

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 146 AND CHESTERFIELD 91



**By John Hofmann**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2014**

**TIM WELBY AND THORNHILL HOA PRESIDENT COME TO POLICE BOARD AND ANNOUNCE THEY WANT TO BE ELITISTS. They want golf carts where there is no golf course.** At the September 16 Town and Country Police Commission meeting on the agenda was:

### **Operating Golf Carts on City Streets**

Plus there were two people you never see at a Police Commission meeting, Tim Welby, a Ward 2 Alderman, who lives on Nettlecreek in Thornhill Estates and whose backyard abuts the subdivision's two tennis courts and pool. (In fact when Welby was on the board of trustees somehow the subdivision lawn service was cutting part of his backyard paid for by subdivision dues.) Also present was the HOA president Randy Stevens. They want legislation passed so residents in Thornhill could operate golf carts throughout the subdivision.

**"We would like the be able to use golf carts to enhance the socialization of the neighbors and to get to and from the Bath and Tennis Club,"** said Stevens who implied that there was a need and a groundswell of support for this among the residents.



Randy Stevens and Tim Welby having a laugh during their presentation on why the Thornhill Estates Subdivision has an overriding need for golf carts.

I happen to live in the Thornhill subdivision and as far I know on the topic of golf carts on the streets the sentiment is just the opposite. In 2009 when I was on the Board of Aldermen a resident from Mason Valley who cut through back yards on his golf cart to gain access to Thornhill streets wanted the police commission to recommend golf carts be allowed. That request was denied. Several people from Mason Valley were on the Police Commission and thought it was a terrible idea.

The streets of Thronhill Estates are public/private streets. The streets are open to the public at Topping Road, but due to their substandard size and condition they are maintained by the homeowners, rather than being brought up to standards for the city to take them over. If the homeowners wanted a private enclave they could put a gate on Topping Road to match the one on Mason Road and allow eight year olds to tool around in golf carts all day.

Welby has lived in the subdivision for 10 years. I have lived here for eight years. The best I have been able to ascertain is that Welby likes to be a social snob without the actual standing. Bluebloods have never lived in Thronhill. There are a number of Blueblood wannabes, who buy used Porches and Mercedes.

Stevens told the Police Commission how Thornhill is a close knit community of 121 homes. He also mentioned everyone in the subdivision knows who is on the HOA board. As a resident, this place is anything but close knit.

Myself and I know several long time neighbors who often have no idea who is on the HOA board. Stevens was shoveling bullshit at a furious pace at the police commission.

I have one next door neighbor with a pool, the people across the street have a pool, the people three doors down in both directions have a pool. Another neighbor had considered selling her house and moving to a house with a pool because she could not stand going the Thornhill Pool. The next-door neighbor to the west of the subdivision pool have their own pool.

Let's look at someone who would tell a public commission the need for golf carts is for the residents to enjoy "The Bath and Tennis Club."

Come On! It is a small pool, two tennis courts, including one in disrepair, a bathroom and a storage locker. The Thornhill Bath and Tennis Club does not have a dining room or even a bar, let alone a banquet room. This is the third subdivision I have lived in with community pools, the other two did not act like they were special. The pools were run on user fees. Thornhill taxes all the residents to keep their pool going.



I spoke up and suggested that Welby and Stevens were very premature appearing at the Police Commission and should have done a vote of all homeowners and renters before showing up. Most members of the Police Commission agreed with this.

I also mentioned how the intersection of Thornhill Drive and Manor Hill Road was grossly unsafe for anyone to be operating a golf cart. Large bushes hide the stop sign to westbound motorists. People on Manor Hill cannot see to the east due to this view obstruction. The HOA board has ignored this for years. The overgrown bushes block the view of the side of a house on Manor Hill from a residence of two doctors on Thornhill.

The main road, Thornhill Drive is full of hills and curves that create blind spots where you cannot see a parked car over the crest of a hill let along a slow moving golf cart full of kids not wearing seatbelts.

Currently the only people I know of operating a golf cart to the pool area are people who live across the street from the pool. I have routinely seen children well under the age of 16 operating the golf cart.

Do you really want golf carts on the narrow streets where you have dog-walkers, baby stroller walkers and runners?



This golf cart is marked down to \$6,500 at the Kirkwood dealer. Center photo police investigate a fatal golf cart accident in a rich suburb of Nashville. Right is a stretch golf cart.

If you look at the risks you can clearly see this subdivision is not well suited for golf carts full of kids, plus teenage drivers, plus elderly drivers, plus distracted moms on cells

phones in their SUVs, not to mention lawn service people from Mexico and UPS drivers trying to keep a schedule. Golf carts are a recipe for dead people.

**THE POLL AND NOT A VOTE:** The Police Commissioners specifically told Stevens and Welby to have a vote of the residents and if there was a clear majority in favor of golf carts they would consider the request. Here is how that was translated to residents in an email and was watered down from a vote to a "poll."

"Randy Stevens, President, attended the Town and Country Police Commission meeting last Tuesday night to get feedback and recommendations. The response was that the Police Commission would most likely support the use of golf carts in Thornhill Estates but asked that we poll the residents to get their feedback."

## View Obstructions in Thornhill Estates Subdivision



At the stop sign on Manor Hill at Thornhill Drive. You can't see any approaching cars and the approaching cars cannot see the stop sign.



Drivers going west on Thornhill cannot see the stop sign at Manor Hill 125 feet from the intersection. Stopped at the stop sign they cannot see if any traffic is stopped at the Manor Hill stop sign. These are clearly dangerous view obstructions that the Board of Trustees have been ignoring for years.



WB Thornhill at Nettle Creek blind curve



EB Thornhill toward Nettle Creek blind curve



EB Thornhill 13100 block blind hillcrest



EB Thornhill 13000 block blind curve and decline



EB Thornhill 12900 block blind hillcrest



WB Thornhill 12900 block approaching 13000 block blind hillcrest and curve



WB Thornhill from Topping road blind hillcrest and curve



EB Thornhill from Mason Road blind curve eliminating view of three driveways



Blind hillcrest and curve in 13400 block of EB Thornhill.

**THE BATTLE OF THE AAAs:** At a recent Chesterfield City Council Agenda Meeting the city administrator and the head of the finance department were patting themselves on the backs saying that Chesterfield is the only city in the State of Missouri with a AAA Bond Rating with Moody's. This all came up after the city council was preparing to approve refinancing some bonds that would save the city \$42,327 a year over the remaining life of the bonds.

The statement that Chesterfield was the only city in Missouri to have a AAA rating, reminded me that for years Town and Country Finance Director Betty Cotner has been stating that Town and Country is the only city in Missouri with a AAA bond rating.

Upon checking they are both right. Chesterfield's top rating comes from Moody's and Town and Country's comes from Standard and Poor. I then got an email from Betty Cotner that made me laugh. she wrote that she believed the S&P rating was a AAA and Moody's was a "Aaa" rating.

Actually I'm surprised that T&C has not fallen to a AA+ rating after a large deficit budget in 2013 followed by another deficit in 2014.

**LOOK FOR THE UNION LABEL EVEN ON MANAGEMENT:** At the September 8 agenda meeting before the regular Board of Aldermen meeting Ernie Rhodes the Fire Chief of the West County EMS & Fire Protection District spoke about a community input session scheduled by the fire district but badly publicized in three days.

I noticed that the chief was wearing a union patch on his uniform shirt. Fire chiefs are not members of the union. They are management, so this struck me as odd.

After the meeting, in the lobby I asked Chief Rhodes if as the fire chief was he a member of the union. He stated that he was not, but added, "I support the union 100%."



I told Chief Rhodes that by wearing that patch on his uniform it appeared he was a member of the union. He again reiterated how he supports the union "100 percent."

That truly struck me as odd statement as the chief has to issue disciplinary action against union members and he is part of the management team at budget and contract negotiation times.

## **DIEHL TAKES BIG MONEY FROM DOOLEY'S TOP SUPPORTER:**



Billionaire Rex Sinquefield's was the top contributor to Democrat Charlie Dooley's campaign for reelection as County executive. Jeanne Sinquefield of unincorporated Westphalia, in Osage County, Missouri gave Charlie a sweet \$100,000.

Two weeks ago Grow Missouri, a political action group funded by Rex Sinquefield announced it was going to provide \$2.5 million to John Diehl to travel across Missouri in his role as the 2015 Speaker of House (if of course he beats the kooky Democratic candidate Eric Al Gerber in the general election).

It is interesting that Million Dollar Diehl who has raised well over \$1.5 million since 2008 to run against no one. Ironically very few people actual know him in his district, but he will now be meeting people exclusively out of his district.

That is something Diehl should be used to since most all of his campaign contributions have come from outside of his district. In the second quarter of 2014 one of Diehl's biggest contributor's was RAI AKA Reynolds Tobacco of Winston-Salem, NC who sent Diehl a check for \$12,000.



Jeanne Sinquefield and hubbie Rex.



Here is another big contributor to John Diehl, a company in North Carolina that has been killing Americans for 140 years and surely is aware that Missouri has the lowest cigarette tax in the nation.

Grow Missouri already has a website for "100 Great Ideas for Missouri." If they just did a mailer to everyone in Missouri directing them to that website they could save Diehl all the travel time around the state that he really doesn't give a "rat's ass" about anyway.

I checked the website and here are two of my favorite posts, they deal with going back on the gold standard and firing everyone at MoDOT.

Joe Witter wrote:

**The State of Missouri needs a “sound money” bill passed through the legislature that gives our citizens the ability to use US minted gold and silver coins in our everyday transactions as a medium of exchange. Gold and silver coins are constitutional money, and were made constitutional by our founders to protect the people from the massive transfer of wealth that takes place through paper money printing. Missourians need a way to protect themselves from the dangerously inflationary fiat paper money monopoly of the Federal Reserve that causes economic business cycles and an ever decreasing standard of living. Missouri needs sound money.**

Here is one from Martin Heck of Arnold:

**We need to eliminate the majority of equipment and personnel at modot and sub the work out to the lowest bidder for grass cutting, all road repairs, etc. this would eliminate the 4 hrs. Work for 8hrs. pay and all the be be idiots and the life long retirement packages at the tax payer expense. We'll no longer need to buy all the new equipment every other year to use up the surplus money left over, we'll no longer need all the buildings to house the equipment or the lots to store it, or the personnel to maintain and repair it. The private sector should be doing the work at the lowest bid and therefore reducing the cost to tax payer by getting the most production for the least amount. The personnel would start at the site on time and get off 8 hrs. later like the majority of hourly workers, reducing all the overhead at tax payer expense.**

I have news for Mr. Heck for over a decade MoDOT has been outsourcing lots of jobs. However, I'm not sure I want either traffic engineers or snowplow operators being from low bid contractors.

**IF SINQUEFIELD OWNED A NBA TEAM HE WOULD BE FORCED TO SELL IT:** In 2012 Sinquefield made remarks at Lindenwood college that were later reported in the Columbia Daily Tribune connecting the Klu Klux Klan with founding public schools. Here is part of the Tribune's article.

At Lindenwood College, Sinquefield paraphrased a column from the Linn Unterrified Democrat newspaper and said, “the columnist starts off, something like this, he said a long time ago, decades ago, the Ku Klux Klan got together and said how can we really hurt the African-American children permanently? How can we ruin their lives? And what they designed was the public school system.”

Now if Sinquefield owned a NBA franchise and said that the league would have ordered him to sell the team. Luckily Mr. Sinquefield only owns a number of politicians in Missouri, one of the few states that does not have some kind of caps on campaign contributions.

**LOOK FOR DIEHL ADS OR AT LEAST NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ABOUT GERBER AND DEER HYSTERECTOMIES:** I have it from a journalist friend in Jefferson City that Million Dollar John Diehl has been telling reporters about Gerber being a big proponent for giving deer hysterectomies in the wild. Look for either a Diehl flier in a month or news articles mentioning this.

I'm surprised that Diehl is even acknowledging the Gerber exists. Of course Todd Akin was on his way to be the next senator from Missouri. All he had to do is keep his mouth shut, a task that he found to be impossible.

Diehl could hurt himself if it seems like he is attacking Gerber. Gerber is such a silly, meek character that some voters might view it the same of someone kicking a dog.

**THE "I AM THE COOLEST PERSON YOU HAVE EVER ARRESTED" WOMAN HAS NEW CHARGES:** Yes of course we are talking about none other than Faith Raymer.



Faith was arrested for DWI on February 7, 2013 on NB I-270 after Officer Fowle observed her drive off the pavement onto the shoulder three times. During booking she told Officer Fowle,

“Fuck me! Am I the coolest person you have ever arrested?”

She pled guilty on October 24, 2013 in Circuit Court and was given a 2-year SIS "no-record" probation term. She then moved to California when she continued her habit of

posting on social media borderline obscene photos normally taken in bars and nightclubs.

A warrant for her arrest was issued by the County Courts when she failed to pay all the fines and fees associated with plea deal. When she returned to St. Louis at the beginning of the summer she crashed her car in the City of St. Louis (see above photo). In August she was arrested on the warrant and apparently paid the fines.

Now on July 27, 2014 she presented someone else's driver's license to be hers to a St. Charles Police officer. On September 4 a criminal citation was issued by the St. Charles Circuit Court to Raymer. She is now scheduled to be in St. Charles County Circuit Court on October 20.

We are still waiting to see the outcome of her appeal of her driver's license revocation for refusing to take a breath test in connection with her Town and County arrest.

Meanwhile Faith has not slowed down posting photos indicating that she still might be having alcohol and drug issues while she is on probation. The most recent ones has Faith holding a bottle of Pumpkin Beer and a joint that was taken in September. She kicked off the summer season by appearing to be sexually pleasuring Captain Morgan.



**WELBY LOSES AGAIN AT "WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CARMEN SAN DIEGO:** At the September 8th Town and Country Board of Aldermen meeting Mayor Jon Dalton asked for a sponsor for a bill to award a Storm Water project contract on Thornbury Drive. Ward-2 Alderman Tim Welby immediately piped up and said, "It's in my ward, I'll do it."



Unfortunately Thornbury Drive is nowhere close to Welby's ward. It is in Ward-1 at the far east end of the city limits in a subdivision that is partially in the City of Frontenac.

At the prior Board of Aldermen meeting in August Dalton asked for sponsorship for a bill dealing with Preservation Park, which is in Ward-2. Welby said nothing, but Ward-1 alderpersons Lynn Wright and Skip Mange claimed the park was in their Ward. All these people have over at least seven years in local politics, but they don't know what streets and parks are in their wards. Pretty sad.

## UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 91



**September 26, 2014**

### **MONARCH PARAMEDICS RACK UP HOURS AND COSTS IN FERGUSON:**

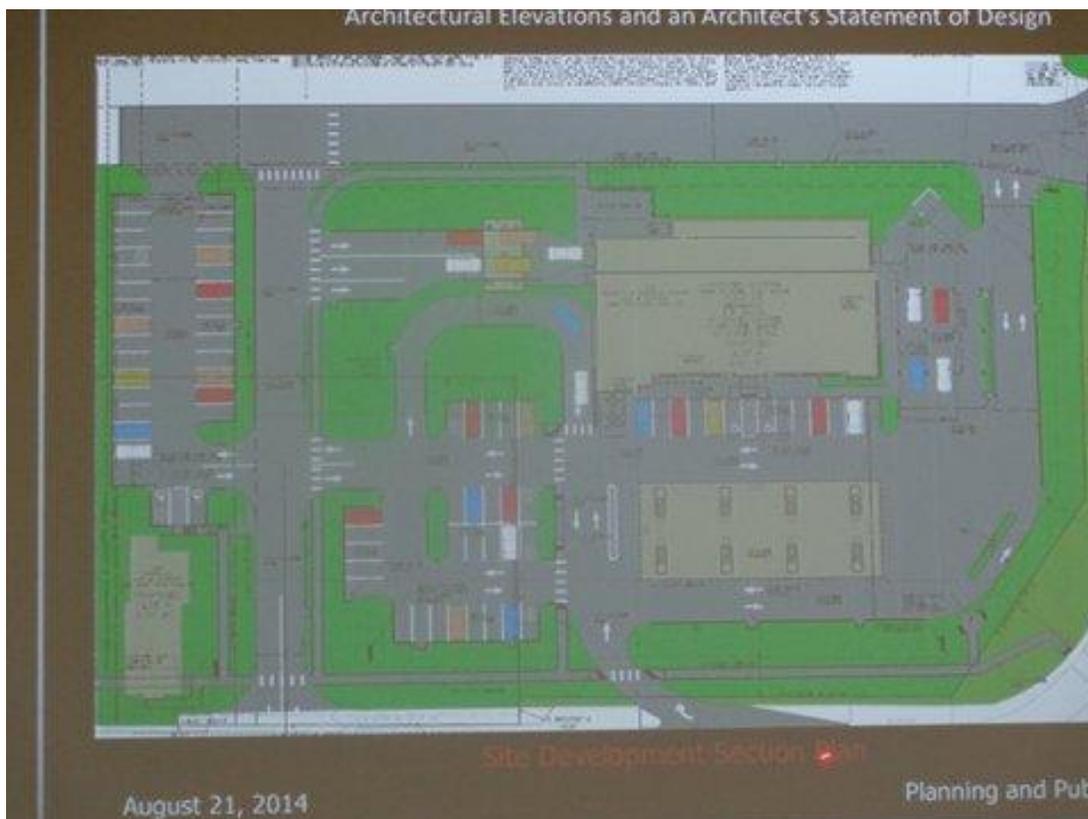
Monarch Tactical Paramedics responded to Ferguson on 12 different days for a total of 432 man hours at a cost of \$21,328.83. Monarch is hoping to recover the costs from the State of Missouri because Governor Jay Nixon declared a "State of Emergency."

The tactical paramedics were in Ferguson to treat any police officers or Highway Patrol troopers who were injured during the protests.

**CHESTERFIELD POLICE ALSO SPENT TIME IN FERGUSON:** Capt. Ed Nestor of the Chesterfield PD told us Chesterfield PD had officers accumulate 26 hours in overtime pay at a cost of \$1,045.10. However there were also officers who responded to Ferguson who were not on overtime, but were on regular duty, meaning the staffing level for Chesterfield was not at full staffing.

**LONG ROAD AND EDISON PLANNED DOUGHNUT SHOP, STORE, GAS STATION AND CAR WASH SITE IS FINALLY APPROVED:** On a voice vote the site plans for the convenience store, doughnut shop and full service car wash was approved at the September 15 meeting of the City Council. Councilman Dan Hurt kept mentioning the curb cuts that he did not like when the plans were first presented. After the meeting Councilman Barry Flachsbart made an interesting statement which I somewhat agree with.

"I'm against gas stations in Chesterfield Valley. That is a flood plain and at sometime despite the levee it is going to flood again," said Professor Flachsbart.

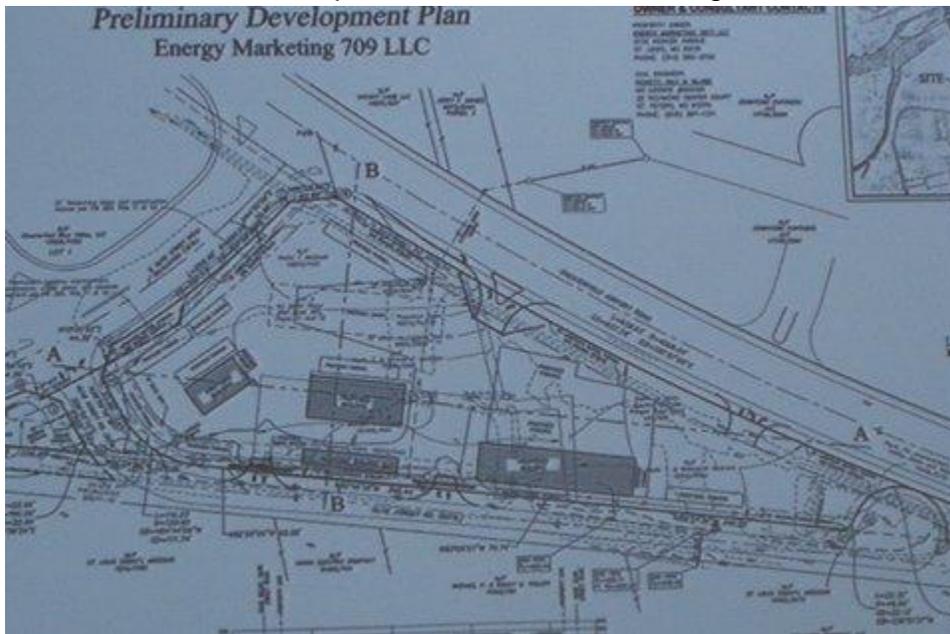


**LAST MINUTE DOUBLE SWITCHEROO OF PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR ANOTHER GAS STATION/WASH PROJECT IN CHESTERFIELD VALLEY:** It was a big switcheroo at the Chesterfield Planning and Public Works meeting on Thursday September 18. We have visual aids to help you follow this piece of insincere presentation by the developer.



Here is the current "Wedge" property, owned by Energy Marketing 709, LLC. It has a small self serve gas station on the east end of the property on Chesterfield Airport Rd at Olive.

Below is the first plan submitted to the Planning department and to the P&Z Commission and on September 4th to the Planning and Public Works Committee.



On the far left is a proposed 2000 square foot building for a drive through restaurant. In the center is the convenience store with a self serve gas wash behind it and 12 gas pumps in front of it. To the right is a 10,000 sq ft building for five retail stores.

The committee was not crazy about the curb cuts on Olive and favored the two behind the property on the old section of Olive and one or two on Chesterfield Airport Road.

Here is the first new plan (second plan) that the guys from Energy Marketing presented at the September 18th meeting.



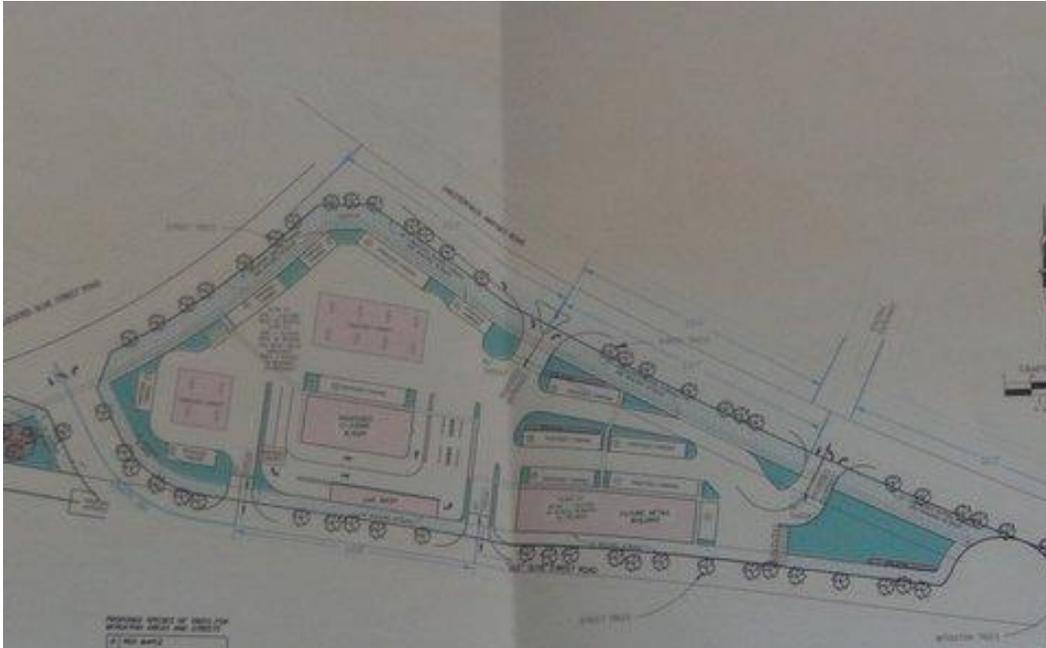
If you look closely they eliminated the curb cuts along Olive Street Road. Also the 2000 sq ft building on the left was moved and no longer had a drive through lane. However, the convenience store now does have a drive through lane.

Councilpersons Dan Hurt and Connie Fults talked back and forth about problems with the site, while Elliott Grissom looked on. Nancy Greenwood missed the meeting. At one point Hurt said he was not crazy about 12 gas pump islands for 24 fueling positions. A member of the development team was eventually allowed to speak and said that due to RVs, trucks and lawn care pickup trucks pulling trailers they needed extra pumps. Hurt was not buying it.



Connie Fults and Dan Hurt discuss the flaws they see in the plan.

While it seemed the developers wanted the second plan they presented, it turned out they had another plan ready in case they were having problems. They then pulled out the paper copies of that third plan and passed them around.



In this plan the 2000 sq ft building at the far left that was originally going to be a drive through fast food joint and then a fast food place without a drive through suddenly disappeared. The gas pumps in front of the convenience store went from 12 pump islands to eight. The other four pump islands were moved to where the proposed fast food building had been minutes earlier on the overhead screen,

I'm not sure if I should have been impressed with how the development group was prepared with multiple site plans or feel a little creepy that these guys had been lying in early presentations claiming how important it was that they got all the buildings approved.

#### **MORE AREA RETAIL NEWS:**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY OFFICE MAX IS TO CLOSE:** We learned while attending a recent Finance Commission meeting the Office Max store in the Manchester Meadows Shopping Center will close in January. Town and Country City Administrator Gary Hoelzer said there is a new tenant planned for the building in February, but he cannot announce the name of the retailer yet.



The Office Depot store in the old National Food supermarket building at Manchester Road and Highway 141 in Manchester will likely remain. Office Depot bought out Office Max and announced they would be closing or merging some stores.

Meanwhile the small retail space next to the Office Max store has been lease to a non-sales tax producing dance studio. This goes with the popular non-sale tax producing Gold's Gym, also on the east side of the shopping center.



**MCDONALDS DEMOLITION NOW SET FOR JANUARY.** It was originally planned for the spring of 2014 with the store reopening in three months by the start of summer. Next McDonalds had hoped the building could be torn down and replaced with a new up-to-date McDonalds beginning in August. But now the demolition of the McDonalds in the

Lamp and Lantern center on Woods Mill Road is planned for January. Normally the turnaround for this is about three months, but most of the construction time will be in the winter meaning it might be longer. It will also mean a full McRib season with the delicious BBQ sauce and tasty onions and completely tasteless slab of pressed meat.



**JIMMY JOHNS APPROVED FOR WOODS MILL AND CLAYTON ROAD.** You should be able to get a turkey sub in time for Thanksgiving according to the franchisee who will be putting a Jimmy Johns sub shop with a drive through window and outdoor seating in the Clayton Village Shopping Center. This is where the Heartland Bank Mortgage Center and Einstein Bagel Shop is located.

The board of aldermen approved three signs for the building, which a few years ago never would have happened. In fact I'm surprised that Aldermanic Gasbag Fred Meyland-Smith did not object. They also got their site plan approved, the business variance approved and the architectural review all approved. There can be a lot of hoops someone has to jump through to open a sandwich shop.

The late November goal for opening should be perfect as the big competition across the street (McDonalds) will be going on a three month hiatus when they tear it down and put up an updated model.



**Mongolian BBQ and Asian Buffet likely losing lease in the future. Look for Panera Beard to move into Mongolian BBQ building in the future:** The Four Seasons Shopping Center had been before the Chesterfield City Council requesting a zoning boundary change of their property along Olive Blvd west of Woods Mill Road. The reason for the change was to accommodate the future move of the Panera Beard store from its current location in the east end of the center into the larger Mongolian BBQ building and the installing of a drive through window.



The zoning matter was continued as Councilman Barry Flachsbart expressed displeasure over the boundary change which would go right down the middle of a city street, Highland Park Drive.

### **SOMEBODY NEEDS TO CHECK COUNCILMAN DAN HURT'S EAGLE SCOUT**

**AWARD:** It seems as if every time there is a Boy Scout in the audience at a Chesterfield City Council meeting working on a Citizenship Merit Badge, Mayor Bob Nation mentions that Councilman Dan Hurt is an Eagle Scout. At a recent meeting Hurt, with 22 years experience on the City Council must have stopped the meeting three times to ask City Attorney Bob Heggie if now was the time to make a motion, or if he should ask for a resolution or if they were voting on an amendment or the actual bill.

This caused me to inquire of Hurt after the meeting exactly when he received his Eagle Badge. He thought and replied, "1967."

I then asked how an Eagle Scout and an elected official with two decades on the job and with several different "citizenship" merit badges could have no idea about Robert's Rules of Order and have to constantly ask the city attorney on proper procedure.



Dan then asked if I was a Scout. I was a Cub, Boy Scout and had the sense not to try for my Eagle, but to join Sea Scouts about the time Hurt was getting his Eagle Award. In Sea Scouts we basically wore a navy sailor's uniform and in 1968 and 69 would go to St. Louis Blues games in our uniforms unbeknown to our adult leaders, buy cheap tickets and sit up in the rafters. It was in the height of the Vietnam era and the beer vendors assumed we were in the Navy and sold us beer without ever asking for ID. This could never have been accomplished wearing a Boy Scout uniform.



High School kids looking older than they really were in the "old days" in their Sea Scout uniforms.

**HARPO'S PLEASE DON'T PASS THE SALT:** Lunch with Jean on September 8 was a trip to Harpo's in the Hilltown Shopping center on Olive near Chesterfield Parkway. Harpo's has been an institution for college kids who just turned 21 or have a good fake ID in Columbia for over 40 decades. However the original owner is selling them off and now the three Harpo's (Columbia, St. Louis and Kansas City) all have different owners.



At first I surprised that even though we were going for lunch we might get carded at the door and be turned away because we were too old.

I was playing the part of Claude Rains. We sat at a table in the almost empty dining room (lunch rush was over and it was 1:15) and waited for over 10 minutes before a waitress stopped by to say hello.

(Most people remember Claude Rains in this role:



Capt. Renault in Casablanca.

but he won the Academy Award in 1931 for this role:



The Invisible Man, who I thought I was for 10 minutes at Harpo's )

Once we got around to ordering Jean decided to go with the Westport Chicken Grille sandwich (\$8.99) apparently named after the Harpo's in Kansas City located in the Westport District. Jean specifically ordered "No bacon" on the sandwich.

Our waitress said while "all the food is good" the burgers were the most popular item. So I ordered a cheeseburger (\$7.40) with a side of Onion Rings. Chicken and Wild Rice (\$3.99) was the soup of the day and we tried a cup. Jean and I also decided to split the "Load Baked Potato. "

The soup was hearty but it was way too salty, and I'm a guy who is always reaching for a salt shaker. I wondered aloud if this was a way to sell more beer.



Jean's Westport Chicken sandwich arrived with the bacon that she had asked to be eliminated. The chicken was actually pretty much hidden under a slice of ham, cheese and the bacon. That said, Jean gave a thumbs up to the sandwich. The loaded baked potato gave every appearance as having been leftover from the previous night. It came out dry and cold. I asked for some butter just to moisten it up.



There was a \$1.00 up charge to get piece of lettuce with a slice of tomato and onion I asked for and the pickle that I didn't ask for. The mayo I ordered either on the burger or on the side did not arrive and we had to catch our waitress and remind her to bring it.

Once I bit into the burger my mind went back to the first thing I had for lunch...the soup. The burger seemed to be loaded with salt. I like some salt on my burger, but this one tasted like it was a subsidy of the Morton Company. At first I thought maybe my taste buds were still overloaded with salt from the soup, so I cut off a section of the burger and asked Jean to try it. She immediately reacted with a "little salty isn't it" comment.

Again I wondered if this was an in-house attempt to sell more beer. I looked at the walls adorned with MU memorabilia, neon beer signs, security cameras, but I did not see any posters of a girl in yellow boots with a yellow umbrella.

This is the second time I had lunch with Jean and as a fat guy, did not bother finishing my cheeseburger. (The first time was at Mia Sorella.)

The onion rings were admittedly frozen and not home made. But they were cooked perfectly and you could bite right through the batter crust and onion. If you can't bite through the onion or the crust crumbles away leaving you holding the onion the o-rings were either undercooked or overcooked. These were perfect and tasted good.



Overall we are in no hurry to return to Harpo's unless I have a desire to be around sporting events on big screen TVs and people younger than me swilling beer and increase my sodium intake.

**REAL ESTATE: TOUGH SALE...FRIEND AND CLIENT OF TOBACCO LOBBYIST JON DALTON DIED AND NOW THE CONSTRUCTION CONTACT FOR HIS \$8,700,000 FUTURE HOME IS FOR SALE:** A new listing being advertised by Janet McAfee in the Town and Style Magazine caught my eye. There was no photo, but at the top of the list of the "Luxury Collection" was "318 Wardensburg Farms Drive Wildwood \$8,700,000."

Here is the description of the property:

Buyer to assume seller's construction contract, at additional cost. Existing plans to include 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, nine fireplaces, two outdoor kitchens, two outdoor pools, one indoor pool, two story wine room, 13+ car garage, and one large screened in terrace, at additional expense. Existing poured foundation built to accommodate bowling alley, golf simulator, arcade, fitness center, elevator and more - buyer to complete if desired. Home includes gorgeous stone, brick, and plaster exterior, mahogany garage and exterior doors, Grand Manor 50 year roofing, a geothermal energy system and back-up generator. Home situated on 6+ extensively landscaped and irrigated acres, at the end of private cul-de-sac in Wardenburg Farms neighborhood off Wild Horse Creek Road. This home is truly a must see! Duplicate listing: see MLS #14034340.

Just five bedrooms, but nine fireplaces, two outdoor pools, an indoor pool, two outdoor kitchens, a bowling alley, two story wine room and a 13-car garage...there should be a huge demand for that!

There is just one problem...IT DOESN'T EXIST!

You would be buying a piece of paper for \$8.7 million...the construction contract.



The vacant property at 318 Wardenburg Farms Drive was owned by Mark J. and Nancy Dunham, of 18242 Canyon Forest Court in Chesterfield. Mark died on March 23, 2014.

Out of Pepperdine College in Malibu, California, Dunham travelled across the country and got a job with the Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company. In 1995 he founded Premier Manufacturing, makers of what are known as "generic cigarettes." These are cigarettes made by companies started after the tobacco agreements of the early 1990s that don't have to pay the higher taxes of well known brands which have to pay into

health programs for smokers who they have been trying to kill over the years and anti-smoking advertising. They are sold at gas stations and convenience stores under the moniker of "discount cigarettes" and are considerably cheaper than name brand cigarettes, but just as deadly.



Mark Dunham

Dunham sold the very profitable Premier Manufacturing in 2011 and started a Vapor-tobacco company.

Town and Country mayor and tobacco lobbyist Jon Dalton had Premier as a client from 2001 when he was with Bryan Cave (where he left in 2003) through 2008 when he was a partner with Lewis-Rice. Dalton's job was to help keep Missouri's cigarette taxes the lowest in the Nation. He and Dunham helped kill thousands of low-income smokers.

Over the years Dalton lobbied for 28 brands of "discount cigarettes" and convenience stores. Word was he and Dunham were friends and would often use Dunham's private jet for vacations.

**MEDIA WATCH:** We normally pick on the Town and Style Magazine for not knowing where cities are located or using the wrong city logo (Rock Hill for Richmond Heights) in the awful and often incorrect "Talk of the Town" column. However this week the Ladue News is in our sights.

The puff piece on the closing of Phillips Furniture, a long time institution in KIRKWOOD on Manchester Road between Woodlawn Avenue and Kirkwood Rd/Lindbergh had an interesting location for the store.

Take a look at the cutline, under the photo and see where the editors of Ladue News have moved Phillips Furniture to:



That's right they moved it to Des Peres!

**MUSIC: We went to Webster Groves for the Old Webster Jazz Festival.**

We went to see one of our favorite groups, Wild Cool and Swinging at the Old Webster Jazz and Blues Festival last Saturday. Chesterfield jazz vocalist Joe Mancuso had performed earlier in the day, we were counting on some photos from Joe but they never showed.





The place was packed well before the start of the show. Wild Cool and Swinging last appeared in Town and Country performing a benefit for the children of a young police dispatcher who suddenly died in the summer of 2011.

CHESTERFIELD jazz vocalist Joe Mancuso performed with the St. Louis Jazz All Stars on the Allen Street Stage at 3:30.

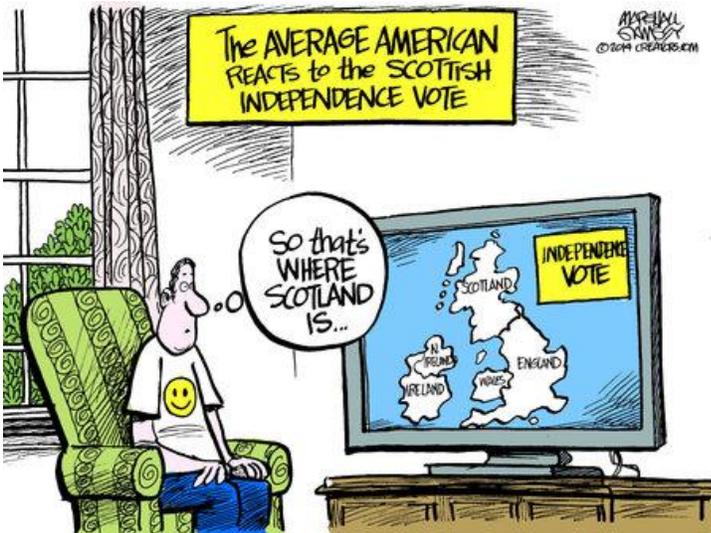
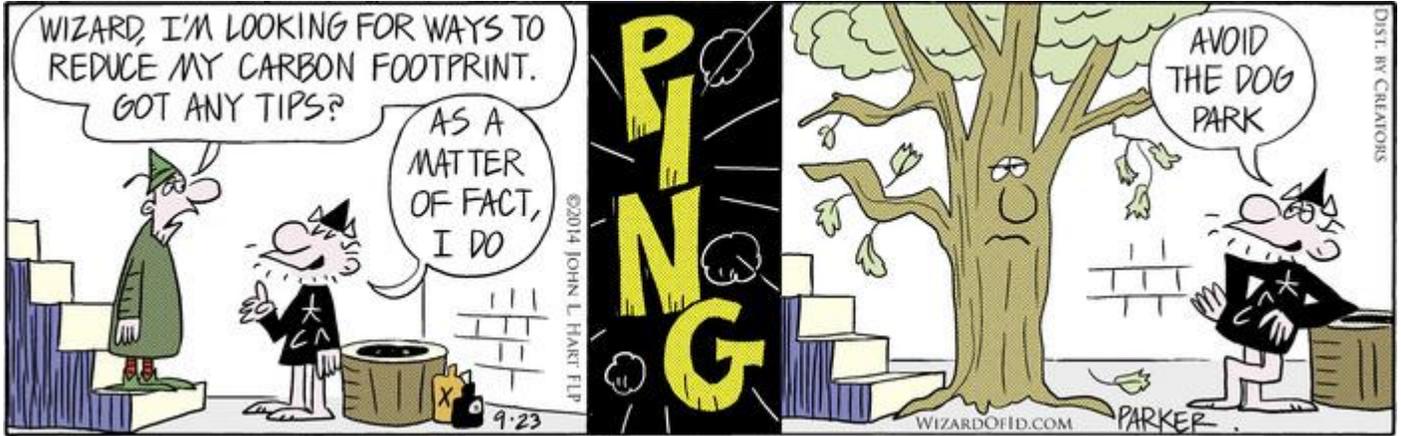


**DEAN CHRISTOPHER BACK AT THE ONE-19 ON MONDAY:** It is Rat Pack Monday back at the One-19 this coming Monday with Dean Christopher and four top area musicians. The fun starts at 7:30. Stop by for a drink, desert or a meal and some fun.



**CARTOONS:**





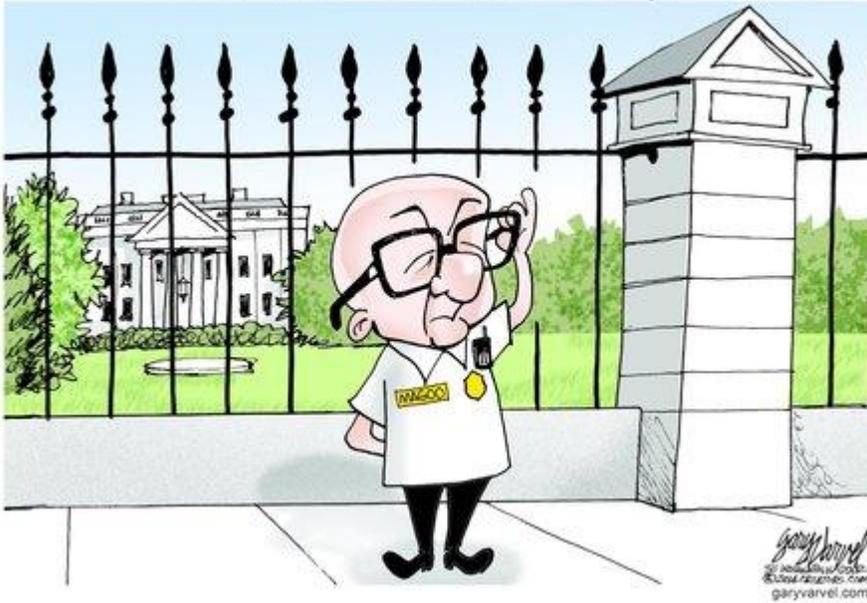
SECURITY BREACH  
ON THE NORTH LAWN!



EXTREM U.T. San Diego  
cartoons.com

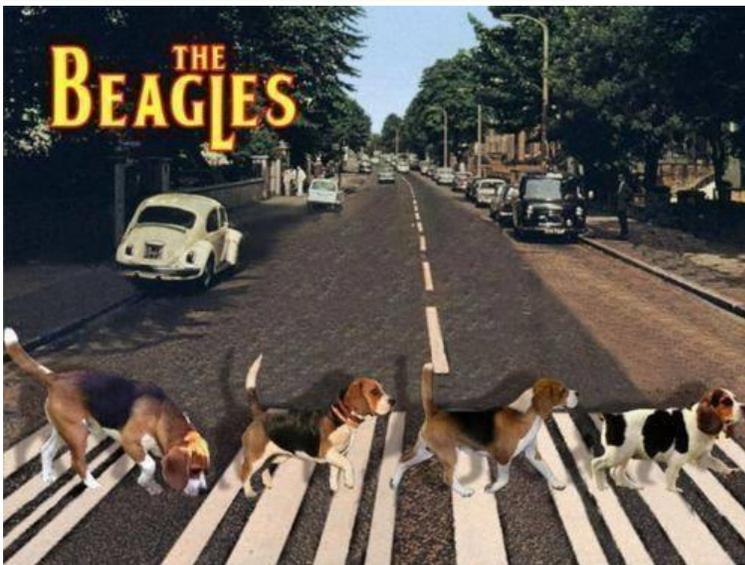
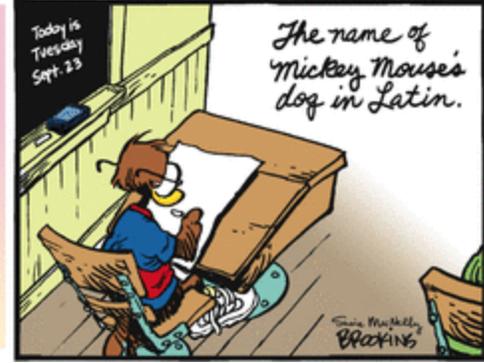
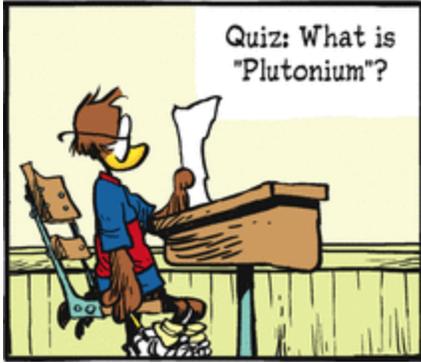


The Secret Service refocuses on Security



This begins our all dog section







©14 MacNelly-Dist. by King Features/HOCCOMICS.COM

