

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 141 AND CHESTERFIELD 86



**By John Hofmann**

**August 24, 2014**



**DEER ACCIDENTS CONTINUES TO DROP:** There were only three deer struck and killed by motor vehicles in July. To date in 2014 there have been just 24 deer-vehicle encounters. That compares to 44 through the first seven months of 2013. The accidents for July were at Clayton Road and Chatsworth, Clayton Road and Highland Pointe and I-270 and I-64.

### 2014 Deer Accident Locations

I-270 Between I-64 and south City Limits **5** (Ward 1)  
Clayton Road east of I-270 **1** (Ward 1)  
Clayton Road between Topping and I-270 **1** (Ward 1)  
I-64 at I-270 **1** (Ward 1)  
Municipal Center Drive **1** (Ward 1)  
Topping Road **2** (Ward 2)  
Mason Road South of Clayton Road **3** (Ward 2)  
Clayton Road east of Mason Road **1** (Ward 2)  
I-64 at Mason Road **2** (Ward 2 or 3)  
Clayton Road between Mason and Hwy 141 **1** (Ward 3)  
SB Hwy 141 at Clayton Road **1** (Ward 3)  
I-64 at Maryville Exit **1** (Ward 4)  
I-64 at Hwy 141 **1** (Ward 4)  
Ladue Road at Hwy 141 **1** (Ward 4)  
Old Woods Mill and I-64 Overpass **1** (Ward 4)

Conway Road at Babler Road 1 (Ward 4)



Fewer in the road but more in my neighborhood. Here are five in my neighbor's yard. The natural predator of deer in Town and Country...a BMW.

**ST. AUSTIN SCHOOL'S TRAFFIC ENGINEERS COME BACK WITH A NEW PLAN...NEIGHBORS ANNOUNCE THEY WILL NEVER BE HAPPY:** The residents of two nearby subdivision along Woods Mill Road (Cedar Springs and Manderleigh) had bitterly complained at a Planning and Zoning how north bound vehicles queuing to make left turns into the school would back up traffic making it dangerous for residents to turn left out of their subdivisions. Toward the end of the night a resident from Manderleigh suggested to make left turns prohibited into the school. The P&Z Commissioners liked the idea and passed the plan with morning left turns prohibited in the morning on a 4-3 vote.

At the August 11 Town and Country Board of Alderman meeting the site Development Plan was on the agenda for a first reading. The place was packed. Half of the convent was also there. There are only two nuns left at the convent.



One of the two nuns left at Sisters of St. Peter Claver convent at 667 S, Woods Mill was one of the only supporters of the St. Austin School buying the convent property at the recent Board of Alderman meeting.

The meeting began with a new traffic plan from St. Austin's traffic engineering firm CBB. They proposed to make it a permanent No Left Turn from NB Woods Mill Road into the school and install a concrete median that would prohibit the turns into the school but would allow motorist to turn left out of the school. They also proposed a much longer SB right turn only lane dedicated for right turns into the school. They also would move the driveway entrance further to the south to accommodate the additional traffic being forced away from the two subdivisions and onto to the South Forty Outer Road and then onto SB Woods Mill.

The plan made it appear as if the School listened to the concerns of the residents and would inconvenience student's parents to avoid backing up traffic near subdivisions. You might think this would make the residents happy. Well you would be very wrong!

**THE GRINCH WHO STOLE THE CHRISTMAS PLAY:** The first person to speak from the large crowd about the school was Kathy Bridges of Cedar Springs. She explained that the traffic the school would generate just was not just dropping off and picking up students. She said that parents volunteer in classrooms and during lunch. Oh My God! Three moms volunteering as lunch ladies should have quite an impact!

She also complained that there would be field trips. Again...Oh the Humanity! Either a bus full of kids or several mini vans leaving at 11:30 and returning at 2:30!

If this wasn't bad enough there would be outside play periods all school years. Bridges wanted the school to build a sound wall to protect the rich people of Cedar Springs

having to hear elementary school children playing. (I suggested to the one of two nuns who lives at the convent and attends all the meetings that they should start having outdoor parties with loud rock bands or big bands...then the Cedar Springs neighbors might appreciate the quiet of third graders during recess.)

Finally of course there would be the annual Christmas and Easter plays that would generate even more traffic!

If you thought this was ridiculous and clearly just the odd thoughts of Ms. Bridges...you'd be wrong. She received a loud round of applause when she was done.



The Convent entrance and the entrance to Cedar Springs with a guard house.

**THIS WAS JUST THE START:** Here are some other wonderful comments:

**Good:** "The school would be a great neighbor. The change (No left turns) may help, but if I was a parent there I would make a right (turn) to the around-about," said Bill Gate of Cedar Spring Drive, complaining there would still be more traffic driving past his gated subdivision entrance.

**Bad** "I don't see them looking to be good neighbors," said Kevin Connelly of Cedar Springs.

"The traffic study showed the road was at capacity," said Betty Thompson of Cedar Springs.

"I'd like to see this left as green space," said Mindy Reynard of Cedar Springs. (She must think either the Sisters of St. Peter Claver should give the property away for Green

Space or maybe the city should buy it. But if the city made it a park it would generate traffic. Perhaps all the residents of Cedar Springs should buy the property?)

"I'm upset with things that don't pay taxes but impact our lives," said Glynn Patterson of Cedar Springs. (Gosh that includes churches, charitable non-profits, governments, wildlife, birds chirping, weather, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League baseball and more...Glynn that is a lot of stuff that doesn't pay taxes to be upset with.)

"These people are proposing a commercial business," said Dr. David Pohl who believes since a Catholic school charges a tuition it is a business.

"It is illegal for a school to be next to businesses that sells alcohol," added Pohl. (Unfortunately he is mistaken...per RSMo 311.080 if a bar or liquor store wants a Missouri Liquor License and will be located 100 feet from a school or church they must get permission from the Board of Alderman, City Council or Board of Trustees. Also cities can ban liquor stores and bars from being within 100 feet of a church or school. However there is no law against a church or school locating with a 100 feet of an already existing and licensed liquor store or bar.)

**The Threat!** Mike Sayers the president of the Cedar Springs Homeowners Association spoke and made a veiled threat. Alderman Jon Benigas lives in Cedar Springs.

There are 144 homes in Cedar springs. You can calculate the number of voters yourself. By a pretty good number we oppose the building of this school."

Earlier a resident claimed that if the school is built realtors have said property values in the gated Cedar Springs with 24-hour guards will decrease. If that is the case and if Jon Benigas believes that there is a financial component to the issue that would effect the property values of his house that might require Benigas to join Linda Rallo off the dais and in the spectator seats.

At the end of the citizen comments the matter was continued to the next meeting on August 25.

**LINDA RALLO PULLS A HOUDINI AND AVOIDS A WARD 4 CONTROVERSIAL VOTE:** Keep in Mind Linda Rallo crushed longtime incumbent Phil Behnen in April's election over his strong support of the Maryville University expansion onto property that had been zoned residential. Protecting residential zoning as a campaign issue for both Rallo in Ward 4 and in Ward 2 for Amy Anderson. The St. Austin School issue does not involve zoning. A school or a church can go into any zoned area and does not require a

zoning change. (A university moving its maintenance facility into the residential area however requires rezoning.)

However the St. Austin School preliminary site development plan had a lot of registered voters in the Cedar Springs subdivision up in arms...they did not want to see a school replace a convent consisting of two nuns located south of their subdivision. Cedar Springs has over 200 Ward-4 voters.

At the agenda meeting Rallo announced that her husband's first cousin have children that attend St. Austin and the cousin is on the schools' Board of Governors. She asked City Attorney Steve Garrett if he had an opinion. Garrett replied if there is an appearance of a conflict it was best to recuse yourself. That is what Rallo did during the regular meeting, taking a seat in the audience.



Common sense, and Rallo has a lot of that, says that a convent down to two nuns should be able to sell 6.66 acres to St. Austin for a small elementary school. By recusing herself Rallo dodges the first issue before her that could piss of a number of voters.

**IF BENIGAS IS A MAN OF HIS WORD HE SHOULD BE ASKING THAT THE GREEN TEAM COMMISSION BE ELIMENATED!** At the July meeting of the Green Team Commission Chairman Ald. Jon Benigas made the following statement:

**"If we don't get this done (Carbon Footprint Survey) maybe we should disband the commission," said Benigas.**



Jon Benigas is either deep thought or asleep at the August 11 Board of Aldermen Meeting. Lynn Wright is doing a fish face.

Well the carbon footprint of the entire city seems to be a dead deal and rejoining ICLEI **International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives also appears to be off the table.** The talk at the agenda meeting was for a new bill that would only have the city inspect city properties looking to save energy costs. Why do you need a bill to do that? It seems like the city administrator could just assign someone to do it.

But a simple solution like that is out of the question. This will be discussed at the September meeting of the Green Team Commission to be held on Tuesday September 9 at City Hall in the rear conference room at 6:30pm. If you have never attended a Green Team meeting you should go...then maybe you might agree with Benigas that the commission should be disbanded.

It will be interesting to see if Benigas shows some balls and stands by his July statement about disbanding the Green Team or if he joins his co-sponsor Skip Mange in becoming a Christmas Goose.

**GROUND BREAKING DONE FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE "OFFICIAL GROUND BREAKING IN DRACE PARK:** Skip Mange and Lynn Wright planned to move some dirt around on the ground at Drace Park and call it a ground breaking. The first planned "dirt moving around" was cancelled because of rain. The date was scheduled for Monday August 18 at 7pm.

Unfortunately the construction company had other ideas and on Thursday August 14 they brought in bobcat and did some serious "ground breaking." In fact the mound of

loose dirt under a tarp for the "official dirt moving ceremonies" was in the way and was removed.

On Friday August 15 the contractor actually poured a concrete foundation with rebar. I just have my doubts if settlers of the area in 1840 were using poured concrete and rebar.



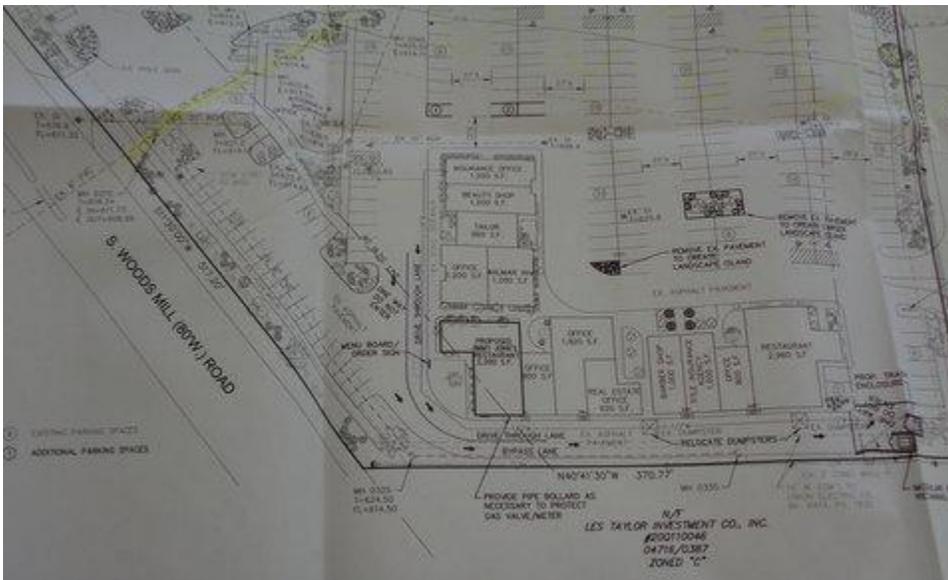
**"GROUND BREAKING" CEREMONY CHANGED TO "LOG CABIN CONSTRUCTION KICK OFF"**: Having the Construction kick -Off Ceremony four days after construction started is kind of like having the opening kickoff of the football three minutes into the second quarter. This is pretty much a chance to put Skip and Lynn Wright in the spotlight.

I have the same issue with this "Skip Mange" additional log cabin. Several fir trees badly needing to be trimmed completely block a walkway. During the week of August 11-August 16 the trash can next to the playground at Drace Park was overflowing. The roof to the restroom building still remains damaged from a February storm. If we cannot do regular maintenance such as trimming trees so they don't block sidewalks, empty trash cans on a regular basis and repair storm damage...what is the city doing adding more stuff to be ignored from routine maintenance?



This sidewalk only has a clearance for 2-year-olds. Overflowing trash can by the playground on Friday.

**JIMMY JOHNS PLANS DRIVE THROUGH IN CURRENT ALLEY:** The new plans for Jimmy Johns at the Clayton Village Shopping Center on the northeast corner of Clayton and Woods Mill Road calls for a drive through lane to be installed where there is currently an alley with dumpsters. The Jimmy John's will be across the street from the Subway Shop in the Lamp and Lantern Shopping Center and from McDonalds. It will be located five doors from the Einstein Bagel Shop.



On Monday night August 19 the plan was approved by the Town and Country Planning and Zoning Commission.

The franchise holder was present and stated he expects the business to be :

50% Drive Through  
35% Delivery  
15% Dine in



The president of the Warner Investment Company, owner of the Clayton Village center speaks to the Commission while the Jimmy Johns franchisee looks on.

However with only 15% expected business coming from dine-in customers the store will have 2,200 square feet, while the average Jimmy John's has just 1,800 sf.

The Jimmy Johns would be the third sub shop at the intersection. In the southwest corner there is Mr. Goodcents, across the street from the proposed Jimmy Johns in the Lamp and Lantern Shopping Center is a Subway store. Of course there are fresh sub available at the Schnucks and Whole Foods stores too.

**OUTSIDE DINING MAY INCLUDE LOW CLASS VENUES:** There was an amendment of the zoning code before the zoning commission to allow "Quick Service" restaurants to allow outside dining. (Leave it to the pretentious Town and Country to come up with a phrase instead of "fast food.")

Commissioner Dennis Bolazina pointed out that 10 years ago he wrote the ordinance that did not allow outside dining at fast food restaurants. He stated that the commission felt a full service restaurant with a wait staff and buss staff would keep an outside dining area clean, while a fast food establishment would not have an employee making sure the eating spaces outside were clean.

Mayor Dalton spoke up for the second time in the meeting and made me laugh.

"I have a fundamental concern for blanket prohibitions in things," said Dalton. This is from a guy who used eminent domain in the City of St. Louis to prohibit widow Opal Henderson from continuing to own her business and property along South Broadway when Dalton used his then law firm Lewis-Rice to snatch it at an undervalued price for a nightclub district that Dalton was under funded to actually build. (Dalton has since separated from Lewis-Rice.)



Opal Henderson with her attorney Chet Pleban and her settlement check after winning a judgment against Dalton's investment groups that they refused to pay until they (including Dalton) were sued in Federal Court.

Bolazina was alone in his fear of untidy fast food emporiums and the measure passed on a 6-1 vote.

**MASSA' RESTAURANT:** The restaurant that is taking the place of the smoker's delight, Morgan LeFay's in the Woods Mill Center on the South Forty Outer Road had planned to open in September. Then the owner John Massa didn't show up to the Planning and Zoning Meeting.



The new for another Massa's Italian restaurant.

Mayor John Dalton who rarely shows up to take his seat at a Planning and Zoning meeting was there. Dalton normally avoids P&Z meetings if there is anything

controversial where he would have to vote and piss someone off. There were no agenda items that brought out the voters. In fact there were just three people in the audience, me, Alderman Skip Mange and my neighbor Mark Harter (who I would have to think might be up for an appointment to the P&Z, since he told me he was just there to watch government in action.)

This was the first item that Dalton spoke up on. Massa wants to have an outside refrigerator unit. Dennis Bolazina was against this Conditional Use Permit.

"I object for several reasons. It takes up outside space for an ugly indoor piece of equipment. I don't think it is appropriate," said Bolazina. He later added the second reason, which was noise.

Fred Meyland-Smith in one of his shortest statements in recent memory said he agreed with Bolazina. This is when Dalton jumped in.

"Has anyone been back there? Help me understand what we are trying to protect. It seems to me this is space where this type of equipment belongs. Making them put this equipment inside is unproductive," said Dalton. (Geez I like to think a restaurant I'm eating at keeps the food inside and not outside. I'm not crazy about the food I'm eating coming into the kitchen from outside, next to where the dumpster is stored.)

Bolazina responded, "Refrigeration space is allotted inside for a restaurant. You rent more space if you need more room for refrigeration. I don't think we should be allowing them to abscond with outside space," said the architect and lawyer.

Dalton's buddy who he recently put on the P&Z Commission, Will McKnight spoke up.

"They are going to screen it like a dumpster," he said. (I still have a problem with my meal coming from an outside area that could be confused with the dumpster.)

"I travel back there every week," proclaimed Dalton, making me wonder what the hell the mayor is doing back there weekly...dumpster diving behind former Alderman Larry Satz office or former Mayor David Karney's tailor shop.

Bolazina came back with a good point. "We don't have the applicant before us to tell us if their equipment makes any noise." (You would not want to increase the noise level for the last two nuns living in the convent located behind the planned restaurant.)



Dennis Bolazina (center) makes his points against allowing an outside refrigerator for a restaurant while Will McKnight (left) and Fred Meyland-Smith look on..

While Bolazina was ready to vote against the CUP, Dalton jumped in and made a motion to continue the item to the September 17th Planning and Zoning meeting. This would delay Massa's planned opening in September.

Meyland-Smith seconded the motion and said, "I believe the applicant should have evaluated to be here or have a representative here." The motion to continue passed on a 6-to-1 vote with Bolazina voting no.

At the end of the meeting Fred Meyland-Smith was going to report to the Commission on what the Board of Aldermen did with three earlier items the P&Z Commission acted on. I got up to leave, stopped on my way out and held a conversation and then walked to the parking lot.

It was at the parking lot where I ran into Jack Massa at 8:10, Massa was wearing a Hawaiian shirt and shorts. He asked me if I was at the meeting. I recognized him. I said I had and that they were pissed he was not there, while several people were sticking up for his Conditional Use Permit since he was not there they continued it to their September meeting.

This news was met with an "f-Bomb" from Massa who then hurried into City Hall. There was a chance that if Meyland-Smith was droning on and on the commission might not have voted to adjourn and they could reopen Massa;s agenda item. That was not to be...they had just voted to adjourn when Massa entered the room.

**NEW LOOK FOR DALTON:** Mayor/cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton showed up at the meeting wearing something other than his usual \$1,000 suit and a shirt with French collar, cuffs, cufflinks and collar stays. He showed up wearing a bow tie.



At first I wondered if he was wooing the Nation of Islam for a potential lobbying client, but then I saw how colorful the tie was and wondered if Dalton was coming from a St. Louis Men's Choir practice session.

**QUESTION...IF THERE IS NOTHING FOR LEASE...IS THIS SIGN ILLEGAL?** If you look closely the Hutkin Realty sign to the left of this photo at Clayton and Woods Mill Roads has a red sign across it that reads "100% Leased." This has been up for a month. If it is 100% leased, there isn't the "For Lease" sign unnecessary and in fact hasn't this turned into an advertisement which would be in violation of the city's sign code? Should our favorite realtor start putting up "Not for Sale" signs in front of our houses.



I asked about this with Melanie Rippetoe Town and Country's Planner and Code Enforcement Officer and was given this response:

Real estate signs. Real estate signs advertising premises for sale or available space for lease shall be permitted, with permit, but (e) shall be removed no later than ten (10) days after sale closing or lease commencement.

Therefore, whether or not is would be considered advertisement, it is not allowed. I have notified them that the sign needs to be removed.

Thank you,

**Melanie Rippetoe**

*Planner/Code Enforcement*

**PRINCIPIA HAZING INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED AS ASSAULTS:** Missouri Law makes hazing a crime if it occurs on a campus of a college or university or in connection with activities of a college or university. There is no crime of "Hazing" in Missouri if it is at the high school level.

On August 15 the Post Dispatch's Jessica Bock reported that Town and Country Police were investigation hazing incidents at the Principia Upper School (high school) during a sports camp over a weekend. The hazing was reportedly between older and younger members of the Principia football team.

I was aware that "Hazing" by itself was not a crime at the high school level and inquired of Police Chief Pat Kranz as to what actual crimes the department was investigating.

Chief Kranz provided a one word answer:

"Assaults"

We asked if any charges had been filed on Wednesday and did not receive a response. The new alderwoman, Amy Anderson is the head of the police commission and an alum of Principia.

I doubt if the police department volunteered to release to the Post-dispatch about this ongoing investigation...leading me to believe a parent of a victim probably called the paper.

I do find some irony that Principia can teach students to ignore medicine and doctors in favor of prayer but have some of them fail to learn not to beat up the younger students.

## **UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 86**



**August 24, 2014**

**NEW SUBDIVISION GETS VOTE OF APPROVAL BY PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE TO VIOLATE CITY TREE ORDINANCE:** Former mayor and

current councilwoman Nancy Greenwood may have a point concerning the City of Chesterfield habit of giving developers permission to violate the city's tree ordinance.

Chesterfield may as well turn in its membership to "Tree City USA" and cut down the trees in the city's logo.

The Schoettler Grove Subdivision, a 31-home subdivision planned for the corner of Clayton and Schoettler Roads has gotten approval from Planning and Zoning and now the Planning and Public Works Committee. Greenwood isn't happy about it.

George Stock of Stock and Associates Consulting Engineers presented a "Tree Preservation Plan" to city planners which basically is more like a "Tree Massacre Plan."

Instead of reducing the trees on the property for the Schoettler Grove project to no less than 30-percent the developers are seeking and so far receiving permission to cry "timber" until only 14% are left standing. They will be planting saplings after construction of the 31 new homes.



All the trees on the north side of Clayton Road in this photo will soon be a memory. So much for tree lined streets.

Planning and Public Works committee chairman Dan Hurt did not see any need to require the city's 30-percent requirement.

"The developers have said from day one almost all the trees are coming down," said Hurt.



Nancy Greenwood then went on the attack.

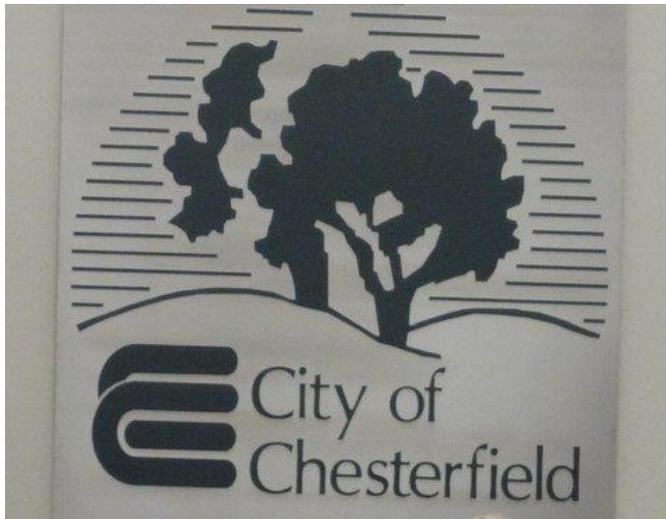
"I don't know why we have a tree policy anymore if we keep giving in to developers. There was no attempt whatsoever to save Monarch trees. It makes me sick that we have a policy and the trees are still gone. I will not vote for it. I'm appalled," she said.

Greenwood makes a valid point, that most of the other elected officials choose to ignore. If you continually refuse to enforce your ordinance you weaken them. If the developers took 70-percent of the trees on the property instead of 84-percent you might just have 25 homes instead of 31, but an important part of the city would be preserved.

It seems the way the city is headed they should perhaps redo the city logo and show one of the two trees having been cut down.



Nancy Greenwood



**FERGUSON THOUGHTS:**

**THIS FRIENDS IS A ROBBERY!** A robbery is taking or attempting to take something of value through the use of force or a threat of force. You don't have to have a gun or knife to commit a robbery. This doesn't answer the question if excessive force was used by Officer Wilson, but it does explain why there may have been some apprehension of Michael Brown when contacted by Officer Wilson minutes after a robbery he committed.

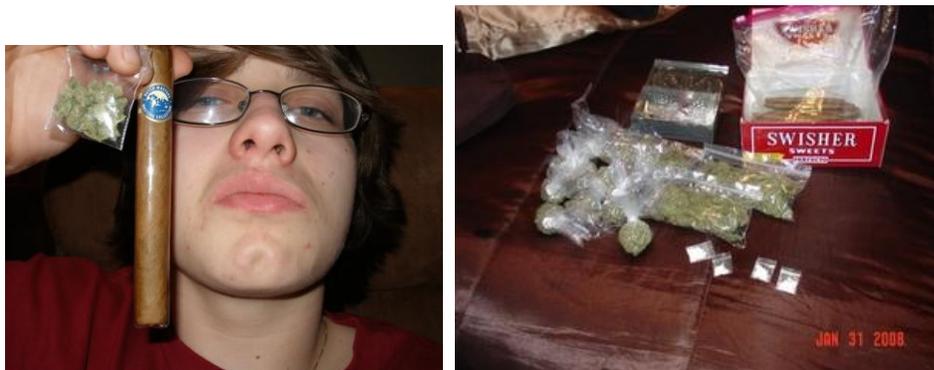
This really should have been released within 24 hours of the shooting so people would not say it was only released to make the officer look better. The whole media handling of this incident has been a disaster.





**SWISHER SWEETS:** Why would two guys want to steal a \$50 carton of Swisher Sweets cigars. I don't know in the case of Michael Brown, but I do know that in 30 years of law enforcement work I have learned that small time marijuana dealers like to increase their profit margins by using Swisher Sweets.

They hollow out the cigars, their favorites being Swisher Sweets and Dutch Masters into what is known as "Blunts" by loading them up with marijuana and sell them individually.



A Dutch Master about to be turned into a marijuana blunt, (left) / A box of Swisher Sweets about to be made into individual marijuana delivery systems (right). Blunts were actually the name of short cheap cigars normally sold in the old days at drugstores. For decades they have been more closely associated with being marijuana delivery systems.

**WANTING FOR MORE SURPRISES:** The video of Michael Brown robbing the convenience store was one surprise. It clearly should have been released immediately and not forced to be released through Missouri Sunshine Law requests.

I will be surprised when the medical examiners' toxicology report comes back if there is not another surprise. The fact that the New York Times reported and then everyone else that Michael Brown was shot six times...four in the arm and two in the head..again makes one wonder why St. Louis County PD did not release this information on say Thursday or Friday when witness statements were secured. Especially since world renowned St. Louis County Medical Examiner Mary Case found that one of the "arm wounds" was actually in the chest and may have been a fatal wound like the head shot. I know that you don't want to poison possible witnesses...but you have to know the family is going to release their autopsy results. It makes it appear as if authorities are trying to hide something.

**I HAVE TROUBLE WITH THIS ONE:** I'm not sure why the Ferguson Police Department did not release Officer Wilson's photo when they released his name. It is not like it has not been on the web. Here is a photo of Wilson receiving an award posted on the facebook page of black group, Young, Gifted and Ratchet, on Yahoo.com and on the New York Daily News website on Saturday August 16. They were sent to us on Saturday April 16 by a newsletter reader. By Sunday August 17 these photos were on network evening newscasts. It originally appeared on Wilson's father's facebook page.



Back in the 1970s when I was in the St. Louis Police Academy the St. Louis Police Department took two photos of officers, one with a uniform shirt and hat on and one in civilian attire. The first was used if an officer saved a life or made a big arrest. The second one was to be given to the press in the event the officer was indicted.

**THE CONTINUED ARRESTS OF JOURNALISTS:** If you want to make a story stay on the front pages and as the lead to network newscasts just start arresting the journalists covering the story. One of the most recent arrest was of Getty Images photographer Scott Olson, who was arrested for not moving fast enough.





Rob Crilly of the London Telegraph most recently covering news in Pakistan but was sent to Ferguson and was also arrested.

Also on Monday night KTVI's overnight cameraman, Bobby Hughes, who drives a marked vehicle (Fox 2 Mazda Roadrunner) was showing cuts in his wrists left by flex cuffs applied by police who had pulled him out of his car and arrested him momentarily.

The week started off with the arrests of Washington Post and Huffington Post reporters at the McDonalds on West Florissant for not leaving fast enough. Those arrests were the lead story on International TV newscasts immediately. The police have enough problems without creating new ones. If the journalist get in the cops way it is one thing...if they get into harm's way...well that's tough and it the journalist's problem.

**FOOD: THERE IS A REASON WHY IT IS OFTEN HARD TO FIND A PARKING SPACE:** If you have noticed that often in the evening you cannot find a parking place in strip shopping center on Clayton Road just west of Henry Road there is a good reason for it. It is the popularity of The Circle 7 Ranch Tap House and Grill.

The place is only open for lunch three days a week. It opens at 3pm Monday-Thursday and at 11am Friday-Sunday. I'm told the reason is patrons for the place would take all the parking spaces for the other retailers in the shopping center.

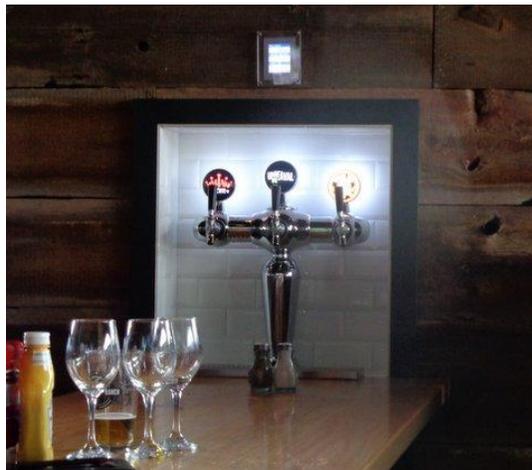


**Lunch with Jean:** So it was decided for a 1:15 Friday lunch with Jean Whitney to try out the menu at the Circle 7 Ranch. It turns out the lunch menu is the same as the dinner menu, so we weren't saving any money eating early. We were able to get a table without waiting and had a nice conversation with our waitress.

Jean and I decided that we would split our orders so we could each make our own opinion on each item. Oddly we both ended up agreeing on just about everything.

Our waitress, Jessica, who as a 27-year-old, teaches an online history course for UMSL and is a adjunct professor at St. Charles Community College told us the place is best known for beer and its cheeseburgers. So a cheeseburger it was at \$9.49.

Jessica told us it was okay to order off the menu...it was not a big deal. She said there is not a brisket sandwich on the menu, but they would be happy to make one. They have beef brisket for a couple of other items, including BBQ Brisket with Mac and Cheese.



Jessica said the sports bar/tap room's most popular item is the \$9.49 double patty cheeseburger. We also decided to split an order of BBQ Brisket Mac and Cheese \$10.99 (Mac and Cheese alone as a side is \$2.99). Circle 7 was nice enough to provide two individual smaller bowls for a split order of the BBQ and Mac and Cheese. We also decided to share a Twice Baked Potato that comes in a small casserole dish for \$3.49.

The cheeseburger was delicious if just a little bit pricey. The fries that came as a side were not special and worth skipping.



The BBQ Brisket on top of Mac and Cheese was suppose to come with Cheetos sprinkled on the top. We asked for the crispy corn curls to be on the side.

The brisket was quite good and we both thought it was being wasted on top of Mac and Cheese and should be on a sandwich. I might special order that the next time I go there.

The problem with the dish was the Mac and Cheese. It wasn't cheesy enough. The Kraft Dinners I fix at home are cheesier before I melt a couple of Borden American Cheese slices in the pot. This stuff needed some serious help from the American Dairy Council...it needed lots more cheese.

The twice bake potato (in the dish in the middle of the photo) was interesting. The potato part was outstanding. However the kitchen smothers it in ranch dressing. Jean and I made a line in the middle and we both scrapped off as much of the ranch dressing as we could on our sides after one taste. What was left was quite tasty.

We mentioned this to Professor Jessica and she said in the future simply ask for no ranch dressing on the twice bake potato. She added that no one's feelings would be hurt in the kitchen.

The Circle 7 Ranch offers a large number of beers, but at booths throughout the place customers can draw their own beer and pay by the ounce. Fun, but I worry about over self serving. Restaurants accept some responsibility to cut people off. Just asked Nancy Seamens, the long time waitress at Smitty's who was disfigured by an intoxicated customer she refused to continue to serve.

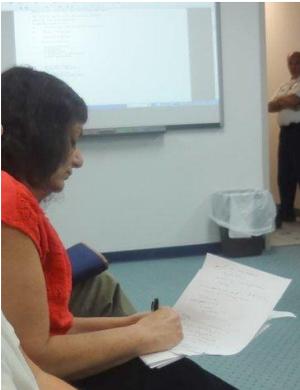
While everything we tried wasn't the greatest...we will be going back to the Circle 7 Ranch. Enough of it was good and we want to try a couple of items per our special requests. Also the place is fun. We had a good time. While this place is a sports bar, it is kid friendly and had five kid items on the menu.

There is apparently a good reason why the parking spaces are all gone during the dinner hour.

**MEDIA WATCH: THE BOY SCOUT MOTTO OF BE PREPARED WOULD BE A GOOD ONE TO FOLLOW FOR ONE POST-DISPATCH REPORTER:** In our October 8 newsletter we included a photo and a story how Post-Dispatch reporter Margaret Gillerman showed up to cover a Monarch Fire Protection District meeting without a reporter's notebook...something they hand out for free at newspapers. Instead Margaret grabbed a hand full of agendas placed outside of the meeting room for the public and wrote on the back of them. At the August Chesterfield City Council meeting Gillerman showed up to cover the Chinese Horse Sale issue. She had a notebook this time, but had no pen.

Maybe it is my 30 years as a cop combined with eight years as a sportswriter, plus time as a new magazine reporter in Washington, DC but I not only always have a pen with me, but I have a backup pen and I sometimes carry cross pen refills. I guess I never forgot an instructor at the St. Louis Police Academy who one day in 1974 told our class, "This is the most important weapon you have in keeping the city safe and putting criminals in jail." He then took a pen out of his pocket.

Just as the City Council meeting was about to start I directed Margaret to a table just inside the doors of the council chambers where the city supplied pens for people to fill out speaker cards. She took notes using a pen supplied by the taxpayers of Chesterfield.



Gillerman (left) using taxpayer supplied paper to take notes. Gillerman (right) using a taxpayer supplied pen to take notes.

**THE LOCAL, NATIONAL AND WORLD SCENE:** What is a suburban news letter doing writing about national or world events? Good question and I'm not going to do it now. However, Local, World and National news lately has me thinking of the old Kingston Trio song, The Merry Minuet, first featured on their 1959 album, "Live from the Hungry I." I could not find a video clip of the original trio performing it., but I found one audio clip. The link is below. In fact the only good video clip I found from their hay day was a 1965 appearance on the Jack Benny Program after John Stewart had replaced Bob Guard. They sang Tijuana Jail. Here are the 54-year-old lyrics to a Merry Minuet:

They're rioting in Africa  
They're starving in Spain  
There's hurricanes in Florida and Texas needs rain

The whole world is festering with unhappy souls  
The French hate the Germans  
The Germans hate the Poles

Italians hate Yugoslavs  
South Africans hate the Dutch  
And I don't like anybody very much

But we can be tranquil and thankful  
And proud for man's been endowed  
With a mushroom shaped cloud

And we know for certain that  
Some lovely day someone will set the spark off  
And we will all be blown away

They're rioting in Africa  
There's strife in Iran  
What nature doesn't do to us will be done by our fellow man

Here is a link to the only original version I could find...you have to put up with a slide show.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iB7gkcNx83M>

**FREE MUSIC...IT'S ANOTHER RAT PACK MONDAY ON AUGUST 25TH:** Yes Dean Christopher is back at the One-19 in Kirkwood at oddly enough 119 N. Kirkwood Road near the intersection of Kirkwood Road and Jefferson St. The fun starts at 7:30. Stop by for dinner, or a drink or desert and the fun.



**CANCELLED FREE BIG BAND...ROUTE 66 JAZZ ORCHESTRA...**The Big Band's scheduled free outdoor concert this Saturday at the Kirkwood Amphitheater in Kirkwood Park has been CANCELLED DUE TO PREDICTED HEAT WARNING.



**NOT SO FREE...4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH MEANS IT'S DAVE DICKEY'S BIG BAND AT THE KIRKWOOD BREWING STATION:** This Sunday 6-to-9 \$10 cover for 3 hours of music.



Dave Dickey Big Band

Special Guests Playing the middle set is the Columbia Jazz Orchestra. Yes...Sunday will be the College professors and the other band that still dresses like college students.



**BACK TO FREE:** If you are old enough to remember Gaslight Square or going to the Goldenrod Showboat you should remember the St. Louis Ragtimers, who during the summer would often be outside playing ragtime. One the leaders of that group was pianist Trebor (which is Robert spelled backwards) Tichenor. Trebor died in February of this year. His son Andy is a well known big band trumpet player.

This Sunday there is a free memorial service for Trebor at The Sheldon concert Hall at 3648 Washington Avenue beginning at 2pm.



Trebor Tichenor at the keyboards with the St. Louis Ragtimers.

**WEST COUNTY DIVA TO GIVE FERGUSON CONCERT IN THE HEAT:** One of our favorite St. Louis area female vocalists, Anita Rosamond had many months ago signed on to do a free concert as part of the City Walk Concert series on Friday August 22 in downtown Ferguson across the street from the police department. For all of Anita's West County fans who normally see her one Saturday a month at Smitty's who are in "Anita" withdrawals after Smitty decided not to book her this summer and early fall, here is their chance.



Of course there is an excessive heat advisory for Friday night. The 7pm show will likely start with temperatures around 95-degrees and a heat index well over 100.

**The good news** is the rioting is not scheduled to start until three hours after the end of the concert. With any luck there should be TV coverage, maybe even by CNN. Plus there should be plenty of police in the area.

Here is Anita's facebook blast on the concert:

My band is playing Friday evening at the Citywalk Concert in downtown Ferguson. Please come out and show your support for the Ferguson community and let's all stand together for peace! We are right near the police station & city hall. The media has made it sound like all of Ferguson is under fire when it's only a very small few block area, which is quite a distance from where we will be. The Marketing & Events Coordinator assures us that it's peaceful in this particular area. Bring your chairs & your love and come out and enjoy the music!!!

Friday evening, August 22nd  
Citywalk concert  
Plaza at 501  
501 S. Florissant Rd.  
Ferguson, MO 63135  
Performance time: 7:00 – 9:00

If you don't want to go to Ferguson, the next night (Saturday) Anita will be at Il Bel Lago in Creve Coeur at 11631 Olive from 7:30 to 10:30. On Saturday August 30 she will be at Truffles on Clayton Road in Ladue from 9-to-1.

## **CARTOONS:**



"I hate the greenskeeper at this course."

**IN THE BLEACHERS**

**BY STEVE MOORE**





U-T San Diego  
CREATORS.COM

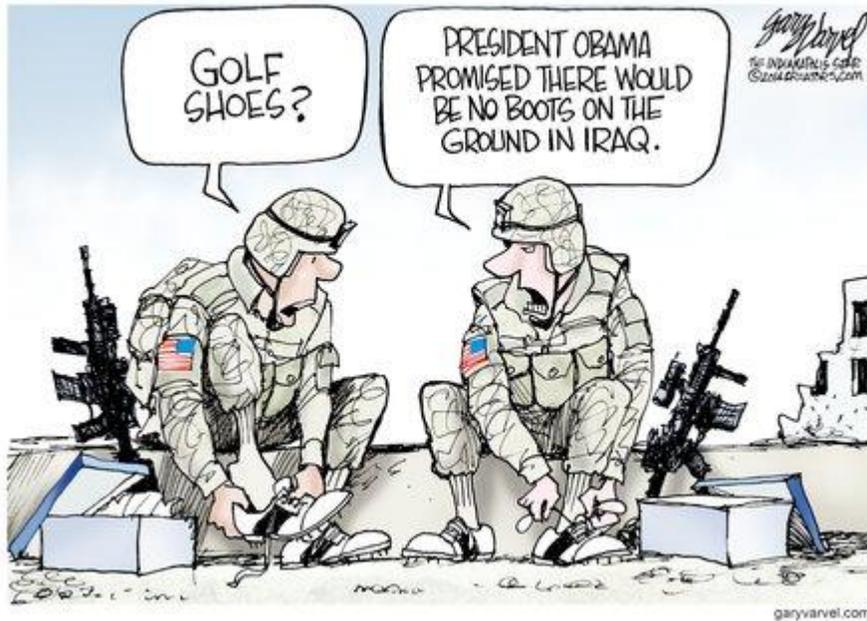


**insincere** | insin'si(ə)r|  
adjective  
not expressing genuine feelings.  
fake, hollow, artificial, feigned, disingenuous

U-T San Diego  
CREATORS.COM ©2019

THE BRAND...





I'M DEPARTING FROM MY USUAL REQUIREMENTS OF IT HAS TO MAKE ME LAUGH TO SHARE SOME EDITORIAL CARTOONS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY DEALING WITH FERGUSON. (I DON'T AGREE WITH ALL OF THESE EITHER, but you can see how things are being portrayed around the Country. )

