

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 77

February 24, 2013

By John Hoffmann

PUT A FORK IN HIM...HE IS ALMOST DONE: The city administrator/police chief, John Copeland, will be retiring this year. It was informally announced at Mayor Jon Dalton's political fundraiser held at Republican Committeeman Mark Dunn's office on Friday February 15 and also hinted about at last week's police commission meeting.

Copeland has been with the police department since 1983. The good thing about his retirement is perhaps the city will be able to avoid the clear conflict of interest in the chain of command. It is difficult to file a complaint about the police department or police chief with the city administrator if he is the police chief.

Copeland replaced long time police chief Skip Delmar on Delmar's retirement. He took over the dual position of permanent City Administrator and Police Chief after Brent Hobgood quietly left the city in 2003 after some alcohol and DWI issues in a city car and was hired in Ellisville, where the same problems plagued him.

We would hope with a current \$2.4 million budget deficit that the city elected leaders would first avoid doing the "nationwide search" for a city administrator and police chief.

Captain Gary Hoelzer has been running the day to day operations of the police department since Copeland took on the city administrator duties. They should simply let him continue. Perhaps Hoelzer's one weak spot is that he has not been overly aggressive in disciplining officers. But overall he has been doing an excellent job and has strong citizen contacts and support.



Capt. Gary Hoelzer



Capt. Pat Kranz

For city administrator, Police Captain Pat Kranz would make an excellent candidate. Kranz was in the construction business before becoming a cop. He is currently in charge of support service which means he does all the PD purchasing now. He understands building, road construction and maintenance issues.

DEER CAR CRASHES FOR JANUARY ARE DOWN: In the words of songwriter Harry Warren, made famous by Etta James...AT LAST...the deer-car crash numbers in January dropped by 75%. There were only two deer collisions on the books in Town and Country for the first month of 2013. This is a drop from eight in 2012, when we finished the year with 98 deer-car crashes. After shooting close to 300 deer in 2011 and 115 in 2012 the hope was these accident numbers would go down.



The accidents both occurred in Ward-3. One was on Weidman Road south of Clayton Road and the other was on Hwy 141 at Clayton Road.

DALTON LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN WITH FULL BACKING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN: Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist & Stealer of Widow's Businesses and Land Jon "Snidely Whiplash" Dalton launched his campaign with a party at the law offices of Mark Dunn our local Republican committeeman on Friday February 15. So much for city elections being non-partisan!

It was interesting to see on Dalton's website that he lists all the members of the Board of Aldermen as being his "Honorary Chairs."

LESSER OF EVILS...I THINK NOT! One person said Dalton was a "lesser of two evils" in the mayor race against Barbara Ann Hughes, the kook who has appeared in past years to be solely focused on saving deer. My response to that is they were incorrect. He is evil and the other candidate is simply crazy...there is a big difference.

It is interesting that this is the second time Dalton has had an election party at Dunn's Law office on the North Forty Outer Road which is on land that once belonged to two elderly sisters who tried and failed to get it rezoned from residential to commercial so

they could sell it at a higher price to help them move into a retirement community. After they were turned down Dunn bought the land and did get it rezoned.

Now there is party for a guy who is most famous for using eminent domain to take the property and a business from an elderly widow for a nightclub district in St. Louis that he did not have the capital to build. Old women are apparently in the crosshairs of Dunn and Dalton.

DALTON STILL WANTS TO PLAY COP: On Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist/Snatcher of Widow's Property Jon "Snidely Whiplash" Dalton's reelection website he continues to list that he is the top law enforcement official in Town and Country.



Dalton made the same claim when I ran against him in 2009. However it is completely false.

To be a law enforcement official in a first class county in Missouri you have to have attended a police academy of at least 600 hours. You also have to have a Police Officer License issued by the Missouri P.O.S.T. (Missouri Police Officers Standards and Training Board).

In 2009 I was the only one in the Town and Country mayor's race who held a valid Missouri POST Police Officer License or who had graduated from a police academy. (Actually I have graduated from Police Academies in Missouri, Washington, DC and Maryland.)

While Dalton is not a "top law enforcement" anything...let's pretend he is and here are a few examples of what the top law enforcement guy has been up to.

1) January 1, 2012 had his car towed in connection with a DWI arrest by the Ladue Police. That is not very "top law enforcement-y"



An Audi on a tow truck...a common experience for one of Mayor Dalton's cars.

- 2) January 6, 2012 Mayor Jon Dalton's law firm filed suit to stop the driver license revocation of Jonathan F. Dalton, Jr. for refusing to take a breath test after he was arrested for DWI. They claimed the Ladue Police did not have a legitimate reason to pull over Dalton's car. (No lights on at 3am and running a stop sign) Seems like an odd thing for a top law enforcement person to do.
- 3) June 23, 2012 Mayor Jon Dalton's car was towed again in connection with another DWI by the Ladue Police. Wow this is really not very "Top Law Enforcement-ish."
- 4) July 7, 2012 Dalton's law firm file suit to stop a DOR license suspension claiming the neighboring Ladue Police had no cause to arrest Dalton's son on June 23 and file paper work to revoke his driver license a second time for refusing to take a breath test.
- 5) March 2012, Dalton was sued in Federal Court for being part of a group that was refusing to pay widow Opal Henderson a court ordered judgment resulting from a jury verdict involving Dalton and others using eminent domain to seize Henderson's business and property and under paying her. Not very "top enforcement like" to ignore a court order.
- 6) July 13, 2006 Mayor Dalton was sued by Mitchell Lightning for not paying his bills. This is not the first, but the third time in six years that Dalton was sued by local businesses for not paying bills. Again not something you would expect the top law enforcement guy to do.
- 7) December 2005 Dalton as mayor signed a 5-year \$17.5-million contract with the West County EMS and Fire Protection District. Earlier in 2005 Dalton had been on the payroll of WCEMSFPD as a paid lobbyist. Dalton did not announce a possible conflict of interest or step aside and have the President of the Board of Aldermen handle the

contract signing. This does not seem like something a top law enforcement officer would do.

8) On October 22, 2011... Top law enforcement officials have to be physically fit. Here is where Dalton parked using a Handicapped placard to attend a city function at Longview Park. (earlier in the day he participated in a 10-mile bike rally) In this photograph I see three regular parking spaces he could have used.



9) And then there is the case where Dalton as the self-announced leader of the police allowed a police supervisor to continually sexually harass the department's lone female officer by asking her to have sex with him. The officer quit and then sued the department.

ONE GUEST AT DALTON LAUNCH PARTY IS NOT GOOD NEWS FOR HUGHES: If you think back to all the nights the Save the Deer people sat together on the north side of the aldermanic chambers you would always see Barbara Ann Hughes sitting right with Mariette Palmer. So who showed up for Dalton's reelection kickoff party? None other than Mariette Palmer! If the Queen of Deer has gone over to the Dalton side, you have to wonder if Hughes is going to get out of the single digits of the total vote percentage.

ILLEGAL MEETING? I'm not sure what our elected officials don't understand about the Missouri Ethics law. Certainly Tim Welby should be well schooled in the law since he violated it regularly and has been fined and spent two years on probation for ethics violations. However, with all eight sitting aldermen at the Dalton fundraiser on Friday there was a quorum present. Here is the definition of a public meeting that should be open in Missouri:

A public meeting, defined in [Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.010.5\(5\)](#), includes any meeting where "public business is discussed, decided, or public policy formulated"

At the Dalton fundraiser the entire Board of Aldermen was present and Mayor Dalton in front of the entire board of aldermen made comments concerning city business.

This meeting was not posted on the city's website or at city hall 24 hours in advance.

DALTON APPARENTLY HAS MONEY TO WASTE: Dalton apparently has deep pockets in the race for his third term as mayor. He has bought a banner ad on the Town and County-Manchester patch.com site.

RE-ELECT
JON DALTON
MAYOR, TOWN & COUNTRY

Experienced Effective
Leadership You Can Trust
★ PLEASE VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 2 ★

www.mayorjondalton.org
314-989-0270
jon@mayorjondalton.com

Paid for by Town & Country Citizens to Re-Elect Mayor Jon Dalton, Karen Yess, Treasurer

Really who reads the Patch.com sites anymore? They cut the staff so thin there is normally just one new piece posted a day other than press releases or blogger submissions. There is almost zero news value on the site since they have taken an editorial position of not reporting anything that might upset local politicians.

Apparently Dalton's very long slogan is "Experienced Effective Leadership You Can Trust" is true unless of course you happen to be a 78-year-old widow with a business and property that Dalton is eyeing for an underfunded nightclub district. Or if you happen to be the only female police officer on the city's police department who refused to have sex with her supervisor despite his continued requests or if you are a local merchant who Dalton hired and then did not pay.

BILLBOARD GOES UP ON RESIDENTIAL STREET AND CITY TAKES NO ACTION WITHOUT A COMPLAINT: A large billboard for the Redbird Construction Company appeared on Topping Road and apparently no official did anything about it. The building inspector should have seen it. Certainly the police have driven by it dozens of times and they should have notified the code enforcement officer, but as usual did not. I would hold Alderman Chuck Lenz'd feet to the fire, but Chuck lives off Mason Road and there is a chance he has not seen it at all. However, Alderman Tim Welby uses Topping on a regular basis, as I have routinely followed him out of our subdivision. But apparently I have to make the first complaint.

Here is a complaint I finally sent to the city code enforcement officer on February 18.

From: John Hoffmann [mailto:johnhoffmann@charter.net]
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2013 10:09 PM
To: oconnellas@town-and-country.org
Cc: 'CHUCK LENZ'; copelandjr@town-and-country.org
Subject: commercial sign violation

Anne:

REALLY? I can understand a yard sign telling subs and material delivers where a site is. But this is nothing more than a commercial billboard in a residential area.

What I really don't get is why Neil, who I'm guessing is doing weekly site inspections has not taken care of this...or the cops who have driven past this a dozen times every day going up and down Topping Road haven't at least sent you a note on this.



John Hoffmann

Anne O'Connell the city's code officer sent me an email on Tuesday morning saying she had been at the site and the contractors and homeowners have been told to take down the billboard. It was still up six days later. Apparently signs like this are much harder to take down than to put up. Either that or the city staff doesn't believe in strong enforcement.

GREEN TEAM AND THE GREEN POWER CHALLENGE: At first they were introduced as being from Ameren at the Green Team Commission meeting, but when the questions started they finally corrected things and said they were contractors hired to market Renewable Energy Credits for Ameren. One of the women, Debra Pottinger was quoting different stats faster than I could write them down. I was more than a little suspect since she did not use a power point or have handouts.



Turns out Kathleen Engle and Debra Pottinger didn't actually work for Ameren

“Being a Green Power Community can attract people who might to open a business or buy a home,” said Pottinger.

Hello...I don't think too many hippies are looking to relocate in T&C. While Clayton is the only Green Power Community in Missouri, Creve Coeur is attempting to reach that status. To do so 3% of the town's energy has to come from a non-fossil fuel source. Also people buying Renewable Energy Credits, which will increase you electric bill about 10%, will help. The commission was told that the 10% increase in bills was going to reduce air pollution and help farmers who lease their land where nothing grew during last year's drought for wind energy farms.

Pottinger also stressed the city would get lots of media coverage.

I doubt the City of Town and County would get lots of media coverage...and let's face it, the average Joe holds the millionaires from Ladue and Town and Country in contempt and low esteem.

Pottinger said the extra costs to the city are offset because Ameren does all the marketing (meaning Pottinger keeps her job). “It would hardly cost the city anything,” she said. Whoa...when I see a statement like that I know someone is about to get it.

Frankly this program does not seem to be cost effective at a time they city has a \$2.4 million budget deficit.

DESTINY BAPTIST CHURCH WANTS TOWN AND COUNTRY/PRINCIPIA

COMMUNITY GARDEN OVERFLOW: The Destiny Church along Des Peres Road is starting a community garden that is open to residents of Town and Country. Let's be realistic here, the City/Principia garden is basically for residents of the Principia Campus since most residential lots are over an acre in town and you can have your own garden. But on the Principia campus the lots are small plus some staff lives in apartments. There is one apartment complex in the city limits and the former apartments that are condos behind Straubs. Currently the City/Principia garden has two or three people on a waiting list.

After all the grief Destiny took over getting a sign I almost think the offer to open the garden to residents is a preemptive move to keep the city off their back if they decide to have a weekly farmer's market.

RECYCLING BINS HOT TOPIC FOR GREEN TEAM Alderpersons Skip Mange and Lynn Wright, along with former alderwoman Patty Wiggins showed up to the Green Team meeting to talk about the recycling bins at the Fire Station.

Skip stated that from 2000 to 2008 the recycling company paid not the city, but the private Town and Country Parks and Trails Preservation group money generated from the bins. After the County required single stream recycling in 2008 the two paper recycling bins left as they were no longer profitable. Now there are clothing recycling bins. Public Works Director Craig Wilde and Green Team Chair, Alderman Jon Benigas had no idea who gave the owners of the current bins permission to be on city property and if there were any fees recovered by the city.

The best I could figure here were each person's cause:

Lynn Wright: She wanted any and all recycling bins removed. Lynn claimed she would need the two extra parking spaces because her Arts Commission was working on buying a sculpture which they plan to place at the “trail head” located on the side of the firehouse. Translation...this is where two sidewalks meet (Lynn likes to call sidewalks

trails.) Lynn believes people will want to park and sit on benches soaking in the beauty of the sculpture.

Patty Wiggins: I think she wanted recycling bins back and generating revenue for her Historic Preservation and Parks Preservation organizations. Of course there is very little money in recycling now, since everyone has “single stream” recycling from their home. There are for-profit recycling bins on the Principia campus and at the Mason Ridge Elementary School (with what little profit there is going to a PTO project.)

Skip Mange: I’m not sure why Skip was there, but I think he was siding with Patty and wanted recycling to help the private funding to build his latest log cabin at Drace Park.

ANTI-MONSANTO GREEN TEAM LECTURE POSTPONED DUE TO SNOW: It was a shame that the Thursday snow storm had to cancel the Green Team Speaker Series at the Longview Farm Park farmhouse on Genetically Engineered Food, which would take a swipe at Monsanto. I was aware of some Monsanto executives who live in Town and Country who wanted to attend.

The City logo is used to promote this event which is not a discussion on pro and cons but a one-side lecture. The city commission is promoting this on city property while the lecture will be focused against one of West County’s largest employers.

While I have some problems with Monsanto’s aggressive legal tactics with American farmers and foreign farmers over use of Monsanto seeds, I cannot understand how a tax supported facility and commission can get into the middle of these issues without giving both sides of the story. This appears to be another feel good move by the ultra liberals associated with Principia who are stacked on this commission thanks to Mayor Dalton, who is looking for votes from all corners. Of course the city currently has no farmers using seed. The only crop being harvested in T&C is hay from two or three pieces of land.

POLICE COMMISSION WANTS TO SPEND MORE AND LIMIT PUBLIC ACCESS AT CITY HALL: The Police Commission voted to recommend spending \$26,059 to add security locks and keep the public from entering the public works and development offices in city hall at will during regular business hours.

Public Works director Craig Wilde reported that some of the Clayton Road project is coming in slightly under budget and the \$26,059 will not add to the city’s \$2.4 million deficit, but will not help reduce it either.

In 2009 after the Kirkwood City Hall murders the city formed a security task force that recommended adding a bullet proof dais to protect the city judge, board of aldermen, board of adjustment and planning and zoning board members. It was also recommended that doors be added behind the dais that would allow the judge and board members to escape to a rear hallway in the event of a threat of violence. The only recommendations that were added were the alarm buttons and cameras.

Of course the aldermen don't want sound recordings at meetings because those could be use against them if they were sued for passing unconstitutional or bias legislation.

MORE TASERS: The police command staff was asking for funding that was not in the budget to replace half of the department's tasers. The police commission ignoring budget deficits recommended instead of replacing half the tasers that the department should replace all of the tasers.

TOWN AND COUNTRY FIRE DISAPTCHING RATES DROP UNDER NEW CONTRACT BUT ARE STILL MUCH MORE THAN DES PERES OR FRONTENAC:

In 2011 both residents of Town and Country and Chesterfield were paying way too much for fire dispatching and actually subsidizing the cost for residents of Creve Coeur, Maryland Heights, Frontenac and Des Peres.

The Chesterfield Fire Protection District (Now Monarch FPD) and the City of Town and Country were original members and owners of the Central County Emergency 911 Dispatch Center in Ellisville. The center only dispatches fire and EMS calls. The members are charged for services not based on actual costs but on assessed valuation. Town and Country and Chesterfield have the most expensive residential and commercial properties served by the Dispatch Center.



staff of CCE911 Dispatch Center

In 2011 the average cost to dispatch a call was \$106.47. But the City of Town and Country was charged \$169.40 a call and Monarch representing Chesterfield residents was charged \$163.84 a call. Every time a fire or EMS call in the Monarch District was

dispatched, Monarch was overcharged \$57.37 and Town and Country was overcharged \$63.

Town and Country got out of being overcharged by relinquishing its ownership rights of the dispatch center on December 31, 2011. In 2012 they were charged far less than they had been in decades. Monarch is now at the top of list for being overcharged.

The Rich Get Richer: While Town and Country saw its charges drop considerably, it is nothing compared to what two of the wealthier communities in the area are not paying. 2012 was the first full year Des Peres and Frontenac contracted with CCE911 for fire and EMS dispatching. In 2012 the average cost to dispatch a call was \$109.54. Monarch was paying \$148.49, a \$38 per call overcharge. But Frontenac and Des Peres, cities with small populations under 10,000 and large shopping centers paid \$82 less than the actual cost to dispatch a call and \$120 per call less than what Monarch was paying.

While we have been complaining about Mayor Jon Dalton continuing to allow gross overcharges in fire dispatching for years, Dalton finally takes credit on the current arrangement. It looks good. Instead of being overcharged in 2012 Town and Country was actually \$3.63 under the cost of an average call. But the new deal doesn't look so good when Des Peres is paying \$76.93 less per call and Frontenac is paying \$78.60 less per call than Town and Country.

2012 Charges for Fire Dispatching Per Call

Monarch	\$148.49
West Co EMS & Fire PD	\$128.01
Metro West FPD	\$112.64
Average Cost Per Call	\$109.54
Town and Country	\$105.91
Creve Coeur FPD	\$100.42
Maryland Heights FPD	\$ 90.78
Meramec Amb District	\$ 66.00
St. Clair FPD	\$ 51.16
Des Peres Fire & EMS	\$ 28.98
Frontenac Fire Department	\$ 27.31

CONSULTANT SAYS: City Administrator for a while longer, John Copeland, said a consultant to CCE911 has recommended they go to a balanced billing system where all districts and cities get charged the actual costs for fire dispatching, instead of having as much as \$121 difference in the cost of dispatching a call. Copeland said he thought the

amazingly low prices being charged Des Peres and Frontenac was CCE911 low balling prices to enlarge its client list.

POPULAR SMITTY'S BARTENDER/WAITRESS BADLY INJURED IN

SLASHING: (I know this story is from Chesterfield...but a lot of people in Town and Country eat at Smitty's on Clayton Road...so I'm running it on both my Chesterfield and Town and Country Newsletter.) On Monday night January 28 close to midnight a female patron at the popular neighbor bar and restaurant Smitty's on Clayton Road at Baxter took exception to being cut off, she broke her glass and slashed the female bartender.

Jayne Baning, 51, of Manchester was arrested by the Chesterfield Police and charged with Third Degree Assault.

The waitress/bartender Nancy Seaman, well known to diners on Monday, Thursday and Saturday nights had shifted from waitressing to bartending. Baning had been on the bar side and had gotten into a fight with her boyfriend who left her at the bar. Seaman was worried about getting Baning a ride home.



Nancy Seaman would always turn her head when I tried to get photos to accompany columns I wrote about Smitty's for Patch.com.

Baning however wasn't worried about how to get home and demanded another drink. Seaman told her she could no longer serve her as she had reached her limit. This did not sit well with Banning who broke of the bottom of her martini glass and attacked Seaman with the jagged stem cutting deeply into her face and breaking her nose.

Baning had knocked Seaman to the floor and had her pinned on the floor and was ready to continue the attack when a cook stood on her arm stopping the assault.



Jayne Baning, 51, of Manchester cut Smitty's waitress and bartender Nancy Seaman so severely that Seaman needed 81 stitches to close the wounds and also suffered a badly broken nose.

Nancy, a Chesterfield resident, is a single mom with a daughter in college and a son in middle school. Workers Comp insurance covers her salary but not her earnings from tips and has created a hardship as she remains off work after suffering a broken nose and deep cuts that required 81 stitches to close the wounds.

In 2011 Smitty's was named Best West County Neighborhood Bar by The Riverfront Times.

81 STITCHES PLUS A BROKEN NOSE...CHESTERFIELD COPS FILE IN MUNI COURT WITH JUDGE "LET'EM LOOSE" BRUNK: Having been in law enforcement for 30 years I was a more than just a little amazed to see that the Chesterfield cops charged Baning, not with a felony or even a misdemeanor...but an ordinance violation.

My only complaint with the Chesterfield Police after three years of covering Chesterfield has been their more than restrictive interpretation of the Missouri Sunshine Law when it comes to police reports. Even though they know there is no further investigation planned they refuse to release reports until there is a conviction. That is not most people's interpretation of the Missouri Open Records law. But once I get the reports, they show that the Chesterfield Police do an excellent job.

HOWEVER, the idea of not filing charges against Baning in state court is crazy. Frankly this is a felony case that Chesterfield officials have turned into a mere ordinance violation.

The idea that a case this serious would be handled by Chesterfield prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer before the beyond lenient Judge Brunk , whose top ambition seems to be to play in at Grateful Dead tribute band. We have documented in the past how Brunk has refused to actually convict drunk drivers and in the case of Cardinal Broadcaster Dan McLaughlin, he refused to revoke his no-record DWI probation sentence after McLaughlin was involved in a multi-accident DWI 11 months later.

In December we documented how Engelmeyer routinely reduces DWI charges to “Illegal Parking” and Stealing cases to “Littering.”

When not in jail Baning needs to be under close supervision and forced to attend alcohol addiction and anger management programs. A state court can do that, the City of Chesterfield Municipal court cannot and the two principle members of the city court have shown a history in being more interested in the welfare of the criminal than the victim.

POLICE CHIEF PROMISES TO REVIEW THE CASE: I emailed my concerns of improper charging by the police to Police Chief Ray Johnson who promised to review the case

FAST RESULTS FROM THE POLICE CHIEF: Ray Johnson had plenty on his plate on Friday and Saturday after he got my email starting with the viewing followed by funeral of one of his longtime officers. So I was surprised when I got the following email from city prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer the next day:

From: Tim Engelmeyer [mailto:tim@epfirm.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2013 2:37 PM
To: johnhoffmann@charter.net
Subject: Chesterfield v. Jayne Baning

Mr. Hoffmann:

Your concerns regarding the above defendant were brought to my attention. I remember reading the report a week or two ago. I want you to know that I have instructed the clerk to pull the municipal file. I will then make sure it is taken to state for review and hopefully issuance. From the injuries, it appears it does belong there and I will make every effort to see this through.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Timothy A. Engelmeyer
Timothy A. Engelmeyer

Engelmeyer & Pezzani, LLC
13321 North Outer Forty Road
Suite 300
Chesterfield, MO 63017
636-532-9933

To date the County Prosecutor's have not yet issued felony charges.

A TRUE STORY... This is not an urban legend but happened to someone I have known for the last 30-plus years.

A house had just been placed on the market. The Tuesday Open House for realtors was an hour away. My friend's realtor suggested a fire to add to the ambiance of the living room. The fireplace was not used in over a year, but following the realtor's advice, the fireplace was lit.



At this point it is import to mention that my friend has two college aged children.

Shortly after starting the fire the friend and the realtor smelled something familiar...from their youth...then the smell got stronger and then overwhelming. There is a hint of burning plastic, but an overpowering smell of marijuana. Yes someone had hidden a large baggie of grass in the back of the fireplace.



Suddenly it was a race to open windows and find fans.

MUSIC AND FOOD:

CHARLIE B. TRIO AT MINEO'S: On Friday February 22, The Charlie B. Trio made their debut performance at John Mineo's on Clayton Road at Mason Road doing three hours of Rat Pack and Vegas style songs from the loft over the bar. They seemed to be a hit. They will be making a rare one night only performance on Thursday March 7 at Jimmy's on the Park on DeMun in Clayton from 8-11.



THE ANITA ROSAMOND EXPERIENCE IN CLAYTON: One of our favorite singers and entertainers, Anita Rosamond had a three night appearance at the Brazikat in Clayton across the street from the Ritz over Valentine weekend. The bar food menu and drinks were reasonably priced when compared to the lobby at the Ritz.



The service was excellent. The food was only hitting .500. We ordered a filet mignon sandwich which was good. However the prime rib wrap was almost impossible to eat as the chunks of meat were too tough. The specialty Brazilian smashed potatoes were very good.



The Brazilian Smashed Potatoes were fine but the meat in the Prime Rib Beef wrap was impossible to eat.

Of course the highlight of the night was Anita, who is famous for having friends sit in with her. She has been performing in St. Louis for over 30 years now and was a staple at Al Baker's, the Daniele Hotel and various other restaurants in St. Louis and West County. She does an afternoon show one Saturday a month that overflows Smitty's on Clayton Road . She is also a regular at Il Bel Lago at 11631 Olive Blvd. in Creve Coeur.

Here are some photos from Anita's Saturday night show at the Brazikat...



Anita and Diana Star combine for a duet



Anita with a 24kt smile and some bling



Anita and entire Chorus Line of Smiles



Anita and high school wrestling coach Jerry Moser team up for New York, New York



Here is Anita with Moser with complete crowd control on a Saturday at Smitty's.



Bill Elrod on sax as Lisa Elrod and Anita harmonize at IL Bel Lago in Creve Coeur

Here is where she will be in March and April.

March Performances

Saturday, March 9th, Smitty's, Chesterfield / 3 – 6

Friday, March 15th, Edgewild, Chesterfield / 8 - 11

Saturday, March 16th, IL Bel Lago, Creve Coeur/ 7 - 10

Friday, March 22nd, IL Bel Lago, Creve Coeur/ 7 - 10

Saturday, March 30th, Grafton Winery, Grafton , IL / 3 – 7

April Performances

Friday, April 5th, private event

Saturday, April 6th, Smitty's, Chesterfield/3 – 6

Sunday, April 7th, Villa Antonia, Hillsboro / 1 – 4

Friday, April 12th, IL Bel Lago, Creve Coeur/ 7 - 10

Saturday, April 13th, private event

Friday, April 19th, IL Bel Lago, Creve Coeur/ 7 – 10

Saturday, April 20th, private event

Sunday, April 21st, STL Jazz & Blues Vespers Concert,
Second Baptist Church ,Clayton/ 6 - 8

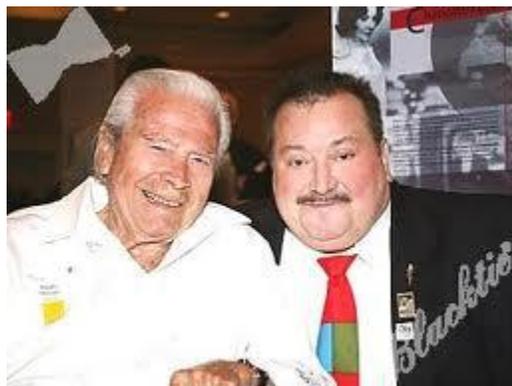
Saturday, April 27th, IL Bel Lago, Creve Coeur/ 7 – 10

<http://anitarosamond.com/schedule.html>

POPULAR JAZZ DISC JOCKEY DEAD: 62-year-old Ross Gentile died of a heart attacked on Friday February 22.



Ross at the WSIE microphone



Ross with former St. Louis band leader Buddy Moreno

I had talked to Ross two days before his death at the Route 66 Jazz Orchestra concert in Ballwin at the Sky Music Lounge.

Ross had his daily Standards in Jazz radio show on WSIE for over 20 years. He also was the MC at a number of jazz concerts at the old Finale Nightclub. Ross was famous was telling fascinating stories from the world of music and records from his career as a national record promoter for Herb Alpert's A&M records.

Often he would tell a scandalous story about a well known recording artist, who he had to keep off elevators with small boys during a national tour or a temperamental diva who refused to ride in anything but a limo and was late for the Jack Carney Show at KMOX only to have Carney refuse to put her on the air because of her tardiness.

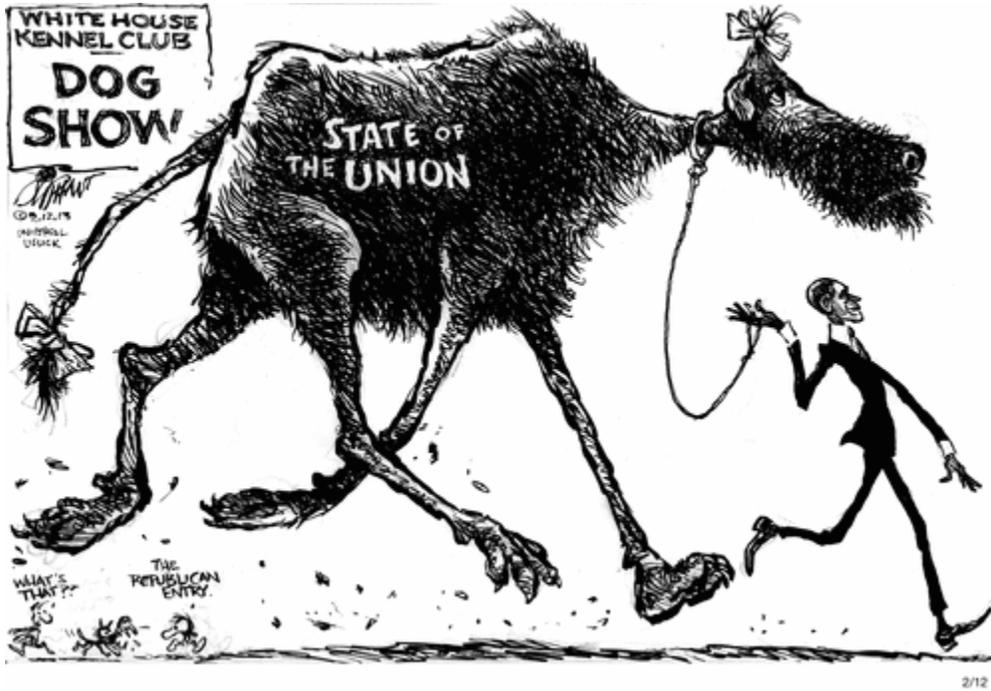
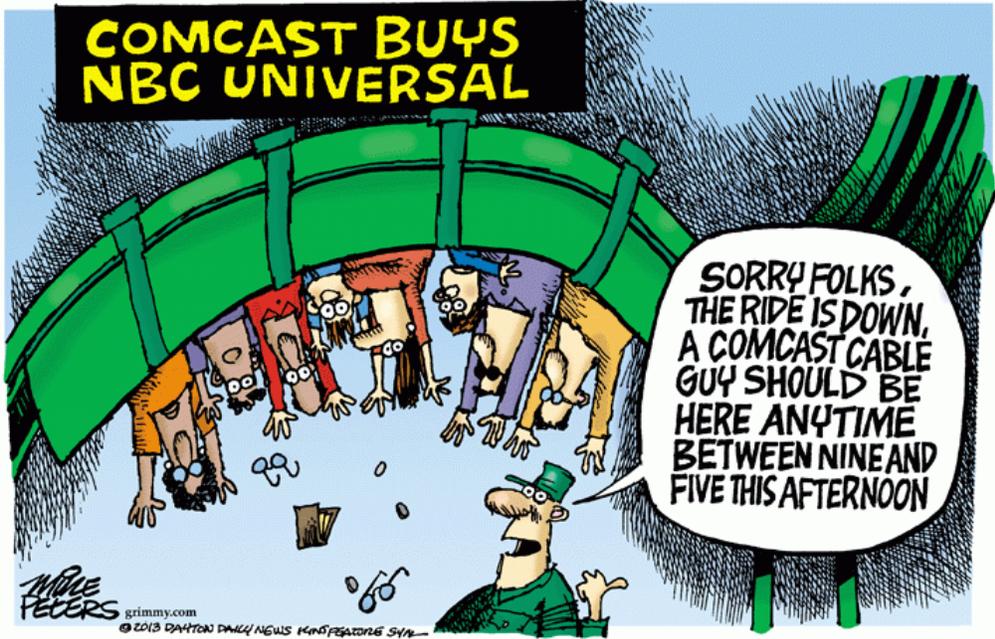


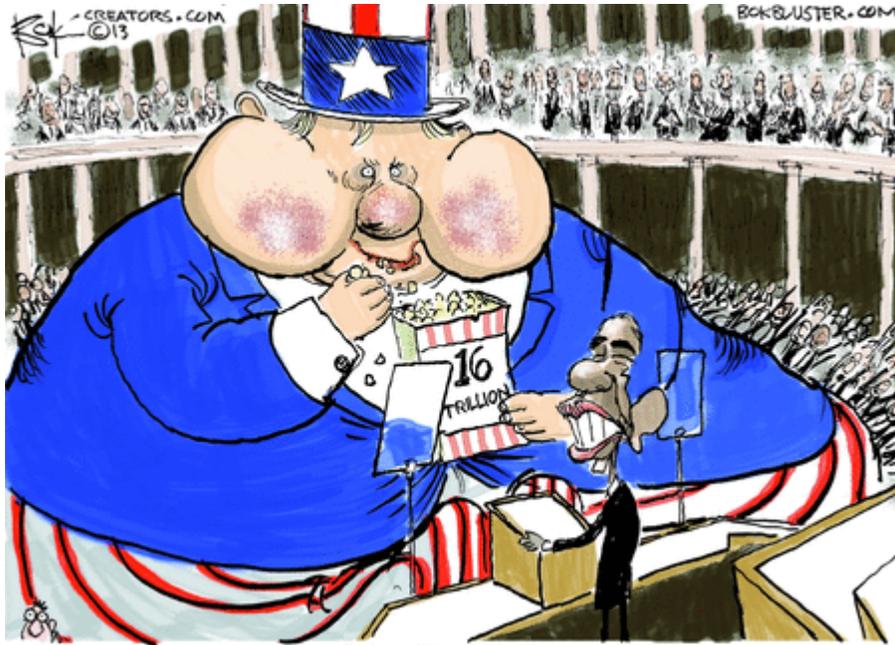
Gentile doing the announcing for a big band concert in Webster Groves last summer.

During his 20-years at WSIE students did rip and read newscasts often with terrible results, with 20-year-olds either unfamiliar with local and world events or local street and city pronunciations. But the worst was when a young woman instead of announcing “Now for more jazz with Ross Gen-till-ie” she made it sound like she was broadcasting from Tel Aviv when she made Ross a non-Jew and announced, “Now back to more jazz with Ross Gen-Tile.” I kidded him about that for at least two years.

CARTOONS:







FAT TUESDAY

