

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 97



September 16, 2013

By John Hoffmann



DEER CAR CRASHES REMAINED LOW IN AUGUST BUT STILL AHEAD FOR YEAR: In 2012 there were only two deer-car crashes in August. This year there were three. So far deer-car collisions are still up year-to-date for 2013 with 47 compared to 43 in 2012. As in past years the total deer-vehicle accident numbers should double in the last quarter of the year. There is no money in the 2013 budget for deer management. However it is anticipated there will be in the 2014 budget and lethal deer management will start in January of 2014.

NO SUSPECTS IN SUMMER BURGLARIES: The Town and Country Police detectives have been working hard on solving the rash of burglaries earlier this summer along Topping Road., but so far have not developed any suspects. None of the jewelry has turned up at area jewelry or precious metal shops. Detectives have been unable to tie people arrested for burglaries by other police agencies to the Topping Road thefts.

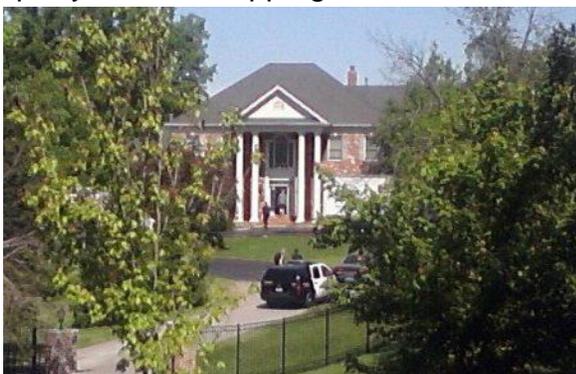
The good news is that that burglaries have stopped for the last two months.

TAXPAYERS WILL BE CUTTING GRASS AND WEEDS AT EX-CON DRUG DEALER'S HOUSE: Brian Marchant-Calsyn was arrested and served time for distributing LSD in a Federal prison in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania during the mid-90s. After leaving prison he was involved with the S&K Investment Ponzi fund that saw two Town and Country residents convicted on fraud charges.

Then in 1999 Marchant-Calsyn set up his first of many internet sales schemes and made the pages of the Wall Street Journal, where a former lawyer accused him in dealing in unethical and illegal practices. There were several more internet companies later plus after he changed his name from Marchant to Marchant-Calsyn. In 2007 he purchased two pieces of property at 1761 Topping Road in Town and Country.



Brian Marchant-Calsyn



Front of the house in 2012 when the grass was still being cut.

He had zoning and real estate lawyer John King threaten his neighbors by sending them a letter stating they would be sued for the rest of their lives if they made any complaints against Marchant-Calsyn to Town and Country officials. He also was leasing office space on Mason Road at North Forty Drive for three years without ever getting a business license. The Town and Country Police Chief John Copeland refused to cite him for not having a business license. At the time I was an alderman and introduced a resolution ordering Copeland to do his job and cite Marchant-Calsyn. It did not pass.

He was evicted from the office for non-payment of rent and relocated his businesses to Chesterfield and then to his house. He listed corporate addresses of several of his internet sales companies to a Manchester Road UPS store's post office box.

By 2010 and 2011 there had been a number of lawsuits filed against Marchant-Calsyn and some of his companies alleging fraud. There were judgments entered against him and his companies which have yet been paid.

In April of 2012 he moved out of his "mansion" with the wrought iron fence around 5 acres. Shortly later part of the property was foreclosed on and sold to a developer. The 3-acre property the main house sits on has been in and out of foreclosure. It is now still in Marchant-Calsyn's name. His attempts to sell it have been unsuccessful.

He moved out in April of 2012 and called the police claiming I was taking photos of the moving truck and creating a disturbance. In fact I was home asleep in bed. It was his next door neighbor taking photos from the neighbor's backyard.

NOW A CROP OF WEEDS: Now with the property still in his name, Marchant-Calsyn has decided to stop cutting the grass and maintaining the yards as weeds and ragweed have taken over areas where there used to be grass. Some of the weeds are seven feet high.



This is the back of the property taken from Brookwood Dr. The high weeds could hide an adult or even a car.



A view toward the house.



On the northwest side of the house there is a break in the heavy weeds, but the dry grass is about 4 feet high.

The Town and Country code enforcement officer Melanie Rippetoe filed a high weed and grass against Marchant-Calsyn. She posted the property and mailed him notice. On Friday September 13, 2013 the first High Grass and Weeds Hearing of 2013 was held at City Hall. Present was City Administrator Gary Hoelzer in the role of the hearing

officer, City Clerk Ashley McNamara as the recorder and Melanie Rippetoe as the witness.

At 9:00 AM Hoelzer called the hearing to order. Rippetoe testified about the high weeds and grass, present photos, stated she had posted the property on September 5 and had mailed a notice to Marchant-Calsyn. She added she re-inspected the property just before the hearing and nothing had changed.

There were no defense witnesses. In fact I was the only person in the room besides the three city officials. Two minutes after calling the hearing to order, Hoelzer ruled there was clear evidence of a violation and ordered Rippetoe to find a contractor to cut down the nuisance weeds and high grass.

This will be done at taxpayers' expense and a lien will be placed on the property. What a nice guy, first he threatens his neighbors with lawsuits for the rest of their lives and now after moving out he continues to reach out and touch them y increasing the pollen and ragweed counts in the neighborhood plus yard contractor and legal fees to the city.



From left to right code enforcement officer Melanie Rippetoe, city administrator Gary Hoelzer, and city clerk Ashley McNamara.

http://www.johnhoffmann.net/ex_newsletter_51.pdf

http://blogs.riverfronttimes.com/dailyrft/2011/10/brian_marchant-calsyn_makes_news_again.php

<http://chesterfield.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/the-subject-of-two-patch-columns-had-the-cops-get-me-out-of-bed>

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/in-town-and-country-business-leads-some-call-worthless/article_5dd54e3a-ea9e-524b-b303-ec5c1f5e0adb.html

<http://chesterfield.patch.com/groups/opinion/p/complaining-too-loudly-about-a-company-can-get-you-sued>

TOWN AND COUNTRY MCDONALDS TO BE TORN DOWN AND REBUILT: The McDonald's facing Woods Mill Road in the Lamp & Lantern Shopping center is marked for a bulldozer with McDonald's then rebuilding a McDonalds with a larger kitchen.

The McDonald's building is owned by the McDonald's and operated by franchisee Colleen Schoendienst. These tear downs and rebuilds happen relatively quickly. The McDonald's in the Old Orchard section of Webster Groves was reopened in less than three months.

The new design still has to go before the Planning and Zoning Commission, later this month. (Sept. 25 7pm) The big concern any follower of McDonald's should have is if the McDonald's is going to be closed in November and December when the McRib is back for a limited time only.



The McDonald's on Woods Mill Road.



The McRib!

DIEHL AFTER ATTENDING ONE MEETING IN TWO YEARS IS FINALLY DROPPED FROM ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD: John Diehl has finally been removed from the Architectural Review. The state representative who has been busy collecting \$1.2 million in campaign contributions despite never having an opponent in a primary or general election and hasn't had time to show up for any of the meetings. He was last listed as a member in June.

WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE FOCUSES ON DIEHL'S CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND VOTE TO REMOVE ADULT TEENS FROM SEX REGISTRY:

An Associated Press story ran in the Washington Post showed that Missouri Floor Majority Leader John Diehl, serving Town and Country and Chesterfield has accepted \$6,000 this year alone from Jon Rand of Dixon Missouri and Rand's tobacco retail businesses. Rand has been actively lobbying to have teenagers convicted adults removed from the Missouri Sex Offender lists. Rand's son, Anthony Keil Rand, was convicted as a 17-year-old of having sex with a 12-year-old girl.



A bill was passed this year to remove teenage adults from the sex offender list only to be vetoed by Governor Nixon. On September 11 during the Veto Session of the legislature the attempt to override the veto was withdrawn by Republicans as they apparently did not have enough votes.

In the article Diehl claims he has been getting contributions from Rand and his companies for years. Using the plural "years" might be a stretch.

Diehl received the \$6,000 in the first half of 2013. It was \$3,000 from Rand and \$3,000 from his discount cigarette stores. The only other contributions we could find were on Diehl's October 2010 finance report filed with the Missouri Ethics Commission. In October of 2010 Diehl received four \$250 donations from the shops, three of them using the same address and none from Rand.

Of course owning tobacco stores Rand and his wife Sharie Keil having been giving money to fight the tobacco tax increase in 2012 and other tobacco issues. However in 2013 there were no tobacco issues. Other than the \$15,000 or \$25,000 contribution from Rex Sinquefield, the \$3,000 contribution from Rand was one of the largest from an individual Diehl has received. When he was quoted as saying he has never spoken to Rand of Kiel about the sex offenders list or was aware they had a son on it, simply seemed a little hard to believe.

I guess I have to wonder is if you had a 12-year-old daughter who was raped by a 17-year-old, would you want him on a sex offender's list for as long as possible?



33-year-old Anthony Rand

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/apnewsbreak-political-donor-is-behind-mo-effort-to-remove-juveniles-from-sex-offender-sites/2013/09/06/7a30466a-1721-11e3-961c-f22d3aaf19ab_story.html

OUTRAGELOUSLY OVERPRICED MEALS PAID OFF FOR DIEHL: John Diehl was chosen by the Republican house members to be Speaker of the House in 2015. Apparently those ridiculously expensive dinners Diehl bought for Republican lawmakers earlier this year paid off. Diehl spent huge amounts of his campaign funds for the dinners as were reported in the second quarter campaign finance reports filed with the Ethics Commission. Here are the meals:

\$242.49	The Ecco Lounge	Jefferson City	Caucus member meal
\$113.36	Stony River	Chesterfield, Mo	Caucus member meal
\$333.13	Café via Roma	Jefferson City	Caucus member meal
\$630.70	Fuji Steakhouse	Jefferson City	Caucus member meal
\$439.54	Fuji Steakhouse	Jefferson City	Caucus member meal
\$290.48	Hereford House	Independence Mo	Caucus member meal
\$682.71	Bailey's Range	St. Louis, MO	Caucus member meal
\$152.61	Hero's Pub	Warrensburg Mo	Caucus member meal

We will be eagerly waiting after our return from yet another vacation in October to review Diehl's third quarter finance reports and see if he can beat \$682.71 for a meal.

ART COMMISSION: The acoustics can be awful at the Longview House and I'm afraid I completely missed commission member Mary Beth Wilson saying why I was a jerk. She yelled that someone was a friend of hers and something about "hate" and something I have written about someone. It was a little awkward to try and catch her after the meeting and ask her to repeat what she said as it would probably just upset her.

THE SCULPTURE DEBATE: I especially went to the Art Commission because at the July 22 work session of the Board of Aldermen meeting the Art Commission's final decision for a sculpture to be placed at Clayton and Mason Road was a horse bending over to nuzzle a sitting dog. Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton didn't like it and said there would be more discussion. Chair of the Art Commission Alderwoman Lynn Wright, who normally is a devoted Daltonite, made a somewhat shocking statement as if she was standing up to the Napoleonic mayor.

She said the horse and dog were "the final decision" of the commission, as if there was nothing else to discuss. Now the commission is discussing something else, but I have a feeling the mayor and several others are not going to be happy. Because the "something else" is another horse and a dog.



I have a feeling that the mayor wants to see a human. The Art Commission already eliminated a sculpture of a horse, a girl and a dog. They just want animals.



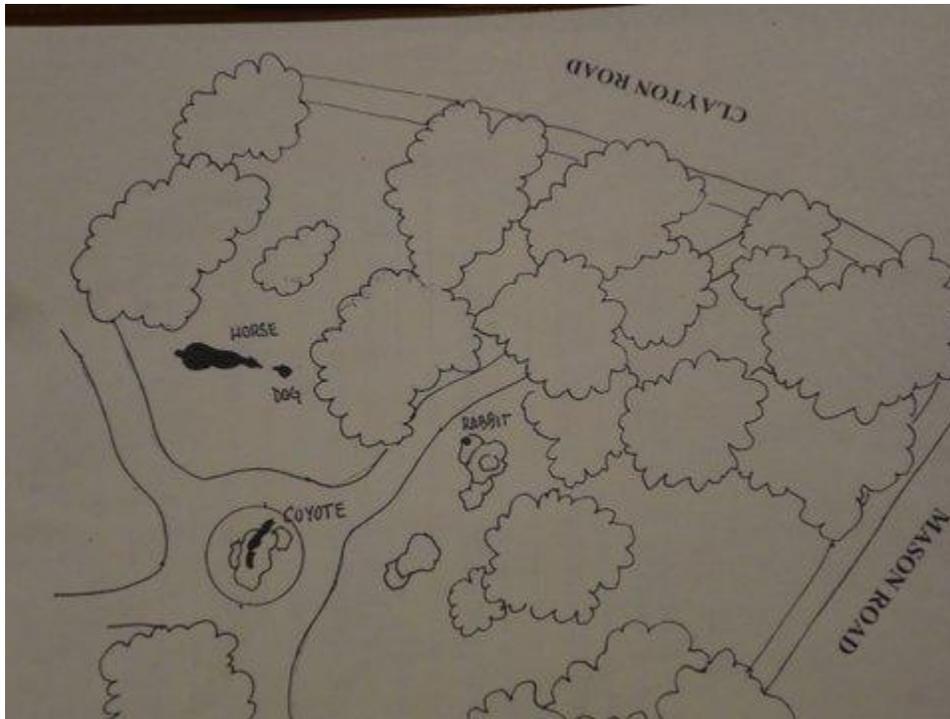
Running horse and a running dog projected on the wall at the Longview House. We are guessing the horse will easily jump the red fire alarm box on the wall at the Longview Farmhouse.

Mary Beth Wilson and others seemed to be crazy about the running horse and dog.

Now I'm sorry but if Fred Meyland-Smith thinks the new LED sign at Visitation Academy could cause auto accidents on Ballas Road if it changes more often than once every 12-hours...what will a life like statue of a horse and a dog running right next to a major intersection do? I can hear the driver statements to the police now,

"I thought there was a horse and a dog that were about to run out into the street, so I slammed on my brakes."

Upon hearing a request about possibly some other ideas, artist Harry Weber submitted an idea of having the horse and dog, plus other animals. He sketch showed a coyote and a rabbit. It almost appeared as if the coyote was looking at the rabbit. This might be a little traumatic for younger children.



J.D. Frost is one of the few people on the commission who doesn't consider himself an artist or an art snob. J.D. stated that members should think not about how they feel when they first see a statue (running horse and dog) but about what it is like to see it for the 100th or 500th time. A number of people thought that was a brilliant point and the mood seemed to shift back to the passive horse and dog, something the commission first voted for and the mayor hated. .

Someone who has been in the media for a long time had a great idea. She said since the area for the sculptures is right next to the city's fire station the idea is to make the dog a Dalmatian and the horse a Clydesdale. Then go to the Budweiser marketing people at In-Bev and sell them on the idea how if they funded the statue's it would be a long term subliminal advertising campaign. It would be perfect as it would be in the middle of a community with a number of residents with the last name of Griesedieck, a former huge St. Louis competitor to the A-B brands of beer.



A Clydesdale grazing.



If the mayor wants a person in the sculpture here's an idea.



Here is a thought...let the brewery go whole hog, horses, people and a dog.

Of course I still believe my idea that I have been promoting for years is the best for a statue or a logo to celebrate Town and Country. It would be a deer jumping over the hood of a BMW. I tried to find a photo of something close and the best I could do was a moose jumping over a Volvo.



Final Suggestion from an area artist... is for Skip Mange's saved log cabin sitting in pieces at Drace park, be reconstructed at Clayton and Mason next to the fire station and then put the horse and dog in a corral behind the log cabin!

FREE FLU SHOTS: Missouri Baptist Hospital in connection with the City of Town and County are offering FREE FLUE SHOTS in October. The subtle inference is that the free flu shots are for the rich folks in Town and Country. But when we called Mo Baptist on giving free shots to rich people and not poor people a couple of years ago, the hospital's response was the anyone can sign up for the shots. (They are just publicized in the Town and Country newsletter.)

The shots will be given October 14 between 10am and 1pm at the Longview Farmhouse at the city's Longview Park on Clayton Road near Mason Road. I already booked my shots there and the first 1-hour and 45-minutes of slots were already filled without the event being publicized.



The second offering for FREE FLUE SHOTS will be on Friday October 18 at the Town and Country City Hall from 4pm to 7pm. CALL 314-996-5433 to make an appointment.

DID HEARTLAND BANK SALE IMPACT ALLEGRO PULL OUT? After getting their teeth kicked in and a 7-0 vote against rezoning the Wirth property on Clayton Road just east of Mason Road by the Town and Country P&Z Commission, the Allegro Senior Living folks were going ahead with their proposal to the Board of Aldermen.

However after doing some intense "public education" favoring the need for their 150 unit senior living facility followed by polling that still showed a huge resentment for the project, they pulled the request for a public hearing before the BOA.

Allegro was part of Love Development which is owned by Heartland bank.

I wonder if the announced proposed sale of Heartland Banks and Love Funds to Midland States Bancorp of Effingham, Illinois also played a part in the decision or did the folks at Love Development and Allegro finally just came to their senses and wised up?

THE WINNER IS...COSTCO: It was on September 4 that I spied a Christmas display at the Costco Store in Manchester. Besides hobby and arts and crafts stores this was the first retail Christmas display I have seen. I sarcastically congratulated the women checking my receipt to make sure I paid for my shrimp (BTW Costco maybe has the best cold shrimp of any store in the area...go figure) for Costco being the first to have up Christmas stuff, just two days after Labor Day. She defiantly took the company line and proclaimed, "And we will be the first store to sell all of our Christmas items too!"



TOWN AND STYLE MAGAZINE HAS TROUBLE IDENTIFYING ROCK HILL AND RICHMOND HEIGHTS:

I have not been very impressed with Town and Style Magazine Columnist Bill Beggs, Jr. since he lifted one of my columns from patch.com without attributing it.

Beggs lifts news stories about West County and even the Central West End from various news sources and then uses them in his column. I dislike this approach since Beggs does not go out and actually sit through any of the meetings he writes about and does not credit the source that does.

His columns have the city logos next to each town he writes about. Almost since his first column I have been amused to see how often Town and Style uses the city logo of Rock Hill next to stories about Richmond Heights.

The towns are quite a bit different. Richmond Heights has a number of wealthy residents living along McKnight and Lay roads. Rock Hill doesn't have any wealthy residents. Richmond Heights has the trendy Galleria Mall. Rock Hill has the RSI Kitchen and Bath store that sells high end fixtures to rich people who live in Richmond Heights and Ladue. Richmond Heights has St. Mary's Hospital. Rock Hill has a Walgreens. Richmond Heights has the famous Esquire Theater. The Blockbuster and Hollywood Video stores in Rock Hill went out of business two and three years ago. Richmond Heights has its police and fire departments in new state of the art buildings. Rock Hill sold its city hall, police station and fire house to a developer who put a Starbucks in its place, while the city hall, police and fire stations are renting space in old buildings in a small industrial court off Rock Hill Road.

Apparently what fools the people at Town and Style Magazine is that they don't think Rock Hill exists and when they see a logo that features the letters R and H they assume it has to be for Richmond Heights.



The Chesterfield, Clayton, Des Peres, Kirkwood, Ladue and St. Louis logos are next to stories about those communities. However as usual, Town and Style has the Rock Hill logo next to a story about Richmond Heights.

WALLEYE SPECIAL MAYBE A LITTLE MORE EXPENSIVE FOR ONE CUSTOMER: Richard H. Quick, Jr., 33, of Wildwood a waiter at the Yellowstone Café in the Lamp and Lantern Shopping with the extensive arrest record increased a customer's bill on July 25 when he failed to return a customer's credit card and then went on a spending spree.

Town and Country Police charged Quick with felony Theft of a Credit Card. He was arrested on August 8 and then released pending issuance of a warrant, which was issued on September 9. He was arrested on the warrant on September 13.

This isn't Quick's first time to steal someone's credit card or be arrested for felony stealing. He was arrested in Ballwin in 2003 for felony theft and later convicted. He was given a probation term, which was revoked and he was sentenced to prison in 2006.

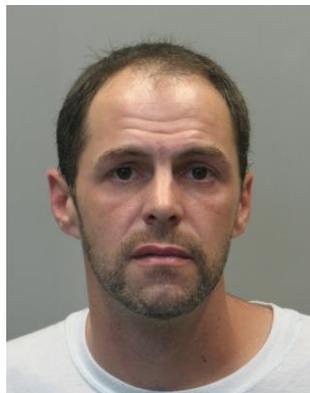
He did not serve a full 3-year term and was released within a year. On January 2, 2006 he was arrested by the Cole County Sheriff's Office in Jefferson City for 3rd Degree Assault. He was found guilty and given probation. The probation term was revoked and he served 10 days in jail in 2008.

He did a Credit Card Theft in Richmond Heights in 2007. He was indicated by a Grand Jury in 2008 and pled guilty. He was sentenced to three years in the Missouri Department of Corrections

He got out early and was arrested again on March 25, 2011 for Stealing Over \$500 in Chesterfield. He was again indicted by a Grand Jury and pled guilty on December 15, 2011 and was sentenced to seven years in the Department of Corrections, but was given probation for five years. He made it less than two years before his probation was revoked after the Town and Country theft case.

In the Chesterfield case Quick was a waiter at Yia Yias. When he received cash payments for dinners he would also make a charge in the same amount on his credit card with Commerce Bank. He would pocket the cash and then when he received his credit card bill he'd report that all the charged were fraudulent. In a confession to investigators he guessed he did this fraud ten of fewer times. Records show he actually did it 17 times stealing \$941.16 from Yia Yias and the credit card company.

02/16/03	Stealing O/\$500	Ballwin	Guilty Plea	01/23/04	3 years MO DOC Probation
12/14/06	Probation Revoked				sent to 3 years MO DOC
01/02/06	3-degree Assault	Cole County Sheriff	Guilty	06/20/06	10 days in Jail
06/18/07	Theft of a Credit Card	Richmond Heights	Guilty Plea	04/17/08	3 Years Mo. DOC
01/29/11	Stealing O/\$500	Chesterfield	Guilty Plea	12/15/11	7 yrs Mo DOC Probation
08/08/13	Theft of a Credit Card	Town and Country	Pending		
09/08/13	Probation Revoked		Pending		



If I can find this guy's record in about five minutes upon checking case.net, you have to wonder why the management at Yellowstone couldn't discover it before they hired him and he stole a customer's credit card.

GOOD ONE-YEAR-OLD DOG LOOKING FOR A GOOD WEST COUNTY

HOME: Below is one-year-old Max. Max is well-behaved, crate trained, invisible fence trained and house broken. He is good with kids and other dogs. He is a mixed breed with an amazingly soft coat. His owners in Town and Country find they are traveling too much and are looking to find this wonderful dog a new home. If you are interested in getting a smart dog which is already trained send me an email and I'll get you in touch.



OH MY GOD APPARENTLY PEOPLE WILL PAY ANYTHING FOR HONEY CRISP APPLES: Actually maybe the dummies at Dierbergs need to change the sign.



The individual apples are \$3.99 a pound. A bag of small apples below the individual apples are \$7.99 per bag...not per apple!

IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT...



Well actually it was a Dark and Dark night. When I left the Longview Farmhouse on Monday as the Park Commission meeting and Public

Works Commission meeting were letting out at 8pm many of the members all said the same thing. "It is really dark out here."

Over \$130,000 was spent to upgrade the parking lot. Besides adding 16 new spaces the work was suppose to include improved lighting. Public Works director Craig Wilde was there and shrugged, saying someone must have forgotten to reset the timer for the lights.

This is stupid! We know when sunset is going to be years in advance. How hard can it be to program a timer? Apparently just as hard as emptying trash cans full of bags of dog poop in the park, which routinely doesn't get done.

CHICKENS TO PLANNING AND ZONING: The Chicken coop legislation package is headed to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their approval. It should be on the agenda for their Wednesday September 25th meeting. Chickens apparently remain a huge part of Green Team member and Principia liberal-hippie Dirk Maas' life as he urged fellow green team members to go to the P&Z meeting to voice their support of chicken coops. In fairness to the other side, residents who think they would be annoyed day after day having chickens next door also should go to the P&Z meeting.

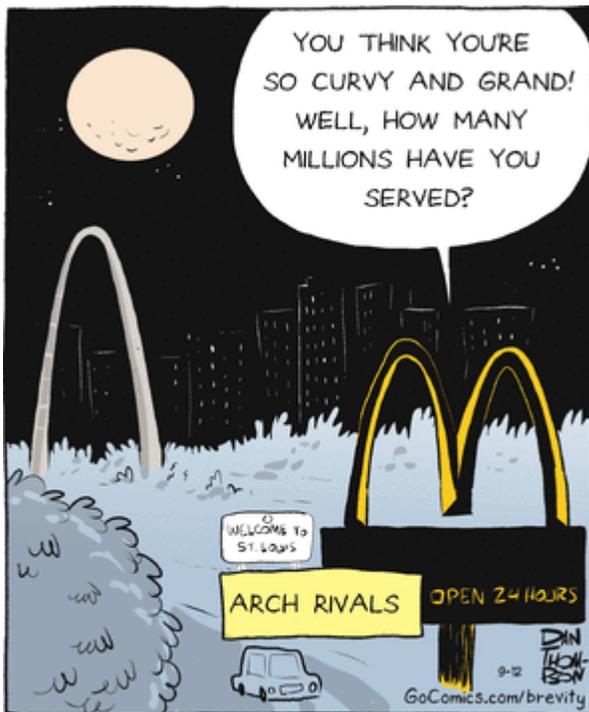
Interestingly the chicken coops and McDonalds tear down and rebuild are on the same agenda. Anyone for some McNuggets?



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EMPTY BANK BUILDING LEASED BY COMMERCIAL BANK: The former Heartland Bank branch that has been empty for about a year on Manchester Road and Mason Road has been rented and will soon be a branch of Commercial Bank. Not to be confused with Commercial Bank of Parsons, Kansas or Commercial Bank of Alma, Michigan. This will be the third branch of Commercial bank of Maryland Heights (other branches are in Florissant and Chesterfield Valley.)

CARTOONS:



A tribute to Fred and Ginger...dance the Continental and sing Night and Day

