

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 124



**April 14, 2014**

**By John Hoffmann**

**OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW IN TOWN AND COUNTRY, WHILE CHESTERFIELD STAYS WITH THE OLD GUARD... BUSINESSES GOING AND COMING...A HINT OF A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN BOND RATINGS...T-FED ARRESTED AGAIN ...MONARACH FIRE DISRICT HAS NEW TURMOIL...HOPE YOU DON'T NEED TO BE RESCUED IN THE WATER IN CHESTERFIELD FOR AT LEAST SEVERAL MONTHS...PLUS LOT'S MORE.**

### **Town and Country**

Rezoning of Residential Property was the issue that left two incumbents on the short end of the vote tally in Town and Country on Tuesday night. Both losing by sizable margins.

**Ward 2:** After having a blowout win over incumbent Al Gerber, ( Gerber was the deer hysterectomy proponent and very liberal Democrat) Chuck Lenz almost had no opposition for the 2014 elections. However on the last day for filing Amy Anderson of 4 Rutherford Lane put her name for the race. Anderson, like Gerber, is a Christian Science church member and graduate from Principia. However unlike Gerber, the deer were not a campaign issue. The thought of having the property next to her house and one-street subdivision of Rutherford Lane re-zoned for a large retirement and assisted living center was the driving force for Anderson.

The issue never reached the Board of Aldermen for a vote. It was unanimously voted down by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the applicants withdrew the plan and their offer to buy vacant acreage that included two acres zoned commercial and the rest of the land zoned residential.



Amy Anderson holds up a giant R-1 residential stamp during the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting over the Allegro retirement center proposal.

Lenz did not do himself any favors by not vocally coming out against the project early and often. He joined several other alderpersons who did not commit on the proposal saying they could later have to vote on the matter. This position was led by Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith. It was also a mystery to me since a good politician is suppose to inform their constituents what their opinions were on issues.

The second rezoning issue involved residential property on Conway Road that Maryville University wanted to buy and rezone. Lenz was out of town on November 25, 2013 and did not vote on the rezoning of residential property along Conway Road to allow for the maintenance and truck storage facility for Maryville University along with two athletic fields. The measure passed 6-1 with only Ward-4 Alderman Jon Benigas voting against it. However, Lenz never spoke out against the proposal.

This appeared to be enough to get her to file. Whether she also got some encouragement from Al Gerber seeking revenge, I don't know. But Gerber used his connection with the Principia School to defeat me. I was not allowed to campaign at residences on the school grounds. Gerber was.

Also Lenz added some fuel to fire by voting in favor of rezoning the old Highway Patrol from residential to a special zoning district that would allow Barnes-Jewish-Children's Hospital to build a facility on North Outer 40 Road at Mason Road. A number of neighboring homeowners eventually favored the project saying it could have been worse.

At first during her campaign I thought Anderson shot herself in the foot by sending out a post card that had every deer whacko in town listed as her supported. But Anderson's relentless door to door campaign and her personality apparently made up for that.

I thought Chuck Lenz was in for a challenge by the middle of March. I thought Anderson would win a week before the election. I drove down Sturbridge Road off of Mason Road and observed two Anderson signs in the yard of a resident who was a big supporter of mine in my two campaigns in Town and Country. I thought if he was going for Anderson things did not bode well for Chuck Lenz.

Anderson even had Hera Gerber, Al Gerber's wife working at a polling place on election day. The last survey showed 70% of the homeowners in Ward-2 wanted the deer killed. The Gerbers do not. This also did not change any votes. It came down to residential zoning and Anderson had painted Lenz as someone who favored developers, plus herself being a fresh voice.

The final vote was Amy Anderson 377 and Chuck Lenz 215. She had won by 64% of the vote.

#### **PLUS AND MINUS:**

**On the minus side** was that Chuck knew so many of the residents and so much of the political history in town for the last 20 years his knowledge will be impossible to replace. Chuck was also the most informed alderman because he would routinely attend other commission meetings as a spectator. I know this probably ticked off the chairpersons of some of these commissions to have another alderman looking over their shoulder, let alone a former one like me.

**On the plus side...**Chuck has been reluctant to call "bullshit" on phony, self serving, money wasting legislation and unconstitutional positions of church signs and other issues promoted by the likes of Mayor Dalton, Aldermen Fred-Meyland Smith, Skip Mange and Lynn Wright.

I can only hope that Anderson has the guts to stand up to these people and protect residents' rights and their tax money and not worry about offending other alderpersons.



**EXCESSIVE SIGNS SCARY ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:** While I hope Amy Anderson is brash and outspoken and not sucked in by Jon Dalton's phony charm, I was a little worried on her reckless spending in her campaign. Her campaign spending records showed she reordered signs. In some places she had three signs on a cul-de-sac, two or three signs on a corner lot...but this one below is one of the stupidest:



This is where Sturbridge Road dead ends into the woods. If you look closely at the end of the road there is squirrel, who I don't think is a registered voter, but has one of the few living sets of eyes that will see the other side of Anderson's sign.

**WARD 4:** For a guy who had been in office for eight years over four terms Phil Behnen ran a terrible campaign and prior to the campaign made several terrible decisions.



Behnen lost to Linda Rallo 101-to-313 or by 76% of the vote.

**Mistakes! He made a few:** I cannot fault Phil for voting his conscious on the Maryville rezoning, if he really thought the University moving a large maintenance facility off campus onto a section of a tree lined main residential street was the right thing to do. I thought it was politically stupid. he could have voted no and it would have still passed. But if Phil thought it was the right thing, good for him.

What I do fault him for was lecturing intelligent residents who were against the rezoning on how they were wrong and short sighted. All he did was severely piss a large number of very wealthy people. This isn't the first time the normally quiet and reserved Behnen has done this. He did it to residents from a Ward 1 subdivision in 2010. But they didn't have a way to vote him out of office.

Next Phil did not start campaigning early. He had never been in an election where he had an opponent before. He seemed to be well liked in his and a neighboring subdivision. He did not exploit this.

Linda Rallo was experienced in the ways of elections having worked as chief of staff from former State rep. Cole McNary and as a blogger on a political website. The difference showed. Rallo had a network and was knocking on doors whenever bitter cold weather would abate. She also had professionally prepared mailers that went out at the right intervals. Phil sent campaign postcards to residents that violated state campaign laws by not having printed on the card who paid for the mailing.

Phil also had a number of alderpersons willing to help him. That was not a big help in Ward-4 since all the other alderperson voted for the rezoning for Maryville that had everyone pissed off (with the exception of Chuck Lenz who was not at the meeting where the Conway Road rezoning took place).

Rallo's biggest challenge was getting rich people who did not normally bother to vote in city elections to the polls. She seemed to have succeeded in this task.

**ROBO CALLS:** I had predicted to several people that there would be robo calls for Phil Behnen and against Linda Rallo. This happened on Monday evening April 7. There wasn't anything negative toward Rallo, but really are robo calls necessary in a municipal election?

For the idea of robo calls I don't have to look much further than the D&D boys. When Maria Perron ran against Nancy Avoli, who had a past personal relationship with State Rep. John Diehl and had originally joined the Board of Aldermen after being appointed by Mayor John Dalton to fill the term of Colleen Wassinger after she was elected to the County Council, robo calls were used the night before the election. The biggest issue in the race was that Avoli was an international law attorney at Monsanto and was hard for residents to contact plus she missed a lot of meetings while being out of the country.

Robo calls went out for Avolia and against Perron on election eve from a group called "Missourians Against Unfair Taxes." That name had been registered to a tobacco group trying to keep "No Brand" cigarette taxes the lowest in the United States. Dalton was the discount cigarette companies' lobbyist in Jefferson City.

While Phil's robo calls did not raise to the level of the ones for Avoli, it is still odd doing robo calls for a suburban city election.

**NEW COMMISSION ASSIGNMENTS:** Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton is going to have to make some changes. He had Lenz and Behnen chairing some of the more important commissions. Lenz had the city's seat on the WEST Co. EMS & Fire Board of Directors plus he was the chair of the Police Commission. Behnen was the chair of the finance commission and the Architectural Review Board.

78-year-old Alderwoman Gussie Crawford is not a senile old lady. She had a lifetime career in the field of medicine as a nurse, has been a national director of the AAU for decades. Dalton had given her the very non-important chair of the Community Relations Commission, a completely unneeded group, with most of the work being done by city hall staffer Mary Olsen. The commissioners do volunteer at various events. Currently there are three long term vacancies on this unnecessary commission.

Crawford with her medical and administrative background would be perfect to fill the city's seat at the Fire District. Also with her background in sports Crawford would be a good one to relieve Lynn Wright of her dictatorial control of the Parks Commission.



Lynn Wright



Gussie Crawford

Rallo in her work in Jefferson City has been around budgets and spending issues and would be as good as anyone to go onto the Finance Commission. However, I have to think Dalton is currently afraid of Rallo, thinking that she might have an independent streak, might talk back at him and could be hard to control. In 2009 I was the last alderperson to challenge one of Dalton's inflated budgets.

The one thing you would hope that Dalton does not do would be assign Meyland-Smith to any more commissions. It is tough enough to have city hall staffers stay until 8 o'clock to attend nighttime commission meetings. If you would put a professional windbag, like Meyland-Smith, on more commissions it would mean they would be staying an additional 15 or 30 minutes longer. The next thing you know they will be looking for jobs with other cities.



Ward-2 Alderman Tim Welby, the chair of the Public Works Commission, is right where he belongs. A place where he can do little if any damage. He replaced Steve Fons as the "alderdope" when Crawford beat Fons in 2012 . On the Public Works Commission Welby doesn't have to do anything because everything is pretty much done by Public Works Director Craig Wilde. Welby has no background in Public Works or government. He is a regional sales guy and often is out of town a lot, which is another reason not to put him on any other commissions.

**FINALLY... MORGAN LE FAY'S OUT OF BUSINESS:** Thanks God! Morgan Le Fays, the restaurant across the street from the MoDot Transportation Management Center on the South 40 Outer Road is closed. Morgan Le-Fay's along with the chain smoking manager Lisa Keller defied the County restaurant smoking ban, by claiming they were a bar and reducing the size of their menu. The alleged to have less than 40% food sales. They then advertised how they were a "smoking restaurant."

When as alderman I tried to introduced an ordinance similar to the Kirkwood and Clayton no-smoking bans, then cigarette lobbyist Jon Dalton got Lynn Wright to protest how all restaurants need as much help as possible during the recession. To hell with the health and welfare of the customers and employees. There was not a second to even introduce the bill.



**The Massa's Italian Restaurant will be taking over Morgan Le Fay's and the business next door to the west.** Massa's has restaurants in Bridgeton and Ballwin. They also operated a Massa's in Kirkwood on West Argonne across the street from the train station. That location closed and became Billy G's. We spoke with someone at the site and were told the Massa opening was at least four months away.

**MANCHESTER MEADOWS:** City Administrator Gary Hoelzer was very careful about what he said concerning Manchester Meadows. He was at the finance commission meeting giving an update. He stated that there are plans for a new store to occupy the PetSmart building by July. He was careful not to announce what store. This is something that our sharp mayor doesn't understand as in the past he had announced how a specific store was moving into the almost deserted shopping center only to have the deal fall through.

Gary had on his rose colored glasses as he said he was expecting the shopping center to be 90% full in the next 2-to-3 years. Also the lease to Wal-Mart for their empty building will be up in January of 2015. When Wal-Mart moved out in the summer of 2009 and took with them the city's largest sales tax source, the landlord was not in a big hurry to find a new tenant because Wal-Mart continued to pay on the lease for another 5 1/2-years.

**FINANCE COMMISSION:** The Finance Commission held a meeting on Thursday April 3 at the Longview Farmhouse. I attended and learned some important stuff.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR HINTS AT DROP OF BOND RATING:** Town and Country, Des Peres and St. Louis County are the only political subdivisions with AAA bond ratings in Missouri. Town and Country's Finance Director Betty Cotner hinted at the meeting that may not be the case for long.

Standard and Poor's and Moody's have gotten tougher in grading municipalities for bond ratings and are providing more transparency. Betty Cotner told commissioners she had to fill out a questionnaire from a woman doing the rating on Town and Country and then had a follow up phone call.



Finance Director Betty Cotner

For two straight years T&C has borrowed heavily from the cash reserve. It was \$4.2 million in 2013 and just under \$1-million so far this year. While the cash reserve remains at \$12,000,000 it has shrunk by 35% in the last four years under Mayor Dalton.

One of Dalton's favorite things to do is tell residents in the city's newsletter or at subdivision meetings how he has kept the city with a AAA Bond rating. That might be a thing of the past.

**One member doesn't like public meetings:** Very few people ever attend finance commission meetings. Intense Greenie Dirk Maas was there as was Alderman Chuck Lenz. I arrived and sat in one of the empty chairs set aside in the event someone actually shows up.

Early on in the meeting Commissioner Randi Weber stopped chairman Phil Behnen by asking, "There is a gentleman here taking pictures. Is that allowed?" Phil replied that it was since the meeting was public.



Finance Commissioner Randi Weber objecting to me taking photos and not having a clue about the history of the fire services contract.

Toward the end of the meeting Weber asked why the fire district contact is almost \$500,000 less than it was in prior years. I found this utterly amazing that a member of the Finance Commission doesn't know the history of the fire contracts and how Town and Country was grossly overcharged for a number of years. I'm guessing that Weber also doesn't have a clue about how the city was grossly overcharged for fire dispatching for years.

**WILDE ON ROADS:** Public Works Director Craig Wilde was the guest lecturer for the Spring meeting of the Finance Commission. Craig sold the point that the \$4.2-million of deficits suffered in 2013 was due to onetime major road repairs. He didn't really go into how the roads repaired in 2013 missed regular maintenance improvements in earlier years.

**TOPPING ROAD:** I know that Topping Road appears to have just been redone. However that was a mere overlay. Craig talked about applying for a \$3,000,000 grant to rebuild the road and add sidewalks. He said \$3-million was the top number for a state or Federal Grant money, because it would take away from grants of other cities and regional projects. He then added that the city might ask for two separate grants in two different years and do half of Topping Road at a time.

Wilde first said the grant application would be submitted in 2015 and hopefully construction would begin in 2017-2018. By the time he finished speaking he had moved the date back to 2018-2019.

**Mason Knolls:** Craig Wilde tried to tip toe around possibly causing another budget deficit by talking about the main street to the smallest of the Mason Valley subdivisions, Mason Valley Estates. Mason Knolls is the main street to about 20 houses. Wilde stated the city has replaced several slabs of pavement and he did not like what he saw as the road's base. He hinted that the entire street may need to be completely rebuilt.

**SNOW PLOWING:** Over the years Oz Conrad and John Russon have seemed to be two of the sharper members of the Finance Commission. So I was a little surprised after Wilde was done with his presentation and sat down, John Russon began peppering him with questions about snow plowing and contractor liability. At one point Wilde offered to stop by Russon's house at 2 in the morning they next time they were doing overnight plowing so he can get a firsthand experience to what goes on.



John Russon (right) listening to PW Director Craig Wilde talk about snow removal. I found it odd that the some of the finance commissioners had little knowledge of how the Public Works department contracts out most of the work on city streets.

With the city almost out of salt Russon was asking why they had not purchased more and refilled the storage bin. The reason is because we buy road salt through a consortium or cooperative that is run by the City of Chesterfield and buys salt for 60 different public tax supported political subdivisions, including many cities and school districts. We get salt when the consortium makes a major order. That is normally in the summer when salt mines and river barge traffic are at peak operations. There are winter purchases if you run out but there is no reason in April not to wait for the cheaper summer price.

Once again I found it somewhat amazing that one of the better members of finance commission was so in the dark about the operation of the city's snow plowing. This led me to believe that between Mayor Dalton and the past city administrator, keeping commissions in the dark was better than educating them.

**LAKE REHNQUIST:** Here is a quick forming lake at the new subdivision site across the street from Queeny Park. This was just after the first two inches of rain and before the additional two inches. For over a week the home builder had pumps going removing water.



## UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 69



**April 14, 2014**

**By John Hoffmann**

### **GUYS WITH GREY HAIR (or what's left of it) BREEZE TO WINS:**

**In Ward 1** it looked like **Barry Flachsbart** won by the biggest margin of the day. It turns out that 74-percent of the vote was not the largest difference. The old man of the council who was on the first city council in the history of Chesterfield won the battle of Kings Lutheran Church when the young **Ben Keathley**, who Flachsbart has known from church since Keathley was a small boy, only managed to get 214 votes to Flachsbart 599. The recent law school grad really didn't have a strong platform on why Flachsbart should be tossed out of office.

**Ward 2's** race was even more lopsided than the one in Ward 1. **Elliot Grissom** cruised to an easy win pulling down 79% of the vote against **Tom Northcott**, who had never

voted in a city election in 14 years and in fact had never been registered to vote in St. Louis County. The final was Grissom 641 and Northcott 173.

**Ward 3** had seen incumbent **Mike Casey** ticked some people off by changing votes on rezoning issues, first voting against allowing McBride and Son to build homes on lots under 1-acre. Then three weeks later he reintroduced the bill and voted for it. Moves like this will often find a councilman facing a strong candidate with lots of public support. It turned out that **Andy Kazen**, a radio sales executive who runs a "how to play poker" website was not that guy. Casey, who I thought was the weakest candidate prior to the opening filing date in December grabbed a 590-to-213 victory capturing 73-percent of the vote. I'm guessing this will be the last time I can use a photo of James Garner as Brett Maverick alongside the photo of Kazen at a card table on this website.

For the last time:



**Ward 4 Connie Fults** is known for being very responsive to constituents. however she was on the pro-developer side on most zoning issues in the last few years including reducing lot sizes. This got her an opponent and also got her the lowest vote total of all the incumbent councilpersons. Fults beat challenger **John Gazzoli** with 64% of the vote. It was the lowest winning percentage in the four races, as Fults received 633 to Gazzoli's 350.

A year ago every candidate that had a pro-developer voting record and gave big tax breaks to new outlet malls lost. This year they all won. Flachsbart was the exception of being a councilman who would say no some new development issues. But the three candidates with a history of handing developers almost anything they want had no problem in winning.

This told me the candidates running against them were extremely weak.

**CHESTERFIELD BAD BOY ARRESTED FOR PROBATION VIOLATION:** Yes we get to report on another arrest involving Chesterfield Bad Boy T-Fed, Theodore Federer. The 21-year-old who resides at home with the folks at 17927 White Robin Court in western Chesterfield turned himself in at the Camden County Sheriff's Office in Camdenton, Missouri on April 1.

Regular readers will remember that T-Fed was arrested for his second DWI by the Ellisville Police on May 18, 2013. At the time he was already on probation for DWI in Camden County for a DWI auto accident that injured a female passenger on September 30, 2011. He pled guilty on May 22, 2012.

T-Fed got arrested by the Ellisville Police for DWI, Speeding, Driving with a Revoked License, No Proof of Insurance and Poss of Marijuana. In July he pled guilty to the DWI and had the other charges reduced or dismissed. Despite already being on probation for DWI, Ellisville prosecuting attorney and police officials claim they were unaware of the conviction and probation.

We pointed this out in this newsletter and Mayor Adam Paul used the information to fire the city prosecutor, who a month earlier he had fired as the city attorney.

Ellisville also did not notify Camden County officials of the probation violation. However, I did by sending a copy of the conviction and the police report to Camden County officials. On August 7, 2013 T-Fed's probation was revoked and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Eight months later he got around to turning himself in.



T-Fed's latest Facebook photo.



Two classic T-Fed Facebook photos.



Chesterfield PD Mugshot



Here is another one of T-Fed blurry eyed with a drink in his hand.

On April 7 T-Fed pled guilty to Violating his DWI Probation. He was fined \$300, he was sentenced to six months in jail and was placed on a new probation term for two years. He also was given credit for serving another 7-days in jail after his April 1 arrest as another "Shock Incarceration,"

T-Fed still had a court date on April 7 in St. Charles County Circuit Court for a Aiding an Underage Person to enter a Casino. However, after spending a week in jail in Camdenton, the day he pled guilty to probation violation in Camden County, the Casino charge was dropped against him St. Charles.

T-Fed has another court hearing in St. Louis County on April 24. Despite pleading guilty to DWI in Ellisville he is challenging his license revocation (again) for Failing to Take A Breath Test. Taking responsibility has never been one of T-Fed's stronger suits.

Here is T-Fed's current rap sheet that we have been able to put together.

10/29/13 Aid a Person Under 21 To Enter Gambling Boat Mo Gaming Enforcement Section  
08/09/13 Probation Violation and Revocation Camden County Pled Guilty April 7, 2014  
05/18/13 Driving While Intoxicated Ellisville PD Guilty  
05/18/13 Driving on Revoked License Ellisville PD  
05/18/13 Speeding Ellisville PD  
05/18/13 Failure to Show Proof of Insurance Ellisville PD  
05/18/13 Open Container of Alcohol w/driving Ellisville PD  
05/18/13 Possession of Marijuana Ellisville PD  
11-02-12 State of Missouri files Forfeiture Papers St. Louis County Prosecutor  
10-23-12 2001 Audi and \$8,975 in cash seized St. Louis County Police  
as profits of illegal activity  
08-25-12 Attempt to Purchase Liquor by a Minor Missouri Highway Patrol  
Montgomery County Missouri  
03-29-12 Stealing Chesterfield PD

03-29-12 Destruction of Property Chesterfield PD  
02-13-12 Minor in Possession of Liquor Chesterfield PD  
02-13-12 Give false Information to Police Chesterfield PD  
01-11-12 Stealing Chesterfield PD  
01-11-12 Minor in Possession of Liquor Chesterfield PD  
09-03-11 Attempt to Purchase Liq by Minor Camden County Sheriff's Office  
09-03-11 Driving While Intoxicated Camden County Sheriff's Office  
07-04-11 Minor Intoxicated Missouri Water Patrol  
09-03-10 Speeding (20 Over PG 5 days jail) Livingston Co Sheriff's Office  
10-08-08 Impeding Traffic Town and Country PD

**BAD WEEK FOR THE FIRE UNION:** First six members of the Union are in hot water and may face severe discipline up to firing for appearing in a campaign flier of a candidate running for University City Council. Next on April 7 Cary Spiegel, former 33-year veteran deputy fire chief who was fired in November of 2011 with the rest of the command staff of the Monarch Fire District, was rehired and bumped up a grade to Assistant Chief. Then on Tuesday the five candidates the fire union back in the University City election all lost. Finally on Thursday Ast. Chief Spiegel attended his first Board of Directors meeting since being rehired. There were far more residents who attended to support Spiegel being rehired than people there in opposition. In fact at one point Spiegel got a standing ovation from the majority of the people in the room.

**FIREFIGHTER UNION FORGETS HISTORY:** Back in July of 1977 the University City Fire Department walked out of the fire houses and went on strike. I remember it well because myself and four Rock Hill Missouri firefighters were threatened with a beating by a drunk U. City fire captain if the firefighters attempted to put out a fire on a loading dock of a small container manufacturing plant. I was a police detective in Rock Hill and was getting ready to go home very late on a Saturday night/ Sunday morning when the fire call came out to responded to University City. I followed the fire truck wanting to help protect the Rock Hill firefighters from the striking University City firefighters.

U. City police officers stood on street corners as striking firefighters walked up to arriving trucks and threatened to assault arriving firefighters if they tried to put out the fire. The loading dock fire eventually burned down the entire building that had occupied the Plastic Bottle Corporation and was owned by the Berger family. No one was ever arrested for starting the fire. The fire captain was eventually charged with a misdemeanor and was found guilty. The Berger family sued the firefighter's union, local president, the city, the fire chief and the police chief.

A court awarded them \$1,257,500 in damages against the Fire Union and Union president.

[http://www.leagle.com/decision/1984715676SW2d39\\_1697.xml/BERGER%20v.%20CITY%20OF%20UNIVERSITY%20CITY](http://www.leagle.com/decision/1984715676SW2d39_1697.xml/BERGER%20v.%20CITY%20OF%20UNIVERSITY%20CITY)

The day after the fire I wrote a report about what happened and it was the basis for County Executive Gene McNary to declare a State of Emergency and have County police officers be assigned to any fire truck responding to fire calls in U. City.

With the history of allowing a viable business to be destroyed and costing workers their jobs and the city of tax revenue...maybe the fire union in University City should cool it with the local politics in U. City.

I think that to some people 36 years was not too long ago to forget the criminal action of the firefighters.

A campaign mailer that shows six U. City firefighters standing with city council candidate Jeff Hales. City employment policy says employees cannot wear and display city uniforms or gear while conducting political activities. The firefighters say they took the photo outside of U. City in front of another agency's fire truck. However two are wearing uniform shirts and one clearly has a U. City badge. The rest are wearing turnout gear and have helmets that should be easy to identify as University City gear. Hales lost by 22 votes to incumbent Stephen Kraft. Four other candidates backed by the Fire Union also lost.

**Jeff Hales**

Endorsed by:

- ✓ Your Fire Fighters
- ✓ Your Police Officers
- ✓ Senator Joan Bray

**Jeff Hales**

- ✓ Will ensure that your safety and the safety of your family is the City's top priority.
- ✓ Will restore civility and integrity to the City Council

@UCDFFLocal2665 • Email: UCFD2665@yahoo.com

**JEFF HALES • WARD 1 • APRIL 8TH**

Paid for by Professional Firefighters of Central St. Louis County PAC. Treasurer Jen Stuhlman

**MONARCH BOARD MEETING:** When I left the house at 5pm to drive to the Monarch Fire Board meeting. I put on KMOX to hear the CBS news and three minutes later the local news came on. The lead story was about the rehiring of Cary Spiegel as Ast. Fire Chief. The news report claimed the fire Board meeting should be loud with protest groups from women activist groups, the fire union and local residents.

I was expecting to see the usual line of pickets along Olive Blvd. from Local 2665. I was surprised when none were there. Next there were still plenty of parking spaces on the parking lot, despite signs telling motorists that overflow parking was available at the bank next door.

There were even just enough chairs available for anyone who wanted a seat. No women groups. All I had seen told me the sensational news item on KMOX was generated by calls to the newsroom from people with the fire union's Local 2665.

When the meeting started it went right to public comments.

**Union presents petition of no confidence!** Fire Union Local 2665 secretary Jeff Procter was the first person to speak. He stated he was there to speak about common sense and why Cary Spiegel have been rehired. He presented a petition he said was signed by Monarch Firefighters which was an overwhelming vote of no confidence in Assistant Chief Cary Spiegel. He then urged the board, which had just rehired Spiegel to rehire him.

85 of the 120 employees at Monarch signed the petition.



Cary Spiegel, the new Monarch Ast. Chief back on the job at the April 10 Board of Directors meeting.

Eight people spoke at the meeting, besides Procter one other person, Marlyn Flauter spoke in opposition to rehiring Spiegel. Flauter ran for a seat on the fire board in 2009 and was beaten by Robin Harris by 620 votes. She and her campaign manager were also found guilty by the Missouri Ethics Commission of creating a second illegal campaign committee "Citizens for a Better Fire District" that was not on file with the Board of Elections or the Ethics Commission. She was fined \$3,000 but only had to pay \$300 and was placed on probation.



Jeff Proctor of Local 2665 and Marlyn Flauter were the only ones speaking against the rehiring of Spiegel.

The other six were all residents who congratulated the fire board for rehiring Spiegel and decried actions by Local 2665.



These six residents all welcomed Spiegel back and congratulated the board on standing up to the union.



Every member of the Board of Directors spoke. Jane Cunningham gave a rousing speech telling the audience how she had gone through the trial transcript and could not find anything that justified the firing of Spiegel. She also said how the voters had decided enough was enough and created a new board of directors. When she welcomed Spiegel back, most of the audience stood up and gave him a standing ovation. Myself, two members of Local 2665 to my left and a reporter for West Magazine to my right remained seated.

Steve Swyers who was not present at the meeting to hire back Spiegel so he was unable to cast a no vote, spoke against the rehiring using court rulings against the District on the Sex Discrimination suit.

"There was a summary judgment. That was strike one," said Swyers. "There was a jury trial and verdict. That was strike two. There was the lost appeal. That was strike three."

"I suppose it (the rulings) is a brick and mortar issue. I assume it is ridiculous to presume it involved people," said Swyers.

Swyers began his remarks by saying he is seeing the same people here speaking. It was true on both sides of the fence, with maybe one exception. Former Chesterfield Councilwoman Jane Durrell, who was just named "Citizen of the Year" spoke in favor of the rehiring. I don't believe Jane is a regular at these meetings.

Harris who was on the Board of Directors, being the lone non-union supported member at the time of the firings and voted against them, read a prepared statement saying how there was no evidence to link one person to the work conditions experienced by the women. Adding most evidence pointed to non-command staff employees who were members of Local 2665 and two who were promoted by the former Board of Directors.

**MY TAKE:** I did read the entire transcripts of the trial back in 2011 when I was still writing for AOL's patch.com. I like Harris found the most blatant actions against the women firefighters occurred at the fire station level which is completely staff by members of Local 2665. However this does not mean after complaints were made the command staff should not have been aggressive in dealing with them.

The rehiring of Spiegel maybe should have been avoided in an attempt not to inflame the hostilities with the rank and file. Spiegel who had 33 years on the job should have had a decent pension and frankly will not likely be in that position for a long time.

However, this may have been a first step to make Spiegel fire chief. Tom Vineyard, was hired by the prior board from a one-station, one-fire truck and NO EMS operation...fire district (the old Wellston Fire Protection District). His contract is up soon and while he seems to be working at getting along with the new board, one has to wonder if he is going to be around after the end of his contract.



**RESCUE BOAT:** The District has a flat bottom rubber Zodiac boat for water rescues. Amazingly in 2014 firefighters cannot respond to an emergency call and immediately put this boat in the water. The boat's 260 pound motor is not attached. After responding to a scene, three firefighters have to muscle the motor onto the boat and properly secure it before they can get into the water. Plus Chief Vineyard told the Board the motor is old and has at times leaked fuel into the water.

The Board voted to put out bids for a new trailer and motor for the board.

I was shocked! It is 2014. It amazed me that a large fire district with quite a bit of the Missouri River in its jurisdiction, a large area in a flood plain, plus recreational park lakes does not have a state of the art rescue boat. I'm amazed that they cannot respond to a call and simply put the boat in the water and begin rescue operations. The thought this was going to continue until they go through the bid process also floored me. The thought that this has been the situation with three different elected fire boards over the last decade without the command making the a top priority amazes me. All the Union whining about having to have their union logo on pink t-shirts, having two phones in every fire station for personal calls and getting free coffee and tea at every fire station...how come none of the union guys never brought the rescue boat problem in increasing time to save people's lives before the Board of Directors?

The president of the Fire Board is a senior airline pilot. It isn't like he doesn't know about importance of fast and immediate recue responses and how delays, like putting a motor on a boat, could mean lives. Every month the District spends between \$5,000 and \$9,000 on legal bills. For a lot less they could be buying a boat motor tomorrow. At least the new motor which would be permanently attached to the boat should be an emergency purchase with staff getting a few competitive prices, buying the motor and attaching it to the boat!



**REAL ESTATE: 4 SOMERSET DOWNS** This week we look at another listing in the Town and Style Magazine that is listed at \$3 million or above.



4 Somerset Downs off of Warson Road near Litzsinger Road is listed for just \$3,250,000. It is on three acres and is a 6,758 square foot house with plenty of bathrooms. It has five bedrooms with six full and three half baths. It is kind of ironic when you reach the age when it is good to have bathrooms close by the only places that have them every 50 feet has too many stairs.

The house is currently in the name of Stephanie Descours-Johnson Trustee. The home was purchased by Descours-Johnson in 2009. Taxes for 2013 were \$30,231.

Three cars have recently been registered to the address through 2012, including a 2008 BMW, a 2011 Porsche and a 2006 VW. Last year only the VW was left on the tax rolls. All the cars were registered to Kelley and Stephanie A. Johnson.

The house was built in 1997 had has been on the market with various agents. The price has been steady at the \$3,250,000 price. The house sold new in 1997 for \$750,000.

**HERE IS ANOTHER FOR RICH PEOPLE WHO WANT TO ROUGH IT AND KILL ANIMALS: FOR JUST \$12,000,000 YOU CAN BUY 1,662 acres outside of Salem** in the "foothills of the Ozarks" according to Dielmann Sotheby's. For sale is the High Adventure Ranch where people come to shoot big game. The ranch's motto is "No Game...No Pay."

The Ranch that features houses, cabins, a lodge and a dining hall. They advertise you can come and kill wild board, buffalo, various types of deer, elk, antelopes, sheep and rams.



One Less Buffalo on the face of the earth.      A dead Russian Boar.

Of course if you don't want to hunt you could buy the property and let the wide assortment of animals live without being the crosshairs of any rifle scopes. For the people upset with the deer management in Town and Country could save lots of different species.



Here is the luxury lake house.



This is the lodge.



Here is a hunting cabin.



And of course this is the dining hall where you can have 4-star meals.

**MUSIC: THIS WEDNESDAY GET OFF YOUR BUTT AND GO GET A BITE TO EAT AND HEAR A GREAT BIG BAND CONCERT:** I KNOW IT IS HARD TO DRAW PEOPLE TO A MUSIC EVENT BEING HELD AT A CHURCH...The Route 66 Jazz Orchestra put on the first of two shows last week at the Unity Church on Butler Hill Road. They will perform the same show on Wednesday night, 7:30, April 16 at the Kirkwood Station Brewery on East Jefferson Avenue, just off of Kirkwood Road (Rt 67). I went to church! With maybe two exceptions this was a great concert. The performance of Mack the Knife was flat and an unusual arrangement of Nature Boy might have you scratching your head. But the second number of the night, the Menard Ferguson arrangement of Maria from West Side Story was worth the trip. Vocalist Dean Christopher also delivered a few laughs during the second set.

So our suggestion is go out to dinner at the Kirkwood Station Brewery on Wednesday, enjoy dinner and enjoy the music.





Route 66 Jazz Orchestra

## Jazz Concert

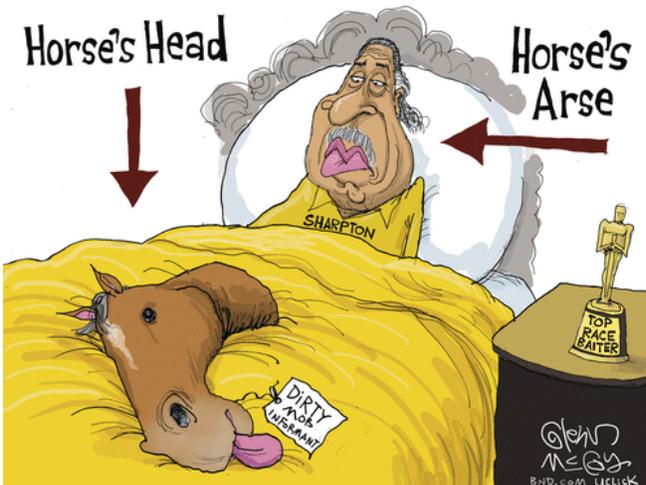
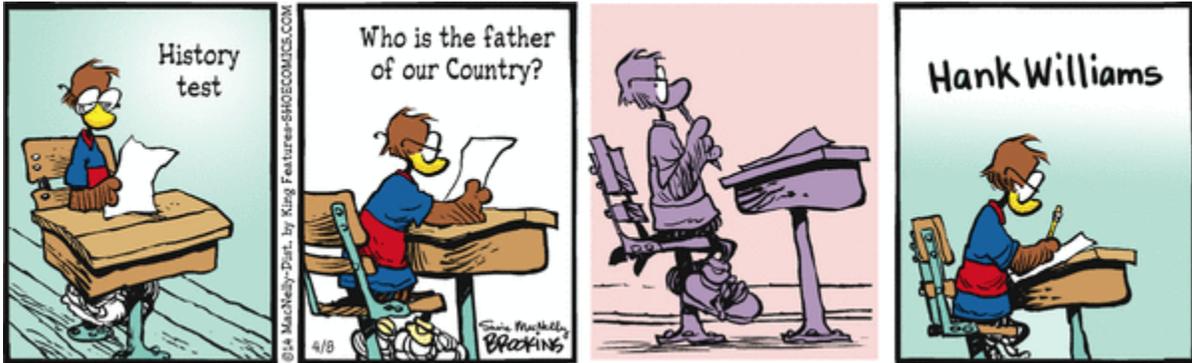
at Kirkwood Station Brewing Co.  
105 E Jefferson Ave. Kirkwood 63122

Full menu and bar service available

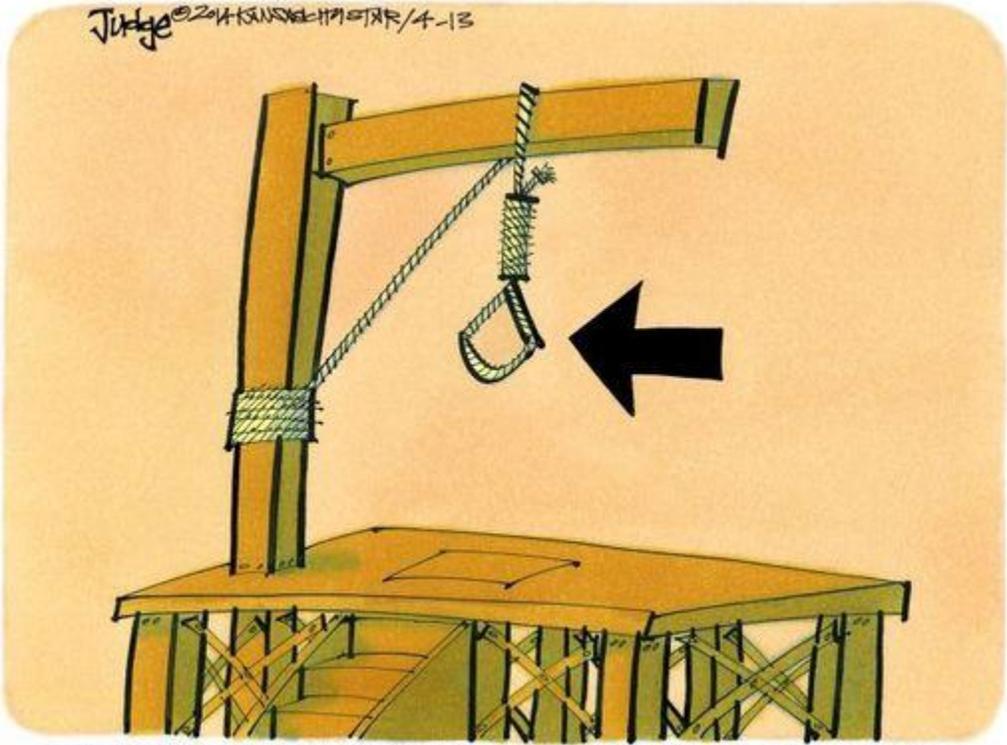
Admission  
\$10 General  
\$5 Students  
(Cash Only Please!)

Wednesday, April 16 @ 7:30PM  
with vocalists Valerie Tichacek,  
Ron Wilkinson & Dean Christopher  
[www.route66jazz.com](http://www.route66jazz.com)

**CARTOONS:**







Judge ©2014 KUNSKAHPHOTO/4-13

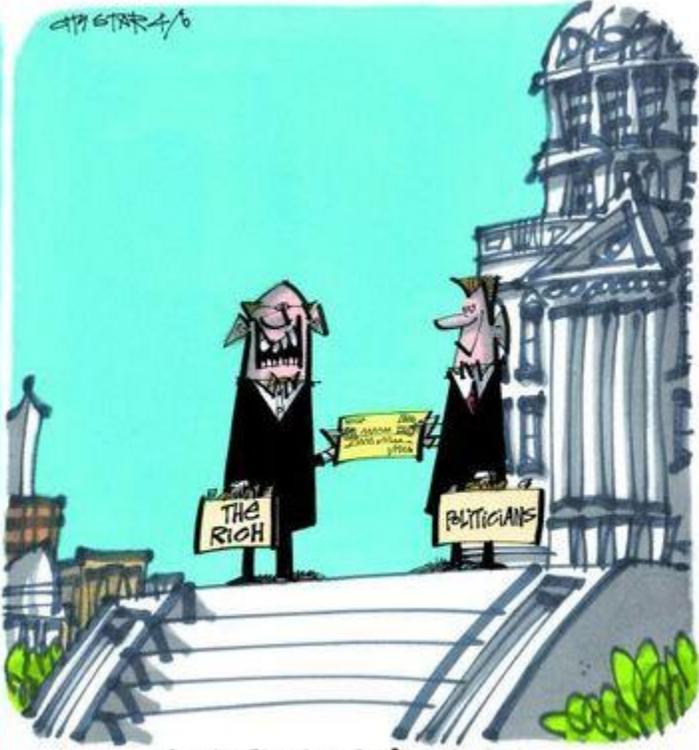
THE DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HAS AN OPENING.



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"THREE COATS OF PRIMER, FOUR OF TOPCOAT, ANOTHER THREE COATS OF LACQUER AND WE'VE ALSO ADDED A THICK LAYER OF VARNISH."



"BUT MAINLY CHECKS."