

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 75

January 30, 2013

By John Hoffmann

CITY CLERK PAM BURDT TO RETIRE: Town and Country City Clerk Pam Burdt announced to city officials that she plans to retire on March 8. Burdt, who as city clerk for the last 17 years has put up with mayors and alderpersons with inflated egos and crazy residents who believed all city employees wanted to kill deer, with a smile on her face and a pleasant nod.



Pam Burdt at Monday's Board of Aldermen agenda meeting.

DEER REPORT: The deer report from the city's contractor White Buffalo is in along with the deer census. White Buffalo killed 115 deer in Town and Country during the last two weeks of the year. Here is a copy of the report:

FINAL REPORT

2012 Deer Management Program

Town and Country, Missouri

by

White Buffalo, Inc.

6 January 2013

INTRODUCTION

The City of Town and Country contains a matrix of suburban and commercial development, parks, and other open-spaces. The absence of any deer management combined with fertile soils allowed the local deer population to increase to a level incompatible with some land use and human activities prior to our involvement. Although deer physical condition is not an issue, there is ongoing concern regarding numerous deer/vehicle collisions and damage to garden and landscape plantings. This is the fourth year in which a deer population management program was implemented.

METHODS

Prebaiting was conducted from 21 November– 13 December 2012. Sharpshooting efforts were conducted from 14 -29 December 2012. During the 16-day removal period, 11 days of fieldwork were required to achieve the harvest of 115 deer. No removal efforts were conducted on five days during this time period due to in-climate weather (1) and a holiday break (4).

We followed the operations protocol outlined in the contract and changes agreed to verbally prior to the onset of site preparations. Sixteen sites were available throughout the area of operation. One sharpshooting site was restricted by time constraints imposed by the landowner and in turn was only available to be used for a four day period during operations. One additional site was not used due to lack of deer activity.

RESULTS

The entire data set generated from harvested deer is represented in the spreadsheet entitled "City of Town and Country - Deer Harvest: 14-29 December 2012 (Appendix A). The overall harvest demographics are summarized in Table 1. Harvest by day is summarized in Table 2. Harvest breakdown based on Ward is summarized in Table 3. We expended 389.5 person-hours for the sharpshooting activities (115 deer harvested) resulting in 3.4 person hours per deer harvested. This was a 24% increase over the previous year effort (2.75 person hours per deer).

Table 1. Sex and age class of deer harvested in Town and Country, Missouri from 1429 December 2012.

AGE	# MALE (%)	# FEMALE (%)	# COMBINED
Yearling/Adult	49 (43%)	25 (22%)	74 (65%)
Fawns	20 (17%)	21 (18%)	41 (35%)
Total	69 (60%)	46 (40%)	115 (100%)

Table 2. Number of deer harvested by day during the 11 days of field operations.

Harvested

12/14/12 15 12/17/12 15 12/21/12 11 12/28/12 6
12/15/12 9 12/18/12 10 12/22/12 11 12/29/12 9
12/16/12 17 12/19/12 10 12/27/12 2

Table 3. Deer harvest by Ward

#

Ward Harvested

1 15 (13%)
2 68 (59%)
3 20 (17%)
4 12 (11%)

Pregnancy rates

It was too early in pregnancy to identify and count fetuses.

Population estimates

See attached population estimation report.

DISCUSSION

Recreational feeding could be a problem in several areas of the City. This absolutely affects our ability to address deer in these areas. One impact of recreational feeding is the diminished efficiency when trying to remove deer in proximity (bait used for management is ineffective if artificial foods are made available elsewhere). Aside from increased costs because of inefficiency due to recreational feeding, there are compounded safety concerns for the residents of Town and Country by limiting our ability to remove deer in those neighborhoods. Based on visual sightings during the population estimate and the lack of deer predictability near the Brook Mill neighborhood it is suspected that some residences in the vicinity feed deer recreationally.

The neighborhoods along and around Thornhill road continue to pose management challenges. After relative success in the area (22 deer removed), during the population estimate numerous deer were still observed. Securing an additional culling site may prove to be beneficial in the future. Numerous deer also were observed in the Kings Glen and Williamsburg estates area. Currently there are no management efforts in this area due to lack of access.

Management efforts in Ward 2 benefited from additional points of access. Two of

these sites accounted for 30% of the total harvest, while requiring only 18.5% of the total effort to achieve this result. Access remains the key to addressing the concerns of residents who are still experiencing an overabundance of deer in their neighborhoods.

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for assistance provided prior to and during the culling period; Captain Gary Hoelzer, Tom Thousand, Fred Meyland-Smith, Lynn Wright, and John's Butcher Shoppe (venison processing for charitable donation).

The Census portion of the report gave two numbers depending on what which set of stats you want to accept. One set showed 38 per square mile in the city and the other showed 33 deer per square mile. The city's goal for deer is 20 per square mile. The Department of Conservation's recommendation is as low as 10 deer per square mile.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS: It was nice to see that Town and Country and Chesterfield State Representative and Republican floor leader John Diehl was not forgotten at Christmas time.

Diehl got the usual Christmas ham from Smithfield Farms. Diehl, who always runs unopposed, received large campaign contributions from Smithfield Farms of Virginia and the Missouri Pork Association PAC, voted for legislation in 2011 that favored Smithfield Farms' Missouri hog farms in pollution lawsuits.

Diehl also got a Christmas gift of a tie from John Britton, who lobbies for Anheuser-Busch, Express Scripts, Burlington-Southern Railroad, several utilities, and motion picture industry among others. He also got free meals from lobbyists for the isle of Capri Casino, the Pawn Brokers Association and Ameren UE. It is nice to know that while you and I are buying our lunch and dinner, some guy who lives in Town and Country is getting his for free.

Diehl ended the year collecting \$4,950 in free stuff from lobbyists.



Rep John Diehl got more goodies from the Smithfield Farms Santa Pig this year after he voted to sell out Missouri farmers and property owners in 2011.

State Senator John Lamping who always reimburses any lobbyist for gifts also got a Christmas tie from Britton and a ham from Smithfield Farms. While Lamping likes to tell voters he does not accept gifts from lobbyist, he sure will accept campaign contributions.

On October 12 he accepted \$500 from Smithfield Farms as a campaign donation. A week earlier he accepted \$1,000 from the Pinnacle Entertainment in Las Vegas.

COPS FORGET TO OPEN PARK AGAIN: Back on January 6 I drove to Drace Park to take myself and the dogs for a walk. The entrance to the park was closed. It turned out the police never bothered to open the gates that are locked by the evening shift after dark. For nine hours no officer drove down Cedar Valley Drive or went to check on the park. I wrote the police chief/city administrator John Copeland about this. Here was his reply:

From: Copeland, John R. [mailto:CopelandJR@town-and-country.org]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 10:22 AM
To: John Hoffmann; Hoelzer, Capt. Gary A.
Cc: Nixon, Anne; rcl4307@gmail.com; Wright, Ald Lynn
Subject: RE: Drace Park Closed on Sunday

John,
No homicides,
No significant calls for service,
No excuse!
Will identify the issue and correct.
Thanks for the information!
John

20 days later on Sunday when the drizzle stopped at about 3pm I again drove to Drace park and again found the entrance closed. At 6am there was a freezing drizzle. I'm all for the police keeping the park closed for safety reasons, but by 10am the temperature was up to 34-degrees with no more icy sidewalks. It was 42 when I went to the park at 3pm.

FOR TWO OF THE FOUR Sundays in January the local police department has managed to keep the public from using one of our three parks.



POLICE COMMAND STAFF WASTES MORE MONEY: Last July Sgt. Chip Unterberg resigned from the Town and Country police after being named in a rather scandalous sexual harassment suit filed by former female police officer Shannon Woolsey. The department then went through a promotional process that included testing and interviews graded by people from outside the department.



Chip Unterberg, now selling cars at an area Chevrolet Dealership, was replaced as a T&C police sergeant, after a costly promotion process.



Six months after Unterberg resigned, Sgt. Dan Wagener retired after 29 years on the job. Instead of going to a promotion list Town and Country is going to retest and re-interview all the same people again.

Six months later Sgt. Dan Wagener retired from the police department. Most departments that go through a promotional process have a list of top candidates and instead of spending the time and money going through the promotional process a second time in less than a year they promote the next officer on the list.

Not the Town and Country Police! Despite the city having a \$2.4-million deficit budget for 2013, I was told on Monday that the police department is going back and retesting and re-interviewing everyone that just went through the process. This is not only a waste of money it is a morale killer. You just piss off employees bringing them back to go through the same process they just finished.

Having spent 30-years in law enforcement and covering law enforcement and the fire service for national magazines, retesting will often suggest that the command staff does not like who was in the number two slot on the promotion list.

SPEAKING OF LAWSUITS AND MONEY! On Monday January 28, a hearing on the lawsuit filed by former Officer Woolsey against the City of Town and Country was cancelled. On January 15 another hearing before Judge Barbara Wallace was also cancelled. I have to wonder if something is not up in this case.

NEW POLICE CARS ARE COMING: The Board of Aldermen on Monday approved purchase orders for four new police cars. The orders include the purchase of three new 6-cylinder Dodge Charges for patrol use at the cost of \$22,711 per car. \$23,603 is going to be spent for a new 8-cylinder Revenue Cutter...er...I mean...Dodge Charger for the Revenue Service...er...I mean the traffic division. Another \$23,467 will go for a new Ford Taurus police car.

50-YEAR RESIDENT MOVING OUT OF TOWN: Ellie Bush's house on Kirken Knoll was built one year before Missouri Baptist Hospital broke ground in Town and Country. Now 50 years later Ellie is moving and you have to wonder if Missouri Baptist Hospital didn't have something to do with it. 10 years ago the hospital did some grading on property they own next to Bush's home. Shortly after the grading storm water suddenly began flowing onto her lot and eventually into her basement. Eventually there was a mold issue. Bush claimed it was due to Missouri Baptist land use. The hospital denied it but in 2011 they did more grading and the excessive water was eliminated, but not before her house was loaded with mold. We hear the Ellie just sold the house and the new owner plans to repair the house.



Ellie Bush's house at the end of an estate sale on Sunday.

FINALLY TOWN SERIAL DRUNK DRIVER'S LICENSE IS REVOKED: According to court records filed on casenet.com, Mayor Jon Dalton's son, Jon Dalton, Jr. has finally seen his driver's license revoked after picking up two DWI charges in 2012 AND REFUSING TO TAKE BREATH TESTS TWICE. For a while it appeared as if Junior would skate without much punishment other than large cash fines.

Dalton, Jr. was arrested in the early morning hours on New Year's Day in Ladue for driving dad's Audi without the lights on and running a stop sign. He was found to be drunk with enough open liquor bottles in the car to open a tavern. He refused to take a breath test which led to an automatic license revocation, which was placed on hold while dad's law firm appealed.

Then in June Junior was picked up in the early morning hours in Ladue speeding. He was again drunk and refused to take a breath test resulting in another appeal by dad's firm.

In December he pled guilty to Illegal Parking on the first DWI case and paid a large fine. On the second one he pled guilty to Careless and Imprudent Driving. Both deals were approved by the Ladue city prosecutor and accepted by a St. Louis County judge.

On December 19 before Judge Barbara Wallace young Dalton admitted the facts in the case, but had his license reinstated without serving the year revocation. In other words he won the appeal of his first license revocation from the January 1, 2012 incident.

However, on January 24, 2013 Judge Wallace upheld the revocation from the June DWI arrest breath test refusal.

MAYOR NO LONGER A TOBACCO LOBBYIST FOR NOW: Town and Country Mayor Jon Dalton, who for over a decade lobbied on behalf of cigarette companies trying to kill people while as mayor claimed to look after the health, safety and welfare of residents, lost his last cigarette client on January 4. Dalton had represented as many as 28 brands of smokes. However, after we started routinely to list his clients on our website, Dalton began having his Jefferson City office secretary Shannon Hawk, who is also a registered lobbyist, list the clients under her name.

Looking at Hawk's client list we found that Imperial Tobacco dropped Lewis-Rice and Dalton as a lobbyist on January 4. However, much like the title "Mayor" can be an honorary title for life, we plan to make "Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist" a lifetime title that Dalton so richly deserves.

DALTON AND WIDOWS: We see that Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon "Snidely Whiplash" Dalton was slumming recently when his photo appeared in the PD and the Ladue News in a tux attending a gala for St. Anthony's Ageless Volunteers...South County's St. Anthony's, Hospital just imagine! Beside Dalton and his wife, the other photos appeared to be of a lot of widows. (The gala was actually held in November...Ladue News is famous for being way behind in their material.)

The place was loaded with widows and of course from what we have seen over the years, widows should avoid Dalton at all costs. There is the case of Opal Henderson and her business. Dalton used eminent domain to seize the 78-year-old Henderson's business and property for a nightclub district that he and his partners did not have the money to build.



Opal Henderson who lost her business and land to Jon Dalton's group of investors...and had to sue to get her court damages.

But that was nothing! If you ever need to kill some time in Clayton order the probate case Jo Anne Grant Trust v Dalton (et al). I don't want to go into all the details about the case and hurt the memory of Widow Jo Anne Grant. This was one of the last cases on record in the County I could find while Dalton was still a partner at Bryan Cave. By the time it ended he had been long gone from the top law firm in St. Louis. There was some strong question if the Widow Grant was lucid when Dalton claimed he interviewed her and accepted her as a client. Plus there was an amazing lack of research done by Dalton, who apparently was unaware that the dead Widow Grant had a brother...who was born in 1924...and who is a Notre Dame Law School grad still practicing law in San Antonio, Texas, with a sub specialty of "ethics" and is selling books he has written on the internet!

BILLS INTRODUCED FOR \$280,202 IN ENGINEERING COSTS FOR THREE STORM WATER PROJECTS: The first readings were made on three bills to hire engineering firms for three storm water projects. The sales tax than many associated as a "Parks" sales tax, is actually a "Storm Water and Parks" sales tax. Other than one project on Barrett Station Road at the front of the Laurel Lakes subdivision, for years no money generated by the tax was spent on storm water projects. It all went for paying off the purchase of park land. For the last two years money has gone into long overdue storm water projects. The projects are rated by need and the potential damage caused without addressing them.

The first two projects were done in the Thornhill Subdivision. Here are the engineering costs only for the three projects slated for completion in 2014:

\$64,900 Horton lane and Kings Cove projects

\$47,185 Manor Hill and Karlin projects in the Thornhill subdivision

\$168,117 for projects on Woodlark, Town and Country Estates and at The Principia and St. Nicholas Church

HALF MILLION DOLLARS MORE TO THE CLAYTON ROAD PROJECT: Before you gasp...cost overruns to the tune of 10% are always written into projects by the Director of Public Works and the defacto-City Engineer Craig Wilde...however now there is no more left for additional cost overruns. \$300,000 more goes to Gershenson Construction which will be doing work extending improvements from Topping to Bopp.

Another \$200,000 goes to the J.M. Marschuetz Construction Company, well know area road builder whose founder and owner lives on Topping Road.



Public Works Director answering questions about cost overruns on the Clayton Road project during Aldermanic agenda meeting.

HORSE THERAPY GROUP GIVES CITY A SURPRISE AWARD: Gary and Gini Hartke founders of Equine- Assist Therapy, the horse therapy group that leases the barn and field at Longview Park for \$1 a year and provides physically and mentally disabled children therapy through riding horses, appeared at Monday's meeting. They were not scheduled and were a bit of surprise. Gary Hartke presented the city with a glass or hard plastic plaque thanking them for use of the park. It was clear this was done without a thought of publicity as Hartke handed Mayor Jon Dalton the plaque, turned around a walked out without posing for a photo opportunity much to the disappointed of Dalton. (I tried to get a photo of Hartke leaving...it is a "Blur city.")

BOARD ADJUSTMENT HAS TWO 4-1 VOTES: The Board of Adjustment is very much like a court with a court reporter and the city attorney in attendance. They are an appeal body for building and zoning matters that don't meet code or approved site plans. For a variance to pass there must be at least a 4-1 vote or a super majority. A mere 3-2 majority from the board is the same as a "no" vote.

On Tuesday night the Board of Adjustment heard two cases. One concerned plantings and trees on the building site of the new Raintree pre-school and kindergarten off of

Mason Road. The other was to allow the new home on 12928 Huntbridge Forest Drive off of Topping to be 46 feet high, six feet higher than the code allows.

The School In the Raintree School case, the site plans called for new trees, plus 563 new shrubs and 65 new evergreen trees. The only problem is that most of the 11 acre site for the new school is on rock. Trees aren't going to grow particularly well or at all.

A member of the Board of Adjustment got the school's owner, Ilya Eydelman, to admit that he had the soil core samples showing there is little actual top soil in July of 2012 and he submitted the site plans with the additional trees and bushes in August. Eydelman testified that he was told to do this even though he knew the soil and rock would not sustain the trees and then file an appeal before the Board of Adjustment. Eydelman said a city employee and his lawyer both suggested this.

Besides Eydelman, his landscape architect Kristy McGuire also testified and said the rocky soil would not sustain the trees. In place of trees Eydelman proposed a meadow of prairie grasses and flowers. Under questioning he admitted the meadow would be cheaper than the trees. Eydelman had changed his original building plans from masonry to cheap metal siding, which the Architectural Review Board rejected forcing him back to the masonry and wood design.

Alderman Chuck Lenz then testified to the rocky terrain and the history of the property where the first owners who wanted to build homes had to use water fracking to blow apart all the rocks.

I also testified that by requiring large trees or evergreens at a school that you know are likely to eventually be uprooted in strong winds due to the rocky soil is not a reasonable way to protect the public's health, safety and welfare..

The Board voted 4-1 to approve the change from trees to meadow.

The House The next case was the 46-foot high house and it had a dramatic ending. City Planning Director Sharon Rothmel testified that the house was in violation of the 40-foot rule because of the way it was require to be measured, from the lowest point to the top of the roof. She said the height of the house at the front door was 37-feet.

The planned home's architect testified that the house is being build on a slope and to bring in topsoil or to change the plans for the house would force some trees to be cut down.

The owner presented four emails from neighbors saying they did not have an objection to the house.

Just before the Board was about to vote, 50 minutes after the start of the meeting, in rushed the fifth neighbor who lived to the rear of the house, lawyer Brian McBrearty, who lives on Woodlark Lane. McBrearty testified that he didn't care about the trees he was more concerned about the "castle" being 65 feet above his house, which sits on a lower level. He added that the two story house on the lot now that was being torn down.

"It (the new house) will tower 15-20 feet over the tree line. I'd rather have the trees thinned out than the castle looking down from 65 feet above us," he said.

The architect returned and said if he added the topsoil so no part of the house is over 40-feet high from the ground, it would still be the same height, meaning McBrearty would still be in the same showdown of the "castle."

The Board voted 4-1 for the variance, with Chairman Jim Crowley voting against it.

ANDRE HEPKINS NEEDS A TIME MACHINE: When we last wrote about Andre Hepkins he was doing the touchy-feely promos for KMOV's morning show with Claire Kellet and wondered when a camera crew would catch them leaving a downtown hotel room after a "nooner."



Now Hepkins is doing a promo for the morning show where he mentions, "Those of you who grew up in St. Louis all know Kent Ehrhardt." What? This should not come as a surprise coming from the mouth of someone who grew up in New York City and came to St. Louis recently from Miami.

Now I have to give KMOV credit for hiring St. Louisians Kellet (Webster Groves) and Ehrhardt (Maryland Heights), but Hepkins needs a time machine to see who his viewers remember doing the weather while "growing up in St. Louis."

Viewers of local news are most likely to be older than 40. Erhardt arrived in St. Louis a mere 14 years ago.

Here is a list of weathercasters people who grew up in St. Louis remember:



“That’s All from Here...**Howard Demere** at KSD.

Former fashion model **Diane White** at KSD, who was the first African-American on a local TV newscast in St. Louis.



Pat Fontaine at KMOX-TV who left St. Louis for a job on the Today Show



“Hey Kids!” It was Corky the Clown in the afternoon and **Cliff St. James** at 6 and 10 doing the weather at KSD.



Another kids' show host doing the weather was **Jim Bolen** at KMOV. Bolen, a great jazz vibe player, was the co-host of the kids Show on Channel 4, Cookie and the Captain. He was at KMOX-KMOV from 1957 until his death in 1994.



Jim Bolen (left) as Cookie Dave Allen (right) as the Captain.



Jim Bolen as Ch4 weathercaster



Jim on the vibes and if I'm not mistaken that is Tex Benke on the sax. Jim and Tex (Glenn Miller Band) would often sit in with the Herb Drury Trio

Ollie Raymand, one of the first Hispanic regulars did the weather on KMOX-TV and KMOV from 1970-1987.

For those of us who used Captain Kangaroo, Mr. Green Jeans and Mr. Moose as an early educational outlet long before the days of Sesame Street, **Curt Ray** would read the news and weather forecast on KMOX-TV before the 8am start of Captain Kangaroo.



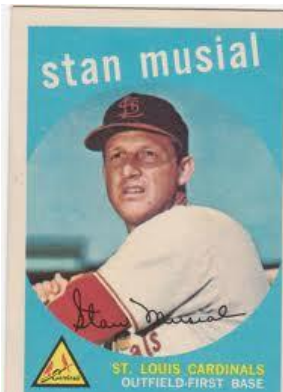
30-years ago **Christine Buck** was the weathercaster on the KPLR (Ch 11) 9:o'clock news. You would have to be an odd kid to be watching the news at 9pm instead of a regular TV show.



Nobody watched Christine Buck on the old Ch 11 9pm news, but she kept winning local Emmys as best weathercaster.

TWO HEROS DIE ON THE SAME DAY: Let's face it there have been a million words written and read about Stan Musial recently, what else can be said. Let me try and keep it short. As a kid who as a second and third grader would stay up at night listening to the games on the radio and keeping score instead of watching TV, Stan Musial was as big of a hero as you could have. Lucky for me my birthday fell in early February, before the start of spring training.

For my birthday I would pester my parents to take me to Stan and Biggie's restaurant on Oakland Avenue just east of the Arena. When we arrived they would have to drag me out of the lobby where many of Stan's awards, trophies and several silver bats for winning batting titles were in display cases. Once at our table it was like waiting for Santa Claus at Christmas time, because I knew that Stan the Man would make the rounds and talk to all the customers. When he would stop at our table it was like being in the presence of the president or the Pope. I would choke up, but Stan would ask if I played ball and get me talking. In less than five minutes he would be gone, but 50 years later I remember it like it was yesterday.



My birthday wish as a kid was the same every year...to go to Stan and Biggie's so I could talk to Stan Musial.

I was later in the day sad to learn that a friend and a hero to me later in life had also died on Saturday January 19. That friend was Duck Lee, a 77-year-old Korean-American who I featured in the last two Memorial Day columns I wrote for Patch.com.



Duck was born inside a Korean colony in Manchuria China in 1935. By 1937 Manchuria had been invaded and controlled by the Japanese army, which would not let the Koreans return home. At the end of the war the communist Chinese were in charge and also refused to allow the Koreans to leave. Duck and his family escaped in the winter. Part of the escape involved walking down a frozen river.

Duck's father became a civil servant in Seoul and just as Duck was dreaming of entering high school and playing baseball, the armies from China and North Korea invaded and the Korean War began. Over the length of the War Duck used two years of grammar school English lessons to be an unofficial translator to a Marine rifle company when they were back in camp from the front. Duck developed ties with the grunt Marines he met. Those ties lasted most of his life.

He never did play baseball in Korea, but came to the United States and went to college at Shippensburg State University, where in his senior year he finally made the baseball team as a relief pitcher.

He became a U.S. citizen, got a job with Bell Atlantic and retired in 1995. He then began a 17-year trek of being a volunteer coach for three different local college baseball teams. Also for a few years he would travel to Korea and scout baseball players first the Red Sox and then the Dodgers. That high number on his the back of his uniform jersey was always his age. When I was a sportswriter I asked Duck about this.

"I vowed I would not allow the Communists to steal baseball from me and I thank American soldiers and Marines who eventually allowed me to play and coach," said Lee.

Duck pitched batting practice to college ballplayers in a gym batting cage 8-days before his death. Duck's funeral was on Wednesday January 23 in Olney, Maryland.

WHY I SUDDENLY HAVE STOPPED WATCHING WEEKEND NBC NIGHTLY NEWS:

On Sunday January 20 during the NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, Holt announced the death of Stan Musial, “a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, who played SHORTSTOP for the St. Louis Cardinals.” SHORTSTOP! Musial was not just a left-handed hitter, he threw left handed also. You can’t be left-handed and play shortstop. Musial played first base 1,016 times, left field 929 times, right field 785 times and centerfield 331 times. He never played shortstop in his life.



EATING OUT...It’s been hard to find a lot of good Chinese restaurants in West County. Some are okay and others are below average. However on the recommendation of a couple of people on the T&C Ex-Alderman Newsletter email list, we tried the Hot Wok Café on the South 40 Outer Road at Woods Mill in the same shopping center with the smoke filled Dave’s Famous bar and just as smoky Morgan LeFay’s.

When we walked in we figured the food would probably be pretty good. There was a large table of Korean-Americans, a smaller table with Chinese-Americans and in a booth were former Town and Country Alderman Larry Satz and his wife. Larry is in China about six times a year on business and was speaking to a waiter in Chinese and using chopsticks. First impressions were correct...the food was very good.



Hot Wok Café dining room.

ESPINOS: It is hard to talk about the restaurant scene in Town and Country since there are so few of them...so here is a report from Chesterfield. Our friend Chris “Lupy” Swan was playing the keyboard on a recent Saturday at Espino’s Mexican restaurant located

on Chesterfield Airport Road next to Villa Farotto's. My wife and I, plus former Chesterfield Patch.com editor Jean Whitney stopped by to be entertained and have dinner. We arrived at 7pm and the place was PACKED! We got a table on the bar side so we could still hear Chris play. The line waiting for tables didn't end until about 8:45. I have to say the food was good and reasonably priced.



JAZZ AT MINEO'S: Last Friday night the Doug Bert Quartet was at John Mineo's in the second floor area on top of the bar...The place was packed for the first two sets of the performance between 8-11. It would be a nice touch if Mineo's started having some more jazz nights in the feature. It is Mineo's 40th anniversary this April. I would not be surprised if there are some more music events.



A drawing of three of the four musicians at Mineo's last weekend. Dave Troncoso on bass, Doug Bert on trombone and Tom Byrne on guitar.

THE SCHLAFLY BAR: Wednesday nights (8-11) normally include a trip to Sasha's Wine Bar on DeMun in Clayton. It is suppose to be a jazz duo of Jim Manley on trumpet and Chris Swann on the keyboards, however more often than not a number of the musicians show up just to sit in. You never know for sure who will be there but that music is always good.



A Wed. night at Sasha's on DeMun.

On this Wednesday night, Joe Bayer from Warrenton was on the sax. Next to him is Colleen Farquhar on the sax before leaving town as a musician on Holland America Lines, Russ Macklem on trumpet who just moved to town from British Columbia, Chris Swan, Jim Manley and a local guitarist all closing the night at Sasha's.

However, last Wednesday we started the night by going to Maplewood and stopping by the Schlafly Brewery. In the bar there is a house band, but different musicians and singers are allowed to come up to do a couple of songs.

The bar side of the restaurant was unique. You could get anything on the menu, but there was no table service. You have to go to the bar and order your drinks and food. The drinks would be handed to you but the food would be delivered to your table.

The house band on Wednesday nights allowed different singers and musicians to come up and sit in. Our friend Jerry Moser, the retired athletic director from Hancock Place High School in South County was one of those who often will sit in on Wednesdays. .

Most of the people sitting in would do a rock n' roll or blues song. Jerry on the other hand sings Sinatra songs and other classics from the American Songbook. During our 90 minutes there it was a varied visual scene. A lesbian couple was necking in a corner and another same sex couple was dancing. A pair of hippies easily in their 70's sat at the end of the bar. As Jerry walked toward the stage a guy in biker garb got into a shoving match with someone who was seated at a table. Later some swing dancers in costume showed up....All pretty entertaining.

We had heard mixed reports on the food and ordered a number of side dishes, which all were delicious.

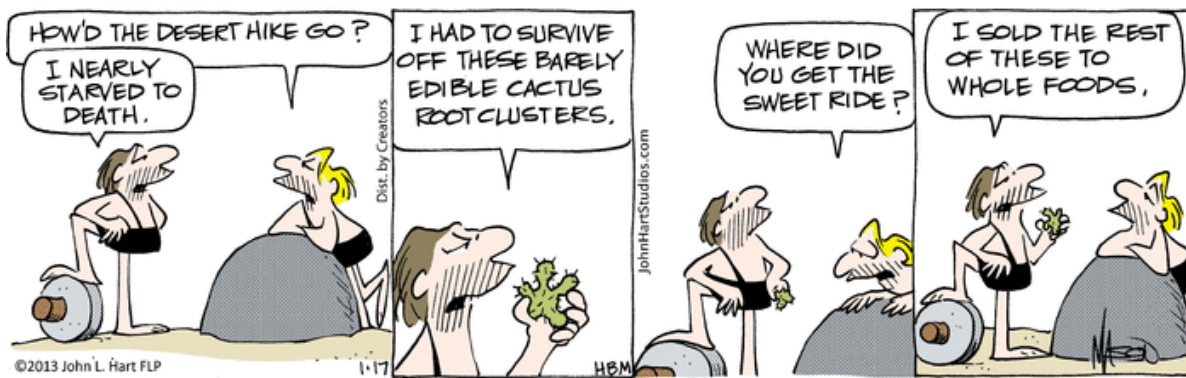
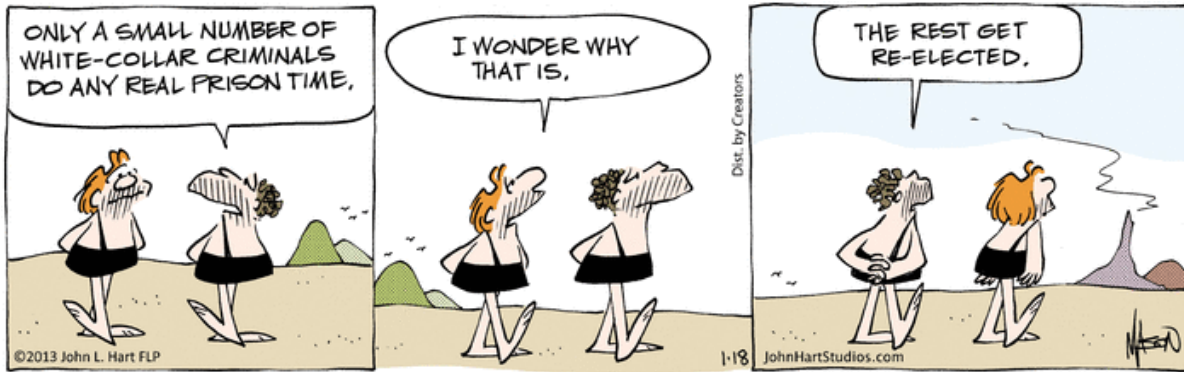


Our buddy Jerry Moser skews on the old side for the house band at Schlafly's on Wednesday night by singing a couple of tunes from the Great American Songbook.



Thanks to an unusually fast meeting on Monday...I was able to get to Webster University where an almost full house in Moore Auditorium heard a Monday night jazz concert fronted by Carolbeth True on piano...(a ghostly white under a spotlight in this bad photo I snapped) with the great vocalist Christi John-Bye, who moved to Warson Woods from Jacksonville, Florida after her husband took a job with the Rams, plus Glen Smith on bass, David True on drums and Larry Johnson on sax.

CARTOONS:



Charlotte Peters' kid living in Dayton, wasted no time...48-hours:



Rock On!

