

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 165 AND CHESTERFIELD 110



By John Hoffmann

February 18, 2015

NEW SUPERMARKET COMING TO TOWN AND COUNTRY: Fresh Thyme moving into empty PetSmart building at Manchester Meadows.



There is not much more to report than the headline. It looks like more competition for Whole Foods. First Lucky's Supermarket moved into a 55,000 square foot store on Clayton Road in Ellisville west of the Whole Foods' Clayton Road store in Town and Country...and now a Fresh Thyme high-end supermarket has submitted plans to open in the former PetsMart building in the Manchester Meadows Shopping Center in Town and Country.

The plans for the store were submitted to the city on January 30.

MORE BOOZE AVAILABILITY: We have heard from employees of the soon to be shuttered Office Max store that a large liquor store will be moving into the building by summer. However, city staffers say that don't have anything "official" submitted yet. Wal Mart which still holds the lease to their empty building in Manchester Meadows had first right-of-refusal to any business that competed with them, even though they moved. This was done to try and force the owners of the development to reduce their payments or let them out of part of their lease. However, the Wal Mart lease expires in two months.

CITY'S NEW WEBSITE CRASHES BECAUSE OF A POLICE SHOOTING IN EASTERN WASHINGTON STATE: On Thursday citizen could not connect with Town and Country's new website for several hours. In response to my inquiry I received the following explanation from the city on Friday:

I received an outage update with regards to our website being down for a while yesterday and just wanted to give you an update. The report stated that "the incident that we experienced earlier today was due to a massive DDOS attack related to a police shooting earlier this week in Washington state." All cities that were housed on the same server as the target city were down while they isolated the attack, which included us, Des Peres, Creve Coeur, etc.

Pasco Washington is where three police officers shot a deranged man who was throwing rocks after their tasers failed to stop him. A cell phone video shows the man putting his arms up when he was shot.



Cell phone photo of Pasco police shooting.

All the information that was on the old website is on the new website. It just takes users longer to find it and retrieve it. City staff complained that the old website provided by the St. Louis area criminal justice computer provider REJIS was difficult to load and update. But of course the REJIS site did not crash when something happened on the West Coast and it was easier for people to find links.

JANUARY POLICE ACTIVITY:

The following activity was reported by the police department during the month of January:

Officers responded to a total of 1399 calls for service and wrote a total of 214 reports in January of 2015, Including:

January 2015

66 Vehicle Crashes
25 Criminal Reports
15 Driving While Intoxicated arrests
53 Misc Arrests
535 Traffic citations issued (360 speeding)

January 2014

59 Vehicle crashes
30 Criminal reports
23 driving While Intoxicated arrests
55 Misc arrests
453 Traffic citations (296 speeding)



JANUARY DEER ACCIDENT REPORT: The deer in Ward 2 must be getting smarter! There were no deer-vehicle accidents in Ward 2 for January, despite the fact that the latest deer census still shows the highest number of deer in town are in Ward 2. There were four deer-car accidents in January at the same time the City shot and killed 100 deer as part of the deer management program. There were three deer accidents in 2014.

Here are the locations for January.

January 8 5:17 pm Clayton Road at Weidman Road (Ward 3)
January 13 8:28 pm Ladue Road east of Hwy 141 (Ward 4)
January 16 7:59 am Mason Road south of Conway Road (Ward 4)
January 19 5:25 pm Conway Road (13400 block) (Ward 4)

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR IS SENDING MIXED MESSAGES: Here is the email that was sent out from City Hall:

You are invited to join Mayor Dalton for coffee and conversation on Friday, February 27th between 7:30 am and 8:30 am at Longview Farm House.

Community Conversations and Coffee is a wonderful opportunity for you to sit down **with your favorite beverage** in an informal atmosphere and chat about the state of the City with Mayor Dalton.

Join the community conversation on February 27th.

For more information, contact Mary Olsen at (314) 587-2804.

Now is this going to be Coffee and conversation with Mayor/Lobbyist Jon Dalton or will you be able to sit down with your favorite beverage. Does this mean bring you own coffee or does it also mean there will be an open bar in the event coffee is not you favorite beverage?

Why is this on a Friday? Dalton needs to be in Jefferson City doing his important work as a sleazy lobbyist Tuesday through Thursdays.

Why between 7:30 and 8:30? People are busy getting to work or getting their kids off to school. One resident who is a mother of a grade school and middle school child said the 7:30 to 8:30 time pretty well eliminated her or others like her from attending.

THE RETURN OF GOLF CART ISSUE: Residents of the Thornhill Estates subdivision got our occasional newsletter on February 8. This was the January newsletter sent out in February. Regular readers know that the Police Commission voted down on a Voice Vote any draft ordinance allowing golf carts on any public city/private streets.

Here is what former Alderwomen and current subdivision trustee Ann Hamilton reported in the newsletter:

***Golf Carts:** The issue of driving golf carts and/or other ATV's on Thornhill streets has been tabled at this time. As a reminder, Thornhill does not allow driving such vehicles on our streets, and such vehicles (if stored on your property for other use) must be in a garage or totally screened for the view of neighbors.*

Now Ann was at the same Police Commission meeting that I was at where any golf cart enabling legislation recommendation was voted down, not tabled. She should surely know the difference. So, I emailed her asking about what she meant by writing "tabled" and not defeated.

Here is her very honest reply:

As far as I am concerned it is over--but after I sent my Police Commission summary to Thornhill, I got several emails from Welby saying it was not over. So--I don't know whether he intends to try to bring it up again??? I hope not!

Ann

Now the majority of the residents in Thornhill don't want golf carts, but Alderdope Tim Welby who is leaving office in two months, thinks it isn't over. His buddies want golf carts so let the majority be damned! The only way per Roberts Rules of Order to vote on it again in a year is for a commissioner who was in the majority of the no vote to purpose it. I don't see anyone doing that. Plus there was another problem...Police Commission Chairwoman Amy Anderson asked for a voice vote and not a roll call vote. So there is no one of record to put it back on the agenda.

Anderson who has a vote on the Commission also did not open her mouth a vote. She pulled a typical Jon Dalton move of not pissing off anyone on either side of an issue by actually voting. She also did not mention emails and phone calls she received on the issue after asking residents to contact her.

THE SOLUTION: I have the perfect solution to the problem. The city should not take any action to allow golf carts on hilly streets with blind hillcrests and curves. However residents who really want to drive a golf cart to the subdivision pool three months of the year should be encouraged to by convertible Mini-Coopers. They are small like a golf cart but have all the safety features of a car.



Once again Ald. Fred Meyland-Smith, who serves or has served on a BJC board did not remove himself from the debate or the vote. Instead he gave himself a big pat on the back and said how he helped resolve some of these issues. Of course he didn't do that until there was a groundswell of public pressure at the first time he has ever been challenged for reelection.

Mayor Jon Dalton, who we reported last week may have a conflict of interest with anything involving BJC as he is representing a developer who wants to build an urgent care facility with a dozen longer term beds in North St. Louis, left the dais. Dalton has refused to say who he is representing. But he did recuse himself from the BJC sign issue, citing his latest law firm, Armstrong Teasdale does represent BJC.

As usual the Warren Sign Company which is the supplier for BJC on the project, asked for a size that was so large a compromise had to be made hopefully making the politicians look good and appeasing angry residents. This is the theory of "Ask for more than you want so you end up getting what you want." Eric Alan Gerber made public comments concerning this at the start of the meeting.

By the end of the evening the sign variance passed but the size of the letters were reduced from as much as 69 inches (other letters at 38 inches) in height to just a maximum of 28 inches or a reduction of 41 inches from what they wanted and just 9-inches higher than what is normally allowed.

NOBODY BOTHERED TO SHOW UP FOR THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING...I don't mean members of the public, I mean Planning and Zoning Commissioners. Meeting was canceled due to a Lack of Commissioners. There were four items on the February 12th Planning and Zoning Commission Agenda, leading off with the proposals for new stores at the Town and Country Crossing Shopping Center.

At 7:04 pm the meeting was called to order and roll was taken. Present were Chairman Ron Sulewski, Commissioner Will McKnight and Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith.

Absent were:

Mayor Jon Dalton (Again)

Rob Cima

Kraig Kreikemeir

Dennis Bolazina

James Klinger

Gary Omell



The meeting was immediately adjourned due to a lack of a quorum. Since not all of these six people had the decency to inform the staff they were not going to show up, expansion of business at a sales tax producing shopping center was delayed, City staffers, the P&Z Commission attorney, a police sergeant on overtime for security were all paid for a meeting that didn't happen. They were unnecessarily paid in a year where the city currently has a \$1,248,507 budget deficit.



Over the last 16 meetings, Mayor Jon Dalton, a voting member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, has missed 12 of 16 meetings. His 75% absence record shows several things...Dalton does not really give a shit about serving the public, he hates voting on issues which will likely make someone unhappy and he does not want to be in town when the Missouri Legislature is in session in Jefferson City, where Dalton is a lobbyist.

SIDEWALK ART IN THE PARK: When I see chalk drawings on the sidewalk in a park it is normally for hopscotch or hearts with initials in them...so the other day after it had hit 64-degrees the day before I was taken back by the time someone took to produce some sidewalk art in Drace Park.



TOWN AND COUNTRY AND INDIA STORY WINS AP MANAGING EDITORS TOP AWARD FOR FEATURE REPORTING: The feature story of a Town and Country surgeon who was also building and running an orphanage in rural

India by Post-Dispatch reporter Stephen Deere won an award from the Missouri Associate Press managing Editors for best feature reporting,

http://www.stltoday.com/news/multimedia/special/india-two-worlds/html_b0500828-5167-587f-837c-3721e1864922.html



Photo by J.B. Forbes



Photo by ME

The story, titled "Two Worlds" is about Dr. Subbarao Polineni, who specializes in hand surgery and lives on S. Mason Road in Town and Country. Polineni, who was raised by relatives in India, is building an orphanage in India and trying to help run it every day through Skype. He hopes to retire and move to India and live at the orphanage. His wife, who is also a doctor, has used much of her retirement savings to help with the orphanage, but I have to wonder if she is ready to completely leave West County and America. However it is quite a story by Stephen Deere, regardless.

Our one bones of contention is that the Post-Dispatch used a grant it received Press Club of St. Louis instead of paying for Deere and photo journalist J. B. Forbes to make the trip. However the paper will spend twice as much to cover the Cardinals on the road during the playoffs.



Dr. Polineni



Reporter Stephen Deere



Photo journalist J. B. Forbes

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 110



February 18, 2015

LOWES LOSES EXPANDED HOURS VOTE BY THE PLANNING & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Lowes and Wal Mart had requests before the city that were heard by the Planning and Public Works Committee on February 5. At the end of the evening Lowes came out the loser and the manager of Wal Mart seemed to be a good nominee for Businessman of the Year.

Representatives from Lowes and Wal Mart were present to give the company side if asked before the committee. Matthew Minter was from the Lowes home office in North Carolina while it was Phil Keene, the Chesterfield Wal Mart store manager who was there for the "Boys from Bentonville."

Councilwoman Connie Fultz has been upset with the lack of compliance of city codes concerning storage at Loews. In 2014 the Planning and P-W committee wanted to know how many times Lowes had been cited for violating city laws concerning its outside storage. The answer was 10 times.

Besides wanting some changes to storage codes Lowes also wanted to open an hour earlier at 6 am instead of 7 am. Lowes management had claimed they are at an unfair disadvantage since Home Depot at the opposite end (east) of the Chesterfield Commons center can open at 6 am allowing Home Depot an hour of no competition while they sell building supplies to contractors. Fultz was not buying this.



"Before anything was built (after the 1993 flood and as Chesterfield Commons was being planned) everybody who has come in here knew the rules. I don't want to go back on our word to the residents (homeowners behind and over the west end of the shopping center)," said Fults.



Connie Fults

Mike Watson, the Chair of the Planning Commission and non-voting member of the Planning and Public Works Committee lashed out at Lowes.

"You are not in compliance now and you have never been in compliance," Watson said.

Committee chairman Dan Hurt followed up on Watson's statements.

"If you can't follow the law we will recommend raising the fines," said Hurt.

Minter than laid out Lowes needs and it was a "Time Marches On" platform.

"Our business is not static, it is dynamic," said Minter. "We don't operate in a similar way we did 10-years ago or even five years ago," said Minter. "We need hours matching our competition."

Also currently Lowes can only have outdoor displays from March to October.



Lowes Matt Miter speaks, while Mayor Bob Nation, Councilman Dan Hurt and senior planner Jonathan Raiche look on.

Another Loews issue was was storing items outside too high that were actually in violation of OSHA (federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration) regulations of 60 feet.

The committee wants a maximum height for storage areas in the Chesterfield Code, meaning code enforcement officers could write citations for violations. Here is what Minter suggested:

"If we are in violation just report us to OSHA," said Minter. That made me laugh aloud...calling a Federal agency to enforce what is basically a city code issue.

Concerning violating the city code by having items for sale outside the store or the side storage area, Connie Fults gave Minter one last lecture.

"Keep in mind the stores that are next to yours are not allowed any outdoor storage or display. They get cited and fined."

Hurt was then quick to point out that it might take several hours to make the report to OSHA and then months for them to arrive to check the violation. However a city code enforcement officer would be there in less than 60 minutes.

Then it was the turn of the star of night, Phil Keene, the store manager of the Wal Mart.

Keene immediately said how he investigated getting a retractable overhead cover for the outdoor storage area and the best he could do was \$125,000. "So that is not happening," he said.



He added how much he wants to get along with the city and have not violations of the code of any kind. Then he said the remarkable thing.

"I think you are all on the right track and I may regret saying this, but the enforcement needs to be stronger," Keene said. I think Keene has a point. I have worked in dealing with code enforcement and have found that if you issue warnings, people think the worst that will happen to them is that they get a warning. If you start with a citation and a fine on an increasing scale they tend to get the message that they should not allow code violations. Of course if Keene thinks he can run his store properly why not suggest the city focus some enforcement toward his competitors.

Keene also made an interesting comment about the Chesterfield marketplace.

"People in this area don't buy clearance. I wish they did, but they don't. Items that don't sell and they items have to be removed and stored until I can do something with them."





Wal Mart's store is so large we had to take two photos.



According to Loews' people Home Depot get an unfair advantage by being able to open an hour earlier every weekday.

Chairman Dan Hurt did his usual micro managing wanting a driveway for outside storage pick up to be one way only at Lowe's. Dan has shown this before in almost dictating to developers of gas station/car washes how to have traffic flow on their property, not involving access to public streets.

COUNCILMAN HURT CONTINUES TO ATTACK ON POLICE OFFICERS AND DONUTS.



Twice in recent months Councilman Dan Hurt has taken a shot at the Chesterfield Police having so much time on their hands that they can sit around and east donuts.



Councilman Dan Hurt is apparently obsessed with cops and donuts, however there are no donut shops in Chesterfield for cops to hang out at.

Several months ago in a committee meeting he made a crack about the cops finding time from eating donuts. Then at the February 2 meeting, where a proclamation was read over a Skype connection with Ayla Davis, an 11-year-old who is competing on the TV Show Master Chef Junior, Hurt ask her if she thought she could fix something more healthy for the Chesterfield Police Officers in place of donuts.

After the meeting I asked Hurt about his remarks and why cops and donuts are so high on his agenda.

"Don't use any of that," he asked.

I pointed out that there are no donut shops in Chesterfield and asked where he is seeing this cop and donut problem. The closest Krispy Kreme shops are in Fenton, Ferguson or Melville. The closest Dunkin Donut shops are in Ellisville and on Manchester Road at Mason Road in the County.

I again asked Dan where he is seeing cops hanging out at donut retailers. He paused and then said "Schnucks!" I told him I doubt if the local cops are hanging out over a donut and coffee at the one Schnucks supermarket in Chesterfield.

FIRE REPORT MAKES US WONDER IF LARRY RICE IS NOT FAR AWAY FROM CHESTERFIELD: On Thursday February 5 on the KMOV website there was a brief news item of an arson fire at the Edgewild restaurant on the north side of the Chesterfield Mall. The item was removed a few hours later.



So I followed up with an email to the Monarch Fire Protection District. Here is there media relations officer Roger Herin's report on the incident"

From: Roger Herin [mailto:herin.r@monarchfpd.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2015 1:42 PM
To: John Hoffmann
Subject: RE: question

John:

No press release was issued for the incident.

Monarch 2212 was dispatched to a report of a mulch fire at Edgewild on Monday, February 2 at approximately 11:04 AM. They found a small area of scorched mulch. A Fire Inspector was called to investigate. The Inspector determined that the scene should be turned over to Chesterfield Police for investigation. It is my understanding that the police are reviewing security video recordings from Edgewild.

Please let me know if I can be of further help.



Roger N. Herin, MCP
Fire Marshal

Well this does not rise to the level of an arson, since the fire district is only reporting that mulch was damaged, but no structure.

Here is the Chesterfield Police Department's statement from Capt. Steve Lewis:

From: Steve Lewis [mailto:SLewis@chesterfield.mo.us]

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2015 1:45 PM

To: John Hoffmann

Subject: RE: question

Chesterfield is handling any investigation relative to this. That being said it appears that someone set a small fire in an attempt to stay warm, we do not believe it was an intentional arson.

Could this mean the Rev. Larry Rice's New Life Evangelistic Center is close to opening a Chesterfield annex? I mean if someone is setting fire to the mulch to "stay warm" it sounds as if someone might be homeless. The NLEC offers beds to over 200 homeless persons.



Larry Rice also operates KNLC TV on channel 24. The station shows mostly religious shows and very old TV shows. One of those shows was Sgt. Preston of the Yukon, starring the late actor Richard Simmons (not to be confused with the gay guy in the tiny gym shorts) and his lead sled dog King.



A friend of mine and I really enjoyed the 78 reruns of Sgt. Preston (from 1955 to 58 on CBS) and would email each other on how damn smart King was.

I ended up sending a \$25 check to Rice's NLEC thanking them for running the Sgt. Preston shows and asking them not to put me on their mailing list as I normally give money to the Salvation Army. I didn't want them to spend more than \$25 in postage and printing costs of the next few years. Just take the \$25. That did not work I am on the mailing list. But I might change my mind about the donations if there are suddenly homeless people in Chesterfield having to set fires in mulch next to restaurants to stay warm.

HIGH END DRESS SHOP OPENING IN CHESTERFIELD TOWN CENTER: Keep an eye out for a high end dress shop that should open soon at 129 Chesterfield Town Center, two doors north of the Hanger Grill. Chesterfield Town Center is on the southwest corner of Long Road at Edison. It is the shopping center with 50-percent vacant space.



LADUE POLICE ARREST HELPS SOLVE OCTOBER CHESTERFIELD BURGLARY: Cell Phone Technology Ties Burglar to Chesterfield Offense, Ex-Con Suspect Pled Guilty to Felony Burglary 10 Days Before Latest Crime Spree: James Chandler, 46, of the tiny North County town of Country Club Hills along Lucus and Hunt Road (north of I-70) was arrested and charged in connection with a burglary attempt in Ladue on November 10. Chandler had a cell phone. The police obtained a warrant and were able to check the GPS on the phone showing where it had been. That resulted in finding Chandler at a number of Ladue, Frontenac, Creve Coeur and Chesterfield homes.



There were three burglaries from 10/30/14 to 11/10/14 in Ladue the GPS was able to place Chandler at the scene of.

He was also placed at the scene of a burglary in the 14000 block of Timberlake Manor Parkway. Here is a statement from Capt. Steve Lewis of the Chesterfield Police Department about that burglary:

Yes we received warrants on him for Burglary 2nd and Stealing Over \$500.00 The suspect was the guy who burglarized several jurisdictions, his M.O. was to use a rental truck/vehicle and break into homes during the daytime. I believe he was or will be charged in at least 3 other jurisdictions. We did recover property belonging to our victim relative to the burglary. Our burglary occurred on 10-30-2014 between 9:00am – 1:00 pm.

The string of burglaries appeared to jump over Town and Country. Here is a statement from the Town and Country Police Chief Pat Kranz:

We worked with Ladue but we were unable to tie him to any of our burglaries.

On October 20, 2014 or 10 days before his latest crime spree Chandler pled guilty before St. Louis County Circuit Judge Michael T. Jamison in connection with a February 5, 2013 Richmond Heights burglary. Jamison sentenced Chandler to five years in prison, but then suspended the jail time and placed Chandler on probation for five years. Chandler was back at his chosen profession of housebreaking 10 days later.

Chandler did a seven year stretch in the Missouri Department of Corrections for burglary and stealing from 1992 to 1999. He was just recently out of jail after serving less than one year for felony Non-Support. In 2002 he was sentenced to three years in the Department of Corrections for a felony assault in a case from Jennings.

RACES IN ELLISVILLE MIXED...PIRRELLO IS GONE, BUT ONE FORMER PIRRELLO BACKER IS ON THE BALLOT...MAYOR ADAM PAUL SEES AN OPPONENT FILE NINE MINUTES BEFORE THE CLOSE OF FILING: Regular newsletter readers will remember in the spring of 2013 when we covered the impeachment of newly elected Mayor Adam Paul, who was against giving tax breaks to the developer of property on Manchester Road just west of Clarkson where a Wal Mart wanted to locate. The existing majority of the council wanted Paul out of office which would have allowed the development and Wal Mart store to be built.

The council majority including a former mayor, Matt Pirrello filed completely bogus charges and tried to impeach the mayor. I wrote two newsletters concerning the impeachment. The first compared what was happening to past motion pictures. In the second newsletter I actually cast actors to play the people in the impeachment. Here are links to those newsletters:

<http://johnhoffmann.net/crazy.pdf>

http://johnhoffmann.net/ellisville_2.pdf

Paul was impeached and the impeachment was immediately overturned by a Circuit Court judge declaring the procedures as unconstitutional. Since then I have kept an eye on Ellisville. The Ballot is fairly full for the April election. Here are some of the races:



Adam Paul swarmed by the press after his first meeting back as mayor. Adam Paul has big grin while Roze Acup looks disgusted at the same meeting

It looked like the popular Adam Paul would be unopposed in his attempt for a second term. That is until three minutes before the filing deadline when Michael Roemerman threw his hat into the ring.

Here is some the legal problems Paul's opponent has had in the past:

- 11/27/00 Highway Patrol cites Roemerman speeding in Callaway County. He pays an \$80 fine.
- 09/27/01 St. Charles Court Court upholds the suspension of his driver's license
- 08/21/02 Roemerman sues DOR over his license being suspended in connection with a DWI arrest
- 08/23/02 Roemerman is cited for a moving violation by the Highway Patrol. On 03/11/03 it is reduced to Illegal Parking and a \$150 fine is paid.
- 02/23/05 A suit filed by the County Executive of St. Charles against him in 2004 is dropped
- 06/27/09 Roemerman is cited for a moving violation by the Highway Patrol. His lawyer gets the charge dropped to "Illegal Parking" and Rosmerman pays a \$230 fine.
- 08/26/09 Estranged wife sues Roemerman for divorce.
- 11/29/11 Roemerman is sued by the Park Charles Association and is dismissed two months later.
- 12/13/11 Metropolitan Sewer District sues Roemerman. The suit is dropped three months later.
- 01/09/13 Roemerman is again cited by the Highway Patrol for a moving violation, which is later reduced to "Illegal parking" with a \$230 fine being paid.
- 03/21/13 Highway patrol issued Roemerman a moving violation citation. He gets it

reduced to "Loud Muffler" and paid a \$249 fine.

2012-2013 Roememan sues five women and two men over rent issues in Overland and St. Ann involving property he owns.

There were 22 cases we didn't even review that occurred between 1988 and 2000.

It appears after April Ellisville will be rid of all the councilpersons who voted for the tax breaks for the Wal Mart development and who voted to impeach Adam Paul, who opposed the tax breaks. The one odd duck is Cindy Pool, a Pirrello supporter who was elected in 2013. The Council vote (counting the mayor) is now 4 to 3 for the pro Adam Paul faction. There is a strong chance that will be 6-to-1 in April. Although Paul has indicated he might favor tax incentives for a redevelopment of the former Best Buy shopping center on Manchester Road.

In District 1, where Matt Pirrello promised to resign if Adam Paul was reinstated by the Circuit Court and then refused to leave when Paul was reinstated, there is a two way race for Pirrello's seat. (At least Pirrello had the good sense not to run for reelection.) The front runner is Vince McGrath who has lived in Ellisville for 35 years. Chris Turner, a Pirrello backer, who Gary Voss defeated in 2013 with 82-percent of the vote, is trying again.

The District 2 race features longtime Ellisville resident Bones Baker, who lives in the Clarkchester Apartments, and would have been looking for a new residence if the Wal Mart development had been approved, as Sansone Development claimed they needed all the apartments to the west of the stores. Baker is faces 20-something Ken Newhouse. I'm told both of these candidates do not favor TIFs or other tax breaks to developers.

District 3 has no race, as Dan Duffy, a long time member of Ellisville Planning and Zoning Commission, who is opposed to tax breaks for developers is the only person who filed. Duffy will replace Roze Acup. Acup was completely in with Matt Pirrello. During the times I was at Ellisville Council meetings I never saw her vote against Pirrello on any issue. She participated in the sham charade impeachment of Paul.

TESLA SHOWROOMS AND TAXI SERVICE...WE GIVE AN ODD EDITORIAL A RESPONSE: I had a hard time figuring out exactly what point was in the Monday Feb. 9, 2015 Post-Dispatch editorial comparing buying a car from a company owned showroom and buying one from a "dealer" versus people providing taxi service in unregulated cars with unlicensed (taxi license) drivers.



A Tesla Showroom



A Tesla



An unlicensed Lyft taxi in Maryland

The editorial is a bit long...but here is the link to it:

http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/editorial-tesla-and-traditional-car-dealers-should-try-working-together/article_3cb76253-3c6b-5735-ac97-608c58c5d09c.html

Here is my response to in that the Post-Dispatch ran as a Letter to the Editor on Thursday:

I was amazed, but not surprised when Post-Dispatch editorial writers put the Tesla Motor Company having company owned stores and taxicab regulation of Lyft and Uber ride sharing services in the same editorial.

As someone who headed the enforcement and compliance unit of a large East Coast taxicab office and as someone who buys cars, it was clear that the editorial was pointless.

Government's primary role is providing health, safety and welfare to citizens. Government must make sure the public, the hospitality industry and commuters all have safe taxicabs that pass regular mechanical inspections and visual inspections, that have meters which are accurate and drivers without criminal records. The method of dispatching is really not a big concern as long as it does not discriminate against the elderly who are known to take shorter trips or the poor.

Lyft and to a lesser degree Uber want to have cars and drivers that that avoid some or most of these checks.

On the other hand Tesla wanting to sell cars from company owned showrooms does not impact the community's health or safety at all. Tesla still has to hire sales agents, mechanics and others that you would normally find at a car dealership. The only difference is the direction profits take. Much the same way the brick and mortar retail industry had to adjust to the likes of Amazon and Ebay, Missouri car dealers need to face the brave new world. Government needs to keep its nose out of it, regardless how much money the Missouri Auto Dealers Association throws at legislators.

*John Hoffmann
Town and Country, MO*

Mr. Hoffmann had a 30-year law enforcement career. The last five years was as the chief enforcement and compliance officer for the Taxi Unit of Montgomery County, Maryland in suburban Washington, DC.

MUSIC: THE FEBRUARY B-DAY BASH: I did a terrible job taking photos, but I had a couple turn out. One was of Valerie Tichacek, who showed up with an arrangement and some changed lyrics of the song that is my personal motto... "If I Only Had a Brain."



Valerie changed the lyrics to "If John Hoffmann Only Had a Brain." It was a big hit!

Anita Rosamond was there and took to the piano for some songs and then Sunny Friedman took to the stage and did "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" as a cha-cha-cha and brought the house down.



Chesterfield's Joe Mancuso showed up and performed Green Dolphin Street in the second set.



Charley B did a couple of numbers in the first set and closed the night out with B Flat Blues.



We also had dueling saxophones with Larry Johnson and Joe Bayer, who along with the star of the show Dean Christopher I managed not to get one decent photo of.

TUESDAY NIGHT AT SHELDON CONCERT HALL: It had been 15 months since we last unfortunately heard the vocal group Java Jived, We wised up last week going to hear a jazz band that shared the bill with Java Jived. We showed up 30 minutes late and missed the first nine songs by the vocal group. We were at their November 2013 and it was awful, except for the jazz band, Midwest Jazz-tette that played about 40-percent of the bill and backed Java Jived on six songs. They were great. The same held true last week at the Sheldon.

Our advice is if you were a fan of the Manhattan Transfer, the Hi-Los or the Singers Unlimited...never go to a concert with Java Jived.



Here is a photo from the 2013 Java Jived concert. They still were just as bad in 2015. Bob Probst was still good. The 87-year-old baritone sax player picked up the mic to do some scat singing.



From Feb. 10 2015 with our buddy Val Tichacek on the piano on the left and Bob Probst rear-right on the baritone sax. Probst is 87-years-old and his first professional music gig was as a member of the ship's band of the USS Missouri after WW II. Probst would play with the Sonny Denham, Alvino Rey and Al Donahue big bands in the 1950s, before opening an auto repair business on Meramec in South St. Louis.

The problem with Java Jived is that they have two excellent vocalists and a couple of good ones and four awful ones. They claim they are jazz singers but hold up chart books as if they are classical singers. In 2013 I fled before the end of the concert after listening to Java Jived butcher Gene Purling arrangements. When I got to my car I immediately put on a CD of the late Purling's group Singers Unlimited. Last week Java Jived finished the show with Bobby Troup's classic "Route 66." I did not have any vocal group CDs in the car, but I put in a CD of Bobby Troup doing live recordings from 1959, that included Route 66.



Here is what we wrote after the 2013 concert:

***Tuesday** saw the wife and me at the Sheldon Concert Hall. We went to see a new jazz group, Midwest Jazz-tette. However before the Jazz-tette took to the stage we got to listen to the Java Jived vocal group, who butchered great Gene Puerling arrangements for over 30 minutes before the musicians took to the stage.*

Three to four of these people singing were good, unfortunately there were eight of them. My hero was trombonist Doug Bert who while doing an ensemble piece on Lullaby of Broadway and completely drowned out the Java Jived.

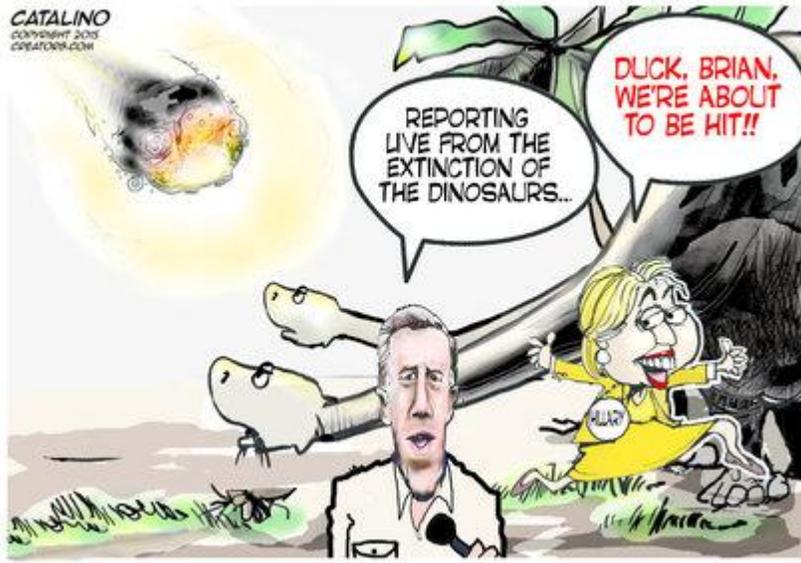
When a member of the Java Jive introduced the Midwest Jazz-tette, they introduced the group's leader and arranger Valerie Tichachek as "Vickie" Tichachek.

The Midwest Jazz-tette was great. We left before the final songs which were by the Java Jive...I couldn't bear to hear them do one of my favorite songs, Rodger and Hart's "If I Could Write a Book." When we got to the car I put a Singers Unlimited CD into the player and listened to some great Gene Puerling arrangements on the ride home.

RESTAURANT REVIEW: We will have another restaurant review in next week's newsletter.

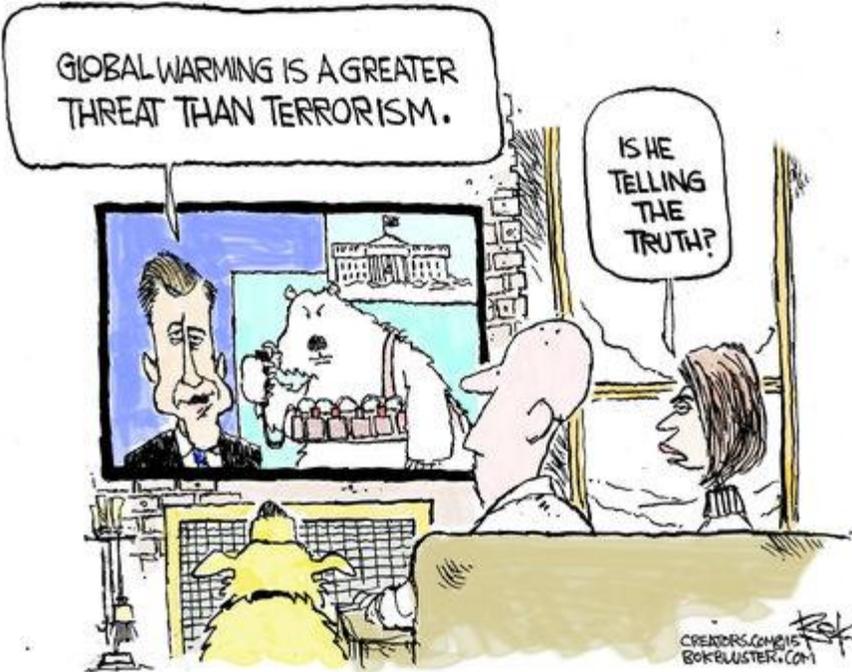
CARTOONS: Brian Williams' face is staying in front of the public thanks to editorial cartoonists.

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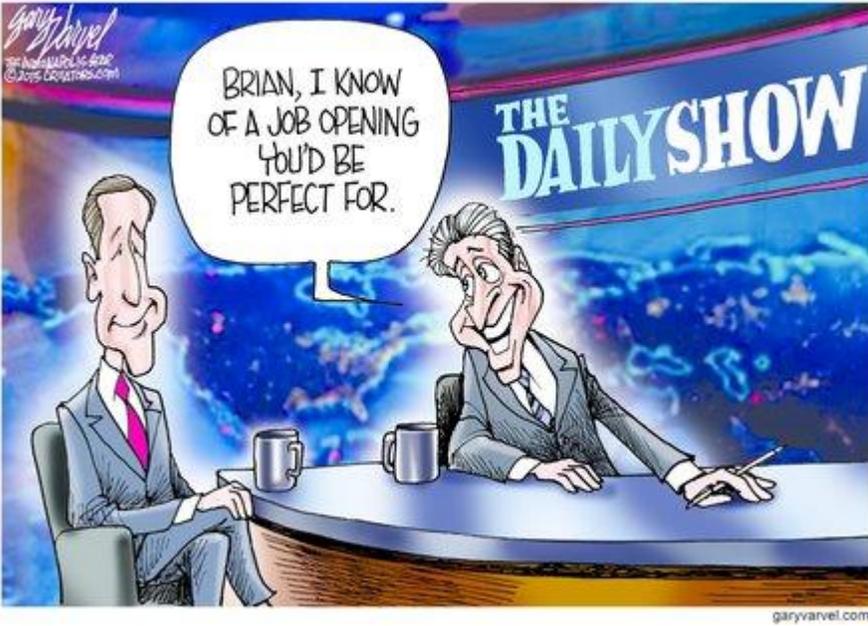


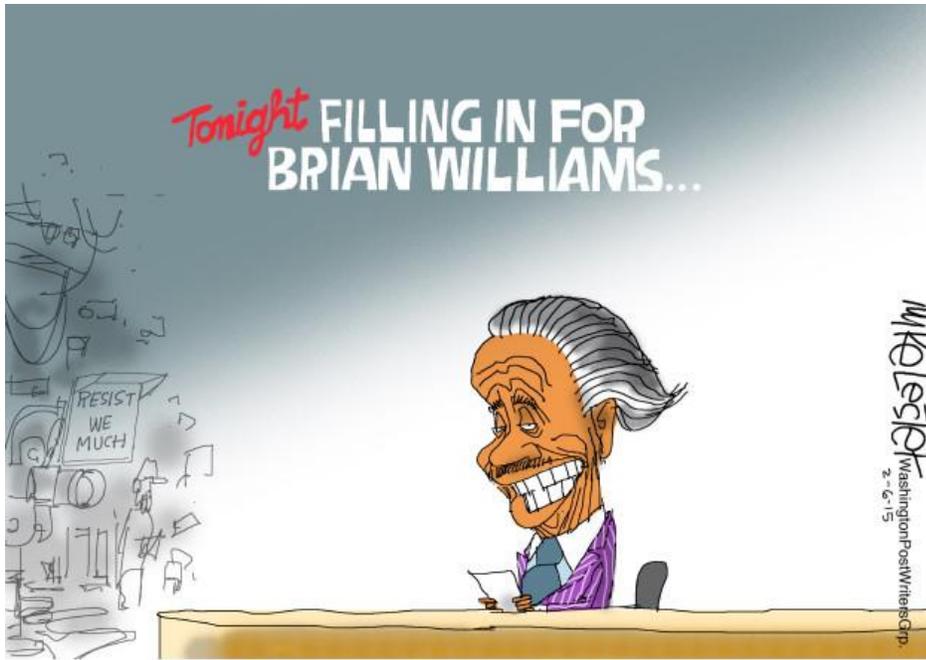
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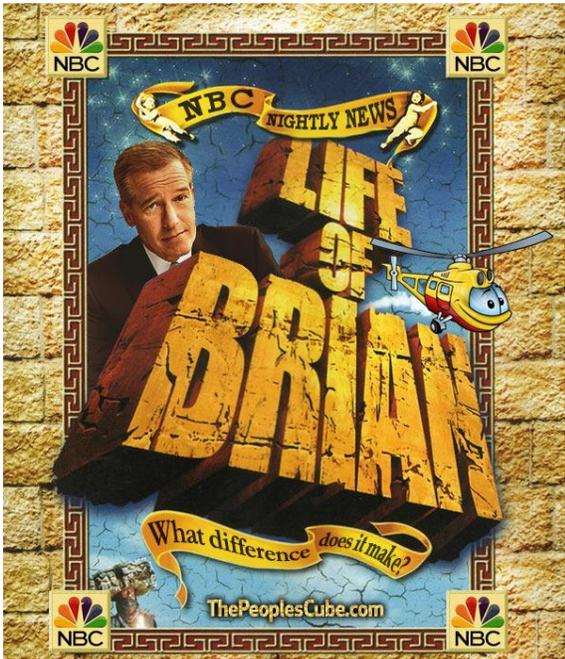
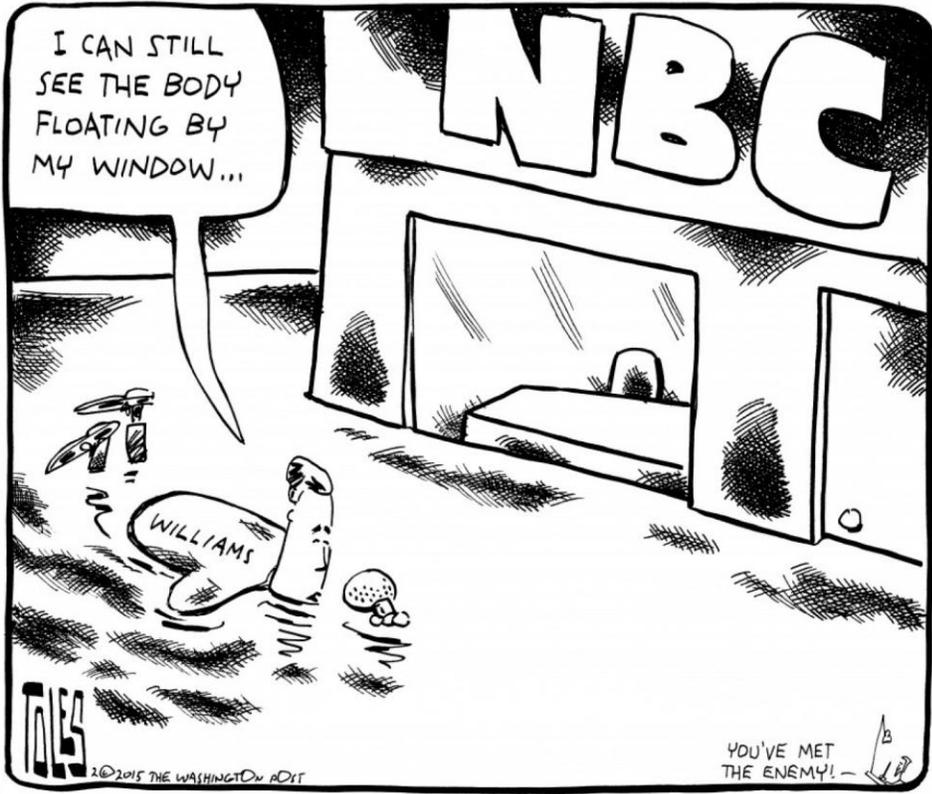


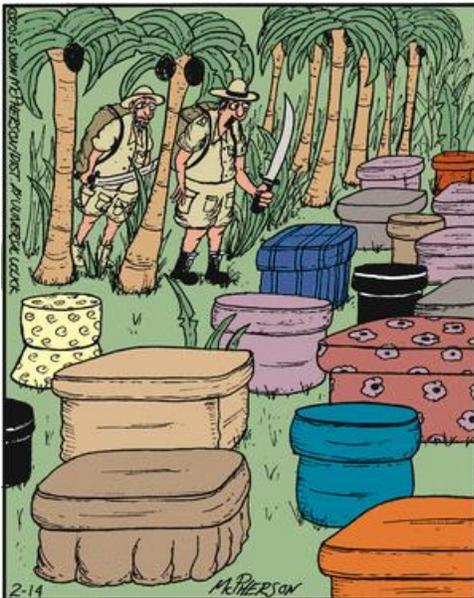
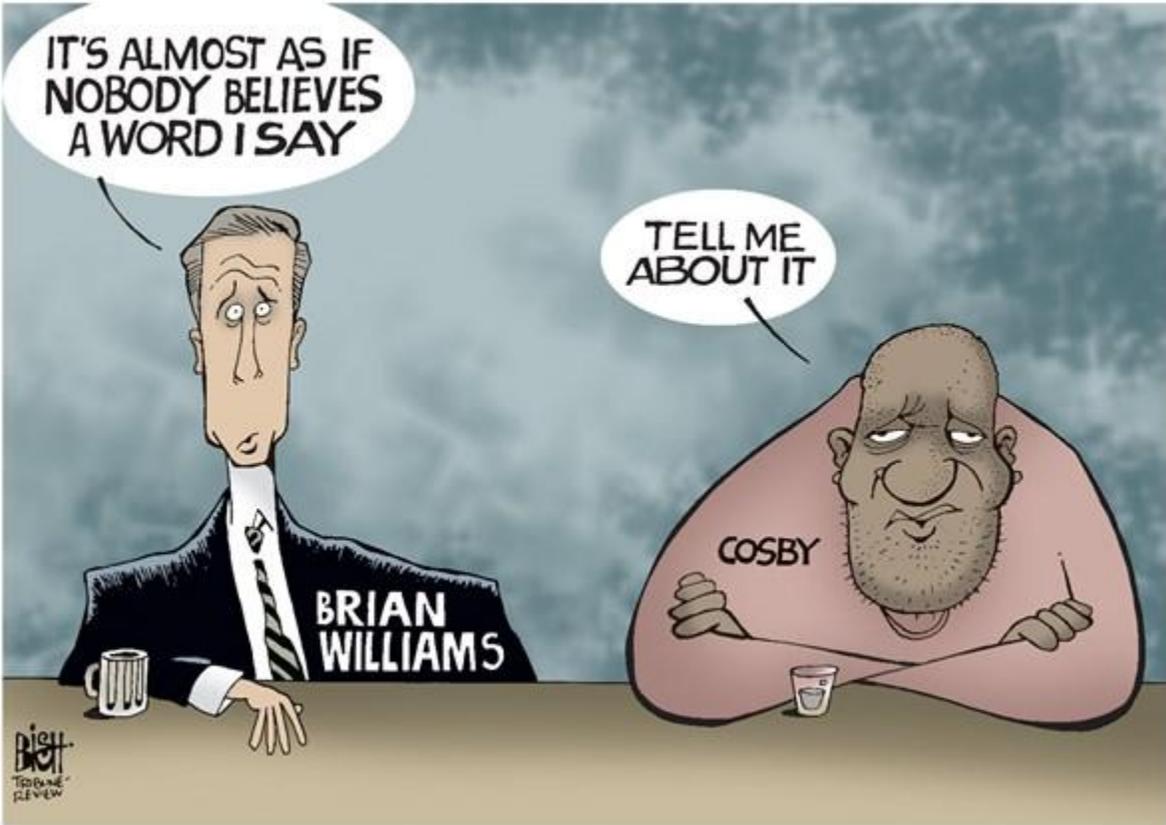








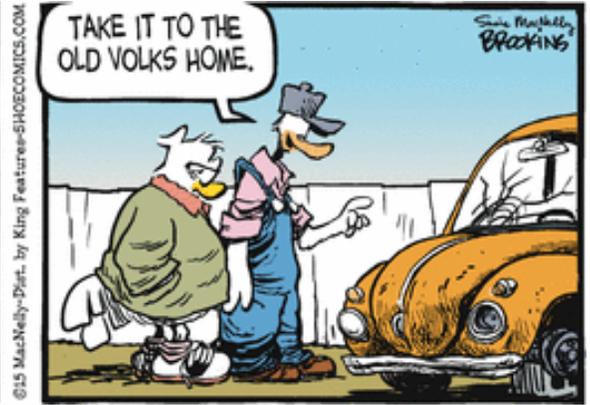
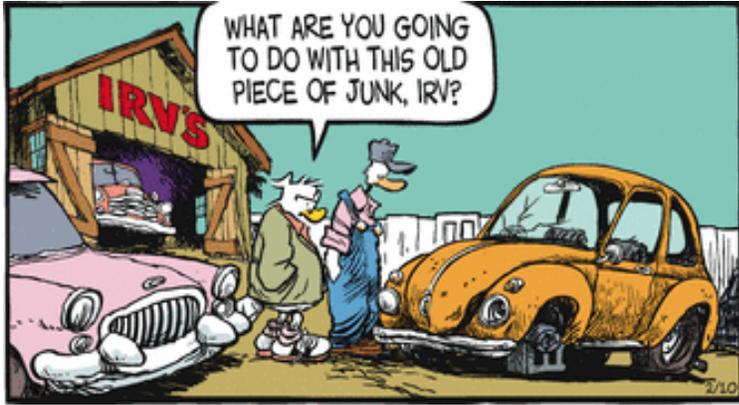




"Great Scott, Ingrey, it's the Ottoman Empire!"



"Well, as usual, the weathermen are only half right."



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