

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 225 AND CHESTERFIELD 170



By John Hoffmann

April 25, 2016

TOWN AND COUNTRY OFFICER HURT IN FIGHTS AFTER CBC DANCE FORCED TO RETIRE DUE TO INJURIES. Over 28 police officers, from Town and Country, Creve Coeur, Frontenac, Chesterfield, St. Louis County and the Missouri Highway Patrol responded to numerous fights breaking out at Mixer Dance between students from various schools on the campus of Christian Brothers College High School on Sunday January 18, 2015.



One of those officers was Cpl. Kent Berry of the Town and Country Police. Berry was not only a shift supervisor, he was also the department's armorer. Over 10 separate fights broke out many after the police were on the scene. Cpl Berry was attempting to arrest one 16-year-old combatant from North St. Louis County who did not attend CBC.

In the process of attempting the arrest Berry was knocked down and then kicked repeatedly by the suspect. Berry suffered a long lasting back injury which 15 months after the incident had not healed to the point where Berry could return to duty, forcing him to take a disability retirement. Berry has been with the Town and Country Police for 18 years and worked as a police officer for 21 years.

Sources say at first it appeared as if the suspect would be certified to stand trial as an adult, as most 16-year-olds accused of serious crimes are. However word is out that the new Juvenile Court judge former Chesterfield City Attorney Rob Heggie is reluctant to do that. If the suspect stays in the Juvenile Court system, even though he is an adult now he will have received almost no punishment. The suspect is charged with Assault, Destruction of Property, Resisting Arrest and Assaulting a Police Officer. Heggie's former law firm specialized in family law and he was connected to Democratic Party campaigns.

If the suspect was certified as an adult, he would be indentified and if convicted and placed on a SIS probation term he would have the entire arrest record erased if he stayed out of trouble for a couple of years. However if he was arrested again he could served time and have a permanent record for assaulting Cpl. Berry. To me that is a good thing to have over his head. This currently does not appear likely to happen.



FOLLOW THE MONEY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE RACES: 101 District Republican:

Bruce DeGroot: The Chesterfield City Councilman's election committee is called "Citizens for DeGroot." However his first quarter 2016 filing of contributions just shows ONE CITIZEN. That would be DeGroot who lend his committee \$4,000. That is a good amount for starters to run for City Council, but not the Missouri House of Representatives.

At the end of the first quarter DeGroot claims he has not had any expenses. However, on Tuesday April 5 he had DeGroot for State Representative yard signs up at polling places. I don't think he printed those at no cost in his basement. I have a sneaking suspicion those were paid for and picked up before Friday April 1, but maybe not. We will check again in July.



Joy Krieger of Ellisville has a total of \$5,445.90 in her account. Her campaign contributors have been herself for \$5,000. That is not a loan like DeGroot made, where if he gets other contributions he can give himself the money back, this money is in the campaign forever. If she doesn't spend it

she can only give it to someone else's campaign. Krieger also received \$64.74 from her campaign treasurer James Hoffmeister of Clayton.

Krieger is using new math: Joy is apparently using new math on her reports and I don't understand. She claimed \$5,445.90 at the start of the period on January 1 and \$5,445.90 at the end of the period. This is the first finance report she has filed. She is claiming only \$5064.74 was raised. So how in the hell did she get her balance to \$5,445.90? That would be an amazing interest rate.

Secondly, unlike DeGroot she is claiming she spent the following:

- \$105 Lincoln Days
- \$ 75 Designing/Creating Business Cards
- \$ 41.27 Printing Business Cards
- \$ 30.41 More Business Cards
- \$ 64.74 Pizzas for committee meeting

These expenses equal \$316.42. So how can you raise \$5,064.74 but claim you have \$5,445.90? Then how can you claim you began a reporting periods with \$5445.90, then spend \$316.42 and end the period with \$5,445.90?



Joy Krieger

Anne Gassel of Ellisville started the quarter with \$1,535 and ended the period with \$1,215.80. (I could understand Anne's addition and subtraction!) She lent the campaign \$500 and received contributions from 12 people. Only five contributions were \$100 or more, meaning she did not have to list the other seven contributors, but she did.

Here are those giving \$100 or more (none are from the district):

\$250 Edward Kaiser Dearborn, MI
\$150 Lawrence Gassel Washington, MO
\$100 Cicely Parkhurst Winchester, MA
\$100 David Dressler Springfield, MO
\$100 Lora Gassel Wilton, CT

Gassel's expenses were

\$250 Program Ad for Republican Party event
\$ 98 Postage
\$ 41 Six month post office box rental.
\$ 28.20 Non-itemized expenses.

After new contributions and expenses she had \$1,215.80 at the end of the quarter. That is not much money when running for a Missouri House seat.



Anne Gassel

NOREEN MCCANN of Chesterfield: Now here is a finance report from someone serious about running for the Missouri State House. McCann of 18124 Wild Horse Creek Road out in the most wealthy and most Republican section of Chesterfield and St. Louis County raised \$9.490 in the first quarter. The majority of her contributions came from outside of the district.

Here are McCann's contributors with contributions of \$100 or more.

\$3,000 James and Cynthia Coyke Chesterfield, MO
\$1,000 Frederic Sauer Warson Woods, MO
\$1,000 James Barr Mukwonago, WI
\$1,000 Sherry Tyree Huntleigh, MO
\$ 500 Kathleen Sullivan Naples, FL
\$ 500 Renee O'Brien Creve Coeur, MO
\$ 500 Bruce Schlafly Des Peres, MO

- \$ 300 Mary Hodge Chesterfield, MO
- \$ 300 Onder for Missouri Lake St. Louis
- \$ 250 Cunningham Campaign Committee Chesterfield, MO
- \$ 200 Caryn Lamping Ladue, MO
- \$ 200 Marjorie Saiter Chesterfield, MO

Her expenses included \$284 in printing costs, \$1,400 in website design (I could have found her someone for half that much) and \$2,227 in catering. She had another \$590 that went to office supplies, bank fees, postage, tips for the catering people, postage and voter information from the Board of Elections.

It is interesting that four years ago McCann bolted from mainline Republican leaders including, Roy Blunt, Kit Bond, Jim Talent, John Ashcroft and John Danforth who all called for the far-rightwing senate candidate Todd Akins to withdraw from the race after his position on abortion for rape victims and his "legitimate rape" quote. Here is a part an Associate Press story on Akin that had mentioned party pressure for Akin to withdraw and McCann's support for Akin.

Noreen McCann, who lives in the same suburban St. Louis area as Akin, said Tuesday that his rape comment hasn't weakened her support for him. McCann expressed frustration that Akin was being publicly flayed for his ill-chosen words while other Democrats — specifically President Bill Clinton — have survived scandals that included accusations of sexual impropriety and lies.

Akin "is a man of principle. I trust and respect his integrity and his commitment to defending American values," said McCann, who had passed out Akin fliers on primary election day. "I think he wants to defend all innocent human life. If he misspoke, or it was in the wrong context, that is not a major problem for me."



Noreen McCann (right) with the shorter Cong. Anne Wagner

It is interesting that on contributor forms McCann lists her occupations as "political activist."

Democratic candidate Dennis Lavalley did not file a report on April 15 as is required.

DISTRICT 100:

Derek Grier, the former Boy Councilman of Chesterfield and Christian Scientist grad of Principia College who doesn't believe in doctors, medicine or hospitals, raised \$2,175 during the quarter. Grier who worked for developers as a councilman is still working for developers.

Here is a list of Grier's contributors who gave him \$100 or more:

| | | |
|--------|------------------------|--|
| \$ 500 | George Capps | Chesterfield, MO |
| \$ 150 | Bruce Geiger | Chesterfield, MO (former councilman and mayor) |
| \$ 100 | Mason Business Systems | Town and Country, MO |
| \$ 100 | Jim Bilsborrow | Manchester, MO |
| \$ 100 | Cole McNary | Chesterfield, MO |
| \$ 100 | Christopher Shays | St. Michael, MD |
| \$ 100 | Jane Earnst | Stuart, FL |
| \$ 100 | Scott Shipman | St. Charles, MO (St. Charles CO Assessor) |
| \$ 100 | Judith Baker | Ballwin, MO |
| \$ 100 | Wendy Geckeler | Chesterfield, MO |
| \$ 100 | Wendy Manker | Laguna Beach, CA |
| \$ 100 | Martha Stitzel | Town and Country, MO |
| \$ 100 | Haley Properties | St. Peters, MO |
| \$ 100 | John Kreutzberg | Stuart, FL |

Grier has spend \$1,770 on printing costs, just under \$300 on postage and \$100 for graphic designs.

Grier had \$5,704 on hand at the beginning of April.



Scary moody Derek in January 2015 Campaign photo of Derek.
Can anyone say Jack Nicholson in the Shining!

MIKE ALLEN of Town and Country and husband of current State Rep Sue Allen has \$31,555 on hand on April 1 or five-and-a-half times more cash than Grier. He raised \$6,250 in the first three months of 2016.

- \$ 1,500 Dean Plocher Des Peres, MO current state rep in district 89
- \$ 1,000 Roy Pfautch St. Louis, MO 63108
- \$ 657 John Bardgett & Associates Chesterfield, MO Lobbyist
- \$ 500 Parson For Missouri Bolivar, MO
- \$ 500 Signature Medical Group South St. Louis County, MO
- \$ 500 Missouri Realtors PAC Jefferson City, Mo
- \$ 500 David Cortwright Ladue, MO
- \$ 250 Missouri Beverage PAC Jefferson City, MO
- \$ 250 Missouri State Farm Agents Jefferson City, MO
- \$ 250 Rural Telecommunications Committee PAC Jefferson City, MO
- \$ 200 Dan Amsden Manchester, MO
- \$ 200 Government Services Group Jefferson City, MO
- \$ 200 Citizens for Gary Cross Lee's Summit, MO
- \$ 150 Christopher Molendorp Belton, MO Lobbyist
- \$ 100 MaryAnn Mannion Clayton, MO
- \$ 100 Harvey Tettlebaum California, MO

Now there are several reasons why someone might not to want to vote for Mike Allen looking at this list. Dean Plocher ran a very questionable and borderline corrupt municipal court in Pine Lawn, MO for years. Then you have two lobbyists, including John Bardgett, Jr. who has been a sin lobbyist for years with clients including big tobacco, booze and gambling.

But here is the one contributor that will cost Allen three or four votes immediately. It is not listed here because it is less than \$100. Allen did not have to put it on his list because it is under \$100, but he did.

\$50 Mariette Palmer Greenwich Green Town and Country



Here is what any candidate in their right mind does when a check from Palmer rolls in. You send it back and do not put it on you contributor list. Mariette Palmer is that big of a lightning rod. With Mariette there is no middle ground. It is her way or the highway. She has lied about people running for office and does not have a clue about wildlife management and why it needs to be done. All deer are her friends; which means thousands of people are her enemies.

DISTRICT 89

Dean Plocher, is a Des Peres lawyer and the former municipal judge of one of the most corrupt cities in St. Louis County, Pine Lawn. Plocher had \$30,830 in his campaign account at the start of the year left over from his November campaign to win a one-year term of the seat of from former Speaker of the House John Diehl who resigned in mid-term thanks to his affair and sex texting scandal with a teenager.

Plocher's math is a little odd. He claimed he only took in \$500 for the quarter. Here is his list:

\$ 500 Missouri HY PAC Jefferson City
\$ 50 Dean Plocher P.O. Box 16065 Clayton, MO 63105

You can give your campaign money. So \$500 plus \$50 in my simple head equals \$550 and not \$500.

He spent \$775 with Victory Enterprises in Iowa that does website design for candidates. He also gave \$1000 to the Missouri Republican House Campaign Committee that will be doled out money between now and the August primary and November general elections.

Jack Schilligo of 30 Glen Cove Chesterfield is the Democratic sacrificial lamb running against Plocher. Interestingly Schilligo's street is misspelled as "Glend Cove" twice on the report. Schilligo and his wife have lived at 30 Glen Cove in Ward-1 of Chesterfield since 2003.



Schilligo is a carpenter, a real estate broker and a man who has no clue about political campaign signs. The above sign would be impossible to read at 5 mph let alone 20 mph.

None of his contributors for the first quarter of 2016 live in District 89.

- \$ 250 Senior Planning Solutions Cottleville, MO
- \$ 250 Friends of Sue Meredith St. Louis County 63146
- \$ 100 Legrands, Inc. St. Louis, MO 63109
- \$ 100 Michael McKay South St. Louis County 63125
- \$ 100 Jennifer Legrand South St. Luis County 63126
- \$ 96 Richard Chiodini High Ridge, MO

On March 31 he had \$660 in his campaign fund compared to \$29,555 in Plocher's account. If you like underdogs and long shots Schilligo might be your guy. But he will surely lose, unless Plocher gets involved with an intern or some other scandal that seems to be getting rather common place among West County male Republican state legislators.

Another reason to like Schilligo is that he is using cartoon characters from the early 1960 s on his facebook site.



Have no fear Underdog is here.



Augie Doggie and Daddy Doggie

DISGRACED STATE LEGISLATOR FORCED TO RESIGN OVER SEX SCANDAL IS SPENDING CAMPAIGN MONEY A MONTH AFTER THE RESIGNATION. What is he campaigning for? Is he using money to buy supplies for his insurance office?

Former State Representative Don Gosen was forced to resign in the middle of his fourth term in the Missouri House on February 18, 2016. He resigned over a sex scandal where he convinced a young woman from Jefferson City that he was divorced but in reality he was married, lived in Ballwin with a wife and three daughters. When we broke the story on this website, it also was determined that Gosen in 2015 had affairs with two other women at his Jefferson City apartment.

The key date for this is February 18. After that date he was no longer a member of the Missouri House and he was term limited from running for reelection. And in reality he was so tainted by a forced resignation it was not likely he would be viable running for any other elected position ever.

That is why his quarterly Ethics Commission finance report is so interesting. On January 1, 2016 he had \$94,603 in his campaign account. At the time of his resignation he had about \$90,000 in his campaign account. At the end of March he only had \$83,306. Let's see where Don spent that money and you decide if it was a legitimate expense or if it looked like Gosen was funneling some of the money into his own pocket.



| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--|
| 02/20/16 | \$2,400 | Dan Miller Campaign Consultant |
| 02/23/16 | \$ 255 | Telephone AT&T |
| 03/10/16 | \$ 300 | Razorball Glen Carbon, IL Disconnect Website |
| 03/10/16 | \$1,200 | Missouri Time Subscription renewal First of all if Gosen knew what was happening in his case and why he was forced to immediately resign or if he read our website article he would be aware that the young woman who was conned by Gosen into believing he was divorced went to a Jefferson City political news organization and that editor went to the Speaker of the House and threatened to run the story unless Gosen resigned. There are only two such web papers that match that description. Since he is no longer a member of the Missouri House this seems like this is a personal purchase and not related to a campaign. |
| 03/10/16 | \$ 967 | Best Buy Manchester, MO Campaign Publication Equipment What campaign does Gosen plan to run in? Of course this same equipment could make nice ads for a State Farm Insurance agent and Gosen's State Farm Office. |
| 03/10/16 | \$ 31 | Office Depot Ellisville Office Supplies He is no longer in elected office and is not a candidate for an elected office. Call me a cynic, but one has to wonder if these office supplies aren't for a State Farm Insurance Office in Wildwood. |
| 03/15/16 | \$2,267 | Dierbergs Campaign Office Space Rent |
| 03/15/16 | \$ 500 | Circle of Concern Charity Valley Park |
| 03/24/16 | \$2,400 | Dan Miller Campaign Consultant. (What can this guy advise Gosen other than don't do any interviews and don't file for any elected office until you legally change your name.) |
| 03/25/16 | \$ 103 | Amazon Printer Cartridges Again the place on March 25 that I can imagine Gosen using printer cartridges is at his State Farm Office. |

SPEAKING OF WEST COUNTY FORMER ELECTED OFFICIALS AND SEX SCANDALS. Former Speaker of the House and Town and Country resident John Diehl (Rep) can no longer find a job as a lawyer. He was forced to resign after sex texting and an affair with a 19-year-old staff intern in 2015 and having an affair with a member of Democratic Governor Jay Nixon's staff in 2014. We have been told that Diehl is now flipping houses in south St. Louis.



However Diehl collected well over \$1.5-million in campaign contributions when in power while only once having an opponent over eight years. He still has \$206,567 in the campaign account. He used to use these funds for out of state trips, hotels stays in Kansas City, even in Clayton and meals that had nothing with him campaigning in his West St. Louis County district. Plus he would list spending campaign funds on credit card bills.

He has not reported spending any money for the last six months. He currently lists "Statewide Office" with the ethics commission as his election goal in 2020 which is a laugh. Put a fork in Mr. Diehl. His days of being an elected official are over.

However it will be interesting to see what he finally does with the 200-grand he is holding on to.

THE PARKWAY SIX: Word we have picked up is that these six were not originally intending to hold up the two women roommates sharing the West St. Louis County apartment. They went there when they found out a teenage girl they alleged had stolen from them was going to be there. Of course they found this out thanks to one of the newer kid friendly social media sites. They decided to bring weapons to scare them, but while there ended up stealing from the tenants also (taking some marijuana too) and scaring the shit out everyone present. The other roommate was not there. Both women work at a local restaurant.



Another source told us that one of the Parkway West Students was funding a classmate and co-defendant in a marijuana dealing operation.

MANCHESTER SHOPPING CENTER NOW CHARGING CUSTOMER FOR REMODELING. PART OF THIS CONSPIRACY TO RIP YOU OFF IS THE MANCHESTER BOARD OF ALDERMEN. If you believe in principal like some of us do you might add a West County commercial area to a list of places to avoid.

I'm one of those people. I have not bought a drop of BP gasoline even when I'm driving a rental car in Europe, since the Gulf oil spill with the loss of human lives and countless wildlife and sea life because BP wanted to continue to violate US drilling laws to save money.



Many readers will not remember the Hyatt Regency Sky Walk collapse in 1981 in Kansas City that killed over 100 mostly senior citizens at a tea dance. Hallmark Cards owned the new building and leased it to Hyatt. Hallmark had created a bogus construction company which on paper was the low bidder for construction of the hotel. This was done to keep prices down and allow Hallmark to have total control in the construction. Shoddy construction used improper sized pins to hold the walkway above the lobby in place. On the Friday evening of the collapse as the band played on, the walkway was crowded with people watching the dancers under the walkway. The pins failed, the two 32-ton skywalks collapsed and killed 114 people, mostly grandfathers and grandmothers. Since this event I try to never buy a Hallmark Card.



The latest no shopping zone for me is the Lafayette Center in Manchester at the corner of Manchester Road and Baxter Road. This strip center anchored by a Dierberg's Supermarket and was built in 1978. This shopping center was built before the days of TIF, CID and TDD tax enhancements for developers.

Normally a landlord would maintain his existing property and improve it to keep rents up and renters happy. This is not the case at the Lafayette Center. George and Daniel Capps are the primary officers of Caplaco Six, Inc. in Creve Coeur that owns the property. (Daniel lives at 2 Chesterfield Lakes Road)

They have gotten the City of Manchester to declare the shopping center blighted.



These are recent photos. Does this place look blighted to you?

The Community Improvement Tax for this center adds 1-cent to the 8.36-percent sales tax, jacking it up to 9.36%. It could be in effect for 25 years to pay off the \$4.8-million remodel work plus interest.

Pat Gunn is the long time heartless city attorney of Manchester. He is probably the worst city attorney in St. Louis County even counting Harry O'Rourke in Chesterfield.

Here is what he said when this tax went into effect.

"This does not cost the city one dime. It costs the shoppers," said Gunn.

Gunn has apparently forgotten that the people shopping at a center with a large supermarket are city residents. Residents are the city and it will cost them not dimes

but millions of dollars. This is a clear case of municipal greed and a shakedown by the property owners with a threat to move out of town.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 170



April 26, 2016

WEDNESDAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING GOES FROM SMILES WITH PUNCH AND COOKIES TO NASTY:

It was the night of swearing in new council person, reelected old councilperson and goodbyes to losers and others.

The Hippie Judge makes his usual grand entrance. Rick Brunk, who won't convict dangerous and drunk drivers and give them points on their driver's license if they hire a local lawyer to defend you in his court, made his annual grand entrance. Brunk isn't in the council chambers at the start of the meeting. He waits in the hallway that runs along the side of the Council Chambers and when his name is called he makes a dramatic entrance wearing his robes.

Of course City Clerk Vickie Haas could swear everyone in but Brunk wants to make the grand egotistical entrance.



The one swearing-in of note was that of Barb McGuinness, who was appointed to fulfill five months of the late Nancy Greenwood's term. McGuinness then had to run for the remaining one-year of the term and got 60% of the vote. McGuinness' own husband was in the front row, but she insisted that her grand kids and Steve Greenwood, Nancy's husband, stand with her for the oath of office.

The council chamber was full with supporters of the councilpersons getting sworn in. Tom DeCampi got the loudest applauds after he took the oath of office.



When Tom DeCampi stepped up to be sworn in Connie Fults got up and left her seat on the dais.





L to R Randy Logan, Tom DeCampi, Guy Tilman, Barry Flachsbart and Barb McGuinness

There was a 25 minute break for punch and cookies and then the meeting began. (At this point you might want to take some No-Doz or skip to the next section)

First up were citizen comments. The first was from Pat Flynn who had lost to Guy Tilman. Flynn announced that he finished as the "silver medal" winner in a race that also included Lynn Schmidt.

Flynn directed his comments over how his election signs were seized on the day of the Presidential primary election at city hall, which was a polling place. The signs were seized by then Services Director Mike Geisel, who is currently the co-interim city administrator. Flynn quoted regulations that allowed his signs to be present on the Election Day.

"In his defense it was because of the city culture," said Flynn pointing out how the city leaders have not been following state law as they should.

Marsha McDonald then stepped up and reminded the council that voters want to be heard.

"They (residents) want the city council to be responsible spending money. Please don't repeat the mistakes of the past. Your voting records will be noticed," she said.

Next was Wade Wieser of the River Bend subdivision spoke. Wieser, a lawyer, told the council that Andy Shanfeld had no standing to file a letter threatening legal action if the city accepts subdivision easement right of way to make a turn-around cul-de-sac where they planned to close River Valley Road from entering Maryland Heights. There is

proposed legislation to spend \$144,000 to close the road before a planned industrial, commercial and multi-family projects are built in Maryland Heights which would funnel large amounts of traffic through the subdivision that is stalled over Shanfeld's threat.

Wieser than gave a number of legal reasons why Shanfeld had no rights of ownership in the easement.

Later in the meeting Randy Logan from Ward-3 would smirk and ask if he hadn't read somewhere the president of the Parkway School District had written the city requesting the gate closing off River Valley Road have an electronic opening feature so school buses could gain entry to the Maryland Heights' Howard's Bend flood plain in the event houses were built there.



That would set off Ward-1 Councilpersons Barry Flachsbart and Barb McGuinness. Logan was told that the narrow River Valley Road down past the last houses down to the city limits was grossly unsafe for school buses. Logan would have known this if he bothered to drive the road in his mid life crisis Porsche sports car. It appeared as if his comment was for the "smart ass effect" only.

Next, two of the the three women who are running against Councilman Bruce DeGroot for State Rep spoke and introduced themselves to the council and the remaining crowd.

Finally it was a parade of residents urging the council to do a national search for a new city administrator if for no other reason to prove that Mike Geisel is the best candidate. No one said anything bad about Geisel (other than Pat Flynn) but they all wanted a search to be done. A letter from the Parkway School School President was read by his wife, Robin Harris of the Monarch Fire Protection District and Norm Baxter the committeeman for the local Republican Township all spoke in favor of a search.



Mike Geisel getting a little hot under the collar early in the meeting as people said the council should not appoint him without a national search.

NEXT ON THE AGENDA WAS TO FIRE THE CITY ATTORNEY: The City Council voted to hire Chris Graville. As we have written in recent newsletters Graville has the same problems already in existence with the Chesterfield judge and prosecutor. He has so many similar jobs plus that as a defense attorney that conflicts are bound to arise. Graville is the judge in one city, city attorney in four cities and a prosecutor in seven cities, including nearby Ballwin.

I spoke with Graville after the meeting and he said he would be stopping his defense work because of taking the Chesterfield job. There is legislation pending to forbid the Chesterfield city attorney and future city judge and prosecutor from doing defense work in municipal courts in the region.

Graville was to start as the Interim City Attorney the next day on Thursday April 21, but he would end up giving legal opinions before the end of the meeting.

Meanwhile it was the last of Harry O'Rourke as Interim City Attorney and the first time since the city was founded that the city attorney was not from the law firm of Doug Beach and Rob Heggie. The only prior city attorneys in the history of Chesterfield have been Beach and Heggie. Both are now Juvenile Court judges in Clayton. O'Rourke works at the law firm and his area of expertise was family law not municipal law. It was O'Rourke who allowed the City Council to hire Kevin O'Keefe from the firm Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe without a contract to try and impeach Mayor Bob Nation for swearing in a closed office.

Then there was the 45-minute debate that involved some sandbagging.

In the new business section the soon to be out of a job Harry O'Rourke claimed the council had to appoint a city administrator to replace the interim. The appointment then

had to be approved by Mayor Bob Nation. If no one was appointed and approved then Nation would have to again appoint an Interim City Administrator until the next meeting.

Nation who wants a national search for a city administrator said repeatedly that if the council voted to hire a city administrator he would not approve the appointment and reappoint an interim city administrator.

Police Chief Ray Johnson and Services Director Mike Geisel were co-interim city administrators when the meeting started, but it was Geisel who was sitting in the city administrator chair on the dais. I asked Chief Johnson if they flipped a coin to see who would be on the dais. Johnson with tongue firmly planted in cheek, said they did and Geisel lost.

Then they two oldest member of the council both from Ward-One who had just finish a campaign working together, split on the issue.

Barry Flachsbart stated the Missouri Law required a city administrator to be selected and moved to name Mike Geisel the City Administrator. Randy Logan immediately jumped in and seconded the motion. I smelled a rat as if Flachsbart and Logan had rehearsed this before the meeting. Mayor Nation again repeated that they were wasting their time as he would not approve any selection with a selection search.



During this argument or debate that seemed to be led by Logan and Flachsbart, Nation invited Chris Graville who did not start as interim city attorney for another three hours.



Graville disagreed with Harry O'Rourke's opinion so he was off to a good start. He said to vote to appoint a city administrator would be a violation of the Missouri Sunshine Open Meetings Law because the vote was not posted 24 hours in advanced.

The Barb McGuinness made a motion to table Flachsbart's motion. Tom DeCampi seconded her motion.

O'Rourke then very incorrectly told McGuinness that to table the motion to appoint Geisel City Administrator would kill it. He suggested that the motion be that to continue it to the May 2 meeting. By tabling the move to appoint Geisel does not kill it as O'Rourke claims. It simply makes it so you have to bring it back on the table at one meeting so it can be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

So if we haven't completely put you to sleep, here are some of the back and forth on the night:

Logan: What is the time frame on the city administrator?

I would be interested to know if any other members would be interested in determining the city administrator tonight.

DeGroot: I'm Tired of kicking this down the road. The second thing is while I firmly remain convinced Mike Geisel would be best for the job, I would encourage a national search to be very quick.

Flachsbart: I will make a motion to make Mike Geisel the City Administrator.

Logan: I could not think of a two-day interview with another candidate that would result with a better person than Geisel.

Dan Hurt: If the people want validation of Mike Geisel, I say give it to them. It just that we need to get the search done quickly.

McGuinness: What is very very quickly?

Hurt: 60 to 90 days. (Hurt would repeat this several times and suggested the Council meet weekly if necessary.)

Flachsbart: (To Mayor Nation) You are in violation by appointing people. You are in violation right now. It is up to you to serve as city administrator.

Nation: I'm not in violation.

Flachsbart: (Now Yelling) Yes you are!

McGuinness: I don't want to have to vote against Mike Geisel. Bless his soul. (She would then make the motion to table the appointment as she wanted a search also. That would change to continuing it to the May 2 meeting.)

Nation: I have let it be known for months and months that I would not approve a city administrator until we have a full time city attorney to advise us on the the selection process. All we are doing now is wasting time.

Hurt: I agree. (On the wasting time statement.)

There was finally a vote to continue the motion to appoint Geisel as the fulltime city administrator:

Aye to Continue

Nay Not to Continue and to vote and violate the Sunshine Law

Tom DeCampi
Barb McGuinness
Bruce DeGroot
Dan Hurt

Bridget Nations
Randy Logan
Guy Tilman
Barry Flachsbart

The tie was broken by Mayor Nation voting to continue the matter.

Bob Nation's wife was in attendance for the meeting and swearing in. She is a surgical nurse and has to be in the operating room at 6am. At 9:30 as this dragged on and on with people in the chambers getting up and leaving as councilpersons on the dais kept repeating themselves, she took her silk scarf and made it look like a noose and that she was hanging herself instead of listening to more dribble. She then got up and left. It gave me a laugh.

This promised to be an interesting few months in selecting a full time city attorney and a city administrator.

MARCH CHESTERFIELD POLICE ACTIVITY AND CRIME MARCH 2016:

| CRIME | March 2016 | 2016 YTD | March 2015 | 2015 YTD |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------|------------|----------|
| Crimes Against Persons | | | | |
| Non-Force Rape | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Forcible Rape | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sex Offense | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Robbery | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Assault | 21 | 61 | 14 | 60 |
| BURGLARY | | | | |
| Residential | 1 | 7 | 4 | 7 |
| Business | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| LARCENY | | | | |
| Felony | 21 | 51 | 15 | 65 |
| Misdemeanor | 39 | 127 | 28 | 100 |
| Auto Theft | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Arson | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Checks/Fraud | 22 | 73 | 248 | 346 |
| Vandalism | 12 | 43 | 9 | 29 |
| Drug Violations | 9 | 29 | 5 | 21 |
| DWI | 12 | 29 | 11 | 40 |
| ARRESTS | | | | |
| Adult | 112 | 350 | 109 | 379 |
| Juvenile | 12 | 48 | 13 | 40 |
| TRAFFIC | | | | |
| Crashes | 145 | 419 | 138 | 381 |
| Injury Crashes | 23 | 79 | 25 | 65 |
| Warnings Issued | 627 | 1911 | 414 | 1079 |
| Parking Citations | 22 | 80 | 16 | 57 |
| Traffic Citations | 743 | 2397 | 764 | 2408 |
| Recovered Vehicles | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Radio Assignments | 4242 | 12764 | 4235 | 12238 |
| Alarms | 132 | 375 | 122 | 390 |

If you read the weekly Chesterfield Police Blotter you might remember an arson fire where a deck on a house was set ablaze with the use of a flammable liquid. That occurred on April 2 and should be on the April monthly report.

POLICE BLOTTER: Here are the calls and crimes from last week resulting in reports handled by Chesterfield Police with exception of DWI arrests:



CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT Media Report April 13, 2016 - April 19, 2016

Time of Occurrence Generic Address Business/Location Name Incident Type

04/19/2016, 1806 OLIVE BLVD & SWINGLEY RIDGE DR **Drugs Possession - Misdemeanor**
Brief Narrative Description: 34 yo male in possession of marijuana, paraphernalia, and narcotic paraphernalia after suspicious person investigation.

04/14/2016, 1212 18XX GATEMONT DR **Fraud Deceptive Sale/Advertising**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject sold victim fraudulent real estate property from out of state.

04/19/2016, 1245 -1500 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Chesterfield Mall **Larceny under \$500 from Auto**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took outside mirror off of victim's vehicle.

04/19/2016, 1203 6X RIVER BEND DR **Liquor Violation Minor In Possession**
Brief Narrative Description: Two 18 yo males were intoxicated and at underage party with alcohol.

04/08/2016, 0000 - 04/19/2016, 1300 16XX WISHWOOD CT **Larceny over \$500 from Residence**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took guitars from victim's residence.

04/17/2016, 1618 18XXX OUTLET BLVD Coach **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject concealed wallet and left store without paying.

04/18/2016, 1430 - 04/18/2016, 1600 13XXX FORESTLAC DR **Burglary Residential - Home**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject entered unlocked rear door of residence and took gift cards.

04/18/2016, 1200 4XX THF BLVD My Gym **Larceny over \$500 Person**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took victim's phone after it was left behind in business.

04/18/2016, 1346 4X CHESTERFIELD MALL Macy's **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject concealed hats and left store without paying.

04/18/2016, 1800 - 2200 4XX GRIFFITH LN **Harassment/Threat Texting**
Brief Narrative Description: 38 yo male sending unwanted text messages to ex-wife.

04/12/2016, 2000 17XX CLARKSON RD **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**
Brief Narrative Description: 44 yo male took alcohol and walked out of store without paying.

04/18/2016, 1245 17XX CLARKSON RD Dierberg's **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**
Brief Narrative Description: 26 yo female concealed food items and left store without paying.

04/18/2016, 1235 14XXX CLAYTON RD Circle K **Larceny under \$500 Gas Drive Off**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject pumped gasoline and drove out of gas station without paying.

04/18/2016, 1548 2XX THF BLVD Lowe's **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**
Brief Narrative Description: 38 and 37 yo male concealed nails and left store without paying. Also in possession of heroin and paraphernalia.

04/18/2016, 1833 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Claire's **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: 36 yo female concealed jewelry and left store without paying. After being contacted by police, subject ran away but was caught shortly after. Also in possession of heroin, paraphernalia, and other stolen property.

04/17/2016, 1515 17XXX CHESTERFIELD AIRPORT RD East Coast Pizza **Robbery Strong-Arm**

Brief Narrative Description: 24 yo male took tip jar from restaurant countertop. Upon exit, subject pushed employee out of the way causing no injuries.

04/17/2016, 0130 - 0230 15XXX COUNTRY RIDGE DR **Property Damage to Mailbox**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject damaged victim's mailbox.

04/16/2016, 1700-04/17/2016, 0930 19XX PINE RUN DR **Property Damage to Vehicle**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject broke out window on victim's vehicle.

04/16/2016, 2100-04/17/2016, 0636 19XX SQUIRES WAY CT **Larceny under \$500 from Auto**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject broke out window on victim's vehicle and took a purse. Purse later recovered down the street.

04/17/2016, 0200 - 0530 15XXX COUNTRY RIDGE DR **Property Damage to Mailbox**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject damaged victim's mailbox. Damage also observed on victim's vehicle which was parked in driveway.

04/16/2016, 2330 19XX PINE RUN DR **Assault Aggravated - Other**

Brief Narrative Description: 17 yo male struck victim in face after argument causing serious injury.

Subject conveyed himself to hospital and diagnosed with broken face bone.

04/17/2016, 1000 3XX RIDGEMEADOW DR **Trespassing Private Property**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subjects trespassed on victim's property.

04/14/2016, 1600 - 04/16/2016, 1930 15XXX TIMBER HILL LN **Property Damage to Mailbox**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject damaged victim's mailbox.

04/16/2016, 1837 2XX THF BLVD Babies R Us **Larceny over \$500 Person**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took victim's purse while she was shopping.

04/16/2016, 0813 1XX THF BLVD Walmart **Larceny under \$500 from Person**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took victim's purse from shopping cart.

04/15/2016, 2309 BURNHAM CT & WILDHORSE PARKWAY DR **Drugs Possession - Misdemeanor**

Brief Narrative Description: 19 yo male in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia after suspicious vehicle check.

04/15/2016, 0915 6XX BROADMOOR DR F **Missing Person**

Brief Narrative Description: 23 yo male with mental illness walked away from his residence. Later located in St. Louis City unharmed. Transported to hospital for evaluation.

04/15/2016, 2214 N WOODS MILL RD & OLIVE BLVD & WOODS MILL RD **Drugs Possession -**

Misdemeanor

Brief Narrative Description: 24 yo female in possession of marijuana after being stopped for a traffic violation.

04/15/2016, 1800 - 1845 14XXX WHITEBROOK DR **Assault Common - Actual Assault**

Brief Narrative Description: 73 yo male and 70 yo female struck each other after argument causing minor injury to the male.

01/07/2016, 1200-03/03/2016, 1200 2XX S GREENTRAILS DR **Fraud Credit Card**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used victim's credit card information to make purchases.

04/15/2016, 1045 1XX N EATHERTON RD The Crossings Church **Property Damage**

Brief Narrative Description: 33 yo male with unknown mental illness damaged church property.

Transported to hospital for mental evaluation.

04/15/2016, 1115 3XX N WOODS MILL RD Parkway Central High School **Liquor Violation Minor in Possession**

Brief Narrative Description: 15 yo female was intoxicated and in possession of alcohol while on school property.

04/14/2016, 1925 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Chesterfield Mall **Drugs Paraphernalia**

Brief Narrative Description: 25 yo male in possession of marijuana paraphernalia after suspicious vehicle investigation.

04/14/2016, 2335 22XX VILLAGE GREEN PKY **Assault Common - Actual Assault**

Brief Narrative Description: 51 yo female was intoxicated and struck victim in the face after argument causing minor injuries.

04/13/2016, 2045- 04/14/2016, 0300 2XX S WOODS MILL RD St. Luke's Hospital **Assault Common - Actual Assault Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject pushed victim after argument causing no injuries.

11/14/2015, 1700 - 04/08/2016, 0900 18XXX WINGS CORPORATE DR Precision Land Maintenance **Larceny over \$500 Business**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took lawnmower from rear of business.

04/07/2016, 1200 - 04/13/2016, 1000 17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Heavy Duty Equipment **Larceny over \$500**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took five riding lawn mowers from rear of business.

04/09/2016, 1430 - 1945 17XXX CHESTERFIELD AIRPORT RD 54th Street **Larceny under \$500 from Person**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took wallet out of victim's purse after it was left unattended in rear of restaurant.

04/12/2016, 2300 - 04/13/2016, 0600 14XXX RIDGE LAKE DR **Larceny under \$500 from Residence**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took decorative flags from front of residence.

04/13/2016, 1105 17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Foot Locker **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject grabbed clothing and ran out of store without paying.

04/13/2016, 1020 17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Sunglass Hut **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subjects concealed sunglasses and left store without paying.

04/12/2016, 2107 2XX THF BLVD Lowe's **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: 36 yo male took power tools and walked out of store without paying.

04/13/2016, 1045 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Victoria's Secret **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subjects grabbed clothing and ran out of store without paying.

04/13/2016, 0755 14XXX CLAYTON RD Parkway West High School **Drugs Possession - Misdemeanor**

Brief Narrative Description: 16 yo female in possession of marijuana while on school property.

04/13/2016, 1210 6X THF BLVD Dick's Sporting Goods **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject grabbed clothing and ran out of store without paying.

04/13/2016, 1341 OLIVE BLVD & RIVER VALLEY DR **Drugs Possession - Felony**

Brief Narrative Description: 19 yo male in possession of prescription medications after being stopped for a traffic violation.

Highlights from the police blotter included the 15 year old who was arrested at Parkway Central High School drunk and in possession of booze. You could be high on marijuana and some might think you are being moody or sleepy but when you show up drunk, everyone can tell you are drunk. In the 14000 block of Whitebrook a 70-year-old woman injured a 73-year-old in an assault at 6 pm on 4/15. In the 2200 block of Village Green Parkway a 51-year-old intoxicated caused injury when she assaulted someone on 4/14 at 11:35 PM.

ONCE IS NOT ENOUGH: Two weeks ago we awarded "The Rat of the Week" to a thief who stole the tip jar at East Coast Pizza located along Chesterfield Airport Road next to the Sonic Drive-In. He escaped without being identified or arrested. Then greed got hold of him and he returned for an encore on April 17 stealing the tip jar again and was caught after shoving a customer who tried to stop him.

He is Terrell Pearson of St. Louis. He has been charged with three stealing offenses, assault and resisting arrest, all filed in the questionable Chesterfield City Court.



When he shoved the person trying to stop him he committed the crime of Strong Arm Robbery. However that charge was not filed.

Pearson is currently on a five-year probation term since 02/19/15 for a Felony Possession of Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver case filed by the Normandy Police in 2013. He was arrested on a Probation Violation on this charge on 01/15/16 but was later released. A new Probation Violation Warrant was issued for the drug dealer on 03/25/16. He was arrested on that charge when the Chesterfield Police arrested him after the latest tip jar theft on April 17. What a fall from the pinnacle of criminals. Going from drug dealer to stealing tip jars.

CHESTERFIELD WOMAN HAS AN IMPRESSIVE MUG SHOT ARRAY FROM DRUG AND DRUG DEALING ARRESTS AS SHE IS BEING DEFENDED BY CHESTERFIELD PROSECUTING ATTORNEY. DOES THIS SEEM RIGHT TO YOU?

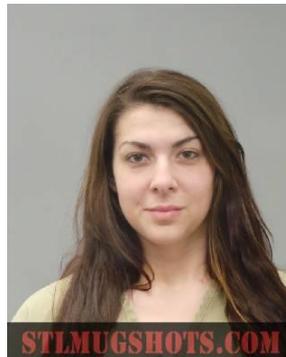
A prosecuting attorney is hired to protect the public and is on the proactive side of the criminal justice system. That is unless you live in Chesterfield. That is where the city prosecutor changes sides and is suddenly the defense attorney for city residents who are charged with felonies. Alyson Edwards, 22, of 18257 Wild Horse Creek Road Chesterfield is a good example.



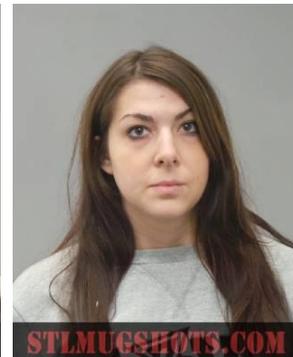
Sept. 25, 2015



Nov. 12, 2015



March 12, 2016



March 29, 2016

These are cases with formal charges pending or have been heard.

| | | |
|----------|--|---------------------|
| 11/11/15 | Felony Possession of Controlled Substance Defense Attorney Tim Engelmeyer | St. Louis County PD |
| 07/14/15 | Deliver or Attempt to Deliver Control Substance Defense attorney Tim Engelmeyer | St. Louis County PD |
| 09/17/12 | License revocation for fail to Take a Breath Test/DWI Attorney Tim Engelmeyer | St. Charles |

Here are arrests that don't list formal charges but indicate booking and mug shots involving Edwards:

| | | |
|----------|--|--------|
| 09/25/15 | Delivering Control Substance | Felony |
| 11/12/15 | Possession of Controlled Substance (not marijuana) | Felony |
| 03/12/16 | Domestic Violence Assault | |
| 03/29/16 | Possession of Controlled Substance (not marijuana) | Felony |

Councilman Barry Flachsbart has introduced a bill that would not allow a city prosecutor or Judge to also be a defense attorney in the immediate region. However that bill would only be subject to a prosecutor or judge who replaces Engelmeyer or city judge Rick Brunk. If it is an ethical problem for their replacements, why isn't it an ethical problem for them? (I have to say this; Flachsbart's bill, as ethically challenged as it is, is the only local legislation anywhere in St. Louis County attempting to reform Muni courts.)

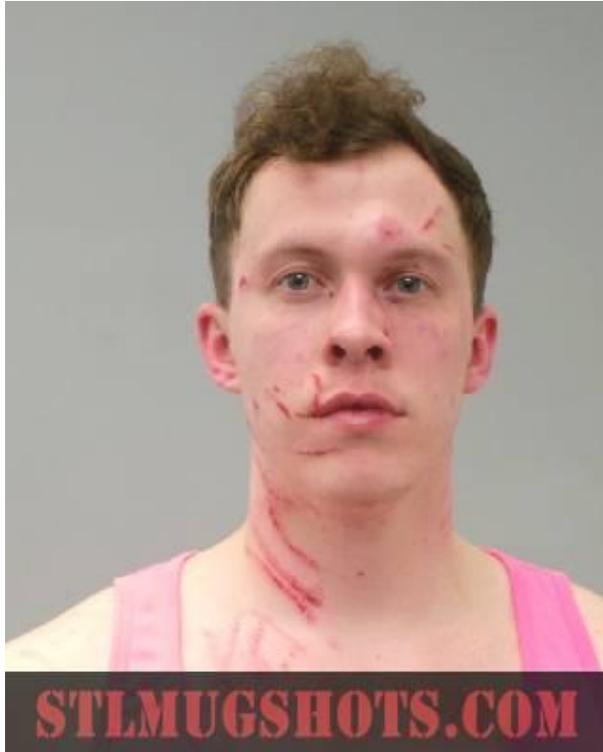
It might be time again for residents to contact the mayor and councilpersons about the local court where justice and protecting the residents is a mere afterthought.



Engelmeyer all smiles but regularly walks away from his duties

MUG SHOT OF THE MONTH: Zachary Kerr has a Chesterfield mailing address of Pine Canyon Court just inside Wildwood, MO off of Wild Horse Creek Road. (He does have a car registered to an Overland address.)

Kerr, a Lafayette HS grad was arrested on 03/27/16 for domestic violence. I'm guessing it took an hour for a woman to get all of Kerr's skin out from under her fingernails.



MEDIA WATCH: Town and Style Magazine missed the mark three times of knowing where things are in St. Louis County in a recent edition. Normally Bill Beggs, Jr. shows his lack of knowledge of West St. Louis County when he writes up items for the Talk of Towns section. He used to use news items appearing in other media and screw up what town they were in. His mistakes have been too numerous to list. Now the magazine seems to just write about upcoming civic events.

In the April 13, 2016 edition of Town and Style Beggs' name was not on the Talk of the Towns, so I don't know if this is his work or the work of the staff, but here are the mistakes:



When you open this section of Town and Style Magazine don't believe everything you read.

1) **Listed under Creve Coeur** was the Jewish Film Festival sponsored by the Jewish Community Center. First of all the JCC is not in Creve Coeur nor has it ever been in Creve Coeur. It is in unincorporated St. Louis County. Secondly the film festival is not being held at a movie theater in Creve Coeur, but the Landmark Theaters at Plaza Frontenac are in Frontenac, MO.



JCC is not in Creve Coeur



This movie box office is not in Creve Coeur

2) **They moved the St. Louis County Library headquarters from Ladue, Missouri to Frontenac Missouri.** Now let us get the city limits between Ladue and Frontenac straight. On Lindbergh Blvd going north from Litzsinger Road everything on the east side of the road including the County Library Headquarters is in Ladue. Everything on

the west side of the street including Plaza Frontenac is in Frontenac. Lindbergh Blvd itself is in Frontenac.



This is not in Frontenac

3) **They again claimed that the 569 acre Queeny Park is in Ballwin. Queeny Park is in unincorporated St. Louis County.** The only city that actually borders Queeny Park is Town and Country on three sides. The mailing address for the park offices off of Mason Road is out of the Des Peres, MO Post Office. The rec center on the Weidman Road side has a Ballwin zip code but is not close to Ballwin, with the City of Manchester and 19,000 residents sitting between the park and Ballwin. If you were going to pick a city to put Queeny Park near it would be Town and Country.



Ballwin.

This sign is not even remotely in or near

HOW OLD ARE YOU METER: Every year we all get littler messages sent to us telling us we are old or at last getting older.



Not counting medical issues, which have sent me more than a message that I'm old, last year I wrote about another incident. I was sitting in the metal stands in front of the announcer's box at Washington U where the visiting Webster University Gorloks were playing. I'm the PA announcer for Webster at the minor league ballpark on I-255 in Illinois, but on this day I decided to go to a game and just watch it. .



The man I was sitting next to was from Philadelphia and his son played for Washington U. I thought we were about the same age, or I might have been a few years older. But he thought otherwise, while not knowing my only interest in the game was because I was the PA announcer for Webster's home games, he asked me, "Which player is your grandson?" It made me feel old.

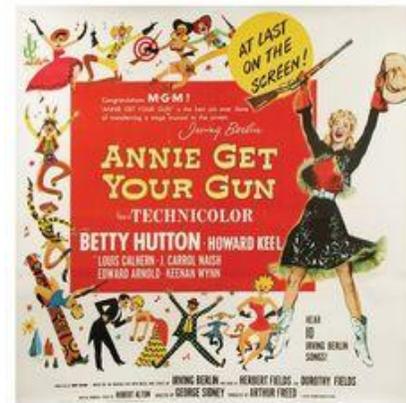
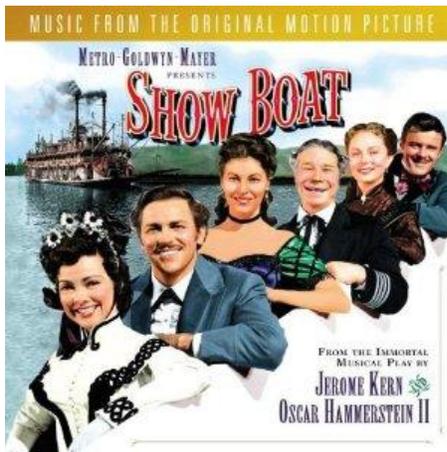
But when I left and got into my car, in my CD player was a disc with Henry Mancini featuring vocals by Lola Albright. For four years Lola played Edie Hart the jazz club singer and love interest of Peter Gunn on the detective series that usually always featured at least one jazz song sung by Albright. Ok, so that does show I'm old.



Lola Albright

So we move ahead to 2016. I'm in the press box doing the PA for the Webster U-Washington U game at GCS Ballpark. One Washington University starting player's last name was Kuehl. I was mispronouncing it as "Cue-ll". Someone from the Wash U staff came up to the press box to tell me the player's name was pronounced KEEL.

I immediately said, "Oh you mean like Howard Keel." Six people in the press box turned toward me and immediately asked "Who is Howard Keel."





I asked, "What? Have you never seen the movie Showboat or Seven Brides for Seven Brothers?" The answer was a blank stare, so I didn't mention any more. I am old!

RESTAURANT REVIEW: The Weber Grill at the Galleria:



About eight weeks after it opened my wife and me along with two neighbors went to the Weber Grill at the north end of the Galleria along Clayton Road in Richmond Heights.

This isn't the next Ruth Chris Steak House. They had college age kids working the hostess desk and as the wait staff. However, you could spend \$60 for the "Founders" 18 oz Prime NY Strip Steak. (Come on Weber Grill we are in Missouri. Couldn't you call it a Kansas City Strip Steak?) Don't worry we just ordered regular people entrée's.

The first obstacle of the evening was dealing with the greeter at the door. Our table of four was not a table but a booth. Neither the hostess nor her assistant took into account

the width of the booth seats and the girth of a 6-foot-3 300 pound human being. Once we retreated from the impossible to-sit-in booth we made it to a table. I don't understand restaurants wanting to squeeze booths like airlines squeeze your leg room in coach. Aren't fat people more likely to order more and generate more revenue?

Once at the table and before any order was made hot pretzel rolls arrived and they were delicious.



Only one of us ordered a salad. It was a gluten free Caesar salad (\$4; It might have been a little overpriced.). All the items ordered off the gluten free-menu were delivered by a member of the kitchen staff to make sure there were no mix ups.

The gluten free order was the Tuscan Brick Chicken with garlic mashed potatoes (\$18 dinner \$15 lunch). This received high marks.



My order was a BBQ combo of baby back ribs and brisket (\$21) that came with two sides. In my case it was the garlic mashed potatoes and green beans (the green beans came with a \$3 up-charge, which I will skip on the next visit).

The ribs were just the way I love them, but I know some people don't. The four ribs were meaty, moist and the meat fell off the bone. Some BBQ folks don't like them that

tender, but I love them that way. Next, the brisket was some of the best I have tasted. Better than Sugar Fire's brisket, but it was served on a plate and not wax paper like at Sugar Fire so that was a bit of a letdown (just kidding). The brisket was tender and moist but not fatty.

My mashed spuds came in a small bowl and were cold. The waiter replaced them quickly. The green beans were fine, but frankly no better than the ones I buy at the Dierberg's Deli and put in the oven at home.



My wife got the pulled port combination with baby back ribs with slaw and mashed sweet potatoes (\$18.50).



The pulled pork was unusual because every bite was tender and moist. At other places pulled pork often has a few dry pieces that can be tough to chew and even tougher to choke down. This was not the case at the Weber Grill. The Pulled Pork was a treat.

One order was of only the brisket with the traditional BBQ sides of slaw and bake beans (\$21). There was nothing but smiles about this order.



Our table was at a great location. It was near the open kitchen where we could watch the cooks add charcoal to the grills and prepare the meats.



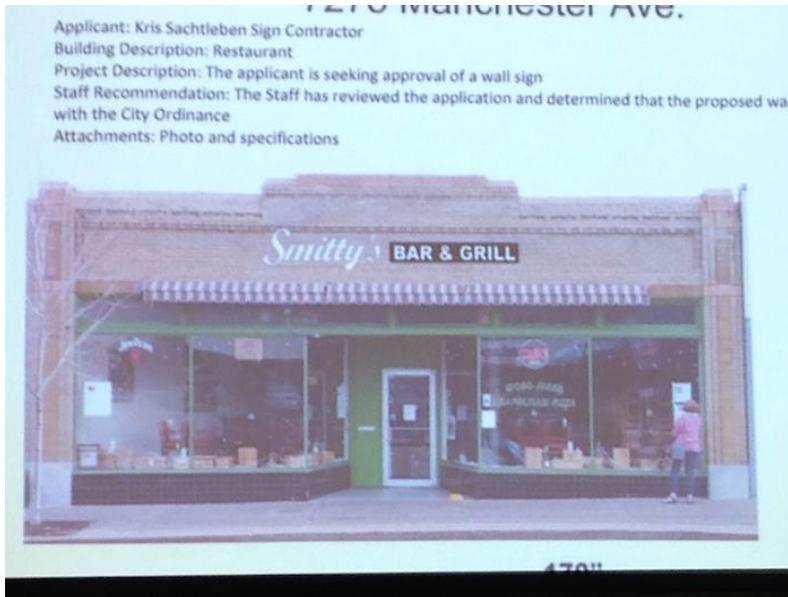
The people who had BBQ plates also got corn beard, which made for a great substitution for desert.

At our table there was only one go box that offered a diner a small lunch the next day. The nice thing is we were left full and not stuffed. I will still head to Charlotte's Rib on Clayton Road at Kehrs Mill for a sandwich, onion rings and homemade potato salad. But if I feel like I really want baby back ribs or brisket I will more likely than not go the opposite direction to Weber Grill. I just hope a table is available and not a booth.

SMITTY'S MAPLEWOOD LOCATION NOW ON SLOWER TRACK: The opening of a Maplewood location of the iconic Chesterfield Bar and grill featuring blue plate specials

has suddenly been placed on a slower track. We understand there has been a blow up between Smitty (Don Schmitt) and his new partner, Jim Quicksilver and that the partnership might be over.

The city of Maplewood had already approved the permit for the new sign which was the last step before opening. It had looked like opening would be in a couple of weeks. But what we hear now it could be a couple of months.



Proposed sign for Smitty's on Manchester.

Proposed sign for Smitty's on

MUSIC: I was on a tight schedule when I went up and listened to 30 minutes of the Trio Monaco at Il Bel Lago at 11631 Olive Blvd. in Creve Coeur two weeks ago. The group has a new vocalist, Gina Otto who replaced Chesterfield native Corrie Marks.

The thing I like about Trio Monaco is they do the opposite of many jazz groups. They have a stack of charts that they flip through without any long 5-to-10 minute solos. They can finish something from the American Songbook with a nice jazz beat in 3-to-4 minutes. This means in a 60-minute set I hear 12-to-15 songs. With some of the other groups I listen to, everyone in the group gets a solo on every song. While I enjoy this, once in a while I simply like to hear more songs. (Playing off charts you do miss the amusing creativity of some jazz musicians who while playing a solo suddenly play a few bars from a completely different song just to see if you are paying attention.)

Trio Monaco is back at Il Bel Lago on Saturday April 30 from 7 to 10 and at Truffles in Ladue on Clayton Road on Saturday May 7 from 9 pm to 1 am.



CARTOONS: Signs of the Times and Old Times.

