

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 95



August 13, 2013

By John Hoffmann

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES PUSHED BACK: Just because major issues have gone through the Planning and Zoning Commission with two passing and two failing, doesn't mean they are dead or alive. The developers that brought the three hot-button issues that filled the aldermanic chambers clearly want to tweak their proposals and bring them with a new spin before the Board of Alderman. They are also likely looking for some support from aldermen.

Ald. Fred Meyland-Smith, who sits on the Planning and Zoning Board and also sits on a board at BJC's Missouri Baptist Hospital, praised the BJC proposal. A city hall full of residents, were not please with his kind words one bit. Meyland-Smith did vote against the rezoning request but only after making his normally long speech about how good the proposed project would be for the city, if it just wasn't for the traffic safety concern. Meanwhile two other members (Omell and Bolazina) of the Planning and Zoning Commission accused BJC of attempting to dictate to the city how to handle zoning issues and creating a false need for their facility.

It is just as important or more important for residents to appear at the public hearing before the Board of Aldermen on the issues of the rezoning of the Wirth property, the BJC proposal to rezone the old highway patrol property and the Maryville proposal to move their maintenance facility and its dump trucks and storage bins and trash down to Conway Road.

Here is an email I received from the city with the dates for the public hearings.

From: TandCNotifier@town-and-country.org [mailto:TandCNotifier@town-and-country.org]
Sent: Thursday, August 08, 2013 12:07 PM
Subject: Information Regarding Current Development Projects

Applicants for the following proposed developments have asked that Board of Aldermen public hearings and consideration be deferred until the Board of

Aldermen meeting dates given below. For further information and schedule updates, please contact Sharon Rothmel, Planning Director (rothmelsh@town-and-country.org) or Ashley McNamara, City Clerk (mcnamaraan@town-and-country.org); or see the Public Notices section of our website in the "City Government" section.

13428 Conway Road - The Board of Aldermen will hold a public hearing at the Board of Aldermen meeting on August 26 on a request by McCallum Properties, LLC for a Conditional Use Permit for a group home for no more than eight persons with eating disorders.

BJC - Outpatient Pediatric Ambulatory Center on the former Highway Patrol property. The applicant has asked that Board of Aldermen consideration be deferred until some time in the future.

Mason Woods Village - Allegro Senior Living development at Mason Woods Village and Wirth property to the east of it. The applicant has asked that Board of Aldermen consideration be deferred until September 23.

Maryville University - Ball property at 13446 Conway Road - the applicant has asked that Board of Aldermen consideration be deferred until October 14.



DEER CRASHES TAKE NORMAL SUMMER DROP BUT STAY AHEAD OF LAST YEAR'S PACE: In 2012 there were a total of 97 deer-vehicle accidents over the whole year. In July of 2012 there were only four. This year there were just three. However, the overall in the year-to-date count there have still been more in 2013 (44) than in 2012 (41).

It is normally the last three months of the year when the deer-crash numbers soar. In 2012 there were 49 deer-vehicle accidents from October through December. In 2011 there were 45 deer related crashes in the last quarter of the year.

MORE DEER:

I observed another example of the ever expanding deer population despite three years of harvesting activities. Four doors from my house I observed these five deer at 5pm on a July afternoon.



I WAS TWO MONTHS OFF ON MY PREDICTION: In early March I predicted that the St. Louis area patch.com sites would be shut down by July, since they don't have any local advertising to speak of and had apparently stopped providing much news. A few local Patch.com editors were anticipating the news but were hanging on since there are not many journalism jobs in St. Louis or anywhere else for that matter.

On Wednesday August 7 in a conference call with financial analysts AOL Chairman Tim Armstrong said in a cost savings move he would be announcing the closing of 300 of the 900 Patch.com sites on Friday and firing up to 500 employees.

Come Friday Armstrong made a speech to employees on a conference call setup around the country. Some employees were grumbling he had left them dangling from Wednesday to Friday. Armstrong extended that time by announcing that the employees would find out over the next seven days if they still had a job. He also inferred it might be more than just 300 sites that bite the dust.

I can only hope the Patch.com sites bite the dust in St. Louis. Having being an opinion columnist and writer doing some features for Patch, I saw Patch.com start out with claims of being a news force. Then the weak kneed regional editor would pull factual pieces and opinion columns if a local politician complained.

A column I wrote about how Town and Country mayor Jon Dalton and other West County investors snatched the property and business of 82-year-old widow Opal Henderson using commercial eminent domain and then refused to pay her after she received a judgment that she was cheated was yanked from the Town and County-Manchester Patch.com site.

Kurt Greenbaum the regional editor had that column yanked within six hours of it being posted after Dalton complained. However he was unaware that the same column had been up on Chesterfield patch.com site for a week and is still archived by Patch.com.

Some Chesterfield elected officials and the city administrator did not like the intense coverage of their actions at meetings reported by Chesterfield Patch editor Jean Whitney or by some of my columns. They held two different meetings with Greenbaum wanting the coverage to be changed. It was even brought up how they thought it would be a wonderful idea if they could review some pieces for “accuracy” before they were posted.

Many of the site “editors” were really kids just out of college at their first job. They had no idea of the areas they were covering or the institutional history of St. Louis County politics. It seemed to be an editorial policy to never make a local official mad.

First cutbacks to St. Louis Patch sites began three months after the sites launched in the fall of 2010, when some freelancers were let go. More freelancer positions were eliminated throughout 2011 and all were gone by July 2012. In May of 2013 they started firing site editors and assigning one person two or three sites to run. The sites began eliminating news and turning more and more to unpaid bloggers.

There has been one editor in the West County area that has continued to the end in trying to cover news events. The rest of the sites are posting press releases, county health inspections reports of restaurants plus the bloggers. Sites have gone from posting five new articles a day to posting one a day and often nothing new on the weekend.

In 2011 and again in 2012 patch.com operations cost AOL \$100,000,000 in losses.

CITY ROAD PROJECTS MAKES INTERSECTION EXTREMELY

DANAGEROUS! Everyone was commenting on how wonderful the Clayton Road project was...that is until they attempted to make a turn (either right turn or especially left turn) from Cedar Valley Road onto Clayton Road.

If you don't know where Cedar Valley Road is, it is road along the east side I-270 off of Clayton Road. It leads to Drace Park and three subdivisions. It is a location waiting for a serious injury or fatal auto accident...thanks to bad road engineering.



There is a brand new traffic sign installed for EB Clayton Road traffic approaching Cedar Valley Rd. Can you see it? You can see the very top of it...look for a tiny bit of yellow.

Here is an email I sent the T&C Director of Public Works, Craig Wilde.

From: John Hoffmann [mailto:johnhoffmann@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2013 6:41 PM
To: 'Wilde, Craig'
Subject: question

Craig,

As a regular user of Drace Park...I can't help but notice that the new fence on the Clayton Road I-270 overpass has created a blind spot for people wanting to turn right and especially left from Cedar Valley onto Clayton Road. Also your "Ped Crossing Ahead" sign is almost completely blocked for EB traffic.

Do you plan any changes?

John

Here is Craig's response:

Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2013 5:22 AM
To: John Hoffmann
Subject: RE: question

We noticed the sight distance issue as well. We have CDG (the engineer for the project) completing an analysis. We will be making some temporary modifications today but will also be completing further analysis of our options for a long term solution.

Craig J. Wilde, P.E.
Director of Public Works
City of Town and Country, MO
314-587-2824 (direct line)

Craig added this in one of his regular emails to concern residents updating the project:

Clayton Road / Cedar Valley Drive (west outer road of I-270): Sight distance is impeded by the installation of the fence material on the south parapet wall

This issue is much more cut and dry than that at Clayton and Bopp. Without the protection offered by a signal, the motorist approaching Clayton Road must creep forward to attain the necessary sight distance to safely enter. This morning, we installed some temporary markings and signage to enhance the situation. We have our engineers evaluating the sight distances at this location and will apply some additional long term measures.

Here is the temporary fix. Note the huge distance from the old stop line with a prior good view of eastbound traffic and the new stop line which has no view of Clayton Road traffic.



I find it amazing that the construction engineers missed this problem. If you look closely the new “stop line” is just about 18 inches from the actual lane of EB Clayton Road. That is where your tires are supposed to be. However for you to actually see oncoming cross traffic have to pull up so the driver’s window is at the stop line. That puts the front of your car IN CLAYTON ROAD!

I also am a bit perplexed that the city is not making an immediate significant change to improve safety. They need to take down several sections of black fencing on the south side of the Clayton Road overpass NOW in improve sight lines.

Craig Wilde told me on Monday night at the Board of Aldermen meeting that on Tuesday morning the city contractor will be making major temporary changes to make the intersection safer and the construction engineers will be working on solving the problem, which will possible involve restriping. Clayton Road and Bopp has a similar sight problem for motorists want to turn right on a red. For the time being there has been a "No right on Red" sign erected.

OPENING DRACE PARK CONTINUES TO BE PROBLEM FOR COPS: In quiet affluent residential towns and cities the cops often take on other duties...many resemble those of security guards or park employees. This was the case when I was the assistant police chief in Chevy Chase, Maryland. In August and again during Christmas week there would be hundreds of residents out of town who called in wanting the cops to check their house. On day watch in August an officer would have to make several trips to the station to unload the squad car of all copies of the Washington Post, Wall Street Journal and New York Times they had picked up at vacation houses.

Town and Country cops have to do the same thing. They have other duties too. One is every night to lock up the parking lot entrances to Drace Park. Then each morning at 6am an officer assigned to the east section of town must go and unlocked the gates. That can be a problem. In January I found the gates locked at 4pm, about 50 minutes before sunset. The park had been effectively closed all day. I took a photo and sent it to Police chief John Copeland. He wrote back that they officers would try and do better. Two weeks later I found the park closed at 2pm.



A closed Drace Park on a sunny January weekend

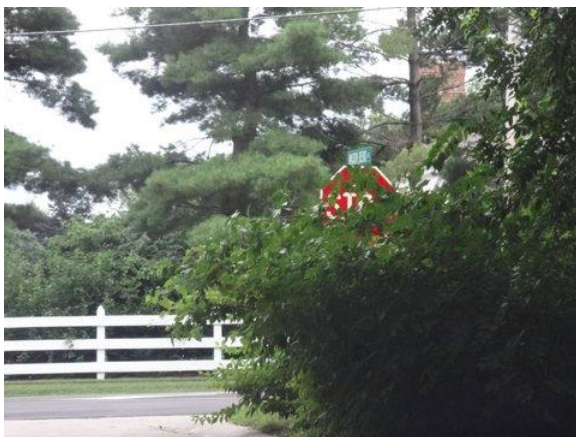
day!

After the second incident instead of making sure the police shift supervisors checked the parking lot entrance by 7am, the city installed a new sign on the gate. Apparently the police command staff conceded that officers would continue to fail to do their other job as a “park worker.” The sign gives the police dispatcher number for “park access” hoping residents would call if an officer forgot to open the park.



A regular reader of this newsletter reported to me that on Monday July 29 his wife went to Drace Park at 10am only to find the parking lot still locked.

THE JUNGLES OF MASON RIDGE: We drove along Mason Ridge Road the other day to see what else has been devoured by the jungles of honeysuckle. Here is what we found.



The stop sign at Mason Bend and Mason Ridge. Here is the stop sign at Mason Woods & Mason Ridge



This sign is at a sidewalk entrance to Longview Park.

DALTON HAS A NEW CLIENT AND A NEW CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton has a new client on his lobbying list. Prive Living Well of Chesterfield has Dalton on board as a lobbyist. Prive is in the Assisted Living Business. In fact the claim they are in the “luxury residential living with assisted living services.”

Of course Prive Living Well is not listed under Dalton’s list of lobbying clients. Dalton started reducing that list when I started writing about the conflict of interests he has as a mayor and a lobbyist.

Prive Living Well is listed under the name of Shannon Hawk, Dalton’s secretary for his Jefferson City office with Lewis-Rice.

As a lobbyist who likes to hide his clients, Dalton has no business being the mayor. In 2005 the same year he was a lobbyist for the West County EMS and Fire Protections District, Dalton as mayor signed a \$17.5 million 5-year contract with the fire district.

As a lobbyist for 28 different brands of cigarettes, Dalton refused to sign a letter by West County mayors to the County Council to enact a county wide smoking ban. He’d raise one hand and swear he would protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents and with the other hand he’d help companies trying to kill the residents. There are still two restaurants in the Clock Tower Center on Woods Mill Road and South Outer Forty Road that reduced their menus so smoking can continue inside. Little Mayor Jon Dalton

has shown no interest in the health or welfare of workers or customers at those two establishments.



With one hand he swears to look after our health and welfare. The other hand takes money from tobacco companies and other groups that have a special interest in upcoming votes.

For several years Dalton was on the payroll of Circle B Enterprises, a Sikeston company that owned and operated low end nursing homes in rural Missouri. Circle B also operated a payday loan service for the minimum wage employees of the nursing homes. Dalton lobbied for both operations.

Now in July we have Dalton who has recently accepted thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from assisted living facility operators and who is now on the payroll as a lobbyist of another assisted living company voting as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission on the application of a competing assisted living company.

Dalton's vote not to rezone the Wirth property for the Allegro Assisted Living facility was the right one, but he is so loaded down with conflicts of interest and ethical roadblocks that he had no businesses even being at the meeting, let alone voting.

Dalton needs to resign as mayor or announce publicly all of his conflicts and stop voting on matters and signing documents and contracts that he ethically should not.

DALTON FAILS TO FOLLOW CAMPAIGN REPORTING RULES: The rules from the Missouri Ethics Commission about candidates listing the employers of contributors say you or your committee must show the employer of people giving campaign donations. The reason for this is to allow the public to see if there is any special interest or conflict involved with a campaign contribution. Guess what local politician has refused to follow this rule since 2005. If you guessed Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist/Snatcher of Widow's

Property Through use of Eminent Domain for a Nightclub District Jon Dalton you would be correct.

Oh you might say this has been simply an oversight by Dalton, who signs off of all the campaign finance reports some of which have the Fax ID of Dalton's Law firm, Lewis-Rice at the top of the page. But keep in mind Dalton is a lawyer, whose own law firm advertises that Dalton's area of specialty is government relations and regulation. Dalton is also a lobbyist and has to file monthly reports with the Missouri Ethics Commission on a monthly basis for over a decade.

HERE IS THE SPECIFIC RULE SPELLED OUT ON THE REPORTING FORMS:

CONTRIBUTIONS AND LOANS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS

PURPOSE:

ITEMIZED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

SECTION A:

Column 3:

Enter the full name and address of any person or committee from whom a contribution in excess of \$100 was received. List the occupation/business of contributor.

Here are a few examples:

On May 2, 2013 Mr. David Rieck of 12960 Thornhill Drive gave Dalton a \$1,000 campaign contribution a month after the April elections. Dalton did not list Rieck's occupation. Our research showed Reick is the president of a health care supply company.

Daniel Burns giving an address of 755 South New Ballas Road gave \$200 on March 22. A name as common as Daniel Burns makes it difficult to do any research on. Dalton did not list his employer or occupation.

John Eilerman gave Dalton \$500 on March 22, 2013. Dalton did not list his employer. It could be the John Eilerman who was a soccer standout at McBride High School back in the 1960s and is a top management guy at C&R Mechanical Company that does a lot of work with the healthcare industry, but then again maybe it isn't. It would be nice to

know who Dalton's big contributors were when he makes a surprise appearance and votes at the Planning and Zoning meeting or when he doesn't show up at a P&Z meeting.

Regis Hillow from Florida is a regular Dalton contributor. It would be nice to know what business he is in. The same would be true for a number of people in Texas who contributed to Dalton when he first ran for mayor.

There will be a list of Dalton campaign donors posted on the website <http://johnhoffmann.net>

CITY BUDGET EXPENSES RISE AND RESERVES DROP: Public Works Director Craig Wilde was able to report in June how the total costs of the Trail (big sidewalk) and the Clayton Road project looked like they were going to come in \$100,000 less than expected. That would put the city's 2013 budget deficit at just \$5,900,000 instead of \$6-million.

But in July that number began to go back upward. The city needed to put \$152,638 toward an increase in the Clayton Road project at Clayton Road and Ballas Road. However, the city expects to recover this money from St. Louis County (which took over Ballas Road from the state last year) in 2014.

An additional \$17,203 to unexpected expenses for the Longview Park parking lot expansion will not be recoverable and does come out of the dwindling reserve funds.

HOMEOWNERS WITH BEST GARDEN IN TOWN AND COUNTRY MOVE: Dr. Joe Williamson and his wife Janet had a huge surprise behind their house on Kristie Court off of Topping Road. With high fences to keep the deer out, Joe and Janet had a garden that included almost all native Missouri plants and other breathtaking flowering plants and shrubs.

Dr. Williamson, a retired pathologist, was one of the regulars who used scientific data to tell elected officials why too many deer spelled trouble for humans, plant life plus small animals and birds. When he and Janet would come to Deer Task force meetings they would be subjected to rudeness from the likes of Mariette Palmer and other deer lovers. Janet Williamson was a long time member of the City Parks Commission and often was the only person on the commission to bring common sense to the table on many issues pushed by Alderwoman Lynn Wright and self-appointed president of the Longview Garden Club Clare Chosid.



It looked like a regular ranch house, from the street, but instead it was more of a “modern contemporary” house. But the coolest part was what was in the woods behind the house.

The Williamson have moved to the Willows in Chesterfield and the house with the magic backyard is for sale for \$425,000.

THE CONSTRUCTION REPORTED BY THE POST-DISPATCH AND PATCH.COM

CONTINUES AT A SLOW PACE: Here is a photo I took on Saturday August 10 of the construction currently underway at the site of the new Raintree School. The Post-Dispatch reported on July 16 and Patch.com reported the next day that construction had begun on the school. The exciting news is a storage box and construction trailer have been dropped off at the site, indicating construction may start sometime before fall, which is just five weeks away.

There are really going to have to hurry to meet Alderman Tim Welby’s statement at an April meeting that children will be attending class at the new school in August.



All quiet at the construction site that the Post-dispatch claimed has been active since July 16. The construction trailer dropped off at the site is not quite ready for use, unless you happen to specialize in the high hurdles or the high jump. Each door is about four feet off the ground.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING August 12, 2013

THE RETURN OF SOLAR PANELS: A new ordinance regulating solar panels was first introduced at the September 24, 2012 meeting. It was on the agenda for a second reading on October 8, 2012 when it was continued to October 22. On October 22 it was continued to November 12 when it was continued to the November 26 meeting when it was continued indefinitely.



The reason it was continued indefinitely was to see the appeal outcome of the City of Clarkson Valley appeal of the verdict of Babb versus Clarkson Valley. We discussed how Clarkson Valley has spent \$84,517 over 14 months and is still spending as the case is in front of the Missouri Western Court of Appeals in Kansas City. (We featured this case in our last Chesterfield and Town and Country newsletters.)

So what does Town and Country do having shelved the bill for 11 months? Do they wait for the outcome from the Court of Appeals? No they bring back a bill that is in violation of the court ruling in Cole County that says cities cannot pass regulations dealing with electric energy that are more restrictive than the Missouri Public Commission's rules.

Problems: In the agenda meeting prior to the regular meeting there were several questions about the wording in the bill. This bill has been around for 11 months and our city attorney is just now realizing the bill has language issues. Perhaps the citizens of Town and Country should be getting a rebate from Curtis, Haines, Garrett and O'Keefe for this month.

The bill was continued again for a sixth time, to be heard again at the August 26 board of aldermen meeting.

Before the bill was continued Frances Babb, who along with her husband fought Clarkson Valley over their installing solar panels. Mrs. Babb suggested the city look at the Clarkson Valley case and see what could happen and offered to give any city official advice on the Clarkson Valley case. She then did something I found unusual.

She looked at Dr. Dorothy Cooke, a retired internist who was in the aldermanic chambers and said, "...you don't want to fill this rooms with Dr. Cooke's people," inferring Cooke and her neighbors were against solar power. Best I could figure from 2010 when the issue was a hot topic getting lots of press, neither Cooke or her neighbors were against solar panels.

They were against Dr. Joe Gira who built a large McMansion (8,000 square feet plus basement plus 5-car garage for three people) at the end of Claymark. Dr. Gira wanted to put up 900 square feet of free standing solar panels to produce energy for the house. However Dr. Gira did not want to look at the solar panels and wanted to put them on his rear property line where he could not see them, but the residents along Delvin Drive in another subdivision would get to look at them every day.

Gira eventually got permission for his "out of sight" free standing solar panels on his neighbor's property lines. But I don't remember one of the neighbors ever saying anything against solar and in fact many said they supported it. So I found the shot Babb took at Cooke was a bit harsh.

Babb was followed up by a woman from O'Fallon, Missouri who with a large board and handout material spoke at length on the evils of coal.

CITIZENS CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST REZONING: With none of the rezoning requests on the agenda, five residents still came and spoke out against rezoning. One of the speakers was the president of the subdivision trustees at the Village on Conway subdivision who urged the alderpersons to despite a positive vote (5-

2) at the P&Z meeting to vote against the rezoning request on Conway Road by Maryville University.

BRANCH CHIPPING IS BACK DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU LIVE: Alderman Tim Welby announced that branch chipping was back for 2013...only if you live south of Clayton Road. The program was cut due to the loss in of revenue in 2009. In 2011 and 2012 the city agreed to pay for bagged sticks picked up by the homeowner's trash haulers during the month of November. There were plenty of complaints about the city stopping the popular fall program.



However, the city still can't afford to do a city wide branch chipping program that last cost over \$80,000. This year the city has a \$6,000,000 budget deficit.

Welby said the Public Works Committee decided that it was easier for the residents to understand if the city simply used Clayton Road as the dividing line. Residents south of Clayton Road will get branch chipping in 2013.

Director of Public Works said if the plan is approved by the board the branch chipping will occur in November.

Alderwoman Lynn Wright then asked why the residents north of Clayton Road couldn't get branch chipping in the spring instead of the fall, since it would be a different calendar year. Everyone thought it was a great idea. It isn't a very good idea!

The reason that is a **bad idea** is that branch chipping is an extra service. If you wait to authorize it in the fall most of the year is over. In the unforeseen event such as a January or February blizzard or ice storm, or a tornado or flood during the spring and summer months you can divert that money to the emergency clean up.

THE RECUSING ALDERMAN: The new Total Access Urgent Care business going into the old Street Side Records, Halloween costume, remodeling company and most recently granite counter top business building in the Manchester Meadow's shopping center had a request for a sign variance.

Dr. Matt Bruckel told the aldermen how the business providing emergency medical services from 8am to 8pm seven days a week needs visible signs on the south and west sides of the building that can be seen from Manchester Road. He had asked in writing for 24 inch letters on his signs and at the meeting was asking for 30 inch letters.

There is nothing wrong with this business getting these signs, but what amazes me with the board of aldermen is how they can screw around and debate and continue church sign and flagpole requests but pass unwritten requests without a second thought.

The church signs are protected by the first amendment of the Constitution, the business signs are not. Bruckel got permission for the 30 inch high letters on a red white and blue sign within minutes of the end of the public hearing.



Dr. Matt Bruckel shows photos of the proposed signs for his Urgent Care business.

During the agenda meeting, Alderman Chuck Lenz announced he was going to have to recuse himself on this sign issue. Normally an elected official will say what his conflict of interest is so residents will know why their elected official is not voting.

Chuck didn't say. After the agenda meeting I asked him why he had to recuse himself and he snapped, "It's a private matter."

I asked if it had anything to do with his wife working as an administrator at St. Luke's. Chuck said it didn't and again abruptly repeated, "I said it was a private matter."

During the regular meeting he left the dais for the public hearing on the sign variance and later for the vote on the variance. Again he did not say why he was recusing himself.



Chuck sitting in the cheap seats after recusing himself.

After the variance passed I followed Dr. Bruckel out of the building and asked if he knew why Alderman Lenz had recused himself. Dr. Bruckel said he didn't know Chuck and had no idea.

Good luck to these doctors...there are immediate care facility on Manchester just west of Hwy 141 run by SSM. Plus two facilities at Walgreens and one at Dierbergs plug another on Manchester at Bopp. This is not to mention the fact that there are five major hospitals inside, on the edge of or within two miles of Town and Country.

ART SCULPTURE! I mentioned in our last newsletter how Mayor Dalton and Lenz were not happy there was not to be a human in the sculpture approved by the Art Commission, to be produced by artist Harry Weber and paid for with private donations.

The piece selected by the commission would be a horse bending down to nuzzle a dog.

I have always maintained a new city logo or the new sculpture should be a deer jumping over the hood of a BMW.

Alderwoman Lynn Wright aware of the unhappiness sold her commission out and instead of sticking up for their selection, said the selection process would begin again with the artist and commission and she would update the alderpersons.

TV-Music FUN: Here is a link to a clip of the old Frank Sinatra TV show in the 50's. It is Bing Crosby, Dean Martin and Frank doing Where Ever We Go.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-B4zj2O442w>

MUSIC: Here is what was happening last Wednesday at Sasha's on DeMun in Clayton.

Steve Sharp of Des Peres, who is in his second year of a graduate school music program at Oregon State stopped off for a home visit in St. Louis on his way back to Oregon after teaching at a summer music school at NYU, in New York, New York.



Steve Sharp on the trumpet, Chris Swan on the keyboard and Arlen Strader on the drums
Next up was Zak Hall playing an unusual slide trumpet (originally designed by Maynard Ferguson).

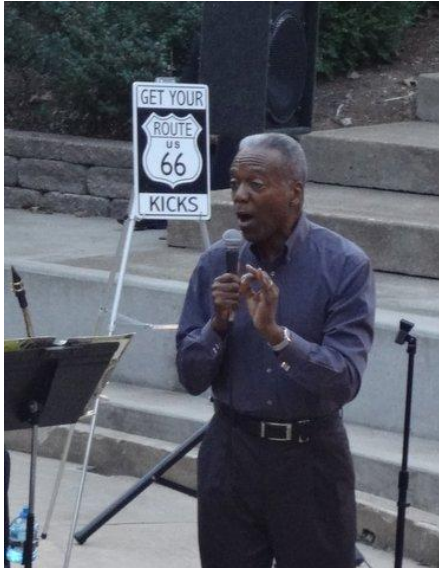


Zak on the slide trumpet. Steve and Zak pose with top St. Louis trumpeter Jim Manley. You never know who is going to show up and sit in on Wednesday nights at Sasha's.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE: Last Saturday we started with the Route 66 Jazz Orchestra Concert at the Kirkwood Park amphitheater and ended the night at the Ritz-Carlton where Fantasy was performing in the lobby. It was time for us to leave the Ritz when the band with a number of good jazz musicians start doing Michael Jackson songs and the dance floor suddenly appears as if you are at a father-daughter dance, with all the dads between 60-and-75 and all the daughters were between 30 and 35.



Five flugelhorns backing vocalist Dean Christopher on a Frank Sinatra number.



Ron Wilkerson sells a song while Zak Hall much to the amusement of director Bob Boedges is back on the slide trumpet.



Rt 66 added a 6th trumpet to end the first set. Meanwhile at the lobby of the Ritz Rhonda Stanley-Weber belts out a song as Fantasy plays on.



Dance action as Fantasy played on.

CARTOONS:

