

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 86



May 30, 2013

By John Hoffmann

PARKWAY WEST STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR CAR BREAK-INS: In ten days in May the Town and Country Police on three separate occasions made a total of five arrests in connection with a recent rash of car break-ins. Four of the suspects were students at Parkway West High School.

The first arrest was on May 9 made by Town and Country detectives based on information provided by patrol officers who viewed a suspicious vehicle on Ballas Road near the Town and Country and Des Peres city limits.

28-year-old Reginald C. Wilson of Berkley was arrested in connection with felony thefts connected to car break-ins at Charter Commons and Town and Country Crossing in April. Police Chief Pat Kranz told us that Wilson was also a suspect in car break-ins in Des Peres, Frontenac and areas of unincorporated St. Louis County.



Reginald Wilson of Berkley.

On Saturday morning May 18 at 4am a Town and Country officer on patrol interrupted two persons breaking into cars at the Willow Bend apartments off of Woods Mill Road. (Town and Country's only apartment complex.) 4am for officers working a 12-hour shift is often a prime time for a nap in a park or behind a church so kudos to the officer, who not only interrupted the theft but then had to participate in the foot search to find the suspects who fled.

17-year-old Kyle Wrozier of Glen Meadow Drive in Ballwin was arrested in the Village Green Apartment complex in Chesterfield, located behind the Willow Bend Apartments.

17-year-old Zachary Palesch of Rue Montand Drive in Ballwin was arrested hiding under a parked car in Willow Bend. Stolen property was recovered.



Wrozier



Palesch

Finally on Sunday morning just after midnight May 19 two juvenile teenagers were stopped and arrested on Devonworth Drive after being found with two GPS units they had just stolen from parked cars in Ballwin.

The four students from Parkway need to brush up on their geography skills. They need to know where the unincorporated areas of St. Louis County with only a few police officers assigned to large patrol areas who answer calls most of the night, stop and where the wealthy municipalities with large police forces and low crimes rates with officers patrolling all night start.



MODOT TO END CELL PHONE TRAFFIC INFO: The end of May will be the end of MoDOT's 5-1-1 service. It actually will be the second end of the service. It first ended on January 31, 2012 and then came alive again.

I was there until January of 2012. I was an editor for Navteq, which was owned by Nokia, the cellular telephone company in Finland. We provided traffic information to local radio and TV stations and websites. We also had a desk at the MoDot Traffic Management Center at Hwy 141 and I-64, where I worked. We ran the 5-1-1 system which I always thought was more dangerous than helpful. It provided traffic info to cell phone users. Each call would require a couple of prompts also. The service was directed at motorists. Yes, as accidents due to distracted driving soared, the State of Missouri provided a service that distracted drivers!

Nokia made a nationwide decision to get out of the traffic reporting business. That killed 5-1-1 on January 31 2012. MoDOT put it back up and it will kill it again on May 31. It was sometimes averaging as few as 100 calls a day.

POSSIBLE RECORD MEETING: On Tuesday May 28 the Town and Country Board of Aldermen may have set a record for shortest meeting and that was even with



the official windbag, Fred Meyland-Smith being present. The meeting started late. Only one other person and I were present in the audience and neither of us wanted to say anything to the aldermen.

The meeting started at 7:03 and ended at 7:15 sharp. During that time the board approved the appointment of Christi Moses, a neighbor of Alderwoman Lynn Wright to the Parks Commission chaired by Wright.



Christi Moses

They next approved Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist/User of Eminent Domain to Snatch a Widow's Property for a Night Club Parking Lot Jon Dalton's appointment of Carl Scheibal to the Architectural Review Board.

They followed that by electing Alderwoman Lynn Wright as president of the Board of Aldermen.



Lynn Wright is now the new President of the Board of Aldermen

They passed two bills and five more were first read. Finally they approved payment of two weeks' worth of bills.

Done in 12-minutes...without Fred Meyland-Smith "welcoming" any residents to the city hall (like he owns it) or using 200-words to ask a simple question!

SPECIAL MEETING ON WHERE TO PUT NEWEST IN SKIP MANGE'S

COLLECTION OF LOG CABINS: Alderman Skip Mange did announce, in that 12 minute period, there would be a special Town Hall forum on June 11 at the Longview House to hear from residents on where to erect his latest log cabin. Of course Skip still needs to find about \$120,000 to pay to put all the pieces back together.

CHICKENS STILL ON THE AGENDA: Mange also announced that chickens were back on the agenda of the Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission meeting

on Monday June 3 at the Longview House at 6:30pm. We still can't figure out how live chickens need historic preservation.

EXCELLENT MOVE BY THE NEW POLICE CHIEF: Alderman Chuck Lenz announced that the Police Commission would no longer meet monthly and instead meet quarterly. I have to give a tip of the hat to new Police Chief Pat Kranz on this move. It will mean that Kranz and his staff will only have to spoon feed members of the Police Commission, who have no actual experience in the criminal justice system, info and get them to vote on subjects they know nothing about four times a year instead of 10 or 11 times.

WAITING FOR STEVE SAVARD TO DO THE BOSS-HIJACK SKETCH: Every time I see Steve Savard on KMOV anchoring a newscast while wearing his dark wide pinstripe suit I keep waiting for the Boss-Hijack sketch to start.

The Boss-Hijack sketch was central to the plot in a wonderful 1982 movie starring Peter O'Toole and Mark Linn-Baker. The movie produced by Mel Brooks and directed by Richard Benjamin was set in 1952 and involved a live television variety show, modeled after Your Show of Shows.

Joe Bologna played Stan "King" Kaiser who was the star of the variety show and insisted on doing comedy sketches making fun of underworld crime boss Karl Rojack.

Rojack sent a group of goons to beat up Kaiser if he did another "Boss Hijack" sketch. Bologna wore a ridiculous blue wide pinstripe suit with huge shoulder pads.



Actually Savard is a rarity...he is actually from the St. Louis area. That is a huge plus for me for someone who is working the local new biz. He should actually know where things like city limits and major intersections are located. He went to Parkway North H.S. Plus he played college and professional football. Finally he has big shoulders...all the more reason to unload that pinstripe suit...or...do the Boss Hijack sketch.

THE STATE REPRESENTATIVE GETS CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE: I don't know if you have noticed but over the years I have made it a point to show how much money representative John Diehl was collected to run unopposed for the state house. Over 4 years it has totaled a mere \$1.1-million. I have also written about some of the fine special interest groups that hand him large checks on a regular basis. Big tobacco, gambling, the Virginia ham and pork company that needs special legislation in Missouri to keep from getting sued for polluting Missouri property all like to give Diehl big dollars.

I was happy to see that not only a conservative like me has noticed Diehl, but so have the liberals at the Post-Dispatch editorial board. I know a lot of West County residents have dropped their subscription to the Post-Dispatch so I thought I'd share this with you. Here is an editorial about Rep. Diehl that appeared in the Sunday May 26 Post-Dispatch:



Editorial: Corruption in the Legislature? Republicans say yes

May 25, 2013 6:15 am • [By the Editorial Board](#)

When Missouri Republicans [level the charge](#) of corruption at members of their own party, it's time to start paying attention.

Such was the case not once, but twice on the last day of this year's session of the Legislature.

In the upper chamber, Sen. Brad Lager, R-Savannah, blamed corruption in the House for the annual stalling of bipartisan tax credit reform.

In the House, Rep. Doug Funderburk, R-St. Peters, lobbed a similar charge against House leadership, for trying to sneak through last-minute changes to a utility bill.

Mssrs. Lager and Funderburk were hardly the best messengers for such important news. [Neither is exactly squeaky clean](#) in the ethics department.

But their charge is still a strong indictment of the culture of corruption in the Missouri Legislature. While they didn't name him, both men were targeting, among others, Majority Floor Leader John Diehl, R-Town and Country. The name is pronounced "deal."

Mr. Diehl's [campaign finance reports](#) help identify a key reason for the Legislature's current dysfunction.

Among those Mr. Diehl is paying for political advice are three Republican political consultants who also double as lobbyists. Mr. Diehl, who is in line to be the next Speaker of the House, has been paying lobbyist/consultant James Harris a \$500-a-month retainer. He's been paying lobbyist/consultant David Barklage \$1,000 a month. And he has paid lobbyist/consultant Steve Tilley (the former Speaker of the House) \$2,000 a month.

Mr. Diehl is paying them to help keep him in power. Their lobbying clients are paying them to advance or block legislation. As lobbyists, Mr. Barklage and Mr. Tilley represented opposite sides of the same utility legislation that got Mr. Funderburk [so upset](#) on the session's last day.

Ethics laws exist to help taxpayers see the flow of money that is used to influence legislators. In the case of Mr. Diehl and many others, the money is flowing so many different directions that ethical lines are blurred — precisely the point made by Mssrs. Lager and Funderburk.

At least in Mr. Diehl's case, the money trail, however blurry, can be followed.

That's not the case with Tom Smith, the chief of staff for Speaker of the House Tim Jones, R-Eureka. Mr. Smith runs a political consulting firm that gets paid by the very lawmakers who, if they want access to Mr. Jones, have to go through Mr. Smith. Then he bills taxpayers for comp time he takes from his state job to do his political work.

State law doesn't require him to file a personal financial disclosure, so taxpayers can't see who's paying him.

It's legal, but it's wrong.

Two years ago, we published a series called ["Fix the Legislature"](#) that identified three principal problems with the General Assembly: term limits, the redistricting process and campaign finance/ethics reform.

Each of them in its own way helped make this year's one of the most forgettable legislative sessions in recent memory. Yet Republicans didn't lift a finger to address ethics and campaign finance reform. They made only a half-hearted attempt to limit the damage of term limits. And the evils of gerrymandered districts were on full display as they traipsed from one conspiracy theory bill to another, all in a naked attempt to please the tiniest sliver of right-wing voters.

The Missouri Legislature remains a very broken place.

Don't take our word for it. Listen to the Republicans who run the place.

NOW DIEHL'S BIGGEST CONTRIBUTOR BOUGHT BY THE CHINESE: Smithfield Farms has given John Diehl a lot of money over the last few years. Regular \$1,000 contributions plus more big contributions through the Missouri Pork PAC. All to get Diehl and fellow Republicans to forget about property rights so dear to us conservatives and pass legislation restricting Missouri property owners from suing hog farms for repeatedly

polluting neighboring property with hog waste. Smithfield even remembered Diehl and other GOP office holders with free hams at Christmas.

On Wednesday it was announced that Smithfield is being bought for \$4.72-billion by Shuanghui International, a meat processor best known for distributing tainted meat two years ago and tainted baby formula in 2008. Connect the dots below...



I just have to wonder after the Communist Chinese company buys Smithfield Farms, will Diehl still get his Christmas ham?



TELLING TIME THE TIM WELBY WAY: At the Thornhill Estates subdivision meeting on April 18 Alderman Tim Welby told residents that the Raintree School had been approved and it should be open in August. Welby, an elected official apparently was totally unaware that the school had to have the city's approval to consolidate the lots of the Amonte subdivision into one lot and file the paper work with St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds.

The City did not approve the combination of lots until May 28. Of course who would expect an alderman to know about city requirements and legislative duties? Who would expect Tim to be following and knowing about a project in his Ward? I mean Tim showed he was unable to follow campaign ethics laws for three straight years.

Here is a photo of the school at the end of May where Tim claims students will be attending classes in August:



It looks a lot like the one I took in April after Tim made the statement, expect there are more leaves on the trees.

Of course **DALTON TIME** moves even slower than Tim Time. At a neighborhood meeting I attended with Dalton in February of 2010 when I was still an alderman, Dalton told the crowd he had an important announcement to make about a new store going into the nearly empty Manchester Meadows shopping center. He said he'd make the announcement in a few days. Three-and-a-half years later and we are still waiting.

Then there was the jury verdict against Dalton's group of investors involved in taking Opal Henderson's property on South Broadway for an underfunded nightclub district that never got built. He waited and didn't pay, but appealed and lost still didn't pay until he was named in a lawsuit filed by the 82-year-old widow in Federal Court.



Opal and her attorney Chet Pleban finally with the check.

SMITTY'S WAITRESS UPDATE: I spoke with Nancy Seaman the popular waitress and bartender at Smitty's who has been off work since January 28 when she was attacked by a drunk customer.



This is the only photo I have on file of Nancy.

Nancy, who has worked at Smitty's for 23-years, said she is still have medically issues. She is still facing more facial surgery to repair the damage when drunk customer slashed her faces with a broken glass after Seaman refused to serve her.

Her most recent problem is that she cannot shut her left eye which received nerve damage from the attack. The eye doctor is now treating her for "dry eye" and wanted her to wear a patch over the eye, but her cheek is still so sensitive that the patch caused too much pain. She added she still does not have feeling in three teeth, is having headaches and blurry vision.

She also said that 90 days after the attack her work comp insurance carrier has not paid the initial hospital bill for the emergency treatment at St. Luke's Hospital on the night of the attack.

MUSIC AND FOOD: Speaking of Smitty's it was the Anita Rosamond Show on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend at Smitty's. The youthful looking Rosamond has been in St. Louis for a few years and has been playing for the high end fancy-smancy crowds. She used to be a popular piano bar entertainer at Al Bakers at Clayton Road and Brentwood Blvd. After Bakers' vanished for a number of years she held forth on weekends behind the piano at the Danielle Hotel in Clayton and was a regular at the Ritz. She does play monthly at Il Bel Lago in Creve Coeur.

Believe me the demographics are slightly different when she plays at Smitty's. The place fills up 30 minutes before she starts. The crowd is informal and is the age you would expect to find on a Holland America or Cunard cruise ship during the off season.

The crowd consists of exactly who Pat Boones is trying reach with the walk-in bathtub commercials.

Here is what makes it such an event. They are all there to have a great time. They clap, chant the names of guest performers or songs, they sign along and the get up and dance.

Anita always has her regular friends who show up and perform. The one friend you are most likely to see is retired high school coach Jerry Moser, who specializes in songs written before 1960.



Bob Johnson of North County was at Smitty's last Weekend and did several Johnny Cash songs.



Jerry Moser and Anita do a duet as customers dance At Smitty's back in 2012.



Perhaps the two youngest people in Smitty's last weekend were Anita and a regular customer's granddaughter, Callie.



Jerry Moser knocks out Old Wedding Ring as people with old wedding rings push the tables back and dance.



One of my favorites of Anita at Smitty's because everyone was having such a good time. It was the big close as everyone sang and danced to New York New York with Moser and Anita taking turns on the vocals.

Anita will be back at Smitty's on Saturday June 22 from 3-6.

Culture Clash: The night before Anita will be playing at the loft at John Mineo's. That will be a very different crowd...like the ones Anita charmed at Al Baker's and The Danielle. Since she is playing the next day at Smitty's I doubt many of her Smitty's followers will show at Mineo's (come on...some of them don't drive at night anymore) but if they did it would be an interesting mixture of people. She will be at Mineo's from 7-10 on Friday June 21.

BIG BAND SUNDAYS: The Dave Dickey Big Band feature college music deans plus professors and local musicians are a fixture at the Kirkwood Station Brewery on Jefferson just east of Kirkwood Road on the fourth Sunday of each month. The band will be taking June off, however big band jazz music will be at the Kirkwood Station Brewery on Wednesday June 19 from 7-9 when the Route 66 Jazz Orchestra will take the stage.



The Dave Dickey Big Band just before kicking things off last Sunday.

One of the treats of the 6-to-9 performance by the Dave Dickey Big Band is that when the band takes a break talented local high school and college musicians take the stage and play during intermission. Another treat is the number of other well known St. Louis area musicians who show up and hear this group.



A sextet of student musicians take the stage during the big band's intermission.

This Wednesday at Sasha's: Here was what you would have seen at Sasha's on DeMun in Clayton this last Wednesday.



One of St. Louis' top sax players, Larry Johnson Jim Manley on trumpet and Chris Swan on keys and vocals on Lullaby of Birdland.



Larry Johnson and Joe Bayer on sax, Rev. Scott Standifer on trumpet and Chris Swann on keys.



Three trumpet players and a sax player listening to a trio.

CARTOONS:





