

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2009

Chickendale Cowbirds Chowdown



Thanks very much, once again, to citizen watchdog **Anita Davis** and **SpringdaleFOI** for letting the public see how **Perry Webb** and the **Chickendale Cowbirds** are blowing the cash handed over to them for "economic development" by the taxpayers of Springdale. One of the previously unaccountable slush funds worth reviewing is the bill for their dining expenses, and it ain't chickenfeed.

They have meticulously documented more than **\$120,000** for fine dining and adult beverages, down to and including a receipt for \$1.92 at the **Blimpie Cart** in the Atlanta airport, but we will have to wait for the details of expenses and alleged business guests who woofed down **\$70,512** at the **Springdale Country Club**, well over half of the outlays. The individual receipts are being reviewed and will be released for public viewing soon.

Either to make it appear that they were spending money with city businesses or because they were ignorant about the city limits, the Cowbirds claimed that they spent \$100 at the **Venesian Inn** in **Springdale**. but that hardly compares with the **\$2,204** they lavished on themselves at **Luigi's** in **Washington DC**. They also supported the local economic engine **Cracker Barrel**, the envy of **Bill Ramsey**, to the tune of \$45.31 in business meals, but that was less than half of the \$101.95 they sloshed down for economic development one afternoon at the **Claddagh Irish Pub** in Middleton, Wisconsin.

The **AQ Chicken House** had a collective haul of \$1,291 over three years, but that was less than a single evening's tab of \$1,297 at **Cafe 42** in Little Rock. The Cowbirds invested \$3,208 in steaks and swill at the **Ruth's Chris Steak House** on DuPont Circle in Washington, DC, but to show they were able to graze with the common people, they spent \$3,559 at **Jim's Razorback Pizza** and \$3,223 at **McBride Distributing** in Fayetteville.

I have to wonder how the average working stiff in Chickendale would feel about this if it were ever fully covered or even briefly mentioned in the *Moron News*. Those working on the line for the federal minimum wage would have to work 129 days to earn enough to pay the **\$7,495** catering bill at Mark Henry's **Catering Unlimited LLC**.