

# No Standing News

Since we have no standing, we stand with those left standing

Volume I

Number 01

July 24, 1998

## THE BEAT GOES ON!!

By R. W. Nash

I have a copy of a letter that Buz Harvey wrote to John Butz, wanting the City to find funds to buy the U.S. Forestry site that the Visitors' Center is on for use as a city park. Well, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to see that the primary reason for trying to sell Buehler Park was to buy the land the Chamber of Commerce office now occupies with the Visitors Center.

I don't think that this letter is private anymore, since it was handed out to the City Council at the last workshop meeting (July 20, 1998). If they believe it is, then they are breaking the Sunshine Law big time.

There was also a hand written side note on the letter, which I assume was written by Butz. The note states, "These notes accurately reflect our meeting. However, we indicated we do not see any such funds in the foreseeable future."

At the June 1, 1998 City Council meeting, Buz Harvey approached the council with a proposal to "iron out" these "thorny issues". He suggested that three Chamber members and three City Council members meet to put these issues to rest. Harvey said he had "absolutely no preconceived notions" when asked if he was requesting the city to buy the land.

I understand that 11 of the 12 City Council members also belong to the Chamber, posing a

huge conflict of interest in this case. Perhaps that's why Harvey's original proposal was scrapped for a sneakier approach that follows suit with the Good 'Old Boys system of government.

I say that nothing has changed. They are still going to try to sell Buehler Park, take the funds from that sale, and buy that land to give the Chamber of Commerce a permanent home. That is why they are meeting in secret with key C of C members. This is the reason that Joe Morgan continued harping that we needed to "trade (Buehler Park) for a larger tract of land and money to develop the new land into a better, safer, more usable park." How can we justify buying land for another park? We have a number of existing undeveloped parks in Rolla. There is not one thing unsafe about Buehler Park. I know it and he knows it.

Here we are, trying to get a half-cent sales tax to pass in the August election to build a Recreation Center in Rolla, and the Chamber of Commerce, who is registered with the Missouri Secretary of State's office as a benevolent organization is asking for more of our tax dollars to buy them a permanent home. This sort of destroys the word "BENEVOLENT".

Where do they think the city is going to get this money? Out of that big bag with the hole in it, called the general fund? I would think that it would be about dry after paying for bank parking lot paving. Perhaps some of it will come from the \$40,000 bond money the City is trying to get from the citizens who had the nerve to buck city hall. Let's add to this the \$275 a

month pension the City is fighting to keep former Judge Joanne Mayberry from getting. This may not be enough, but as they say, "every little bit helps".

These are just the opinions of a guy who has "no standing" and has been told to get out of Dodge.

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Below is the letter to Butz from Harvey  
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July 9, 1998

Mr. John Butz  
City Administrator  
Rolla, MO 65401

Edward J. Harvey  
Chairman of the Board

Dear John:

cc: J. Morgan, D. Johnson, B. Tucker

Thank you and Joe for meeting with us the other day about the tourism center and site. I wanted to put in writing our understanding of what we talked about.

Rolla Chamber of Commerce & Tourist Center  
1301 Kingshighway  
P.O. Box 823  
Rolla, MO 65401  
314-364-3577 Fax 314-364-5222

Here is where you would begin typing your article.

1. The Chamber board, during the 1998-99 budget and planning process, will explore ways in which the debt on the Visitors' Center can be retired within the next seven to ten years by renegotiating the loan and increasing the monthly payments. I have asked Ron Calhoun and Bob Tucker to work with Don Johnson and me to accomplish this as soon as possible.

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2. The City of Rolla will discuss with the bank consortium that made the loan the possibility of a reduction in the loan rate when we renegotiate the loan.

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3. The City of Rolla will develop a preliminary park plan in anticipation of the day when the tourism site is acquired from the U.S. Forest Service for use as a city park.

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4. The City and the Chamber will work together to find the money needed to acquire the U.S.

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