

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 43

January 24, 2012

By John Hoffmann

DEER CAR CRASH RATE SOARS PRIOR TO LATEST LETHAL CONTROL: In 2011 Deer-Motor Vehicle accidents jumped 16.4% over 2010. The accident rate went from 79 to 93 and that was after there was deer control measures taken at the end of 2010 to reduce the number of deer. Interestingly the first two car-deer crashes in 2011 were not on busy streets, but on the quiet dead end section of Old Woods Mill and North Mill Ct. the cul-de-sac that runs off of it.

Here are the locations of the deer-car accidents.

Ward 1 24

I-270 at I-64	10	04/05/11, 05/13, 05/22, 05/22, 06/07, 6/1606/16, 07/14, 09/27, 10/04
I-270 at Clayton Rd	7	05/08/11, 06/13, 8/12, 10/22, 11/13, 11/15,12/20
I-64 at I-270	3	05/12/11, 05/13, 11/12
Municipal Center Drive	1	06/07/11,
Des Peres Road	1	08/14
Clayton and Topping	1	09/06
Clayton and Country Life Acres	1	12/28/11

Ward 2 27

Clayton Road at Chapel Hill Est	2	10/02/11, 12/26
Clayton and Takara	1	12/04/11
Mason Road at South City Limits	1	01/12/11
Topping Road	2	01/14/11, 11/02,
Mason Rd and Park Place	1	01/30/11
Mason and Van Courtland	2	02/05/11, 11/29
Mason at Peacock Farm	1	03/20/11
Mason and Lochinvar	2	07/27/11, 11/24,
Mason and Weston Park	1	11/09/11,
Mason s of Clayton	1	03/06/11
Clayton and Mason	1	06/04/11,

NB Mason and Starbuck	2	08/06/11, 10/09,
I-64 and Mason	9	04/21/11, 06/04, 07/15, 10/02, 10/27, 11/02,
.....		11/11, 11/16, 11/20,

Ward 3 15

Arlington Oaks	1	12/01/11,
Tidewater Place	1	09/22/11,
Clayton Road at Mason Ridge	1	10/01/11,
Clayton at Greenwich Green	1	10/27/11,
Clayton Road at Woods Hill	1	10/02/11
North Mill Ct	1	01/05/11
Old Woods Mill	1	01/05/11
Clayton and Weidman	1	02/24/11
141 at Clayton	5	05/18/11, 06/02, 08/16, 11/05, 11/15,
Clayton and Woods Mill	2	08/14/11, 12/12

Ward 4 27

Ladue and Bellerive CC	3	02/10/11, 02/17, 12/08
Ladue West of Mason	1	02/16/11
I-64 at 141	7	03/13/11, 03/24, 05/25, 10/21, 11/08, 11/21,
.....		11/26,
141 at I-64	7	05/05/11, 05/23, 08/25, 10/16, 10/17, 11/06,
.....		11/10,
I-64 at Maryville Center	2	05/07/11, 12/02
S. Outer Forty	1	11/23/11,
Maryville Drive	3	03/10/11, 10/24, 11/25,
Conway Road	3	02/17/11, 06/14, 12/15,

Here are the roads that you are most likely to have an accident involving deer:

I-64	21
I-270	17
141	12
Clayton Road	11
Mason s of Clayton	9

WILDWOOD'S DEER-CAR CRASHES ALSO UP: The City of Wildwood has been keeping track of deer-vehicle accidents over the years using a similar method as Town and Country. In 2011 deer-car crashes were up. There were 220 in 2011, up from 211 in 2010. The record number was set in 2010 when there were 242 car-deer crashes.

It is clear that all of West St. Louis County needs to address the deer overpopulation issue.

GERBER AND HUGES INTERRUPT INTERSTING RADIO PROGRAM: Proponents of deer first and the health safety and welfare of people second, Alderman Al Gerber and former Alderwomen Barbara Ann Hughes called into the St. Louis Today program on KWMU on Tuesday January 17. Both Gerber and Hughes spoke of being in favor of sterilization and not killing deer. The hour long guest on the program was Erin Shanks, a wildlife biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Gerber tried to sell his ridiculous position that by giving expensive field sterilization was more effective than shooting deer. Shanks got Gerber to admit that the sterilization was costing \$1,200 a deer.

Again Al's position is stupid. The deer are a four issue problem; 1) Car accidents 2) Property Damage 3) reducing the lower foliage that provides cover for smaller birds and mammals 4) deer reproduction.

All Al's plan does is to eliminate the "reproduction" issue. The sterile deer are still hit by cars, wasting \$1,200 in surgical costs. They still damage property and destroy foliage for smaller animals. Shooting the deer is \$800 cheaper and it eliminates all four problems.

Here is the link to the podcast of the program

<http://www.stlpublicradio.org/programs/slota/archivedetail.php?date='2012-01-17'>

THE DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

"It is more contentious at board meetings and it is not going in a positive direction," said Alderwomen Nancy Avioli commenting on the deer issue.

Through Sunday January 23 the city's contractor has killed 253 deer, which were taken for processing and ended up at local food pantries. The contractor began killing deer on December 27.

CHANNEL FIVE DEBUNKED: Last week KSDK Channel-5 shot from the hip without checking on the facts. The desire to be first often makes one look stupid. Channel 5 reported that a deer had been shot in the head on Town and Country Lane off of Clayton Road. The next day the truth was posted on the city's website...here it is in the words of Capt. Gary Hoelzer.

KSDK reported Wednesday about a deer that had apparently been shot on Town and Country Lane. Since the police department is not qualified to determine cause of death for wildlife the Missouri Department of Conservation was called to assist with the investigation. This afternoon the Missouri Department of Conservation conducted a necropsy on the deer and concluded that the deer probably died from a collision with a vehicle. According to Joel Porath with the Missouri Department of Conservation, the deer was not shot with a firearm. Mr. Porath stated that the deer had a slight cut on the head, which others interpreted as a gunshot wound. The deer also had a fractured skull and broken ribs that punctured the lungs, spleen and liver--injuries associated with the "classic" signs of a deer vs. vehicle collision.

DEER WHACKINESS: During the public comment portion of the Board of Aldermen meeting a number of people spoke out against the shooting of deer. Former Alderwoman **Barbara Ann Hughes** got things started by saying how a city employee wrote a letter to the Missouri Department of Conservation without permission and was acting as an elected official requesting to increase the number of Bucks that could be shot. (She was referring to Capt. Gary Hoelzer, who as the assistant police chief was saddled with the responsibility of overseeing Deer Management.)

After she spoke, **Phil Behnen** spoke and said as the President of the Board of Aldermen Capt. Hoelzer had his permission to write the letter and said she owed Capt. Hoelzer an apology.

Bruni Perez spoke next and complained that too many deer were being killed in Ward 2 while more car-deer accidents were on I-270 and I-64. Of course who can convince someone that you can't shoot the deer near the Interstate Highways and they don't actually live at the highways, they just happen to wander onto the highways and create serious problems.

Then **Dr. Dorothy Cooke** spoke and was just plain goofy. She complained that there were too many men with guns in Town and Country. Geez I hope she isn't trying to mess with the Second Amendment and think she can get elected to the Board of Aldermen.

She mentioned encounters with men in pickup trucks who had rifles and people hearing the sounds of shots in her subdivision of Essex Point and more recently on the open property behind the police station. She said she was afraid to walk her dog.

She also claimed someone shot and killed a deer on Town and Country Lane...see the prior item...

"I fear men with guns in our community with guns. Please get rid of the men with guns."

Capt. Gary Hoelzer responded to her comment about shots being fired behind the City Hall. Hoelzer said he was working when the call came in at 4pm and he walked the area and found a man who was training a Labrador Retriever and was using a decoy and .22 rifle blanks to get the dog used to the sound of gunshots. All perfectly legal, explain Capt. Hoelzer.

Apparently it is still safe to walk your dog in Ward-1.

The Candidates:

Ward 1

Dr. Dorothy Cooke...is a retired internist who lives on Delvin, in the Essex Point subdivision off of the South Forty Drive. Cooke's neighborhood has what would have been considered the huge houses in Town and Country before the advent of the McMansions and 10,000 square foot mansions. She has appeared at Board of Aldermen meetings with the deer lovers plus was at meetings upset when a nouveau riche couple put up a mansion at the end of Town and Country and put the solar panels for the house out of their sight on their rear neighbor's property line. On Monday she read a rambling speech about being afraid of men with guns and for the Aldermen to get rid of men with guns (meaning the deer management contractors).

Richard Skip Mange...is the former mayor and two-term County Councilman. Under Mange's administration large numbers of deer were rounded up at a great cost to taxpayers only to die from capture myopathy (shock that causing the animal's organs to shut down). Mange is also pushing for increasing parking at Longview Park. Mange is a Christian Scientist. So you have a person who doesn't believe in the medical profession running against a doctor.

Ward 2

Al Gerber...The leader of the deer whackos...who has a math PhD but can't get his figures to come out right on his deer charts. One of Al's math theories showed if he could reduce the deer population to 265 there would be no more car-deer collisions. Al's cost estimates on deer control have been so convoluted he has asked Alderman Phil Behnen for advice.

Al is also an old line tax-and-spend Democrat. He has been the president of the Missouri River Democratic Township. He has been the campaign treasurer for Byron DeLeer, a far left wing liberal who is so far left he cannot win a Democratic primary. DeLeer ran as a Libertarian candidate for Congress in California before moving back to Missouri. He and Gerber were school chums at Principia.

When Gerber was elected in 2010 he managed to register all the out of town seniors attending the Principia School. Also the majority of his political contributions came from outside of the Ward and most from outside of the city.

In 2010 Gerber fooled many residents by saying he was in favor of deer control, giving residents the impression he wanted to eliminate the large numbers of deer. Gerber didn't tell people he really was in favor of giving \$1,200 hysterectomies to deer.

Chuck Lenz...is a long time resident from the Mason Valley Estates subdivision. Chuck is a retired business executive. He was serving on the Board of Adjustment up until his filing. Chuck has been a subdivision trustee for a number of years. He is also a proponent of lethal deer control management, a position supported by the Missouri Department of Conservation for being the most effective and the most cost effective method.

Lenz has run for alderman before losing by very narrow margins. He is well aware that he needs a lot of votes to get past dormitory voters from Principia. Chuck doesn't try to hide his position on issues and answers questions directly.

Ward 3

Steve Fons...Fons is the Village idiot on the board. He is usually uninformed and asks questions on issues that normally show he has no grasp of the issues. He is a mortgage banker with a local bank. He lost his job in 2009 with a different bank after sending out an insulting email about a fellow alderman (me) claiming I was suffering from a mental

illness on a Regions Bank email account. Some Region customers who got the email (and me) complained to the bank.

Fons recently failed to abstain during a vote against a sign variance for a competing mortgage company.

Fons is a deer lover and the candidate of Town and Country's Official Gadfly, Mariette Palmer.

Gussie Crawford...lives on the first piece of property on Weidman Road in Town and Country. It is long before the city limits sign as her property starts after the small bridge. The street is in unincorporated but the land to the east of the road is all in Town and Country.

Crawford is a retired nurse. She is also a former president of the National Amateur Athletics Association and still is on the board of the AAU. She has appeared at Board of Aldermen meetings where she has spoken on the deer over population issue. She is familiar with the local issues and people.

Paul Scott Carothers...lives at 14006 Montrachet off of Clayton Road. I cannot recall him being a Board of Aldermen meetings. Internet searches show he was divorced in 1980 but has no other lawsuits in his name. His taxes are paid and he is a member of a St. Louis Blues Fan Club. He is a stockbroker.

Mr. Carothers' issue is no one can remember ever seeing him at a Board of Aldermen or commission meeting means that I don't think he could pick city gadfly and deer lover Mariette Palmer out of a lineup. If you don't know the players you really should not be playing in the game.

The story behind the story is that the current midterm Ward-3 alderman Fred Meyland-Smith got Carothers to file at the last minute.

Over the weekend Gussie Crawford told Meyland-Smith she was not withdrawing and on Monday January 23, Carothers withdrew from the race.

THE LONGVIEW HOUSE RENTAL: Good news is that the Longview farmhouse rental income went up by almost \$6,000 in 2011. In 2010 the city brought in \$3,975 in rental fees. 2011 saw rental income jump up to \$9,801.

For the bad news...we are paying a "Building Facilitator" three times that amount to handle renting out the building. I think the jump in revenue is because Missouri Baptist has used the building for in house meetings away from the hospital campus last year.

INCREASING PARKING AT LONGVIEW: The committee that was appointed to study expanding the parking at Longview Park held a public forum where 19 people spoke. 18 were against expanding the park. Only six people were from the Wheatfield subdivision, the other 12 people speaking against more parking lots were from all over the city.

After the meeting Committee Chairman Skip Mange ignored all this and said the outpouring of opposition was just from the Wheatfield folks. He either lied or was not paying attention during the forum. They continued the matter until a 5-month survey of the parking was completed. The equipment to count cars broke so the survey was never completed. Even the proponent for more parking, Parks Director Anne Nixon, admitted there were almost no days with overflow parking in the summer of 2011. Anne blamed it on the hot weather. Gosh, imagine that...Hot St. Louis Summers!

The Board of Aldermen suddenly put a resolution on the January 23 agenda to request a grant for the County Municipal Parks Grants Commission for engineering costs. This just appeared on the agenda one business day before the meeting. It was placed on the agenda without even mentioning who was sponsoring it.

The Wheatfield residents, who believe that added parking will overflow the small park and impact their subdivision, now have an online petition if you are against paving park land for more parking.

Here is the link:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-longview-farm-park/>

BOARD OF ALDERMAN RESOLUTION FOR A PARK GRANT FOR MORE PARKING: This issue brought lots of people together who are normally apart on the parking lot issue at Longview.

At the work session Parks director was inferring that the grant for the engineering study was free. Mayor Dalton tried to make that impression also. Alderman Jon Benigas was not buying it. There was no application fee to apply for the grant. Town and Country has not received a grant in a long time, so Dalton said we would likely do so now.

Benigas then pointed out that Anne Nixon's memo to the board members included that the first grant only paid for \$4,000 of as much as \$20,000 in engineering costs, meaning the city would pay up to \$16,000.

Dalton then commented that after doing the engineering study we were not required to request the larger grant for the parking lot paving.

This caused Alderman Phil Behnen to intelligently comment, "It seems like once we get this grant and spend our money we are headed down this path. Why would we spend \$15,000 and not finish the project," asked Behnen.

Dalton also tried to falsely claim that by changing the entrance and exit it would make the park safer. Actually the plans call for eliminating the east exit and make that an entrance only and have the west side of the parking lot as an exit. However, a police study showed that better sight line and reaction time for motorist trying to exit the park is on the east side.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Hank Vogt** who was on the Parking Committee and wrote a convincing letter opposing the committee's vote, pointed out his opposition to the expanded parking.

He then mentioned that at the public forum, how the opposition was not just from neighbors of the park but from people all over town and was overwhelmingly against adding parking.

Vogt told the board about the online petition site and how in one-day they already had 52 people sign against the expansion.

The promise: He mentioned that to obtain a Parks Grant a city had to show there was public support for the project. Vogt promised the Aldermen that he would take the results and comments from the public forum that the board is choosing to ignore and all the names on the petition against the project to the County Parks Grant Commission which should kill the project.

Former Aldermen **Jim Haven** spoke next. "You made the right decision last year to study the number of cars using the parking lot. You were not able to complete the study. I'm opposed to this resolution to get grant money. Do your study this summer and make your decision if we need this additional parking only then," said Haven.

Jeff Chaney from Arlington Oaks spoke next. “The only data we have showed there was no parking problem, why are we doing this? (He referred to the visual checks of the parking lot throughout the summer by parks employees that showed only twice for a short time was the parking lot ever full.)

“If we thought that was a good idea (the traffic count study) before, why not have it (traffic count study) before we go ahead?”

Finally deer lover and kook **Mariette Palmer** also addressed the aldermen saying there should not be a parking lot in front of the Longview Farmhouse. The city has maintained the front of the Longview House to keep it in the appearance of circa 1900. (Of course I complain about the lady from Creve Coeur who is with the garden club who keeps hanging blue LED Christmas lights in front of the house to no avail.)

STEAM FROM THE EARS: It appeared that alderwomen Lynn Wright was emitting steam from her ears with all the people speaking against her parking lot expansion.

CHICKENS OUT: Mayor Dalton suggested that the resolution for the grant be continued until the next meeting to give everyone time to think about it. I am sure, like in other cases this stall is hoping that no one will show up for the next meeting. It would be perfect if there was bad weather. It is a lot easier voting for something that no one wants when no one is there.

The board then voted to continue the matter to the next meeting. Stalling is a favorite tactic. Maybe these people won't come back.

POLICE COMMISSION MEETING:

The police command staff informed the commission they would be using \$100,000 to replace four police vehicles, including a Tahoe, with a Ford Explorer. The cops will keep the Tahoe and it will replace the white elephant 2000 Ford Expedition that got 9 mpg and could not be driven above the speed limit as it was top-heavy. The detectives will replace a unmarked car with a AWD Ford Escape. Another Ford Escape is going to the command staff. Finally they plan to replace a revenue cutter...er I mean a traffic car.

RACE ISSUE BROUGHT UP: Capt. Gary Hoelzer had a very nice power point presentation showing a number of the burglars arrested. He was interrupted by Alan Allred, the commissioner who in 2009 challenged a former Federal prosecutor and current Federal Admin Law Judge to a fight when the judge attended a meeting and

corrected some misinformation, wanted the racial breakdown of the suspects. Allred was viewing color mug shots of each suspect. Hoelzer to his credit said he didn't have that information. Perhaps it is time for Allred to not be reappointed.

It was interesting that the power point presentation involved a number of drug addicts of different races not from Town and Country. But the burglary arrest at 3 in the morning involving a Town and Country teenager from Mason Valley and two people from Jennings was not included in the presentation.

HOME BURGLARIES SOAR: Burglaries were up 127% (25 in 2011 and 11 in 2010) from 2010 to 2011. You should keep in mind that the 11 burglaries in 2010 were the lowest number since 1983.

Jewelry instead of electronics: Hoelzer made the point that most of the burglars were passing up the former favorites of laptops and flat screen TVs going for jewelry instead, thanks to the high price of gold. The police would like to see the same requirement for pawn shops at jewelry stores that buy gold and silver jewelry.

Here are the Cops stats:

	2010	2011	
Calls	2731	2736	+5
Accidents	857	832	-25
Traffic Citations	9151	8646	-505
Alarms	1147	1172	+25
Part I Crimes	120	159	+39

Despite burglaries and other serious crime being up...the crime rate in T&C is far, far, far below the national average.

73-percent of all the calls answered by T&C cops are alarms sounding and car accidents. Frankly speaking as someone who was a cop for three decades...that makes for a very long 12-hour shift.

PAYDAY LOANS: Last Sunday's Post-Dispatch had an article on how pastor, Fr. Richard Creason of the Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, along with other religious leaders received threatening letters from a Texas law firm over their effort to collect signatures and put a referendum on the state wide ballot to ban or restrict payday loan companies.

Town and Country Mayor Jon Dalton, who I often refer to as Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist, was also a payday loan lobbyist, specifically for outfits in Sikeston, Missouri that owned nursing homes in rural Missouri and also had companies that provided payday loans to their underpaid nursing home workers.

Here is the email I sent to Fr. Creason:

From: John Hoffmann [mailto:johnhoffmann@charter.net]

Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2012 2:32 AM

To: 'trinitystl@sbcglobal.net'

Subject: Fr Creason Payday Loans

Fr. Creason,

Thank you for taking up such a noble cause as the fight against payday loan operations.

I got interested in this after I moved back to the St. Louis area from Washington, DC and bought a small house in the fashionable suburb of Town and Country, before a developer had a chance to tear it down.

I found that Town and Country's mayor, Jon Dalton, was a lobbyist, not only for city contractors, but for the five cigarette companies that made 28 brands of cigarettes and a payday loan company that specifically gave loans to low pay nursing home employees.

Dalton lobbied for the Alliance for Senior Care at 731 N Main St in Sikeston MO from 2004-2008 and Health Care Facilities management also at 731 N. Main. . They owned nursing homes in rural Missouri. From 2008-2010 Dalton also was a paid lobbyist for Circle B Enterprises Holding Company also at 731 N Main Sikeston. They offered payday loans to the workers at the nursing homes represented by Alliance for Senior Care.

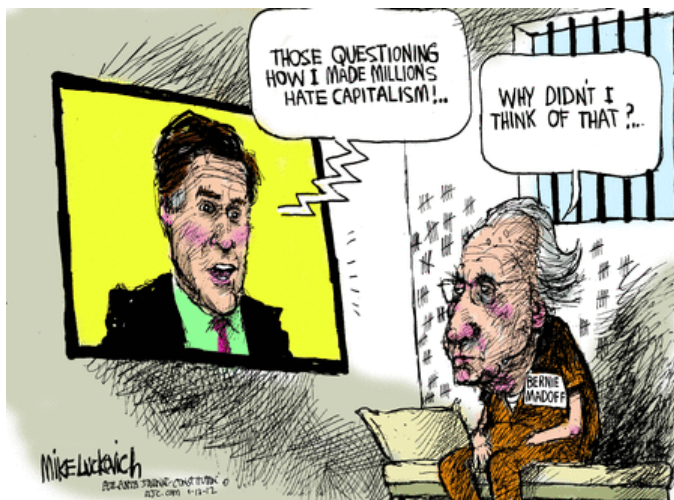
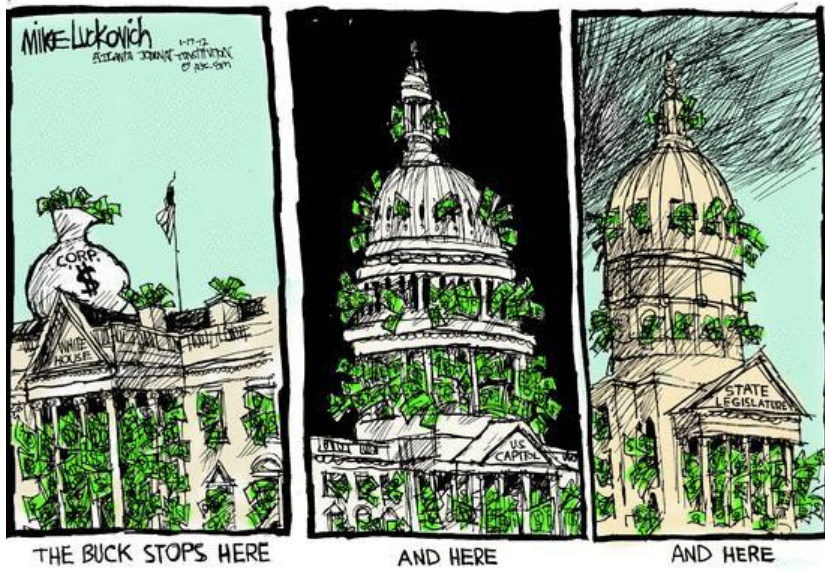
Dalton is a practicing Catholic and attends St. Anselm on Mason Road.

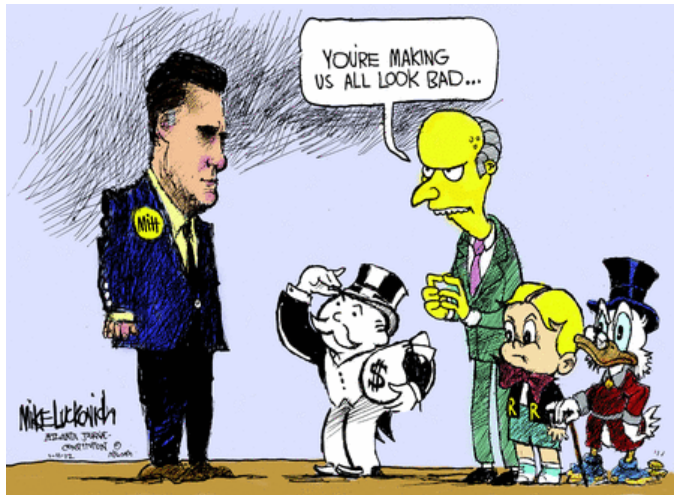
When you have people like this lined up against you, your fight will be tough, but your cause is clearly right.

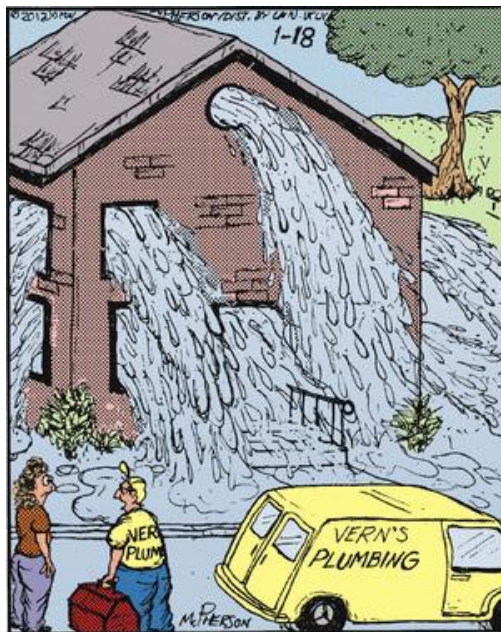
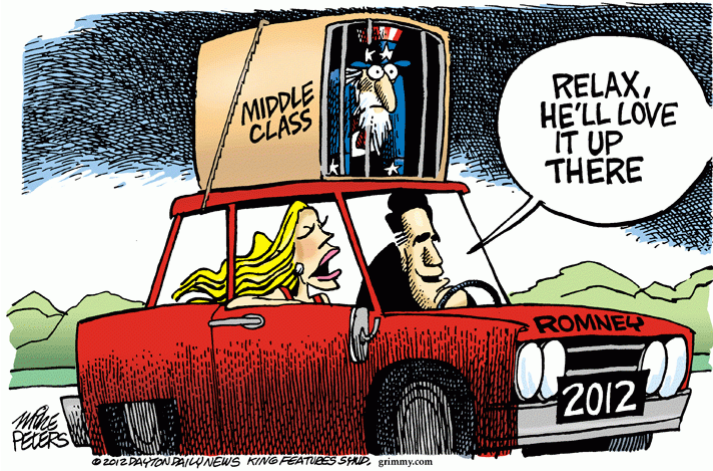
John Hoffmann
13309 Manor Hill Road
St. Louis MO 63131

I got a very nice response from Fr. Creason, with some interesting comments about the difficult task of getting West County parishes to help on social issues.

CARTOONS:







"And you tried jiggling the handle, right?"

