

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 114



February 04, 2014

By John Hoffmann

WHICH OF THE CANDIDATES IN CITY RACES VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS:

One of the fun things to do at municipal election time is to go to the Board of Elections and get the voting records of the candidates and see which ones think it is important from them to run in city elections but not to vote in them. Here is what we found in the Town and County races. (We cover the Chesterfield races later in this newsletter.)

WARD TWO:

Chuck Lenz: In the last 14 municipal elections Chuck Lenz has only missed one. It was the 2007 election. There were no contested city elections in 2007. Bill Kuehling (a Democrat who did not let on to his long time party affiliation) was unopposed and served just one term. The only contested race on the ballot was for the Parkway School District. Only 87 voters in Ward 2 bothered to vote that year.

Amy O. Anderson missed a lot of municipal elections. She voted in 1999, but failed to bother to vote in eight others. She did not vote in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011 and last year's 2013 elections, for a 43% rate.

WARD FOUR:

Phil Behnen: Phil didn't vote in the 2001 and 2007 city elections. In 2001 Larry Satz ran unopposed in Ward 4 and Skip Mange was unopposed for mayor. There were four candidates for two openings on the Parkway School Board in 2001, plus a county-wide tax issue.

Linda Pick Rallo: Linda, who has been active in Republican Party politics statewide has not been very active in city politics. In the last 14 years she has only voted five times in city elections. That's a 36% mark of voting in city elections.

A GOOD WAY TO GET ALONG WITH THE NEIGHBORS: In a move to make sure there are no complaints about traffic or sightlines along Mason Road, The Raintree Learning Center preschool purchased the house next door on the north side of the entrance to the school property. We made up the part about the reason, but the school did buy the house for the president and headmaster Ilya Eydelman and his wife. It will be a simple walk to work for the couple. With the headmaster of the school being the closest neighbor to the school we think there would a large reduction of any possible complaints when the school opens. The school is still under construction.



NEW CLIENTS: It is always important to know what conflicts your elected representative might have and the one with the most conflicts (which doesn't seem to bother anyone in Town and Country) is Mayor Jon Dalton, a Jefferson City lobbyist. For over a decade Dalton represented tobacco companies. He would raise his right hand and swear to look after the health, safety and welfare of the people of T&C and with the other hand take money from the makers of 28 brands of cigarettes which were basically doing a good job of killing people. However his last tobacco company left in 2013.



Now don't go to the Missouri Ethics Commission website and expect to find Dalton's client list there under his name. You have to check his name and then check under his secretary's name, Shanon Hawk. Some of his more controversial newer clients are located there since we started writing about them.



Shanon Hawk

Dalton's current list is small (just 5 clients) with only two clients representing possible conflicts. The first is the St. Louis Municipal League. How can a person by virtue of being an elected official making him a member of the Municipal League than also work for them? What happens if the Municipal League wants some legislation passed that would help North County cities but would be a burden to West County towns?

The other one that raises eyebrows is the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Associations of 120 Broadway, New York, NY. Certainly what might be in the best interest of these guys may not be in the best interest of Dalton's constituents who are depending on income from portfolios.

Dalton began hiding his tobacco clients by putting them on his secretary's client list. She now has 14 clients on her list, almost three times as many as her boss. Here are a few new ones on her list this year but not on Dalton's list:

CCRC of GLADSTONE, LLC: This is a group from Overland Park what is trying to build a nursing home in Gladstone, MO a suburb of Kansas City. Dalton is the registered representative for this group with the State of Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee. His law firm is also their lobbyist in Jefferson City, but is listed under Hawk and not Dalton.

<http://health.mo.gov/information/boards/certificateofneed/pdf/4963.pdf>

Where is the conflict of interest? The City of Town and Country issues business licenses to three assisted living facilities and a rehab facility. Dalton as mayor is a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission (even though he rarely shows up for a meeting) where as recently as this year a large assisted living company wanted to change zoning near Clayton Road and Mason Road. How do you oversee the same industry you are receiving income from? Dalton did show up for the Allegro rezoning

last summer and voted against it. Would that be the same now that he is representing a company trying to build in a Missouri suburb?

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS: How does one oversee public employees in his one job and represents them in another? (This association has both social workers from the public and private sectors as members)

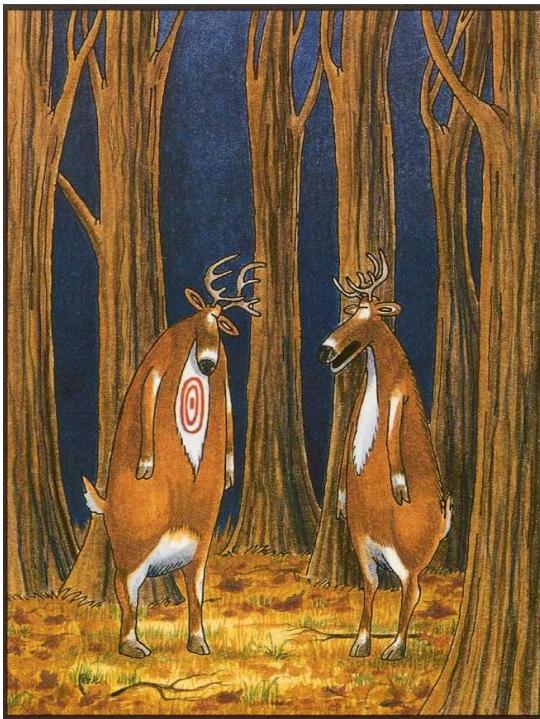
PENMAN AND WINTON CONSULTING: This is really good. Dalton this year is lobbying for two lobbying firms. Penman and Winton have a client list that includes 28 firms and organizations.

SHAWK CONSULTING, LLC: Dalton's secretary Shanon M. Hawk now also has her own lobbying company called SHAWK, Consulting. Here is where things get interesting. With the Missouri Ethics Commission Hawk lists her employer as Lewis-Rice, the law firm where Jon Dalton is a partner and where Dalton is listed on the firm's website as their lone lobbyist in Jefferson City. Her LLC filing with the Missouri Secretary of State lists SHAWK's address as 5610 Horseshoe Drive Jefferson City, her home. However on the SHAWK website she gives an address of P.O. Box 1753 Jefferson City, MO. With the Ethics Commission she gives the following address: Lewis, Rice & Fingersh, LLC 221 E. Capitol Drive Jefferson City, MO.

Prive' Living Well: This is another group wanting to build an assisted living facility, this time in Chesterfield. What was interesting is that Prive' Living Well, LLC was registered with the State of Missouri as a LLC July 22, 2011. However they never filed an annual report and the State of Missouri issued a forced dissolution of the LLC in 2012 for failing to follow Secretary of State's rules governing LLCs. However, despite being dissolved by the Secretary of State's office they were listed as a lobbying client of Dalton/Hawk from July 4, 2013 to December 10, 2013.

DEER HARVEST: White Buffalo, the city's contractor for deer management, normally doesn't get paid until they file a final report. The city administrator tells me he does not have a report yet documenting the January lethal deer harvest. I hear 87 deer were harvested. Apparently the deer census was in the acceptable range in some areas but was off the charts in neighborhoods in Wards 2 and 3 that were near the 500 acres of Queeny Park.

Hopefully our newsletter next week will have updated deer information.



"Bummer of a birthmark, Hal."

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 59



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By John Hoffmann

WHICH OF THE CANDIDATES IN RACES VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: One of the great fun things to do at municipal election time is to go to the Board of Elections and get the voting records of the candidates and see which ones think it is important from them to run in city elections but not to vote in them. Here is what we found in the Chesterfield races:

WARD ONE:

Barry Flachsbart: The BOE voting records only go back to 1999. During the 14 year period Flachsbart has never missed voting in any municipal elections. Frankly it doesn't

appear as if he ever missed voting in any election during that period. This is not surprising since Flachsbart was an original councilman when Chesterfield became a city in 1988.



Benjamin Alan-Kumar Keathley: Keeping in mind that Keathley was too young to vote in 1999, his record does have some holes. His first election voting was actually an April city election in 2007. He then voted in only the 2010 municipal election and has not voted in the last three April elections. During that time he was attending Syracuse Law School. He has never voted from his current address on Rialto Drive.

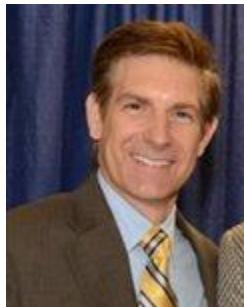


WARD TWO:

Elliot Grissom: The incumbent Grissom voting history with the St. Louis BOE begins on 11/02/2004. He did not vote in the municipal elections in 2005, but has in every election since then. The year Grissom missed there was not a contested mayoral or Ward-2 election in Chesterfield, but there were fire district and school district elections. The odd thing about Grissom's voting record is that he did not vote in the 2010 August primary or November general elections. The ballots were full for both elections.



Tom Northcott: I gave the following name and address as listed with the City of Chesterfield: Tom Northcott 1831 Rockmoor Dr Chesterfield, MIO 63017. Here is what I received from the BOE: “**There is no person registered by this name at this address.**”



WARD THREE:

Michael J. Casey: Incumbent Casey’s voting record since 1999 appears to be the same as Flachsbart’s record. He has not missed any municipal elections or any other election for that matter.



Andrew Kazen: Kazen has a voting record with the St. Louis BOE since 2000. In 13 years he has voted in exactly one municipal election, the one in 2013. Andy actually missed a number of major elections, including the August 2002 primary, 2006 August primary and the November 2009 County-wide 9-1-1 sales tax election.



Kazen is a poker player and has a website on poker playing. When I run his photo I always run James Garner’s as Maverick, because I always liked that TV show. But when it comes to voting...we may have to change some of the lyrics to the Maverick theme song to fit Andy.

Who is the short gray stranger there?
Andy Kazen is the name
Ridin' the trial 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

WARD FOUR:

Connie Fults: Connie's voting booth record is almost as good as Flachsbart's and Casey's. As the incumbent she has voted in every municipal election since 1999. She has only not voted in the non-binding Presidential Preference election in March of 2000.



John Gazzoli, Jr: The challenger in Ward-4 has a very spotty voting record. His record goes back to April 4, 1999 which was one of the few times he voted in a municipal election. For 14 municipal elections the attorney Gazzoli has voted in six of them. That's a 42.8% average. In that 14 year period he has only voted once in an August primary election.



MONARCH ADD EXPENSES AND SALARIES TO WEBSITE: It is something that you just don't see on a government website, but more governments should consider doing it. The Monarch Fire Protection District now has on their website clear information of expenses down to what every vendor is paid, revenue sources and salaries. The salaries are the thing that is amazing.

During the current labor negotiations at first the fire union wanted to stay with the old contract with no raises but lots of perks. The new board of directors wasn't biting and now the union negotiations have included a demand for pay raises saying they have not had any since 2008. There is a good reason for that. The pay for firefighters is amazing.

There are two firefighters who are not even certified to provide medical care making over \$100,000 in pay, not counting benefits. One is making \$118,250.

There are 12 firefighter/paramedics making over \$100,000 before benefits (we did round up and included one who made a mere \$99,969 in this category).

There are two firefighters and 20 firefighter-paramedics who made between \$90,000 and \$99,000 in pay last year.

An engineer is the driver of the fire truck who also works the pumps and other apparatus on the trucks. There would be similar to a sergeant on a police department. Seven engineers made more than \$100,000 in 2013 and the rest were in the \$90,000-to-\$99,000 range.

Two fire inspectors are making more than \$90,000.

Here is the link to the salary page.

<http://monarchfpd.hackmultimedia.com/index.php?82#sthash.kuZG15i1.dpbs>

Fire Marshal Roger Herin who at one time was also handling press and PR duties sent out an email how four Monarch firefighters were eating breakfast at a diner and a resident to thank them for their hard work bought them breakfast. Knowing how much money they made I wrote a piece saying that I hoped the firefighters passed on the generosity and gave similar amounts to someone who actually needed the money.

Herin sent me a blistering email over my comments. However if you look at these salaries you might also agree with me. I also think instead of standing out in traffic on

Labor Day these guys could easily raise more money for “Jerry’s Kids” if they just brought their checkbooks to work. In case you are wonder, Herin made \$119,125 in pay last year and \$163,101 counting pay and benefits.

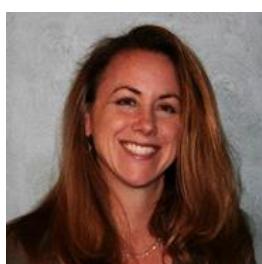


Roger Herin

Finally after seeing these salaries I have a tendency to agree with Director Jane Cunningham that on the principle of the issue the District should not be deducting union dues. The over 50 Monarch employees making more than \$90,000 a year ought to be able to pay their union themselves. It is an interesting note to put things in perspective that The City of Olivette just hired a new fire chief this week at a salary of \$77,100.

WHAT'S A LITTLE MORE STRESS IN THE HOME...THE ROCKWOOD SCHOOL

BOARD RACE: There are three openings on the Rockwood School District Board. All three incumbents are running, Darby Jo Arakelian of Wildwood, Keith Kinder of Ballwin and Matt Doell of Eureka.(Darby Jo was not elected but appointed to fill an unexpired term by a member who resigned during the prolonged scandal.)



Darby Jo Arakelian



Keith Kinder



Matt Doell

Eileen Tyrrell of Eureka is trying to displace an incumbent. Tyrrell is the head of the opposition group Rockwood Stakeholders that has been very active since the scandals involving Rockwood schools began to come to the surface in 2011 involving a new superintendent hiring friends from Minnesota to six figure jobs to procurement scandals, thefts by teachers and the conflict of interest involving the school board president who worked for the district's largest contractor and provided free office space to that contractor.

Tyrell points out that Kinder and Doell were on the board during the scandals. "It's the girls against the boys," she told me which also refers to the reform candidates against the good old boy network.



Eileen Tyrrell

The candidate that really got our attention was **Dominque Paul**, the wife of Ellisville mayor Adam Paul. With all the turmoil in the Paul household in the last year with Paul's politically but not fact based impeachment lasting over six months, resulting in a County Circuit Court Judge declaring the impeachment was unconstitutional and returning Paul to office there was plenty to talk about at supper time. Then Paul revamped City Hall hiring a new city attorney, prosecutor and city clerk. Now his wife wants to have something to talk about at the dinner table. What better place to go than the Rockwood School District. If nothing else anything politically that would come Dominque Paul's way would not be a surprise after what her husband went through.



Domique Paul

Here is the link to read the profiles of each candidate.

<http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/boardofeducation/Pages/Board-of-Education-Candidate-Profiles-.aspx>

REGIONAL:

JUST WHEN YOU THINK IT CAN'T GET ANY WORSE or SOMETIMES YOU ARE BETTER OFF JUST LEAVING IT ALONE: You have to wonder if County Executive Charlie Dooley doesn't wish Jerry Lee was still police chief and never resigned. Many felt that Lee was forced to resign after getting sideways with Dooley over the continued lack of any pay raises for County officers.

He appointed Tim Fitch as police chief and at first was very happy when Fitch began to promote women and blacks to high ranking posts in the department. However, it turned out Fitch had some of the same high ethical standards as Lee.



Jerry Lee



Tim Fitch



Charlie Dooley

First Fitch began to comment on the unprofessional standards and complain about cities with small police departments using radar cameras to generate revenue. Many of those cities are in Dooley's strong hold along the Natural Bridge corridor.

Next somehow the FBI got information and began an investigation of Dooley appointee and St. Louis County Police Commissioner Floyd Warmann. Warmann was in the center of a ticket fixing scandal with the Missouri Highway Patrol in the late 1970s that cost a patrol captain and lieutenant their jobs. Warmann resigned. The subject of the FBI inquiry has never been made public, but you have to wonder if the first tip did not come out of Fitch's office.

Then there was the Gregory Sansone's conflict of interest where Sansone, as a Dooley appointee as President of the Police Board somehow got the contract to install the heating and cooling system for the County's new police crime lab for his small HVAC company. That led to Sansone stepping down in the mist of another FBI investigation along with other members of the police board abandoning ship.

Next Fitch was complaining how the County Health Department and Dooley's department head did not notify the police department when they discovered millions of

dollars being diverted to a straw company run by a health department senior staffer, who committed suicide when called to the director's office.

Then came the failures of the new heating and cooling systems that had just been installed in the County's new police lab by Sanone's company. Fitch went public about that just days before his resignation took effect.

A week before Fitch's last day word leaked out that officers assigned to Dooley's security were under investigations for running unauthorized criminal background checks and had their access to police computers limited.

Apparently the newsroom at the Post-Dispatch had a higher place on Fitch's speed dial than the number to Dooley's office. I admire that, considering how I got fed up with political interference in a county law enforcement job I had in Maryland, quit and the next day was meeting with a reporter from the Washington Post. It resulted in a front page story and a follow up article. See the articles at:

<http://www.johnhoffmann.net/taxi>

So after getting rid of Jerry Lee as Police Chief in 2009 and replacing him with Tim Fitch, perhaps if you are Charlie Dooley maybe the idea that Lee wasn't so bad after all is crossing your mind.

IN CASE YOU ARE WONDERING: After reading how Shaun Hayes the former president of Excel Bank where fraud cost the FDIC \$43,000,000, has civilly been banned from ever being associated with a bank again, I'm sure some were wondering if Hayes is from Town and Country and will be a new member of the Gangs of Town and Country.

http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/hayes-banned-from-banking-by-fdic/article_c66c4ee1-6566-5fa5-a553-06caa80fb5b2.html

No, that will not be happening. Haynes lives at 9 Fordyce Lane in Ladue.

Current taxes on the Hayes estate are \$34,072 annually.



P-D photo

Hayes owes \$3,441 in back taxes on three cars, a 2007 Mercedes convertible, a 2005 and a 2006 Volvo.

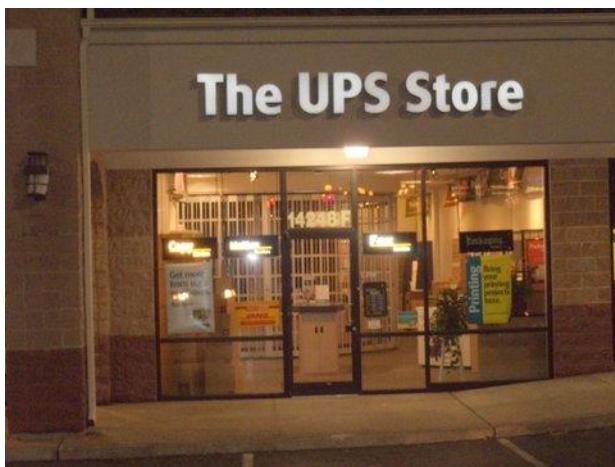
There is a second 2007 Mercedes Benz registered to the address under the name of First National Bank of St. Louis c/o Shaun Haynes Investments.

Hayes was sued by the First National Bank of Carrollton, MO in 2012. The case was moved to the Pettis County Circuit Court. My grandfather opened a tailor shop on the same town square where this bank is located back in 1915. The population of Carrollton is 3,691. It has been steadily dropping for six decades. After my father died my oldest sister and I gave part of our inheritance to the Carrollton High School. This community can ill afford losing any money to a guy from Ladue.



The side of the Carrollton town square where my grandfather's shop was. Here is the First National Bank.

In a 2013 lawsuit Hayes was listed as a defendant in a mechanic's lien on a piece of property at 4249 Michigan in St. Louis. Instead of Hayes' home address of 9 Fordyce, the suit used the address for Hayes and two others of 14248 F Manchester Road. That is a familiar address of long time readers of this newsletter. That is the UPS store and mail drop on Manchester Road across from the Manchester Highlands shopping area. It is the same address that ex-convict drug dealer Brian Marchant-Calsyn used for several of his corporations and businesses after he was evicted from his Town and Country office building. According to Secretary of State records the 4249 Michigan, LLC shows an address of 14248 F Manchester. It is illegal for LLCs and corporations to use mail drops for addresses with the Secretary of State.



There are dozens of recent and pending lawsuits listing Hayes as a defendant filed by big companies and more small town banks. We found judgments ranging from a low of \$748 in back taxes to the Department of Revenue to \$50,000....oh yeah and there is that \$10.3-million judgment against him in a lawsuit filed by Bank oof America.



The house is six bedrooms and six baths and has 7,533 square feet of living space.

A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR... I do the public address announcing for Webster University at basketball games and at baseball games that are played at the minor league ballpark in Illinois along I-255. The baseball coach recently gave me a cold weather hooded sweatshirt that had the words **GORLOKS**

BASEBALL

on the front of the sweatshirt. The Gorlok is the mascot for Webster University sports teams and the made up creature's name comes from the intersection of Gore and Lockwood Avenues in downtown Webster Groves.

I was wearing it on a cold Wednesday night last week when I was at a bar listening to jazz. I guy at the bar had been looking in my direction on and off for a number of minutes. He eventually came over to our table and excused himself. He apparently had been drinking for a while. He said he could not remember, than asked if Gorloks were subterranean creatures, zombies or aliens. He nodded his head when I replied, "Zombies!" However he seemed a little disappointed when I eventually told him they were a D-III college mascot.



MEDIA WATCH 1

THE REST OF PATCH.COM KILLED OFF ON JANUARY 29: We had been writing about the demise of Patch.com, where I was a columnist for 18 months. As the patch.com product quality continued to slide to the point where it was almost non-existent, I was only one month off my prediction the St. Louis Patch sites would be killed in July. It was announced in August they would be no more in St. Louis effective October 15.

However, patch.com claimed the killing off of poorer performing regions would simply make the remaining sites stronger. On January 29 that turned out to be lie.

The media reporting site jimromenesko.com on January 29 began receiving copies of immediate termination notices that went out to most of the remaining employees at sites on the east and west coasts. Here is a transcript from the January 29 conference call firing most of the staff. Here is some of the Romenesko report:

Excerpt of the 10 a.m. ET conference call transcript:

Hi everyone, it's [Patch COO] Leigh Zarelli Lewis. Patch is being restructured in connection with the creation of the joint venture with Hale Global. Hale Global has decided which Patch employees will receive an offer of employment to move forward in accordance with their vision for Patch and which will not. Unfortunately, your role has been eliminated and you will no longer have a role at Patch and today will be your last day of employment with the company.
...Thank you again and best of luck.

Emails that are coming in from Patch employees, current and former:

“Technically, we were laid off by AOL. I presume that was a condition set by Hale. Second, I have it on good authority the layoffs were 80 to 90 percent of Patchers.”

“The patch years were years of being aol’s tool and plaything. Killed myself, almost literally. Left with literally nothing. Better off dead.”

“I was a local editor for Patch for 3.5 years, up until about an hour ago. ..We knew it was coming. but the silence from New York over the few months was deafening. They left us in a state of suspended animation. For those of us who killed ourselves working for this company, it was a real slap in the face.”

“Patch editors in Michigan were laid off today.”

“I was hired in 2010, survived two rounds of layoffs but not the third. I was told middle managers in editorial were on a call earlier this week and being asked about which local editors are worthy. Based on info from HQ, I had one of the top sites in all of Patch for the past 2 years, but now I’m on the outs. Sounds like politics and not performance is the deciding factor for most, if not all, of us.”

Dan Friedell writes: “When I was there I wrote 150 articles, video presentations, photo galleries, multimedia displays and things like that for Patch in northern Virginia from about October 2010 until early in 2012. My biggest worry about the way Patch has been handled right now is that all of the archive disappeared. My best work from that era is gone seemingly forever.”

Please send your Patch information to jim@jimromenesko.com.

Update: Patch senior vice president/revenue [Jim Lipuma](#) has also left the company. [He writes on his blog](#): “I am unemployed. Long and short of it, I chose ‘Happiness.’ Now, I won’t go into details, as I have nothing but love for my organization and the people in it. It was an amazing journey, but today it ends.”

MEDIA WATCH 2: ME! After making fun of Bill Beggs of Town and Style Magazine for months about not knowing what West County city many things he writes about are located in, I pulled the same blunder...but it is one instead of dozens. While writing about the new county dispatch center being built, I placed it in Ballwin off Big Bend. Well it is off Big Bend, but in unincorporated County with the closest municipalities being the tiny Village of Twin Oaks and Manchester.

SWIMMER’S RAPE MORE VIOLENT THAN FIRST REPORTED: Good Old Mizzou could be headed toward the stigma of Penn State as the investigation of a gang rape of scholarship swimmer Sasha Menu Courey in 2010, followed by her suicide begins. The ESPN report is rather chilling and shows the Missouri Athletic Department being far less than caring toward the swimmer who in her freshman year carried a 4.0 GPA. Here is a link to the report:

http://espn.go.com/espn/otl/story/_id/10323102/university-missouri-officials-did-not-pursue-rape-case-lines-investigation-finds

The less than sincere aspect of this is how the University of Missouri top officials are now calling for an investigation of this 2010 rape allegation after ESPN reported on the incident on Outside the Lines in 2014, but did nothing when the story came to the surface at the time of her suicide attempt in 2011.



The late Sasha Men Courey in a Mizzou sports photo

BEYOND THE REGION: Washington DC: Here is a story not about stupid congressmen, corrupt lobbyists but a day to day life and death story from the nation’s capital.

Man, 77, dies after collapsing near D.C. fire station and not getting immediate aid



Jahi Chikwendiu/The Washington Post - Marie Mills holds a picture of her father, Medric Cecil Mills, at the home of a neighbor on Wednesday in Washington.

By [Peter Hermann](#), Published: January 29 [E-mail the writer](#)

Three times people banged on the door of the Northeast Washington firehouse seeking help for a man who had collapsed. Each time, the rescuers inside turned them away.

In a nearby parking lot, Marie Mills cradled her 77-year-old father in her arms. “Help is on the way,” she told him. “There are firefighters right across the street.”

But the firefighters didn’t come. When she spotted one standing in an open bay door, she ran to the curb. “Can you just come and help my dad?” she screamed. “What are you going to do, let my dad die in the street?”

Mills said she was told by people who tried to help that the firefighters said that they couldn’t respond unless someone called 911. It took 15 to 20 minutes for help to show up on Saturday, she said, and then arrived only because a D.C. police officer flagged down an ambulance that happened to pass by. Her father, Medric Cecil Mills Jr., died of an apparent heart attack at MedStar Washington Hospital Center that afternoon. He had worked for the District parks department for over four decades and liked his job so much that he hadn’t retired.

“There are no words to describe how this city has failed,” Mills said on Wednesday.

District authorities are investigating Mills’s death and have ordered 15 firefighters on duty that day to headquarters for questioning. One was told to drive in from his home in Pennsylvania.

Although details of what transpired in the station are under review, the basic outline of what Mills has said is not in dispute. The incident was first reported by WTTG (Channel 5).

“I’m quite disturbed and disappointed by what appears to be an inappropriate response,” said Paul A. Quander Jr., the deputy mayor for public safety. “Mr. Mills was someone that worked for the District for a number of years, and the pain and the anguish that the family has gone through is unacceptable. There will be no rush to judgment, but we will be thorough, we will be precise and then we will act.”

Quander said nothing should stop a firefighter from helping someone in distress. “They don’t wait to be called,” he said. “We should have responded to this incident.”

D.C. Mayor Vincent C. Gray (D) said that “appropriate action should be taken” against anyone found to have acted contrary to the job’s responsibilities. “Frankly, on its face, it’s really hard to accept what happened here,” he said.

The case comes amid reforms being implemented after the 2006 death of retired New York Times reporter and editor David E. Rosenbaum. Rosenbaum died after D.C. emergency personnel mistook the effects of injuries from a vicious mugging for public intoxication and labeled the incident low-priority.

The District’s fire department and its chief, Kenneth B. Ellerbe, more recently have faced scrutiny after problems that raised questions about patient care. On New Year’s Day 2013, a 71-year-old man died of a heart attack after waiting more than 30 minutes for an ambulance on a day when one-third of the firefighters on duty had called in sick. In March, a D.C. police officer who was struck by a car waited 15 minutes for an ambulance; authorities later found that three ambulances were improperly out of service.

Ellerbe, Gray and Edward C. Smith, the president of the D.C. firefighters union local, called Mills’s daughter to express their concerns.

“On behalf of all D.C. firefighters, I offer Mr. Mills’s family a sincere apology,” Smith said.

D.C. Council member Tommy Wells (D Ward-6) said that the longtime District worker “deserved better” and promised that the public safety committee he chairs would hold hearings on the matter.

Tim Wilson, a fire department spokesman, said everyone working assigned to Engine 26 and Truck 15 that Saturday afternoon is being questioned. The firefighter who is accused of refusing to help was hired in the past year and has not yet passed probation, city officials said.

When someone seeks help at a firehouse, procedure calls for the officer in charge to be notified and to decide what action to take. Wilson and Edwards said the probationary firefighter may have told superiors, and the investigation is focusing on who knew about the pleas for help and on why no one acted.

Kenny Lyons, who represents paramedics in a separate labor union, said that emergency workers are barred from “self-dispatching” — such as responding to calls on their own— but that nothing stops them from rendering help or investigating a request from a citizen.

“If you see an incident occurring in front of you, you have a duty to go over an investigate,” Lyons said. “What bothers me in this case is it appears they didn’t even go and check.”

Marie Mills said that she and her father were at a shopping center on Rhode Island Avenue NE and had just dropped off a broken computer at a repair shop. They were walking out, chatting and joking about her returning to college, and he told her, “You get them, college girl.” Just then he stopped talking and tumbled to the pavement.

She couldn’t find her cellphone so she ran back into the computer store and shouted for people to call 911. She and others ran outside and noticed the fire station across the street in the 1300 block of Rhode Island Avenue. She said several bystanders ran over to get help.

“Several people told me the guy behind the door wouldn’t open the door,” Mills said. “He told them, ‘There’s nothing I can do if my lieutenant doesn’t tell me to go.’” She said the same firefighter was seen later in the open bay door, leaning against a truck, with his arms folded. “People went over at least three times,” said Mills, who didn’t want to leave her father’s side.

Authorities said it appears that a firetruck dispatched from another station as a result of 911 calls made by the people in the store went to a corresponding address in Northwest Washington, an issue that is also under review. Wilson said the initial report indicates that a police officer flagged down a passing ambulance.

Engine 26 — from the station across the street — was out on a call but eventually responded as well, he said. Truck 15 was in its station when Mills collapsed.

Mills described her father as someone who loved the District and the Redskins and often stopped to give a ride to a stranger he saw standing in the cold at a bus stop. He once bought socks for a man. “My dad never met a stranger,” she said. “He met a friend.”

Details of services were still being made Wednesday, but Marie Mills said the funeral would probably be Feb. 8 at Mount Pleasant’s Canaan Baptist Church, founded by her late grandfather in 1947. Survivors include her brother, Medric Mills III, who is a pastor in the District, and Medric Mills’s wife, Sandra, who is 75.

Mike DeBonis contributed to this report.

On Friday January 31 the lieutenant in charge of House 26 put in her papers for immediate retirement.

MUSIC: I am currently reading a book that Jim Manley lent me about the behind the scenes of the Dean Martin Variety show on NBC. One of the requirements set forth by Dean before he would do the show was that he would not attend weekday rehearsals. In fact he didn't rehearsal at all. He would show up and tape the show "live" on Sunday and it would air on Thursday. For the guest stars it was a different story...they had to appear for several rehearsals during the week with a staffer filling in for Dean. However, most guests seemed to have a good time with Martin and his adlibs including one (who I consider the greatest American female singer) Ella Fitzgerald. The singers where accompanied by Les Brown's big band one of the top big bands in the county. .

Here is a link to a clip from the show during the 1965-66 season with Ella and Dean doing a duet and later joined by Gordon McRae.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mowAM9UBn7Q>

191 AT THE ONE-19: I mentioned this in our last newsletter. This week is the birthday week for my wife, her older sister and me. If you add up the ages they come to 191. One of my wife's favorite spots is the One-19 Restaurant in Kirkwood at 119 N. Kirkwood Road between Argonne and West Jefferson. So it was decided to have the 191 at the 119.

She invited 25 relatives and friends and the management is allowing us to bring in a band. So we are paying for some loud and fun Las Vegas type entertainment you don't get to see around here much anymore. I'm paying for it, but two-thirds of the joint is open so you can come and enjoy the show.

At the beginning of Valentines week you can go out and avoid the big crowds and have a lot of fun if you think you'd like a Rat Pack style show. **It's on Monday February 10,** with the music starting at 7:30. It's Valentine's week... avoid the crush of Feb 14 and go out on Feb. 10.

The Entertainment starts at 7:30



These guys will make music.



These guys will make you laugh.

CARTOONS:

