

Ferguson Times

December, 2014

Established 1894 Oct. 1999

Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

The Northern Lights Holiday Celebration and parade has been postponed. Check www.fergusoncitywalk.com for future date and time.

Guess Who Spent the Whole Week in Ferguson?



KMOX talk show host, Charlie Brennan, and his co-host Debbie Monterrey, spent an entire week hosting their morning show in different locations in Ferguson. Shown above is their show at Vincenzo's Italian Ristorante on South Florissant Road.

Charlie and Debbie both auctioned off lunch or dinner with them at a Ferguson restaurant and donated the proceeds to "Reinvest North County," a fund for mom & pop / independent businesses that were damaged during the Ferguson unrest.



Martin Kilcoyne also agreed to auction off lunch or dinner with him at a Ferguson restaurant. Martin is a St. Louis area native, and a 5-time Emmy Award winner for his television work. He is a talk show host on KTRS, The Big 550. His show features big name guests, mixed in with local topics, and lively conversation. Martin is joined by FOX-2's Randi Naughton from 10am-noon Monday-Thursday. Martin's night-time job is Sports Director at FOX-2 (KTVI-TV).

Guess Who Came to Dinner?

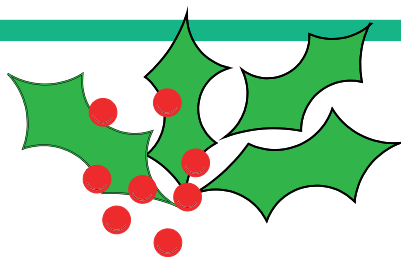


On Veteran's Day, two very recognizable people decided to eat at Cathy's Kitchen, located on South Florissant Road. Above is Harry Belafonte with Cathy, and below is Danny Glover.

The two men were in meetings at a hotel by the airport and called in a lunch order for take out. They told the waitress (who didn't recognize the names) that they would be back for dinner with a large group. Their group came for dinner and stayed until midnight. It must have hit social media because Cathy's Kitchen normally closes at nine, but people were banging on the door to have their picture taken with Harry and Danny. When they closed, ALL the food in the kitchen was gone.



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ALLIED WASTE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS DAY
Thursday, December 25
and NEW YEARS DAY
Thursday, January 1, 2015

Monday routes will not be affected
Tuesday routes will not be affected
Wed. routes will not be affected

Thursday routes will be picked up
Friday, Dec. 26 & Jan. 2
Friday routes will be picked up
Saturday, Dec 27 & Jan. 3

City Hall News

The Ferguson City Council will meet once in December. The second City Council meeting is typically cancelled due to the holidays. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers at 110 Church Street.

The meeting date is:
Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Ferguson City Hall will be closed in observance of Christmas on Thursday, December 25, 2014. City Hall will also be closed for the New Year's holiday on Thursday, January 1, 2015.

If You Have Items of Interest, Contact The Ferguson Times – 314-524-1958



Greetings from CityWalk

I woke up this morning and everything was back to normal. The 'new normal!'

You're probably thinking, "Normal, this doesn't look like normal!" Well this is our new normal and there is no way around it. And this could be good! As you know, there have been a lot of people coming into town wanting change. This has prompted everyone to look at Ferguson and how it needs to proceed. This is our community and we don't just want normal, we want progress! We want Ferguson to be the best that it can be! But how do we move forward?

The city government, policing, and courts have their own work to do. But it doesn't stop there! All of us in the city have a vested interest. We need to keep working to hold onto what we have and continually work to move forward. As I wrote in last month's article, the Proud Organization cannot get to a certain point and coast from there; they need to continually look at where they are and always work towards the next goal. We must always be working towards the next level and be ready for any surprises that come our way.

Our businesses in the Downtown District need to continue to work together and watch out for everyone's interest. This has been something that has helped CityWalk to be considered the 'nice' part of town. There is nobody saying that the West Florissant businesses cannot be considered the other 'nice' side of town. All that needs to be done is that those businesses need to get together and ask that all important question, "How can I help grow this area to improve the flow of business for my fellow business owners?" All it takes is to step up and pick up the ball before it rolls away!

The Ferguson Special Business District (FSBD), a self-taxing organization, was organized in the mid-1980s to work with the city government to promote and beautify the downtown district. At that time, downtown had a lot of empty store fronts with very little business being done. With the hard work of these pioneering business owners, they encouraged many entrepreneurs to invest their own money and time to help the downtown district to grow to what it is today. We have many new businesses moving into this area because what I have heard businesses in other community's say, "Ferguson is the place to do business because of how the business owners work together."

Over the past few months, you've heard me talk about how everyone needs to get involved. We are all in this together. This is the new normal even though it should be considered normal. It has always been a joint effort. A few cannot do it all. Step up and be part of the solution. When the solution has been reached, we cannot sit back, we need to continue making new goals. This is how we grow.

As a reminder to all of the business owners located in the Business District, keep an eye out for your invitation to our annual Christmas Party. These invitations will be sent out via email and snail mail. If we don't have your email address, this will be a good time to share it with us. We look forward to meeting you, our fellow business owners. Remember, we are all in this together and a couple of words that describes us all, businesses and residents alike . . . United we stand, divided we fall! Think about it!

Merry Christmas





During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

Maureen Zeugin
Financial Advisor
409 S. Florissant, Suite 101
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314-524-6333
www.edwardjones.com



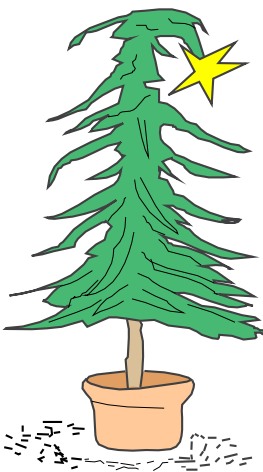
Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Member SIPC

Tree Recycling

The City of Ferguson will once again be offering a site to drop off your Christmas tree for recycling.

The drop site is located at 825 Ferguson Ave. at the Forestwood Sports Complex parking lot nearest the basketball court.

The site will be set up from December 26, 2014 through January 31, 2015.



The Ferguson Times may be reached . . .
by phone: 314-524-1958
or by mail: Dorothy Seiter, 16 Sandringham, Ferguson, MO, 63135
or by email: cider@att.net
Copy or ads for the paper must be received by the 15th of the month for insertion in the following month's paper.

Support the hard-working small business owners and employees in our community

SHOP FERGUSON

DELLWOOD • FERGUSON • JENNINGS

shopfergusonmo.com
#ShopFerguson

The Plumber's Crack

By Oh Baby bigohbaby@sbcglobal.net

Ho ho ho, twinkling lights, cold weather, children behaving, malls filled with shoppers . . . yes it's December and time for a Holiday Plumber's Crack.

Yes people we are going to talk about the ghost of Plumbers Crack past. I mentioned in previous months that it's water heater season and that was good news. WHAT? How can that be good news you ask? Well let's move to the ghost of Plumbers Crack future. Sometime between January and April the price of water heaters will increase up to 30% of what they cost now. How can that be Plumbing Ghost of the future? Well the Federal Government has made some changes on them again. What these changes are we don't know exactly but we know there will be a price increase because of it. OK, no big deal; so the price of a water heater goes up about \$40 – we can live with that, right? Well let's ask Oh Baby who wishes he was a ghost. Oh Baby says it could potentially be a lot more when you figure in labor. I don't know what these changes will do to the installation of these heaters but the potential is there for higher labor cost also. So the average cost of \$850 to install a 40 gallon water heater now may be become \$950. Merry Christmas.



I would also add a few cold weather tips with the coldest month of the year fast approaching.

One thing that has worked for me in the past is leaving the fan on my furnace in the on position. It doesn't really cost anything to do it because it keeps the warm air circulating and the furnace does not seem to work as hard.

On those super bitter cold nights, open those cabinet doors, aim fans at the pipes and leave a faucet drip. If you're worried about conserving water, get a funnel and a small hose and let the water drip into a container to be used for watering indoor plants or wiping off your counters.

Well my friends first and foremost I would like to wish you all the merriest Christmas possible. If you're not into the Christian thing, may the Holiday Season be safe and prosperous for you. I'm asking you for a Christmas present in return. Please get to know your neighbors and keep the lines of communication open with them. Please check on the elderly, offer a ride or do a chore for them. Hug and nourish your kids – they are our future. Pray for peace and get involved with your city. God Bless you all I'm praying for you.

Oh Baby

P8563, D8563

Premier Plumbing Solutions



Say "I Love Ferguson"
When presented your bill and receive **\$10 OFF**

Dave Walters (Oh Baby)
Master Plumber / Drain Layer / Licensed / Bonded

- No Service Charge • Free Estimates
- 10% Senior Discount (Maximum of \$50)
- Compare our Price on Water Heaters

524-0222

IF YOU LIVE IN AN OLDER HOME AND YOU WANT TO HELP "MAINTAIN YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW"

CALL BOB
524-1264



See Bob on Job column on Page 17

City of Ferguson Candidate Petitions Available Election Notice – April 7, 2015

The City of Ferguson, Missouri, will hold an election on Tuesday, April 7, 2015, for the offices of Council Member Ward 1, Council Member Ward 2, and Council Member Ward 3 for 3 year terms. Any person wanting to file a declaration of candidacy for this office must also submit a petition signed by at least 50 and not more than 75 registered voters. The petition forms are now available in the City Clerk's office and may be picked up at any time during regular office hours.

The petitions may be submitted upon the filing of a declaration of candidacy but must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. CST on January 20, 2015, and must be accompanied by a \$10.00 filing fee, which will be returned if the candidate receives at least 5% of the votes in the election.

The petitions and declarations of candidacy must be filed with the City Clerk at Ferguson City Hall, 110 Church Street. Under State Law, declarations of candidacy will be accepted starting on the opening date for filing and will not be accepted after the last date for filing. Candidate filing for the Ferguson City Council will open at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, which date is the sixteenth Tuesday before the election. Candidate filing will close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, which date is the eleventh Tuesday before the election.

For further information, please call the City Clerk at 524-5152.

CITY OF FERGUSON, Megan Asikainen, City Clerk

Snow Removal

The City of Ferguson crews work 24/7 to clear approximately 150 (lane miles) of pavement to keep traffic moving. As a resident, the number one thing you can do to assist snow removal crews is to not park on the street whenever snow is in the forecast. If you must park on the street, please make certain that you don't park directly across from another vehicle. This makes it almost impossible for our snowplows to safely pass. Please remember to always stay clear of snowplows.

Residents can also help protect their property and keep streets clear by following these guidelines:



- Don't push snow into the street. Placing any materials, yard waste, or snow on a public street is against city ordinance and may result in a fine.
- Clean your own driveway, sidewalk, mailbox, and parking lots. Residents and Business Owners are required to keep their own driveways, sidewalks, mailboxes, and private streets clear of ice and snow.
- Clear the road. No service will be provided if the crews feel they

cannot safely plow your street because of parked cars or other obstructions.

- Cul-de-sac's – over the course of the last few years, it has become increasingly difficult for crews to effectively plow cul-de-sacs. Parallel parking is the only approved parking for cul-de-sacs. If cars are parked in any other fashion, we will not be able to plow these cul-de-sacs. It's difficult to plow a Cul-de-sac even when cars are parked correctly; so it's better if no cars are parked in the street at all.

The City of Ferguson is responsible for most streets within the Ferguson City Limits including Florissant Road from Thoroughman to Brotherton. There are several private streets the City does not plow. MoDOT and St. Louis County are responsible for several streets within the City; a list can be found at the bottom of this article.

When snow begins to accumulate, snow removal crews are dispatched. To keep traffic moving, the city emphasizes clearing primary streets such as Florissant Road, Frost, January, Dade, Carson, Suburban, Forestwood, Powell, Church, Woodstock, Paul, Ferguson Avenue, etc. first. After this is completed, we move on to secondary streets (all remaining streets in the City). Keep in mind the City has four separate snow route crews, and depending on where your street falls in that route, it could be a few hours until your street is plowed. Rest assured, we will be there to plow your street.

For more information on the Ferguson Snow Removal process, please call the Public Works Department, Street Maintenance Division at (314) 521-8373.

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is responsible for clearing the following federal and state roads; Florissant Road north of Thoroughman, New Halls Ferry, and Pershall Road. St. Louis County is responsible for; Bermuda, Elizabeth, Hudson, Airport / Hereford / Chambers, and West Florissant. The City of Ferguson cannot clear these areas. If you have questions or concerns about these roads, please contact MoDOT at (314) 275-1500 or St. Louis County at (314) 615-1111.



Toys for Tots Brings Joy to Needy Children

Edward Jones is supporting the Toys for Tots campaign by using our offices as drop-off locations. Help needy children in our area by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to the branch office nearest you during regular business hours.

With the holiday season just around the corner, now is a great time to remember those who are less fortunate in our community.

Please be advised that our office cannot accept cash donations.

For more details, call or stop by today.

Edward Jones

Maureen Zeugin
409 So. Florissant Road, Suite 101
314.524.6333

Ferguson Library Kids' Programing!

Bring your little ones to the library for a weekly storytime on Mondays at 10AM. We'll have stories, songs, and crafts. Watch our Facebook and Twitter feeds for upcoming kid's craft days and tutoring opportunities. www.twitter.com/fergusonlibrary. Facebook: Ferguson-Municipal-Public-Library

Always FREE! 35 N. Florissant Rd.
Call 314-521-4820 for more information.

HEALING KITS Available for Checkout at the Ferguson Library!

Healing Kits consist of a backpack with children's books dealing with emotional recovery, an informational sheet about available mental health resources, and a stuffed animal. Children or their parents can check out the pack for 2 weeks. When you return it, you keep the stuffed animal and the information packet. These Healing Kits are meant for children who have been affected by recent troubles in and around Ferguson.

Always FREE! 35 N. Florissant Rd.
Call 314-521-4820 for more information

**I ♥ Love Ferguson
Store**

Limited edition items for the holidays!

**Long and Short Sleeved T-Shirts,
Hoodies, Jackets, Yard Signs and more!**

299 S. Florissant Rd. ~ Ferguson
Open Monday-Friday 10-5 and Saturday 9-2
All proceeds go to the Reinvest North County Fund.

Ferguson Community News Page

Rising to the Challenge

By Mayor James W. Knowles III

"The greatness comes not when things go always good for you, but the greatness comes and you are really tested, when you take some knocks, some disappointments, when sadness comes, because only if you have been in the deepest valley can you ever know how magnificent it is to be on the highest mountain."

Richard M. Nixon,
US President – 1913-1994



In my 35 years as a resident of Ferguson, I've watched our community endure a great many things. Whether it was the flight of longtime residents from North County, several economic recessions, the near death of Main Street businesses in America, the foreclosure crisis of 2008, or two tornadoes ravaging our neighborhoods; the City of Ferguson and its residents have faced adversity and long odds during my entire tenure as a resident. No matter what we've endured previously, few places in the United States have endured what we currently face, as the pains and struggles of our nation play out in the streets of our once quiet town, and we are catapulted onto the world stage to deal with issues that have long plagued our region and our nation.

As I write this article, it has only been one day since the release of the Grand Jury decision in the Michael Brown case, and the smell of smoke is still in the air, left over from the destruction and chaos that followed that night. I watched with anger and sorrow, as many residents did, while the looting and destruction spread throughout the area. Even as I sat in the Fire House, surrounded by numerous law enforcement officers, I felt powerless to stop the destruction that we all witnessed. I know our law enforcement officers and firefighters who acted bravely that night shared a similar frustration, knowing they could not completely stop the ensuing violence.

The scenes of destruction that were visible in the coming daylight were most definitely surreal. The pictures on the news couldn't prepare me for what I saw. But this isn't the first time as Mayor I've awoken to a scene of destruction that I could not have even contemplated the night before. I vividly remember how I felt when I first saw our community in the daylight after the tornado of 2011, and how deep down there was the uncertainty of how our community would recover.

Clearly the magnitude of what we have experienced over the past 100 days far exceeds anything we could have ever imagined, and is far beyond anything a community of our size has ever faced. Surely we can look at the obstacles and disasters we've overcome and recognize that what we face going forward is a daunting task that far outweighs our previous experiences. While no one can equate the aftermath of our tornadoes to the scale of what we experience currently, those characteristics of our community that sustained us through the struggles before, are the same which we need moving forward. Certainly the response to this crisis is different, and the recovery will also be different; but those qualities of our community in general, and the strength and perseverance of each resident and businesses owner, are the same qualities that will lead us through to a brighter future.

As I write this, the unrest continues in our community. As you read this, it is likely that people are still taking to the streets and disrupting our businesses and our lives. There is no telling how long this will last, and to what extent this will affect our community in the near term. There are few certainties in life, but I'm confident of a few.

This is certain; the unrest in our community will eventually end. I also know the healing in our community has already started. While we survey the physical and emotional damage to our community and take account of the task ahead, I am certain of our community's ability, not only to endure, but to thrive in the future.

Our residents know what we have overcome to move our community forward over the past 15 plus years, and now the world knows what we have endured over the past several months. Going forward, we have the chance to show the world the true character of the Ferguson community. I am certain that each and every one of us will live up to that challenge, and our community will once again emerge stronger than before.

Ferguson Neighborhood Organizations

Dates & times subject to change. Check www.fergusoncity.com

Group	Next Mtg.	Location	Contact
Forestwood Park Neighborhood Group	Dec 2 7 pm	Emmaus Bible Chapel 900 Highmont	Donald Stevens 314-561-0379
Jeske Park Neighborhood Assc.	TBA	Ferguson Comm Ctr 1050 Smith	Kate Mazzacavallo katemazza@yahoo.com
Nesbit-Newton	TBA	St Peters UCC 1425 Stein Rd	Paul Beins 314-869-5080
North Hills Neighborhood Assc.	TBA	Spring Valley Park 7486 Halpin Dr	Keith Kallstrom 314-524-1720
Northwest Ferguson Ferguson Hills, Ferguson Fields & Pauline Park	TBA	First Baptist Church 333 N Florissant	Shelley Davis leeshel57@sbcglobal.net
Old Ferguson East Neighborhood Assn.	Dec 8 7 pm	Corner Coffee House 100 N Florissant	Glenda Rickard 314-364-4306 glenda.rickard@mercy.net
Old Ferguson West Neighbors	TBA	Corner Coffee House 100 No Florissant	Vicki Salsman 314-522-3883
Robert-Superior Neighborhood Group	As Needed	Robert-Superior Park	Craig Kidd 314-522-3151
Southwest Ferguson Neighborhood Group	TBA	Our Lady of Guadalupe 17 Hawkesbury	Ken Barnadyn 314-524-5254
Wabash Neighborhood Assn.	Dec 8 7 pm	First Baptist 333 N Florissant	Shonnette Morgan sdenisemor@hotmail.com

Keep Your Home Safe for the Holidays

While the holidays are a fun and festive time of year, it is also one of the busiest times of year for fire departments. According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. The Ferguson Fire Department urges you to keep your home and loved ones safe by following the simple safety tips outlined below.

Christmas Trees

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday

- A dry tree burns easily so when purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green; needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles
- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant."

Caring for Your Tree

- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame, or sparks.
- Place the tree out of the way of foot traffic and do not block doorways.
- Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Holiday Lights

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed or broken wires or cracked sockets
- Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets
- Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe.
- Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should NOT be warm to the touch.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters or GFCIs. (Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where holiday lights are sold)

Decorations

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials placed away from heat vents.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use sturdy, non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down.
- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly, and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. Remember to practice your home escape plan. By following these simple tips you can keep your family safe this holiday season and greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Have a safe a Happy Holiday, The Ferguson Fire Department

Ferguson Community News Page is published monthly and paid for by the City of Ferguson.

City of Ferguson City Council: James W. Knowles, III, Mayor; Mark Byrne, Ward 1; Kim Tihen, Ward 1; Dwayne James, Ward 2; Tim Larson, Ward 2; Keith Kallstrom, Ward 3; David G. Conway, Ward 3. City Manager: John Shaw. Public Relations Intern, 314-524-5229.

City Hall: 110 Church Street, 63135, 314-521-7721. Website: www.fergusoncity.com. **Contact Us by Email:** Information@fergusoncity.com

Ferguson Community News Page

Be sure to get up to the Recreation Office to register or call us at (314) 521-4661.

Community Center

The City of Ferguson is excited to offer a diverse range of programming at the newly opened community center including fitness classes, youth programming, teen programming, senior programming, and fun family activities. The building will consist of a fitness area, a game room, gymnasium, internet café, locker rooms, multi-purpose rooms, senior center, and a teen center. The building will be open Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Community Center will be available for rentals for special events, meetings, and parties as well as provide space for a variety of community groups such as neighborhood associations, civic groups, and other local organizations to meet. The multi-purpose rooms will be able to house a small meeting up to a larger event.

Media and Materials - Traditional Uses & Beyond

This series of art classes will teach techniques and allow for guided exploration of art media and materials. The overall objective of this series is to enhance artistic confidence and creative expression. Specific media explored will include Oil Pastel, Chalk, Paper Sculpture and Mixed Media. A final "Gallery Exhibition" will be planned following the class to celebrate this creative process. Each week will focus on a specific media, with one additional "Open Studio" class as an opportunity to fine tune chosen media and techniques.

Week 1: Oil Pastel

Week 2: Chalk

Week 3: Paper Sculpture

Week 4: Mixed Media

Week 5: Open Studio

Week 6: Exhibit

Age: Children's Class: ages 8-12

Adult Class- ages 19+

Date: TBD (6 week session)

Time: Wed, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Children)

Wed, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Adult)

Location: Ferguson Community Center

Fee: \$120/Members; \$130/Residents; \$140/Non-Residents



Tiny Tot Tumbling

A wonderful opportunity for a child to learn simple steps and enjoy tumbling with other children.

Age: 3 ½ - 7

Date: TBD Time: Wed, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Ferguson Community Center

Fee: \$34/Members; \$39/Residents; \$44/Non-Residents

Petite/Ballet Dance

A wonderful opportunity for a child to learn simple steps and routines including tap and ballet.

Age: 3 ½ - 7 years old

Date: TBD

Time: Wed, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Ferguson Community Center

Fee: \$34/ Members; \$39/Residents; \$44/Non-Residents

Hip Hop/ Jazz Dance

Have fun while getting lots of exercise learning hip-hop and jazz techniques.

Age: 7-12 years old

Date: TBD

Time: Wed, 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Ferguson Community Center

Fee: \$34/Members; \$39/Residents; \$44/Non-Residents

Aerobics

This fitness program is designed for all skill levels. High Impact will improve your heart rate, increase energy levels, as well as improve strength and flexibility.

Age: 18 years & up

Date: Ongoing 6 week sessions

Time: Mon & Wed 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Ferguson Community Center

Fee: \$25/Members; \$30/Residents; \$35/Non-Residents

Total Fit

"Constantly varied, high-intensity, functional movement." Come by and see for yourself.

Age: 18 years & up

Date: Ongoing 6 week sessions

Time: Sat 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Ferguson Community Center

Fee: \$40/Members; \$45/Residents; \$50/Non-Residents

Yoga

Increase balance, ability to focus/concentrate, develop a strong core & powerful legs, build strength, and enhance muscle tone, circulation, flexibility,

posture, coordination, & range of motion. Enhance body, mind & spirit through movement, meditation & deep breathing.

Age: 18 years & up

Date: Ongoing 6 week session

Time: Tues & Thurs 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Ferguson Community Center

Fee: \$35/Members; \$40/Residents; \$45/Non-Residents

Tai Chi

The slow, dance-like speed of Tai Chi facilitates balance, flexibility, and calmness, with an emphasis on deep breathing. Tai Chi benefits your mind and body by relieving stress, improving balance, and promoting an active lifestyle.

Age: 18 years & up

Date: Ongoing 6 week session

Time: Tues & Thurs 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Ferguson Community Center

Fee: \$40/Members, \$45/Residents, \$50/Non-Residents

Zumba

Latin inspired, dance-themed workout featuring aerobic & interval training with a combination of fast & slow rhythms that tone & sculpt the body. Ditch the workout and join the party!

Age: 18 years & up

Date: Ongoing 6 week session

Time: Mon & Wed 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Ferguson Community Center

Fee: \$40/Members, \$45/Residents, \$50/Non-Residents

Senior Fitness

Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase cardiovascular health, muscular strength, and range of movement, balance, coordination, and activity for daily living skills. A chair is used for seated and/or standing support. MSROM means muscular strength & range of movement.

Age: 60 years & up

Date: Ongoing 6 week sessions

Time: Mon & Wed 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Ferguson Community Center

Fee: \$40/Members, \$45/Residents, \$50/Non-Residents

Ripped

High energy cardio exercise class that involves a variety of cardiovascular activities. This cardio class will help motivate you and challenge your existing workout.

Age: 14 years & up

Date: Ongoing 6 week sessions

Time: Mon & Wed 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Ferguson Community Center

Fee: \$40/Members, \$45/Residents, \$50/Non-Residents

Wayside Park Unleashed

This park is for the dogs, accompanied by responsible owners, to play without leashes. The facility offers a great opportunity for individuals to spend quality time with their dogs and friends while enjoying the park. The park features both small dog and large dog areas.

The park is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Registration is required and can be completed at the Recreation Office. Owners will need to bring up-to-date shot records: rabies, DHPP and Bordetella. Half off for the remainder of 2014!

Yearly Fee: \$15 Residents, \$30 Non-Residents, \$5 per additional dog (three dogs per family).

Mystery Meal

If you love good food and enjoy fun-loving people, then this program is for you! Every trip is an adventure, so register to enjoy the day with good times and good friends. Due to the popularity of this program, residents have registration priority. All residents can receive door to door pickup. Fee includes transportation via the Jolly Trolley and meal.

Date: Tues, Dec 9

Time: 10:00 a.m. pick-up

Fee: \$30/Members, \$35/Residents, \$40/Non-Residents



Garden Glow- Botanical Garden

Let's begin our trip with an exquisite Italian dinner at Favazz's on the Hill in St. Louis, Missouri. After dinner, we will make our way to the Garden Glow at the Botanical Gardens. This dazzling display of thousands of lights will take your breath away. Journey with us through an indoor train display and witness the Garden's stunning scenery and magnificent display of lights.

Don't miss out on this relaxing evening as we stroll through one of St. Louis' most beautiful destinations. Cost includes Garden Glow admission and dinner plus motor coach transportation.

Date: Wed, Dec 3

Time: 3:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Fee: \$75/Residents, \$85/Non-Residents

Ferguson Parks and Recreation (Continued from Page 5)

Musical Christmas Weekend

This jam-packed trip includes lunch and entertainment at Hardy's Reindeer Ranch, the 81st Annual Christmas Concert from Purdue University, fantastic steak lunch at the Beef House in Covington, Indiana, a Christmas concert at the University of Illinois Krannert Center, plus Christmas lights in Shelbyville, Illinois.

Date: Sat, Dec 6 - Sun, Dec 7
 Time: 7:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
 Fee: \$330/Residents, \$355/Non-Residents (double-occupancy)

Holiday Lights Tour

Come kick off the holiday season with our Holiday Lights Tour. Today we start our day with an early dinner at Ethels's Smoke House where you will have plenty of fun looking at the old time memorabilia while waiting for your delicious meal. Now let's head to the Celebration of Lights in Fort Zumwalt Park in O'Fallon, Missouri where they have thousands of beautiful lights along with many displays from groups across the area. Next we head to Tilles Park's Winter Wonderland which is a family tradition for many St. Louisians with the more than one million twinkling lights and various holiday scenes. This is sure to be a wonderful night to get you in the spirit of the season.

Date: Thurs, Dec 11
 Time: 3:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 Fee: \$58/Residents, \$63/Non-Residents

Teen Demo Ball/Adrenaline Zone

What do you get when you put hockey, football, polo, and basketball in bumper cars? Demolition Ball!! If you have ever tried it there is no way to resist a chance to play. During this trip we will also play Adrenaline Zone, played in a multi-level 6,800 square foot arena, this game will take all your skills to bring your team to victory. We finish the day with a great pizza party, now who can resist that?

Age: Teens, ages 13-17
 Date: Saturday, December 13
 Time: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Location: Ferguson Community Center
 Fee: \$15/Resident, \$20/Non-Resident

Candy Cane Hunt

For anyone who still believes! (ages 8 and under). It has been rumored someone has left candy canes on the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta's grounds. Come help us find them all. The morning activities will begin with the building of your own Gingerbread House made from graham crackers and candy. Next the group will decorate a candy cane bag, collect all the candy canes, and finally, we'll enjoy cookies and cocoa. Santa will also join us for some cookies and a one-on-one conversation. Parents must accompany children. Dress according to the weather.

Date: Saturday, December 6
 Time: 10:00 a.m.
 Location: Community Center
 Fee: \$1/Members, \$3/Residents, \$5/Non-Residents

Holiday Home Decorating

Light up your neighborhood for the holidays by entering the Ferguson Holiday Home Decoration Contest. Home exteriors will be judged on originality, creativity of lighting arrangements, and traditional holiday themes. The first and second place winners in each ward will be presented with a commemorative plaque and a temporary yard sign for their hard work. You may enter your own home or any other Ferguson home by calling the office at 521-4661. Registration deadline is Mon., December 1.

Date: Tuesday, December 2
 Time: Judging- 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
 Fee: Free/Residents



Snow Route Streets

No one wants to think about snow yet, but the Ferguson Public Works Department's snow removal crews are already making plans for the upcoming winter weather season. One of the main issues our crews encounter during snow removal is trying to properly clear our streets of snow and ice with vehicles obstructing the truck's passage. To alleviate this issue, the City has designated a number of streets as snow routes.

When a street is on a snow route, all vehicles must be removed from that street if there is an accumulation of snow and/or ice. It is best if residents remove vehicles if there is a forecast or threat of snow and/or ice to assure their vehicle does not block the snow plow. If a vehicle is parked on the street when snow and/or ice accumulate, the vehicle owner will be issued a summons and the vehicle will be towed.

We ask all residents and motorists to cooperate during inclement weather so our crews can make the streets passable and safer for all citizens and motorists. Safety is our first concern.

The following streets have been designated as snow routes:

Street	Side
Arline	west
Averil	east
Ballman (Robert to Royal)	west
Bayview Court	north, circle and court
Briarwood	entire circle
Castro (7475 to 7495)	north
Estelle (S. Harvey to Georgia)	south
Forest (Millman to Hartnett)	north
Halpin (Dupree to Blanton)	north
Lamotte	east
Laurette (Blanding to Castro)	west
Millman (Robert to Royal)	west
North Clay (Robert to Thoroughman)	west
Palace Court	north
Plaza (North to Graf)	west
Roberta	north
Ronbar Place	east
Rowles	South
Shirley	west
Superior (Robert to High)	west
Teston	west
Vershire	South and circle
Willman Court (1050 to Woodstock)	east
Wylin Court (1032 to Woodstock)	east



Brian P. Fletcher
 announces his candidacy



Ferguson City Council
Ward 2

Need a Yard Sign?
 Call Brian at 314-852-4754



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Proven Experience
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 If you have Medicaid it can be FREE!*

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EVENINGS & WEEKENDS

Ferguson Christian Church
Annual
**Cookies
(by the Pound)
Sale**



Homemade crafts, goodies and lots of cookies to help you celebrate the Holidays. Make new friends, visit with old friends over a snack of yummy Holiday Munch and a cup of hot chocolate.

All proceeds to benefit the Ferguson Christian Church's Women's Ministry.

**Sat., Dec. 13
9 am to 1 pm**

Ferguson Christian Church
303 N. Elizabeth

**Feast Day of
Our Lady of
Guadalupe**

**Friday, Dec. 12
9:00 am Mass**



Come and pray with us on this special day where we all live by **"Acceptance & Hope"**
Reception following
All are welcome

1115 So. Florissant Road
314.522.9264

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Santa's Winter Wonderland Breakfast

Continental Breakfast, Photos with Santa, Crafts, Face Painting, Games & More

**Saturday, December 13
9:00 am – 11:00 am**

BTC School

Cost: \$7.00 per person

There is no charge for children under 1

Contact Lori 522-3626 or email callmequeen@sbcglobal.net
Reservations Required.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.



Breakfast with Santa

Coming to Our Lady of Guadalupe

WHEN: Saturday, December 6, 2014
9:00 - 11:00 AM

WHERE: Our Lady of Guadalupe Cafeteria
1115 S. Florissant Rd
St. Louis, MO 63121

COST: Children \$6.00 (Breakfast and a picture with Santa)
Children under 2: FREE
Adults \$7.00 (Breakfast)
Seniors \$5.00 (Over 60)



We will be serving pancakes, sausage, orange juice, coffee & water.

Our Christmas Store will be open for everyone to make those last-minute purchases.

All proceeds go directly to Our Lady of Guadalupe school

Any questions, please call the school office at 314-524-1948

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Presents**

THE 2014 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Featuring David Horstman and Special Guests



Please join us for this 12th annual musical celebration!

Sunday December 14 at 7:00 pm

This Event is FREE!

Recommended for ages 10 & up!

St. Peter's United Church of Christ is located at
1425 Stein Road at West Florissant Ave.
For More Information Call 314-521-5694

**FLIERS
Treasures and
Treats Sale**

Friday, December 5
2:00-5:30 pm
and
Saturday, December 6
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
In Library Auditorium



The annual sale of gift items. Cookies and more . . . is here . . . come and browse at the sale.

Open two days for your convenience.

Donations may be brought to the Library.

Ferguson Library – 35 No. Florissant Rd.



**For Info
Call 522-8542**

- Breakfast • Arts & Crafts
- Santa Shop • Picture w/Santa
- Free vision screening for children (6 months to 6 years.)

**Breakfast with
Santa**

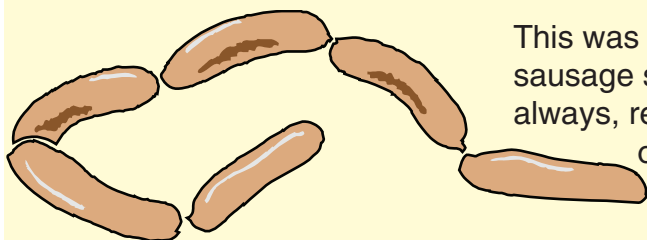
**Saturday,
December 13th
9:00 am to 11:00 am**

First Presbyterian Church of
401 Darst Road

**Donation of
PEANUT BUTTER
for the Food Pantry
is requested**

Thank You Ferguson!!

**For your continued support of the
IMMANUEL U.C.C. Wurstmart!**



This was our 73rd annual sausage supper, and, as always, residents and friends of Ferguson came out in droves!

**Save the Date: Next year's Wurstmart will be
Saturday, November 7th**

When Christmas Shopping . . . Remember

SHOP FERGUSON FIRST!

ONE Ferguson...the New Kid in Town

Mission: To re-create our community through citizen engagement, empowerment, and accountability in a sincere endeavor to move towards ONE Ferguson

Built by residents for residents.

A diverse group of Ferguson residents began meeting together in early September, holding discussions, identifying community needs, sharing ideas, working on organization, strategizing and setting up the framework for a newly formed grass roots organization calling itself ONE Ferguson. On October 28, 2014, ONE Ferguson introduced itself to the Ferguson City Council.



On Sunday afternoon, November 16, 2014, the group was ready to hold its Open House at the Ferguson Community Center. Even though it snowed lightly during the afternoon, approximately ninety Ferguson residents braved the weather to come out and learn more about the work ONE Ferguson is doing for the residents and community of Ferguson.

In two sessions, a short orientation was presented to the residents, followed by break out groups that represented the five Focus Action plans identified from the early discussions. Residents were given the opportunity to visit each of the five Focus Action tables, ask questions and share their own thoughts, ideas and solutions, where they were invited to become involved in one or more of the Focus Action groups as ONE Ferguson continues to work on solutions that will positively impact the future of all residents and our Ferguson community. The residents of Ferguson engaged in many good discussions which sparked some great ideas that can be incorporated into action items.

Focus Actions: One Ferguson will be working towards justice, understanding, reimagining, systemic reform, and a unified community through:

Police and Court Reform – Providing reform to the justice system through refinement of local ordinances and coordinated efforts to restructure the process in which police and courts are presently operating in the region.

Community Relations & Development – Providing opportunities and formulating structured dialogues to encourage residents to openly discuss issues that divide us across racial, socio-economic, and political boundaries.

Economic Development – Formation of innovative ways to bring development to our community and region.

Citizenship Support & Progress – Improving opportunities for residents to be engaged in Ferguson and coordination of resources/grass roots efforts that improve the living conditions of all residents of our community.

Resident Education Advocacy – Expansion and promotion of youth programs, civic agencies and educational programs that provide community education and training.

More information on ONE Ferguson can be found by visiting <http://www.oneferguson.com>. Follow ONE Ferguson at <https://twitter.com/oneferguson>, and join the ONE Ferguson community on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/OneFerguson>.

*Merry Christmas,
from my home to
your home!*
Pearce

**PEARCE NEIKIRK
AND PARTNERS • REALTORS**

*“Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth
peace, good will
toward men.”*

Teacher Receives Outstanding Service Award

Retired Ferguson-Florissant School District teacher, Nancy Schnell, received the Missouri Environmental Education Association Outstanding Service Award in recognition of her efforts to promote and provide environmental education leadership.

Schnell taught for 40 years in the Ferguson-Florissant School District, and still teaches at the Little Creek Nature Area. Her other ventures include founding GeesePeace, an organization devoted to reducing the geese population through humane methods, as well as donating her time at the Wildlife Rescue Center in West St. Louis County. In addition, Schnell has led a lake project at Ferguson Middle School teaching students to care for the lake ecosystem.



Pictured is Ms. Schnell (on right) with Ms. Elizabeth Petersen of the Missouri Environmental Education Association (MEEA)

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Ferguson resident for 55 years!

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You bring your leaves to the curb (not in the street) and then give us a call. We will vacuum and dispose of them. You have no backaches, no bags.

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The Ferguson Computer Corner



by Doug Neely. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11 KJV

DECEMBER, 2014, WINTER
do we have any snow yet? YES!
and that would've been back on
November 13th, in the PM. not
much, but it counts! maybe we'll
have a nice covering on December
25th; that'd be even better!

When Buying Computer Parts,
dept.
i have noticed that M.I.R.s---Mail-
In-Rebates---are still with us, and
seem to be increasing slightly. this
is a very bad thing for the con-
sumer, and i'm gonna tell you why.

but first, let me give you a quick
look into how MIRs came into
being. money. some overpaid
deskjockey came up with the idea,
you know. this guy figures that not
everyone will go to the bother of
mailing in paperwork to ask for
some of their money back. so,

when there's a \$20 rebate on a,
say, \$80 printer, the printer com-
pany pays a "fulfillment" company
\$20 times however many printers
are covered, less about, say, 40%
of that figure. well, it turns out that
this is not enuff \$, so in order to
make their idea of a nice profit, the
fulfillment company refuses to pay
many of the consumers their \$.
watcha gonna do about it?
crooks usually aren't too good at
returning stuff.

in order to comply with the rules of
the rebate, you have to send them
the "proof of purchase".
this means that when the product
fails during its warranty period, you
won't be able to send it back be-
cause you don't have the "proof of
purchase." now you have a bad
printer, and have lost all of your in-
vestment. now go out and buy an-

other printer. you probably didn't
even get your MIR refunded, didja?
it's a LEGAL way to SCAM YOU!

SOLUTION, dept.
if there's an MIR, don't buy the
product! (please note that an IN-
STANT rebate, which happens at
the cash register, is NOT the same
thing; it is a GREAT thing!) this
scam will continue as long as we re-
spond favorably to it, and that would
be our own d@\$! fault!

ME GO NOW!
i have to go prepare to protect Y &
myself. i can only do so much. i
pray to God to protect me in life,
and in death. and God never asks
me to hurt my neighbor. vengeance
is Mine, sayeth the Lord. He says
love your neighbor as you love
yourself. this Christmas, do as He
says, as you thank Him for the ul-
timate salvation found in His Son,
Jesus Christ, the Savior of the
WORLD! Amen & Amen!!!

...it is now safe to turn on your com-
puter, but pray to our heavenly Fa-
ther for true peace and safety for us
all!

If you would like to ask Doug for his
free computer advice, it's best to
call him on the phone at
*314*521*1789* in the PM hours.
When emailing, don't forget to put
the phrase "i need puter advice"
into the subject line, INCLUDE
YOUR PHONE #, and address your
missive thusly: fergusoncomputer-
corner@aol.Holiday Safety Tips
From The Ferguson Police Depart-
ment

Holiday Safety Tips From The Ferguson Police Department

- Home Safety:
- Lock all doors and windows
 - Remember to set your alarm system whether you're at home or away
 - If you see anything suspi- cious, call the Police or 911
 - Remember to let the Police Department know if you will be gone on vacation
 - Communicate with your neighbors

- Vehicle Safety:
- NEVER leave personal items (purse, cellphone, GPS systems or gift bags) in plain view inside your vehicle
 - Always lock your doors and turn on your car alarm (if you have one)
 - If you put items in the trunk, put them in there before going to your next shopping location
 - Always try to park in a well-lit area
 - Be aware of your surround- ings
 - REMEMBER, safety is in NUMBERS!

The Ferguson Police Department wishes everyone safe and happy holidays!

HEY!
To my 1000's of patients & students **IF** injured in an accident!
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ATTENTION!
Noon Swimmer's **HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHER**
Sunday, December 7th at 1:00 p.m.
Drake's Place
701 South Florissant Rd.
Lunch on your own.

Residential Locks Hard to Turn or Sticking?
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Jim Alexander
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1- Based on internal wet braking test results versus Goodyear Assurance ComfortFlex[®] Touring tire size P185R15.
2- 90,000 mile warranty for H- and T-rated tires; 80,000 mile warranty V-rated tires. See MichelinMan.com for warranty details.
3- Based on commissioned third-party wear test results versus Continental ProContact[™] with CCPlus technology tire size 215/60R16.

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Financial Focus

By Joan Cleaveland (consultjoan@att.net)
Business Manager for St. Joseph's Parish in Cottleville
Lindenwood University BA – Business Administration.

By the time you read this the verdict on the Ferguson situation will be history and we'll know just how the week before Thanksgiving unfolded. Right now, as Ferguson and the rest of the world wait for the verdict, it's been hard for me to concentrate on anything to write about. So much has happened in the past few months and we've heard so many opinions on the subject of why the tragic shooting of Michael Brown happened. Back in September, I was having the same problem and here are a couple of sentences of what I wrote then: So if the root problems are lack of trust and fear, we need to address them head on. We all need to recognize that our police departments are there to serve and protect.

I've thought a lot about this in the past few weeks and it seems as if things have actually gotten worse. There is certainly more fear, and less trust - just listen to everyone preparing for the verdict. It seems as if the protesters have already decided that if the outcome is not what they expect, it is wrong. And those angry with the protesters aren't even hearing the concerns anymore.

We all know the economic impact this is having on the entire region. And we already seem to know most of the problems. Racial profiling, economic disadvantage and those groups underrepresented in government and law enforcement are at a disadvantage. Yet many of these issues have been brought up before. Just look back fifty years and what have we done to solve them – not much. And Governor Nixon has set up a new committee to help. Let's hope they can really make some change happen.

So just to mention a few things that got my attention over the past few weeks. First, how do we help change the perception of people regarding those less fortunate regardless of race. Our experiences are what really make up the way we see the world. If we've had good experiences with those who are different from ourselves we are likely to regard them differently than if we haven't. I recall talking to some cousins of mine who went to high school in Kansas City back in the late sixties and early seventies. The school I went to didn't have much diversity and I once pointed out that they were the fortunate ones. That is not how they saw it. They told me that if I had experienced the things they were going through I would feel much differently. After hearing about some violence that broke out and then seeing my cousin quit school and go for his GED, I got a taste of what he was feeling. I am observing these same attitudes with the protests and it is sad because it just reinforces the attitudes that we need to change.

Those who are economically disadvantaged are also perceived in various ways. We've all had some difficulties getting to where we are today. And if you've overcome some you should feel proud of yourself. Sometimes we seem to only be hearing that a person is not able to succeed unless they receive the same advantages as others. That certainly is not always true. There are many cases that we've even seen in the Post Dispatch about young people who have overcome obstacles to achieve a college degree. They may have had parents in jail or involved with drugs. They may have had no place to call home and yet through hard work they have been able to overcome this. Often, a teacher or another influence was there to help with a boost, but for the most part the person had to look within themselves and not fall into the trap so many young people fall into that keep them from success.

Now you may be thinking that's fine, but it isn't that easy. No, it certainly isn't and if we can make certain that all school children are given the proper tools for success from our educational system; that would mean a lot. How many times in the past few weeks have we read about the lack of textbooks for some schools? Our system of doling out dollars for education must be lacking in some type of oversight because this should not be happening.

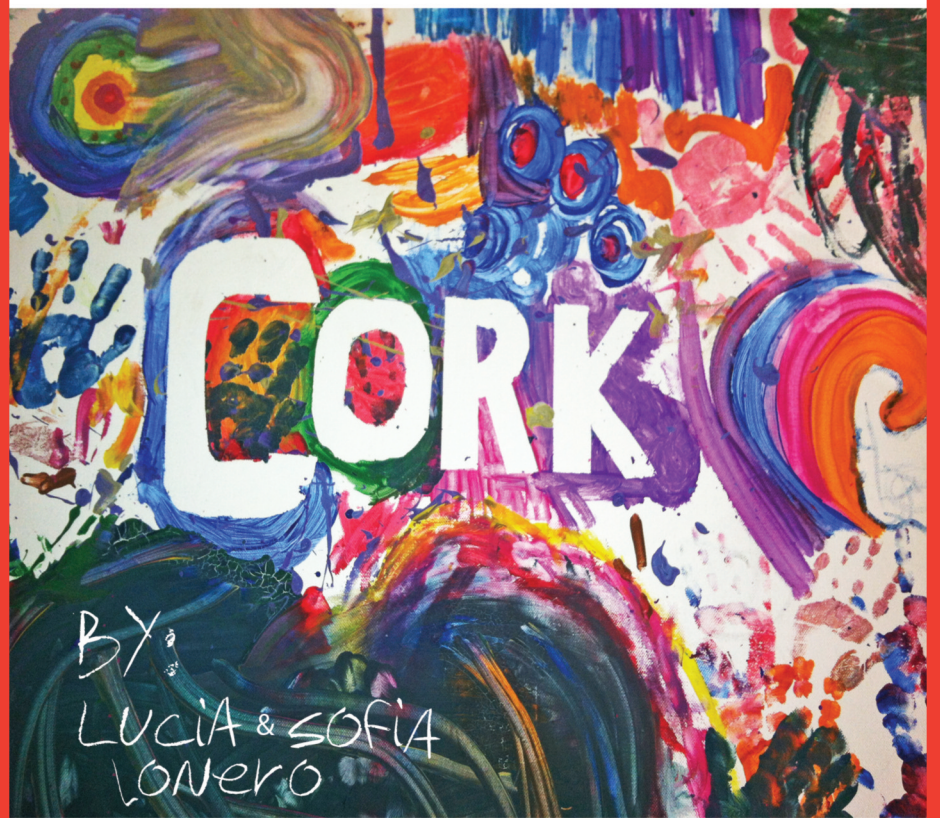
So we hear that more jobs are going to be coming to North County – wonderful! Now all of those who do not have jobs can become employed. Not necessarily, because they may lack the skills needed for the jobs available. We can't expect a business to just hire someone because they live in North County and need a job. So that educational component is so very important. And that also touches on the last issue of those not being represented in Government and Police. I was as shocked as many were when the front page several weeks ago reported just how many minority police officers were in each jurisdiction compared to the racial make-up of the municipality. Must we count everything along these lines? If someone could travel in a time machine from 1950 and see the diversity in our government and police departments today they would probably be astounded. They may think we had finally made it to a period where race doesn't matter and that the person with their own qualifications can achieve success. Then they would open the newspaper and see what is happening in Ferguson – only to be let down and realize that we haven't come as far as we thought.

So how do we ensure that all people are represented? We take the time to do what all good citizens do and vote. We let our voice be heard and if we don't like what is happening we may even decide to run for office. As we've been hearing so much the main component is providing a good start to our children and helping them to see the world differently and experience the good things

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Thursday,
December 11th

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Please bring an unwrapped toy and / or
nonperishable food items.
Contact 314-291-2131

that are out there. We can't let our past experience that may not always be positive drive the way we act in the future. So I do hope we are ready to move forward and make Ferguson and St. Louis better.

While we are thinking about the importance of voting, I want to mention a funny thing happened when I went to vote a few weeks ago. In my haste to be an early voter I grabbed my voter card and carefully placed my son's in the hands of a plastic mummy on my dining room table set out for Halloween. When I got to my voting place I showed my card and expected to sign my name in the big book they usually have. No more they said – we are updated we don't need that card – they must have quickly scanned it while I still held it in my hand then I was handed my ballot and went to the booth. I felt good knowing I had done my civic duty and also let my voice be heard. I went thru the day wearing my sticker proudly. About 7:00 pm, my son called my cell phone and told me he went to vote and was told he had already voted. He said after the workers looked into it further and told him that I had not voted he knew this couldn't be. So he explained I must have grabbed his card and he had not brought the one I left for him on the table. They allowed him to vote with a provisional ballot and he called me to let me know. I was amazed that this happened. Later I got home and checked the card in the mummy's hand and sure enough it was mine. Is this how dead people vote? As voting becomes more automated, I guess we all need to be careful.

The town and the people of Ferguson are dear to my heart and I will continue to pray for a better world for our children. Let's all do what we can to change perceptions and make sure everyone has the chance to make difference to make our community better. If you have comments or suggestions please e-mail consultjoan@att.net.

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Ferguson by Foot

By: Margaret Wolfinbarger

It starts with red ribbons. Then strings of sparkling white lights pop up. Then the signs on our Victorian street lamps begin to flutter. Christmas in Ferguson is indeed very merry. The Northern Lights parade and additional activities are some of my favorite events of the whole year. I have built countless gingerbread houses and consumed many steaming cups of hot cocoa in our downtown district. There is nothing as wonderful as standing by a warm fire with my friends while catching up about the events of past year. Ferguson has an old

world charm no other city can replicate. I even remember the winter our mayor proposed to his wife while lighting the Christmas tree. It was a truly memorable experience.

I will admit that I am a terrible decorator. I don't have pretty lights on my house and most years I barely manage to get ornaments on the tree. My children rally around me in a whirlwind begging to start the festivities and I like to give them the opportunity to decorate the way they want to. This means every single Christmas knick-knack is dutifully lined up on the mantle over the fireplace; wise men and snow men, angels and Santa Claus, a nut cracker and a reindeer with a missing antler. All of this is done while our dog bounces and tries to rip the sparkling balls off the tree. It is a beautiful, chaotic, jubilee!

As I swirl through the hubbub, I consider how easy it is to put off my morning workouts. I have so many excuses. It's too cold outside. I'm too tired to get up in the morning. I'd rather eat fudge. The past several years I have put on at least 10 pounds over the holidays and it takes months to get them back off. Not this year!

I have made an old year resolution (considering 2014 is certainly old at this point).

I shall not eat cookies. I shall exercise every day. Look, there are some piggy's flying outside my window. But seriously, how in the world can I make it through the foodiest time of the year without gaining weight?

I have challenged myself to employ several sure fire strategies. First and foremost, my place of employment is a holly, jolly, place. There are so many holiday parties it's a miracle any work gets done. There are candy, muffins, cookies and peanut brittle on every filing cabinet. The associates walk around buzzed on sugar for a month solid. It feels like pure torture trying to adhere to any kind of sensible eating plan during this time but I know from past experience it is not impossible. Sure, the easiest thing to do is stay in my cube and hide from my co-workers, but sometimes that's just not possible. I suppose I could make it really easy on myself and have a shirt made that says, "No thank you" but I'm a spend-thrift. Therefore I have decided to wield the mightiest tool in my filing cabinet, the word no.

"Margaret, would you like some special Christmas Kringle? It was shipped all the way from Holland!" No. "Margaret, you have to try this fudge. I made it myself with cocoa beans ground by hand." No. "Margaret, come on. You have to treat yourself some time. Try this black licorice. You won't regret it." Now that one kind of makes me pause because I love black licorice, but as hard as it is, I want to fit into my favorite pants in January, so, uh, NO.

Our culture certainly has us buffalood. Why do we assume our holiday traditions must include gut-busting feasts? Sure, it's okay to have a treat. After all, Grandma's chocolate crinkle cookies only appear once a year and she tucks love into each and every one. But it is possible to limit yourself to two (or none if you have a cookie addiction like I do). I believe the holidays are about celebrating the love we have for God and each other, not competing to see who can eat the most ginger bread men.

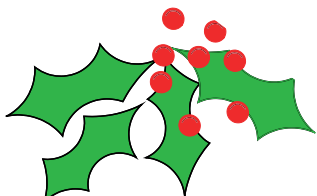
If you were wondering, I will be walking the streets of Ferguson in December. Sure, it's cold. Sure, it might be cloudy, but I love our little town. I love the quiet cul-de-sacs, the quirky corners, and the sugary sweet glow that pours out of the Victorian homes. I will celebrate Christmas by hugging my loved ones, expressing my gratitude to my friends and neighbors, and giving glory to God in the highest! For more inspiration, visit me on my blog: <http://margaretwolfinbarger.blogspot.com>

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President's Volunteer Service Award

On Oct. 30, the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ) presented Ferguson-Florissant administrators and students with the President's Volunteer Service Award for their ongoing work with students and the community of Ferguson.

The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to serve their fellow citizens.



Pictured, left to right: Ferguson-Florissant School District Chief Learning Officer Dr. Gwendolyn Diggs, McCluer South-Berkeley High School sophomore Charlene Davis, McCluer South-Berkeley High School Principal Mr. Steven Lawler and McCluer South-Berkeley High School sophomore Walter Shannon.

Letter to the Editor

Thanks to the courage of the people of Ferguson to confront their challenges, I have complete faith that we can and will come together. I know we can because I've seen it. Right here in the Ferguson Library, when the children of Ferguson needed us, we were here. We, the wider Ferguson community, came together because we had embraced a common cause. I hope that we can now find, in each other, our common cause. Here's my pitch for a starting point, that one thing we can all agree on: I want every single member of this community to feel included and important. We all do. This is our common cause. We need to be truly inclusive, and continue making plans toward that end. This will happen. This must happen. I believe, in the end, we will stand united. Because, in the end, we are family.

Scott Bonner, Library Director of Ferguson Municipal Public Library District

ATTENTION!
 Noon
 Swimmer's
**HOLIDAY
 GET-TO-
 GETHER**



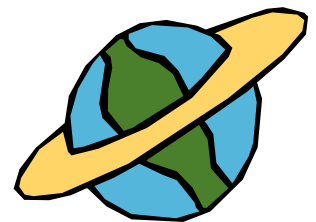
Sunday, December 7th
 at 1:00 p.m.
 Drake's Place
 701 South Florissant Rd.
 Lunch on your own.

OAK CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE

The City has acquired these pews when purchasing the property for the new Community Center. They are currently disassembled and in storage.

Please contact the Public Works Department at 314-524-5191.

Purchaser responsible for loading and hauling pews from the site.



And Now a Word from Our Planet

Befriend the earth and our community with green giving: See how many of gifts you can find in businesses within two miles of your home. Choose earth friendly gifts from the Farmers Market. Make something for a gift from your heart.

(This message is provided as a courtesy of the Ferguson Eco Team.)

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 Non-legal test (up to 3 people) ..\$295
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Exercise with Melanie-FREE classes
Classes are led by a licensed Physical Therapist with the use of weights & resistance bands that are provided! Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. No class on Dec 17, 24, 31 A make-up class will be held Dec 19 RSVP by calling 314-838-3877

Blood Pressure Clinic
Thursday Dec 4 and 18 10:00 a.m. Refreshments served RSVP by calling 314-838-3877

Tai Chi for Seniors - FREE classes
Friday, Dec 5, 12, 19 10:00 a.m. Reduce stress, strengthen joints, develop balance and coordination. No class on Dec 26 RSVP by calling 314-838-3877

Line Dancing with Minnie
Every Monday at 6:00 pm Beginners welcome!

No class on Dec 15
RSVP by calling 314-838-3877

Christmas Happy Hour
Entertainment with Gary Bennett 10:30 a.m. Happy Hour 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec 9 Followed by Complimentary Lunch RSVP by Dec 5 314-838-3877

Balance Screening and Blood Pressure Clinic
Sponsored by GENTIVA Thursday Dec 11 9:30 a.m. Complimentary Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. RSVP by Dec 5 – 314-838-3877

Project Hands
No meeting in December



Under The Hood With Robinwood

By Bob McGartland

Shoebboxes For Seniors

I want to leave the hood closed this month related to an automotive subject and open the door of our hearts towards others. The holiday season has us in the mood to be more thoughtful, kind and generous. There are many donation programs during Christmas time that support children but there aren't many that help out our senior citizens. This holiday season Robinwood Automotive is partnering with Dr. Robyn Lawrence from Ferguson Wellness and Chiropractic in doing a project called Shoebboxes for Seniors. A simple idea of taking a shoe box, filling it with useful items and giving them as gifts to our older adult seniors. We have modeled this from a program called Operation Christmas Child sponsored by the international organization called Samaritan's Purse. They collect donated items, filled shoe boxes and ship them to children around the world.

Dr Robyn and I are asking for your help in bringing a brighter Christmas to our local seniors. Here is our wish list of items we want to pack our shoe boxes with. Gloves, scarves, stocking hats, slippers, socks, tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorant, bar soap, shampoo, hair conditioner, body wash, combs, hair brushes, hand lotion, powder, disposal razors and shaving cream. To sweeten the boxes, candy bars, holiday candy, small

packages of cookies and gum. A \$5.00 gift certificate to a fast food restaurant is something they would enjoy. If you want to make a monetary donation; we will use the money to purchase items to fill the boxes.

We also need your shoe boxes. Empty out the shoes, dust them off, add some items and bring them in. There will be two drop off locations. Ferguson Wellness & Chiropractic office located at 111 Church Street suite #111, (across from Ferguson City Hall.) Or bring your items to Robinwood Automotive at 803 So. Florissant Road.

We would like to set a challenge to the community, the person donating the MOST items at each location will win a great prize; a FREE regular oil change at Robinwood Automotive or a FREE adjustment at Ferguson Wellness. So get those donations in!

Our deadline for your donations is Thursday, December 18th. The shoe boxes will be distributed to seniors by the Saint Vincent De Paul of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church at their food pantries on Friday December 19th and Tuesday December 23rd. Also if you know someone in your neighborhood that could use some holiday cheer, please give us his/her name, address and phone number. We will deliver a shoe box to them before Christmas. These gift shoeboxes will bring them joy and send a message we care. Dr Robyn Lawrence and I want to thank you in advance for your generous support.

We wish all of you God's blessings of peace and joy this holiday season and throughout the year.



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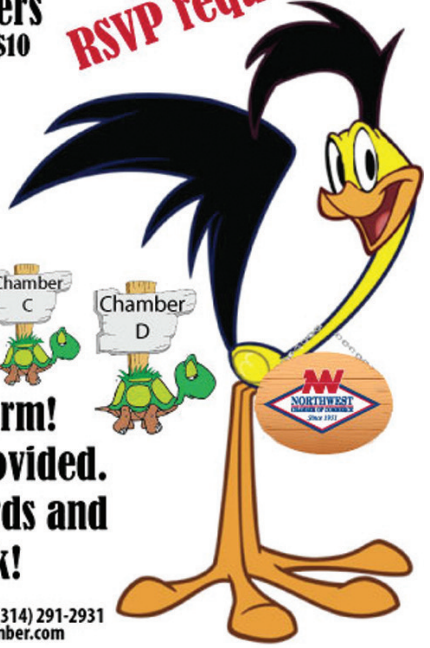
275 North Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63141-7809
Tel (314) 993-4261
e-mail: dcallahan@callahanlaw.net



Friday, December 5th
Registration & Breakfast at 7:45am
Speed Networking at 8:30am

\$15 for Chamber Members
*Bring a non-member, get in for \$10
\$20 for Visitors

RSVP required!



Early bird gets the worm!
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Civil Rights Icons Visit McCluer South Berkeley High School



On Thursday, Oct. 30, more than 300 students from McCluer South-Berkeley High School listened as civil rights icons Carlotta Walls LaNier and Edith Lee Payne spoke about the lessons of the civil rights movement and the importance of education in the pursuit of continued progress.

The presentation was part of an assembly titled "Take a Stand to Keep a Seat" and was presented by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ) in partnership with the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ).

The presentation encouraged students to apply the lessons of civil rights youth leadership to challenge personal decisions and maintain a strong focus on education.

The event was part of the NAFJ's "Pen or Pencil" initiative which focuses on dropout reduction, mentoring, crime prevention and service learning to encourage students to make the choice between "the pen"(penitentiary) and "the pencil" (education).

School District Honors Students and Staff

The Ferguson-Florissant School District's Board of Education honored the achievements of students, staff and community members at its monthly board meeting.

McCluer High School student Anitra Adams was recently named Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship program. Ms. Adams scored in the top three percent of the 160,000 African-American students who took the PSAT exam.

Three educators in the Ferguson-Florissant School District were selected by the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority Alpha Zeta Chapter to receive the annual "Apple for the Teacher" award. The honor is given to educators who demonstrate excellence and who make a difference in the lives of students and in the community. This year's awardees are Ms. Charisse Baker-Ingram, a mathematics teacher at McCluer South-Berkeley High School; Ms. Betty Fagan, retired principal of McCluer South-Berkeley High School, and Ms. Shontell Woods, early education teacher at Airport Elementary School.

Five Ferguson-Florissant School District students were honored at the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority Inc. Alpha Zeta Chapter's annual "Apple for the Teacher" Awards Luncheon. The students all placed in the sorority's annual National Essay Contest in their respective divisions. In the Middle School Division, three Ferguson Middle School eighth-grade students received awards: Nicholas Armstead took third place and received a \$50 prize; Vashara Johnson took second place and received a \$75 prize; and Jazmin Woodcox took first place and received a \$100 prize. In the High School Division, two McCluer South-Berkeley students received awards: Junior Amber Keys took third place and received a \$50 prize and senior Jared Williams took second place and received a \$75 prize.

Ferguson-Florissant Elementary Science Instructional Coach Mrs. Christine Ries was selected as one of this year's Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award recipients for her outstanding contributions to science education. The Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards are given annually to area teachers who demonstrate dedication to students through excellence in education. Mrs. Ries received her award at a ceremony on Nov. 16.

Students from cooking classes in each FFSD high school came together to compete in a cooking competition inspired by a popular Food Network TV show where chefs create dishes based on a mandatory ingredient. The teams from McCluer, McCluer North, and McCluer South-Berkeley High School had one hour to create a dish incorporating sweet potatoes grown at Earthdance Farms in Ferguson. Each team presented their recipes to a panel of four judges that included Laura Modrusic, the CFO of FFSD, Michael Lepage, an instructor at Le Cordon Bleu, Cortez Thomas, a graduate of McCluer High School and current pastry chef at Cathy's Kitchen in Ferguson and District chef Tony Dodson. The McCluer South-Berkeley High School team of Michael Miller, Eryania Porter, Brittany Taylor and Nijahnae Davis won the competition with their roasted sweet potato and spicy black bean tacos. Team members were awarded cookbooks and a trophy.

Ferguson Wellness & Chiropractic

Dr. Robyn Lawrence
314-524-2580

111 Church Street, Ferguson
dr.robyn@getwellferguson.com
www.getwellferguson.com

Dr. Robyn's Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
10:00 am to 6:00 pm
& Friday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm



Ferguson Wellness and Robinwood Automotive have teamed up this holiday season to spread some joy to the seniors of our community that have been so affected by the recent turmoil. Let's show them some love and let them know they are safe and cared for this year

Wish list:

- Gloves, scarves, stocking hats, slippers
- socks, tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorant, bar soap, shampoo, hair conditioner, body wash, combs, hair brushes, hand lotion, powder, disposal razors and shaving cream.
- To sweeten the boxes, candy bars, holiday candy, small packages of cookies and gum.
- A \$5.00 gift certificates to a fast food restaurants are something they would enjoy.
- Monetary donations will be used to purchase items to fill the boxes.

We also need your shoe boxes. Empty out the shoes, dust them off, add some items and bring them in.

Donations Due by *December 18th*

Two Drop Off Locations

FWC @ 111 Church St., Ste 111

&

Robinwood Automotive @ 803 S. Florissant Rd.

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Teen Outreach Program Serves the Community

Students participating in Teen Outreach Program (TOP) at McCluer High School engaged in two days of community service learning at the end of October. As part of the program, students participate in the project planning process, implement the projects with the TOP facilitators, and engage in debrief activities to reflect on their service experiences. At the end of each day of service, students wrote individual newspaper articles about their service experiences, which are compiled below. Enjoy the overviews provided, as told through the eyes of the teens!



Community Gardens

On October 29th, students in Ms. Whitley's sections of the Teen Outreach Program set out for a day of community service learning in four area community gardens: Art of Farming, COLA Victory Garden, Riverview Gardens Community Garden, and McCluer North Community Garden. Many of the students had never worked in a garden before, and some of them had their reservations about dirt, bugs, and hard work. "When I saw the garden, I thought that it would be boring and hard. Once I got the hang of it, it was pretty fun!...I would love to visit the garden again to help out," said Hayley Drake. The adult chaperons on the trip were very impressed with the students' ability to adapt to the tasks and the hard work they put in, and students were proud of themselves. "I was focused and determined to start and finish the work," said Mallori Cowan-Hoskins.

Students completed a variety of tasks for the four gardens, including harvesting the last of the season's produce and preparing the gardens for next year. Ariyana Tate, Asya McDaniel, and Terionna Harrold explained: "Growing season is over so we had to get the soil ready for next growing season. First we had to pull up the weeds and dead plants. Then we turned the soil. Lastly, we covered the plots with mulch and mixed it in. This is supposed to help the soil be healthy and ready for seeds next season."

Students learned that some tasks are more easily completed with a team. "We all worked together with each other to get the job done," said Shania Madison, Leslie Murphy, and Bryanna Bass. And sometimes this meant working with people they didn't really know that well: "I talked to people I had never really talked to before," said Jade Ray.

Perhaps the most satisfying aspect of the day was knowing that the food from the gardens would go to those who need it most. Antonio Sharkey stated, "I feel very happy helping families who can't afford food." Antonio spent the day in COLA Victory Garden, which donates most of its produce to a local food pantry. At Art of Farming, "everything they grow they give to people in the safe house and homeless people. We left dirty and with people happy," said Angel Hayes of her work that will help supply food to a local domestic violence shelter. "I had a wonderful time helping out for a good cause for other people. I hope they are pleased with our help," said Maya Morris.

The day of garden work was also an opportunity for students to gain skills and knowledge about how food is grown. Manasseh Kimbrough took the opportunity to glean as much information as he could from COLA Victory Garden volunteer, Sandra. "I learned that they allow spiders, lady bugs, etc. to kill other bad insects that try to kill the plants. I learned a lot of things today," said Manasseh. Their own hard work gave students some perspective on the work others do: "I have a lot more respect for gardeners now because it is a lot of hard work," said Toryan Merritt. By the end of the day, the folks who hosted students at the four garden sites were all amazed by how much work the students did, and very grateful for the help. Jordan Bailey observed: "We all did hands on work to accomplish a lot."

Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Students in Mr. Stiefer's sections of the Teen Outreach Program had planned an event in January-Wabash Park, scheduled for Thursday, October 30th 2014. "The original plan was to have a picnic for [residents staying

at] two local homeless shelters but one was booked for something else and the other shelter's people were able to find permanent homes" explains Daniel Miller. "These creative students, ranging from grades 9 to 12, decided to turn the day in the park gone wrong into a teacher appreciation event gone right. [We] took all the food and activities [we] were going to use to help the less fortunate to give all of the teachers a nice lunch and some fun to go with it" quotes LaNesha Clark. "Within only a few hours, the students were able to make lunches, decorate the gym, and plan activities for teachers" says Michelle Knobloch. Additional activities put on by the teens included writing positive "thank you" messages on sidewalks surrounding the building, a facepainting station, and a cake walk with cupcakes that had been donated by Schnucks as the prize.

Although students did not get to work directly with residents of the homeless shelters, many still participated in making fleece tie blankets which will be donated locally to those in need. Michael Combs reflects that "I think what took place was a good thing. We got to help the homeless and show appreciation to our teachers." Cydnee Baker agrees that "Even though we didn't get a chance to go on our field trip, we still helped the homeless and showed our appreciation to the school staff. Today was great."

Students truly had great attitudes about the last minute change in plans, and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to thank the McCluer High School staff for all they do for students. "It was fun to give back to teachers because they give so much to their students," said Ariana Davis. The lunch also gave the students the chance to reflect on all their teachers do for them. "Though we did not hold [the event] for the homeless this time, it feels good to show the teachers how much we care and appreciate their guidance," said Daniel Miller. Natasha Ceaser agreed: "We truly appreciate teachers because they have a choice to be here or not, and they do even though they get disrespected."

Justin Walker-Wright explains that while "our trip was cancelled, it did not stop us from helping people." Kynnedi Eldridge agrees, "Even though things did not go as planned, it turned out better than I thought." Students on both field trips put in a great deal of work to make their own experiences successful and meaningful, and their TOP facilitators Britani and Kelsey look forward to seeing how these students continue to serve their communities during their time here at McCluer.



Students preparing a "Teachers' Appreciation" lunch.

A Christmas Story

It was coming up to Christmas and Sammy asked his mum if he could have a new bike. She told him that the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus. But Sam, having just played a vital role in the school nativity play, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. So his mum told him that would be fine.

Sam went to his room and wrote, 'Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas.'

But he wasn't very happy when he read it over. So he decided to try again and this time he wrote: 'Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas.'

He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either. He tried a third version: 'Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike.'

He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go out for a walk while he thought about a better approach. After a short time he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote this letter.

'Dear Jesus, If you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike.'

Ferguson OnWatch News

as reported by Keith Kallstrom
keith.kallstrom@gmail.com



Lt. Ray Nabzdyk opened the November 12th, 2014 meeting of the Ferguson On Watch, welcoming everyone. Community Resource Officer Tim Zoll was out due to an infection in his leg. The monthly crime statistics for October 2014 were then passed out.

Police Station Construction

All personnel is currently in the lower level of the station. In the next two or three weeks people will begin to move back upstairs. Currently a new sally port is under construction.

Department of Justice(DOJ)

There are 4 groups of DOJ.
1) Community Relations Service. Two people from their Kansas City office are here. They try to get people talking. They were also responsible for getting the police to wear their regular uniforms beginning on Labor Day.
2) Civil Rights Division. They handle complaints about procedures. There are about 12-14 of them working in Ferguson. Their report is due to come out around the end of the year, or in January.
3) Civil Rights Attorneys. They deal with criminal civil rights enforcement.
4) C.O.P.S program. Community Oriented Policing Services, dealing with the younger generation. We want a relationship with the kids. Remember the Terrific Kids Program? Ray did kids pro-

grams for seven years back in the 90s.

Preparation for Grand Jury Announcement

In preparation for the grand jury announcement our police now have ballistic helmets and shields.

Contingence of police officers will be available at the Ferguson police station, Westfall Shopping Center (old Northland), and 4 or 5 other local sites. St. Louis city police will be taking care of St. Louis city.

We also have arrangements for 20 to 30 extra ambulances to be available at various staging areas. St. Louis County asked the governor about the National Guard, and confirmed that the governor would activate them if needed.

There are some nasty and subversive groups who will be protesting.

The next Ferguson Neighborhood Watch meeting scheduled at City Hall would be the Christmas party at 7:00 pm on December 10th, .

Cert Update:

Cert helped the Ferguson Police arrange space for the donated food goods that was collected at Fire House 1.

What A TIME FOR PROUD.

Some would find it hard to believe that twenty years ago the City of Ferguson began the discussion on Diversity and Acceptance, but, in fact we did.

In 1993 the City Manager, Robert Burns, and Mayor Mike James, discovered the Village of Oak Park, Illinois; an upper middle-class suburb of Chicago that had taken on the responsibility of developing a Community that would promote and control the growing diversity of its neighborhood.

The City Fathers of Ferguson asked the Village of Oak Park if we could host their annual Conference here in Ferguson, and, in October of 1994, it happened. Following the success of the Oak Park Congress (Conference of Diversity) held on the Campus of Florissant-Valley Community College, probably the first and largest conference on "Inclusion" in the region, a grass root group of Ferguson Citizens took that excitement and created a pioneering organization called PROUD (People Reaching Out for Unity and Diversity).

For the next 16 years PROUD spearheaded the message and ideology that our "Differences are our Assets." I was elected Chair of the organization and for the next decade and a half we challenged ourselves and the City (citizens) of Ferguson with the belief that advocacy of acceptance was in our best Interest. The idea that each resident and ethnic group brought strength to our Community would be the way we would sustain the quality of life for us all.



Over the years we introduced programs to the City similar to those in Chicago. We formed sub-committees: City Services, Public Relations, Housing, Education, Special Task and others. We brought in guest speakers to help us; created activities that would bring us together like, the annual Art Festival, Essay Contest during Black History; The Evening in the Garden Fundraiser, Cemetery Tours to help educate us on the Pioneers who came before us, Halloween window painting for children & families and revitalized the Welcoming Committee for new residents. Our success brought us notoriety both Local and National. PROUD was once recognized on the Whitehouse website during the Clinton Administration as a Promising Practice.

One of the most successful endeavors we undertook came about when a local organization, "Focus St Louis," asks that we participate in a new endeavor entitled "Courageous Conversations." What we experienced from this effort was astounding and eye opening; truly an "Ah Ha" moment. When individuals came together to share their stories, personal connections began to happen at the table. I firmly believe we found the answer; the difference between a good friend and a stranger; "Someone You Know." That's what the Conversations provided.

PROUD ceased meeting in 2011; however, the website www.proudgroup.org still provides information on what we stood for. Many have asked if there's interest for PROUD to continue? You decide.

Sincerely, Chuck Henson
(see website above)

Making a Difference Ministries 3rd Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, December 7 at 3:30 p.m.

1325 North Lindbergh, Florissant
Theme: "Continuing in the Faith"
Guest Soloist: Ms. Adrienne Felton
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For Sale - As Is

- by Bob McCarty



"For Sale - As Is," read the realtor's ad,
"Furnishings Included,
Beautiful Home, Magnificent View,
Private and Secluded!"

With interest, I approached the house,
Neglected, of course, and run-down,
Cobwebs and spiders, mouse tracks and
mice,
And layers of dust all around.

The realtor said she was 'sorry,'
She had not seen this place before,
Her orders had come in the mail,
"Sell the house - as is" ... nothing more.

Distaste for the place showed on her
face,
But I smiled and said, "I've seen worse,"
"Well, I haven't," she said, with disgust,
Her voice sarcastic and terse.

Wainscoting and woodwork - yellowed
with age,
Hand-carved banisters - broken and
cracked,
Floors - moaning and groaning under
our weight,
Brass fixtures - discolored and black.

But all around, clues could be found
This once was a house that was prime,
Though it had no loving care,
For a very long, long time,

A grand staircase swept up from below,
Elaborate in marble and teak,
Time and grime may have stolen its
shine,
But there it stood ... still proud and
unique.

Then next a great room with huge
windows,
Surely a ballroom meant for a dance,
Its draperies, musty and dusty,
Yet displaying an old elegance.

A chandelier hung from the ceiling,
Though archaic, it welcomed the light,
It gleamed a bit when the sunshine hit,
Thus proving it still had a life.



I closed my eyes and saw ladies in
gowns,
And men in full dress, bowing low,
I heard a lively tune that filled the
room,
And caught myself tapping my toe.

I saw children on the banisters,
I heard them giggle sliding by,
I saw them racing one another
Up the stairs for one more try.

The pictures in my mind persisted,
This abandoned place was once a
home,
Love, warmth, and cheer one time
were here,
Though now it was cold and alone.

"I'll take the house!" I blurted out,
The realtor was struck dumb,
"Yes, I know what I am doing!"
She stood there, startled and
stunned.

The price was right; the deed was
done,
My name went on the dotted line,
We shook hands; she left in haste,
I guess for fear I'd change my mind.

I looked about and made a vow,
I swore I would revive this place,
Too much still alive in here,
Not time to go or be replaced.

I had the needed tools to use,
Soap and water ... and elbow grease,
But most of all what I possessed
Was a wondrous dream
that would not cease.

From laughing children on a staircase,
To dancing feet on polished floors,
From opened curtains at big windows,
To sunshine streaming in galore.

The poor realtor no way could see
The same house that I saw,
She only used her eyes to look,
So, she could not see it all.

Thus, to see things best,
I must suggest
One employ all ones faculties,
Not just ones eyes to look around,
But use ones heart to fully see.

Virginia (Ginny) Ellis
Copyright January 2010

If you like the poetry I have incorporated
into this article these past few months,
you can find lots more at
www.poetrybyginny.com.
There are lots of poems and many
topics for your reading pleasure.

We here at Bob on Job, Painted Effects,
want to wish you and yours a joyful
holiday season. Until next year, Bob is
on the job. Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year.

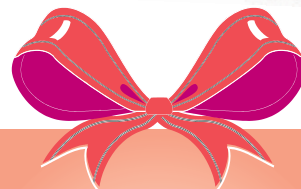


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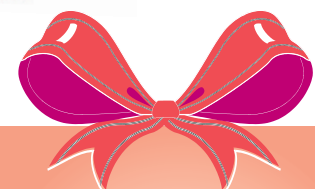
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Djeli Tales

By Mama Lisa Gage

On Wednesday, December 10, nations around the world will observe Human Rights Day. Beginning in 1948, international pressure to shift away from the damaging violations observed during World War II changed history. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was a unification doctrine aimed at creating a shared value system to be respected worldwide (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr>). By 1950, a United Nations proclamation set the date for an annual recognition. Observance events geared towards educating citizens about the importance of basic human rights may include protest activities and exhibitions, as well as cultural presentations involving the arts.

Now that dialogue about Ferguson has reached the chambers of the United Nations abroad, now is also a good time to help students understand more fully their roles in becoming a part of nation building. They are expected to actively engage in the political process on behalf of youth, women, minorities, the disabled, the poor, and others. Structured guidance is crucial in helping students adopt an attitude of universal care for their communities and develop a better understanding of the interlocking affects of community partnerships. Learning to have a high regard for the rights of all human beings without discrimination must be practiced on multiple levels.

Under the leadership of Joseph Anderson, the 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis increased its programming for students during 2014. (100blackmenstl.com) A local Collegiate 100 and Emerging 100 component, managed by committee chairman Darius Chapman, set new norms for teens in the form of the #WTHisCool (What's Cool) Youth Summit. All summit workshops focused on education, financial empowerment, health and wellness, as well as mentorship. Two summits convened in May and November for teens 12-18 years of age at Vashon and Normandy High Schools respectively.

The latter was hosted by radio personality A-Plus of Hot 104.1 FM. Students from Normandy, MICDS, Jennings, Hazelwood, Vashon, Webster Groves, McKinley, and Confluence Academy interacted well to receive training on personal swag, brand awareness, nutrition, sexual responsibility, fitness, and volunteerism. Additional break-out sessions included knowing the ins-and-outs of money management and knowing the legal rights of dealing with community authority figures. Lively discussions and debates challenged the students to express and defend their points of view. Participants and their mentors were thoroughly pleased by the chance to bond in a unique way. Andrea Hayes, Hazelwood teacher and Therapeutic Mentor, enrolled two mentees from the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services of Missouri. The registration, workshops and lunch were at no cost to the students. Several attendance prizes and other giveaways broadened the smiles of an already hyped group of teens. As an added bonus, the students were able to establish new friendships and make connections with teens from other schools for future networking. A rousing performance by rapper Saint Orleans brought an exciting close to the event in Normandy.

This is exactly the type of bonding needed for the teens in Ferguson. As 2014 comes to a close, let's reflect upon including successful strategies that will refocus the youth upon blended partnerships and community service. Feel free to contact the 100 Black Men organization to host a youth summit in the area (Emerging100stl.info@gmail.com). This will not only give local teens a chance to receive great fellowship, but it will also heighten their application of Article 26 of the Human Rights Declaration: the right to an education that will "...be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms," and "it shall promote tolerance, understanding, and friendship..." What better gift to give a child during this special time of year. Please have a happy & safe holiday season!

Oak Hill Baptist Church

Food and Clothing Pantry

Open every 3rd Saturday of the Month (December 20th)
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Church is located at 2166 Pershall Road

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Pantry is open to the General Public and is well stocked with donated items. Spread the word about this free community resource sponsored by Oak Hill Baptist Church where "There is a place for everyone"

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Kiwanis Donates Outdoor Furniture



Marie Gores, Secretary, and Rose Bollinger, President, of the Ferguson Kiwanis Club presenting a check for \$1,500 to Stan Kreitler from the Parks and Recreation Department. The money was used to purchase outdoor furniture for the Ferguson Community Center.

Ferguson businesses, show your holiday spirit!



Bring some cheer to your neighbors by decorating your door. If your business is boarded up, find unique ways to make it festive!

Your area Boy/Girl Scouts or church groups may be able to help. Call the Ferguson Youth Initiative Community Service program for possible decorating assistance. Call 314-324-4298.

1st and 2nd place for best decorations. Winners will be announced Monday, December 15.

Happy Holidays from the CityWalk Board!

www.fergusoncitywalk.com
314-524-5197

Students Collect for Old Newsboys Day



As the temperatures hovered in the mid 20's at 6 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, 11 student journalists from the McCluer North *Stargazer* newspaper staff were bundled and prepared to participate in the 58th annual Old Newsboys Day. The students and their faculty sponsors rose early to distribute copies of the special Old Newsboys Day edition newspaper and collect donations for the charitable foundation. The staff of the McCluer North *Stargazer* are regular contributors and volunteers for the annual project which has raised more than \$16.5 million.

Denominations

Maria went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

"What denomination?" asked the clerk.

"Oh! Good heavens! Have we come to this?" said Maria. "Well give me 50 Methodist and 50 Presbyterian ones please."



Ask Grandma

Ushering in the Holiday Season

I am going to try to recollect how the Ferguson celebration after Thanksgiving (Northern Lights) began. My memory may be cloudy and forgive me if some of the facts are wrong.

At one time there were two business organizations in Ferguson. One was the Ferguson Station Business Association which included all the businesses in Ferguson. The other was the Ferguson Special Business District which was comprised of the businesses along Florissant Road, up Church Street and a few blocks west on Airport Road.

The difference between the two entities was that the Special District businesses paid an extral tax with the purpose of enhancing and publicizing the downtown business district. The Ferguson Special Business District is still operational. (See the FSBD column on page 2.)

One of those organizations (I don't remember which one) held a "Tree Lighting" ceremony the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The community tree was lighted for the kickoff of the business district's Christmas season.

The first one that I remember was held at caboose park (when caboose park was located where the new Fire Station #1 now stands). The cabooses and the deck that connected them were decorated with lights and garland, and a very scrawny evergreen that grew next to the cabooses was strung with lights. Santa was there, a local choir was invited to lead in the singing of Christmas carols, the tree was lit and then the crowd was invited over to the Savoy to enjoy cookies and hot chocolate.

One year the City purchased a tall artificial tree to serve as the "Ferguson" tree and the scrawny evergreen was cut down. That huge lighted tree was installed between the police station and caboose park. In recent years the artificial tree has been moved to Victorian Plaza and placed over the fountain (sans the bottom rung which was too wide for the fountain).

I don't remember what year it was that Ferguson had a "Resource Center" listing all the homes and businesses that were available for purchase in Ferguson. That center was headed by Theresa Carper. Theresa and her husband, Tom, had lived in Germany for a few years and she had a fond memory of the German tradition of a "Christmas Market." So Theresa spearheaded the idea that along with the tree lighting, Ferguson would also have a Christmas market.

At that same time, the late Bob Swank held the position of the head of Ferguson Economic Development. Bob and the former City Manager, Julie Szymula thought that a Christmas parade would enhance the market, and thus Northern Lights was formed. The celebration was moved to Victorian Plaza, along with the Christmas tree. The free hot chocolate and cookies, and the tree lighting have all been continued to this day, but is now enhanced with a market and a lighted parade.

Theresa remembers that several organizations like the Ferguson Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary Clubs and others, decorated different areas of town, and maintained them throughout the Holidays. It was a group effort as are most of the events that make Ferguson such a great place to live and work.

That first year was quite spectacular. The theme for the event was "Trains," in recognition of Ferguson's history. Nearly all the storefronts held toy trains or had railroad themes. The market and lighted parade were a big success and have continued ever since.

Learn the Transcendental Stress Management Program

with Ferguson's local Meditation Instructor, Ruffina Farrokh Anklesaria, M.A.

The Transcendental Stress Management Organization provides meditation instruction for juveniles and parents sent by the courts in St Louis and recently participated in staff training for over 100 U.S. federal probation and parole officers in KY for officers from TN and MO, and for staff of the Clerk of the Court of the U.S. District Court, Eastern MO. She has trained over 1,000 people in meditation personally, and lectured all around the world.

Ruffina has an M.A. in International Affairs from Washington University in St Louis, MO, as well as an Advanced Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the same university. She and her late husband, Farrokh K. Anklesaria, Esq., ran their nonprofit organization, The Enlightened Sentencing Project (www.tesp.org), together for 12 years, teaching the TSM meditation to offenders sent by the courts, and to members of the public.

Ruffina's face is familiar in the community, both as a local resident for the past 12 years, and as a volunteer for the I Love Ferguson store. She has done almost 20 interviews in local, national and international press and electronic media, presenting a positive face on the situation in Ferguson.

Ruffina is available for presentations at staff training retreats and workshops.
Website: www.BestAgainstStress.com Email: manager@tsmo.org

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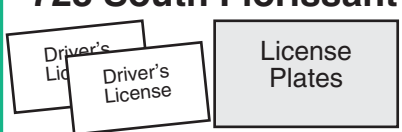
Calendar of Events In and Around Ferguson

Complete Details of These Events Throughout the Paper

- Northern Lights Parade and Festival Sun., Nov. 30
- Home Decorating Contest Judging Mon., Dec. 2
- Garden Glow – Botanical Garden Trip Wed., Dec. 3
- Northwest Chamber of Commerce Speed Networking Fri., Dec. 5
- FLIERS Treasures and Treats – Library Fri., Sat., Dec. 5 & 6
- Musical Christmas Weekend Sat., Sun., Dec. 6 & 7
- St. Nicholas Day Sat., Dec. 6
- Breakfast with Santa – Our Lady of Guadalupe Sat., Dec. 6
- Candy Cane Hunt – Community Center Sat., Dec. 6
- Making a Difference Ministries Sun., Dec. 7
- Mystery Meal Tues., Dec. 9
- Holiday Lights Tour Thurs., Dec. 11
- Northwest Chamber of Commerce Membership Meeting Thurs., Dec. 11
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day Fri., Dec. 12
- Teen Demo Ball Sat., Dec. 13
- Breakfast with Santa – Blessed Teresa Fri., Dec. 13
- Breakfast with Santa – First Presbyterian Sat., Dec. 13
- Cookies by the Pound Sale – Ferg. Christian Church Sat., Dec. 13
- Christmas Concert – St. Peters UCC Sun., Dec. 14
- Food and Clothing Pantry Open – Oak Hill Baptist Sat., Dec. 20
- Christmas Day Thurs., Dec. 25
- New Years Day Thurs., Jan. 1


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