFIELD CTR Hyatt **Larceny under \$500 from Person**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took blue tooth wireless speaker from hotel room.

08/23/2016, 1459 18XXX OUTLET BLVD Adidas **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 18 yo male concealed clothing and left store without paying. Subject also in possession of marijuana, illegal theft device, and other stolen clothing.

08/23/2016, 1247 4X CHESTERFIELD MALL Macy's **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**

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

08/23/2016, 1616 6XX THUNDERBIRD CT 5B **Drugs Possession - Felony**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 20 yo male overdosed on acid and was transported to hospital for treatment. Further

investigation showed subject and 17 yo female in possession of marijuana, paraphernalia, alcohol, and illegal prescription medication.

08/23/2016, 1651 13XXX OLIVE BLVD 7-11 **Assault Common - Threat**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subjects threatened store employee after refusal to sell cigarettes. Subject damaged display rack upon leaving store.

08/22/2016, 2200-08/23/2016, 0530 15XXX CRATER DR **Larceny under \$500 from Auto**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject entered victim's unlocked vehicle and took a wallet. Credit card later used outside jurisdiction.

08/22/2016, 0526 16XXX DEVERONNE CIR **Assault Common - Actual Assault**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 23 yo male was intoxicated and lost in neighborhood. Subject taken into protective custody and **punched officer in chest** causing no injuries.

08/21/2016, 1900-08/22/2016, 0830 16XXX DEVERONNE CIR **Burglary Residential - Home**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject cut rear screen door and entered porch area. No entry gained to rest of house and nothing taken.

08/22/2016, 1106 15XXX WINDSOR RIDGE CT **Assault Common - Actual Assault**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 56 and 29 yo males pushed and kicked each other after argument causing minor injuries.

08/22/2016, 1115 6XX W CHESTERFIELD PKY Chesterfield Police Department **Drugs Possession - Felony**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 34 yo female in possession of Xanax without a prescription.

08/16/2016, 1200 4XX FORSHEER DR **Fraud Identity Theft**

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

08/19/2016, 1530 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Chesterfield Mall **Property Damage to Vehicle**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject damaged victim's vehicle while parked in mall parking lot.

08/12/2016, 1200-08/21/2016, 0900 17XX HEFFINGTON DR **Fraud Credit Card**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject used victim's debit card information to make purchases.

08/21/2016, 0421 APPALACHIAN TRL & HITCHCOCK RD **Drugs Possession - Misdemeanor**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 20 yo female in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia after being stopped for a DWI violation.

08/21/2016, 1645-840 14XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Mercy Rehab Hospital **Tampering with an Auto**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 16 yo male took victim's vehicle after keys were left inside. Vehicle had mechanical problems and it was abandoned nearby.

08/20/2016, 2130-08/21/2016, 0940 17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Solstice **Burglary Commercial - Business**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subjects pried open front door of business, damaged alarm, and took sunglasses.

08/20/2016, 0820-0830 1XX THF BLVD Walmart **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 20 yo male concealed electronics and clothing and left store without paying.

08/19/2016, 2103  
08/19/2016, 2103 4X CHESTERFIELD MALL Macy's **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject grabbed clothing and ran out of store without paying.

08/20/2016, 1558 18XXX OUTLET BLVD Gap **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subjects concealed clothing and left store without paying.

08/20/2016, 1300-1630 14XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Mercy Rehab Hospital **Larceny over \$500 from Auto**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 16 yo male entered victim's unlocked vehicle and took a cell phone.

08/15/2016, 1038 2XX THF BLVD Lowe's **Fraud Credit Card**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject used victim's debit card information to make purchase.

08/18/2016, 2130-08/19/2016, 1000 15XXX MILLRUN CT **Stolen Vehicle Automobile**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took victim's vehicle which was parked in apartment parking lot.

08/19/2016, 0855-0900 1XX THF BLVD Walmart **Illegal Dumping**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 46 yo male dumped yard waste in business parking lot.

08/18/2016, 1430-08/19/2016, 1100 14XXX MARMONT DR **Burglary Residential - Garage**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject entered victim's open garage and took motorcycle luggage set.

08/19/2016, 1400 1XX THF BLVD Walmart **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 25 yo male and 25 yo female concealed cell phones and clothing and left store without paying.

08/19/2016, 1430 1XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Dillard's **Assault Aggravated - With Gun**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 71 yo male pointed firearm at victim after argument. No injuries reported.

08/19/2016, 1537 4X FORUM SHOPPING CTR Red Hot **Larceny under \$500 from Person**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 72 yo male took cell phone after it was left unattended on counter. 20 yo male damaged suspect's vehicle as it attempted to leave scene.

08/18/2016, 1204 1XX THF BLVD Best Buy **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 32 yo male concealed video games and left store without paying.

08/18/2016, 1433 1XX THF BLVD Best Buy **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 19 yo female concealed headphones and left store without paying.

08/18/2016, 1641 OLIVE BLVD & SWINGLEY RIDGE DR **Drugs Possession - Misdemeanor**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 25 yo female in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia after being stopped for a traffic violation.

08/18/2016, 1730 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Children's Place **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subjects concealed clothing and left store without paying.

08/17/2016, 2300 16XXX CRYSTAL SPRINGS DR **Drugs Possession - Misdemeanor**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** 18 yo male in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia after disturbance call.

There were two crimes that caught my interest this week. One involved a 71-year-old man pulling on a gun on someone at Dillards. The other was a 72-year-old man stealing a cell phone at the Forum center Shopping Center. **I'm told there were no charges filed in either case at this time.**

**THE RIOT AFTER THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE TRIKE RIOT:** The "Trike Riot" is a rather expensive chance for adults, teens and smaller kids to get on a trike and speed around a 5-K obstacle course. A newsletter reader sent us info how the Trike Riot folks had rented the Chesterfield Amphitheater. The Trike Riot is an event put on by Sack Lunch Productions of Salt Lake Utah. Sack Lunch found local sponsors to team up with to give the whole thing an air of legitimacy. In St. Louis that included 106.5 The Arch, WIL-FM, 101.1 ESPN, Ameren Missouri and the American Cancer Society.

**Here is my question:** Does the City of Chesterfield Parks' Department do a basic 15 minute Google background check of companies wanting to rent the Amphitheater? If not, why not? The same goes for these local radio stations, Ameren UE and The American Cancer Society before signing up with a production company.

Apparently the reason Sack Lunch Productions is in Salt Lake city is because when Stock and Bank Fraud master criminal Allen Wolfson got done serving one of his Federal sentences he was at a halfway house in Salt lake City and liked the area. The CEO of the production company is his nephew.

Here is Sack Lunch Products explanation of the Trike Riot.

**TRIKE RIOT** is a souped up family ride based on that magical three wheel trike you used to cruise around on in your neighborhood. We've got the gear, the goods, and course. So strap on and giddy up because you won't want to miss this 5k trike ride coming to a city near you

The first thing that concerned me was the fact that the Trike Riot people require helmets for all persons 12 and under. Missouri Law requires helmets for riders in any competition like event on any wheeled bicycle, trike, motorcycle, skate board, etc, under the age of 17 to wear a helmet. So right off the bat the Trike Riot folks and their sponsors are violating Missouri law. The next thing I noticed was that photos from other Trike Riots in other cities none of the children were wearing helmets.

The Trike Riots customers get to keep their plastic trike with the registration fee and a small percentage of the take allegedly was going to go to the American Cancer Society.



Kids without helmets racing with adults who are taking spills.



Adults racing with kids and kids not wearing helmets.

On the day of the event just minutes before the beginning of "assembly" and getting your trike, the event was postponed. The truck carrying the trikes and other equipment never arrived, despite this event being planned over four months in advance with Lunch Productions taking registration fees beginning in May .

Here are some posts from people who paid between \$89 and \$140 for the Trike Riot.

Just a little FYI for you. It's 3:56pm and I still have not received a notice that this was cancelled. I've checked all my junk and spam folders also. So before next Sunday the reschedule date, I would make sure your email system is working correctly so EVERYONE is notified.

I requested off for this and with this late of notice don't have time to request off for next week. Now I can't go. The organizers have effectively screwed me out of \$125. I can buy a trike for cheaper than this event costed. I want a refund at this point.

It's only been planned for months and then 10 minutes before we're supposed to show up. Boom, rescheduled. Very unprofessional

I work surrounded by logistics with truck companies how did you not have the fortitude to plan ahead and have everything ready prior to the event. This is BS. You notify everyone just before the event I bet some folks were there or left by 1130. Let's just reschedule is not an full option for everyone and should not be the only option. This wasn't an act of God it's not a weather issue this appears to be something that you could have controlled and that's piss poor planning to me and we as customers should not be held accountable to deal with your mistake. I want my money back, and I'm sure in not the only one that feels this way. I understand it goes to a good cause but I know 100% of my fees are not going to that cause entirely. I hope you can prove to be better than those companies/organization that held events such as foamfest and others like it that canceled and screwed every person that signed up to race. It would also be nice and good business to respond to the people that have been posting about the event.

Sack Lunch Productions is tied closely to ex-convict Allen Z. Wolfson, who has been charged several times in stock pump and dump schemes and bribing stockbrokers dealing in the penny stock field. He has served at least four prison terms in U.S. Bureau of Prisons and state prison facilities dating back to the 1978 and as recently as five years ago after criminal investigations by SEC criminal investigators and FBI Organized Crime unit. Besides stock frauds, he has been involved in bank frauds, fake medicine frauds and internet scams.

The CEO of Sack Lunch Productions is Richard Surber, Wolfson's nephew who as an 18-year-old was put in charge as the CEO of a number of Wolfson's corporations while Wolfson was in jail.

Surber's photo on the Sack Lunch corporate website almost looks like a mug shot.



Sack Lunch Productions CEO Richard Surber

**RESTAURANT REVIEW:** Nesby's 3730 S Lindbergh is inside the Econo Lodge. Open from 11 AM-to-Midnight Tues-Fri and 3 PM-to-Midnight Sat & Sun.

Chesterfield Assistant Police Chief Ed Nestor is still living his formative years as a rock'n roll and blues singer. Ed has been on me to hear the band he is the lead singer for, Dog's Breakfast. He mentioned there were playing at Nesby's on S. Lindbergh just south of Helen Fitzgerald's on a Saturday night. Ed was not a rock n' roller as a kid and confessed that he has just switched from the church choir to a cover band and Blues Band five years ago.



My wife and I showed up 40 minutes before the band was supposed to start. Nesby's features B-B-Q, at very reasonable prices. The beginning of our evening hit some roadblocks. My wife likes to sketch musicians we see, so she brought her large pad and artist pencils. When we walked in and saw the wall of speakers on the small stage there would be no drawing this night. We opted for a table further away from the band.

Next the waitress said it was a music night and there would be a cover of \$5 a person. She then stood there apparently waiting for me to pull out \$10. I said, "Okay," but did not reach for my wallet. She finally said she could add it to the bill. The place is inside the Econo Lodge. I really think a hotel guest could order, eat, pay and be gone in 40 minutes before the band even started playing. Once we were seated we were told there was a change and there would be no cover charge.

The place was about 60% full and clearly many were there for the band as Ed Nestor worked the room saying hi to people at various tables.



The next stumble before smooth sailing was the drink order. My wife ordered a "Manhattan Up." (\$4.75) The drink that arrived was in a large cocktail glass filled with ice cubes. My wife told the waitress that it was not a Manhattan Up and it went back. She returned with another drink (I suspect it was the same one minus the ice). This one went back due to the lack of booze. Our waitress told us she was a part time bartender at another restaurant and she would make the drink. Third time was a charm.

The items on the menu were so reasonable we decided to try three and split them.

Four baby back ribs for \$8.50. 25 years ago my wife and I would drive across Maryland for an hour to Cockeysville, Maryland for some of the best baby back ribs I have ever had, at a joint called The Corner Stable. I would get a full rack and the wife would get a half rack.



The Corner Stable, even though it is located in the heart of Crab Cake country and uses Danish pork ribs, it is my favorite rib joint that I have ever been to.

Times have changed. Even though I'm fat, an order of four ribs with a side was plenty. The smoked ribs were great. They were just a little shy of being "fall off the bone" but they were meaty and filled you up. They were served on Texas Toast that was almost a side itself.

Our side were the fresh made potato salad, which was delicious . Nesby told us the potatoes are cooked in a spicy chicken broth to give the potato salad an extra taste.



The braut (\$6) came out black. I was suspect, but any suspicions disappeared with the first bite. It was great. The cole slaw made in the kitchen was also a treat.



The last order was the Brisket Sandwich was \$10. It consisted of four very thick strips of beef brisket on two pieces of Texas toast. My wife ordered a side of sweet potato fires, something I don't like and on this night neither did she, most stayed on the plate. The homemade sides were the best.

My wife loved the brisket. I thought it was a little dry. I dipped cut up pieces in the BBQ sauce and found it much better. The cut of the meat was the thickest I have ever seen. You differently don't get cheated.



If you go to Nesby's don't order a Manhattan Up, do order the homemade sides and the main courses all appeared to be good. A table next to ours that included Chesterfield Police Captian Steve Lewis were all raving about the pork steaks that have been added to the menu. I will likely be making a return trip to Nesby's.

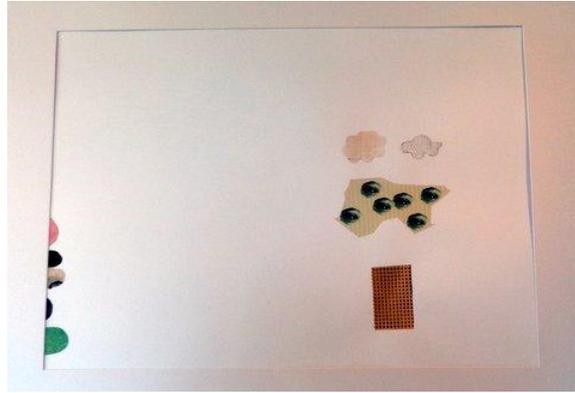
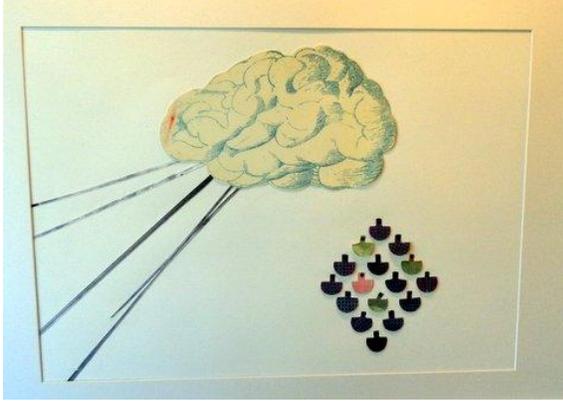


Capt. Ed Nestor in the shades.

**The Band:** Ed Nestor looked to be the youngest member. I looked around the band's equipment to see if there was a defibrillator, but I did not spot one. I cannot judge cover bands and loud blues bands, because I normally don't like the style and life can be depressing enough without going out to hear people sing about the blues. So I can't give you a fair review of Dog's Breakfast, other than they were loud and didn't have a lot of hair like they did in the 1970 s.

**ART SHOW:** The current art show at the Town and Country Longview House is by Gina Alvarez. I knew Gina when she was the director of the St. Louis Artist Guild. She is a very nice lady, but I have always found her art a little weird.





**OF COURSE I LIVE IN AN ART GALLERY:** My wife, Diana is currently the lone approved "copyist" at the St. Louis Art Museum. Every month there is a new painting in the house. Every six months we have a new hanging as paintings rotate from storage to a wall or to a different wall. Literally I live in an art gallery.



A photo by a National

Geographic photographer of Diana painting a masterpiece.



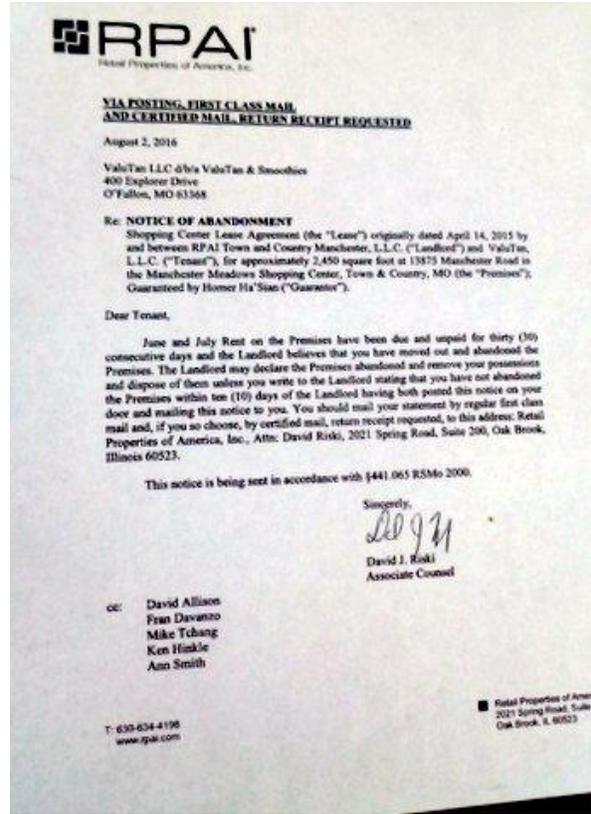
**BUSINESS REPORT:** Manchester Meadows: Below are two photos of the work being done on the 1) Home Goods in half of the old Wal Mart store.



Work crews are gutting the old Sports Authority store at the front of the shopping center. (See below). A new Value City Furniture Store should move in in the three or four months.



Meanwhile for the second second month in a row a Notice of Abandonment was on the the door of a business that could no longer pay rent. Last month it was the pizza and sub shop, Bellacino's that had left oweing rent. This month it was the store with an unusual service. The Valutan and Smoothie store had not paid rent in June or July and vacated the the store. This place served fruit smoothies to customers paying for a tan and skin cancer.



**CARTOONS:**





Not that Donald Trump doesn't play golf and lie but... Advertised as a High Performance Golf Ball (not picking sides, it just made me laugh):





