

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 159 AND CHESTERFIELD 104



By John Hoffmann

January 07, 2015

OVERNIGHT HOUSE BURGLARY NETS BAD GUYS TWO CARS: At 1:30 a m on Monday morning January 5, two suspects enter a home on Mason Grove Lane which is located off Mason Road just south of Thornhill Estates. Once inside they obtained sets of keys to a Lexus SUV and a Ford Escape and fled. KMOV is reporting that the cars crashed and continued north on Mason to I-64 and went east. Here is the information provided by the police upon our request:

At approximately 0130 hours, 1-5-15, suspects entered a residence in the 13000 block of Mason Grove. The suspects removed electronic items from the residence and then stole 2 vehicles belonging to the residents. The residents were home at the time of the incident but did not confront the suspects.



A police spokesman declined to answer any other questions about the crime citing the need of withholding certain facts prior to the arrests of any suspects.

THE LETHAL DEER MANAGEMENT HAS BEGUN: In the first four days of the New Year, employees of White Buffalo have killed 51 deer in Town and Country. Under this year's \$46,500 contract White Buffalo, out of Connecticut, is to remove by lethal means 100 deer. For safety reasons and under the terms of the contract the city does not publicly announce the areas where deer sharpshooting will take place. The city is liable to pay White Buffalo, \$1,000 a day if protesters make it impossible to conduct sharpshooting activities. On conclusion of the activities a full report will be filed including where sharpshooting took place and the number of deer killed at each location.

IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN:

Town and Country:

Ward 1: So far incumbent **Lynn "Deer in the Headlights" Wright** is the only person to file. This is a shame. Some alderperson should have filed a bill to have term limits to keep local politicians from controlling parts of local government over an extended period of time. 10 years or five terms should be the max for an alderperson and two terms or 8-years should be all for one mayor. Wright has been around since 2005. It would be nice to see someone new in that position.



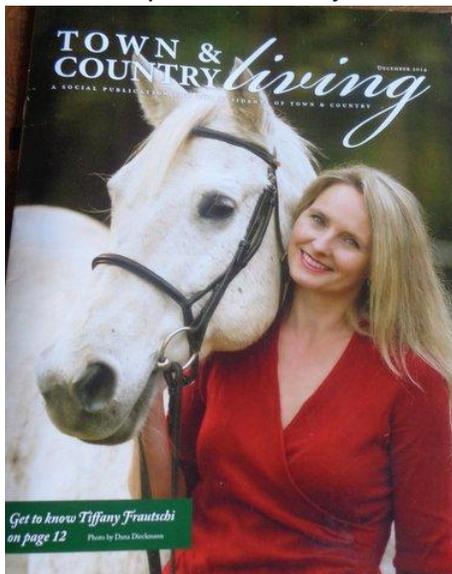
Ward 2: Incumbent **Tim Welby** decided not to run despite keeping his re-election committee alive by filing quarterly reports with the Missouri Ethics Commissions (something that Welby could not figure out for a number of years resulting in a fine and two year probation term from the Ethics Commission). The common belief was that Welby, who has a "zero to creepy" personality, would lose big if one of the two women behind the Amy Anderson campaign ran.

The first to file in Ward 2 was **Tim Walsh**, a lawyer who moved back to St. Louis from Chicago in 2008. Walsh is on the Board of Adjustment and is a buddy of Welby and of Mayor Jon Dalton. If you think there needs to be checks or balances to Town and County government, rest assured Walsh is not going to supply it. He will be part of the good old boy Dalton network.

A day after Walsh filed one of the two people who helped the grass root campaign of Amy Anderson filed to run against Walsh. **Tiffany Frautschi** a new resident, whose family brought a 5-acre spread on South Mason Road filed. She grew up as an Army brat and then married a Naval officer. Her husband, a former Navy fighter pilot, was stationed in Washington, DC long enough for Frautschi to earn a masters' degree in International Affairs at Catholic University and also work as a National Security Advisor for government contractors. She has shown she can do extensive research on issues, having helped kill the Carbon Footprint Bill using facts no one else had bothered to find.

When the latest issue of the phony-baloney magazine, Town and Country Living, hit my mailbox in early December I didn't make fun it like I did for the first two issues. On the cover was Tiffany and one of her two horses kept at her house on South Mason Road.

After seeing her on the cover, I waited to see if she was going to file for the Ward-2 seat. When she did, I had to give her a tip of the hat for the brilliant move of getting her name and photo in every mailbox in her ward while costing her nothing.



WARD 3: As usual **Fred Meyland-Smith** has filed for reelection. Fred, the designated "gasbag" of the Board Aldermen who guarantees any meeting he attends will go 10 minutes longer than it needs to, and is another person who would be eliminated if 10-

year term limits were in place. After winning in 2005, Meyland-Smith has never had an opponent for reelection...until now that is.

I have lived here since 2006 and have never known Fred Meyland-Smith to listen to constituents, but instead, he seems to enjoy lecturing them.



Meyland-Smith in lecture mode

The residents of the Wheatfield Farm subdivision have had enough. Meyland-Smith not only lectured them, he didn't listen to their concerns over increasing the parking spaces at Longview Farm Park. He violated earlier promises from the city to have a quiet passive park and was a leading mover to increase the parking spaces available. The subdivision had enough this year and found a resident to run against Fred.

Bernard Zyk from Wheatfield Farm filed to run against Meyland-Smith. Zyk should have one big advantage over Meyland-Smith. Zyk owns a printing company in Clayton. That will surely help on mailers going out at cost.

WARD 4

So far in early filing in Ward 4 only **incumbent vegetarian and greenie Jon Benigas** has filed. Bengias has already not delivered on a promise. He claimed that the Green Team Commission, which he chairs, should be shut down if the Carbon Footprint Study was not approved. The study was not approved and the commission still exists.

CHESTERFIELD:

Ward 1 Former mayor and incumbent councilwoman Nancy Greenwood filed for reelection the first day filing was open. There is no opposition at this time.

Ward 2 Councilman **Derek Grier** with both job ties and sympathies toward developers and tax breaks for developers has decided not to run for reelection. **Bridget Nations**,

the wife of former mayor John Nations, filed for the seat. It appeared as if Grier not running and Mrs. Nations' candidacy had been worked out in advance.

If Mrs. Nations is anything like her husband those on the city council who favor a slower pace toward development and tax breaks should hold on to their hats.

John Nations (not to be confused with current mayor Bob Nation) is a lawyer, who as mayor agreed to deliver the West County vote for a transit tax increase that Bi-State/Metro wanted. He was rewarded when the tax increase passed by being given the job of President and CEO of the transit company despite having absolutely no experience in the field of transit. After being offered a \$250,000 salary Nations held out until they threw in a free membership to the Missouri Athletic Club which still doesn't allow 52% of the population to be members (No women allowed as primary members). He then quit as mayor in mid-term because money is more important than fulfilling your obligations of office for Nations. All this places the ex-mayor on my WCC list...West County Creeps. However, his wife should not be burden with her husband abandoning his elected responsibilities.



Here are Bridget and John Nations in a photo we snapped at a Chesterfield City Council meetings on St. Patrick's Day. While Bridget is wearing a green sweater, her husband is wearing a bright orange tie and looks like he is ready to lead an anti-Catholic march in Ulster.

Ward 3 Dan Hurt is the only candidate who has filed so far. The long time councilman who sat out for a couple of years after losing a race for mayor, is always full of interesting comments even if some are not well thought out and will lengthen meetings five or ten minutes. Owning his own business, Hurt has been anything but a rubber stamp for developers.

Ward 4 Bruce DeGroot, a lawyer who is finishing his first two-year term has been interesting to cover, as he will occasionally say some unbelievably stupid things, with my favorite being how the cops with a license plate reader system on a car might just

patrol only black neighborhoods...begging the question...what black neighborhoods in Chesterfield? The other one was how he hated Arts almost as much as he hates soccer, before he voted for forming a City run Arts Department.

However DeGroot is independent which is good. He has voted with the group who is not in the developer's pockets more often than not.

MONARCH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT: Early on only Fire Board president **Robin Harris** has filed for reelection. Many expect Local 2665 of the Firefighters Union will put up a candidate by the end of filing period on January 20. However with the help of Jane Cunningham, Harris should not have a big problem winning against someone identified as a firefighter union candidate. The union might be wise to look two years down the road and make sure they keep Steven Swyers on the board and if he decides not to run find a replacement for him so they still have one voice on the board.

MARYVILLE SCALES BACK BUILDING PLANS ALONG CONWAY ROAD **Is it about a concession to the neighbors or is it about the MONEY?** Officials at Maryville University have announced they are scaling back the plans for the property they just purchased along Conway Road that was rezoned from Residential to Major Education in a controversial decision in 2013.

The original plan was to build a new maintenance facility on the grounds for the school's large trucks and equipment, which would be located behind proposed softball and soccer fields. The maintenance facility was a large issue in the neighborhood opposition. The university was spinning things claiming they were going to build a concession stand and locker rooms...oh and a 20,000 sq foot maintenance garage.



Maintenance Garage is no longer on the drawing board. However tennis courts are being added along Conway Road.

BUT WAIT... Now the university has announced they will not be building the garage. Apparently they will be contracting out the work and no longer need the facility.

Taking Credit: I have a feeling that Ward 1 Alderman Skip Manage and Ward 3 Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith will be taking credit for mediating this issue with the university. I know that Ward-4 Alderwoman Linda Rallo met with university officials more than once about this. Rallo was propelled into office over this issue after long time Alderman Phil Behnen voted for the rezoning and garage. The university will surely claim they are reaching out to their neighbors with the move.

Call me a cynic, but I think the bottom line has nothing to do with any politician or the goodness of the university. It is about money. Maryville discovered they could save a lot of money by getting rid of a part of their labor force and contracting out the work. It is too bad they didn't figure this out in 2013.

In the announcement Maryville also said that they would be moving the tennis courts from the main campus to Conway Road. During the rezoning battle university officials promised there would be nothing other than the soccer and softball fields on Conway Road. Well that turns out to be a lie. To soften this, the university said local residents could use the tennis courts when not in use by the university.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 96



January 7, 2015

BIG SHOWDOWN IN CHESTERFIELD CONTINUED DUE TO BOY

COUNCILMAN BEING A NO-SHOW: Everyone at Monday January 5 City Council meeting was waiting for the big showdown between Mayor Bob Nation and the City Council over Nation's vetoes of four items in the 2015 budget.

Nation had vetoed \$300 gift cards to city employees wanting them to be \$100 instead. He vetoed a 3-percent raise wanting a 2.5-percent raise instead as the CPI was at 2-percent. He vetoed over \$100,000 in the budget to form a city run Arts Unit under the Parks Department and finally he wants to reduce the number of new police officers

hired to allow more School Resource Officers for elementary schools from two to one. The one SRO is a compromise to Nation's original veto of both SROs from the budget.

However, Boy Councilman Derek "Grizzly" Grier was absent.



We asked four councilpersons if they knew where Grier was. Three did not know. One said he was out of town on business with this job.

The Council voted to continue the meeting until the meeting of Wednesday January 21. Councilman Barry Flachsbart voted against the continuance.

Council Mike Casey reminded Flachsbart that the council's job is to serve the public.

"We are not serving the public. We are serving Derek," retorted Flachsbart who was ready to vote with seven councilpersons.

TWO FORMER POLITICIANS SPEAK AGAINST NATION'S VETOES:

Former Councilwoman Mary Brown and former Councilman and Mayor Bruce Geiger spoke in opposition to Mayor Nation's vetoes.

Geiger showed his ignorance by saying he was surprised a mayor of a third class city could do vetoes. Nation defeated Geiger's handpicked candidate, Councilman Matt Segal in the last mayors' race in 2013. In some back and forth with Nation, Geiger admitted going online to see mayoral veto ability but then admitted he did not look at Missouri Statutes which spell out what can be done.



Former Mayor Bruce Geiger admitting his ignorance of mayoral veto power.

NOT EXACTLY A SMALL EMBEZZLEMENT: When you read about people stealing from the Boy Scout troop or the high school football booster club you normally see figures like \$2,000 or maybe \$10,000 on the upper limits. But of course things are usually a little different out here in Snoburbia. On December 19 Rice A. Jacobs of 14181 Cross Trails Drive in Chesterfield was charged with stealing \$121,000 from the Parkway Central Band Booster Club. Yes that was \$121,000.



[LinkedIn photo](#)



[Police Mug shot](#)

His LinkedIn page shows he is working for TD Ameritrade after spending four years with Edward Jones. Before becoming a "financial advisor" Jacobs was a construction and development engineer, having worked for short periods for Clayco, HBE, himself for two years, DesignBuild Associates and Erdman.

Jacobs who has reportedly been the treasurer of the Band Booster Club for 10 years. A background check should have been made every couple of years if you have a bankroll in six figures. That would have found that 2006 a red flag year as Jacobs was sued three times. In the case of Flooring Systems Inc. Jacobs was hit with a \$20,333 judgment that according to online court records has not been satisfied yet. That alone should have been a large warning flag to keep Jacobs away from the money.

FIRE CHIEF HIRED AND BATTALION CHIEF FIRED: December saw some personnel changes at the Monarch Fire Prevention District. It was no surprise when the Monarch Board of Directors announced on December 18 that Chuck Marsonette was named the district's newest fire chief. Marsonette was hired as an interim fire chief after Chief Tom Vineyard quit taking a job in St. Charles County before the end of his Monarch contract in December which was not likely to have been renewed.

We recently wrote how we expected Marsonette to be hired as the fire chief when the board of directors did not advertise in national fire command/management trade magazines.



The one thing we noticed since Marsonette took over as the interim chief is that the command staff looked and acted with a greater degree of professionalism.

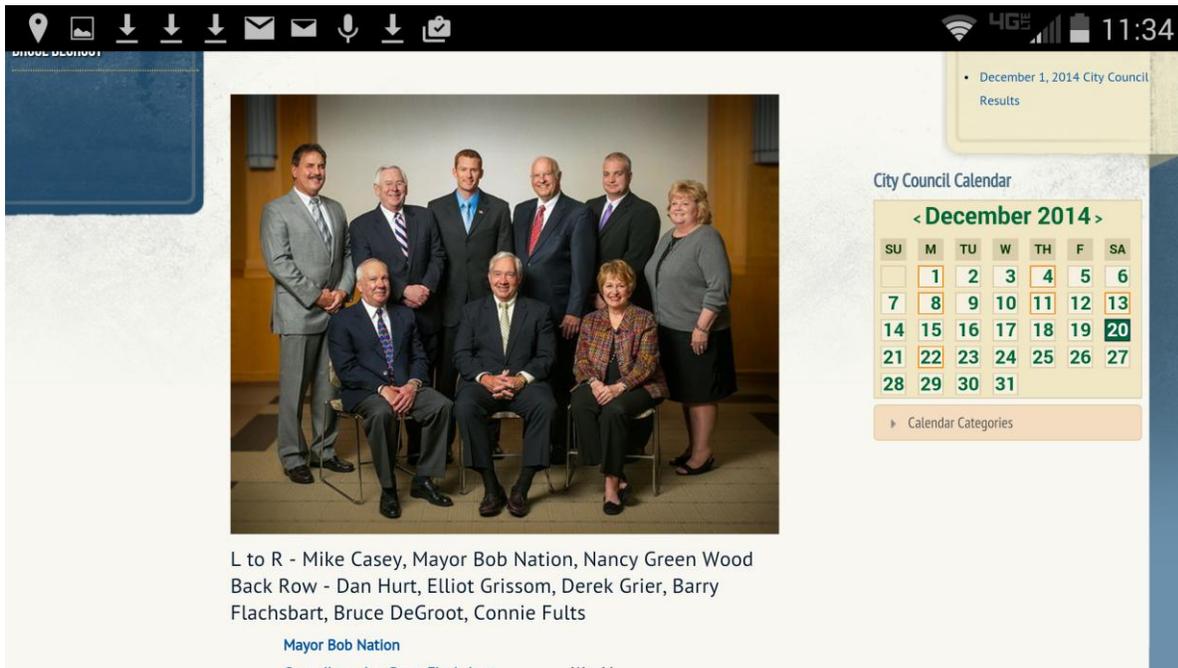
Gone: Also the Board of Directors voted 2-to-1 to fire Battalion Chief Sean Porter, a 35-year veteran with the district. The rank of Battalion Chief is a management position and thus an "at-will" employee. The board released no reason for the firing. Robin Harris and Jane Cunningham voted to discharge Porter while Steve Swyers voted against the firing.

In November we reported based on a deposition given by Porter in a current legal matter, that in 2012 when Porter was promoted he was having a sexual relationship with the then president of the Fire Board Kim Evans who voted to promote him.

Local 2665 on its website specifically for Monarch union members wrote how the union is outraged at the firing. An article on the website claims Porter said he was called to a meeting with the Board of Directors and asked about the procedures of his promotion at Battalion Chief. The article claimed after the meeting he was called to Chief Marsonette's office and asked to resign. When he refused to resign the article claimed he was fired.

CITY COUNCIL WEBSITE PHOTO INCLUDES COUNCILWOMAN WOOD: Everyone makes mistakes. There are anywhere from three to 12 typos and spelling blunders in every one of these newsletters. But after eight months you would think someone on the

city staff might notice that former mayor and current councilwomen Nancy Greenwood has a new middle and new last name.



The screenshot shows a mobile application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for location, image, download, email, microphone, and other functions. The main content area features a group photo of city council members. Below the photo is a caption: "L to R - Mike Casey, Mayor Bob Nation, Nancy Green Wood Back Row - Dan Hurt, Elliot Grissom, Derek Grier, Barry Flachsbart, Bruce DeGroot, Connie Fults". To the right of the photo is a "City Council Calendar" for December 2014. The calendar shows the days of the week (SU, M, TU, W, TH, F, SA) and the dates. The date 20 is highlighted in green. Below the calendar is a "Calendar Categories" button.

2014 YEAR END IN REVIEW:

January: County Library thanks voters for passing tax increase and to show their appreciation they discontinue the used book sales shelves that were a big favorite with patrons.



BJC facility at Mason and I-64. Ald. Fred Meyland-Smith votes despite a clear conflict of interest. Board of Aldermen approve final plan that will make it tougher for Parkway School Bus Drivers. Fred Meyland-Smith voted for the BJC/Children's Hospital in the Planning and Zoning Commission where he has a seat and again at a Board of Aldermen meeting. At the time Fred sat on an advisory board for Missouri Baptist

Hospital one of the Barnes/Jewish/Children's Hospital group. Apparently Fred did not think that was a conflict of interest.

Here is what had been posted on Fred's LinkedIn page...which has since been removed:

Fred Meyland-Smith's Additional Information

Websites:

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

Interests:

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

Groups and Associations:

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

Also the Board of Aldermen approved plans to reduce the size of the lanes on the Mason Road Overpass over I-64 from 12-feet to 11-feet. This included in removing a 3-foot concrete median so an addition left turn lane could be added to go east on I-64. The big problem is that the Mason Ridge Elementary school is at the intersection and the changes will give school bus drivers less wiggle room. New residential streets in Town and Country are required to be 12-feet wide. Plus the U.S. Department of Transportation recommends lanes on overpasses to be 12-feet in width.



Bad things happen with buses and narrow lanes.

Cigarette people like Deihl: Released in January by the Missouri Ethics Commission, was the final quarter of 2013 campaign contribution report. It showed that State Rep.

John Diehl has accepted \$6,000 from one of the top killers of Americans, tobacco companies.

Suicide in Park: Just before noon on January 13, a Town and Country resident while sitting in his Ford Escape shot and killed himself, escaping from life. The gunshot was heard by another park user who called police.

FEBRUARY:

Voting Records: As we are known to do in February, we did a check of the voting records of candidates who were running for office in Town and Country and Chesterfield and found two interesting records.

Tom Northcott, who filed to run against incumbent Elliot Grissom in Chesterfield, was not a registered voter in St. Louis County.

However we had more fun with candidate Andrew Kazen who was running against incumbent Michael Casey. When you google'd Kazen you found out that he is a part time professional poker player and runs seminars on playing poker. Going back 13 years we found that Kazen had voted in exactly one municipal election.



This bit of information caused me to rewrite the theme song to 1960 TV Series Maverick inserting Kazen in place Bert Maverick.

Who is the short gray stranger there?
Andy Kazen is the name
Ridin' the trail to who knows where
Luck is his companion
But votin' in city elections is not his game.

Riverboat ring your bell
Fare thee well Annabell
Voting in April can go to hell
Andy Kazen is his name

Living on Jacks and Queens
From Natchez to New Orleans

Voting in April is all beans

City Hires Tobacco and Gambling Lobbyists: The Chesterfield City Council voted to spend \$2,500 for a lobbyist firm in Jefferson City in an attempt to get the State Legislature to change the state law requiring certain St. Louis County municipalities to share sales tax revenue in a "Pool." The lobbying firm, who also represents tobacco and gambling firms, was unable to get any support. Councilwoman Nancy Greenwood had the good sense to come out against the resolution saying it was a waste of time and money. Other cities receiving money from the Sales tax Pool hired lobbyists of their own. This was not Chesterfield's first time hiring lobbyists on this issue. In December Chesterfield went around the Legislature and sued the State of Missouri over the issue.

Town and Country Mayor Found in Violation of Ethics Law: On February 19 the Missouri Ethics Commission ruled that T & C Mayor, Lawyer and Lobbyist (who files reports with the Commission monthly) committed 27 violations of the Ethics Law by not fully completing campaign contribution forms fully identifying his contributors.

Police Sexual Harassment Suit: Former Town and County police officer Sharon Woolsey, for years the only female officer on the force, spelled out rather graphic prolonged sexual harassment against her in a lawsuit. The suit brought out that one supervisor, Sgt. Chip Unterberg, was constantly propositioning her and then creating a hostile work environment after she filed complaints against him.

After the complaints then Police Chief/City Administrator John Copeland suspended Unterberg for a "whole" day. He was transferred to an admin job where he immediately began have sexual relations with a dispatcher under his command. After Woolsey filed her lawsuit he was forced to resign. He is now a car salesman in North County.

The lawsuit was settled out of court on February 18.



Unterberg on the car lot.



Woolsey accepting an award for excellent service.

MARCH:

Chesterfield Gets Developer to Cough Up Extra Money for Cemetery Maintenance: The Chesterfield City Council wanted Brinkman Construction to put \$20,000 in a trust

for long term care of a cemetery they bought, along with a chunk of undeveloped property planned for 31 houses at the corner of Clayton Road and Schoettler Road. Brinkman's attorney Mike Doster said all they would do is \$10,000. The Council voted 5-4 with Mayor Nation breaking the tie to deny their plans. In March Doster came back and offered to put \$50,000 in the cemetery care trust fund.

Mayor/Lobbyist Out at Lewis-Rice: Weeks after being found in violation 27 times of the Missouri Ethics Laws Town and Country Mayor Jon Dalton was no longer a partner at Lewis-Rice. Dalton joined Lewis-Rice after being jettisoned as a partner at the Bryan-Cave Law Firm. He is now at Armstrong-Teasdale and has lasted nine months so far.

Dalton Representing Developers Wanting to Put a Nursing Home Next to Subdivision in Sunset Hills: Nine months after making a rare appearance at a Planning and Zoning Meeting and voting not to allow an assisted living and nursing home next to several subdivisions, Mayor Jon Dalton was representing a developer wanting to build an assisted living and nursing home facility in Sunset Hills that was facing opposition from adjoining subdivisions.

APRIL:

Out with the Old and In with the New in Town and Country while Chesterfield Voters Kept Old: In the two contested races in Town and Country both incumbents lost.

Amy Anderson after returning to town from her vacation home in Michigan and making an appearance at the Planning and Zoning Commission in opposition to the Allegro Senior Living and Assisted Living development rezoning proposal, continued her involvement in community affairs by running against incumbent **Chuck Lenz**. Thanks to a strong grass roots support group led by two Mason Ridge Elementary School moms plus her own high-paced door to door campaigning Anderson clearly had momentum.

Anderson won with 64-percent of the vote. After the election I mentioned to her that she ran against the wrong person. She would have done a public service by waiting a year and getting rid of Tim Welby. She said she could not wait and lose the momentum and face recognition from her opposition to the rezoning issue.

In Ward 4 **Linda Rallo** crushed long time incumbent **Phil Behnen**, despite Mayor Jon Dalton and apparently State Rep. John Diehl's support of Behnen. Not showing up on Behnen's campaign finance records, apparently someone else paid for robo calls on

election eve. The last time this happened it was against candidate Maria Perron. She ran against the incumbent Nancy Avioli, who was closely tied to Diehl and Dalton.

In face of heavy opposition from within Ward 4 Behnen voted for rezoning residential property on Conway Road to be bought by Maryville University for a maintenance center and ball fields.

In Chesterfield there were races in every ward and every incumbent won easily.

MAY

Secede From County or Sue: Mayor Bob Nation got a lot of media attention when at a May meeting mentioned from the dais how he would like to have Chesterfield secede from St. Louis County and join St. Charles County. Nation and most of the city council were still upset over the St. Louis County Sales Tax Pool that sees 54% of general sales tax funds going out of the city. Nation had another option no one paid much attention to...sue the State of Missouri to end the Pool that only exists in St. Louis County created by State Legislation. In December Chesterfield did file suit against the State of Missouri.

County Highway Department Continues to Say Chesterfield Parkway West Doesn't Need to be Rebuilt: City officials and the road itself say otherwise.



Gang of Thugs from North County Do Home Invasion: They picked a rental house in the Thornhill Subdivision and beat the lone occupant, a felon himself, Thomas Ruzicka, with a bar stool. Ruzicka was found the next day unconscious with brain damage and his car missing. Ruzicka was out on probation from Federal and State convictions of stealing from employees of his electrical company's retirement and tax withholding accounts. There was no apparent connection between him and thieves, who picked his house at random.



JUNE:

Chesterfield Cop's Independent Film Producing Career Comes to an End: After an investigation by Chris Hayes of KTVI News the Chesterfield Police learned that someone was video recording men using the restroom at the Mobil on the Run gas station on Clarkson Road. That someone turned out to be Chesterfield Police Officer David Cerna, who was uploading the images to a website he had created.

Cerna resigned on the spot when fellow officers went to his St. Charles home to execute a search warrant which discovered other sex crimes. He is pending trial on numerous counts invasion of privacy and sex offenses.

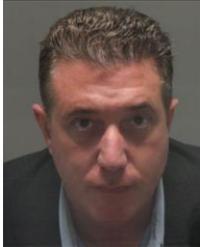


West County EMS & Fire District head resigns...we find prostitution arrest record: When Richard Rognan abruptly resigned as the president of the West County EMS & Fire Protection District we thought his resignation letter citing pressing business was bullshit. It turned out it was. Rognan's August 2013 prostitution arrest in Velda City was circulating around town. We got a copy of the report and it has been posted on our website ever since. The week we wrote about the arrest we received the highest number of hits in the history of the website.



It was more difficult to get the court disposition of the case. The law firm of Curtis, Garrett, Heinz and O'Keefe handles the roles of prosecutor and city attorney in Velda City. The prosecutor Pat Chassaing refused to allow us to see what should be an open court record. Five days later, city attorney Steve Garret (who is also city attorney in Town and Country) provided the disposition. The prostitution charge had been reduced to "Littering" with a \$1,000 fine.

Town and Country Lawyer Charged with Stealing from Court File: Scott Ehlermann of the Laurel Lakes subdivision was arrested and charged with stealing documents from a court file involving a paternity suit, stalking charges and an order of protection.



In October Ehlermann got hit with a tax lien from the Department of Revenue which was unpaid by the end of the year.

Chesterfield renews No-Bid trash Contract...staff gives good reasons for not putting contract out for bid...However they fail to mention the one overriding reason why the contract should have been put out to bid: The City Council voted to renew the Republic Services Trash Contract for 7 more years. The staff put on a fine presentation why the no-bid renewal was in the best interest of the city. But they flunked ETHICS 101.

The secret no one would let out of the bag is the City Administrator Mike Herring's son Stephen Herring is member of the management of Republic Services. Stephen Herring is Republic's Recycling Coordinator. This fact alone should have required the contract to have gone out for bids.



JULY:

Chesterfield Arts Wanted \$250,000 for Chinese Horses in Front of City Hall: Chesterfield Arts announced to the City Council they were broke and would be out of business at the end of August unless...the City of Chesterfield paid \$250,000 for the statues of two Chinese horses that were located in front of City Hall. The horses were given to Chesterfield Arts by a closing downtown hotel where they had been in the lobby. Chesterfield Arts was demanding \$250,000 for the horses that cost them nothing.

Only Connie Fults was buying into this bullshit as the councilwoman put on an impassioned plea for the city to buy the horses



Nobody else was as flustered by this shakedown as Fults and the Council refused to fork over the oats (money) and the horses were gone by September.

CARBON FOOTPRINT STUDY GETS NO FUNDING: The bill by Greenie Jon Benigas and lefty Skip Mange (who claims to be a Republican but is anything but) to join an International Green organization and pay for a Carbon Footprint study of Town and Country died, thanks to opposition stirred by citizens Lindsey Butler and Tiffany Frautschi and then pushed by Councilwomen Amy Anderson and Linda Rallo.

At one Green Team meeting Rallo made fun of Carbon Footprint advocates who refuse to eat bananas due to the carbon footprint involved in transporting them from Central America to the United States only to have Green Team member Dirk Maas to proudly say how you will never find a banana in his subsidized house on the campus of Principia.

⌘ Yes, we have no
bananas
we have no
bananas, today



AUGUST

Town and Country Doctor's Orphanage in India a great front page story: Post-Dispatch reporter Stephen Deere and photo journalist J.B. Forbes went to India on an assignment to write about a rural orphanage built and run by a Town and Country doctor. Dr. Subbarnao Polineni, who lives on S. Mason Road has poured a large amount of his wealth into the orphanage. Polineni was an orphan himself before

becoming a doctor and practicing in the United States. He plans to move from Snoburbia to India and live at the orphanage when he retires. Unfortunately this story did not have "legs" as it was quickly pushed off the web pages when the Michael Brown shooting occurred.



Three Principia Football Players Arrested for Sex Abuse of juveniles at Football Camp: Three adult and two juvenile football players on the Principia High School Panthers football team were arrested for Sex Abuse of a Child for a hazing incident at a school sponsored football camp. Four months later the cases remain at the County prosecutor's waiting for official charges to be filed.

Chesterfield Bad Boy Charged with Felony Drugs Possession after March bar fight that knocked out a waitress: T-Fed is back on the booking sheet. Theodore Federer, Jr. added felony drug possession to his long list of arrests. The drugs were seized after the cops were called to a bar fight in March where a waitress took a missed blow and was knocked out. The lab reports finally came back in August on the drugs seized and the new charge was filed against Federer.



Mason Ridge Elementary has to add new kindergarten and second grade classrooms due to students from outside school's boundaries. Mason Ridge is one of two Parkway elementary schools where parents want their kids to go even if they don't live inside the school's catchment area. The school and school district can't seem to say "no" to these transfers from inside the school district. This caused Mason Ridge to add a new kindergarten class at the start of the school year and a new second grade class a week into school to relieve overcrowding. The "special assignment" students are not eligible for school bus service meaning more cars to the traffic mix before and after school.

SEPTEMBER

Board of Aldermen Vote to buy property that no one wants to buy: It was Christmas in September for the Wirth family as the City of Town and Country voted to buy their 8.8 acre piece of property (front 1.1 acres zoned commercial) on Clayton Road for \$2.3-million. The City had no idea what to do with the property and the mayor promised to appoint a task force to figure that out.



Board of Aldermen vote down rezoning Catholic Convent of just two nuns for a Catholic school: Vocal opposition from the gated community next door claiming the school traffic would make it "impossible" to turn out of their subdivision (traffic engineers suggested it could add 30 seconds to their commute) was enough to kill a proposed elementary school along South Woods Mill Road. The property is currently owned by a convent of nuns that is down to two sisters on the property.

The most likely with one foot through the Gates of Hell was the woman who complained that regular school traffic would disrupt her daily life, but there was also traffic that would come to the annual evening Christmas pageant. Despite passing the Planning and Zoning Commission, no one on the Board of Aldermen voted for the school. The lawsuit has not been filed yet.

Thornhill subdivision residents have special needs. They claim they need to operate golf carts on streets to enhance socializations: Alderdope Tim Welby and subdivision president Randy Stevens came to a Police Commission meeting to ask for a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen to make golf carts legal to operate on the subdivision's narrow streets. They said they needed to golf carts to enhance socialization in the subdivision.

The Police Commission turned them down and suggested they come back with a vote of the homeowners on the subject.

Stevens later did an informal e-mail "survey" that he admitted was 50-50. However when I asked as a resident for the vote of the trustees to take the matter to the Police Commission and the exact number of the "informal poll" my request was not answered.

Welby has told Police Commission chair that he and Stevens plan to return to the January 20 Police Commission and ask again. Why don't you attend?



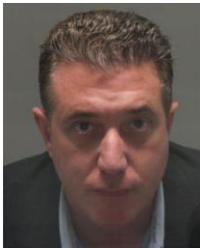
Chesterfield Cancels September 29 finance Committee Meeting at noon September 22 and then holds the meeting 5 hours later. So much for transparency and open meetings! No one at the City of Chesterfield thought it was unethical or plain wrong to cancel a meeting listed on the city's website and remove the listing altogether then then hold the meeting without even posting 24 hours notice on the city's website.

OCTOBER

State Rep and future Speaker of the House John Diehl recommends shutting down the Missouri Lottery. Anytime Diehl makes a statement like that...look for the money. We did and found in the same week he had received a \$10,000 campaign contributions from Pinnacle Entertainment, owners of Missouri casinos. In fact Diehl had received \$26,000 in total from various Missouri casino operators. End the lottery gambling at 7-11 and Circle K stores and make those people go to the casinos!



Local Attorney out of bond gets 94 mph in a 60 mph zone citation reduced to "Illegal Parking." Scott Ehlermann also is out of bond for stealing court documents from a file. In the matter of him doing 94 MPH on I-270 on January 2, 2014, the City Prosecutor Brian Malone reduced the charge to "Illegal Parking" and Ehlermann left the courthouse with no points on his driver's license



NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER: Come on those months just happened. If you can't remember what happened go to our website and read about Chesterfield Mayor Bob Nation doing a line item veto of four things in the 2015 budget and the City of Chesterfield suing the State of Missouri over the Sales Tax Pool.

MEDIA WATCH: HE IS DOING IT AGAIN! Yikes the idiot who doesn't know the geography of St. Louis County but writes a column about West County for Town and Style Magazine is at it again.



Here is what Bill Beggs, Jr. wrote under the headline of "Town and Country.

"Queeny Park is located in Town and Country (63131) but its mailing address is in Ballwin (63011)"...he then goes on to write about the new dog park being built at Queeny Park.

Bill...here are some facts...NONE OF QUEENY PARK IS IN TOWN AND COUNTRY. It is all in unincorporated St. Louis County, but three sides of it is surrounded by the City of Town and Country.

The Greensfelder Rec Center off the Weidman Road side has a Ballwin zip code of 63011. However the Queeny Park office on the Mason Road side, along with the AKC Museum of the Dog both have 63131 zip codes.

Also Bill, you dummy...Town and Country has four different zip codes inside the city limits, not just 63131. It has 63131, 63141, 63017 and the Manchester Meadows Shopping Center has the zip code of 63011.

RESTAURANT REVIEW: CHARLOTTE'S RIB: For younger readers, Charlotte Peters was the Ethel Mermen of St. Louis for over 20 years. (Now you will have to google "Ethel Mermen") She had an hour long TV variety show at noon that featured folks like Stan Kahn and Phyllis Diller not to mention nationally known people who had shows in town. She raised her family first in South St. Louis and later moved to Webster Groves where she lived in a modern house surrounded by stately homes on a hilly street that ran from S. Rock Hill Road to Lockwood Ave. Her son, CBC grad Mike Peters, is the liberal Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonist who lives in Dayton, Ohio and also produces the daily cartoon strip "Mother Goose and Grimm."



KSD Publicity photo



Stan Kahn, Charlotte and announcer George Abel in a skit.



Charlotte interviewing Cab Calloway.

After her TV days were over Charlotte lent her name to her daughter Lisa and son-in-law Herb Schwarz who opened Charlotte's Rib BBQ. It was first located in Kirkwood on Big Bend just west of Kirkwood Road, where they did mostly a takeout business from a place with three small tables. That restaurant was closed in 1979 after an armed robbery where two suspects from the nearby Meacham Park neighborhood pistol whipped an employee. The restaurant reopened on Manchester Road in Ballwin. It later moved to the shopping center on the northwest corner of Clayton Road and Kehrs Mill Road where it has been for a long time.



When I moved back to St. Louis in 2006 Charlotte's Rib had something unique. The Parkmoor had been closed since 1999 after a 70-year run on the corner of Clayton Road and Big Bend Blvd. and replaced by a Walgreens. Besides breakfast all day, The Parkmoor was also a drive-in with a classic burger called "The King" and even better onion rings. People who had moved from St. Louis would stop at The Parkmoor for the Onion Rings when they were back in town.

It turns out that Charlotte's Rib makes "Parkmoor" Onion Rings. Founder Herb Schwarz used to run the Town Tavern located across the street from The Parkmoor and next to the Esquire Theater. He often hired people from The Parkmoor including a cook who brought along the recipe for the O-Rings, which was later moved to Charlotte's Rib.

So the Onion Rings brought me to Charlotte's Ribs...but the brisket sandwich and homemade potato salad makes me a regular customer. If I'm with my wife we will split a basket of onion rings. If I am by myself I'll order the brisket sandwich and pay an up-charge to get a side of O-rings. A full basket of rings is \$4.79 and the half-order is \$2.50.

The brisket is sliced, is always tender and is served with just a hint of sauce. The sandwich goes for \$7.49.



The potato salad is homemade. If you show up too early on a Tuesday often the potato salad has not been made yet. When they are out, there is no going to another container. More will be made tomorrow. What I now do is take a pint of the potato salad home.

A couple of weeks after my last solo lunch in November, I met former Chesterfield Patch editor Jean Whitney there for lunch. The interior of the restaurant has the charm of a locally owned eatery where the food and reasonable prices are more important than the decor. The furniture is old and the wall coverings take you back to another era.



The only request I made was that we try stuff we normally did not order. We ordered things we could split. First there was the half order of baby back ribs with sides (\$11.99 or \$13.99 with two sides.) Next we ordered a house specialty "The Noll Burger with Cheese" and a side (\$6.99). Our sides were the homemade bake beans, fries and homemade cole slaw.

The ribs were fine. I am a bad person to judge ribs because the standard is for the meat to be tender, but has to be cut off the bone. I like after it has been in a crock pot for eight hours and then into the oven to roast. The meat falls off the bone. This gets you points off at a BBQ competition. Charlotte's Rib wins a lot of regional BBQ contests.

My other problem with ribs is they are a lot of work and are mess. When we lived in Maryland to have a Chesapeake Bay crab dinner it was like golf. It was a social event. You spend three hours with friends, many drinking beer, cracking crabs and removing very small amounts of crab meat and telling stories. At the end of dinner you need to wash your hands for 10 minutes and your clothes reek of Old Bay seasoning and you are thinking about stopping by a fast food joint for some food. Sometimes I relate the mess of eating ribs to Maryland crabs.

With ribs I spend more than on a steak and I'm not as full. My fingers are stuck together coated in BBQ sauce and surely there is some on my sweater or on my pants. After saying all of this...the Charlotte's ribs were fine. The bake beans clearly did not come from a can. I have to admit I would give the baked beans at Miller's Crossing a nod.



The Noll Burger was a treat. It was two very thin patties that were more in an oval shape to fit on a long bun. It was like the hamburger meat and cheese were all mashed together. Our favorite item after two trips to Miller's Crossing was the cheeseburger. This burger reminded us of Miller's Crossing but it may have been just a bit better.

The fries are big and filling. However there is a warning about the fries. They have not been sitting around, they come to you right out of the fryer and you are advised to leave them alone for a few minutes because they are HOT!



Maybe the biggest surprise for lunch was the cole slaw. When it arrived it was not creamy. In fact it looked like it would have a vinegar taste. However it did not. We were told that once the cole slaw is made, it is placed in a covered bucket it sits for 24 hours in the refrigerator.

"After I had my last fork full of the slaw, it was so good, I put my fork back into the empty bowl hoping there was some more," said Jean.



MUSIC: The Christmas Shows:

A Very Manley Christmas featured Jim Manley's seven piece band Mad Brass and Rhythm playing two sets for two nights at the Bistro.



Here is Jim Manley playing a blue plastic trumpet with Jeremy Pfeffer playing a Santa cap bass on "Blue Christmas." Two nights later it was Dean Christopher in his Christmas sweatshirt at the One-19 North with Chuck Kennedy on the drum, Jim Manley on the trumpet and Chris Swan on the keyboard.



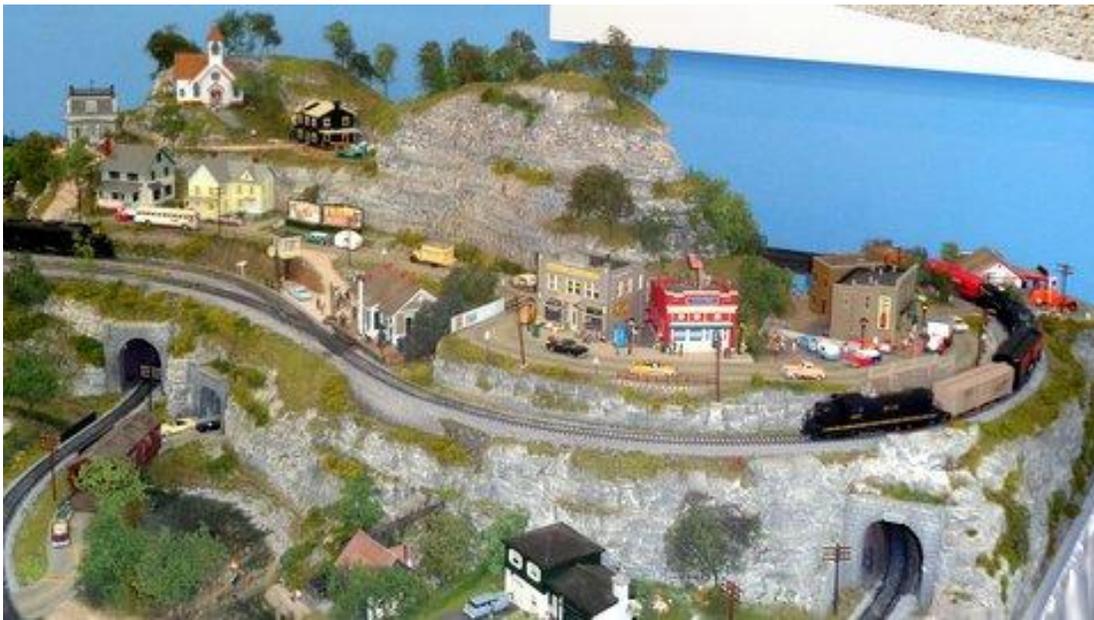
Happy New Year!

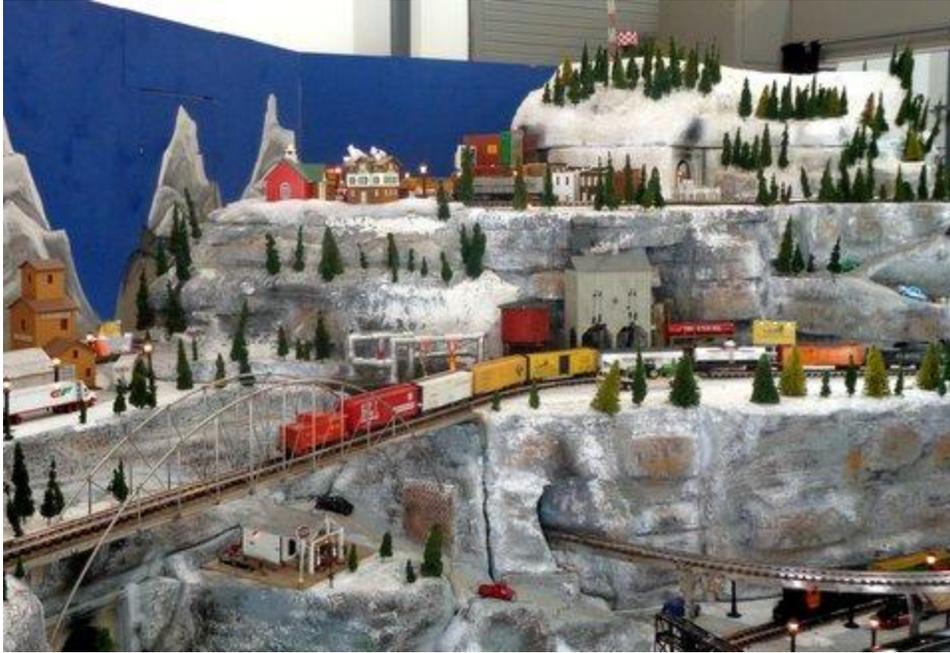


Arthur Toney and Jim Manley on the ground with Kathy Griffin and Anderson Cooper overhead at the Riverbend.

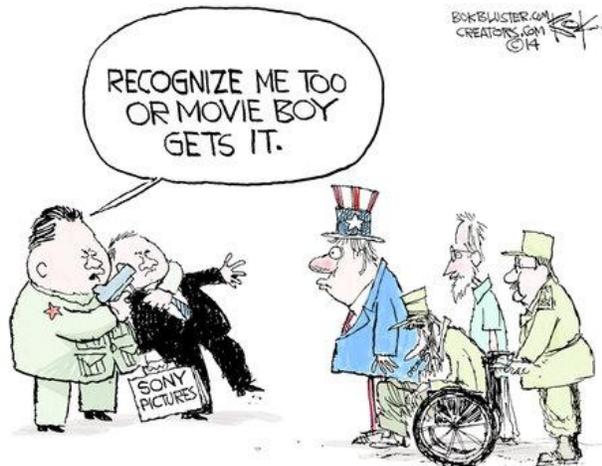
Unfortunately I was very sick and missed the Route 66 big band Christmas Concert in Kirkwood.

CHRISTMAS TRAINS: We took a trip to the Museum of Transportation the day after Christmas to look at the model train show. Here are some photos:

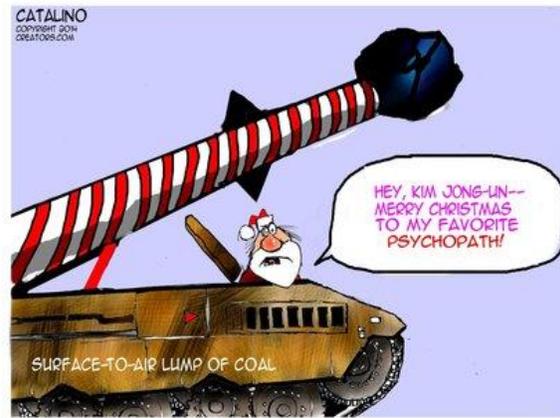


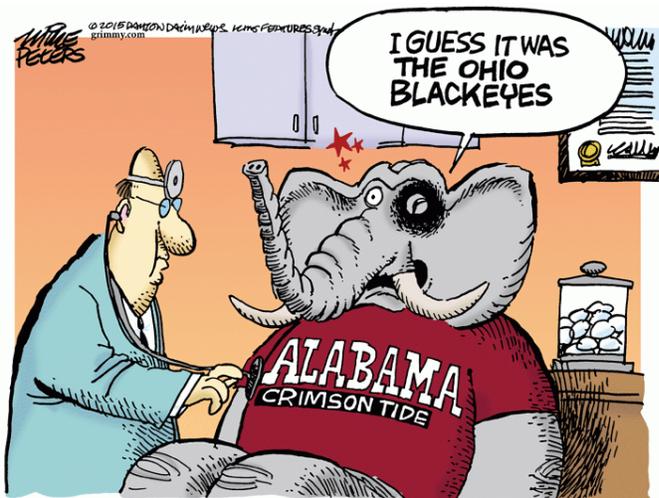


CARTOONS:



FAMOUS FILM CRITICS

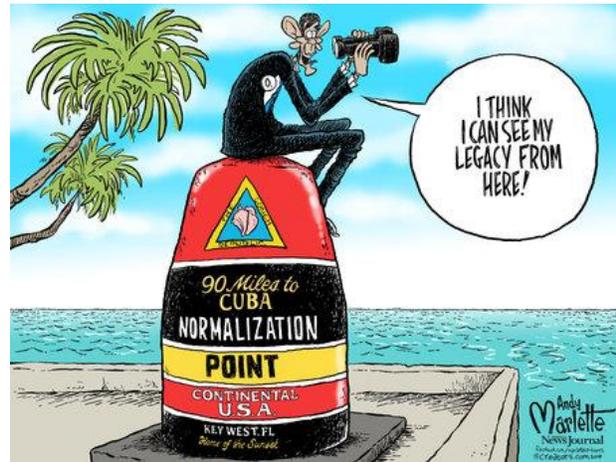
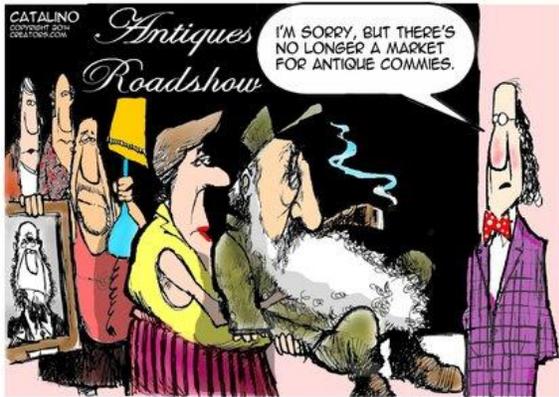






BOKBLUSTER.COM
©14 CREATORS.COM







NO REPRODUCTION PERMITTED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE ARTIST. © 2014 C. S. GARDNER. COM





