

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 44

February 02, 2012

By John Hoffmann

288 DEER KILLED AS CURRENT PHASE OF DEER MANAGEMENT ENDS: White Buffalo ended its current deer management program with the city in the final week of January. The company killed 288 deer from all four wards. However the most deer harvested came from deer saturated Ward 2.

Despite all the deer being killed in Ward-2, a day after the deer harvest was finished some Mason Valley residents reported having as many as 12 deer in their yards and in one case a line of deer walking down the middle of a subdivision street. On February 1 around midnight I saw 7 deer standing in a front yard in my subdivision.

PERSON WHO HIT THE DEER ON TOWN & COUNTRY LANE COMES FORWARD...NO FIREARMS INVOLVED, JUST AN AUTOMOBILE: Here is a note from Capt. Gary Hoelzer who has been in charge of the overview of the latest deer management effort. This info is also on the city's website.

On Friday, January 27th White Buffalo culled a total of 9 deer on properties in Ward 3. The total deer culled for this phase of the wildlife management project, which is now completed, was 288.

According to a formula used by the Missouri Department of Conservation, a total of 17,280 pounds of venison were donated to area food pantries through the St. Louis Area Food Bank and the MDC "Share the Harvest" program.

Final reports from White Buffalo, including pre- and post-project distance sampling (population estimate) studies, are expected within the next few weeks. The reports will be posted on the City website when they are received.

[Follow up on previous posting](#)

As a final follow-up on the January 19th posting regarding the deer struck on Town and Country Lane, which was initially reported by a resident as being shot, a trustee of the neighborhood came forward and reported the identity of the person who actually struck the deer with his vehicle on January 17th. This confirms the necropsy report by the

Missouri Department of Conservation that the cause of death was from injuries that are typically sustained by a collision with a vehicle.

PRINCIPIA STILL HARVESTING DEER: A number of the people who come to Board of Aldermen meetings and whine about shooting the deer or stand out on a corner holding a candlelight vigil for the deer and against the city butchering and giving deer meat to food pantries for the poor are associated with the Principia School. The live on the grounds, teach there or moved here so their kids could attend Principia.

However for the third straight year the Principia campus grounds have been used to harvest deer. The board overseeing Principia is intelligent enough to realize that the diseases carried by deer ticks do not go away with prayer and need antibiotics. It is best to keep those diseases away from students and staff. Before the people associate with Principia start complaining about deer management of the city they need to complain to the board at the school, who keeps inviting the city back to their property.

CANDIDATE FAVORS USING EXPENSIVE STERILIZATION WITH SHARPSHOOTING: Skip Mange came out with a platform that called for only highly expensive sterilization to maintain the deer population and required a combination of sterilization to lethal means if the population must be reduced. Here is his platform on deer:

**SKIP MANGE
DEER MANAGEMENT POSITION STATEMENT
FOR THE CITY OF TOWN & COUNTRY**

During my three-year tenure as Mayor of the City of Town & Country we followed a deer management program based on a capture and relocation procedure authorized by the Missouri Department of Conservation. In my opinion, this program was successful in reducing the number of deer in our city. Unfortunately, the Missouri Department of Conservation removed this program from their list of acceptable practices. It was after I was elected to the County Council that the city discontinued any efforts at all to reduce the deer population.

A few years ago the Board of Aldermen authorized a combined deer management program of sharp shooting and sterilization. At the time I felt that that was a good compromise between lethal and non-lethal methods of deer management. However, I was disappointed this past year when the non-lethal aspect was eliminated and only sharp shooting was authorized.

What I would support for the 2012-2013 season would be as follows:

1. Make an estimate of the size of the deer herd after this past season of shooting is completed.

2. Have a discussion about what the community believes is an acceptable deer herd size.
3. Break down the numbers of deer between sterilized and non-sterilized deer. It should be noted that only the non-sterilized deer add to the size of the herd.
4. If it is agreed that more deer need to be removed from the herd, then reinstitute the combined lethal and non-lethal program.
5. If it is determined that only a maintenance program is needed, then implement only a non-lethal program.
6. If a program is implemented that includes lethal means, then the required procedures need to be tightened up to improve safety, handling, and cleanup.
7. Coordinate with the St. Louis County Parks Department in utilizing non-lethal means of deer management inside Queeny Park, as we did when I was Mayor.

In summary, it is my position that the City of Town & Country should continue to have a deer management program based on non-lethal means, and only when a large reduction in the size of the deer herd is needed should lethal means also be utilized.

LIES: Mange infers that the current deer management was unsafe. This is crazy...the city's contractor White Buffalo has never had any safety issue question...for Mange to infer the operation is unsafe is an insult at Police Capt. Gary Hoelzer and the staff, plus the people with White Buffalo. Mange owes these folks an apology.

Mange gives himself a pat on the back for his relocation program and Blames the Missouri Department of Conservation for stopping it. He did tell you that the majority of the deer dies from "capture myopathy" after they went into shock and their organs shut down.

WARD-1 PROBLEM...Mange's position on deer control of using sterilization and his opponent Dorothy Cooke's position of "no men with guns in Town and Country" shows that both Ward-1 aldermanic candidates are crackpots on the deer problem.

Current Ward-1 Alderwoman Nancy Aviloli, who had a habit of not showing up for meetings months at a time might be better missing a meeting than either of these two attending a meeting.

ALDERWOMAN LYNN WRIGHT URGES PARKS COMMISSION TO FIGHT OPPOSITION TO LONGVIEW PARKING: At the January 30th meeting of the Town and Country Parks Commission Alderwoman Lynn Wright urged Parks Commission members to come to the February 13 Board of Alderman meeting and pre-meeting work

session to show support for adding parking spaces at Longview and to challenge the large and vocal opposition group and their online petition.

“There is a petition that is against going forward,” said Wright. “It’s...it’s...,” said Wright grasping for the right words. “It’s about 60 people and a large percentage of them are from Wheatfield.”

AND THE LIES BEGIN: This is the same crud that she and Parking Committee Chairman Skip Mange put out after the citizen forum. This was the party line that Mange put out minutes after the public forum on the parking issue, when 19 people spoke on the matter, one resident and one non-resident spoke in favor of more parking. 17 people spoke against it which included just six from Wheatfield Farm. Mange said the majority of the opposition was people from Wheatfield. Six out of 17 does not equal a majority.

If you look at the petition

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-longview-farm-park/signatures>

you will see that there are people from all over town. I recognized names from Conway Road, four people from Thornhill Estates, people from Mason Valley, Essex Point, Amersham, Arlington Oaks, Manderleigh, Pebble Acres and Clayton Road addresses in Wright’s own ward.

Two names on the petition are people on commissions that Wright chairs, plus three former aldermen...none of whom live in Wheatfield. But it is easier for Lynn to be mistaken (that is my nice term for lying) and say how a large percentage of names on the petition are from Wheatfield.

Members of the Parks Commission immediately wanted to have surveys done or send out mailing setting the record straight, giving their fractured position.

ANOTHER LIE: Wright brought up three times how having one entrance and one exit would be for safety. Anne Nixon also said, “The police did a sight distance study for safety.” It turns out the police study is opposite of the plan proposed by the Park Commission and the Parking Committee.

Their plan of making the west side the exit is the least safe. The police found while both sides of the parking lot offered “safe” line of sights and reaction times for oncoming traffic...BUT THE EAST SIDE IS THE SAFEST with the longest line of sight and an additional 1.2 seconds in reaction time, according to the police study.

AND ANOTHER LIE: Wright said the obtaining the grants are not costing the city anything. Of course she didn't mention that the first grant only covers \$4,000 of a possible \$20,000 engineering project...meaning it would cost the city \$16,000. Same with the construction grant...it will be just a portion of the overall costs.

RALLY THE TROOPS: After being whipped into frenzy, by half truths from Nixon and Wright, Roger Fagerberg has this to say: "We need as many people as possible to offset their opposition.

Patty Deforest jumped in with this uninformed comment, "I think it is a given the public wants more parking."

"There is a lot of stuff in here that is wrong. It is misleading," said Dr. Stephanie Peterson, (who practices medicine under a different name...talk about misleading) believing Wright, that the statement on the petition is false or misleading. It looks pretty factual to me.

NOT A CLUE: Dr Peterson then asked if Anne Nixon could send her an email about the board of aldermen meeting. She was told it was on Monday February 13 at 6:30.

She then asked and I kid you not, "Where is it held?" Uh...maybe at the City Hall...Dr. Peterson.

If you have an opinion on whether to add more parking or not, you should attend the February 13 Board of Aldermen meeting. The work session is likely to start at 6:30 and the regular meeting and public comments will begin at 7pm. This should be excellent entertainment at no cost.

DRACE PARK DOG PARK? There was 15 minutes wasted on the company that did a master plan study for the parks that recommended there be a youth athletic field or a Dog Park at Drace Park. The athletic field was recommended for the northeast corner of the park. The dog park was recommended for either the northeast or southeast corners of the park. The consultants admitted that Dog Parks should be at least one acre in size and these locations are only one-half acre in size.

Then the commissioners started talking about doing a survey or asking residents if they want a dog park. Patty DeForrest, who works for the Clayton Parks Department but lives in Town and Country said if you did a survey she would guarantee 40-percent would be in favor of a dog park. Well maybe in Clayton, but I don't think anyone living in

Long Meadows and Turnberry subdivisions that abut Drace Park would enjoy having the yipping and barking of a dog park in their backyards.

Parks commissioner Steve Korbecki then said the obvious. "There is not enough PARKING in Drace Park for a Dog Park."

Apparently neither Parks Director Anne Nixon nor the Parks Commission Chair Lynn Wright had any idea what just happened down the road in Chesterfield when they opened their first dog park in a new neighborhood park three months ago. So many dog owners showed up and there was so little parking available that they began to park on the grass and in neighboring subdivisions. Chesterfield had to start paving, expanding the parking lot in Eberwein Park.

It was then discussed that Preservation Park is where the dog park should be. However, Wright then mentioned that most residents don't know where Preservation Park and they wouldn't take their dog there.

Wright then said she wanted a citizen survey on the issue.

AMAZING: Toward the end of the Park Commission meeting Anne Nixon was giving a quick run down of the three parks including new waste containers in Longview, some work that was done at Drace and then she got to Preservation Park. On the 30th of January Nixon asked if anyone had been at Preservation Park as she had not been there since before Christmas. When someone is the director of a parks system with just three parks you might think they would be sure to visit and walk each park at least once a week, even if it was for thirty minutes. In the case of Nixon it had been six weeks or longer since she last visited Preservation Park.

FLIP AND FLOP: Alderman Steve Fons, who is being challenged again after barely being reelected in 2010 (won by 3 votes) appears to have done an about face on the parking at Longview Park. In the 2010 candidate debate Fons suggested the city should buy the vacant residential lot on Clayton Road across from Longview Park that backed up to Williamsburg Estates subdivision, pave the lot and use it for overflow parking for Longview Park and events at the Longview Farmhouse.

Well, wait just one minute, now that Mariette Palmer came out against adding parking spaces Fons has flipped. Palmer has an email list of whackos who have an excellent attendance record at city elections.

Someone included me on a BCC of an interesting email that was passed around the Wheatfield subdivision. It starts with an email from Mariette Palmer blasting the new proposed parking lot at Longview to a long list of people, including Steve Fons. Then there is Fonsie's reply where he apparently agrees with the "no more parking spaces" folks and Palmer's descriptions of Mayor Jon Dalton and Skip Mange. .

----- Original Message -----

From: RHPalmer@aol.com

To: HVogt@aol.com ; dougast@hotmail.com ; chaney.laura@sbcglobal.net ; KathyFienup@Yahoo.com ; takmlk@sbcglobal.net

Cc: steve.fons@att.net ; eric.alan.gerber@gmail.com ; hnmdjc@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 12:55 PM

Subject: Henry and Doug, get a big group to come to the Feb.13 Board of Aldermen meeting.

Sterling Levy, *P-D* journalist told me last night after the meeting the BOA has every intention of voting for the resolution, that they postponed it on a technicality, probably also because of the opposition voiced last night.

I do not know how far you will get with the county commission, as they have already pledged the \$4000, put the petitions are political ammunition for residents.

If you can fill the council chambers, the Board of Aldermen will not be so eager to push this resolution through. Hera Gerber packed the chambers when Fred and Jon Benigas were trying to throw Hera off the Conservation Commission, and they ended up looking like Fools.

Still, you may be able to stop the proposal at the April elections by electing candidates who are pro-resident, rather than those who presently sit on the board who have the attitude they know better than any one else and they are infallible. Jim Haven is right on target. Let's do the study that was never done and take our time with this proposal to get it right as to what should be done. Skip Mange's trying to rush it through is pure baloney.

The Mayor is very political. He will usually bend to major opposition. Mariette Palmer

From: steve.fons@att.net

To: RHPalmer@aol.com; HVogt@aol.com; dougast@hotmail.com; KathyFienup@Yahoo.com; takmlk@sbcglobal.net

CC: eric.alan.gerber@gmail.com; hnmdjc@aol.com

Subject: Re: Henry and Doug, get a big group to come to the Feb.13 Board of Aldermen meeting.

Date: Tue, 24 Jan 2012 19:04:05 -0600

Mariette, well said.

Steve Fons

While I agree with Fon's new position, it is quite a change for 2010 when he wanted to buy a home lot and pave it for lots of additional parking at Longview.

FORMER SAVVIS EXECUTIVE CHARGED WITH KILLING 70-YEAR-OLD IN HIT AND RUN ON CLAYTON ROAD.



George Putney, who lives off Weidman Road in unincorporated St. Louis County, was charged with felony, Leaving the Scene of an Accident, after he crossed over the centerline last Thursday and killed a Ballwin woman. Putney tried to drive away but his car was damaged so badly he only made it a couple hundred feet.

An off-duty paramedic for a private company was behind Putney and stopped to give aid to the victim. Meanwhile the coward, 52-year-old George Putney fled the scene on foot and was not arrested until he turned himself in to the Town and Country Police on Sunday.

Putney's online resume claims he was Senior Vice President of Sales at Savvis during the \$250,000 Lap Dance era of former Savvis president, Robert McCormick who was sued by American Express in 2005 for failing to pay a \$223,000 bill from one night of "lap dances" at a New York City "men's club." Putney was at Savvis from 2001 to 2007.

He currently claims to be executive vice president of Avadarta Sales, which claims to be an IT company at 1019 Skinker Blvd in St. Louis. The accident occurred at 7:40pm on Clayton Road two blocks past Mason Ridge. You don't suppose George might have stopped off for a few on the way home do you before killing a 70-year-old grandmother?

FORGOT TO MENTION...TOWN AND COUNTRY CROSSING IS NOW A REIT: I
forgot to mention back in December that the original developers of Town and Country

Crossing who induced the city to slap a TDD sales tax on shoppers (Traffic Development District) have unloaded the center to a Michigan REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) Ramco-Gershenson of Farmington Hills, Michigan for \$37.8 million. .

The deal includes all of the shopping center except for the Target Store, which remains owned by Target. Ramco-Gershenson claimed that 81% of the center is occupied. What are they counting as occupied? Are they counting the empty stores with the For Lease signs in them as occupied? Sharon Rothmel, the city's planning director, made the ridiculous claim back in June of 2010 that T&C Crossing only had a 14.4% vacancy rate. So the make believe vacancy rate has actually increased 4.6% in the last 18 months.

SHOPPING AT TOWN AND COUNTRY CENTER! Two weeks ago I met an editor who I write for at Five-Guys Burgers in the Town and Country Crossing Shopping Center. I arrived at 12:15. There was no waiting and there were only three customers at tables. We had a business lunch until 2 o'clock. There was almost no one in the place. A week later we met at Smashburger on Clarkson Road for another lunch-meeting. That place was packed from 11:45 to 1:30, with people waiting for a table. I have to say the food was much better at Smashburger. This causes me to wonder how much tax revenue Five-Guys is producing and how much longer they are going to be in business at T&C Crossing.

Two other signs of bad signs...The Bistro, located in T&C Crossing facing Clayton Road has taken to placing an illegal sign on the center median in the middle of Clayton Road proclaiming "No Waiting." An illegal sign is one thing, but an illegal sign in the middle of the road is quite another. I have to wonder if the Bistro is long for this world.

The Dog Bakery that creates dog treats still has illegal signs on Woods Mill Road. My dogs still wag their tails for a Milk Bone.

TARGET LIKE SHOPPING IN A GHOST TOWN: I really enjoyed stopping by Target on my way home from work during the Christmas holidays. Target has added a grocery store. There was always lots of close by parking. Shopping in the food section of the store was like being in a sci-fi movie where everyone has disappeared but you and you had the city to yourself. Literally I could be all alone in the Target food section. It was cheaper than Schnucks with none of the crowds of people at Wal-Mart which even in December can be like a trip to Coney Island in July.

CITY STEERS BUSINESS TO RESTAURANT AND COMPETES WITH OTHERS: For the second consecutive year the city's Community Relations Commission is holding a cocktail party at the Longview House for charging residents to use a park facility.

But this time on Friday February 17 they want to charge you \$20 a person to attend the party at Longview and then another \$20 for an after-party party at John Mineo's.

The event is titled "Art, Wine and Music." Just like last year's event! If you remember last year they sold more tickets than the Fire Code allowed people in the building.

Here is the link to the announcement on the city's website.

<http://www.town-and-country.org/Uploads/Parks/Park%20Events/Art%20Wine%20and%20Music%202012.pdf>

How did John Mineo's get the nod for the after-party party instead of Bistro II, Yellowstone, Duffy's The Marriott Hotel? What are we doing using a city event to create revenue for a specific business.

The business of cities is to provide fire, EMS and police protection, well maintained streets and parks. It is not to throw parties. I mean what is a city doing have a Community Relations Commission? It almost sounds like something from 1934 Germany, with the Ministry of Propaganda.

City alder-knucklehead Steve Fons is the chair of this commission of party animals. On previous minutes it shows they discussed they want to use the money to "soften" the interior of the Longview Farmhouse, add lighting and a flagpole. A flagpole has already been donated for the house. The rub has been its size and the \$5,000 to erect it. It is being stored at the city's salt facility. Realtor Laura McDonald the driving force behind the party and after party, party.

I am guessing this marks that the recession is over and we are going to hire back the police officers we laid off now that we have a part of city government whose mission is to throw parties!

UPDATE ON THE DIERDORF HOUSE SALE: It turned out that Dan Dierdorf listed his house at the end of Buckland Hall off of Mason Road for \$2.2 million dollars. It showed up on the County website and a real estate site as being sold to a LLC for \$210,000. A local realtor checked this out and found it was a misprint. The house sold for \$2.1

million. The Dierdorfs moved from Ward-2 to Ward-1 into a ranch house on Dubon Lane off of Topping for \$1.05m. That is a nice profit and I am sure the former NFL lineman's knees appreciate the reduction of steps and staircases.

TRAGEDY ON MASON ROAD MEANS CONTINUED GOOD WEATHER: While winter weather had avoided us so far, apparently good weather will continue. At 10am on Thursday morning a groundhog was attempting to cross Mason Road close to the Mason Valley subdivision when it was struck and killed by a 19-year-old Dodge subcompact automobile. The groundhog never saw the Shadow, meaning we should be in for an early spring. (Okay for longtime newsletter readers...I made a similar joke two years ago. I just couldn't resist. Pretty soon no one will remember the Dodge Shadow.)

CARTOONS:



So it came to pass that the final GOP debate was hosted by the 51st state:





