

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 154 AND CHESTERFIELD 99



**By John Hoffmann**

**November 19, 2014**

### **SALVATION ARMY SENT OUT A LETTER LOOKING FOR MONEY TO HELP PEOPLE...MEANWHILE IN TOWN AND COUNTRY CITY ADMINISTRATOR SENDS OUT EMAIL ALERT LOOKING FOR MONEY FOR HORSE AND DOG SCULPTURE:**

Christmas is almost here. The weather has turned terribly cold. I just received my first Christmas card of the year. It was from the St. Louis Salvation Army, telling me how important the \$100 was I sent them last Christmas.

Besides being on a number of charity mailing lists I'm also on several of the City of Town and County emails lists. I get meeting notices and agendas sent to my email address along with police updates and alerts. So I was a little surprised when I got an email a week ago from the city administrator because I signed up for the emails notices and alerts. The email wanted me to give money for a sculpture of a horse and dog.

Those of you who have signed up to receive these public notices are certainly civic minded people who are committed to your community. In commemoration of our 65th anniversary in 2015, the City has commissioned renowned sculptor, Harry Weber, to create an original bronze sculpture inspired by the City of Town and Country. The sculpture, titled "Discovery", communicates the name "Town and Country," celebrating the confluence of the town experience with the joy and pleasures derived from living with nature. The sculpture will be placed at the Clayton Road Trailhead in front of the firehouse at Clayton and Mason Roads.

If you would like to contribute to this project, a tax deductible donation may be made, payable to the City of Town and Country, and mailed to 1011 Municipal Center Drive, Town and Country, MO 63131. Donations can also be made via credit card. Attached is a printable return sheet with the pertinent information.

If you are not familiar with Harry Weber, use this link to go to an HEC-TV video that highlights some of Mr. Weber's works that are displayed all around St. Louis:  
<http://www.hectv.org/video/14616/sculptor-harry-weber-st-louis-blues-bull-bear/>

Thank you,  
Gary

Gary Hoelzer  
City Administrator

City of Town & Country  
1011 Municipal Center Drive

It didn't say that Harry Weber needed help...but the city apparently needs a bronze horse and dog next to the firehouse.

I appreciated the email. After reading it I went right to my desk and wrote out that \$100 check to the Salvation Army. Once again it is nice to get little reminders that we live in Snoburbia...The mayor wanting to give \$25,000 in tax money to rich people for plants for their subdivision entrances and the city is soliciting me to help get a bronze horse and dog when regular charities are asking me to donate to help people. The begging is now on the city's website's homepage.

I have a feeling that Gary Hoelzer did not send out this email on his own, but there was some pressure applied by Alderwoman Lynn Wright, who is the chair of the Arts Commission, who may have gone to Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Dalton for some help. Two days after the email was sent out there was \$10,075 raised toward a total of \$139,000 needed. If you noticed the email sent out by the city never mentioned the total price of the art or how much had been raised. It is mentioned on the website.



OR



**A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL'S RESPONSE TO THE FIRE DISTRICT'S HOPE TO HAVE "COMMUNITY PARAMEDICS"**

We have reported that at the final two citizen input meetings with the West County EMS & Fire Protection District where fire district officials grossly outnumbered the three or four citizens who showed up (about 3-to-1) a regular reader of this newsletter send a response to the plan of "community paramedics." The fire district wanted to increase the labor force and have a tax increase for "community paramedics" to check on patients for 30 days who were just discharged from the hospital. Below is an email I received from a longtime healthcare professional who is also married to a doctor.

Sent: Sunday, November 9, 2014 4:12 PM  
To: Hoffmann, John  
Subject: Community Paramedics

Hi

I just had to respond to the idea of "community paramedics" This is a duplication of Home Health services that every hospital has and there are also many private Home Health Services-the patient selects which home health service he wants if the physician orders home health Home health agencies are also heavily regulated-what regulations would the paramedics be following Home health patients have 24/7 access to a nurse Will the paramedics be available 24/7-this will involve developing forms to leave in the home (\$\$\$) Patients are currently evaluated by Social Services, nurses and physicians prior to discharge from the hospital for any home services they may require. The Home Health agency then receives a detailed summary of the patient's hospitalization, physician discharge instructions, medications etc If the paramedics go into the homes of residents to "check on them" what does this involve? Even the minimal follow-up will need to be documented so that any paramedic checking on the resident within the 30 day period will know what was found by the previous paramedic. Will this be a paper record or EMR? (\$\$\$\$) Will the paramedics be calling the patient's primary care physician for problems? How will they follow up with the patient when the physician does not return their call till 6 pm? Are paramedics covered under the law to take orders from physicians in non-emergency situations? How will paramedics know when a patient is discharged? Don't even think that hospital staff has time to add this to their current work loads Home health staff are working under the physician orders in the patient's home- who will paramedics be responsible to? What is the liability?

I could go on and on and on.....

This is a terrible and costly idea in my opinion and will not add to the already troubled health care system

**BANKRUPT RADIO STATION HAS THE LAWYER WHO KNOWS ABOUT NOT PAYING BILLS**

KFNS/590 radio, a sports-talk station has gone out of business. The biggest nail in the coffin came when Ameren UE shut off the power to its transmitter for unpaid electric bills.

An article in the St. Louis Business Journal on November 11 reported that Town and Country Mayor Jon Dalton is representing the owners/investors of the radio station, Grand Slam Sports.

Dalton is a perfect choice for legal representation. He has on three occasions stopped paying bills to an outdoor lighting company, a carpet- tile company and a medical rehab company forcing them to sue him. Grand slam sports has 11 lawsuits just this year for not paying their bills, with plenty more on the books with judgments in 2013 and 2012. .



Dalton should really be able to help them out. In 2004 Dalton began forming LLCs to build a nightclub district on South Broadway south of Busch Stadium. They wanted to call it "The Icehouse District." However they needed to get some property which the owners did not want to sell or at least at the price being offered by Dalton and his cronies.

This included 78-year-old Opel Henderson who ran a salvage yard with her three sons that had been in the family since 1948. Dalton managed to get his then law firm (Lewis-Rice) to represent the St. Louis Land Authority and used eminent domain and grabbed Henderson's business and property for a very low price of \$350,000. (They also sued the Order of the Sacred Heart and believe it or not Saint Duchesne, whose name was on the original deed to get more property for their nightclub district.)



Henderson sued claiming the price was grossly unfair and won. Dalton and his cronies, many from West County, appealed and lost. But they did not pay the \$800,000 judgment. It was as if they were waiting for Henderson to die. But it was their little investment that appeared to be headed toward the graveyard. They had not started construction, the recession hit and the Cardinals announced plans for Ballpark Village.

They also had not paid Henderson, then 83, forcing her to sue them including specifically Jon Dalton in Federal Court for her money. Before the Federal case was heard, she was finally paid, but what she really wanted was her land and business back.

So if the investors of the broke radio station want to delay, stall and continue to not pay bills, they found the perfect person to help them, Jon F. Dalton.

**SCHNUCKS LIQUOR LICENSE CONTINUES TO BRING DEBATE:** There is still a debate with the Board of Aldermen over creating a new liquor license and then issuing it to Schnucks.

A lawyer and the store manager from the Town and Country Schnucks were at the last Board of Aldermen agenda meeting. The lawyer stated Schnucks wants shoppers to have an "enhanced shopping experience." The immediately reminded me of the president of the Thornhill Estates Subdivision HOA wanting Town and Country to waive motor vehicle laws to allow golf carts on the streets so residents could have "enhanced socialization."

This caused me to ask myself, "Has shopping gotten so tough at Schnucks that you need a couple of belts during the process?"



The store manager then stated that they would use the Kaldi's Coffe Shop area to seat people for the "Bistro." In reality the "Bistro" at this Schnucks is much closer to that of a "lunch counter" consisting of about six stools. I'm guessing they might also put a few tables in the salad bar area like at the 74,000 square foot Schnucks in Des Peres. The

statement made by the manager sounded as if they would be taking over the Kaldi Coffe Shop space.

Alderwoman Linda Rallo who has been suspect of the liquor-by-the-drink for the supermarket again spoke out over the fact there have been no boundaries for the area.

"Elderly people are shopping there, moms with little kids, Muslims who don't drink all shop at the Schnucks," she said.



Linda Rallo quizzing the Schnucks corporate lawyer. T&C Schnucks manager David Beckerle

Alderwoman Lynn Wright then brought up a subject that really wasn't on point.

"You can pick an item out of the store and they will cook it for you," said Wright. This system is not much different than in the old days when the lunch counters were open in Bettendorf and Schnucks stores from 7 am to 7 pm and used only items from the store. If they lunch counter was getting short on hamburger, someone just went back to the butcher and got some more.

Jon Benigas then spoke up and was opposed to what was being proposed.

"I'm opposed to a grocery store not having an enclosed space for the liquor license use. The request covers the entire store bothers me," he said.

Dalton, who always tried to be a good sport when corporate attorneys are present, made a statement for the entire board which was not necessarily true.

"Everyone wants this to succeed," exclaimed Dalton.

What Dalton doesn't want is a tie vote forcing him to take a side. Dalton claims to want "government by consensus" but what he doesn't want is open debate with sides taken which force him to pick a side and possibly piss people off.

Dalton then asked, "Can you do it for six months?" He was told the liquor licenses come up for review in June every year. Of course once you issue one, you normally need cause not to renew it.

Tim Welby who always follows Dalton's lead made a strong statement which indicated he had no compromise with his fellow aldermen.

"I don't want to place any restrictions on it (liquor license)."

In the unofficial meeting that is supposed to be information gathering only with no decisions being made, a decision was made that the liquor matter would be continued to the second meeting in November, the Monday of Thanksgiving Week.

I was also under the impression listening to the attorney and David Beckerle, the store manager that the Kaldi's coffee shop and gelato store were history and the "bistro would expanded. In the lobby of city hall I asked Beckerle if Kaldi's was leaving the store.

He said no. Kaldi's was staying. The Kaldi's is operated and staffed by Schnucks so the space is under the control of Schnucks.

This Schnucks while open 24-hours a day, is a ghost town after 6:30 and the Kaldi's is usually closed by then due to a lack of business (The store is quite busy in the middle of the day with lots of elderly shoppers and moms with kids.) Other nearby Schnucks stores have liquor by the drink as does the Whole Foods store across the street.

**SKIP MANGE VETERAN'S DAY:** At the end of the agenda meeting Skip Mange asked if at the start of the meeting there would be any time for a moment about Veteran's Day which is so important in Town and Country it is no longer a city holiday so the day after Thanksgiving could be.

Mayor Jon Dalton laughed and then went on the attack. "Yes, just like I said when you emailed me this afternoon and when you called."

At the start of the meeting after the Pledge of Allegiance, Dalton asked for all those on the Board who served in the Military to please stand. Let's see Dalton and Welby were still in high school or junior high when the draft ended. Fred Meyland-Smith out of an Ivy College at the height of the Vietnam War stayed out of the military working instead for Proctor and Gamble. Jon Benigas is another who did not serve. None of the four women on the Board of Aldermen have any military time.

So when Dalton asked for all veterans on the Board of Alderman to please stand...only Mange stood up. Mange served during the Vietnam War with the Army Corps of Engineers. It looked like Mange had orchestrated the whole procedure to get the recognition.



So Dalton apparently did not want Mange to it be the only person standing. We asked any member of the audience who was in the military to please stand. No one moved.

Dalton didn't miss a beat trying to spin things away from Mange and asked for anyone who had their life affected by someone who served in the military to please rise. At this he got a standing audience.

**SOLAR PANELS FOR CITY HALL CONTINUED AGAIN:** The deadline to get special credits for installing solar panels on the roof at city hall is the end of the year. Earlier this fall the Board of Aldermen tabled the proposal to buy and install the panels for two reasons. 1) Once they were installed, they would have to be removed in six years when the roof is scheduled to be replaced. 2) The amount of time for a return on investment was 13 years.

A new proposal was floated at the last BOA meeting at the end of October. This time the idea was to lease the panels for a number of years and then buy them. In a prior newsletter we wrote that the ROI was suddenly 7-years. Craig Wilde has informed me it is 11-years under the lease deal.

In the presentation for the BOA Wilde pointed out there would be a 10-year lease with the city to buy the panels at the end of 10-years. He said the company was as much an investment group as a green provider. Since the city doesn't pay taxes it cannot get Tax Credits. The company leasing the panels to the city does get tax credits so it makes money for the investors.

Buying the panels would cost the city \$60,000 but leasing would cost \$68,000, but the city would have two additional years of clear energy savings, thus would save some money.

Wilde said there was another option of doing nothing and waiting to install the panels at a later date. He reminded everyone that projected energy use and costs cannot be guaranteed over the next 11-to-13-years. Of course there could be technology upgrades during that time that would result in more efficiency and more savings.



Craig Wildes holds Solar Panel 101 with the aldermen.

## **UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 99**



**November 20, 2014**

**CHESTERFIELD CITY COUNCIL VOTES 8-0 TO RETURN THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN CHESTERFIELD TO THE BENCH.** The move keeps the Chesterfield Municipal Court a secret with serious charges reduced to "Illegal parking" and "Littering" offenses.

Part of the role of a city's police force and municipal court is to identify dangerous drivers and other people, such as thieves, sex offenders or drug users in an effort to protect the public. The Chesterfield Police seems to be doing their job, but the city prosecutor and city judge are doing their best to hide such offenders and keep them from being identified.



On Monday night the City Council passed a resolution on a voice vote putting Municipal Judge Rick Brunk back on the bench for three more years. It is clear that the if Council had taken time to examine DWI cases they would have seen how Brunk repeatedly refuses to convict drunk drivers especially the ones who pled guilty. Instead he gives them "no-record" unsupervised probation terms. At the end of the probation term the plea is erased and nothing is sent to DOR's Driver License Unit.



If you show up to Chesterfield Municipal Court with a lawyer nobody is going to know what happened. Brunk will call you and your lawyer up to the dais where he is sitting and you will whisper back and forth and no one will know how the Careless and Impudent Driving citation you got for causing an accident was just reduced to "Illegal Parking" a non moving violation that does not go on your driving record. Clearly Mayor Nation and the entire Council are not that big on transparency. They talk a good game about it, but don't want it in the city's courtroom.

Mayor Nation made some remarks directed at me.

"Time to time media information about the court has resulted in complaints. I've looked into this and had nothing but positive things to say about Judge Brunk.

Concerning the failure to convict anyone, Nation acts like I cherry pick cases I report on. But in fact the cases I use in my four newsletters a year that look at the municipal court are picked at random. There is one constant thread...that is prosecutor Tim Englemeyer agrees to plea deals that that result in no record of conviction and Brunk goes along with them every time.

**City Council and Mayor Okay Conflict of Interests with City Court:** In the past Mayor Nation has agreed with me to a degree when he has said he "was troubled" with Brunk and Englemeyer serving as prosecutors, judges and also advertising as defense attorneys for clients who have committed the same offenses they are adjudicating and prosecuting. Apparently this clear conflict of interest is now okay and "Council Approved" in Chesterfield.

Brunk showed what a soft judge he is on DWIs after accepting Dan McLaughlin's plea for DWI in 2010, where he had peed in his pants, was falling down drunk, refused to take a breath test and offered the officer a bribe to let him go. Brunk gave him a no record SIS probation term for the DWI. The Improper Lane Use citation which would have 2-points on McLaughlin's driver's license was reduced to "Illegal Parking." He left the courtroom with nothing on his record.



Less than a year after his plea, McLaughlin was again falling down drunk and involved in two minor accidents at heavily traveled Clarkson Road and Baxter Road. This time McLaughlin's pants stayed dry, but he could not figure out how to open the door to his SUV, refused the breath test again and later was unable to master dialing a phone.

When McLaughlin pled guilty a few months later Brunk refused to revoke his 2010 probation. What is the point of putting someone on probation if you refuse to revoke it if he continues to commit the same offense?

This time they reduced his DWI to a DUI. That reduced the points from 12 to 8. He got a no-record SIS probation on a Leaving the Scene of an Accident charge. He was found guilty of a minor 2-point citation. The citations issued in the two accidents should have resulted in 34-points on McLaughlin's license. He ended up with 10 points. A DWI conviction is 12-points and would have resulted in McLaughlin's drivers' license being revoked for one year. Thanks to Englemeyer and Brunk reducing charges and failing to revoke probation sentences, McLaughlin only had a 30-day suspension of his driver's license. This stunt alone should have been enough to make sure these two were not reappointed. Instead they both got three-year renewals. They were rewarded by this mayor and council.

<http://patch.com/missouri/chesterfield/mclaughlin-s-probation-is-not-revoked-for-first-dwi-a275022302b>

[http://blogs.riverfronttimes.com/dailyrft/2011/10/dan\\_mclaughlin\\_wet\\_pants\\_dwi.php](http://blogs.riverfronttimes.com/dailyrft/2011/10/dan_mclaughlin_wet_pants_dwi.php)

**We Are Paying Higher rates: Brunk, Englemeyer and now the mayor and City Council are making me pay higher insurance rates.** As city judges keep reducing serious charges to "defective mufflers" and "illegal parking" it means good drivers are underwriting the insurance of dangerous drivers, whose bad driving records are hidden from insurance companies by judges like Brunk.

**NANCY GREENWOOD ADDS TWO POLICE OFFICERS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AFTER BUDGET IS PRESENTED** The Chesterfield city budget was presented to the Councilpersons on Monday. On December 1 there will be a public hearing at 6:30 on the budget.

There will be one addition to the budget. The \$9,504,474 police budget just went up \$102,000 for 2015 and will mean another extra \$140,000 in 2016 as two more police officers were added.

"It really bothers me greatly we only have two SROs (School Resource Officers) for 13 elementary schools in Chesterfield," said Greenwood who volunteers at a Parkway grade school and said she had only seen one police officer at the school in several years. She then moved to add two new officers to the police department to create two SRO positions. The money would come from projected excess revenue of \$231,000.



Nancy Greenwood



Councilmen Dan Hurt and Barry Flachsbart fought to be the one to second the motion.

Bob Nation was not crazy about adding more to the police budget. Elliot Grissom was not so kind when he asked, "Since they didn't put it in the budget how important is it?"

"You know I will pinch a penny as good as anyone. But I feel there is a need. I brought this forward the police didn't," said Greenwood.

Police Chief Ray Johnson said Parkway or Rockwood Schools would not offer to reimburse the city for officers. The measure passed 7-1 with Grissom voting against it.

**LOCAL 2665 REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE IN PUBLIC AND FAILED TO SHOW UP AT THE OCTOBER 27 MONARCH MEETING. FIRE UNION DOESN'T WANT THE PUBLIC TO BE IN ON THE CONTRACT BARGAINING:** A disagreement on what should be open to the public and what should be closed caused Fire Union Local 2665 to cancel the Collective Bargaining meeting after the regular Monarch meeting on October 27.

We filed a Sunshine Law Request for correspondence between attorneys for the Fire District and Local 2665. After reading the letters it really appears as if Local 2665 doesn't want the public to know what it is doing. Fortunately these letters are part of the public files of the Monarch Fire District.

We are posting some of the letters. Rick Berry is the attorney for Local 2665 and Bob Stewart is the lawyer representing the Monarch Board of Directors. If you have trouble reading these letters just click on "view" and then click a couple times on "zoom in."



The Law Offices of Rick Barry, P.C.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Rick Barry  
Megen L. Hoffman  
Sean Barry

October 15, 2014

Robert W. Stewart  
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.  
7700 Bonhomme Ave., Suite 650  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
Sent Via  
Electronic Mail [robert.stewart@ogletreedeakins.com](mailto:robert.stewart@ogletreedeakins.com)

RE: October 29, 2014 Meeting

Dear Bob:

This correspondence is written to request clarification from the District regarding the matters which will be discussed during the October 29, 2014 meeting scheduled to be conducted between the Local and the Board.

Specifically, the Local is requesting that the District provide it within an agenda by Monday, October 20, 2014, setting forth the specific topics to be discussed on October 29, 2014.

You have indicated that one (1) likely topic for discussion during the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the recent settlement proposal offered by the Local, which, if accepted, would result in a dismissal by both parties of the claims set forth in the pending declaratory judgment action.

The Local is requesting that the Board commit to closing any portion of the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting during which the Local and the Board are engaged in settlement discussions, as permitted by the Sunshine Law.

We look forward to your response.

Very Truly Yours,

cc: Sara Faulman, Esq  
Michael Willats, Esq

Ogletree  
Deakins

OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH,  
SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.  
Attorneys at Law  
7700 Bonhomme Avenue, Suite 650  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
Telephone: 314.802.3935  
Facsimile: 314.802.3936  
www.ogletreedeakins.com

Robert W. Stewart  
314.827.3427  
[robert.stewart@ogletreedeakins.com](mailto:robert.stewart@ogletreedeakins.com)

October 20, 2014

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Rick Barry, Esq. - [rickbarry@rickbarrypc.com](mailto:rickbarry@rickbarrypc.com)  
1034 South Brentwood Boulevard, Ste. 1301  
St. Louis, MO 63117

RE: Monarch Fire Protection District/IAFF 2665: October 29, 2014 Meeting

Dear Mr. Barry:

This is in follow up of your letter of October 15, 2014.

We envision the agenda for the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting to be a discussion of the subject matter of our correspondence from and after September 19, 2014 (i.e. an extension of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement – elimination of CBA Section 5.02<sup>43</sup> – mutual dismissal of the claims contained within the current declaratory judgment action – mutually agreeable paths to the foregoing – etc.).

How does the Union envision the agenda? Please respond on/before October 24, 2014.

As for the October 29<sup>th</sup> session, the Board prefers to begin the session in Open Session, for purposes of public transparency, but, depending upon progress made, will be willing to consider closing portions of the meeting.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Stewart



The Law Offices of Rick Barry, P.C.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Rick Barry  
Megen L. Hoffman  
Sean Barry

October 20, 2014

Robert W. Stewart  
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.  
7700 Bonhomme Ave., Suite 650  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
Sent Via Electronic Mail [robert.stewart@ogletreedeakins.com](mailto:robert.stewart@ogletreedeakins.com)

RE: 10/29/14 CBA Session

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 20, 2014, in response to mine of October 15, 2014.

The agenda the District is proposing is acceptable to the Union as long as any discussion relating to amending the present language of §5.02 be conducted in closed session.

This is because the matter of possible changes to §5.02 has come up for discussion through the parties present settlement negotiations in the case of Monarch Fire Protection District v. IAFF, Local 2665, et al. In other words, but for these settlement talks, this subject matter would not have come up.

If it is the District's intention to discuss the offers and counter offers it has exchanged with the Union, in this upcoming CBA session, in open session, the Union's position is that this is unacceptable.

Please provide your clients' clear assurances any negotiations or other discussions concerning possible changes to §5.02 shall take place only in closed session.

Very Truly Yours,

Rick Barry

Ogletree  
Deakins

OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH,  
SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.  
Attorneys at Law  
7700 Bonhomme Avenue, Suite 650  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
Telephone: 314.802.3935  
Facsimile: 314.802.3936  
www.ogletreedeakins.com

Robert W. Stewart  
314.827.3427  
[robert.stewart@ogletreedeakins.com](mailto:robert.stewart@ogletreedeakins.com)

October 20, 2014

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Rick Barry, Esq. - [rickbarry@rickbarrypc.com](mailto:rickbarry@rickbarrypc.com)  
1034 South Brentwood Boulevard, Ste. 1301  
St. Louis, MO 63117

RE: Monarch Fire Protection District/IAFF 2665: October 29, 2014 Meeting

Dear Mr. Barry:

This is in follow up of your letter of October 15, 2014, my letter of October 20, 2014 (today) and your letter of October 20, 2014 (today). As for your question about open/closed sessions, I will reiterate the last paragraph of my letter of earlier today:

As for the October 29<sup>th</sup> session, the Board prefers to begin the session in Open Session, for purposes of public transparency, but, depending upon progress made, will be willing to consider closing portions of the meeting.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Stewart

October 22, 2014

Robert W. Stewart  
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.  
7700 Bonhomme Ave., Suite 650  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
Sent Via Electronic Mail [robert.stewart@ogletreedekins.com](mailto:robert.stewart@ogletreedekins.com)

RE: 10/29/14 CBA Session

Dear Mr. Stewart:

I am in receipt of your second letter dated October 20, 2014, regarding the October 29, 2014 CBA session.

As you know, my office, on behalf of the Local, requested assurances that any portion of the meeting on October 29, 2014 regarding offers and counter offers the District has exchanged with the Union, in the case of Monarch Fire Protection District v. IAFF, Local 2665, et al, be conducted in closed session. You have failed to provide us with the requested assurances.

I would like to refer you back to your initial correspondence of October 20, 2014, wherein you state you believe the agenda for the October 29, 2014 meeting will entail matters dealing directly with settlement of the pending Declaratory Judgment action. With the exception of discussion regarding extending the current collective bargaining agreement, there appears to be no mention in your correspondence that any other matter having to do with ongoing collective bargaining negotiations is to be discussed during the meeting. In other words, the subject matter of the meeting, from the District's perspective, will mostly involve matters related to settlement of the Declaratory Judgment action, and will not entail discussions regarding ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

The Local desires to continue collective bargaining negotiations with the District. However, based upon your October 20, 2014 correspondence, it is clear the District only desires to discuss the settlement offers/proposals exchanged in the Declaratory Judgment action at the October 29, 2014 meeting, and not any matters touching upon collective bargaining negotiations.

Before the Local commits to attending the October 29, 2014 meeting it is asking the District to provide it with assurances that there shall be no mention of negotiations regarding

§5.02, or any of the settlement proposals exchanged between the parties, in the open portion of the meeting.

Finally, the Local is renewing its previous requests to the District that it reconsider its refusal to use a Special Master or Mediator either to be selected by the parties or appointed by a Court at the request of the parties, to preside over ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

Very Truly Yours,  
  
Rick Barry

October 27, 2014

Robert W. Stewart  
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.  
7700 Bonhomme Ave., Suite 650  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
Sent Via Electronic Mail [robert.stewart@ogletreedekins.com](mailto:robert.stewart@ogletreedekins.com)

RE: 10/29/14 CBA Session

Dear Bob,

Your October 24, 2014 letter once again failed to address the issue presented by the Local, namely whether the District will commit to settlement negotiations being conducted in a closed meeting. As you yourself pointed out, the proposed settlement terms previously exchanged by the parties intertwine both a successor collective bargaining agreement and the resolution of the declaratory judgment action. As the proposals discussed for the purpose of settlement do not represent the most recently submitted proposals by either party, and do not represent the parties' proposals in the event that settlement is unsuccessful – a point you made clear in your email of September 19, 2014 – the Local once again is seeking the District's commitment to discussing settlement negotiations in a closed meeting setting.

To the extent that the District is unwilling to commit to discussing settlement negotiations in a closed meeting, the Local is unwilling to continue settlement negotiations at the open meeting on October 29, 2014. Nevertheless, the Local is committed to reaching agreement on a new collective bargaining agreement and therefore is more than willing to meet with the Board and continue to discuss the last non-settlement proposals submitted by both parties. To that end, please confirm which specific proposals the District wishes to discuss so the Local's negotiating team can be prepared to respond and allow the parties to make the most efficient use of their time together.

October 24, 2014

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Rick Barry, Esq. – [rickbarry@rickbarrype.com](mailto:rickbarry@rickbarrype.com)  
1034 South Brentwood Boulevard, Ste. 1301  
St. Louis, MO 63117

RE: Monarch Fire Protection District/IAFF 2665: October 29, 2014 Meeting

Dear Mr. Barry:

This is in follow up of your letter of October 22, 2014.

Your letter of October 22, 2014 seriously misquotes me. It is unclear to me whether this misquotation is intentional or negligent. Thus, to prevent any possible future misquotation, I will simply quote from the pertinent letters:

[From Rick Barry's letter of October 22, 2014]:

"However, based upon your October 20, 2014 correspondence, it is clear the District only desires to discuss the settlement offers/proposals exchanged in the Declaratory Judgment action at the October 29, 2014 meeting, and not any matters touching upon collective bargaining negotiations."

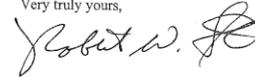
[From Bob Stewart's letter of October 20, 2014]:

"We envision the agenda for the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting to be a discussion of the subject matter of our correspondence from and after September 19, 2014 (i.e. an extension of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement – elimination of CBA Section 5.02<sup>3</sup> – mutual dismissal of the claims contained within the current declaratory judgment action – mutually agreeable paths to the foregoing – etc.)."

As you can surely understand and appreciate, the hoped-for resolution of the collective bargaining process and the hoped-for resolution of the declaratory judgment action are inextricably intertwined.

The fifth paragraph of your letter of October 22, 2014 begins as follows: "Before the Local commits to attending the October 29, 2014 meeting..." The Local has already committed to attend on October 29, 2014. See the email correspondence between the parties dated October 2 and October 3, 2014 (enclosed). If you are suggesting that the union will be backing out of the October 29, 2014 meeting, and refusing to bargain, please advise.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Stewart

October 27, 2014

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Rick Barry, Esq. – [rickbarry@rickbarrype.com](mailto:rickbarry@rickbarrype.com)  
1034 South Brentwood Boulevard, Ste. 1301  
St. Louis, MO 63117

RE: Monarch Fire Protection District/IAFF 2665: October 29, 2014 Collective Bargaining Session

Dear Mr. Barry:

This is in follow up of your letter of October 27, 2014.

On at least two occasions, I have addressed the subject of Open/Closed meetings as follows:

As for the October 29<sup>th</sup> session, the Board prefers to begin the session in Open Session, for purposes of public transparency, but, depending upon progress made, will be willing to consider closing portions of the meeting.

If the Collective Bargaining Agreement issues, including §5.02<sup>3</sup> can be resolved, continuation of the Declaratory Judgment action, which is very expensive for both sides, makes no sense. Hence, a new Collective Bargaining Agreement – and the pending Declaratory Judgment action – are inextricably intertwined.

Logically, we should begin the Wednesday evening session by discussing the various proposals designed to reach an agreement on a new Collective Bargaining Agreement – if these discussions are fruitful, then a Closed session on settling the Declaratory Judgment action would be appropriate.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Stewart

We look forward to your response either committing to continued settlement negotiations in a closed meeting or alternatively identifying those non-settlement proposals that the District wishes to discuss in the open meeting.

Very Truly Yours,



Rick Barry

October 28, 2014

Robert W. Stewart  
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.  
7700 Bonhomme Ave., Suite 650  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
Sent Via Electronic Mail [robert.stewart@ogletreedeakins.com](mailto:robert.stewart@ogletreedeakins.com)

RE: 10/29/14 Session

Dear Mr. Stewart:

This is written in response to your letter of October 27, 2014.

It is now clear from your October 27, 2014 correspondence that the purpose of this Open session the Board wishes to conduct, is to discuss the settlement proposals which have been exchanged between the Local and the District in the Declaratory Judgment action, particularly those regarding Section 5.02, and not at all for the purpose of engaging in the collective bargaining process.

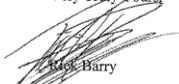
Since the Board's intentions with regard to this October 29, 2014 session are now absolutely clear, the Local wishes to inform the District it does not intend to appear at this October 29, 2014 session.

The Local wishes to reiterate its continued desire to meet with the District in the future to discuss reaching a successor agreement, as long as those discussions are with regard to previous non-settlement proposals submitted by the parties and/or new proposals being offered by the District and/or the Local. To facilitate the coordination of future negotiation sessions, please provide the Local with additional dates on which the District is available to participate in negotiations.

If the District wishes to continue settlement negotiations, the Local would be happy to participate in a Closed Meeting if the District believes that discussions would be more fruitful with all of the parties in the same room. Alternatively, the Local suggests that the parties continue settlement discussions through their respective counsel.

We look forward to the scheduling of future negotiations sessions and the ultimate goal of arriving at a successor collective bargaining agreement.

Very Truly Yours,



Rick Barry

November 3, 2014

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Rick Barry, Esq. – [rickbarry@rickbarrype.com](mailto:rickbarry@rickbarrype.com)  
1034 South Brentwood Boulevard, Ste. 1301  
St. Louis, MO 63117

RE: Monarch Fire Protection District/IAFF 2665:  
October 29, 2014 Collective Bargaining Session

Dear Mr. Barry:

This is in follow up of your unfortunate letter of October 28, 2014, and the Union's unilateral cancellation of the previously agreed upon bargaining session of October 29, 2014. Four (4) topics warrant discussion:

1. The Union's Fear that the Public will Observe Negotiations. As you know, from the outset, the Union has opposed allowing the public to observe the collective bargaining process. Your letter of October 28, 2014 re-emphasizes this point. Please specify in writing why the Union wants to shut the public out from this important process.
2. Your Repeated Mischaracterizations of Monarch's Positions. You have repeatedly mischaracterized Monarch's positions. It is unclear whether this tactic is negligent or intentional. Please advise. The latest example of your mischaracterization is clear through comparing quotes from my letter of October 27, 2014 vs. quotes from your letter of October 28, 2014:

[From Bob Stewart's Letter of October 27, 2014]

Logically, we should begin the Wednesday [Oct 29] evening session by discussing the various proposals designed to reach an agreement on a new Collective Bargaining Agreement – if these discussions are fruitful, then a Closed session on settling the Declaratory Judgment action would be appropriate.

page 4

[From Bob Stewart's Letter of October 28, 2014]

It is now clear from your October 27, 2014 correspondence that the purpose of this [Oct 29] Open session the Board wishes to conduct, is to discuss the settlement proposals which have been exchanged between the Local and the District in the Declaratory Judgment action, particularly those regarding Section 5.02, and not at all for the purpose of engaging in the collective bargaining process.

Since the Board's intentions with regard to this October 29, 2014 session are now absolutely clear, the Local wishes to inform the District it does not intend to appear at this October 29, 2014 session.

3. The October 29, 2014 Meeting Unilaterally Canceled by the Union. Monarch had hoped, at the long scheduled October 29, 2014 meeting, to narrow (or hopefully eliminate) the disagreements between Monarch's September 19, 2014 proposals and the Union's October 1, 2014 proposals<sup>11</sup> (both sets of proposals attached). Monarch had planned to communicate on October 29, its rejection of the Union's October 1, 2014 proposal, and through discussion with the Union, to develop a contractual counteroffer. Since the Union backed out of the meeting, after previously agreeing to the meeting, Monarch was unable to communicate a rejection and/or counteroffer. Therefore, please accept this letter as formal rejection of the Union's October 1, 2014 proposal. By unilaterally canceling the October 29 meeting, the Union has made the process much more difficult.

4. The Future. You have disingenuously called for more meetings. The Board will take up your request and you will be informed of its decision.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Stewart

## **MONARCH FIRE BOARD PRESIDENT RESPONDS TO LAST WEEK'S**

**NEWSLETTER:** In last week's newsletter we wrote about the promotion of Dana Buckley to captain and how Buckley had been involved in two lawsuits against the District, one for sexual harassment and the other over a change in promotion lists. Fire District President Robin Harris sent the following email to me clarifying some issues.

John,

I did want to clarify a couple of points for you:

A. Last year the Board delayed a promotion to the "spare" captain position as a decision was in process as to appropriate staffing levels.

B. The union took the issue to court and the judge ultimately declared we had to promote someone to captain from the expired list before a new list could be generated.

C. I had staff do an analysis and determined the "spare" (we designate the position 'Kelly Captain') position was being utilized about 90% of the time as a captain and justified the promotion.

D. The Board unanimously selected Captain Beauchamp (he was top of the old list) for promotion before the judge made any ruling (see B.).

E. FYI – Dana Buckley was the highest scoring applicant on the updated semi-annual process.

## **CHESTERFIELD SEVERS ALL TIES WITH CHESTERFIELD ART AND WILL CREATE CITY RUN ARTS SERVICE:**

At a special city council meeting held on Saturday morning November 8 the Chesterfield City Council voted to create an Arts Division under the Parks and Recreation Department. All this came about after the July announcement by the private Chesterfield Arts that they were broke and wanted the city to buy two eight foot high Chinese Horse sculptures that had been given to Chesterfield Arts by a downtown hotel. Chesterfield Arts wanted \$250,000 for the horses which they had installed in front of City Hall. The City would not pay.



About as casual as you will ever see the council. L to R Connie Fults, Derek Grier, Dan Hurt, Bruce DeGroot and Barry Flachsbart.

Chesterfield Arts had been paid \$100,000 a year to provide different arts events and education services by the City for residents.

Mayor Bob Nation opened the meeting by saying he was opposed to the recommendation present by the staff.

"I had hoped there would have been options that would not have brought the duties of Chesterfield Arts in house," said Nation.

"Perhaps the contractual relationships we had with Chesterfield arts were not in the best interest of the city...In the past there was more of an interest to protect the interest of a specific organization. We should be more interested in providing the services to the public," said Mayor Nation.



Mayor Nation, dressed to the nines, getting a caffeine boost with a cup of java while Councilman Elliot Grissom looks on. Mike Casey and Nancy Greenwood were out of town for the Saturday meeting.

However, by the end of the meeting it seemed as if the presentation by the city's staff may have softened Nation a bit.

The staff presentation by Libby Tucker, Community Services and Economic Development Director, Mike Giesel, Director of Services and Parks Director Tom McCarthy called to promote an existing city employee from a manager position to Superintendent of Arts under the Parks Director and then hire one additional employee. It was reported this would cost the city the same \$100,000 they were paying Chesterfield arts each year.

The idea was to have the two employees bring in musical events, art, photography shows and even dance and theater through existing organizations such as the St. Louis Symphony, Stages and other groups.

Mike Giesel, a guy more closely tied to public works and construction projects than the arts seemed to have a vision.

"We would still contract much of these events out to different organizations. But we would also take out the middleman from the equation and let us deal directly with the artists. We have the facilities and the talent to do this. I would hate to take a step back," said Giesel.



L to R Parks Director Tom McCarthy, Services Director Mike Giesel and Development Director Libby Tucker.

Dan Hurt made a motion to accept the staff plan calling for a Chesterfield Arts Division. This immediately caused Barry Flachsbart to object.

"Dan I think that is a little premature," Flachsbart said.

"I am uncomfortable with staff's recommendation to jump into this. I think we need to stay out of the business of these other organizations," added Flachsbart a few minutes later.

**BEST COMMENT OF THE WEEK:** Often Bruce DeGroot is silent during these meetings. Sometimes he says something stupid that has me scratching my head. At this meeting he did not have much to say until the end when he had me laughing out loud.

"I hate the arts more than I hate soccer. I hate an orchestra almost as much," said basketball fanatic DeGroot. "But I think we need to do something on this."  
(This caused councilwoman Connie Fults to inquire if DeGroot planned to run for reelection.)



Things that Bruce DeGroot hates...soccer, art and even orchestras.



**FROM THE STAFF:** We can't maintain the art walk and other events without moving ahead. I would hate to take a step back and lose momentum," said Mike Geisel.

**THE LAST WORD:** I'm concern we are having a knee jerk reaction to what happened earlier this year (Chesterfield Arts stopping programs and then taking the horses in front of City Hall). The world is not going to end if we don't proceed immediately. This new proposal is going to cost a lot of money," said Mayor Nation.

A couple of councilpersons complained to Nation about his use of the phrase "knee jerk reaction" which he apologized for.

**The Vote:** Bruce DeGroot who hates Art more than soccer then made a motion to accept the staff proposal to create an Arts Division under Parks and Recreation. It was seconded and a vote for taken. The motion passed 5-to-1 with Barry Flachsbart voting no with Nancy Greenwood and Mike Casey being absent.

After the meeting, Barry Flachbart had this to say about his no vote:

*"My position was that we can spend a relatively small amount of that money on upgrading a staff position to coordinate and encourage arts activities in Chesterfield. That person might be able to identify and encourage organizations who could provide additional contracted services for our residents. That person would certainly be able to evaluate and give the City Council information about proposals. The remaining part of the \$100,000 that was not spent on the staff upgrade would be available for these kinds of activities. That was the essence of the "Alternate Proposal" presented by staff.*

*The recommended proposal (and the one that was adopted) uses almost all of the \$100,000 for additional staff and a few new activities. Thus the city staff grows, but the Chesterfield residents do NOT get much in the way of replacement services.*

*So my vote "No" on the recommended proposal is a vote for the possibility of more contracted services for residents and less staff growth, not a vote against arts activities for Chesterfield residents," Flachsbart explained.*

**H & M PLANS TO MOVE IN AT TAUBMAN OUTLET MALL...BUTS WANTS SPECIAL BRAND COLORS ON OUTSIDE OF BUILDING...ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT:** At the Project updates section of the Planning and Public Works meeting Senior Planner John Boyer was filling in for an ill Aimee Nassif and reported that H&M plans to move into Taubman Prestige Outlet Mall (the one sparsely populated with few shoppers) and wanted Brand Identity on the outside walls of the east end of the mall. It was mentioned that the plan raised concern at the Architectural Review Board and the plans only received a 3-2 vote for recommendation before being passed on.



**LOWE'S WANTS LONGER HOURS AND MORE OUTSIDE SPACE:** Ward-4 Councilwoman Connie Fults had plenty of not too friendly comments about the Lowe's store in the Chesterfield Commons section of Chesterfield Valley. She had Ward-3 Councilman Dan Hurt join her at the November 6th Planning and Public Works Committee meeting in questioning Lowe's attitude towards following city codes and ordinances.

According to Senior Planner John Boyer Lowe's had gone to Chesterfield asking for more outside storage and to open at 6 am instead of 7 am, claiming that Chesterfield is giving Home Depot an unfair competitive edge by allowing it to open at 6 am at the opposite end of the shopping strip.

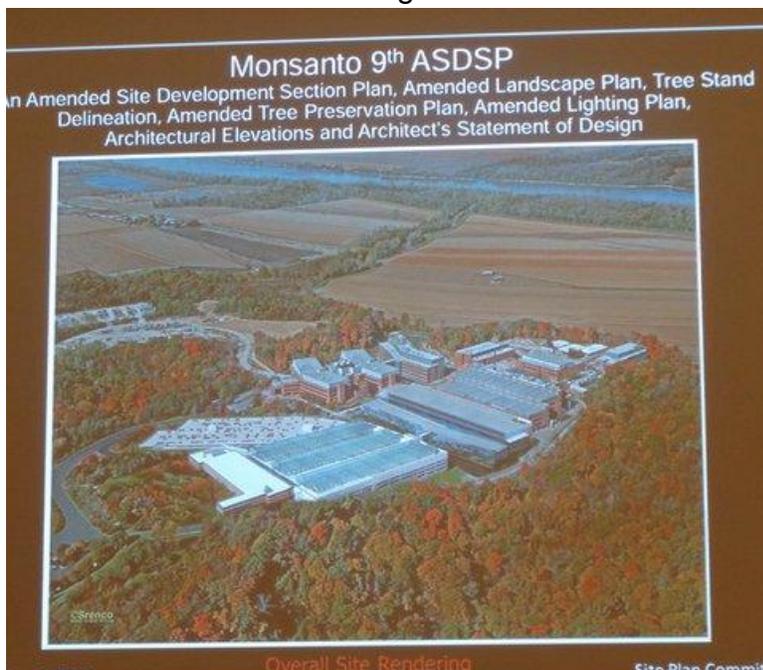
"Lowe's was told exactly what the hours would be when they applied for permits. The people living on the hill over that end of the shopping center can hear every big truck pulling in there now in the early morning," said Fults.

"Lowe's has been violating the code for years. They want early hours to be the same with Home Depot. Now Home Depot will want to start earlier. I'm absolutely against it. If they open at 6 am it mean you have deliveries being made at 4:30 am. We are going to pick and pick at these ordinances until we have a 24-hour city," said Fults.

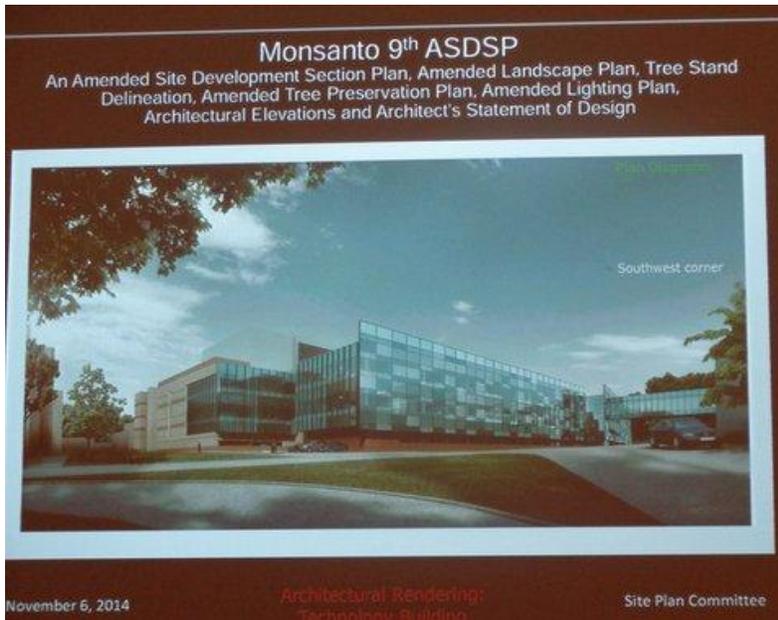
Both Fults and Hurt asked staff to obtain the number of code violations that Lowe's has been cited for in recent years and report back to the council. They had not received them by November 18.

**A GLIMPSE INTO THE SECRET KINGDOM:** The Monsanto Research Center along Chesterfield Parkway is expanding. It is also off-limits to the public, most city staff and all elected officials, even the ones who decades ago worked for Monsanto.

According to plans Monsanto is not wasting space. Greenhouses will be built on top of parking garages. Glass office buildings will have dark shades that go down at night so as not to create excessive light intrusions to the few houses that neighbor the property.



The above is an architectural rendering. Monsanto must have some impressive fast growth chemicals for oak tree products, because most the trees seen in this rendering are not there and the rendering is showing a 20 or 30 year growth. Also it is a little concern that the trees on the Monsanto property have already started to turn, while the trees off the property and on the St. Charles County side of the property are all green.



Note the glass enclosed garage with greenhouse and grow areas on the roof, plus glass walkways to other buildings. Let's hope for no "softball size hail" storms.

Councilman Bruce DeGroot said he would only vote for the expansion plans if Monsanto would actually allow him on the property to look at the planned site.

**MEDIA WATCH:** A new on air reporter/weather person, Anne Elise Parks at KTVI Channel 2/KPLR Channel 11 was giving the first snow report of the year on November 13 standing in front of the MoDot Traffic Management Center and ended her report saying "Live from Chesterfield!"



Contrary to what you are told by local TV reporters, this building is in Town and Country and not Chesterfield.

I thought after five years of working for the three TV newsrooms as a traffic editor I had gotten the point across that the MoDot Regional Office and the Traffic Management Center are in **TOWN AND COUNTRY**, but you let them hire another new reporter, this one from Indiana and suddenly they are ending reports with wrong information. You would expect that local reporters would know where they are, but often that is not the case.

**LETTERS...THEY GET LETTERS (Okay they are actually e-mails!)** For 3-to-5 minutes a week I appeared on the Allman in the Morning radio show on 97.1 KFTK FM. I try to pick one or two stories a week and always try to include some humor. I often fail, but try none-the-less. The first written complaint I got was from a listener who said he was going to have me removed from the Allman show because I make fun of Republicans. The problem being is that I write about West County where it is darn hard to find anyone but Republicans. Here is the latest latest email from an unhappy listener sent to Carl Middleman, the producer of the Allman in the Morning Show:

**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 6:28 PM

**To:** Carl Middleman

**Subject:** john hoffman

Carl, Long time listener. Wanted to let you know how disgusted I am that you weekly give Mr. Hoffman air time to allow him to constantly denigrate West County residents by calling them snobs. I work for and have family in West County and can tell you that the people of West County are generous, nice people. He also constantly attacks West County police and fire personnel as having nothing to do and that they aren't real police or firefighters, yet spouts his prowess as a policeman when he worked in wait for it.....Chevy Chase, MD; population what 2000? Personally, I have respect for police and firefighters, no matter where they work. Have you seen his egotistical essays he wrote about himself and his glee at writing speeding tickets? He brags about giving women speeding tickets who (he believed) had their shirts open to much. Apparently he thought they were trying to impress him. Give me a break. For two weeks now he has attacked Town and Country police for, God forbid, charity work! What does he have against Town and Country police? Oh ya, he was a policeman for Town and Country till they ran him out. He's also attacked fire departments for raising money for charities as well. Is this really news worthy and what your listeners want to hear? You direct them to his website where he spouts his obsession with certain ST.L County politicians and does investigations on misplaced apples at the grocery store; riveting. This is in between a great article making fun news anchors like Melanie Moon and of Fox 2s April Simpson. Yes, he wrote how difficult it is to watch her stutter through news stories and questions why she is even on tv. Disgusting. I think everyone is aware of her battle with a brain tumor. I wonder how your affiliate feels about this? Even the average

listener can tell that Jamie Allman is battling to act interested in his rants on Chesterfield horse statues and dog parks. I think your air time could be better used, and I'm not sure that you are doing a great service by giving him validation by sending people to his tabloid blog. I know that in the future I will be channel surfing when his obnoxious voice comes on. Have a good day, Dave

(A few corrections to Dave's letter...I was never a police officer in Town and Country...an alderman yes, a police officer no. Chevy Chase Village in Maryland had 2,700 residents, but under contracts provided police services to another 5,000 people in neighboring towns. The populations of communities when I worked as a law enforcement officer are as follows: 7,200; 10,000; 20,000; 2,700 and 923,000. Finally Dave, you channel surf with television or cable...you frequency surf or station surf with radio.)



Jamie Allam, whose morning talk show we appear on once a week.

**FOOD:** Since starting these restaurant reviews I have tried to do a couple things. We check out regular places that are not covered by the reviewers of the Post-Dispatch or the Riverfront Times. Since this is a non-revenue producing news site we will not be going anywhere with \$50 entrees. The blue bloods and high snobs of West County will not have to worry about us making fun of their favorite place where the average meal starts at \$50.

Also we have received three, yes three comments from readers about these reviews. One wrote to agree with us that the Mongolian BBQ and Asian Buffet was a terrible place to eat and another from a reader telling me how bad French fries and potato salad is for my health. However if you are checking a place that sells burgers and fries you have to eat some fries once in a while.

The third told me that he has been reading the reviews and how he hates it when he orders soup at a restaurant and it tastes like it was poured out of a can.

In this week's review we just had a half of an order of fries.

**IT IS EASY TO FIGURE OUT WHY TUCKER'S IS ALWAYS SO BUSY:** Tuckers might be in Manchester, but it is the place where people from Town and Country and Chesterfield go for a good steak for dinner or a great sandwich at lunch without paying too much. The three dining rooms of wooden chairs, wooden tables and paper napkins is some place you take your spouse for a very good meal at a reasonable price. It isn't some place you take a new girlfriend or if married your spouse on your 25th wedding anniversary. It is also somewhere you do take a group of six or seven people, because you get good food at a reasonable price. They don't take reservations and with just a few exceptions the place is always crowded.



On a Monday after a Chesterfield City Council meeting I picked up a small deluxe pizza and a small two-topping pizza at Imo's. The total came to \$25.00. The next night my wife and I went to Tuckers on Manchester Road and split a 16oz grilled prime rib that came with a large baked potato, rolls and salad and added a plate of sautéed vegetables consisting mostly of green beans and asparagus . The total bill came to \$23 and some change.

The nice thing about Tucker's Place is that the portions are so big, you can split them. Tucker's has no problem with you doing that and in fact the wait staff brings additional plates to make sure you do it easily.

On Tuesday nights there are several specials but the biggest selling one is the grilled prime rib dinner, a 16 oz prime rib for \$17.95 or a 24 oz piece of meat for \$24.95. The 16oz dinner is more than enough for us. The large baked potato also is perfect for

sharing. The biggest problem is ordering the food. From 6 o'clock to about 7:45 pm there is normally a wait for a table. Ours was 10 minutes from 7:20 to 7:30.



On the Tuesday night the prime rib ordered at medium was melt in your mouth perfect. The baked potato was hot and there was plenty of butter and sour cream to make our halves as gooey and fattening as we wanted. The rolls are great. The salad looks average, but for some reason tastes better than average...maybe it is the wait for the table that makes you appreciate it more. I have heard from some that the sauce on steaks at Tucker's hides a bland tasting piece of meat. That is their opinion, but I enjoy the taste and the tenderness of the meats.

The sautéed vegetables were also very good with more than enough for two to share.



Despite the place being busy, the wait staff never let our water glasses get half full and the food arrived surprisingly fast. The only complaint I might have was that it was too dark in the dining room. A slight move of the light switch dimmer upward would help me a bit.

Not having anything to complain about for dinner, two days later I returned to Tuckers for lunch, this time with Jean Whitney, former Chesterfield patch.com editor.

Jean ordered the Monster fish sandwich (\$5.95) claiming to be haddock and I got a Philly cheese steak (\$5.95). We decided to split an order of fries.

Jean loved her fish sandwich. The piece of fish was between 10 and 12 inches long. There was plenty of fish under a wonderful batter.

"This is the best fish sandwich I have had in a long time and it is at a steak house," said Jean.



My Philly Cheese Steak was properly prepared on a grill with the steak being chopped up with the onions. It also comes with peppers which I skipped. Instead of pouring melted cheese on top of the steak and onions like is done in Philadelphia, Tucker's melts the cheese in with the meat on the grill. But it is an excellent sandwich, not like those at Subway or Philadelphia Mike's where they serve you a roast beef sandwich with a couple of slices of cheese.



This might not look so good, but it tasted great.

So the only thing that is not positive we can say about Tucker's is the fries were just average.

**FOOD: Rumorsville:** We hear from our restaurant sources which based this rumor on comments from **Lester's** employees who recently quit or where laid off that there are plans to close the Lester's location in the CWE within two months. The Chesterfield location closed on Monday November 3. If this happens it will leave only the original location on Clayton Road at I-64 in Ladue.

**MUSIC:** From the Sketch Book...Sasha's in Clayton.



Luppy, who will be leaving St. Louis in January and Jim Manley at Sasha's.

**THURSDAY NIGHT WITH ANITA:** This Thursday Anita Rosamond with her band will be at the Ozark Theater on East Lockwood in Webster Groves from 7:30-10:30. The entrance is now on the side. This is a big place so some of her fans who see Anita at Smitty's or IL Bel Lago need to make an appearance. There is a \$15 cover. Hey that is what they used to charge when Anita played at Finale in Clayton. If you can't make it on Thursday Anita is back for free at IL Bel Lago in Creve Coeur on Friday night and Smitty's on the Saturday afternoon after Thanksgiving.



**CARTOONS:**



