

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 14

November 05, 2012

By John Hoffmann

MAYOR IS WORRIED ABOUT DOG PARK IF PIT BULLS ARE ALLOWED IN: The Public Health and Safety Committee met on Thursday November 1 and voted 3-to-1 to remove breed specific destination of Pit Bull and Staffordshire Terrier in the city's dangerous dog ordinance.



The move follows similar votes by the Board of Aldermen in Manchester and Town and Country.

Mayor Bruce Geiger was not happy that the committee members felt that the change would also allow dogs that are Pit Bulls or part Pit Bulls to use the city's dog park.

"I have a serious concern we are allowing Pit Bulls in the dog park," said Geiger.



The mayor went on to tell how he watched a young Pit Bull kill a cat while neighbors frantically hit and clubbed the dog trying to get it to release the feline. (Mayor Bruce Geiger center makes his concerns while, committee chair Derek Grier rear and Capt. Steve Lewis foreground listen)



A report by Capt. Steve Lewis to the committee discussed by Chief Ray Johnson quoted a number of people in the dog and animal control business saying how dangerous dog ordinance should be dog specific and not breed specific. This is the old “first bite rule” to determine if a dog is dangerous.

Many Pit Bull bans came about in towns that saw an increase of gang and drug activity and gang members and drug dealers favored having aggressive Pit Bulls.

Lewis admitted that the research he did showed that 52% of fatal dog attacks on humans are by Pit Bulls (some other studies show an even higher percentage).

But the mayor’s point is a good one. In a dog park situation even if the Pit Bull did not start the fight, it will win the battle and there will be no rematch because the other dog will be dead. The pleasant afternoon at the dog park will result in a lifelong haunting memory even for those who just witness the event without their dogs being involved.

Chair Derek Grier, Barry Flachsart and Connie Fults voted for the change and Mike Casey voted against it. (Since the ordinance change did not involve any language allowing Pit Bulls to do any activities after 11pm, Fults apparently did not have any problem with it.)

HOLIDAYS ARE COMING EARLY THIS YEAR: Two weeks before Halloween what did I spy in the refrigerator cases at the supermarket. Why it was Holiday Egg Nog and Custard. What was I supposed to do, give a paper cup full of nog to the trick or treat crowd (who didn’t start arriving this year until 7:30...I was afraid I’d have to eat those

two dozen boxes of Sour Patch Kids myself. Luckily all but two boxes were gone by the departure of the last group at 8:30.).

Also arriving at the house on Halloween was the first Christmas Card of the year. It was from the Salvation Army which is good in a way since Hurricane Sandy hit, I will likely send one check to them for local services and one for Hurricane Sandy Relief.

I always used to give a donation to the American Red Cross after a disaster and at least once a year. Despite all the good the Red Cross does, that practice stopped for me once the St. Louis Region of the Red Cross put Town and Country mayor Jon Dalton on its board of directors.

Dalton is a longtime cigarette lobbyist in Jefferson City. He is also the principal person behind using eminent domain to snatch the business and property of widow Opal Henderson on South Broadway for a private business venture. Dalton and other investors wanted to build a nightclub district south of the ballpark. They wanted Henderson's salvage yard, a business she had been running with her late husband since 1948, for a parking lot.

Henderson would not sell for the low ball price Dalton and friends offered. Dalton's law firm Lewis-Rice represented the St. Louis Land Authority in obtaining the property through eminent domain. Henderson sued and won a \$1,000,000 judgment that was eventually paid six years later.

So the American Red Cross is famous for helping people, but here is a guy on their Board who represents generic cigarette makers and snatches a widow's property. He isn't helping people. He is helping to kill them and steal their land. I'm sorry as long as he is on the Board of Directors I can no longer write a check to the American Red Cross.

THE NEW DONNYBROOK: I was more than a little miffed while watching Donnybrook on October 25. The host Charlie Brennan started and then continued an argument with panelists Bill McClellan, Ray Hartman and Wendy Wiese, defending Robert Archibald the director of the Missouri Historical Museum.



Brennan's main job on the show is to introduce topics and not argue with panelists. After everyone had their say on the debacle going on with the sweetheart land purchase from former board member and former mayor, Freeman Bosley for four times its value, with no appraisal and after Archibald knew the land was contaminated, Brennan started sticking up for Archibald. A new 10-minute argument ensued. Brennan also stuck up for having former Senator John Danforth getting involved in the affair as a consultant after his law firm Bryan-Cave was paid \$100,000 in connection with the land transaction. Even Alvin Reid jumped in joining others saying Danforth had a clear conflict of interest.

Donnybrook founder and longtime moderator Martin Duggan did it the right way. After the subject was discussed by the panel, if he didn't agree he'd say so and then announce the next subject. Spending 10 minutes of a 25 minute show starting arguments is uncomfortable television. The job of the moderator is to move the program on, not to stop it in its tracks.

FIVE YEARS LATER: Back in 2007 my wife, Diana, took a two week trip to the Canadian Rockies to paint. During that time I hired the Tommy Money Orchestra, an 18-piece big band with vocalist Debby Lennon, an adjunct vocal professor at Webster University and the principal vocalist at St. Clement Church on Bopp Road. The Tommy Money Big Band was made up of Air Force musicians, some recently out of the Air Force like Money and others still with the Air Force Band of Mid-America from Scott Air Base on their day off.

It was for our anniversary.

At the time the economy was good. The band was \$3,000. A tent, tables and chairs in the backyard was \$800. Kendrick's catering was some more. Being a guy, I bought the deserts at the Hostess bread Store on Manchester. How was I to know West County adults would turn up their noses at Zingers?

I invited 200 people and about 100 showed and came and left during the evening. The most present at any one time was maybe 90! There were a lot of empty chairs.

During the afternoon, I thought I had everything covered. The one thing I forgot to do was to take a photograph of the band on our back deck.

Tommy Money left town and took a job as a high school music teacher and band director in Louisville. The band might get together once a year for a country club date here or something in Louisville.

On Sunday October 28 I found out the band was playing in Godfrey, Illinois at Lewis and Clark College. It might not be the same as being on my deck but I finally got my photo of the Tommy Money Big Band.



If you would like to hear the Tommy Money Orchestra just use this link and you will hear five songs. The vocalist isn't Debby Lennon but the sound is all Tommy Money.

<http://tommymoneyorchestra.com/>

FOR JAZZ FANS: It is getting to be hard to hear good jazz in town unless you want to pay through the nose at the Sheldon when they bring in out of town talent for \$50 or more per ticket.

Every Wednesday night around 9:30 I head to Sasha's on DeMun Avenue in Clayton. Trumpet jazz dude Jim Manley and Chris "Luppy" Swann on the piano are the paid talent. But on most Wednesdays, musicians from as far away as Maryville, Illinois and Warrenton show up and sit in from 9:30-to-11.

Recently Canadian Russ Macklem, who just moved to St. Louis, has been sitting in on trumpet. (His fiancée' is a member of the St. Louis Symphony) He is outstanding. Here are a few photos from different Wednesday nights at Sasha's.



Left to right: Brice Payton (Rt 66 Jazz Orch) Russ Macklem, Zack Hall (Rt 66 Jazz Orch) and Jim Manely. To the far left not playing is Russ's fiancée, Vanessa, a trombonist with the St. Louis Symphony.





Jim Manley will have a seven piece jazz group at Jazz at the Bistro on November 9 and 10th with shows at 7:30 and 9:30. Here's a little secret, go to the 7:30 show and if the 9:30 show is not sold out you can move upstairs and catch a second set, which is often a little different at no extra charge.

CHESTERFIELD'S SORE BUTT PLAYHOUSE: Of course we are talking about the Dramatic License Productions Playhouse located in the Chesterfield Mall (across from Houlihan's). This Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday are the final performances of *Moonlight and Magnolias*.



This is a three act play about the rewriting of the screenplay for *Gone with the Wind*, where writer Ben Hecht, just hired replacement director Victor Fleming and studio head David O. Selznick were locked in an office over five days to rewrite the entire screenplay of *Gone with the Wind* after Selznick had shutdown production.

Dean Christopher, who is probably best known in St. Louis for his Rat Pack musical



shows that used to sell out the old Finale nightclub in Clayton, played Hecht. Christopher, the lead vocalist at the Unity Church on Butler Hill Road, who is famous for his Christmas Shows, showed his acting range playing a Jewish activist writer.

Kent Coffel of Chesterfield carried the third act with his facial expressions alone. Coffel sold the audience on his portrayal of action director Victor Fleming. While Christopher got lots of early laughs, Coffel got the longest laughs after the intermission.



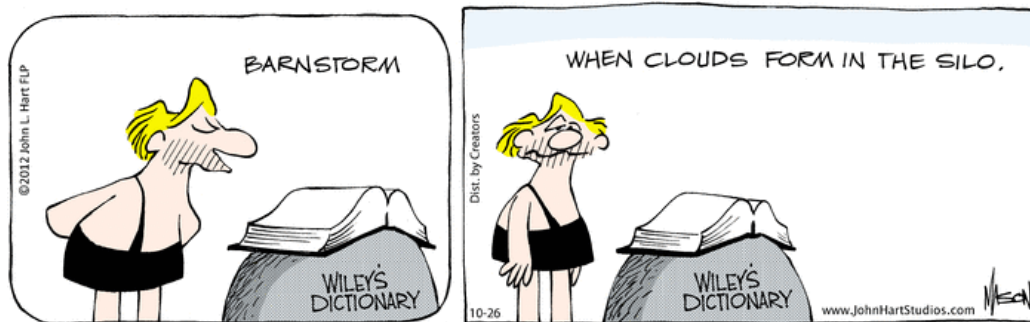
Left to right, Cooperstein, Christopher and Coffel.

Local Architect with PGAV Destinations Dave Cooperstein who helps designs zoos and large museums by day and acts on local stages at night, played Selznick. Probably in a combination of the script and Cooperstein, the Selznick character came off in more of a slapstick performance which proved to be the weaker of the three leading roles.

The Dramatic License Productions Playhouse seating area is right on top of the stage. There is no bad seat as far as the view goes. They are all bad seats as far as your butt is concerned. The seating area is on wooden risers with rows of folding chairs. After the first hour an intermission is required just so you can stand up and rub your butt.

Price for two hours of live entertainment was \$25 a person. The play performed at the Loretta Hilton small stage would likely cost twice as much. However the seat would certainly be more comfortable. If you haven't had a chance to see a play recently (like since you had kids or when you quit going to the Muny in the 1970s, like me) this would be a fun way to get back out. The dress code for the shopping center playhouse is "casual." Plus there is no traffic mess or Highway 40 closures to deal with since the playhouse is in the center of the Western Section of Snoburbia.

CARTOONS:



BREVITY

BY GUY & RODD & DAN





Once again, the Zaadler twins dazzled the neighborhood with their creative costumes.

CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN McPHERSON



A West County Witch



"Look at her, the snob! First the Teflon cauldron and now THIS!"

