

THE DALTON DECADE

THE DALTON DECADE: Routinely at the end of the year people do best or worst lists. In our last newsletter he had two Top Ten Lists. Also at the end of a decade some interesting timeline can be drawn. The most compelling I have found in Mayor Dalton's last 10 years as a resident, a businessman, a lobbyist and a politician.



2000: Jon Dalton and his wife buy a foreclosed home off of Topping Road near Clayton. He also begins his 7th year as a lobbyist in Jefferson City.

October 2000: Jon Dalton and his wife are sued by Midwest Floor Co. of Brentwood with a store in Town and Country for \$3,000 for non payment of work.



December 2000: Dalton acting as his own attorney files a counterclaim that Midwest Floor was "negligent" and had an inability to perform the job in a "workmanlike manner." He claims Midwest Floor did \$3,000 in damage to his property.

January 2001: Dalton begins lobbying for the next eight years for cigarette manufacturer, Premier Manufacturing. Take a deep breath while you can...Jon will pick up a number of other cigarette companies in the years to come.



January 2001: Going for Sin money, Dalton also starts lobbying for Ameristar Casinos.



January 2001: Dalton also begins lobbying for Pharmaceutical companies. First client is Barr Labs.

January 2001: The first of a number of PACs that appear to be grass root citizen groups but really aren't show up on Dalton's Lobbyist list. The Coalition for Customer's Choice oddly enough has the same address as Dalton's law firm, Bryan Cave. Internet searches show there is no trace of this group. St. Louis 2004 Corporation is another Dalton lobbying client that has the same address as Bryan Cave.

January 2001: Missouri Industrial Energy Consumers is another special interest group, but this is clearly for real and still exists and continues to use the address of Bryan Cave. It consists of large manufacturing companies in Missouri that use a lot of electricity. MIEC stayed with Bryan Cave when Dalton left the firm in 2003.

January 2001: Dalton begins the perfect marriage of companies...cigarettes and health care. He begins lobbying for Health Facilities Management in Sikeston, a company that owns a number of rural nursing homes, a perfect place for low income smokers with severe health issues.

February 2001: More sin money coming into the Dalton coffers when he begins lobbying for five years for Magna Entertainment, a Canadian company that runs race tracks and casinos.



March 2001: Dalton becomes the lobbyist for another unknown special interest. The 381 Coalition also shows the same address as Dalton's office. If you Google 381 Coalition all you get is my website that lists Dalton's lobbying clients. He worked for this secret group for three legislative sessions.

April 2001: Dalton adds another pharmaceutical company with the now shuttered KV Pharmaceutical.

November 2001: There is a joint dismissal of the Midwest Floor v Dalton lawsuit.

February 2003: Another grass roots sounding group with an address of Bryan Cave, Coalition for Free Enterprise is added to Dalton's lobbyist list. Who knows who is behind these groups?

February 2003: Dalton adds Missourians for Water Interests Protection. At the same time and since April of 2001 he also is the lobbyist for Missouri Water Well Association.

April 2003: Dalton, a partner, separates from Bryan Cave, the city's largest law firm and joins the St. Louis office of KC Firm Lewis, Rice & Fingersh.

May 2003: Dalton finishes lobbying over the last two years for the County Employees Retirement Fund. In 2009 he did a 180 and lobbied against pension improvement for retired St. Louis police officers.

April 2004: Dalton defeats incumbent Barbara Ann Hughes 385-182 for the Ward 1 Alderman seat.

June 2004: Dalton becomes the registered lobbyist for Alliance for Senior Care at 731 North Market Street in Sikeston. They are the same folks who also are Health Facilities Management and Circle B. Enterprises.

September 2004: Dalton files corporation papers as the organizer of the Icehouse Redevelopment District, LLC. A year later, his online Lewis-Rice resume lists him being on the Board of Directors of Icehouse Redevelopment. Dalton and Lewis-Rice would soon become active in using Eminent Domain to obtain property for a nightclub area and parking lots.

December 2004: Jon Dalton is sued by Town and Country Physical Therapy for \$2,980.23 that Dalton failed to pay for medical services. Dalton made three counterclaims against Town and Country Physical Therapy. Among the claims are unnecessary treatments, ineffective procedures and that Town and Country Physical Therapy with wanton manner, malice did willfully inflict damage on the defendant. Dalton asked for \$5,563.80 in his counter suit.

January 2005: As an elected alderman and running unopposed for mayor, Dalton accepts Town and Country's largest contractor as a lobbying client, the West County EMS and Fire Protection District. As an alderman and later mayor Dalton votes to pay the fire district and as a paid lobbyist he receives money from the same fire district. SWEET!



March 2005: Dalton adds another discount cigarette company when he begins to lobby for King Maker Marketing. COUGH! COUGH!



March 2005: Dalton adds an even larger cigarette company to his lobbyist tent when he signs up Commonwealth Brands of Bowling Green, Kentucky.



March 2005: Town and Country Physical Therapy and Dalton drop their cases.

April 2005: Dalton is elected mayor.

April 2005: Dalton continues to lobby (since 2001) for the St. Louis Zoo, which taxes residents of Town and Country. Once again Dalton is being paid for his lobbying from a fund that includes property taxes from Town and Country residents. **LIVING LARGE!**

May 2005: Despite still being on the payroll of the West County EMS and Fire Protection District, Dalton takes an active roll in the contract renewal and appoints a "Blue Ribbon Commission" to advise the board of aldermen on how to proceed with contract negotiations. What county or state fair awarded this commission a blue ribbon is still a mystery. But Mayor Dalton continues to give them a Blue Ribbon status in print and in speeches for the next 2-years.

December 2005: despite the "Blue Ribbon" commissioners never signing or even writing a report, Mayor Dalton signs a \$17.5 million 5-year contract with his earlier client in 2005, the West Country EMS & FPD. Why bother appointing a commission if it never issues a report or recommendation? Conflict of Interest anyone?



January 2006: Dalton is the registered lobbyist for former Missouri State Senator David Klarich's Citizen for Policy Reform group. I am not sure what David was trying to reform...I am guessing it was not lobbying at the statehouse, in 2001 he accepted \$4,659 in food, drinks and gifts from lobbyists. He ate as often as three times a day on the nickel of lobbyists.

February 2006: Dalton adds a very large cigarette company when he begins lobbying for The Liggett Group. At this time he was shilling for four cigarette manufacturers who made 28 different of smokes. WHEEZ! WHEEZ!



February 2006: The West County EMS & Fire Protection District, despite just signing a 5-year contract to provide service for T&C, announce they will begin a campaign to attempt and annex Town and Country into the Fire District and thus void the new service contract. The fire district property tax at the time of the announcement was 84-cents per \$100 valuation.



March 2006: Dalton begins lobbying for the St. Louis County Municipal League. Dalton as the mayor of Town and Country is automatically a member of the St. Louis County Municipal League. Town and Country pays membership dues to the St. Louis County Municipal League. Dalton in part hires himself as a lobbyist and uses a portion of Town and Country tax money to pay himself as a lobbyist from 2006 to today.

June 23, 2006 Good News...Dalton has Ethics Commission Complaint dismissed. The mayor later says at a work session prior to a board meeting the complaint was concerning his lobbying with the Fire District.

July 2006: Dalton is sued in St. Louis County Small Claims Court for \$549.00 by local lighting company, Mitchell Lightscapes of Creve Coeur for services rendered.



August 2006: The Small Claims case is dismissed and refilled in the Circuit Court.

August 2006: Dalton counter claims Mitchell Lighting and asks for \$3,000 in damages. Much of Dalton's counterclaim is the same language as in the counterclaim against Town and Country Physical Therapy and Midwest Floor. He claims Mitchell Lighting damaged his property. Dalton never once files suit against anyone for negligent work or treatment. He only files similar counter claims when he is sued for nonpayment of bills. Dalton represents himself in all actions. This case is also eventually dismissed by both parties.



August 2006: Dalton's firm, Lewis-Rice, representing the St. Louis Land Clearance Authority files eminent domain suits against two property owners, including 77-year-old widow Opal Henderson to obtain her business at 7th Street and Hickory to be used as a parking lot for the proposed Icehouse Nightclub District. Smells like a Snidely Whiplash operation!



Additional eminent domain actions are taken against other property owners on S. Broadway, including Sisters of the Convent of the Sacred Heart! I don't think 10 Hail Mary's will do you much good on this one!

August: 2006: Mayor Dalton who at first refused to issue any reports concerning fire service, after threat of a lawsuit releases a report by Alderman Steve Donaldson, that was unsigned and unapproved by the "Blue Ribbon Commission" that recommended the city sign a contract with the Fire District and then assist the Fire District in an annexation election.

August 2006: Mayor Dalton and the Fire District issue a co-statement saying the annexation issue is being withdrawn from the November ballot.

September 2006: Post-Dispatch reporter Jake Wagman writes a feature article on Icehouse Development's attempt to snatch the widow's salvage business that she, her late husband and now her sons have operated since 1958. Dalton is quoted in article saying that a bright future for St. Louis "doesn't include the continued operation of a junk yard." (In other words, what St. Louis needs is more bars and nightclubs to suck customers away from Laclede's Landing, The Central West End, Soulard and of course Ballpark Village.)

December 2006: A Dec 30 article in the Post-Dispatch reveals that the Lewis-Rice attorney filing eminent domain law suits for the St. Louis Land Authority and ultimately for Jon Dalton and partners of Icehouse Development have actually sued the Convent of Sacred Heart and Sr. Rose Philippine Duchesne for the property at 1119-1127 S Broadway. Sr. Duchesne, the founder of the Convent of Sacred Heart was listed with

the Sisters of Sacred Heart as the original owner of the property in 1840. Sr. Duchesne was canonized in 1988 as America's first female SAINT. MERCY SAKES! Our mayor is behind suing a saint.



February 2007: Dalton as an elected official begins lobbying for the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners, where his friend and former T&C Alderman John Deihl was the Republican commissioner. Dalton lobbied for the Board of Elections for most of the 2007 legislative session. A conflict of interest...an elected official working for the election Board?



March 2007: At the beginning of the Wall Street collapse and the start of a recession who does the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association turn to for lobbying? Who better to push for the okay of crazy investment schemes than a cigarette lobbyist? Jon continues lobbying for these folks today.

May 2007: At the end of the Legislative session our elected Public Official Jon Dalton claims he is no longer lobbying for the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners. However, Dalton's Jefferson City office, which consists of Dalton and his office manager, Shannon Hawk, actually keep the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners as a lobbying client, listing Ms. Hawk as the lobbyist of record through November 26, 2008. Conflict of Interest anyone?

March 2008: Dalton adds a new client with a familiar address. Circle B Enterprises Holding Company, Inc. at 723 North Main St. in Sikeston, MO. This is a holding company for the nursing homes in rural Missouri. The corporate officers of Circle B are the same people accused by state officials of giving predatory "high interest payday loans" to low income nursing home employees.

January 2009: Dalton's former cigarette client Commonwealth Brands of Bowling Green, Kentucky after being bought by a British company is back in the fold as Imperial Tobacco of Bowling Green, KY. However instead of being listed as a client of Dalton, the firm is listed as the client of Dalton's Jefferson City office manager Shannon Hawk, also a registered lobbyist. Also listed under Hawk is Holcim, Inc. of Dundee, Michigan, which is operating a huge cement facility in Jefferson County.



April 2009: Jon Dalton doesn't win in a landslide. He defeats me, the guy who filed when no one else would, by avalanche numbers garnering 80.5% of the vote. He ran as the DIGNIFIED CANDIDATE. In his first meeting after being elected Dalton goes about turning suburban municipal government into BIG GOVERNMENT by creating two more commissions, the Green Team Commission and the Arts Commission. We now have 13 commissions and boards. We are required by state law to have two. We also add four Task Forces or special committees during the year.

May 2009: Dalton is again hired by the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners as a lobbyist. St. Louis police officers watching bills introduced to improve pension benefits complain that Dalton led the fight to kill the legislation. They further complained that Dalton supporter and current appointee to the city Architectural Review Board, State Rep. John Deihl led the fight on the floor to kill the cop pension bill.

July 2009: Dalton signs a Code of Conduct document produced by Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith which states aldermen and the mayor cannot make untoward comments verbally or in writing toward other elected officials, employees or businesses in Town and Country. So much for the first amendment! I am guessing such former publications as Common Sense and The Federalist Papers would be frowned upon by Meyland-Smith and Dalton.



Thomas for political free speech.



Jon Dalton against it.

November 2009: Dalton presents a budget to the board of alderman that calls for \$243,000 in staff reductions but refuses to tell the Board of Aldermen or the public what reductions would be made. So much for all the much ballyhoo about transparency!

November 2009: While Dalton refuses to tell what cuts would be made, three city employees, a police dispatcher, a police clerk and a city hall receptionist are told they will be fired by the end of the year. Very DIGNIFIED!

November 2009: After submitting a budget with no salary increases, Dalton makes an amendment to the budget calling for a 2% across the board raise costing \$101,000 while still laying off three employees.

December 2009: Mayor Dalton tells St. Louis Post Dispatch columnist Bill McCellan that the reception is quite good on the ski lift, when he calls back McCellan who is seeking a comment about the lay offs of some of the lowest paid city workers.



January 2010: Jon Dalton begins his 17th year as a lobbyist in Jefferson City. He begins hiding his more controversial clients by listing them under his office secretary Shannon Hawk.

April 7, 2010: A St. Louis jury awards now 81-year-old Opal Henderson \$1.09 million against Dalton's Icehouse Development in the taking of her property. The verdict is appealed and is upheld by the Court of Appeals.

Into the next decade:

March 2012: The group behind Icehouse Development had still not paid the judgment and Opal Henderson's attorney Chet Pleban filed suit in Federal court and named Jon Dalton as a defendant.

June 2012: Opal Henderson finally received her money.



July 3, 2012: For the second time in six months Dalton's law firm, Lewis-Rice filed suit against the Department of Revenue claiming the Ladue Police Department somehow violated the rights of Jonathan F. Dalton, Jr. a recent Dartmouth graduate who was arrested driving Dalton's car on January 1, and again on June 23, 2013 for DWI. Companion charges with the arrests included disobeying a stop sign, driving at 3am without headlights and speeding. The first DWI is reduced to Careless and Impudent Driving with a Suspended Imposition of Sentence probation that did not go on his record. The second DWI resulted in a plea of guilty and another "no-record SIS probation." The Stop Sign violation and No Headlights violations were reduced to "Illegal parking" offenses. Dalton only had a "2-point" speeding violation on his driving record. Out of a possible 27 points, Dalton only received two points on his record. The lawsuit against DOR was found in favor of DOR and in January of 2013 Dalton, Jr. had his license suspended for failing to take a breath test.



Jon Dalton, Jr with beer in his hand



Jon Dalton, Jr. with drink in hand on shoulder of guy

November 25, 2013: Dalton recused himself from the dais of a Board of Aldermen meeting when a controversial rezoning vote was about to be taken and many upset residents spoke, claiming a member of his 150-plus lawyer law firm once represented the party seeking the rezoning. However, minutes earlier Dalton presided over approving a shared contract between the city and the West County EMS&FPD, an agency that DALTON WORKED FOR over five months.