

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 74

January 15, 2013

By John Hoffmann

CORRECTION: We always believe in leading with mistakes instead of hiding them. Our January 3 Ex Alderman Newsletter 73 issue listed a local state representation and three Town and Country aldermen who have been late in paying their personal property taxes. Among that group we included Alderman Tim Welby, based on observing that his 2004 taxes were paid in May of 2005. Welby wrote us and congratulated us on being consistently wrong and explained his taxes were paid on tax and his bill was adjusted in May. He pointed there was no penalty or interest listed with the May payment.

Here is his email:

John,

Let's start with you're consistent, consistently wrong with your information. Your newsletter dated Jan 3, 2013 contains incorrect Personal Property Tax information on my wife and me.

Here is the quote directly from your newsletter:

Tim Welby: Welby was four months and three days late in paying his 2004 personal property tax bill of \$987. He paid it plus penalties and interest the same year he decided he would make an excellent choice for alderman.

I paid my 2004 Personal Property tax on December 29, 2004 in the amount of \$1187.47. On May 3, 2005 St. Louis County Revenue made an adjustment of \$199.50 to my account due to a wrong vehicle year on file. My Personal Property tax liability for 2004 was \$987.97 and generated a refund check in the amount of \$199.50. As you can see below there are no interest or penalties associated with my account. So how you determined that I paid penalties and interest is fictitious and a flat out lie. I am demanding that you completely remove this information from your newsletter dated Jan 3, 2013 by the end of the business day today.

I checked this and Tim was correct. I also checked the tax records involving John Diehl and John Benigas and I am happy to report that I was correct in the original report that both men have been late more than once in paying their taxes and had to pay penalties.

Immediately upon determining this mistake, I sent a revised copy of the newsletter to my website manager who posted the new edited newsletter.

Tim's charge that I am consistently wrong however is incorrect. I have been consistently correct every time I have written how the Missouri Ethics Commission has fined Welby for repeated violations of campaign finance laws even after he received a warning and how he was also placed on probation for two years.



Alderman Tim Welby

I was also correct when I wrote how as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Thronhill Subdivision contractors working for the subdivision mowed part of Welby's rear yard.

I was also correct when I wrote how Welby falsely inferred to residents in 2010 when he took candidate Al Gerber door to door that Gerber had a deer control plan. According to residents Welby inferred Gerber favored lethal deer control the same as I did. In fact Gerber wanted a deer management program that was heavily weighted toward giving deer \$1,200 field sterilization operations.

I have been correct when I wrote about how Welby filed a complaint with the subdivision board of trustees about his next door neighbor putting up a pergola over his backyard patio that Welby claimed was in violation of the subdivision indentures. Despite Welby being on the board, the remaining members decided it was not in violation. Welby then complained to the city building inspector, who found that the pergola was too tall. The neighbor, who is disabled, cut down the pergola and severely injured himself in doing so. Welby continued to complain but the building inspector refused to take any further action. The building inspector later told me after his retirement that the Welby complaint had "disgusted him."

I was also correct when I wrote that I found it "creepy" that Welby would drag along his grade school aged daughter with him while campaigning door to door and further found it creepy that Welby made t-shirts for his daughters to wear that proclaimed, "My Dad's An Aldermen".

HUGHES FILES FOR MAYOR: IT'S A KOOK VS ONE CURRUPT OF ETHICS: A day before the filing of candidates closed, former alderwoman and passionate deer lover Barbara Ann Hughes filed to run against Mayor Jon Dalton. Hughes and Dalton both last ran in 2009. Hughes lost to Lynn Wright getting only 23% of the vote. Dalton did even better beating me with 81% of the vote.

It was 2009 when Dalton screamed at Hughes during a meeting how she was lying saying the League of Women Voters did not organize a candidate debate because Dalton kept telling them and the Chamber of Commerce that he had scheduling conflicts. While yelling at Hughes during a public meeting, Dalton only apologized to her in private when it turned out she was very correct in her statement.

While Hughes is clearly a kook, with apparently keeping as many deer alive as possible is one of her central goals and her friendship with local crazy gadfly Mariette Palmer, you can't question her honesty as Dalton found out.

Dalton on the other hand is a walking conflict of interest treading in the quicksand of unethical behavior. Here are a few examples:

1. As mayor in 2005 Dalton s a lobbyist was on the payroll of the West County EMS and Fire Protection District, the city's largest contractor.
2. At the end of 2005 Dalton negotiated and signed a 5-year \$17,000,000 contract with the fire district. This would prove to be a fat filled contract that strictly favored the fire district. In 2012 a new contract for the same services went into effect for a lot less money.
3. After moving to Town and Country in 2000 and including time he was an elected official Dalton was sued by three local St. Louis area companies for not paying his bills.
4. While Mayor Dalton was the chief lobbyist for the manufacturers of generic brands of cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco, he had sworn to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents. Dalton was working for companies that wanted to kill residents with their products.
5. As mayor and a tobacco lobbyist Dalton refused to sign a letter from West County mayors supporting the County smoking ban law.
6. While mayor of Town and country, Dalton was the principal person behind using eminent domain in the City of St. Louis to obtain the property and business of widow

Opal Henderson who did not want to sell to the Dalton group that wanted to build the Icehouse Nightclub District on South. Broadway. Dalton's law firm, Lewis-Rice represented the St. Louis Land Clearance Authority in getting Henderson's property.

7. Dalton was a named defendant in Federal Court after Henderson sued and won a \$1,000,000 jury award for being low-balled by the Dalton group...the group then appealed to the Missouri Court of Appeals and lost. Dalton and others were sued in Federal Court after refusing to pay the jury award plus interest. Henderson was finally paid two months after the Federal Court lawsuit was filed.

8. Dalton, who as mayor had received several awards from Mothers Against Drunk Drivers for police department DWI arrests, had his law firm file suit against the Missouri Department of Revenue alleging the neighboring Ladue Police had acted without cause or evidence when they arrested Dalton's son twice in six months for DWI while driving a car leased to Dalton. According to information in the Ladue Police reports the cops had huge amounts of probable cause and evidence in connection with each arrest.

9. Dalton keeps appointing city prosecuting attorneys and a judge who allow DWI cases be plead out to Illegal Parking with \$500 fines and no record of a DWI for the defendant.

WHO WILL WIN? I seriously doubt that Dalton will even campaign. I'm guessing that he will win with 85% of the vote. It is ironic for Dalton after he created a number of commissions and committees which he filled with the liberal kooks around town hoping for their support that it is one of the kooks who filed to run against him. I would never consider voting for Hughes, unless she is the only candidate running against Dalton. While I completely disagree with Hughes on her position on deer control I will vote for her if no one else files by the close of business on Tuesday January 15. I like to vote for people who I feel won't lie to me. I don't think Hughes would lie to me. Dalton has already lied to me and others multiple times.

The biggest thing that could help Hughes is the way Dalton plays things fast and loose (looked at a law suit filed against him while he was still a partner at Bryan-Cave by the brother of his reported client, who alleged his late sister was completely incompetent to have knowingly hired Dalton). There is always a chance he could be indicted for something, connected to some scandal in Jefferson City or hit with a nasty lawsuit before the election.

DEER-CAR ACCIDENTS CRASHES BREAKS MARK SET IN 2011: Last year there



were 92 accidents between deer and motor vehicles. In 29 days at the start of the 2012 the city's contractor killed 288 deer. You might think that would mean fewer deer-car accidents. You would be wrong as this year there were 97 accidents, an increase of 7.6-percent.

There were a high number of deer-car accidents in Ward 1, which because of I-270 being a natural barrier has been spared some of the deer population. There were 25 Ward 1 accidents including one on the east side of I-270 and 11 on I-270. Here are the deer-accidents by ward:

Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4
25	28	26	18

POLICE CAPTAIN KEEPS FINAL DEER MANAGEMENT REPORT SECRET AS LONG AS POSSIBLE: Last week I sent an Open Meetings/Records request to Captain Gary Hoelzer, who is in charge of Deer Management. If records are available you are suppose to get access in 72 hours. It's a week later and I'm still waiting.

Here is Gary's first response:

From: Hoelzer, Capt. Gary A. [mailto:HoelzerGA@town-and-country.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 9:32 AM
To: John Hoffmann
Subject: RE: white buffalo report

John,

I have three basic reports that I received this week from White Buffalo: Final Report, Distance Sampling Report, and Cull Data Report. For clarification for the Sunshine Law, I assume these are the reports you are referring to?

Thanks,
Gary

I wrote back a one word message of "yes." Now here is Gary's second response:

From: Hoelzer, Capt. Gary A. [mailto:HoelzerGA@town-and-country.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 12:47 PM
To: John Hoffmann
Subject: RE: white buffalo report

John,

The reports are currently in the hands of Steve Garrett to review for any material that should be redacted; as well as to ensure that the drafts comply with the requirements of the agreement. As soon as his review is complete, I will forward them to you.

Gary

What are they going to redact? Do they want to make sure a deer doesn't sue them? Maybe the family of a deer killed might be filing suit. They need to keep the harvest sites a secret during the operation, but not afterwards...that is public information.

So on Monday night I contacted city attorney Steve Garrett who said he was in trial all week and did not look at his email. He added there is nothing to redact in the White Buffalo reports and they are okay to release.

I have never known Gary Hoelzer to lie. I have seen him not answer questions others might spin a lie to. This is an example of Gary stalling. Unfortunately it deals with public records. The public should be able to see public records, without getting a runaround.

TWO CITY COMMISSIONS DISCUSS PLANS TO VIOLATE TWO DIFFERENT

LAWS: I attended the combined meetings of the Art Commission and the Community Relations Commission on Wednesday January 9 at the Longview Farmhouse. The commissions each barely had a quorum, but together with two city employees and two alderwomen chairing each commission the room was pretty full.

It is always impressive when two commissions can come together to accomplish something. In this case it is apparently to violate two laws that are in place to protect people's health and safety.

First it was discussed that there would be only 100 "tickets" sold to the February 8 Art, Wine & Music event. The maximum occupancy by the Fire Marshal for the entire Longview structure is 100 people. Since they planned to have a dozen volunteers, plus servers from Villa Farotto's and six or seven artists the number of guests at any one time can only be about 80.

It was mentioned that the fire marshal said 120 should be okay. I spoke up and said the permit on the wall signed by the fire marshal reads the maximum occupancy is 100 people. Lindsey Hodge, the city employee in charge of the Longview House piped up that she got a wink and a nod that from the fire marshal that 120 should be okay.

I immediately mentioned that I would visit with the fire chief on Thursday. Alderwoman Lynn muttered, "I am sure you will."

I was a fire investigator for 10 years. I worked mostly off-duty from police jobs for insurance companies. I worked one major \$10,000,000 fire loss that occurred when the City of Grandview gave a company a wink and a nod and allowed them to occupy a new building that did not yet meet the fire code. The company fired a temp employee who started a fire and burned down a new \$10,000,000 building in 1987 that the sprinkler system would have put out if it only was functional.

Fire code violations at a nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island killed 100 people and injured 230 in 2003.



The first 40 seconds of the deadly Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island.

In 1942 fire code violations existed at the Coconut Grove Nightclub in Boston. A fire killed 492 people.



Coconut Grove Nightclub in Boston after 492 people died.

You do not change fire code occupancy ratings to squeeze a few more people into a building.

The fact that this seems to be okay to city employees and a couple of alderwomen is frankly shocking.

The problem is the building was poorly designed and the city starting with Mayor Dalton approved a building addition to the tune of \$1.5 million without knowing what the actual occupancy of the building would be according to the fire code. This is an example of awful leadership. But it is not a reason to ignore fire codes.

THE FIRE CHIEF SPEAKS: The next day I did go to the West County EMS & Fire Protection District and spoke to Chief Ernie Rhodes. I explained to Chief Rhodes that a city employee and an alderwoman at a public meeting on Wednesday night had indicated a member of his staff had told them it was okay to violate the maximum occupancy at the Longview Farmhouse.

“I want them to put that in writing,” said Rhodes several times. “I want them to say who told them that.”

“The maximum occupancy on the placard is the maximum occupancy...period,” said Chief Rhodes.

TO HELL WITH DISABLED PEOPLE: That appeared to be the motto of both commissions. Members were very concerned that everyone must enter the Farmhouse through the front door. This was discussed for some time! Lindsey Hodge stated that despite them wanting people to use the front door only, in past years she has opened the side doors at the “glass double wide” conference center, because she was not going to force someone to walk around to the front door on a winter night.

What no one mentioned was that the access to the front door does not meet American Disability Act standards. Only the side doors are handicapped accessible. People forget

that these standards are not only for people in wheelchairs but also for people who can walk but have problems due to orthopedic conditions plus heart and lung conditions with using steps and stairs.

I was amazed that Alderwoman Lynn Wright, the longtime chair of the Parks Commission is not aware enough to know this and require that a handicapped accessible entrance be used.

After the meeting Alderwoman Gussie Crawford told me she would make sure the other entrances are open and available.



An earlier photo of the steps to the Longview porch! The bricks tend to crumble in cold weather. Also these steps have overhanging lips which can be a trip hazard for some people with mobility problems.

MY PROBLEMS WITH ART, WINE AND MUSIC: I confess I have a problem with this annual event. It is one thing to rent out the building for a private party. It is quite another issue for the city to hold an event where it charges people \$20 to enter a taxpayer supported building where they will be asked to buy stuff. This seems to be an excuse to hold a party. If we are trying to recoup expenses, why not charge people to attend the Fire and Ice Fireworks event every June.

FOR TWO HOURS IS IT MUSIC OR A PUNISHMENT? HERE IS WHAT THE CITY WILL GET FOR \$300: Oh the sound of a harp can be beautiful, but two hours of a solo harp being played isn't that close to bordering on a punishment? The commissions have decided not to hire a string quartet from the Town and Country symphony this year. (Good idea) Instead they have hired Amy Camey for \$300, who will play the harp

for two hours. I have mentioned before I know plenty of professional musicians who would be happy to perform as a trio for this event at the same price.



Amy Camey at the Harp.

A harp is nice, but does two hours of a solo harp constitute music or punishment?

HERE'S WHAT I GOT FOR \$300: My wife had an art show opening at the Art Guild last August (God forbid the Art Commission ask a resident to show art at this event). I hired a trio to perform while people walked through the galleries with their wine and food. Here is what I got for \$300:



Glen Smith is on the bass. Next is Carolbeth True, one the top pianists in St. Louis, who is an adjunct professor of piano at Webster University. Then there is Larry Johnson on the sax. Larry is one of the top five sax players in the region. He is an elementary and high school music and band teacher and an adjunct professor at Lindenwood University. This trio played for close to 3 hours for \$300.

Who do you think got the better deal? The city who is hiring a single harpist for two hours or me?

FOOD: The “Food” portion of the evening will be hors devours from Villa Farroto’s. While the food at Villa Farrotto’s may be great, and I always recommend the original Farroto’s in Rock Hill, but frankly their catered food in the past has been awful.

CHOCOLATE: Besides having artists trying to sell stuff at this event that costs \$20 to get through the door, Town and Country resident Rick Jordan, who owns the Rick Jordan Chocolatier shop in the Baxter Bend strip mall in Chesterfield will be at the party offering samples of his chocolates and also selling his chocolate.



Rick at his Chesterfield store.



The tattoo on Rick’s arm is of a coca plant.

I have known Rick since he opened his shop and have written about him for patch.com. He is an interesting guy. My wife and I have bought chocolate from his shop. But the idea to charge residents \$20 to enter a city building so they can buy chocolate is nuts. Rick does not charge an entry fee to his store on Clayton Road at Baxter.

PRIVATE FUNDS USED TO SEND OUT CITY WIDE POSTCARD FOR THE EVENT: The newest member of the Community Relations Commission, well known area realtor Carla Borgard had a postcard printed up and will mail it to every house in the city advising of the event. While this can be written off as an advertising expense for a very active local realtor, it is still a nice gesture, as I am sure this will cost...counting printing and postage a sum into four figures.

DRINK: There was a 10-minute discussion if there should be beer at the event.

“My husband won’t drink wine,” one person said.

“Hey, It is Called Art, Wine and Music,” said another against beer.

Finally it was decided they might get a case of beer if someone donated it.

IN CONCLUSION: Here is what you get at Art, Wine and Music event for \$40 if you go with your spouse:

Mediocre food.

Harp music for 2 hours.

Being told to go “the long way around” to enter the building.

Unlike the top art galleries in St. Louis that let you walk through the door for free, you pay to look at art that is for sale.

ENLARGING THE FRONT YARD! About a month ago we ran this photo of another ranch house getting torn down along Topping Road.



For a change there will be no new French provincial/English castle going up. The Imo family bought this house that sits in front of their much larger abode and now will have a three acre front yard.

ANOTHER FRENCH PROVINCIAL-ENGLISH CASTLE FROM THE COOKIE

CUTTER: In our last newsletter we showed another empty lot after the bulldozer made quick work of a 1960's era ranch house on Thornhill Drive. We saw what is going up in its place. To me a lot of these new McMansions are beginning to look the same. “Little Boxes” Pete Seeger’s 1963 recording about suburban sprawl could be remade today and called Very Large Boxes.



This was approved by the Architectural Review Board on Monday night. After a 5-0 vote, ARB Chairman Phil Behnen told the builder and owner Bill Kemp, “It will be a great addition to Thornhill.” How does Phil know? 20 years from now 75% of the lots in Thornhill could have these mammoth houses that overtake the lot the landscaping. While, I believe you should be able to build whatever you want on your property and I am not crazy about ARBs...I also have to wonder if 80-percent of houses this size in a subdivision would be such a good thing.

SCHOOL OFF MASON ROAD PASSES: The owners of the Raintree School planned for the old Amonte subdivision off of Mason Road near the south city limits stunned the ARB in December by presenting plans that had the school building being made out of metal siding, like a Costco store. The ARB refused to approve the plans.

This month the owners came back with a plan showing the school would be made out of cedar panels and brick. The new plans were passed immediately.

DIEHL MISSES ANOTHER MEETING: John Diehl, the Republican majority floor leader of the Missouri House and appointee of Mayor Jon “Snidely” Dalton to the ARB missed his 12th of the last 13 ARB meetings. Not only does Diehl not show up, he has accepted over \$25,000 in campaign contributions from companies and groups involved in the local home building and real estate industries.

Each month I asked ARB chair Phil Behnen why he doesn’t get Diehl kicked off the board. This month Phil told me to find a replacement. He said he needs a number of replacements. Of the eight members, only four showed up for Monday’s hearings.

NEW SIGNS FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY CROSSING: Something will be going up that should have gone up on day one, but was blocked by the likes of Fred Meyland-Smith and then alderman Steve Fons. A directory sign for the shopping center will be erected on Clayton Road at Woods Mill Road where the large “Spaces for Lease” sign is now located.

When this project first went up Meyland-Smtih and Fons proudly said only the signs for the two anchor stores, Target and Whole Foods would be allowed along the road. Typical “Snoburbia.” The merchants of the smaller shops need for customers to know they exist while citizens need to know what stores are in a shopping center. City officials screwed both sets of people.

Now that the shopping center is struggling and the city’s other shopping center, Manchester Meadows is almost vacant, suddenly a directory sign is a good idea!

FIVE BUCKS...ER... I MEAN STARBUCKS NEEDS A SIGN ON THE STREET:

Alderman Chuck Lenz and I agree on this one. Too many people don’t know there is a Starbucks in this shopping center in the front of the Target Store. This is crazy! They should have a sign on the street. Plus they should have a sign on the Target building. Starbucks would draw people into this shopping center and that would certainly help the other merchants and it would certainly help Target. It would also help the city generate some more revenue from sales taxes.

DRINKING THE ‘UPSCALE KOOL-AID’: A member of the management team from the new owners of the Town and Country Crossing (Ramco Gershenson Properties LP) showed up late to the agenda meeting, but in time to speak.

She referred to the shopping center as being “very upscale.” Let me get this straight...this shopping center has a Target with plastic shopping carts, a “Dollar Store” plus a nail salon, a sub shop and lots of empty store fronts...but is Upscale?

Reportedly there may be a new overpriced restaurant going into empty store space facing the lake.

CHURCH GETS PERMISSION THEY DIDN’T NEED FOR NEW SIGN AND TIM WELBY ADMITS HE IS STUPID! Apparently someone (I’m hoping that someone might have been City Attorney Steve Garrett) got to all the alderpersons since the last meeting. At the last meeting a number of alderperson led by Tim Welby blocked a sign request by the Destiny Church on Des Peres Road. They didn’t like the new name of the church which is now “Destiny Church.org.”

First of all if an elected official knew anything about zoning and signs ordinances they would know that churches can have any kind of non-commercial sign or symbol they like without government regulation. By golly it is the foundation of what this country was founded on...Freedom of Religion.”

In December Welby spent several minutes lecturing Church officials on how they didn't need the sign and how wrong their new name was. Many of us were not surprised as Welby has leaped in front of Lynn Wright and has taken the spot of former Alder-dope Steve Fons for being the dumbest alderperson on the board.

Apparently Welby now realizes he was a horse's ass at the December meeting.

“I was vocal at the last meeting and I was basing my comments on facts that were not before us,” said Welby in a semi-apology.

The Destiny Church sign was approved 7-0. Fred Meyland-Smith who also lectured the church's staff in December was absent.

\$3.27...SHOWS THE CITY WAS A DEAD BEAT: During the agenda meeting, Alderman Chuck Lenz inquired why the city was hit with a \$3.27 “finance charge” on a bill for trash pickup at the parks. The reason was because the city was late in paying Meridian Waste Hauling Services. Finance Director Betty Cotner admitted it was a matter of a misplaced bill and the holidays for the bill not getting paid on time.

COPS CLOSE DRACE PARK FOR MOST OF A SUNDAY: On Sunday January 6 at 3:30, my wife and I plus the two dogs went to Drace Park for a walk. When we pulled up both gates to the main parking lot were shut and padlocked. However the service entrance at the south end of the park was open. We pulled in there and went for our walk. We watched as several drivers attempted to turn into the park, saw the gates closed and left.



I went up to the two gates and pulled on each padlock. The lock to the exit gate opened and I opened the gate.

When we got home I called the dispatch center and learned there were no serious police calls all day. The cops lock up the gates after dark and the day-watch cops are suppose to open the gates at sunrise. On this Sunday apparently no police officer for 9 ½ hours ever drove down Cedar Valley Drive and noticed the gates were closed or bothered to drive through the park on patrol.

I sent an email to the police department operations commander, Gary Hoelzer and copied the police chief/city administrator John Copeland and Chairwoman of the Parks Commission Alderwomen Lynn Wright.

Lynn wrote back that she had walked in the morning at 8:30 apparently from her nearby house and noticed the gates were closed but forgot to call the police. Geez she is the Chair of the Parks Commission who apparently wants to violate the fire code and the ADA law for a party at Longview, but having one of her three parks closed on a weekend day isn't a big enough deal to remember to do something about it. She is running unopposed for reelection!

On Monday John Copeland wrote back and said the cops dropped the ball.

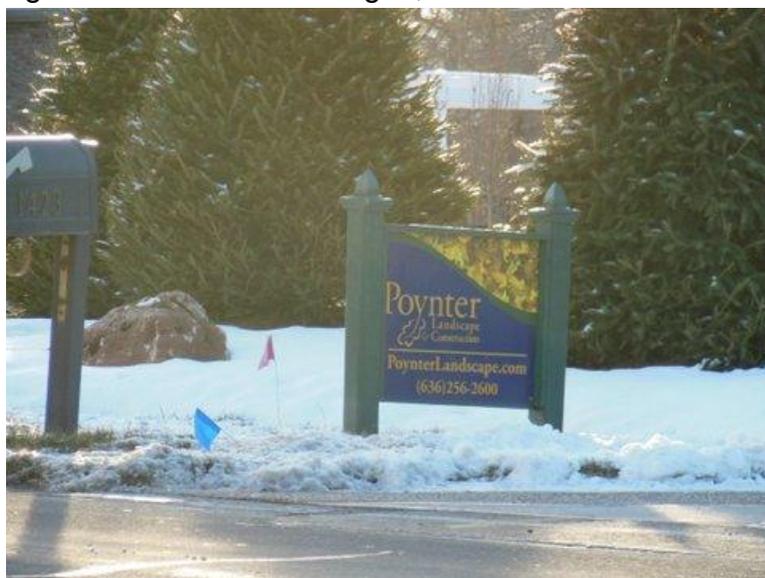
CITY IGNORES ILLEGAL COMMERCIAL SIGN WHILE TRYING TO VIOLATE CHURCH'S FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT: Leave it to Town and Country. This time last year THEY WERE TELLING THE Trinity Lutheran Church what kind of sign it could have. Well, the church actually already had the new LED digital sign up and running and the City was trying to tell the church what kind of messages it could put on the sign.

In December Town and Country was objecting to the type of sign the destinychurch.org can put on its church at 1809 Des Peres Road. Specifically some aldermen don't like the fact the church is now well into the computer and internet age and is calling itself "destinychurch.org". As a general point of law churches can call themselves whatever they like without government challenging them. They can also put up signs without government approval.

However when it comes to an illegal commercial sign the city can ignore those for months. When I was an alderman I got tired of seeing the illegal permanent Poynter Landscaping sign on Clayton Road in Ward-3. Finally since the code enforcement people, police or Ward-3 aldermen were doing nothing about it, I filed a complaint.

A similar double wooden post sign went up in September after some work on Topping Road. Ward-2 Alderman Tim Welbey drives by it regularly. City building officials and code officials have also driven by it, as have the police and I know some Ward-1 alderpersons. I filed a complaint about it in December and the city's code official wrote to me she was working on it in January of 2013. Two weeks after the complaint and three months after the violation was in plain view, it came down on January 9.

This leads me to ask why does the city want to screw with a church's first amendment rights when it comes to signs, but refuses to enforce its commercial sign ordinances?



SOMETHINGS JUST AREN'T FAIR: As I get older it is harder to get a goodnight's sleep. Sure I might doze off during the evening network newscast, but try and get seven hours sleep straight. However things seem to be just the opposite as my dog Sadie gets older. Before last year she and our other dog would get us up to feed them

breakfast. Now we're up and showered and have to wake up the 11 ½-yr-old Springer Spaniel so she can eat.



A sleeping dog at breakfast time.

SLICE OF ST. LOUIS: I enjoyed seeing the Al Hirschfeld exhibit at the Sheldon Art Gallery just after New Years. Unfortunately the show has now closed.



Most people associated Hirschfeld with Broadway shows, Hollywood movies, the New York Times and The New Yorker. Too many of us forget that Hirschfeld was born in St. Louis in 1903 and moved to New York when he was 10.

He grew up in St. Louis on Kensington Ave. The same street at about the same time where Sally Smith Benson grew up. In 1941 a book of memoirs by Benson called "5135

Kensington Avenue” was serialized in The New Yorker and was what the movie “Meet Me in St. Louis” was based on. (Of course the “Boy Next Door” lived at 5133!)



Drawing of the original Smith House



The empty lot where it used to stand



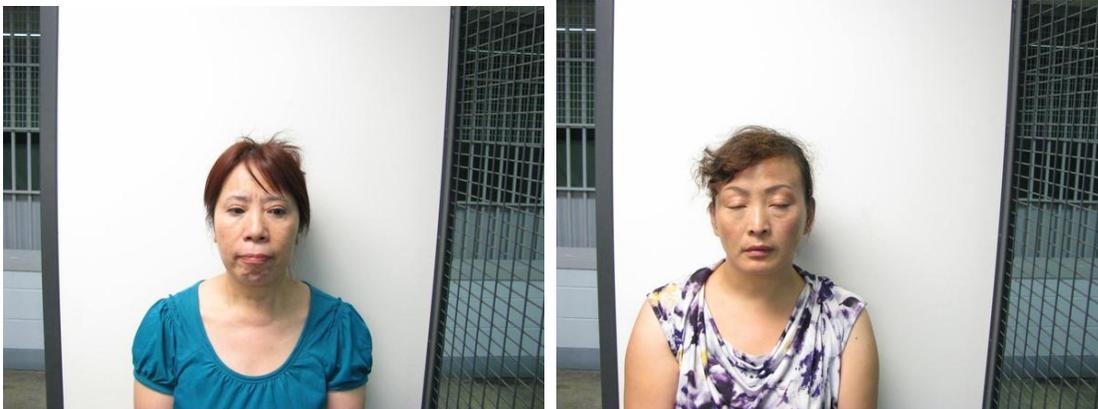
This is the house built by MGM for the movie

HIRSCHFELD ON NETFLIX: If you belong to Netflix I would highly recommend the 1996 documentary movie on Hirschfeld titled, “The Line King.” It is just 86 minutes long. Unfortunately you cannot download it. The movie has to be sent out on DVD, but is highly entertaining if you spent years looking for the “Nina’s” in Hirschfeld’s drawings.

HOW WILL THE SECOND MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN CHESTERFIELD DEAL WITH THIS ONE: (Warning this segment contains sophomoric and possibly offensive humor) It will be interesting to see the Chesterfield city prosecuting attorney Tim Engelmeyer, doing his job in nearby Des Peres and see how he manages to sweep two

recently filed cases under the carpet the way he reduces DWI charges and lets drunk drivers pled guilty to parking violations with \$500 fines.

In the Des Peres case, two Chesterfield women Jufang Long, 62, and Cuizhen Wu,40, of 15481 Duxberry Way Walk were charged with prostitution for performing sex acts as part of the massage service at the Rong Hua D-Stress Sauna and Massage at 11730 Manchester Road. Des Peres has revoked the business license of the establishment. The first complaint came from a man with actual back pain who went to Rong Hua for what used to be a regular massage. The staff attempted to perform the other kind of massage and the customer went to the police. His complaint was followed up a visit by undercover County police detectives.



62-year-old Jufong Long

40-year-old Cuizhen Wu

"We had a complaint that there was inappropriate behavior there, so we worked with the St. Louis County Police Department and did a sting," Des Peres Police Department Capt. Charles Milano told the Webster-Kirkwood Times without missing a beat.

Read more: <http://www.websterkirkwoodtimes.com/Articles-Des-Peres-i-2013-01-04-184491.114137-Des-Peres-Massage-Parlor-Shut-Down-For-Prostitution.html#ixzz2HB3SNPGd>

While I seriously doubt Ms. Long or Ms. Wu will be getting off, I doubt they will see a stiff sentence either being prosecuted by Engelmeyer.

A lawyer friend who formerly worked for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington DC and I were kicking around what charges Engelmeyer might reduce the charges to and accept a huge fine for a minor charge.

We both thought some sort of building code violation would be a starting point, such as "Erecting without a Permit."

The other one that came to mind was the parking violation of “Unloading in a No parking or No Standing Zone.”

ED MARTIN...YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME: The Missouri Republicans successfully drove more former Republican voters to the ranks of “independents” in November with a roster of awful candidate starting with Todd Akin, but certainly including Ed Martin.

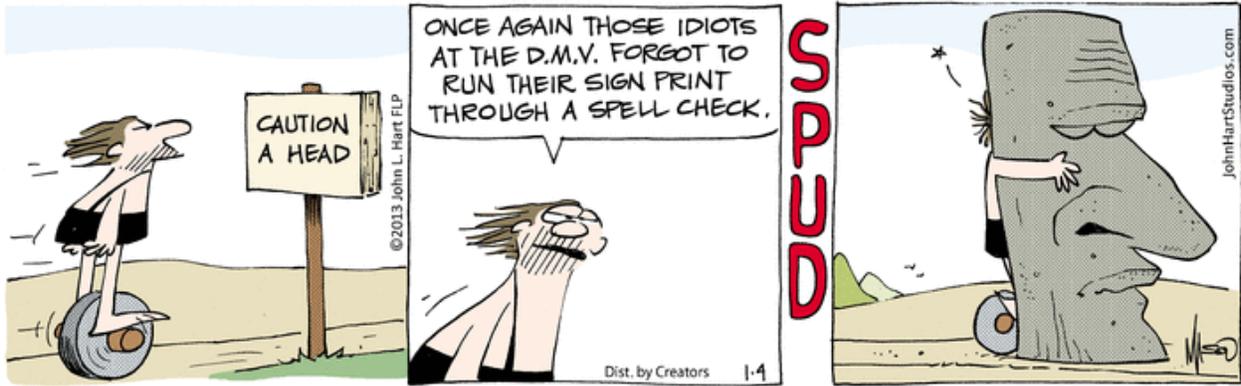
I will never be able to support Martin since as chief of staff for former Boy-Governor Matt Blount, he kept public records (emails) from being released, tried to destroy public records, fired a staff attorney who told him not to do it as the emails were public records and then slandered the fired attorney. This alone cost taxpayers at least \$2,000,000 in court judgments and legal fees.



Now Martin has been named the head of the Missouri GOP. I don't think the Missouri Democratic Party could have made a better pick of someone to head the GOP that would drive middle of the road moderates away from the Republican Party.

THIS JUST IN: OMG...John Diehl is now the chair of the House Ethics Commission. Diehl is the guy who accepted \$1,000 campaign contributions from Smithfield Farms before his yes vote that made it impossible for neighbors of Smithfield's Missouri Hog farms to sue for pollution more than once. He then accepted another large donation from the Missouri PORK PAC after he voted Smithfield's way to take away Missouri landowners' property rights. He is the guy who rarely accepts money from inside his district, but has \$1,000-plus contributions from liquor, cigarettes, railroads and even the payday loan industry. Diehl is the guy who has taken \$1,078,000 in campaign contributions to run unopposed for the last the four years and has paid \$60,000 to “consultants” and has made \$25,000 payments from his campaign account to pay off credit card debt.

CARTOONS:



MIKE LUKOVICH
ATLANTA THUNDER-COMPTON
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Last week's editorial cartoons were mostly gun control related...this is the only one that made me chuckle

