

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 152 AND CHESTERFIELD 97



By John Hoffmann

November 6, 2014

IT'S BACK...FOUR DAYS BEFORE HALLOWEEN A SOLAR PANEL BILL CRAWLS OUT OF THE GRAVE: At the October 13th meeting it was clear there were not enough votes to pass a bill to install solar panels on the city hall's roof when it was learned the return on investment (ROI) would be 13 years. (not to mention the panels would have to be removed and reinstalled after a new roof is put on in six years.) Originally the bill was going to be continued indefinitely, but Jon (Green Man) Benigas asked that it be continued to the next meeting on October 27.

At that meeting Benigas asked that it be continued again, as the contractor, Straight Up Solar has come up with another proposal that would include a short term lease and then purchase of the solar panels that would be more cost effective.



I'm not sure why Benigas doesn't wear all green to the meetings. Above is a possible outfit, modeled by Will Farrell.

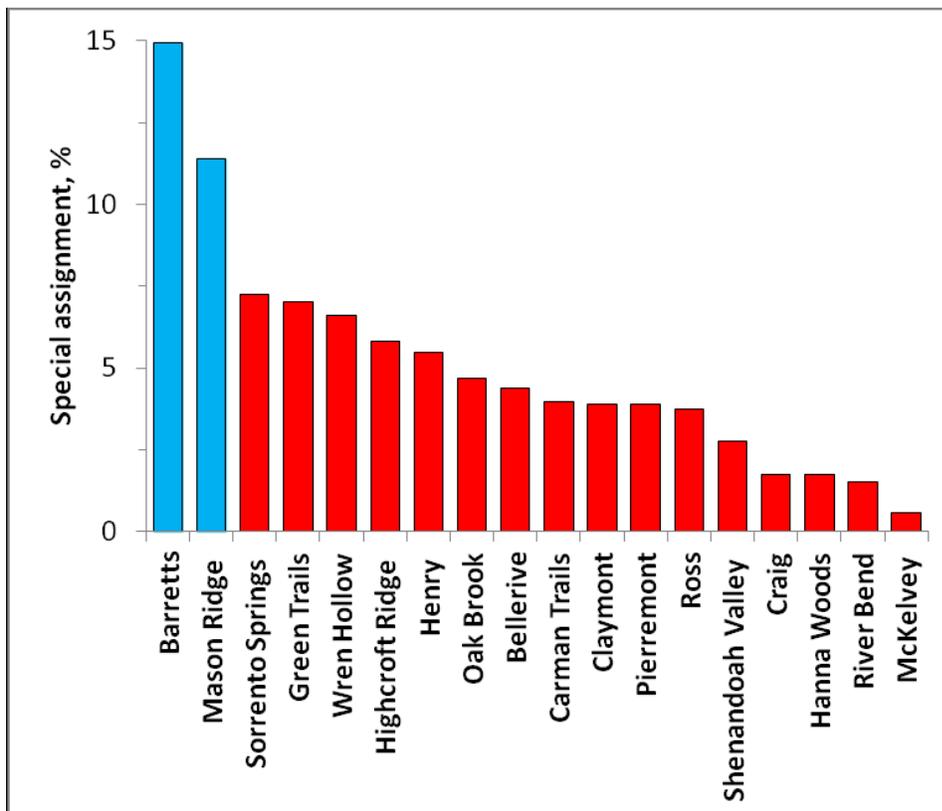
Now it seems to me if there is a more cost effective way to pay for the solar panels it is as if the Straight Up Solar was going to screw the city if the original bill passed. I would seriously look for a different contractor. Secondly, exactly how is the ROI going to change that much in two weeks? On October 13 it was a 13 year ROI and suddenly and magically it turns into a 6 or 7 year ROI. This does not pass the smell test.

ANOTHER TAKE ON THE MASON RIDGE SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT ENROLLMENT LEVELS:

Since school started in late August of this year we have had two stories about the number of "special assignment" students from outside of the boundaries for Mason Ridge Elementary School. An extra kindergarten class and teacher were added at the start of the school year and a week after the start of school another second grade class and teacher were added because of the heavy enrollment of special assignment kids.

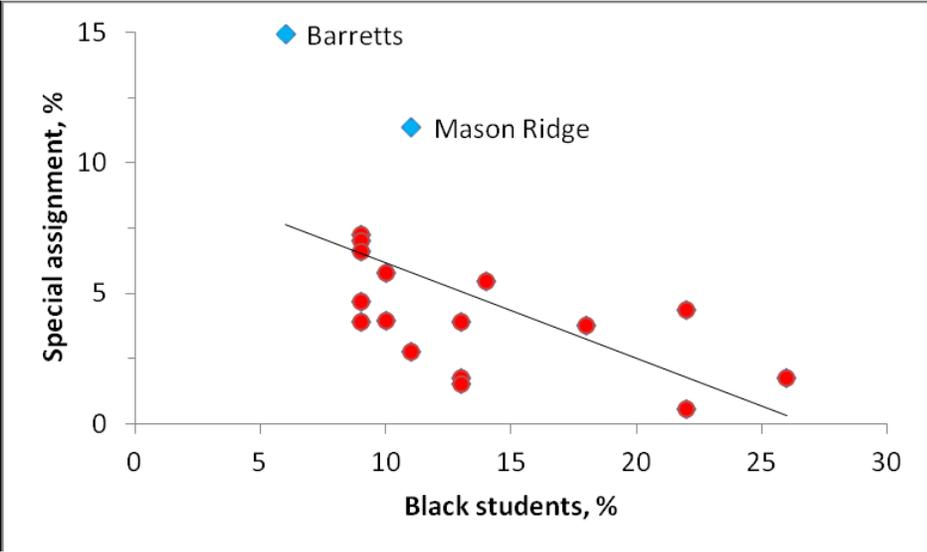
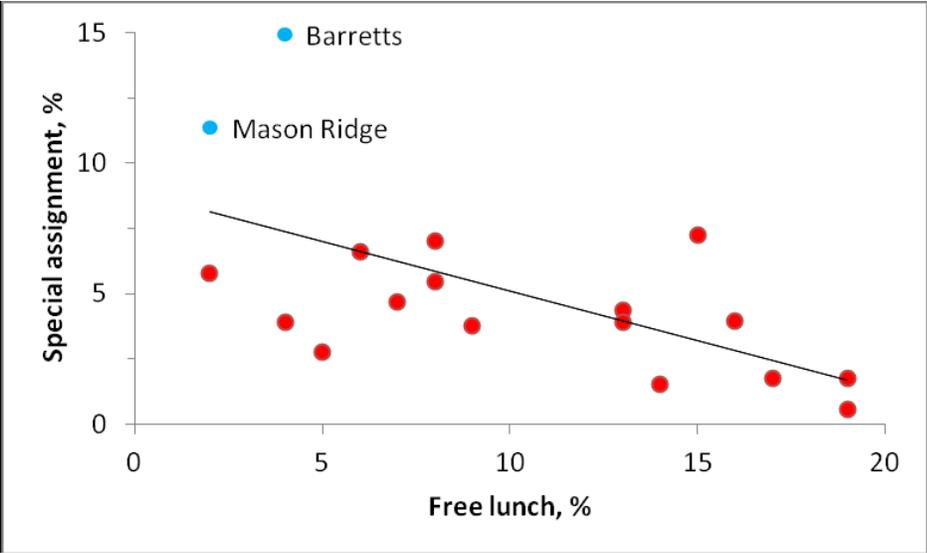
After our last article a reader who is also a parent of kids going to Mason Ridge did some research and sent us some charts he had made. Understanding the material might help if you are into statistics!

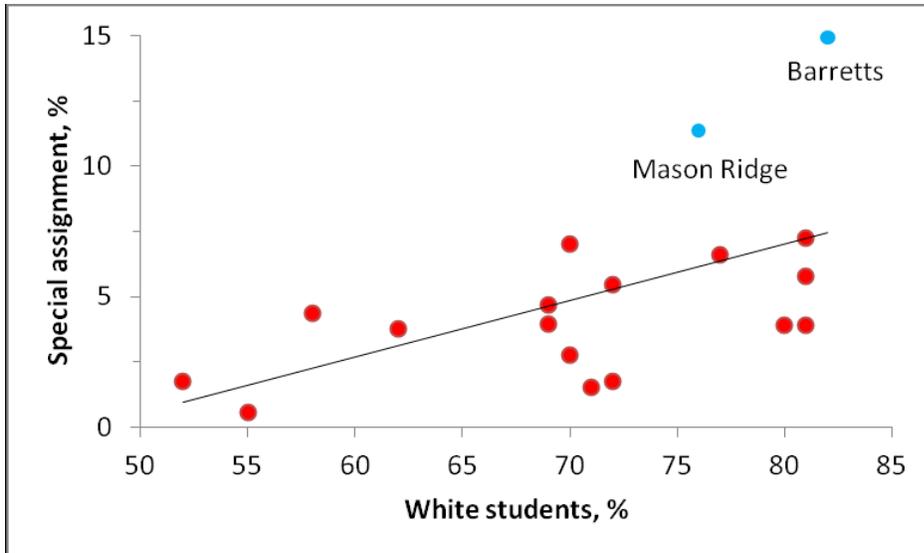
Special Assignments students live within the Parkway School District's boundary but receive permission to attend a school other than the one within their local school's boundary. The percentages of Special Assignment students at the 18 Parkway elementary schools are shown below. As a percentage of enrollments, Barretts and Mason Ridge have significantly more Special Assignment students than all the other schools. The difference between Barretts and Mason Ridge is not statistically significant. 5% of all Parkway elementary students are Special Assignments.



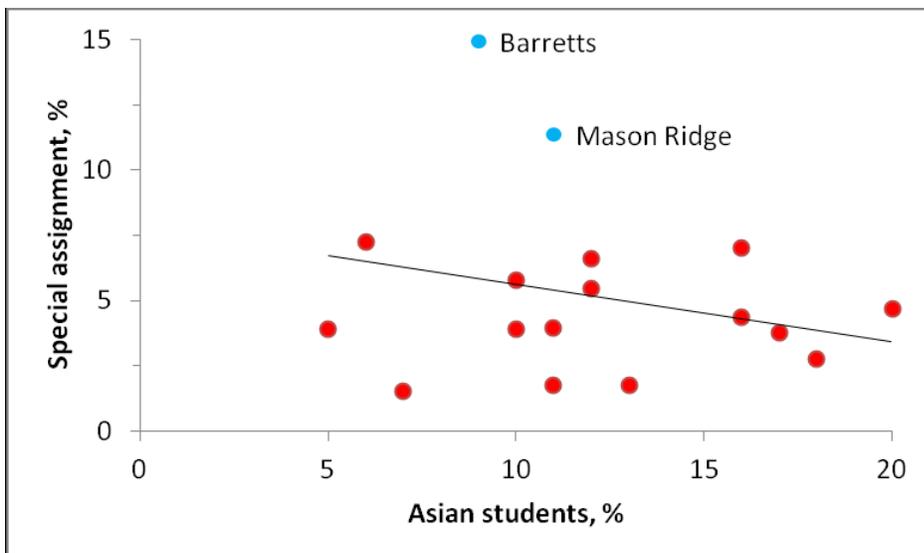
ProPublica has demographic data about the elementary schools: <http://projects.propublica.org/schools/districts/2923580>. The data include the percentage of students who receive a free or reduced price lunch, are in a gifted program, or are of a certain race or ethnicity. One parent stated at a PTO meeting that she sought Special Assignment for demographic reasons. The percentage of Special Assignments at each school is thus compared to the ProPublica data.

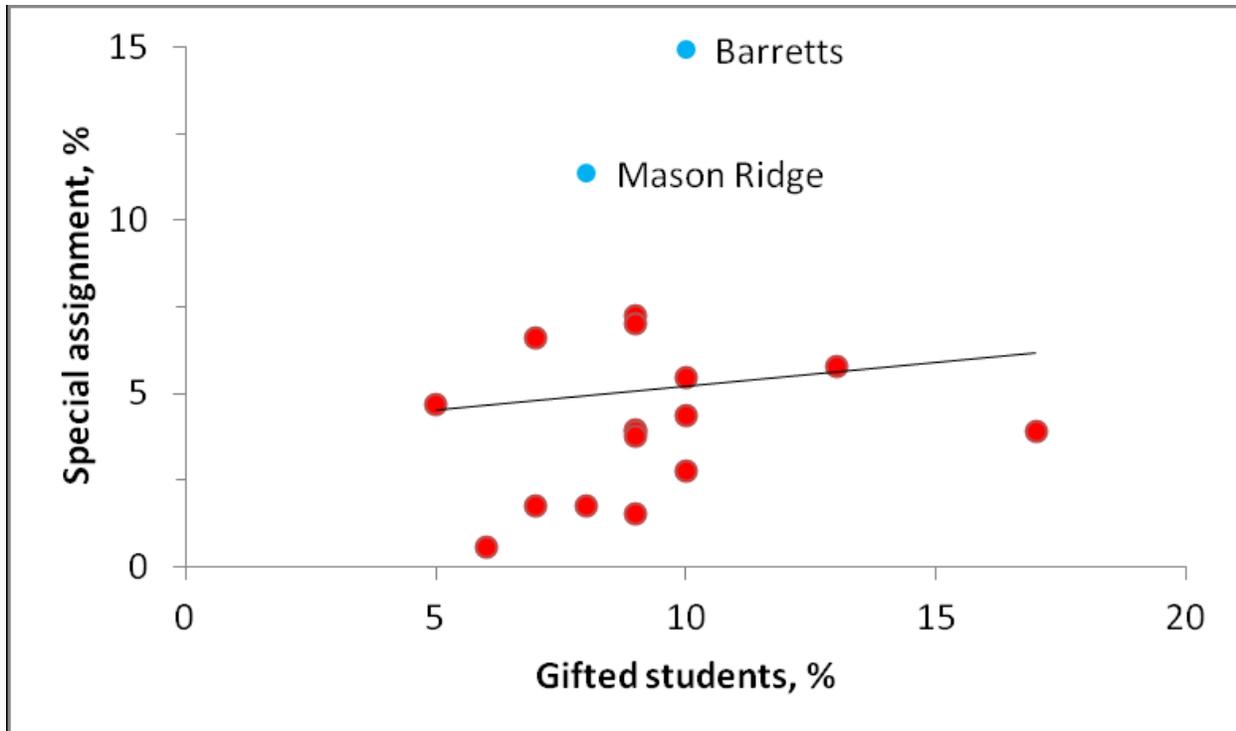
The percentage of Special Assignment students at a school correlates significantly with the percentage who are in the lunch program, are black, or are white, as shown below. The correlation is strongest with the lunch program but only slightly more than for either race.





On average, there are more Special Assignment students at schools where there are fewer students in the lunch program, fewer black students, or more white students. There is no correlation with the percentage of Asian or gifted students.





The statistical analyses indicate that Barretts and Mason Ridge Elementary Schools have a disproportionately greater number of Special Assignment students. There are correlations with economic status and black or white race, but the correlations should not be taken to imply causality. The observations do raise some basic questions:

- Why do parents request Special Assignment to some schools more than others?
- How does the school administration make its decision to grant or deny them?
- How does a high number of Special Assignments at a school affect the local students and faculty?
- Does a low number of Special Assignment students reflect or cause an uneven distribution of resources at other elementary schools?

The system should be transparent. The system should treat every student equally and fairly. Consideration should be given not only to the Special Assignment student but also the local students at the sending and receiving schools.

POLICE TURN TO MASON RIDGE IN SEARCH OF POOR KIDS: It's a wonderful program and a good lifelong PR builder but it can be a little tough for the Town and County Police to find the right people.

I'm talking about the Heroes and Helpers Fund that issues grants to local police department to take children from needy families Christmas shopping with a cop.

Of course the first dilemma for Town and Country Police Chief Pat Kranz is to find a needy family here in the middle of wealthy Snoburbia. Even if a family might have fallen on hard times in the land of the wealthy, they would never admit it.

At the October 27 board of aldermen agenda meeting Chief Kranz announced they think they have found two transfer students who would qualify at Mason Ridge Elementary School.

Of course that might be tough on the kids...I can hear it now:

Rich Kid: What did you last weekend?

Transfer Student: I came out here and went Christmas shopping with the cops.

Rich Kid: Why did you do that?

Transfer Student: Because we are poor and don't have money for Christmas presents.

Rich Kid: Way cool...I think you are the only poor kid I know!

The police hope to also use the grant money to provide Christmas gifts for inner-city students at the Boys Hope Home on Conway Road at Highway 141 where inner city kids with unstable homes live while going to West County private schools or local public schools.



It is interesting that a police department has to go out and search for needy kids who are not residents' children, but some officers working for other police departments all they ever see are "needy kids." Perhaps it would be better if the T&C PD did not participate in the program and have the grant funds go to an area where poor kids and cops need to do some bonding.

Finally all the publicity shots of the cops shopping with needy kids have always bothered me. Just do it...have a good time...build some good will...but don't put a needy kid's mug on TV or a website. They have had it tough enough.

TOWN AND COUNTRY DEFICIT INCREASES: After the October 27, 2014 Town and Country Board of Aldermen meeting the city 2014 deficit increased by another \$13,000 to **-\$3,275,332**. An additional \$10,000 was allocated for professional services dealing with the purchase of the 8.8 acres of the Wirth property on Clayton Road near Mason Road. \$3,000 was added to the prosecuting attorney's budget for fees associated with additional cases.

Here are all the reasons for the increase in the 2014 budget deficit:

2014 Town and Country Deficit

-\$857,320 Approved Budget overall deficit January 1, 2014
\$125,000 added for snow removal February 2014
-\$982,320
\$ 1,000 Board of Elections increase for city election April 2014
-\$983,320
\$ 25 added to irrigation for garden April 1014
-\$983,345
+ \$ 3,687 for gasoline and food to Major Case Squad detectives May 2014
-\$987,032
+ \$ 7,300 for pump for fountain in Longview Park May 2014
-\$994,332
+ \$ 18,000 for increase in property insurance premium June 2014
\$1,012,332
+ \$2,250,000 to purchase the Wirth Property September 8, 2014
-\$3,262,332
+ 10,000 Professional Services relating to the purchase of the Wirth Property 10/27/14
-\$3,272,332
+ 3,000 Increase in city prosecutor services
-\$3,275,332

\$5,000 DOWN AND FINAL FIRE DISTRICT MEETING HELD BEFORE THREE CITIZENS: At the start of the final "Blueprint for 2025" citizen meeting at the Monarch EMS and Fire Protection headquarters at six o'clock on October 30 if you eliminated elected officials and Town and Country City Administrator Gary Hoelzer I was the only member of the public in attendance. That number swelled to three before the meeting was over.



It was another shell game of trying to find the truth after the presentation by the local Fire Chief looking for more money.

THE BS DETECTOR WAS SOUNDING LOUDLY: I have a very sensitive Bull Shit Detector and it was ringing loudly on my last two visits to the WCEMS&FPD building.

Fire Chief Ernie Rhodes and his staff were shoveling the manure fast and furious. Rhodes claimed that the citizens have overwhelmingly told them they expected the fire district with just two engine houses and a third thanks to contract with the City of Town and Country to be a state wide leader in Fire and EMS. The last two meetings I have been to the citizen turnout from an area of 40,000 residents was four one night and three the next. Even if the first two nights had 10 or 12 people it certainly is not a compelling citizen response with a clear mandate.



Chief Ernie Rhodes

Geez this guy needs to get a grip. He has two engine houses and a lot of very well paid firefighters with very little to do. It would be a complete money drain to make this place the industry leader for all to copy. I used to write articles about industry leaders in fire codes and fire prevention for a national fire service magazine. Trust me the old Manchester Fire Prevention District now under the control of fire union Local 2665 is not one of them.

Rhodes showed three options on a screen. There were:

1) Maintain Services. You might think this would be a viable option, but Rhodes blew that one off, saying "Nobody wants that!" There was no further discussion.

2) Cut Back Services. Rhodes said without tax increases in 2017 the fire district will have to cut \$600,000 in the budget resulting in a potential of equipment and facilities being taken out of service. Rhodes said due to a lack of manpower there would be days where fire trucks would be out of service due to a lack of manpower and a firehouse could be shutdown.

It was odd that Rhodes did not want to talk about simply maintaining services but was happy to spend time painting the gloom and doom if there were not tax increases. It was clear that "Option One...Maintaining Services" did not get equal time.

3) Enhance services. Rhodes wanted to hire at least 12 more firefighters to guarantee there would always be four on a truck to go with the two on an ambulance. However this act of featherbedding would also have five on the fire truck and three on the ambulance on some days with a fight to find some place sit.

Community Paramedics: Once again Rhodes brought up the subject of hiring "community paramedics" to go to residents homes after they are discharged from hospitals to check on them for 30 days.

In trying to sell this, he immediately gave me another reason not to want it. "It requires four years of of training for a nurse, but just two years of training for a paramedic," Rhoades said.

Well I'll be damned if that is not a strong reason to go with the nurse. But Rhodes said how a fire district "community paramedic" could check on you just like a nurse, but he did not add, with two years less training to notice if something is going wrong.

The mayor of the City of Winchester, which is in the Fire District, asked if health insurance would pay for the "community paramedics." Rhodes said the insurance does not currently cover "community paramedics." He then explained how a tax increase would be needed to have the "community paramedics." So the healthy taxpayers would have to underwrite care for people just out of the hospital. That does not sound right.

There was also "Option 1" on the community paramedic" issue which was "Do Nothing." However Rhodes did not explore the option.

DISASTER COORDINATOR: For the second meeting in a row Chief Rhodes bashed the St. Louis County Disaster people, saying they would be overwhelmed in a disaster and if funded the Fire District could save the day. Rhodes had apparently read my last newsletter where I went to the nursing homes in Town and Country and learned they all had emergency generators stated that he went to Maria de Villa Retirement Center and spoke to the owner and learned they did not have enough emergency generators.

I then spoke up and said I spoke to people at all three nursing homes in T&C and all told me they had emergency power systems. Rhodes argued that they don't and I replied that I went to them and found they did.

Then Rhodes changed tactic and said the Fire District could provide power at city halls so government could continue. The Town and Country City Hall and the Manchester Police Stations & Board of Aldermen Center both have emergency power systems. Town and Country's system is tested weekly and provides 100-percent power to the City Hall, Police Station and Dispatch Center.

It is clear that the Fire Chief is desperately pulling justifications out of his ass, which unfortunately are not backed up by facts.

If the next big hurricane makes a direct hit on St. Louis the Fire District could be ready: I also made fun of Rhodes' number one priority at the last meeting, where he put charging residents' cell phones at the top of his list before providing food and water in the event of a disaster.

This caused Rhodes to lecture me telling a story how when Hurricane Sandy the emergency generators kept some cell towers going for three days. After receiving the scorn of Chief Rhodes, I replied that I had written articles for AOL on possible future disasters hitting Missouri and oddly enough none of the experts had included hurricanes in their crystal balls. It was F-4 and F-5 tornados and major earthquakes, but no mention of hurricanes. Major tornados and earthquakes mean no cell service because the towers will be on the ground, plus no electricity.

Here is a link to the article I wrote concerning what would happen when the next New Madrid earthquake occurs...it was one of the most read articles in 2012 on Patch.com

<http://patch.com/missouri/chesterfield/the-200-year-anniversary-of-the-new-madrid-earthquake982e7149ad>

I'll say this...Ernie is good at trying to spin things to fit his positions even if they are not based in fact.

PAY: If you recall at the prior meeting Deputy Chief Dave Frazier claimed the average pay for WCEMS&FPD firefighter/paramedics was in the middle of area departments and districts and making it difficult to recruit.

I challenged that statement and Frazier suggested that I check it out and I did. I found that a 5-year FF/paramedic for WCEMS&FPD made \$81,604 before overtime. That is fifth highest paid in St. Louis County. This was in my latest newsletter that had been posted on the internet before this meeting.

So instead of using the standard that had been set two weeks earlier of a five-year FF/PM's pay compared to other fire departments and districts, Chief Rhodes puts up on the screen the pay of a WCEMS&FPD Captain versus the salaries of people in other professions. **SUDDENLY RHODES HAS CHANGED THE STANDARD.** This is called in some circles "cheating."

Rhodes had to cheat because I showed how the districts' employees were making in the top 22-percent of all departments in St. Louis County.

I immediately complained that they had changed the not just the rules, but the entire game. That I went out and got the salaries of firefighter/paramedics and proved the ones at WCEMS&FPD were not underpaid as had been claimed.

Rhodes, condescendingly said he was now talking about fire captains.

I asked Rhodes if he was hiring fire captain recruits. He admitted that he was not.

RHODES COMPLAINS ABOUT NO RAISES AND TOWN AND COUNTRY CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMES TO HIS AID: Chief Rhodes complained that his employees have not had a raise in four years. He continued that he is asking for a 10-percent raise over the next five years at two-percent a year.

I brought up the fact that his employees were so grossly overpaid for so long that four years without a cost of living raise is not unreasonable. I reminded him that \$81,604 as an average pay for a five-year employee for a profession that does not require a college degree is remarkable.

Town and Country City Administrator Gary Hoelzer then asked if the CFI wasn't at 2-percent. Rhodes stated that it was. Hoelzer then stated it seemed to be a reasonable request.

A 5-year Town and Country Police Officer makes \$63,310 and is in the top 5-percent of pay for police in St. Louis County. I wonder if Gary thinks they should all get \$18,000 a year raises to bring them up to the same level as WCEMSFPD 5-year employees.

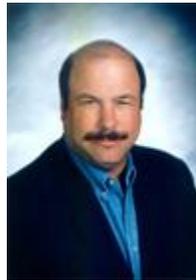
HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENING: Winchester Mayor Gail Winham asked toward the end of the meeting if some fire districts were still getting paid for meeting twice in the same day. Robert Levine, a WCEMSFPD replied, "No they stopped doing that after the Post-Dispatch article (a 2004 expose of fire districts in the Post-Dispatch)."

This caused me to immediately ask, "Bob weren't you guys (West County EMS & FPD) one of the boards that were paying yourself twice or more for attending short meetings at the same time?"

Levine replied that some districts were holding more than two meetings. They were only holding and paying themselves two meetings on the same evening.

"We stopped doing that after those articles," Levine said.

"Oh, so the ethics of this fire district is driven by investigative articles by the Post-Dispatch and not the ethics of elected officials," I said in response.



Winchester Mayor Gail Winham (center) Bob Levine in a very old photo.

THE END OF THE LINE AND \$5,000...The meeting lasted 40 minutes Bart Wechsler from the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri, who was supposed to moderate the meeting, but in reality simply introduced Chief Ernie Rhodes, and later announced this had been the last meeting as there didn't seem to be any reason for more meetings as the fire district had their direction. This whole exercise was an amazing joke...but how much of a waste of taxpayer dollars was it?

The answer is \$5,000 was Wechsler's fee to moderate five one-hour to 90-minute meetings. He was pulling down \$1,000 a meeting. If the fire district wanted to reduce deficit spending, not holding these charades they called "citizen input meetings" and saving \$5K would have been a start.



Bart Wechsler who received \$1,000 a meeting while acting as chief shill for the shell game presented by the WCEMS&FPD.

A MATTER OF THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS:



What does drinking wine at a supermarket have to do with the health, safety and welfare of the public? It has nothing to do with it...unless you are an alderperson or mayor in Town and Country.

At the October 27 Town and Country Board of Aldermen meeting a bill was added at the last minute to consider changing the city liquor laws increasing the number of a certain class of liquor-by-the-drink licenses.

Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton explained to the board that normally special exceptions for the rules say that bills can only be added after the agenda is set on the Friday before the Monday meeting is if the bill is a matter dealing with the health, safety and welfare of the public.

This bill apparently is important because the liquor law has to be changed so Schnucks' supermarkets can obtain a liquor-by-the-drink license in time for the Christmas shopping season. (Whole Foods has a similar license, but five years after the opening of Whole Foods, Schnucks suddenly had to have liquor-by-the-drink...NOW!)

The Board of Aldermen voted 7-1 to suspend the rules with only Alderwoman Linda Rallo feeling that perhaps this was not a matter of public safety or health.

ENEMY OF THE BIRDS: It is not just squirrels stealing from the blue glass feeder filled with wild bird seed. A slightly larger animal was on the edge of our patio staring at the feeder until I got my camera, when it gave me a "who me?" look.



If you look to the right of the photo you can see a truck spring with metal petals attached to it. That is a sculpture by the late Brother Mel from Vianney High school. The sculpture is titled, "Spring Flowers."

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 97



November 6, 2014

CHESTERFIELD CANCELS SCHEDULED FINANCE MEETING AGAIN: If you remember in September The City of Chesterfield pulled a fast one and cancelled the Finance and Administration Committee Meeting that was listed on the city's website for

September 29, 2014 for two weeks. They cancelled it on the website on September 22, the same day they actually held it. Not exactly an open and transparent move!

Councilman Derek Grier claimed that while the change was not posted on the website 48 hours in advance, it was posted on the bulletin board at City Hall. Grier expects citizens to drive to City Hall and check the bulletin board and not the city's website.

Next I tried to get copies of the posted material on the bulletin board. There was no required posting of the cancellation. The only posting that was date-stamped was for the September 29 meeting. City staff claims that was accidently posted and was taken down minutes later. However while staff date-stamped the one for September 29, they did not date stamp the one for September 22 they provided to me. Here is the Posting for September 29 meeting that had a date of August 25 and was date stamped going up on the bulletin board on August 22:

08-22-14 10:11:58
MEMORANDUM

POSTED


TO: Finance and Administration Committee of City Council

FROM: Michael G. Herring, ICMA-CM – City Administrator *MGH*

DATE: August 25, 2014

SUBJECT: Finance and Administration Committee Meeting

~~The next meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 29th in Conference Room 202.~~

The following list of items has been scheduled for discussion at this meeting:

1. Approval of Minutes from June 30, 2014 – Chairperson Derek Grier, Councilmember – Ward 2 (enclosure)
2. Discussion re: St. Louis Co. Municipal League – Chairperson Derek Grier
 - a. Presentation by League President and Executive Director – Mayor Scott Douglass, Clarkson Valley/Tim Fischesser, Executive Director
 - b. Discussion regarding League's position re: Sales Tax Distribution (enclosure) – Mayor Douglass/Mr. Fischesser
 - c. Continued membership/payment of dues – Councilmember Barry Flachsbart, Ward 1 (enclosure)
3. Proposed RESOLUTION Opposing MERGER (St. Louis City/County) and/or RE-ENTRY – Councilmember Barry Flachsbart, Ward 1 (enclosure)
4. Proposed City Council Meeting Schedule – 2015 – City Administrator Michael Herring
5. Employee Compensation Analysis – Mr. Herring (enclosure)
6. Adjournment – Chairperson Derek Grier, Councilmember – Ward II

If you have any questions or would like to add any items to this agenda, please let me know as soon as possible.

Notice is hereby given that the Finance and Administration Committee may hold a closed meeting for the purpose of dealing with matters relating to one or more of the following: legal actions, causes of action, litigation or privileged communications between the City's representatives and its attorney (RSMo 610.021(1) 1994); lease purchase or sale of real estate (RSMo 610.021(2) 1994); hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting employees within employee groups (RSMo 610.021(3) 1994); bidding specifications (RSMo 610.021(11) 1994); and/or proprietary technological materials (RSMo 610.021(15) 1994).

PERSONS REQUIRING AN ACCOMMODATION TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING SHOULD CONTACT CITY CLERK VICKIE HASS AT (636) 537-6716, AT LEAST TWO (2) WORKDAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

cc: Mayor Bob Nation and City Council
Michael Herring, City Administrator
Rob Heggie, City Attorney

Customer Service Center
Management Team

Here is the header of the one that they claimed was posted in place of the "accidentally posted" one immediately after the date-stamped one was posted. This one has no date- stamp. No one argues that the Sept. 29 meeting was never changed on the website until the day of the September 22 meeting.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Administration Committee of City Council

FROM: Michael G. Herring, ICMA-CM – City Administrator

DATE: September 18, 2014

SUBJECT: Finance and Administration Committee Meeting



The next meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 22nd in Conference Room 202.

NOW THE OCTOBER MEETING WAS CANCELLED: The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Commission was to be Monday October 27th. I had checked and double checked the website. However on October 27th I checked again and found it had been cancelled. I made several inquires and learned that it was cancelled on Wednesday October 22 in the morning.

I am somewhat amazed that no one emailed me after the big stink I made over the first cancellation. When the October 11 "Special Saturday morning City Council meeting was cancelled the day before, I received four emails about it, three from elected officials and one from a City Hall staffer. I received nothing about the F&A meeting.

There is a special meeting of the F&A Committee for November 17 at 5:15. Of course this along with a special meeting of the City Council about Arts, for this Saturday at 9 am are not on the calendar on the city's website as of Tuesday November 4.

FOLLOW THE MONEY:



Diehl 8 days before election 2014

At the beginning of this reporting period on October 1, 2014 State Rep. John Diehl had \$437,110 on hand. In 26 days he spent \$319,689 and still had \$230,755 on hand. (He only spent about \$112,000 on his own campaign, the rest went to other Republicans.) He won with a surprising low 66-percent of the vote. Here are his \$1,000 or more contributions as if he really needed any:

\$1,000 Verizon Tulsa, OK
 \$1,000 WESTERN ANESTHESIOLOGY ASSOCIATES Ballwin, MO
 \$1,000 UPS Earth City, MO
 \$1,000 DONALD L SCLAPPRIZZI PC St. Louis, MO
 \$1,000 Raven Development Richmond Heights, MO
 \$1,000 St. Louis Assoc. of Realtors Creve Coeur, MO
 \$1,000 Douglas Woodruff Town and Country, MO
 \$1,000 Stephen Smith Ladue, MO
 \$1,000 Urbanstreet Group Chicago, IL
 \$1,000 Missouri Org. of Defense Attorneys Jefferson City, MO
 \$1,000 Missouri Forest Products PAC Jefferson City, MO
 \$1,000 Eli Lilly Indianapolis, IN
 \$1,000 Central Stone Moline, IL
 \$1,500 Signature Medical Group South St. Louis County, MO
 \$1,500 Title-Max Savannah, GA
 \$2,000 Missouri CPAs Town and Country, MO
 \$2,000 Thompson Coburn St. Louis, MO
 \$2,500 DAVIS KETCHMARK MCCREIGHT & IVERS Leawood, KS
 \$2,500 LAWRENCE GROUP PROPERTIES St. Louis, MO
 \$2,500 MCGOWAN BROTHERS DEVELOPMENT CORP. St. Louis, MO
 \$2,500 Realtors PAC Columbia, MO
 \$2,500 Missouri State Farm Agents Jefferson City, MO
 \$2,500 HCA MO Good Government Fund Jefferson City, MO
 \$2,500 Builders Association Kansas City Chapter
 \$3,000 Gary Rust Cape Girardeau, MO
 \$3,213 The Gate Way Group Richmond Heights, MO
 \$5,000 Rudolph Farber Neosho, MO
 \$5,000 SCHLICHTER BOGARD & DENTON LLP St. Louis, MO
 \$5,000 Ray Pfautch St. Louis, MO
 \$10,500 Grow Missouri Jefferson City, MO
 \$25,000 Lewis and Clark Ozark Mountain Forum Springfield, MO

Diehl paid off \$31,293 in credit card bills in the 26 day period.

Apparently Diehl did not think he had enough money coming in as he loaned his campaigned \$10,000 on October 2.

But during the same period he gave \$107,000 to 106 Republican candidates running for state rep, state senator or local offices. He also gave \$5,000 to the Republican Party

and \$105,001 to the House Republican Committee to be used for other Republican candidates. If you happened to be one of the few people who gave Diehl a small donation there is a chance your money actually went to a candidate somewhere else in Missouri who you never have heard of.

With a grass roots campaign by right wing and Tea Party groups to have state reps vote for another Speaker of the House to replace Diehl due to his ties to special interests, Diehl is wise to make sure Republican state reps will not change their minds on his being the next Speaker of the House.



AL GERBER MONEY TRAIL IS SHORT AND SWEET: Diehl's invisible opponent, is Al Gerber, who a Town and Country resident and reader accurately described as a "Bleeding heart, left wing, Obama guy." Al had \$1,040 on October 1 and raised \$355 in the first 26 days of October and spent \$519 leaving his campaign war chest with \$875, eight days before the election. Eight days before the election Diehl had 264 times more money in the bank than Gerber.

Here is Gerber's only contributor giving him more than \$100 in October:

\$150 James Cobb San Antonio, Texas

THE WESTERN CHESTERFIELD RACE FOR STATE REP:



Don Gosen: Don raised another \$12,550 in October. He only had four contributions of \$1,000 or more out of 21 total contributions for the period. and only won with 75% of the vote.

\$1,000 NAVCP (Healthcare org) Louisville, KY

\$1,000 MHCP Jefferson City, MO

\$1,500 Missourians for Excellence in Government St. Louis, MO
\$2,500 Blue Cross Blue Shield Kansas City, MO

Candace Farmer: Meanwhile Don's silent Democratic challenger Candace Farmer doubled her money in October. She had raised only \$576 through October 1. In 26 days in October she raised \$725 from three contributors putting her over the \$1,000 mark. She also spent \$121 for yard signs.



\$500 John Nicol Lake Tapawingo, MO
\$200 Rockwood Labor Club Eureka, MO

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY AND MANCHESTER NON-RACE FOR STATE REP:

SUE ALLEN: Sue (Republican) is a state rep who serves a part of Town and Country and Manchester. She is once again running unopposed. Here are here larger contributors for 2014.

\$500 Mary Jane Jokerst Town and Country
\$500 Anheuser Busch Companies St. Louis, MO
\$500 Zeneca Services Wilmington, DE
\$500 Missouri Dental PAC Jefferson City, MO
\$500 WE Shoehigh, LLC Jefferson City, MO
\$500 Missouri Medical PAC Jefferson City, MO
\$500 Lon Lowery Consulting LLC Florissant, MO
\$500 Phyllis Bascomb Isle of Palms, SC
\$600 The Empire District Electric PAC Joplin, MO
\$750 Friends of Tilley Perryville, MO
\$1,000 MO Association of Nurse Anesthetists Jefferson City, MO
\$1,000 Burns & McDonnell Kansas City, MO
\$1,000 Centene Management Company LLC Clayton, MO
\$1,000 Steven Halper Bonita Springs, FL
\$1,000 Friends of Todd Richardson Poplar Bluff, MO
\$1,000 David Steward Maryland Heights, MO
\$1,000 Health System Inc. Sikeston, MO

\$1,000 Sanofi-aventis US Inc Bridgewater, NJ
\$1,500 MARF (Healthcare) Jefferson City, MO
\$1,500 Cerner Corp. Kansas City, MO
\$1,500 Phoenix Home Care, Missouri Springfield, MO
\$1,500 Supporters of Health Research & Treatments Clayton, MO
\$2,000 Missouri Health Care Assoc. Jefferson City, MO
\$2,000 MEDNAX PAC Sunrise, FL
\$2,500 Physical Therapists Jefferson City, MO and Alexandria, VA
\$3,500 Grow Missouri Jefferson City, MO

On August 9, 2014 Allen gave \$26,000 to the House Republican Campaign Committee. plus another \$1,000 to the Missouri Republican Party. Much like John Diehl, if you gave Sue Allen a contribution there is a good chance it ended up with another candidate who you possibly would not want to get your money.

Allen who is running unopposed again, really doesn't need money, but does she need catered receptions. She spent \$1,202 for a catered reception at the Hearth Room Cafe in the Lamp and Lantern Shopping Center.

She also spent \$602 on September 23 on the Diehl campaign! Let's see you give money to Sue Allen, who is big on Healthcare Legislation and then she gives some of it to John Diehl, who accepts tens of thousands of dollars from the tobacco industry and has helped keep Missouri cigarette taxes the lowest in the country.

ODDEST STORE HOURS SIGN WE HAVE EVER SEEN: This is on the front window of Rick Jordan's Chocolate Shop on Clayton Road in the Baxter Bend Shopping Center:

Most Days - Around 11 am

Occasionally - As early as 8 am or some afternoons we won't be here. We probably are at an event or making a run.

Some Days - At late as 11:30 am or even 12 pm.

Saturdays - Definitely not open until 12 pm

(For times closed see the notice below:)



REAL ESTATE: Several weeks ago in the Ladue News the home at 4 Brentmoor Park in Clayton, Missouri was advertised for sale for \$3,475,000. Since only homes advertised at \$3m or more grab our attention, we definitely set this one aside to look at when we had a chance.

Property records show the house was purchased by the LCA, LLC on March 29, 2012. The filing of the LCA, LLC with the Secretary of State only shows the name of attorney William Bolster, who lives in Creve Coeur off of Spodee Road and has an office inTown and Country. Bolster is the registered agent of the LLC and not the principal.

The prior owners of the house were James and Catherine Bergis.

The house built in 1912 on 1.5 acres is 10,836 square feet with six bedrooms. It is three stories with only four full baths and 3-half baths, but nine fireplaces. It also has a 4-car garage.



Checking auto ownership records we found that in 2013 Russell E. Browning, a top dog at Emerson Electric and Barbara Browning both had autos listed to 4 Brentmoor Park.

In 2013 Barbara Browning had her Mercedes Benz and Volvo registered at 4 Brentmoor Park. Russell Browning had a leased Toyota Sienna registered at the address. But in 2014 it was just Barbara Browning. She added a new Jeep to the fleet in 2014.



Barbara O Browing (center) and Rusell Browning (right)

Court files show Russell filed for divorce on August 29, 2014. In the divorce papers Barbara's address is 12 Apple Tree Lane in Ladue. 12 Apple Tree Lane was bought by Russell and Barbara Browning on July 16, 2013 for \$2,700,000. It is on 1.8 acres and



has 8,971 square feet with six baths.

When someone is selling a \$3,475,000 house two years after they bought, it is always fun to see if public records can tell you why.

FOOD: The Country Club...You Don't Have to Belong to the Club...But You Can Do Better: The Country Club Bar and Grill is located on the Clayton Road side of the Lamp and Lantern Shopping Center at Clayton Road and Woods Mill Road. The place reeks charm as a neighborhood joint where everyone at the right time of day might know your name.



The inside of the place features dark wood tables, chairs and bar stools. It really looks inviting. I have to admit the last time I had eaten there was in 2010 where I was so involved with a conversation I didn't really pay much attention to the food.

Former Chesterfield Patch.Com editor Jean Whitney and I stopped in for lunch on a Friday in October. We started with the soup of the day, which was potato (\$4.99). It was hearty with lots of potatoes. It also had so much salt a football player on a hot Friday night could replace lost sodium by drinking this soup instead of sport drinks. If you were going to cheat on a low sodium diet...you would have overdosed after the first two spoonfuls. I'm saying this as a person who is routinely reaching for a salt shaker.



For the entrees Jean ordered the Turkey Club on a croissant roll (\$10.99). It came with a side of fries. I got the steak sandwich along with a side of onion rings. (\$13.48)

Jean rated her turkey club as "okay" with cold oven roasted turkey you might buy at the Schnucks' Deli. She was surprised it came with American cheese, especially since it was served on a croissant. The real downer was the fact that the French fries were stone cold. You could get a better sandwich for a lot less at Jimmy Johns or Subway.



My steak sandwich was perhaps the highlight of the day. It was cooked to order, the grilled onions added some favor. Unfortunately the undercooked onion rings took away from the experience. You could not bite through the undercooked onions causing the whole onion to pull out of the ring...leaving an onion hanging out of your mouth and an empty beer battered ring in your hand.

False Advertising: The Country Club also offered a "Philly Cheesesteak" on the menu that was merely roast beef with slices of cheese and some onions on it. In other words it was no where close to being a "Philly Cheesesteak" that consists of flank steak that is chopped up while on the grill with onions, placed on a toasted hoagie roll then with hot cheese similar to Cheese Whiz poured on top of it.

"The Country Club" might sound cool when you tell a friend where to meet you. It might be a great place to meet for a drink. For food you can do better and probably cheaper.

MUSIC: THE FINAL NIGHT OF THE WEEK OF DEAN WAS AN INTIMATE AFFAIR IN A CAVERN: The week of shows featuring Dean Christopher started on Saturday October 23, when a sold out crowd of 265 people paying \$25 each for dinner and a 90-minute show followed by Dean Christopher signing in front of a six band. That was followed with a good Monday crowd at the One-19 North in Kirkwood from 7:30 to 9:45 as Dean sang with a jazz trio featuring Jim Manley. Then there was last Friday, Halloween at the 93 year-old Ozark Theatre in Webster Groves.



Dean kicked off the show with 13 people in the seats. The crowd grew to 15, but when the last song was played there were 10 paying customers in the house.

The setting is neat in a bohemian kind of way. The old movie theatre had several tiered rows of a long straight tables with chairs. Then there are three different levels with tables for four and six.

The Ozark really appears to be a work in progress...there is broken plaster along the ceiling, exposed sound cable and wiring. If you look up you might think you are in a warehouse or a cavern. However if the place is full you could have a good time. The problem on Halloween was nothing was full other than the bandstand.



Christopher as usual put on a quality show with both comedy and excellent music from the the American songbook. It is not that Dean can't draw a crowd. He has already sold out the St. Peter's Arts Centre in December for his Christmas Show.

The people behind bringing music to the Ozark are the same folks who ran Robbie's House of Jazz on Allen Avenue behind Straubs in Webster Groves. There is a cover charge of \$15 at the door or \$10 in advance. They only sell beer, wine and soft drinks.

Robbies has had a history of not advertising and despite the level of the talent appearing not drawing much of a crowd. I once saw a nationally known female jazz singer there with only about 20 other people. Apparently the tradition has followed them down Lockwood to the Ozark.

I know there are a number of Anita Rosamond fans who read this newsletter. She is scheduled to appear at the Ozark on Thursday November 20 from 7:30-to-10:30 with her band. She is really going to need some help from her fans who are used to seeing her for free at various rooms, restaruants and bars around town to pay for tickets. It could be a great night if just 40 people show up or a very odd night if only 12 are there at 7:30pm.



Anita on stage with a band. She, like Dean Christopher and Jim Manley used to fill the room at the old Finale nightclub in Clayton. Hopefully some of those people can find their way to Webster Groves.

LAUGH OUT LOUD OBIT: The first obit on Tom Magliozzi that appeared in the Washington Post had a quote from his brother and co-host for 35 years of "Car Talk" the hour long NPR show on Saturdays. The two stopped making new programs two years ago and repeats continue to air, drawing millions of listeners. It turns out the reason why new shows stopped was explained in the death notice that Tom Magliozzi died from complications from Alzheimers Disease.

On every show the two brothers (both grads from MIT, with younger brother Ray actually owning a successful repair garage in Cambridge, MA) a puzzler would be given 40 minutes into the show. 20 minutes into the show the answer to the prior week's puzzler would be divulged. A running gag every week happened when Ray would ask Tom if her remembered the puzzler from the prior week. Every week he would confess that he didn't. Once his older brother's death and the cause was announced Ray made the following statement at appeared in a Washington Post obit by Abby Ohlheiser that had me laughing out loud.

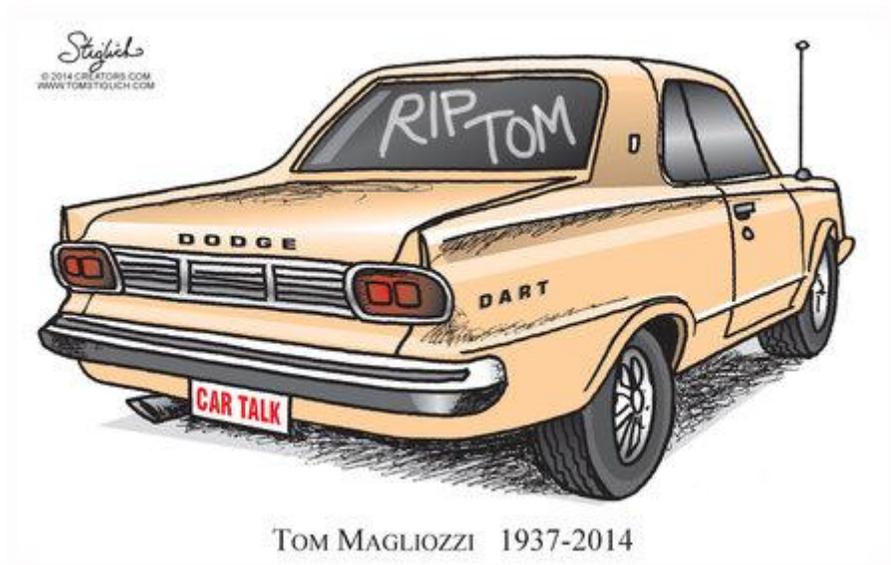
“Turns out he wasn’t kidding. He really couldn’t remember last week’s puzzler.”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/style-blog/wp/2014/11/03/car-talk-co-host-tom-maglioizzi-has-died/>



Tom (left) and Ray (right) Click and Clack the tappet brothers.

CARTOONS:



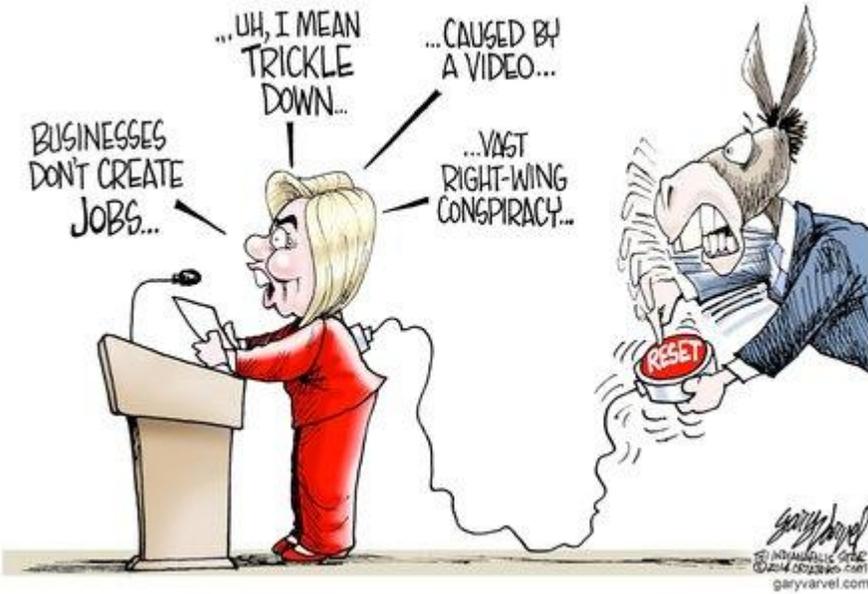


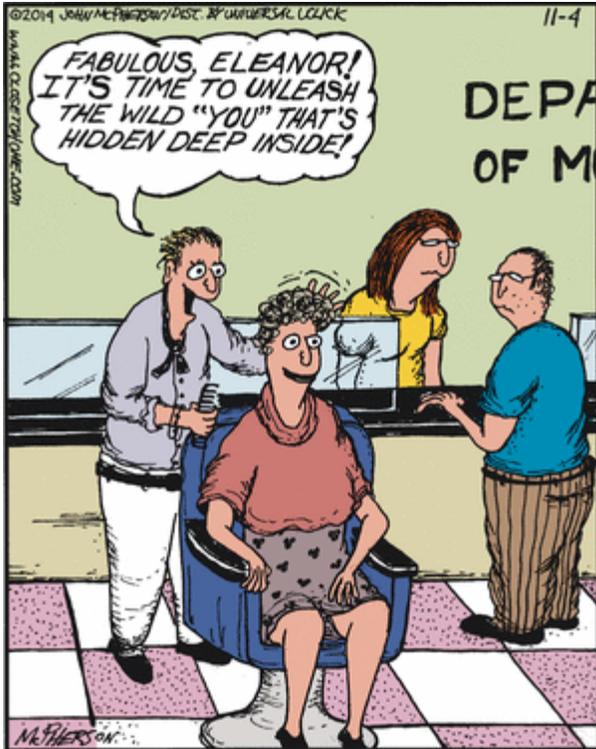
©2014 Universal Uclick
 www.closeyourmind.com

I'M A MEMBER OF THE BUSH FAMILY, I'M WILLING TO WORK WITH DEMOCRATS, LATINOS LIKE MY STAND ON IMMIGRATION...



"All right! \$13,600 more from another Final Jeopardy!"





For an additional fee, the Bamford County Motor Vehicle Dept. offered hairstyling for driver's license photos by the great Renaldo.





TOP VOTE GETTER