

Ferguson Times

Established 1894

CITY OF FERGUSON, MO.
Oct. 1999

April, 2015

Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

The Ferguson City Council will meet twice in April in the City Council Chambers at 110 Church Street. The meeting dates are: Tuesday, April 21 and 28 at 7:00 p.m.



Call for Volunteers

Organizers of the Ferguson Twilight Run are asking for volunteers to help support the annual community race.

If you can't run or walk this year's race, you can still be part of the excitement as a volunteer. It takes a lot of dynamic and energetic people to make the race a success year after year. It's a great opportunity for community groups and individuals.

Volunteers are needed for packet pick up and late registration activities. On race day, volunteers are needed for registration, setting up the course, route monitors, water stations, spirit stations, start/finish area and more. To become a volunteer, please complete the Volunteer Form at fergtwilightrun.com

Organizers are also looking for groups to cheer on runners and walkers as they wind through Ferguson neighborhoods. Enthusiastic and energetic groups are encouraged to contact racedirector@fergtwilightrun.com for more details.

Details, Please

2015 marks the sixth year for the Ferguson Twilight Run. It's the only evening race in North St. Louis County. There's more to the race than running and walking. There's a free live concert, beer samples from Ferguson Brewing Company, food and health vendors and specials at local restaurants. The race route is USATF certified. Races start and finish at Plaza at 501, an outdoor entertainment area at the intersection of Florissant Road and Suburban Avenue.

Race fees are \$20 for the 5K and 10K for early registrants. The race fee for the One-Mile Fun Run is \$10. Team rates are available; rates increase in April and May. Register online at www.fergtwilightrun.com

The One-Mile Fun Run is presented by Ferguson Citywalk. The 5K is presented by Negwar Materials, and the 10K is presented by Emerson. Good Living Sponsors include Ferguson Brewing Company, City of Ferguson and North County Inc. Staying Healthy sponsors include FormPak, Trailnet and Tim Larson and Thea Rubin; Being Active sponsors include Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Select Properties, Challenger Learning Center and ArchCity Defenders.

Follow Ferguson Twilight Run on social media:
Twitter @FergTwilightRun
Facebook – Ferguson Twilight Run

Ferguson Spring Fest

Saturday, May 9th

FergusonStreetFest.com

Victorian Plaza
20 S. Florissant Rd.
8 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Schedule of Events Times & activities are subject to change.

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Ferguson Farmers Market | 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Karaoke |
| 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Bedlam Brothers Band | 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Circus Workshop |
| 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Karaoke & Circus Workshop | 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Jeanie Trevor |
| 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Balloon Creation, Face painting & Juggling | 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Manly Man High Heel Keg Relay & Girly Girl Combat Wench Relay |
| 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Home Brew Demo | 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Javier Mendoza |
| 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. Jeske Park Band | 9 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Soulard Blues Band |
| 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Circus Workshop | |
| 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Washer Tournament | |



Food Truck Mondays on the Walk is Here!



April 20, 2015
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Plaza at 501, 501 S. Florissant Rd.
www.fergusoncitywalk.com

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Saturday, April 19th Ferguson Indoor Farmers' Market

Find friendly farmers, meat vendors, specialty baked goods, teas, olive oils, coffees, made-to-order omelets, and other natural goodies.

St. Stephen's Church
33 North Clay

This is the last indoor market. See you outside at Victorian Plaza on May 3rd.

9:00 am to noon
April 18th

Outdoor Market Begins May 9th

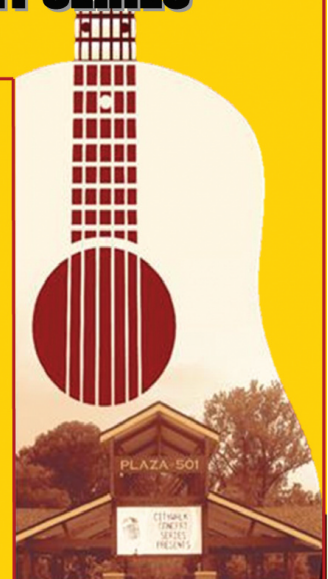
CITYWALK CONCERT SERIES

Mark your calendar!

- May 9 SpringFest, concerts all day beginning at 9 a.m.
- May 16 Twilight Run, pre race entertainment at 4 p.m.
- May 22
- June 12
- June 26
- July 10
- July 25
- August 14
- August 28
- September 11
- September 25 & 26 StreetFest, concerts all day!
- October 9th

Free Concerts
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 pm.

Unless otherwise noted
501 S. Florissant Rd.
524-5197 • citywalk@fergusoncity.com
www.fergusoncitywalk.com



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



Greetings from CityWalk

It was quite the beautiful evening for the first Friday of March; so we took a walk along 'The Walk' and at the corner of Florissant and Church, there was activity galore. We walked into the midst of the "First Friday Gallery Walk"!

The "Gallery Walk" is an event sponsored by Corners Frame Shop and Gallery and Honey and Sweeties, a few doors up on Church Street. You can expect to find friends and neighbors, artists, refreshments and a lot of art at these locations. This month, Corners sponsored Denise Field and Mona Hecht, the duo behind the eclectic creations of Sorelli Amici. They are responsible for the wire sculptures and the artsy embellishments that will inspire your home to say, "Welcome"!

At Honey and Sweeties, besides the awesome repurposed ARTifacts that you can find in their shop every day, they had displayed seed packets that were hand painted by students from Ferguson Middle School. These packets are still on display, as of this writing, and they are really well done. Stop by and check them out when you get a chance.

As we continued on past the old fire house, we noticed lights in the windows around towards the back. Upon further inspection, the 'Back Bay' seemed to be swaying with the sounds of Gladys Knight and the Pips. As we entered into the midst of their Open Arts evening, we were greeted with the soulful voice of Olivia Neal, a volunteer with the Ferguson Youth Initiative (FYI), karaokeing "Neither One of Us" to a crowd of about 25 Ferguson youth and volunteers. The 'Back Bay' is an area where youth can display their special talent, being karaoke, poetry, or hula hooping, as was being demonstrated by Michelle Conway with her light up hula hoop, or just a place to be your own young self.

Downstairs in the 'Youth Lounge', Dan the Pancake Man was doing what he does best – making pancakes! But not just any kind of pancakes – his pancakes look just like you, the person standing next to you, or even the person sitting across the room eating his or her own personalized pancake! Dan the Pancake Man does portraits with the batter and griddle that looks just like you! I mean them! Well, you know what I mean! Check out Dan the Pancake Man at Ferguson's Farmers Market on July 18th.

And if that wasn't enough, Natalie Fleming and her crew were constructing their very own "Me Boxes"! Decorated on the outside with whatever your creative mind were to conceive by using anything from clippings from magazines, wrapping paper, pencils, pens, even colored markers! Inside is yours and yours only! Treasure maps or even treasures, a diary or just your own personal thoughts, whatever you want to keep inside, it's up to you and only you, because the "Me Box" is all about you!

Now doesn't that sound like a fun evening with your friends? If you are a young person looking for new ways to express yourself and to get involved in your community, yes, you are a big part of this community, check out FYI on the internet at fyiferyouth.org or contact them at fyi@fergusoncity.com if you have any questions. Even if you're just young at heart and would like to help out or show off your special talent, I'm sure you would be welcomed.

FYI, sponsored by the City of Ferguson, is serving the youth of the Ferguson community by encouraging and engaging them as active members of the community. Dana, Dwayne and Gail are the volunteers that have really stepped up to encourage the youth to take charge by planning their own activities, service projects and mentoring other youth to make Ferguson a youth friendly community.

As we left the 'Open Arts' evening with FYI, Carl McCasland wanted to invite all of Ferguson's youth to be part of this group. "The more the merrier", spouts McCasland! "If you're looking for something to do and you want to meet a lot of great people, you need to get involved with FYI. You won't regret it".

(This section reserved for the General Membership Businesses of the FSBD.) Every third Thursday of the month is our board meeting. We meet at 5:30pm in the offices of Pearce Neikirk's office located at 427 S. Florissant Rd. Our next meeting is April 16th. All businesses located in the Downtown District are invited. We would like to see you at our meetings. If there is anything that you would want to share with your fellow district businesses, let us know, we'd be happy to help you get the word out.

Until next month, keep walking.

The Plumber's Crack

By Oh Baby bigohbaby@sbcglobal.net

Blue Skies . . . no!
Gray Skies . . . no!
Bright Skies . . . no!
Dark Skies, sweat suits . . . no!
Shorts and tee shirts . . . no!, Hockey ... no!
Baseball . . . no!
Basketball . . . no!
Pot Roast . . . no!
BBQ Ribs, Chocolate Rabbits . . . Yes . . . because it's Easter, Spring, and the last Plumbers Crack!



ing. So flush it good before you take a sip out of it. Oh, and I guess I'd be remiss if I didn't say that some hoses have chemicals in them that can cause cancer. I've been drinking out of them well over 50 years and no cancer yet.

Time to check your sump pumps. Throw a bucket or two of water in the pit to see if it kicks on. Also look in the pit to make sure there is no debris or gravel in it. If you have fountains that move water in your yard, make sure the electric cords are OK and that the motors are running OK.

I'm also going to whine AGAIN!!! about big box store faucets. Please don't buy them because we can't repair them. They don't carry parts for 90% of their name brands. I have recently told my plumbers not to touch those faucets and there are a couple of name brands that you can't get handles for. Please ask your plumber or your LOCAL HARDWARE PROFESSIONAL what is repairable before you buy it and I stress 'local' not box store.

Ready for the word of the month? It is HOSE BIBB. It's a faucet to which a hose can be connected. Wasn't that exciting.

Well my friends it's time to end another issue of the Crack and it's election time and I'm asking you all to do your civic duty and vote. Get to know the candidates and vote for the person who most represents your views and can help your city through hard times. Don't vote for someone because you were told to. I also ask you to get to know your neighbors, watch out for the elderly and hug 'dem baby's, shop and dine Ferguson first .

No . . . APRIL FOOLS!!! you should be so lucky.

Well my friends, it is April and time to come out of our cocoons – which means it's time for springtime tips. Yes I know, regular followers are saying 'not again' but since we have so many new residents and so many new landlords, I'm going to throw them out there.

Every Fall I tell you to get the hoses off those anti freeze hydrants. So if you didn't or even if you did, the first time you turn on your outside faucets, or as we call them sillcocks, have someone inside while you turn on the faucet outside. If nothing leaks inside when you turn them on you're good to go.

While your turning them on, it's a good idea to turn off and on several times real fast. This will break up calcium deposits gathered while sitting dormant. Calcium deposits cause washer damage which cause drips.

While we are on the subject of sillcocks, that hose that you removed last fall has been most likely used by other creatures while it was dormant. Spiders, crickets, and even mice get in there to get a drink, make a home or use it as an out-house. No, they don't have plumb-

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

You Can't Control the World, But You Can Control Your Decisions.

Call today to find out how you should approach swings in the market.



Maureen Zeugin
Financial Advisor
409 S. Florissant, Suite 101
Ferguson, MO 63135
314-524-6333
www.edwardjones.com
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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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.

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

Painted

EFFECTS CONTRACTING llc

CALL BOB
524-1264

See Bob on Job column on Page 17

Free Tutoring at the Ferguson Municipal Public Library!

Who is welcome? Anyone, of all ages!

Who are the tutors? Our tutors are 10th, 11th, and 12th graders from Parkway Central High School.

What subjects are available? All core subjects: English, Math, History, Science, as well as special areas



(depending on the tutor) such as foreign languages, music, engineering, etc.
When is it? Thursdays, from 3:30pm - 5:30pm. As we are just starting, we hope to expand to more days of the week as we continue.

If you can, stop by at the library to sign up (sign up not required). This way, our tutors know how many are coming and what subjects to teach.
 Hope to see you there!

New Children's Book Tells Story of Ferguson Community Coming Together Through Art

They drew pictures of Peace, Of Hope and of Light that show Love's even stronger than the darkest of nights, are two of the child-friendly verses in the 48-page children's book *Painting for Peace in Ferguson*. Written by author Carol Swartout Klein. The vivid images and artwork in the book tell the true story of hundreds of artists and residents of all ages who came together to create colorful images of hope and healing using the simplest of all tools — a paintbrush — with the plywood on windows on block after block of boarded up businesses as their canvases. The dozens of damaged businesses were located across several miles in Ferguson, Dellwood and South Grand in St. Louis City. The book, written in verse shows 140 images of art and mentions more than 300 artists and volunteers who participated in the Paint for Peace St. Louis effort.

Designed and published using all local suppliers in St. Louis by Layla Dog Press, all proceeds after printing costs benefit St. Louis, Missouri north county-area youth and art programs as well as small businesses and employees affected by damage or loss of business. The book is available at local St. Louis book retailers and is also available nationally. To order online go to: www.paintingforpeacebook.com. It is also for sale at the Ferguson Municipal Library and the "I Love Ferguson" store. The paperback edition retails for \$15.95; hardback editions are \$25.95.



Klein, who grew up in Ferguson and still resides in St. Louis went back to her childhood neighborhood just days after destructive fires and riots to see how she could help. She witnessed hundreds of people of all ages and races spontaneously come and give up their Thanksgiving weekend to support their community still reeling and in shock. She was so moved by the selfless spirit of the volunteers and the compelling and inspiring art that she wanted to do her part as well. Her idea was to capture the positive moment of hope and community healing so she put pen to paper and *Painting for Peace in Ferguson* is the result.

Funds from the sale of the book are deposited with the Greater St. Louis Community Foundation a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations made to that fund above and beyond the price of the book are tax-deductible.

It's Time to Enroll in Free Preschool!

If you have a young child, birth to age 5, and live in the Ferguson-Florissant School District it is time to enroll in the district's early education programs.

A free quality preschool experience with degreed, certified teachers is available to district children. Three-year-olds attend class two mornings per week; 4-year-olds attend three or four half-days. Families receive Parents as Teachers personal visits. Head Start preschool classes for 3- and 4-year-olds are available. Families receive Parents as Teachers personal visits. Head Start income and employment based eligibility is necessary. Call 314-595-3911. A free developmental screening is designed for all young children, ages 3 months to 5 years. Hearing and vision are also checked. If any type of concern is indicated, in-depth testing is offered.

For children ages' birth to 5 years, Parents as Teachers offers a free program for all families. PAT provides free personal visits, parent-child activities, developmental information, screenings and prenatal visits. This free program with degreed, certified parent educators is available to all families who choose to participate.

Don't wait. Enroll today! Limited spaces available in some programs. Call 314-506-9066. earlyed@fergflor.org

Candidate List for April 7th Ferguson City Council Election

WARD ONE

ELLA M. JONES
 554 Monceau Drive
 Ferguson, MO 63135

DOYLE MCCLELLAN
 1131 Hudson Road
 Ferguson, MO 63135

ADRIENNE J. HAWKINS
 1330 Fargo Drive
 Ferguson, MO 63135

MIKE MCGRATH
 1599 Knollstone Drive
 Ferguson, MO 63135

WARD THREE

WESLEY BELL
 419 S. Florissant Road, Unit 3N
 Ferguson, MO 63135

LEE SMITH
 7491 Castro Drive
 Ferguson, MO 63135

WARD TWO

BRIAN P. FLETCHER
 202 S. Elizabeth Avenue
 Ferguson, MO 63135

ROBERT "BOB" HUDGINS
 313 Louisa Avenue
 Ferguson, MO 63135



Polis will be open to registered voters from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Want to sell concessions at the Ferguson Concert Series Shows?



Call 524-5197 or email CityWalk@fergusoncity.com For an application.

Help Stamp Our Hunger

"Stamp Out Hunger" is the largest, single-day food drive in the nation, and an easy way to make a difference in our community.

Simply fill a grocery bag (or two) with healthy, non-perishable food, and set it by your mailbox the morning of **Saturday, May 10**. Donations will be picked up by your letter carrier, and delivered to the Post Office where they are sorted and then taken to local food pantries.



Summer Family Vacation to Space for Just \$15!!

If you are looking for someplace unique to take your family this summer and are on a limited budget, we've got just the solution! Bring your family to the Challenger Learning Center for a simulated space mission to the Moon, Mars or a Comet. Limited "space" is available!



205 Brotherton Lane
 Ferguson
 314.521.6205

Jr Astronauts
 (for kids ages 6-10 and their families)
 June 6: 12:30-2:30 pm
 July 18: 12:30-2:30 pm

Return to the Moon
 (recommended for ages 11 and up)
 July 11: 12:30-2:30 pm

Voyage to Mars
 (recommended for ages 11 and up)
 June 20: 9-11 am or 12:30-2:30 pm

Ferguson Community News Page

Politics do not have to divide us

By Mayor James W. Knowles III

"I believe that in ways large and small, peaceful and sometimes violent, that the biggest threat to the future of our children and grandchildren is the poison of identity politics that preaches that our differences are far more important than our common humanity."

— Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States



Before I get into a conversation about this month's topic and quote, I need to take a moment to thank each and every one of the citizens, colleagues, friends, family, acquaintances, and complete strangers from around the region and around the country that has taken a moment to show support for myself and my family over the past several months, especially these past several weeks. The past months have been trying, not only on me, but also my family. The constant love and support shown by many helps sustain us as I continue my commitment to serve this city and work diligently toward the goal of bringing us together and moving us forward as one community.

I've been asked numerous times why I would stay around in this position, taking the brunt of the anger and frustration from protestors and the bulk of the scrutiny from the media, in a part time mayoral position that pays little. My answer to that question is always unequivocally, "It's my duty to this city; it's the job I signed up for; I'd ask no one else to do it for me."

In today's world, talk of duty may sound cheesy. It is a word that is barely in the vocabulary of many today, and it is a word seldom heard unless you were reading romantic stories of a chivalrous age. That romantic sense of service and duty is a notion I grew up admiring, and is a virtue instilled in me by my family. Living up to those virtues, while they come at great personal sacrifice, are extremely important to this community. I believe staying and serving this community in this time of great need is the kind of purpose driven life that I've always sought, and willingly embrace. And I will do so until the residents of Ferguson feel fit to replace me.

This month, 8 residents are answering that same call to service that drove me to run for City Council. Win or lose, any resident willing to stand for election and serve in office deserves to be commended for their willingness to perform their civic duty to the community. And as the election approaches, it is important that each of you take the time to perform your civic duty, not just to vote, but to take the time and effort to become engaged and informed about the issues and candidates for office.

About a month ago, a resident took the opportunity to sit down and engaged me in a conversation regarding what she felt were some of the issues that needed to be addressed in Ferguson. We both braved the cold and a sudden snowstorm to meet up and get to know each other, one on one, and to talk through the issues in hopes of arriving at a place of mutual understanding. I think we both realized quickly that we had a great deal more in common than we had differences; however there was one issue that drew us into a longer conversation that seemed to eclipse all others.

The issue was put simply, she did not feel represented in the city because the council did not look like her, or in fact look like the majority of the city. I paused for a moment, because this wasn't the first time I'd heard this concern. It is a hard topic to address because it is a valid point that we'd like to see broader inclusion for people of all backgrounds in the political process, and represented in our governing bodies. So I asked the question, "What makes someone able to represent you effectively?" As we talked, we soon realized that it was most important for someone to be able to engage and understand all sides of an issue, or all types of people. While optics can be important, the outcome must be that a representative should be able to effectively make a decision on behalf of people of all types of identities, not just their own.

An example – I have a good friend who is an African-American State Representative, originally from North County, but now living in Ballwin, representing a district that is overwhelmingly white. The mentality of those who subscribe to identity politics alone would say he shouldn't represent that district because he does not look like his constituents and had a very different background than those he represents. However as a public servant that engages people in his community, and gains understanding of the people and the issues, he is able to successfully represent and serve their interests in the State Legislature

In just our small community, if we focused solely on our separate identities, you can imagine a community that was divided by race, socio-economic status, education, neighborhood, owner vs. renter, new resident vs. long-time resident; the list could go on for days. While the 7 members of the Ferguson City Council can't actually identify as a member of each of these groups, the question is, can they take the time to listen, understand, and identify WITH each of these groups?

As I've said countless times in previous *Ferguson Times* articles, the very basic duty a councilmember must perform is make decisions for his or her constituents. An effective representative can engage all people and every side of an issue. When choosing a candidate for office, should we be focused on those things which divide us into individual identities which separate us from the rest of the community; or should we be focused on seeking those people that unite the residents under a broader and more inclusive community identity?

Ferguson Neighborhood Organizations

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

| Group | Next Mtg. | Location | Contact |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| Forestwood Park Neighborhood Group | Apr 7 7 pm | Emmaus Bible Chapel 900 Highmont | Donald Stevens 314-561-0379 |
| Jeske Park Neighborhood Assc. | Apr 9 7 pm | Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave | Kate Mazzacavallo katemazza@yahoo.com |
| Nesbit-Newton | TBA | St Peters UCC 1425 Stein Rd | Paul Beins 314-869-5080 |
| Northwest Ferguson | TBA | First Baptist Church 333 N Florissant | Shelley Davis leeshel57@sbcglobal.net |
| Old Ferguson East Neighborhood Assn. | TBA | Corner Coffee House 100 N Florissant | Glenda Rickard 314-364-4306 glenda.rickard@mercy.net |
| Old Ferguson West Neighbors | Apr 30 7 pm | Corner Coffee House 100 No Florissant | Larry Robinett ldrobinett@gmail.com |
| Robert-Superior Neighborhood Group | As Needed | Robert-Superior Park | Craig Kidd 314-522-3151 |
| Southwest Ferguson Neighborhood Group | Apr 20 7 pm | Our Lady of Guadalupe 17 Hawkesbury | Atefa Young atefayoung@yahoo.com |
| Wabash Neighborhood Assn. | May 11 7 pm | First Baptist 333 N Florissant | Shonnette Morgan sdenisemor@hotmail.com |
| North Hudson Hills Neighborhood | TBA | TBA | Mary Simmons hudsonhills63135@gmail.com |
| North Hills Neighborhood | TBA | Check website 7486 Halpin Dr | Keith Kallstrom 314-524-1720 |
| North Elizabeth Assn | May 11 7 pm | Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave | Renee Benage rbenage@sbcglobal.net |

Pride of the City – Summer 2015

Summer will soon be upon us and it is time to start thinking about nominating your favorite homes for the "Pride of the City" award. There are many beautiful homes in Ferguson, and each year residents are asked to help the City recognize homeowners who take great care and pride in maintaining their homes and property.

Through the Pride of the City program, residents nominate homes that are the best-maintained homes in the neighborhood. The nominations are listed by area wards for the Housing Board of Appeals to review; members of the board choose one home per ward each month from May to September to receive an award.

Winning homeowners get to display an attractive sign in their front yard showcasing their home as a Pride of the City selection. They are also invited to attend a City Council meeting for special recognition by the Mayor and members of the Council where they receive a certificate, a picture of their home, and a City of Ferguson flag.

Nominations are now being accepted for the Pride of the City program. If you are interested in nominating a home in your neighborhood, or anywhere in the City, there are three ways to do so:

- Send an e-mail to Public Works at publicworks@fergusoncity.com
- Call in your nominations to (314) 521-7721.
- Stop by Public Works, 110 Church Street, to fill out a nomination form.

Spring Time in Ferguson!

It's time to start cleaning up your yard and home after the winter chill. The Code Enforcement Inspectors will start looking for tree and leaf debris. This will need to be cleaned up from all front and rear yards and flower beds.

This debris can be put in paper yard waste bags or your own 30-gallon trash cans marked as yard waste. Tree limbs may be cut into no longer than 4 feet lengths and bundled with twine no larger than 18 inches in diameter. This yard waste can be put out at the same times as your regular trash for pick-up by Republic Services. If you have any questions about your yard waste you can contact Republic Services at 636-947-5959.

The inspectors will also be looking for chipped or peeling paint, cracked driveways, fences in disrepair, dangling gutters and downspouts, and any other items pertaining to the maintenance of your home.

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 Thien, Ward 1; Dwayne James, Ward 2; Tim Larson, Ward 2; Keith Kallstrom, Ward 3; David G. Conway, Ward 3.
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 stop by the Recreation Office to register or call us at (314) 521-4661.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Use one of the Ferguson Community Center's Multipurpose Rooms for your next event or gathering! These spacious rooms are perfect for any occasion! Also, newly opened is the Ferguson Event Center, a 5,600 square foot air-conditioned facility with a stage toward the front of the room, which can accommodate up to 450 guests for your next wedding reception or family reunion! Call the Ferguson Community Center for booking information, pricing, and any additional information at (314) 521-4661

Open Gym Basketball

Come to the Ferguson Community Center for pick-up basketball games. Times can be subject to change in the event of rentals or further programming.

Age: 16 years & up
Time: Mon 6pm-8:30
 Tues 6pm-8:30
 Thurs 6pm-8:30
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: Free/Members; Daily Fee/Resident; Daily Fee/Non-Residents

Friday Family Fun Night

Enjoy the Ferguson Community Center Gymnasium every Friday evening with the company of your family. These nights are centered around parents and guardians spending time with their young ones in the gymnasium, which will be blocked off from normal day to day traffic.

Ages: All youth must be accompanied by an adult
Time: Fridays 6pm-8:30
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: Free/Members; Daily Fee/Residents; Daily Fee/Non-Residents

PROGRAMMING

Beginner Dog Obedience

Covers commands such as heel, sit, down, stay and come. Introduction to agility and socialization with other dogs and people

Date: April 25, 2015
Time: Noon
Location: January Wabash Park
Fee: \$49/Resident; \$54/Non-Resident

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.

Yearly Fee: \$30 Residents; \$60 Non-Residents
 \$5 per additional dog (three dogs per family).

FITNESS

*Fitness Class Pricing:

All fitness classes are priced for a single day session per week. If you would to add additional days of a class to your workout schedule the following pricing applies.

Aerobics:

\$10/members add day
 \$15/residents add day
 \$20/non-residents add day

All other classes:

\$20/members add day
 \$25/residents add day
 \$30/non-residents add day

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: Mon. April 20, Wed., April 22, Fri. April 24 (Ongoing 6 week

sessions)

Time: Mon, Wed, & Fri 6pm-7pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: \$25/Members; \$30/Residents; \$35/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: Tues, April 21, Thurs, April 23 (Ongoing 6 week session)
Time: Tues & Thurs 7pm-8pm
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: Tues, April 21, Thurs, April 23 (Ongoing 6 week session)
Time: Tues & Thurs 1:30pm-2:30pm
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: Sat, April 25 (Ongoing 6 week session)
Time: Saturdays 9 a.m.
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: \$40/Members; \$45/Residents; \$50/Non-Residents

AQUATICS

Cool off with us this summer at the Splash @ Wabash.

Season Passes On Sale Now!

Splash Opens May 23rd.

Family Memberships:

Community Center member Only \$99; Resident \$135; Non-Resident \$210

Individual Memberships:

Community Center Member Only \$50! Resident \$65; Non-Resident \$125



ATHLETICS

3 on 3 Men's Basketball League

Grab 3 of your closest friends and join the Ferguson Recreation 3 on 3 men's basketball league. Teams are made of 4 players allowing for one substitution. There will be seven weeks of games with 1 week of playoffs

Ages: 18 and up
 40 and up
Dates: Men's Tues., TBD
 Senior's Thurs., TBD
Times: 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: \$140/ Members; \$150/Residents; \$160/ Non-Residents

Adult Softball

Teams are needed for adult softball leagues. League fees include one umpire per game, lighted fields, ASA regulation softball, bases, awards, and make-up for rainouts. Additional information and rosters can be obtained at the Ferguson Community Center. A \$40 discount is given to resident teams

For Additional Information call (314)521-4661
 Supervisor: Jon Gehrin

Men's DH: Sun, April 19th
Length of Season: 20 Games
Fee: \$580
Men's: 10 Games
Length of Season: Mon, April 20
Fee: \$350
Men's (Over 50): Thurs, April 23
Length of Season: 20 Games
Fee: TBD
Co-ed: Fri, April 24
Length of Season: 10 Games
Fee: \$350



Adult Wiffle Ball Tournament

Gather your friends and put your backyard skills to the test in the first Ferguson Parks and Recreation Wiffle Ball Tournament at the new Ferguson Community Center. The classic Wiffle Ball rules apply! Each player from every team will be provided with a t-shirt and the winner will take home a trophy. For more information call the Ferguson Recreation Office at (314)521-4661

Ages: 18 and up
Date: Sat, April 25th
Location: Community Center
Fee: \$100/team

Ferguson Parks and Recreation (Continued from Page 5)

Pitch Hit Run

Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run is a FREE, exciting skills event providing boys and girls the opportunity to compete in four levels of competition including Team Championship events at all 30 Major League ballparks and the National Finals at the MLB All-Star Game.

Ages: 7-12
Date: Saturday, April 11
Time: Noon

Forestwood Field Rentals

Are you looking for space for your team to practice or even hold a tournament? The Forestwood Athletic Complex has state-of-the-art fields with or without lights available for rental. We offer baseball, softball, soccer, football, and even tennis courts within the Forestwood Athletic Complex.

Call Jon Gehrin for details: (314) 521-4661

Baseball/ Softball

Field #1 Without Lights: \$6/Hr
 Field #1 With Lights: \$15/Hr
 Field #2, 3, 4, 5 Without Lights: \$6/ Hr
 Field #2, 3, 4, 5 With Lights: \$13/Hr

Soccer/ Football

Field #1 Without Lights: \$6/Hr
 Field #1 With Lights: \$15/Hr
 Field #2, 3, 4, 5 Without Lights: \$6/ Hr
 Field #2, 3, 4, 5 With Lights: \$13/Hr



SENIORS

Senior Center

The Ferguson Senior Center offers a variety of activities, classes and programs for residents. We offer a number of leisure and recreation opportunities to enhance the quality of life. Activities at the center include clubs, classes, social activities, entertainment, games, fitness, health, and education. Call the office to be placed on a list to receive our monthly event schedules.

Yahtzee!

There is no need to know the rules; come and expect a good time at our next Yahtzee event at the Ferguson Community Center. We'll start the afternoon chowing down to a great tasting lunch. After lunch, the excitement begins with 3 thrilling games of Yahtzee. Great prizes, good food, and lots of laughter are in store. Door-to-door transportation via the Jolly Trolley is available for Ferguson residents. Advance registration is required.

Date: Thurs, April 9
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: \$8/Members; \$12/Residents; \$15//Non-Residents

JUST FOR TEENS

Rock Climbing

Join us as we test our skills in a climbing adventure! Get ready for intense climbing with arches and top-out boulders that challenge even experienced climbers. No experience needed, you will be an expert by the end of the trip! We will stop for a snack on the way back so bring some extra money.

Age: Teens 13-17
Date: Saturday, April 18
Time: 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: \$10/Residents; \$15/Non-Residents

TRIPS

Lee's Summit via Amtrak Train

What better way to start spring than to go for a train ride to Lee's Summit, MO? We'll head to Kirkwood's station for a 3 ½ hour train trip aboard Amtrak's Missouri River Runner train to see some of the beautiful changes of the spring season. While on the train, lunch will (be on your own) in the snack car before we arrive in Lee's Summit. Upon arrival, we'll meet our motorcoach guide who will give us an overview of some of the highlights of the town. Sites such as the historic downtown area, Train Depot, and Unity Village, just to name a few. Before heading home, we will dine at Henry's Antiques, Collectibles & Tea Room before returning to Ferguson via motorcoach.

Date: Wednesday, April 8
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Fee: \$130 Residents; \$140 Non-Residents

Civil War Museum/Crystal City Underground

The Missouri Civil War Museum located at Jefferson Barracks is the state's premier Civil War museum dedicated to honor thousands of men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. View the Civil War through the uniforms of those who lived during our nations defining moment in history. After our museum visit we will head to Kimmswick, MO for lunch at the famous Blue Owl. Enjoy this quaint restaurant with friendly service and charming atmosphere. After lunch it's off to Crystal City Underground, a unique experience where it is always 55 - 60 degrees, so bring your jackets. Here we take a pontoon boat ride through the amazing underground area. After a full, fun day, let's head back to Ferguson.

Date: Thursday, May 21
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fee: \$80 Residents; \$90 Non-Residents

Isle of Capri - Booneville

Grab your good luck charms and join us for some super fun as we head to

Boonville, Missouri. The Isle of Capri Casino is perfect for a great afternoon of gambling. We will enjoy a buffet lunch that is included at the Farmers Pick restaurant. Following lunch everyone will receive \$5 cash to get your gaming started. Before leaving town we will make a stop at the Russell Stover's Outlet Store where they have some awesome deals on chocolate and other delicious candy.

Date: Tuesday, April 21
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Fee: \$34/Residents; \$39/Non-Residents

Effingham, IL

Let's visit Effingham, Illinois - the Crossroads of America. This excellent location, coupled with fine schools and health care facilities, has made Effingham a prime site for business and industry. In Effingham we'll visit; the Cross at the Crossroads, Boos Butcher blocks- -the town's oldest manufacturer, lunch at the scrumptious Firefly Grill, tour My Garage Corvette Museum and visit the downtown sculptures. Cost includes: motorcoach transportation, lunch, all admissions, taxes and gratuities.

Date: Thursday, June 4
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Fee: \$80 Resident; \$85 Non-Resident

SPECIAL EVENTS

Trivia Night

Grab six of your smartest friends and test your knowledge at the newly open Ferguson Banquet Theater, located at the Ferguson Community Center, for our Adult Trivia Night. There will be multiple rounds with different categories and prizes for the winning table! There will also be free beverages and popcorn available, but feel free to bring your own snack. This will be a night that you will not want to miss! Proceeds will be donated to Ferguson Day Camp Scholarship and Friends Ferguson Disc Golf.

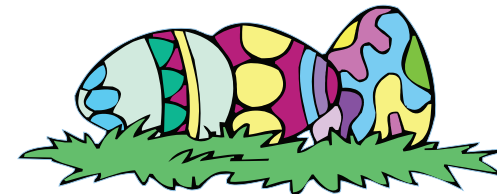
Age: 21 years and older
Date: Friday, May 1
Time: 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Location: Ferguson Event Center at the Community Center
Fee: \$20/Members; \$25/Residents; \$30/ Non-Residents

Rascally Rabbit

Annual Adult Easter Egg Hunt

Our very own rascally rabbit increased the size of our hunting area and relocated the hunt to January Wabash Memorial Park. Our in house rabbit has been busy stuffing eggs with candy, and 40 prize eggs filled with coupons will be scattered on the grounds of the park. This "egg-cellent" event is open to adults 21 and older. So grab your basket and flashlight for an evening down memory lane. Bring your own refreshments. Pre-registration is required for this event! Maximum event size: 100.

Date: Friday, April 3
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: January Wabash Memorial Park
Fee: \$5 Residents;
 \$8 Non-Residents



Children's Easter Egg Hunt

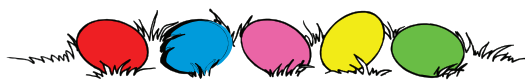
Hop over to January Wabash Park for the annual Egg Hunt. The park will be filled with brightly colored, filled eggs for Ferguson children (8 and under) to enjoy. The children will be divided into separate hunts by the following ages: 3 - 4, 5 - 6, and 7 - 8. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for photo opportunities. Children should meet at the upper parking lot of January Wabash Memorial Park with their own basket.

Date: Saturday, April 4
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: January Wabash Memorial Park
Fee: FREE Children ages 3-8

Dogs Only Easter Egg Strvaganza Hunt

Just like the egg hunt, only for your furry friend! The Doggie Easter Egg-Stravaganza will be held at Wayside Park Unleashed Dog Park. There will be two hunt areas, one in the small dog and another in the large dog area. Each area will have plastic dog treat filled eggs and several prize eggs. Dogs will be allowed to "find" as many eggs as possible in the hunt area. Dogs must remain on a leash at all times. Owners; don't forget to bring a basket to put your dog's eggs in. Prizes will be given for the best dressed dog. The Easter Bunny will be on-site for photos with your pet. All ages are welcome, but pets must have a responsible adult present. Owners assume all responsibility for their dog's behavior. Dogs must be current on all vaccinations.

Date: Saturday, April 4
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Wayside Park Unleashed
Fee: \$5 Residents;
 \$8 Non-Residents;
 Pre-Registration
 Required



Zion Lutheran Church Fish Fry

123 Carson Road is the gathering place for Cod, Shrimp, Catfish & Chicken. Slaw, Spaghetti, Mac'n Cheese & Fries.

Fabulous desserts!!! made by several of the Ferguson Community Outreach Programs!

Every Friday In Zion's Multi- purpose room Through August 22nd! 4:00pm – 7:00pm Join us for fellowship!

If you are interested in helping on the fish fry line every other Friday, contact Sue Dunham at 314.524.7677

See you at the Fish Fries!

These Books Need New Homes!



FLIERS
(Friends of the Ferguson Library)

SPRING BOOK SALE

Thursday, April 16 5:00 to 7:30 pm

Friday, April 17th 9:00 am to 5:30 pm

Saturday, April 18th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Donations are generous – all categories – with lots of children's books. There are westerns, cook books and a complete set of books on submarines

Please note:
We can no longer take checks – cash only!

Library Auditorium
35 No. Florissant Road

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta FISH FRY

150 North Elizabeth

Fried and baked cod (with lemon pepper seasoning), Shrimp, Fries, Hush Puppies, Homemade Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Spaghetti with Red Sauce, Clam Chowder Soup, Mac 'n Cheese, Cheese Pizza and Homemade Desserts

Friday, April 3rd – 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

I ♥ 80s

TRIVIA NIGHT

Beer, Wine, & Popcorn included

Door Prizes & Costume Contest



St. Vincent

Home for Children

ALL Proceeds Benefit Substance Abuse Program Launch

Date

Saturday April 18th 2015

Time

Doors open at 6 pm and Trivia starts at 7 pm

Location

St. Vincent Home for Children's Gym at 7401 Florissant Road, St. Louis, MO 63121

Join St. Vincent Home for Children for a fun-filled night of 80s trivia hosted by our Young Friends Committee!

www.saintvincenthome.org
314.261.6011
youngfriends@saintvincenthome.org

TICKETS ARE
\$25
EACH OR
\$200
FOR A
TABLE OF 8

MUST BE 21+

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Easter Services

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 3

noon Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm Good Friday Services

Sunday, April 5, 8:00 am and 10:00 am Services

plus Easter Egg hunt for children after the 10:00 am service

Ferguson Peace Meal

Eat Drink and Be Real

All are Welcome, All are Invited
Join us at

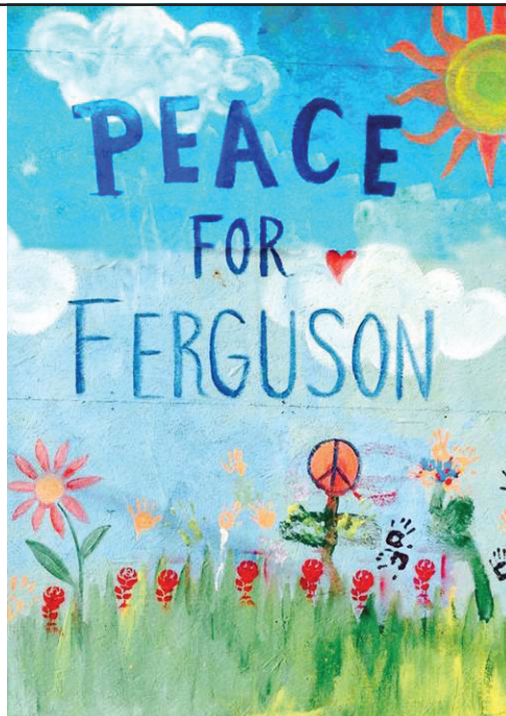
St. Stephens Episcopal Church for a Peace Meal

Sunday, April 26 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

33 No. Clay Avenue

The people of Ferguson are hungry. Hungry for peace Hungry for Justice, Hungry for Understanding and Hungry for good food too.

So let's come together at tables like Jesus Himself so often did, to listen to each other, to learn from one another, and to enjoy a good meal, complete with love, laughter and growing friendship.



Come hungry – we will provide the food.

And did we mention the prices is **FREE**?

Questions? email: fergusonpeacemeal@gmail.com

or Father Steve Lawler 314.753.7911

or Pastor Joe Rodgers of Abide Ferguson 314.583.6362

Our traditional Sunday Services include 8:00 am and 10:00 am.

On Wednesday evening we have a 6:00 pm Prayer Service with Holy Eucharist.

TEAM Trivia Night

It's All About the Food

TEAM Celebrates 29 Years Serving our Community

Saturday – April 25, 2015

Doors open at 6:15pm - Trivia starts promptly at 7:00pm

Sponsored by Florissant License Office - Rotary Club

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Parish Hall - Door #3

751 N. Jefferson St., Florissant, MO 63031

To register, volunteer, sponsor, make a donation, or if you have a question, please contact:

Kate Moore

TEAMFoodPantryInfo@gmail.com

Entry Fee: \$200 per table (Max. of 8 people)

Tables are available until sold out

Includes: drinks (beer, soda, water), popcorn, attendance prizes. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places & best themed decorated table. (Feel free to bring your own food & drinks.)

Mulligans available for \$10 or 10 non-perishable food items
Extras include: Cash Giveaway, Raffle, Silent Auctions & Heads/Tails Game

"Cash Giveaway" Raffle - \$20 per ticket – May be purchased in advance, first come basis (only 500 tickets available)



Zion Child Development Center's 17th Annual

TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, April 25th

Doors open at 6:30 and the games begin at 7:00 pm
123 Carson Road, Ferguson.

This is our annual trivia night that benefits the learning center's summer camp and many of the day-to-day needs of the facility

\$20 / person and tables seat 8 to 10.

Come on out and support the CDC

There will be: Silent Auctions, Raffles and Door Prizes

The winning team gets a special prize

Call 314.524.7677 for reservations



St. Louis Symphony

Members of the

will play at . . .

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Featuring the World Premiere of

"The Modern Season"

by Chistian Woehr

Sunday, April 12th at

7:00 p.m.

Reception begins at 5:30 p.m.

Sponsored by St. Louis Symphony Community Partnership

International Students Visit McCluer to Discuss Race Relations

Thirteen international high school students from nine countries recently met with their peers at McCluer High School to discuss race relations. The international students, who represented countries such as Israel, the Bahamas, Iraq, Sweden and Malaysia, attend United World College (UWC). UWC is an international organization that brings individuals with a diverse range of backgrounds together to provide an educational experience based on shared learning, collaboration and understanding so that they can act as champions of peace. The students are united in their commitment to positive social action to build a more equitable and fairer world. Their visit to McCluer was one of several places they stopped during a stay in the St. Louis area.

Prevalent on the UWC students' minds was how the perceived racism surrounding the Ferguson events has made an impact on the McCluer students' lives. All of the students agreed they have been impacted in one way or the other.

"Missouri has a history of being a racist state – tension between races has always been a factor and I think it's because the racial issues are not being adequately addressed," said Vaughn Ross, a McCluer senior. "Since the initial Ferguson event there has been some healing, but recent activities have caused things to resurface. It's like removing a band-aid off a wound that hasn't healed." Ross is president of The Vision, an after-school organization at McCluer that was started in response to the Ferguson protests. Members of The Vision are committed to making a difference in their school and lives. "In order to fix the system, you have to become a part of it," said McCluer freshman Ricki Chatman, who is also a member of The Vision.

The international students agreed that racism is everywhere. Although they may not experience the same biases and antagonizing behavior some of the McCluer students have been confronted with, they said racism in their respective countries might include discrimination because of cultural, economic, political and religious differences.

With their meeting taking place a day after the Ferguson police chief resigned his position, UWC students wanted to know how McCluer students felt about police relations and whether they felt minorities are treated fairly. McCluer students commented tension between minorities and the police is something of major concern and something that some of them have personally dealt with. However, they felt this tension could be reduced if the police made an effort to build relationships with the individuals in the communities they serve, especially the younger residents.

"I want to see more positive interaction between young people and police officers," said Jacquiez Webb, a McCluer senior. "There's a need for activities, such as basketball leagues, where youth and the police can get to know each other to promote understanding and build positive relationships."



Despite their diverse experiences in race relations, the UWC and McCluer students concluded their conversation by doing something universal to all young people regardless of race, culture, or economic differences – they

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FERGUSON . . . WHERE ALL ROADS LEAD TO HOME!

415 Robert Ave. \$68,500

Located close to Jeske Park, Ferguson's sculpture park, with hiking and biking trails, this bungalow cottage blends into the neighborhood perfectly. Full brick construction, nice oak flooring, two full baths, cove plaster, a warm wood burning fireplace and arched pass-through are just a few of many features. Call us today.



201 Gage. \$68,900

Very very sharp is the best way to describe this 3 bedroom full brick ranch. Nice refinished hardwood floors, newer kitchen and bath, screened porch and a covered patio are just a few features to enjoy. Call us today!



29 Lake Pembroke \$150,000

Tucked way back in the Pembroke neighborhood is this impressive full brick ranch. The floor plan is great for entertaining and the lower level is nicely developed with bar and a newer full bath. This home is in mint move-in condition. Call Wayne Moss at 314 706-1875 for your appointment to view.



722 Hudson Rd. \$109,900

For the gardener or for those who own a horse or pony, take a look at this 3.3 acre (mol) homestead. There is plenty of room on this deep lot to farm a very nice truck garden, Christmas tree operation or board your 4 legged ATV (check with the city for permits before buying). The home is almost 1300 square feet and features newer windows, a new kitchen and 2 baths. Call us today and bring your hiking boots when you visit!



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McCluer Juniors Receive UMSL Creative Achievement Award



Jahmia Collins, De'Vionte McKinney and Alice Jefferson

Three juniors at McCluer High School, have received the University of Missouri-St. Louis Dean's Award for Creative Achievement in the Arts.

The annual award, which provides a \$1000 Creative Achievement Scholarship to attend UMSL, recognizes juniors who display outstanding talent, leadership and responsibility in one or more of their school arts programs.

The students were honored during a special awards luncheon on March 5 at the university. In addition to their scholarships, the students were also presented with two tickets to a performance of their choice at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Honey & Sweetie's
#10 Church Street (used to be Flower Depot)

Ph 314-942-9882
honeyandsweeties@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/HoneyAndSweeties
OPEN Wed-Sat 10a-5p

GALLERY NIGHT/ART WALK is
The First Friday of every month 6-9pm



Fresh handmade candy and baked goods from Wilsing Design and Desserts

Art Classes using recycled stuff
Handmade local goods
Home decor

The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely



EVERYONE seems to always have something that needs to be fixed. whether it be a car, an owl, ie, the house, or an attitude, it begs to be fixed. how about your puter? is it begging you to get it fixed?

i have been noticing this commercial on tv, lately, and it is called the "Fix-it-stick" (or something close to that). the guy on tv claims it will remove all infections, and your puter will run perfectly again.

hogwash!

What You're Not Being Told, dept. understand that i did not buy one of his wondersticks, nor will i ever. so how do i know what to expect? well, the stick may or may not clean your puter of infections. there are many kinds, and often an infected puter requires more than one fix to root them all out. how many will his stick fix? i don't know, but if it does do any good, it will likely not be able to fix them all.

but, let's give him the benefit of a doubt. let's say that his stick kills all of your puter's infections. but he's not telling you that these days you get hit with multiple infections, and each one may need its own separate fix. the chances are extremely high that most of them will destroy your data; even operating system files! and he is not telling you that even tho his stick might kill some or most of the infections, IT CANNOT UNDO THE DAMAGE THAT HAS BEEN CAUSED BY THEM! sometimes some data can be saved, and the operating

system can be rebuilt, but his stick can't do that; it takes someone who knows how to do those things. yes, it takes an experienced tech, not some software bundled on a memory stick that's sold on a tv commercial. you need a good puter tech.

ME GO NOW!

i have to go get a bunch of laptops ready for my church, so we can talk again next month. in the meantime, i want to sell you some salvation. no matter what evil has infected you, the Savior can remove it all. not only that, but He will also renew your spirit, and you will be SAVED! yes, Jesus can do all that, and much more because He and He alone is Almighty God. send no \$\$\$, make no payments; eternal salvation is free! Jesus is ALWAYS standing by for your prayer! order your eternal salvation today! such a deal!

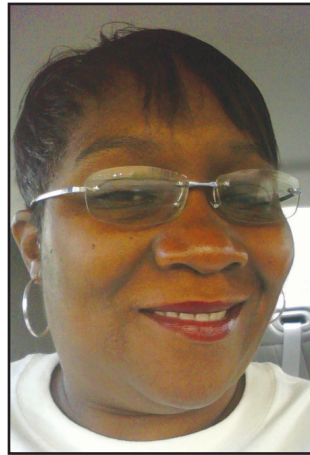
...it is now safe to turn on your puter, and it is a GREAT day to be BAPTISED!

If you would like to ask Doug for his FREE puter advice, our Savior's contact info, or just jaw some, please call him in the PM HOURS at: *314*521*1789*. Email him at: fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com. Be sure to put the phrase "i need puter advice" into the subject line of your missive, or it will be thoroughly "disinfected". also, don't forget to include your local phone #!

May God keep us safe from those who do evil in His sight! Amen & Amen!

Why You Need a Domain Name

By LaTease Rikard



I get asked this question a lot! It's one of those topics that many business owners take for granted. Instinctively they recognize the need for a website, so as a businessperson, they place creation of a website at the forefront of their agenda. Actually, that's kind of backwards.

As a businessperson, you should come up with a domain name or a dot com name for your business first.

When I first started blogging, I randomly chose a title or name for my blog. I joined all kinds of reciprocal blog traffic groups like Blogvertise (this group helps send valuable website traffic to your blog) and even studied Shoe-Money, (Jeremy Shoemaker, the first blogger to become a millionaire by blogging.) I kept looking and searching to find the thing that would propel my blog to the first page on Google and receive a page rank of 10 (the highest rank Google gives to relevant websites.)

What I kept overlooking was something right before my eyes, my domain name. A domain name can help or cripple your business. Choosing a random set of words or phrases will definitely stall your efforts because the name you choose may not have anything to do with your business. Before choosing a domain name, think about what your business does, what your business is, and then come up with a series of words and phrases (keywords) that you want to use. Once you settle on a name, do a Google search for that name or phrase and see what else comes up. Those are your competitors. If your name brings up a Fortune 100 company, I wouldn't recommend using that domain name because you may end up sending traffic to your competitor because your domain is not yet established according to the search engines.

In other words you don't have credibility yet. Stick to something that will occur in your text, such, as if you make scented candles from soy, Google that phrase, look at the top listing in the Google search, click on it, go to their page, and then right click on that page. What you will see might look like Gobble-dy gook, but at the very top of all that code will be the keywords your competitor is using. This page that you right clicked on is called the page source. It isn't unethical to grab some of their keywords, it's just plain old research. Copy those keywords and then rethink your domain name. Also, you can use some of those same keywords when you develop your 'under the hood' stuff for your website or blog.

Next month, we'll talk about the things 'under the hood' of your blog or website that makes Google recognize you. There are things you can do to make sure you get the traffic you need so that customers can find you!

McCluer High School Teacher Receives Award



McCluer High School physics and Project Lead the Way teacher, Spencer Templeton, was named as one of Missouri's Outstanding Beginning Teachers by the Missouri Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE).

Every two years, MACTE and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education honor excellent new teachers across the state for their work with Missouri's youth.

Volunteers Needed



The Volunteer Flower Department braved chilly temps on New Years Day to plant flower bulbs donated by Sandy from the Ferguson Lions. Bulbs were planted at the clock tower in Victorian Plaza and in pots by City Hall. With any luck, you will see blooms welcoming Spring to Ferguson.

This volunteer group is always looking for help - you do not have to know how to garden! Much of what we do is cleaning up the areas we work in. Look for us mid to late April, depending on weather, on Thursday evenings - we meet at 6pm alternating between the library and Victorian Plaza.

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1- Based on internal wet braking test results versus Goodyear Assurance ComfortFlex[®] touring tire size 48S2815.
 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 CCOPlus 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.

Last month, I wrote about the IRS Scam involving many local people, finding that someone has used their information to file an income tax return and receive a refund. Since then much has been brought up in news stories about just how widespread this is. It was discovered that St. Louis ranked third in this tax fraud problem nationally. I haven't heard much on how we got to be in the top category, but some investigations have shown this to be on a global scale with some of the thieves being from countries around the world.

What I had considered was that the thief was local and cheated by claiming dependents and certain levels of income to get tax credits resulting in a large refund. I suspected they got some of the personal information just routinely in some type of data breach. I thought the problem of getting the funds to actually be able to spend would be the area where the crooks could possibly get caught. And perhaps some safe guards that could be there just weren't. One of those would be matching the name on the account using direct deposit and I wondered if that was still happening as a required verification for banks today. From what I found it seemed that more of the liability fell on the tax payer to make certain he gave the proper information for the direct deposit. I wasn't sure how this was much help in the situations we are hearing about.

Now it seems the use of on-line access thru manipulating computers is even scarier and reaches out much further than our local neighborhoods. One of the stories mentioned bank employee information that was accessed thru a bank vendor. While no customer accounts were affected, it seems that might be just as easy for these thieves to get to the customer information. Other stories mentioned some of the countries involved in these identity issues with the illegal tax returns like India, Russia and Nigeria. So again I think wouldn't the IRS verify before sending money to a foreign bank account. As we've been offered so much with speedy refunds by using direct deposit and filing on-line it makes me wonder if that's how the access to information has occurred. Or is the result of the many data breaches that have occurred in the past few years – think Schnucks, Target, Home Depot this list could go on and on.

Channel Four has been investigating, and on their website you can find some tips for what to do if you've experienced this type of problem. Most of the tips are the ones you've heard before: File a police report, contact the Federal Trade Commission and IRS. Also contact the 3 major credit bureaus, your bank and the social security administration. There are links and more information on the Channel Four News web site. While it is time consuming and frustrating it is important to deal with the problem early. While the checklist is certainly helpful, what I think we'd really all like to know is how to avoid it in the first place. Some ideas have come to mind, but they probably won't be popular.

What if we start using snail mail for things like tax return filing? Or do we trust the Post Office to deliver our mail without losing it? I don't seem to hear too much about mail fraud anymore because everyone is using e-mail these days and information is accessible on your tablet and phone, not just a PC. It almost seems like too much sharing of information might be a root of some problems. For those younger, mail would seem like a waste of time. However, if your identity is compromised and you need to go thru the process of fixing things you might think twice.

We could also wait a couple of months for a tax refund to arrive into our account. Give the Internal Revenue time to verify information before just sending out my refund or an unsubstantiated refund to someone possibly in another country who has probably already received refunds for other fraudulent tax returns filed. How long should it take the IRS to do some type of verification, maybe an extra 10 days? With all the things computers are capable of today it would seem like a program to match up previous year's information on a particular person could alert the IRS to re-check people who appear to be filing from a new address. If you did want to get a check instead, the increased cost might be a problem for the IRS with their budget already cut. It seems difficult for them to try to put a better verification system into place. Although with the amount being lost on fraud it would be money well spent and may save enough to cover the cost.

What if we could avoid putting any personal information on-line. Every day we hear of another easy way to apply for a credit card or loan on-line. Of course, to get one of these loans you will need to enter plenty of personal information. We have grown accustomed to having things happen quickly and we are an impatient lot. If you have to wait for the loan even a couple of days you have a little more time to evaluate your need for the money and possibly save yourself from making a mistake by borrowing for the wrong reasons. I suppose if I were on my bank's website and they already know me and have much of my info, I may not be too concerned. However, I would find it strange to just apply to some unfamiliar financial institution without actually seeing someone.

We put ourselves in perilous situations when we try to get things quickly that used to involve time for verification. I recall sitting in a meeting at the bank probably about 10 or 15 years ago. The topic was ATMs that could make loans. Our management wasn't impressed, they thought it seemed dangerous. Right there at the ATM you could fill out the application on the screen and then enter it. Wait a few minutes and

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the brains of the machine would determine if you were in fact a good credit risk and then send out cash or a printed check to be cashed inside of the bank. While I am not familiar with any of these being in use, I have found that 20 of them are operating in Russia and they are pretty popular.

The short term loans can be for up to 15,000 in rubles (about \$241 US dollars) with a repayment term of 20 days. The 2% interest rate comes out to 730 percent annualized. No application either, you just scan your passport, pose for a picture and enter you cell phone number. A few minutes later a text on your phone will direct you to return to the ATM and withdraw your loan. So far they've had about 10% of customers default, but they are able to collect about 55% of those.

In the United States you don't have to look far to find a payday loan and you can go on-line to many more. It is sad that so many will resort to this because the cost is so high and in my opinion, so are the risks. With all of these problems with identity theft a whole new industry of Identity Theft Protection has sprung up over the past fifteen years or so. Buying a form of insurance to protect you and assist you in recovering from an identity theft problem is constantly being advertised now. I am old enough to remember when all you had to do to protect yourself was not throw old checks in your outside trash can instead of shredding. In my early years of banking most fraud was quite crude compared to today's cyber thieves. Today you must be more diligent by maintaining strong passwords and changing them often. In looking in to this I found that "password" is still the most common used password. With all the passwords I have to remember, I sometimes use the same passwords for several things. This is not advised and a suggestion was to add a few extra digits to a password, so each time it is a little different and can be designated for specific sites. You should also be proactive in keeping your anti-virus and malware software up to date and running a check periodically to catch any problems early. It seems in our constantly changing world we must be more careful than ever to avoid such problems and also realize that in the cyber world we will always have some risk. If you have comments or suggestions please e-mail consultjoan@att.net.

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Seen at Vincenzo's recently was Joan Cleaveland, former manager of UMB Bank and Ferguson volunteer for many years. Joan is the writer of the "Financial Focus" column in the "Ferguson Times."

I love to come back to Ferguson, seeing old friends, enjoying Italian food, and, of course, visiting Vincenzo's.

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| Thurs., Apr 2Rocky road | Fri., Apr 17German chocolate |
| Fri., Apr 3cookie dough | Sat., Apr 18turtle swirl |
| Sat., Apr 4snicker | Sun., Apr 19closed |
| Sun., Apr 5closed | Mon., Apr 20closed |
| Mon., Apr 6closed | Tues., Apr 21smore |
| Tues., Apr 7black walnut | Wed., Apr 22coffee toffee |
| Wed., Apr 8cookies and cream | Thurs., Apr 23French silk |
| Thurs., Apr 9mud pie | Fri., Apr 24M&M |
| Fri., Apr 10straw/b cheesecake | Sat., Apr 25fudge ripple |
| Sat., Apr 11chocolate heath | Sun., Apr 26closed |
| Sun., Apr 12closed | Mon., Apr 27closed |
| Mon., Apr 13closed | Tues., Apr 28birthday cake |
| Tues., Apr 14choc. almond fdg | Wed., Apr 29peanut butter cup |
| Wed., Apr 15banana pudding | Thurs., Apr 30cinnamon |

Best ever leftover Easter Eggs

12 hard-cooked eggs
 4 oz. PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
 3 Tbsp. KRAFT Mayonnaise
 2 tsp. GREY POUPON Dijon Mustard
 2 tsp. white vinegar
 1 tsp. sugar
 1/8 tsp. paprika

CUT eggs lengthwise in half. Remove yolks; place in medium bowl. Add all remaining ingredients except paprika; mix well. SPOON into resealable plastic bag. Cut small corner from bottom of bag; use to pipe filling into egg white halves. Sprinkle with paprika. ADD your choice of topping: thinly sliced fresh basil; finely chopped red peppers and 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro; bacon and chopped green onions, etc.





Ferguson by Foot

By: Margaret Wolfinbarger

The onset of warmer weather has me excited beyond words. I always get spring fever but never so much as this year. I feel like I've been trapped in the house for months, even though I make a point to walk outside when it's cold. Maybe it's that first step outside without a jacket, when the sun warms my skin and my eyes are dazzled by brilliant blue skies and fluffy white clouds. Or is it the magic of budding flowers and trees as they wake up from their winter rest? It seems everything in creation bursts forth with energy in a bold exultation that winter has finally released its

claws and we are free to express our unadulterated admiration for the sun.

April is my favorite month of the year because it is the month of morels. In fact, I probably spend more time outside in April than in the rest of the year combined. Come rain or shine you will find me foraging through the woods looking for the elusive fruit. Do not even deign to call it fungus. The morel mushroom is flavorfully complex and so much more than a mushroom. But what does this have to do with healthy living you might ask? Well, I've been hunting morels since I was knee-high to a grasshopper and since the preferred way of cooking them was battered and fried, I ran into a crisis of conscience a few years ago when I transitioned to living a healthy lifestyle. I tried several healthy recipes but sadly, for lack of healthier ways to prepare them, some of my harvest died a long slow death in the freezer while I was trying to shed my weight. Mushroom heresy, I know. I have since learned battered and fried is a perfectly acceptable practice as long as I only eat a few, and at that, only a few times a year. The rest I give to friends or relatives or freeze for one of my favorite treats, homemade mushroom pizza!

As much as I like to eat morels, I enjoy hiking in the woods more. Since I am a city dweller, I am wholly dependent on local parks to feed my nature starved soul. One of my favorite haunts is Little Creek Nature area. Though it is not within Ferguson City limits, it is quite literally a hop, a skip and a jump away from our border. Located on Dunn Road and run by the Ferguson Florissant School district, it serves our younger residents by providing field trips that involve feeding chickens, sheering sheep and hiking on nature trails. It is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm and provides a truly rustic experience. I grew up in North County and when I was little, this was one of my favorite places to hike with my dad. Since my youth they have added a pond and done a complete overhaul of the Maline Creek watershed because of a generous grant from the Department of Natural Resources. I know I run the risk of sounding like a commercial, but I really know of no other school district that provides such an amazing resource for free. If you have any interest in getting exercise and enjoying the outdoors, make a trip over to Little Creek and hike the trails. The Dog Tooth lilies, Jack in the Pulpit and Dutchman's Breeches are my absolute favorite Missouri wildflowers and they are in abundance at Little Creek in April.

If the extra calories consumed in the winter months have "padded your pockets", take heart! You are not alone. There is no time like the present to start moving and change the trajectory of your life. Maybe I make it sound easy. Make no mistake, losing weight and changing bad eating habits is a challenge, but one well worth undertaking. It takes courage and perseverance, tenacity, and a dash of hope to be successful. I often get discouraged in my own journey as I struggle to maintain my 140 pound weight loss. In fact, I frequently seek encouragement in the form of inspiration from others who face adversity and do not crumple under the pressure. With that in mind I want to give a hearty thank you to our Mayor, James Knowles, for exemplifying what it means to stand for truth and integrity in the midst of very trying circumstances. I am awed at his courage and undying love for our community as he continues to give 110% for our community. He has my unwavering support and I am extremely grateful for his leadership.

Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 5 at 6:30AM at January-Wabash Memorial Park

The service will be held on the west side of the lake. Bring your own chair if desired. Giving a brief meditation for the informal service will be The Rev. Josh Privitt of St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Ferguson, and clergy from various churches in Ferguson will also participate.

A free-will offering will benefit the Ferguson Caring League. The community is invited, and there will be coffee and donuts afterward. This special service is sponsored by the Ferguson Ministerial Alliance and the Ferguson Partnership of Churches. For more information, contact Rev. Ellie Stock (314) 521-8418 or elliestock@aol.com



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Christy 50th Anniversary

Kelly and Sara (Young) Christy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 27, 2015. They were both born, grew up, and graduated college in Ohio. They were married at the First United Methodist Church in Middletown, Ohio on March 27, 1965.

Kelly and Sara are enjoying their retirement years together. They share their time with their three children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. During their fifty years of marriage, they have lived in five different states, and touched many lives. For the past twenty years, Kelly and Sara have made Ferguson their home. Almost every day they can be spotted walking their two large exuberant dogs around their Ferguson east neighborhood. If you spot them, please wish them a wonderful 50th anniversary, along with their family—Mark, Vickie, Tiffany, Keith, Adrian, Aaliyah, Antoinette, Andrew, Mia, Jordynn, Elijah, Amy, Alberto, Matthew, James, and Angela.



The Christy's on March 27, 1965

Ferguson Book Club

It's not just reading the books but talking about our reactions to them that makes the book club so valuable," says a member of the Readings on Race Book Club at the Ferguson Municipal Library. Members gathering since January have talked about mass incarceration, the Great Migration, and their own experiences both before and since August 9, 2014.

The April selection is *Colorblind* by Tim Wise, in which the author argues against "colorblindness" and for a deeper color-consciousness in both public and private practice. He makes the case for acknowledging the diverse identities that have shaped our perceptions and the role that race the United States today.

Book club participants choose the selections from a short list prepared

by facilitators Dan Sachs and Carla Fletcher, who welcome suggestions from the group. While everyone is encouraged to read the books, all people are invited to participate, whether or not they have finished—or even started—the book for each month.

Colorblind is available in electronic form from the Ferguson Municipal Library, as hard copy from Ferguson and other libraries, and for purchase online at bookstores. Anyone who has difficulty locating the books can contact Ferguson Municipal Library Director Scott Bonner at sbonner@fergusonlibrary.net, and he will arrange to order additional copies.

For information contact Dan Sachs at 202-309-5875 or Carla Fletcher at 314-524-3644.

Ferguson/Hispanic Festival Networking Event

When: **Wednesday, April 29th**

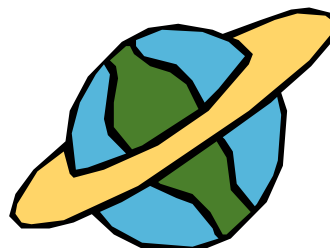
Where: Ferguson Community Center

1050 Smith Avenue, Ferguson MO 63135 Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Entrance fee: Free

Networking event guests will enjoy free food from El Palenque Mexican Restaurant & Cantina. Individuals will have the opportunity to meet, greet, exchange business cards, and generate referrals.

This event is sponsored by Hispanic Festival Inc. and the City of Ferguson. The City of Ferguson will provide guests with a tour of the facility. A one day free pass will be given to attendees to come back and enjoy the amenities the Community Center has to offer.

This networking event gives us all the opportunity to set up future gatherings and make the most of new connections. The idea is to bring together Hispanic people of all backgrounds. Registration is encouraged, but not required. Please send an e-mail to troper@fergusoncity.com.
Ferguson/Hispanic Festival Networking Event



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Blood Pressure Clinic

Thursday April 2, 9, 16, 23 at 10:15 a.m. Refreshments served RSVP by calling 314-838-3877

Tai Chi for Seniors - FREE classes

Friday, April 3, 10, 17, 24 10:00 a.m. Reduce stress, strengthen joints, develop balance and coordination. RSVP by calling 314-838-3877

Safety at the Home

Presented by Premiere HHC Thursday, April 2nd at 9:30 a.m.

Complimentary Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. RSVP by calling 314-838-3877

TRIVA

Presented by GENTIVA Thursday, April 9 at 9:30 a.m. Complimentary Breakfast at 9:00 RSVP by Jan 9th 314-838-3877

“Happy” Happy Hour

Entertainment Bryan Foggs & Olivia Tuesday, April 28th 10:30 a.m. Happy Hour 11:30 a.m. Followed by Complimentary Lunch RSVP by April 23 - 314-838-3877

Project Hands

Volunteers needed to knit, crochet, and quilt for various children’s organizations The last Friday of every month Friday April 24th at 2:00 p.m. RSVP by calling 314-838-3877




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Under The Hood With Robinwood
By Bob McGartland

Spring Cleaning is For More Than Just Your Home

Bright sunny days, windows open, and we are all enjoying fresh air after a long winter... please enjoy every minute of spring! As you begin your spring cleaning activities, remember to include some T.L.C. for your vehicle too.

Our winters place salt and other grime on our vehicles exterior and interior. Washing the car in the driveway will clean the obvious outside areas, but the undercarriage can be easily forgotten. My recommendation is to find a local car wash that features an under body wash or flush as part of their services. This under body wash will help remove the salt and grime that has adhered to your suspension, frame, brakes, and other important “out of sight” parts of your vehicle. Salt is very corrosive and can lead to rust and damage, so flushing the under side of your vehicle is a great idea, especially in the spring. Remember, we drag salt, dirt, grime, and other yuk inside our vehicles all winter long. Hopefully you have mats that help keep the interior floor somewhat clean, but a “good” vacuuming and cleaning the carpet is an excellent idea every spring. Salt can be as damaging to the inside of your vehicle as it is to the exterior. I don’t normally recommend any car mats, but if you need them, the Weathertech mats that you see advertised are the real deal. They are not cheap, but they are cut to size and really work.

Now is also a great time to replace wiper blades as winter temperature swings and road grime will break down the rubber. There were those cold mornings when the wipers are stuck to the windshield; the rubber edge gets torn from the force of the wiper motor trying to move the frozen blade across the glass. With spring rains, good wiper blades are very important to your vision while behind the wheel. Wiper blades are an affordable investment and having a clear windshield is important, especially when driving into the sun and oncoming traffic & headlights at night. Start the spring season with a new set of wiper blades.

You can perform your own spring inspection by turning down the radio, putting down your windows, and listening for those “weird” car sounds. Squeaking sounds, grinding and scraping noises, humming, hisses, and other things that just don’t seem right are a good reason to have a bumper to bumper vehicle inspection performed with your next oil change. Belts, pulleys, and hoses take it especially rough over the winter as they are exposed to the conditions all winter long. If we catch problems early the fix is normally much easier and less expensive.

Lastly, tires, brakes, and suspension should be inspected. Our lovely winter potholes are great for knocking vehicles out of alignment and tires out of balance. Having your tires rotated and balanced and an alignment check should be on your “to do” list every spring. An alignment is way less expensive than the new tires you will have to purchase if you drive very long with a vehicle that is out of alignment. Along with your suspension and tires, spring is a good time to have a brake inspection too. Your brake rotors and pads are exposed to all of winters wrath, so making sure everything is in order as we enter our spring and summer driving season is a good idea.

Ahh... spring is finally here! Visit us at www.robinwoodauto.com

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St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Easter Services:

Thursday, April 2
Maundy Thursday Service
7:00 pm

Friday, April 3
Stations of the Cross - 12:00 pm & Good Friday Service - 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 5
Easter Sunday Services 8:00 am and 10:00 am, in addition we will have an Easter egg hunt for children after the 10:00 am service.



Provident to Base In-School Counseling Program in Urban League's New Ferguson Community Empowerment Center

The burned out hulk of the Quik Trip's former store located on West Florissant still stands as a reminder of the aftermath of unrest in Ferguson on August 9th of last year. But soon, the blackened remains will be the site of the Urban League's New Ferguson community Empowerment Center.

As part of Provident's ongoing commitment to community services, the agency is expanding its efforts in North St. Louis County, opening a second location in conjunction with The Urban League of Greater St. Louis, which is opening the Ferguson Center.

"Provident is extremely grateful for QuikTrip's generous donation of this property and the Urban League's leadership in creating this center, which will allow our team to offer mental health support and assistance, including school-based therapists and educational workshops," said Steve Sullivan, Provident's CEO and Executive Director.

"We are committed to Ferguson and the entire North County area. Since August 2014, we have redirected our resources where they are needed most and brought our counselors directly into specific schools. Although much work remains to be done, we have a plan that could double the number of full-time counselors employed by Provident over the next three years, with the vast majority of these counselors working in North County schools. We are excited by the prospects," said Sullivan.

In addition, Provident will continue to offer free counseling to adults, 20 years of age and older, who have been affected by the 2014 events in Ferguson. Made possible by a grant from the United Way, this Ferguson Relief Counseling program applies to both City and County residents. Contact Provident at 314.533.8200 to schedule an appointment.

Provident, a nonprofit agency, established in 1860, helps individuals and families to a brighter future through counseling, suicide prevention and community outreach. The agency offers six convenient counseling locations in the St. Louis area ... midtown, Ferguson, Creve Coeur, Wildwood, Arnold and Fairview Heights. Provident receives a significant portion of its funding from the United Way of Greater St. Louis. Other major sources of revenue are generated from grants, such as the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund, individual and corporate donations, and fundraising special events.

Serving the St. Louis Area since 1860, Provident is an accredited, nonprofit, United Way-funded agency that helps individuals and families to a brighter future through counseling, suicide prevention, and community outreach.

Retaining Walls and Landscaping



Have you seen stone walls like the one on the left, that begin to look dark and discolored after just a few months? Because White Landscaping lines their walls and flower beds with plastic before filling with soil, this discoloration will never happen.



Look at the two walls on Carson Road, across from the Ferguson Depot. Although the clean one is newer, it does not have any discoloration. That wall was installed by White Landscaping.

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Ferguson Commissioner Visits Our Lady of Guadalupe

The students at Our Lady of Guadalupe School were pleased to welcome Ferguson Commissioner Byron Watson as their headline speaker for Black History Month.

Commissioner Watson is a retired St. Louis County Police Officer and the godfather of one of OLG's fourth graders, Cayla Huffman. Commissioner Watson spoke to the students about his career as a police officer in St. Louis County and about his second career as a member of the police force at St. Louis Community College. He advised the students to find their passions, work hard, follow their dreams, and to always be respectful in every situation.



The Our Lady of Guadalupe students were thrilled to meet this distinguished member of our community and were most grateful for his wisdom and for the many gifts he presented to them from his days as a DARE officer.

Three FFSD Students Among 150 Youth Making the Historic Trek From Selma to Montgomery

Three Ferguson-Ferguson School District students were among 150 youth from throughout the nation who made the 54-mile historic trek from Selma to Montgomery, AL March 20-25. The students – DeAnna Harper, a senior at McCluer North High School; Emani Irving, a junior at McCluer South-Berkeley High School; and Vaughn Ross, a senior at McCluer High School participated in the iconic walk as members of the “Walking Classroom” in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the voting rights march.

The “Walking Classroom” is sponsored by the National Park Service and is designed to provide a memorable, life-changing experience for participants. Through discussions with the actual foot soldiers of the march, participants will learn of the strife and sacrifice that was endured to secure voting equality. The journey, which began in Selma on Friday, March 20 and concluded on the Capital steps in Montgomery on Wednesday, March 25, provided participants an opportunity to reflect and share with their peers and a broader audience the ongoing struggle for human rights, the impact of the events of 1965, and the residual influence those events have upon the nation and world today.

The district received an invitation to participate in the “Walking Classroom” through its work with the National Alliance for Faith and Justice and the Pen and Pencil Initiative. Social studies teacher Michelle Grigsby will join the students on the journey.

During the five days and nights of the march, participants camped as marchers did historically, with sleeping bags and in tents. Each night participants attended educational sessions led by guest speakers and performers. Through this immersive learning experience, the students will gain a greater appreciation for the physical and emotional toll such a trek took on marchers nearly 50 years ago and build an emotional and personal connection to history.

American Association of University Women MEET AND GREET

How do the inequities in the state legislature, the workplace, and society affect women and families? What can advocates do to change this negativity? What do statistics and the experts say about the status of women today? These issues and others related to women in Missouri will be addressed in this Spring Happy Hour.

Join other women interested in changing the current climate for women's issues in Missouri at a casual Women's Happy Hour sponsored by the Ferguson-Florissant (North County) Branch of the American Association of University Women.

The event will be held on **Thursday, April 9, 2015**, from 4 to 6 pm at Hendel's Cafe (on the porch), 599 St. Denis, in Florissant. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded. This event is open to the public.

For more information, call 314-831-5359, 314-831-6884 or 314-921-4138.

Employment Opportunity

Job Title: Police Dispatcher (Full-time)

Salary: \$15.32/hr

City of Ferguson Police Department is looking for a full-time Police Dispatcher. High School diploma or GED required. REJIS/Mules Certification, Police Dispatch experience preferred. Must possess excellent communication skills and good customer service skills. Must be available all shifts, weekends, and holidays.



Qualified persons should submit an application to: Human Resources Department, Ferguson City Hall or for more information call 314-524-5256. EOE

A City application may be obtained or a resume submitted at The Human Resources Department, 110 Church Street, Ferguson, MO 63135. The City of Ferguson offers excellent benefits.

FFSD Students Qualify for State DECA Competition

Students from McCluer, McCluer South-Berkeley and McCluer High Schools headed to Lake Ozark, MO March 15-17 to participate in the state DECA competition. DECA is an international organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality management and other business areas. DECA has over 3500 high school chapters with more than 200,000 members. In order to qualify for state competition, students competed in divisional competition. Below is a listing of DECA state qualifiers and their area of competition:

McCluer High School

Celine Wallace and Destiny Speech – Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making
Deja Gardner – Food Marketing Individual Series

McCluer South-Berkeley High School

Kennedy Reed and Raquel Haynes – Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making

McCluer North High School

Uvietobo Ewharekuko – Marketing Management
Stephen Brown-Young and Tatianna Turner – Hospitality Services Team Decision Making
Kyra Clemons – Principals of Business Management and Administration
Ben Cosgrove – Retail Merchandising Series
Trelisa Harris – Restaurant and Food service Management
Gabrielle Hays and Tyra Searcy – Marketing Communications Team Decision Making
Michael Hodge – Automotive Services Marketing
Cobi Tate – Restaurant and Food Service Management

FFSD Names Teacher and Support Employee of the Year

The Ferguson-Florissant School District has named Erin King as its 2015 Teacher of the Year and Kathy Hilliker as the Support Employee of the Year.



King, a math teacher, department chair and alumnae of McCluer North High School, has worked in the district for 10 years. She was selected for the honor because of her many contributions to education. She instills a love of learning to all her students by providing them with instruction tailored to individual needs and learning styles. King's classroom is a wildly creative environment in which her students are taught to become risk-takers and problem solvers, capable of critical analysis.

“Ms. King is a student first teacher who is a top-notch representative of all the great teaching that occurs in the Ferguson-Florissant School District,” said Lawrence Larrew, acting superintendent.

Hilliker, an office manager at Lee-Hamilton Elementary School, is a 17-year employee of the district. She consistently goes above and beyond office manager expectations, mentoring students, developing and nurturing relationships with families and working hard to support all staff members at Lee-Hamilton. Hilliker's nomination stated, “She juggles all of the demands of a busy office in an elementary school seamlessly.”



March 2015 Meeting Minutes

Reported by Keith Kallstrom
(Keith.Kallstrom@gmail.com)



Lt. Ray Nabzdyk opened the March 11th, 2015 meeting of the Ferguson On Watch by introducing the night's topic of discussion – Counterterrorism in the United States

On Oct. 11, 2001 (following the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center towers), President George Bush gave the following speech: "... the attack took place on American soil but it was an attack on the heart and the soul of the civilized world. And the world has come together to fight a new and different war, the first, and we hope the only one, of the 21st century. . . . a war against all those who seek to export terror and the war against those governments that support or shelter it."

Before September 11, 2001 terrorist acts were happening outside the US. Although terrorist attacks and attempt against Americas were increasing, we were not prepared for our very own "catastrophic" incident. America entered the 21st century as the strongest, most dominating nation in the world. As a result, it was, and still is, the biggest and softest target for the dangerous resentments of the countries and individuals left behind. The potential terrorists include not only religious fanatics who regard the spread of Western culture as blasphemy, but any number of groups and individuals who believe they can start a race war or herald Judgment Day by setting off a nuclear bomb.

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency was the preparedness and response organization for the nation. In fiscal year 1998 \$1 million was budgeted for mass casualty planning and \$1.3 million for state level training. Before 9/11 there was very little federal or local organized or shared intelligence in regard to counterterrorism.

Since the attacks on September 11, 2001, counterterrorism in the United States has been redirected and restructured to meet the complex, national security needs necessary to address modern-day terrorism. The Department of Homeland Security has been given the responsibility for counterterrorism which includes preparedness and training, law enforcement development, infrastructure protections and science and technology. This includes study and research on terrorism, criminal enterprise and terrorism, terrorism financing, concern for weapons of mass destruction's (WMD), especially nuclear weapons, Al Qaeda, and terrorists tactics, training, and strategies.

Information sharing and intelligence gathering now includes a national counterterrorism center, joint terrorism task forces, fusion centers, information and intelligence sharing at all levels. The intelligence cycle includes collection, processing and exploitation, analysis and production, dissemination, requirements, planning and direction.

National Counterterrorism Center

"When international terrorism struck on 9/11, the United States came together with a unity of purpose – to protect our country and our interests from the global threat of terrorism. In the years since 9/11, we are better prepared. The country is safer. Agencies are working together as never before to share information critical to protecting our freedom.

Now we are seeing results: attacks prevented, plots uncovered, terrorists and their leaders captured and killed. But the battle continues everyday..."

And, there is much more cooperation now at the local state and federal agency levels.

Corrections for last month's article:

The Vehicle Stops report link was incorrect. That link should read <http://www.ago.mo.gov/divisions/litigation/vehicle-stops-report>

Next Meeting:

There is some concern about the small attendance at the monthly Neighborhood Watch meetings. Our assignment for next month is to bring ideas as to how to jump start our Neighborhood Watch. The next Ferguson Neighborhood Watch meeting scheduled at City Hall will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 8th

CERT Update: The March CERT meeting was cancelled due to protestor activity. Our next CERT training will be at the training room downstairs in the police station on Saturday, April 11th. CERT members will be receiving calls to confirm their activity status during the next month. Coming up this Spring: fire extinguisher training.

Exploring the Web of Cruelty

The boy walked down to the bank of the lake carrying a plastic bag. As he stood beside the water, he poked holes into the plastic with his pen knife. Slowly he submerged the bag, still holding it tight in one of his hands. At first, muffled cries could be heard as the bag moved violently in the water. It seemed like many moments before he removed the bag. Opening it, he smiled as he reached in and took the small lifeless kitten from the bag. With a shout, he heaved the limp, tiny body into the thick wooded area beyond the lake.

Sadly, horrendous scenes such as this happen thousands of times a year throughout the country. Simply, children who are cruel to animals grow up to be cruel to people.

Sue Gassner, Director of Education at the Humane Society of Missouri, will speak about the link between cruelty to animals, children, and domestic violence on **Monday, April 20**, 7:00 pm, in the Educational Building of the Immanuel UCC Church, 211 Church Street, Ferguson.

This event is sponsored by the Ferguson-Florissant (North County) Branch of the American Association of University Women and is free and open to the public. For additional information, call 314-831-5359, 314-831-6884 or 314-921-4138.



Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 9th

Holiday Inn Airport West
3400 Rider Trail South, Earth City
11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Reservations Required

Bring your or your child's favorite stuffed animal to be entered into a special drawing!

Meet Sonya



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By
Bob
McCarty

We've survived another winter inside our older homes. It's time to get outside and see what kind of havoc the weather has played on our houses.

This month, we'll talk on how to set up a maintenance program that will keep your home working for you and allow you the peace of mind that makes life more enjoyable. This is not only for older homes, if you live in a newer home, maintenance is still a very important aspect of home ownership.

For your first order of business, you will need to do a thorough inspection of your home. Start at the top and look at all parts closely and critically as you work your way down. It is also a good idea to probe as deep as you can in trouble areas. For instance, if you have flaking paint on the soffit, is it because your gutters are leaking or is the paint failing? Use an icepick or awl and poke on the wood to find if you might have some rotted wood. Be thorough.



Here are some ideas to help you with the inspection of your home;

- Do you have a friend or neighbor whose home needs to be inspected? Let your neighbor inspect your home while you inspect their's.

- Inspect your house when you return from an extended trip away from home. This will help you look with fresh eyes.
- Look at your home through a mirror over your shoulder or cut a 9" x 12" rectangle in a piece of cardboard and while holding this frame at arm's length, look through it so that you are able to isolate different areas of the house.

Make lots of notes and write down your findings. This will help you organize your findings and thoughts for the next phase.

Now that you have spent the time to do a thorough inspection, let's make a plan. By making a basic plan, you will be able to determine what needs to be done, when it will be done, who will do it and how much it will cost. If you have been following a maintenance program for a few years this plan should fall right in line with projects that you have known about for some time. If this is your first round with a maintenance plan you may find it to be above and beyond what you have the time and money to take care of. If this is the case, or you have just purchased your first older

home, read on.

You may find during this planning phase that you have a lot more projects to take care of than the depth of your pockets or the time in a day. That's OK. What your plan would look like is to deal with your highest priority projects. You have found that the handrail and one of the porch steps are rotting and /or broken and you have absolutely no carpenter skills. Your resources are limited but you have a friend that is an ace carpenter and he needs his gutters cleaned out and his house washed . . . and you happen to own a ladder and know where to rent a power washer. This is how a lot of things were done at the time that your house was built, with bartering. Of course if this is something that you can do yourself, more power to you. Just get those things done that need to be done to insure that you and any of your visitors will be safe to enjoy that part of your home. You get the idea.

The inspection is done and you have a plan; now it's time to get to work. If you have planned the what, who, when, and how parts of your maintenance plan, you have a pretty good start. Keeping track and documenting your projects will be a big help with your on-going maintenance program. You will see what I'm talking about in a minute. You've inspected, you've planned, you've maintained all season, now's the time to evaluate. Take a break from the work you've done this season and compare that work to your plan. Did you get everything done or were you only able to get the most pressing parts of the plan done? While working on one project, did another project expose itself to you? What, if anything, woulda, coulda, or shoulda you have done differently? These are the types of questions you need to be asking yourself now, so that you will be more prepared for next season.

If you had taken good notes or documented your progress after all the work is finished, you'll know every aspect of the maintenance that was performed this year. You'll know how much you spent, what you finished and all about those surprises that showed up when they were least expected. Considering what needed to be done, were you able to get the projects finished that needed the most immediate attention? Considering that this was a productive year of older home maintenance and you got your highest priority projects completed, but you didn't get everything in the plan done; you will be able to re-visit those projects in the next maintenance cycle.

If you own a home, old or new, maintenance will always be a word that should stay in your vocabulary. If there is a subject, in regards to older home/building maintenance you would like for me to touch upon, let me know, or if you need someone to help set up a maintenance program for your home, you can contact me at paintedeffects@sbcglobal.net with the subject of BobonJob or by phone at 314-524-1264.

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Environmental Film

What is the relationship between water, Earth's most valuable resource, and the health of individuals, communities, nations, and earth itself? This is the question posed by the April environmental film "Earth a New Wild", part of a PBS documentary narrated by Dr. M. Sanjavan.

The film/discussion event is hosted by the Ferguson Eco Team and will be **Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 PM**, in the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 33 N. Clay (at Darst), Ferguson, MO 63135.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information: (314) 521-8418; elliestock@aol.com

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Students Will Use Technology Training To Assist Ferguson Businesses

Ricky Smith and Dystinee Nichols, juniors at the Mark Twain Student Support Center, are receiving invaluable technology training. The two are participants in the Roy Clay Sr. Web Development and Entrepreneurship Workshop. The six-week development series, sponsored by Hands Up United, provides computer programming and web development training to empower participants to become entrepreneurs and help them launch their tech careers by using what they learn to assist small businesses and movements in the Ferguson area establish a digital presence.



Smith learned of the program through Mark Twain science teacher Cheryl Christian and Nichols' aunt informed her about it. They applied and were accepted. The two, along with eight other participants meet for two-and-a-half hours two nights per week and for nine hours each Saturday to learn computer coding, web site development, social media, entrepreneurship and the negative social and political implications of technology.

"When I read the information about the workshop, I was eager to share it with many students. However when a student is selected to partake in a competitive program or workshop, it is a reward that is priceless," said Christian. "I look forward to our students representing Mark Twain Student Support Center in a positive way that will impact the Ferguson-Florissant School District and our community."

Smith and Nichols said that participating in the workshop provides a means for them to give back to the community while acquiring skills that will last them a lifetime. They will share their new tech skills by building the technical infrastructure for mission oriented organizations and businesses that serve the community.

"If I want to see change around me, I have to be able to make change," said Nichols. "Life is a journey and you have to take the right road. I want to help people and do something positive."

Smith, who was chosen by his peers as the group's project manager agreed with Nichols and added, "Creating something positive is a part of the bigger cycle of positivity – you want to help others especially when they are helping you."

For successfully completing the program, participants will be given a \$500 stipend and personal laptop.

Brian Scott Ebert

Strong Schools = Strong Communities

I have served on these committees:

- St. Louis County Special School District Governing Council
- Ferguson-Florissant School District Committee for Special Education
- Health Committee
- Financial Task Force Committee
- Security Advisory Committee
- Student Expectations Committee
- Technology Committee

I accomplished the following changes since being on the Board:

- Cutting \$4 million from the budget.
- Brought Scholar Bowl back from budget cuts
- Extended Learning Program on Saturday mornings
- We have replaced the CFO, Law Firm and Audit firm
- Put into place the District's Strategic Plan. This included support from staff and community



I have 3 children that attend District Schools. You can contact me by ~ vote4bsebert@yahoo.com or at www.facebook.com/electebert/info

Ferguson-Florissant School Board

Paid for by Ebert for School Board – Susan Ebert, Treasurer

No Tax Increase Bond Issue

Ferguson-Florissant School District

Paid for by Citizens For School Innovation
Brian Scott Ebert, Treasurer

PROB Innovation Investment Infrastructure

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- **Continued upkeep to buildings**
- **Updated technology**
- **Remodeling entrances to our aging elementary schools for additional security**

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National Players Present Harper Lee's Award – Winning Story **To Kill a Mockingbird**

The National Players of Olney Theatre, Maryland presents a dramatization of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This timeless tale of the innocence of childhood and the shock of growing up provides a poignant look at justice and the human spirit, as told through the eyes of a young girl learning the mysteries and realities of adulthood.

For a long time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* was the only novel written by Harper Lee. The novel was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, stunning Lee, and it also won the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in the same year. The plot and characters are loosely based on the author's observations of her family and neighbors, as well as on an event that occurred near her hometown in 1936 when she was 10 years old. Lee drew on her own experience as a young girl in the South to create a rich atmosphere filled with distinct voices of people in a small Alabama Town.

The play is renowned for its warmth and humor, despite dealing with serious issues of rape and racial inequality. Atticus Finch has served as a moral hero for many readers and as a model of integrity for lawyers. One critic explains the novel's impact by writing, "In the twentieth century, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is probably the most widely read book dealing with race in America, and its protagonist, Atticus Finch, the most enduring fictional image of racial heroism."

On April 10, 8:00 p.m., for the first time in the company's 65 year history, the National Players from Olney, Maryland will perform *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the beautiful Florissant Civic Center Theatre as part of Florissant Fine Arts Council Applause/Applause series. Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$26 for seniors and students. Group rates are available also. Call the box office at 314-921-5678 for tickets and information or go online at www.florissantfineartsmo.com.



The Florissant Fine Arts Council presents the Applause/Applause series with financial support from our members, the Regional Arts Commission, Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, the Employees Community Fund of Boeing and the City of Florissant.

Senior Wedding

Jacob, age 79, and Mary, age 76, living in South Florida, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and on the way they pass a drugstore. Jacob suggests they go in.

Jacob addresses the man behind the counter:
"Are you the owner?" The pharmacist answers, "Yes."

Jacob: "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"
Pharmacist: "Of course we do."

Jacob: "How about medicine for circulation?"
Pharmacist: "All kinds."

Jacob: "Medicine for rheumatism?"
Pharmacist: "Definitely."

Jacob: "How about suppositories and medicine for impotence?"
Pharmacist: "You bet!"

Jacob: "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis and Alzheimer's?"
Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety. The works."

Jacob: "What about vitamins, sleeping pills, Geritol, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?"
Pharmacist: "Absolutely."


Jacob: "Everything for heartburn and indigestion?"
Pharmacist: "We sure do."

Jacob: "You sell wheelchairs and walkers and canes?"
Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes."

Jacob: "Adult diapers?"
Pharmacist: "Sure, how can I help you?"

Jacob: "We'd like to use this store as our Bridal Registry."





Brian P. Fletcher

Ferguson City Council Ward 2

**Proven Dedication, Experience
and Leadership**


I believe, God only gives us what we can handle. From this tragedy, Ferguson will rise a stronger, wiser, and more humble community. With all my heart, it is my belief that our city's legacy will not only be defined by the shots that took Michael Brown's life on August, 9, 2014, but by the strength of character that of all our citizens both black and white and how we move forward. We will accept this opportunity and challenge cast upon us by showing the Nation and the World that this indeed will not be our final legacy. That we might become an example of a model community of racial harmony throughout the world. God Bless Ferguson!

Brian Fletcher, Candidate for Ward 2

Paid for by Fletcher for Ferguson ~Deb Norgard, Treasurer

Vote for ELLA JONES Tues. April 7

Candidate for Ferguson City Council – Ward 1



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April 7th

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Djeli Tales By Mama Lisa Gage

Earth Day This April

Ready, set, go! Our annual spring cleaning ritual usually includes indoor and outdoor beautification and restoration projects galore. We want to remove the old to make room for the new. The St. Louis Earth Day Rex recycling extravaganza entices us to bring it on! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 26**. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the campus of St. Louis Community College at Forest Park will operate as a receiving station for a myriad of businesses wanting what you can give. (<http://www.stlouisearthday.org/events/festival/rex/>)

If you are like me and have kept too much of the stuff that your kids have left behind at your place when they moved out, this event is perfect to help you lighten your load. Get some containers to fill and transport those hard-to-recycle items. I'm so tickled when my daughter asks why I even still have a 'box' TV. I remind her not to judge me for maintaining perfectly good, over-sized sound and visual assistants with free local channels. I guess my mistake is keeping the ones she watched cartoons on 25 years ago. I have to 'just let it go' as they say. The event will accept these items for a small fee. CRT, glass, TVs, 27 inches or less, will cost \$20, while \$40 will be charged for other larger models like console and big screen TVs. The collectors will take CRT monitors and flat screen TVs for free. (<http://midwrc.net/electronics-recycling-st-louis/>)

Several other vendors have committed to making it easier for us to recycle for the Earth Day festival. P2D2 will take expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceuticals, prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and supplements. Play it Forward is gathering guitars, violins, drum sets, trumpets, cellos, bass instruments, saxophones, flutes, violas, and band instruments. Solea Water needs new or gently used cell phones and shoes. Usagain wants clothing, toys, and household textiles like curtains, linens, and towels. The Help Hospital Equipment Loan Program collects manual and powered wheel chairs, scooters, canes, crutches, walkers, shower chairs, grab bars, portable commodes, back lifts, chair lifts and more. With all of these items to be reused and recycled, I think I'll need to call a friend to bring their car for the trip.

Luckily, shuttle service to and from the REX recycling zone at St. Louis Community-Forest Park will run from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. This makes it stress-free to enjoy the rest of the activities at the St. Louis Earth Day Festival on the Muny Grounds in Forest Park without worrying about parking. This year marks the festival's 26th year of providing a free, family and dog friendly good time in St. Louis. Food, entertainment, and education aimed at promoting values encouraging sustainable living headline the festivities. There are even Earth Day Eve happenings on Saturday, April 25 from 4 - 7 p.m. with music and food (\$5 advance tickets or \$10 upon arrival).

The Earth Day environmental movement began on April 22, 1970. At that time, mass protest against the war in Vietnam transformed into an outcry for more Earth consciousness against pollution, oil spills, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife. More recent agendas include advocacy for controlling global warming and producing clean energy. Earth Day is celebrated all around the world with events to inspire citizens to become more active and responsible with the planet's resources. (<http://www.earthday.org/earth-day-history-movement>)

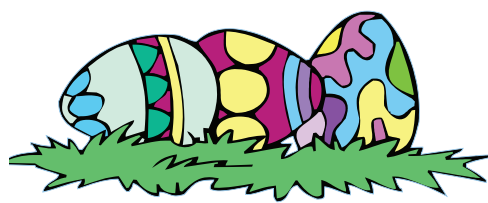
Spring cleaning helps us to do our part. Let's use this year's Earth Day events to continue to clean up Ferguson and discard items that can be renewed for a new purpose. For more information, visit the St. Louis Earth Day website at <http://www.stlouisearthday.org/events/festival/> or call 314-282-7533. Many more recycling vendors will be on available to handle your donations, and you will be able to better enjoy the moment when your kids ask, "What happened to my ...?"

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Scientists at NASA built a gun specifically to launch standard 4 pound dead chickens at the windshields of airliners, military jets and the space shuttle, all traveling at maximum velocity. The idea is to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

British engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high speed trains. Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the British engineers.

When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurled out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof windshield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's back-rest in two, and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin, like an arrow shot from a bow. The horrified Brits sent NASA the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the U.S. scientists for suggestions.

NASA responded with a one-line memo "Defrost the chicken."

The Biggest Yard Sale in History is Coming in May!

The annual yard sale will take place on
Saturday, May 30, 2015, 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Call 521-7721 with questions.

The Best of Ferguson

This column is devoted to the people of Ferguson whose efforts and dedication make Ferguson the "Community of Choice"

by Ruffino Anklesaria – Old Ferguson West

Ferguson is the beautiful little "secret" I discovered 12 years ago when I moved from the Central West End with my beloved late husband, Farrokh K. Anklesaria, Esq., and our two daughters, Julee, then seven, and Anahita, then four years old. I had been scouting for my first home in America with my realtor friend, Georgia Denise Rossell. She told me that Ferguson was the best kept secret in real estate, and that I should come and see the impressive century Victorian homes in the area.

When Denise took me to the lovely home at the corner of Tiffin Ave and S Clarke, it was love at first sight! While it was small by my husband's standards, having lived in England for many years and travelled around the world living in many grand and lavish homes, his one real requirement was that the home "should make my wife happy!" And that it did! It had been recently featured in the Victorian Country magazine and the previous owners had taken great care of the property. When I walked through it, I found it charming, well decorated and suiting my needs. The demographics indicated that I was going to be living in a diverse community and this is just what I wanted.

Three years before, I had migrated to the United States from my homeland, Trinidad and Tobago, to join my husband in St Louis. Together we ran a non-profit organization, The Enlightened Sentencing Project (www.tesp.org), teaching the Transcendental Stress Management program (www.tsmo.org) to offenders sent by the courts. I had done my Advanced Certificate in Nonprofit Management at Washington University in St Louis (2002), and followed this with my Master's in International Affairs in 2005.

We made Ferguson our happy home, our children biking on the sidewalks, playing with another girl their age two houses down, Gabby. We became friends with everyone around. I felt we had the Best Neighbors in Don and Joanne Freihoff who were right behind us on Roberta Ave. Don brought us hand-picked vegetables from his garden and invited the girls over to help him pick sometimes. If we were out, he would leave them on our back steps. When I found a garden snake in the yard and my husband was not at home, I called Don. When I couldn't get my furnace to work one night, I call Gabby's parents.

I baked bread and sent over for the neighbor's boys and for other neighbors on the street. I joined neighbors for our own Trick or Treat ritual: we all had a bonfire in front of one neighbor's house on our block, sat in a semi-circle, and the kids just made one pass and got it all in one go! We neighbors enjoyed the camaraderie. When I went out of town, I left my keys with Don and a note with Gabby's Mom on how to contact me. Gabby looked after my plants and Don checked on the house.

My girls attended the local Catholic school, then Sts John and James, re-named Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. I attended Mass there then service at Zion Lutheran, both of which I still attend.



Ferguson Residents meet for a Potluck Dinner at my home in Ferguson. At the Head of the table is our Mayor James Knowles III, his wife, Lisa, to the right, and I'm in between them.

In 2011, we moved my husband's offices to Ferguson, as he fell gravely ill. During my husband's illness, his passing in June 2012, and my subsequent brush with death, the good people of Ferguson came forward to be my family. They supported me not only emotionally, but offered to do my lawns, baked me cookies, took my girls to the hospital to see me when I was confined. The spiritual leaders of both churches reached out to my family and me. The emergency personnel and police officers responded to my call for ambulance services ten times, and each time, treated my family with abundant kindness.

William Paisley (Gunnar) Brown January 16, 1936 to March 9, 2015



When the Ferguson Outdoor Farmers' Market opens in May, a booming voice and smiling face will be missing. Gunnar has been the Market Master there since its very beginning . . . in fact, he was one of the founders.

But that's not the only place that Gunnar will be missed. He was a long time member of the Ferguson 4th of July Festival Committee. Gunnar manned the ticket table for the Ham & Bean and BBQ dinner fundraisers that the Festival holds to help pay for the Free Family Fun day. In spite of his recent illness, Gunnar only missed one fundraiser and that was

the one held in February of this year.

Gunnar also served on several City, Chamber of Commerce and Missouri Farmers' Market Association Boards and Committees.

Gunnar grew up on Wesley Avenue in Ferguson, and, in 1976, he and his wife, Ruth, bought the old homestead from his parents.

Even though Gunnar and Ruth both grew up in Ferguson, and attended the same schools (Central, Vogt and Ferguson High Schools) they did not become acquainted until they both taught at McCluer High School. Gunnar taught High School Science, Engineering Concepts and Math. He also coached swimming, track and cross-country teams.

How did Gunnar obtain his nickname? While studying in Minnesota, Gunnar played soccer. 'Gunnar' is Scandinavian for Gunther and apparently there was a famous soccer player named Gunther at that time. Thus William Brown became 'Gunnar.'

"Since Gunnar's passing, a half dozen or so people have told me that Gunnar was their math teacher . . . and what a great teacher he was and the impression he made on their lives . . . a real testimonial to his dedication to his students. Although I was never one of his students, Gunnar taught me the real meaning of hard work and dependability. If Gunnar said he would do something, you never had to check back . . . it was done!"

Dorothy Seiter

I have enjoyed the beautiful stately maple tree in my front yard, sitting under its golden, orange, crimson, yellow, burnished branches and leaves as it turned magically into the colors of fall. I felt imbued with silence and awe as the blanket of snow covered our home in winter, and the joy of spring as all life blossomed so quickly and all became verdant and lush overnight. The scorching heat of summer reminded me of my tropical home where we had only two seasons: dry and rainy.

I have drunk of Ferguson's beauty, been comforted by its people, and made this place my home. When my beloved Farrokh died in 2012, I could have moved to any other city but I chose to stay here. When things started to fall apart in August 2014, I stepped up to the plate and became a volunteer for my city, doing countless international, regional and local press interviews, and serving at the I Love Ferguson shop. I rallied our residents through social media and linked arms with them as we hunkered down for the storm.

Building Community in Crisis

As we linked arms, we look into each others' eyes, and saw the same pain, felt the same hurt. We vented, hugged each other, inspired each other, and just kept holding on. Out of crisis we forged a community, one that was always caring, but was now united by a common pain and loss. We residents have shouldered a lot together and as the storm broke and promised to pass, we decided it was time to come together and meet face to face with those strong, courageous, caring and committed men and women who had helped each other through a tough time, and continue to do so. We met at my home for our first heal-and-hug, meet-and-greet potluck dinner. Here is a photo taken on that occasion. I am celebrating the people of Ferguson as the very Best of Ferguson! I am happy to be here and help remind each and everyone of the treasures we have in our own community. In life, we always have a choice: to focus on the bad and let it consume us; or to focus on all that is good, uplifting and inspiring, and encourage that to grow. I choose the latter.

I thank The Ferguson Times for giving us this new forum where we will celebrate "The Best of Ferguson" together. Send me your nominations, thoughts and comments at: BestOfFerguson@tsmo.org.



Ask Grandma

Tornadoes

When my children were young I lived on Forest Avenue (in back of Sts. John & James). We were sitting down to dinner one evening in January of 1967. It was an unseasonably hot day and we had all enjoyed the outdoors. All of a sudden my husband grabbed the baby out of the highchair and yelled for everybody to get to the basement. Here we go again I thought. It seemed we spent an awfully lot of time in the basement because of tornado warnings. The reason my husband reacted the way he did was that he heard the sound of a train . . . which is the often described noise of an approaching tornado.

I grabbed the cake I had made for dessert and the coffee pot and headed toward the basement steps. Before I left the kitchen, I felt my hair stand on end and then the lights went out. We escaped that night with the shingles torn off the roof, some broken windows and loose bricks on the chimney. We were lucky.

With Easter approaching this year, I'm thinking about the Good Friday tornado that hit Ferguson in 2011. I was watching TV that evening when tornado sirens sounded and the TV said that a church in Dellwood had lost its roof. My house overlooks Powell Avenue in Ferguson and I noticed that all the lights suddenly went out south of that street. The tornado must have knocked out power in part of Ferguson, I thought.

I went to bed that night with the TV on and thought no more about the electrical outage that seems to happen so often in Ferguson. In the morning there was no television reception.

It happened that the family was going to celebrate Easter at my house that day. We sometimes have our family gathering on the day before or after a holiday so that the families can attend their in-laws celebrations on the actual holiday. Anyway, I was busy making preparations for the Easter meal. On these occasions, I provide the meat and the rest of the family brings the side dishes.

The phone rang and it was my daughter, Jean, who lives in Ferguson. "Do you have electricity" she asked. "Sure," I replied, "did the tornado knock out your electricity?" Jean assured me that not only did she not have power, but neither did my daughter Laura, or grandson, Justin . . . all of whom live in Ferguson. She said she would be right over.



As I answered the door I said, "Can you imagine! I don't have any TV reception!" "Put your shoes on Mom" said Jean . . . "on second thought, but on your boots." We walked 3 blocks down Elizabeth to Royal and I didn't believe my eyes. I saw people standing in their driveways with tears in their eyes. Their homes in shambles. I walked up to some of them and hugged them and cried with them. The church that was suppose to be in Dellwood turned out to be the Christian Church on Elizabeth.

You can imagine what happened to the 1:00 pm Easter Dinner that year. The Ferguson residents had no way to cook their side dishes and besides could not get out of their homes. The families that live outside the area could not get into Ferguson because trees blocked the major streets.

Well . . . we finally ate about 6:00 p.m. with meat and a few side dishes, but the whole family was eventually able to get to my house, and everybody was safe. Although thankful that no one was harmed, it still is not an Easter I like to remember.

A few years later (2013), it was my house that was hit by a tornado on May 31st. I lost part of my roof and multiple other damage. I hope it is the last tornado that I experience.

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Calendar of Events In and Around Ferguson

Complete Details of These Events Throughout the Paper

- Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast – Savoy Wed., April 1
- Adult Easter Egg Hunt Fri., April 3
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt Sat., April 4
- Easter Sunrise Service – January/Wabash Sun., April 5
- VOTE Tues., April 7
- Senior Lunch and Yahtzee Thurs., April 9
- Meet and Greet Happy Hour – Hendl's Cafe Thurs., April 9
- Northwest Chamber of Commerce Membership Mtg. Thurs., April 9
- "To Kill a Mocking Bird" – Florissant Civic Center Fri., April 10
- Ferguson Tree Dedication. Sat., April 11
- Pitch, Hit, Run Sat., April 11
- St. Louis Symphony – Our Lady of Guadalupe Sun., April 12
- FLIERS Spring Book Sale – Library T,F,S, April 16, 17, 18
- Teen Rock Climbing Trip. Sat., April 18
- 80s Trivia – St. Vincent's Home for Children in Normandy. Sat., April 18
- Adult Softball Begins Sun., April 19
- Ferguson Indoor Market – St. Stephens Sat., April 19
- Aerobics Classes Begin Mon., April 20
- Yoga Classes Begin Tues., April 21
- Tai Chi Classes Begin Tues., April 21
- City Council Meeting – City Hall. Tues., April 21
- TEAM Trivia Night – Sacred Heart Parish Hall Sat., April 25
- Isle of Capri Trip Tues., April 21
- Zumba Classes Begin Sat., April. 25
- Zion Trivia Night Sat., April 25
- Dog Obedience Classes Begin. Sat., April 25
- Adult Wiffleball Tournament Sat., April 25
- Peace Meal – St. Stephen's Sat., April 26
- City Council Meeting – City Hall. Tues., April 28
- Environmental Film – St. Stephen's. Thurs., April 28
- Ferguson Hispanic Festival – Ferguson Community Ctr. Wed., April 29
- Trivia Night – Ferguson Community Center Fri., May 1
- Ferguson Springfest Sat., May 9
- Mailcarriers Food Drive. Sat., May 9
- 5K / 10K Ferguson Twilight Run / Walk. Sat., May 16
- Ferguson Swimming Pool Opens Sat., May 23
- Biggest Yard Sale in History Sat., May 30

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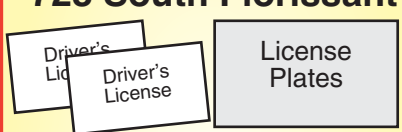
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