

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 198 AND CHESTERFIELD 143



By John Hoffmann

October 15, 2015

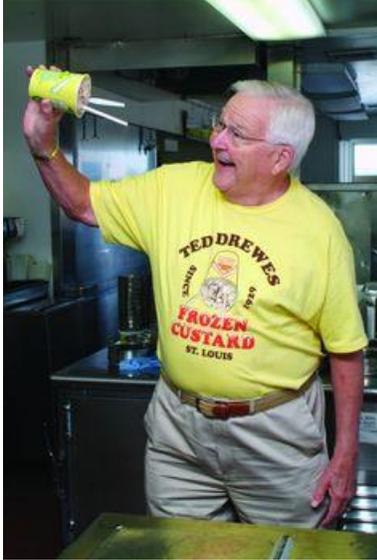
THE WORLD ACCORDING TO SKIP: It is fun to listen to Skip "Vacant Lot" Mange give updates and write about local history because he gets his facts more than a little mixed up. In a recent city newsletter Skip wrote how a "few years" after the first Town and Country City Hall was built in 1958 a trailer placed behind it for the police. That "few years" was actually 25 years or a quarter of a century later. He also described a quarterly magazine that is mostly advertising for remodeling companies as a weekly. Skip was close, 4 issues a year versus 52.

Skip has consistently called a planned one-acre storm water retention pond at the back of the Wirth Property a "LAKE." The accepted definition of the word LAKE is "a large considerable body of water surrounded by land." The scientific definition between a lake and a pond deals with the penetration of light. In either case what is proposed is a pond.



Skip in center gives an update.

At a recent meeting of the Conservation Commission Skip was giving members an update. First he said how Frozen Custard King Ted Drewes, 87, was in the Town and Country's first parade. Skip then point toward Mason Ridge Road and said "Ted lives right over there on Mason Ridge." Well, Skip was close. Ted used to live on Mason Ridge. We reported when his house went on the market and when it sold. Ted now lives with his wife in a condo at Maria de Villa on Clayton Road.



Where in the World is Ted Drewes? A new game with the geography challenged Skip Mange.

Next Skip began talking about how the Tim Horton's plan was defeated saying there were concerns about the drive through. He was then asked if there were any plans for something to go in there he replied:

"It's vacant and it looks horrible," Mange said. Of course it does and Skip voting against the Tim Horton's plan is one of the reasons "horrible" will be associated with that corner of Clayton and Ballas for sometime in the future.



"The "Horrible" vacant lot courtesy of Ward 1 alderman Skip Mange voting against putting a Tim Horton's on the corner.

Skip suggested members go and try the full service Tim Horton's in ROCK HILL. I piped up and asked if Rock Hill had expanded its city limits eastward and now takes in parts of Brentwood and Maplewood. The Tim Horton's is on Big Bend Blvd. at Manchester Road in the heart of The City of Maplewood. This was from a person who served two terms on the County Council.

FEWER AND FEWER PLEIN AIR PAINTERS AT THE FALL FESTIVAL: I love it when Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist and Snatcher of a 78-old Widow's Property by Eminent Domain for an Underfunded Nightclub District Jon Dalton shows up at the Plein Air Painting event during the Fall Festival to hand out awards gives and incorrect history of the event.

Here is the history of the event. When I was an alderman and when no one filed to run against Dalton in 2009, I did at the last minute. I got my ass kicked. I spent \$7,000, but Dalton spent over \$10,000.

I had been the chair of the Public Works Commission, but in April of 2009 Dalton removed me from that position and made me the chair of the Arts Commission. The only catch was there were no members of the Arts Commission.

By November there were enough members to hold meetings so there needed to be a focus. The City's budget was awful and Dalton was laying off women employees. I decided to copy the Plein Air painting event called Paint Out Webster Groves held every Spring, but have one for Town and Country in the fall and use registration fees and any donations as prize money. It would cost the city nothing.

Before we could hold the first Impressions of Town and Country I was voted out of office. Lynn Wright took my place. At an aldermanic meeting in the fall of 2010 Lynn could not pronounce "Plein Air" and did not know what it meant. The number of painters that turned out was impressive for the first few years. In 2014 and 2015 when the event was moved from Longview to the Fire Station the number has steadily dropped.

Here are some of the paintings in this year's event with some paintings on display at the Longview farmhouse:



Sold

The Horses grazing at Longview was this year's winner by Marty Coulter. Marty has won several times in the past and has had the city buy his paintings more than once.

Marty had another painting that I feel guilty about as I think Marty might have hated the experience. The idea was to have a Plein Air painter in a pickup truck in the big parade and create a painting of a group marching or on a float in front or behind the painter. Marty chose to do the Fairy Princesses from Parties by Prilla. I was thinking the painting might be a curb to curb view of a parade scene. Marty did a close-up.



Marty only had 45 minutes, plus he was painting while he was moving. At the end of the parade he had two of the Princesses hold their pose while he continued to paint until the police arrived and ordered them out of the street so they could open Clayton Road. If you look at the detail of the horse painting, including the shadows, fence posts and trees you can see how frustrating the parade painting had to be. The princesses didn't even have faces.

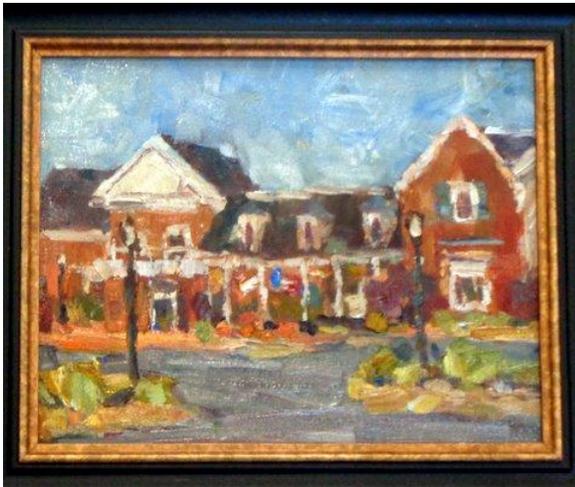
One member of the Art Commission told me how "marvelous" the Princesses painting was.

However, a judge of the paintings who was unaware of the parade and what Marty was doing asked me if I knew where Marty found "show girls" in Town and Country on a Saturday afternoon.

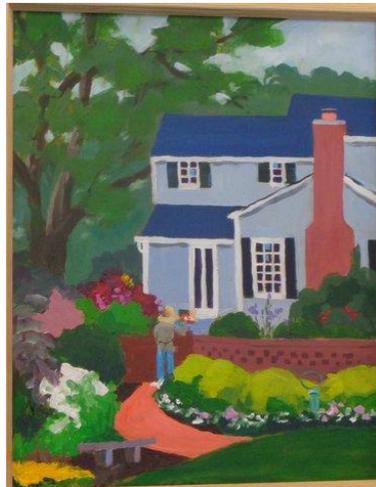


Sold

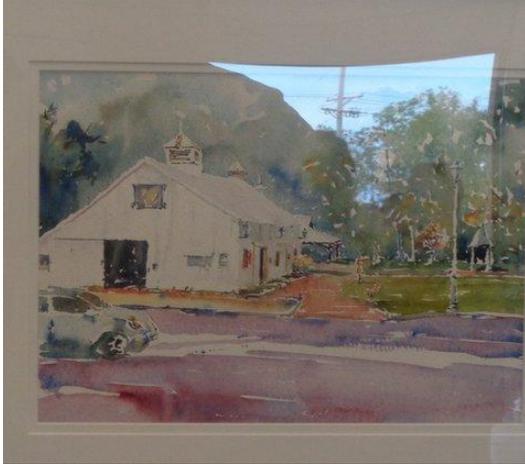
This is a farm scene from the buildings remaining on the Eschenbrenner farm located at the far end of Barrett Station Road at the gate to the Thornhill Subdivision. The artist tried to capture the cold cloudy day.



Mason Woods Village Shopping Center



The eastside of the Longview Farmhouse



Longview Farm Park Horse Barn



Longview Park Pond



A view of the fire station through the trees. An out of proportion painting of the hose tower and a photo of the actual hose tower.



Frankly the painting of the fire hose tower reminded me more of a tower next to a mosque used for call to prayers.

Besides the Call to Prayers Tower, this might have been what I considered an odd subject. It is a backyard of a McMansion (I think off of Topping Road). I don't know what I'm missing here, but I don't see any charm or beauty. I just see largeness, or should I say unnecessary largeness?



At the Monday Board of Aldermen meeting Lynn Wright announced "It was a great day for the Plein Air event." Being somewhat close to a plein air painter I have to mention it was anything but a "great day." It was 54-degrees with a brisk wind and no sunshine.

LOCKED OUT OF CREEPY PARK I wrote and had photos two weeks ago how years of neglect have left the west side of Preservation Park creepy. It would be a perfect park for the Adams Family! I tried to stop by the park at 4 pm on Saturday October 10 and found the gates locked.



I sent an email to Town and Country Parks Director Anne Nixon asking if west entrance of the park was permanently closed or just closed on nice sunny Fall weekend days with the temperature at 70 degrees.

Anne responded that the west side of Preservation Park was closed until vandalism could be repaired. So of course I immediately went back to check things out. The first thing that greets you is this:



Besides the pavement art the gold metal plate on the pavilion stating it was a gift from Sex Texter and former State Rep. John Diehl was missing. (Someone had scratched "Fuck you Jean" under Diehl's name.)

Also missing was picnic table. It had been set on fire. Left in the rafters of the pavilion were a couple of empty beer cans.



The next area didn't need repairing as much as a broom. Where a full trash can the city had not emptied in some time on our last visit were ashes as well as wood ashes nearby from fires. The trash can had been damaged by a fire. There were also three broken bottles of Red Apple Ale in parking spaces.



It seems to me that if the glass and ashes were cleaned up the park would be safe, but minus something to sit on under the pavilion.

When I complained about sadomasochistic painting hung in the Longview Farmhouse as part of an art show by college students that depicted a women in leather in bondage with a dog collar, Arts Commission and Parks Commission Chairwoman Lynn Wright told me "art was in the eye of the beholder." So I guess there is nothing wrong pavement art of an erect penis. With the park entrance closed you have to wonder where local teenagers are going to go to smoke dope and drink Red Apple Ale.

At the Board of Aldermen meeting on Monday Ald. Lynn Wright announced that the park entrance would remain closed for several weeks in hopes to discourage the culprit causing the damage not to come back and find somewhere else to go and destroy property. "It will be closed for a couple of weeks so whoever is tearing it up won't come back," said Wright.

A check with the police department revealed that the offense did not occur in the middle of the night but at 5:30 on Friday afternoon October 2, 2015. There is a witness description of a white/male with brown hair fleeing the area in a black Ford pickup truck.

I cannot get the police report as the case is being investigated but I did get the police dispatch report.

TOWN AND COUNTRY POLICE DEPARTMENT 1011 MUNICIPAL CENTER TOWN AND COUNTRY, MISSOURI 63131		Calls For Service Detail Page Event # 1754911	
Date & Time 10/02/2015 17:33:48	Day Friday	Dispatcher ID W5	Agency TCPD
Beat	Sector 510.3	District TCPD-A	Incident # 15-01797
Location CADET PARK/PRESERVATION TCPD 2010 : 12625 NORTH FORTY DR TOWN AND COUNTRY MO 63131-			
REPORTING PARTY INFORMATION			
Name CALLER SHERI - 314-570-5594	Phone U () -	Requests Contact N	
Address			

CALL DETAILS	
Call Type	PROP DAMG - PROPERTY DAMAGE
Description	<p>Notes: THE PARK NEXT TO CBC ON OUTER FORTY , THERE IS A DRIVE WAY THAT GOES TO THE WOODED AREA THAT IS SECLUDED, SECONDARY ENTRANCE. SEVERAL JUVENILE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 1 WM IN A BLK TRUCK. THE PICINIC TABLES ARE DESTROYED AND THERE IS A FIRE SET. SMALL FIRE IN THE TRASH BARREL WITH PART OF THE WOOD TABLE INSIDE OF IT.</p> <p>FIRE WAS EXTINGUISHED. POSSIBLE SUSPECT IS A HIGH SCHOOL AGE W/M DRIVING A NEWER BLACK FORD TRUCK WITH AN EXTENDED CAB. DRIVER HAD BROWN HAIR AND A LIGHT T-SHIRT. LEFT THE SCENE AS CALLER WAS ARRIVING, NO DIRECTION OF TRAVEL.</p> <p>PICNIC TABLE FLIPPED UPSIDE DOWN AND PIECES OF WOOD SCATTERED DOWN TRAIL AND IN BURNING TRASH CAN. PHOTOS AND REPORT TAKEN.</p> <p>User Defined:</p>
Disposition	REPORT TAKEN -
Priority	1
Total Consumed Minutes of all associated Units :	
Dispatch to Clear	91

THE NEW COLLEGE FOOTBALL FIELD IS READY. UNFORTUNATELY THE SOD ON THE SIDELINES IS IN TERRIBLE SHAPE. The new artificial turf football and soccer field is all ready and the athletic center at Missouri Baptist University at the upper end of the main entrance of Preservation Park is all set to go and from the looks of it the MBU teams have been practicing on it. There are no stands yet for the fans as MBU is playing the 2015 season home games at the nearby CBC High School field.

The problem at their new field is the natural sod turf along the sidelines is not faring well. Players have to be careful after practice when leaving the artificial not to destroy what is left of the natural sod. The field is in Creve Coeur but the driveway to and some of the parking is in Town and Country.





SPEAKING OF ATHLETIC FIELDS: There is a lot of earth moving going on along Conway Road where Maryville University purchased residential zoned open land, got the a Conditional Use Permit granted to build soccer and softball facility and a large maintenance garage. This cost Aldermen Phil Behnan his job as he got voted out and replaced by Linda Rallo. Then early this year Rallo endorsed Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith who was successfully running for reelection in Ward 3. Meyland-Smith had voted for the project and had also talked down and chastised the Ward 4 residents for being in opposition. It will be interesting to see if Rallo has any opposition when the December filing date arrives.

Maryville dropped the maintenance garage when they contracted out that service. The reason for moving the fields and getting rid of the current garage is the need for student housing, classrooms and parking on the main campus.



This is a limited view of the worked being done along Conway Road for the new Maryville Athletic fields taken from Hampshire Hill Drive.

MORE PARADE STUFF...INCLUDING STUFF FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES:

The rave reviews of the first Town and Country Parade keep coming in. Fred Wiesehan, co-owner of Mari de Villa who was behind the parade has already said there will be one next year. I didn't want to say anything negative or borderline sarcastic in the first newsletter after the parade, giving the parade the praise it deserved. But there was one thing I noticed that I had some sympathy about but still it was hard to ignore.

When I was the assistant police chief of Chevy Chase Village Maryland I literally ran the day-to-day operations of the department. At one point I needed to reorder shoulder patches for the uniform shirts and jackets. The department's patch was very expensive because it had seven different colors in it. I got the best price from a company in Los Angeles. When the patches came back, they were perfect but each one had a sticker attached to the back stating "Made in Taiwan." I tried to look on the positive side. I brought them from an American Company and at least they were not made in a Communist country.



Fred Wiesehan had ball caps made for everyone who helped with the parade. I got one. The hats were nice and had the theme of the parade that Fred was pushing, TOWN AND COUNTRY PARADE OUR TOWN - OUR COUNTRY, plus a flag.



However if you flip the hat over and look at its birth certificate it was worse than being from India, Taiwan, Mexico or South Korea.



FREE ADVERTISING: Over the years many businesses complain that no one knows they are located in the Manchester Meadows Shopping Center. Many of those complaining moved or went out of business. The shopping center sits so far off the road and the Town and Country sign ordinance was far more restrictive than the County sign ordinances affecting the stores located across the street in unincorporated County. The shopping center did get approval for a new 40 foot high sign that will have the name of all tenants, but still you have a hard time seeing the stores.

So I have to think that the folks with the new Fresh Thyme food store that is being built in the space formerly taken up by Petsmart are happy about the pickets protesting non-union labor being used at the store's construction site. The big banner sign used by the protesters is telling everyone a new store will be opening soon in the shopping center.



LAST DAY FOR ONE OF OUR FAVORITES IN THE DIERBERG'S DELI: Long time readers might remember a couple of years ago when I ran a photo of Mary Ann from the Des Peres Schnucks store the week before she retired. Mary Ann was so friendly and fun to talk to that I would wait in a long line to check out with her instead of going to a shorter line.

Now it is time to say goodbye to Mandy from the Des Peres Dierberg's store deli. Mandy, whose husband had been the head chef at the Gatesworth has taken a job in Florida and last Friday was Mandy's last day in the deli. Mandy always was extra generous when filling a deli dinner plate and would always go to the back to check if the green bean or twice baked potato trays were empty in the deli case. Plus she was fun to talk to.



Our favorite Mary Ann 2 years ago days before her retirement. Mandy from the Dierberg's Deli is another supermarket favorite and is moving to Florida next week.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 143



October 15, 2015

TRYING TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH THE CITY COUNCIL'S SPECIAL LAWYER IS COSTING THE TAXPAYERS RESULTS IN THE OLD RUNAROUND. BUT FINALLY I FOUND OUT HE WAS HIRED. THEY DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH HE CHARGES BUT HE CAN CHARGE UP \$17,000. As we reported last week the City Council has hired Kevin O'Keefe of Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe in their witch hunt against Mayor Bob Nation trying to impeach him or do something to him for losing his temper at a city employee. This is the same law firm that represented the Ellisville City Council in the impeachment of Mayor Adam Paul. A Circuit Court judge overturned the impeachment citing Paul's constitutional rights were ignored.

I was interested to see what the going rate was for this law firm with such a stellar record in impeachments, not to mention handling the affairs of the City of Ferguson over the years in a disastrous fashion, not to mention being rebuke by the State courts in their handling of Velda City's court, warrant and open record operation. In other words if the law firm was good enough for Ferguson it must be good enough for the Chesterfield City Council.



On Wednesday October 7 when I arrived early at the City Council agenda meeting I asked city administrator Mike Herring who I should send the Missouri Sunshine Law Open records request to to find out how much O'Keefe was getting paid including his retainer fee and his hourly rate.

Herring told me to write City Attorney Harry O'Rourke. This struck me as a little odd since O'Rourke doesn't review or pays bills. In fact he often sends the city bills for work done beyond his normal duties. But it would be O'Rourke who would eventually give me an answer.

O'Rourke arrived a few minutes later and I told him I was told to contact him to find out the rate of pay O'Keefe was receiving. O'Rourke immediately said, "I'm not paying him you need to ask someone else."

I told him that I was instructed to write him. He then suggested I write the City Clerk.



City Attorney Harry O'Rourke

I wrote a Missouri Sunshine Open records request that was waiting for both O'Rourke and City Clerk Vicki Hess when City Hall opened on Thursday. At the end of the day I had heard nothing. Not a peep at the end of Friday either. 72 hours later at the end of the day on Monday still nothing. Tuesday at 2:30 or 93 1/2 hours after my request I got a reply from Mr. O'Rourke.

From: Harry O'Rourke [mailto:horourke@smhhlaw.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 2:15 PM

To: John Hoffmann

Subject: RE: Missouri Sunshine Law Open Records request

Dear Mr. Hoffmann,

I have been asked to respond to your sunshine request of last Thursday (see below). There is no contract for legal services with Mr. O'Keefe or his law firm and the City of Chesterfield or its City Council. Further, Mr. O'Keefe has not yet submitted a bill for his services, and no fees have been paid to him yet. Therefore, there are no documents to produce responsive to your request.

I can tell you that the City Council has authorized payment of up to a maximum of \$17,000.00 for his legal services as special counsel to the City Council.

Very truly yours,

Harry O'Rourke

HAROLD V. O'ROURKE

Attorney at Law

According to O'Rourke the City Council has hired a lawyer without knowing what his rates are. It is an interesting and odd way to run a government or a business. I later learned from an outside source that O'Keefe's normal hourly rate is \$300.

MAYOR WANTS TRANSPARENCY AND RULES ALLOWING CITIZENS TIME TO SPEAK AT ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS...HE GETS DOUBLE TALK FROM COUNCIL.

It had already been a tough few days for Chesterfield Mayor Bob Nation. A quickly called special meeting of the Council on Saturday October 3 where the council hoped the public would not find out about it and then tried to keep them out, all to discuss impeaching or doing something else to Nation.

At the end of the regular council meeting on Wednesday October 7 Mayor Nation announced he was going to send to the Finance and Administration Committee a proposal to create a Transparency Portal on the City's Website that would contain links making the operation of the City of Chesterfield including finance open to the public. Nation also stated that he has attended most committee meetings and was concerned the citizens often do not have the opportunity to talk at these committee meetings. He wanted a policy to be put in effect that will give citizens the opportunity to speak at committee meetings where proposals are be formed and altered by councilpersons instead of only at council meetings when the proposals are close to passing.

Nation has a valid point. I have seen citizens treated like interlopers at many council committee meetings. Dan Hurt may have been the worst last year when he chaired the Planning and Public Works Committee. If the room was full of residents on an issue he would not let them speak or reps of the developers until he asked them specifically to speak only if he had a question of them.

He would also at random pick someone to be the spokesperson for a whole group of people representing a subdivision and ignore the fact that some of the other people might have different original ideas. In the past I have seen the same from Fults.



Dan Hurt at the Planning and P-W meeting where he was frustrating reps of three large box stores from speaking. The other two shots are of Connie Fults running a Planning and P-W after the new assignments by Mayor Nation that she was so upset about. This one involved residents from the River Bend subdivision and they all certainly did not get a chance to speak.

Several Councilpersons immediately spoke up and said how their committee meetings were always citizen friendly.

Then City Administrator Mike Herring broke an important rule for employees when there is a political battle brewing. It is best to be seen and not heard unless you are spoken to. Herring broke that rule. I don't know if he was going against Mayor Nation and siding with the four other councilpersons or simply sticking up for his administration. I tried to write down what he was saying but it was gobbledygook. I think he was saying how his staff was always transparent.



I had to laugh at what Herring was trying to say. Five days earlier citizens were trying to enter the City Hall for a City Council scheduled at the last minute. The police were unaware of the meeting and the residents had difficulty entering the building.

Three months earlier when I came to City Hall to attend and report on a Finance and Administration Committee meeting being held in a second floor conference room I found a sign saying the stairs were closed and the elevators were turned off. This is nothing new, the same thing happened a year earlier. That is certainly not very transparent.



(I do have to say that the police department is very good at providing monthly activity and crime stats and the planning department is good about making plans available.)

THE LIAR QUEEN: Then Connie Fults decided to have the last word:

"I think the residents have a right to know anything and everything that goes on here at city hall," she said.



This statement is laughable. In recent weeks the Council has met in secret for close to eight hours. They certainly can tell the public what they think Bob Nation did, without giving up the name of any employees. But meeting in secret to discuss not an employee but an elected official and not telling the public a word is not proving "their right to know anything and everything going on at City Hall."

Refusing to provide the fees for a lawyer hired not by the city using bids and review, but at the whim of the Council is anything but open government.

At times the city council is doing its best to hide information from the public.

DEGROOT CHALLENGES COVERAGE: Bruce DeGroot and I do talk and he told me he was upset with the coverage in our last newsletter. He stated that it was he and not Connie Fults who spoke up and said he objected to Mayor Nation's characterization of the council not wanting Ward 1 to have representation by tabling the 5-month 3-week appointment of Barb McGinnis to fill the late Nancy Greenwood's seat.



Fults and DeGroot

DeGroot then denied that he said at the agenda meeting he could not pick McGinnis out of a line up. Another councilperson in the room overheard this statement and said, "Yes you did say that. I heard it."

DeGroot then said, "I said I could not pick her out of a crowd, not a lineup." My notes and my memory say he said "lineup."

Bruce than got creepy when I mentioned I thought the councilpersons voting to table the McGinnis nomination was being disrespectful toward the memory of Nancy Greenwood.

"Do you have a medium or is Nancy talking directly to you from the dead," asked DeGroot.

I explained that I was fully confident Nancy had talked to her husband, Steve, prior to her death and Steve supported the recommendation of McGinnis made to the mayor by Ward 1 Councilman Barry Flachsbart. It showed me that Nancy may have had some input prior to her death.



Barb McGinnis



Nancy Greenwood

DeGroot then blamed the mayor: Bruce said it was the mayor's fault that McGinnis did not get voted on as the replacement because Bob Nation did not tell the council in advance he was going to nominate her. DeGroot had a point only so far. In a perfect world the advanced noticed would be normal. But in Chesterfield where at least four members of the Council are trying to impeach the mayor, why give them advance notice

so they can come up with reasons to shoot down a nominee who is qualified, well known and popular with many residents.

I called "Bullshit" on Bruce and he got upset saying he was right. However everyone on the Council should know McGinnis and the fact that DeGroot doesn't is his fault. Secondly she sent an email to every councilperson a week after Nancy Greenwood's death saying she was under consideration as a nominee to replace Greenwood and to contact her if they had any questions.

DeGroot said the mayor never said she was the nominee and in fact had sent an email to the council that he was interviewing several people.

I then mentioned that Mike Casey, Elliot Grissom, Bridget Nations and Connie Fults were going to vote against anyone that Bob Nation nominated. DeGroot said he didn't think so.

Finally I said that the most qualified people from Ward 1 for the temporary appointment to the Council were Barb McGinnis, former chairwoman of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Allison Harris.

Bruce then asked me who Allison Harris was. I said she has spoken on the River Valley Road Closure and attended a number of Maryland Heights P&Z meetings on the McBride Development proposal and then pointed out that he had just voted for her appointment to the Chesterfield Planning and Zoning Commission.



Allison Harris

I hated writing this, because I like Bruce. But I think he was wrong in this matter and could have made himself more informed if he wanted to.

SRO AGAIN FOR PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS MEETING AS DELMAR GARDENS PREPARES TO DEFOREST A LARGE AREA NEXT TO RICH PEOPLE:

If you buy a big expensive house in a gated community behind a large empty piece of property that sits on a busy Interstate Service Road you are stupid if you think the nice woods will be around forever. This is the case for the folks on Upper Conway Lane where duplex/condos go for between \$750,000 to over \$1,000,000.



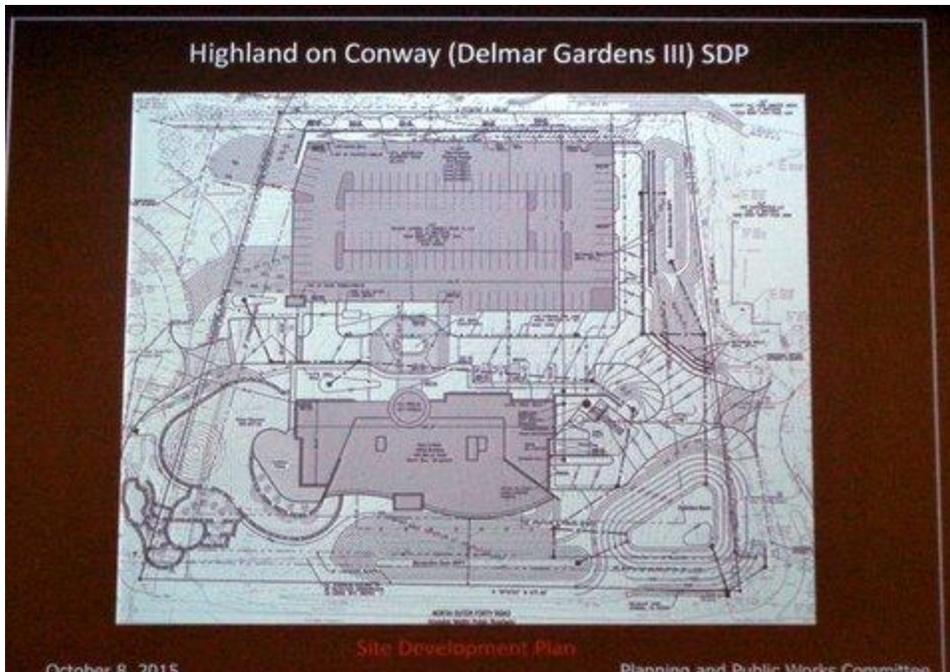
Behind Upper Conway Lane is a 5.29 acre wooded lot that is owned by Delmar Gardens. We should say a "5.29 acres soon to be barren lot."

The city has an ordinance requiring developers to leave 30-percent of trees on any lot they plan to develop. This requirement is more often than not waived by the city making a tree ordinance almost non-existent. In 2014 the developer got permission from the Council to kill 87-percent of the trees on the 31-acres where the Schoettler Grove subdivision is now being built. Only the late Councilwoman Nancy Greenwood voted against the final plan.



The start of tree removal at Clayton Road and Schoettler Road in late and the finished job in May.

Delmar Gardens doesn't want to take 87-percent of the trees along the North Forty Service Road. No that is not nearly enough. They want to kill 97-percent of the trees. They got permission to violate the 30% rule in 2002 and are just now ready to build.



These are the plans for the Delmar Gardens III on 5.2 acres,

The proposal failed to win approval at the Planning and Zoning Commission on a 5-4 NO vote. Delmar Gardens then modified their plans and added 10 more feet to the property line set back changing it from 30 feet to 40 feet from property line on Upper Conway Road.



It is difficult to get a good photo of the wooded area involved from Forty Outer Road. The above shot on the left was taken from the Delmar Gardens II upper parking lot. The photo on the right was taken from the Bonhomme Presbyterian Church lot.

The conference room at City Hall was "Standing Room Only," filled with people from Upper Conway Lane or the developers for Delmar Gardens. After her speech at the City Council meeting when her enemy Mayor Bob Nation wanted legislation to allow all residents to be heard at committee meetings Connie Fults made sure everyone got a chance to speak.

Several residents said they appreciated the extra 10 feet from the property line added by Delmar Gardens, but some clearly were not happy with the process. Several took shots at Chesterfield Planning Director Aimee Nassiff, more so than Jon Raiche, Senior Planner who was handling the proposal.

"It is a strange process when one person (Nassiff) has the authority to decide. The residents don't have an advocate in this process. The developers have a pipeline to city hall. Homeowners had rights and have been kicked to the side," said one resident.

"Aimee is a good spinner. How she had the authority to put a sheet of tissue paper over the plans and change them was interesting," said another homeowner.



"I don't agree with everything in the 2002 ordinance. But, I'm thrilled with the additional 10-feet," said another resident.

"Please keep those massive evergreens," pleaded another causing one councilman to mutter under his breath, "Jesus Christ."

In response to this Aimee Nassiff said if the 30% rule was followed only half of the planned building could be built and much of the parking would have to be eliminated.

In defense of Nassiff, Councilman Bruce DeGroot commented that in fairness most developers hate Aimee.



Despite taking some heat, Aimee Nassiff is one of our favorites at Chesterfield City Hall. She is helpful in providing information on projects and has a very quirky sense of humor.

Senior Councilman Left One Group Out of the Win-Win: "I like it, Everybody wins," said Barry Flachsbart of the additional 10-foot compromise from Delmar Garden. Of course everyone wins, except the full grown living trees that are about to die.

I found it interesting how after this proposal got voted down by the Planning and Zoning Board, Delmar Gardens did not need to come back and get a positive vote, but went straight to the Planning and P-W Committee with changes. Why bother having a P&Z other than you are required to by State Law? It is one thing to take a project defeated by P&Z to the Council with is allowed but requires a super majority vote to pass, but shouldn't projects with changes go back to the Planning and Zoning Commission first?

I had to be careful leaving the conference room after the meeting that I did not slip on any sleaze and fall. Attorney John King was there representing Delmar Gardens. Frankly it looks like King is about ready to move into one of their facilities. He is the attorney who sent a letter to three residents of my Ward when I was an alderman threatening to sue them until the "world ended" if any of them went to city hall and filed a complaint against his client, an ex-con drug dealer, over a special use permit issue.



MONARCH MAKES FIRST HONORARY DIRECTOR: At the October 1 meeting of the Monarch fire Protection District they made Royce Engel a long time political activist an "Honorary Director" of the Fire District. Chesterfield Mayor Bob Nation, Councilman Barry Flachsbart , former Councilwoman Jane Durrell were part of a large crowd present to honor Engel.



Engel spoke about the Chesterfield FPD (later changed name to Monarch) used to meet in the second floor of the firehouse by the airport in western Chesterfield. He said if members of the public would show up to attend meetings, the Directors would either cancel the meeting and leave or go into executive session. Engel backed by several

other residents sued the Fire District to force them to obey the Missouri Open Meetings Law. 25 months after the lawsuit was filed the Fire District agreed to follow the law and the lawsuit was dismissed.

Anyone who sues a government jurisdiction to force them to obey Open Meetings and Open Records laws deserves an award for that alone, even if it came 20-years after the fact.

HUGE LEGAL BILL IN ONE WEEKS WORTH OF BILLS: The Monarch Board of Directors should be happy that they passed a balanced budget for 2016 with no tax or rate increases. The health insurance renewal came in with no increase in payments or drop in coverage. This could be in the part due to the dramatic reduction in work related injury claims in the last year.

However the legal bill for lawsuits with the union or union members is still high. At the October 1 meeting they only approved bills for the prior week as they had a meeting in late September. In that week the District has a total of \$23,199 in bills. Of that \$9,235 were for legal bills. The legal bills represented 40-percent of the total bills for the week.

The District has seven different active lawsuits it is dealing with involving labor issues. Two are from 2015, three in State Court for 2014 and one in Federal Court and one is still active from 2013.

The stupidest suit is in Federal Court involving a Monarch fire captain and union shop steward who badly injured himself in an off-duty motorcycle accident. He was placed on paid light duty but never recovered enough to return to work and was eventually let go. He applied for a job as an admin aide/secretary with the District and was not hired. He sued in State Court over not being hired, lost and appealed the case to the Federal Court. He is currently working as the head of the Lincoln County Ambulance District.

There is another crazy lawsuit filed by the Union against the Missouri Human Rights Commission. The Union filed a complaint and the Commission rejected it saying no violations or actual adverse action had occurred. The Union did not like that ruling and filed suit in Cole County Circuit Court. This means the District's lawyer gets to make a 240 mile round trip for a court hearing in Jefferson City.

The one that the Fire District appears to be riding a losing horse with is the one they filed to break the current labor agreement that expired 10 months ago. The agreement has a section saying the expired contract stays in affect if a new contract is not agreed to and signed. The District's position is that the residents of the district should not be

held to a contract signed by elected officials who are no longer in office. The District has lost at the Circuit Court level and is likely to take it to the Court of Appeals when a final judgment is issued.

MEDIA: NEWSLETTER BEATS POST-DISPATCH AGAIN: In our September 12th issue of Ex-Alderman Newsletter 193 we reported that J. Bucks would be closing. We were off a couple of weeks. We guessed the last day would be around September 30. The Post-Dispatch reported online on October 8 that that J. Bucks would be closing on October 30.

REAL ESTATE: The new listing sign is still up as of Tuesday October 13 in front of 1337 S. Mason Road. The house has been listed for 124 days at \$4.9 million.



We are talking over four months with a "NEW LISTING" sign in the front yard.

This has caused us and others to come up some more truthful and appropriate signs to take the place of the "New Listing" sign. Here are a few:

OVERPRICED LISTING

NOT SO NEW LISTING

IT WON'T SELL LISTING

MORE MONEY THAN SENSE LISTING

BUSY STREET LISTING

HIGH TAXES LISTING

GOING FAST: I went to the Town and Country Branch of the Chesterfield Post Office last week to specifically buy Peanuts Christmas Stamps.

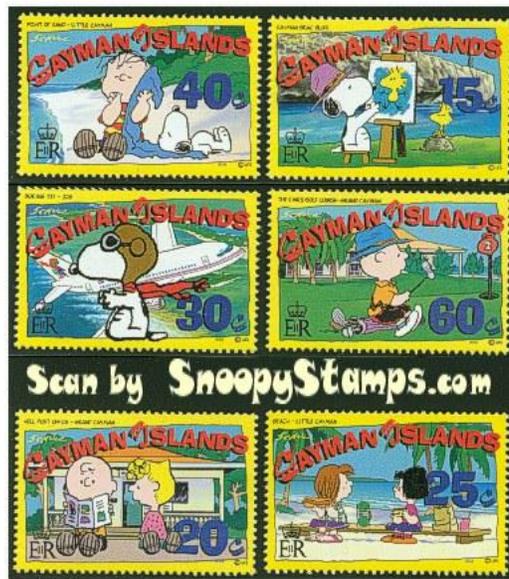


I was told they were almost sold out. I figured that even if they are technically Christmas Stamps, they would put a smile on anyone's face anytime of the year. So I bought the rest of them. Don't worry there had more coming. But it is a warning. If you want Charlie Brown and the Gang stamps to put on Christmas cards you might think about getting them ASAP.

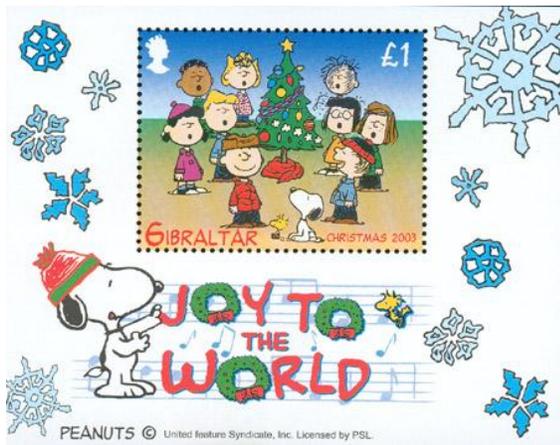
It is interesting how popular Peanuts Postage stamps are worldwide:



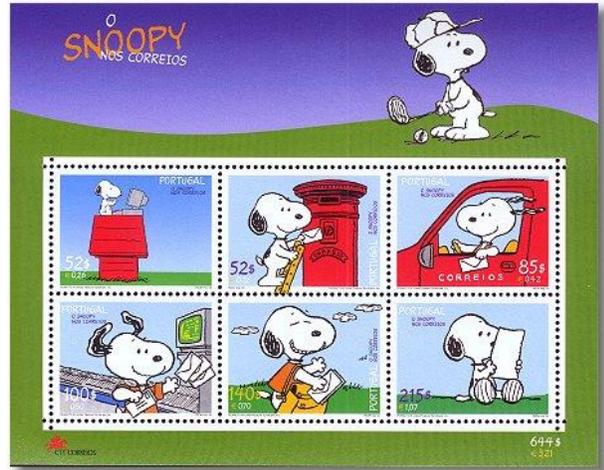
USA 2001



Caymen Islands



Gibraltar 2003

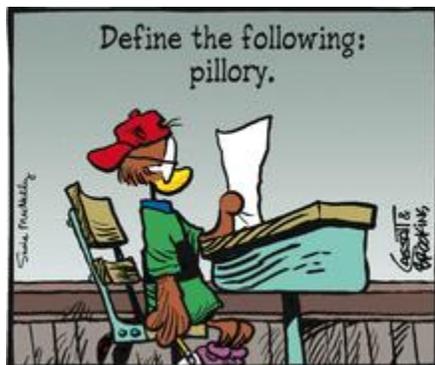


Portugal



Japan

CARTOONS:



Hillary goes Goth looking for the dark side youth vote.



