

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 147 AND CHESTERFIELD 92



By John Hofmann

OCTOBER 3, 2014

FINANCE COMMISSION VOTES TO SUPPORT THE PURCHASE OF THE WIRTH PROPERTY. 7:30 in morning you might not think was a good time for a political love fest, but that is what happened on Thursday September 18 when Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton spoke before the Town and Country Finance Commission on the purchase of the Wirth Property, which the commission had been unaware of.

One former alderman recently reminded me that all the finance commissioners were either appointed by Dalton or reappointed by Dalton and how you would be hard pressed to hear a discouraging word.

Less than a \$3,000,000 appraisal could cancel the deal. Dalton explained that the purchase of the 8.8 acres, that he claims he has no idea what to do with, was a bargain. The city has paid \$50,000 with the rest to follow within 90 days at the closing. Dalton added that there was to be an appraisal and if the appraisal was under \$3,000,000 the deal would be off.



Dalton repeated how he planned to appoint a "Town Square Task Force" to help look for ways to use the property. However he did not rule out that the city may be in the real estate business and could sell the property to the right developer.

Aldерwoman Amy Anderson mentioned at a police commission meeting how several people had told her the area needed a good bakery. I don't think a prospective baker is going to buy 1.8 acres of commercial property and 7 acres of residential property for \$3m just to open a bakery.

Despite spiraling the city deficit for 2014 from \$1,000,000 to \$3,250,000 dollars Dalton was praised by the commission members. John Russo gave a speech how everything Dalton has done has turned out great. (Accept of course in the eyes of widow Opal Henderson who had her property and 60-year family business along S. Broadway in St. Louis snatched by a group of investors led by Dalton through eminent domain for a nightclub district they never built.) Russo then made a motion for the commission to pass a resolution supporting the purchase of the Wirth Property.

One commission member cautioned me in claiming the land purchase would add to the city deficit, saying that the land was an asset. That is an interesting claim since the Wirth family was unable to sell the property for over 10 years until Dalton opened the city's checkbook. Property no one wants to buy is hardly an asset even if it carried on the books as one.

PARK SALE RUMOR: With more closed executive session Aldermanic meetings and no pending lawsuits...I have to wonder if Preservation Park is still not about to be sold.



Finance director Betty Cotner gives the Finance Commissioners an update on sales tax revenue.

FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORTS SALES TAX REVENUE IS UP: At the meeting where Dalton was elevated to royalty the city finance director Betty Cotner reported that sales tax revenue is running about 5-percent ahead of her estimates when she prepared the 2014 budget in the fall of 2013.

TOWN AND COUNTRY AND CHESTERFIELD WESTERN BORDER CITY LIMITS BOUNDARY CHANGES ARE APPARENTLY OFF:

Back in November of 2011 I reported in this newsletter and on the AOL patch.com sites that Chesterfield was going to give up 44 acres in their city limits to Town and Country, but obtain the area north of Conway Road that would have been in Town and Country when the new section of Highway 141 opened.



At the time I wrote that this would be better for motorists if Highway 141 did not zigzag in and out of Chesterfield and Town and Country. If everything north of Conway Road was in Chesterfield it would be easier for first responders dealing with auto accidents.

At the September 2014 Town and Country Police Commission meeting Police Chief Pat Kranz announced that the boundary switch was apparently off and Town and Country needs to increase the speed limit from 50 to 55 MPH on Hwy 141 on both sides of Ladue Road where the road comes back inside the Town and Country city limits.

In 2011 we quoted Mike Geisel, the Chesterfield Services Director, who is over everything in the city except the police. He said an agreement had been informally reached back in the 1990s between Chesterfield, Town and Country and Creve Coeur making Highway 141 the eastern city limits of Chesterfield regardless how 141 was reconfigured.

We asked Mike in an email what had happened between now when the plan is dead and in 2011 when the city limit boundary change was announced and the media was told it would be completed in just a few months. Here is his answer:

" Something so simple and something that all affected parties mutually agreed to, has simply become ridiculously complicated and bureaucratic. And not due to the Cities involved. The legal process is just overwhelming for something that should be so simple."

AND NOW FOR THE SIGNS: While MoDOT can quickly put up new speed limit signs (speed limit increased from 50 to 55 north of Conway Road) apparently putting up the city limit signs is an entirely other matter.

Since Highway 141 now winds back into Town and Country 900 feet south of Ladue Road and continues almost a mile north taking in the entire Highway 141 and Ladue Road interchange it would nice if city limit signs were put up by MoDOT.

The most important reason for this is if there is a need for fire, EMS or police it would be a benefit for motorists to have a clue where they are when speaking to a 9-1-1 operator. There are different providers of police, EMS and fire services in each city. While both would likely respond, sending too many emergency vehicles to a scene is dangerous itself and can cause accidents.

Here is my give and take with MoDOT:

1)

To: SLCRRep
Subject: District 6 Contact Us Form

Name: John Hoffmann
Phone Number: 314-835-0751
Email: johnhoffmann@charter.net

Comments: When will MoDOT be putting up the City Limit signs for Chesterfield and Town and Country now that the new Hwy 141 reenters Town and Country 900 feet south of Ladue Road and continues close to a mile north?

I publish a web based newsletter covering Chesterfield and Town and Country.

Thanks!

John Hoffmann

2)

From: SLCRRep [<mailto:slcrrep@modot.mo.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 2:10 PM
To: johnhoffmann@charter.net; GatewayGuide
Subject: RE: District 6 Contact Us Form

John,

Thank you for contacting the Missouri Department of Transportation. I was informed by the inspector for the Highway 141 project south of Ladue Road that it will be a while before the signs are back up again due to the current construction.

The signs will be put back up once the construction of the new lanes are completed. The southbound sign will be put up once the southbound lane is completed but I don't have an estimate date of completion for you. The northbound lane should be completed by October 2015.

Tina White-Cronin
Customer Service Representative
St. Louis District Traffic Management Center
314-275-1500

3)

From: John Hoffmann [mailto:johnhoffmann@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 2:32 PM
To: 'SLCRRRep'; 'GatewayGuide'
Subject: RE: District 6 Contact Us Form

Tina...The signs have never been up before for your inspector or crew to put them back up. MoDot moved 141 from Chesterfield into Town and Country. These are new signs that are needed and not a matter of putting signs "back up."

Of course this means people who need a police response or Fire or EMS response will have no idea what to tell 9-1-1 operators as to where they are...since whether you are in Town and Country or Chesterfield means responses from different police, fire and EMS agencies.

Also I thought the NB lanes approaching Ladue and 3/4 of mile after Ladue are finished. It as if MoDot doesn't care about your safety or welfare over putting up some signs.

Thanks for the quick response.

John Hoffmann

4)

I called MoDOT and spoke with Media representative Marie Elliott and explained the question and perhaps why city limits signs should be put up even if later they have to be taken down for construction. I then sent the below emails along with copies of the above emails.

From: John Hoffmann [mailto:johnhoffmann@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 2:48 PM
To: 'marie.elliott@modot.mo.gov'
Subject: FW: District 6 Contact Us Form

Marie: Here are the emails I sent out to local officials beginning with my first inquiry to Tina's response to my response to Tina.

John

5)

From: Marie Elliott [mailto:Marie.Elliott@modot.mo.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 2:55 PM
To: John Hoffmann
Subject: RE: District 6 Contact Us Form

Mr. Hoffman,
Thanks for forwarding this. I will share your concerns with district leadership.

Marie Elliott, M.A.
Community Relations Manager
Missouri Dept. of Transportation - St. Louis District

THE POWER OF THE NEWSLETTER: If you remember in March we shared photos where the city landscaping contractor's crews without any city supervision placed wood chip mulch next to wooden buildings and pavilions. The most dangerous and stupid thing they did was place wooden mulch under a BBQ grill stand that was located next to a wooden pavilion at Drace Park.



The power of this newsletter read by between 600 and 900 people a week got immediate action to correct this. Six months later in September look what happened:



Gosh and Gollies...only six months to replace wood under the BBQ grill with crushed rock.

AND THE BEAT GOES ON: Yes the City of Town and Country is building log cabins and buying 8.8 acres of land it does not know what to do with. Unfortunately the day to day responsibility of land management is tough. Park trash cans go un-emptied. A good way to cut down on full trash cans had been employed recently at Drace Park where for over a week, the Doggie Mutt Mitts plastic bags remained empty.



NEXT WEEK: It appears as if the West County EMS & Fire Protection District's "Strategic Citizen Meetings" maybe the first step in resurrecting their 2006 attempt to annex Town and Country into the Fire District and drastically raise everyone's property tax while grabbing a windfall of cash and creating new union jobs. More on this in next week's newsletter.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 92



October 3, 2014

CHESTERFIELD MILLIONAIRES TO TAX THE PUBLIC TO REMODEL THEIR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY:

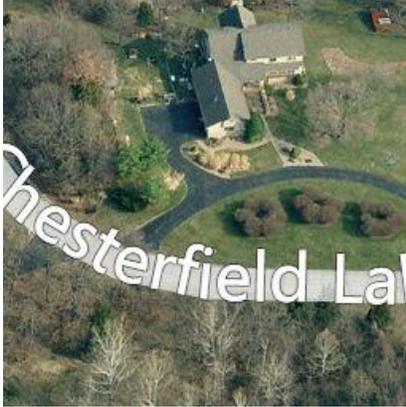
In Manchester, the Board of Aldermen has granted a CID (Community/Commercial Improvement District) sales tax for the Lafayette Center on Manchester Road and Baxter Road. The shopping center is owned by Caplaco Six, Inc. of 11850 Studt Ave in Creve Coeur. Caplaco Six isn't new, but has been around since 1973.



The main tenant of Lafayette Center is Dierbergs.

The president is George K. Capps with a listed address of 831 Woodcove Court in Chesterfield according to vehicle registration tax records. However, the property is owned by Caplaco Twelve Capitol Land Co. of 805 Foxsprings Drive Chesterfield 63017. 805 Foxsprings Drive is the Chesterfield Village Apartments owned by a Capps corporation.

The vice president is Daniel Capps who lives at 2 Chesterfield Lakes Road. The Capps control a number of corporations, including Capplanco Seven, Inc. operating in Arizona, but with corporate offices in Missouri.



2 Chesterfield lakes Road.

One of the corporate officials of Capplanco is John R. Capps of 12 Huntleigh Woods in the Village of Huntleigh. John R. Capps is also the president of Hutkin Plaza Shops, LLC which owns the property of 11850 Studt, the home address of Caplco Six, Inc.



12 Huntleigh Woods

Do I have you totally confused yet? Here is the short answer...a group of multi-millionaires from Chesterfield and Huntleigh that have their holdings hidden in a web of corporations and LLCs don't want pay to remodel profit making properties like the Lafayette Shopping Center. Instead these rich phony-baloneys have suckered a city government (City of Manchester) to force the taxpayers to pay for remodeling private property.

The new sales tax rate has not yet been determined. But again this allows the landlord to use tax money to fix up his property that was built before the days of TIFs and CIDs. Once again the taxpayers get screwed. The Lafayette Shopping Center was built before CIDs and TIFs existed but the Capps family have discovered how to get in on the action 40 years later.

MORE CLAYTON BLIGHT: Tax abatement is coming for retail shops and 250 apartment/condo units in a new 26-story building at Meramec and Bonhomme in downtown Clayton. The developers were given 50% tax abatement for 20 years on the

building. Some residents said they are going to challenge this either in the courts or at the polls. The Clayton School District piped in saying handing out 50% tax cuts will have an effect on the school district's ability to operate.

The last time the Clayton City Council tried this it was overturned in the courts. They attempted to declare Hanley Road and Forsyth Avenue, in the heart of the County Seat and one of the wealthiest cities in Missouri, "Blighted." The courts ruled there were no jobless people and falling down buildings in sight of Hanley and Forsyth and overturned it. In the latest deal the City of Clayton will add about hundreds of more cars to the traffic mix across from the County Courthouse.

CHESTERFIELD DEVELOPES NEW WAY TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM ATTENDING THE FINANCE MEETING:

I am the only uninvited member of the public or the press who ever attends the Finance and Administration committee meetings. They aren't held often, but are always interesting as they deal with money and stuff that councilpersons or the staff want. There is always a story at a F&A meeting. I am beginning to think the elected officials and staff don't want any outsiders attending these meetings.

Here is how you used to be welcomed to the Finance and Administration meeting held in the second floor conference at the top of these stairs:



The new way was introduced in September. The city posted the F&A meeting on the city's website for over a week being on Monday September 29. They then held the meeting on Monday September 22.

I emailed longtime councilman Barry Flachsbart and Mayor Bob Nation and asked what the deal was with the old switcheroo. Only Mayor Nation wrote back and said an

employee apparently posted the meeting on the website for the wrong date. The mayor was honest enough to admit that he noticed the "incorrect" posting on September 21.

Well, geez isn't that convenient! I would think if you had the wrong date posted for a meeting that is open to the public, you need to honor that date or cancel the meeting and hold it sometime in the future with correct date posted.

The agenda for this meeting looked like it was ripe with "newsletter comedy material."

MEMORANDUM



TO: Finance and Administration Committee of City Council

FROM: Michael G. Herring, ICMA-CM – City Administrator *MGH*

DATE: September 18, 2014

SUBJECT: Finance and Administration Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 22nd in Conference Room 202.

The following list of items has been scheduled for discussion at this meeting:

1. Approval of Minutes from August 25, 2014 – Chairperson Derek Grier, Councilmember – Ward 2 (enclosure)
2. Discussion re: Possible New Policy: Executive Sessions Held ONLY at City Council Level – Chairperson Derek Grier, Councilmember, Ward 2
3. Discussion re: Past Practice: Except for P/PW Committee, 2-2 Votes Stay in Committee – Chairperson Derek Grier, Councilmember, Ward 2
4. Discussion re: Possible elimination of Property Tax - 2015 – Mayor Bob Nation
5. Discussion re: STAGES, ST. LOUIS – ANNUAL GALA – Mayor Bob Nation (enclosure)
6. Discussion re: Hazardous Pay – Councilmember Bruce DeGroot, Ward 4
7. Community Contributions – Consideration of Request from the Children's Illustrated Art Museum in Chesterfield Mall – Libbey Tucker, Community Services and Economic Development Director (enclosure)
8. Pay Plan Mechanics / Analysis – Finance Director Craig White/Chief Ray Johnson/Director of Public Services Mike Geisel/City Administrator Mike Herring (enclosures)
9. Adjournment – Chairperson Derek Grier, Councilmember – Ward II

If you have any questions or would like to add any items to this agenda, please let me know as soon as possible.

Notice is hereby given that the Finance and Administration Committee may hold a closed meeting for the purpose of dealing with matters relating to one or more of the following: legal actions, causes of action, litigation or privileged communications between the City's representatives and its attorney (RSMo 610.021(1) 1994); lease purchase or sale of real estate (RSMo 610.021(2) 1994); hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting employees within employee groups (RSMo 610.021(3) 1994); bidding specifications (RSMo 610.021(11) 1994); and/or proprietary technological materials (RSMo 610.021(15) 1994).

PERSONS REQUIRING AN ACCOMMODATION TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING SHOULD CONTACT CITY CLERK VICKIE HASS AT (636) 537-6716, AT LEAST TWO (2) WORKDAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

cc: Mayor Bob Nation and City Council
Michael Herring, City Administrator
Rob Heggie, City Attorney

Customer Service Center
Management Team

CHESTERFIELD RECEIVES \$87,000 FROM INSURANCE COMPANY AFTER

LAWSUIT: In our May 19, 2014 newsletter we reported how The City of Chesterfield refused to accept \$60,000 from the Travelers Insurance Company in a 2006 surety bond case and wanted \$142,100. Travelers had insured Gunhay, LLC the developer of the Reserve of Chesterfield and Gunhay failed to complete required landscaping under the site plans approved.

The City and Travelers negotiated for years with the city at first wanting \$511,576 to finish the landscaping, but then a new developer did much of the desired landscaping, leaving just \$142,100 to be completed. Travelers offered \$60,000. The city refused to accept the 60K and sued.

The case stated in the St. Louis County Circuit Court in March and in May was moved to Federal Court.

At the September 15, 2014 City Council meeting it was announced that the city was going to spend \$87,500 for landscaping at The Reserve of Chesterfield. City Attorney Rob Heggie stated that the money was the total amount accepted by the city in an out of court settlement with Travelers.

On the face of it Travelers seem to have won here. They paid out \$27,500 more than they originally agreed to pay the city, while the city got \$54,600 less than what they sued for.

COUNCIL VOTES TO RELAX 51% RULE AT ATHLETIC FIELDS...CAA

TEAMS SICK OF PLAYING EACH OTHER: In an agreement between the City of Chesterfield and the Chesterfield Athletic Association over the use of the City's Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex for youth baseball, softball and soccer games there was a 51% rule. At least 51% of the participants had to be city residents for the CAA to get reduced rates.

The Parks Department was looking to modify the agreement. The reasoning made sense. They wanted the 51% rule waived for weekend tournaments with visiting teams from outside of the Chesterfield area, the St. Louis Region or even Missouri.

Services director Mike Geisel told the Council the local teams which played each other during the week were getting sick of playing the same teams all the time and wanted tournaments where half the teams were from outside the area.

The measure passed on a 7-1 vote with Nancy Greenwood voting no.

DING-DONG...DON'T VOTE FOR JOHN DIEHL WAS THE MESSAGE FROM BOURBAN, MISSOURI AT MY HOUSE:

Readers of this newsletter know how on a regular basis I like to point out how almost all of the campaign contributions sent to State Representation and House Majority Leader and soon to be Speaker of the House John Diehl come from way outside of his district, outside of the State of Missouri and outside of the United States of American.

So I was a little surprised when Laura Hausladen and her husband were ringing the door bell at my house at 5pm on a Saturday afternoon. They were with the MO Leadership Project. They were going door to door asking people not to vote for John Diehl.

For the first time since 2008 when Diehl was first elected to the Missouri House he has an opponent of any kind (never opposed in a primary or general election prior to now).

The Hausladens had driven from all the way to Town and County from Bourbon, Missouri, a 65-mile trip. They didn't mention Diehl's opponent Al Gerber, the kook who preached how knocking out deer with a dart and then giving them a \$1,200 hysterectomy was cheaper than just shooting them.



I invited them in and began to quiz them asking if they knew the largest contributors to Diehl. They did know about the \$10,000 from Pinnacle Entertainment (Casinos owners) at 3980 Howard Hughes Blvd. Las Vegas. But they were unaware of most other the large out of town contributors to Diehl.

I asked them if they knew Al Gerber or just were really upset with Diehl to the point they would drive from Crawford County to talk to people in Diehl's district. Turns out they know Gerber and Mrs. Hausladen used to teach at The Principia and in fact had taught Town and Country Alderwoman Amy Anderson's kids. So there is clearly a connection to Gerber and the Christian Science Church.

However the big differences included that the Hausladens are admitted deer hunters and the group MO Leadership Project is financed by very, very far right wing people, including Ron Calzone, while Al Gerber is a big time leftist. Here is a link to the MO Leadership Project website, which has pretty much the same material that is on the brochure they were handing out.

<http://www.moleadershipproject.org/>

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS ALIKE DON'T WANT JOHN DIEHL LEADING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Why?



Rep. John Diehl has been the Republican House Floor Leader for the last two years and he's been "pre-selected" to be the next Speaker of the House, the most powerful position in Missouri, next to the Governor.

www.MOLeaderShipProject.org

Why do Republicans have a duty to oppose John Diehl's re-election?

- Keeping Diehl out of a leadership position is the starting point to ending a corrupt legislative process.
- To restore the public trust, they must insist on leaders who can be trusted -- *they must not reward duplicity with re-election.*
- Republicans must defend each and every representative's ability to truly represent their own constituents, and that is only possible if they insist on an end to heavy-handed leadership practices.
- In these formative times, we must have statesmen who will defend the Constitution and liberty, not politicians wanting to climb the political ladder.

(With or without John Diehl, Republicans will still have a majority.)

For details and substantiation, a list of donors to John Diehl, and more ideas about how the People can regain control of the legislative process go to:

www.MOLeaderShipProject.org

Brochure compiled by Ron Catzone, production and distribution paid for by others.

For a list of sponsors contact Laura Hausladen, P.O. Box 23 Bourbon, MO 65441

Why are Republican and Democrat Legislators alike opposing John Diehl's speakership?

- They are fearful of losing severely eroded legislative reputations through the legislative no longer debate to being re-elected.
- They want their bills, not the leadership position, to have a fair chance at the legislative process.
- They want to find agreement their constituents, not be forced to vote along party lines on their agenda.

YES NO

Why are gun rights advocates opposing John Diehl's re-election?

- They know the greatest threat to our rights is being used for who comes from the federal level. And they know that John Diehl was the one gun most responsible for killing the federal Amendment Protection Act.
- They know he could be made to look like the "hero" of the state and then be used as the duplicate.

Why are citizens fighting for fair elections and paper ballots opposing John Diehl's re-election?

- They know that without fair elections nothing else matters and the computer experts across the country say electronic voting machines can't be trusted.
- Even though a bill requiring paper ballots passed the Senate, John Diehl and supporters of the bill that no floor vote would never let such a bill get to the House floor.
- Someone doesn't and Mr. Diehl what could possibly be wrong with a voting system you can validate?

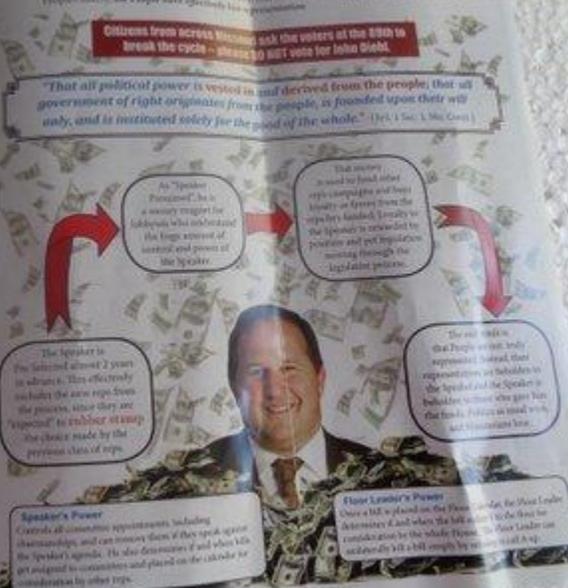
www.MOLeaderShipProject.org

A Broken Legislative Process

The public officials answer to the "people" are the state representatives. Not when these representatives are squelched by House leadership that is more interested in what politics than the People's liberty, the People have effectively lost representation.

Citizens from across Missouri ask the voters at the 8th to break the cycle -- please do NOT vote for John Diehl.

"That all political power is vested in and derived from the people; that all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole." (Art. I Sec. 3, Mo. Const.)



The Speaker "Preserved" the cycle as a security measure for lobbyists who contributed the large amount of central and general fund of the speaker.

The security is used by fund other ways campaigns and their loyalty as being from the speaker's agenda. Loyalty to the speaker is rewarded by promotion and get legislation moving through the legislative process.

The real issue is that People's voices truly represented instead that representatives are beholden to the "head" and the Speaker is beholden to those who give him the funds. Politics is about work and relationships here.

Speaker's Power
Controls all committee appointments, including chairmanships, and can remove them if they speak against the speaker's agenda. He also determines if and when bills get assigned to committees and placed on the calendar for consideration by other ways.

House Leader's Power
Once a bill is passed on the House calendar, the House Leader determines if and when the bill will go to the floor for consideration by the whole House. The House Leader can voluntarily kill a bill simply by refusing to call it up.

MEDIA WATCH: HIGHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION: Perhaps it is not fair since we don't watch the kids at KSDK who have decided to go down to the barn and put on a newscast. It seems that Channel 5 has the youngest reporters with the least institutional knowledge of St. Louis and of the surrounding area. It also seems to me that KSDK is the station of human interest features and not the news.

Those might be the reasons why I watch KTVI and KMOV more. Of course we have been reporting how the kids at KMOV have twice falsely reported how crimes have occurred in Town and Country when they have not.

However KTVI actually has old people in the field who really know St. Louis. Betsy Bruce has been around for a while (40 years), as have Elliot Davis and even Andy Banker has a couple decades under his belt reporting from the streets of St. Louis. But it is KTVI who we are going to poke a little fun at this week.

In the last few weeks there were two stories on KTVI that made me wonder. One dealt with regional TV coverage of some guy in St. Charles getting a parking ticket for blocking a sidewalk. The ticket was to a homeowner whose pickup truck was pulled partially into a driveway but was blocking the sidewalk in front of the house. The question was how much of the sidewalk was blocked. KTVI never answered that question on the air. They showed the tailgate a few inches over the sidewalk a week after the ticket was issued.

This particular violation is a big deal to me. When I was 20 years-old I was a police dispatcher for the Creve Coeur Police Department. I was working the 3-11 shift and it was the start of the shift when I got a fanatic call about a young girl who got hit by a car on Spoeede Road near the elementary school.

The girl was dead. It turned out there had been a construction project or utility repair of some sort and the sidewalk was covered with a huge mound of dirt. The little girl walked around the dirt into the street and was hit and killed. It was the first call I had handled that reached this level of tragedy. To make matters worse the little girl's father was a Frontenac Police sergeant who I spoke to daily since Creve Coeur also dispatched for Frontenac, Des Peres and Town and Country in 1973.

Then when I was a cop in Liberty, Missouri, a northern Kansas City suburb, we had a kid on a big wheels hit by a car in a subdivision when he steered into the street to get around a car parked partially in the driveway but also blocking the sidewalk. At least he was not killed. But I started writing parking tickets that KTVI was focusing as being unfair.

On the TV report the shot of the rear of the pickup truck was only a couple inches over the sidewalk. However apparently the homeowner admitted the truck was maybe three feet over the sidewalk when he was ticketed. Well the sidewalk is only four feet wide...so I'd say it was blocking the sidewalk and maybe that three feet was really four feet.

The other story was by Duke University graduate, Rebecca Roberts, who reported that a 22-year-old "senior" student at Florissant Valley Community who had worked in the bookstore was arrested for running a stolen textbook-return scheme that netted him thousands of dollars. Twice Roberts called him a "senior." This made me think that the real story should have been how Flo-Valley Community College was now offering BS and BA degrees.



Duke grad Rebecca Roberts unintentional reporting that Flo-Valley CC was offering four-year degrees.

And finally I would beg the powers to be at KPLR to stop doing close ups of Melanie Moon. It is difficult for a fat guy who is not very attractive to say this...but it appears as if Melanie has had more than her fair share of Botox work. There is no mention of anything to help one guess Melanie's age on the website.



Now Melanie has a twin sister Melissa who works at a Memphis TV station, according to Melissa Moon's bio she like Melanie plays the harp and piano and they both transferred

from South Florida University to Pat Robertson's Liberty University in Virginia, but no dates are given. Here are promo photos of the two sisters:



Melanie Moon



Melissa Moon

Easy to tell them apart, Melanie has the extra two pounds of eye shadow and the extra big lips.

MILLER'S CROSSING A PLEASANT SURPRISE FOR LUNCH: A Friday lunch around 1pm was a pleasant surprise for myself and former Patch.com editor Jean Whitney. We went to the very local bar and restaurant Milling's Crossing at 14156 Olive Blvd, just past the two Phillips 66 gas stations and across the street from the old patio furniture store.



We were too early for the Friday night specials of Ribs and Pork Steak but found plenty of other items to try on the menu.

For an appetizer we decided to get the most from our resources and split the single patty "steakburger" cheeseburger. We got a side, so we picked mac and cheese.

This was nowhere close to its namesake at Steak n Shake. The "steakburger" at Miller's was much better. The meat for this cheeseburger was fresh and clearly never frozen. The cheese on top was melted perfectly. This burger had plenty of taste. They also offered their 'steakburgers" in the two and three patty versions, but the single patty was plenty filling.

If you remember about a month ago we reviewed Circle 7 Ranch on Clayton Road and complained how the macaroni and cheese did not have enough cheese and was runny. That was not the case at Miller's Crossing. The macaroni hung together thanks to a thick melted cheese. This burger and side went for \$4.25 and was a bargain. They also have a half pound Tavern burger for \$7.00.



The restaurant is under new ownership, but there has not been a price increase yet. How did we know that? It was simple...they have not changed menus yet. We asked our waitress about the Irish Stew that was on the menu and she replied that it was no longer available as the new owners have discontinued it.

Jean ordered the fish and chips for \$11.00. We were both surprised when the fish arrived and were actually sitting on homemade potato chips and not "English chips" better known as French fries.

Unlike most fish you get with fish and chips that is heavily battered, this fish had a light batter and was 90% fish. The fish was very good. Jean thought the price was too high for fish arriving on potato chips. I tended to agree with her.



My order was the brisket sandwich with a side a potato salad. The brisket was good, a little better than the brisket at Smitty's but not as good as the brisket at Lester's. The potato salad was made in the kitchen and was very good. Unlike the delicious potato salad at Lester's that comes in a tiny bowl that would normally hold cocktail sauce for five shrimp, at Miller's Crossing you got a healthy serving. However some might find it came with a bit too much mayo.

The return to Miller's Crossing...Dinner with Diana (and Jean): A week later our trio of consumers returned for the Friday night BBQ specials. Jean got the pork steak (\$11), I got the 1/2 slab of ribs (\$11), my wife got the cheese steakburger and baked beans and a Stella beer (\$5.25 for the beer).



The pork steak was a 20oz cut. However the Saturday Pork Steak special at Smitty's and the everyday pork steak at Charlotte's Rib are both more tender and not as dry. This said it was not as if Jean did not consume the entire thing. The ribs were okay, but are much, much better further east on Olive at Sugar Fire. The cole slaw side while homemade, was a bit too heavy in the mayo sauce.

However the big hit of the night were the baked beans, so much so we made a second order. Not only were these piping hot they had a great favor for myself and Diana while Jean thought it may have been a little too sweet. They serve the beans with a soup spoon because it is almost like eating a thick ham and bean soup.

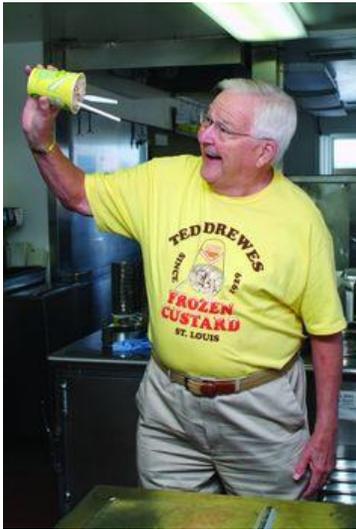


So after two meals at Miller's Crossing if we return we are getting the steakburger and the baked beans and maybe if we feel like a 10-year-old, an order of the very cheesy Mac and Cheese.

RETAIL NEWS: Last week we wrote how the management of the Four Seasons Shopping center along Olive Blvd. wanted to rezone some of the property so the Panera Beard store could move into the building where the Mongolian BBQ and Asian Buffett is located and have a drive through window.

We have been informed that fans of buying volumes of tasteless food at a cheap price should not worry as the Mongolian BBQ has plans to move into the space where the Sunshine Cafe had been located, in a downsizing move.

REAL ESTATE: ON the Move: Some people are bigger than life, almost like Wild Bill Hickok or Annie Oakley. Around St. Louis one of those local people is Ted Drewes, Jr.



Ted and his wife have lived in the corner house on Mason Ridge and Masonridge Court since 1993. We noticed a for sale sign just went up in front of the 4,857 sq ft house. It is on the market for \$1,395,000.



REAL ESTATE HOUSE OF THE WEEK: 13398 Conway Road Town and Country. Listed for \$3,450,000. As regular readers know we don't like to look into any property for sale for chump change prices under \$3,000,000 unless there are some unusual circumstances. This week we are looking at the home of Steve and Mitzi Dix.

According to tax records this house has been owned for the last 10 years by Steve and Mitzi Dix. He bought the house in 2003 for \$2,250,000.

The house is on a 5.58 acre gated lot. It is described as being built in French Normandy architectural style. I have been to the Normandy region of France and I can tell you this place is an extra large American McMansion.





Does a full wall size nude portrait next to the bathtub in the master bath qualify you as a **Nouveau riche St. Louis Hoosier?**

This house only has five full baths with 2 half baths and only a mere 4-car garage.

The most interesting lawsuit filings involving Steven Paul Dix was that he was arrested for DWI and appealed his license revocation in January 2009. The courts upheld the license revocation in December of 2011.

St. Louis County Tax records show a mailing address of 4700 Jamieson Ave. St. Louis, MO 63109. Located at 4700 Jamieson (just around the corner from Ted Drews) is CMS Holding. CMS (Creative Management Services) actually merged with a firm in 1999 to form MC2. The top corporate officer with CMS Holding is Steven Dix at 717 Jamestown Road Naples, FL. That is on a lake inside a gated subdivision.



Steve and Mitzi Dix brought this property in 1993. However, Collier County Florida real estate records showed that the Dixs sold this property in 2011. Real estate websites list

the selling price as \$3.2 million. The HOA fee is \$6,000 a year and taxes are \$22,945 a year, making St. Louis County taxes seem like a bargain.

The Dixs currently own two other pieces of property in Naples. Immediately after selling the house at 717 Jamestown Road, they bought a fifth floor beach front condo at 8111 Bay Colony Drive for \$1,325,000. That condo is now valued between at \$1.65 million and \$2-million according to some real estate websites. They also own a \$400,000 ranch house which is not near any water.



MUSIC: A TRIP BACK IN TIME: On Saturday September 27 my wife and I stopped by an estate sale at 41 Plant Avenue just off of Lockwood in Webster Groves. The sale was at a house with a "Century Home" plaque stating that it had been built in 1908.



What does this have to do with music? Well this is the house where famous arranger, composer and record label talent director Gordon Jenkins grew up. Jenkins was born two years after the house was built. He died in 1984 in Malibu.



Gordon Jenkins



The Chairman of the Board Nat King Cole



Jenkins has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for all the arranging he did in motion pictures, television and records. But he is perhaps best known for the arranging of songs for Frank Sinatra over three decades and arrangements for Nat King Cole.

One of Jenkins' music arranging works you have to hear every year in December in grocery and department stores are Christmas songs sung by Frank Sinatra, including the jazzy version of Jingle Bells. You would have to be older to remember this one, but I sure do...the very fast song Tzena, Tzena, Tenza sung by Pete Seger and The Weavers, was arranged by Jenkins from a Jewish folk song.

Jenkins also wrote the music that Johnny Cash made famous with "Folsom Prison Blues." The music was originally in a Jenkins' piece titled "Crescent City Blues."

RAT PACK MONDAY: It looked like a Friday night at the One-19 restaurant in Kirkwood for the Chris Swan, Jim Manley and Dean Christopher Rat Pack Monday that featured two extra musicians and several others who sat in. The place was packed to the point people were being turned away and everyone, the musicians and customers all had a good time.



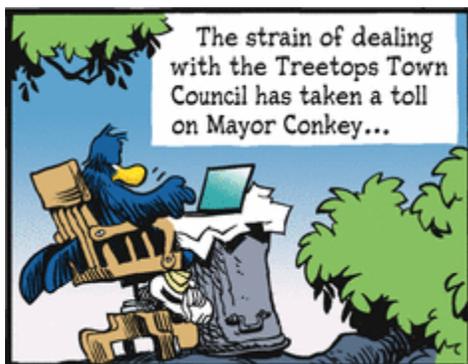
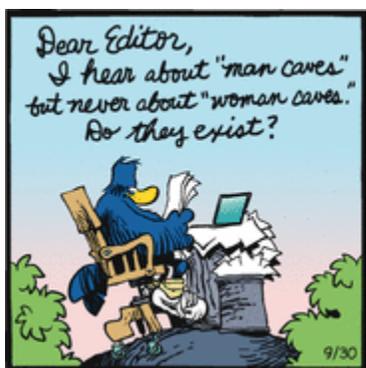
Dean Christopher morphs into Sammy Davis, Jr. Jerry Moser and Dean team up for do "That's Amore"

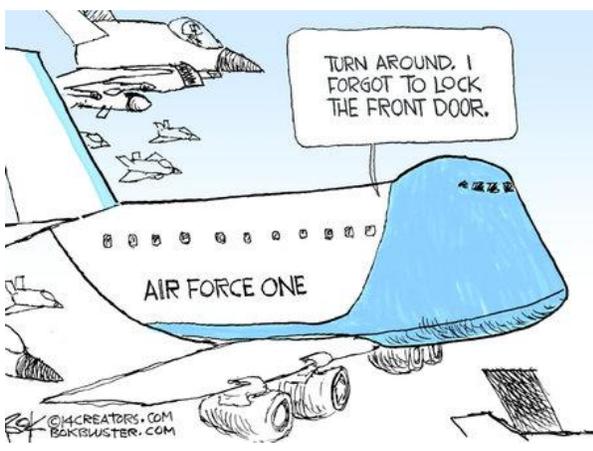
SPORTS: Rockwood dad and former Cardinal Tom Lawless finished his month as Interim Manger of the Houston Astros with an 11-13 record. Lawless replaced Manger Bo Porter who was fire on Labor Day. The Astros finished the season with a 70-92 record so Lawless' 11-13 mark wasn't so bad. Lawless was not hired as the permanent manager of the Astros. That job went to A.J. Hitch, a former backup catcher, manager and front office executive of the Arizona Diamondbacks. It was not announced if Lawless would return to his job as a roving minor league instructor for the Astros.

Lawless a longtime Wildwood resident and a native of western Pennsylvania, decided to stay in St. Louis with his family after playing for the Cardinals from 1985 to 1988. I knew Tom for three years when I covered minor league baseball on the east coast and he was a minor league manager for the Baltimore Orioles.



CARTOONS:





U.T. San Diego 10-11-14
CRAWFORD GALT

RUNNING IN WASHINGTON



THE MALL

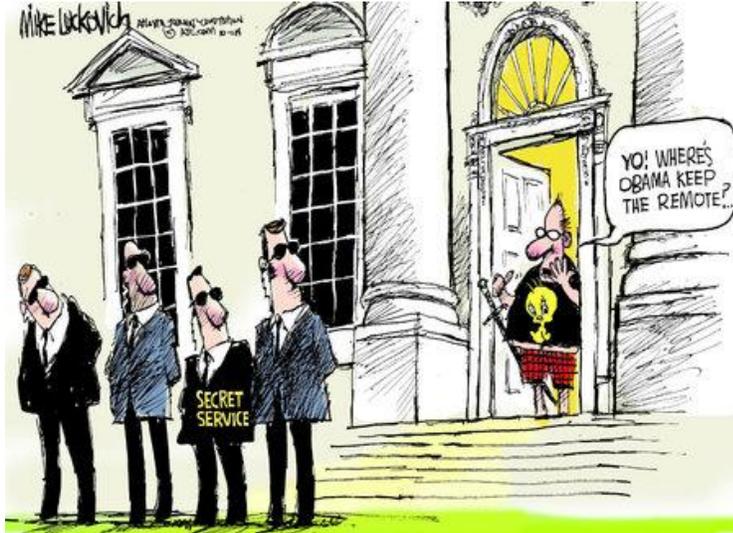
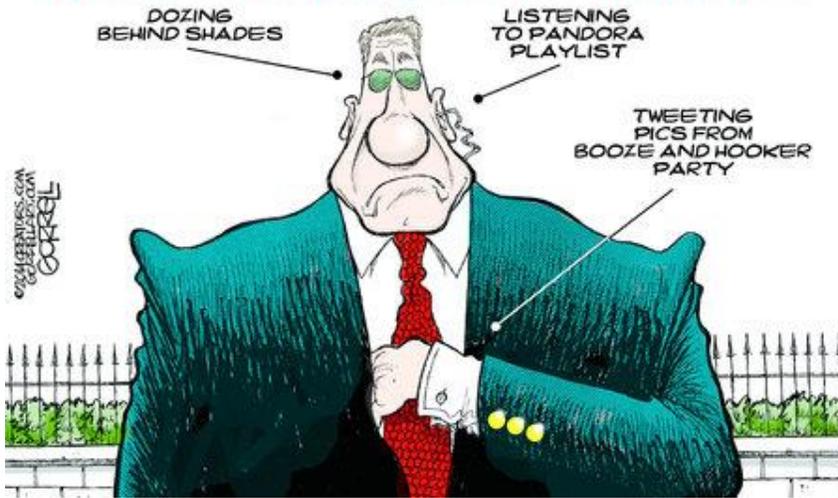


THE TIDAL BASIN



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