

Trib Talk

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Jim Robertson, managing editor

“I was wondering why there’s nothing in our parks for toddlers to do. I’ve got my baby here, and he can’t go up the slides and the steps that are all over the place. He just can’t do anything. Why don’t we have swings or other things for toddlers?”

“For those of you enjoying yard work as recreation, it’s not so fun for those next door. Please get some exercise with a broom or a rake and give the leaf blowers a rest. Don’t be so obsessive.”

“I am the one who called in about the billboard regulations being increased since 1999. I took a lot of chastising on the Internet for, I guess, my grammar skills. I want to tell you I’m a product of Columbia schools, and lo and behold I was actually on the honor roll. So go and ahead and attack my grammar skills. It means little to me. I do want to thank everybody who has regulated billboards since the 1990s. I’m a small-sign company, and my income has only trickled. Thanks for cutting out any other companies from cutting in on my business. I’ll go back to my poor grammar and my leisurely lifestyle.”

“I would like to know why the employees at the Conley Road Wal-Mart park in front-row parking instead of on the back lot in the white parking spaces where they belong. ... I don’t think it’s right that we customers have to park farther out in the parking lot than the employees who park their cars up front in the lot, on the front rows, third row down.”

“Tuesday there was a lovely picture of the Katy Trail tour. Wednesday there was a picture of cleanup in progress of a man trying to rectify a hog spill. What a difference a day makes. Just remember, when a CAFO starts up, we all pay for many years to come. If you are lucky enough to own land, you must become the guardian who protects that land for those who follow you. Drive any direction from Columbia, and you will smell the stench associated with CAFO establishments. The air is polluted now, and it won’t be long until the ground and our water resources are also polluted. Cheers for those who have protected the Katy Trail so thousands can come and enjoy the beauty each year.”

“Evidence vindicating Officer Wilson was shoved to the back page of the Tribune. Wow.”

“I wish someone would explain about those Buddy Packs. Who is supposed to get them? The things they put in them? They have asked over the weekend to put in all kinds of toiletries — toothpaste, toothbrush, even razors and even stuff for young women. I’d like to know all about it.

It just seems like I can't get too much news about it. They just keep talking about giving them away and sending them home, but they don't seem to tell you much about it."

Robertson replies: The phone number at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri is 573-474-1020. I'm sure someone there can answer all your questions.

"I just came up the off-ramp, I-70 westbound onto Stadium Boulevard, and where the stoplight is at the top of the off ramp it's two lanes, and then when you turn it becomes three lanes, and these drivers don't know where the hell they're going. It is so dangerous. They're cutting other cars off because they don't know what lane they're supposed to be in."

"I'm just calling to say I appreciate that the First Ward councilwoman voted the way she feels like she should. For those who are trying to oppose her, I feel sorry for them because they just don't understand that when they elect a councilwoman or man, they elect them to vote the way they feel like they should."

"As the election nears and we keep hearing about the efforts of the Koch brothers, Rex Sinquefeld and other billionaires to influence the vote, I keep recalling a recent Tribune article reporting on a speech of an MU economics professor. The professor, who is a senior fellow at the Libertarian CATO Institute and has had research funding from the Koch brothers' foundation, claimed the results of his research showed campaign contributions had no effect on the outcome of the election. If that is the case and the professor's research proves it, then why do the Koch brothers and the other billionaires — obviously astute businessmen — keep spending millions to influence the outcome of elections? Don't they believe the results of their own sponsored research?"

"I'm beginning to wonder about Missourians. Here I am reading the Oct. 22 paper, and I happened to read 'Road Closures,' and they talk about closing Seventh Street for some water work, but then at the very bottom it said 'The street is scheduled to fully reopen by 7 p.m. Nov. 20,' and since today is the 22nd, I just wondered why that was in the paper. What a waste of print."

Robertson replies: Because the street will be partially closed for almost a month. And where are you from?

"I believe I'm correct on this, but when the county and the city passed the 911 tax, the city saved its contribution — I believe it was either \$1.2 million or \$1.7 million a year — that it was contributing to the 911 situation. Now they don't have to contribute that, so we really don't need a rise in property tax. That money would be plenty of money to hire the new police and firemen they're talking about from that savings."

Robertson replies: The city's budget support of the joint communications center ended last October with the fiscal 2014 budget. The savings, about \$1.5 million, helped balance the budget, which included funds for two additional police officers and one police sergeant.