

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 166 AND CHESTERFIELD 111



By John Hoffmann

February 25, 2015

WELCOME TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF TOWN AND COUNTRY:

Okay, it might have been the first day of the Chinese New Year on February 19, but I can't remember seeing the flag of the People's Republic of China flying inside the City Limits of very conservative Town and Country. Since it was flying at the first house inside the city limits on S. Mason Road it was like an official welcome.

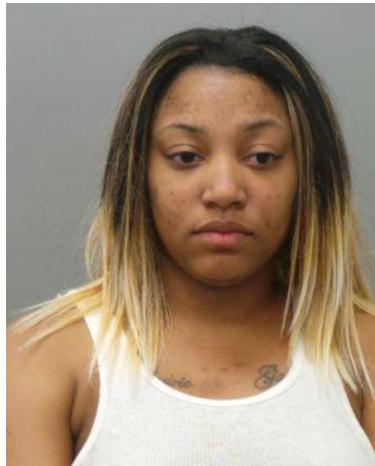




Li Keqiang Premier of the People's Republic of China Jon Dalton, Premier of the People's Republic of Town and Country

SHOPLIFTER WHO USED PEPPER SPRAY ON STORE SECURITY AND THEN KIDNAPPED SHOPPER IN CARJACKING GETS 7-YEARS: 23-year-old Cierra Baker formerly of 4710 Shaw Avenue and more recently of the County Jail is moving again.

On March 21, 2014 Baker started the day out as a common shoplifter plying her trade at the H & M Store in the Chesterfield Mall. However she turned into a felony robbery suspect when she used force to avoid arrest by a store security officer when she pepper sprayed him. She then escalated her criminal profile by making her escape after kidnapping and carjacking a shopper forcing her to drive her to Richmond Heights where someone else picked her up.



On March 21 Baker was already out on a municipal court bond in Chesterfield for shoplifting at Chesterfield Mall. She also had charges pending in St. Charles.

On January 14, 2015 Baker pled guilty to two felonies. The robbery charge was reduced to Theft Over \$500 and the Kidnapping charge was reduced to Felonious Restraint. She was sentenced to 7-years in prison.

The Chesterfield Police are not releasing the police report yet, as the case against Baker's co-defendant Antwinette Johnson is pending. Johnson is charged with Felony Stealing. Her next court appearance is set for March 27. Once her case is disposed of we will obtain the police report and provide more details of the crime.

CHESTERFIELD RESIDENT WHO STOLE \$121,800 FROM THE PARKWAY CENTRAL BAND BOOSTERS IS INDICTED: We reported in our January 7 newsletter how Ameritrade stock broker Rice A. Jacobs was arrested by the Chesterfield Police for stealing \$121,800 for the Parkway Central High School Band Boosters which he had been the treasurer of for 10 years.

On February 4, Jacobs of 14181 Cross Trails Drive was indicted by a grand jury for Stealing over \$25,000. His next court date is February 25, 2015. He is no longer a stockbroker at Ameritrade.



Jacobs should have been a terrible candidate as someone to look after money. On 11/01/2006 he was hit with a judgment in a civil case that started at \$15,518 and climbed to \$20,333 with interest. The judgment has not yet been paid eight years later. Now if I could find this you might think some parent with a kid in the band over the last eight years could have stumbled across this information.

NEW MEMBER OF THE GANGS OF TOWN AND COUNTRY: We will have the full report of the arrest and conviction of Gary Dean Siegfried of 12817 Topping Woods Estates Drive in our first June Newsletter of Drunks and Thieves. However at this time we are happy to announce that the 5-Time DWI defendant has joined "The Gangs of Town and Country." Siegfried, who claims to be a financial consultant, also has 16 judgments against him in Circuit Court in the last seven years ranging from a low of \$269 to a high of \$20,817.



Gary Dean Siegfried

Here is one section of the Town and Country Police report that really caught our attention.

I asked the driver to step out and to the rear of his vehicle. The driver walked to the rear of his vehicle, he turned to face me, and he began doing the Walk and Turn Test before I gave him any instructions. I asked the driver what he was doing. The driver said what you want me to do.

After his October 13, 2012 DWI arrest felony charges were filed against Siegfried for being a three time or more DWI driver. On January 30, 2015 he pled guilty and was sentenced to one-year in jail only to have the jail sentence suspended and be placed on a 2-year probation term. Do you think that maybe a weekend in the County Jail is the least they could give this guy?

T-FED INDICTED: Theodore Federer (T-Fed), Chesterfield's infamous bad boy of drunk driving, thefts, alcohol violations, fighting and drug possession was arrested on back on March 30, 2014 around 1 am. Federer was arrested by Chesterfield Police after he was in a fight with another man at the inside entrance of Harpo's Bar, that resulted in a Harpo's waitress being inadvertently knocked out. When he was arrested for the fight, police found drugs on him.



Once the lab testing reports reached the police formal felony charges were filed on August 20, 2014. There were five court hearings after the arrest plus a sixth when T-Fed's first defense attorney withdrew from the case. The hearings were from September 4 to January 6...all presented opportunities for T-Fed to plead guilty.

That didn't happen and instead of holding a preliminary probable cause hearing, the County Prosecutor sent the case to the Grand Jury and on February 3 T-Fed was indicted for felony drug possession.

CHESTERFIELD ACCOUNTANT PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING \$825,000: Joel Todd Wishne, who St. Louis County Tax Records showed lived at 15430 Country Ridge Lane in Chesterfield for over a decade prior to his 2011 divorce, plead guilty in Federal Court to two counts of wire fraud in a theft of \$825,000 from his two business partners at Safevision, LLC . The thefts occurred between 2007 and 2011.



Texas Mug shot



With then wife Lori at a Jewish Federation fundraiser in 2010.

Safe Vision, LLC is located at 9715 Olive Blvd. in Olivette and sells eyewear.

Wishne's business partners in Safevision, LLC were Jeffrey Zornes of 7106 Maryland Avenue and James Spiker of Festus, Missouri.

2011...A YEAR WHEN THE HOUSE OF CARDS FELL: On August 31, 2011 Safevision, LLC sued Wishne for the missing money. On October 11, 2011 a \$1,115,000 judgment was entered against Wishne, which according to online court records has not been paid.

On September 12, 2011 Lori Wishne filed for divorce and it was granted on October 21. Lightning fast for a divorce. Below is the divorce decree:

It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed that the marriage of Petitioner and Respondent is dissolved. There are 2 unemancipated living children born of the marriage, and Petitioner is not now pregnant. Petitioner shall receive sole legal and physical custody of the parties' minor children, with Respondent having visitation as set forth in Parenting Plan herein. No child support shall be awarded at this time. Petitioner shall provide medical insurance for the children through her employment. Petitioner awarded marital residence located at 15430 Country Ridge. Respondent shall execute a Quit Claim Deed to Petitioner of his interest in the marital residence. Findings and recommendations of the Commissioner approved and adopted as the Judgment of the Court by Judge John R. Essner. Copies hand delivered to Petitioner and attorney. Copy mailed to Respondent. Costs taxed against movant, Petitioner.

On April 23, 2012 Wishne was hit with a \$5,387 judgment involving the Department of Revenue that has not been satisfied.

On August 16, 2012 Wishne was served an eviction notice to vacate the premises at 936 Harvey in Kirkwood, MO.

On May 8, 2014 Wishne was arrested by local police in McLennan County Texas on the Federal wire fraud charges.

Wisne has \$361.62 in non-payment and late fees with St. Louis County for vehicle taxes. He was represented in Federal Court by a public defender. Sentencing is set for May 21.

NEW HOUSES

ACTING CHAIRMAN OF CITY'S ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD CAN'T PRONOUNCE ONE OF CITY'S MAIN STREETS: Ald. Jon Benigas was a no show for the Aldermanic meeting and the Architectural Review Board meeting, which he chairs on Monday February 9. Filling in as chair for Benigas was ARB member James Woodworth. During the afternoon agenda, the architect from Ward 4 introduced the next item being from 2610 Bopp Road, mispronouncing a major street in the city calling it BOP instead of the correct pronouncement of "BOPE." Bopp Road is named after a family who pronounced the family name "BOPE."

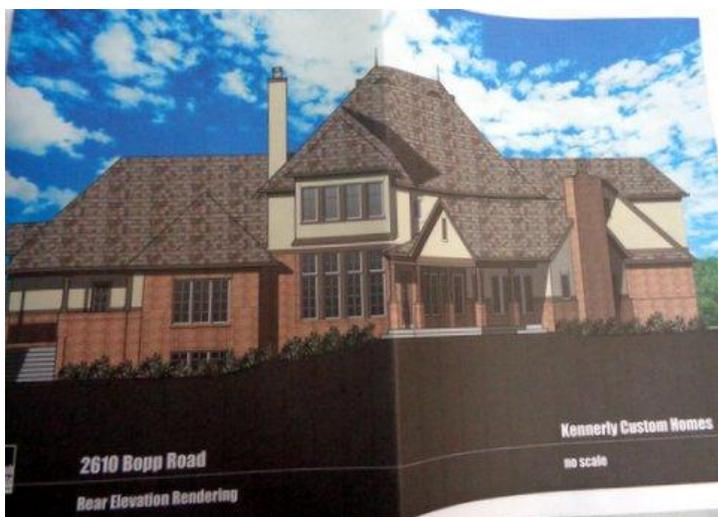


In most governments to have a quorum you need to have more that 50-percent present. Due to the tremendous lack of interest of appointed members of various commissions several years ago the board of aldermen dropped the number to have a quorum to 40-percent. At the recent ARB only half of the eight members showed up.

FRONTENAC FOREST SUBDIVISION AGAINST NEW HOME ON BOPP ROAD, CLAIMING IT VIOLATES CITY LAW...UNFORTUNATELY THEY ARE CITING FRONTENAC CODE AND THE LOT IS IN TOWN AND COUNTRY: Julia Green, Dupe Akinyede and Natalia Bogdanova filed a letter protesting the proposed new home at 2610 Bopp Road. They are complaining that new house will be four feet taller than the height of the current house, which is a 1950/1960's style ranch house. They also point out Frontenac's top height for a house is 35 feet.

Unfortunately for them the top of a new house under the Town and Country Code is 40-feet. The houses on the east side of the road facing Bopp Road are in Town and Country and the houses behind them on the streets into the subdivisions are in the City of Frontenac.

This confused members of the ARB who asked staff members when this house came into Town and Country from Frontenac. Once again it was another example of appointed members not knowing as much as they should. These houses on the east side of Bopp Road have been in Town and Country since it was incorporated as a village in 1950.



NEW HOME AT 291 POINT CONWAY HILL IS APPROVED



THORNHILL COMPOUND HOME APPROVED: After some considerable neighbor resistance some changes were made to the plans for the home at 12951 Thornhill Drive and it was approved by the Archetectural Review Board at their February 9 meeting.



Above the original plans for the 12951 Thornhill house. The new owner of the house listens to his architect explain the changes of his plans to the ARB.

The new plans called for the house to be set back an additional five feet which would eliminate the retaining wall at the front of the property. Also the security gate to the garage was removed, along with a slight change in color of some masonry.

CITY DOESN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT UPCOMING TOWN SQUARE

MEETING: The next meeting of the Town Square Task force was quietly placed on the city's website calendar. The meeting is for Tuesday February 24 at 7pm at the Longview Park Farmhouse. On Friday the agenda for the Tuesday meeting was not posted until late in the afternoon.

PASSING OF AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY

COMMUNITY: It may have been named Clayton and Ballas Service, but everyone referred to the gas station and repair garage on the southwest corner of Clayton and Ballas Roads as "McNamara's."



Many people now think of McNamara's as a repair shop with slightly higher than average gasoline prices. However if you go back to the 1960s and 1970s McNamara's was the center of the original Village of Town and Country. It was where neighbors met while filling up their cars and where you could get a cup of coffee long before the gas station business centered around convenience stores with gas pumps.

While the Connecticut Yankee Mayor Jon Dalton, who doesn't really know crap about the history of Town and Country wants to claim that we need a town square and "gathering place" at the 8.8 acres of property he just bought at Clayton Road and Mason Road...for 30 years Town and Country had a "gathering place." It was Jack McNamra's service station at Clayton Road and Ballas Road.

In 1970 McNamara's Standard and later Amoco station (now a Shell station) was the main service station in the center of town. Beyond the western city limits there was the Wirth Standard Station, almost to Mason Road. If you made it to Clayton Road and Woods Mill Road there was a small wooden one-car garage Shell Station.

Jack McNamara was a friend to Town and Country. His service station was both where the city bought gasoline for its fleet of two police cars, but was the service point also. Besides taking care of the police cars, it was not uncommon to see the old white Town and Country fire truck on the lot at McNamara's with a mechanic on step ladder trying to perform a fix.

When I returned to the area in 2006 we took our cars to McNamara's, eventually following their head mechanic Dave Dwyer to the service station he bought at Clayton Road and Kehrs Mill Road. However I still would stop by to buy gas for several years on Saturdays as it was the one day a week that semi-retired Jack McNamara would be at the station. It was fun to shoot the breeze with Jack and catch up with the whereabouts of some of the former employees and former Town and Country cops.

Jack died on Valentine's Day. He was 77 and had a lengthy illness. He may have lived in nearby Kirkwood until 1999 and then in Frontenac but he was certainly an important part of Town and Country for many decades.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 111



February 25, 2015

CITY COUNCIL OVERRIDES ALL FOUR OF MAYOR NATION'S

VETOES: On December 1, 2014 Chesterfield Mayor Bob Nation used four line item vetoes to (1) stop a 3-percent raise for all city employees (2) eliminate \$250 holiday gift cards for employees in 2015, (3) eliminate promoting a Parks employee to "Superintendent of Arts and Entertainment" and hiring an additional employee for art and entertainment activities (4) hire two new school resource officers for elementary schools which would have made 4 officers for 14 elementary schools. The veto override vote has been delayed three times due to some council members being absent at the next three meetings. On Wednesday night February 18 there was a full house of council people.



Mayor Bob Nation

By December 23 Mayor Nation had modified his vetoes. **1.** He reduced the employee pay raise from 3-percent to 2.5-percent for a savings \$43,458. **2.** He reduced the holiday grocery gift cards from \$250 to \$100 for what would be a savings of \$22,600. **3.** He still wanted to eliminate the new Arts and Entertainment positions, for a savings of at least \$100,000. **4.** He wanted to just eliminate one new Police School Resource Officer,

which would have left three SROs for the 14 elementary schools in town. This would have been another savings in the area of \$60,000 or more.

"From my perspective it was not so much the dollars saved as the trends and precedent being set," Nation explained.

Here is how the votes panned out.

Candidate urges council to overturn vetoes. Elderly Harvey Rosenberg, the candidate who wants to bring youth back into government, spoke at the start of the meeting urging the council to overturn all the vetoes...in doing so he at one point was mixing up his choice of words.

"I'm going to start my remarks with good news. We are not in a fiscal crisis," said Rosenberg. "We must override each of the mayor's vetoes.



Concerning the SRO positions, twice Harvey referred to the now defunct "DARE" (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) as the "DEER" program. (Harvey should be running in Town and Country.)

"My suggestion is we should be adding two more (SROs) instead of cutting one," said Rosenberg, who wanted SROs to be six officers officers for Parkway and Rockwood elementary schools while the city would receive no funding or reimbursement for the officers.

"This is not forward thinking. Any councilmember who votes against the veto overrides is not doing what is in the best interest of the city," said Rosenberg.

Next former Mayor Brice Geiger and former councilwoman and former Chesterfield Arts Director Mary Brown spoke saying saying much the same things they did in January when urging the city council to override the vetoes.

At one point Councilwoman Connie Fults and Brown got into a discussion. With Fults wanting to know what the staffing levels of Chesterfield Arts was. Brown told her it was five people. The implied point was that Chesterfield was going to do it with two people.



1) Employee raises: On this issue Mayor Nation's **veto was overturned with an 8-0 vote.**

2) Gift cards: The senior Councilman Barry Flachsbart spoke of his problems with funding holiday gift cards over a year in advance.

"In the past this (gift cards) is not an entitlement and should not be now. I want this to be considered by the Finance and Admin Committee in the beginning of the fourth quarter," said Flachsbart.



Left to right...Derek "Boy Councilman and Grizzly Councilman", Councilwoman Nancy Greenwood and Councilman Barry Flachsbart.

Councilman Dan Hurt jumped in and backed up Flachbart's statement.

"I agree with Councilman Flachsbart. It is nice to give gifts. It is a gift but it has become an entitlement. It should not be in the budget," said Hurt.



Dan Hurt

Connie Fults, who has been very upset with all the vetoes spoke up.

"We all sat in the budget meeting and approved the budget. Now we will need only a vote of three, a minority, to overturn the work of everyone," she said.

The Veto was overridden on a 6-2 vote with Flachsbart and Hurt voting against the override. One more "no" vote and the veto would have stood. This was as close as it would get.

3. On creating the Arts & Entertainment Unit with two employees, Bruce DeGroot spoke first on why the veto should be overridden.

"We challenged and instructed the staff, Service Director Mike Geisel, Parks Director Tom McCarthy and Economical Development and Community service Director Libby Tucker-Malberg and they came up with a plan. It was a workable plan without increasing the amount we had given to Chesterfield Arts in the past," said DeGroot.



Bruce DeGroot wearing his Catholicism on his forehead and getting the most out of his Ash Wednesday ashes.

Connie Fults was clearly getting more and more frustrated.

"At some point these votes we made are going to stick and count," she said.

The vote to override the veto passed 7-1 with only Barry Flachsbart voting against it.

4. The veto of two extra SRO Police Officers back in December seemed to be a likely candidate not to be overridden. On December 1 Councilman Elliot Grissom made a motion to send the request for the two SRO Police Officers back to the Public Health and Safety Committee and remove it from the budget. Mike Casey and Derek Grier voted with Grissom, but the motion lost 3-4.

The three votes from December would have upheld the veto, Casey, Grissom and Grier and changed their votes. **The vote to override the SRO Veto passed 8-0.**

CITY COUNCIL PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE VOTES FOR STUDY OF CLOSING RIVER VALLEY DRIVE AT MARYLAND HEIGHTS CITY LIMITS:

On Thursday night February 19 the Planning and Public Works Committee of the City Council voted 4-0 to have the city staff do a study on the costs and impact of closing River Valley Drive at the Maryland Heights city limits. A large scale development of residential and commercial area is before Maryland Heights planners. One of the primary routes to this development would be from Olive through the residential River Bend subdivision on River Valley Drive.

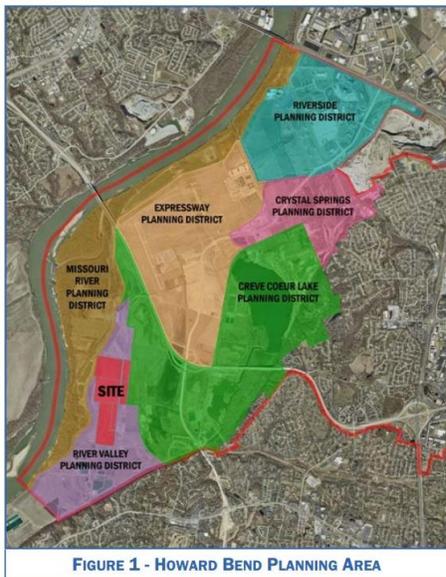
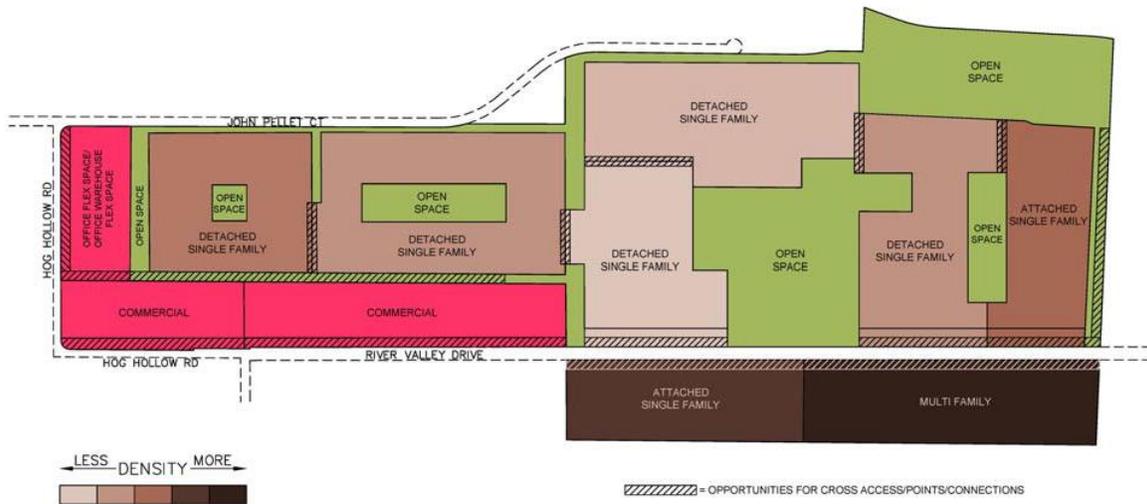


FIGURE 1 - HOWARD BEND PLANNING AREA



FIGURE 2 - PROJECT LOCATION

We reported in December that there are 37 homes on River Valley Drive, plus a Parkway elementary school. Mike Geisel who oversees planning and public works for Chesterfield made a 20 minute presentation before the committee.

Geisel stated that there are an estimated 1,500 cars a day that use River Valley Drive and admitted a number of those are cut through traffic of people avoiding Highway 141/364 to get to Olive Blvd. He estimated that if the McBride and Sons residential project and the commercial projects planned in Maryland Heights happen the traffic count on the subdivision street would go to 25,000 cars a day.

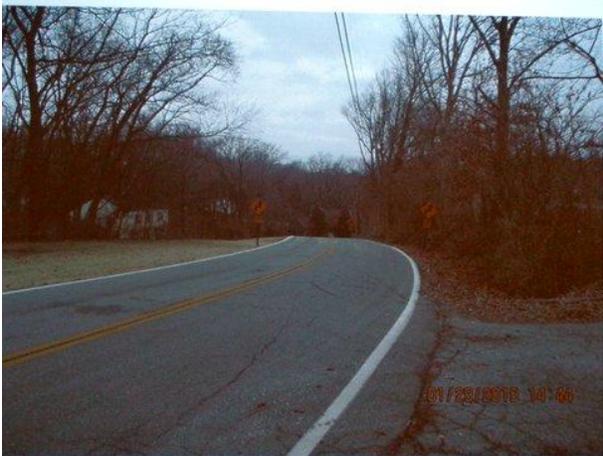
Here is a nice winter trip down River Valley Drive.



Entrance to River Valley Dr from in front of the school. Approaching first round about.



Approaching a second round about.



Road leaves subdivision and begins to narrow.



More twisting and winding road with blind hillcrests and curves.





With the legal opinions given by Chesterfield City Attorney Rob Heggie in secret closed session, Mike Geisel said the city staff could do a study on the impact of closing River Valley Drive at the Maryland Heights city limits and that it would take about two months to complete the study.

The question came up of where the traffic would go if the development was built and River Valley Drive was closed. One answer would be Hog Hollow Road, which is a narrow two lane road with no subdivisions along it. It leads to the two water plants.

Geisel estimated 2,000-to-2,500 cars use Hog Hollow Road (a city street) each day as a cut through to Olive Blvd. He further explained that Hog Hollow has no shoulder with utility poles directly next to the pavement. He said he did not think it could safely handle 25,000 cars a day.

Geisel mentioned that the city could always simply abandon Hog Hollow Road if 25,000 cars a day made it too costly and too unsafe to maintain. Here are his photos of Hog Hollow Road.





There were 12 people from the River Bend subdivision at the meeting. Barb McGinnis spoke for the group and reported that 87-percent of the homeowners in the subdivision favor closing River Valley Drive.

"We would not be able to survive this development as the neighborhood we are today. We need you (city council) to protect us," said McGinnis. "The neighborhood would not be the same. It would simply be a cut through from Maryland Heights to Olive," she added.



Barb McGinnis

SIGN OF THINGS TO COME: At a recent meeting sitting together chatting were George Stock, a consulting engineer and principal spokesman for many developers, former Councilman Matt Segal who was part of the pro-developer and pro-tax abatement faction of the Council (who was defeated for mayor by Bob Nation) and Bridget Nations, unopposed council candidate and wife of former mayor John Nations, were all together at a recent Council meeting.

Segal had changed jobs a couple of times since he left office and is now working for residential developer Pulte Homes. This confirms my position in the last mayor's campaign that Segal was all about fast development. It is interesting that Bridget Nation is hanging with these guys. She will replace Derek Grier who is already closely tied to developers, so there will be no change in the makeup of the board.



MONARCH FIRE DISTRICT LAWSUITS: We have obtained copies of a number of the lawsuits filed by lawyers for Local 2665 against the Monarach Fire Protection District . We hope with time permitting to review one or more of these legal actions in each of our upcoming newsletters.



VS



The first lawsuit we looked at was Ray Antonacci against the Monarch Fire Protection District and Directors Robin Harris and Jane Cunningham on filed on June 2, 2014. Director Steven Swyers, who has a son who is a member of Local 2665 working at another fire protection district was not named. It was filed in the name of Antonacci and not Local2665, but the lawsuit was filed by Local 2665's attorney Rick Barry.



Antonacci was a firefighter/paramedic with the fire district and a shop steward for Local 2665. **On September 11, 2009 Antonacci while off-duty was involved in a motorcycle accident that cause injuries leaving him unfit to continue his job as a firefighter/paramedic. The motorcycle accident was not related to any of Antonacci duties and he took on this known risky activity himself.**

The fire district allowed him to use his sick leave, accumulated vacation and donated sick time from others to remain on the payroll for a year-and-a-half until March 2011.

Here is where the facts turn out not to be the facts: In December of 2012 the Fire District advertised for a new position of Public Education Officer. Here is what Antonacci's lawsuit claims:

13. In December of 2012, the District had an opening for the position of Public Education Officer (“PEO”). The position was posted, and other individuals, including Plaintiff, applied.

14. Harris and Cunningham recommended that the position be filled by a retired employee, at a reduced rate of pay.

15. Plaintiff was offered the position, which he accepted in February of 2013.

Unfortunately for the truth of Antonacci's lawsuit, Cunningham never recommended the job be filled by a retired employee, nor was she involved with offering Antonacci a job. She would not be elected to the Fire District Board of Directors until April of 2013 or two months after he claimed he was offered the job.

Treated Differently: Antonacci's lawsuit claimed he was treated differently and forced to submit a daily log of his activities, while other employees at fire headquarters did not.

16. During the time Plaintiff held the position of PEO, he was treated differently than other similarly situated employees of the District.

17. Specifically, Plaintiff was ordered by the District to prepare a daily log documenting, in detail, each task he performed along with the hours he spent on each task. No other employee in the Fire Prevent Bureau had ever been required to prepare such a log.

18. On September 25, 2013, Plaintiff was informed by the District that the position of PEO had been eliminated, and that Plaintiff would no longer be working at the District as of December 31, 2013.

When you create a new position it is not usual to have the employee keep a log of activities to show how effective the position is. The fact the position was eliminated by the end of the 2013 is known as "politics." The Public Education Officer" position was created by the pro-Union board and Antonacci, a former union shop steward was hired by the board. Two months later a "pro-taxpayer" board became the majority and began looking at ways to cut expenses. This is a fact of life in both the public and private sector.

Before it was announced his "Public Education Officer" would be eliminated Antonacci applied for a "Fire Inspector" job that became open. He was not hired. Here is his complaint about that:

21. In July of 2013, a Fire Inspector position became available at the District. Plaintiff applied for his position.

22. The District did not hire Plaintiff for the position, and instead chose an outside hire to fill the position, even though Plaintiff had all of the required qualifications for the position, and was still an employee of the District at the time of the posting of the position.

23. The District's past practice has been to hire internally when a position becomes available, instead of seeking applicants for hire outside of the District.

24. While Plaintiff held the position of PEO, Defendant Cunningham stated, in an open board meeting, "we should not have to take care of people that get in motorcycle accidents off duty," referring to Plaintiff.

First of all just because you have the qualifications for the job, does not mean you are the best candidate for the job. Police and fire departments normally have 50 or more "qualified" people apply for a job opening. The majority are not going to get hired.

The fact that the district's past practice had been to hire internally is not relevant. Many believe it is good to bring in qualified people from outside of an organization for new and fresh ideas and perspectives. Also the political process is not illegal. The voters spoke and elected Cunningham with 60-percent of vote. The new board is doing what voters expected.

To some observer's the creation of the Public Education Officer" position was a direct act by the "pro-union" board to provide a job for Antonacci. Cunningham's public remarks are political rhetoric that is totally permissible and goes on every day in Congress.

Next on his list of complaints was that he was not hired as a receptionist for the Fire District, despite being qualified. Once again just because Antonacci may have had the qualifications for the position of receptionist, didn't mean he was the best candidate.

28. On or about November 1, 2013, Plaintiff filed a Charge of Discrimination against the District, Robin Harris, and Jane Cunningham, with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, alleging he was discriminated against because of his disability and was retaliated against for complaining of discrimination.

29. In early December of 2013, Plaintiff applied for an open Receptionist position with the District.

30. On or about December 23, 2014, Plaintiff filed an Amended Charge of Discrimination alleging further acts of retaliation and discrimination.

31. On February of 2014, Plaintiff was informed by the District's Fire Chief that the District had hired another individual for the open Receptionist position, despite the fact I was qualified and capable of performing the duties of the position.

Here is another complaint Antonacci had:

- b. Plaintiff was considered by Defendants to be a spokesperson for Local 2665 and a former "union boss".

The first problem with this complaint is that it is difficult to know and prove what Jane Cunningham and Robin Harris "think." The other problem with it is when you are a "union shop steward" and when you are quoted or appear on television news stories as a spokesperson for the union, it is a somewhat mute point claiming that people might think you were a "union boss" and "spokesman."

\$1,000,000: Antonacci wanted more than \$1,000,000 in damages from the Fire District and Harris and Cunningham. This translates he wanted more than \$1,000,000 from the taxpayers.

OUTCOME: The Fire District's Attorney Robert Stewart denied all accusations concerning harm or discrimination. **On November 17, 2014 Circuit Judge Tom DePriest dismissed Count II the lawsuit against the Fire District, Harris and Cunningham as having no merit.** This dealt with Antonacci claiming his constitutional rights had been violated because he had been a member of Local 2665.

Not Disabled: The Fire District pointed out in its response to the lawsuit, while Antonacci may have been unable to perform his duties as a firefighter, he was not so disabled that he could not find other employment. In fact Antonacci is now the Chief Administrative Officer with the Lincoln County Ambulance District.

AT WILL EMPLOYEE: Also in his position as the "Public Education Officer" Antonacci was an at-will employee per Missouri Employment law and no reason has to be given to discharge him. However, Board President Robin Harris has maintained that the position of "Public Education Officer" was eliminated when the new board decided it was more important to have a Human Resources Officer instead of the "Public Education Officer."

The Result...Money continues to flow as the lawsuit continues: This frivolous lawsuit, cost taxpayers a lot of money to defend. It will also likely be used in the upcoming April election claiming that the leadership of Robin Harris as president of the Monarch Fire Prevention District resulted in costly lawsuits. In fact the cost defending the lawsuits was the direct result of Local 2665 attorney's filing lawsuits with no merit.

Counts I and III of the lawsuit continue with the last action being on January 5, 2015 with Rick Berry filing interrogatories and a request for documents from the Fire District. The taxpayers continue to pay and pay.

POST-DISPATCH GO MAGAZINE'S PHONY BEST OF ST. LOUIS

VOTING: The Post-Dispatch's Go Magazine currently has online voting for best places in St. Louis. I immediately became suspicious of the entire survey/poll/vote when O'Connell's Pub was not one of the 13 places listed for "Best Burger." Jack Parker's burgers have been winning "Best Burger awards dating back to the 1960s. In recent years Blueberry Hill has edged O'Connell's out of first place in some polls, but the restaurant at Kingshighway and Shaw still has one of the best burgers in town. The fact it was off the Go-Magazine list causing me to "write-in" my vote, which casts the whole thing as more than a bit bogus. O'Connell's is now on the ballot.

Besides have a great burger...it is far cheaper than its West County or Delmar Loop competition. The 1/2 pound and 1/4 pound burgers at O'Connell's are in the \$6 to \$7 range. I have been eating at O'Connell's since I worked in Gaslight Square and O'Connell's was located in the 400 block of N. Boyle Avenue, four doors from Olive.



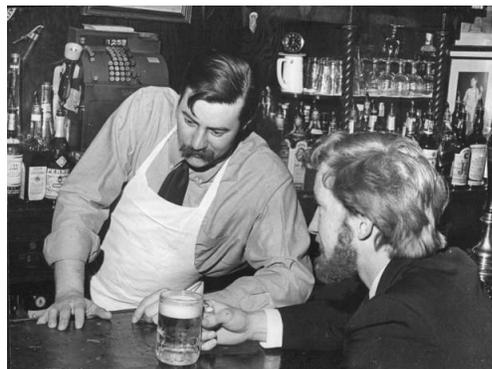
The current pub on Shaw at Kingshighway



My 1/4 pound cheeseburger in December of 2014



The 1/2 pound burger



Owner Jack Parker behind the bar in Gaslight Square



This was the end of one era and the start of another. This was the original O'Connell's Pub building at 454 N. Boyle. O'Connell's was one of the last places to leave Gaslight Square. When Parker moved to Shaw and Kingshighway all the store fronts in the entertainment district were board up.

When I voted under "Best Hero" only "Stan Musial" was on the ballot. I was a great admirer of Stan the Man. Luckily my birthday is in the winter before the start of spring training. I would pressure my parents to take me to Stan and Biggie's on Oakland Ave. for my birthday. Stanley Frank Musial always was there and stopped by each table. It was a highlight of the year for me. When I was older I admired Musial for the example he set and what a decent person he was. I always considered him a great baseball player and a wonderful person. However, I never considered him a "hero." My "baseball hero," yes...a "hero, hero"...no.

I then wrote in the name Phelim O'Toole. In 1877 O'Toole an Irish immigrant working for \$75 a month as a St. Louis firefighter climbed from the end of a ladder then climbed up tied together bed sheets to rescue 12 people trapped on the sixth floor of the Southern Hotel in downtown St. Louis as it burned. He was given a \$500 check for his bravery which he reportedly donated to an orphan's fund.

Three years later he fought a fire at the downtown courthouse hanging from a rope tied to the dome of the building. He died at in July of 1880 when a fire extinguisher he was using to fight a fire in a home's basement exploded killing him at the age of 32.



Stan Musial, a great St. Louisian and a baseball hero. Phelim O'Toole a great St. Louis hero

I noticed a day after I voted that O'Toole was added with Musial as Heroes to vote for.

Last week Chuck Berry was added to the "Best Hero" ballot. Hello! Chuck Berry? A great rock n roll legend, great entertainer, but the guy served Federal time for illegal sex acts with underage girls. Later in life he paid off a lawsuit claiming he had hidden cameras in the woman's bathroom of a nightclub he owned in Wentzville.

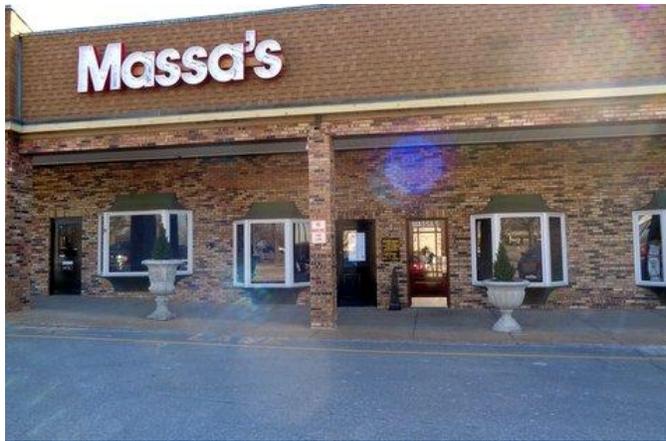
I was happy to see that Carol Tanner, the former bartender at Jimmy's on the Park and the current bartender at the River Bend was on the list.

Here is the link to the ballot. Why don't you make some of your own write-ins? Voting is open until March 8.

<http://stltoday.secondstreetapp.com/l/The-GO-List-2015/TheGoList2015>

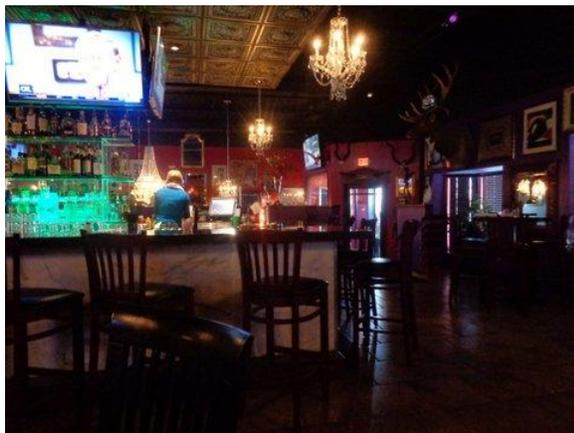
RESTAURANT REVIEW: We try out the new Town and Country Massa's. It was three for diner and just myself for lunch at Massa's newst location at 14312 S. Outer 40 Drive in Town and Country. I especailly choose two people for dinner. Musician Joe Bayer joined us on his way down to Sasha's to lay down some saxophone jazz on a Wednesday. Joe has spent some time living on the East Coast and is in the LA and Vegas areas on a regular basis in connection with his everyday job. For a guy whose name doesn't end in a vowel, Joe is a bit of an Italian food snob.

Also with us was my wife who lived a year in Rome...who better to rate some Italian food?



The first thing about entering Massa's is that you no longer smell stale cigarette smoke. The prior restaurant at the location, Morgan Le Fay (named after the Welsh fictional enemy of King Arthur) allowed smoking and when the County wide anti-smoking law went into effect Morgan Le Fay reduced its menu so it was no longer considered a restaurant and avoided the smoking ban. The manager was a chain smoker. Of course Town and County's elected officials did nothing like pass a Kirkwood or Clayton style anti-smoking ordinance that covered every place in town. With Mayor Jon Dalton having been a long time cigarette lobbyist that was not going to happen.

I asked about this and was told by a manager that they literally had to rip everything out of the place to get rid of the smell of cigarette smoke.



For a Wednesday night dinner at 7:15 it took our waitress 19 minutes to find time to drop by and say hello. However, things improved after our orders were taken.

Joe likes ravioli and doesn't care for toasted ravioli and complains that at some St. Louis restaurants the only ravioli on the menu is the toasted variety.

He was in luck on this night, both specimens of ravioli were on the menu. He went with a dinner salad and the ravioli (\$8.99) . The dinner salad was okay for coming off a modest priced menu. The lettuce was fresh and he wasn't cheated on dressing.



Here is Joe's take on his dinner:

"The ravioli was better than most. The heavy St. Louis red sauce is way behind the lighter East Coast marinaras, but Massa's is worth a visit," he said.

Regular readers of these reviews know that when I'm at an Italian restaurant we always have the "Olive Garden Test." I order fettucine alfredo (\$8.99) and if it is as least as good as Olive Garden's alfredo it passes. Massa's alfredo was every bit as good as that served at the Olive Garden.



Massa's



Olive Garden

Of course the entire time I was enjoying the alfredo my wife was asking me if I knew how many calories it was and if I had a cardiologist on speed dial.

I also ordered chicken tenders (\$7.99) to share . These were good. Not as good as the hand breaded ones at Smitty's, but still unique and tasty.



I also decided to try another side, the Italian Potatoes (\$2.99) . We were going to share these, but it was not worth it. They small potatoes in a cream sauce arrived COLD and at least when they are cold they had very little taste.

Now for the diner who lived in Rome for a year...she ordered Bristo beef Medallions (2 for \$12.99 and 3 for \$16.99) plus broccoli! Go figure.

The two small tenderloins were very tender. However my wife complained that they had no taste. She was right. Concerning the broccoli, she was not happy it was drenched in butter. To me that is one of the few ways to make broccoli edible, the other is to cover it hot melted cheese. My wife is beginning to act like she wants to live to be 70!



Two days later I returned to Massa's just after the lunch rush to try some mid-day food. Since we have tried French dips or roast beef sandwiches at three other Town and Country restaurants (Mike Duffy's, Rich and Charlie's and the Country Club, plus Winfield's in Kirkwood) I gave the Massa French dip (\$8.99) a try. I also went with a side of onion rings.

The French Dip was great. It was far better than what was served at the four other restaurants. If we had one complaint it would be the container of au jus for dipping was too small.



The onion rings however were not special. Go to Charlotte's Rib, Cheeburger Cheeburger or Winfield's for Onion rings and take a pass on them at Massa's. I will say this, with half of the rings still on my plate, the waitress (an assistant manager) asked how they were and I replied that I was not crazy about them and she took them off the bill.

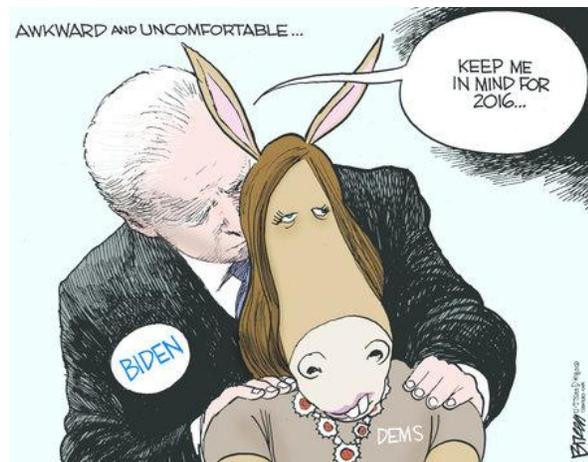
The fact is that unlike Rich and Charlie's, there is plenty of room at Massa's. You can talk like an Italian with your hands and not worry about hitting someone at the next table. Also the prices are more reasonable, portions more reasonable and the food seems to be better. Also unlike Rich and Charlie's you can order a pizza while someone else at your table can get pasta or a sandwich. At Rich and Charlie's the pizza is two doors down in a separate store front.

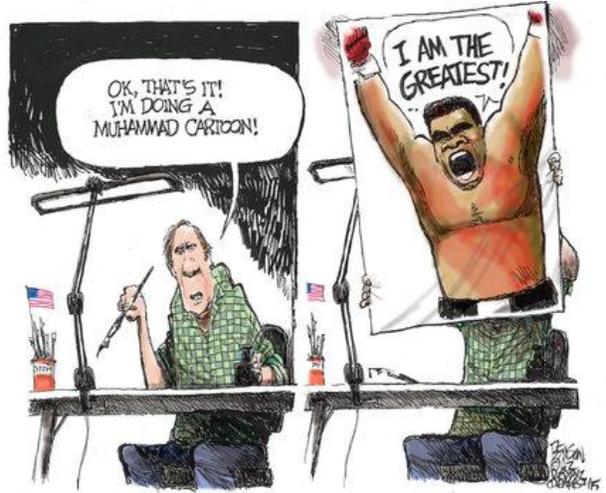
I plan to go back and try the St. Louis style pizza at Massa's. We found Massa's menu to be hit and miss. However if you find something you like it might be the perfect place in town for an informal and reasonably priced meal.

MUSIC: BIG BAND THIS WEDNESDAY: This Wednesday February 25 the Route 66 Jazz Orchestra will be at the Kirkwood Brewing Station on East Jefferson Street one door from Kirkwood Road. The concert is from 7:30 to 9:30 with a \$10 cover. Food and drink service is available.



CARTOONS:





NEW CHARGERS LINEUP:



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MEANWHILE in NEW JERSEY...



The last two weeks it was almost all Brian Williams cartoons. This is it for this week.





"Sorry for the confusion. I wasn't signaling a left turn. I was just drying my nails."

