

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 243 AND CHESTERFIELD 188



By John Hoffmann

September 19, 2016

### TOWN AND COUNTRY AUGUST POLICE STATS:



The following activity was reported by the police department during the month of **AUGUST**:

Officers responded to a total of **2005** calls for service and wrote a total of **231** reports, including:

**84** Vehicle Crashes

**36** Criminal Reports

**15** Driving While Intoxicated arrests (**1** Felony, **1** Misd, **13** ord)

**35** Misc Arrests (Traffic charges, Fugitive charges, Failure to appear charges, etc)

**261** Traffic citations issued (**162** speeding)

### 2016 Town and County Police Activity YTD Report Jan-August

Officer's responded to a total of 15,223 calls for service and wrote a total of 1,643 reports, Including:

739 Vehicle Crashes (3.02 crashes a day)

252 Criminal Reports (1.03 reports a day)

115 Driving While Intoxicated arrests(11 Felony, 6 Misd, 99 Ord)

222 Misc Arrests (Traffic Charges, Fugitive charges, Failure to Appear, etc) (0.91 a day)

2,052 Traffic citations issued (1,227 speeding) (8.41 a day) (5.03 speeding citations a day)



### **AUGUST DEER CRASH REPORT:**

Deer-versus-vehicle encounters were up for August 2016 from last year by a whopping 33%. However August is the month with the fewest deer killed by cars. In 2015 it was 2. In 2016 it was 3. In 2015 there were YTD 44 dead deer on the side of the road. In 2016 it is just 33 by the end of August.

08/17/16 05:11 AM North Outer 40 and Mason Road. (Ward 2)  
08/20/16 09:59 PM Topping and Topping Acres (Ward 1)  
08/25/16 05:39 AM Ramp from WB I-64 to NB Hwy 141 (Ward 4)



2016 Deer Accident Locations Jan-August

I-64 Ballas to Mason **4** Wards 1 and 2  
I-64 Mason to Hwy 141 **2** Ward 4  
I-270 South City Limits to North CL **5** Ward 1  
Ballas Road **2** Ward 1  
South Outer Forty Road Municipal Center Drive to Mason **1** Wards 1 & 2  
North Outer Forty Drive **1** Wards 1, 2 & 4  
Topping Road **1** Wards 1 & 2  
Mason Road (Clayton to south city limits) **2** Ward 2  
Mason Road (Clayton North to Conway) **2** Wards 2 and Wards 4  
Clayton Road (Mason to Woods Mill) **2** Ward 3  
Woodsmill Road **2** Wards 3 and 4  
Highway 141 **9** Wards 3 and 4

**THIS IS A PARKING VIOLATION IN TOWN AND COUNTRY:**



We reported in March that on February 15, 2016 at 4:07 pm Edward Newby, 52, of Ballwin drove off of Mason Road and created all this damage. He then fled the scene in his damaged Jeep Wrangler, but left the front license plate in the mangled fencing. His Jeep only made it to the Mason Village Shopping Center where he abandoned it.

Was he drunk? We don't know because the police did not catch up with him until the next day.



Edward Newby

He told the Town and Country Police Officer investigating the accident the next day that he didn't think he did any damage and believed he drove off at the road at high speed because his clutch went out.

This is from the Town and Country Police Report:

Witness 1 said vehicle 1 was northbound on Mason Road approaching Blossom Hill Lane. Vehicle 1 ran off the roadway to the right striking an iron fence and then a MODOT traffic sign. Vehicle 1 came back onto the roadway and continued north on Mason Road leaving the scene of the crash.

I located a MO license plate [REDACTED] registered to a 2003 Jeep Wrangler at the scene.

Vehicle 1, with matching rear plate was located at 13414 Mason Woods Village (Straub's).

I contacted vehicle 1 owner Edward Newby, who responded to the station. Newby admitted driving the vehicle, stating his clutch went out causing him to leave the roadway and crash. Newby stated he drove to the parking lot of Mason Woods Village and left his vehicle. He admitted not reporting the crash to police, stating he didn't think he crashed into anything.

Vehicle towed by McNamara's Towing.

**OUTCOME:** So there was a witness. There was evidence including the front license plate to the suspect vehicle left at the scene and the vehicle disabled 1/2 mile away. Then there was an admission by the driver (suspect) that he was driving the vehicle.

Newby was charged with Leaving the Scene of an Accident, a 6-point violation. Since he wasn't around we don't know if he was drunk or not. This should be a very easy case to prosecute.

However, Town and Country City Prosecutor Ed Sluys didn't prosecute it at all. Instead he reduced it to Illegal Parking and Newby paid a \$225 fine. He got NO POINTS on his license.



Sluys



Waldemer

Ed Sluys is the problem, although he operates just like all the others filling city prosecutor jobs from the infamous law firm of Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe. But Town and Country Judge Dean Waldemer is just as guilty in allowing these plea deals.

Residents who drive on Mason Road need to call their alderwomen and insist on court reform NOW! Often neither the city prosecutor nor judge seem to care about our safety!

## **TOWN AND COUNTRY MAN ARRESTED FOR DWI THREE TIMES IN FOUR**

**MONTHS: If you have kids at Mason Ridge be concerned!** David L. Graham, 48, of 948 Mason Ridge Road has been arrested three times between April and August for DWI. One of the times he was arrested at Mason Ridge and Mason Road close to the dismissal time of the nearby Mason Ridge Elementary School.



David Graham



948 Mason Ridge Road with Graham's Ford SUV ready to roll.

On Monday April 25, 2016 he was stopped at 7:23 pm for running the stop sign on Mason Ridge and Mason Woods. He was arrested for DWI. His BAC was almost 4 times the legal limit, coming in at .311% BAC.

Three days later on April 28, 2016 at 3:21 PM he crossed the center line on Mason Ridge and Mason Road next to the school. At the time of his arrest he had an open container of alcohol in the car. This time his BAC level was just under .30%, at .295%.

On August 4, he pled guilty to both DWI offenses in Town and Country Municipal Court. For the first DWI Judge Waldemer gave him a No-Points, No-Fine, No-Record SIS 2-year probation term. He was fined \$250 for running the stop sign. How do you put anyone on a No-Fine, No-Points DWI probation who has a BAC level of .311%?

For the second DWI he was fined \$634 and placed on a 2-year SES probation term, meaning this one would be on his record.

Nine days after pleading guilty he was arrested again for DWI and Driving While Revoked at 7:07 PM again on Mason Ridge Road. The County Prosecutor's Office filed felony DWI charges but did not file a charge for Driving While Revoked.

Will Judge Waldemer revoke his probations after the third DWI arrest in four months? We will have much more detailed information about the first two DWI arrests in next week's newsletter. Graham has actually had four DWIs. His first was in 1987 in Columbia, MO.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY CITY PLANNER QUILTS AND GOES TO MANCHESTER:**

Melanie Rippetoe's last day at work was Friday September 9. On Tuesday September 6 the Manchester Board of Aldermen voted to hire Rippetoe as the head of Planning, Zoning, Code Enforcement and Economic Development at a salary of \$77,000. She was making \$67,500 as City Planner at Town and Country.



Melanie, seemed to be an excellent employee, who had a great sense of humor. She came to the Town and Country from the Maryland Heights Zoning and Codes department.

The City of Manchester has a reputation dating back 40 years as being a terrible place to work. They have a crazy city attorney who tries to run meetings and departments. There is often pressure and tension for department heads.

I only hope someone in the know let Melanie know the risk she was taking. I also hope T&C holds her old job open long enough in case she wants to come back after a month or so.

**WEST COUNTY EMS & FPD LAWYER ACTING AS ATTORNEY FOR TAXI COMMISSION TRIED HIS BEST TO KEEP OPEN RECORDS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Charles Billings, the Taxi Commission Lawyer, Municipal Judge of Des Peres and WCEMS&FPD lawyer grossly overcharged a reporter who was simply trying to get public records to verify public complaints about a specific cabdriver.

By doing so, Billings was grossly stupid because he allowed the Riverfront Times to print a two prong article. One of how a dangerous cabdriver keeps driving cabs and the second is how the Taxi Commission tries to hide public records from the public.



Thanks to Billings, the Taxi Commission joins the City of Chesterfield and municipal courts all over St. Louis County in trying to hide public records from the public.

The latest example of public institutions hiding information was The Taxi Commission trying to keep information from free lance reporter Mike Bollich-Ziegler who started out researching an article about how a taxi driver got one serious complaint after another over years and how the Taxi Commission refused to revoke his taxi license.

However Billings and the staff of the Taxi Commission expanded the article by screwing the reporter around and trying to keep the public information from him. First Billings told the reporter that nothing before 2010 is available. To that I say BULLSHIT!



Charles Billings at the Monarach Fire Protection District meeting where he was about to be fired.

Keep in mind I was the chief investigator and enforcement officer for a County Taxicab Unit in one of the nation's largest metro areas, in suburban Washington DC. We had either electronic or paper files that went back to the first time a driver applied for a hack license. I can't believe that St. Louis doesn't have the same.

When I had a position in a government Taxi Office or a police department that oversaw records I always gave reporters what they wanted as fast as possible. Don't piss them off! Those who buy ink by the barrel don't need a new story angle. But that is exactly what the Taxi Commission and Charles Billings did.

They wanted to charge the reporter \$490 to obtain 18 months of complaints about one cabdriver. Billings claimed there were labor costs and he had to review them at several hundred dollars an hour. They also wanted to charge another \$120 to make a second copy of the records for their files. What? The copies came from their files! This should be everyday stuff and should not take more than an hour to collect. The reporter should be charged 10-cents a page for copies, unless the Taxi Commission wants to try and make it impossible for a reporter to obtain public records.

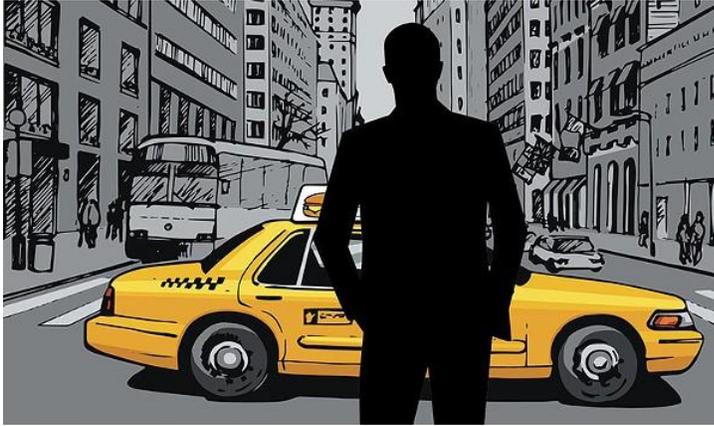
Not only did I give reporters Taxi records at no charge upon request, I sent a copy of the complete investigation report to the complaining party, weather it was an elderly person abandoned at a grocery store because it was a short trip home that didn't pay much or actress Gabriel Union who complained of an unsafe driver on a trip from a friend's house in Montgomery County Maryland to a film location in Baltimore.



Actress Gabriel Union, one of the many people with complaints about taxicab operation that I investigated over five years.

The overall treatment of reporter Mike Bollich-Ziegler was simply outrageous. He was doing a public service writing about the complaints citizens filed on driver Melesse Gelete over two decades. The Taxi Commission should refund the reporter all the money that it forced him to pay to review public records.

This story is warranted if the Taxi Commission claims they need oversight of Uber drivers and then refuses the media to review the oversight they do of licensed taxi drivers.



Here is the link to the Riverfront Times article.

<http://www.riverfronttimes.com/stlouis/the-mtcs-problem-with-bad-taxi-drivers/Content?oid=3105358>

#### **TOWN AND COUNTRY BUSINESS AND REAL ESTATE:**

**PLANS FOR KATIE'S PIZZA ARRIVE AT CITY HALL:** Katie's Pizza will be moving into Einstein's Bagels in 2017. Here is the proposed view for the front of Katie's:



**HERE TODAY AND GONE TOMORROW:** More tear Downs:

Here are two more proposed tear down houses:

**149 Pebble Acres Ct:**



**29 Chapel Hill Estates:**



Unless it is an optical illusion it sure looks like the garage or part of the garage faces the street which is not allowed. Looking at the rear drawing it appears as if the garage is at an angle.

**TWO MORE TEAR DOWNS IN THORNHILL:** Some subdivisions in Town and Country, which was first incorporated in 1950 have over 50% of the homes being new McMansions. Check some of the streets off Clayton Road near Topping. Thornhill Estates with 120 homes is a big subdivision by Town and Country standards and it is nowhere near the 50% giant house number yet (20%), but it is headed that way.



**Nettlecreek**

**13447 Thornhill:** This modern contemporary house was bought by Giorgio Bucci and R.G. Apel Development Co under the LLC of Buz Real Estate in 2009. It is the last house in Thornhill before the Mason Road gate. (We featured Bucci in Newsletter #233 and his very expensive divorce Italian/Town and Country Style.) They sold it to a woman who moved in with her kids only to find high levels of mold two years after buying the house. She sued Bucci and Apel along with Dennis Auping. The lawsuit was settled out of court.



Giorgio Bucci

The house is now for sale as a Tear Down. It sits on 1.64 acres. The asking price is \$625,000.



**FAMILY HOME OF LAST DEFENDANT IN PRINCIPIA FOOTBALL CAMP ASSAULT AND SODOMY CASE IS ON THE MARKET:** The house at 6 Rutherford Lane (former property of Alderman Steve Donaldson) owned by Daniel and Theresa Brewer is now on the market. Their son Joshua Brewer is the last of the five defendants from The Principia School charged in the 2014 Football Camp assaults to either plead guilty or be found guilty.



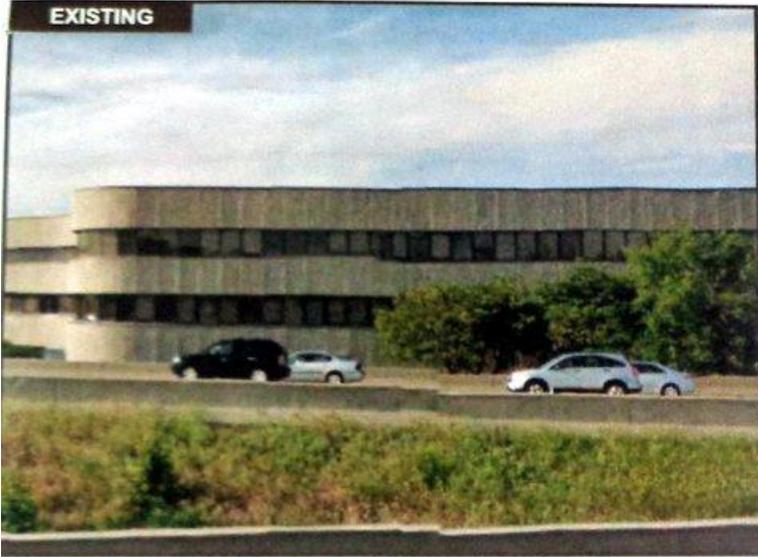
Joshua Brewer

7th and 8th grade campers sleeping in dorm rooms were pulled out of their dorm beds, beat up and had items and fingers stuck in their rectums by their student-varsity player camp counselors.

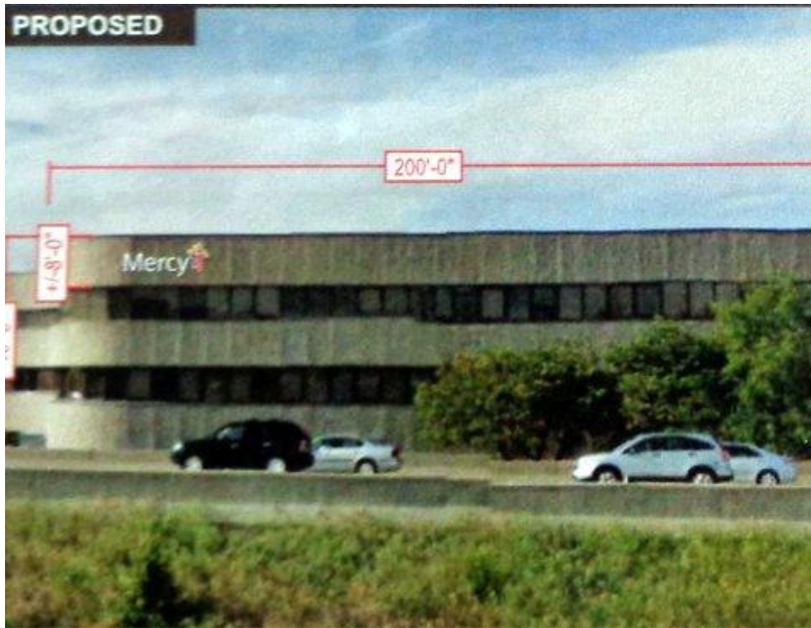
The house is on the market for a mere \$2,498,000. Taxes on the place were \$18,231 last year. It is just 4,770 square feet and only has a 3-car garage.



**MERCY BUYS A WELL KNOWN BUILDING:** Mercy Healthcare has purchased the 777 N Ballas Road building just north of I-64 on Ballas.



Now



Requested Sign addition.

**WHERE'S WALDO? Er I mean WHERE'S BAMBI?** Here are a few deer at 5 o'clock in the afternoon on a front yard in Chapel Hills Estates: There are two photos. If you are not careful when you count the deer it is only eight! But actually it was NINE!



# UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 188



**September 19, 2016**

## **CHESTERFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEETING September 7 highlights:**

**THE RESIDENT AND THE MARCHING BAND:** For the third straight year Chesterfield resident Gene Koverman has come to a City Council meeting with the same complaint. His house is near the football field and parking lots of Parkway Central High School. Outdoor school activities and construction are prohibited from beginning before 7 AM. However, Koverman reports that they start playing loud marching music as early as 6:25 in the morning.

"The police chief gives them amnesty. I don't get that. They start at 6:25 in the morning," said Koverman.



Parkway central Marching Band



Tire and sleepy resident Gene Koverman

"Can he do that," asked Councilwoman Barb McGuinness.

**This was the topic eight days later at the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting.** It quickly became clear that Police Chief Ray Johnson had violated the city ordinance. Johnson said he gave the high school band a "waiver" allowing them to violate the Ordinance. However, per the ordinance Johnson can only give a "permit" to violate the ordinance for a specific 'EVENT" not something that happens every weekday morning for three months.

Chief Johnson stated repeatedly and in a written report that he felt that to make the band change its practice time for just one person was unfair. After repeating this position, Johnson was stopped by Mayor Bob Nation who said that the fact is that Koverman was the only one to come to city hall and complain. He continued that there could be numerous other people who are affected by the early band practice, who are not happy about it and simply have not complained.



Chief Ray Johnson makes his case for giving Parkway Central HS a waiver by reading his memo (waivers don't exist in the ordinance) as Mayor Nation and Councilwoman Barb McGuinness follow on their copies. In the background is Parkway Central Principal Tim McCarthy (left) and Band Director Doug Hoover.

Of course Bob Nation is right and the city should come up with the addresses of the houses inside the area from Mr. Koverman's house to the football field and send them a letter and ask them.

Band Director Doug Hoover said he had been holding the early morning practice starting as early as 6:15 am for 32 years. He said two Parkway high schools hold the practices in the afternoon, but he likes the very early morning so the band members can also try out for sport teams, cheerleading and theater in the afternoon.

Hoover also said they could not get all their practice in if they started at 7 AM which is required by city law because the kids need 15 minutes to change their wet shoes and socks (morning dew on the football field grass) before going to class.

Early on Barb McGuinness after pointing out how there are no waivers, but a permit is required for a specific event , asked Chief Johnson, "Clearly we have an ordinance violation, correct?"

Johnson answered by admitting, "Yes."

"This is not an outdoor event. This is going on everyday. I'm not sure you have the ability to do that (issue a waiver/permit)," she added.

Mayor Nation then made a revelation that showed how former city administrator Mike Herring was trying to control city government instead of elected officials. (Herring had unsuccessfully tried to get Nation impeached for swearing about him in a closed office in July of 2015).

Looking at Chief Johnson the mayor, said, "This was going to be placed on the Health and Public Safety agenda last year, but it didn't make it. You said the former City Administrator told you not to put it on the agenda."

"I think it is a complete outrage that the city administrator could cancel a standing member of a committee from putting it on the agenda," said Nation.

Tom DeCampi then mentioned that his kids went to Marquette High School in the Rockwood school district and the marching band there practiced in the afternoon. He added that studies are saying that high school students are sleep deprived.

Then the new city administrator Mike Geisel tried to shovel a load of bullshit on the table. He stated that the very early morning band practice might be "grandfathered" in and not forced to obey city law. He said since the band has been practicing as early as 6:15 AM for at least 32 years and the city is only 28-years-old that perhaps they should not have to follow the noise law.

That is like saying since I used to do 70 MPH through Gumbo Flats on old "US-40" daily before Chesterfield Valley was developed I should be grandfathered and not have to do 35 MPH now.

However, the committee voted to send the issue to the city attorney for an opinion if the marching band has to obey the city ordinance.

## **EVEN THE CITY CLERK THOUGHT SHE VOTED FOR THE HOCKEY**

**ASSOCIATION:** Councilwoman Barb McGuinness was upset with me when I wrote that only Tom DeCampi gave a "no" in an informal vote if the mayor and city administrator should vote for a TDD tax extension beginning in 2025 if the Chesterfield Hockey Association finds the funding to build a hockey arena past the Outlet Mall on Olive Street Road.



City Clerk Vickie Haas

She wrote me saying she is against taxes like that. I put her comments in the newsletter but did not change mine.

I felt vindicated at the September 7 Council Meeting, because City Clerk Vickie Haas heard it the same way I did. McGuinness made a motion to change the minutes showing she was against the tax and not for it

## **MEMBER OF THE SHOW-ME INSTITUTE SPEAKS OUT AGAINST TDD**

**CONTINUANCE FOR HOCKEY GROUP:** The big show by hockey parents, a former NHL player and a current NHL referee to request Mayor Nation and Mike Geisel to support a 15 year continuance of the Chesterfield Valley Transportation District Development sales tax brought someone from the Show-Me Institute, the conservative think tank to the City Council meeting.

"This project (Hockey arena) is large enough to sustain itself. Why should tax money be used," asked Michael Highsmith.

He then got a some bullshit shoveled at him as Barry Flachsbart told him the TDD is not a City Council function, but the Council just took an informal vote if the city's two members on the TDD Board of Directors should vote for it.

Councilman Randy Logan continued the lecture by saying the TDD is just for traffic improvements and not the building.

Logan is full of himself if he believes that. A TDD can be used for Storm Water control that is closely connected to the building, parking lot lights that are part of the building security, the parking lot itself not to mention landscaping and actual road building. The TDD amount was hoped to be \$10-million and the overall building was estimated at \$26,000,000 counting the storm water, road improvements and lighting.



I think it was nice that Chesterfield resident Brenda Talent, of the Showme Institute sent someone over to speak up at a Council meeting.

**\$530 VOTED TO GO TO COOL VALLEY LEGAL DEFENSE FUND AS ATTORNEY GENERAL APPEALS COLE COUNTY COURT RULING OVERTURNING PARTS OF MUNICIPAL COURT REFORM LAW:** The Chesterfield City Council on September 7 voted to send \$530 to the law firm representing Cool Valley and a number of other North County municipalities that challenged the new Missouri Municipal Court Reform law that only allowed 20% of city budgets to be financed by traffic fines statewide, while capping the level in St. Louis County at 12.5%.

Chesterfield is not affected by the Municipal Court reform legislation. This is not saying the Chesterfield Court doesn't need to be reformed by removing Judge "Let'em Loose" Brunk and prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer plus local legislation to outlaw reducing dangerous moving violations to parking violations. But Chesterfield is only generating about 5% of its overall revenue from court fines.

The group of cities attacking the legislation in court won when a Cole County Judge in Jefferson City ruled that portions of the law discriminates against St. Louis County municipal courts since it holds them to a different standard. Also the law requires St.

Louis County municipal police departments to be certified by a national group or the State within six years while not requiring other police departments in the state to meet the same requirements.

Cool Valley, a city of 900 residents, is the lead city in the challenge. (I-70 and S. Florissant Road go through Cool Valley meaning there are lots of traffic tickets to be had.) After winning the first round, Cool Valley and the other municipalities have to have a legal team to represent them as the Attorney General appeals the decision.

The reason given by several councilpersons who voted to make the contribution was that the group of small cities were challenging the law because it is unconstitutional to treat St. Louis County cities differently than those cities in other parts of the state. Chesterfield is making the same argument in their attempt to overturn the Sales Tax Pool where the State law only applied to cities in St. Louis County. (The small cities are fighting Chesterfield on this issue as they will lose considerable revenue if Chesterfield wins. They have hired a legal team to try and see that Chesterfield loses. )

The councilpersons who voted against contributing money were Bruce DeGroot and Barb McGuinness , who said they did not think Chesterfield should be giving tax money to other cities.

BTW: The Chesterfield case against the Sales Tax Pool law has slowed to a crawl.

**ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT ATTORNEY MIKE DOSTER READS A STATEMENT AT THE CHESTERFIELD CITY COUNCIL AND THEN CLAIMS IT IS UNDER CLIENT-WORK PRODUCT PRIVILEGE AND WON'T LET REPORTERS LOOK AT IT TO BE SURE NOTES ARE CORRECT.** This is maybe the asshole move of the week. Doster and his law firm represent the owner of the former Kemp Auto Museum property. We have reported recently how they want zoning changes to allow Tesla to have a showroom and sales and service office at the location. Since the project passed the Planning Commission and Planning and Public Works Committee a court ruling out of Cole County came down that Tesla could not sell cars direct but needed dealers.

Tesla is appealing that ruling. While Doster is not technically representing Tesla, at the City Council meeting he read a statement from Tesla. I did not bother to write it down or photograph Doster. However my antenna went up when Jim Erickson of West Magazine and Mary Shapiro of the Post-Dispatch went to him and asked for a copy of the statement.

Doster said he could not give it to them as it was "client work product." What the hell? That secret client work product, he just read at a public meeting where the city clerk records everything. What a jerk! Originally I did not care but I got in line to City Clerk Vickie Haas with the other two reporters and asked for her to please send me Doster's statement. She emailed it the next day. Here it is:

### **Tesla Statement (Read by Mike Doster)**

Despite the recent trial court ruling, Tesla remains wholly committed to its local customers in the state of Missouri. We have been an active contributor in the local economy for several years and have every intention of continuing our operations and serving our customers. We are unwavering in our plans to relocate Tesla's University City location to Chesterfield. Tesla is currently licensed as a dealer and the court order allows the licenses to continue until their expiration at the end of the year. Tesla is optimistic and working hard to ensure that its existing licenses within the state of Missouri will be renewed and continue without interruption. Again, Tesla remains wholly committed to Missouri and its customers and eager to continue being a part of Missouri's economy, and Chesterfield in particular.



While almost always pleasant, We have to award Mike Doster (in red tie) the "Lawyer Scum of the Week" award.

**HUGE CROWD FOR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING ON REZONING FOR "LUXURY" APARTMENTS ON SOUTH OUTER FORTY ROAD AND SCHOETTLER**

**ROAD IS SRO AT NEARBY CONFERENCE CENTER:** The city staff's fear that the City Council chambers could not hold the crowd of angry residents over a proposal to change zoning to allow up to 300 apartment units in an area zoned for single family houses, was right on the money.

The city rented the Conference Center at the Doubletree Hotel located behind city hall. (We hear the rent was around \$800.) The seating capacity was more than three times that of the City Hall and it still was not enough. (336 seats)



Here is the deal: KU Development, LLC along with Mills Properties want to build 7 apartment buildings plus a clubhouse, pool, fountain and dog park on a piece of land that is 14.29 acres. But they actually need more land for green space requirements so they bought a 6-acre tract of land south of the project. However, the property does not abut where they plan to build the apartments. A single family home on a multi acre tract that runs from South 40 Outer Road to Schoettler Road is in between the two tracts. This piece of land is owned by Mrs. Mary Ann Mastorakos. She is not interested in selling and is in fact adamant about not selling.



Notice the piece of property between the two highlighted areas. That is owned by Mary Ann Mastorakos and she isn't selling.



The house in the middle

George Stock, a consulting engineer who represents a number of developers, hospitals and universities in the area spent 30 minutes putting on the case for the developer . Stock is often put on the front lines by developers because he is very good at not getting pissed as people take shots at him or the project. The plan needs to have the land rezoned from single family residential to Planned Unit Development (P.U.D.) He said how the developer reduced the number of apartments from 311 to 256 to meet area residents' concerns..

Here is the huge hole in Stock's case. He is claiming the two pieces of property are not separated by Mrs. Mastorakos property and house, but are actually connected because they both are on Schoettler Road. Using this illogical selling point, Logan University a mile south of the property is also connected because it is on Schoettler Road.

Stock claimed the apartments would keep any commercial project (that would also need rezoning) away and would preserve the natural aspects, thanks to the six acres of green space.

Commissioner Wendy Geckeler was not buying any of this. She pressed how the project would "preserve natural aspects of the area." Stock responded that it would stop erosion.

Geckeler a hard core liberal came back that the Blanding Turtle which is an endangered species was found on the property where Creve Coeur Creek is located.

Before the floor was open to speakers, Planning Chair Stanley Procter announced that over 2,000 pages of comments have been filed with the city and all those comments have been forwarded to commission members and council members.

Residents had five minutes for their remarks. Most took all five minutes. There were only two speakers for the project, including one who would sell his property to the developers if the project was approved.

**FOR Project:**



Dan Prosser



Christine Allen

**AGAINST Project:** (There was a theme. Many of those against the project were wearing red)





There were several people who filled out speakers cards but declined to speak when someone else covered their points. Also a few left the conference center by the time their names were called. Keep in mind petitions with over 1,700 signatures have been submitted to the city in opposition to this project.

The large crowd would routinely applaud when an opposition speaker finished causing the Planning Chairman Stanley Proctor to remind people that when they applauded they just lengthened the meeting. He shut up when two people yelled back, "You are lengthening the meeting when you stop and tell us not to applaud."

#### **HERE ARE SOME OF THE BETTER COMMENTS:**

"The Schoetler Road Community is not HIGH DENSITY"

"The P.U.D. serves to connect two properties that do not connect and violates Chesterfield ordinance and Missouri Case Law."

"The 1,700 people who have signed the petition against this should be considered."

"11,000 cars use the South Outers 40 Road in a 12-hour period. They want to add more."

"This is the most contentious proposal I have ever seen," said former councilman and mayor Bruce Geiger.

"Mr. Stock has pushed 588 more cars toward Timberlake Bluff Parkway. What is the city getting back?"

"Have you (the city) thought about buying it for a park?"

"Where is the wisdom in partnering with an apartment management company (Mills Properties) with a 'F' rating with the Better Business Bureau."

"You are looking at a business that might not be viable once reality hits them in the face."  
(Commenting on the belief of an under demand for expensive apartments)

"The idea that the developer is going to mitigate traffic for Schoettler Road and drive it all toward us (subdivisions off of South Outer forty east of proposed site) is like Charlie Brown and Lucy pulling the football away. We are now getting it...more traffic."

"You are trying to put in something that won't affect you you, but will affect us daily."

"Mr. Stock, my daughter went to school with your daughter. I don't consider you a bad person, but..."

"There will be added traffic when my daughters wait for school buses on the south Forty Outer Road."

"There is a dog park in these apartments because there will be no green space to walk a dog."

"I know what luxury is. I live next to the Brook Hill Subdivision. These apartments aren't going to be luxury."

"They cut down all the trees at Schoettler Grove (new home development at Schottler and Clayton Road; Only Councilpersons Nancy Greenwood and Bruce DeGroot voted against the variance to allow the homes built to violate the city's green space law). Those trees created a buffer. A storm comes through. There is no buffer and all the power poles are knocked down and we don't have power for two days.

"The symbol of Chesterfield has a tree on it. Think about it."

"Chesterfield Mall is going vacant. Build it there!"

This was a public hearing only and no vote was taken. That is likely to occur at a meeting in October.

**MORE SECRETS IN CHESTERFIELD:** We hear there is likely to be another "secret" executive session meeting this Monday before the regular City Council Council meeting. It will involve real estate again. We have also heard that the Council is trying to keep from the public both a possible purchase of real estate and also the sale or lease of real estate.

If the city owns property that it is willing to lease or sell, it seems that keeping it secret is not in the taxpayers/residents' best interest. If you disclose what the property is, you could find additional possible buyers or lease takers and thus drive up the price.

Keeping the public in the dark and keeping secrets is basically bad government with a few exceptions. Chesterfield has a track record of doing this over the last decade. At some point it would be nice to have voters kick out councilpersons who keep pulling the veil of secrecy over business at city hall.

**CHESTERFIELD CEO NAMED IN LABOR DEPARTMENT COMPLAINT:** The United States Department of Labor filed a complaint against Himanshu "Sue" Bhatia, who with her husband owns Rose International. She is alleged to have underpaid, overworked and mistreated domestic worker Sheela Ningwal, of India.



This is from the St. Louis Business Journal:

It said that Bhatia paid Ningwal a fixed monthly salary of \$400, plus food and housing, well below the minimum wage, to work at Bhatia's luxury homes in San Juan Capistrano and Long Beach, California, Las Vegas and Miami.

The department said Bhatia also subjected Ningwal to "callous abuse."

"For example, whenever Ms. Ningwal was ill, Defendant Bhatia forced Ms. Ningwal to sleep in the garage on a piece of carpet, alongside Defendant Bhatia's dogs who slept on a mattress, because Defendant Bhatia did not want her or her family exposed to Ms. Ningwal's illness," the complaint said. "Often Defendant Bhatia and her family would leave their residence for days and would neglect to leave any food for Ms. Ningwal, who depended on Defendant Bhatia for food and transportation."

Bhatia's daughter, Sabina Bhatia, called the claims in the Department of Labor complaint completely false.

The Chesterfield home is actually rather modest for people with property in California and Florida. The home is at 877 Wellesley off of Olive. It is only 1,800 square feet.



Apparently Bhatia's primary home is in San Luis Capistrano, California isn't so modest.

Orange County California property records show Bhatia owns two houses in San Luis Capistrano. One small house was purchase in 2013 for \$446,000. The other house is an equestrian estate on 3-acres with a vineyard.

This story was covered in the St. Louis Business Journal, The Post-Dispatch, The Orange County Register, The Times of India, The Hindu, India West, India Today, L.A. Biz, KSBY.com (San Luis Obispo), Calcutta Telegraph, Northern California Record.

**CHESTERFIELD POLICE BLOTTER:** Let's see what the Chesterfield Police were doing last week:



## **CHESTERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT Media Report September 7, 2016 - September 13, 2016**

**Time of Occurrence    Generic Address Business/Location Name    Incident Type**

09/13/2016, 1530 14XXX CLAYTON RD Parkway West High School **Assault Common - Actual Assault**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 43 yo male threw water at victim after argument during sporting event. No injuries reported.

09/13/2016, 1605-1615 17XX CLARKSON RD Dierberg's **Property Damage to Vehicle**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject deflated tire on victim's vehicle while parked on parking lot.

09/13/2016, 1700-2050 4X FOUR SEASONS SHPG CTR Bread Company **Property**

**Damage to Vehicle Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject scratched the paint on victim's vehicle while parked in parking lot.

09/13/2016, 2100 14XXX GREENCASTLE DR 6 **Assault Common - Actual Assault**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 33 yo female and 32 yo male had an argument where a glass was broken and female had a cut finger. Referred to PA for review.

09/12/2016, 0137 13XXX OLIVE BLVD Satchmo's **Larceny under \$500 Employer**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 44 yo male took recipe book from employer.

08/12/2016, 1200 14XXX LADUE RD Green Trails United Methodist Church **Larceny under**

**\$500 Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took amplifier from church property.

09/12/2016, 1425 14XXX LADUE RD Green Trails United Methodist Church **Larceny over**

**\$500 Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took speakers from church property.

09/09/2016 1500-09/12/2016, 0630 1XX FOUR SEASONS SHPG CTR Bread Company

#### **Burglary**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject entered job site and took power tools from locked storage box.

08/27/2016, 1544 1XX THF BLVD Ross Dress For Less **Larceny under \$500 Employer**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 35 yo male took gift card from employer and later used it.

09/06/2016, 2200-09/07/2016, 1000 14XXX MILL SPRING DR **Larceny under \$500 from**

**Auto Brief Narrative Description:** Citizen report of stolen license plate tabs.

09/06/2016, 0900-09/10/2016, 0800 15XXX AMBER MEADOWS CT **Larceny under \$500 from**

**Auto Brief Narrative Description:** Citizen report of stolen license plate.

09/10/2016, 0811-1000 14XXX CLAYTON RD Gold's Gym **Larceny under \$500 from Person**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took keys from victim's gym bag which was stored in an unlocked locker. Subject used keys to enter victim's vehicle and take cash.

09/12/2016, 1555 17XXX CHESTERFIELD AIRPORT RD HH Gregg **Harassment/Threat**

**Texting Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject sent victim threatening text message.

09/12/2016, 2200 13XXX OLIVE BLVD 7-11 **Drugs Possession - Felony**

**Brief Narrative Description:** 22 yo female in possession of heroin and paraphernalia after check the welfare investigation.

09/08/2016, 2100-09/09/2016, 1245 3XX STRAWBRIDGE DR **Property Damage to Vehicle**

**Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject damaged victim's vehicle with tree branch.

09/09/2016, 1730-09/10/2016, 1002 14XXX CLAYTON RD Dr. Sturmer **Burglary Commercial**

**- Business Brief Narrative Description:** 51 yo homeless female entered doctor's office and stayed overnight.

09/10/2016, 1610 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Pacific Sunwear **Larceny under \$500**

**Shoplifting Brief Narrative Description:** 15 yo female concealed clothing and left store without paying.

09/10/2016, 1949 18XXX OUTLET BLVD Michael Kors **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting**

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

09/10/2016, 2031 14XXX CLAYTON RD **Parkway West High School Drugs Possession - Felony** **Brief Narrative Description:** 17 yo male in possession of Adderall without a prescription while on school property.

09/05/2016, 1300 18XXX OUTLET BLVD Gap **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting** **Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject concealed clothing and left store without paying.

09/06/2016, 0700 6XX BROADMOOR DR B **Fraud Credit Card** **Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject used victim's debit card information to make online purchase.

09/08/2016, 1840 18XXX OUTLET BLVD Saks off Fifth Avenue **Larceny over \$500 Shoplifting** **Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subjects concealed clothing, handbags, and sunglasses and left store without paying.

09/09/2016, 1535 1XX THF BLVD Walmart **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting** **Brief Narrative Description:** 16 yo female concealed alcohol and left store without paying.

09/09/2016, 1555 18XXX OUTLET BLVD St. Louis Premium Outlets **Fraud Credit Card** **Brief Narrative Description:** 45 yo male used victim's credit card information to make purchases. Also in possession of numerous fraudulent credit cards.

09/08/2016, 2020 2XX CHESTERFIELD MALL Victoria's Secret **Larceny under \$500 Shoplifting** **Brief Narrative Description:** 25 yo female concealed clothing and left store without paying.

09/08/2016, 2102 15XX WOODROYAL WEST DR **Recovered Auto Stolen Elsewher Trailer** **Brief Narrative Description:** Stolen utility trailer recovered in subdivision.

09/07/2016, 0000-09/07/2016, 0020 16XXX NORTH OUTER 40 RD US Ice Sports **Property Damage to Vehicle** **Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject broke out window on victim's vehicle with a rock.

09/01/2016, 1400 2XX KAYWIN CT **Fraud Scam** **Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject convinced victim to wire money for fraudulent family member in jail scam.

09/07/2016, 1246 14XXX WOODS MILL COVE DR **Fraud Identity Theft** **Brief Narrative Description:** Unknowns subject attempted to use victim's information to open up credit card accounts.

08/25/2016, 0900-08/28/2016, 1700 2XX PORTICO DR **Larceny under \$500 from Residence** **Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject took wall mirror from victim's residence.

08/01/2016, 1200 10XX NOONING TREE DR **Fraud Identity Theft** **Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject used victim's information to open up credit card account.

09/07/2016, 2140 15XXX COUNTRY RIDGE DR **Harassment/Threat Phone** **Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject left threatening message on victim's cell phone.

09/07/2016, 2200 1X WHITE PLAINS DR **Assault Common - Actual Assault** **Brief Narrative Description:** 47 yo male struck victim in eye after argument causing minor injuries.

09/06/2016, 1500-09/07/2016, 0745 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 GPS unit.

09/07/2016, 2000-2010 15XXX OLIVE St. John's Church **Larceny under \$500 from Auto** **Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject broke out window on victim's vehicle and took a purse.

09/07/2016, 2000- 2010 15XXX OLIVE St. John's Church **Larceny under \$500 from Auto** **Brief Narrative Description:** Unknown subject broke out window on victim's vehicle and took paperwork and books.

**ATHEISTS STARTING A BAND WITH CHURCH SOUND EQUIPMENT?** There were four crimes at churches last week. There were two car break-ins at St. John's on Olive on September 9. But the ones that got our attention happened a month apart. On September 12th the Green Trails United Methodist Church reported that a month earlier on August 12 an amplifier was stolen from the unlocked church. Also on September 12, the church reported that two speakers had just been stolen. The thefts have been assigned to the detective unit.

**UPDATE: CHESTERFIELD PROSECUTOR TIM ENGELMEYER GIVES DRUNK DRIVER IN ACCIDENT WITH KIDS IN CAR, NO-POINTS, NO-RECORD PROBATION! NOW COUNTY JUDGE REFUSES TO REVOKE THE PROBATION.** In our December 2, 2015 Drunks and Thieves Post-Thanksgiving Report we gave an update on Donald Rafalowski. To refresh your memory on November 30, 2013 he crashed his pickup truck into a light pole at the Taubman Outlet Malls. In the truck at the time were two small children. He moved the case to County Court but it was still prosecuted by Chesterfield City Prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer before Judge Dennis Smith.



Rafalowski

Rafalowski had a local West County defense attorney and he got the "usual special deal." He pled to the DWI and got a No-Fine, No-Points and with any luck No Record Probation. The citation for driving into a light pole with the kids in his pickup truck was reduced to a \$400 parking violation.

Next Rafalowski got arrested on April 14, 2015 for DWI by the Cottlesville Police in St. Charles County. Engelmeyer did not try and revoke his probation. Instead I did, sending two letters, one to the court and the other directly to the judge. This caused a probation revocation hearing to be scheduled.

On 12/10/15 he pled guilty to his second DWI, the one in St. Charles Circuit Court. He was sentenced to 180 days but was given an immediate SES 2-year probation term and a record of the conviction on this driver's license.

Well you would think an actual conviction would get the Chesterfield DWI probation revoked, especially since it involved a crash with kids in the car. Well you would be wrong.

Judge Dennis Smith apparently did not think it was that big of a deal. On 04/29/2016 instead of revoking Rafalowski's probation Judge Smith lengthened it to 4/29/2017 and Rafalowski still has no record, no-fine and no-points for the DWI crash with the kids in the car.



Judge Dennis Smith, who believes probation means don't do it a again for the third or fourth time, but the second time is okay.

**MEDIA AND TRAVEL:** What do St. Louis, Sana'a, Yemen; Acapulco, Mexico; Baghdad, Iraq; Mogadishu, Somalia; San Pedro Sula, Honduras; Ciudad Juarez, Mexico; Caracas, Venezuela; Belem, Brazil; Karachi, Pakistan which are listed together on the Touristate website have in common? They are listed as the 11 most dangerous cities in the world. Here is what they say about St. Louis:

## **St. Louis, United States.**

You don't have to leave the United States to find some of the most dangerous cities in the world. St. Louis, located in Missouri, is one of the most dangerous cities in all of continental North America. St. Louis is a port town that sprouted up next to the Mississippi River, right next to Illinois. We've seen numerous controversies come up regarding corrupt politicians, profiling police officers, and racial unrest. Right now St. Louis is a scar that hasn't quite healed and its glaring red welt showcases 59 homicides per 100,000 citizens. The city is consumed by racial violence, drug running, and corrupt politicians. Of course you can find cheap hotels and rental cars if you dare take in some of the quality local sports, though.



**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** We saw a woman training a puppy on a walk and stopped to chat. Of course we asked what the dog's name was.

"Her name is Tesla. We could never afford the car, but now we can say we have a Tesla."

Wednesday night I ran into a friend who works at Monsanto's HQ in Creve Coeur.

"We are already calling it Bayersanto," he told me.

**RESTAURANT REVIEW: RICE THAI BISTRO** 14536 Manchester Road Winchester, MO. I like Chinese food okay. But I have never liked Thai. So when my wife came home after going to the Rice Thai Bistro on Manchester with some friends saying how we had to go there, I did a silent nod only. Weeks later on Thursday and for several reasons my wife got to pick the restaurant for lunch. She picked the Rice Thai Bistro.



It took me forever to order because I didn't like anything I saw on the menu. Finally, I told the owner, who was also our waiter that I would like something with noodles and meat. My wife ordered the Lunch Pad Kee Moe (\$8.95).

I was unaware that my lunch Pad Thai (\$8.95) came with soup and salad as did my wife's lunch. For me the soup was the best part of the meal. I ate all of it. I cannot say the same for the salad or the entree.



I just can't enjoy anything with crunchy bean sprouts. However, my wife took my leftovers home and enjoyed them the next day. Since it would be impossible for me to write a fair review of the Rice Thai Bistro because I would not have a clue if it was bad or good, my wife; Diana, was kind enough to write something. Here it is:

If you like Thai the the Rice Thai Bistro is a little hidden gem at 14536 Manchester Road. Everything is fresh and tasty. Try the Crab Rangoon (\$6.95) that comes in sticks or dumplings as appetizers.



Crab Rangoon

The owner keeps everything clean and neat. Each dish is prepared in its own skillet so tastes do not mix. We like the Pad Thai and noodle dishes.



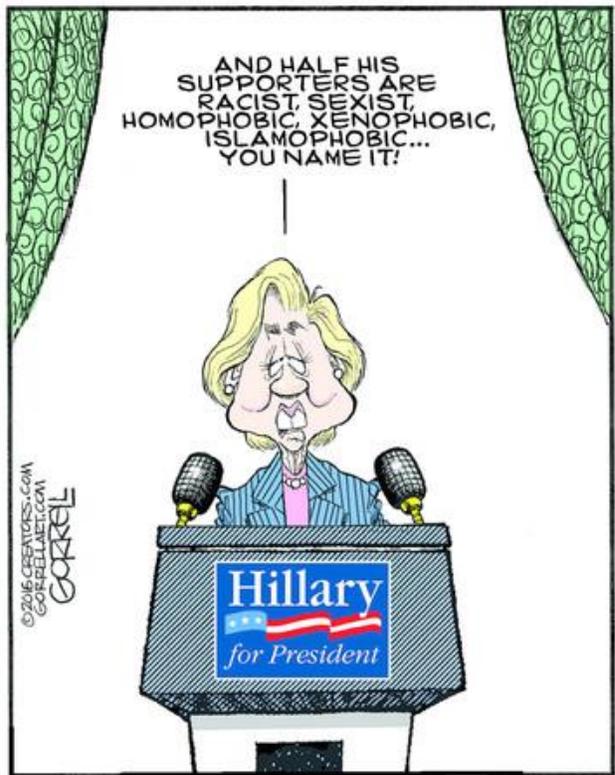
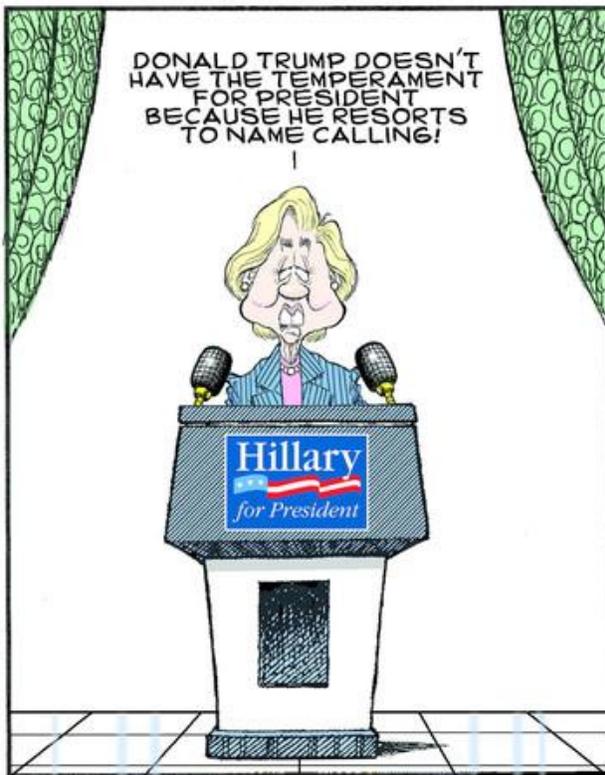
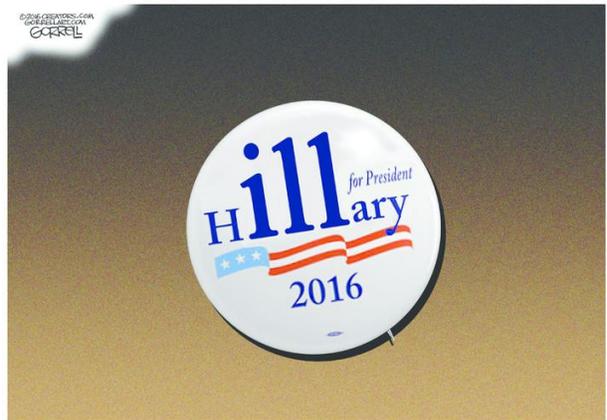
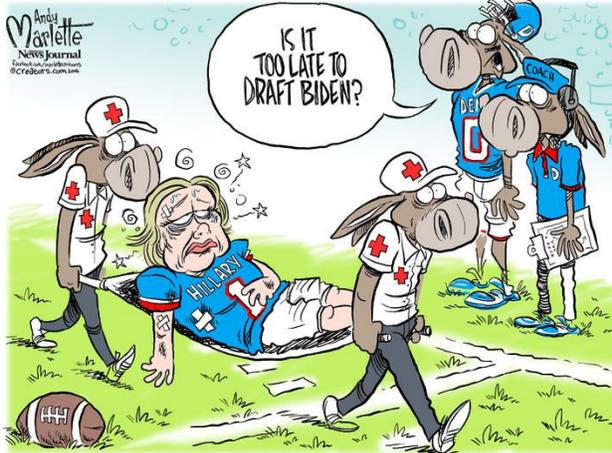
Pad Thai

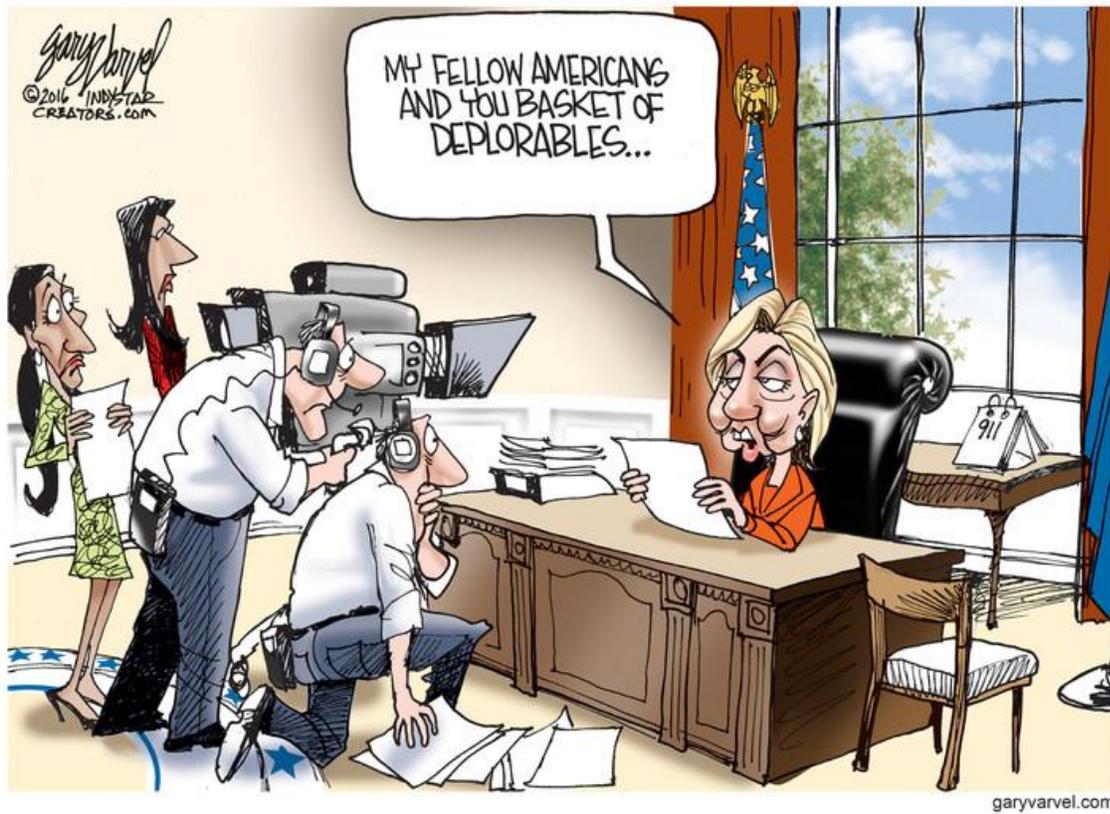


Pad Kee Moa

**CARTOONS:** The drawings of Trump by the liberal cartoons are good, but the punch lines are still weak. Once again the best political cartoons this week go to cartoons featuring Hillary.





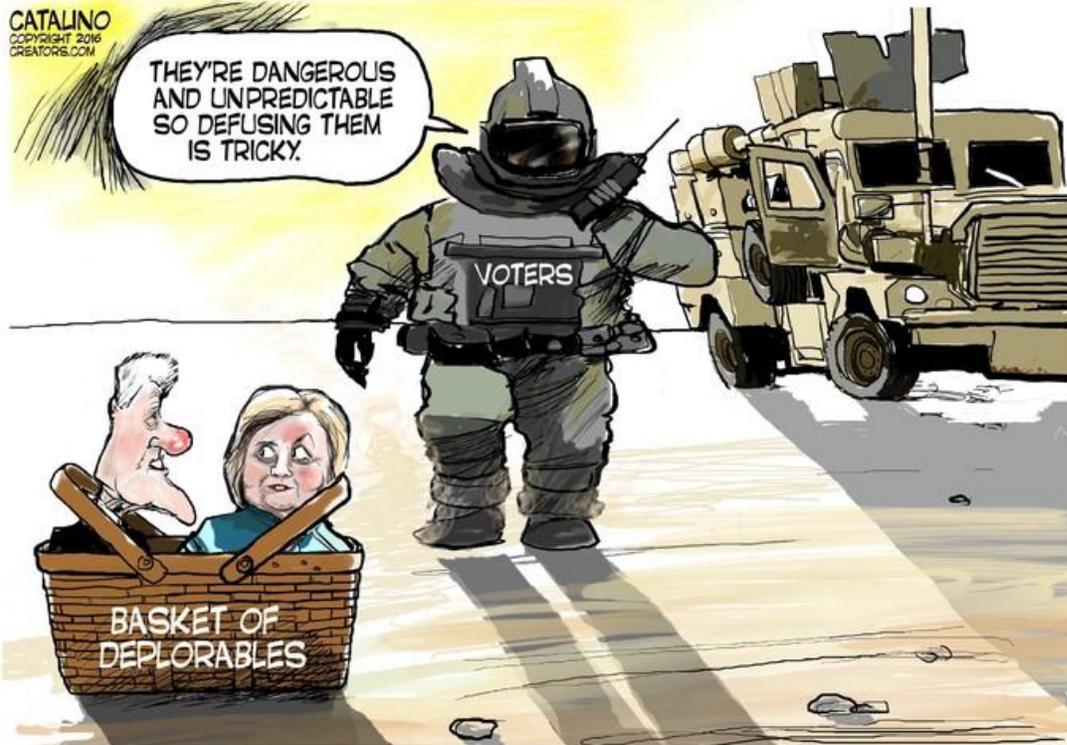


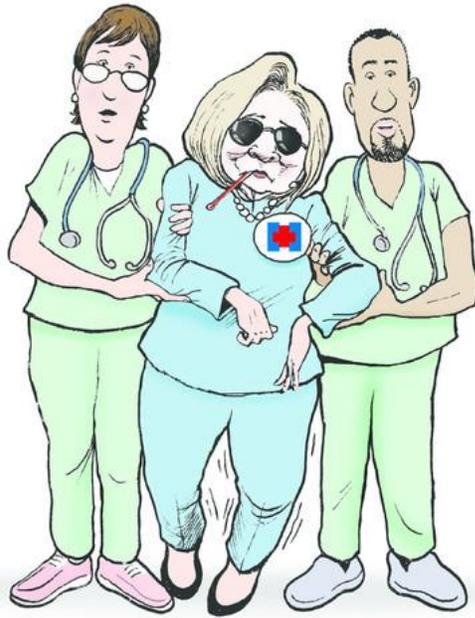
The Trump Campaign's response to Hillary's collapse



garyvarvel.com

CATALINO  
COPYRIGHT 2016  
CREATORS.COM





" WE SUPPORT HILLARY CLINTON."

