

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 236 AND CHESTERFIELD 181



By John Hoffmann

August 1, 2016

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY ALDERMANIC RETREAT: It was on Saturday morning July 16 from 8:30 to 12 noon. A perfect time to get a lot of residents to attend! The most people in the public seats at any one time were two! Ald. Jon Benigas was up extra early as he was in California and joined the meeting at 6:30 PDT by phone.

Jean Whitney the former editor of the Chesterfield Patch back when it covered news was in town and agreed to split the morning with me. She covered 8:30 to 10:30 and I did the final ninety minutes.

Jean had never covered any Town and Country government meetings or events. She had never seen or talked to any of the players. Yes, despite now living in Phoenix she still reads my newsletters, but she has always had her own opinion on issues and people.

So when I arrived at 10:30 and we went outside to trade notes the first words out of her mouth were, "What a pompous asshole that Mayor Dalton is."



Alderpersons around the table and staff back by the windows.

It was another hot summer day. Most everyone was in sports shirts or woman tops with no sleeves. Gussie Crawford had on a light sweater due to the a/c. However Jon Dalton was wearing blue jeans, a light wool, purple sports coat with red squares, and of course cufflinks. Yes, blue jeans and cufflinks!



The Cufflinks and blue jeans little guy

The retreat had three primary topics.

- 1) The Town Square Discussion
- 2) Preservation Park and sale of Perservation park
- 3) Trails and Sidewalks

THE TOWN SQUARE:

During the discussion on the Town Square that Jean Whitney was covering, Jean made several observations. Here are a few:

- * Linda Rallo asked a lot of good questions and she didn't get answers. She just got bullshit!
- * Linda Rallo asked how the residents at the retirement facilities got counted in the recent \$17,700 survey. Jean said Rallo was told those people wouldn't understand it and they were not households. (Anyone paying \$5,000 to \$7,500 a month for an apartment, sure are households in my book.)
- * Speakers were being ignored. Jean said that Mayor Dalton would constantly whisper questions to city Administrator Gary Hoelzer and they would both ignore the alderperson speaking or asking a question.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER/CONSULTANT FOR THE TOWN SQUARE:

Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Dalton said the city needed to hire Brad Hornberg of Landmark Company to manage the Town Square Project. This is beginning to not look like a city project, but clearly is a Jon Dalton project. After making the recommendation that the city needed Hornberg a discussion broke out, with at least one alderman thinking the City should follow good government practices.



Brad Hornberg

Ald. Jon Benigas: I think we should see who else is out there.

Mayor Dalton: We must look at viable developers who are uniquely qualified. (He then gave only Hornberg's qualifications.)

Ald. Fred Meyland-Smith: I'm relieved to learn there is a guy like Hornberg.

Ald. Benigas: Did you look for anyone else?

City Admin Hoelzer: No we did not.

Ald. Linda Rallo: How did we find out about him?

CA Hoelzer: The city administrator in Des Peres gave me the name.

Ald. Skip Mange: The budget allots \$15,000 this year.

Ald. Benigas: Who else is out there?

Mayor Dalton: This is not going to be a blank item for the budget next year. I'm very anxious in getting Hornberg or someone like him. We've got to move on this. (Dalton is ignoring the city policy and need for bids or in the case of professional services a Request for Proposals. But Dalton has never let policy or good government practices get in his way in the past.)

Ald. Skip Mange: It's time to step forward and do something on this.

Ald. Linda Rallo: But I want to know how much it is going to cost.

Ald. Benigas: We don't know the lay of the land. I'm troubled about moving ahead with Hornberg.

Mayor Dalton: We didn't just grab a name from the yellow pages. (1. Where are you going to find a copy of the Yellow Pages in 2016 to grab a name out of? 2. One person gave the City Administrator the name. That is pretty close to grabbing it out of the Yellow Pages as you can get.)

Ald. Linda Rallo: We don't need to micro manage everything and we have a pretty healthy reserve. (It sounded like Rallo did a flip-flop in the middle of a debate.)

Ald. Benigas: I want more info. We still haven't identified what our budget is. It seems we need to put it on the table.

Mayor Dalton: \$3.3 million is easily supported by our reserve. (Originally it was \$2.2-m to buy the land and then \$1.7-m to develop it. At the time Dalton said that the \$1.7-million to develop the property was too high. Now he is talking of adding \$3.3-m to the black hole of tax money called the Town Square. It is better called The Dalton Debacle.)

On Monday the city violated its own policy and voted to hire Brad Hornberg by having a first and second reading of the bill to hire him at the same time instead of at separate meetings. Even Benigas gave an "Aye" during the roll call vote.

The cost of the non-competitive selection of Hornberg (Landmark Company) was \$15,000 more than the \$23,200 originally budgeted by the city.

PRESERVATION PARK There was not much controversy on the Town Square boondoggle. The more interesting discussion was about Preservation Park. Everyone seemed interested in selling Preservation Park with one exception, Jon Benigas.

"We can make Preservation Park into something significant," said Benigas about the park with the damaged tennis courts and blocked trails and unsafe steps.



You have to wonder about city leaders starting with the mayor who buy property for \$2.2-million (plus up to \$3.3 million in development costs) for more park land (town square) while they have refused to maintain park land they already own. Preservation Park was originally 32 acres, but the city sold 20 acres to CBC high school for a baseball field and practice track and athletic field. The city currently owns 12 acres.

Benigas continued on with his support of Preservation later by saying, "We did a presentation of the town square that was impressive. If we did the same thing on Preservation Park you would get a similar result."

He then added, "We could put something for people to pan for gold in those streams,"

Dalton, went back to the recent resident survey where 70% of those taking the survey thought the city should sell Preservation Park.

"From the 'Survey Monkey' the discussion is strongly in favor of selling the asset," said Dalton. "If we sell this we need to get a professional to sell it," he added.

"We know that its location is its biggest problem," said Dalton about the park which is well removed from any residential areas on the I-64 service road squeezed between office buildings and a Mormon Temple. Current Councilman Skip Mange was mayor when the land was purchased back in 2000.

Ald. Linda Rallo said the money from the sale of Preservation Park should go to building trails (the new term in the world of Park Grants for sidewalks) in Ward -4.

"The number-one email I receive is asking 'when are we going to get trails in Ward-4,'" said Rallo. "We have litter on Conway Road but we can't pick it up without a sidewalk to walk on. We have an asset that we can use to fund trails (sidewalks).

Fred Meyland-Smith then piped in, "What we need to put into Preservation Park (to bring it up to acceptable standards) would be substantial."

Lynn Wright, the always defensive person about parks who would get into it with some fellow councilpersons later in the morning said getting people to Preservation was the problem. The west side parking area and pavilions have been closed for nine months due to vandalism and illegal activity. Dope smokers, teenage beer drinkers and vandals were not having a problem finding the park.



The west entrance to the park has been closed for nine months

"We as the Park Commission have tried many things to get people there (Preservation). It's just a fact we can't get people to go there. It is so out of the way people forget about it. (Of course overflow crowds manage to find the CBC high school football field that is located just past Preservation Park.)

Fred Meyland-Smith speaks again. "I would be interested in hiring someone to tell us this is how you market it."

Maybe the most amusing exchange occurred between Ald. Gussie Crawford and Lynn Wright.

Ald. Gussie Crawford: The stairs are grown over and are dangerous. (Stairs lead from trail to a pavilion)

Lynn Wright: They are supposed to be overgrown so people won't use them.

Ald. Gussie Crawford: The tennis courts are not that pretty either. You want to keep going on this?

Mayor Dalton: We are going to keep it dormant.

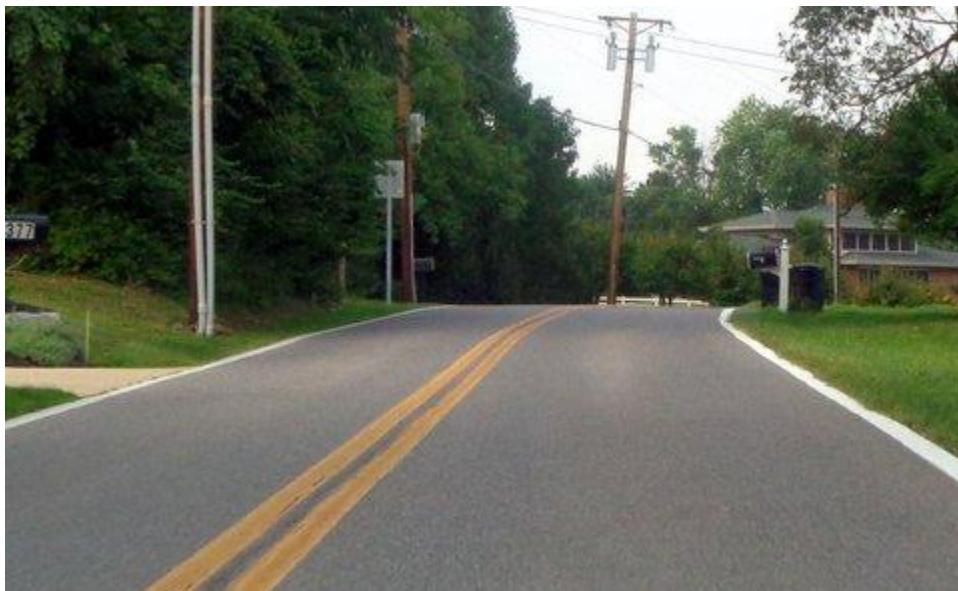
Ald. Skip Mange: We invested a lot of money in the pavilion (on east side of park) and restrooms. It was over a half-million dollars.

This was great. The chair of the Parks Commission admits the stairs leading from the trail to a pavilion are unsafe to start with and the city has allowed them to get so much more unsafe in the hopes no one will use them. That would be great in an injury liability lawsuit. The stairs were unsafe so instead of making them safe it was cheaper to just allow them to become even more unsafe.

It was finally mentioned that the CBC High School has the first right to purchase the property for 60 days. Of course CBC has had some serious money issues and will surely not be buying the property.

TRAILS (WIDE SIDEWALKS) Was the last item to be discussed:

Ward 2 versus Lynn Wright & Fred Meyland-Smith: The current plan is to use some existing sidewalks in front of subdivisions that did not connect to any other sidewalks and go down Mason Road Clayton Road to Queeny Park. The plan called for two crosswalks on the twisty and winding Mason Road, with repeated blind spots and rich people in their Mercedes and BMWs who don't like to pay attention to the speed limit or their driving as checking text messages is far too important.





The costs for the sidewalks would be \$250,000. The most sensible route would be along the west side since Queeny Park is on the west side of the road. However it is reported that one property owner does not want to give up any property for the easement to build a sidewalk and some with the city do not want to go through the cost of eminent domain to force the resident to give up the property.

Safety first: **Ald. Lindsey Butler** pointed out that to be ADA Complaint you need to have the sidewalk on one side of the street and not crisscrossing several times. She also pointed out there have been 23 vehicle crashes in the last 2 1/2-years on that stretch of road.

Ald. Lynn Wright Ward 1 interrupted saying going south on Mason Road "is a different animal" inferring they shouldn't follow ADA requirements.

Ald. Lindsey Butler Ward 2: "If you are making this our spine (Parks Director Anne Nixon earlier referred to Mason Road as the "spine" of the city) It needs to be safe. I feel there is a better plan than the one presented."

Ald. Fred Meyland-Smith Ward 3: "Lindsey to your point about safety. Half of the subdivisions on Clayton Road have to cross Clayton Road to get all the way to other side." (This made no sense, but what the great windbag was trying to say was that the Clayton Road sidewalk is on the north side of the street and people wanting to use the sidewalk have to cross Clayton Road to get to it. However the sidewalk itself doesn't go back and forth across Clayton Road like the one suggested for Mason Road.)

Ald. Linda Rallo Ward 4: "Our number one priority should be safety. Money is one thing, but human life is more important. It seems like we are going for something just because money is available."

Lynn Wright: "We sat down with County (St. Louis County Highway Department that controls Mason Road) and they never said it wasn't safe."

Lindsey Butler: "I don't think waiting one more year and getting a task force together and getting an engineering report about placing it only on either side is a bad idea. Currently I think we are putting residents at risk with crosswalks."

Ald. Tiffany Frautschi Ward 2: "I think a sidewalk on one side of the street is great. Safety should be the number one concern."

Lynn Wright: "I don't feel a task force will help. Safety, having something is better than not having anything." (Wright fails to realize that currently no one tries and walks down Mason Road a street without shoulders of any kind. So a new, but not very safe sidewalk will encourage people to walk, but it really isn't very safe.)

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING: I was attending the Chesterfield City Council meeting on Monday July 18th so Jean Whitney again agreed to be a reporter and cover the Town and Country Parks Commission held in 94-degree heat outside at Drace Park. There was one big issue of note.



Parks Director Anne Nixon having a large bottle of Water to stay hydrated speaking to the Parks Commission.

HORSE THERAPY GROUP WANTS LARGE PAVILION ADDED TO PASTURE OR THREATENS TO LEAVE: The Horse Therapy group that uses horses to help children with special needs at the Longview Farm has made a demand according to Anne Nixon at the last Town and Country Parks Commission meeting.

They want to have a 30 x 40 pavilion next to where they currently mount the horses outside of the stable area. Their complaint is that they have had to cancel sessions too often this summer because of the heat or because of rain.

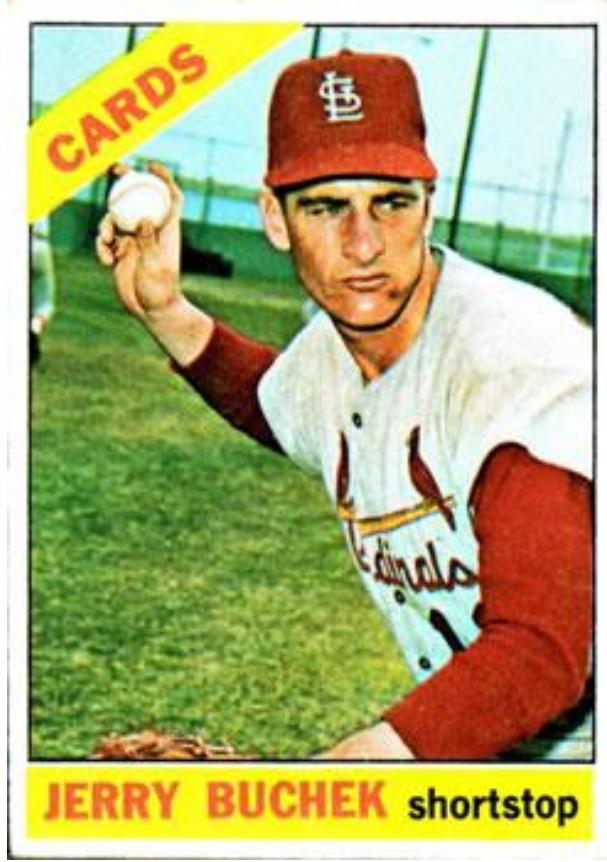


They would pay for the pavilion. If the pavilion could not be approved they would cancel therapy riding at Longview moving it all to their Wildwood facility that includes an indoor riding area.

Horse Hospice: They would then move their retired horses to Longview. I guess it would be a horse hospice or retirement home or as a city staffer said, another "group home."

NEW PRINCIPAL AT MASON RIDGE: Jennifer Dieken-Buchek, the new principal at Mason Ridge was at the July 25th board of Aldermen meeting concerning a revised sign request at the school.

Dieken-Buchek spent the last five years as the assistant principal at the Barrett Elementary School in Manchester. She said she not related to Jerry Buchek, who played parts of five seasons as the utility shortstop for the Cardinals from 1961 to 1966, including in 1964 when he hit .200 in 35 games behind Dick Groat when the Cards won the World Series. Jerry Buchek also hit the first home run in the New Busch Stadium (now demolished) in 1966 and is a former Chesterfield resident.



Principal Jennifer Dieken-Buchek Jerry Buchek with what looks to be a big wad of chew

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 181



August 1, 2016

THE CITY DOES IT AGAIN...HIDES A MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC:

The City of Chesterfield elected officials and staff complied with the bare minimums of the Missouri Sunshine Open Meetings Law last week. They posted a paper notice on the hidden city bulletin board outside of city hall about a scheduled secret Executive Session City Council Meeting. The sad thing was if they had just posted it on the city's website the public could read it and say, "Oh, they are making progress on hiring a new city administrator." Instead it looks like they are being sneaky.

The city leaders elected and staff still at times expect you and I, the residents and the press to drive by City Hall at least once a day to see if any surprise meetings have suddenly been scheduled. The bulletin board is hidden outside around the corner from the main doors and out of view if you look directly at the building. Apparently computers and websites are just too new and untested to post all the notices on them. The reporters that cover Chesterfield live in Ballwin, Town and Country and Rock Hill, not exactly around the corner from the Chesterfield City Hall. Here are the city website web pages we checked looking for the Executive Session Meeting on Wednesday July 27. The search was just before midnight July 27:

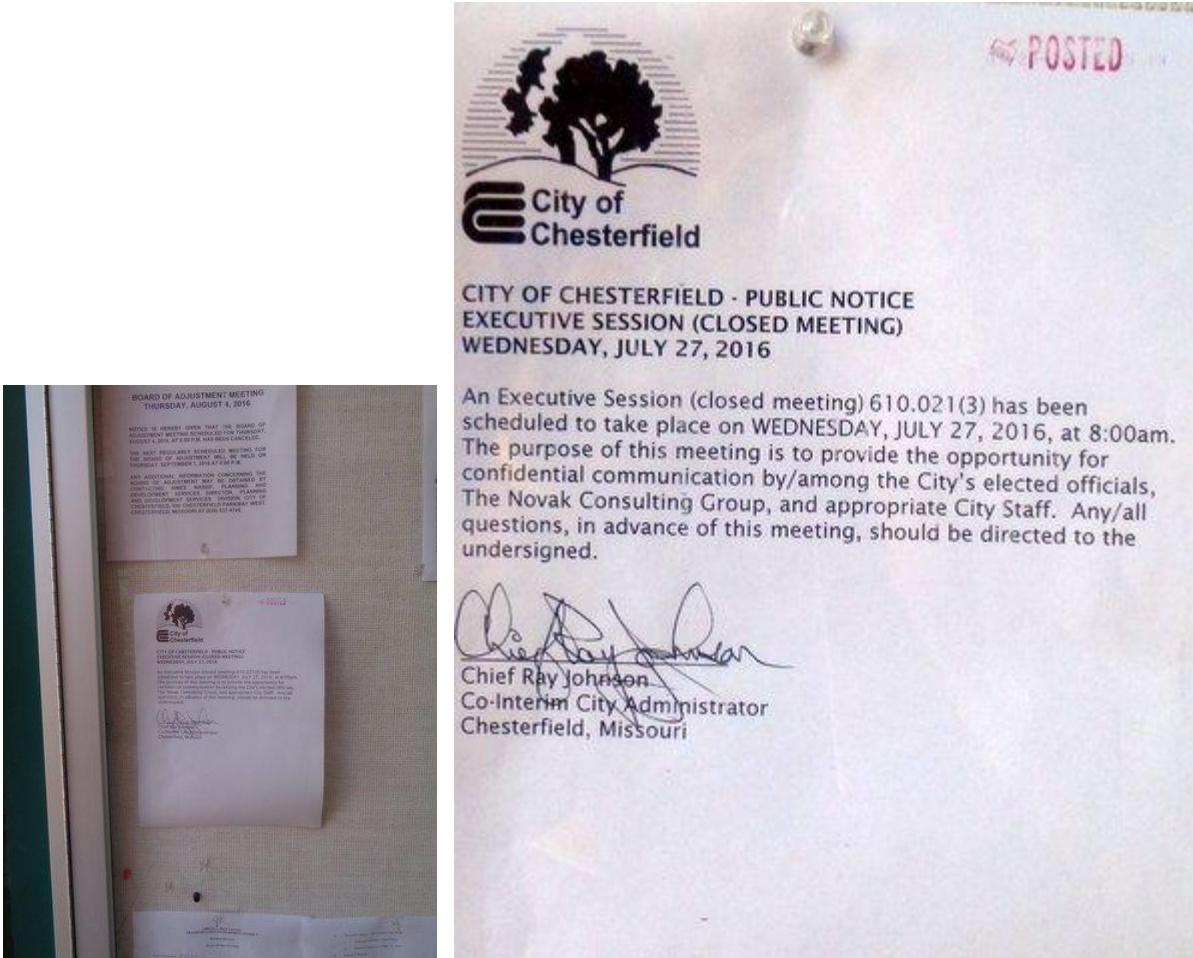
Calendar Week View					
< Jul 24 - 30, 2016 >					
Sun 7/24	Mon 7/25	Tue 7/26	Wed 7/27	Thu 7/28	Fri 7/29
6a - 8p Pickleball	6a - 8p Pickleball	6a - 8p Pickleball	6a - 8p Pickleball	6a - 8p Pickleball	6a - 8p Pickleball
10a - 6p SUP Paddle Boarding Classes	8:30a - 5p Shoe Drive	8:30a - 5p Shoe Drive	8:30a - 5p Shoe Drive	8:30a - 5p Shoe Drive	8:30a - 5p Shoe Drive
	8:30a - 5p Art Exhibit at City Hall	8:30a - 5p Art Exhibit at City Hall	8:30a - 5p Art Exhibit at City Hall	8:30a - 5p Art Exhibit at City Hall	8:30a - 5p Art Exhibit at City Hall
	9a - 10p River Walk Club	9a - 10p River Walk Club	9a - 10p River Walk Club	9a - 10p River Walk Club	9a - 10p River Walk Club
	9a - 10:30a F&A Committee	5:30p - 9p Mirage - Chamber of Commerce	5:30p - 7:30p Arch Lacrosse ALL Summer 7 v 7	6:30p - 8p Chesterfield Citizens Committee for the Environment	1p - 3p Ed F
	5:30p - 7:30p Arch Lacrosse ALL Summer 7 v 7	Music Series	7p - 9p Village of Kendall Bluffs	7p - 9p Meadowbrook Farm Subdivision Meeting	
	6:30p - 7p Site Plan Committee	7p - 9p Kendall Bluffs	7p - 10p B/C-HOA Meeting	8:15p - 9:15p River Walk Club	8:15p - 9:15p River Walk Club
	7p - 9p Planning Commission	H.O.A			
	7p - 10p	8:15p - 9:15p River Walk Club			

The screenshot shows a website header with three main navigation items: "News" (with a globe icon), "Calendar" (with a calendar icon), and "Community Events" (with a people icon). Below the header, there is a list of news items:

- [EXECUTIVE SESSION 8/1/16](#)
- [EXECUTIVE SESSION 7/18/16](#)
- [July 21, 2016 Planning & Public Works Committee Meeting - CANCELED](#)
- [August 4, 2016 Board of Adjustment Meeting - CANCELED](#)
- [July 11, 2016 Planning Commission Meeting Results](#)
- [Chesterfield Police to Offer AARP Smart Driver Course on August 3](#)
- [June 27, 2016 Planning Commission Meeting Results](#)
- [Artist Reception will kick off new Art Exhibit at City Hall on July 22](#)

But if you drive out to city hall this is what you find to the right of the center doors:





The post tells you the Council will be meeting with the Novak Group which was hired to do an internal and external search for a City Administrator. In other words they are moving closer in hiring a permanent City Administrator. For the life of me I don't know why the City wanted to hide this meeting and keep the posting off the website, but they did. Some member of the council needs to draft a bill that requires the city to post everything they put on the hidden bulletin board on the city's website also so people don't have to drive to the City Hall to learn about Executive Session secret meetings.

A day after the meeting after I started making inquiries about the meeting not being posted, someone posted it. I expected someone would do this and it is the reason I took photos of what was posted on the website at the end of the day on July 27.

ONE YEAR AFTER OLD COUNCIL TRIED TO IMPEACH BOB NATION, THE NEW COUNCIL GIVES HIM AN AWARD: Talk about the complete 180 turn around. In July of 2015 the Chesterfield City Council was trying (be it unsuccessful) to impeach Mayor Bob Nation for swearing in a closed office of an assistant city administrator.

It wasn't that Bob was swearing about a personal issue. It was not that Bob was swearing at the employee in the office. Nor was it about some grudge Bob had with a city employee. No Bob was swearing about the City Administrator, Mike Herring, keeping information from him and his secretary refusing to let the mayor see Herring's work schedule.

There was no reason to impeach Nation. If nothing else Nation was merely exercising his first amendment rights. It was not at a public meeting, but in a closed office. The City Council improperly engaged a lawyer without obtaining a contract first to lead the impeachment process. The lawyer then told the Council, Nation did nothing to impeach him, but suggested they could censure him. The council refused to allow Nation's lawyer to question employees on the record in his defense. They then voted on November 4, 2015 to censure him, an action that carried no penalties.

A month after the censure the city administrator announced he was resigning. Three months later in his last week on the job it came out that Herring hid the lease of a vacant lot for \$85,000 a year for 10 years with no plans to use the lot followed by an option to buy it for \$1,000,000. This action was hidden from the public as it was done in secret executive session and never publicly announced or put in public meeting minutes.

This is the stuff that made Mayor Nation swear.

In April, three of the councilpersons who wanted Nation impeached were off the Council. In early July Governor Jay Nixon signed a piece of legislation while not making Chesterfield a "Point of Sale" sales tax city, did increase Chesterfield's retention of sales tax up to 52-percent which increased the revenue by about \$260,000.

Then on July 18 the city council, including four people who voted to censure Nation for dropping a couple of "f" bombs in a closed office voted to give him an award and made July 18 "Mayor Bob Nation Day."



November 4, 2015 L to R Connie Fults, Elliot Grissom, Bridget Nations, Barry Flachsbart all voting to censure Bob Nation for apparently exercising his first amendment rights.



The defense team that the Council refused to allow to do their job. Bruce DeGroot who voted to censure Mayor Nation for swearing in a closed office, who is now missing meetings campaigning so he can be with over 100 people in the state capital who swear at bills and at each other every day with no one thinking about censuring them.



Dan Hurt voting to censure the mayor.

July 18, 2016 Barry Flachsbart handing Mayor Bob Nation a proclamation declaring July 18th Mayor Bob Nation Day with Dan Hurt in the background part of a standing ovation.

AMC THEATERS CHESTERFIELD 14: Now you can buy a \$10 tub of popcorn, an \$8 candy bar and a \$30 mixed drink! The Chesterfield City Council on July 18 voted to give the AMC 14 Movie Theaters at the Chesterfield Mall a full liquor by the drink license and Sunday booze license. Now you add in the price of two tickets, two large popcorns, a candy bar and two or more mixed drinks, a Friday night at the movies can easily be more than \$100.



A new place to find your favorite bartender.



\$3,000 AND \$2,000 ARE NOT REAL MONEY FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: The July 25 Chesterfield Finance and Administration Committee was interesting. The entire Council was there except for Tom DeCampi who was out of town on a business trip. The meeting was at 9 AM instead of the usual 5:30 start time, because Chairman Bruce DeGroot wanted to be knocking on voters' doors at 5:30.



DeGroot is at the top of the table, crewing his thumb nail or sucking his thumb, Mayor Nation, Randy Logan, Dan Hurt and Chief Ray Johnson were blocked out of the photo in the crowded room.

On the table was a final vote that did not go to the full City Council. It called for giving \$2,000 to the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce for the Pumpkin Run.

"We get a lot of good response out of this," said Economic Development Director Libbey Marberg-Tucker

The question of what the city gets for \$2,000 was asked and the answer was that they get a table and tent. This brought up a response that could have saved the City 75% of the costs and still get a table and tent.

"It appears that for this activity for \$500 we could still get a table and tent," said Councilman Guy Tilmann.

"This is a marketing event. We are doing this to promote the Turkey Trot," said Councilman Barry Flachsbart. (The Turkey Trot costs runners between \$20 and \$34 depending when the registered.)

Mike Geisel then mentioned that running groups seem to get the word out pretty well. (Hint, hint)

A vote was taken and Flachsbanrt, Randy Logan and Guy Tilmann voted to spend the \$2000 and not the \$500 or no money. Bruce DeGroot voted NO.

Next was to spend \$3,000 with Children's Illustrated Art Museum for a Mark Twain Exhibit at the Chesterfield Mall. The exhibit was suppose to run from between Aug 1 and Aug 31. It was late in the presentation before Libbey Malberg-Tucker announced the show had been pushed back to September 1. Last year the group had a two day showing of the Polar Express as the special event.

Here is some of the give and take on this issue:

Co-Interim City Administrator Mike Geisel: "We are not associated in any way with this group. They just asked us for money."

Councilman Bruce DeGroot: "Our country has a deficit and we keep giving money to other countries. We need to batten down the hatches on a local level."

Councilman Guy Tilman: "We have part of our staff that functions under Arts. How do we get these dollars into their bucket? Staff needs to prioritize and tell us which of these are more important to give to."

Councilman Barry Flachsbart: "It meets our criteria. It drives people into the Mall which is good for us." (This is in response to the Mall's creditor suing to put the Mall into receivership. However, I don't know how many little kids are going to be drawn to a Mark Twain exhibit. Now maybe if it was something at the American Girl Store!)

Councilwoman Barb McGuinness: "We have to think about this since the Finance 101 Boot Camp." (Special session with Mike Geisel and Finance Director Craig White over revenue shortfalls coming up in 2019 and 2022.) "We really need to think about this. We can't do business as usual any more." (McGuinness is not a voting member of the Finance Committee. Too Bad!)

The vote: Tilman, Logan and Flachsbart voted Yes to give the \$3,000 and DeGroot voted NO. Open the purse.

It was interesting as Guy Tilman asked the questions and was bringing up the topic of not wasting money but voted for each appropriation. Just as interesting was that despite the recent future bleak finance picture on display at a seminar put on by the Mike Geisel and Finance Director Craig White, Barry Flachsbart was voting to give away money like he was a liberal Democrat.

MORE SHOTS AT MIKE HERRING: For 28 years Mike Herring was Chesterfield City Administrator. He suddenly announced his resignation in December effective on March

31, 2016. Now the staff is telling councilpersons that many financial issues and projections were being hidden from elected officials by Herring. I can attest that the budget projections in Town and County by Finance Director Betty Cotner were far more detailed than what was put out in Chesterfield, a city many times larger than Town and County.

At the start of the F&A meeting Councilman Barry Flachsbart congratulated Finance Director Craig White on what a good job he is doing. Flachsbart said he was unaware of the work of White as Herring kept hiding it from elected officials.

Later in the meeting Mayor Bob Nation said, "I do think we had too little information of the budget in the past."

The Randy Logan Insult Hour even brings in the Mayor: The voters of Ward-3 wisely replaced the one wise-ass councilman, Mike Casey, who would rather lay out an insulting joke than make a relevant comment, with Randy Logan, an almost professional smart-ass who relishing in insulting people.

In discussing the budget, Barb McGuinness complained that after finally being voted in by the Council to replace the late Nancy Greenwood in November there was no 2016 line item budget to review. Once she finally got one there was virtually no time for her to give it a once over. She was asking for a line item budget to look at this year. That brought this exchange:

Logan: "Do you want to know that Tom in the Parks Department wants a 3 HP leaf-blower instead of a 2 HP leaf-blower?"

Logan: "Do you want to know how many hours we plan to spend at the Dog Park versus the trails?"

Barb McGuiness: (to Logan) "I'm sorry I confused you dear. I don't think Councilman Logan thinks I even know how to read a budget".

DOORACK PROPERTY: Here is where Logan and Mayor Nation tangled. It was on the Doorack empty lot with the 10-year lease for an empty lot at \$85,000-a-year with a \$1,000,000 option to buy after 2019.



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

Bruce DeGroot started the discussion by saying that the attorneys have reviewed it and it will be hard to get out of the lease. Mayor Nation was on the council at the time of the Doorack secret vote but was out of town when the vote happened. He says he was the lone opposition to the project, but at the time city attorney Rob Heggie claimed the city could get out of the lease.

Here is some more back and forth with Barry Flachsbart sounding like a kookie very liberal Democrat.

Logan: "We need to do something to get out of it." (Doorack lease)

Flachsbart: "I was on the Council when this was done. That plat of land is the key entry to our historic district and to the Chesterfield Valley."

"It was originally the location of the Chesterfield Train Station. Someday I would like to see a replica of the train station built there."

"It was really important that the piece piece of property not be a filling station or something else."

Logan: "Let's get a plan of what to do with it."

Flachsbart: "There was NO plan. Maybe something in the future!"

McGuinness: "The future is now!"

Mayor Nation: "What bothers me is that even if you had a grand scheme of what to do with the property, it has dropped in valuation. It was valued at \$235,000 three years ago and is now valued at \$215,000."

Logan: (Loudly) "I would disagree!"

Mayor Nation: (Even Louder) "You go on and disagree, but I know a lot more about this than you do!"

Logan: (As Loud or Louder) "No, you don't!"

Logan: (In a lower voice) "Concerning the planned Schoettler Road apartments, I have received a lot of calls from people complaining about it. I asked them what they want and they said green space. I was surprised that many said they would be for a property tax to buy green space." (I'd love to see that on an April ballot.)

\$1,000 for a Seminar: The F&A committee also wants to spend \$1,000 for a three hour seminar for the Council and the Planning Commission on Roberts Rules of Order.

OUR VIEW AFTER 90 MINUTES AT THE F & A MEETING: It was fascinating that the City of Chesterfield will have spent \$850,000 over 10 years for a piece of property valued at \$215,000 and then have an option to buy a piece of property valued at \$215,000 for a \$1,000,000 in 2019.

First of all the people who voted for this should seriously consider retiring. That would be Barry Flachsbart (who continues to champion it) and Dan Hurt who had left the meeting before the Doorack Property came up for discussion.

The F&A was open to the public. I arrived at 8:48 for the 9 o'clock meeting and there was exactly one seat for the public in the room. I was the only person not wearing a Chesterfield ID card who was there.

While not on the committee Councilwoman Bridget Nations was present. She could ask and comment as much as she would like to. The only thing I remember her saying was "excuse me" as she left the room to take a personal cell phone call. Whatever happened to the days when you turned off your cell phone when you attended a meeting? Bridget has been on the Council for a year-and-a-half and has shown no interest in researching a topic or speaking up.

The idea that three of four members of the committee don't realize that \$3,000 and \$2,000 cash gifts to groups asking for money adds up to real money. Due to being in a tax pool where the city only sees half of the local sales tax collected plus projections of

multimillion dollar bond payoffs in the near future I amazed how caviler some elected officials are about the tax revenue.

Speaking of doing no research, **Randy Logan**, likes to sarcastically make fun of his fellow council members and rarely does he bring much to the table in research or new ideas. Randy likes to have the role of the "jerk" and he plays it very well.

Early on the in meeting Logan appeared to have made himself into a lair. At an earlier meeting Barb McGuinness recommended that the other ward member could fill in on a committee they were not assigned to if the primary council person could not attend. Logan was completely against the suggestion, saying he did not want Councilman **Dan Hurt** ever sitting in for him as he does not agree with anything Hurt says.



Logan on the left and Hurt on the right

At the July 25th F&A meeting Hurt said he would like to see a 5-year budget projection every year around June.

"I agree with what Councilman Hurt said about the five-year budget," said Logan showing he lied in June when he said he did not agree with anything Hurt said.

THE LAND OF THE UNINFORMED RULED BY QUEEN BRIDGET: Councilwoman Bridget Nations and Finance Committee Chairman Bruce DeGroot both missed the June 28 3-hour long Financial Workshop put on by the Interim City Administrator and Finance Director. We were told Nations was out of town and DeGroot told us he had "other obligations" which turned out going door to door as a state rep candidate.

DeGroot then attended a makeup session with the City Administrator and finance Director. Nations was not there.

Here is what I don't understand. This was very important. I was there and the staff, mayor and council were told of facts that had been hid from them by the former city administrator and the upcoming huge cash payoffs of bonds due in 2019 and 2022.

The fact that the Interim City Administrator and Finance Director had to do this a second time and take away from their duties was bad enough. Now due to the absence of Nations or inability to schedule Nations and DeGroot at the same time it means these two high ranking officials have to give up a half of day of work for the makeup sessions.



These two are wasting tax dollars by forcing the 2-hour financial workshop to be put on three times.

CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT **JUNE 2016 MONTHLY REPORT** (Increases for year highlighted in Yellow)

Offense	June 2016	June 2015	YTD 2016	YTD 2015
Non-forcible rape	0	0	1	0
Forcible Rape	0	1	1	2
Sexual Offense (non-rape)	0	0	3	4

Robbery	2	2	4	8
Assault	15	8	103	94
BURGLARY				
Residential	2	3	14	17
Business	3	7	7	12
LARCENY				
Felony	21	15	123	119
Misdemeanor	43	54	257	230
Auto Theft	4	4	10	10
Arson	0	0	2	1
Check/fraud	31	39	148	779*
Vandalism	12	9	77	53
Drug Violations	15	5	71	44
DWI	4	8	55	67
ARRESTS				
Adult	125	92	706	681
Juvenile	11	25	85	86
TRAFFIC				
Vehicle Crashes	166	162	947	855
Fatalities	1	1	1	1
Injuries	35	37	178	165
Traffic Warnings Issues	738	311	3893	2067
Parking Tickets	12	17	124	114
Traffic Summons	797	733	4690	4804
Recovered Stolen Veh	0	2	2	4
Radio Assignments/calls	4716	4385	26498	25528
Alarms	125	141	726	789

* Chesterfield PD took IRS fraud reports in 2015 and are not taking them in 2016

POLICE BLOTTER: Here is what the Chesterfield Police Officers were doing last week.



CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT Media Report July 20, 2016 - July 26, 2016

Time of Occurrence	Generic Address Business/Location	Name Incident Type
07/26/2016, 1200 7XX ALRICK DR	Larceny under \$500 from Auto	
	Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took license plate tab off of vehicle.	
07/23/2016, 1219 -1459 5XX BELL AVE Million Air Corporation	Larceny under \$500 Business	
	Brief Narrative Description: 36 yo male trespassed on private property and took alcohol from airplane hanger.	
07/26/2016, 1527 9X LONG RD Walgreens	Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting	
	Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject concealed cosmetics and left store without paying.	
07/26/2016, 1616 1XX THF BLVD Walmart	Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting	
	Brief Narrative Description: 46 yo female concealed CD's and left store without paying.	
07/26/2016, 2121 -2300 17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Heavy Duty Equipment	Larceny over \$500 Business	
	Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject attempted to steal a utility vehicle from business.	
07/26/2016, 2147 15XXX SOUTH OUTER 40 RD Mercy Virtual Care Center	Tampering with an Auto	
	Brief Narrative Description: 52 yo male poured unknown substance into ex-girlfriend's gas tank.	
07/22/2016, 1100-07/25/2016, 0630 17XXX CHESTERFIELD AIRPORT RD	Larceny over \$500 Business	
	Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took construction equipment and tools from construction site.	
07/24/2016, 1513-1538 18XXX OUTLET BLVD Saks Fifth Avenue	Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting	
	Brief Narrative Description: 51 yo male took clothing and walked out of store without paying.	
07/07/2016, 1700 1XX CHESTERFIELD INDUSTRIAL BLVD Lakeside Exteriors	Larceny under \$500 Employer	
	Brief Narrative Description: 33 yo male took power washer from employer.	
07/25/2016, 1705 17XX CLARKSON RD US Bank	Fraud Credit Card	
	Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject used stolen debit card in an attempt to withdraw money from bank.	
07/25/2016, 1901 16XX WISHWOOD CT 7	Property Damage to Vehicle	
	Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject scratched victim's vehicle while parked in parking lot.	
07/25/2016, 2251 COEUR CROSSING LN & OLIVE BLVD & TOREADOR DR	Drugs Possession -	
	Brief Narrative Description: 20 yo female in possession of marijuana, paraphernalia, and alcohol after being stopped for a traffic violation.	
07/24/2016, 1740 19XX RIDGE LAKE DR	Assault Common - Actual Assault	
	Brief Narrative Description: 14 yo male pushed victim after argument causing no injuries.	
07/24/2016, 1640-1844 4XX THF BLVD Galaxy Theatre	Larceny over \$500 from Auto	
	Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject broke out window on victim's vehicle and took a radar detector.	
07/24/2016, 1640-1844 4XX THF BLVD Galaxy Theatre	Property Damage to Vehicle	
	Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject damaged window on victim's vehicle in an attempt to make entry.	
07/24/2016, 2228 20XX CANNON HEIGHTS DR 2	Assault Common - Actual Assault	
	Brief Narrative Description: 52 yo male struck victim in the face after argument causing minor injuries.	
07/24/2016, 2315 15XXX ISLEVIEW DR	Drugs Possession -Misdemeanor	
	Brief Narrative Description: 17 yo male in possession of marijuana and paraphernalia after suspicious vehicle check.	
07/24/2016, 1851 1XX THF BLVD Walmart	Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting	
	Brief Narrative Description: Two 18 yo females, two 17 yo females, and one 19 yo female concealed clothing and left store without paying.	
07/23/2016, 1030 18XXX WILD HORSE CREEK RD	Assault Common - Actual Assault	
	Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject pushed victim after argument causing no injuries.	
07/23/2016, 1300-1500 7XX SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS BLVD	Larceny under \$500 from mailbox	

Brief Narrative Description: 36 yo male took mail from business mailboxes.
06/28/2016, 1200 14XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Delmar Gardens **Larceny under \$500 from Auto**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took license plate off of vehicle.
07/21/2016, 1800-1830 16XX CLARKSON RD Soho Nail Salon **Larceny over \$500 Person**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took victim's jewelry.
07/22/2016, 0900-1740 6XX W CHESTERFIELD PKY Chesterfield City Hall **Property Damage to Vehicle**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject damaged victim's vehicle while parked on parking lot.
07/21/2016, 1620 4X CHESTERFIELD MALL Macy's **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took hats and walked out of store without paying.
07/22/2016, 2015 15XXX CEDARMILL DR **Assault Common - Actual Assault**

Brief Narrative Description: 35 yo female struck victim in the face after argument causing minor injuries.
07/21/2016, 0130 1XX HILLTOWN VILLAGE CTR Intstant Imprints **Property Damage to Business**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject broke front window of business with beer bottle.
07/20/2016, 2000-07/21/2016, 0645 5 MCBRIDE AND SON CENTER DR Hampton Inn **Larceny under \$500 from Auto**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject broke out window on victim's vehicle and took a radar detector.
07/21/2016, 1015 14XXX LOS PADRES CT **Trespassing Private Property**

Brief Narrative Description: 30 yo male and 22 yo female trespassed on private property after previously being warned.
07/21/2016, 1245-1330 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Chesterfield Mall **Larceny over \$500 from Auto**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject entered victim's unlocked vehicle and took a purse.
07/21/2016, 1440 17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Steve Madden **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subjects concealed shoes and left store without paying.
07/21/2016, 1600 17XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD Foot Locker **Larceny under \$500 from Person**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took victim's purse which was left unattended in rear of store.
06/18/2016, 1200-07/20/2016, 0225 10XX WHITE RD **Property Damage to House**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject vandalized vacant house.
06/29/2016, 1700-07/01/2016, 1000 16XXX HUNTERS WAY DR **Larceny over \$500 from Residence**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject took household materials from moving POD.
07/19/2016, 1200 13XXX COLISEUM DR B **Fraud Bank Account**

Brief Narrative Description: Unknown subject conducted fraudulent wire transfers from victim's bank account.
07/20/2016, 2030 18XXX CHESTERFIELD AIRPORT RD Comfort Inn **Assault Common - Actual Assault**

Brief Narrative Description: 37 yo male struck victim after argument causing no injuries. During booking, subject spit at officer resulting in officer seeking medical treatment.
07/20/2016, 1600- 2345 10XX NOONING TREE DR **Property Damage to Mailbox**

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

A YEAR AFTER VOTING TO LEAVE THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, CHESTERFIELD CITY COUNCIL VOTES 7-0 TO REJOIN FOR \$7,122. Just a year earlier the Chesterfield City Council was defiant and had voted to leave the St. Louis County Municipal League after the League threatened to oppose Chesterfield's lawsuit to have the St. Louis County Tax Pool declared unconstitutional. However the League did not meddle much in the legislation presented by Rep. Sue Allen and pushed by Mayor Bob Nation for the city to keep four-percent more of tax revenue and donating less to the Tax Pool. That legislation passed. The lawsuit is still pending.

Meanwhile the Municipal League changed its name from the St. Louis County Municipal League to the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis trying to find more members.

The annual fee for Chesterfield is \$7,122 and is the highest membership fee of all the cities in St. Louis County due to Chesterfield's assessed valuations being the highest in the County.

Mayor Bob Nation who led the move to leave the Muni League was now the biggest supporter to return.

"It's good to have a seat at their table," said Nation.

He then mentioned some of the benefits in belonging, including research, stats on all the cities at your finger tips and he mentioned they had a lobbyist in Jefferson City, Jon Dalton, mayor of Town and Country. Upon hearing this Councilwoman Barb McGuinness let out a disgusted and loud "Ugh!"

Dalton has a clear conflict of interest the voters of Town and Country keep ignoring. When he lobbies in Jefferson City is he looking out for the best interest of the Muni League and not necessarily Town and Country? Of course Dalton has never let clear conflicts of interest get in his before. He was a lobbyist for the city's biggest contractor, the West County EMS & FPD and signed a five-year contract with them the same year he was lobbying for them. He was a longtime cigarette lobbyist and kept smoke free bills I would introduce as an Alderman from being passed. He most recently filed with the State of Missouri as the key representative of a Nursing Home applying for a license with the state, located in the same city where he is mayor.

So despite a financial warning of tough times ahead the Council voted 7-0 to spend \$7,122 to join a group that they seem to do quite well in not being a member in 2015.

BIG MONEY BEING SAVED AT FIRE DISTRICT OVER FOUR YEARS AGO:

Monarch Board Treasurer Robin Harris pointed out after the July 22 12-noon board meeting that the District was ahead of budget projections on overtime. Of the \$175,000 budgeted for overtime in 2016 at the half-way point at the end of June the District has used only 43-percent. Harris was quick to point out that as recently as 2012 the district had overtime costs in the area of \$600,000 annually.



I'm pretty sure Board Member Robin Harris is pushing his glasses back and not giving me the finger. Harris and Rick Gans were talking dollars and cents at the recent Monarch meeting.

GANS CAUTIONS ON TIFS IN THE HOWARD BEND AREA: Monarch Fire District Board President Rick Gans warned about the planned Howard Bend commercial, industrial and residential development in the flood plain in the City of Maryland Heights. A portion of the redevelopment area is in the Monarch Fire District. Maryland Heights was talking about the possibility of using Tax Increment Financing to spur development.

"Back when they started developing Chesterfield Valley, Chesterfield was giving TIFs. We should have had a dog in the fight and tried to stop it," said Gans of the TIFs issued 20 years ago. He pointed out how the department saw a surge in calls but was not receiving full real estate taxes it was due because of the TIFs. .

In the case of Howard Bend the District will see not only more inspections and ambulance service, but in the event of flood events the district will have to expend massive manpower both to Howard Bend and the Chesterfield Valley. Gans also mentioned that if the development was large enough in the Monarch District they would also have to consider adding another fire station and more employees.

FIRE DISTRICT LOSES IN COURT OF APPEALS ON LABOR CONTRACT FOR LIFE: The last labor contract signed between the Firefighters Union and the Monarch Board of Directors was back when the Pro-Union faction held a 2-to-1 majority on the Board of Directors. The contract included a "never ending clause." If a new labor agreement was not reached between the union and the district the existing contract would remain in effect. The new all pro-taxpayer board would like to get a new contract.

A St. Louis County judge upheld the expired contract's clause. The District appealed to the Missouri Eastern District Court of Appeals claiming a new board of directors should not be bound by agreements that have expired that were signed by former elected

officials. On July 26, 2016 the Court of Appeals sided with the trial court and Union gets to keep its current pay scales and benefits, some of the highest in the region and the state.

MISSOURIANS FOR LIFE: There are three candidates claiming they are "The Only Candidate Endorsed" by Missourians for Life. The candidates are Bruce DeGroot, Derek Grier and Jean Evans. We have reported that organization terminated its status with the Missouri Secretary of State in 2007. Someone who filed a "Factious Name" status with the Secretary of State has let that expire in 2013.

I was able to find them on file with the Missouri Ethics Commission, not under their name, but under their organizer and treasurer's name.

I was tipped by a reader that Missourians for Life is front by a single individual so the "Missourians" moniker is false. It should be "A Missourian for Life." That person is Bradley Harmon, of St. Charles, who has had 18 different Political Action Committees, eight are active.

A year ago the Ethic Commission fined Harmon and one of his PACs (Missourians Against Unfair taxes) \$41,000 for ethics violations. Missourians for Life has a whole \$979.02 in the bank.

Of the eight PACs, seven are totally inactive while the Missourians for Life (Bradley Harmon) is endorsing some candidates.

Here is a post about Harmon by Matt Steves of Clayton, MO.

The single-issue campaign committees—"Missourians" (i.e. Brad Harmon) for whatever—did not arise spontaneously, from the grass roots. Rather, they are a package, all created on July 9, 2008, and all registered with the Ethics Commission on July 16, with consecutive charter and Missouri Ethics Commission ID numbers. When I dug into their financial disclosures, I found that they and other entities controlled by Brad Harmon contribute money to each other, functioning as a single unit.

Here are the phony PACs that Harmon started in 2008:

C091228	SAINT CHARLES COUNTY REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FUND		BRAD HARMON		POLITICAL ACTION	Active
C091227	MISSOURI LEADERSHIP FUND		BRAD HARMON		POLITICAL ACTION	Active
C081360	MISSOURIANS FOR LIFE		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL ACTION	Active
C081359	MISSOURIANS FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL ACTION	Active
C081358	MISSOURIANS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL ACTION	Active
C081357	MISSOURIANS AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL ACTION	Active
C081356	MISSOURIANS AGAINST UNFAIR TAXES		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL ACTION	Active
C071181	0012TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE		BRAD HARMON		POLITICAL PARTY	Terminated
C071180	0019TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE		BRAD HARMON		POLITICAL PARTY	Terminated
C071104	FRIENDS OF MATTHEW A SEEDS	MATTHEW SEEDS	GRACE HARMON		DEBT SERVICE	Terminated
C071008	SAINT CHARLES ORGANIZATION OF REPUBLICANS		BRAD HARMON		POLITICAL ACTION	Active
C061472	KEN FOUSEK CAMPAIGN	KEN FOUSEK	MARK T HARMON		CANDIDATE	Terminated
C051288	0015TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL PARTY	Terminated
C041587	0023RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL PARTY	Terminated
C041524	0019TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL PARTY	Terminated
C041523	0014TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL PARTY	Terminated
C041522	0017TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL PARTY	Terminated
C041521	0016TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL PARTY	Terminated
C041520	0012TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL PARTY	Terminated
C031227	REPUBLICAN 18TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT COMMITTEE		BRADLEY HARMON		POLITICAL PARTY	Terminated

What I don't understand if Derek Grier and Bruce DeGroot think they are smart enough to be legislators, why they are not smart enough to check out "Missourians For Life" before they sent out fliers claiming they are connected to this fake. "Missourians for Life" is one busy guy with lots of fake organizations and some issues!

The Missouri Scout, an online news service on Missouri Politics ran something on this topic and our first mention of "Missourians for Life." They found a financial tie-in to DeGroot and inferred that possibly DeGroot was buying the endorsement.

Here is part of the Missouri Scout piece on it:

I counted eight political action committees for which Harmon is the treasurer. All use the same PO Box in St. Charles as their address.

*The favorite vendor for those committees seems to be **Tom Smith's Survey St. Louis**.*

For example Harmon committees Missouri Leader Fund, St. Charles County Regional Leadership Fund, Missourians for Better Healthcare, Missourians for Quality Education, St. Charles Organization of Republicans, as well as Missourians Against Unfair Taxes, and Missourians for Life have all paid Survey St. Louis during the past two years.

*And it's interesting that the two candidates that Hoffmann mentions as getting the exclusive Missourians for Life endorsement haven't received any money from MO for Life, but they both have used Survey St. Louis as well. **Jean Evans** used them for sign and flyers; and **Bruce DeGroot** used them for printing.*

NEXT WEEK WE COVER TWO LAWSUITS JUST FILED AGAINST THE CITY OF CHESTERFIELD, PLUS ANOTHER RESTAURANT REVIEW, MORE MUSIC ITEMS AND ELECTION NEWS!

RESTAURANT REVIEW: *The Sports Page Hits an RBI double for pub grub:* My wife, visiting Jean Whitney and I were going to the just opened Stackhouse where Miller's Crossing had been located. When we arrived at the Stackhouse on Olive the bar was open, but they were not serving food due to a power outage the night before. It turned out to be lucky for us as we headed to the Sports Page at the Northeast corner of Olive Blvd and Woods Mill Road behind the Korean drive through.



I went with the chicken strips (\$9.50) that comes with steak fries. Jean went with the steak sandwich at \$9.95 also arriving with steak fries. My wife had the Reuben \$9.95 that came with the house potato chips.



For \$9.50 the chicken strips were a disappointment. They had light breading, which I prefer, but there weren't many there and the ones that were had some grizzle. I probably would have been happy if they were \$4.50 and not \$9.50. My table mates did not like them at all. The ones that are hand rolled to order at Smitty's are much better.



The steak sandwich was very good with one exception. Jean thought it would come with some lettuce, tomato and onion on the side. It didn't. It came bare. After we ate the waitress mentioned it would have come with some toppings including grilled onions

if we had asked. When she took the order she was aware we were newbies and did not offer to ask if we wanted any toppings.

Besides that one compliant, the steak sandwich was very good. It was tender, cooked properly and had great flavor. While the chicken strips had grizzle the steak sandwich did not. It was very good for a bar and grill steak sandwich. At \$9.95 it seemed to be a bargain. I would likely order this they next time I'm in the Sports Page.



The Reuben

The Reuben got the highest marks. My wife and Jean split it and the comments included that every bite was good and that it was toasted perfectly and came with no grease spots soaking through the bread.

The other high mark with the Reuben was that everyone loved the potato chips. The steak fries were average. They were properly cooked and served hot but they were heavy. The chips were tasty and light. We all would suggest that if your entrée comes with fries ask to substitute the chips.

Overall we would all go back. I'd even order the chicken stripes if they dramatically dropped the price. But the steak sandwich and the Rueben along with the chips were the big winners. For Chesterfield Bar and Grills "The Sports Page" is better than the Hangar on Long Road and not as good as Smitty's on Clayton Road.

OBITS:

GHOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST DIES: Her obit was in the New York Times and the Washington Post and a smaller one in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Marni Nixon, whose voice and singing entertained millions from the mid-1950's to today in America's

greatest musicals on film. Nixon was 86 when she died last week of cancer in New York. In our newsletter #216 back on February 23 we wished Marni a Happy 86th Birthday. Five months later it's an obit.



Marni, with no credit dubbed the singing of Deborah Kerr in the King and I (1955). Most suburban families had a copy of that soundtrack in their record stand and Nixon was not listed at all on the cover.

In 1961 she dubbed the voice of Natalie Wood for songs by Maria in West Side Story. Another album in millions of American homes. Again she got no film or album credit, but eventually Leonard Bernstein gave her a very small percentage of his royalties.

Then in 1964 she did all the singing for Audrey Hepburn in My Fair Lady. Again with no screen credit or royalties.

She finally got screen credit in 1965 when she appeared as a nun in the Sound of Music. The nuns got three songs in the movie, cut from five in the Broadway musical. Here are the songs Marni Nixon sang in films that America listened to over and over again and we sang or whistle or hummed over and over again.

King and I

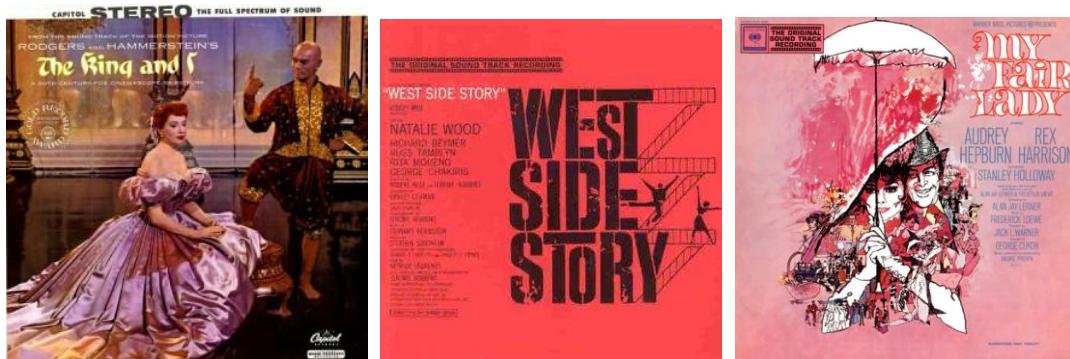
I Whistle a Happy Tune
Hello Young Lovers
Getting to Know You
Shall We Dance

West Side Story

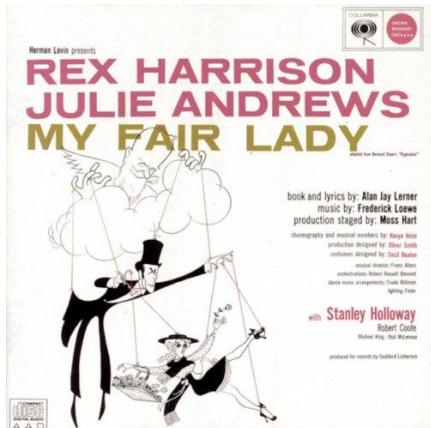
Tonight
I Feel Pretty

My Fair Lady

Wouldn't it be Loverly
Just You Wait (Henry Higgins, Just you Wait)
The Rain in Spain
I Could Have Danced All Night
Show Me



The movie soundtracks of The King and I and West Side Story were popular, but I believe the Broadway album starring Julie Andrews in My Fair Lady with a drawing by St. Louisian Al Hirshfeld on the cover was the bigger seller.



THE REST OF THE STORY: Last week we noted the closing of the Fox Jewelers shop at 13000 Manchester Road. It turns out we over looked the obit in the Post-Dispatch because it did not mention his business. Nick Fox died on June 2 while on a group fishing trip in Ontario Canada.



MUSIC: THIS MONDAY GO OUT HAVE SOME FUN FOR ONE NIGHT BEFORE

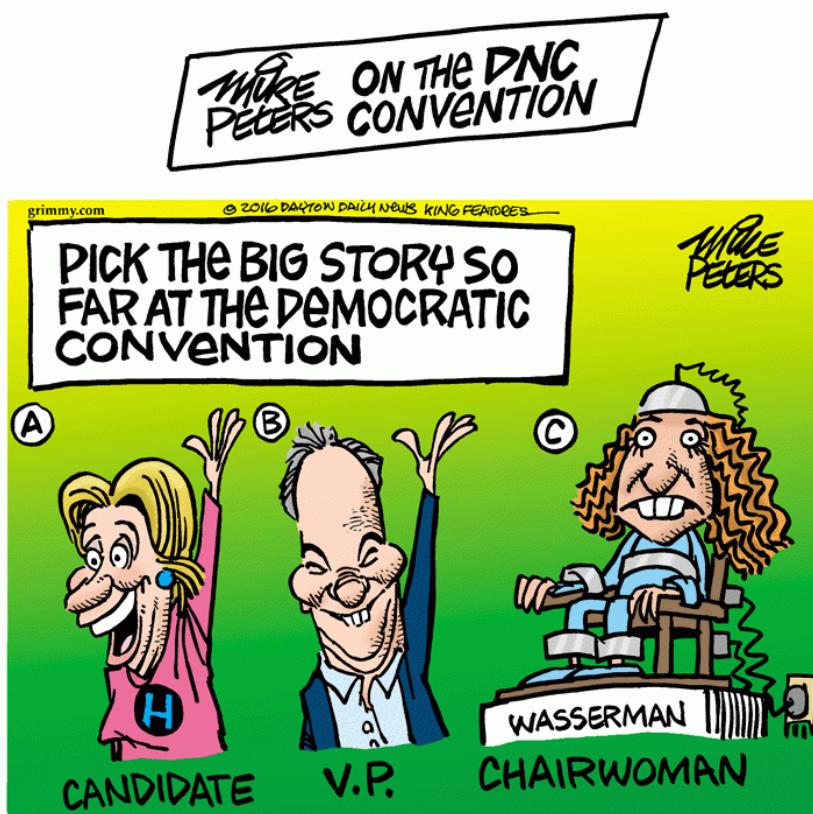
SUMMER ENDS: On August 1 from 7:30 to 9:30 it is the Rat Pack Monday at the One-19-North at 119 N. Kirkwood Road, one block north of the train station. Dean Christopher will start out singing songs of the Rat Pack backed up by Jim Manley and Chris Swan and then usually stupid comedy breaks out.





CARTOONS:







**"I VOW TO CHANGE ALL OF THE CHANGE WE CHANGED
THE LAST TIME WE PROMISED CHANGE!"**

