

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 167 AND CHESTERFIELD 112



By John Hoffmann

March 2, 2015

FORMER MASON VALLEY AND CURRENT CHESTERFIELD RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING INVESTMENT CLIENTS OF \$753,144.

C. (Charles) Russell Williams, 76, was arrested in April of 2013 after being indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for two counts of wire fraud and one count of mail fraud in the theft of \$753,144 from clients. He pled guilty on Monday February 23, 2015. Sentencing will be on May 26. Here is a press release from the U.S. Attorney's office that lays out Williams' scheme:

CHARLES WILLIAMS pled guilty to defrauding investors of their funds between on or about November 1, 2007 and January 31, 2013. The 11 individuals whose funds were invested in the C.R. Williams Investment Fund, LLC, and the C.R. Williams Tax Advantaged Investment Fund, LLC reported that they provided defendant more than \$753,144. By December 28, 2012, UMB Bank records revealed that only \$11,800 remained in the C.R. Williams Investment Fund, LLC account, and \$54,400 in the C.R. Williams Tax Advantaged Investment Fund, LLC account.

According to court documents, on March 6, 2008, the Securities and Exchange Commission barred Williams from association with any investment adviser, and revoked the investment adviser registration of C. R. Williams, Inc. Nevertheless, Williams and his corporation continued to accept investments into C.R. Williams Investment Fund, LLC, and C.R. Williams Tax Advantaged Investment Fund, LLC, until 2012 from existing account holders. Between November 2007 and January 2013, Williams devised a scheme to defraud financial investors by promising that the funds they provided to him were maintained in the C.R. Williams Investment Fund, LLC and C.R. Williams Tax Advantaged Investment Fund, LLC. Without the authorization of the investors, Williams made multiple electronic transfers from investor accounts into his two investment funds. In order to conceal the transfers of funds from the two investment accounts into other financial accounts, Williams prepared and mailed fraudulent portfolio valuations for C.R. Williams Investment Fund, LLC and C.R. Williams Tax Advantaged Investment Fund, LLC to investors. Williams used the investors' funds to pay for

his office rental, personal expenses, mortgage and vehicle expenses, as well as to draft checks which he made payable to himself.

Williams, St. Louis, Missouri, pled guilty to one felony count of wire fraud and two felony counts of mail fraud before United States District Judge Henry Autrey. Sentencing has been set for May 26, 2015.

Each of these charges carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000. In determining the actual sentences, a judge is required to consider the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide recommended sentencing ranges.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Assistant United States Attorney Tracy Berry is handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Williams and his wife Joan lived at 1473 Mason Valley Road for over 15 years according to County tax records. They moved out in 2013 when a realty company took control of the house after it was foreclosed on. He and his wife's current address 542 Kingscross Lane in Chesterfield. In 2013 they had a 1997 and a 1999 Mercedes. In 2014 they only had the 1997 Mercedes.

Prior to his arrest in 2013 the SEC stripped Williams of his broker's license and fined him \$10,000.

On December 2, 2013 Williams was hit with an \$8,580 judgment from the Department of Revenue that has not been satisfied.

On June 26, 2008 Williams was evicted from his office space on North Forty Drive.

Williams has been a member of the Gangs of Town and Country since his indictment in 2013.

AMY ANDERSON DOES A 180 ON VOTING FOR P&Z MEMBERS WHO FAVOR THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL/BJC PROJECT: On her first night on the job, Amy Anderson refused to vote for Will McKnight a nominee from Mayor Dalton to join the Planning and Zoning Commission. Linda Rallo voted against McKnight, but the final vote was 6-1 in favor of McKnight, who had stated he was in favor of rezoning residential property in the Maryville University land deal. Anderson abstained.



In July of 2013 Anderson had carried a large R-1 Stamp (for Residential Zoning) and said at the Planning and Zoning meeting how her father had been on a Planning and Zoning Commission and fought to keep residential zoning. She was one of many speakers against the Allegro project which wanted to build assisted living apartments on the Wirth property that abutted Anderson's subdivision.



Anderson then used the "Save Residential Zoned Areas" as a campaign platform in her successful run for alderwoman, claiming residential zoning comes first.

On her first night on the board of alderman she couldn't vote for McKnight, but was afraid to vote against him.

10 months later Amanda Mueller is before her as a new candidate for the P&Z Commission. Mueller stated she thought the rezoning of the land zoned "residential" at Mason Road and I-64 to a special zoning district for the BJC/Children's Hospital surgical

center was appropriate. Oddly her law firm does work for BJC. That apparently was not enough of a reason for Anderson to against her appointment to the P&Z Commission.

Anderson, who had promised to protect residential property at all costs voted for Mueller. If you are going to carry a big "R-1" stamp around you need not only to walk the talk but talk the talk and vote the talk too.

THE NEW P&Z MEMBER IS ANOTHER WITH CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS:

Amanda Mueller is the third person on the P&Z Commission that has ties to Barnes/Jewish/Children's Hospital which has Missouri Baptist Medical center and the new Children's Hospital surgical center.

Mueller is a partner in the HeplerBroom Law Firm, headquartered in the county seat (Edwardsville) of litigation crazy Madison County, Illinois. When asked if she foresaw any possible conflicts of interest, she immediately mentioned that her firm has represented BJC. This would mean that Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton, whose firm Armstrong Teasdale represents BJC, who has to recuse himself from any P&Z meeting with a BJC matter, if he bothers to show up (Dalton who has a voting seat on the P&Z has missed 75% of the meetings in the last four years). Ald. Fred Meyland-Smith who doesn't recuse himself at P&Z meetings but should, as he has had or still has a seat on a BJC committee at Missouri Baptist Hospital.

Another drawback with the Mueller selection is that she has only lived in T&C for 18 months.



Ying and Yang...However with that said... here are the reasons why her appointment is a good. The Planning and Zoning Commission has been an exclusive "Good Old Boys Club" and is in despite need of some women members. Despite being a new resident after living at various locations in Webster Groves for the last 11 years, she was active in the opposition to the rezoning of the Ball property for the Maryville University maintenance facility and soccer field.

Ward 4 has always been under represented on boards and commission. Dr. Gary Omell, the lone member from Ward 4 until now, does an outstanding job on the P&Z Commission. However it has been hard to get people in Ward 4 interested in city government.

Mueller's nomination papers had been with Mayor Dalton for over six months before he got around nominating her. So if Dalton had possible problems with Mueller, she is okay with me. I have to think that a fear might be that she would be outspoken and not go along with developers with strong Dalton ties.

NEW POLICE BOARD MEMBER IS APPROVED...BAD NEWS FOR GOLF CART FANCIERS: The best appointment of the night was that of Susan Crandall, the critical care nurse who lives in the Buckland Hall subdivision was appointed to the Police Commission.

Regular readers may remember how Crandall appeared at a Police Commission meeting in January and in her position as a critical care nurse spoke on how dangerous golf carts are if operated on city streets, how serious injuries from golf cart accidents are and how she was against golf carts being used on any city street, not just those in the Thornhill subdivision.



Susan Crandall

Crandall's first job out of nursing school was in the ER of the old County Hospital in Clayton, where on any given day she had lots of contact with cops and law breakers. She will join Dr. Martin Willman, an ER doctor on the police commission. Willman is a long time County Police reserve officer.

Crandall is not a blue blood West Countian, having grown up in Jefferson County and is not afraid to speak her mind even if it might offend the country club set.

The only problem with her being on the Police Commission is that they only meet three or four times a year. She is too good for that limited use. She would be excellent on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment or better yet Board of Aldermen or in the mayor's office.

JIMMY JOHNS WINDOW SIGNS UPSET ALDERMEN...FAST FOOD HAS SLOWED DOWN: First of all everyone is slow in the fast food business around Woods Mill Road and Clayton Road. Colleen Schoendienst's McDonalds Restaurant at the edge of the Lamp and Lantern Shopping Center was supposed to have been torn down and rebuilt over a year ago. That didn't happen. Next it was supposed to be torn down by March of 2015 and rebuilt within three months. According to city staff McDonalds has not applied for the building permit yet. While Colleen owns the franchise, McDonalds owns the land and building.



Across the street in the Clayton Village Shopping Center, where the Heartland Bank Mortgage Center and where Einstein Bagels is located, a new Jimmy John's Sub Shop was supposed to be serving a turkey sub in time for Thanksgiving 2014. That did not happen.

Dale Schiffhauer, one of the partners in the Jimmy Johns for Town and Country managed to get a drive through and outdoor seating approved, plus outside building signs. He did not get the building at the end of the offices north of the Einstein Bagel Shop ready by the end of 2014. Now three months behind schedule Schiffhauer requested a variance to allow for nine lighted window signs. There is no way something like this was going to pass the Town and Country Board of Aldermen, especially with anal retentive Fred Meyland-Smith on the board who hates most signs.



A Jimmy's John with outdoor dining.



Jimmy John's franchisee Dale Schiffhauer

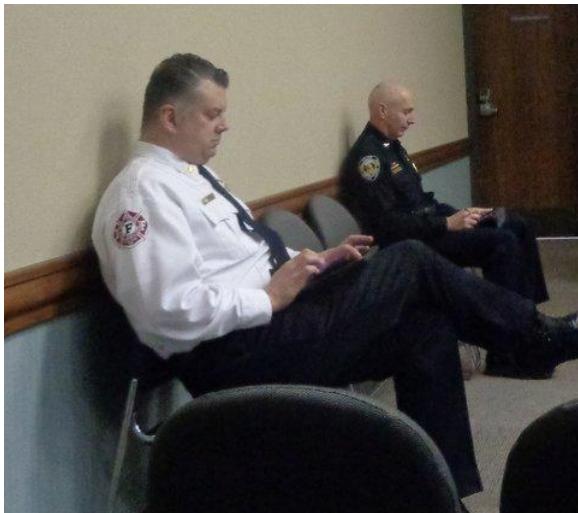
Among the lighted signs Schiffhauer requested to shine through the window was one that read "Free Smells" and another reading "Freaky Fast Delivery."



During the agenda meeting even Schiffhauer admitted he felt the request for nine lighted window signs was too much and added that the number of signs came from Jimmy Johns' corporate offices. He thought four or five would be more appropriated. It was suggested that the variance be continued for two weeks while Schiffhauer makes another proposal. To this Schiffhauer stated they were ready to put in the lighted drive through menu board and speaker box.

The variance resolution was amended during the regular meeting. Only the menu board and speaker signs were approved. Schiffhauer will have come back and try again if he wants to neon window signs.

WHY BOTHER COMING TO THE MEETING? West County EMS and Fire Protection District Ernie Rhoades was at the Board of aldermen meeting and as best as we could tell he did not pay attention to what was going on for a second. During the regular meeting and during the agenda he was checking his PDA, emailing and texting for the whole evening.



THROWING A PARTY OR DOING MARKETING OR MAYBE BOTH? On a snowy Friday night a party was thrown for the members of Town and Country Boards and Commissions. The party was held at retirement and assisted living center Mari de Villa.

Co-Owners of Mari de Villa Fred and Mary Kay Wiese han serve on the Community Relations Commission.



Fred and Mary Kay seemed to routinely be in a contest with the Gatesworth for buying the cover of either Ladue News or Town and Style Magazine. That can add up to big money.

But on Friday February 20 they saved some money while reaching a large group of potential customers by hosting this event with wine and appetizers. The only drawback would have been having to listen to Mayor Jon Dalton tell everyone how "This is the best part of my job" and then drone on and on for 20 minutes. It is the same opening he uses at every homeowners association meeting.

However due to the advanced age of many members serving on boards and commissions by hosting this event Fred and Mary Kay did some marketing, targeting a preferred group of potential clients.

TOWN SQUARE TASK FORCE MEETING...A resident gets the Chairman to admit he used a photo and talked about buying Principia land. Committee indicates it doesn't want property to be used for a city hall.

The most interesting thing at the Tuesday February 24th meeting of the Town Square Task Force was after the task force kicked around ideas of what to do with the 8.8 acres of land the city bought on the south side of Clayton Road was a question by a resident from the Mason Oaks subdivision.

If you remember we reported in our Newsletter #161 the following:

CITY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY ALDERPERSONS CALL FOR A SUBDIVISION MEETING AND THEN DROP BOMBSHELL: We understand from several sources that on Friday January 16 Town Square Task Force Chairman and Ward 1 Alderman Skip Mange and Ward 2

Alderwoman Amy Anderson met with a subdivision group and according to some in attendance mentioned that perhaps the city would sell off the front commercial property on the recently purchased Wirth property and then turn the back seven acres into a park. Next some at the meeting claimed they discussed the city buying up to 17 acres of land from Principia around the firehouse at Clayton Road and Mason possible for a new city hall.

At the end of the February 24th meeting the resident asked why the Task Force had not discussed purchasing the 17 acres of Principia property or why the photo of the property around the fire house (owned by the Principia School) was not shown like it was at his neighborhood meeting.

Task Force Chairman and employee of Principia Skip Mange immediately brushed off the question.

"We only used that slide at your subdivision," snapped Mange, which did not answer the question or explain to the rest of the Task Force what Mange and Anderson had presented to the subdivision.



Co-Chairman	Ward 3
Alderman Skip Mange	Derek Goodin
Leslie Yoffie	Juli Hesser
Ward 1	Ward 4
Preston Polk	Judy Weber
Chris Mower	Kristin DiCarlo
Ward 2	Staff Contacts
Tom Adamitis	Gary Hoelzer, City Administrator
Rico Salmon	Melanie Rippetoe, City Planner
Dr. Nan Kulkarni	
	Neighborhood Representatives Subcommittee
	Alderman Amy Anderson

TASK FORCE VOTES BUT THEY DIDN'T VOTE: It is hard to record a vote if people don't vote on the record. It can be hard to capture a voice vote. How the Task Force meeting started was somewhat stupid.

Mange put on the screen a power point with three recommendations. One was to have the land be used for a similar assisted care facility as was turned down in 2013. A motion was made and a unanimous "no" voice vote followed. What? Did anyone think that this group of people would want to overturn the unanimous vote of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the 100-percent public opposition to the assist living project? No Mange was wasting time and putting on a show.

Next on the list was if the 8.8 acres of property should be used for all commercial or retail business. There was another motion not to recommend that and another unanimous "no" voice vote occurred. The third item was if the property property should be used for all residential, with Mange putting one acre lots and 3/4-acre lots on the screen. There was a motion not to recommend that and another all "no" vote.

Then someone brought up the rumors of the city hall moving there and asked Mange if there was a need for a new city hall. Mange said he didn't think so, but added on court night the parking lot is overfilled and the police have moved some operations into the basement. There was not a vote on this use. Mange simply said, "Well we don't want to proceed with this" and that was that, there was no vote.

BURGER AND A BEER: Task Force member Chris Mower said he wanted to have a gathering place where he can go for a burger and a beer.

My first question... is that really government's job to perform? Skip Mange all but lied to the group when he said the city could sell the front commercially zoned acre off to a developer but control what kind of restaurant goes in there. That is only partially true at best. Once zoning is set, if an applicant meets the zoning restrictions it is hard and often illegal to keep them out.

One woman member said she would want to have a "family restaurant" where specials are written on a chalk board on the wall and where you can bring the kids. Mower then talked about a place with a big side room where you could take the kids' soccer team after a game.

The only way the city could have the utmost control on a restaurant on that property is if the city built the building and then leased it out, much like the Boathouse in Forest Park. Of course the big problem with a locally owned "family restaurant" is they have about an 80-to-90-percent failure rate.

Is it fair to food providers in the Mason Woods Village Shopping Center next door to the property to have a city supported competitor?

Fire Pits? Do you like the smell of campfire in your bedroom? Next someone said they wanted to go to the "new gathering place" at night and in the fall. They asked why there could not be outside heaters or fire pits. They acted like outside heaters were foreign to St. Louis. The problem with having a place to get a beer and a burger and a fire pit is the next thing you know eight guys are drinking beers discussing last week's game and suddenly four of them start dropping loud "F" bombs.

My big problem with wood log fire pits is on a cool fall evening you open your bedroom window for "some good sleeping weather" and a dose of fresh air and at the same time someone stokes up a fire pit. The next thing you know that clean crisp fall air smell has changed into camp fire odor that is now in your bedroom.



Fire Pit anyone?

IDEAS BY SKIP: The Task Force did not come up with the following ...it was placed on the screen by Ald. Skip Mange. Apparently the Task Force is supposed to approve ideas by Skip and not think up their own:

PARK OR COMMERCIAL/PARK

Park Only District: 8.8-acre park with undetermined facilities
8.8 acres of open space with no improvements

Commercial/Park Combination: Front 2.0 acres as a continuation of Mason Woods Village, with a passive park including a lake and picnic areas along the east and south edges

Specific Uses to be included:

Farmers Market	Picnic benches
Rain gardens for drainage	Scheduled food trucks
Storm water retention lake	Ice/cream/frozen custard stand
Small bandstand	Bakery
Outside dining area	Trails
Public art	Community garden
	Family restaurant

Horse before the Cart: The special subcommittee that is to be headed by Ald. Amy Anderson is waiting for members to be presented to the Board of Aldermen and to be voted on. They are unlikely to hold a meeting before April. The subcommittee is to be made up of people from subdivisions around the Wirth Property along with Struab's Grocery, the Mason Village Shopping Center and Principia School. The point of this sub-committee is to get the opinion of the immediate neighbors of the property. This raises the question...shouldn't this sub-committee hold meetings first and provide

feedback to the Task Force before the Task Force starts to decide what the land should be used for?

The next scheduled meeting for the main Task Force is March 31 at 7pm. It will be held 1 1/2-blocks away from a place they want to turn into a gathering place. The place they will be meeting is already a \$1.5 million gathering place, The Longview Farmhouse.

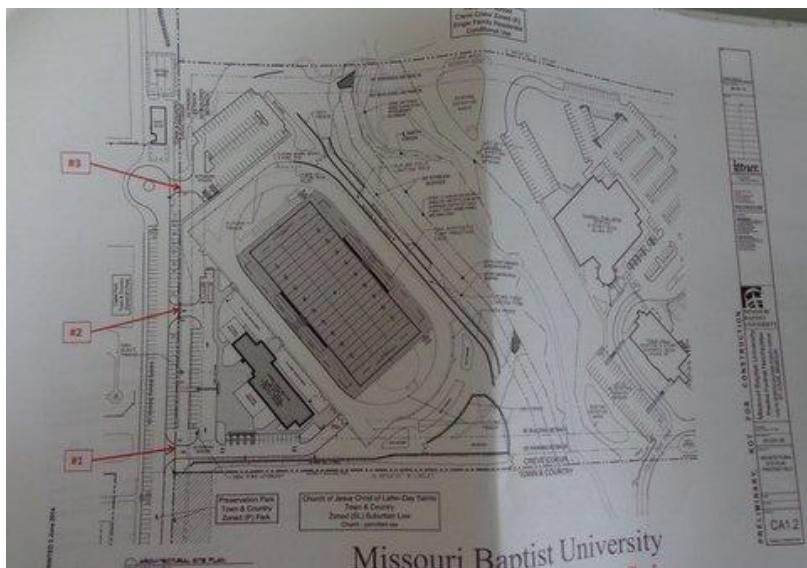
The crowd: When I arrived I immediately sat behind Fred Meyland-Smith on the east side of the room. He immediately moved to the west side of the room and was joined by Alderdope Tim Welby and Ald. Lynn Wright. Two residents from Mason Oaks also arrived. Sitting behind me was Al Gerber and the Mason Oaks resident who asked the great question that Skip tried to dance around about the negotiations between the city and Principia to buy 17 acres of land.



MISSOURI BAPTIST FOOTBALL FACILITY...TWO VIEWS: Back in July Missouri Baptist University (located in Creve Coeur but abutting Town and Country) and CBC came to the Planning and Zoning Commission and later the Board of Aldermen wanting to use land in Town and Country owned by CBC at the north end of Preservation Park for parking and entrance points to their "practice football field" Missouri Baptist University is building.

Missouri Baptist just started an intercollegiate football team. They said they would play games on the CBC field that has artificial turf, but needed a practice field. They did admit some years down the road they might want to turn the "practice field" into a stadium.

I wasn't buying this at all. While CBC currently needs the extra revenue renting their field to Missouri Baptist, it appeared as if a football stadium was not very far off for Missouri Baptist. Here are the plans submitted by Missouri Baptist in July:



Now here are the plans as presented by the construction company in a local trade magazine:

► PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Holland Begins Construction on Football Facility at Missouri Baptist University



The \$8.2 million project includes the addition of an artificial turf field and an 11,500-square-foot facility.

FOOTBALL CONSTRUCTION IS WELL UNDER WAY: On Wednesday February 25 I took a look at the football "practice field" construction. It was rather extensive.



SPORTS AUTHORITY IS LEAVING TOWN AND COUNTRY AND MANCHESTER MEADOWS SHOPPING CENTER: We just reported how a new Fresh Thyme high end grocery store was going into the long empty PetsMart building at the Manchester Meadows Shopping Center. Now it appears as if Fresh Thyme's immediate neighbor to the south, the Sports Authority store will not be around for their grand opening.

By July Sports Authority should be located in the old K-Mart building in Ellisville at Manchester and Clarkson Roads.

Wal Mart the major anchor for the shopping center moved out in 2009, but continues to make lease payments until APRIL 2015. Even though they were no longer in the shopping center, under their lease they had the right to stop business who competed against them from coming into the shopping center. Wal Mart allegedly kept Randall's Liquors from moving into the empty Linen and Things building, citing the non-compete clause and trying to either reduce their rent or get out of a portion of their lease.

Now we hear rumors that a large scale liquor store will go into the empty Office Max building when the Wal Mart lease expires next month.



The east side of the shopping center used to house good sales tax revenue producing businesses before the shopping center looked like a ghost town after Wal-Mart fled. Now businesses are returning, they just are not sales tax revenue producers. An urgent care center opened, the large Gold's Gym has been open for eight months now, plus there is a dance studio. Hopefully a liquor store will make up for the lost sales taxes from Office Max and Fresh Thyme can offset the Sports Authority loss.

FORMER ALDERMAN MOVING OUT OF TOWN: Former one-term alderman Bill Kuehling is moving out of town back to the City of St. Louis. Bill represented Ward-2 from 2007 to 2009 and was stuck with chairing the Deer Task Force. Many meetings featured shouting and booing from the "deer lovers" group that included Bill's cousin Mariette Palmer.

Even though Bill worked for my opponent Tim Welby the year I was elected to the Board of Alderman I actually enjoyed working the polls with him. It was fun serving with him for one year. I do hold it against him for not running for reelection and allowing Welby to return to the Board unopposed in 2009.



Bill said he and his wife, Pam, a former stockbroker decided to downsize from a 5-bedroom house to a single first floor condo unit in the Central West End.

Bill got his start in St. Louis City politics though the Democratic wards. After getting his law degree at Georgetown he held jobs with the City of St. Louis including the position of Director of Public Safety. At the beginning of this year Bill switched law firms leaving Polsinelli and joining Thompson-Coburn. I would not be surprised if Bill is not appointed to a job with the city or a committee with the Democratic Party.

He said he would be moving out of his house at the front of the Van Courtland subdivision in May.

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 112



March 2, 2015

ONE OF THREE CANDIDATES IN WARD 1 RACE DOESN'T LIKE TO VOTE MUCH: 2015 is not going to be as much fun as 2014 when it comes to checking candidates voting records. Last year there was an unsuccessful city council candidate who was not even registered to vote in St. Louis County. Then there was Ward 3 candidate Andy Kazen who had only voted once in the last 14 municipal elections.

This year's check only involves three candidates in Ward 1. I have checked **Nancy Greenwood** in the past and she had a perfect municipal election voting record. Of course you would expect that of a former mayor.



Nancy does not have an election website or election facebook page.

One of her challengers, **Harvey Rosenberg**, who is almost 80 and wants to get the youngsters out to vote, has only failed to vote in April city elections twice. Both times in 2005 and 2006 no one was running opposed in Ward 1 or for mayor.



Harvey Rosenberg

Harvey does not have a website, but he did have an election facebook page, which had absolutely none of his positions on any city government issues.

The other candidate is **James "Jim" Brown**. He has a stellar 13-percent voting record in April elections. Two times out of 15 elections Brown has bothered to vote. Brown didn't even bother to vote in the 2014 November general election. In fact Brown is such a concerned resident who is interested in participating in the American Way that he voted in exactly one August primary election in the last 15 years according to Election Board records.

MAYOR NATION AMONG A NUMBER OF MAYORS TO SPEAK ON THE LATEST TAX POOL BILL:...One Area Mayor was there but not representing his city...instead representing his conflict of interest, his lobbying client... the St. Louis County Municipal league. There was a hearing last Tuesday February 24th on Rep. Sue Allen's sales tax pool adjustment bill. The bill would allow those cities that are

legislatively in the tax pool after 1984 to keep at least 50-percent of the general sales tax revenue before giving money to the tax pool to be shared by other cities.

Currently Chesterfield is keeping 46-percent of the money generated by the general one-cent sales tax while giving up 54-percent to the pool.



Bob Nation



Sue Allen

The 2015 revenue projects show Chesterfield should collect about \$14.5 million in general sale tax revenue, keep \$6,670,000 and give \$7,830,000 to the sales tax pool.

If the bill proposed by Sue Allen passes it would mean \$7.25 million for Chesterfield. Chesterfield Mayor Bob Nation was the the only person testifying in favor of the bill. That was interesting since Chesterfield is suing the State of Missouri in Cole Country Circuit Court claiming the entire sales tax pool legislation is unfair and unconstitutional.

Appearing at the hearing testifying against the bill were the mayors from Webster Groves, Wildwood, Florissant and Vinita Park, plus staffers from St. Louis County.

"It was us against the world," said Bob Nation., who thought the Chesterfield's point of view was well received.

The mayor of Wildwood admitted the tax pool seemed to be "socialist."

Interestingly the mayor of Vinita Park was against the bill despite the fact his city of 1,881 people that is between Page Blvd and Midland Blvd would take in more money if the bill passed. Of course if Vinita Park had one of its retailers close or move being ahead now could mean being behind with one "closed" sign in a window later.

Maryland Heights and Des Peres also had people from city hall at the hearing, but did not testify.

Also of interest was the fact that Town and Country Mayor Jon Dalton was present. Of course Dalton, the lobbyist, was not there representing Town and County, a point-of-sale non-pool city. No he was there representing the St. Louis County Municipal League, which of course is a total conflict of interest.

MONARCH BOARD PRESIDENT OPENS MEETING WITH A STATEMENT ABOUT UNION WEBSITE: Monarch Fire Protection District Board of Directors President Robin Harris began his remarks at the February 17 Board of Directors meeting commenting on a brief post on a website made by someone with the Local 2665 of the firefighters union.

"It was brought to my attention that a group at Local 2665 was upset that the reserve rescue truck was sold. This board had nothing to do with that. Former Chief Vineyard and former Ast. Chief Borgmann had recommended to the former board that the backup rescue truck be sold," said Harris.



This was an issue because Harris is up for reelection and the firefighters union would like to get rid of him. The first line rescue truck was down for about 10 days for repairs. It was replaced with a truck borrowed from another district.

"We borrowed a rescue truck. We are the only district that fully staffs a rescue truck," said Harris.

"It is a big expensive tool box," said current Monarch Fire Chief Chuck Marsonette. Actually a reserve pumper truck can be used as a rescue truck if some of the equipment is transferred over while the main truck is in for repairs.

WE LOOK AT ANOTHER UNION LAWSUIT AGAINST MONARCH FIRE

PROTECTION DISTRICT: This week we look at the lawsuit and Missouri Human Rights Commission complaints filed by Monarch FPD shop stewards, Andy Stecko and Chris Gelven. Both Stecko and Gelven are captains with the Fire District.



VS



Both Stecko and Gelven claim in a lawsuit that they supported two female firefighters in a successful discrimination and harassment lawsuit against the Fire District. Asst. Fire Chief Cary Spiegel was fired along with the entire command staff by the prior "pro-union" board of directors. He was rehired in 2014 by the current "pro-taxpayer" fire board. Now Stecko and Gelven are claiming they are suffering "humiliation, anxiety and emotional trauma" because Spiegel was rehired.

37. As a result of Plaintiffs actions in opposing gender discrimination and retaliation, they were subjected to unlawful harassment by the Defendants, as aforementioned.

38. The unlawful harassment was sufficiently severe and pervasive so as to alter a term, condition, or privilege of Plaintiffs' employment with the District.

39. The aforementioned employment actions taken by Defendants, by and through the individually named Defendants, against Plaintiffs, were initiated intentionally, knowingly, maliciously, and in willful and wanton disregard and reckless indifference to Plaintiffs' rights, in violation of the Missouri Human Rights Act.

40. As a result of Defendants' unlawful acts, by and through its agents, including the individually named Defendants, as aforesaid, in violation of the Missouri Human Rights Act, Plaintiff Gelven has experienced lost wages, humiliation, anxiety, and other emotional trauma.

41. As a result of Defendants' unlawful acts, by and through its agents, including the individually named Defendants, as aforesaid, in violation of the Missouri Human Rights Act, Plaintiff Stecko has experienced humiliation, anxiety, and other emotional trauma.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully requests the Court enter judgment in their favor, above the \$25,000.00 jurisdictional requirement of this Court, against Defendants Monarch Fire Protection District, Robin Harris, and Jane Cunningham, as follows:

1. Award Plaintiff Gelven actual damages including back-pay, front-pay, compensatory damages for Defendants' violations of the Missouri Human Rights Act, including an amount equal to his lost wages and other benefits of employment, with interest, and any other expenses incurred as a result of his loss of these benefits;

2. Award Plaintiffs Gelven and Stecko damages for emotional distress;

3. Award Plaintiffs punitive damages, up to and including \$1,000,000.00, for Defendants' intentional and malicious violation of Plaintiff's rights;

4. Award Plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred herein;

Keep in mind Gelven's loss of pay came after he was suspended for two days after going to the media to telling them about security procedures being implemented by the district by installing bullet proof vests to the interior side of the dais to protect command staff and elected officials in the event of a shooting incident, similar to what happened at the Kirkwood City Council meeting in 2008.



Apparently Stecko and Gelven who are paid to go into burning buildings are frightened, scared and afraid that Cary Spiegel is in an office at fire headquarters going over purchase orders and other administrative paper work. Spiegel in eight months has taken no action against either Stecko or Gelven. Here is what Stecko and Gelven are claiming.

Captain Stecko does not claim that Assistant Chief Spiegel has done anything to him, but rather contends that a hostile work environment was created merely by having Assistant Chief Spiegel on the payroll and that he has suffered emotional distress because of Assistant Chief Spiegel being on the payroll.

Captain Gelven does not claim that Assistant Chief Spiegel has done anything to him, but rather contends that a hostile work environment was created merely by having Assistant Chief Spiegel on the payroll and that he has suffered emotional distress because of Assistant Chief Spiegel being on the payroll

Local 2665's attorney Rick Berry is asking for up to \$1,000,000 in damages for both Stecko and Gelven, despite the fact that no adverse action has happened to them. The \$1,000,000 is the same Berry is asking in the lawsuit we reviewed last week involving former firefighter Ray Antonacci, who was forced to leave the job due to an off-duty motorcycle accident. He received full pay for two years while he used up his sick and vacation time. He was later hired by the old "pro-union" Board of Directors for a newly created job. A new board took over two months later and the position was eliminated.

A circuit judge has already dismissed a portion of that lawsuit.

The review of these two lawsuits appear as if Local 2665 is filing frivolous lawsuits so they can claim in the upcoming election that Board President Robin Harris is the cause of the litigation. In fact, Local 2665 is costing taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars to defend these suits.

Next Week...we will look at how Local 2665 is suing the Missouri Human Rights Commission because they did not like the ruling the MOHRC in favor of the Fire District including Jane Cunningham and Robin Harris.

HOW I GOT DRUG INTO THE TOM SCHWEICH MESS: I appear every Friday morning around 8:35 am on the Allman in the Morning radio show, where I either report on news and criminals from West County or argue with host Jamie Allman about something, which hopefully is entertaining.

When I appeared on the program on Friday February 27, Jamie said my name had come up after the suicide death of Missouri Auditor and governor candidate Tom Schweich. Word was out that some Republicans were trying to smear Schweich with conservative Christians, by claiming he is Jewish. (He was Episcopalian, but one side of his family was Jewish.) Apparently a group had a radio commercial playing claiming Schweich was two-faced. I was told by Jamie, per some of his listeners the group behind this ad was registered with the Missouri Secretary of State as "Citizens for Fairness."

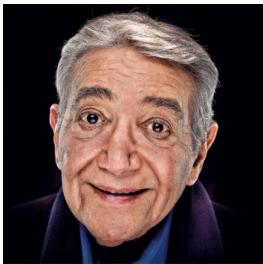
Jamie said he was then getting emails that perhaps I was behind the ads, because "Citizens for Fairness in Town and Country" was listed in my name. If his listeners thought this, surely others did also.

I had to explain that I set up that name so I could have a bank account to accept funds in late 2009 and early 2010 for donations to help three female Town and Country employees who were laid off by Mayor Jon Dalton at Christmas. As an alderman I had rewritten the budget making cuts to keep the women from being laid off. That failed on a 2-6 vote.

Bill McClellan got two very entertaining columns over this making a Scrooge connection to the whole affair.

Next I setup the bank account in the name of Citizens for Fairness in Town and Country to accept donations to help out the employees for the next few months until they got new jobs. To the best of my memory we raised about \$3,000.

AND THEN THERE WAS THIS: Jerry Berger, the long time columnist with the Globe-Democratic and then the Post-Dispatch came up with another reason for the suicide of Tom Schweich. Keep in mind that Berger was banned from visiting the Post-Dispatch offices after male employees complained of unwanted touching by Berger.



I will normally copy and post anything from other websites that readers might find interesting. However in this case I'm providing only the link to Berger's website. You will have to scroll down his website for the item. Depending when you read this you may also have to click on the "Older Entries" link at the bottom of the page.

<http://www.bergersbeat.com/>

MEDIA WATCH: STL TODAY The passing of St. Louisian and legendary trumpeter Clark Terry a week ago resulted in a late Saturday night posting on the Post-Dispatch website by Kevin Johnson, who does reviews and writes about area music venues. I always suspected that Johnson was not well schooled in jazz or the more traditional contemporary music scene older people might be interested in. My thoughts were proven out when Johnson included this in his quick obit on Terry:

He was a mentor to Miles Davis and Quincy Jones and the first African-American staff musician on "The Today Show."

This stupid statement caused me to write the following comment to Johnson's article, which was never updated.

Kevin...What Today Show band did Clark play with...the Dave Garroway Band or the Frank McGee Band? I believe Clark was the first African-American member of the Tonight Show Band, first under Skitch Henderson and later Doc Severinsen.

On Sunday afternoon I put on a great Clark Terry CD I have than includes very hip big band jazz arrangements of The Flintstones and The Brotherhood of Man.



Clark Terry



Kevin Johnson

Here is a link to Clark going back back to Bedrock.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vn5w9b18gvQ>

Here is a link of Clark joining the Oscar Peterson Trio on an album cut for the Japanese market showing everyone How to Succeed in Business.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xjrul-f_IjQ

WEST MAGAZINE: Good for West Magazine to hand out some awards to local government employees. On Wednesday February 18, West Magazine reporter Jim Erickson was on the speaker list to address the City Council. This is a little unusual for a reporter. It turned out that Erickson was going to present City Clerk Vicki Haas with the West magazine Best Civic Servant Award.

"I was surprised to see that he (Erickson) had filled out a speaker's card, but when he left out the topic and I saw him walking up carrying the award, I knew something was up," said Haas.

Erickson spoke about helpful Haas has been.



A week later kid reporter Dan Fox was at the Town and Country Board of Aldermen meeting with another Best Civil Servant award.

Fox announced that City Administrator Gary Hoelzer was the West Magazine Best Civil Servant of the year. He then commented how Gary always had time to help when he was working on a story.



Fox then showed he didn't understand marketing at all. He quickly handed Hoelzer the award and he sat down, torpedoing the "Photo Opportunity." Mayor Dalton asked city clerk Ashley McNamara if she would take a photo. Fox then got back up and a couple of photos were snapped.

Now what Erickson and Fox said about Haas and Hoelzer were absolutely true! However it appears as if a requirement for the West Magazine "Civic Servant of the Year" was helping West Magazine reporters.

I would feel a little better if the award would next go to public works employee who has not missed a day of work in four years or a parks department worker who developed a special project that keep landscaping beautiful at lower maintenance costs. Maybe the police officer with a life saving rescue or the most arrests for the year should get the award one year. But it really should go next to people whose job doesn't involve talking to reporters.



Maybe a person who drives one of these should win a Civic Servant Award.

Of course I have named employees of the year on this website, but I don't think any elected official is going to stop a meeting so an award from the "News from Snoburbia" website can be handed out.

RIVERFRONT TIMES EDITOR LEAVING CAME AS NO SURPRISE: When Chad Garrison, editor of the Riverfront Times announced he was leaving the weekly paper effective on February 27, it came as no surprise. Garrison had been at the paper for over 10 years. He went from being staff writer to lead staff writer to editor.



At the same time the RFT was losing all of its revenue for the highly abbreviated personal sexual hook-up want ads to the internet. Space for news in papers and magazines is dictated by the number of pages of ads. Over the years the RFT which

would always have one major local feature and sometimes two a week was down to one a month. The paper still offered restaurant and movies reviews plus music listings slanted to the under 30 crowd.

When the latest owner of the RFT, Voice Media Group announced in January they were looking for a buyer of their 11 papers, I thought Chad might not be around much longer.

According to an estimate by the St. Louis Business Journal the circulation of the free copies of the RFT had dropped 45% in the last 10 years. In the same article the estimated worth of the paper had dropped 90-percent in the last 14 years, despite almost 900,000 website hits a month.

Chad is a regular St. Louisian having grown up in the middle of the metro area on Frederick Lane just off Manchester in Glendale, Missouri.

I first got to know Chad when I was an alderman and he called me after reading my newsletter about then Town and Country resident and ex-con former drug dealer Brian Marchant-Calsyn. He wanted to do a feature on Marchant-Calsyn and wanted to mention me writing about him. That would have been great if that was the way it turned out. But Marchant-Calsyn would not talk to Chad, so he called back and wanted to do the article about me and include Marchant-Calsyn who was being sued by people around the country over internet investment schemes.

My ego got the best of me and I said sure. That was a mistake. The worst part of the article was the photos taken of me that were not very attractive.

But I couldn't help but like Chad. After that article I met him at Smitty's for lunch for him to get a feel for the place. He needed up naming it in the RFT Best of St. Louis for Best West County Bar.

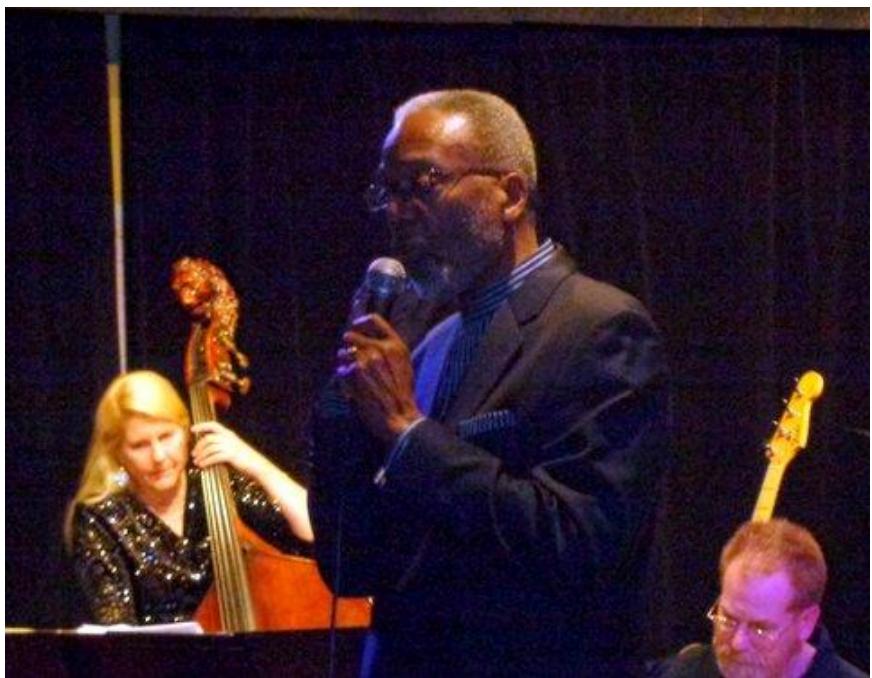
In September of 2012 Chad named me "Best Newspaper Columnist" in St. Louis for my columns for AOL's patch.com and this newsletter. The RFT never announced another Best Columnist, even though we all know that Bill McClellan even when he doesn't have anything ready for a deadline and he ends up writing about his dogs is the best columnist in St. Louis.

Chad and his wife have two children and when he mentioned they were expecting a third, I commented that perhaps he was no longer in the RFT sought after demographic segment of St. Louis. He agreed with my assessment. On March 2 he starts at a Clayton based company that manages pop-culture and entertainment websites.

MUSIC: A busy Wednesday night! First it was the Route 66 Jazz Orchestra at the Kirkwood Brewing Station.



Dean Christopher with the band.



Ron Wilkinson sings while Julia Clemens plays the bass.



Valerie Tichacek had a great arrangement of Pick Yourself Up that put a smile on everyone's face.



The Brass

Later at Sasha's:



The usual suspects, Jim, Lopy and Arlen. Zack Hall from the brass section of Route 66 stopped by and used Jim Manley's new horn to play a couple of Chet Baker sounding numbers.

THE ANITA ROSAMOND SMITTY'S DANCERS: On Saturday afternoon due to the snow there was not a SRO crowd at SMITTY'S for the Anita Rosamond show. Anita put on a CD and then got out in front as Gladys Knight. After three tries she got her "female Pips" to start putting on their dance moves in time much to the amusement of the audience.



Jerry Moser then did five Karaoke songs while Anita worked the room and said hi to her regular fans. Jerry started out by playing the role of Father O'Malley by singing the 1944 Academy Award song, Swinging on a Star, from the movie Going My Way."



The restaurant reviews are taking a break for a couple of weeks.

CARTOONS: This week there was a tremendous shortage of cartoons that made me laugh.



BECAUSE OF HIS
SUCCESS WITH THE
HEALTHCARE.GOV
WEBSITE, I'M
PROMOTING HIM
TO HEAD OF
IT...

CREATORS SYNDICATE
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