

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 235 AND CHESTERFIELD 180



By John Hoffmann

July 25, 2016

LOOK OUT WEST COUNTY! BOARD OF ELECTIONS IS EXPERIMENTING ON WEST COUNTY POLLS IN AUGUST BEFORE SHOOTING FOR A DISASTER IN NOVEMBER: It didn't take long. In July it was announced that St. Louis County was going to purchase \$2,100,000 worth of computerized tablets to be used at polls to check in voters. The vender Scott Leiendecker, owner of startup KnowiNK, just four months earlier had given a \$10,000 campaign donation to County Executive Steve Stenger.

Okay politics as usual. Here comes Stupid as usual. Last April the local elections were marred when the electronic voting machines were unavailable due to having been used in the March Presidential Primary. The Board of Elections then did not send out enough paper ballots to a number of polling places. In some case the shortage was obvious just within a hour after the polls opened. At other locations it was later in the afternoon the ballot shortage became apparent, including at one Ward-2 poll in Town & Country.

Now just four months later, they will be testing the new Poll Pad, an I-Pad 3 device that will be used to check voters in instead of the polling books. The test polls will be mostly in West County including the one at the Chesterfield City Hall.



I-Pad 3



Leiendecker

Stenger

Here is the bad news. After the August test in West County the Countywide breakout will be for the November Presidential/General election. Yes, a new voting system that has never been used before that the poll workers (many elderly) will be using for the

first time. There should be a huge turnout for this election. Is this the time to be training on a new voting system?

By waiting until the April 4, 2017 municipal elections where a voter turnout is normally in the 20-percent range instead of the 70-percent range of the Presidential election would make sense. But who thinks that the Steve Stenger administration and the current County Elections Board has much sense? The only other elections in 2017 are in August or November if there are issues (normally bond issues and tax increases). 2017 is a perfect time to break in a totally new system, not the Presidential-General election.

THE MOVE: Stenger administration had at one point hoped to move the Board of Elections from the centrally located offices in Maplewood, a block from a Metro Link stop and in between I-44 and I-64 to the former Northwest Plaza shopping center being rebuilt by another Stenger supporter after the November elections. We hear the Board of Election employees would prefer a move after the April 2017 election, when there will be a likely seven month period before the next election.

REHAB STOPS ON TOWN AND COUNTRY'S "TARA" AND OWNER IS NO SHOW FOR THE LAST TWO CODE HEARINGS ON THE PROPERTY. Clifford Frederick owns the house that faces Clayton Road just east of and the Special School District headquarters. At an April hearing before Code Inspector Neil Cantwell, Frederick was ordered to remedy a large list of issues with his house that has been vacant for five years.



Frederick, who has well over \$100,000 in judgments against him surprised some by saying he would start on fixing problems immediately and he actually did, but within five weeks work stopped altogether, which surprised no one.

Then there were two more hearings, one in June and one in July. He didn't show for either of those. While he did remove weeds that were growing out of the broken windows at his greenhouse, he had done no exterior work on the house itself.



Clifford Frederick

The broke Frederick has a history with abandoned houses. The house in Sanibel Florida at 1269 Par View was on the market last April for \$1,057,000, but the lot was overgrown as the house had been abandoned.



When we checked on it in July the weeds had been cut and the price dropped to \$1,032,525.

The latest hearing on Wednesday July 13, 2016 consisted of Cantwell acting as the hearing officer (judge) Laura Lowell as clerk and a court reporter who asked me my name. I told her it was "PUBLIC" and then spelled "public." She said she needed my name. I asked if the hearing was open to the public and was told it was but she still

needed my name. Finally Neil Cantwell and City Prosecutor Ed Sluys told her she didn't need my name. (see below)



The hearing started at 10 o'clock. Within 90 seconds the city prosecutor, presented as evidence two photos. The prosecutor could not authenticate, because it was the hearing officer (judge), Cantwell who took the photos 18 hours earlier. The photos show absolutely nothing had been done on the exterior by Frederick.





At 10:04 Cantwell announced he would be sending a letter to Frederick and closed the hearing. By July 21 the letter has been written but not yet sent, pending legal review.

THE RETREAT: There were three areas of discussion held at the recent 3 1/2-hour Saturday morning July 16th Board of Aldermen Retreat. We ran out of room in this edition of the newsletter but we will cover it in the next edition.

POLICE COMMISSION VOTES FOR DRAFT ORDINANCE TO BAN GOLF CARTS ON ALL CITY AND PRIVATE STREETS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. A year and a half ago the Town and Country Police Commission voted not to recommend allowing golf carts on any subdivision street other than in a totally gated community. They thought that put the end to the issue. But "NO" apparently does not mean NO to the likes of Randy Stevens and former alderdope, Tim Welby. This time it was only Welby speaking for golf carts and four people from the subdivision plus a stack of emails sent to Police Commission chair all against allowing golf carts on subdivision streets.



Tim and Randy in 2014



Tim all alone in 2016

Golf cart use is the vampire of the police commission. They kill it and less than 2-years later it comes back to life. This time they had two draft bills/ordinances prepared. One bill would allow golf carts if approved on subdivision streets and if the subdivision met a number of requirements including having a special lane dedicated to golf carts.

The other bill would outlaw golf carts completely from all streets outside of totally gated subdivisions.



Former emergency room nurse Susan Crandall made a motion to pass the bill outlawing golf carts on all city streets. It was seconded twice. The debate included member Jim Conrad still being for the golf carts. He claims Highway Patrol data that showed only five golf cart accidents in St. Louis County, however those five were all on state highways like Lindbergh Blvd and not side streets. Also accidents such as kids falling out of a golf-cart during a left turn, isn't normally written up as a traffic accident, but is considered an accidental injury. So Conrad's stats are extremely misleading.

New member Donald Sanders from Ward 1 and oddly enough ER doctor Martin Willman were also for the golf carts and against the draft bill/ordinance.

Attorney Alan Allred made the same spirited speech opposing the carts as he did in 2015. Allred said he thought it was stupid that the matter was even being discussed.

From the cheap seats Tim Welby was the only person speaking in favor of the carts. He said the Thornhill subdivision streets were safe and in the last 10 years there has only been one accident reported to the police. This year he did not say the golf carts were needed for "enhanced socialization," merely regular "socialization." No Thornhill trustee showed up.

THORNHILL HAS DANGEROUS DRIVERS ACCORDING TO BOARD OF

TRUSTEES: Member Susan Crandall then asked Welby if the streets were so safe why

did the Thornhill Estates Newsletters talk about how dangerous the streets are with people speeding and running stop signs.

from a 2016 subdivision newsletter:

... here are a couple of issues that constantly plague us ...

* As always ... please ***slow down as you travel through the neighborhood and stop at ALL stop signs***. As the weather warms up, we are seeing many more people out walking and jogging in the streets. Parents ... please talk to your kids as well

from a Dec. 2015 subdivision newsletter or email:

4) We continue to have folks driving irresponsibly in our neighborhood. Please slow down and **do not exceed 20 MPH on any street**. Please stop at every and all stop signs. If we continue to experience motorists who endanger our neighborhood, we will start bringing in Town and Country Police and add technology that will help curb this behavior. We do not want to do this but will be forced to pursue whatever means necessary to make our roads and children safe.

from a July 2015 subdivision newsletter

REMINDERS:

☑ SUMMER IS HERE - SLOW DOWN!

- **The speed limit is 20 MPH in Thornhill**
- **Many children are playing**
- **please also STOP at stop signs**
- **Make sure to ask your children and friends to also drive in a safe manner.**
- **We will start asking Town and Country Police to monitor our neighbor more closely.**

From July 2012 subdivision newsletter:

Please slow down when driving through our neighborhood, and ask the members of your family to drive carefully as well. We have a lot of small children in our subdivision and we want Thornhill to remain a safe place for children to play and ride their bikes.

From March 2012 subdivision newsletter:

• **Please slow down while driving through the neighborhood and stop at the stop signs, we are starting see a lot more children out and about as the weather warms up. Thanks !**

Resident Dale Emge then read from an insurance institute report on the amount of injuries and type of serious injuries connected with golf carts. Many are not related to collisions but children falling out of the carts during left turns and when hitting bumps.

My wife spoke on liability issues and Welby turned into a Ray Hartman who won't shut up on the TV discussion show Donnybrook. Welby despite already having his chance to talk started arguing with her. My wife was an insurance CPCU, who was a senior home office claims examiner who handled only claims of \$1,000,000 and above, many involving cities.

I spoke on simple traffic safety issues that I used to review for Montgomery County Maryland as part of my job, such as blind curves, blind hills, narrow streets. I also spoke of how the trustees' alleged resident surveys in 2014 were lies and when two residents knocked on every door in the subdivision they found 65% of the residents against golf carts. Some others were neutral and did not care one way or the other and some (the smallest numbers) were for them. This created more interruptions from Welby.

At 8pm a vote was taken. 5-to-3 to recommend to the Board of Aldermen that all golf carts be banned from all public access streets in the city.



The two RNs on the Police Commission Gussie Crawford (top) and Susan Crandall (bottom) voted against golf carts and to ban them from side streets.

NEW TOWN AND COUNTRY PHRASES HEARD AT MONTHLY WARD MEETING:

Here are some phrases I heard Tiffany Frautschi use when talking about other meetings in Town and Country over the last month, during Tiffany and Lindsey Butler's monthly morning meeting with residents at the Longview Farmhouse.

Proposed new home "**Are not a house but a lifestyle center.**" (I'm shocked that my wife and I can amuse ourselves in a mere 3,000 square foot house.)

New houses on an acre **are allowed 1000 sq ft garages** that don't count against the overall square footage of the house. (I am thinking you could move a family from the Hill, Dog Town or Dutch Town into a new Town and Country attached garage if their St. Louis City house was damaged by fire or a storm and they would have plenty of room.)

The Architecture Review Board wants to "ENHANCE" the planning process. (This means they want to screw with architects, builders and property owners more.)

NO SENSE OF HUMOR: During the Ward-2 monthly meeting the alderwomen were discussing the recent online survey (No bid \$17,700 survey in violation of city ordinance) and the Town Square Project (\$5-million boondoggle). One resident asked if the cost estimates were true and Tiffany said they were.

I then asked the following:

"Since some of our elected local leaders have insisted we were in desperate need for a 'gathering place,' if the Town Square is built will the city place signs here at Longview Park stating "For Gathering Please go 1/2 mile to the east to the Town Square"

Apparently the Park Department website is a Liar: Since according to Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton Town and Country's need for a "gathering place" is an overriding reason to purchase the 8.8 acres of the Wirth Property. However those statements by the mayor and others puts the statement on the Park Department website in serious doubt:

Located at 13525 Clayton Road, just west of Mason Rd, Longview Farm Park continues to be a leading attraction in Town & Country for both young and old. It is a place where our community gathers to make personal connections, promote healthy lifestyles and create memories.

Yes, the City is claiming that Longview Farm Park is a GATHERING PLACE, but Dalton and others say we need a "gathering place." I'm confused and the city is \$2.2-million poorer and soon to be \$5-million poorer when the Town Square completed.

POLICE CHIEF CHANGES HIS POSITION ON LADUE ROAD SPEED LIMIT: In April Town and Country Police Chief Pat Kranz told the Police Commission how MoDOT was trying to get Creve Coeur and Town and Country to lower the speed limit on their sections of State Road Ladue Road from 45 to 40. In April he was against lowering the limit.

Here is what Pat said in April:

At the April Police Commission meeting Chief Kranz mentioned that Creve Coeur was lowering the speed limit. He then said that MoDOT's accident information was grossly outdated and in fact there had not been a car crash on Ladue Road in Town and Country for over 2-years. He added that Town and Country does not have all the driveways and hidden driveways along Ladue Road and there are good sight lines at the five intersecting subdivision streets. He said he did not see any reason to lower the speed limit.

So when I saw that lowering the speed limit was on the agenda for the July Police Commission meeting I emailed Chief Kranz and asked why the change of mind. Here is his response:

From: Kranz, Patrick W. [mailto:KranzPW@town-and-country.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 9:22 AM
To: John Hoffmann
Subject: RE: question

[Here is the information I provided to the Commission members:](#)

Item D: Ladue Road Speed Limit Change

We had a brief discussion during our April meeting about the request from MODOT to consider lowering the speed limit on Ladue Road from 45 mph to 40 mph, based on a speed study conducted by MODOT. At the time I stated that MODOT's crash data was dated and we decided not to take any action regarding the request. I have since been re-contacted by MODOT and provided additional information in the form of the Speed Study (which is attached). The Study discusses 5 criteria used to make the recommendation: 1) Accident Rate; 2) Access to Driveways; 3) Traffic Control Devices; 4) Pedestrian Traffic; 5) Parking. Of these 5 criteria, Items 4 and 5 are not applicable to this area and as I previously stated the crash data cited in Item 1 by MODOT was dated. Regarding Item 2, in the area within Town and Country city limits there are a total of 4 private driveways from the Hunter Farms property, 5 streets (4 on the south side and 1 on the north side), and 2 other driveway entrances (Bellerive Country Club and Kirk of the Hills Church) for a total of 11 drives intersecting Ladue Road

in our approximate 1.3 miles of roadway. Regarding Item 3, there is a significant curve on Ladue Road west of Babler Road.

In addition to the above information, 2 of the 5 segments where the speed was measured were in Town and Country and had 85th percentile speeds in excess of the posted speed limit. The segment from 141 to Bon Chateau had an 85th percentile speed of 50.3 mph and the segment from Bon Chateau to Mason had an 85th percentile speed of 49.7 mph. Long story short, I am now supporting the MODOT request for a lowering of the Ladue Road speed limit to 40 mph. I will have a draft ordinance available at the meeting.

Patrick Kranz



Normally when the average speeds on a road go up, you raise the speed limit, not lower it. The request was passed by the Police Commission on a unanimous vote. It now goes to the Board of Aldermen.

LOOKS LIKE WELBY IS THINKING ABOUT RUNNING AGAIN When Tim Welby decided not to run for reelection in 2015 he made the announcement that he was done with politics. He then wrote a mean spirited campaign letter for his buddy Tim Walsh who was running against Tiffany Frautschi, accusing Frautschi as being a Town and Country newcomer who didn't know what was going on. First this was from a guy who grew up in North County. Secondly the reason Frautschi wasn't a ten-year resident was because her husband was serving as a fighter pilot and the wing commander in the U.S. Navy. (Plus Tim's guy, Walsh was just a seven year resident. Frautschi won easily helped by Welby's negative letter that pissed people off.)

Now it looks like Welby might be thinking about running again in 2017 as he has started showing up at meetings. The former alderdope might be in for a bigger surprise than

when I beat him, if he would file against Frautschi. I beat him by 3 votes. I think Tiffany could easily beat him by 200 votes.



Welby at the most recent Town and Country Aldermanic meeting.

A LONG, LONG WAY FROM HOME: We couldn't help but notice this grossly overpriced West County EMS and Fire Protection District ambulance on the parking lot of the Lion's Choice fast food eatery in eastern Des Peres on July 11. Back in 2006 when the Fire District was trying to annex the City of Town and Country into the District instead of working on the existing contract they had just signed with the City. An annexation would have fattened the Fire District's coffers and cost most residents over a thousand dollars in new taxes. Then fire chief Dave Frazier was preaching the importance of response times.



They claimed they would use the windfall of money to build a second firehouse in Town and Country and of course hire more union firefighters/paramedics. Mayor Jon Dalton had been on the Fire District payroll in 2005 as a lobbyist. He said nothing until residents were forming organizations to stop the annexation with Dalton next on their hit

list. He got the district to withdraw the annexation, but warned residents it would be back. It has not returned.

But when I saw this \$600,000 ambulance at a fast food place (I'm guessing there were at Lion Choice...they could have been at the Three Kings Pub for all I know) I thought about response times. I found out that Ambulance 3517 is assigned to the WCEMS&FPD Main Fire Station at Henry Road one block from Manchester. It was way out of its coverage area. If this is what these employees now think of the importance of being in their coverage area I have to wonder about the entire organization. If it was so important in 2006, why isn't it so important in 2016?

TOWN AND COUNTRY REAL ESTATE: ANOTHER ONE BITS THE DUST: The Truex's house on Thornhill Drive was an original with the original owners from the early 1960s. Both of the Truexs died in the last two years. When it first went on the market it was hard to get a photo of the front of the house due to trees. Here is one from the side of the house I took almost a year ago. No plans for the news house have been filed yet.



Here is a photo from last week. The house is gone and so are the trees.



Notice all the trees are gone.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 180



July 25, 2016

CHESTERFIELD PARKS COMMITTEE VOTES TO TABLE CITY FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO GREEN TRAILS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND The

July 11 Parks Committee meeting was the first meeting of the committee in seven months. It almost did not happen. The committee is made up of the Chair Barb McGuinness, Guy Tilmann, Tom DeCampi and Dan Hurt. It was scheduled to start at 5 PM.

At 5 o'clock it was just McGuinness, Tilmann, Parks Director Tom McCarthy and a staffer. They were one short of having a quorum.



It was decided to declare No Quorum and go home if no one showed up by 5:05.

At 5:03 Tom DeCampi came through the door and the meeting started. Councilman Dan Hurt never did show. Mayor Bob Nation and Co-Interim City Administrator Mike Geisel showed up at 5:25 thinking the meeting was for 5:30.

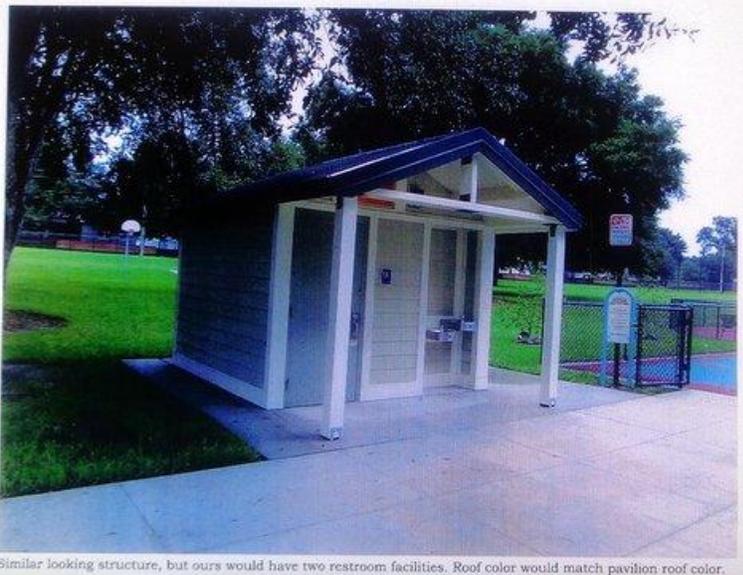


Tom DeCampi arrives just in time.

Proposed Playground Improved with City Funds at Green Trails Elementary School gets tabled. Parks Director Tom McCarty put on a presentation where the Parkway School District and the City Parks Department would split the costs of the \$335,329 improvement to the school's playground, with the public being able to use the facility after school was over for the day and on weekends.

The improvements included a pavilion and a Anti-Obama restroom with separate facilities for both sexes.





Similar looking structure, but ours would have two restroom facilities. Roof color would match pavilion roof color.

The proposal would be for two of these toilet facilities similar to this one.

McCarty said the only pavilions the park department can rent out all are at the same park and if there is a concert or special event there would be no parking and constant interference from passerby traffic if someone wanted to hold a family event.

Councilwoman McGuinness, who represents Ward 1 where Green Trails School is located, expressed two basic concerns. The school is out of the way and hard to find. The other was that the playground abuts homes in the subdivision and while kids from these homes could enjoy the improved playground, pavilion rentals for events and increase playground use could be very disruptive to the neighbors.

There was a third issue, being the \$167,664 from the City of Chesterfield while the Parks Department is currently using fund reserves for normal operations.

McGuinness moved to table the proposal. If something is tabled it cannot be brought up at the next meeting, but has to be voted on to return to the agenda at the next meeting for the meeting after that one. Since this committee has been meeting only twice a year, the tabling of the item would basically kill it.

Tom DeCampi seconded the motion to table the proposal. The vote was McGuinness and DeCampi for tabling it and Tilman against.

CRICKET PITCH: The request for a cricket pitch was discussed with numbers presented. A large group of residents many who appeared to have India heritage made a request for Cricket pitches. Cricket is popular where there was a strong British

influence in the 1900s. The India national team is one of the best in the world. It is also popular in Australia and on Caribbean Islands once controlled by England.

If the city was to provide a pitch it would be on land that is already owned and used by the Park Department. It was said land on the other side of the Missouri River flood levee was available that had been used for small fry practice baseball and football. The estimated cost to turn it into a Cricket field was put at \$11,800. The costs would include concrete which would then be covered in Astroturf for the pitching, batting and running areas.

Since it is on the river side of the levee it would be effective by flood waters once or twice every ten years.

"There was some discussion we should build the field and they play for free," said Mike Geisel. "That won't happen," he added.

The current rental fees are \$34 an hour for practice on a field and \$66 an hour for games. Some organizations that that are part of the group that pays huge amounts to guarantee field times and dates are discounted on the hourly rate.



Doorack Property: The Doorack property (empty lot) at the edge of Chesterfield Valley, that the City has been paying \$85,000 a year to rent since 2009 with no use and an option to buy for \$1,000,000 in 2019 was brought up to see if there was a Park's use for the unused vacant lot. This topic was quickly killed by Mike Geisel.

"This should go before the F&A Committee (Finance and Administration). Chris (Interim City Attorney Chris Graville) may like this to go to "Executive Session (closed secret meeting)," said Geisel.

This is too bad since the Council and then City Administrator hid the lease agreement from the public back in 2009, everything about this property should be discussed in the open.



The Doorrack \$85,000 a year vacant lot.

Bike Rentals: Parks Director Tom McCarthy mentioned that the city is looking into a possibility for bike rentals at one of the outlet malls so people can ride on the Levee Trail. He added this was in the very early stages.

CHESTERFIELD FINANCE 101 3-HOUR MEETING JUST IN TIME AS BIG SALES TAX PRODUCER CHESTERFIELD MALL IS SUED BY LENDERS TO GO INTO RECEIVERSHIP: Co-Interim City Administrator Mike Geisel declared the 3-hour long lecture on the project revenue for Chesterfield through 2022 as a "wake up call" and "Finance 101." Geisel said the city could be in big trouble if there was a drop in sales tax revenue. He also pointed out that elected officials had not been made aware of some finance issues in the past (meaning under long time city administrator Mike Herring).

Two weeks later The U.S. Bank on behalf of investors is suing Chesterfield Mall, LLC and is asking for a court order allowing a Washington, DC based retail management firm to take over the management of the mall.

CBL, the Company that owns Chesterfield Mall, LLC reported a loss on impairment at \$100,000,000 and values Chesterfield Mall at \$63,000,000.



The sad thing isn't that competition from the two Outlet Malls has hurt sales at Chesterfield Mall. The sad thing is that the City Council under Mayor Bruce Greiger with votes from Connie Fultz, Derek Grier, Mike Casey, Elliot Grissom, Matt Segal and Randy Logan created unfair competition. Then Councilman Bob Nation was absent and Barry Flachsbart voted against the CID Tax of 1-cent on the dollar going back to the developer.

I wrote at the time for Patch.com that this was a slap in the face to Chesterfield Mall that had given the City its biggest sales tax revenue for years. By giving Premium Outlets a 1-cent tax to the developers and giving Taubman Outlets a 1/2-cent sales tax to the developers to pay for the projects was grossly unfair to Chesterfield Mall, which was built without any tax assistance. Former mayor and councilwoman, the late Nancy Greenwood spoke out against these taxes. The pro-development at any cost block of Logan, Grier, Fultz, Casey and Grissom ruled the day.

Now Mike Geisel's warning is coming true.

It is too bad the the Finance Committee Chair Bruce DeGroot did not attend the seminar and failed to represent his constituents. He decided campaigning for State Rep was more important, promising people who answered the door how he was going to give them great representation. Unfortunately he was not giving the people who elected him to the council any representation at times.

I asked DeGroot why he missed the meeting. He would not give me a straight answer. Instead he said he "had other commitments."



POLICE BLOTTER: Here is what the Chesterfield Police were up to last week.

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

Time of Occurrence Generic Address Business/Location Name Incident Type

07/18/2016, 2100 - 07/19/2016, 0745 16XXX WESTBORO CIRCLE DR **Larceny over \$500 from Auto Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject broke window on victim's vehicle and took a laptop computer.

07/11/2016, 1420-07/18/2016, 1400 22XX HILL HOUSE RD **Larceny over \$500 Person Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took silver dollar coins from victim's mailed package.

07/18/2016, 1630 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Sephora **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting Brief Narrative Description:** 20 yo female concealed cosmetics and left store without paying.
07/16/2016, 1200-1400 16XXX LYDIA HILL DR Chesterfield Aquatic Center **Larceny under \$500**

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

07/18/2016, 1430-2000 13XXX OLIVE BLVD Valvoline **Larceny under \$500 from Auto Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject entered victim's unlocked vehicle and took cash.

07/18/2016, 2329 N WOODS MILL RD & OLIVE BLVD & WOODS MILL RD **Drugs Possession - Misdemeanor**

Brief Narrative Description: 22 yo male in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia after being stopped for a traffic violation.

07/17/2016, 0014 LADUE RD & WOODSMILL RD **Drugs Possession - Felony**

Brief Narrative Description: 21 yo male in possession of Xanax after being stopped for a traffic violation.

07/16/2016, 0635 21XX PARK FOREST DR **Drugs Possession - Felony**

Brief Narrative Description: 36 yo male in possession of methamphetamine, marijuana, and marijuana paraphernalia after suspicious vehicle check.

07/14/2016, 1900 - 07/16/2016, 0630 18XX BUCKINGTON DR **Burglary Residential - Garage Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject entered victim's unlocked vehicle which was parked in open garage and took a radar detector.

07/14/2016, 1600 - 2300 16XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Ice Complex **Larceny under \$500 from Auto**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took license plate off of victim's vehicle.

06/20/2016, 1133 1XX THF BLVD Walmart **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject concealed cell phones and left store without paying.

07/16/2016, 1905 17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Taubmann Outlet Mall **Possession of Stolen Property Clothing**

Brief Narrative Description: 22 yo female in possession of stolen clothing and prohibited theft device after suspicious vehicle check.

07/15/2016, 1155 4X THF BLVD Target **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: 29 yo female took laundry detergent and walked out of store without paying.

07/02/2016, 0930-07/14/2016, 1300 7X BURNING TREE DR **Burglary Residential - Garage Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject entered victim's open garage and took golf clubs.

07/14/2016, 1930 - 07/15/2016, 0530 22XX VILLAGE GREEN PKY **Larceny under \$500 from Auto**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject entered victim's unlocked vehicle and took bridle, sandbag, and weight vest.

07/14/2016, 1028-1033 4 X THF BLVD Target **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: 29 yo female took laundry detergent and walked out of store without paying.

07/15/2016, 1140 1XX THF BLVD Walmart **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took display case cell phone and left store without paying.

07/15/2016, 1520 9XX E CHESTERFIELD PKY BP **Larceny under \$500 Gas Drive Off**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject pumped gasoline and drove out of gas station without paying.

07/14/2016, 0830 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL B&B Train Tride Company **Larceny under \$500 Business**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took television from business kiosk.

07/15/2016, 1617 15XXX HEDGEFORD CT 13 **Fraud Scam**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject attempted to convince victim to send money for fraudulent IRS payment scheme.

07/15/2016, 1840
07/15/2016, 1840 6XX HIGHLAND PARK DR F **Assault Common - Actual Assault**
Brief Narrative Description: 45 yo male pushed victim after argument causing no injuries.

07/15/2016, 2000 18XXX OUTLET BLVD **Property Damage Clothing**
Brief Narrative Description: 22 yo male damaged clothing in an attempt to remove the clothing from display counter. After subject left store, subject was stopped by officer and struck officer in the chest. Subject resisted arrest and was in possession of prohibited theft item. Subject was taken into custody and no injuries were reported.

07/15/2016, 2000 4X CHESTERFIELD MALL Macy's **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**
Brief Narrative Description: 17, 15, and 14 yo females concealed clothing and left store without paying. 17 yo female also in possession of marijuana.

07/15/2016, 2044 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Finish Line **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**
Brief Narrative Description: 32 yo male concealed clothing and left store without paying. Also in possession of stolen clothing and prohibited theft device.

07/14/2016, 0950-1000 1XX THF BLVD Walmart **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**
Brief Narrative Description: 20 yo female concealed cosmetics and left store without paying.

05/13/2016, 0000-05/19/2016, 0000 14XXX DEERHORN DR **Fraud Identity Theft**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used victim's information to open up credit card account.

07/14/2016, 2008 17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Sunglass Hut **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject concealed sunglasses and left store without paying.

07/14/2016, 2100 17XXX CHESTERFIELD AIRPORT RD Espino's **Drugs Paraphernalia**
Brief Narrative Description: 23 yo male in possession of marijuana paraphernalia after suspicious vehicle check.

07/14/2016, 1200 OLIVE BLVD & I64 HWY W **Assault DWI**
Brief Narrative Description: 30 yo male was intoxicated and caused a vehicle collision resulting in moderate injuries to victim.

07/12/2016, 1200 17XX SPRING BRANCH CT **Larceny over \$500 from Residence**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took two jewelry boxes containing jewelry from victim's residence.

07/12/2016, 2230-07/13/2016, 0300 16XX WISHWOOD CT **Stolen Vehicle Automobile**
Brief Narrative Description: 23 yo male took victim's vehicle which was parked in apartment parking lot. Vehicle recovered in Florissant, MO.

07/13/2016, 1136 5XX CORLEY DR **Fraud Scam**
Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject convinced victim to wire money for fraudulent IRS payment scam.

07/01/2016, 1700 - 07/12/2016, 0800 18XX CLARKSON RD Bull Moose Tube **Larceny over \$500 Person**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took camera equipment from office area.

07/13/2016, 1340-1348 1XX THF BLVD Walmart **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: 23 yo female concealed cosmetics and left store without paying.

07/13/2016, 1440 17XXX CHESTERFIELD AIRPORT RD Buffalo Wild Wings **Fraud Credit Card**

Brief Narrative Description: 27 yo male used fraudulent credit cards to purchase gift cards from business. Subject also in possession of multiple fraudulent credit cards and ID's.

FOLLOW THE MONEY: Looking at contributions over \$100 in the local races we found a majority of contributions coming from outside of the candidate's district.

101st District:



NOREEN MCCANN: McCann leads this race in endorsements. She is also doing a good job getting cash. She started the second quarter with \$8,216 in the bank and then raised \$21,500 from April 1 to June 30.

McCann is being backed by many local Republicans, some who are far right wingers. 96-percent of her second quarter contributions (\$20,550) came from outside of her district. That is good and bad. It is good because she is not bothering local residents for contributions. That is bad because she is being bankrolled by out of town special interests. Keep in mind her district covers parts of Chesterfield, Wildwood, Clarkson Valley, Ballwin and Ellisville. Here are contributions above \$200:

06/23/16	\$10,000	David Humphreys	Joplin, MO	Tamko Building Products
06/30/16	\$ 5,000	Menlo Smith	Frontenac, MO	Sunmark Capital
04/20/16	\$ 1,000	Joan Langenberg	Ladue, MO	
06/30/16	\$ 1,000	Eagle Forum	Alton, IL	
06/30/16	\$ 1,000	Najla Lataif	Bonita Springs, FL	
06/07/16	\$ 500	Bob and Nancy Lee	Libertyville, IL	realtors
06/24/16	\$ 500	John O'Brien	Creve Coeur, MO	Owner ADS, Inc
06/30/16	\$ 500	Kathryn Kieran	Hinsdale, IL	
06/09/16	\$ 250	Anne Gribbin	Washington, DC	
06/12/16	\$ 250	Jeanne Schlafly	Des Peres, MO	

06/30/16	\$ 250	Andrew Schlafly	Far Hills, NJ	attorney
06/30/16	\$ 250	William Short	Ojai, CA	attorney
04/23/16	\$ 200	Jean Rozycki	Chesterfield, MO	retired

McCann's largest expense went outside of the St. Louis region and the State of Missouri and local sales taxes were not collected in Iowa by Victory Enterprises in Davenport for website design, signs and other promotional items totaling \$5,354.



ANNE GASSEL: Gassel raised \$6,900 in the second quarter. 85-percent of Gassel's second quarter contributions came from outside of her district and many from outside of the Metropolitan area. Gassel also generated money and jobs for people far away instead of in the metro area when she had her door hangers produced in Waltham, MA. Here are her contributors in the 2nd quarter giving \$200 or more:

06/20/16	\$ 1,200	Roy Pfautch	St. Louis, MO	Political Consultant
06/27/16	\$ 1,000	Jim Plunkett	Liberty, MO	
04/10/16	\$ 500	Richard Pharo	Winchester, MA	Retired
06/17/16	\$ 500	Rebecca Roeber	Lee's Summit, MO	(State employee)
06/04/16	\$ 400	Independent Electrical Contractors	Bridgeton, MO	
04/04/16	\$ 300	Wayne Cooper	Williamsburg, KY	
06/30/16	\$ 360	Jim Cooper	ballwin	(In-Kind) consultant
06/30/16	\$ 300	Lou Schreier	Clayton, MO	AMF Electric Co
06/23/16	\$ 250	John King	Zoning Lawyer	Clayton, MO
06/03/16	\$ 200	Committee to Elect Dean Dohman	La Monte	MO
06/23/16	\$ 200	James Miles	Wildwood, MO	retired
06/29/16	\$ 200	Gene McNary	Ladue, MO	



JOY KRIEGER: The candidate from Ellisville raised \$4,684 in contributions in the second quarter. Only 44-percent of Krieger's contributions came from outside of the district. Plus all of her campaign expenses so far have been made with businesses in Missouri.

04/01/16	\$ 1,000	Brenda Ernst Chesterfield, MO retired
05/02/16	\$ 1,000	James Hoffmeister Clayton, MO
05/12/16	\$ 500	William and Pamela Reichhardt Chesterfield, MO
05/09/16	\$ 250	Sanofi US Services, Employees PAC Bridgewater, NJ
05/17/16	\$ 250	Paul and Elke Koch Oakville, MO
05/26/16	\$ 250	Lon Lowrey Consulting Florissant, MO
05/01/16	\$ 215	Joy Kreiger (the candidate)
05/26/16	\$ 200	Richard Crismer Clayton, MO



BRUCE DEGROOT: DeGroot is the only candidate claiming a sizable amount of contributions under \$100 where he does not have to report the name of the contributor. In the second quarter DeGroot claimed \$2,672 in small contributions.

He reported only four contributions of over \$100. Three of the four came from places very far away from DeGroot's district. 49-percent of DeGroot's money came from outside of the district in the second quarter. This report also shows that his campaign is \$11,349 in debt. That is interesting. DeGroot, who is a City Councilman in Chesterfield was knocking on doors instead of attending the 3-hour long special financial meeting reviewing Chesterfield's upcoming cash flow issues through 2022. DeGroot abandoned the people he was elected to serve to try and get elected somewhere else. Oh Yeah! DeGroot is the chair of the City of Chesterfield's finance committee.

04/30/16	\$ 1,500	Friends of Caleb Jones California, MO
06/30/16	\$ 500	Chris Molendorp Belton, MO
05/04/16	\$ 300	Citizens for Connie Fultz Chesterfield, Mo
06/30/16	\$ 250	Steve Wollman Sioux Falls, SD retired

DENNIS LAVALLEE The Democratic candidate who is unopposed in the primary to run in one of the most Republican districts in the entire state, currently has \$1,120 in his campaign account. \$1,000 is a loan he made the the campaign. Matthew Robinson, the mayor of Hazelwood gave him \$100 and a retiree from Eureka gave him \$20.

100th District The race in the 100th district that covers parts of Town and Country, Chesterfield, and Manchester will be decided at the August primary because no one filed to run as a Democrat.



MIKE ALLEN: Mike Allen, a land developer and husband of current State Rep. Sue Allen raised \$4,615 in the second quarter to go with the \$31,555 he had on hand at the start of the second quarter. He continued to raise money from some of his wife's regular contributors in the health care industry, banking, builders, casinos and other interesting folks.

06/23/16	\$ 1,000	Cerner Corporation	North Kansas City, MO
04/02/16	\$ 750	Napoli2	Town and Country
06/13/16	\$ 750	Pinnacle Entertainment	Las Vegas, NV
06/15/16	\$ 750	Supporters of Health Research	Clayton, MO
05/27/16	\$ 500	Missouri Bankers Association	Jefferson City.
06/22/16	\$ 500	Gateway Civil Liberties Alliance	(2nd Amendment Gun rights)
06/22/16	\$ 500	Missouri Dental PAC	Jefferson City, MO
06/08/16	\$ 325	Home Building Industry PAC	Creve Coeur

94% of Allen's contributions came from outside of his district. If you look at all the special interest groups giving money in this quarter and in the prior two quarters Allen would be the last guy you would want to for until you see his opponent.



DEREK GRIER: The former Chesterfield councilman, a Christian Scientist educated at Principia High School and College, who doesn't believe in doctors or hospitals but wants to be in the state house and vote on health care issues plus has worked for developers for the last five years, is Allen's opponent. Grier raised an impressive \$10,131 in the second quarter.

04/05/16	\$ 1,000	Joseph Weber	Atlanta, GA retired
04/08/16	\$ 1,000	J. Elwood Towle	Town and Country, MO
04/15/16	\$ 1,000	St. Louis Assoc of Realtors	Creve Coeur

05/27/16	\$	970	Ed Shaheen Ladue, MO	Orthodontist
06/16/16	\$	680	George Kapps Chesterfield, MO	Construction
04/21/16	\$	500	Kevin Dooley Chesterfield, MO	Insurance
04/29/16	\$	500	Missouri Realtors Columbia, MO	
05/24/16	\$	500	Herb King Wildwood, MO	Investor
04/18/16	\$	485	John Qualy Clayton, MO	retired
06/16/16	\$	250	Josh Benson Ladue, MO	photographer
04/05/16	\$	200	Betz-Hacket Homes Wildwood, MO	home builder
04/15/16	\$	200	William Fravel, Jr. Jupiter, FL	retired
04/30/16	\$	200	Citizens for Connie Fultz Chesterfield, MO	
05/26/16	\$	200	Peter Switzer Town and Country	Construction
06/16/16	\$	200	Cole McNary Chesterfield, MO	Dog trainer (former state rep)
06/16/16	\$	200	Merle Schneider St. Charles, MO	realtor
06/15/16	\$	150	Jim Ladlie Troy, MO	Retirement Investments Counselor
06/15/16	\$	150	J. Al Vellinga St. Charles, MO	retired
06/17/16	\$	150	Crowder Construction Valley Park, MO	
06/21/16	\$	150	David Beaman Eureka, MO	

While most of Grier's contributions came from Missouri, 92% of his second quarter contributions came from outside of his district. Grier is a realtor for a home builder and got lots of contributions from special interests associated with builders and realtors, plus a number of contributions tied to Principia.

My problems with Grier is that the time on the city council he rarely seemed to have a clue, plus his outward rudeness toward Mayor Bob Nation. Also in the winter of 2015 he grew an unkempt beard, often had a faraway look in his eyes and did not seem to be very communicative. He did not run for reelection for the City Council and announced he wanted to spend more time with his family. Two months later he announced he was running for the State Rep's seat.

89th District



The 89th District has no primary race. Incumbent **Dean Plocher**, the former municipal judge of scandal ridden Pine Lawn, MO. where the Missouri Auditor rated the Municipal Court under Plocher as "POOR" for overcharging defendants and having illegal fees, is the Republican.

For having no primary opposition and only token opposition in the general Plocher had \$29,555 at the start of the second quarter and raised another \$4,050.

06/22/16	\$ 1,000	Simmons, Hanly, Conroy	Alton, IL law firm
06/23/16	\$ 1,000	MO Majority PAC	Perryville, MO Run by Lobbyist Steve Tilley
06/22/16	\$ 500	Gateway Civil Liberties Alliance (Gun rights)	Brentwood, MO
06/22/16	\$ 500	Surgery by Surgeons	Jefferson City, MO
06/29/16	\$ 500	Associated General Contractors	St. Louis, MO
06/23/16	\$ 325	St. Louis Home Builders Assoc.	Creve Coeur, MO

Plocher gave his campaign \$167.58 which he reported but did not add into the final amount of money collected in the second quarter. Using his numbers, **Plocher collected 100% of the second quarter campaign contributions from outside of his district.**



Jack Schilligo of Wildwood is Plocher's opponent in November. He raised \$3.988 in the second quarter. Schilligo is a carpenter and a realtor and would be considered an evil Democrat by many in the 89th District, but hey he looks a lot like actor Sam Elliott.

04/19/16	\$ 1,000	Jerry Schilligo Defiance,	MO
06/23/16	\$ 500	John and Marcia Coffman Dittmer,	MO
06/22/16	\$ 359	Keri Hayes	Imperial, MO
06/10/16	\$ 300	Friends of Gina Walsh	St. Louis
04/15/16	\$ 250	Joe Schilligo	O'Fallon, MO
04/19/16	\$ 150	Randal Wooten	Maryland Heights carpenter

98% of Schilligo's contributions came from outside of his district. But the vast majority of the money came in from individuals in small amounts of \$10 and \$25 that Schilligo did not even have to report who gave the money, but he did.

DEREK GRIER JOINS DEGROOT IN CLAIMING TO BE ENDORSED BY A NON-EXISTENT GROUP: We wrote last week how we could not find Missourians for Life online after Bruce DeGroot claimed in mailings he was backed by them. We did find them listed in the Missouri Secretary of State files as being a group that ceased to exist

in 2007. Now Derek Grier is sending out campaign material claiming to be the "Only Candidate Endorsed by Missourians for Life."

Wow would that mean DeGroot has lost his endorsement from the phantom and invisible group?



I love the fact that Grier claims to be a Pro Life candidate. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH! They don't believe in medicine, hospitals or doctors. How can you be pro life when you belong to a group where people die because they won't get a lump checked out or go the hospital for some tests when they have chest pains.

GRIER CAMPAIGN LIES: Campaign fliers sent out by Derek Grier in his race for State Rep in the 100th District have some claims that are remarkably inaccurate.



1) **As Councilman, eliminated the Chesterfield property tax levied to residents.** Grier did nothing of the sort. The special tax levy voted on by residents had a sunset

provision. Grier and **seven other member of the council voted** to use fund reserves and end the small property tax a year early. The tax would have been eliminated a year later whether Grier voted on it or not. Grier forgot to give the other seven councilpersons any credit for "eliminating" the self-eliminating tax.

2) **Small Business owner.** As far as I know Grier claims in other material that he is a realtor for Duke Homes. Being a small business owner was written in present tense. I don't believe it is true. He has never put on any material what the business is. He needs to tell voters what small business he owns and what it does.

3) **Governed over one of the nation's highest ranked Police Departments.** This is utterly false. All Grier did was vote for the police budget every year. Chief Ray Johnson over 28 years created the reputation of the Chesterfield Police, not Derek Grier.

TO RICKY HORTON: DID YOU REALLY NEED THAT EXTRA MONEY FRONTING FOR SOMETHING THAT IS ILLEGAL IN MOST OF THE REGION AND CAUSES INJURIES TO CHILDREN AND FIRES TO HOUSES? It was hard not to notice that Cardinal broadcaster and former pitcher Rickey Horton added a company with fireworks stands to his TV pitch and sells that already included tires and automobiles this month. My question to Horton is, "Do you really need the money so bad that you had to cut TV ads for products that maim children and destroy property?"





Fireworks are illegal in most of the region and have a long track record of maiming people, especially children and setting a lot of houses on fire at the roof line.

Fireworks were such a problem with setting roofs on fire, that one Kansas City area fire chief developed a policy to fight the fires from the inside out. He called me around 1990 asking me to write an article for Firehouse Magazine on his policy. By shooting water from the inside of the house force the burning roof away from the house, burning roof was not forced into the house by a high pressure hoses hitting the damaged roof from the outside. Due to fireworks and lightning strike fires, the chief's community also banned shake shingle roofs that ignite easily.

REAL ESTATE MEDIA: The Post-Dispatch has done it again. Look at these two beautiful West County homes. One of the homes is just barely a step up from a double-wide trailer. Anything for an ad dollar!



BUSINESS NEWS: FOX JEWELERS ON MANCHESTER CLOSED: I stopped by the Fox Jewelers at 13000 Manchester Road and found a sign in the window. The sign announced the long time jewelry store and watch repair shop was CLOSED and gave an LA area phone number. When I called the number I got a recording and no one called me back.





I checked with the City of Des Peres and learned that the Fox Jewelers business license had expired on July 1 and no renewal had been made.

SEEN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: A subcontractor at a house in our subdivision was coming to work in a very cool car, a 1963 Studebaker sports coupe.



MEDIA: Post-Dispatch runs same article under two different bylines. Below is part of an article that appeared online with a byline from the night police reporter. It mentioned that a well known Town and Country restaurant was in Chesterfield. The next day the same article appeared in the print edition of the Post under a well known writer's byline.

Diners turn out en masse for restaurant fundraiser for injured Ballwin officer

- By Nassim Benchaabane St. Louis Post-Dispatch
 - Jul 18, 2016
 - **BALLWIN** • Customers packed more than 23 Ballwin area restaurants Monday as a part of a fundraiser for officer Michael Flamion, who was shot in the neck last week during a traffic stop.
 - The restaurants pledged portions of the day's proceeds to support Flamion and his family, the same day the Ballwin Police Department announced publicly that Flamion's injuries left him paralyzed from the neck down.
 - Ballwin native Katie Zaitz-Fink, who planned the event, said she knew Flamion faced a long road to recovery as soon as she heard he'd been shot through the neck about two miles from her home. A car accident in 1997 in Jacksonville, Fla., left Zaitz-Fink with a herniated neck injury for nine months.
 - "I had substantial medical bills, and my injury was nowhere near the severity of his," she said. "I knew he was going to have a much harder road to recovery."
 - She wanted to do something to help.
 - "He risked his own life for me and the Ballwin community every day without a second thought," she said. "It's only right that we support him in return."
 - She called the Ballwin police department and set up a Facebook page and [Go Fund Me account](#) for the event. Within a week the page had been shared more than 7,000 times. Her phone rang with calls from restaurants wanting to join the fundraiser up until 4 p.m. Monday. She said she wasn't surprised at the amount of support the campaign received.
 - "I know how the Ballwin community is," she said. "We care for each other."

- Customers dine at Big Chief Roadhouse in Wildwood on Monday, July 18, 2016. The restaurant pledged 100 percent of its proceeds in support of officer Michael Flamion. Photo courtesy of Ballwin Police Department.
- At the Yellowstone Cafe in neighboring Chesterfield, manager Emily Pippin only had time for a brief conversation during the dinner rush because it had 40 tables waiting. "We are super, super swamped," she said. Some of the customers weren't even there to eat, she said – some just stepped inside to put money into a donation jar.

The next day in the print edition of the Post-Dispatch the exact same story word by word appeared on page-two as the lead story in Joe Holleman's column under his byline. Monday night the Post-Dispatch claimed the story was by Nassim Benchaabane. The next day they claimed it was Joe Holleman who wrote the story. Holleman's column with the stolen story is no longer online at the P-D website.



Which one of these guys wrote the story? Holleman (left) or Benchaabane (right)?

I wrote Joe an email and never heard back.

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

Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 6:28 PM

To: 'jholleman@post-dispatch.com'

Subject: question

How did a story about restaurants in West County sharing profits with a paralyzed Ballwin Police Officer appear under a young reporter's name in the online edition of the P-D last night and the same story appear in the print edition of the P-D today under your name?

Also when I left the Yellowstone Cafe at 8:40 last night it was still in Town and Country. Your story (also the same story under another name) claimed it was in Chesterfield?

When did it move? Clearly sometime between 9 o'clock and midnight. That is amazing as it has been in Town and Country for over 20 years.

John Hoffmann

RESTAURANT REVIEW: JOEY B'S COMES TO WEST COUNTY The long vacant Chili's Restaurant on Manchester Road at Sulphur Springs Road, isn't vacant anymore. It is downright crowded. At 7 o'clock on a Tuesday night we went to Joey B's and finding a table wasn't the issue. Finding a parking space was. People were parking on Kohl's Department store's lot.

We returned the next day with our former Patch editor Jeanne Whitney who was in town from her home in Phoenix. At one o'clock we had a 20 minute for a table.



At 2:15 the outdoor patio was almost empty. Two hours earlier it was full. The night before it was over filled.

ADVICE: DON'T TELL YOUR DOCTOR OR ESPECIALLY YOUR CARDIOLOGIST YOU GO TO JOEY B's. The one thing that was a constant with our three orders was SALT. That is good and bad. Salt improves taste. Lots of salt is not good for you.

Jean had the Chicken Speidini sandwich (\$9.99) that came with fries. The fries were only average. Our suggestion would be substitute any side for fries.



Jean liked the sandwich, but was the first of us to mention the salt.

My wife ordered the half-order of ravioli proseciutto and a salad. She rated the ravioli as good, but several hours later said it was talking back at her.



She rated the salad as "fine." I would have had problems with it since it was covered with large slices of mushrooms. My position has been for years that mushrooms are a fungus, the same as athlete's foot.

I decided to Cast my Fate to the Wind (apologies to Vince Guaraldi) and despite taking heart meds, I ordered the Chicken Fried Steak, that according to the menu came with mashed potatoes and white gravy plus green beans. Hey green beans are good for me!

My first comment when the plate arrived was "That Chicken Fried Steak is twice as big as the one in picture on the menu."

"I know," said the waiter who originally mentioned I had made a good choice when I placed my order.



Besides what you see in the photo, I also ordered a side of extra milk gravy. It was very good and everyone at the table used some. The other thing you can see in the photo is all the salt on my plate and on the beans. I did not need to reach for the salt shaker once.

Let's start with the good. The green beans, salt and all were great as were the mashed potatoes.

The chicken fried steak was another story. It was like food on some cruise ship lines. It looked a lot better than it tasted. The batter on top of the cube steak was crispy and light. The only problem was that it flaked off when you cut the steak, leaving just the cube steak. The cube steak was void of any taste and reminded me of the kind my mother used to buy at Bettendorf's, but without any grizzle. The cube steak bites needed to be dipped in the extra white gravy.

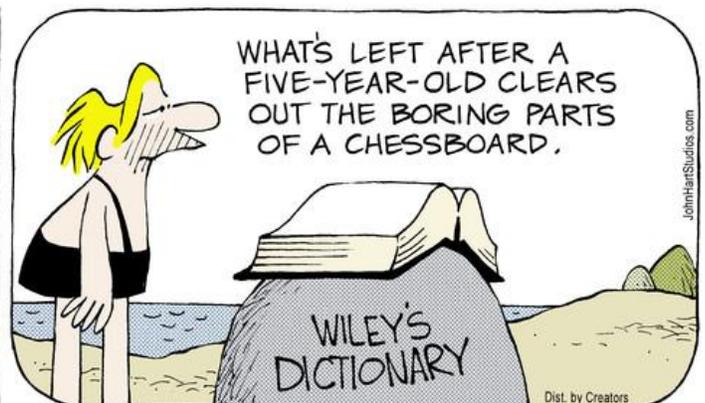
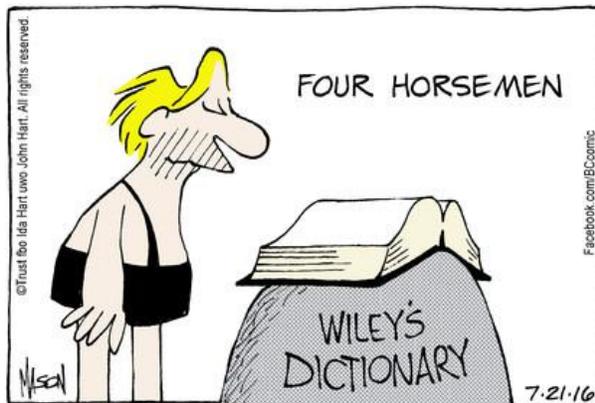
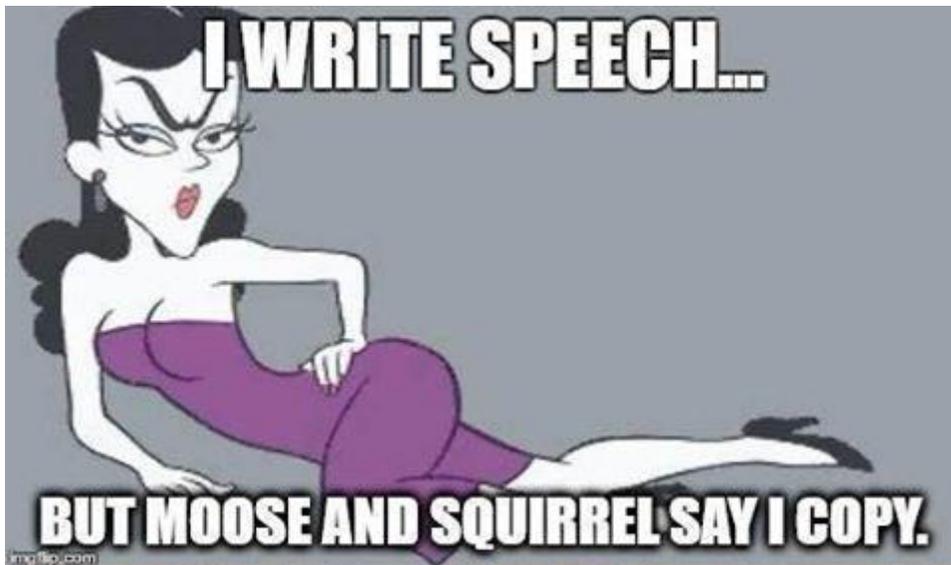
I would not order the Chicken Fried Steak again. But I would sub any sides with the green beans and the mashed potatoes.

Service: Despite the place being packed, the service was excellent. The food was delivered promptly and the hot stuff was hot. Our waiter checked on us regularly but was never a nuisance.

This is the third Joey B's to go with the equally popular locations at Concord Village, on Hampton at the edge of The Hill. The same group owns Billy G's on West Argonne in Kirkwood, Gianino's, Frankie G's, and Frankie Gianino's.

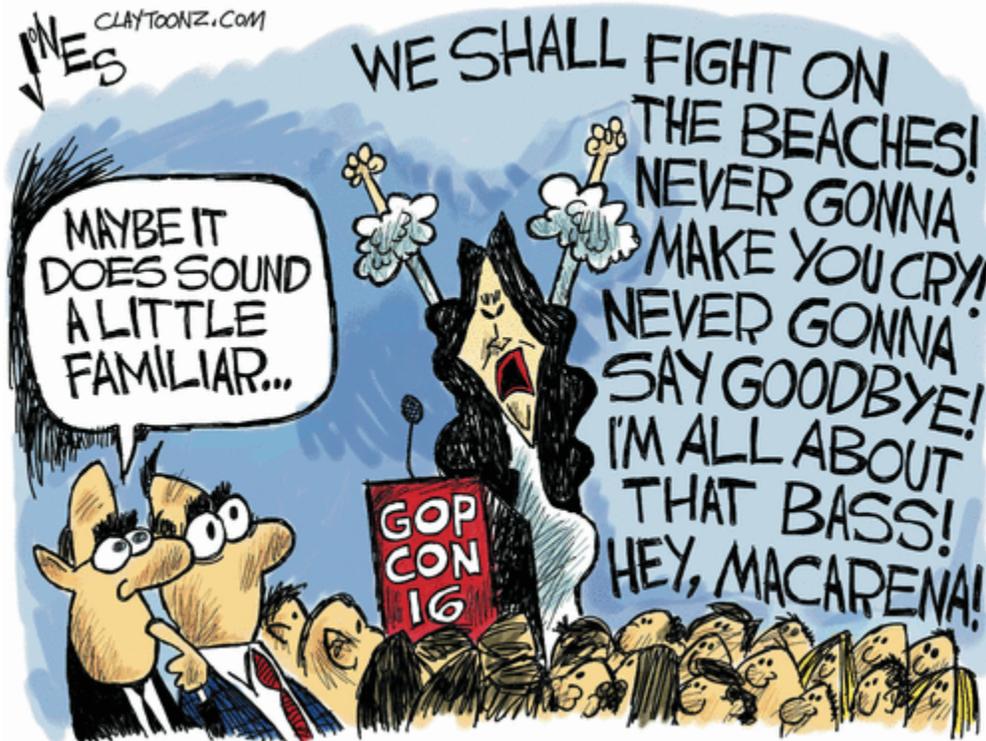
I can see why Joey B's is popular. Large portions and reasonable prices! Flavor and parking spaces can be hit and miss.

CARTOONS:





How Bernie Madoff spends his days.

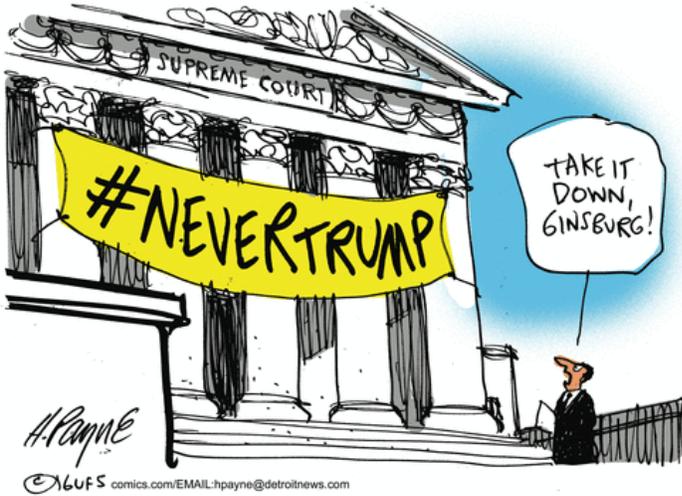




Gary Varvel
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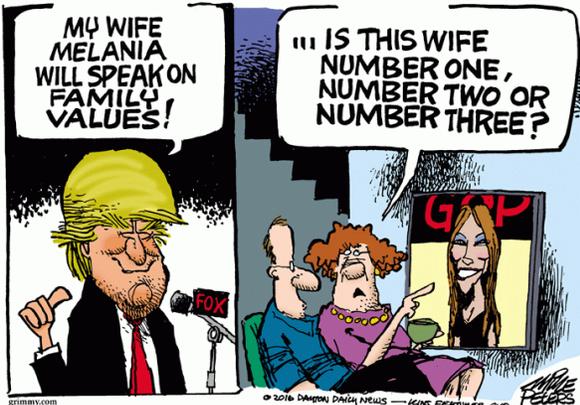
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H. Payne

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Peter Peeters

WITZE AT THE GOP PETERS CONVENTION



WITZE AT THE GOP PETERS CONVENTION

SOME FINAL CONVENTION THOUGHTS

