

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 144 AND CHESTERFIELD 89



By John Hofmann

SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

CITY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY TRIPLES 2014 DEFICIT, VOTES IN A SECRET MEETING TO BUY WIRTH PROPERTY FOR \$2.25 MILLION.

Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist/Snatcher of Widow's Property and Business by Eminent Domain for a St. Louis Nightclub Area John "Snidely Whiplash" Dalton had written in a recent city newsletter how the area around Clayton Road and Mason Road should become the city's "town square."

On Monday night after the early agenda-meeting Dalton called for a vote to have a closed executive session meeting.

The regular Board of Aldermen meeting started six minutes late at 7:06 at which time Dalton announced the sale of the 8.6 acres belonging to the Wirth family to city. Dalton failed to announce the vote by the Board of Aldermen for the sale as is required by law. He also failed to announce the purchase price.

We found out after the meeting the city had purchased the property for \$2.25 million with \$25,000 down immediately and the remaining money within 90 days.



West end of the Wirth Property where the service station formerly was located.



East half of the Wirth Property that leads back to a ranch style house, which most recently had been rented to a convicted child porn sexual offender ex-convict.

Dalton told the crowded City Hall chambers filled with people opposing St. Austin's Elementary School buying the property of a convent that is down to two nuns, that there were no plans as of yet concerning what to do with the just purchased 8.6 acres, but he was going to appoint a "Town Square Task Force." (How about an elementary school?)

We found out the next day that no one on the Board of Aldermen thought adding \$2.25 million to the 2014 deficit for a piece of land the city does not currently have a use for was a bad idea. The measure passed 7-0 with Lynn Wright being out of town.

15 months earlier the Wirth family tried to sell the property to the Love Company to build a 150 unit retirement and assisted living complex called The Allegro. The project failed to get one vote from the Planning and Zoning Commission and was withdrawn without getting to the Board of Aldermen after huge local opposition came forward.

It is hard not to believe spending \$2,250,000 for property that you don't know what you want to do with might be considered an example of bad government in action. But when you add to your second year of a seven figure deficit one might call it an example of government out of control.

2013 ended with a **\$4,200,000 deficit**. The 2014 overall deficit was **-\$1,012,332** on September 7. By the end of September 8 it skyrocketed to **-\$3,262,332** for 2014. That comes to **\$7,462,332** subtracted from the city's reserve in the last two years.

DON'T BE SURPRISE IF ANOTHER LAND DEAL IS ON THE HORIZON: The Board of Alderman has been aware of the Wirth land purchase for sometime as a number of recent "closed executive session meetings" have been about this.

We heard as far back as March the city was interested in selling Preservation Park to either CBC or Missouri Baptist University. The city has stopped maintaining much of the park and is not forcing CBC to abide by its contract for use of the tennis court to maintain the courts.

I would not be surprised if Preservation Park is not sold by the end of the year.

A NEW DUTY FOR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT? Apparently Town and County leaders now believe land development is part of role of city government going beyond police and fire protection, safe roads and a few parks. Buying prime real estate with no plans for use is an interesting way to spend resident's tax dollars. As far back as 2007 it was talked about how the current city hall and police building is too crowded and one needs to move. The police department would be the most disruptive in a new location. It is currently on a service road to I-270. That would mean a new City Hall is most likely.

I'm sure that Mayor Jon Dalton's vision of a "town square" would include a city hall with either the city hall or the driveway (road) to it being his name. And of course that would be like Kansas City renaming the 400 block of East 12th Street that runs in front of the city hall "Tom Pendergast Avenue."

ST. AUSTIN SCHOOL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PASSES, BUT SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DEFEATED 7-0. It was the same people who attended the last two Board of Aldermen meetings and the two Planning and Zoning Meetings to complain about the amount of new traffic that would be created on Woods Mill Road if a small Catholic elementary school was allowed to be built on the grounds of a convent that is down to two nuns.

Alderman Jon Benigas, a resident of Crystal Springs, one of the two subdivisions alleging they would be adversely affected by traffic if the school was allowed to open, spent 20 minutes cross examining the traffic engineer, Carrie Falkenrath. Often Benigas was asking repetitive questions that had been asked and answered or were covered in past presentations.



Benigas putting Carrie Falkenrath under the third degree.

Benigas' hostile questioning of Falkenrath would have been fine if he was attempting to make his mind up. However it was very clear, Benigas who has a clear conflict living next to the proposed site, had made up his mind long ago and his questioning appeared to be simply an attempt to impress his neighbors.

The one thing that made the school look stupid was they had asked for a continuance to contact leaders with the two neighboring subdivisions and then didn't do it.

James Spellmeyer said his calls went unanswered and his messages were not returned. When asked who he had called he stated that he called Kevin Connelly who is a resident and of HOA member for Cedar Springs repeatedly. But that was it and he did not try and call anyone else.

"I have listened to their positions on four different occasions and they seem to have their minds made up," said Spellmeyer.

The two new speeches given were from persons of the cloth and it turned out they had no effect.

First one of the two remaining nuns at the St. Peter of Claver Convent, Sister Katarina got up and gave an inspiring speech in a heavy Italian accent about the history of convent.

"The land was bought in 1962. It was consecrated on December 22, 1963 by Cardinal Ritter on December 22, 1963. We believe this ground is Holy ground. The sisters have prayed long and hard to find God's hand and to sell to St. Austin's School," said Sister Katarina.



Next up for the school was Father Bede Price of the Priory who is also on the Board of St. Austin's. Father Price worked the room like he was giving an Easter sermon.

"The Sisters have been here since 1962. Town and County became a city in 1975, said Fr. Price. (Actually T&C was incorporated as a Village in 1950 and switched to "City Status in 1974 so there could be a property tax increase but did not increase its size until 1983 when an annexation almost tripled the size of the city and took in the Sisters of St. Peter Claver's property.)

"The Sisters have property rights too. If we were a developer we would tear down all the lovely trees and put in some buildings. The Sisters need to move. We (St. Austin's School) would be a great addition to your city," said Fr. Price, who tried to make eye contact with everyone in the room, upset residents and alderpersons. He also said how he would keep the residents' existing traffic problems in his prayers.



A representative of the Greek Orthodox Church on Des Peres Road (I-270 Service Road) where St. Austin's is currently renting space spoke. He said they had a similar concern about the additional school traffic creating problems with the rush hour traffic on the service road. He added that those problems never materialized.

It was time for the vote. I was hoping (I guess I should have been praying) that it would have been a 3-3 tie forcing Dalton to vote against a priest instead of hundreds of registered voters. If he voted against the school to break a tie...I could have had a headline of "Dalton One Step Closer to Hell" and then brought up all the awful things he has done in the last ten years, but that would not happen. Instead it was 7-0 against the site development plan.

Keep in mind a year earlier there was loud opposition of residents citing increased traffic concerns to the Raintree School being built on S. Mason Road. The Board of Aldermen passed the plan and there have been no traffic issues after the school opened in January.

It will be interesting if the nuns retain any grandfathered property rights having been in existence at 667 S. Woods Mill Road long before the city limits surrounded them. Or if the Raintree School approval could be used in a legal challenge. Of course legal costs are often too expensive for a group to go forward. I just hope that Sister Katrina's prayers have some success.

MASON RIDGE MEETING BETWEEN PTO, PRINCIPAL AND PARKWAY SUPERINTENDENT ON OVERCROWDING GETS INTERESTING :

A parent who attended the Tuesday night September 2nd PTO meeting at Mason Ridge School with the Parkway Superintendent Keith Marty and school principal Mike Schmerold and sent us an email recapping the meeting.



Marty



Schmerold

Dear John,

Thank you for calling attention to the problems at Mason Ridge. Here is some information from the PTO meeting on Tuesday, September 2. Many parents were unhappy about the overcrowding and special assignments. The discussion was heated.

Mr. Schmerold said that there are 47 special assignment students; they comprise 11% of the student body. This is a bit higher than what you were told. You can witness one obvious effect of this number - the traffic jam at Mason Ridge during drop off at 8:45 A.M. and pick up at 4:00 P.M. Parents must drive special assignment students to school. Local children can ride the bus.

One mother openly and unapologetically stated that she sought special assignment for "demographic" reasons. She did not specify what she considered a desirable or undesirable demographic, e.g., race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class. (It should be obvious that special assignments cannot be fairly granted if "demographics" are an acceptable reason. Consider the hypothetical: Would a student from an "undesirable" demographic be granted special assignment to Mason Ridge if his parents petitioned for "demographic" reasons?)

The policy is that the two principals at the local and non-local elementary school must approve a special assignment. It was brought up that Mr. Schmerold denied one special assignment last year. The Parkway School Board then overruled him. The board member who initiated the reversal was not named. Neither Dr. Keith Marty, the superintendent, nor Mr. Schmerold denied the story. (Again, one has to doubt the fairness about the special assignment process. Well-connected parents clearly had the advantage in this case.)

In light of the overcrowding, when asked why the administration does not deny the annual renewal of special assignments, Dr. Marty said that he does not have "the heart" to say no. He did not then explain why he had the heart to permit overcrowding for the students who live within the school boundaries.

HERE TODAY...GONE TOMORROW AND BACK AGAIN IN JANUARY:

The house on the corner of Sturbridge and Mason Roads was badly damaged in late February due to a fire that was caused by faulty wiring in a hot tub. The homeowners who have been on the corner for the last 16 years have decided to rebuild. The house that was redone in 1998 was bulldozed on the Friday at the start of the Labor Day weekend. An aggressive building plan hopes to have a new house ready to move into by January.



February Fire



Labor Day weekend demo

Coming Soon:



HERE TODAY...GONE TOMORROW: Former Alderwoman Patty Wiggins' ranch house on Mason Road bites the dust the day after Labor Day.



There was a ranch house hiding behind those trees on Labor Day. It was gone on September 2.

MEDIA WATCH:...NEWS CHANNEL 4 LOOKING OUT FOR ME EVEN IF WHAT THEY REPORT ISN'T TRUE! KMOV apparently likes to claim crimes happen in Town and Country even if they don't. Last Friday on the KMOV website they had this headline with a dateline indicating this happened in Town and Country. They

don't say who their source is just "Police." It would have been nice if they gave the name of the officer or at least the department. Since there are no apartments at Clayton Road and Highway 141 one has to wonder if it was the apartment is unincorporated St. Louis County behind Town and Country Crossing Shopping Center or the Village Green Apartments in Chesterfield.

[Crime News](#)

One in custody after reports of shots fired, gas leak in West County



by KMOV.com staff

KMOV.com

Posted on September 5, 2014 at 10:11 AM

TOWN AND COUNTRY, Mo. (KMOV.com) – One person is in custody after police responded to a call for shots fired in West St. Louis County around midnight Thursday night.

According to police, there were reports of shots fired and a gas leak at Route 141 and Clayton Road in Town and Country.

Officials said it seemed as if the gunman hit the gas line of an apartment complex.

Police took one person into custody and Laclede Gas was on scene working to fix the problem.

No other details were available.

Here is Town and Country Police Chief Pat Kranz's comment on this story:

Wasn't in T&C and no "police officials" here have spoken to KMOV in the last several weeks.

Patrick Kranz
Chief of Police
Town and Country Police Department

Chief Kranz followed up on this and sent me an email back.

I just spoke to Sarah at KMOV website staff and the story came from a Monarch firefighters Twitter account. It actually occurred on a residential street somewhere in the Monarch FPD and not at 141 and Clayton. Sarah said she would get the story changed.

So much for fact checking...

Patrick Kranz
Chief of Police
Town and Country Police Department

I next checked with Roger Herin the fire Marshal and media liaison person with the Monarch Fire Protection District. He replied writing that he never sent out an official press bulletin and he had to check overnight calls before finding a report.

Maybe you remember us writing about KMOV claiming on the air and on its website how there had been thefts from mailboxes in Town and Country in July, when the police denied taking any such reports. Here is an email from Chief Kranz when I inquired about the KMOV claim.

Not sure what KMOV is talking about because we have not have any thefts from or of mailboxes in the recent past, going all the way back to April. When I read the KMOV article it sounds like Chesterfield told them the thefts were occurring in Town and Country and Ballwin. I can't speak for Ballwin but nothing in T&C.

Patrick Kranz
Chief of Police
Town and Country Police Department

HERE'S THE REST OF THE STORY LATER ON FRIDAY EVEING SEPTEMBER 5:. It is interesting that while KMOV lied to the public about someone being taken into custody by the police. It turns out that the person who fired the gun was transported to the hospital for a "mental evaluation" and was never taken to the police station, booked or photographed. Here is an email from Capt. Steve Lewis of the Chesterfield Police who handles media inquiries

John,

I am out of town and Lt. Davis just informed me she was unavailable due to appointment to respond this afternoon. We had an incident last night involving a subject who discharged a firearm in his home into the wall of his condo, a gas meter was struck, however no one was injured. He was conveyed to the hospital relative to his mental state and was not booked in custody so there is no photo. Warrants will be applied through the city at a later time as there were municipal charges of property damage and discharging a firearm. I do not have further at this time.

Missing mail? You're not alone, Chesterfield Police say



by KMOV.com Staff

KMOV.com

Posted on July 10, 2014 at 8:51 AM

Updated Thursday, Jul 10 at 9:54 AM

(KMOV) – Chesterfield Police say there have been reports of mail missing from mailboxes in west St. Louis County.

Police say the thefts have happened in Ballwin, Chesterfield, and Town and Country.

The goal is to gain personal financial information, such as account numbers, found on checks and bank statements.

Outgoing and incoming mail have both been targeted.

Chesterfield Police say mail was stolen three times, that they know of, in the last two weeks.

Those incidents happened along White Lane Drive, Country Ridge, and Isle View.

Police suggest that neighbors at home during the day should keep an eye out for anyone peering into mailboxes.

Stealing mail is a federal offense with a conviction of up to five years for every piece of mail taken.

I wonder when KMOV began the practice of reporting unconfirmed information in one case via social media? Of course in the past KMOV along with KTVI and KSDK routinely believed anything sent to them by Local 2665 concerning the Monarch Fire Protection District.

POST-DISPATCH REPORTER FORGOT A "W"...BUSINESS FORGOT TO TELL CITY OF CHESTERFIELD: Monday morning I read an article by Lisa Brown about a company opening a \$20,000,000 brewery in Chesterfield. The firm, Brew Hub plans to brew a number of specialty label beers for the Midwest market. It was interesting except for one thing Brown forgot to include a location of this brewery in Chesterfield in her article. No editors at the Post-Dispatch (I'm told there often no editors who look over stories before they are posted and sometimes printed at the P-D in these cost cutting times.)

Brew Hub to open \$20 million Chesterfield brewery

- [By Lisa Brown lbrown@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8127](mailto:Lisa.Brown@post-dispatch.com)

Eight hours after it was first posted Brown updated the article with this:

An address has not yet been identified, but it will be located near the Spirit of St. Louis Airport, [said the company's founder and CEO, Tim Schoen.](#)

AS USUAL THIS WAS A CASE OF "ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE FIRST" GET CITY PERMISSION LATER: A \$20,000,000 brewery presents some interesting challenges...but the first is to file plans with the city of Chesterfield. At 10:30am on Monday I sent an email to Chesterfield's planning director Aimee Nassif asking if Brewery Hub had filed any plans with the city or if this was a case of having a press conference first and worrying about city permits later.

Here is the response I got from Nassif:

From: Aimee Nassif [mailto:anassif@chesterfield.mo.us]
Sent: Monday, September 8, 2014 11:07 AM
To: John Hoffmann
Subject: RE: question

Hi John,

We do not have any applications or plans on file under review at this time.

Aimee

Aimee Nassif, AICP

*Planning and Development Services Director
City of Chesterfield*

I just have to wonder how many of the people in the \$1,000,000 plus homes located along Wild Horse Creek Road south of the Spirit of St. Louis Airport and Industrial park will enjoy the smells of barley and hops and wish that perhaps they bought a home in the area of Arsenal and Broadway and Pestalozzi Streets.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 89



September 13, 2014

CITY VOTES TO SPEND \$488,700 TO "REHAB" A CONCESSION STAND AND BATHROOMS: It sure seem like a lot of money to "rehab" an existing concession and bathrooms. One might think you could you could bulldoze the place and build a German beer hall. You can build a new McDonalds for less money. (According to a July 2014 article in the yourHoustonnews.com a new McDonalds in Conroe, Texas (a northern suburb of Houston) is going to cost \$470,000. Of course it will have bathrooms and a drive through.



Concession B next to two soccer fields and a baseball field.

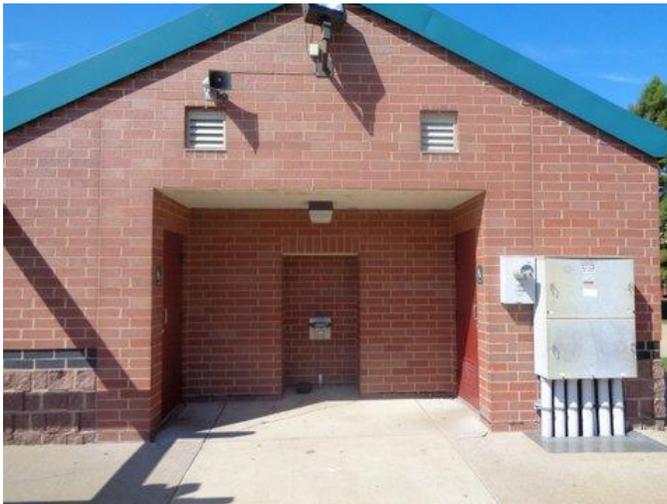
That will be \$18,000 less than C. Rallo Construction, the low bidder, wants to rehab the existing Concession Stand B and the bathrooms.

I'm told by reliable sources that the beer and cokes are still cold and the hot dogs are hot at the concession stand and the toilets still flush.

I stopped by the Parks Department offices to ask about what was involved in the "rehab" that was going to cost almost a half-million dollars. I was told I needed to contact Parks Director Thomas McCarthy and he was not available. I emailed him on Friday September 5 and had not gotten a reply by the end of the business day on Tuesday September 9.



A new one of these in Texas will cost \$470,000. It will cost \$488,700 to rehab this concession stand in Chesterfield.



Stand B.

We are told the toilets still flush at Concession

PARK TAX DELIVERS: Most residents of Chesterfield or the St. Louis region are not aware of the layers of different sales taxes. While Mayor Bob Nation and Councilmabn Barry Flachsbart scream UNFAIR that Chesterfield only gets 46% of one-cent sales tax it collects with the rest going into the County Tax Pool to be shared by the County and a number of other cities, the Parks and Strom Water sales tax collected is all retained by Chesterfield. This accounts for Chesterfield having the nicest parks system in the metro area and having funds for a \$488,770 "Rehab" on a concession stand.

ANOTHER \$105,000 TO PARKS: The City Council also approved spending \$105,000 with Schroder Construction for additional work on the River's Edge Park which will be located behind the west end of the Taubman Outlet Mall. The city engineer Jim Eckrich stated that it was hoped that part of the park would be open to the public by December.

OH THE HUMANITY! FINALLY WINE TASTING AT THE HILLTOWN VILLAGE

SCHNUCKS: The Schnucks supermarket on Olive Blvd. in the Hilltown Village Shopping Center has been granted a liquor by the drink license. Let the wine tastings begin!



Also the city at its last meeting issued a liquor license for the new Bar Louis set to open at 103 Chesterfield Valley Drive in the former golf store.

FIRST FIRE UNION AND MONARCH BOARD NEGOTIATIONS IN SIX MONTHS

GETS OFF TO A ROCKY START: It was a rocky start on September 2 to the first negotiations since February between the Monarch Fire Board and Local 2665.

Board President Robin Harris, Director Steven Swyers, just back from a vacation in Kenya, along with Monarch's labor attorney Bob Stewart were on one side of the table. Director Jane Cunningham was missing.

Across the table was Union Attorney Rick Berry, Keith Goldstein who could be used by a Hollywood casting department to play the role of "union thug." (In one year of public negotiations the only things I have heard Goldstein say is, "Hey that's union busting" in a loud threatening voice in response to some district proposals.) Finally there was Monarch Fire Captain and Union Steward Brent Coleman, who is the lead union negotiator.

Keep in mind while firefighters have not had a pay raise in five years...some individual firefighters have received cost of living increases. Regular pay is \$81,000. With overtime and other bonus pay some firefighters make over \$100,000 annually. Most engineers and captains make more than \$100,000 annually.



Here is some of the give and take over 90 minutes.

Harris: We sent you a proposal for health care with the same coverage for employees but not the same for dependents.

Coleman: The health care email did not rise to the level of a proposal.

(Harris hands Coleman a copy of the email containing the proposal.)

Coleman: Are we going to submit proposals by emails instead of at meetings? Are you changing the work and status of these meetings? (with a sarcastic tone.) I don't want to bicker with you. I don't need to play games.

Harris: Well you are.

Coleman: Are we down to this?

Harris: You had five months to look at it (health care proposal). Do you have any comments?

Coleman: I don't know where you are going.

Harris: You are wasting my time.

later

Coleman: We stand by our previous proposal. (To continue the current contract. Of course to do so would make the election of Jane Cunningham to the Board of Directors pointless since she is claiming she received a mandate from the voters to rein in the union.)

I'm stunned about the response from our proposal to turn down \$400,000 in savings. You instead send me a proposal to push us further apart.

Harris: You should be aware that there is a downward revenue stream of \$600,000. The funds to meet your demand of a \$2 million increase aren't there. We don't have another \$1,000,000 to give to you. We are in the top five-percent of pay in the nation.

Coleman: I don't believe you.

Harris: I'll donate \$50 to the charity of your choice if I'm wrong and you donate \$50 to the charity of my choice if you are wrong.

Later

Coleman: You are asking the employees to absorb the mistakes of past boards (apparently conceding that raises and other concessions under pro union boards were excessive.)

Harris: Are you suggesting that we raise taxes on the residents to make up \$2,000,000 for increases you want? Based on what I've seen so far there is no money for pay raises. The union doesn't appear to be bargaining in good faith.

Coleman: I was waiting for you to work that in.

Later

Coleman claims that 15 years ago the Fire district had a higher budget than it does now, showing how reasonable the firefighters have been.



Coleman is keeping a poker face, while Goldstein waits for an opening to accuse someone of union busting. (it didn't happen on this afternoon)

Harris asked Deputy Chief Cary Spiegel if he could go and check past budgets. Spiegel returned about 10 minutes later and reported the district's budget in 2014 is \$17,000,000 and was \$14,200,600 in 2000.

Coleman then stated the Union was willing to drop their demand for holiday pay to be raised to double time down to time and a half. Harris replied that would still make it \$100,000 more than is in the current contract.

At the end of the meeting Coleman again offers to renew the current contract for two years. (The Board would likely accept the two year pay scale, but changes in administrative issues are still an important issue, including taking away the unions vote in promotions and hiring.)

T-FED STILL FIGHTING DWI DOR LICENSE REVOCATION: On May 18, 2013 Chesterfield's bad boy Theodore Federer was arrested for DWI by the Ellisville Police. He was also charged with speeding, driving on a revoked driver's license, open container in vehicle and possession of marijuana. At the time he was on probation for a DWI injury accident in Camden County. He refused to take a breath test in connection with the Ellisville and the police immediately filed a revocation form with the Department of Revenue Driver's License Section. .

He pled guilty to the Ellisville DWI in August of 2013 only to be put on probation for DWI while already on probation for DWI (in Camden County) by the Ellisville Municipal Court.

However Camden County revoked his probation there and he needed up serving a short 10-day jail term.

However, he has fought the one-year license revocation for failing to take a breath test in connection with the Ellisville arrest.



T-Fed in his latest 2014 mug shot after his arrest for assault and felony drug possession.

16 months after the paperwork was filed T-Fed and his lawyer are still dragging out the appeal in the County Courts.

The appeal hearing has been continued **ELEVEN TIMES!** It is unbelievable the courts will allow this. This is normally done by the defense attorney who is hoping the lawyer for the Drivers License Section of DOR doesn't show up, the officer doesn't show up or the officer dies, quits or is fired.

HARPO'S ARREST: If you remember in last week's newsletter we mentioned that T-Fed was arrested for an assault that happened at Harpo's. A police official inferred that Harpo's had no video surveillance system. On Monday September 8 I had lunch at Harpo's for a future review for our "Lunch with Jean" and "Dinner with Diana" restaurant reviews. While there we saw video surveillance cameras all over the place including where the fight in March allegedly began in the entry area by the front door.

If you remember back in January of 2013 22-year veteran Smitty's waitress Nancy Seamen was attacked with a broken glass by a drunk women who she refused to serve. Nancy suffered a deep cut that required 81 stitches to close and affected Nancy's eyesight, taste, ability to open her mouth and smell for months and forced her to stop working and enter therapy.

The suspect in that case was originally issued a lousy citation and released by the Chesterfield Police. After we complained that the attack clearly was not a "common

assault" that belonged in municipal court, a felony warrant was obtained three months later.

While we have reported what a great job Chesterfield PD does in a number of cases we have looked at, I am not necessarily impressed with the way Chesterfield PD handles victims of bar fights. Thus was my desire to see if Harpo's has a video system. It does.



See CCTV camera in corner with coverage of the area where the March fight started. .

METRO BUS STOP DEMOLISHED: The bus stop on the south side of Olive Blvd before Ladue Road and near the Monarch Fire Station 4 was more than a little damaged last week. It is almost completely gone.

Chesterfield citizen of the year, Jane Durrell sent us an email about it and Jean Whitney took the below photos. Clearly some vehicle going eastbound on Olive left the roadway destroying the bus stop.



According to the Chesterfield Police bus stop was destroyed in an auto accident that happened on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning September 3 at 12:45am. Capt. Steve Lewis informed us that the cause of the accident was a sleepy driver.

What I found interesting was that despite over \$1,000 of damage to public/taxpayer supported property there was no Careless Driving citation issued. It is fortunate it was late enough that no one was waiting for the last bus of the night.

RETAIL: CLOSING RUMOR: We heard it in the Valley that Tatyana's retro women's clothing store may not be at the Taubman Outlet mall come October.



EXPERIENCING WINTER IN MONGOLIA...WHEN ALL THE FOOD IS COLD: July 2013 Jean Whitney and I went to lunch at the Emperor's Palace in Chesterfield Valley, where we were not overly impressed with the food, but enjoyed the juggling act performed. At least the average tasting food that was supposed to be hot was hot.

When I go to a "buffet" that is under \$10 for lunch if I find one or two items that are worth going back for seconds I figure it was worth the trip. Unfortunately when I met Jean Whitney for lunch at the Mongolian BBQ Asian Buffet in the Four Season Shopping Center on Olive Blvd. last week there was nothing worth going back for seconds or ever going back there again. In fact the Mongolian BBQ Buffet made the Emperor's Palace seem like the Chinese equivalent to Tony's. It made Panda's Express seem like a Michelin Three-Star Bistro.

Three major ingredients missing from most items I tried. Nothing that was supposed to be warm was warm. Nothing like a plate of cold lo mien noodles. The other thing missing was taste. Finally the phrase BBQ was maybe false advertising as there was only one item remotely resembling anything connected to BBQ.





At least at the Emperor's Palace they took our mind off the mediocre food with juggling. A floor show would not have helped at the Mongolian BBQ Asian Buffet

Who doesn't like peel and eat shrimp? Well I didn't finish all of mine as the ice was clearly a last resort to keep these tired crustaceans edible.



My plate



Jean's plate

The best thing on my plate was the green beans, unfortunately they came off the hot buffet table and were ice cold. The General Tso chicken were all fat. The salmon was

very dry and tasted like old fish. Cheesy crab at the top of my plate had fake crab and cheap cheese. The beef egg roll was not edible.

I ate both pieces of deep fried chicken I got...so it was okay. The thin strips of advertised BBQ chicken got mixed reviews. I thought it was too dry. Jean liked it. Jean also said the sushi was okay as was the mushroom stuffed with some sweet cream.

Besides the buffet diners can put their own ingredients in a bowl along with sauce for stir fry. Frankly the thin shaved strips claiming to be chicken, beef and port all looked the same. I put pork and beef with some noodles and a small amount of "Mongolian Sauce" in my bowl. The stir chef operated under a neon sign that proclaimed, "BBQ." When I got it back at least it was warm, however I could not taste the difference between the pork and the beef.

After eating one cold item after another I was surprised when I had to grab for my water glass after biting into the crab Rangoon and burning my mouth.

The below photo sums up the deserts...the open can of chocolate pudding (so much for the mysteries of the kitchen):



Now I have to admit that while I was not pleasantly surprised...I did not feel cheated since the total bill was \$8.50 even if my stomach was upset the rest of the day.

TV...LONGMIRE CANCELED BY A&E...IT MIGHT GET PICKED UP BY ANOTHER NETWORK: Longmire is about a small County Sheriff's Office set in present time in Wyoming.

I noticed two weeks ago that A&E's Longmire has been cancelled. If it is picked up by another cable network I hope they can buy Katee Sackoff (plays Deputy Victoria Moretti) some uniform shirts that can be buttoned up past the bust line.



MUSIC: FREE TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE: The Little Big Band, which is a great sounding big band (be it a bit little) has a free concert at the Scottish Rite at 3633 Lindell Blvd on October 5 at 3pm. The band will feature a tribute to Maynard Ferguson and Harry Connick, Jr. It will have guest Paul Stephens on trumpet instead of St. Louis' top Maynardfile, Jim Manley. Manley told me that Stephens is a good choice.

"Paul used to play with one of Maynard's band. His chops are scary (that is trumpet speak)," said Manley.

Doing vocals will be Steve Shinger. We saw Shinger last year with the band and were disappointed with his lack of range.



Jim Owens featured on trombone from the Little Big Band Concert last year.

The tickets are free, just send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Scottish Rite Concert Series 3633 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63108.

LINKS TO FERGUSON VIDEOS: Okay so they are video's of Maynard Ferguson's and his big bands. They are entertaining. The first one is very fast paced and so is the last one is 20 years later with the band doing the Sesame Street Theme.

If you want to enjoy some classic Maynard Ferguson, check out these Youtube clips:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuPkzAdbQwM#t=143>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMn245qb2s8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REAIPEWq33c>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ErOyCIIqzY>

LAST WEEK: It was Curt Landes on piano joining Jim Manley last Friday at the One-19.



SATURDDAY...SMITTY'S IN EXILE...Anita Rosamond has not been hired to put on her one Saturday afternoon show a month at Smitty's in four months. Last Saturday it was Smitty's in Exile as Anita performed for the first time at Talayna's from 6:30 to 9:10.

I know...I gave Talayna's a less than stellar review two weeks ago and I was planning on not going back there, but I did to see what kind of a crowd Anita would draw.

She packed the place with all of the regulars who would attend her shows at Smitty's. Instead of pork steaks and chicken fingers it was Pizza and Pasta. She set up her keyboard and speaker on the west side of the entrance so many of her fans had to go to the bar or another part of the restaurant and wait for a table to open.



Anita Rosamond working a crowded room at Talayna's in Chesterfield consisting entirely of the regulars who used to be at her monthly show at Smitty's.

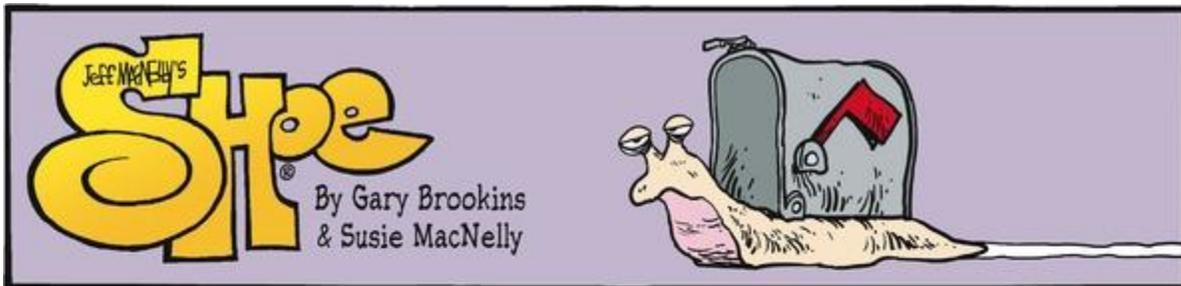
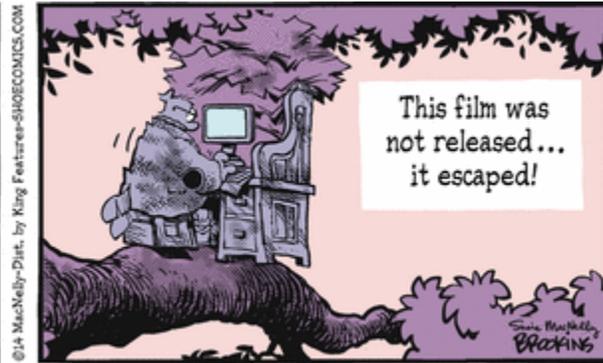
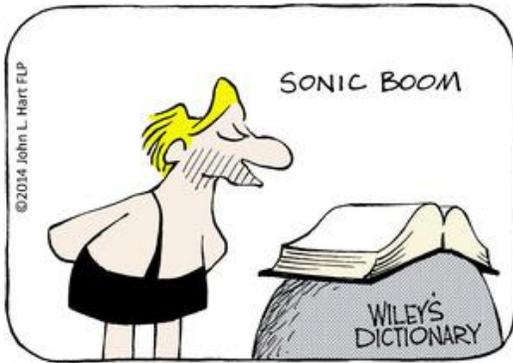


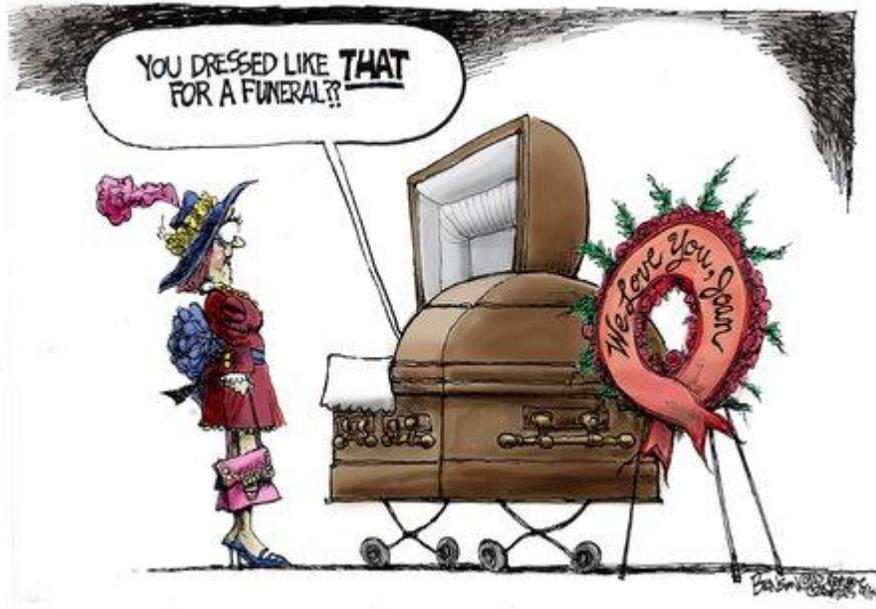
TOO MANY DEER EVERYWHERE: No these were not suicidal deer wanting to jump from the Golden Gate Bridge, but merely deer that wanted to get out of San Francisco last Friday at rush hour into the more tranquil Marin County. My guess was that they were headed toward Muir Woods, not only could they enjoys the woods, but they could force drivers to swerve off the road to their death on California Highway-1.

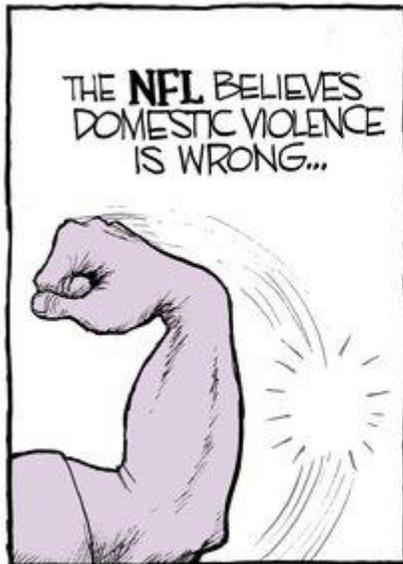


CARTOONS:











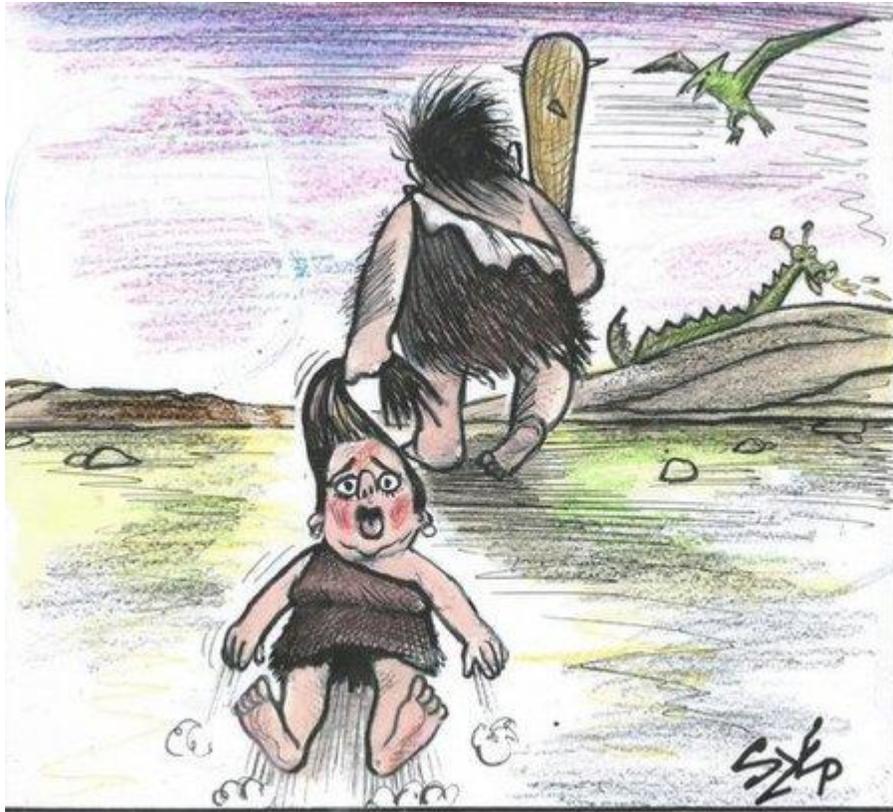
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