

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 111



**January 15, 2014**

**By John Hoffmann**

### **A REPLAY OF THE DECEMBER P&Z MEETING ON BJC ONLY**

**WORSE:** At the first board of aldermen meeting of the year in Town and Country there was a public hearing on the request for a new zoning district of “Planned Medical Office District” and the rezoning request by BJC of the old Highway Patrol property for a pediatric surgical .

Once again George Stock along with BJC, Washington U Medical School and Children’s Hospital managed to fill the aldermanic chambers with people favorable to the rezoning. At the December meeting I sat next to a very nice woman from New Baden, Illinois. She was there because she was recruited to fill a seat. She was on the staff at Washington U Med School.

The overflow crowd got to listen to George Stock, the spokesman and the consulting engineer for the project, make the same presentation as in December except with a few tweaks to respond to on-point statements made by people opposing the plans.



It was another overflow crowd at the T&C Jan. 13 BOA meeting. Like the last P&Z meeting much of the crowd consisted of non-residents from BJC and Wash U Med School that took up seats and forced the local citizenry to watch the meeting of close circuit TV.

While 33 people spoke in opposition to the plan in July at the Planning and Zoning hearing, Stock turned it around in December at the P&Z meeting where it passed, with 13 speaking for the project and six against it. . On Monday before the Board of Alderman it was a tie...7 speakers were for it and seven were against it.

Of the seven speaking for the rezoning three were doctors or nurses with BJC and two were parents of pediatric patients at Children's Hospital.

There was one person from Washington U who was against the rezoning. She was not with the Medical School however. Deborah Cosmopoulos of Mason Estates Court spoke against it, asking if anyone has ever seen construction stop at the nearby BJC Missouri Baptist Medical Center. Cosmopoulos is a professor for anthropology at Washington University.

**JOAN MAGRUDER OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ONCE AGAIN PAINTING A FALSE PICTURE:** She did it again...The president of Children's Hospital Joan Magruder for the second meeting in a row told officials how 1,600 patients at Children's Hospital come from Town and Country zip codes. That is not people from Town and Country...but zip codes and T& C shares three residential zip codes and one commercial zip code.

Magruder is trying to infer that 1,600 children from one of the wealthiest communities around are being treated at Children's Hospital. That would be over 14% of the total 11,000 population of Town and Country.



Joan Magruder...she is president of a hospital and a spin doctor too!

Actually since Town and Country shares residential zip codes with the Creve Coeur, Des Peres & Frontenac and Chesterfield, plus a zip code for the Manchester Meadows shopping center with Manchester. This area would go from Warson Road and Olive (east of Lindbergh) to Olive/Clarkson Roads in Chesterfield including all or parts of Creve Coeur, Westwood, Frontenac, Des Peres, part of Clarkson Valley, a portion of unincorporated Maryland Heights and unincorporated Creve Coeur with a population of 80,000-plus. The commercial of Town and Country along Manchester Road has a

Manchester 63011 zip code which would boost Magrader's population area to over 100,000 to find her 1,600 patients.

Magruder did not mention how many of the patients at Children's Hospital are from zip codes for Florissant and Hazelwood or Arnold, High Ridge and Fetsus or Afton and Lemay. I have a feeling it would have been a large number, begging the question of why doesn't BJC build a pediatric facility near them?

Once again Magruder tried sell local politicians on how this would be convenient for the rich people in Town and Country but not that there is an actual need. If Magruder wanted to sound more caring she would have said how the location on I-64 one exit from I-270 would make it easy to get to for people throughout the region.

### **MEDIA WATCH I: Post-Dispatch reporter falls for Magruder's trick:**

Margaret Gillerman attended the BOA hearing and apparently was not listening carefully, never a good thing for a news reporter. Joan Magruder managed to hook and reel in a 60-plus Post-Dispatch reporter. Here is what she wrote:

St. Louis Children's Hospital President Joan Magruder said that about 1,600 children from Town and Country already receive outpatient services from Children's Hospital doctors.

Magruder's half-lie about how many people in Town and County where receiving treatment at Children's Hospital worked perfectly, hooking in a member of the media.

We hate to complain about local reporters who are from St. Louis, since they are sometimes very rare. Gillerman graduated from Ladue High School, plus she has a masters' degree from the Columbia School of Journalism. You would think that she would not fall for a trick like the one laid out by Magruder.



Gillerman

**Speakers Trashed Children's Hospital:** It was interesting that to sell alderpersons why there was a need for the facility, speakers with both BJC and Washington U Med

School, including Magruder, bad mouthed Children's Hospital saying how the traffic congestion, the lack of nearby parking and the long walks from walking garage makes it a place where no one wants to go.

**Competition and Market Share:** Dr Gary Omell, a long time radiologist at nearby St. Luke's Hospital and a member of the Planning and Zoning Board pointed out December P&Z meeting by pointing out there were four hospitals with extensive pediatric units within three miles of where BJC wants to build this facility.

"This is an issue about market share between Children's, Mercy and St. Luke's. It is not about the need of pediatric services in the area," said Omell who voted against the rezoning at the meeting, .

Retired internist Dr. Dorothy Cooke spoke at the Board of Aldermen meeting and made similar points.



Dr. Dorothy Cooke reading the below statement.

Here are Dr. Cooke's comments:

Dear Mayor and Aldermen,

As someone born and raised in St. Louis and then a physician here in for over 30 years, I have a keen interest in medical affairs in this community. During those 30+ years as a physician, I not only saw patients but had the opportunity to serve as a consultant to businesses, insurance companies, religious orders and labor unions. I have given testimony in court on several medical fraud cases. These activities have given me what I believe is a unique and unusual perspective with regard to medical care in general and specifically in St. Louis.

It has been some time since hospitals have sought primarily to "care" for patients. As the religious personnel have aged and left the "care scene", business has taken over. Medicine is no longer a "learned profession", it is a business. I believe we will all be sorely disappointed if we expect that we

are doing some wonderful, noble thing by allowing this proposal to proceed. There is nothing that will be located at this facility that is not already available at multiple locations within a 3 mile radius of this property. Dr. Magruder herself agreed with this last July... stating that the pediatric "experts" now located at Olive and Mason would simply move to this new location. It is obvious to anyone who has paid any attention to the medical "playing field" here in St. Louis what is going on here. Children's Hospital needs a very visible presence in West St. Louis County to compete effectively with Mercy's "only pediatric hospital in St. Louis County". Neither Missouri Baptist nor Barnes West has been able to cut into that market. It is a truly masterful business strategy ... the Children's Hospital logo atop a building literally feet from Hwy 64/40 at the geographic center of the county ... able to be seen from afar: east, west, north and south.

And why not? It's just doing business. What does it matter if there is no "need"? Who cares if it increases the cost of medical care, or decreases the property value of residences on Pembroke Valley, Pine Lake, Mason Estates or anywhere else? Who cares if it decreases income to current resident physicians in the area or inconveniences residents who drive on Mason Road? Who cares if problems occur with school children, young drivers, school traffic, or highway accidents? Town and Country doesn't even have to worry about the zoning ordinance... BJC has written one for us with specifications to fit their proposal. Why should we care that we already have a zoning ordinance that specifically addresses the issue of building on this property?

I CARE. I pray that a lot of people care. I hope, with all my heart that you, the elected representatives of Town and Country, care and are willing to stand firm and not approve this new zoning.

I understand that the likelihood of houses on 1 acre lots on this parcel is very slim to nonexistent. But surely there must be something of less intensity that is more appropriate for the corner of an overpass on a two lane road surrounded mostly by schools, churches and homes.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Dorothy J Cooke MD*

**SHILL FRED MEYLAND-SMITH:** Fred Meyland-Smith asked Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton if he could ask questions of Stock and Magruder after the public spoke. Dalton agreed to this and it turned into a dog-and-pony show, which is appropriate for a guy who was a dog food salesman at Ralston-Purina.

Instead of asking questions to better understand the issue or the statements made by Magruder, Meyland-Smith asked questions that did nothing but solidify Magruder's positions. It was if she was paying Meyland-Smith to ask the questions.

Fred should not even have been on the Planning and Zoning Dais that heard this in December or on the Board of Aldermen dais in January. Fred is on an advisory board of a BJC hospital. In July of 2012 I wrote about this and ran a copy of Fred's Linkedin resume page where he lists being on the BJC board. Now in January of 2014 he no longer lists this on his Linkedin page. It should not make any difference. He has a conflict of interest and should have recused himself. Here is the info from 2012 supplied by Fred.

### ***Fred Meyland-Smith's Additional Information***

Websites:

- [Company Website](#)
- [Company Website](#)

Interests:

Hunting - N. Dakota pheasant, MO & IA deer, Alaska caribou

Groups and Associations:

Alderman - Town and Country (4 yrs. President of Board) Board of Directors - Wings of Hope (St. Louis MO) **Community Advisory Board - Missouri Baptist Hospital**  
Colgate University Alumni Admissions Representative St. Louis Colgate Alumni Club  
President ('98 - '07)

**A FAITHFUL NEWSLETTER READER:** It also is obvious that Meyland-Smith reads this news letter. At the last P&Z meeting after George Stock announced BJC had plans to remove the 4-foot wide median and shrink the lanes on the I-64 overpass from 12-foot in width to 11-feet to add an additional left turn lane onto the eastbound I-64 ramp.

I spoke how 12-feet wide lanes are what is recommended by the U.S. Department of Transportation. I know this because I spent five-plus years working for a large urban county's Division of Transportation on the East Coast. One of my jobs was to assist in traffic planning along state highways in urban areas dealing with proposed redevelopment. George Stock kept saying how 11-foot lanes were acceptable to MoDot.

I wrote in our last T&C newsletter how by squeezing the lanes and eliminating the median on the overpass would made the jobs of Parkway Schools bus drivers' jobs of transporting kids to and from the Mason Ridge Elementary School more dangerous.

On Monday Meyland-Smith asked Stock if the 11-foot lanes were normal, safe and acceptable. When Stock said they were, Meyland-Smith shot me the stink eye.

There was a good reason why the lanes on that overpass are 12-feet wide now! Interstates highways, the ramps and overpasses have lane standards. It is for 12-foot wide lanes. If you or Fred don't believe me...here it is from a DOT publication online:



**Chapter 3**  
**The 13 Controlling Criteria**

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## Lane Width

The adopted criteria describe design values for through travel lanes, auxiliary lanes, ramps, and turning roadways. There are also recommended widths for special-purpose lanes such as continuous two-way left-turn lanes. AASHTO also provides guidance for widening lanes through horizontal curves to provide for the off-tracking requirements of large trucks. Lane width does not include shoulders, curbs, and on-street parking areas. Table 3 summarizes the range of lane widths for travel lanes and ramps.

Ranges for Lane Width

Type of Roadway	US (feet)	Rural Metric (meters)	US (feet)	Urban Metric (meters)
Freeway	12	3.6	12	3.6
Ramps (1-lane)	12-30	3.6-9.2	12-30	3.6-9.2

If you don't want to believe me or the Department of Transportation here is what Wikipedia says on the subject:

**"Minimum lane width:** Minimum lane width of 12 feet (3.66 m). Also for most US and state highways."

Regardless of what Stock and Meyland-Smith dog and pony show wants you to believe, while 11-foot lanes might be acceptable to MoDOT, 12-foot wide lanes are what is recommended.

**CITY REQUIRES 12 FOOT LANES TOO:** Keep in mind for any new subdivisions being built in Town and Country the width of the street has to be 26-feet. That accounts for one foot wide curbs and 12 foot wide lanes. Yes the city follows THE COUNTY requirement which is for 12 foot lanes on new residential streets. But Fred Meyland-Smith and George Stock and the caring people at BJC think 11 foot wide lanes are fine at a busy interstate interchange.

I hate to make this realization but after being around this guy and seeing him operate for six years, Fred Meyland-Smith he is a vindictive, pompous, stuff shirt jerk!



Fred Meyland-Smith asking gratuitous self-promoting questions of George Stock. Fred does an excellent job hiding the stuff shirt he always wears and the wind bag he always carries.



This is what happens with heavy traffic, buses and narrow lanes. Parkway school bus drivers have a tough enough job without making the traffic lanes narrow on the interstate overpass just north of a school.

**The final vote on this rezoning request and building plan will be at the Jan. 27 Board of Aldermen meeting.**

**KEEPING THE CITIZENS IN THE DARK** Prior to the Broad of Aldermen meeting there was the Architectural Review Board meeting. George Stock was presenting the building style and materials planned for the new BJC center if it gains approval at the next BOA meeting. The room was full and Stock, who in the past has had power-point presentations that were shown on huge screens on both sides of the room, decided on a change. He showed the ARB members photos on poster boards making sure the public could not see what he was presenting. One person familiar with the process who has watched Stock in the past commented, "There is nothing that George does that is not by design." The hearing was continued as the commission ran out of time.



Stock using exhibits that the public could not see in his presentation to the ARB.

**THE GREAT CLAYTON PARTY BUST PART II:** If you remember in our Ex-Alderman Newsletter 109 we reported how a Town and Country Alderperson's teenage adult offspring got arrested at a party in Clayton. A kid getting arrested for Minor in Possession of Alcohol is no big deal, however when the parent is telling anyone who will listen how they plan to hire Art Margulis, one the top criminal defense attorneys in town who normally handles murders, multi-million dollar embezzlements or a nationally

known rock star charged with starting a riot at a St. Louis concert. He is however not well known for dealing with everyday kids caught at a booze party.

I went to the Clayton Municipal Court and Police Department in attempt to confirm the party and arrests after a phone call and several e-mails I received about the bust. A Clayton court clerk verbally confirmed the arrest but refused to allow me to review any files or provide any confirmation in writing. The Police were even more tight lipped, which was a violation of the Missouri Sunshine law.

I filed several complaints and suddenly I received dispatch reports and confirmation of a charge from the court clerk.

At 11:14pm on Saturday December 21 Clayton Police officers Alexis Hatley, Edward Hinrichs, Ryan Riley and Michael Talbott received a call for a Loud Party at 440 S. Hanley. The call was not cleared for 1-hour and 34-minutes, with the final officer returning to patrol at 12:48am on Sunday morning. It is clear several people were detained and cited.

The police call taker wrote on the call, "2FL complex. Caller lives on first floor. People on 2<sup>nd</sup> FL having a party and being nosey and drinking or something."

The local politician's kid is due in Clayton Municipal Court on February 5.



Here is the party house...actually an apartment building, located on the east side S. Hanley, north of the Hanley/Wydown business district and two blocks before the Forest Park Parkway overpass.



## FINAL NUMBERSFOR DEER VS VEHICLES

**2013:** There were 12 Deer-Motor Vehicle accidents in December of 2013, bringing the total of deer-vehicle accidents for 2013 to 91. That number is six less than in 2012, but still that is a lot of dead deer on the side of the road.

Actually the 12 dead deer in December is an increase over the eight killed in December 2012, but the 14 in November of 2013 compared to 24 in 2012, dropped the overall number to 91.

Here are the locations of the deer-vehicle accidents in 2013

I-64/Hwy 40	25
Highway 141	21
Mason Road	13
Clayton Road	12
Weidman Road	4
Ladue Road	3
I-270	2
South Outer 40 Rd	2
North Outer 40 Rd	2
Conway Road	2
Des Peres Road	1
Bradburn	1
Topping Estates	1
Mason Valley Road	1
Foxleigh Ct	1

The four subdivision streets with deer hits are all in Ward-2.

**COPS SHUT DOWN SECOND DAY OF ESTATE SALE:** Joan and David the King and Queen of West County estate sales were holding an estate sale at the newer house at the corner of Brookwood Drive and Old Colony Lane off of Topping Road.

As usual Dave had direction signs to the sale posted in a 1-mile radius, plus the Joan and David listing on EstateSales.net brought out the usual big crowd. Due to the narrow streets and lack of parking they even hired an off-duty Town and Country police officer.



Joan and David in photos I took for a 2011 Patch.com column on West County Estates Sales.

During the first day of the sale the response was so large (normal for a Jan and David Sale) parking became a problem and Brookwood Drive became clogged. The police decided to cancel the permit for the second day of the sale (Sunday half-off day). I was told the police were worried about getting an ambulance or fire truck down the street.

This of course begs the question...if it was unsafe enough to cancel the sale on Sunday, why wasn't it unsafe enough to cancel it on Saturday. Are there a higher percentage of ambulance and fire truck calls on Sunday versus Saturday? To make matters more interesting was how there was a water main break about three hundred feet from the estate sale house.

## UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 56



**January 15, 2014**

**By John Hoffmann**

**WELL KNOWN ARTIST AND SCULPTOR ORDERED TO LEAVE BUILDING:** On November 20, Associated Circuit Court Judge Patrick Clifford issued an order for Don F,

Wiegand to vacate his studio located at One Wiegand Drive directly off Chesterfield Airport Road. The order was to take place immediately. However, Wiegand's attorney has asked for a reconsideration of the ruling and that is schedule for January 22.

Breman Recovery, LLC of 3529 N. Broadway in St. Louis had sued Wiegand earlier in the year and obtained the judgment. According to St. Louis County Property records the property is now in the name of Breman Recovery, LLC and for the first time in three years the real estate taxes have been paid on time.



Here is the court ruling:

THE COURT HAVING CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE PLEADINGS, MOTIONS, THE FILE, UNCONTROVERTED FACTS AND THE EXHIBITS SUBMITTED HEREIN AND THE APPLICABLE LAW APPURtenant HERETO, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, AS FOLLOWS: 1. THE COURT FINDS PLF LAWFULLY POSSESSED OF THE PREMISES AND THAT THE DEFNS DON F. WIEGAND, INDIVIDUALLY AND DON F. WIEGAND, D/B/A WIEGAND STUDIOS UNLAWFULLY DETAINED THE SAME; 2. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT PLF HAVE IMMEDIATE POSSESSION AND RESTITUTION OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AND NUMBERED AS ONE WIEGAND DRIVE, CHESTERFIELD, MO 63017 SAID PREMISES AND PROPERTY FOUND TO HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY OR UNLAWFULLY DETAINED; 3. DEFENDANTS THE WIEGAND FOUNDATION, INC. AND WIEGAND STUDIO'S LIMITED EDITIONS, INC. ARE, AT PLAINTIFF'S REQUEST, DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE; 4. ALL OTHER PENDING MOTIONS ARE DEEMED OVERRULED AND DENIED; 5. THIS CASE IS FULLY ADJUDICATED AND THE JUDGMENT ENTERED HEREIN IS ENTERED UPON

THE WHOLE CASE AND UPON ALL THE RELIEF REQUESTED; 6. EXECUTION IN UNLAWFUL DETAINER FOR THE POSSESSION OF THE PREMISES SHALL ISSUE TO THE STATE OF MISSOURI, TO THE SHERIFF OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, STATE OF MISSOURI, COMMANDED TO TAKE WITH HIM OR HER THE POWER OF THE COUNTY, IF NECESSARY, AND TO CAUSE THE SAID DEFENDANTS TO BE FORTHWITH REMOVED FROM THE SAID PREMISES, AND THAT THE SAID PLAINTIFF TO HAVE PEACEABLE POSSESSION THEREOF; AND 7. ALL COSTS OF THIS ACTION ARE TAXED AGAINST DEFENDANTS, JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY. COPY OF JUDGMENT AND ORDER MAILED THIS DATE TO THE PLF'S ATTY-JESS ULLOM AND TO DEF'S ATTY-JOHN WILEY BY THE DIV CLERK SO ORDERED: JUDGE PATRICK CLIFFORD

Wiegand is still on probation for a 2012 DWI conviction after his January 17, 2012 arrest. The Improper Lane Use charge in connection with the DWI was reduced to "Illegal Parking" and Wiegand was given a SIS probation term which means the DWI conviction will not appear on his record if he successfully completes probation.

**THEN THERE WERE TWO:** In our last newsletter we reported how Andy Kazen of 2029 Lake Clay Drive had filed to run against incumbent Mike Casey for the Ward-3 city Council seat. Kazen is best known for winning \$18,291 in poker tournaments. Someone having a poker face might be good. With Kazen you would think it is his professional card shark demeanor. With Casey you often wonder if he is paying attention.



Professional gamblers, Andy Kazen and Brett Maverick.

Now there is a race in Ward-2. Last week **Tom Northcott** of 1831 Rockmoor Drive has jumped into the races against incumbent Elliot Grissom.

Using real estate records the best we can figure is that Northcott has only lived in Chesterfield since 2010 when he purchased the house in Rockmoor Drive. The only other Thomas Northcott we could find in public records lived in Florissant. We could not find any vehicles registered on the county tax rolls at 1831 Rockmoor Drive.



Tom Northcott



Mike Casey on the left of Mayor Bob Nation and Elliot Grissom on the right.

Northcott is on the 2014 Manufacturer's Liaison Committee of The Specialty Tools & Fasteners Distributors Association, out of Elm Grove, Wisconsin and lists his home address of his business mailing address.

We asked several people familiar with Chesterfield city politics and none were familiar Northcott or Kazen.

#### **REGIONAL & AREA NEWS APPEARING IN BOTH THE T&C AND CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTERS.**

**FOLLOW THE MONEY PART II:** In our last newsletter we researched two years worth of campaign contributions to Governor Nixon, trying to figure out why he nominated lawyers John Maupin and John P. King to the St. Louis County Board of Elections. It was Maupin's ridiculous and unconstitutional rulings as the hearing officer of the Ellisville Impeachment Trail of Mayor Adam Paul that helped remove a elected official from office, which the circuit court immediately overturned. King had sent a SLAP letter to several Town and Country residents threatening to sue them on behalf of an ex-con drug dealer if they exercised their constitutional rights and went to city hall to complain about a zoning issue.

We could not find a money tie between Maupin and Nixon and now think Nixon made the nomination of Maupin simply as a bad joke...claiming the Republican candidates for the position at the Elections board are so bad, Maupin was the best he could find.

However we did find a money trail connected to John P. King. His law firm Lathrop and Gage gave Nixon \$10,000 in 2012.



We found some other interesting donations, especially considering how Republican RED West County is.

Town and Country Mayor **Jon Dalton** likes to paint himself as quite the good conservative Republican. The law firm, Lewis-Rice where he is a partner once claimed online how Dalton was a “Republican lobbyist” in Jefferson City. In 11 months Lewis-Rice gave \$12,000 to the Nixon campaign coffers.

The one that really caught my eye was the \$1,000 contribution to Nixon from Town and Country resident **Allen Allred**, a lawyer at Thompson-Coburn.

Allred was a Republican township committeeman and was also was a state committeeman of the Republican Party. According to the website followthemoney.org Allred also gave \$2,000 in 2012 to Democrat Attorney General Chris Koster and \$1,500 to Democrat Treasurer Clint Zweifel, who along with Nixon all won their 2012 elections. .

But his law firm likes to give money mostly to Democrats. In 2012 Thompson-Coburn gave \$99,000 to Democratic candidates and only \$15,500 to Republicans.

**W. Thomas Reeves**, of 19 Bellerive Club Grounds (a hotbed for rich Republicans), a former Town and Country Police commission member who never showed up for meetings, gave Nixon \$1,000. Reeves is also the president of the troubled Pulaski Bank.

**John McDonnell**, a Ward-2 resident and former corporate officer McDonnell-Douglas gave Nixon \$2,000.

**James Sinclair**, (Ward-1 T&C) who runs the Dave Sinclair automotive empire contributed gave Nixon \$500 and the Sinclair Auto Group gave \$1,500. This make a lot

of since, since Dave Sinclair, James late father and the founder of the car dealerships, was a city police officer in the 1950s and switched to selling cars due to the low pay for a person with a growing family.

Former T&C Alderman, former Democratic township president and Deer Lover **Al Gerber** gave Nixon \$25.

**Former T&C Alderman Bill Kuehling** gave \$500 to Nixon's campaign. Kuehling, who kept his party affiliation quiet, came up through St. Louis City Democratic ward politics and held several high level political patronage positions in the 1980s in the City of St. Louis.

It seems to be a bit ironic that a former state and local Republican committeeman (Allred) gave Nixon more money than the two residents closely associated with Democratic politics (Gerber and Kuehling).

The largest individual contribution we noticed coming out of snoburbia west of Lindbergh Blvd, was \$17,500 from **Robert Blits** of 61 Portland Drive in Frontenac.

My favorite individual contributor was from Jefferson City. It was **George Lombardi**, who is the director of the Missouri Department of Corrections. Over a one-year period Lombardi gave quarterly contributions of \$100, \$250, \$100 and \$250 to his boss just like he was paying his water bill.



Prison chief George Lombardi at a talk in Creve Coeur back in 2011.

I was surprised that I didn't see any contributions from Missouri football Coach Gary Pinkel. Pinkel is the highest paid Missouri employee who in 2012 pulled down \$2.7 million. You would think he'd contribute something to Nixon just to be sure no one

passes a law holding football coaches at state run universities to no more than \$250,000 a year.

Among corporate donors to Nixon there was our favorite, **Smithfield Farms**, of Virginia and the People's Republic of China. Smithfield owns two huge pig farms in Missouri and nearby farmers and property owners where finding the Smithfield Farms pig operations were damaging their property with pig waste pollution run off. Smithfield led the drive to pass legislation specific to their property which would only allow nearby property owners to sue them once for pollution. The legislation passed thanks to suburban Republican lawmakers voting for it and Nixon not vetoing it.

Smithfield Farms, which was purchased in 2013 by a company in China, gave Nixon \$17,500.

**The Missouri Pork Association**, which is heavily financed by Smithfield, chipped in another \$5,000.

**American Traffic Solutions**, the red light camera and photo radar people out of Arizona gave Governor Nixon \$2,500.

One the state's top lobbyist, **John Bargett Associates** of Chesterfield gave the Nixon campaign \$10,000 over seven months in 2012.

**Burns and McDonnell**, the big engineering firm with offices in Kansas City and in Town and Country (right on the border to Chesterfield) forked of \$60,000 to Nixon in seven months for the 2012 election.

**AND THE UNIONS:** Two of the larger union contributors to Nixon were from unions whose members make are on the low end of union scales.

**The Service Employees International Union** gave Nixon \$75,000 and the **United Food and Commercial** workers Union chipped in another \$50,000.



## SILVER BELLS ITS CHRISTMAS TIME IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE

...See who got what: There was one big winner!

**John Diehl [R]:** Nobody representing West County hauls in the lobbyists gifts like John Diehl. In the month prior to Christmas Diehl got six times more loot than the next West County legislator.

**\$25 ham from Smithfield Farms**...a Chinese owned company located in Virginia. Diehl has been a regular recipient of a free Christmas Ham from Smithfield ever since he helped pass and voted for a bill that would restrict the times Missouri landowners could sue Smithfield for polluting their property with pig waste.



The Smithfield Christmas Pig

Lobbyist John Britton gave Diehl a **\$22 tie**. Britton claimed the gift was from himself, who he lists as a lobbying client and not a specific client. Britton does lobbying for Anheuser-Busch, BNSF Railroad, Enterprise Holdings, Express Scripts among others and is a former tobacco lobbyist.

Just to get Diehl warmed up for Thanksgiving, Heath Clarkston, a lobbyist for RAI Services, part of the old Reynolds Tobacco Company (Winston tastes good like a cigarette should) provide Diehl with a **\$280 dinner on November 24**. Clarkston has a long list of lobbying clients, but this dinner was written off to RAI of Winston-Salem, NC. One of Clarkston's other clients is the Missouri Fireworks Association. Just who Missouri parents want to see their representative chow down with over a \$280 meal...someone who wants to hook their kids on cigarettes. (I fed a table of six relatives at the Cheshire Inn for Thanksgiving with drinks for \$300 including tip...Diehl gets a \$280 meal all to himself.)





Fred and Wilma enjoy a Winston in a commercial from Reynolds Tobacco on the old prime time Flintstones show. Diehl is now being fed by the same folks pushing smokes on kids in the early 1960s

**On the same day that Diehl got a \$280 meal from the cigarette people, he got a \$98 meal** from Sherry Doctorian. Doctorian claimed the \$98 meal was from the law firm that employees her Armstrong-Teasdale. She also lobbies for food and liquor distributors, Public Adjusters, Creditors, Centene among others.

Apparently Diehl wasn't full from eating \$378 worth of food and drink on November 24. The next day on November 25, Frank Plescia a lobbyist for the Bryan Cave law firm fed him a **\$30.87 meal** (in the case of Diehl that sounds like an appetizer). Plescia claims the meal was from Bryan Cave. He also lobbies for Doe Run, the nice folks with the grossly overpriced items at ballparks and arenas, SportsService, Inc. plus several others.

Of course a \$30.78 meal is hardly going to fill up a guy like John Diehl. Also on November 25 he got a **\$48 meal from lobbyist Sandie Benen of Chicago**. Like most lobbyists, Benen listed herself as a client and claims she was lobbying Diehl for herself. This way lobbyist can hide from the public who is actually giving something to the elected official. In fact she lobbies for the drug industry.

On November 26 it is time for Diehl to eat again on special interest group's dime. This time it is **\$150 meal and ticket to a regional awards dinner**, paid for by a lobbyist for Enterprise.

Christmas week it was time for Diehl to eat again for free. On **December 18 he got a \$43 meal from a lobbyist for the Missouri Hospital Associations**. One of the reasons your hospital bill is so high, is their lobbyist is buying people like John Diehl meals.

Two days before Christmas the lobbyist for Ameren UE bought Diehl a **\$24 snack**. Next time you get your electric bill remember how you helped fed Diehl and others on the state legislature.

In a month Diehl managed to eat \$700 worth of free food plus he got a \$22 tie.

**State Rep Sue Allen [R]:** Unlike Diehl, the month leading up to Christmas Rep Sue Allen only received \$90.64 worth of free food and did not receive a Christmas ham from Smithfield Farms. Her largest meal was from the lobbyist of an over-the counter drug group.

**State Rep. Don Gosen [R]** . All Don Gosen got for Christmas was the lousy \$22 tie from John Britton and a \$23 meal on December 12 from the lobbyist for liquor distributor from Dallas, Texas. Gosen also did not rate a Christmas ham.

**State Rep. Bill Otto (D):** Bill is hungry. He is one of those rare elected officials who does not take anything from lobbyists.

**State Rep. Susan Meredith (D):** Sue only ate \$40 worth of free lobbyist food in the month before Christmas. That is like soup or a salad for some of Diehl's meals.

**State Rep. Jill Schupp (D):** Schupp who plans to run for the State Senate in 2014 took no gifts from lobbyists in 2013.

**Senator John Lamping [R]:** Lamping does not accept gifts from lobbyists, but he sure does accept large campaign contributions from most lobbyists' clients.

**Senator Brian Nieves [R]:** All Nieves got during the holidays was his \$25 Smithfield Farms Christmas Ham. How do you say Merry Christmas in Chinese?



Another Smithfield Farm gift recipient

**Senator Eric Schmitt [R]:** Eric got his Christmas tie and his Smithfield Farm ham plus a \$24 meal from the Isle of Capri Casino and a \$16 meal from the Noranda Aluminum folks.



Also a Smithfield Farm gift receiver.

## CITY OF CLAYTON GIVES THE FINGER TO THE DEMUN BUSINESS DISTRICT:

**DISTRICT:** On Wednesday night January 8, three full days after the Sunday 11inch snowfall had ended, the city of Clayton had ignored doing any snow removal of the parking spaces in the DeMun Avenue business district. However, businesses in the central Clayton area had cleared parking areas.



Cars were parked in the street or could not park at all along the end of DeMun Avenue in front of Sasha's, Jimmy's on the Park and Kaldi's Coffee Shop thanks to snow covered un-cleared curb areas.

**GRINCH WHO REALLY DID STEAL CHRISTMAS:** The Webster Groves Police received a request for extra patrol at the Christmas House on West Jackson Avenue after it was reported some decorations were stolen. The cops did not actually bother taking a report, despite thefts being Part 1 crimes on the FBI Crime Stats. So I would not believe all the crime stats showing a low crime rate coming out of Webster Groves if the cops are too lazy to write up a report of a theft from this iconic holiday house.



## MUSIC:

**FREE TICKETS FOR CONCERT:** On Sunday February 23 at 3pm there will be a concert at the Scottish Rite at 3633 Lindell Blvd, featuring the Big Little Band made up of mostly former Air Force Band musicians. This will be a Rat Pack Concert featuring vocalist Steve Shininger. For free tickets all you have to do is send a stamped self addressed envelope to

Scottish Rite Concert Series  
3633 Lindell Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63108

Last year we went to a Big Little Band Concert with vocalist Dean Christopher and it was a lot of fun.



The Big Little Band from its 2013 show.

**WEST COUNTY JAZZ FIXTURE DOING A SATURDAY LUNCH SHOW:** Joe Bozzi, a long time St. Louis jazz vibe player whose groups were weekend regulars around town and at the old Seventh Inn in Ballwin, will be at Talayan's in Chesterfield on Olive west of Woods Mill Road this Saturday from noon-3. Grab a pizza and hear some jazz.



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT A SASHA'S:



## CARTOONS:







"That's it! I did it! I finally figured out how to hit the perfect golf shot every single time!!"