

**EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 461 AND CHESTERFIELD UNAPPROVED  
406**



January 8, 2021

**RUMOR HAS CLEMENTINES ICE CREAM SHOP STILL COMING TO TOWN AND COUNTRY, JUST NOT TO THE TOWN SQUARE.** When developer Bob Brinkman was building the Town Square, better known as Mayor Jon Dalton's \$10,000,000 empty lot, he announced that Clementine's Ice Cream store with two stores in St. Louis and one in Clayton was going to have a store in the Town Square. It never happened and in fact for a number of months there were ZERO retail outlets in the development. Two years later there are just three.

We have recently heard that Clementine's is about to put a shop in at the Mason Woods Village shopping center next door to the Town Square. As of this week there has been no business license application for Clementine's filed with the city.

Clementine's promotes "Naughty and Nice" Ice Cream. The "Naughty" ice cream is made with booze or has a sauce with liquor in it.





**FORMER POLICE CHIEF AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR GARY HOELZER ISSUES A LETTER PUTTING BLAME OF CITY PROBLEMS AT THE FEET OF FORMER ALDERWOMEN LINDSEY BUTLER AND MAYOR CANDIDATE ALD. TIFFANY FRAUTSCHI.** I had heard about this letter that is apparently headed to West Magazine but did not see a copy of it until January 2. Gary not only attacks Butler and Frautschi but also some of their supporters. This seemed to be a strange thing for someone from Webster Groves, in management of a large stock brokerage firm, Edward R. Jones with many customers in Town and Country taking sides on this issue.

## **From the Desk of Gary A. Hoelzer**

December 30, 2020

I saw the story on Elliott Davis' "You Paid for It" in November regarding former alderman Lindsey Butler and the group of citizens who are calling for a state audit of Town and Country, primarily relating to the development of Town Square and the Mason Road Trail project. I retired from Town and Country in March 2019 after serving 34 years, leaving as the Chief of Police but also serving nearly five years as the City Administrator. I was going to remain silent but knowing that current staff cannot address Lindsey's allegations; and knowing that current and former elected officials who disagree may be dismissed, I have decided to speak.

As the former City Administrator during much of the formative phases of the town square project, I was perplexed, but not surprised, to see former alderman Lindsey Butler asking for a state audit of the City of Town and Country. Lindsey Butler may have been in front of the camera but, if the past is precedent, only as the unofficial spokesperson for alderman Tiffany Frautschi, whose ambition is to be the next mayor. One must wonder if this was part of a broader strategy, developed by some familiar names, to either discredit Mayor Dalton should he decide to run for another term, or to create the perception of doom and that significant change is needed in the person of Tiffany Frautschi.

However, I am perplexed at the focal point if this is the strategy. Town square is perhaps the most transparent process that has occurred for any similar project. Town square followed immediately on the failure of a multi-story assisted living development on the same Wirth property. It was then that the City stepped in and voted to purchase the property to preserve this historic land for generations to come. Public meetings, a city-wide survey, public forums, a committee of contiguous neighborhood representatives – all informed the elected representatives of the direction supported by the community.

Civics 101 will inform a young student that it is the legislative branch that controls the purse strings. The office of the Mayor presides, but it is the aldermen that fund, or do not fund, projects like town square and the Mason Road trail project. It was the Board of Aldermen who voted to purchase the Wirth property, and an audit will show that Butler and Frautschi voted for most of the legislation that funded town square. While I was still at T&C there were approximately 26 pieces of legislation acted upon by the Board of Aldermen. Aldermen Butler and Frautschi voted in favor of 22 of those bills, they split their vote on another bill, and voted "nay" on the remaining three bills. Two of those latter bills involved upgrades to a water feature and deck material, totaling \$89,126. The third bill was divisive (4-4 with the Mayor casting the tie breaking vote) because it was a professional service agreement with Stock and Convy, who led the City through the development. The Board supported these professionals, but the bill was read twice due to an urgent need with MSD and half of the Board disagreed with two readings in one meeting. So, this issue was more about procedure than money.

The record will also show that some of the additional expenses included a personalized landscaping plan for Butler's neighbors who border the southern edge of town square, as well as moving the storage facility from its original (logical) location at the rear of town square to its current (illogical) location, which is now the focal point of the front door to town square. This is because another friend and neighbor of Lindsey Butler objected to the well-designed building, which would have been several hundred feet from her back door and hidden by a grove of trees.

Another important element of town square that should not be lost is that Mayor Dalton did not preside over most of the proceedings related to its funding. That is because he had a past business relationship with contractor Bob Brinkmann, so Mayor Dalton recused himself from presiding when funding with the contractor was discussed. If one would simply look at the legislation on the city's town square page it is obvious that it was the President of the Board of Aldermen who presided over the aldermanic proceedings, not Mayor Dalton.

Butler also cited the failed Mason Road trail. The trail master plan was created by the voice of the community through input at public meetings and forums. When the opportunity arose to partner with St. Louis County, the Parks and Trails Commission, represented by all four wards, recommended that a trail be established along Mason Road connecting the Clayton Road Trail to Queeny Park. The Board of Aldermen agreed and passed the necessary legislation to bring this portion of the master plan to fulfillment, including Ordinance 4208 that was supported by Butler and Frautschi and passed unanimously. Even though the Aldermen passed legislation for the project, Mayor Dalton appointed another working group representative of the neighborhoods along the trail to address some of the concerns about the project voiced in the discussions. After several meetings, this representative group also voted overwhelmingly to endorse the trail project. The Park Grant Commission of St. Louis County also reviewed and approved the project for a 50-percent funding match. While there may have been several factors that led to the failure of this project, not insignificant was interference by Aldermen Butler and Frautschi in staff's efforts to secure easements and coordinate with the St. Louis County Department of Transportation.

So, if the State Auditor decides to audit the City, she will discover that the one yelling "fire" was the very one who struck the match. The interviews on Fox 2 got one thing correct. I agree with resident Steve on one statement -- things are "clearly out of control." But it is not the mismanagement of municipal affairs, but those who create chaos so they can promise peace. They are crusaders without a crusade, so they create divisiveness in what should be a peaceful, harmonious community.

*Gary Hoelzer*

I disagree with Gary on several points. Six years ago Dalton came to the Alderman saying he made an informal offer to buy the 9 acres of a vacant lot on a flood plain for \$2,250,000. They needed to approve a sale. Dalton said he could see a beautiful park development with a "lake" and a commercial section with a restaurant. He wanted to buy the property from the Wirth family. Estimates from Dalton to develop the property and control flood water came in at \$3,480,000. Plus the purchase price the costs in 2016 were estimated at \$5,680,000. Dalton originally told the public the total cost to the city would be around \$3,661,000 total to buy the land and develop it.

At the end of 2019 the total costs are at \$9,904,914. Plus, maintenance of the property is costing the city approximately \$100,000 a year.

During Gary Hoelzer's time as City Administrator the Ward-2 Alderwomen Tiffany Frautschi and Lindsey Butler complained that Hoelzer's staff refused to provide them with cost figures proposed for the Town Square being built in Ward-2.

This is from one of my newsletter in November of 2016:

**TOWN AND COUNTRY ALDERMEN VOTED ON TOWN SQUARE PROJECTS**

**WITHOUT KNOWING THE COST:** *I knew that some city staffers have an estimated price (guess) from the Brinkmann Development Company on how much the Town Square Development will cost. I believed at least the City Administrator and one or more alderpersons knew the prices. But the entire Board of Alderpersons voted to accept the Brinkmann proposal over the Opus proposal without knowing the price estimates connected to either one of the proposals.*

*I confirmed from several sources that the Board of Aldermen as a whole (minus the mayor and Linda Rallo who had recused themselves) were never told the estimated prices of either project.*

**This begs the question; HOW DO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES VOTE TO APPROVE A PROPOSAL WITHOUT KNOWING HOW MUCH IT WILL COST?**

*Before the meeting began in the Work Session Ald. Tiffany Frautschi was adamant that she wanted to go into closed session and find out how much the proposals were estimated to cost. I was told that both Ward-2 Alderwomen Tiffany Frautschi and Lindsey Butler fought to obtain the cost numbers but the city attorney allowed staff to refuse to provide the information.*

So both Butler and Frautschi had legitimate issues dealing with Hoelzer while he was city administrator.

Citizens have legitimate issues with the costs of the Town Square and over \$500,000 spent on road and sidewalk proposals that never got built resulting in four years of overall budget deficits for Town and Country and a disappearing budget reserve.



Butler



Frautschi



Hoelzer



Dalton

Once again here are the cost not including annual maintenance for the Town Square:  
TOWN SQUARE COSTS 01/02/21

**\$2,250,000** purchase price in January of 2015

\$34,845 misc expenses including consulting fees

**\$2,284,845** total spent at the end of 2016

+ 330,000 spoil sampling, engineering work, consultant fees 2017

**\$2,614,845**

+\$5,759,208 2018 construction costs for grounds and stormwater retention pond

**\$8,374,053**

+ 340,000 unbudgeted for east side trail, contrasting paving stones and 2<sup>nd</sup> restroom

**\$8,714,053**

+ 156,386 approved 11/27/17 for payment to American Water to move water main **\$8,870,439**

+ 40,000 approved on 12/11/17 for \$196,294 for second restrooms in Town Square.  
\$156,294 already budgeted. Additional \$40,000 for new Sanitary Sewer lines placement.

**\$8,910,439**

+ 25,000 Engineering design for Maintenance Building 01/08/18

**\$8,935,439**

+ 106 Coffee for the Dec 16 Town Square "Ground Breaking" added on 1/8

**\$8,935,545**

+ 27,000 Architectural Service for Town Square Pavilion add on 01/22/18

**\$8,962,545**

+ 33,200 2/6/18 Design revisions for Town Square 1<sup>st</sup> reading 2/12/18

**\$8,995,745**

+ 103,109 first read 2/26/18 sewer design revisions, asbestos removal from house

**\$9,098,854** prior to demo and slope stability and seepage prevention.

+ 36,904 Soil testing, removal and replacement in area of retention pond 3/12/18

**\$9,135,758**

+ 50,290 Additional security cameras 3/26/18 first read

**\$9,186,048**

+ 12,119 Electrical rerouting on north side of Clayton Road 3/26/18 first read

**\$9,198,167**

+ 469,617 Architectural changes and new construction costs 7/23/18

**\$9,667,784**

= \$38,512 late fee aldermen refused to pay 8/13/18

**\$9,629,272**

+ 167,186 changes in site plan, additional electrical work, pump station 8/13/18

**\$9,796,458**

+ 43,745 upgrade of materials for deck, change to concrete patio 8/13/18

**\$9,840,203**

= 750 Fire pit construction voted down by Alderpersons on 09/10/18

**\$9,839,453**

+ 92,439 Additional Landscaping

**\$9,931,892**

= 92,439 Board of Aldermen refuse to pay.

**\$9,839,453**

+ 24,516 Legal fees charged by city attorney 01/01/17 to 08/31/18

**\$9,863,969**

- 807,831 Check from Brinkman Development for purchase of Town Sq land **\$9,056,138**

+ 71,000 Change order #11 to Brinkman for debris removal, tree removal, grading 10/22/18

**\$9,127,138**

+ 308 Lawyer's fee for September on Town Square

**\$9,127,446**

+ 25,391 Retention wall upgrade due to ground water at Clayton Rd tunnel

**\$9,152,837**

+ 4,682 Additional Architectural fees 12/1/18 paid on 01/14/19

**\$9,157,519**

+ 85,043 Brinkman Holdings ongoing development costs 04/1/19 **\$9,242,562**

+ 262 M& H Architects Town Square Pavilion design work 04/01/19

**\$8,432,824**

+ 103,109 Brinkman Holdings ongoing development costs 3/01/19 **\$9,345,933**

+ 187,748 Brinkman Holdings ongoing development costs 02/01/19 **\$9,533,681**

+ 185,995 For Work scheduled in 2018 that was completed in 2019 5/1/19

**\$9,719,676**

+ 40,200 T. Hill Construction to install sod 6/10/19

**\$9,759,876**

+ 312 TSI Geotechnical Construction/land testing 6/01/19

**\$9,760,188**

+ 126,947 Brinkman development agreement 7/1/19 **\$9,887,135**

+ 2,782 T. Hill Construction fence installation 12/30/19

**\$9,889,917**

+ 14,997

**\$9,904,914** Purchase benches and trash cans 02/24/20

**IN RESPONSE TO THE HOELZER LETTER:** Clearly this letter went to West Magazine and a reporter has been calling for comments from people involved in the audit.

Here are some comments in reaction to Gary Hoelzer's letter. First is from Steve Krause.

**From:** Steven Krause <[skrausestl@gmail.com](mailto:skrausestl@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** January 3, 2021 at 9:57:24 AM CST  
**Subject:** T&C Performance Audit Petition Update

Hi everybody, and Happy New Year :-)) I want to give you all an update on the petition effort as we head into 2021...

#### Petition Progress

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You should start seeing door hangers around town designed to alert residents to the petition drive and provide easy links to a web site that explains the facts behind the effort. The site has been updated with the latest info since I last sent you this link: <https://sites.google.com/view/citizens4tc/home>

There may be an article, and also some letters-to-the editor both favorable and otherwise (more on this in a second), in the online and print editions of West-Newsmagazine in the next few days. Despite the fact that everyone is mostly avoiding knocking on people's doors to keep folks safe, petition signatures have continued to flow in through the holiday. The auditor's office allows a full year for the petition drive, so based on initial responses it seems fairly likely that sufficient signatures will be collected in plenty of time to support the performance audit.

After expressing his support for audits in a recent FOX2 "You Paid For It" segment, our mayor has announced his decision not to run again. But the petition drive goes on.

#### Surprising Opposition

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The petition volunteers may have kicked up a surprising hornet's nest of antagonism that is being led by a few current and former city officials and insiders who appear determined to kill the whole thing. Why public servants whose only goal is to deliver great results to T&C residents would fight an independent performance audit designed to evaluate our business processes and recommend improvements, is hard to explain. The main reasons being given seem to be two:

(1) That the ward 2 aldermen who were in office at the time of the project overruns and failures referred to in the performance audit request are actually to blame themselves. They are being accused (again) of "bullying" city employees and preventing these employees from doing their jobs, which caused all the trouble for the projects that overran and failed, and of now leading the petition drive.

The aldermen were Lindsey Butler and Tiffany Frautschi. As you will see on the petition drive website, Lindsey is a petition volunteer, but Tiffany is not.

This attack is a recycled smear that you may remember was first launched two election cycles ago by a candidate opposing incumbent Tiffany Frautschi, in a door-to-door whispering campaign that was conducted, if you can believe it, by grown ups. Ward 2 voters responded by re-electing Tiffany Frautschi by a margin of about 3-to-1.

It seems like anybody that actually believes this stuff would want an independent performance audit even more. And it's really hard to understand why the smear campaigners would also criticize the very people they blame for these failures for getting behind an independent performance audit to uncover the causes.

(2) That a performance audit will cost too much at a time when the current budget is already stressed.

The state auditor's office estimates the audit cost at up to \$130,000 which the city could spread over several annual budgets if necessary. This might seem like a big number for a first-ever performance audit for Town and Country, but it doesn't seem like a very big number compared to the cost growth of just one of the cited projects: Town Square ballooned by more than \$6.5 million to \$10 million without actually delivering the amenities that were promised.

To me this situation is like that time when your car starts making a funny noise. It's generally not a good idea to avoid calling a mechanic to save money because these things don't usually solve themselves or get cheaper to fix. Our Town and Country luxury SUV is clanking, grinding gears and leaking oil all over the driveway, and it seems prudent to get an independent expert to check under the hood to help us figure out what's wrong and recommend repairs.

Thanks

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That's it from here. The petition form is still out on the porch with Pam's original sign on top to help you find it, or if you prefer you can print the petition form yourself right from the web site, perhaps even share it with a T&C neighbor, and drop it off here. As signatures accumulate we drop the signed forms off and they go to the auditor's office to be tabulated, leaving a fresh set of forms and pens for you on the porch.

Thanks, everybody. Holler if I can answer questions or help in any other way.

Steve Krause



Steven Krause being interviewed by Elliott Davis for a You Paid

For it Segment.

Here is an email from former Alderwoman Lynn Wright, a Daltonite, supporter of the Town Square project and any costly project that had the word “parks” attached to it. It is followed by a response from Lindsey Butler.

**From:** Lynn Wright <[lynnwright@gmail.com](mailto:lynnwright@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Letter from Gary Hoelzer

**Date:** December 31, 2020 at 4:45:38 PM CST

All:

It has been quite a year as we all can agree. Even with politics of our community has been challenged. I am reaching out to each of you with a letter that Gary Hoelzer former City Administrator and retired Chief of Police of our city has taken his time to write. The letter is about what is happening with our former Ward 2 Alderman Lindsey Butler and Ward 2 Alderman Tiffany Frautschi with regards to a petition for a audit. .

Please read and if you agree with Gary’s letter I ask you to forward to residents in our community to make them aware of what is really happening.

I wish you the best and good health for the coming New Year,

Sincerely,

Lynn Wright

This is a response from on January 3, 2021 by former Alderwomen Lindsey Butler regarding Hoelzer’s letter and the apparent fear of some former elected officials of a in depth performance audit.

**From:** Lindsey Butler  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 3, 2021 10:14 PM  
**To:** John Hoffmann <johnhoffmann@charter.net>  
**Subject:** If you want a rebuttal

The small group of former aldermen and an appointed official that are speaking in opposition towards conducting an independent, professional performance audit of city operations is very surprising, especially given the recent project costs that have been significantly over estimates\*, experienced extreme delays\*\*, and ended as expensive repairs. We should expect that our city insiders would welcome the improvement recommendations that will come from a state performance audit.

You have to wonder what these few officials, who had first hand knowledge of the projects, are afraid will be uncovered in the audit. Their resistance makes the need for an independent performance audit seem even more obvious.

Here is Butler's further response to the letter on January 6, 2021:

In response to the recent letter from the desk of a former city admin and the emails from former aldermen concerning the resident-led petition for an independent performance audit.

The petition for a performance audit of the city to be conducted by the State Auditor has caused some city officials and a former staff member to push back hard against it and suggest that personal views are the reason an audit is being pursued. Fortunately, feelings and opinions are not what is used by the State Auditor's office when conducting an audit, instead public documents, financial information, resident input and surveys, contracts, bids and procedural processes are the tools for review.

Unfortunately, the true reason for the petition for an audit is that several of our recent projects have not met deadlines, have gone significantly above estimates and budgets, and/or not met residents and board expectations. As a former elected official, I am wanting to discover what happened to allow these issues to occur and I will humbly accept my part in them happening and any consequences that come about.

The projects sent to the State Auditor as reason for a petition for performance review were Town Square, Clayton/Ballas intersection, South Mason sidewalk, and Weidman sidewalk. However, due to resident tips and banker boxes full of documents and city recordings, that have already been reviewed, the State Auditor's office changed the scope to include the entirety of the city.

So, as I help the growing group of neighbors that are leading this petition for a performance audit of our city government, I am not dissuaded by the feelings or opinions of those colleagues that may be upset by the upcoming audit. It would be good to consider why someone wouldn't want to have the curtain pulled back and accountability for our tax dollars and projects to be undertaken.

Lindsey Butler

Gary Hoelzer quit as City Administrator to become Chief of Police when Pat Kranz retired. Hoelzer had been with the police department for over 30 years and kept his police training updated while city administrator.

In 2019 Frautschi's opponent for alderperson claimed Frautschi created problems for the police department. Pat Kranz issued a letter denying problems and praised Frautschi. Tiffany Frautschi used the letter in a campaign mailer.

**TIFFANY FRAUTSCHI** Supports and Supported by

*"As a retired Chief of Police for the City of Town and Country, I worked closely with Alderman Frautschi both on safety issues in Ward 2 and in her role as the Chair of the Police, Fire and EMS Commission. I can attest to her integrity, professionalism and her commitment to public safety. Tiffany never hesitated to ask tough questions about budgets, policies and legislation, knowing that doing so would ensure a successful outcome for the City. Her support of the police officers and the staff at City Hall was nothing short of impressive. I am very proud to have served with her."*

-Chief Pat Kranz (ret.)  
Town and Country Police Department  
1986-2017, Chief 2013-2017

**VOTE for TIFFANY on Tuesday, April 2, 2019**

[WWW.TIFFANY4TOWNANDCOUNTRY.COM](http://WWW.TIFFANY4TOWNANDCOUNTRY.COM)

**THEN THERE WAS THIS EMAIL TO TIFFANY FRAUTSCHI AND LINDSEY BUTLER FROM GARY HOELZER.** Apparently Gary is about to be ordained. He quotes the Bible a lot.

<b>From:</b>	Gary Hoelzer <garyah59@gmail.com>
<b>Sent:</b>	Wednesday, December 23, 2020 2:19 PM
<b>To:</b>	Frautschi, Ald Tiffany
<b>Subject:</b>	State Audit of T&C

Hi Lindsey and Tiffany,

I wanted to write directly to both of you in response to the public request for a state audit of Town and Country. After a few weeks of deliberation I decided to author a response that has subsequently been shared with a number of people. But before I further pursue publishing my perspective I thought it was the right thing to reach out to you. In today's national political climate we do a lot of yelling at the other side but sitting down for a discussion is not as common. As Steven Covey said, seek first to understand, then to be understood. Or as my current managing partner has stated, "Seek first to understand, and then be kind." With your respective backgrounds it would also be appropriate to follow the Biblical injunction that if you have something against another go to them first. So I write in that spirit and not to criticize or argue.

First let me say that I recognize that both of you have given considerable time and parts of your lives to Town and Country, as have all of those who have chosen to serve in an elected or appointed position. If I needed someone to champion my cause I could think of no one else that would be more passionate. I was listening to a Bible study several months ago by pastor and author Craig Groeschel that was entitled, "Some Things are Worth the Fight." One of his points was that a warrior without a cause to fight for will find the wrong thing to fight against. I have used a similar phrase, *crusaders without a crusade* will go searching for one and if they can't find it, they will create one. There is so much good in Town and Country and I have a lot of respect for the aldermen and Mayor that have served alongside of you. Each individual strove to do what is best for the city, even if all were not agreed on what that may be on a particular issue. Every bill was voted upon after considerable deliberation, sometimes debate, and with public input.

Regarding the audit request, I am just a little perplexed. Up until my departure, the two of you voted for the vast majority of the bills related to town square (22-26). You split your vote on one of the remaining bills, you opposed upgrades to the pump for the lake and decking material on two others, and you both opposed a double reading of the Stock/Convy agreement, along with two other aldermen. Someone else has analyzed Lindsey's voting record until her departure from the Board and the dollar amount supported by those votes is the vast majority of the funded amount for the project. That is why the call for a state audit is confusing...you voted to fund the very projects you want audited...the ones yelling fire helped light the match. It is also worth noting that Lindsey's neighbors that border the southern edge of town square each met with a landscape architect for a personalized landscaping plan, funded by the city. If I am not mistaken, Lindsey attended most of those private meetings. Tiffany also made the motion to move the maintenance building to its current location, which also resulted in a (modest?) cost to change the original plans, solely for the benefit of another neighbor and friend.

I will close with something that I attempt to live by, yet sometimes fail to achieve. As I listened to the public dialogue the past few years of my career at Town and Country, I was reminded of the two kinds of wisdom that James addressed in his short letter. The wisdom that comes naturally he calls earthly, yet the wisdom that should mark our lives, both public and private, is heaven-inspired. He writes in chapter 3:

[13](#)Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. [14](#)But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. [15](#)Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. [16](#)For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

[17](#)But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. [18](#)Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Both of you have many good traits that I have witnessed over the years, especially how you care for your families and the compassion you have expressed in a variety of ways, even to me and my family. I am reaching out to let you know the perspective of one who has nothing to gain and has no more role in the affairs of the city. Prior to your arrival and prior to Mayor Dalton's time in office, there were times that T&C was the laughingstock of the metro area because of its bitter political rivalries, often making the news in a negative way. Much to his credit and to those who were subsequently elected, civility and respect were restored. I hate to see a needless return to those days.

I truly hope your families have a Merry, blessed Christmas. Looking with hope to 2021.

Sincerely,  
Garv

Gary retired and took a job in Des Peres with Edward Jones. He lives in Webster Groves. Perhaps he would better serve Town and Country residents if he showed more interest in Webster Groves city politics.

**UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 406**



# CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT Crime Report

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 29, 2020**

<u>Report Number</u>	<u>Time of Occurrence</u>	<u>Generic Address</u>	<u>Business/Location Name</u>	<u>Subdivision</u>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>
20 4689	12/29/2020, 1656 12/29/2020, 1656	18XXX OUTLET BLVD	Nike	CHESTERFIELD BLUE VALLEY	5	4	Larceny Over \$750 Shoplifting
<b>Arrested:</b>							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> Unknown subjects grabbed clothing and ran out of store without paying.							

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30, 2020**

20 4694	12/30/2020, 1420 12/30/2020, 1435	9X LONG RD	Walgreens	LONG ROAD CROSSING	5	4	Larceny under \$750 Shoplifting
<b>Arrested:</b> Whittaker,Alena   B   52   F Jackson,Andrea M   B   34   F							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> 34 and 52 yo females took alcohol and left store without paying. Also in possession of narcotic paraphernalia, other stolen property, and gave false information to officers.							

**Alena Whittaker** 52 East St. Louis, IL

12/30/20 Stealing Walgreens pending Chesterfield PD  
09/24/20 Receive Stolen Property pending Manchester PD

**Andrea M. Jackson** 34



12/30/20 Stealing Walgreens pending Chesterfield PD  
08/05/17 2-counts Assault, 2-counts Stealing pending St. Louis City PD  
02/08/11 Fel Stealing Guilty Probation revoked 6 months jail Bridgeton PD  
06/17/10 Felony Stealing Guilty Probation revoked 6 mos jail Maplewood PD  
12/28/09 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia guilty St. Louis City PD

20 4695	12/30/2020, 1453 12/30/2020, 1453	1XX THF BLVD	Walmart	CHESTERFIELD COMMONS	6	4	Robbery With Other Weapon
<b>Arrested:</b> Kallam,Matthew S   W   41   M							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> 41 yo male placed merchandise in shopping cart and walked out of store without paying. Upon being confronted by Walmart security, subject threatened victim with a Taser. No injuries reported.							

**Matthew S. Kallam** 41



12/30/20 Armed Robbery pending Wal Mart Chesterfield PD

02/20/20	Trespassing pending	St. Ann PD
10/05/19	Littering Guilty	St. John PD
09/27/19	Making False Police Report warrant	University City PD
02/14/02	Felony Drug Possession	Eden NC

20 4696	12/30/2020, 1613 12/30/2020, 1613	1XX THF BLVD	Walmart	CHESTERFIELD COMMONS	6	4	Larceny under \$750 Shoplifting
<b>Arrested:</b> Hines, Kimberly D   W   53   F							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> 53 yo female placed merchandise in shopping cart and left store without paying.							

**Kimberly D. Hines 53**



12/30/20	Stealing pending Wal Mart	Chesterfield PD
02/02/20	Felony Drug Possession pending	Normandy PD
12/10/19	No Auto Insurance pending	Overland PD

20 4697	12/30/2020, 1640 12/30/2020, 1640	1XX THF BLVD	Walmart	CHESTERFIELD COMMONS	6	4	Drugs Possession - Felony
<b>Arrested:</b> Baker, Howard L   W   40   M							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> 40 yo male in possession of fentanyl after call for suspicious persons inside store.							

**20-4697 Drug Violation:** While the Special Enforcement Unit was conducting a larceny investigation at Walmart two individuals who were attempting to switch price tags were issued formal trespass notices and banned from the store. One of the individuals had two active warrants for his arrest and a search incident to his arrest revealed illicit drugs which were felonious in nature. A full custodial arrest of the subject was made and he was then released pending application of warrants.

**Howard Lee Baker** W/M YOB 1980 resides Florissant, MO



12/30/20	Felony Drug Possession Walmart	Chesterfield PD
10/29/20	Driving While Revoked pending	Hazelwood PD
06/29/20	Stealing pending	Bellefontaine Neighbors
11/30/19	Stealing pending	Florissant PD
05/03/19	Burglary pending	Florissant PD
01/31/19	Trespassing warrant	Florissant PD
02/28/18	Trespassing, Poss of Drug Para warrant	Florissant PD
02/23/18	Felony Drug Possession pending	Florissant PD
01/13/18	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia pending	O'Fallon PD
09/18/16	Poss of Drug Paraphernalia warrant	Florissant PD
09/08/16	DWI, Open Container, Speeding, Drive W/Revoked	Creve Coeur PD
08/10/16	Stealing, Driving W/ Revoked, No Auto Ins Warrant	Florissant PD
07/24/16	Driving While Revoked warrant	University City PD
05/26/16	Driving While Revoked, No Auto Ins warrant	Florissant PD
02/24/16	Drug Possession warrant	University City PD
05/27/06	DWI Guilty Probation Revoked 180-days jail	MO Hwy Patrol
02/24/06	Fel Drug Possession Guilty SES Probation	St. Louis City PD
07/16/05	Fel Drug Poss Prob revoked (2009) 3-yrs prison	Lincoln Co SO

**20-4698 Fatal Car Crash:** A one-vehicle crash on Olive at River Valley resulted in a single fatality when the driver struck the traffic signal support in the center median and the vehicle became fully engulfed in flames prior to first officer's arrival. Speed appeared to be a factor due to severe damage and lack of evidence to support braking by the driver.

**Unusual for a high speed single car crash in the afternoon.** This crash and resulting fire occurred at 5:25 PM on Wednesday. They usually happen late at night.

We requested police and fire reports. Five days after the crash the police report is not completed. The problem is the fire was so intense that it is taking time to positively identify the driver. In lieu of a report this is the statement of facts concerning the crash **from the police.**

This was a single vehicle, single driver accident, which occurred on 12/30/20 at 525PM.

The Honda Civic was traveling eastbound on MO 340 approaching River Valley at a high rate of speed, as reported by at least one witness. The vehicle struck the concrete pylon that supports the electric traffic signal at Olive/River Valley. The concrete pylon is on a raised concrete median separating the east bound and west bound lanes of Olive. The impact caused the vehicle to become engulfed in flames. Monarch FD responded and extinguished the vehicle fire, and confirmed that the driver was deceased inside the vehicle.

Positive identification of the driver has not made at this time.

**IDENTIFICATION WAS MADE ON WEDNESDAY:** The driver was **Steven Pretak** of White Plains Drive in Chesterfield. Pretak was 37. He had a prior DWI in 2007. He was arrested and charged in 2015 with Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> Degree after breaking into the attached garage of his neighbor across the street and stealing a leaf blower.



**This is from the Fire Report:**

09521	MO	12	30	2020	3	20-2207551
FDID *	State *	Incident Date *		Station	Incident Number *	

**Location\***  Check this box to Indicate that the address for this incident is provided on the Wildland Module In Section B "Alternative Location Specification". Use only for Wildland fires.

<input type="checkbox"/> Street address			RIVER VALLEY DR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intersection	Number/Milepost	Prefix	Street or Highway
<input type="checkbox"/> In front of			CHESTERFIELD
<input type="checkbox"/> Rear of	Apt./Suite/Room	City	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to			Olive Blvd
<input type="checkbox"/> Directions			

<b>Actions Taken *</b>	<b>G1 Resources *</b>	<b>G2 Estimated Dollar Losses &amp; Va.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Extinguishment by fire <small>Primary Action Taken (1)</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check this box and skip this section if an Apparatus or Personnel form is used.	<b>LOSSES:</b> Required for all fires if known. Opti for non fires.
<input type="checkbox"/> 23 Extricate, disentangle	Apparatus <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel <input type="checkbox"/>	Property \$ <input type="checkbox"/> , <input type="checkbox"/> 030 , <input type="checkbox"/> 000
	Suppression <input type="checkbox"/>	Contents \$ <input type="checkbox"/> , <input type="checkbox"/> 000 , <input type="checkbox"/> 500

On 12/30/2020 at 17:28:00 dispatched To River Valley DR & Olive Blvd /CHESTERFIELD, MO 63017. The location is a Street or road in commercial area. The incident was determined to be a(n) Passenger vehicle fire.

2202 arrives on scene, finds single vehicle into a center line traffic signal with heavy damage, fully involved. Bystanders report hearing a crash, but did not witness events immediately prior. State vehicle immediately caught fire and did not see anyone exit the vehicle. 2234 arrives, one preconnect off, fire extinguished. 2242 arrives, second line off for safety, assist with extrication. One occupant identified, J4. 2216 shores vehicle for safety, assists in extrication. Scene secured, units released. 2234/2202 remain awaiting arrival of ME. Occupant fully extricated after consultation with ME, custody assumed by ME. Scene turned over to PD, IS

20 4699	12/31/2020, 0335 12/31/2020, 0345	18XXX OUTLET BLVD	Fragrance Outlet	CHESTERFIELD BLUE VALLEY	5	4	Burglary Commercial - Business
<b>Arrested:</b>							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> Unknown subjects broke out front door of business and took bedding and fragrances. Suspect vehicle was spotted but failed to yield to officers.							

**20-4699 Burglary:** Three suspects wearing ski masks shattered the glass door to the Fragrance Outlet at St. Louis Premium Outlet Mall and set off a burglar alarm. The suspects were confronted by on-site security and fled the scene in an unlicensed vehicle before officers arrived. The suspects dropped most of the stolen merchandise when confronted by security officers.

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 31, 2020**

20 4707	12/30/2020, 1653 12/30/2020, 1710	17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD	Gap	CHESTERFIELD OUTLETS	4	4	Larceny under \$750 Shoplifting
<b>Arrested:</b>							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> Unknow subject grabbed clothing and ran out of store without paying.							

**20-4707-Larceny-18521 Outlet Blvd.**

A Manager from GAP reported a customer entered the store and selected numerous items on 12/30. The customer attempted to use a charge card, however it did not go through. The customer then grabbed the clothes and ran out of the store. Video was obtained and SEU will follow-up.

20 4709	12/31/2020, 1454	9X LONG RD	Walgreens	LONG ROAD CROSSING	5	4	Larceny under \$750 Shoplifting
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**20-4709-Larceny-97 Long Rd.**

Three subjects entered the Walgreens and stole several items. They went E/B on Hwy 40, an Officer was able to get the plate as they passed the Officer on the Hwy. The plate came back to a different vehicle out of St. Louis City. SEU will follow-up

**There was a traffic crash** with injuries on W/B Hwy 40 before Chesterfield Parkway East. Two lanes of traffic were shut down for approximately 30 minutes. One of the drivers suffered from low blood sugar causing the accident.

20 4712	12/31/2020, 2008 12/31/2020, 2015	1XX THF BLVD	Walmart	CHESTERFIELD COMMONS	6	4	Larceny under \$750 Shoplifting
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**Arrested:** Saha,Shirin | W | 17 | F  
Gale,Catherine V | W | 18 | F

**Brief Narrative Description:** 18 and 17 yo females concealed alcohol and left store without paying.

**20-4712 Larceny:** Two under-aged females selected three bottles of liquor and concealed them in their purses. The females exited Walmart without attempting to pay for the merchandise and were confronted by members of the loss prevention department. Both suspects were issued a summons in lieu of a custodial arrest and released at the scene.

**Catherine Vaughn GALE** 18 Fairfield Farm Drive Chesterfield

12/31/20 Stealing Walmart Chesterfield PD

06/14/20 Criminal Ord Vio reduced to Health Code Vio \$220 fine Chesterfield PD

Disobeyed Stop Sign \$155 fine

**Shirin SAHA** 17 Wildwood Parkway

12/31/20 Stealing Walmart Chesterfield PD

02/15/20 Seat Belt Violation Guilty fine St. Louis Co PD

20 4713	03/22/2020, 1200 03/22/2020, 1200	14XXX MILL SPRING DR		CHESTERFIELD TRAILS	3	3	Fraud Identity Theft
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**Arrested:**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject used victim's information to purchase a vehicle in California.

**20-4713 Identity Theft:** A citizen who resides on Mill Spring Drive reported her identity was used to purchase a Mercedes Benz in the state of California. The car was paid for

with cash, and she discovered the incident occurred when she received a recall notice for the vehicle in the mail at her address in Chesterfield.

**FRIDAY JANUARY 01, 2021**

21 2	01/01/2021, 0236 01/01/2021, 0236	3XX E CHESTERFIELD CTR	Drury	DRURY PLAZA HOTEL	4	2	Overdose Accidental
<b>Arrested:</b>							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> 22 yo male overdosed on Percocet and alcohol in hotel room. Officers administered Narcan and subject was transported to hospital for treatment.							

**21-2 Overdose:** A subject staying at the Drury Inn overdosed on Percocet and alcohol. The subject was not breathing and started turning blue in color upon arrival. Officers administered two doses of Narcan and the subject began breathing again. EMS transported the subject to the hospital for medical treatment.

**01-03 Missing Person** - Reporting party indicated that her 40yr old boyfriend has not been seen for over 24 hours and had not gone to work as scheduled on the 31st. He is in possession of her vehicle (he regularly uses it). A check of some area hospitals yielded negative results. As of this report, his whereabouts are still unknown. Approx. a half hour ago, his brother reported he received a text from the missing subject indicating that he had been beat up and was in the hospital. This has not been verified as the phone goes directly to voicemail and none of the hospitals checked indicated that he is there. Subject and the vehicle have been entered. Detective bureau notified.

21 8	01/01/2021, 1630 01/01/2021, 1630	1XX THF BLVD	Walmart	CHESTERFIELD COMMONS	6	4	Larceny under \$750 Shoplifting
<b>Arrested:</b> Pohrer,Michael C   W   33   M							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> 33 yo male switched bar codes on merchandise and paid a lesser value for items. Also cited for Trespassing due to previous theft incidents.							

**01-08 Larceny** - SEU investigated 2 subjects at Wal-Mart under ringing merchandise. 1 subject was arrested for stealing and trespassing and was conveyed to the station for booking and release with summons.



**Michael C. Pohrer 33** (Not to be confused with St. Louis Cartoonist Michael Pohrer)

01/01/21	Stealing	Walmart	pending	Chesterfield PD
02/02/20	Tampering With Auto		pending	O'Fallon PD
10/25/19	Fel Drug Poss, 2-counts	Trespassing, Poss Drug Para		St. Charles City PD
09/16/19	Felony Drug Possession		pending	St. Charles City PD
09/13/19	Domestic Assault		pending	St. Charles City PD
08/13/18	DWI		pending	Washington PD
09/25/15	Burglary Guilty	Probation Revoked	5-yrs prison	Osage Beach DPS
	Misd Marijuana Possession		10-days jail	
08/28/15	Forgery	Guilty	4-years	Osage Beach DPS
08/27/15	Forgery	Guilty	4-years prison	Osage Beach DPS
08/26/15	Forgery	Guilty	4-years prison	Osage Beach DPS
2015	Felony Stealing, Felony Assault	Guilty	1-year jail	Omaha NB PD

**SATURDAY JANUARY 2, 2021**

21 12	12/31/2020, 1200 01/02/2021, 1200	15XXX SILVERWOOD CT		MEADOWBROOK FARM	3	3	Harassment/Threat Internet
<b>Arrested:</b>							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> Known subject sending harassing text messages and social media posts to victim.							

21 13	01/02/2021, 1145 01/02/2021, 1200	18XXX OUTLET BLVD	True Religion	CHESTERFIELD BLUE VALLEY	5	4	Larceny Over \$750 Shoplifting
<b>Arrested:</b>							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> Unknown subjects grabbed clothing and ran out of store without paying.							

**21-013- Larceny report Outlet Blvd.-** Suspects grabbed over \$3,000 worth of merchandise and ran from the store.-Witness observed suspect getting into SUV with no license plates-SEU officers investigating.

**SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 2021**

21 16	01/02/2021, 2300 01/03/2021, 0900	3XX E CHESTERFIELD CTR	Drury	DRURY PLAZA HOTEL	4	2	Property Damage to Vehicle
<b>Arrested:</b>							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> Unknown subject broke out window on victim's vehicle.							

**21-0016- Destruction of property** report Chesterfield CTR E-Victim reported that window to their vehicle was broken while parked in under ground parking lot.

<u>Report Number</u>	<u>Time of Occurrence</u>	<u>Generic Address</u>	<u>Business/Location Name</u>	<u>Subdivision</u>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>
21 24	01/02/2021, 1145 01/02/2021, 1150	6X THF BLVD	Dick's Sporting Goods	CHESTERFIELD COMMONS EAST	6	4	Larceny under \$750 Shoplifting
<b>Arrested:</b>							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> Unknown subject took golf balls and left store without paying.							

**MONDAY JANUARY 4, 2021**

21 27	01/04/2021, 1624 01/04/2021, 1624	2XX HEATHER CREST DR	Westbury Manor Club House	WESTBURY MANOR	1	1	Burglary Residential - Home
<b>Arrested:</b> Celestine, Jordan A   B   18   M							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> 18 yo male and other unknown subjects entered clubhouse without permission and damaged property.							

**Jordan A. Celestine 18 A senior at Parkway Central HS**

01/04/21 Burglary, Destruction of Property

Chesterfield PD

21 28	01/04/2021, 1745 01/04/2021, 1745	1XX THF BLVD	Walmart	CHESTERFIELD COMMONS	6	4	Larceny under \$750 Shoplifting
<b>Arrested:</b> Spaeth, Kelsey R   W   27   F							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> 27 yo female concealed cosmetics and left store without paying.							

**Kelsey R. Spaeth 27 Deli Clerk Schnucks Chesterfield**



01/04/21 Stealing Walmart pending

Chesterfield PD

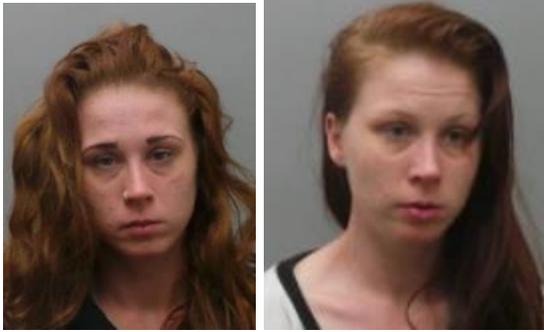
21 30	01/04/2021, 2015 01/04/2021, 2034	4XX COUNTRY OAK DR		GREENFIELD VILLAGE	1	1	Assault Domestic
<b>Arrested:</b> Juvenile							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> 11 yo male pushed and kicked victim after argument causing minor injuries.							
21 32	01/04/2021, 2147 01/04/2021, 2147	1XX THF BLVD	Walmart	CHESTERFIELD COMMONS	6	4	Larceny under \$750 Shoplifting
<b>Arrested:</b> Tonis,Anthony D   B   29   M Graham,Desiree S   B   27   F							
<b>Brief Narrative Description:</b> 27 yo female and 29 yo male switched bar codes on merchandise and also failed to scan other items at self checkout lane and left store without paying. Female subject also charged with Trespassing due to previous theft incidents.							

**Anthony Demetrius Tonis 29 Brentwood, MO**



- |          |  |                 |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| 01/04/21 | Stealing Walmart pending                         | Chesterfield PD |
| 10/15/20 | Peace Disturbance pending                        | Brentwood PD    |
| 10/01/20 | Peace Disturbance pending                        | Brentwood PD    |
| 09/24/20 | Driving While Revoked pending                    | Brentwood PD    |
| 08/21/20 | 2-counts Stealing, Assault pending               | Overland PD     |
| 08/21/20 | Auto Theft pending                               | Overland PD     |
| 07/06/20 | Driving While Revoked pending                    | Brentwood PD    |
| 06/06/20 | Peace Disturbance Guilty \$100 fine              | Brentwood PD    |
| 03/30/20 | Driving While Revoked, Poss of Drug Para pending | Richmond Hts PD |
| 11/26/19 | Stealing pending                                 | Bridgeton PD    |
| 11/21/19 | Driving While Revoked, Poss of Drug Para pending | Clayton PD      |
| 08/09/17 | Forgery  | St. Louis Co    |
| 08/07/17 | Driving While Revoked, No Auto Ins. FTA Warrant  | St. Ann PD      |
| 11/03/16 | Felony Attempt Forgery Guilty 4-years prison     | St. John PD     |
| 12/11/10 | Speeding, Driving While Revoked pending          | Velda City PD   |

**Desiree S. Graham 27 White/Female**



01/04/21	Stealing	Walmart	Chesterfield PD
01/21/20	Failure to Pay Fare	Metro Rail \$25 fine	St. Louis CO PD
11/26/19	Stealing Guilty	\$300 fine Trespassing Guilty \$100	Bridgeton PD
03/05/19	Stealing	PG on 4/28/20 1-year probation	Maplewood PD
02/06/19	Criminal Charge reduced to	Littering \$250 fine	Maplewood PD

**TUESDAY JANUARY 5, 2021**

**No Report:** Two Chesterfield officers assisted St. Charles County deputies with an arrest at a business on Goddard Ave. The suspect was taken into custody without incident.

**21-36 Larceny:** Resident on Country Ridge Drive reported stolen medication and jewelry taken sometime between July and Christmas. A family member who does not reside in the home is suspected.

21 37	01/04/2021, 1530 01/05/2021, 0600	17XXX EDISON AVE	Superior Recreational Products	CHESTERFIELD COMMONS WEST	6	4	Larceny Over \$750 From Auto
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**Arrested:**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject cut off catalytic converters from company vehicles.

**21-37 Larceny:** Catalytic converters were stolen off of two work trucks overnight while parked at the business in the 17000 block of Edison Ave.

21 39	01/05/2021, 1200 01/05/2021, 1430	13XXX OLIVE BLVD	El Maguey	WOODCHASE	1	1	Larceny Over \$750 From Auto
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**Arrested:**  
**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject entered victim's unlocked vehicle and took money.

**21-39 Larceny:** An employee at El Maguey reported \$6,000 in cash stolen from his vehicle while it was parked behind the business.

21 41	12/23/2020, 1219 01/05/2021, 1640	14XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD 200	The Orthopedic Center of St. Louis	DELMAR GARDENS	2	2	Larceny Over \$750 Business
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**Arrested:**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took FedEx delivery package containing medication from business.

**21-41 Larceny:** A delivery of 400 Vicodin pills was allegedly delivered to a medical facility on North Outer 40, but their surveillance system did not capture the delivery being made. The company suspects a delivery driver.

21 44	01/05/2021, 2129 01/05/2021, 2230	10XX SPECKLEDWOOD MANOR CT		NOONING TREE	2	2	Assault Domestic
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**Arrested:** Williams, Mark J | W | 61 | M

**Brief Narrative Description:** 61 yo male grabbed victim's hair after argument causing minor injuries.

**21-44 Domestic:** Father/teenage daughter disturbance on Speckledwood Manor that included father grabbing the daughter's hair and pulling her out of the house. Father arrested with in custody Muni warrant application to be made by the day watch. The incident was hot-lined as the victim was a juvenile.

**EVERYTHING IS UP TO DATE IN THE MONARACH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT.  
THE HAVE GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO:**

On January 01, 2021 this was on the Monarch FPD website home page under "Latest Monarch News." The first item is from August about a pending Hurricane hitting the Gulf coast. The second item is from March 2020 about the change in voting dates from April to June 2 for the Monarch Bond Issue. I guess if not much is going on items that are from four and nine months ago could be considered "Latest News."

**Latest Monarch News**

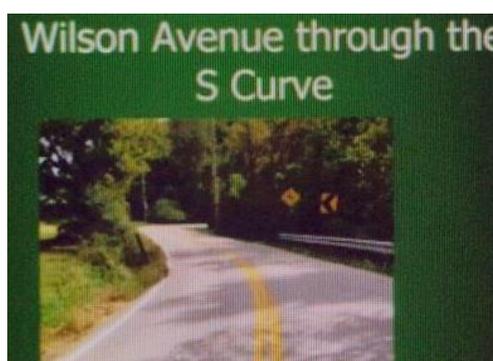
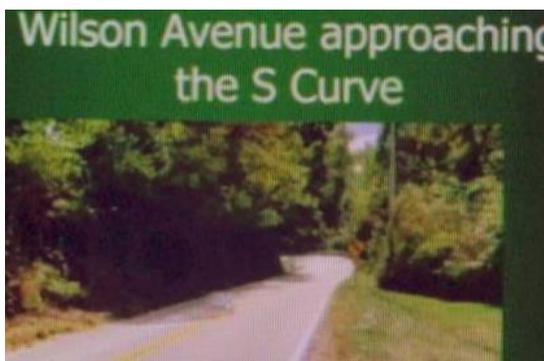
- [Hurricane Laura Update](#) - The Monarch Fire Protection District is a participating entity with Missouri Task Force One, and currently has members deployed in support of Hurricane Laura. Missouri Task Force 1 is — [Read more»](#)
- [New Date Set For Proposition F Vote](#) - Chesterfield, MO-The

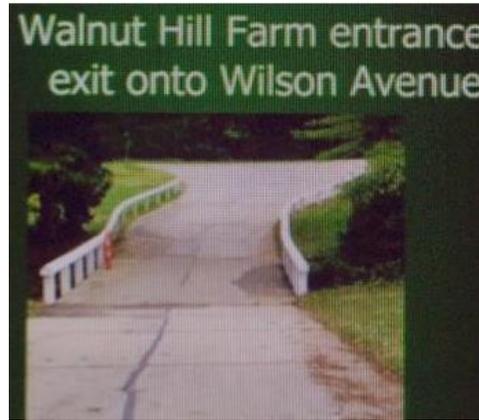
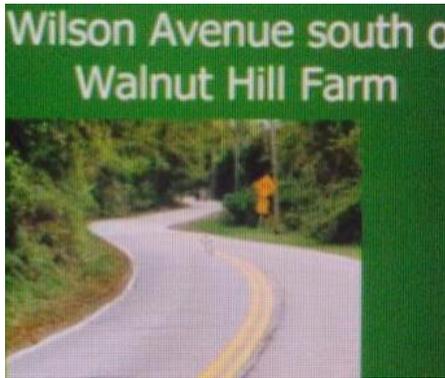
**WILSON AVENUE REBUILD IS SEEING RESIDENTS AGAINST TOO MANY**

**IMPROVEMENTS:** Back in our October 24 Newsletter #450 we covered how Public Works Director Jim Eckrich want to apply for a Transportation Improvement Grant for major improvements on Wilson Avenue, a twisting winding road that runs from Clarkson on the south to Wildhorse Creek Road on the north. Near Clarkson the name is Wilson Road but it changes its name to Wilson Avenue as it moved south. In October Eckrich showed photos of issues involving the road, including No Shoulders, No Drainage for rainwater, No Shoulder for walkers or bicyclists.



A proposal is to install a traffic light in place of the stop sign.





Due to the pandemic a neighborhood information meeting was not held. Staff sent out an online survey about the proposal to residents in the Walnut Hill Farm subdivision. Jim Eckrich was surprised by the large amount of replies. The following is from his memo to Planning and Public Works Committee members.

The survey provided the City Staff with some important information regarding the future grant submittal. Specifically

- 75% of respondents preferred a rural section (asphalt road with no curb and gutter)

- 70% of respondents preferred a paved shoulder

- 79% of respondents preferred an off-road shared use path for bicyclists and pedestrians.

- 65% of respondents were opposed to a vehicular connection from Wilson Avenue to Baxter Lane Crossing, while 64% favor a bicycle / pedestrian connection.

In the December meeting P-PW Committee members needed to decide four things.

**One:** Should the city staff continue with the grant application with the East-West Gateway Council for funds for a Wilson Avenue project. The committee voted 4-0 to make the application

**Two:** Should the grant application include making a connection from Wilson Avenue to the Baxter Crossing Subdivision so residents in Walnut Hill Farms would have a second way to exit the area in the event Wilson Avenue was closed. Councilwoman Many Ann Mastorakos said council members should listen to the resides who did not want the connection in fear of more traffic on Wilson. Councilwoman Michelle Ohley mentioned it was a matter of public safety to give responding emergency vehicles a second way to reach Walnut Hill Farms in the event Wilson was flooded or a serious accident blocked the road or trees being down after a storm.

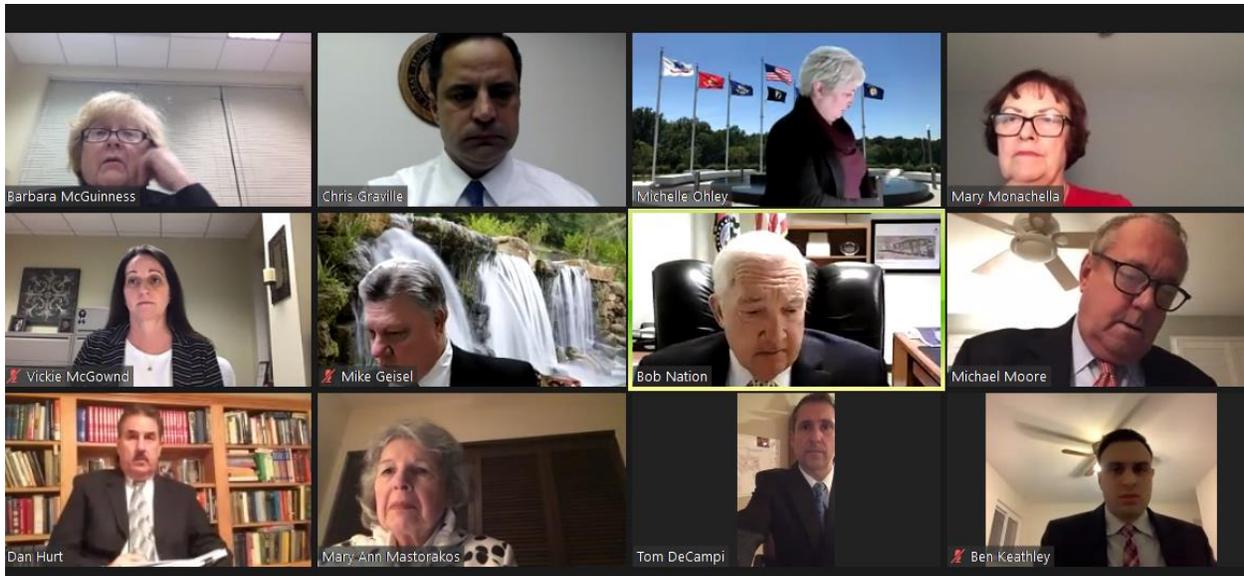
This seemed to sway Mastorakos and the vote was 4-0 to include the connection to allow access to Baxter Road.

**Three:** This question was if the grant application should include funds for an 8-to-10 foot wide trail for walkers and bicycles where possible. This was also a 4-0 vote.

**Four:** This was for the installation of a traffic signal including turn signals at Wilson and Wildhorse Creek Road. This also got a 4-0 vote.



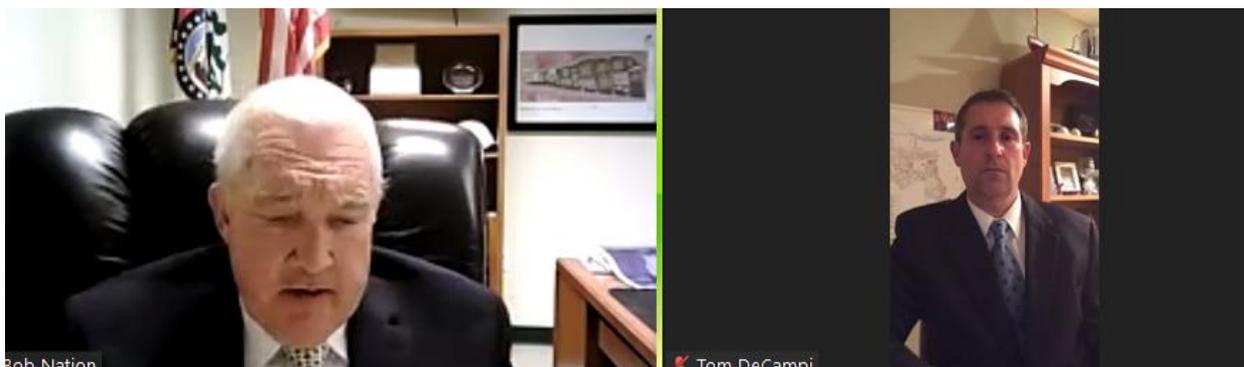
**COUNCIL MEETING:**



**THE MASK ISSUE AND THE MAYOR’S WEBSITE APOLOGY:** You would have thought that the Mayor “Apology” on the city website’s home page about the police being called to Best Buy over a reported “Disturbance” of Councilman Tom DeCampi and his son not wearing masks at Best Buy would still be the hot topic after five weeks.

However, the start of the meeting were citizens making comments about Mayor Bob Nation using foul language in public and having a short temper. Incidents dating from 2014 to now. Despite over 20 emails call for DeCampi to resign after the Best Buy incident, a group of five turned their sights on Mayor Bob Nation who hung DeCampi out to dry on the city’s website. They were the five listed below with Bill Lawson speaking against DeCampi.

- Jane Cunningham
- Norm Baxter not present had his email read by the city clerk.
- Ron Cawood
- Dennis Ganahl
- Steve Stetz
- Bill Lawson



The evening started off with former Chesterfield resident, former state rep, former state senator and former board member of the Monarch Fire Protection District **Jane Cunningham**.

Jane read from a prepared copy and was nice enough to share it.



My name is Jane Cunningham, 6568 Robyn Point, Osage Beach, MO. I represented Chesterfield for 17 years, from 2000 to 2017 in the Missouri House of Representatives and the Senate and on the Monarch Fire Board.

Mr. Mayor, After the City Council unanimously censured you for your profane harassment of a city employee five years ago, my husband and I, along with dozens of other residents, stood before this Council in public meetings in your defense. We did that based on your public commitment to the Council and Chesterfield citizens and your personal promise to us never to engage in such conduct again.

Not long after that commitment, a City Council Member called and asked me to try to stop you from your ongoing, vulgar outbursts. When you swore at me in a phone conversation between the two of us, I said, Bob listen to yourself, stop it!

Regrettably, it has become a somewhat common experience of many in the community to be the victim of one of your cursing rants even in public locations like restaurants and gyms where others who are uninvolved can hear you.

Your Community Apology post on the city website invites our comments on your conduct which you state "should set the very

best example for citizens."

You, however, continue to violate your commitment and this behavior standard you publicized. Your uncontrolled anger continues to escalate. Mr. Mayor, you have intimidated, cursed, berated, and harassed citizens and have embarrassed and humiliated yourself and Chesterfield. Many in our community are very afraid to disagree with you or speak up for fear of your retribution. I know this because they have told me. We are sick and so very disappointed we ever defended you. You should resign immediately.

**Next was Norm Baxter**, but Norm wasn't able to attend on ZOOM so he sent an email and requested that City Clerk Vickie McGownd read it. Nothing like reading a letter attacking the mayor, the guy who appoints you. But she did a fine job. Here is the letter.

Council members and others:

No one will deny the pandemic has turned our nation upside down. Few have escaped a pandemonium that until now was unknown. It has altered almost everything about our lives.

We diligently respond to guidelines intended to be helpful in slowing down the spread of this virus. The truth is, there has been confusion, misinformation and even political motivation as we continue to be bombarded with guidance. Much is well intended. Some is not.

I think it is fair to say most of us have done the best we can in combating this serious health threat while continuing to live our lives as normally as we can. Granted, it hasn't been easy.

Recently I ran an errand for my wife. My mask was in my pocket when I walked into the store. I had forgotten to put it on. Barely ten feet inside the building I was stopped by a clerk.

"Sir, do you need a mask?"

Whoops! My mistake. I whipped out my mask, put it on and thanked the employee for reminding me. And for offering me a mask compliments of the business.

Many places don't do that. That's okay. It's their decision.

There was no suggestion my integrity or moral character was flawed because of a memory lapse. It was just part of the vast tapestry of America today as millions of us make adjustments to cope with an insidious germ.

Let he without sin cast the first stone.

The media, of course, have different standards. Mountains out of molehills are their stock in trade. They operate with a massive rock pile. If they miss their target with the fist missile they'll nail it with the second one.

To suggest Tom DeCampi should face the guillotine because of a family member's momentary masklessness is ludicrous. It is petty and blatantly irresponsible. Surely such people have something better to do.

**Norman Baxter**

**Ron Cawood** was the next speaker. It is safe to say that Ron is very "right wing" before the election of Donald Trump. Some might call him a "Trumper" now. He started saying how "Socialists Democrats will send us to anarchy." He then turned to local politics and said that Mayor Bob Nation was a "tyrant."

However, he then addressed something that Bob Nation is well known for and has been censured by the City Council before. That is losing his temper and using foul language while performing his duties.

"He has been shouting in my face dropping "F Bombs" and calling Jane Cunningham the "C word."

Next **Dennis Ganahl**, who is active with Republican politics in Chesterfield spoke.

"I want to echo every concern everyone made tonight. You (Mayor Nation) have called my cell phone and cussed me out. Residents in my subdivision called me to complain about you bullying them. It is time for everyone to stand up to the fact that you are a bully," said Ganahl.

Steve Stetz spoke next and made reference to a time in 2019 when the Chamber of Commerce refused to allow Mayor Nation speak from the stage of a Chamber sponsored concert to solicit signatures for a petition to form a St. Louis area Board of Freeholders. Mayor Nation according to Stetz let loose with profanity toward the Chamber's executive director Nora Amato. The chamber filed a protest letter with Nation and it is a public record.

July 8, 2019



Hon. Robert Nation  
Mayor, City of Chesterfield  
Chesterfield City Hall  
690 Chesterfield Pkwy W  
Chesterfield, MO 63017-0670

Re: Board of Freeholder's Petition Incident

Dear Mr. Mayor:

It has come to the attention of the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors at the June 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting of an interaction between you and the Chamber's Executive Director, Nora Amato, on June 18<sup>th</sup> of this year.

A few days earlier, on June 11<sup>th</sup>, while the Chamber's Inaugural 2019 Concert was being set up at Faust Park, you requested Ms. Amato allow you the right to solicit signatures at the concert in furtherance of the establishment of a Board of Freeholders. Ms. Amato informed you that she would contact the Chambers' Executive Committee and get back to you. At that time, Ms. Amato requested, and you complied with, sending an email as a reminder of the specifics, which email was sent to her on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

On Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, the day of the second concert, Ms. Amato responded, via email, that she had discussed your request with me, as the Chairman of the Board, and informed you of the decision that petitioning would be limited to the parking lots before and after the concert. It was the Chamber's decision to allow concert-goers to enjoy the evening free of such solicitations.

Almost immediately upon receipt of Ms. Amato's email you called her to object to the Chamber's decision. You requested, and were denied, the right to address the audience from the stage before the concert. Although you were informed that the Chamber was not singling either you or the purpose of the petition for such a restriction, you continued to object.

At some point in the conversation, after being rebuffed by Ms. Amato each time you proposed a variant of your objective - to communicate with the Chamber's concert-goers, you apparently saw fit to call Ms. Amato "f\*\*\*ing stupid" and other expletives for not allowing you to either obtain signatures or address the audience at the concert.

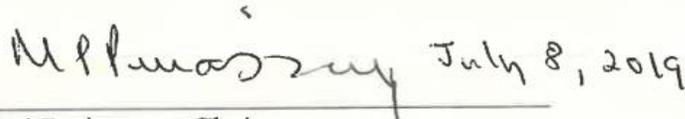
The Board finds such language to be both harassment directed to our Executive Director, and very unbecoming of a member of the Board who also is the Mayor of the City.

We are mindful that this is not the first time your anger has erupted towards Ms. Amato when you disagreed on Chamber matters. The Board cannot tolerate such inappropriate and horrible treatment of its Executive Director by anyone and above all by a member of the Board.

It is Board's unanimous position, which I agree with, that a written apology is to be extended by you to Ms. Amato in the near future and furthermore if this behavior pattern continues, the Board will consider all avenues available to it, including your removal from this Board.

It is unfortunate that this action has had to be taken, but as fiduciaries of this organization, we are duty-bound to take action when warranted, and your conduct warrants this action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Peri Periasamy", followed by the date "July 8, 2019". The signature is written in a cursive style.

M. Peri Periasamy, Chairman

cc: Members, Chamber Board of Directors  
Nora Amato, Executive Director

The last speaker was **Bill Lawson**, who had nothing negative to say about Mayor Nation. He was aiming at DeCampi and Jane Cunningham. Lawson ran and lost to DeCampi in a Council race.

"I just heard a politician hit job by Jane Cunningham on Mayor Nation. Nobody wants to address what to do about Mr. DeCampi. I'd like to hear some explanation from Mr. DeCampi about what he did," said Mr. Lawson

Now Councilman DeCampi spoke. "I hate to disappoint you. I was wearing a mask," he said.

Tom told me a month earlier “that he went into the store wearing a mask,” while his son did not. He told me he took his mask off while he and his son were looking for projectors.



This is from police body cam. The police officers have masks on. Store employees have masks on as do shoppers going into the store. The only people not wearing masks are Tom and his son.

Barb McGuinness asked about the store manager’s statement about Tom and his son scaring customers in the back of the store. Tom said the manager never saw him in the back of the store.

Perhaps the manager relied on employee statements or just as likely he saw DeCampi on store security cameras. This could have gotten heated but Councilwoman McGuinness backed off asking anything else.

Councilwoman Mary Mastorakos sent an email to me saying what some councilpersons were hoping for from Councilman DeCampi.

To: John Hoffmann

From: Mary Ann Mastorakos

It is really disappointing that the manager of Best Buy in the Valley had to call the Chesterfield Police because a city Councilmember was creating a disturbance and would not leave the store.

At Monday night’s meeting, the council waited for the Councilmember to apologize to the residents and businesses we serve. As you now know, none was forthcoming from the Councilmember.

This is a very sad chapter in the history of our great city.

City Clerk Vickie McGownd stated the city received two more emails.

All the emails are on our website. Here is a link.

[http://johnhoffmann.net/decampi\\_emails\\_010521.pdf](http://johnhoffmann.net/decampi_emails_010521.pdf)

**IT'S COLD OUTSIDE:** Michelle Ohley uses an image of the flags at the Chesterfield Veterans Honor Park as her background when appearing for City Council meeting. Last week she had the appearance of being bundled up and out in a brisk cold wind.



**HERE IS SOMETHING THAT GOT PEOPLE OUT IN A PANDEMIC:** It was a Painted Bunting and it showed up in the C&O Canal National Park in Maryland outside of Washington, DC. The report of the sighting brought out a reported hundreds of bird watchers in the rain. The below photo was not taken by a professional photographer but by a foreigner, Jacques Pitteloud, Switzerland's ambassador to the United States.



Photographer and ambassador to the U.S. from Switzerland.



Birdwatchers standing the rain not social distancing and a couple looking like Tom DeCampi in Best Buy.

**TIME FOR A NAME CHANGE?** With the Cleveland Indians announcing they will change their name in 2022 dropping “Indians” as being politically and socially incorrect to native Americans and the Washington Redskins dropping their trademark in 2020 and going nameless, maybe it is time for a change in Kansas City for the Kansas City Chiefs.



Without changing their name they can turn Indian bosses into the cops of the gridiron and be the KC Police Chiefs. But police chiefs are older and behind desks. But if they would just drop the “i” they could be the **Kansas City Chefs**.



**EVIL APPEL AND DISNEY PLUS AND AMAZON STEALING CHRISTMAS:** First it was Appel buying the rights to A Charlie Brown Christmas and taking it off regular TV. The outcry was so loud they allowed PBS to have one showing on December 13. The Christmas Evil now continues. I own a Video Tape of Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street. I still have the tape. I just don't have a VCR player. For years (maybe I should say decades) usually on Christmas Eve I sat down and watched this B/W film released in June of 1947 starring Edmund Gwen, Maureen O'Hara, Natalie Wood and John Payne.

I could count on it being on TV several times weather on local channels or TCM. So this year I looked for it. I could not find it listed. I checked my computer and found I would have to pay to join Disney + or Appel to see it. The greedy bastards have stolen a holiday classic from America and me.

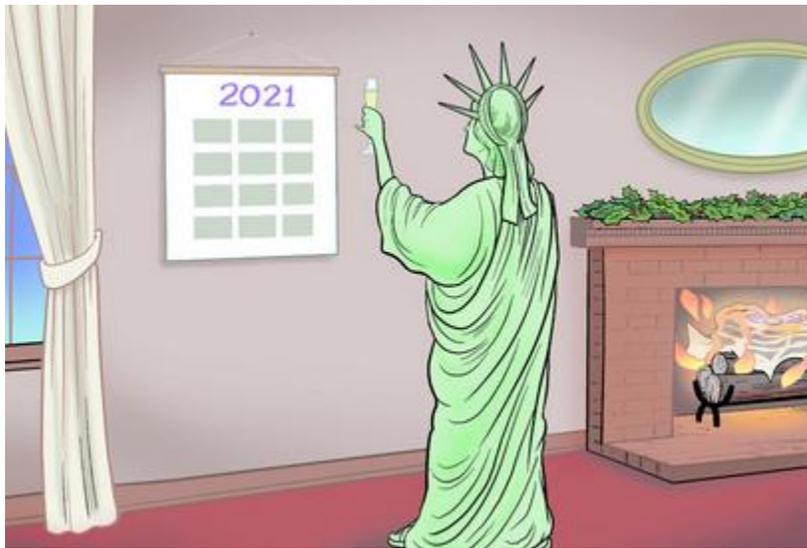
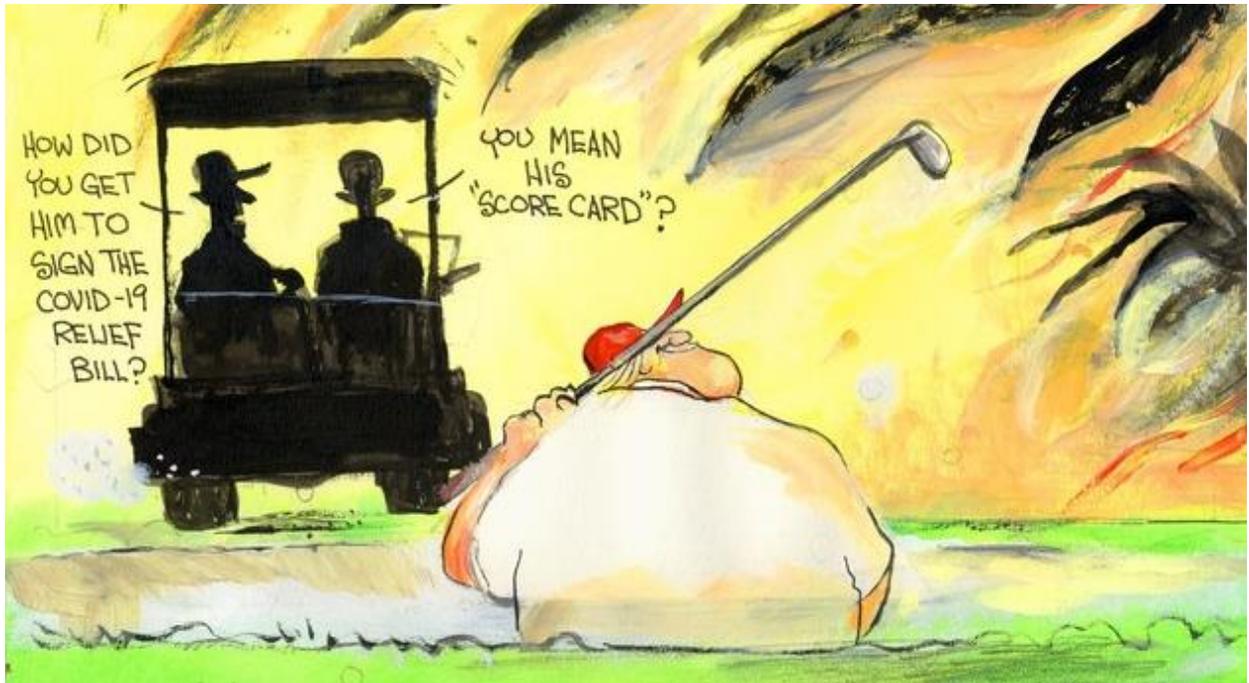


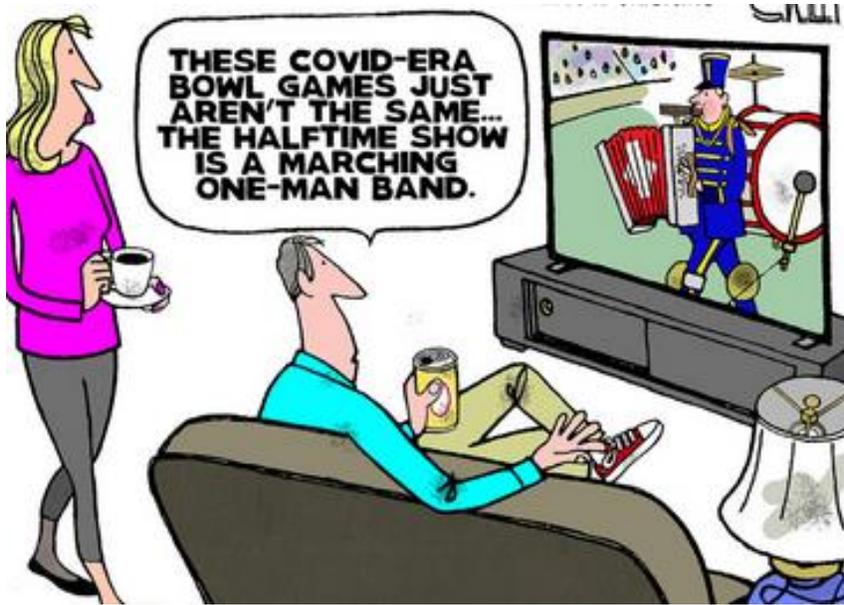
**A SUGGESTION FOR DIERBERGS AND SCHNUCKS:** I know the employees are sick of it after one week, but what I like about the Christmas music at supermarkets is I get to hear Ella Fitzgerald, Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, Judy Garland, the Rat Pack, Rosemary Clooney and other of the best American singers of all time. My suggestion or request is NOT Christmas in July, but bring back these singers for two weeks on the stores' speaker systems singing great American standards from Rodgers and Hart, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Lowe, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Johnny Mercer and others. The supermarkets could show a little respect to their older customers and have some shoppers whistling along with real songs on the speakers.

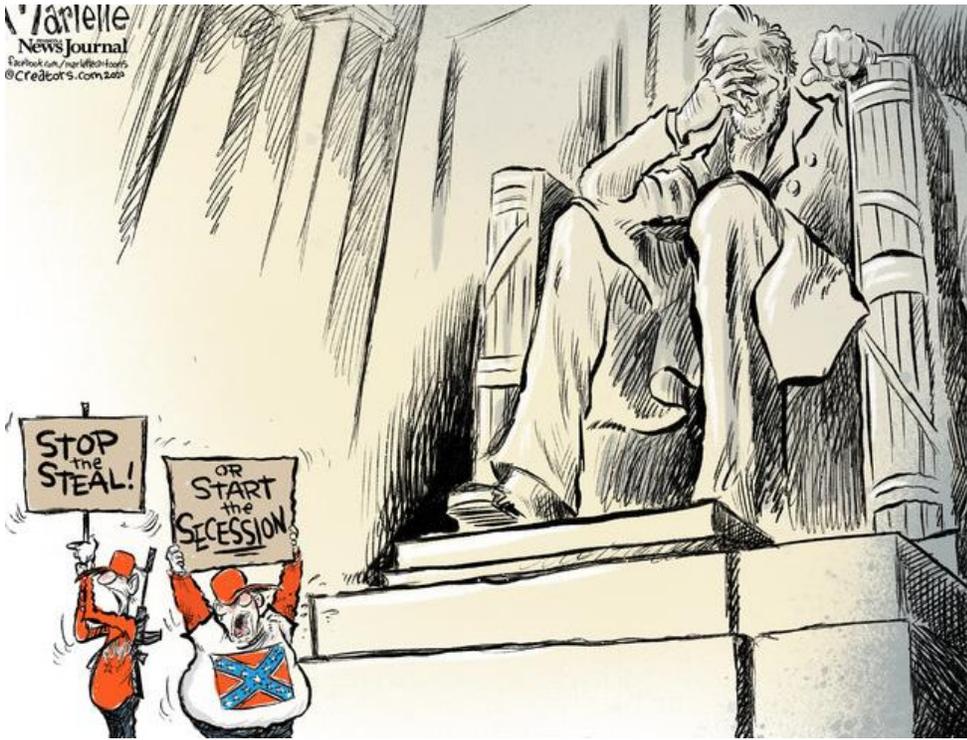
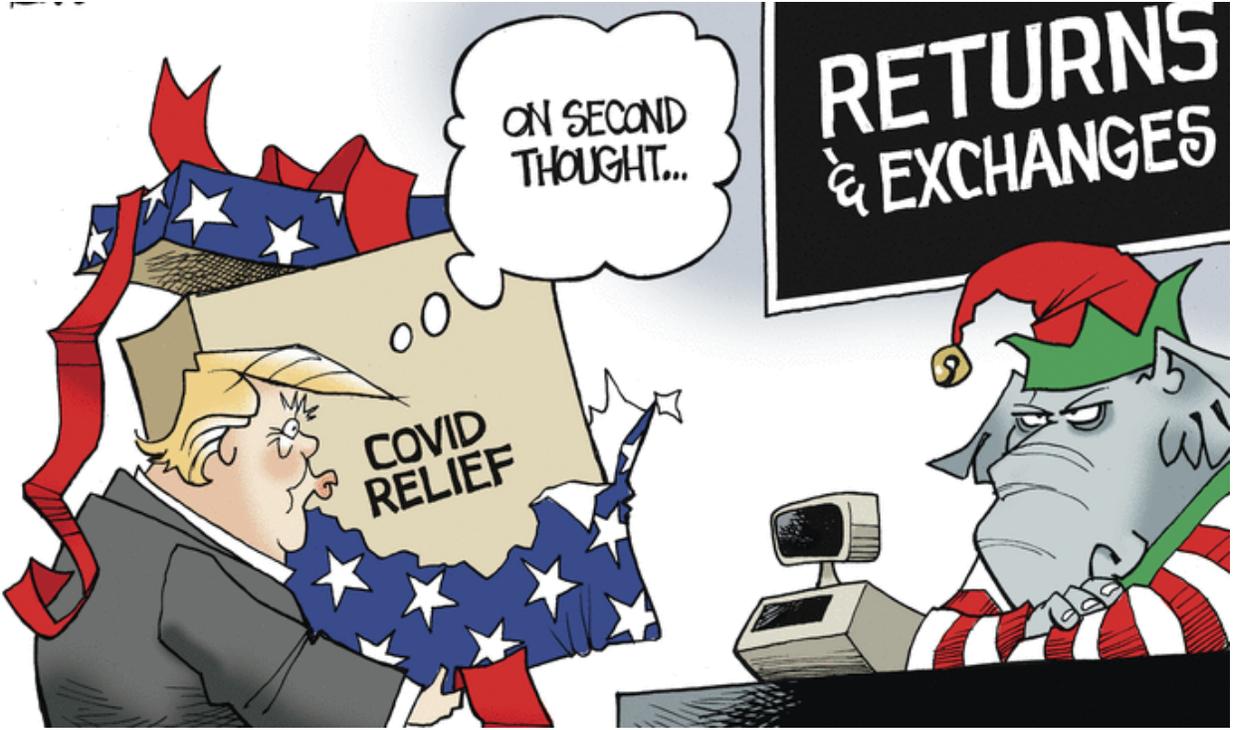


**CARTOONS:**

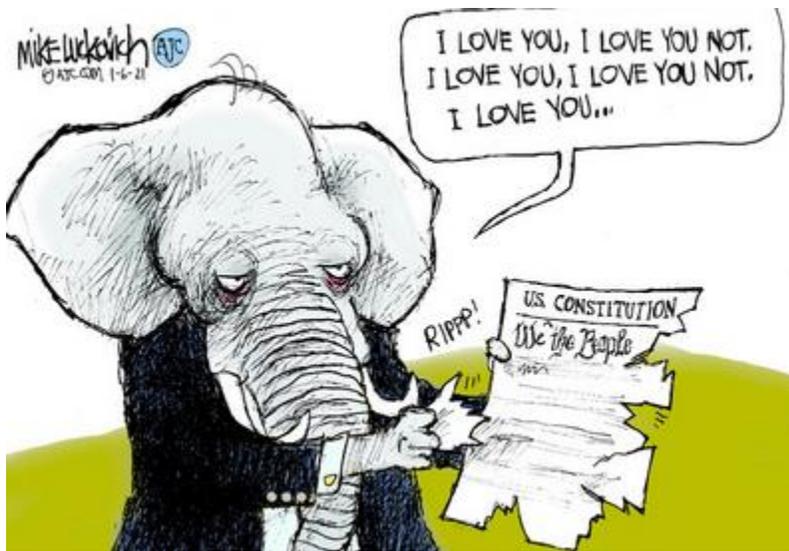




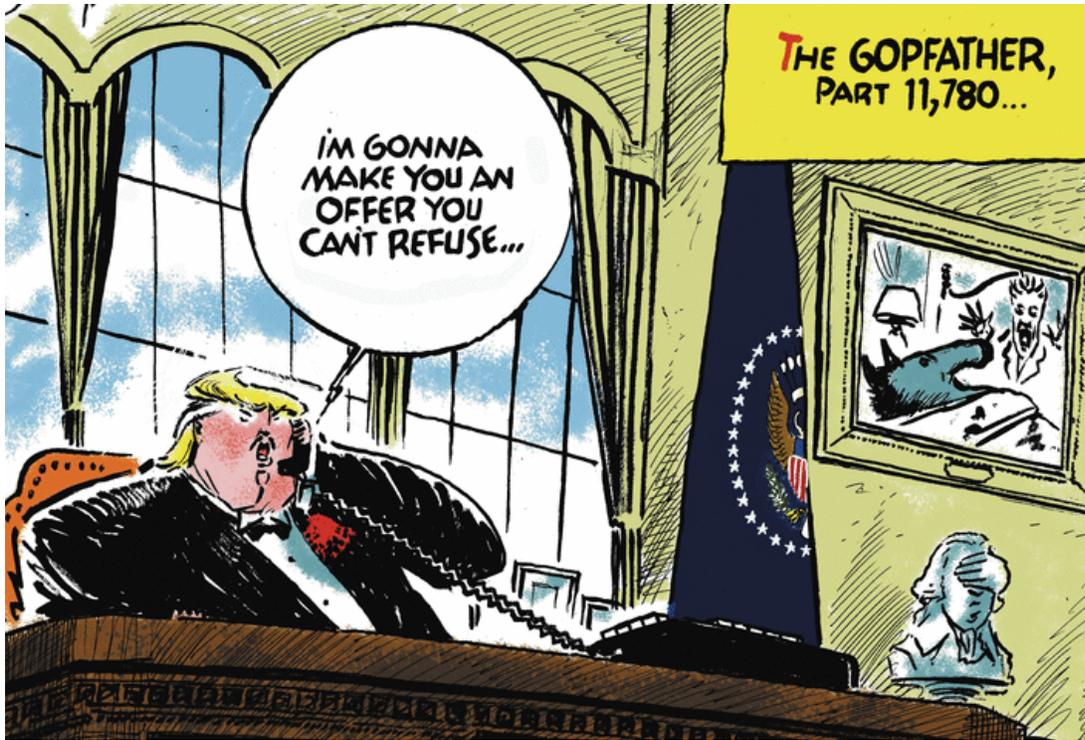












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