

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 100



October 08, 2013

By John Hoffmann

RECORDS SHOWS ALDERMAN PHIL BEHNEN IS GETTING A LOT OF EMAILS AGAINST THE MARYVILLE REZONING. Was his earlier statement a lie or was he just “mistaken” about having a 50/50 e-mail count on the issue? A resident who attended a September 10 meeting between Maryville University officials and residents that was also attended by Ward-4 alderman Phil Behnen and Ward-3 Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith, told me that Behnen claimed his emails on the subject were 50-50 in favor and against the rezoning.



Alderman Phil Behnen, who claimed his emails were 50/50 on Maryville rezoning , but our records search show they were 33-0 against.

The resident and I both found this hard to believe as we have not run across any residents who favors Maryville both moving the softball and soccer fields, install bleachers, build a large lighted parking lot and then add the entire maintenance facility including dump trucks, storage for salt and cinders, compost, some refuse and equipment along an area on Conway Road that currently is zoned residential.

I filed a Missouri Sunshine Request for emails of aldermen and city officials from April to September 20 concerning the Maryville rezoning request.

The city told me they would not release emails to and from alderpersons that were not copied to staff or the mayor. However I did receive emails to Behnen that had been copied to the mayor, the Planning and Zoning Board and city staff, plus some that included Behnen as a copy.

By our count Phil received seven emails against the rezoning and none in favor. One of the emails included an attachment of a letter against the rezoning that included 26 signatures of local residents. That made the count **33-to-NOTHING of residents contacting Phil against rezoning the property versus no one supporting the proposal.**

Since Phil allegedly made the 50/50 statement at a September 10 meeting, we wanted to make sure the emails were received before September 10. Here is a list of the dates:

July 18 email with a copy of a letter with 26 signatures of residents against the rezoning

July 28 email from resident to Mayor Dalton and P&Z board and forwarded to Behnen by Sharon Rothmel Planning Director against rezoning. Email Letter was received on July 26 by City of Town and Country.

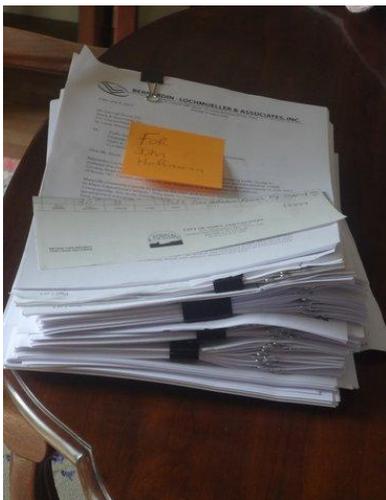
August 1 an email to all alderpersons and mayor from a resident opposing the rezoning.

August 4 an email from a resident to all Town and Country alderpersons and mayor opposing the rezoning.

August 27 email from resident to Phil Behnen opposing the rezoning.

August 28 email from resident to Behnen, Ald. Jon Benigas, Mayor Dalton and others against the rezoning.

Correspondence from all 33 residents opposing the project were received by Behnen weeks and months before his statement on September 10.



This is what \$30 will buy you on a records request with the City of Town and Country on the Maryville rezoning issue. .

SO MUCH FOR THOSE MAPS GIVEN TO ALDERPERSONS: When I was on the Board of Aldermen I was given several different maps of the city, including one that showed every lot in the city. It was interesting to see an email from Alderperson Lynn Wright to Development Director Sharon Rothmel asking for an aerial view of the Ball family property that Maryville wants to development on Conway Road and the Conway Village subdivision.

“Is there anyway we can get a (sp) aerial view of the property. (sp) I keep receiving e-mails from Conway Village and would like to know if they are touching at any locations to the Ball property. Or how far away is Conway Village to the applicant (sp) this information would be helpful.”

Thanks

Lynn

According to Rothmel’s response the closet property in Conway Village to the development proposal property is 885 feet.

MARYVILLE REQUESTS PUBLIC HEARING TO BE MOVED TO NOVEMBER:

“On behalf of Maryville University we respectfully request the City’s consideration to “defer” our project from the Board of Aldermen Meeting scheduled for October 14, 2013 to November 11, 2013.”...George M. Stock, P.E.

I have to wonder if there is any significance that George is continuing the meeting to Veterans Day in a hope that some angry residents might be out of town.

THE AREA’S SERIOUS TRAFFIC DANGERS ACCORDING TO THE MIND OF ALDERMAN FRED MEYLAND-SMITH: At recent aldermanic meetings Fred Meyland-Smith has apparently been looking out for the safety of motorists.

When Visitation Academy requested to replace an old sign that faced traffic leaving its parking lot and not the street with a new LED sign, Meyland-Smith requested that the message on the sign only change once every 12-hours as a matter of traffic safety so as not to distract drivers. Of course Meyland-Smtih was attempting to violate the first amendment rights of freedom of religion and free speech of the church run school.

In June Meyland-Smith cited an effect on nearby property values and distracting drivers on I-64 when the Greek Church on South Forty Drive requested a 40-foot flag pole to fly an American flag to honor church members who fought in World War II and the Korean War. The request on a motion by Meyland-Smith was continued, before the board came to their senses

and allowed the flagpole. This was another first amendment issue. In 2012 Meyland-Smith was against a sign at the Destiny Church on Des Peres Road, the I-270 service road, another first amendment issue.



Fred Meyland-Smith, living in the stone age when it comes to sign technology.

Based on Meyland-Smith's belief that by changing messages on LED signs will distract drivers and cause accidents we went out and check the evil people who are putting these signs up and we began to look for evidence of broken glass, tire scuff and skid marks and other signs of accidents. Here is what we found:

By Meyland-Smiths theory on changing LED signs being unsafe stay the hell away from Des Peres. As soon as you enter the Des Peres city limits driving west on Manchester Road dangers lurk everywhere. There are two LED bank signs within the first 700 feet that change from messages about free checking to the time and temp. Not far down the road is a shopping center sign that includes changing messages for ACE Hardware and other stores in the center. That is followed by yet another LED sign at the Reliance Bank sign. But wait it gets much worse.



These are photos of the Dierberg's LED sign on Manchester Road at Bopp Road. It changed about every 90 seconds. We have looked for evidence of recent accidents at this intersection over the last two months and found none.

Just west of Dierbergs was another possible "killer sign" according to Fred's theory.



That is a Walgreen's sign advertising Cottonelle tissue. It also changes message every few minutes.

The danger continues under Fred's premise:



It is the Olympic Oaks Shopping Center LED sign that changes messages constantly. Across the street the Colonnade Shopping center has another LED sign.

God apparently is not tied-in with Fred's way of thinking.

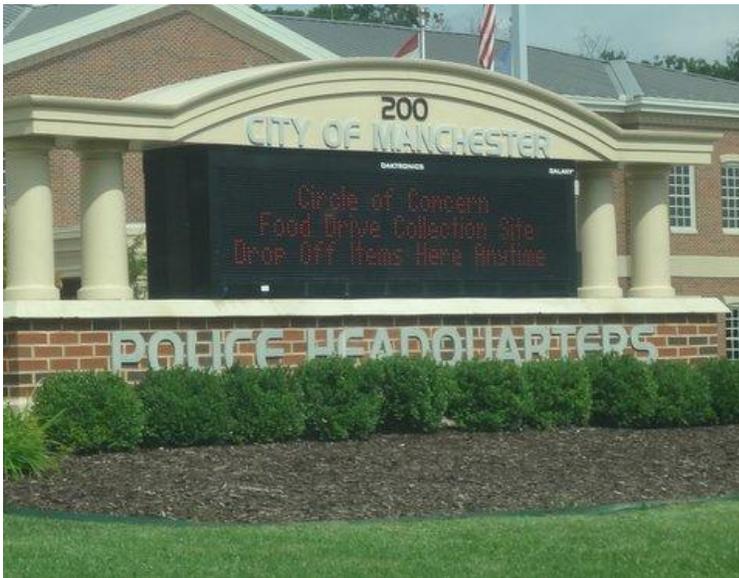


The St. Paul's Church LED sign changed twice while I was at the red light on Manchester at Ballas Road.

To “Protect and Kill” apparently using the Meyland-Smith logic.



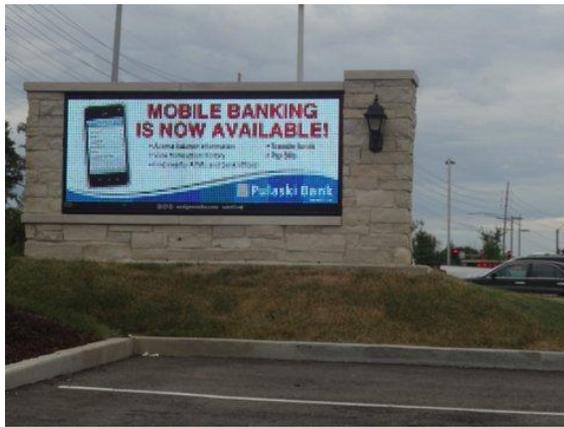
The West County EMS & Fire Protection District, which serves Town and Country under Contract has an LED sign in front of Station 2 on Manchester Road at Mason Road. It changes message about every 10 seconds. One message is about escape plans and the next is about smoke detectors.



The LED sign in front of the police station for the neighboring City of Manchester on Highland Blvd changes messages every minute or so. This message is to drop off food for the poor. There was no evidence of auto accidents in front of the police station.

CLAYTON ROAD IS JUST AS DANGEROUS: A mere 1000 feet from the Town and Country city limits and Fred’s beloved Savannah Oaks is the LED sign for the shopping Center... Across the street from the Oaks is a LED sign in front of the CVS Drug Store. The shopping center signs is always changing I took two photos that were different

messages both for Pulaski Bank, prior to those messages there was one for the Tide Dry cleaners.



Fred's own church the Trinity Lutheran Church is apparently a renegade organization. Originally the Board of Aldermen made the stupid special use condition that the sign could change once every two hours. As a church they don't have to follow any special use conditions about signs on their property that are non-commercial. On Monday I saw the LED sign change at 11:55 and it had changed again when I drove back at 12:45. This controversial message clearly could cause accidents:



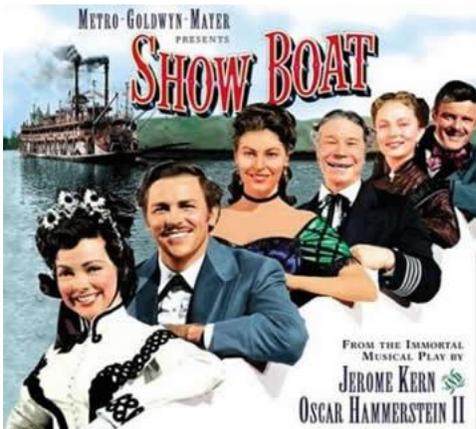
On Tuesday the sign actually changed from "God Loves You" to "Go Cards!"

HIGHER EDUCATION: We did not take any photos of the LED signs with the changing messages in front of parkway West and Parkway Central High Schools. We weren't worried of the dangerous conditions caused by Fred's belief of signs distracting drivers, but the real, documented and proven facts of cell phone or texting causing accidents.



We took this photo of the Parkway Central LED sign off the internet. We didn't want to go there for fear of too many 18-year-old distracted drivers on their cell phones, something that Fred Meyland-Smith doesn't feel is dangerous.

THE SHOWBOAT: IN 2008 as an alderman I introduced a bill to ban the use of cell phones and texting while driving in Town and Country. I couldn't get a second to have it voted on. Fred Meyland-Smith accused me of "showboating." Of course I was trying to force the realization of the dangers of cell phone use plus how the rest of the civilized world, plus California and New York had banned cell phone use and driving. I did this after three people died when a truck on I-64 at Mason Road rolled over 26 cars while the driver was using his cell phone. After my bill was introduced the Missouri Legislature passed a law stating cities and counties could not pass laws involving cell phones.



Fred put me on the Showboat with Joe E. Brown and Howard Keel when I wanted to take cell phones out of the hands of drivers. Now he wants to take LED signs out of the hands of church pastors and high school principals.

MARYLAND MAKES CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING A PRIMARY OFFENSE:

On October 1 police officers in Maryland started writing summons to people they see yanking on the phone while driving. For the three prior years there had to be a primary



I took this photo not from the street but from the driveway so it was even closer to the sign. You can read the "Park Entrance" sign, but you don't have a chance in reading the banner,

IT APPARENTLY OFFICIAL...IT IS NO LONGER PRAIRIE GRASS...IT IS NOW JUST WEEDS AND SCRUB TREES: This spring after Parks Director Anne Nixon failed to have the plot of Native Prairie Grass in Drace Park cut down so the grass would re-grow and the weeds would be stunted (it could have also been burned) we shot some photos how the weeds were winning in the battle for space. Now we notice the Parks Department has apparently surrender and taken down the "Native Prairie Grass" sign. Here are two photos from the spring.



A photo from this month with the “Native Prairie Grass” sign missing



BETTER LATE THAN NEVER...PARKS DEPARTMENT DOES A NICE JOB CLEANING UP OVERGROWN BUSHES IN FRONT OF LOG CABIN IN DRACE: In June we took photos of how the walkways by the log cabin became overgrown and partially blocked by shrubs. For the first time since before the T&C Garden Club event on September 22 I walked the crushed rock path around the front of the cabin and was pleasantly surprised to see the bushes that had threatened to take over the area had finally been tamed.



Before



After

DALTON REPRESENTS FRAUDULENT SECURITIES DEALER WHO GETS HIT WITH \$100,000 JUDGMENT BY MISSOURI SECURITIES DIVISION: I don't care if people want to be lobbyists for 28 brands of cigarette and work hard to keep taxes lower for the generic cigarette makers on some stupid technicality that Missouri is one of the few states to allow. I don't care if a lawyer represents some scumbag who is selling unregistered securities to 18 people including five who were over 80-years-old who lost \$4,400,000.

I do have a problem when that lawyer is an elected official who swears to protect the health, safety and welfare of people while helping other people take advantage, cheat and kill people.

The State of Missouri Secretary of State Securities Division against James S. McClellan, Jr. is another example why Jon Dalton should not be an elected official.

The commission ruled that McClellan illegally sold unregistered securities in a real estate venture in Door County Wisconsin. He sold \$4,400,000 worth of investments without informing the clients of the risk let alone that the securities were unlicensed.

McClellan, at the time was a Chesterfield resident with an office in Chesterfield

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/securities/orders/AP-10-30.asp>

People like McClellan deserve to be represented by lawyers, But is it a good idea that the lawyer claims to voters every four years that he is the top law enforcement official of Town and Country?

Of course you don't have to be an elected official to be held in total disgust when you are behind using eminent domain to seize a widow's property and 40-year business for a nightclub district that you and your partners do not have financing to build. So that makes three reasons why Dalton should not hold office. The fact he was sued three time in six years for not paying local contractors and health care providers is just even more reasons.

This originally appeared in the chesterfield Unapproved Newsletter #46

ELLISVILLE MAYOR CLAIMS THAT DALTON LAW PARTNER HAS TO BE FIRED BY SANSONE GROUP OR WALMART WILL PULL OUT OF THE ELLISVILLE PROJECT AGAIN: Apparently Walmart and I share one similar opinion...we don't care for the lawyer hired by the Sansone Group to deal with the TIF and Ellisville's desire to revoke the conditional use permit to build the Walmart shopping center.

John Hessel's fake subpoenas and threats to councilpersons apparently got Walmart's attention. Hessel's actions may be the way the Sansone Family likes to do business but it is even an ethical problem for the "Boys from Bentonville."

The Public Hearing to revoke the CUP scheduled Wednesday night October 2 was indefinitely postponed. After the council meeting Mayor Adam Paul told reporters that the request to delay the hearing was because Walmart refused to go ahead with the hearing if Sansone was represented by John Hessel. Hessel is a partner at Lewis-Rice, same as Jon Dalton.

(Five days later Hessel made a statement that he was still representing Sansone and their position is that Mayor Paul has to remove himself from any administrative hearing on the development CUP because he was so bias. This is an outrageous statement and position. It assumes that politicians who run for office and represent people should not tell voters and residents what their position is on important issues. Using this logic the John Boehner and Harry Reid should not be allowed to vote on Healthcare issues because they are "bias." If anyone needs to go away on this issue it is Hessel.)

The city council meeting went on and proved to be something different. In the past Ellisville city council meetings I have attended almost all of the members of the community wishing to speak were in favor of Adam Paul and against the TIF deal for Sansone and the Walmart project.

At the last meeting in September two of the Sansone brothers appeared with Hessel. Reports were the Sansones would tell people speaking against the project to "shut up" and they didn't know what they were talking about.

Apparently on Wednesday no one got the word out to people showing up that the public hearing and possible vote to revoke the Conditional Use Permit for the Walmart had been called off. Many stayed and spoke. The first three speakers were in favor of the Walmart store. I began to smell a rat.

Several of the new speakers had deals to sell property to Sansone brothers and needed the project to continue to get any money. Many of the speakers were reading scripts that appeared to have the same font.

The Clarkchester Apartments consist of 25 multiple family apartment buildings with many different owners. Sansone needs to buy these for the Walmart project.

Several apartment building owners spoke of having 70-percent vacancies due to the Walmart project. Another spoke of four tenants who are four-to-six months behind in rent. They both spoke of the need to sell the property for the Walmart store.

Three people who spoke in favor of the Walmart store did not live in Ellisville. Two owned property (an apartment building and a car lot) that they wanted to sell to Sansone.

However another apartment owner and a manager spoke against the development. The manager who was against the Walmart project and wanted to see the CUP revoked said his four buildings had 100-percent occupancy and were in good condition.

Several speakers said how Walmart would bring new jobs and growth to Ellisville. Another person said the jobs would be minimum wage and would likely attract workers who would bring problems to Ellisville.

The one speaker who I took notice of was the first person to speak. He was Robert Kelly, of the Royal Gate Dodge dealership on Manchester well east of the proposed project. Kelly said he supported the Walmart project and said Ellisville needed to replace all the empty buildings in town.

He then lit into city officials saying they were anti-business by not allowing more signs, banners and balloons.

There are still eight large scale car dealers in Ellisville. The last thing you need are more balloons, banners, flags and signs along Manchester Road. However Kelly's comments brought back something said to me around 1970 by a successful Webster Groves merchant about local political issues.

"You want to stay out of local politics. If your man or issue wins by a landslide with 70% of the vote, you have still pissed off 30% of your potential local customers," he said.

I think Kelly should heed this advice since Adam Paul carried 44% of the vote in a four-way race in 2012 and his popularity has seem to have grown over the ridiculous attempt to remove him from office by an impeachment that cost taxpayers over \$100,000.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

NEWS REPORTERS LOCKED OUT: Stephen Deere of the Post-Dispatch usually covers the mess in Ellisville but last week it was Margaret Gillerman who we had seen

the night before at the Monarch meeting. I wasn't aware that Margaret was even there until the city clerk called her name from the speaker card and she was allowed in the SRO council chambers. Margaret complained that the city needed to set aside seats for the media as she and a TV reporter were not allowed in after the chambers reached capacity.

Here is the thing...Stephen Deere and I have been aware how fast the Ellisville Council Chambers fills up and normally show up 45-to-60 minutes before a meeting. I showed up 25 minutes before this meeting and stood next to the rear wall. A reporter from KMOX and Greg Palermo of Patch on one of his last stories also made it before the "No Admittance" sign went up.

SIGNS OF SUPPORT: The Sansone people did not have two things. First no one for the Walmart project was speaking during the public comment section about how rudely they had been treated at the prior meeting. But the anti-Walmart TIF development folks certainly mentioned their rude treatment by the Sansones.

Secondly Sansone did not have people with signs standing outside of the city hall. The anti-TIF/Pro-Adam Paul people were there.



AN EXERCISE IN POLITENESS AND ONE IN RUDENESS: There was some interesting dynamics going on in the council chambers during the public comment section. People speaking for the Walmart development had everyone's attention even the four members against the project. However if someone spoke against the TIF and the development Councilman Matt Pirrello would ignore them and act like he was reading some papers.



The following piece originally appeared in the Unapproved Chesterfield Newsletter #46

NOW FOR THE BIG MONARCH STORY THE REST OF THE MEDIA COMPLETELY MISSED!

After the regular meeting which was held between 6pm and 7 o'clock the large contingent of media raced out and filed stories about the Pink T-Shirts. Board President Robin Harris and Secretary Jane Cunningham briefly went into closed session with their labor lawyer. After about five minutes they returned. Then things got interesting and I was the only there taking notes. Since Monarch FPD is "first in" to assist West County EMS & FPD calls in half of Town and Country I thought you might be interested in what is going on in Monarch. If you want to read our full coverage the Pink-Shirt crisis, check it out on our website.

http://www.johnhoffmann.net/chesterfield_46.pdf

On the posted agenda on the Fire District's web site was the notation of an open meeting followed by a closed meeting. Also listed were contract negotiations. One could assume that the contract negotiations would be part of the closed meeting. However, if they did that they would have been wrong.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Harris and Cunningham along with the district's labor attorney Bob Stewart were ready to negotiate with Local 2665 **IN PUBLIC** for all the taxpayers and firefighters to observe.

Rick Berry the labor attorney for Local 2665 was not happy one bit. First Berry complained that the agenda indicated negotiations were in a close session. On the regular agenda under "The President's Report" was listed "Negotiations" with no mention that they would be in closed session.



Local 2665's labor lawyer Rick Berry listens to Keith

Goldstein of the union's negotiating team.

Berry complained that the last time they negotiated in 2010 it was closed.

“Our presentation by our negotiation team involves cases that are closed by HIPPA regulations, closed personnel files, medical records, hiring's, firings and dismissals.

It was suggested to Berry that he could make the same case in public and simply not use the peoples' names.

Berry added that since the negotiations were in an open public meeting they would be unable to make their presentation “tonight.”

Bob Stewart responded again.

“I have a difficult time seeing why any names need to be used.”

Keith Goldstein, a union member with another fire district who is on the negotiating team was upset over the open public meeting and demanded to know repeatedly, “Why the change?”

I guess he and Berry didn't get it. There is a new majority on the board in charge.

“I think it is a danger of liability to have public members attend negotiations,” said Berry. “This could involve the District being involved in a costly court case.”

Jane Cunningham who had been sitting back with her arms crossed as the lawyers bickered back and forth, spoke up.



Jane Cunningham while listening to the whining of the firefighter's union lawyer before having enough and speaking.

"To exclude the public from negotiations on how we are spending their money is not what the public wants," she said. "We are trying to open as much of our meetings as we can. This is something we are negotiating in public," proclaimed Cunningham.

With that Berry made a simple proposal for a new 3-year contract starting in January of 2014.

"The union's proposal is the current existing contract," he said.

Remember this contract was done when there was a pro-union majority on the fire district's board. It is a pretty sweet contract and the current board is digging in to be more fiscally conservative with their proposal which we received a copy of.

BENEFITS:

Payroll Deductions for union dues: Currently the district withholds union dues from employees' paychecks. Under the district's proposal this practice would be stopped and firefighters would have to pay their union dues themselves.

Union Meetings at Firehouses: In the current contract union meetings can be held at taxpayer's buildings such as firehouses. This would be eliminated in the new proposal from the District.

Shop Stewards Reports: The District new proposal would eliminate the right for the union to present shop steward reports at District meetings.

Change in Working Conditions: If the District must change rights or privileges for firefighters currently, the Union must be notified 20 days in advance of any change. The Board is proposing making the notification period 14 days.

Overtime: Here is an area where the Board may have some serious problems. Overtime pay is 1 ½ times the base rate. The Board wants to reduce that to straight time. This would reduce overall costs considerably, but I think even many of the more conservative residents of the district would agree that 1 ½ times pay for working overtime on your normal time off is reasonable. Even if you have to fill a 24-hour shift, you are still saving on paying benefits if you had to hire a new employee.

Layoffs: The District wants to take the best approach to layoffs while the Union wants it to remain old school which can result in the deterrent to operations (fighting fires and providing emergency medical responses). The current contract says layoffs will be based on seniority. The District wants it base on performance evaluations. This is the trend in the 21st century for the private sector and is moving into public sector jobs also.

Grievances: Currently if a grievance is not settled satisfactory, the Union can take it to non-binding arbitration. That is sweet for the union. If they don't like the ruling of the District they can appeal it to a non-binding arbitrator and if they then don't like the arbitrator's decision and they lose they can ignore it. The district wants to eliminate this all together.

Free Coffee, Tea, Hot chocolate and Phones: Unbelievable, but under the current contract the Fire District has to provide free coffee, tea and hot chocolate to all firefighters and paramedics, plus two outside telephone lines at every firehouse for incoming and outgoing personal phone calls. The District proposes to continue to provide free coffee, tea and hot chocolate, but wants to drop the phone lines. I have a feeling every firefighter and paramedic has cell phones and cell service is available throughout the district. The Union's proposal is to keep this outrageous waste of money.

Uniforms: Currently in the contract employees "may" wear a union patch. The District wants to eliminate this. It is the district's uniform provided to their employees and this seems perfectly reasonable.

Holidays: Under the current contract Union members get holidays that until recently have never been holidays. The Board, quite properly wants to take those days back.

The board wants the following to be holidays:

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Easter
Memorial Day
July fourth
Labor Day
Thanksgiving
Christmas Day

The Union wants to keep these extra holidays they were recently given and the Board wants to eliminate them:

Veteran's day
Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
New Year's Eve day

I might see an argument for keeping Veterans Day. However if employee's want the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve off they can do what people have done for years...use a vacation day.

I have firsthand experience having worked in public safety for 30 years that these other three days are all busier than usual (Christmas Eve is busy until 6pm).

Injured on the job: Currently firefighters get 16 weeks (4 months) of free time off if injured on the job! As a former police officer I didn't get this. We used our sick time or went directly onto Worker's Comp. The Fire District pays for worker's comp insurance but the contract delays it being used. Even with this provision in recent years the work comp loss rate has been off the charts at Monarch. The District wants them to use sick time or go to workers comp.

Sick Time: Currently the Union members can sell sick time not used back to the District. This is an out and out outrage. Sick time is there as a cushion in case you get sick or injured. It is not there as a financial bonus. Getting paid for unused vacation time at the time of separation is one thing, but sick leave should go for one thing only, if you are sick or injured and cannot report to work.

Kelly days: These are an age-old custom associate with fire departments of comp time or extra vacation days. The district wants to eliminate the 3-Kelly Days given annually.

Pay: The pay rates under the District proposed budget would be the same as the current rates, which are some of the highest in the region. The District and the Union both were fine with the current pay schedule.

WEAPONS, CCW PERMIT ADDED TO THE 90 MINUTES DELAY:

Proposals were not exchanged or discussed for the first 70-minutes of the negotiations. As we mentioned the Union's outrage at the meeting being open to the public ate up lots of time. The other issue involved who was carrying a gun.

Robin Harris is a senior airline pilot and I believe he has a FAA conceal weapon carry permit that allows him to carry a concealed pistol on board an aircraft which he is flying. This allows a pilot to shoot and kill any terrorist or other crazy person trying to break their way into an airliner's cockpit to get to the pilots. Thousands of pilots have such permits.



Harris may also have a Missouri CCW permit.

Rick Barry the Local 2665 labor attorney voiced a safety concern at the meeting and said he was concerned about people at the meeting having firearms.

Robin Harris offered to have metal detectors set up for the next meeting and have the off-duty County Police Officer scan for weapons.



Robin Harris responds to demands from Rick Berry.

This did not satisfy Berry who asked who was carrying firearms in the room. Well, the County Police officer certainly was as we could see it on this right hip.

Berry finally asked Harris point blank if he was carrying a gun.

Harris: The conceal carry law entitles board members to carry a weapon. Are your members carrying a knife?

Berry: If I consent to a pat down by the county police officer will you? What we are asking is that you don't carry a weapon or firearm. We are asking you to take your gun out to your car.

Harris: Anything I have on me would be in accordance with Missouri Law.

Berry: Let's say there is a State law or a Federal Law or a District policy. My clients are concerned that they are sitting across the table with someone who is armed.

This appears to be an excellent way to start a negotiation, tell one of the leaders of the other side you are afraid they will shoot you. Interesting strategy!

The Monarch employee at the table, firefighter Brent Coleman was a breath of fresh air during the 90-minute session. He spoke toward the end and was polite, was not argumentative or demanding. He simply said the District's proposal would be reviewed as soon as possible. He also said he understood and was sympathetic with some of the hurdles the District had in getting back to them due to Sunshine law meeting posting requirements.

THE BACK STORY The end of the current 3-year contract has one sweetheart deal for the Union. It says:

This Agreement shall remain in effect during good faith negotiations and shall continue to remain in full force and effect until such time a new Agreement is agreed upon.

So in 2011, the old board added something that forces the new board to abide or fulfill something they are opposed to. Some think the Union might drag their feet or fail to negotiate in good faith and force this clause into effect and keep their free phone lines, union meetings at fire stations, costly holiday and sick pay plans, seniority based layoffs and other perks that cost the taxpayers.

If it would occur the District could take the matter to Circuit Court and let a judge decide. That might be penny wise and pound foolish for the Union.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS FROM THE MONARCH MEETING:

Dissing the reporter: Rebecca Roberts from KTVI/KPLR was at the meeting early and wanted to do an interview with Robin Harris before the meeting started. Harris then asked her what TV station she was with. So much for making an impression with newsmakers. I shouted to her, “Hey, Rebecca I know who you are!”



Actually when I’m not paying close attention to the TV and Roberts is doing a standup in the field and I glance, I think she might be Melanie Moon. But then she speaks and doesn’t make several errors in her first couple of sentences and I realize it is Rebecca. (FYI Roberts is a graduate of Duke with a degree in Psychology with a minor in Political Science. She last worked in Huntsville, Alabama. She grew up in Englewood, New Jersey and is another example of how there are apparently not any people qualified to do TV news from Missouri or the St. Louis area.)



This is Melanie Moon who I sometimes confuse Roberts with until one of them begins to speak. She is from St. Petersburg, Florida. She has apparently been working in St. Louis long enough that she can probably find O'Connell's Pub. Melanie is additional proof that there are no talented people with journalism degrees from St. Louis.

FIRE CODE VIOLATION? Roberts didn't want to do the interview in the Board chambers and asked if Harris and Cunningham could do it outside. Blocking the ingress and egress of a public building...isn't that a fire code violation?



Rebecca Roberts gets ready to interview Robin Harris and Jane Cunningham while blocking the entrance to the District Headquarters.

IS THE POST-DISPATCH RUNNING OUT OF REPORTER NOTEBOOKS? Margaret Gillerman was covering the meeting for the Post-Dispatch. I noticed that she didn't have a notebook and instead was using the backs of printed agendas that were available for the public. I always see this being done by PD stringer Sterling Levy who is too cheap to buy notebooks, but Gillerman is a longtime PD staffer. I asked her if the Post-

Dispatch had quit supplying reporter notebooks. She said she had left hers in the car and didn't want to miss anything by going back out to get it. Thank goodness she remembered her pen. (Margaret didn't stick around for the real news and just wrote a story on the pink t-shirts...but it was a balanced story.)



Post-Dispatch reporter Margaret Gillerman scribbling frantically on the back of agenda copies.

MUSIC:

Last Wednesday October 2 at Sasha's in Clayton we had a couple folks sitting in.



Andy Schiefelbein on the bass trombone.



Zack Hall on the trumpet



Chris Swan and Jim Manley the Wednesday night regulars. Vanessa Fralick also stopped by Sasha's. Vanessa was an associate principal trombone player with the SLSO from 2010 to July of 2013. She recently took a job with the Toronto Symphony, but returned this week to join the trombone section of the SLSO for the weekend's Gershwin concert.

ESPINOS IN CHESTERFIELD...FRIDAY:



Chris "Lupy" Swan who is often on the keyboard at Sasha's on Wednesday, was at Espinos in Chesterfield Valley on Friday night. In his last set Chris was laying down some excellent jazz piano work and vocals of songs from musicals ranging from Brigadoon to the Music Man.

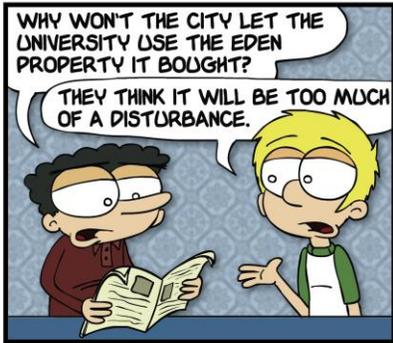
One-19 in Kirkwood on Saturday night.



Arthur Toney on the keys and a familiar guy on the horn.

CARTOONS: Our first cartoon is from the Webster University student newspaper The Journal and involves the issue of the Webster Groves city council responding to vocal residents in the Webster Park neighborhood that don't want Webster U offices or classrooms to move across East Lockwood Avenue onto the campus of Eden Seminary. Eden needs the money and wants to sell some land and buildings to Webster U. Both Webster U and Eden are zoned Major Education.

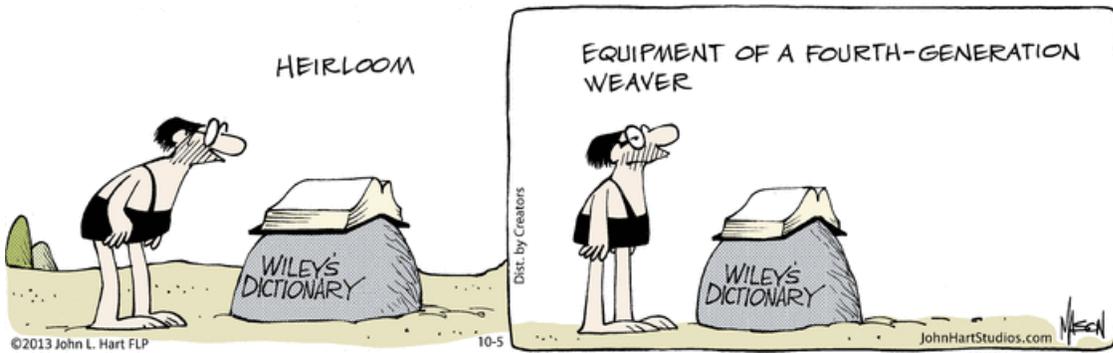
Concerning cartoons about Obamacare and the shutdown, we tried to pick a few from the right and the left.



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ON THE QUAD
BY MIKE DILIBERTO

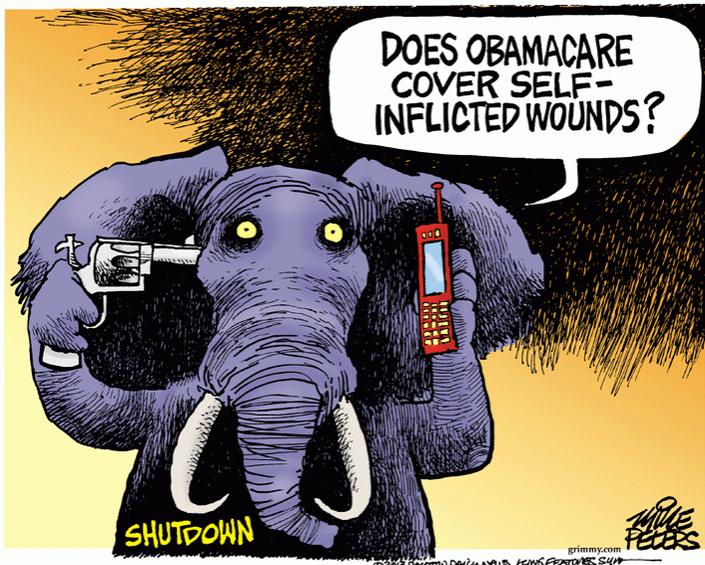


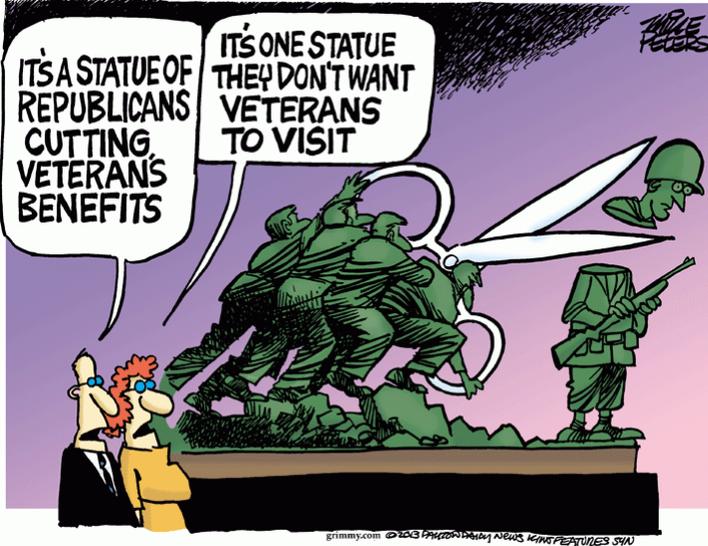


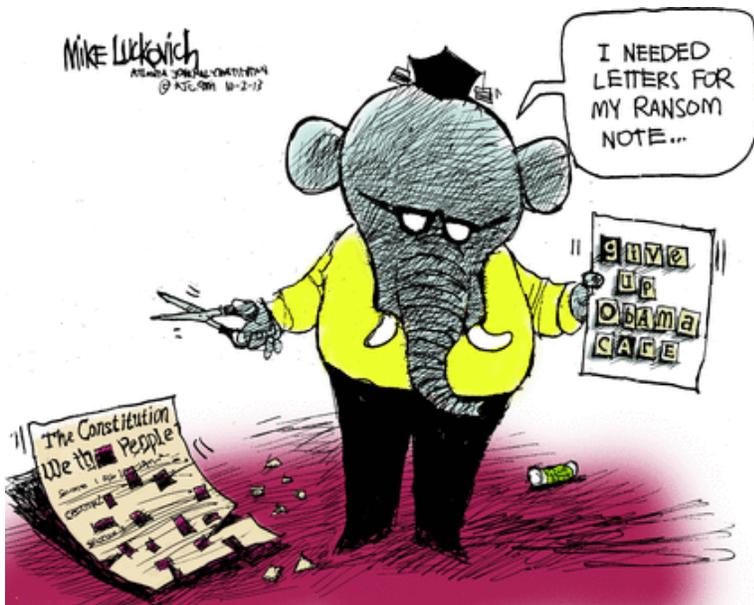


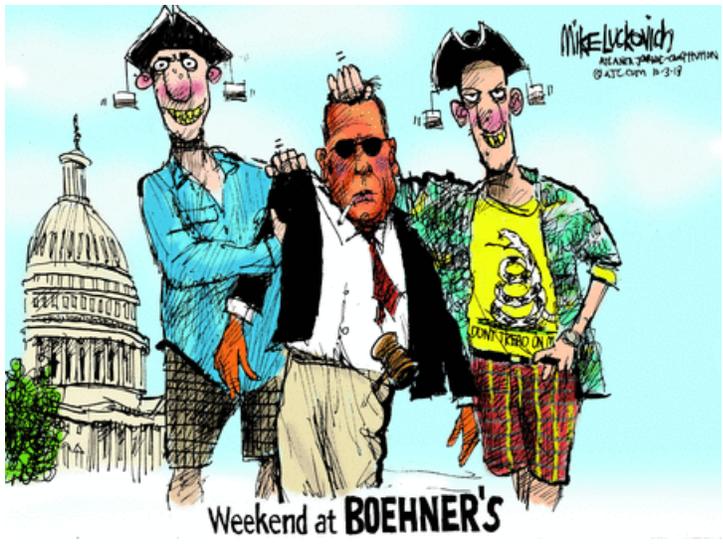
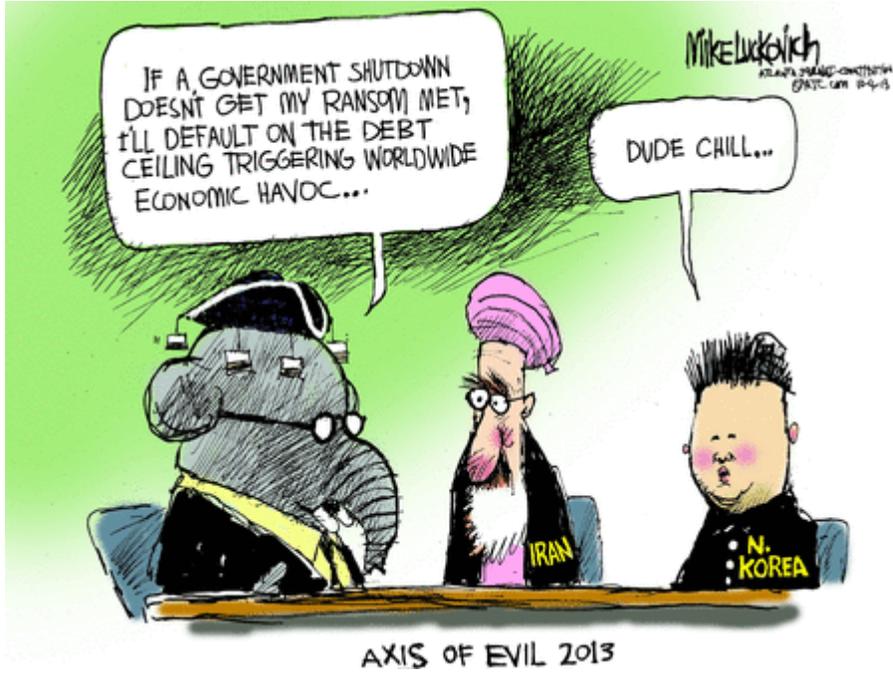
“... And so, after much consideration, I've decided to leave my wife and kids to devote more time to my obsessive pursuit of coaching immortality ...”

Here are two from Charlotte Peters' kid, Pulitzer Prize winner and CBC grad Mike Peters.









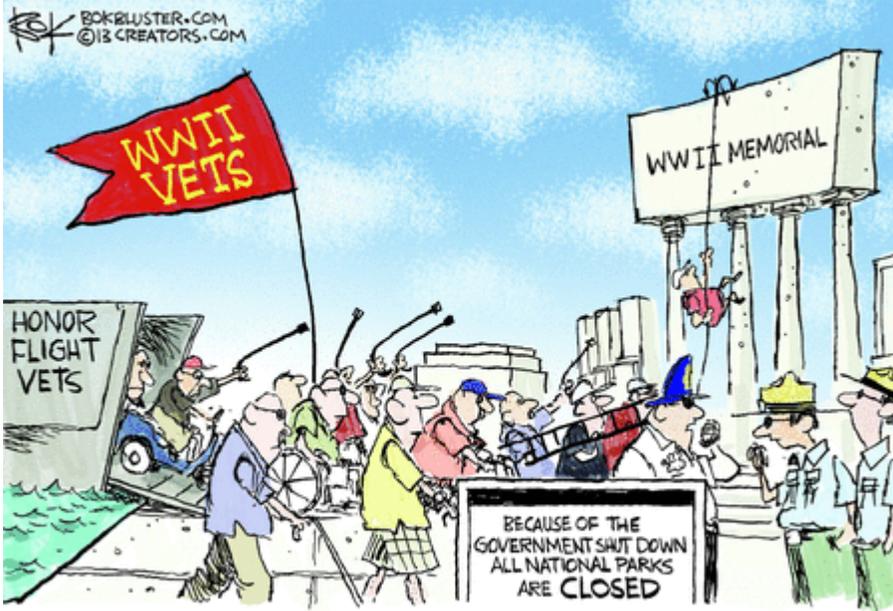


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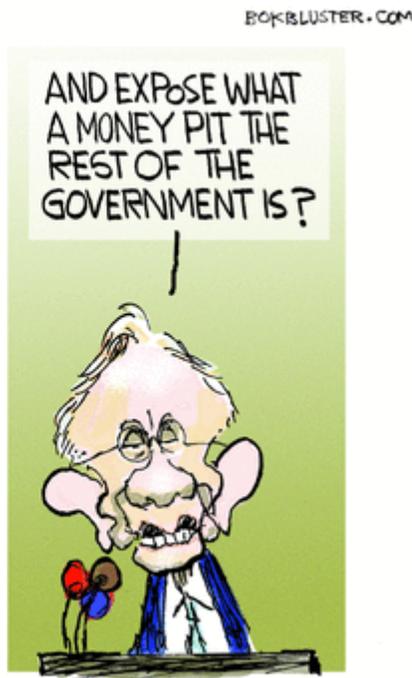
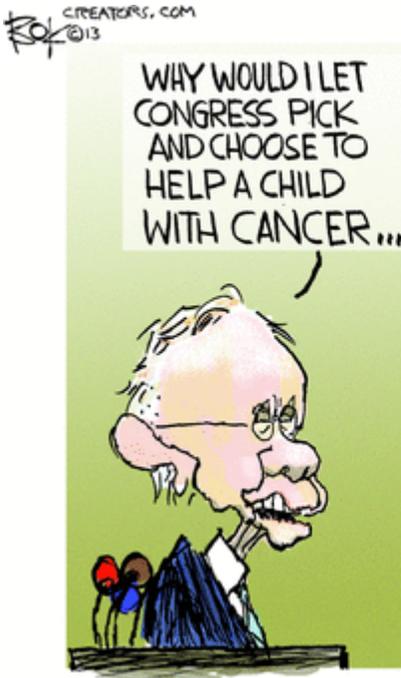
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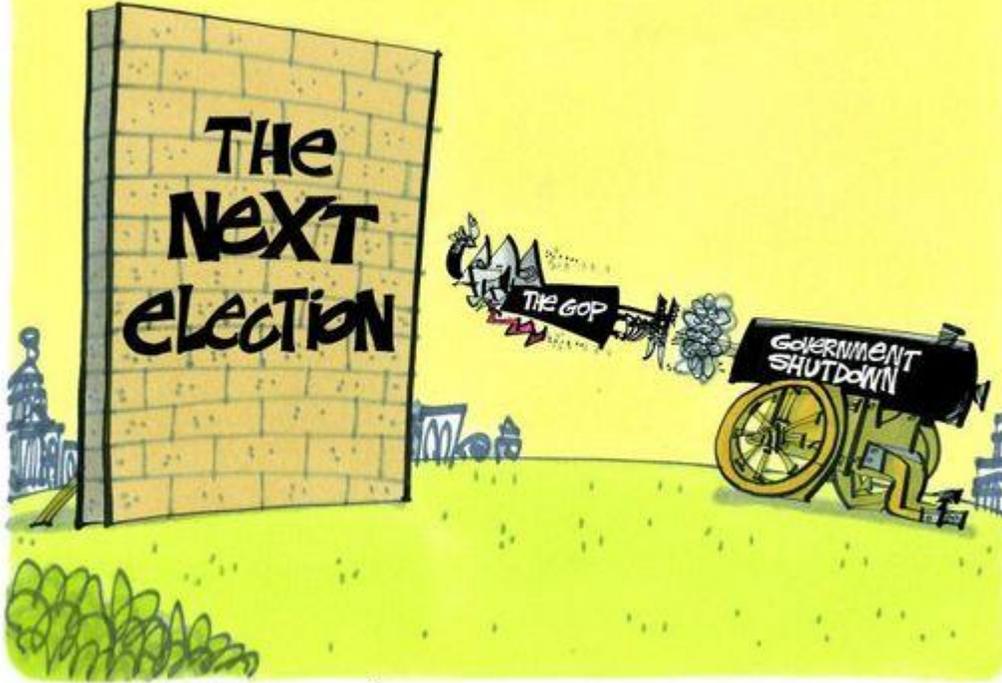




ROUT



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"I'VE GOT MOMENTUM."