

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 140 AND CHESTERFIELD 85



By John Hofmann

August 17, 2014

FATAL CAR ACCIDENT TOPS LIST OF 1,686 POLICE CALLS IN JULY: An afternoon fatal car accident topped the list of July police activities in Town and Country.

On Tuesday July 29 at about 12:50pm there was a one-car accident on Southbound Highway 141 a vehicle driven by Nancy Dietrich of 754 Pebble Lake Drive Ballwin left the road and crashed. Dietrich would tell Town and Country police officers that she must have fallen asleep.

Dietrich and her passenger, 91-year-old Russell Geiger, also from Ballwin, were alert at the accident scene, but were transported to a nearby hospital with what appeared to be minor injuries. Six hours later Geiger died.

Here are the rest of July Police Incident Summary:

80 Vehicle Crashes including 1 fatality 14-1288

28 Criminal Reports (5 are IRS Fraud Reports)

17 Driving While Intoxicated arrests (1 misd-16 ordinance)

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

675 Traffic citations issued (485 speeding)

Police Activity Town and Country 2014 YTD

YEAR TO DATE JANUARY THROUGH JULY:

480 Vehicle Crashes

247Criminal Reports

156 DWI arrests

358 Misc Arrests

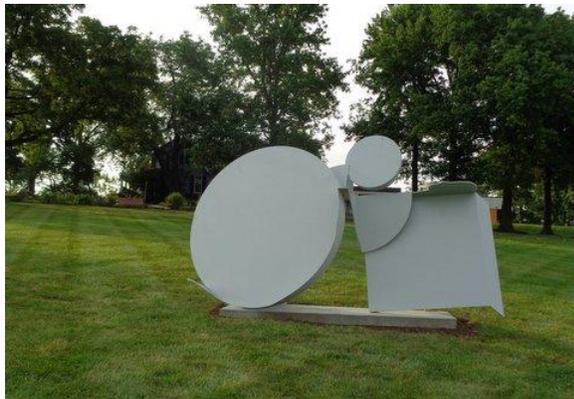
3541 Traffic citations

2488 Speeding Citations

SOMEONE DUMPED AN OLD SATELLITE DISH IN LONGVIEW PARK: At least that was the e-mail my wife received from a friend that continued "...Oh never mind that is the Trova the city just got."

The emailer had a point, this Trova sculpture the city obtained from the St. Louis County Parks Department (They are trying to unload all the Trovas they have in storage) on a 25-year loan has been set up on the east side of Longview Park was not particularly attractive. We had walked the dogs at Longview that Saturday and took a couple photos.

What really surprised me was this sculpture was not a 360-degree piece of art. It was strictly a 90-degree object with just a front. The back side was clearly a stand supporting the sculpture and not art. I found it amusing that there is a bench that looks out to the east with a great view on the backside of the "abandoned satellite dish."



Lynn Wright has announced that the Trova sculptures at Longview Park and at City Hall will be painted black. That should make them appear even more like a prop from a TV show on the Sci-Fi Network.

THAT POTHOLE IN THE MIDDLE OF MASON ROAD: If you are wondering where the pothole in the middle of Mason Road just south of Queeny Park came from...it was the result of this water main break:



The break was a geyser at first if you look at the water mark about 7-feet up the nearby utility pole. It then took out more of the pipe and part of a road pavement.

Just to let you know...The County Highway Department was notified about the pothole on Monday August 11 by me and I was told someone else had already called it in. On Tuesday August 12 Public Works Director Craig Wilde also called them. It was repaired on Wednesday.

MAYOR SLAY TRIED TO USE FERGUSON LOOTING AS A REASON FOR A COUNTY-CITY MERGER...BUT HE IS WRONG: "The herculean task of coordinating dozens of public safety departments is a strong argument for a more unified region," Mayor Francis Slay tweeted out on Monday trying to make political hay out of the lawlessness in Ferguson on Sunday night and Monday morning.

However, Slay is wrong...because if we had a centralized county government and had a county wide police department, there would not be as many police officers to send to a night of looters visiting Ferguson.

Keep in mind in 1983 the slow and sometimes non-existent response of the County Police were the main reasons for success of the annexation elections that doubled the size of Town and Country.

The same was true in Chesterfield when it was created in 1989. In other words regional law enforcement did not work well in West County. This is not to say that citizens would

be better served than by contracted County officers in some of the small troubled police departments in parts of North County, but in West County the people have clearly spoken.



For instance if the 11 square miles of Town and Country were covered by the County police instead of the 29-officer Town and Country Police Department, they could do it with probably 12 officers or less. That would mean a reduction of 17 cops. Sure it would be more economical, but it would mean slower response times, fewer patrols of subdivisions, fewer investigations and less traffic enforcement.

Chesterfield's 97-officer department could be replaced with just 50 or 60 officers meaning a loss of 37-to-47 officers, slower response times and fewer offenses investigated by police detectives. Also fewer officers to send to a Code-1000.

The same could be said for most municipal police departments in St. Louis County. There would be a savings in money, but a reduction in services, fewer police officers, larger patrol areas meaning a lesser knowledge of the community by officers paroling it. Sure there are a few small cities in the County that could stand an infusion of higher professional standards and ethics, but the ones in West County are not in that group.

TOWN AND COUNTRY AND CHESTERFIELD SEND OFFICERS TO FERGUSON:

Town and Country sent a total of five officers over the first three days of trouble in Ferguson. Two were sent on Saturday, one on Sunday night and two on Monday. If Town and Country was covered by the County police instead of its own police department that response would not have existed.

Chesterfield Police sent four officers.

The response of police officers from all across the county to an event was established after the ROTC building was burned down on the Washington University campus in 1969 during anti-Vietnam War protests. It was called a Code-1000, thinking they could get up to 1000 police officers somewhere if needed. Now it is used to get 100 or 200 officers to respond.



Washington U ROTC building along Big Bend Blvd. burns to the ground as University and Clayton firefighters had to withdraw after being hit by rocks thrown by students before police could gather a large enough officers to force them back.

The last time I recalled it being called was during a rock concert in Maryland Heights when a band walked off and the crowd went nuts.

DEMANDS OF AN ARREST ARE IRONIC: Supporters of O.J. Simpson before his trial of the murder of his ex-wife and Ron Goldman come to mind when protesters want the immediate arrest of the Ferguson police officer who shot and killed Michael Brown. O.J. fans want us to "Wait for the Evidence."

Keep in mind the County Police took over the investigation of the Sunset Hills mayor striking a bicyclist on July 30. That case had at least one independent witness who did not know the mayor or the bicyclist. As of August 13 they are still investigating the case, 15 days later.

In July of 2008 Jeffrey Knight of Muscle Shoals, Alabama ran over 24 cars backed up on I-64 at I-270 in Town and Country with his tractor trailer while he was attempting to use his cell phone. He killed four immediately and a fifth died three years later. It took the Missouri Highway Patrol who investigated the wreck 10 months to bring charges in a pretty clear cut case.

Bill McClellan wrote a column on Wednesday August 13 asking where the outrage is from the Black community when 12-year-old boys sitting inside their house get killed by gunfire and others are murder from black on black crime every week.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/bill-mcclellan/mcclellan-all-killings-should-spark-outrage/article_714c3cb4-980a-551a-aa10-292184d07a8a.html

Jason L. Riley of the Wall Street Journal wrote a Political Diary piece titled "Sharpton's Search for Relevance." Here is the lead to the piece:

[Sharpton's Search for Relevance](#)

BY JASON L. RILEY

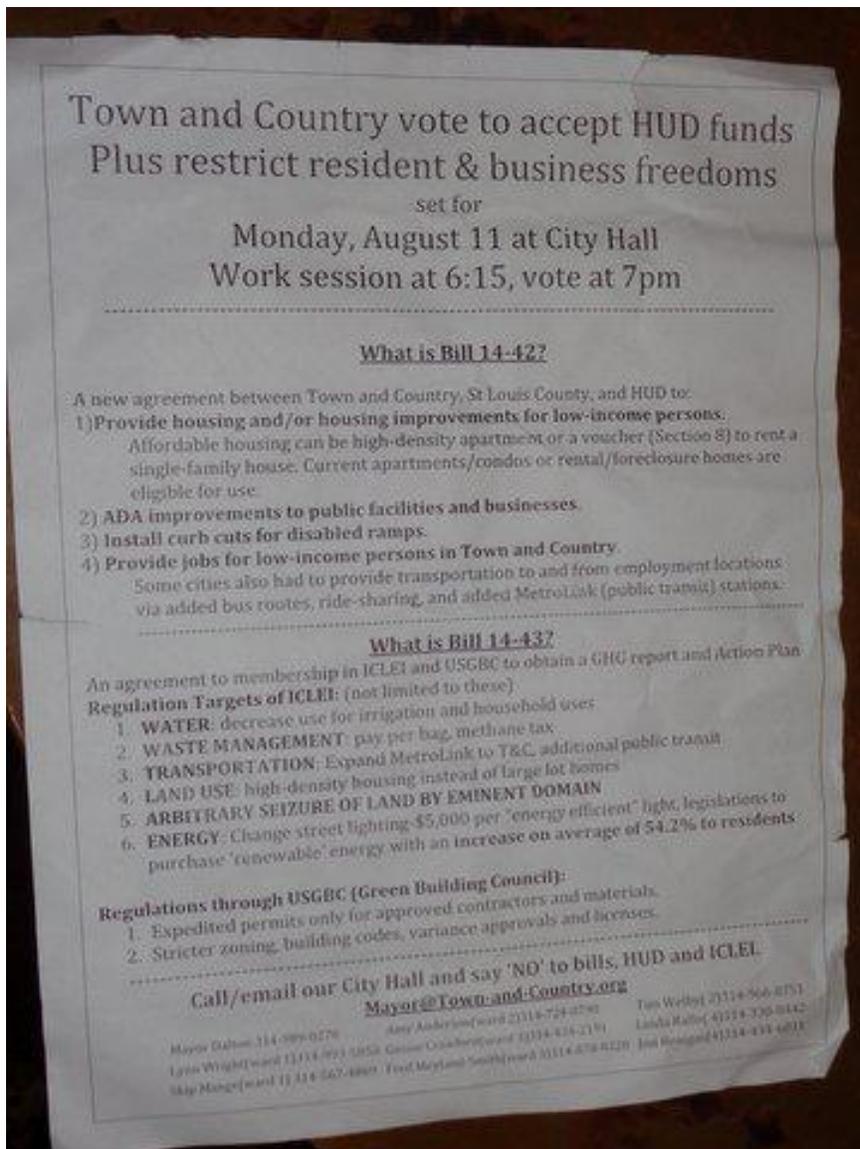
This past weekend in Chicago, 26 people were shot, including a 16-year-old who died. Yet Al Sharpton is headed not to the Second City but to suburban St. Louis to protest the weekend shooting death of Michael Brown, who police say was killed while resisting arrest.

What happened in Chicago—black people shooting black people—is sadly routine and of secondary concern to civil rights industry operators like Mr. Sharpton, whose agenda is keeping the focus on whites and the supposedly racist "system." The Chicago shootings don't advance that agenda, so Mr. Sharpton is taking his talents to St. Louis, where he will put racial solidarity ahead of condemning bad behavior and pretend that our morgues are full of young black men due to miscreant police officers.

BOARD OF ALDERMAN TAKE EASY WAY OUT... CHICKENS OUT OF TAKING TOUGH VOTES: On the agenda Monday night August 11 at the Town and Country Board of Aldermen meeting were items that included a second reading to execute an agreement with HUD to join in an agreement. The chances of anyone in the affluent city of Town and Country needing any HUD assistance does not exist.

The second item was the bill to agree to have a carbon footprint done of Town and Country by an intern plus membership in ICLEI **International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives**, which came to exist after a 1992 United Nations Agenda item passed.

There had been some opposition brought up to this matter for over six weeks. It was started by new Alderwomen Amy Anderson and has spread. In fact there was an anonymous flier spread around selected homes prior to the meeting concerning these issues. The flier has some questionable claims, but it got several people to attend the Aldermanic meeting who normally would not have been there and it also pissed off Fred Meyland-Smith.



In the agenda meeting when Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton came to the HUD Bill he stated that suddenly he has had an epiphany. At the last meeting in July he thought this bill was fine but in August he thinks it should be continued "indefinitely" which is normally sure death for a bill as it would take two alderpersons to bring it back to life."I have spent a long time thinking about this," said Dalton.

"What concerns me is the federal government made a change to this process and it opens something I'm not comfortable with," said Alderwoman Linda Rallo.

Amy Anderson, back briefly from her summer vacation home in Michigan took a refreshing fiscally conservative stance. "There is no such thing as free money. The County makes the final decision on money anyway."



Amy Anderson taking a break from her Michigan Summer home to return home and vote, only after she showed up the matters she was going to vote against were continued.

Dalton then interrupted Anderson and asked her how she felt on the continuance matter. Dalton is one who will always avoid taking if some people will be offended.

Anderson said she was ready to vote against it, but if someone wanted more time to study the matter she would vote for a continuance.

Tim Welby showed he was a real man of the people and why he may deserve the "Alderdope" title from former Alderman Steve Fons.

"If we continue it I don't care. If we vote on it I don't care," said Welby.

Skip Mange then admitted what everyone knew...that his name was the only one sponsoring the bill.

"I don't think it is in the best interest of the city," said Linda Rallo.

Now we got to hear Fred Meyland-Smith talk about this for several minutes. Fred spent very little time on the bill itself, saying he'd vote against it. He then riled on about the flier.

"I'll vote against it, It is (his comments) exclusively about the flier that I want to talk about," said Meyland-Smith who lied as he also talked about everything else all night long.

"It was a matter of courage to have their name on it (the flier). It doesn't. It bothers me our neighbors have anxiety over this, This was a reckless act," said the senior aldermanic gasbag, who at least reminded me of Mel Brooks singing High Anxiety.



In the regular meeting three residents spoke against the bill and having anything to do with HUD. Two of them **Lindsey Butler** and **Tiffany Frautschi** did more research on the issue than six of the eight alderpersons. Linda Rallo and Anderson had also done research independent of any city supplied info.

The other speaker against the bill was Larry Jones from Ward-2 who is a former member of the P&Z Board. Jones spoke on getting the flier and added he did like anything that put Town and Country and St. Louis County and HUD in bed together.

"I did not know we had any low-income housing in Town and Country," said Jones.

Meyland-Smith attempted to address Jones, who was seated again and Jones could not hear him, so Meyland-Smith much to the chagrin of Dalton, motioned Jones to the dais.



Then the chickens came home: Next The Big Chicken Dalton called for a motion to continue the bill indefinitely and he got the motion and a second. Then the whole board voted to continue the bill forever, instead of voting it down. Cluck, Cluck, Cluck.



SKIP "CHRISTMAS GOOSE" MANGE PART I: I believe we all know what a Christmas Goose is full of. Alderman/former mayor and county councilman Skip Mange appears to be as full of you know what as a Christmas Goose.

Mange introduced Bill14-42 which is the one to sign an agreement with HUD. On July 14 when Skip Mange introduced the bill he was fully supporting it and ready to vote for its passage. It was his bill.

At the next meeting he joined everyone else voting to continue it indefinitely. Nothing like staying with your principals.



SKIP "CHRISTMAS GOOSE" MANGE PART II: 74-year-old Alderman Skip Mange first announced the work on demolishing the addition to the existing log house and building the one he dismantled and moved from Conway Road which for \$200,000 in tax grant money would start in June. Then it was July. Next the ground breaking was announced for August 7.

It is a custom and traditional the work begins after the "ground breaking." That is why most ground breaking ceremonies are held in the morning with work crews standing by. Not with The Christmas Goose...the ground breaking was for 7pm an hour before sunset. But that was cancelled due to bad weather. Also it was not going to be a ground breaking. Instead it was going to be "move some loose dirt around with a shovel ceremony"

A city employee had to drop off some loose dirt and put a cover over it, so no one would have to actually break any ground.



So work started the next day...right? Wrong there was no work until Tuesday August 12 when an orange plastic fence around the work area and that was it. The next "ground breaking"...er...I mean "turning over loose dirt" is scheduled for Monday night August 18 at 7pm....54 minutes before sunset.

PROOF MEYLAND-SMITH TALKS TOO MUCH: Apparently the light that comes on in front of Mayor Dalton on the dais when an alderperson pushes a button indicating they want to talk was burnt out for Meyland-Smith which did two things. It proved what I have been saying for years...Meyland-Smith is a gasbag. Secondly it forced Meyland-Smith to raise his hand and wave it to get Dalton's attention all night.

Twice after presenters on issues before the board made concise statements, Meyland-Smith's hand went up and he repeated the statements we had all just heard and asked if that was correct. At times he seems to talk just to talk.

NO DIGGING IN ON A GOOD ISSUE: The last item on the agenda meeting discussion list was increasing the city's deficit by \$5,000 to pay expenses for the announced combined Fall Festival and rescheduled Fire and Ice fireworks show. I have written why it is a bad idea to combine these events in our Ex-Alderman newsletter #136. One of the reasons is that it is stupid to have the kids' events from the morning Fall Festival, normally held in the safety of Longview Park, along Clayton Road in the afternoon with a setting sun blinding westbound drivers.

Alderwoman Gussie Crawford brought this subject up saying she has been told by two mothers they are concerned about their children's safety along Clayton Road. Gussie did not dig in and allowed Mayor Dalton to kill the topic by saying, "Then we can put you down as a sponsor on this bill?" At that point Crawford gave up and shut up. It was an issue that should have been discussed.



MAYBE I HAVE A POINT...NOT On the Board of Aldermen agenda was a replacement bill for the renaming of Savvis Blvd. This comes after the Savvis Company was bought by Century Link. I have written we are giving up a bit of history especially after Savvis CEO Robert McCormick made international news for the Town and Country Company by getting sued for refusing to pay his company AmEx bill for \$240,000 worth of lap dances in one night at a New York City adult entertainment club. I thought perhaps city leaders saw some merit in my commentary from Newsletter #136, but no.



Robert McCromick

Alderwoman Linda Rallo said they requested to change the new name of the street from Technology Parkway to Solutions Parkway to avoid in confusion for people or 9-1-1 operators with a similarly named street in St. Charles County.

A little checking showed there are four College Streets in the area, in Webster Groves, Kirkwood, Jennings and St. Louis. There are three Cliftons in the area, one in Jennings, one in St. Louis and one in Warson Woods, plus there is Clifton Forge in Town and Country. There is a Bellerive in seven different cities, including Town and Country, Bel Nor, Village of Bellerive, St. Louis, Ballwin, Creve Coeur and unincorporated St. Louis County. Maple is a street name in 12 different cities in St. Louis County. There are six different Oaks and seven different Oaklands.

There are currently no Lap Dance Boulevards in the metropolitan area, including Sauget, Illinois, home of many adult nightclubs.

EXCELLENT ALDERMANIC CANDIDATES: In the last three months I have watched **Lindsey Butler** and **Tiffany Frautschi**, two housewives from Ward-2, do more research on several topics in three months than Tim Welby has done in eight years on the Board of Aldermen. Their work has included obtaining documents, tracing the history of organizations and calling Federal officials.

I hope that one of these women decides to run against Welby in April of 2015 and the other one acts as her campaign manager.



Tiffany Frautschi



Lindsey Butler

COVERAGE OF THE ST. AUSTIN SCHOOL SITE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER.

SERIAL DRUNK DRIVER IN MEDICAL SCHOOL...STILL ON FACEBOOK WITH A DRINK IN HIS HAND...In 2012 Jonathan F. Dalton, Jr. the mayor's son driving a car registered to the mayor was arrested for drunk driving twice in six months by the Ladue Police. (to see the arrest reports go to our website's homepage) Despite graduating from an Ivy League school, Dalton, Junior was not showing a lot of smarts when he had his facebook page full of photos showing him with blurry eyes and a drink in his hand.

Here are a few photos of Jay with a drink in his hand or a water pipe in front of him we found that gave us pause that perhaps citizens encountering young Dalton late at night on the road give him plenty of room.



However, we hear that instead of following in his father's footsteps as a lobbyist or a real estate deal maker who used eminent domain to snatch a widow's business and property that she had had for 60 years for a nightclub district that was never built Jay has picked another way to go.

We hear that Jay Dalton is in medical school at Washington University. We also found that the earlier photos of him appearing to be drunk are gone from his facebook site, but have been replaced with new ones.

The old drinking photos showing a possibly drunk Dalton have been replaced with two more drinking photos. In one Dalton is holding a bottle of beer. The other has Dalton sitting on top of a bus. He is not holding a drink. But if you look closely someone in the bus is trying to hand him one.



UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 85



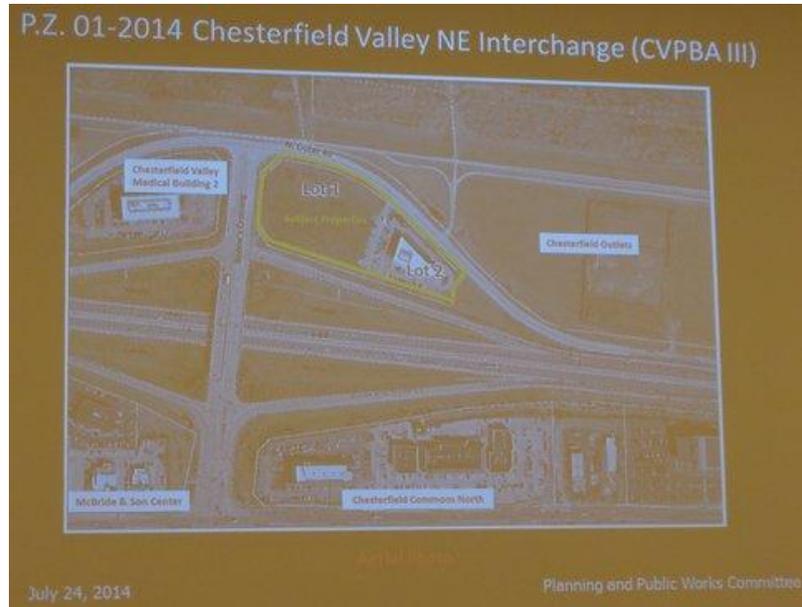
August 17, 2014

DEVELOPER THREATENS CITY COUNCIL ON A PROJECT MOST RESIDENTS DON'T CARE ABOUT...First its Chesterfield Arts and now it is the Business/Medical offices. If you remember back a short time ago it was Chesterfield Attorney Mike Doster who had the balls to go to the Chesterfield City Council committee and demand \$250,000 for two 8-foot high Chinese horses that everyone thought Chesterfield Arts had already given to the city after they got them free from the former Adams Mark Hotel. Doster proclaimed that Chesterfield Arts would cease to exist on August 31 if the city did not fork over a quarter of a million dollars to buy the horses.

Doster, a member of the Chesterfield Arts Board of Directors won over one councilperson, Connie Fults, the other seven seem to think he was nuts. I appreciated what he had done as I was able to write several newsletters using P.F. Chang, Ming Warriors and financial responsibility jokes.

At the August 4 City Council meeting the Chesterfield Arts Horse issue was dead on arrival when Connie Fults could not get a second to her motion to give the money to Chesterfield Arts.

But Doster was up speaking and threatening the Council again...this time it was over a driveway entrance to a planned office building and bank.



Development attorney Mike Doster making a threat to the City Council over a project if an extra curb cut is not granted.

The lot to be development is question is at the Southeast corner of the North Forty Outer Road and Boones Crossing, along I-64. There is already a medical office building on the east side of the two commercial lot property. Developers would like to build a office building and bank on the west side of the property. Here is the hang up:

Doster's clients want a right turn only entrance to the property with a special lane that can handle up to five cars before the main entrance. In committee meetings and in council agenda meetings, Councilman Dan Hurt had said he favored a single main entrance and exit and thought the right turn only entrance was not needed. At one point Councilman Barry Flachsbart said that in general fewer curb cut were better. Hurt also asked why they could not eliminate the right turn only entrance and extend the right turn lane all the way to the main entrance where there would be traffic signals.

This issue had an almost a zero-impact on the public at large and seemed to be a non-controversial issue, whether there was a second entrance or just the main entrance.

Then at the City Council meeting Doster filled out a speaker's card. When he was called, he informed the mayor and council that if they refused to allow the early "right turn only" entrance the sale of the property to a new the developer wanting to build the second building would be in jeopardy.

"This is not just really something we would like to have, but is a key position in the contractual arrangements," said Doster.

Now if I was a member of the City Council I would have been inclined to give them the early "right turn entrance"...that is until some lawyer for the developer shows up and starts to threaten the council. This is not a retail development that would be generating parks/storm water and capital improvement sales taxes. It's an office building that will create more city service demands than business license fees.

I would always prefer taking a stand against lawyers making threats.

LOT ACROSS FROM OUTLETT MALL APPROVED FOR RESTAURANT...BUT IT BETTER NOT HAVE A DRIVE-THRU: A lot across the street from the Premium Outlet Malls is in the Spirit Valley Industrial Park. It is owned by the Mall's owner, Simon Property Group, which now wants to sell it. It's location across the street from a popular mall would make it an ideal location for a fast food restaurant. The city's Planning and Public Works Committee was only meeting Simon Property halfway on the plan.



"We believe a drive through restaurant will be appropriate," said Dean Wolfe, local shill for the Simon Property Group.



Dean Wolfe (in casual attire) claims a drive-thru franchise would be perfect for the property as Chesterfield Planning Director Aimee Nassif looks on.

"You have the commercial side of the street. This is the industrial side of the street," exclaimed Councilwoman Connie Fults.

The committee's position was it would be nice to have a restaurant to serve the industrial park, but not one to serve the demanding quick service needs of customers of the outlet malls.

I have to think if I work in the Spirit Valley Industrial Park I might like to get a morning beverage at the drive-thru on the way to work, however the entire Planning and Public Works Committee would disagree with me.

FOOD: MIA SORELLA NOT THE PLACE FOR ME FOR LUNCH: The sign outside should have been a warning (places that claim to have great food and have no waiting usually means one of two things...overpriced or not so great)...however we followed our waitress' instructions and ordered the most popular thing on the luncheon menu. It was a big mistake.

Jean Whitney, my old patch.com editor who usually was pretty good at doing her job (there is always a little tension between writer and editor) is back in town and agreed to go with me and try some local places for lunch. We cannot afford doing restaurant reviews based on dinner entrees. just too expensive.

Mia Sorella's is located at 14426 Clayton Road in the new shopping center next to the CVS store on the corner of Clayton Road and Henry Road. Technically it is in Ballwin, but the street in front of the place is Chesterfield.



We were seated quickly at 1:15 on a weekday afternoon. The place was maybe half full. The waitress explained the specials , included a steak sandwich on cheese bread. The menu also had a roast beef sandwich on cheese bread. I told the waitress to please steer me in the right direction. I said I was considering the cheeseburger, steak sandwich and roast beef. Our waitress said the cheeseburger was the most popular lunch item and she would recommend that. She explained that it came with bacon bits and a sauce that was a combination of sweet jelly and onion. I asked for the sauce on the side, so I could be sure to taste the burger.

I also ordered a side of pasta Alfredo. I always like to compare a simple pasta side and see if it is better or worse than what I would buy at the Olive Garden.

Jean ordered a luncheon special of smoked chicken with mushrooms and spinach fettuccini.



When the food arrived I found that the cheeseburger did have melted cheese on it, but was well undercooked from my medium request and was missing the bacon bits. It got sent back.

When it returned we found it was mostly tasteless without the sauce. With the sauce I found it had an overpowering sweet jelly favor and left me not wanting to finish it.

The truffle fries were not remarkable.

But what was amazing was that a cheeseburger, that me a fat guy did not even finish with only "average at best" fries cost \$12.99.

I also picked the Olive Garden's Fettucini Alfredo over Mia Sorella.

Now let's talk cheeseburgers...the annual top cheeseburgers in St. Louis are the ones at Blueberry Hill at \$7.50 and at O'Connell's Pub, at just \$6.25. If you want to stay in Chesterfield and get a cheeseburger go down to Smitty's (\$6.95) at Clayton and Baxter or out to the Hanger Grill (\$8.45) in Chesterfield Valley. You can go next door at the Ranch Circle 7 Pub and Grill and get a much better cheeseburger for \$9.49.

If you want to pay too much for a pretty good burger, go east on Clayton Road one block to the overpriced Cooper's Hawk. There a much better cheeseburger is \$10.99.

As for as fries go...just go to Cheeburger...Cheeburger on Manchester Road or at Chesterfield Mall. They make fresh hand cut fries to order for a couple of bucks. The best onion rings around are still at either Cheeburger...Cheeburger or Charlotte's Rib.

Jean did liked her smoked chicken special and rated it better than something at Olive Garden. The pasta and chicken lunch special was \$11.99 and Jean's Diet Pepsi was \$3.00.

In fairness both the Post-Dispatch (under their former reviewer) and St. Louis Magazine gave favorable reviews that did not include burgers. However Ian Froeb, the former Riverfront Times food critic who has been at the Post-Dispatch for a year has not reviewed the place.



Mia Sorella pasta Alfredo



Olive Garden Pasta Alfredo

But the overall lesson learned at Mia Sorella, **DON'T GO THERE FOR A CHEESEBURGER!**

AN INTERESTING STORY ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FORGETTING ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: Good expanded feature reporting by newspapers is getting rarer and rarer so I noticed when the Washington Post went to Southern Texas and Brooks County to report what the flood of illegal immigrants crossing the border is doing to a nearly bankrupt Sheriff's Office.

I was really interested in this story because back in the 1990s I wrote an article for a national police management magazine dealing with how Border Patrol officials kept raising the amount of illegal drugs needed to be confiscated for Federal prosecution. At the time of the article the lesser amounts (which were still a lot of drugs) were handed over to local authorities. However the Federal government was not helping the locals expand the number of local police, jails, state prosecutor's office or local courts.

In the Washington Post story, Brooks County due to budget cuts is down to having a single deputy on duty for the entire county. The deputy is paid \$11.50 and has had all benefits cut. He now starts every shift making sure he has body bags in his vehicle for the bodies of those immigrants who have died making their trip northward and enough bottles of water for those still alive.



The lone on-duty Brooks County Texas deputy goes out of service to take two illegal immigrants to the Federal Detention facility.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/national/2014/08/09/going-it-alone/?hpid=z4>

MY SUNDAY IN NEW YORK: I was recently in New York on a Sunday and last Sunday I thought I was back there again, just due to the crowd of people I was with. But I wasn't in New York, instead I was at Lucky's Supermarket in Ellisville. This place was packed. The parking lot was full. Inside the store you needed traffic cops to handle all the people pushing carts. There were eight checkout lanes that were eight deep with people waiting to check out. I asked an employee if it was like this every day at the newly opened store or just weekends. "Every day," was his reply.

The supermarket in the former Straub's 55,000 square foot store on Clarkson and Clayton Roads, is aiming at both Whole Foods customer and those shopping at Dierbergs and Schnucks. What it did for me was appreciate the Dierbergs I shop at.



NEVER A GOOD IDEA: Yes I have worked as a reporter, but I also worked 30 years in law enforcement and developed several golden rules when I was in charge of

public records. The top rule was 1) Never Go Out of Your Way to Make a Reporter Mad.

I have seen people in law enforcement be rude to reporters or make them jump through hoops to obtain public records. I never could understand why. Why do you want to piss off someone who buys ink by the barrel and has to fill space on a daily basis or someone who has to fill 20 minutes in between commercials four times a day with a local newscast?

I always thought this was common sense...but plenty of people don't follow it. When I worked in Maryland you could take 72 hours to provide public records. They have a similar law in Missouri. It doesn't mean you have to wait 72 hours. The 72 hours is a reasonable time to find old records or records that require research, such as email records. However I have seen people invoke the 72 hours rule when the records are at their finger tips. Making the media mad at you is just plain stupid.

Apparently this had not filtered down to the officers in Ferguson who arrested a Washington Post and Huffington Post reporter on Wednesday night in Ferguson at a McDonald's. The reporters were videoing the officers who were telling them to leave. Frankly it appeared as if the McDonald's was empty and likely to be closing. But the tape of the officer ordering the Washington Post reporter to leave did not mention that the restaurant was closing or the police were called by McDonald's.



A Huffington Post reporter taken from a McDonald's in Ferguson by three officers.

What did these officers think? By arresting these guys their PR would get better? Simply taking them outside and having the McDonald's manager lock the doors would have done the trick. Do you really need to arrest people who are not looting, shooting or throwing rocks at the police even if they might deserve it?

It is one thing to declare a curfew to stop violence and keep the streets safe. It is another thing to use the color of law to openly violate the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. That may not have been what the officers thought they were doing, but when you arrest a reporter for an on-view violation and then don't file charges that is what it looks like to the rest of the world.

Not only are these arrests on the top of the Huffington Post website and the front page of the Washington Post, but they are on the front pages of hundreds of papers around the world and on the nightly newscasts. Is this the additional coverage the City of Ferguson, St. Louis County and the St. Louis region is looking for right now?

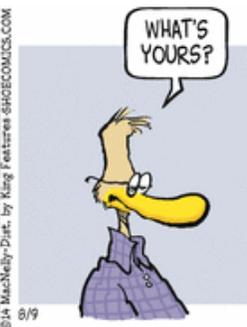
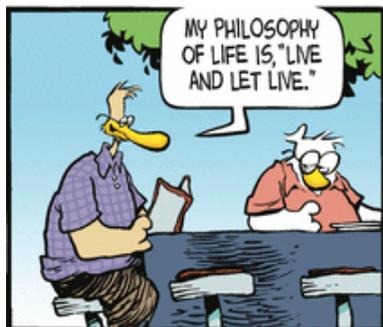
It would be in the best interest of everybody concerned that the officers involved in these arrests, where no charges were filed and the reporters were released after being booked at the Ferguson Police Department, be removed from street duty if for nothing else a breather and hopefully a recharging of the common sense battery. These officers are not thinking clearly and did a huge amount of harm toward quieting things in Ferguson, even if the reporters were less than cooperative.

MUSIC: Wednesday night at Sasha's.



Well known St. Louis trombonist Wayne Coniglio sits in. An admittedly poor photo of Russ Macklem (right) in town from Toronto to cut a CD at the Ladue Chapel. Russ put down his trumpet in the middle of the Bunny Barigan classic, "I Can't Get Started" and switched to a valve trombone.

CARTOONS:







New Word: Exhaustipated

Here is a new word to add to your vocabulary. It will be especially useful to us senior folks!

Exhaustipated: meaning "too tired to give a shit."