

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 127



May 5, 2014

By John Hoffmann

ONE NEW ALDERWOMAN KEEPS CAMPAIGN PROMISE. HER FIRST VOTE IS A NO AGAINST A DALTON APPOINTMENT. THE SECOND NEW ALDERWOMAN MAKES A LUKE WARM APPAEARANCE AFTER A STRONG START: It was the first night as new alderwomen for Amy Anderson from Ward 2 and Linda Rallo from Ward 4.

In the agenda meeting Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton was explaining to the Anderson and Rallo the appointment process as if they were second graders. Rallo worked in Jefferson City as a chief of staff for three years. I think she understands how appointments work.

Dalton explained how he was appointing Mr. Will McKnight to the Planning and Zoning Commission. He said he had sent everyone McKnight's resume and then said application.

Anderson jumped on this

"Did you say resume? I didn't receive a resume," she said quickly in a strong voice.

"I corrected myself. It's the application," snapped Dalton back clearly irritated. Making me say to myself..."good for you Amy."



Dalton shooting a mayoral stink eye toward Anderson

Anderson then said that since she and Linda Rallo are new she thought they should have another two weeks to consider the nomination. Dalton suggested after the alderpersons interview McKnight and she still thinks she needs time she can make a motion for a continuance.

THE SNOW JOB: In the regular meeting the introduction of McKnight began with Dalton stating he has known McKnight for 11 years and still spent 90 minutes talking to him to be sure he was qualified for a seat on the Planning Commission. He continued that Alderman Tim Welby highly recommended McKnight.

The fact that Dalton and Welby are endorsing this guy would be reasons enough for me to vote against his nomination if I was still on the board.

McKnight moved to Town and Country 16 years ago from the Houston suburb of The Woodlands, which has a median income of \$95,000 and family income of \$113,000, compared to Town and Country with a \$151,000 annual family income. The community (a special taxing district) was developed in the early 1970s by the same people who built Columbia, Maryland and Reston, Virginia.

McKnight worked for Microsoft from 1991 to 2007. After leaving Microsoft he was a summer camp director and a "consultant" before joining New Horizons a "computer learning center" in Overland, MO.

McKnight lives on less than an acre lot in the crime ridden Mason Valley area at 1617 Foxleigh Court. (Five members of the "Gangs of Town and Country" including two on McKnight's street live in Mason Valley.)

He and his wife have been the president and vice-president of Mason Ridge PTO.

Fred Meyland-Smith who enjoys hearing himself talk welcomed McKnight to the meeting.

Jon Benigas asked McKnight how he would consider requests to rezone residential property. McKnight said that the master plan would be in an important thing to consider before making a decision. It was a softball question and a softer answer.

Then it was the new kid on the dais, **Linda Rallo's** turn. Rallo was elected by residents upset with the rezoning of the Ball Family property on Conway Road to allow Maryville University to move its maintenance facility and two athletic fields to the residential street.

"Can you name a recent planning and zoning decision you agreed with and why. Then name a decision you disagreed with and why," asked Rallo.



Will McKnight taking questions

McKnight hem and hawed and eventually said he agreed with the Maryville University rezoning. "Maryville was a difficult decision and was a right decision," said McKnight.

That caused Rallo to put on her glasses and start taking some notes and then looking back to McKnight over her glasses frame. (I had a feeling which way Rallo's vote was going.)

McKnight said he agreed with the decision not to rezone the Wirth property for a senior living complex. He never mentioned a decision he disagreed with.

Amy Anderson was next up and unlike Rallo, she tossed another softball asking McKnight what he would do to keep up property values. He answered it another vague response.

By now **Town Kook Mariette Palmer** with her hand raised and going ooh, ooh like a second grader from the back of the room was told my Mayor Dalton that they were not taking questions from citizens. That did not phase Palmer..."How would you have voted on BJC," asked Palmer.

McKnight responded with an answer that would have caused me to vote against him if I had not made up my mind. He said he had not followed the issue and did not know what were the facts in rezoning 13 acres from residential to a special district to allow a sure to be busy medical facility to be built. If he did not know about this issue, he had no business being put on the P&Z Commission.



Mariette Palmer immediately after acting like an alderperson and tossing a question to the P&Z nominee.

THE VOTE TO CONTINUE: After the interview of McKnight condescendingly Dalton looked to his left at Anderson and said how now was the time to anyone who wanted more time to make a motion for a continuance. Anderson did just that and it was seconded by Skip Mange. It appeared as if the "Principia Coalition" was in play with both Mange and Anderson Christian Scientists and Principia alums. For the continuance were Anderson, Mange and Rallo. Five others were against the continuance.

A SHOW OF CONVICTIONS AND A SHOW OF WEAK KNEES: That brought up the vote to approve McKnight to the P&Z Commission. Both Rallo and Anderson campaigned to keep residential property from being rezoned and beat the drum of "keeping residential...residential" throughout their campaigns. Now here was a guy, McKnight, who said he favored rezoning residential property along Conway Road. Ironically it was the first vote for both new alderwomen and it was directly connected to their campaign promises.

Rallo voted against McKnight.

Anderson abstained.

Six other alderpersons voted for McBride and he was confirmed to the P&Z. Rallo in her first vote delivered her promise to voters. Anderson chickened out.



McKnight.

Rallo taking notes before voting against

NEW POSITIONS ON THE DAIS: I found it interesting there was a shuffling of the seats on the dais, both women victors were seated next to the mayor. I only hope that both of them vote against some of Dalton's pet projects or bills so we in the audience can watch his eye roll and his face redden.



SO MUCH FOR DEFICIT BUDGETS: In 2008 when I was elected to the Board of Aldermen nobody got any special alderperson pins. Over the last two years Dalton has had deficit budgets reaching \$5.2 million in the red. But we have money for unneeded

ego boosters in the forms of label pins for the elected officials. When you waste money on the little stuff it gets easier to waste it on the big stuff.



Linda Rallo getting pinned by Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist & Stealer of a Widow's Businesses and Property through Eminent Domain for Nightclubs that Never Got Built Jon Dalton.

RALLO MAKES ANOTHER STATEMENT: The City's Fire and Ice Show which includes cool treats and fireworks at the end of June has the city spending \$7,600 for fireworks. In the past years Maria de Villa retirement community/nursing home to donated another \$7,500. The bill to pay for the fireworks was listed as being sponsored by the "Board as a Whole." However that was before Rallo and Anderson defeated incumbents.

Rallo did not want to have her name on the bill. When it came up she was the only person not to vote for it, saying later she has been studying the budget and is troubled with paying for fireworks when the police budget is getting cut.

Another alderperson told me they voted for it because they wanted to see what was going to happen as they were a bit suspect of the city's plans we discussed in our last newsletter of closing Clayton Road and using the Wirth Property, Mason Village and Principia property for the event and having parking at four different locations.

Since Fire and Ice is another favorite of Mayor Dalton, by not voting for funding Rallo seems to be making a statement. Good for her! Keep in mind Dalton did not come out against the Maryville rezoning and supported Rallo's opponent, who voted for the rezoning and lectured residents who were against it. Dalton also has recently accepted campaign donations from the front man for the Maryville University rezoning.

PARKING VIOLATION CHANGE: The next item on the agenda was so simple, but the elected officials made it complicated during the agenda meeting. It bill was to change a parking ordinance which would make it illegal to reduce a lane of traffic on a street to less than 12 feet. This was changed from 10 feet and basically prohibits people from parking across from an already parked car on a residential street. The change was needed due to wider fire trucks and ambulances that could not get through streets with cars parked abreast of each other.

This seemed like a no brainer. Police Chief Pat Kranz said the police have never had to enforce the ordinance in the past as officers have always knocked on doors and asked people to move their cars when there was a party. They would only issue a parking ticket if someone refused to move a car and it had to be towed.

Dalton made a reference to concerns from former alderman Phil Behnen had with the change in an email. He then asked city attorney Steve Garrett what he thought of it.

"The chief's explanation was pretty clear," said Garrett. Apparently to him and me but not everyone.

Fred "I Can't Keep My Mouth Shut" Meyland-Smith had to speak.

"I appreciate the knock on the doors, but it should be in the newsletter," said Fred. That's wonderful...let's let people block fire trucks and ambulances while we wait for the late June city newsletter to come out.

There was another concern of where the police would measure the 12-foot lane from.

Then Linda Rallo said something equally time consuming for a short-handed staff.

"Graduation is coming up. We should chat with trustees (subdivision trustees)." Geez is this pretty much common sense...you cannot park blocking a street. Now if any of the aldermen had a newsletter and a website like one alderman used to have...they could send out an email to their trustees in their ward...but no one currently thinks that is a good idea. Let the city staff try and track down neighborhood trustees...bad idea.



They keep making these darn things wider.

MCDONALD'S REBUILDING IS PUSHED BACK: When the McDonald's Corporation first came to the city to obtain permission to tear down their building at 101 Lamp and Lantern Village, run by Colleen Schoendienst, they had hoped to tear the old building down by March of 2014 and have a new building up and running by the end of June.

That did not happen! The city has just now at the end of April approved the new building. McDonald's representatives at the meeting said their plans are now pushed back to late summer or even fall as late as November. This could of course mean no McRibs being sold in Town and Country when the specialty item is brought back for two months at the end of the year! I have to think McDonalds wants the place open during the summer when you would expect higher sales.



SHE GETS EXCITED EASILY: Amy Anderson who had said during the agenda meeting how she was excited to be able to interview Jon "Snidely Whiplash" Dalton's nominee for the planning and zoning commission was excited again discussing the McDonald's new building.



"I was excited to see you are adding trees to your property. I was wondering if you could add more trees," she asked.

If she had attended the Planning and Zoning meeting on this issue like her opponent did she would have known McDonald's could not add more plantings and they explained why.

A company rep told her there was no room for any more trees apparently limiting Anderson's level of excitement.

ANOTHER DAY OLD AND DEEPER IN DEBT: We reported two weeks ago how the 2014 deficit was growing by another \$1,000 for the Municipal elections.

At the meeting the Board passed that increase coming from the city's cash reserve that has dwindled 35% in the last two years. Now add \$25 more for an increase in the estimated water bill for the city's shared community garden with Principia. The new bill actually shows it to be a \$225 deficit, but Alderman Jon Benigas explained that \$200 of the \$225 will be covered by garden users' fees.

Here is the current look at the 2014 deficit:

2014 Town and Country Deficit

-\$857,320 Approved Budget overall deficit January 1, 2014

\$125,000 added for snow removal February 2014

-\$982,320

\$ 1,000 Board of Elections increase for city election April 2014

-\$983,320

\$ 25 added to irrigation for garden April 2014

-\$983,345



MARIETTE PALMER APPARENTLY THINKS SHE IS EITHER AN ELECTED OFFICIAL OR THE CITY ADMINSTRATOR. Mariette Palmer was ordering staff around like she was the mayor at the agenda meeting. When Dalton declared the agenda meeting open, Skip Mange was still in the lobby talking to someone. Palmer looked at Public Works Director Craig Wilde and said, "Go get Skip!" Craig didn't have to follow the order or disobey it as Mange walked in.

After the meeting started and someone was talking loudly in the lobby she looked toward Police Chief Pat Kranz and barked, "That's Dickie, my husband. He has short term memory loss. Go tell him to be quiet."

Kranz looked back toward her and said, "That's not your husband."

Interestingly Palmer husband's memory is good enough to remember how to drive a car, find his way to the city hall, drop off his wife, recognize folks, hold conversations and ask me when we are going out to lunch again. (it has been three years)

TROVA SCULPTURES STILL LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO CALL HOME: At the last Parks Commission meeting members seemed to be surprised when asked for suggestions for locations to place the Trova modern art sculptures the city will be receiving very soon on a 25-year loan from the St. Louis County Parks Department.

Originally the Arts commission voted to put the modern art in Drace Park. We were able to make fun of that as Alderman Skip Mange wants to turn Drace Park into a make-believe log cabin community from the 1840s, costing county taxpayers over \$120,000 in the first step. (Municipal Parks Grants funded by area wide sales tax.)

Alderwoman Lynn Wright pressed for some ideas of locations by the next meeting. One member suggested on the northwest corner of Clayton Road and Municipal Center Drive so motorists could see them as soon as they crossed the I-270 bridge. Apparently this member had forgotten that most of the original Town and Country Village and then City was east of I-270.

City administrator Gary Hoelzer was at the meeting at very quietly reminded everyone that per the contract with St. Louis County the sculptures had to be on city property and the northwest corner of Clayton Road and Municipal Center Drive was not city property.

Pretty soon the city will have to pick up the sculptures. It might be a good idea to find a place to put them.



JUST LIKE MACKINAC ISLAND BUT WITHOUT THE FUDGE AND HORSE POOP:

Last week the smell of lilacs was strong at Queeny Park along the side walk from the dog museum to the stable/park offices near Mason Road. It was just like being on Mackinac Island during the first week of June, but there was no scent of fudge being made or horse poop on the street.



Queeny Park in April



Mackinac Island in June where horse, fudge stores and lilacs are everywhere.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 72



May 5, 2014

By John Hoffmann

AS PREDICTED THREE MONTHS AGO...MONARCH FIRE CHIEF QUIT: Back on January 29, 2104 under the headline of "**MONARCH FIRE CHIEF DOES NOT SEEM TO BE A LONG TERM FIXTURE**" I wrote the following:

However attending the meeting where the public can see Vineyard roll his eyes at comments made by newly elected Jane Cunningham and to watch as Vineyard asks Harris at meetings if he can comment on an issue, given permission and then is shut down before finishing his thought, you have to wonder if Vineyard is long for his title of Fire Chief.

The opposite of what has happened at Monarch occurred in the last nine months at two St. Charles County fire protection districts. Two independent Board of Directors were replaced in the April elections by pro-union boards and suddenly entire command staffs have been fired.

I would be very surprised if Vineyard has not shown some interest in taking over as chief at a St. Charles district.

On April 29, 2014 Vineyard submitted his letter of resignation from his \$133,000-a-year job. His resignation is effective on May 9 or six months before his current contract expires.



Ast. Chief Cary Spiegel

On April 29 Post-Dispatch St. Charles reporter Susan Weich reported that Vineyard has been offered the chief's job at the O'Fallon Fire Protection District.

Vineyard was a strong union man as he made his way up the ranks of the old Wellston Fire Protection District where he was chief over one fully manned fire truck and no ambulances. He was hired by the 2-to-1 union backed board of Directors at Monarch. Since the Board changed to 2-to-1 non-union backed, things have been tense for Vineyard.

CURRENT MONARCH BOARD SHOULD TAKE A LESSON FROM THE PAST

MONARCH BOARD: With the announcement of the resignation of Monarch Fire Chief Tom Vineyard, the new board of directors which features two of three members who are anything but aligned with the fire union should not make the same mistake the pro-union board did when they hired Vineyard.

It was rumored that Vineyard, the chief of the one-station one-fire truck Mid-County Fire Protection District (formerly the Wellston FPD,) was going to be named chief. I wrote columns for patch.com that the logical thing to do was to try and hire as chief an assistant chief or battalion chief from a department that offered EMS ambulance service, had multiple fire stations dealt with water rescues and had an airport like Chesterfield does. At least hire a guy from an area that had a McDonald's which Vineyard's Central County District did not have.

Places to try and get applicants from would be Columbia, Jefferson City, Springfield, Independence or Liberty for a start.

When the current board brought back Cary Spiegel as the assistant chief after he was fired with the entire command staff after a sex discrimination lawsuit judgment, I wrote in this newsletter that Spiegel was not only brought back as the assistant chief, but to replace Vineyard whose contract was not likely to be renewed at the end of the year.

To make Spiegel the new chief would only be escalating the fight with the union. Have Spiegel be the acting chief and then do what the last board didn't do...go out and find a new chief with no ties to the former board or to Local 2665. Let Spiegel show the new guy the ropes, but bring in a fresh face.

COMMITTEE SHAKEUPS APPROVED AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Councilpersons with no input from Mayor Bob Nation drew up the latest committee assignment for the April 2014-to April 2015 board. Here they are:

Planning and Public Works:

Dan Hurt Chair

Elliot Grissom

Nancy Greenwood

Connie Fults

This committee okays lots of city projects and votes on rezoning and development issues. Dan Hurt or Nancy Greenwood would make excellent chairpersons. Hurt as a member has shown a concern for moving development projects ahead too quickly. He is also second only to Greenwood at looking after taxpayer nickels.



Hurt and Greenwood

Last year's chair Connie Fults had voted along a pro-development line and often was on the opposite side of issues from Hurt or Greenwood.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Derek Grier Chair

Barry Flachsbart

Mike Casey

Bruce DeGroot

Boy Councilman Derek Grier in the role as bean counter! In this committee city administrator Mike Herring quietly runs the agenda from behind the scenes.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Nancy Greenwood Chair

Derek Grier

Dan Hurt

Connie Fults

This is basically the police commission committee. Leaving the committee are Barry Flachsbart and Bruce DeGroot. Seeing DeGroot leave this committee is probably good. Last year DeGroot at a meeting told Police Chief Ray Johnson he was concerned that police officers would drive around the black neighborhoods in Chesterfield using a license plate reader that alerts officers to license plates listed to stolen cars or wanted people.

Considering that census figures show Blacks only make up 2.1% of Chesterfield's population I'd have to challenge DeGroot to find a "Black neighborhood" in Chesterfield where the police department could send officers to harass people.



Bruce is worried about the police going into non-existent Black neighborhoods of Chesterfield.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Bruce DeGroot Chair

Elliot Grissom

Mike Casey

Barry Falchsbart

Bruce is a good fit for the parks committee. He and his kids are gym rats. They are at basketball games and camps year round. Bruce understands what it involves putting on leagues, tournaments and camps plus how important they are. What Bruce does not know about policing he does know about kids' sports. Now whether Bruce knows anything about hiking trails and dog parks I don't know...but I think the Parks Committee is the place where DeGroot can do the most good.



DeGroot is very familiar with youth sports that involve basketballs.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM FOR ANOTHER YEAR BUT THAT'S IT: At the Chesterfield City Council meeting on April 23 one of the first things on the agenda was the election of the President Pro Tem, which Councilman Elliot Grissom had led for the last year.

Grissom instead of nominating another member of the Council to replace him asked to have councilman Derek Grier speak. Grier has not shown an independent bone in his young body and is so highly aligned with Grissom, Connie Fults and Mike Casey it would be laughable if it wasn't kind of sad. Grier spoke right up and nominated Grissom for a second term as President Pro Tem.

Dan Hurt was the first to speak. Hurt said that he thanked Grissom for the service he did in the last year and how he would vote for him now, but in the future he would prefer to see the President Pro Tem position on the council rotate to different members. Barry Flachsbart stated that he agreed with Hurt. This led mayor Nation to also say how he thought the position should be held by a different member each year.

Grissom was then elected to serve a second year as President Pro tem, but don't look for him to do a third year.

NEWS PEOPLE WITH NO JUDGE OF CHARACTER: The St. Louis Women of Achievement folks led by KMOX Radio, the Post-Dispatch and the Ladue News made an interesting choice for the 2014 Women of Achievement.

Listed as "Woman of Achievement for Civic Responsibility" was Pat Whitaker the Charlie Dooley appointee who resigned after four months on the board of directors of the Zoo-Museum District. We wrote extensively after she appeared on the front page of the Post-Dispatch. Whitaker replaced Jerome Glick who was the watchdog on the board and was routinely pointing possible conflicts and overspending, much to the dismay of Dooley. Being appointed by scandal ridden County Executive Charlie Dooley to replace a taxpayer watchdog is a notable achievement.

First Whitaker posted a resume that inferred she had a post-graduate degree from Harvard, when in fact she had attended a summer seminar there. This little tidbit was made public and hit the papers prior to Whitaker being named a "Woman of Achievement." Apparently resume puffing (some might call it lying) is a desirable trait.

But the fireworks began when she didn't bother recusing herself or telling anyone that her architectural firm was awarded a contract by the Science Museum which is funded by the Zoo-Museum Board. On Tuesday April 22 Whitaker hit the front page of the Post-Dispatch in a \$45,000 to \$100,000 conflict of interest and the centerpiece of

another scandal for Charlie Dooley. Plus there was an editorial calling for her to resign. On Wednesday April 23 she is back on the front page when she resigns. The on April 27 there she is again in the Post-Dispatch as a Women of Achievement.

On Thursday night April 24 on the news/talk program Donnybrook the Whitaker Affair was kicked around for five minutes even with Post-Dispatch columnist Bill McClellan taking a shot at the Zoo-Museum Board's law firm Armstrong-Teasdale which reportedly told Whitaker that she did not have a conflict of interest. Town and Country Mayor Jon Dalton, who was recently hit with 27 ethics violations by the Missouri Ethics Commission was recently added as a partner at Armstrong-Teasdale.

It is odd that the Post-Dispatch News/Reporting and Editorial staff can find someone to be a scallywag and write articles on how she needs to resign and five days later run a photo of her as a "Women of Achievement."



SCOTT ROSENBLUM REALLY ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD FOR SEVERAL REASONS: Big time St. Louis defense attorney Scott Rosenblum claimed he was not celebrating or drinking the evening after he got a guy off of the charges of while drunk getting a hotel key to the wrong room, kicking open the door when he found it was chained then getting into bed and fondling a nine-year-old girl. He claimed after the acquittal he went back to his office and worked. Brentwood police claim otherwise.

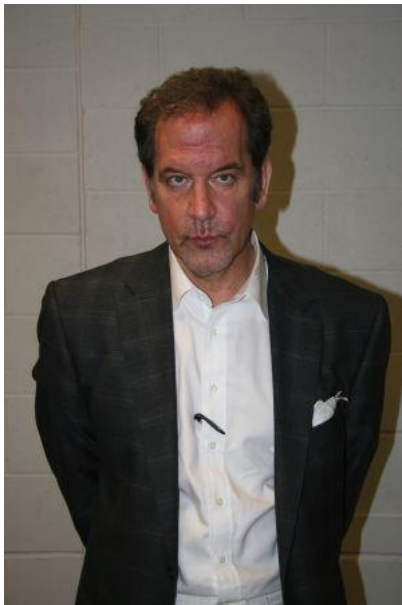
All this came up because when driving home to his house at 9650 Litszinger Road in Ladue Rosenblum crossed the centerline on McKnight Road and hit a car head on.



A view from the street of the hidden Rosenblum Ladue estate.

Of course Rosenblum could have easily proven his case that he was merely fatigued if he only would have taken a breath test.

You be the judge...look at the mug shot below and tell me if Rosenblum looks tired or drunk. He looks drunk to me!



Location, location, location...is not only the motto of realtors if is also a reality for drunk driving arrests. The center of McKnight Road between Litzsinger and I-64 is also the city limits line between the "regular people" City of Brentwood and the "super rich people" City of Ladue. By crossing the line and hitting a vehicle in the northbound lanes Rosenblum moved himself into Brentwood, where a Ladue address and zip code don't really impress the cops.

Whether currently real or not the Ladue Police have had a decades' long reputation of not arresting residents whenever possible. If Rosenblum had only swerved off the right side of the road and hit the Tilles Park fence or a tree in Ladue he might have avoided an arrest.

Of course he has a built in defense. Like any good high price defense attorney Rosenblum was driving a luxury car. In fact the cops reported he was driving a Bentley. We all know that Bentleys are English cars and were designed for people who drive on the left side of the road. The car was just going to the side of the road where it thought it belonged.



A Bentley sedan and sports coupe,

priced to move in the six figure range.

ST. LOUIS POLICE CHIEF MIGHT BE A LITTLE LOW IN HIS SLUG ESTIMATE: St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson was caught on a recording by KMOX radio telling a citizen group the following:

"I've got 1,300 employees, 1,300 police officers. I got 20 percent which are high performers. I got 20 percent which are just slugs, and I got the 60 percent in the middle. I'm trying to work on the 20 percent down here that are slugs, but, you know, I'm trying to move everybody along."



Complaints from the St. Louis Police Officers' Association forced Dotson to apologize. However in the 30-years I worked as a cop I think Dotson was right and actually his estimate of 25% of his police force being slugs is probably low.

I was a cop for 30 years and was always in the in category of the "high performers." Being in that group can be a double edged sword. You can get noticed and get promoted or you can piss off your supervisor or other command staff and never get promoted. The reason for the later is if you are always making arresting or doing follow-up investigations that means you are "out-of-service" and not answering calls. When

you are not answering calls it means the "slugs" have to answer more calls and screw up more calls. Instead of blaming the slugs some supervisors will blame the "high performance" officer. Also since high-performance officers do more work they draw more complaints. Any cop who works hard will draw some complaints every year. As a police supervisor I was just as concerned about an officer who never got a complaint as the one who got too many.

MUSIC: Wednesday in Little Bohemia...Sasha's on De Munn in Clayton. Charlie B stopped by to sign some songs and put a smile on trumpeter Jim Manley's and pianist Chris swan's face...drummer Arlen...never smiles.



SUNDAY AT THE KIRKWOOD BREWERY STATION: It was the Dave Dickey Big Band! Dave usually has a high school group play during his band's intermission as it goes up the attendance with parents and grandparents showing up. But on Sunday April 27 he had another big band made up of top musicians from the area play during his intermission.



Randy Holmes in the beret is featured on the trumpet in the first set. In the second set, Kirkwood's Jim Owens leads the band as Glendale's Doug Bert is featured on trombone.

The Dave Dickey Big Band is at the Kirkwood Brewery Station on East Jefferson at Kirkwood Road on the fourth Sunday of every month.

DEAN CHRISTOPHER BACK AT THE ONE-19: If you were at our surprise birthday party in February you saw singer and comedian Dean Christopher put on quite a show. He will be back at the One-19 on May 12 as part of a trio instead of with a sextet, but it should be a fun evening. Yeah the Cubs are in town for a four game series...but you have three other days to see baseball. The food is excellent and the prices are reasonable, call 314-821-4119 for a reservation. The fun starts at 7:30 as the launch to a once-a-month "Rat Pack Monday" with Dean at the One-1`9 at 119 N. Kirkwood Road.



Dean Christopher at the One-19 in February.

IT WINDS FROM CHICAGO TO LA...MORE THAN 2000 MILES ALL THE WAY...GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66: A retired English couple, who now live on a German island closer to the mainland of Denmark than Germany...were in town last week. Bob and Rosemary Wright are doing something that Bob has wanted to do for some time. Drive Route 66 from Chicago to LA.

My wife and I met the Wrights on a cruise ship four years ago. When Bob said he wanted to drive Route 66 I told him they should stop by and stay with us for a couple of days.

On Wednesday April 23 they arrived in Chicago from Germany and rented a car for four weeks. They stopped at our house on Sunday evening and hit the Mother Road again on Wednesday morning. They went to the Dave Dickey Big Band concert, to Ted Drewes, to the top of the Arch and around downtown.

They saw so many huge West County homes including the Jones house on Twin Springs Lane in Ladue and Sen. McCaskill's compound in Kirkwood they thought there were more rich people in St. Louis than in Beverly Hills. We stopped the notion by taking an evening tour of South St. Louis. Then there was the trip to the Sugarfire BBQ joint on Olive Blvd at I-170 where dinner was served on a piece of brown paper. We also did the River Road and Illinois bluffs overlooking the Mississippi.

Tuesday included a stop at the Museum of Transportation, a stop at Schafly's for an ale and Carl's Drive In for a root beer and photos, both along a section of Old Route 66.

The last night's dinner was at O'Connell's Pub on Kingshighway. At their request it was a return trip to Ted Drewes for one more Concrete. Wednesday morning they were off toward LA with a first stop planned at Meramec Caverns. These kids in their mid-70s are doing something that my wife and I used to do in our 30s and 40s, fly into a foreign country, rent a car and go off on an adventure with only a guide book and no reservations.

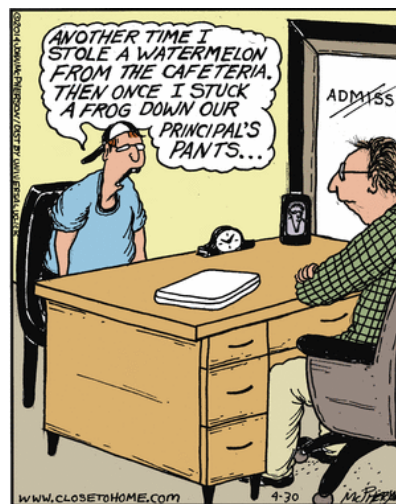


Bob and Rosemary on the Illinois bluffs with the Mississippi River and St. Charles County Missouri in the background. The couple having dinner with the main course served on brown paper on top of their trays at the Sugar-Fire BBQ.

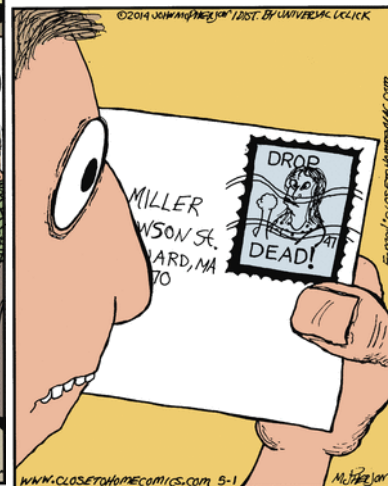
CARTOONS:



"I recommend that you have a pest control company inspect the home before you sign a contract."



Derrick misunderstands the purpose of the college admissions office.



The Postal Service offers a counterpart to its popular "Love" stamps.



