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May, 2015

Ferguson Times

Established 1894 Oct. 1999

CITY OF FERGUSON, MO.

Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

Ferguson Farmers' Market

OPENING DAY SAT., MAY 9TH, 2015
CELEBRATING OUR 13TH YEAR!

May 9th: Can you believe opening day is just around the corner?? This season's market kicks off with an all-day family fun event. Ferguson's rescheduled Street Fest starts at 8a.m. and does not end until 11p.m.! The market will open promptly at 8:00a.m.; there will be a moment of silence in memory of the Ferguson Farmer's Market Master, Gunnar Brown. We have a very special day planned, with live music all day starting with the Bedland Brothers at 9a.m. Your favorite farmers will be here, and food vendors and crafters to celebrate the market opening. The farmer and crafter vendors will be checking out at noon; after that prepare for all kinds of fun events, great music and a wide variety of food sure to please everyone. For the most update information, please check the Ferguson Street Fest website at: http://fergusonstreetfest.com/. We will also be hosting children's activities from the Ferguson Public Library, children crafts with Northern Arts Council, Yoga at 9:30 with Om Yoga and "Author Fest". We are your one stop shop for Mother's Day, shop early and stay all day. Welcome to Spring in Ferguson!

May 16th: It's time to get out in the yard and plant that garden. Do you have questions, need help with stubborn weeds. St. Louis Missouri Extension Office to the rescue; the Master Gardners will be here to answer any and all of your gardening questions. Do you have questions on composting or how to plant and live more sustainably? Ferguson's Eco Team will be stopping by and can answer questions you might have; take a short quiz and see how knowledgeable you are on living the green life. Yoga will be at 9:30 with Om Yoga and there will be children's activities from the Ferguson Public Library. We will be rocking to Missouri Folk from 9-11a.m.

May 23rd: The farmer's market has been taken over by adorable animals. Stop by for the annual petting zoo and sheep shearing this week! Wildflower Farm has held off shearing the last couple of sheep just for you. We will have yoga in the market at 9:30, taught by Om Yoga and children's activities sponsored by the Ferguson Public Library and children's crafts by Northern Arts Council. Jim Mayhew and Mayhew Music Studio will be preforming 9-11a.m.

May 30th: It is the first annual wine tasting event at the market. Cork will be sponsoring Simon McCarty to help you select the perfect wine for your event. Tasting will start at 10a.m. and last until 11:30a.m., unless we sell out, so come early! We will have yoga in the market at 9:30, taught by Om Yoga and children's activities sponsored by the Ferguson Public Library. We will be listening to Jan Marks from 9-11a.m.

Market Bucks make great gifts!
Come Visit Us Saturdays, Now thru October 8am - Noon
20 S. Florissant, at the Victorian Plaza (just south of the train trestle)
Check our our website, FergusonFarmersMarket.com
"LIKE" us on facebook
FergusonFarmersMarket.com

The Biggest Yard Sale in History!!!
Ferguson, Missouri

Saturday, May 30
7:30 am to 2:00 pm

• Furniture • Clothing • Toys • Household Goods
• Books • Electronics • Lots of Cool Stuff

REGISTER:
Registrations accepted by phone, email or in person – 314-521-7721 or kbarnadyn@fergusoncity.com
Deadline to be included on the map is May 22rd.

PICK UP A MAP AT:
Ferguson Farmers Market, 20 South Florissant Road or
Paul's Market, 1020 North Elizabeth (after 5:00 p.m. on May 29th)
Maps also available online at www.fergusoncity.com

For info call 314-521-7721 or visit www.fergusoncity.com

FergusonSpringFest

Saturday, May 9th
Victorian Plaza
20 S. Florissant Rd.
8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Ferguson CITYWALK

Schedule of Events Times & activities are subject to change.

8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Ferguson Farmers Market	1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Circus Workshop
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Bedlam Brothers Band	1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Pony Rides
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Yoga	1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Washer Tournament
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Karaoke	2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Karaoke
11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Juggling	3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Hula Hooping Workshop
11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Balloon Creation & Face painting	3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Jeanie Trevor
11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tie Dye T-Shirt Booth	5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Manly Man High Heel Keg Relay &
12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Home Brew Demo	Girly Girl Combat Wench Relay
12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Photo Booth	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

Featuring Local Farmers • Specialty Bakeries • Artists and Crafters • Food Vendors
with Take Home Goodies and Ready-to-East Festival Treats

FergusonStreetFest.com

PRSRT STD
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ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT No. 05158

Food Truck Here Monday May 18

11am to 2 pm



Plaza @ 501
501 South Florissant Road

www.fergusoncitywalk.com

Ferguson Twilight 5K/10K & FUN RUN MAY 16, 2015

See Details On Page 18

2015 City Walk CONCERT SERIES Plaza at 501

FREE

FREE · 7PM–9PM

May 22 Ralph Butler Band | Variety
June 12 Tish Key Haynes | Soul/R&B
June 26 Kingdom Brothers | Blues
July 10 FanFare | Variety
July 24 Righteous Mind Project | R&B
August 14 Kevin Blichik Band | Blues
August 28 Nitro | Latin Jazz
September 11 Dave Black Group | Jazz
October 9 Blend | Doo Wop / A Capella

Ferguson CITYWALK

www.fergusoncitywalk.com



Opening Show...
Ralph Butler Band

Bring a lawn chair,
Coolers are permitted. No glass.
Concessions available for purchase on-site
501 S. Florissant Rd.
www.fergusoncitywalk.com

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

Greetings from CityWalk

We are eager and excited to welcome the sunshine and flowers of spring. Along with sunshine and flowers, the spring also has some exciting events in store for CityWalk. New businesses are opening and existing businesses are sprucing up for the months ahead. Be prepared to see a livelier CityWalk.

The months of planning and anticipation of Springfest is nearly here. Many of us were looking forward to our annual Streetfest in the fall. Well, it was decided that Streetfest 2014, will take place on May 9, 2015. Springfest goers will have the opportunity to enjoy great food by local vendors and the sounds of terrific music performed throughout the afternoon and into the evening. There will also be artisans and crafters for those shoppers who want to splurge a bit. Of course, we couldn't forget the kids! There will be many booths and activities for kids of all ages. Just like Streetfest in the fall, Springfest will have a variety of food, music, artisans, and activities. Come out and celebrate with family, friends, and neighbors. Want to pick up your Springfest t-shirt before the festival? Springfest t-shirts can be purchased at the "I Love Ferguson" store. Stop in and get your shirt.

Have you noticed the new businesses that have opened on CityWalk? CityWalk welcomes Montrey's Cigar Lounge and J & C BBQ and Blues Restaurant. With the beautiful outdoor weather upon us, Montrey's Cigar Lounge has a spacious outdoor seating area. Whether you want to relax and unwind at the end of the work day or meet socially with friends, Montrey's Cigar Lounge is a great place to meet locally. Congratulations goes out to Jerome and Cathy Jenkins. In addition to Cathy's Kitchen, checkout J & C BBQ and Blues Restaurant. With a unique flare for BBQ as only J & C and do it, patrons are also treated to live entertainment. For a new experience with friends and/or family, stop by either of these new locations on CityWalk.

Spring is the time of year for blooms and blossoms. As the colors change and new life emerges, we see all the wonderful possibilities that spring has in store for us. Many businesses are beginning their spring clean-up from the winter months. Grass trimmings, spring plantings, and other landscaping all contribute to a beautiful CityWalk. Businesses are working diligently to make your experience on CityWalk pleasing and inviting. As you begin to partake in the wonderful outdoor spring weather, we hope that you take time to explore all the businesses and services that are offered on CityWalk.

CityWalk would like to congratulate the newest members of City Council. We look forward to working with the Council on initiatives that help promote CityWalk and support the Ferguson community.

CityWalk would like to thank Bob McCarty with Painted Effects for his many years of service as the news contributor of the FSBD. Bob is not leaving us by no means; however, he has decided to work more closely on other projects that impact CityWalk. Once again, thank you for your years of dedication.

(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 May 21st. 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.

If you live in an older home and you want to help "Maintain Yesterday for Tomorrow"

Call Bob 524-1264

Painted Effects Contracting llc

See Bob on Job column on Page 17

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.

The Plumber's Crack

By Oh Baby *bigohbaby@sbcglobal.net*



Flowers, ragweed, leaves, mold, lawn mowers purring, eyes watering, weddings galore, camp outs with smores and a somber holiday that means the beginning of summer. Yes, folks it is May and time for the Ferguson Times and the Plumbers Crack .

Well my friends it's May and we head into most people's favorite time of the year. I love the weather but hate the expense that comes with it, but enough about my problems. I want to get into a few things that probably don't affect most of you but could in the future.

Landlords owning property outside of Ferguson and have St.Louis County do their inspections beware. St. Louis County has really turned up the heat. For example, I was called by a contractor last week to change all the plumbing in the house. Most of that plumbing was up to the code. St.Louis County told them it all had to be torn out, a permit pulled, and re-inspected.

I called St. Louis County to see if they would just let me certify what was good and change what was bad. They said absolutely not. Most of it had been changed by a contractor without permits. We had to break out floor in the basement to show that connections were proper and proper lengths. We had to open up walls and change out piping because they used the wrong color primer. We had to put all new water lines in because the date stamped on the plastic lines showed is was less than a year old, which meant it was put in after the last tenant left. That means they had to pay to have the rehabbed twice. It's not only plumbing . . . it's every part of the home. Electrical, HV/A C, masonry, and structural.

This is happening not only in unincorporated St. Louis County, it's happening anywhere they inspect. This is affecting contractors too. Some small repairs that we tried to save the customer a few dollars for fees, like replacing a small section of soil pipe that was all exposed and doing it to code. It's being written up if there is no County Inspection sticker on it. If you have friends and relatives living in these areas show them this article. Remind them even if they hire a good contractor who can do some plumbing or electrical they are going to get called out if they don't hire subs to pull permits and do it right. I have been guilty in the past of doing little jobs trying to save people a buck. I won't be doing that anymore.

Permits will be pulled where they are required no matter how small the job .

The City of Florissant does their own inspections, interior and exterior, before occupancy can be established. The City of Ferguson has interior and exterior for rentals and exterior only for home sales. Other cities, such as Maryland Heights and St. Ann do their own, but if they see anything that looks fairly new they ask for permits. If none were pulled they direct you to St.Louis County and you get hammered. Maryland Heights goes so for as having you fill out a sheet of declaration. City of Hazelwood uses St. Louis County for Plumbing and Electrical. If you have any questions on who does what in our area send me an email and I'll try and help you.

Time for word of the month it's actually a phrase. It's STOP WORK ORDER. That's what happens when inspectors catch illegal contractors or work being done without permits .

Well my friends it's time to put the Crack to rest until next month. As I mentioned at the start we have a somber holiday this month. Memorial Day is a day we give honor who sacrificed for our freedom . I have special request on that day , I ask that you forget about all the filthy Facebook political adds, Tweets and emails and concentrate on honoring our military.

I would also like to wish my beautiful Bride of 41 years Happy Anniversary. As always get to know your neighbors, get involved with your city, HUG them children and God Bless you all.

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

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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 9**. 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.



Ferguson Police Department Implements Law Enforcement Explorer Program

Ferguson Police Officer Paul Boudreau is in his third year as a school resource officer at McCluer South Berkeley High School in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. That made him an obvious choice to head the new Law Enforcement Explorer Program post with the Ferguson Police Department.

"I've already had great relationships with a lot of the students at the high school, so I was excited to take part in the Explorer Program," Boudreau said. "Students are able to come to me and ask me questions about how to handle certain situations, so I have that role as kind of like a mentor/counselor."

Law Enforcement Exploring is a program for youths, ages 14-20 who are interested in learning about careers in law enforcement. Qualified applicants will work closely with members of the Ferguson Police Department. Previously, area teenagers had to go through the Florissant or Hazelwood Police Departments to participate in the Explorer Program. That changed thanks to a local chapter of Boy Scouts of America, which founded Career Awareness Exploring in the 1970s.

Participants will meet regularly at the police department for hands-on activities including accident reconstruction. They will also learn about constitutional and Missouri statute law. They will work on community service projects and occasionally meet with members of the new Ferguson Fire Department Explorer post to learn basics such as first aid training.

For more information, call the Ferguson Police Department at 314.522.3100.

Challenger LEARNING CENTER ST. LOUIS

205 Brotherton Lane
Ferguson
314.521.6205

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!

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

City of Ferguson Welcomes J&C BBQ and Blues



Jerome and Cathy Jenkins and Ferguson officials at the ribbon cutting on March 27th

The Jenkins family business empire continues to grow, and downtown Ferguson is growing right along with it. Owners Jerome and Cathy Jenkins opened their first restaurant, Cathy's Kitchen, located at 250 South Florissant Road just two years ago.Their new restaurant, J&C BBQ and Blues, is at 304 South Florissant Road, just a few doors south of their original restaurant.

From its charcoal fueled pits to the outdoor seating area, Jenkins said much of the restaurant is modeled after the barbecue and blues scene in western Tennessee. "It's really more like Memphis: good barbecue, with music, and the walk-around patio area outside," states Jerome. With a karaoke machine and live music on the weekends, the Jenkins' say they wanted to foster a family atmosphere.

Jerome said, "Our family goal over the next 20 years is to open grocery stores, gas stations and restaurants in the black community, so we're on our way."

To the Ferguson Community,

It is with a heavy heart that I am announcing my separation from the City of Ferguson as city manager. After much thought and prayer, I feel it is in the community's best interest that I step aside at this time. I care deeply for this community, and I believe that with our municipal election it is the appropriate time for the City to experience change in its city manager.

I want to thank present and past Council members and mayors, the business community and especially the people of Ferguson for the opportunity to serve as city manager for the past eight years. During this time, we have worked together on many great successes that have made Ferguson a better place to live, raise a family, and start a business. In addition to numerous economic developmental achievements that have brought jobs and amenities to our community, the City has also experienced tremendous growth in social and community-oriented programs that Ferguson residents can be proud of accomplishing in partnership with City officials. I am extremely proud of our many award winning programs, some of which led to our selection as an All American City Finalist in 2010 by the National Civic League.

I am also proud of our many cooperative initiatives with area educational and religious institutions. Partnerships like these led the way for a food pantry that operates out of our City Hall, outreach to the region's Spanish speaking community to promote cultural diversity, and housing and business opportunities in Ferguson for immigrant families.

We have also completed significant infrastructure projects, including the City's first community center which benefits all of our residents, major road improvements, a state-of-the-art fire station and new venues such as our Plaza at 501 which plays host to free outdoor art performances. These projects have made Ferguson a more open and enjoyable place for individuals to mingle in a diverse, vibrant community.

Over the last several months I have done everything in my power to work with countless groups to bring about positive change and strengthen our community. We have worked with State, Regional and County organizations, our neighborhood associations, and both public and private institutions to develop programs and solutions aimed at overcoming our City's most challenging obstacles to inclusion and opportunity. I have worked with numerous activists and community leaders to make the City a true partner in projects designed to move our community forward.

During this time I have also worked closely with the Department of Justice to identify opportunities to improve, and then moved quickly to implement its recommendations for change. And while I certainly respect the work that the DOJ recently performed in their investigation and report on the City of Ferguson, I must state clearly that my office has never instructed the police department to target African Americans, nor falsify charges to administer fines, nor heap abuses on the backs of the poor. Any inferences to that kind from the report are simply false.

I believe that the City of Ferguson has the resolve to overcome the challenges it faces in the coming months and emerge as a stronger community for it. People from the St. Louis area already know Ferguson as a resilient and progressive community that is willing and able to challenge existing policies and practices for the betterment of all its residents. Our residents, elected officials, police officers, and other staff are good people dedicated to this City and ready for the challenges ahead. Although I am stepping down from my roles as city manager, as a resident of Ferguson, I stand ready to assist in any way I can to help for the communitys future.

John Shaw

Ferguson Community News Page

Thank you to those citizens "in the arena"
By Mayor James W. Knowles III



"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

- Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States –
Excerpt from his speech "Citizenship in a Republic"

The more things change, the more things stay the same could be the quote for this month, because in Teddy Roosevelt's time, much like today, there was a great deal of criticism about government and those individuals involved in it. There were plenty of reasons to be critical of government in those days, just as there are reasons to be critical today. Roosevelt was outspoken about the corruption and graft in government, as well as the muckraking and sensationalism of the media that criticized it. He was no defender of the current state of government, but he felt that he could clean it up and make it work better. Make it work for all people, not just some people. He also felt that the credit for cleaning it up should go to those working in the system to make a difference, not just those complaining about the problems.

He was one of the leaders of the Progressive movement in the late 1800s to early 1900's that worked to eliminate political machines and cronyism. They fought around the nation to put an end to patronage and nepotism in government and replace it with a merit-based system of government employment. It was out of this very movement that bore the Council-Manager form of government that we have in Ferguson today. It was the very start of professionally run governments that focused on fair and impartial governance; instead of governments dominated by political favoritism that rewarded election winners and punished the unfortunate losers.

We have come a long way in this country from the cigar-filled back rooms and institutions of political graft that once dominated politics. The level of information and transparency afforded to citizens today would be unfathomable to people in the days of Teddy Roosevelt. With Sunshine Laws, Freedom of Information Act, televised government meetings, published minutes, and a host of information available via the internet, we have been able to shed a tremendous amount of light on the workings of government, more so than at any point in the history of American democracy. Even still, with all of the progress made to improve our system of government, we find ourselves in a country whose confidence in government is at an all time low.

Because politics and politicians are held in such low regard, it is often difficult to find people that want to get involved in the political process. It is hard to find people that are willing to sit on a board or commission in our community much less run for City Council. It takes a lot out of people to make the time commitment necessary, but even more so, it takes a special commitment to put one's self in the public "arena" as Teddy Roosevelt would put it. Whether you sit on the Park Board or City Council, you are likely to become the target of criticism for some decision you will make. Today, most people do not want to involve themselves in something that takes away from their family or personal time, and then subjects them to additional criticism. However, as Teddy would go on to say later in his speech, the involvement of people in politics and government is the very foundation of what it is to live in a democratic republic. Without people willing to step into that arena, there is not much of a democratic government left.

Last month we said goodbye to three councilmembers while welcoming three new members to our team. During our municipal elections, we had a tremendous turn-out at the polls to support several outstanding Ferguson residents that opted to jump into the "arena" and run for City Council. Ultimately some emerged as winners, and others fell short, but all had the courage to put their name on the ballot and stand before the voters for judgment. Each of them displayed a deep commitment to both their ideals and to this community by stepping forward to run for public office. Regardless if they won or lost, every candidate, whether you agree with them or not, played an important role in the political process and deserves credit for their commitment.

But "being in the arena" isn't just running for political office or sitting on a board or commission, it's every resident that takes an active role in trying to better the community. It is neighborhood leaders, business leaders, and average citizens that take the time to stand up and give of themselves to improve our community. It is these residents willing to be "in the arena" that has helped make Ferguson a wonderful community and will continue to help us grow and move forward.

Ferguson Neighborhood Organizations

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

Group	Next Mtg.	Location	Contact
Forestwood Park Neighborhood Group	May 5 7 pm	Emmaus Bible Chapel 900 Highmont	Donald Stevens 314-561-0379
Jeske Park Neighborhood Assc.	May 14 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Kate Mazzacavallo katemazza@yahoo.com
Nesbit-Newton	June 6 9 am Neighborhood Walk	Nesbit-Newton Park	Paul Beins 314-869-5080
Northwest Ferguson	May 14 7 pm	First Baptist Church 333 N Florissant	Shelley Davis leeshel57@sbcglobal.net
Old Ferguson East Neighborhood Assn.	May 11 7 pm	Corner Coffee House 100 N Florissant	Glenda Rickard 314-364-4306 glenda.rickard@mercy.net
Old Ferguson West Neighbors	TBA	Corner Coffee House 100 No Florissant	Larry Robinett ldrobinett@gmail.com
Robert-Superior Neighborhood Group	May 21 6:30 pm	Robert-Superior Park	Craig Kidd 314-522-3151
Southwest Ferguson Neighborhood Group	TBA	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 Neighborhood	May 18 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith	Mary Simmons hudsonhills63135@gmail.com
North Hills Neighborhood	TBA	Check website or call for updates	Keith Kallstrom 314-524-1720
North Elizabeth Assn	May 11 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Renee Benage rbenage@sbcglobal.net

City of Ferguson Welcomes New Council Members

The April 7, 2015 election resulted in the introduction of three new Ferguson council members:

Ward 1: Wesley Bell
Ward 2: Brian Fletcher
Ward 3: Ella Jones

City Council Meetings
Tuesday, May 12
and Tuesday May 26
in the City Council Chambers
110 Church Street

Congratulations to the new Ferguson City Council!

City of Ferguson Announces Upcoming Town Hall Meetings

Ferguson Mayor and City Council members announced the locations and times for the next set of Town Hall meetings for residents:

Thursday, May 7:
Ferguson Community Center Event Space, located at 1050 Smith Avenue from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. City officials will update residents on projects and initiatives undertaken over the past several months. A general question and answer session will follow.

Wednesday, May 13:
The location will be announced in coming weeks. The topic will be courts and court reform.

Additional work sessions on topics, such as community policing, will be announced in the coming weeks. To subscribe to email updates about upcoming work sessions and current events, please visit www.fergusoncity.com and click on "Notify Me" or follow the City of Ferguson, MO on Facebook or @FergusonScoop on Twitter.

The Department of Justice will be moderating the conversations about the topics, and meetings are restricted to Ferguson residents and businesses only. Residents will be required to show proof of residency. Business owners will be required to show a business card that identifies their address in Ferguson. Media will not be allowed inside during the meeting.

For more information contact media relations at: 314.801.8540 or media@fergusoncity.com

Ferguson Community News Pages are published monthly and paid for by the City of Ferguson.
City of Ferguson City Council: James W. Knowles,III, Mayor; Mark Byrne, Ward 1; Ella Jones, Ward 1; Dwayne James, Ward 2; Brian Fletcher, Ward 2; Keith Kallstrom, Ward 3; Wesley Bell, 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

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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 5600 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 up the Ferguson Community Center for booking information, pricing, and any additional information at (314) 521-4661

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-Res.

PROGRAMMING

Children's Tumbling

This class starts off with coordination and balance exercises followed by basic tumbling skills such as forward rolls, back bends, and cartwheels. Gymnastic or ballet shoes, leotard and tights are highly recommended but not required. No jeans, baggy clothing, tennis shoes, or bare feet. Ballet shoes recommended.

Age: 3 ½-7 years old
Start Date: Mon, May 11 (8 week session); Wed, May 13 (8 week session)
Time: 6pm-6:50pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $34/Members; $39/Residents; $44/Non-Residents

Children's Tap & Ballet Dance

A wonderful opportunity for a child to learn creative movement along with simple dance steps and routines in tap and ballet. Tap and ballet shoes, leotard and tights are highly recommended but not required. No jeans, baggy clothing, tennis shoes, or bare feet. Ballet shoes recommended.

Age: 3 ½-7 years old
Start Date: Mon, May 11 (8 week session); Wed, May 13 (8 week session)
Time: 7pm-7:50pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $34/Members; $39/Residents; $44/Non-Residents

Hip Hop/ Jazz Dance

High energy class, starts with a warm-up and stretching exercises followed by dance skills in hip hop and jazz which will be incorporated into dance routines. Jazz shoes highly recommended but not required. Stretch pants should be worn. No jeans or baggy clothing, tennis shoes, or bare feet.

Age: 7-15 years old
Start Date: Wed, May 13 (8 week session)
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $34/Members; $39/Residents; $44/Non-Residents

Beginning Adult Dance

Warm-up with easy Freestyle dance steps followed by basics in Waltz, Fox Trot, Tango, Cha-Cha, Rumba, Salsa, and Swing (learning these dance styles will enable participants to dance at any social event). Class is taught by Diane Brown who has 30 plus years dance and choreography experience in the St. Louis area. Wear comfortable clothing and hard-soled shoes. No tennis shoes.

Age: 18 & Up
Start Date: Mon, May 11 (8 week session)
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $40/Members; $45/Residents; $50/Non-Residents



Summer Day Camp

Join the Ferguson Recreation Staff for an action packed summer of fun and excitement! Campers will spend most of their time at the Ferguson Community Center where they will enjoy games, activities, crafts, and loads of fun. They will swim twice each week at the Splash at Wabash facility. Campers will also visit several local parks and area attractions throughout the summer.

Age: 6-14 years old
Start Date: Monday, June 1, 2015 (10 weeks)
Time: 9am-4pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $70 per week/Members; $80 per week/Residents;
$90 per week/Non-Residents
Before Care:
Time: 7am-9am
Fee: $10 per week/Members; 15 per week/Residents;
$15 per week/Non-Residents
After Care:
Time: 4pm-6pm
Fee: $10 per week/Members;
$15 per week/Residents;
$15 per week/Non-Residents
Before & After:
Fee: $20 per week/Members; $25 per week/Residents;
$25 per week/Non-Residents

DOG OBEDIENCE

Puppy Pre-School

Get your puppy off on the right paw with classes that encourage good behavior while helping you establish a strong bond with your new arrival. Registration begins May 1st.

Time: Fri, 6:00pm-7:30pm
Location January Wabash Park
Fee: $49/Resident; $54/Non-Residents

Beginner Dog Obedience

Covers commands such as heel, sit, down, stay, and come. Introduction to agility and socialization with other dogs and people. Registration begins May 1st

Time: Noon
Location: January Wabash Park
Fee: $49/Resident;
$54/Non-Residents



Advanced Dog Obedience

This class expands on all beginner level instruction with further development for your dog to learn behaviors involving distance, duration and distractions. Registration begins May 1st

Time: Mon, 7:15pm-8:30pm
Location: January Wabash Park
Fee: $49/Resident; $54/Non-Residents

Wayside Park Unleashed

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

The park is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Registration is required and can be completed at the recreation office. Owners will need to bring up-to-date shot records: rabies, DHPP and Bordetella.

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

FITNESS

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
To Add an Additional Day:
$10/members add day; $15/residents add day
$20/non-residents add day

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
Start Date: Sat, May 9th (Ongoing 6 week sessions)
Time: Sat 9am
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 Phone (314) 521-1313
Open Daily May 23 through August 9

(Continued on Page 6)

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Ferguson Parks and Recreation (Aquatics, Continued from Page 5)

Open Swim:
Mon, Thurs, and Sun (1:15 - 6:00 p.m.); Tues and Sat (1:15 - 7:00 p.m.); Wed and Fri (1:15 - 8:00 p.m.)

Family Memberships:
Community Center Member Only $99; Resident $135; Non Resident $210

Individuals Memberships:
Community Center Member Only $50; Resident $65; Non Resident $125

Non Club Membership:
Individual - $25 Resident Mini - Member; (10 individual uses)

Swim Lessons offered all summer long, sessions begin June 1st. Call and register today!

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.

Lunch and Bingo
Time to get out and treat yourself to an afternoon of Lunch and Bingo. Our May bingo event celebrates the upcoming of summer with a lunch and bingo featuring your choice of chicken or beef. Cost includes lunch as well as bingo.
Date: Thurs, May 28
Time: 12:00pm-3:00pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $10/Members; $14/Residents; $19/Non-Residents

TRIPS

Mystery Trip
Can't tell you much, but you will enjoy it! Experience something new and different. You'll learn a lot in a beautiful area of our country.
Dates: Sunday, June 7-Thursday, June 11
Fee: $725/Residents; $750/Non-Residents; (Double-Occupancy)

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: 8:00am – 4:30pm
Fee: $80 Residents; $90 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: motor coach transportation, lunch, all admissions, taxes and gratuities.
Date: Thursday, June 4
Time: 8:00am – 6:30pm
Fee: $80 Resident; $85 Non-Resident

Soothing Sunday Symphony
Are you going to "Scarborough Fair" the acclaimed national touring duo of AJ Swearingen and Jonathan Beedle bring their interpretations of Simon and Garfunkel to the St. Louis Symphony with guest conductor Michael Krajweski. Hear "Bridge Over Troubled Water" "The Sound of Silence," "America," "Mrs. Robinson," and more at the beautiful Powell Symphony Hall. Dinner at Miss Sheri's in Warson Woods brings this day to a harmonious finale!
Ages: 18 and up
Date: Sun, June 14
Time 1:00pm – 6:30pm
Fee $62/Residents; $67/Non-Residents

A Gardener's Delight
Calling all gardeners and those who appreciate a beautiful garden! Come for a scenic late spring drive into the rural Shawnee Hills of Southwestern Illinois to Long Shadow Gardens where beautiful dry cast limestone planters and garden ornaments are designed and handcrafted. See artisans in action and walk the beautiful gardens, enjoy lunch at a nearby locale before enjoying wine tasting on the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail before returning home.
Ages: 18 and up
Date: Thurs, June 18
Time: 7:00am – 8:30pm
Fee: $82/Residents; $87/Non-Residents

The Lantern Festival Magic Reimagined
The Lantern Festival, Magic Reimagined brings 22 all new sets art crafted from silk, porcelain and steal to the Missouri Botanical Gardens in an event rarely staged outside of Asia. Each lantern ties closely with Chinese legends, botany and popular local sights. An early dinner will be served at Soulard Restaurant will be thoroughly enjoyed by all!
Ages: 18 and up
Date: Thu, June 30
Time: 4:00pm – 9:30pm
Fee: $75/Residents; $80/Non-Residents

A New Group of Children is Building Things With Legos



Remember playing with Legos when you were a kid? Well, a whole new generation is discovering the fun and learning aspects of Lego blocks.

There will be opportunities for children to build and play, and learn about math, physics, mechanics, electronics and teamwork, at this year's 4th of July Festival to be held January-Wabash Memorial Park. There will be a special tent for children ages 7 to 13 to build with Legos and volunteers will be giving away 250 Lego kits to the first in attendance. More details will be coming.

This project is supported by the City of Fergson's 4th of July Commmittee, Ferguson Library, and the I Love Ferguson Committee and its volunteers.

Mike Brandon 322-9883



Ken Wheat and Mike Brandon supervise the Lego building event at the Ferguson Municipal Library.

Open Heart Expansion

FREE WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 16h
Ferguson Library

Together as One . . .

The mission of the Open Heart Expansion is to heal pain through a Creative Arts and Meditation Process and to rebuild our community. We can improve health and wellbeing, expand happiness and bridge differences – bringing us together as one. Some of the art created in the workshops will hopefully build to a final expansive art exhibit to be installed somewhere in the St. Louis area. Some workshops are being filmed with Atlas Productions as a documentary. The workshop is FREE.

Who: Ages 16 and above
When: Saturday, May 16th, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Where: Ferguson Library, 35 North Florissant Rd., Ferguson, MO
Sign up: At Ferguson Library 314.521.4820 / or in person

For more inormation call Catherine 314.853.3850
or email Cindy at openheartexpansion@gmail.com

Join Together to Heal Our Community!

Vacation Bible School

Ages: Kindergarten-5th grade

June 1st to 5th

Theme:
Shine in This Dark World



Ferguson Christian Church
303 No. Elizabeth

Call for registration or questions
521-4850

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!

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRESENTS

135TH ANNIVERSARY

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

WHERE: CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
201 WESLEY AVE.
FERGUSON, MO 63135

Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2015

TIME: 9AM TO 4PM

We Will Celebrate:

* Past Students & Teachers
* Academic Excellence
* Cultural Diversity
* Development of our Future Leaders

Performances By:

Words From The Drum *Tony Artz*

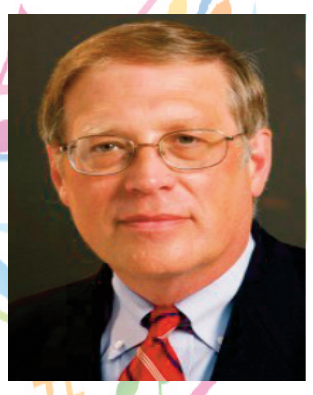
We will have festivities & Fun. For more information, please call Ms. Crystal Isom (Principal) 314-518-7815/ Erica M. Brooks (General Chairperson) 314-243-2805/*erimon2@yahoo.com*

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ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Presents . . .

The Bel Canto Chorus Of St. Louis Directed By Bruce Valentine



SATURDAY, MAY 2
4:00 p.m.

An afternoon of beautiful Choral Music, including Haydn's Requiem and other selections.

THE CONCERT IS FREE
(Recommended for Ages 10 and up)

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
1425 Stein Road, Ferguson
For more information call 314.521.5694

BUSINESS EXPO

Tuesday, May 5th
Orlando's
2050 Dorsett Village, Maryland Heights

ADMISSION IS FREE

Vendor Set-Up.....8:30-10:00 am
Expo .....10:00 am-3:00 pm
Break Down.....4:00 pm-4:30 pm
Happy Hour .....4:30 pm

New Members Get a Free Booth

Booth Fee for Members $100

Booth Fee for Non-Members $500
(It's Cheaper to Join)

$25 Fee for Electric

CINCO DE MAYO

Those who participate will get an entry into a special drawing. Vendors who dress themselves and their booth get 2 entries

TASTE OF THE CHAMBER

SAMPLE THE FINEST THE CHAMBER HAS TO OFFER
$10 Pre-registration for Members
$15 for Non-Members and Walk-Ins

Immanuel's Annual

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, May 16th 7a.m. to noon



Immanuel UCC Fellowship Hall
221 Church Street – Ferguson

Ackerman School (1550 Derhake Road, Florissant)

5K Run /Walk

May 1st at 4:30 p.m.
For more information, contact Marcus Bryant at 314.989.7204
Proceeds benefit the Ackerman Family Emergency Relief Fund

National Day of Prayer Service

Thursday, May 7th, at 7:00 p.m.
Ferguson Christian Church, 303 No. Elizabeth, Ferguson

Please join us, along with thousands across our country, and pray for our nation.

St. Stephens Episcopal Church

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, May 1st, 5:00 to 7:30 pm and Sat., May 2, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Lots and lots of great items at below "goodwill" prices!
Clothes, books, collectibles, toys, shoes, small furniture, videos . . . you name it, we probably have it!

Don't miss this sale . . . line forms early each day. Come and enjoy a long-standing tradition of bargains

St. Stephens, 33 North Clay, Ferguson
(corner of Darst and Clay)

Ferguson Library News

Storytimes at Ferguson Municipal Public Library
Celebrate spring with storytime on Wednesday, May 6th, at 5 p.m.! Bring your little ones from ages 3 to 6 and their favorite stuffed animal for stories and fun crafts. Can't make it? Don't worry – Georgy Rock will still be here on Monday mornings at 10 a.m. for songs, stories, and all around silliness! Please note: a parent or guardian must accompany children at all story-times. Call the library today at 521-4820 for more information.

StoryCorps®
@your library®

Ferguson Municipal Public Library is proud to have been chosen as one of ten libraries nationwide to participate in StoryCorps! StoryCorps collects the oral history of everyday people and we need YOU to come share your stories with us. A StoryCorps @ your library interview is a chance to tell your story – any story you want to tell – in a 40 minute conversation between you and a friend. You can answer the questions that really matter:

When did you first fall in love?
What are some lessons you've learned in life?
What are you most proud of?

Or tell any story about yourself that you want to tell.

You will receive a free CD recording to share with family and friends. With your permission, a second copy will be archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and at the Ferguson Municipal Public Library. We will be collecting stories starting May 13th and will continue throughout the summer. Interested? Make an appointment at 521-4820 or come by and ask us today!

And for those of you who want to do more, we need volunteers to help host storytellers and run equipment. Training is provided.

Garage Sale
Looking for office furniture? Need a good deal? The Ferguson Municipal Public Library is having a garage sale on May 30th, at the old Rinderer's Drug Store at 44 North Florissant Road (across the street from the library). Show up early for low prices on some great items! Call the library at 521-4820 for more information.

New Computers!
Coming soon – new computers at the library! The Ferguson Municipal Public Library is happy to announce that we have received a special LSTA Library Improvement grant from the Missouri State Library for new computers, network infrastructure, and presentation equipment to better serve you! We will be rolling out the new equipment over the next few months. This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Readings on Race Book Club
The Readings on Race Book Club will meet once again at the Ferguson Municipal Public Library on May 11th at 6 p.m., a new starting time, to discuss Ralph Ellison's classic, *The Invisible Man*. The winner of the National Book Award in 1953, *The Invisible Man* is the story of an unnamed narrator who, feeling invisible to the rest of society, writes of his life growing up black in America. Often mistaken and labeled as someone he is not, Ellison's narrator recounts the experiences that led him to where he is today and why he feels he is invisible. *The Invisible Man* is available as an audiobook and a print book at the Ferguson Public Library and through the Municipal Library Consortium, as well as available for purchase through most booksellers.

Anyone having trouble getting a copy should contact the library director, Scott Bonner, at sbonner@fergusonlibrary.net, and he will order additional copies. For more information, contact the group facilitators, Dan Sachs at 202-309-5875, or Carla Fletcher at 314-524-3644. All are welcome!

Pearce Neikirk and Partners Realtors
521-5002 495-2304
email: pearce4homes@yahoo.com
FERGUSON . . . WHERE ALL ROADS LEAD TO HOME!

16 Cardigan Dr. $144,900

Classic Lake Pembroke full brick ranch with terrific views. The trade market cove plaster ceilings and brilliant hardwood floors are well preserved in this 3+ bedroom, 2.5 bath home. Large well lit rooms including a main floor laundry and a huge main floor family plus two full masonry wood burning fireplaces are just a few of many features. Call us today to view.


1080 Chatelet Dr.
The 4 bedroom custom built 2 story, backs to the farm on Hudson Rd, and being that Chatelet Dr is a cul-de-sac neighborhood, gives this home a lot of privacy. Very well updated with an open floor plan, makes the home perfect for entertaining and the TREX deck off of the breakfast room, overlooks the water features in the backyard and the occasional pony that comes to the fence line for a visit. The lower level is walk-out and is finished with a 3rd full bath. Call us today!

35 E Cardigan. $127,000

Make sure to call Wayne Moss at 706-1875 to schedule your tour of this unique full brick ranch. The traditional quality of Pembroke homes is enhanced by a very large main floor recreation room. This room once housed a pool but now could work well as senior quarters or just a wonderful play area for the growing family. Call Wayne today.


#2 Miller Place $72,500
You can't beat the location of this well restored bungalow ranch home...right across the street from the WHISTLESTOP! Located on a dead end lane, the 3 bedroom 2 full bath home has had a lot of updating, including plumbing, electric, roof, siding, decking and painting. This home is move-in ready condition. Call us today!

PEARCE NEIKIRK
AND PARTNERS • REALTORS
pearce4homes.com

29 Years of helping buyers and sellers with their home needs in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County.
521-5002 495-2304

Congratulations
Ella Jones, Brian Fletcher, Wesley Bell
on becoming the newest members elected to the *Ferguson City Council*.

THANKS !

- To those who encouraged me to run and to those whose advice was invaluable. Your many hours spent on strategy, rewrites, phone calls, and texts, often at the expense of your dinner, was greatly appreciated.
- To those who supported me by allowing my signs in your yards, your votes on election day, and your kind words of support, before and after. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone whose door I knocked on and who spent their time speaking to me.
- To all who supported me with your financial contributions. I only asked for one, the others were all volunteered. Friends, former co-workers and mostly alums from McCluer High. I was truly honored and humbled by your many donations to my campaign.
- To my many poll workers. The Lipka family, John, Linda & AJ. Lynde Byrne, Paul Byrne, Kathi Asikainen, Emily Schweffermann, Laura Kline. Gary Burgdorf, who also helped knock on doors. Lastly, not only at the polls but for being my Treasurer, Pam Walsh!

Sincerely,
Mike McGrath
Paid for by Friends of Mike McGrath. Pam Walsh, Treasurer




Ferguson City Council
Ward 1 Representative
ELLA JONES
"Thank You Ward 1 Voters!"
Email: friendsofemj@gmail.com
Website: friendsofemj2015.wix.com/friendsofemj
314-795-7295
Paid for by Friends of Ella M.Jones, Sandy Sansevere, Treasurer

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The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely

"FOR GOD, OUR SERVICE PERSONNEL AND MOM!"

MAY DAZE (DAYS)!
first off, we have May 1st, and on that day we celebrate May Day. but there are other days in May to celebrate something. Cinco De Mayo is on the 5th, as is National Teacher's Day. (sounds like there is some kind of connection!) Mother's Day is the 10th, and you better not ever forget it! Love your Mother! the 16th is Armed Forces Day, so go find a serviceman/servicewoman and thank them for their service! the 24th is Pentecost, so go to church and praise the Lord! the 25th is Memorial Day, so go to JB and see how many from our town gave their all to maintain our precious freedom! and the 31st is Trinity Sunday, the day we praise and thank the Holy Trinity in church! there are others, but these are the ones we must not forget!

ISPs, dept.
we have had DSL with SWBT at first, then it changed to AT&T. it's too bad for them that they will lose us as a customer. our bill just went up AGAIN, and we are charged something like $45 monthly, not including taxes. for that, we get a 1.5 Mbps incoming connection. now we don't have any great love for Charter Cable, but it looks like we will become their customers shortly. they charge (iirc), $40/MO for 60 Mbps. i figure that is a good cushion considering any shortcomings they may have. i will let you know how that goes.

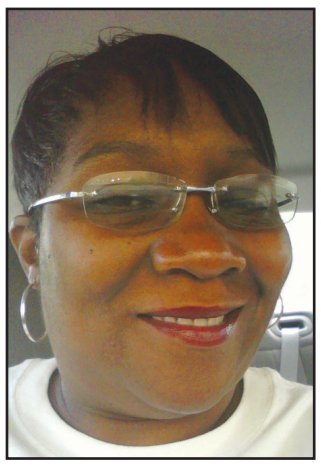
speaking of DSL, ours went down over the last few days. that really upset me, as i had to write this column and turn it in, so as not to be late. fortunately, it returned, so here i am producing more stuff to stuff into this empty space, while the DSL was down, i realized just how much we have come to depend upon it. we keep in touch with our friends & families & MOM! we use it for schoolwork, for banking, for buying stuff, for entertainment & sooooo much more. how long can you go without your connection? it's more important to me than my cell phone (and yes, i do have one of those things)!

ME GO NOW!
didja know that prayer is similar to the internet? it's how we contact God. but no matter how many connections we lose, we can never lose the one to Him. He is always there for us, because His love for us is perfect. and did i say it's FREE? call Him anytime, day or night! there is no answering machine; He answers all calls Himself. i think i'll call him right now.

...it is now safe to turn on your puter!

If you would like to contact Doug for his free puter advice, it's best to call him on the phone at *314*521*1789* in the PM hours. When emailing, do so at: fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com Remember to put the phrase "i need puter advice" into the subject line to insure delivery, and include your phone # for his return call. God's blessings to us all! Thank You, God, for everything!

OFFER EXPIRES 5-31-15
Air Conditioner Spring Clean & Check . . . . . Only $79.95
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Heating & Cooling
521-0284



When Picking Key Words, Focus on Good Key Phrases

By LaTease Rikard

When the time comes for you to choose a domain name, it makes sense that you somehow incorporate what you do with your domain name. As written in last month's column, the domain name should give a potential customer an idea of what your business is about. This is known as optimizing, or Search Engine Optimization (SEO.) SEO, when done properly, brings huge results to your business, and is fundamental to your online success. Google, and other search engines (Bing, and Yahoo) are able to locate a website that has keywords or key phrases in its title tag or name when users search for products and services you may provide.

I believe we should focus on key phrases, because when I am searching for something on Google, I type phrases in the form of a question. For instance I was searching for washing machines that are large enough to wash comforters. So I typed in Google, "washing machines that can handle comforters." Mind you, Google suggested the last two words, so that meant a lot of people must be searching for the same thing. This is a smart tidbit to notice, the fact that Google already had suggestive wording to help me search. Obviously, this key phrase is being searched for a lot. That being said, keywords should not be your focus, instead key phrases are a more accurate term which really defines how people search.

It's important during the discovery and development of your keyword and key phrase lists, that you don't over think the process (it's very easy to do this). My recommendation is to place yourself in your customer's shoes and begin to think like them. Think about what you would be searching for if you needed dog food. You might type something like "where is organic dog food sold?" And if you wanted to narrow it down further, you may search for "organic dog food sold in St. Louis."

You may ask, how does this help in the keyword selection for my domain name? Good question. Your domain name should contain the obvious words of 'organic dog food' (using the example above). Try to resist the urge to use broad keywords like 'dog food,' because your website may not rank very high for that term unless you are a huge, highly authoritative website. The goal is to select primary keywords that will boost your website to the front page of Google and other search engines. Google will reward you immensely when your relevant keywords match your website address.
Try to use descriptive keywords, such as 'organic dog food.' The term 'organic' describes the type of dog food you sell, which helps to drive traffic to your website from users who are specifically looking for that type of product. If you are a jeweler, you would want to use terms like 'gold jewelry,' or 'silver necklaces' – these are specific items a person might search for. When you use specific keywords or key phrases, you are more likely to drive lots of targeted traffic to your website leading to significantly higher conversion rates to sales.

In closing, keep an eye on which keywords and key phrases are working and which ones are not. Analytic data like this helps you to forecast or predict your customers' behavior. Data? Analytic data you say? Yes, part of running a continuously successful online business means understanding the behavior of your customers and putting that intelligence to good use. Let's talk about that next month!

If you need a social media marketing analysis for your business, feel free to contact me at 314-323-1126 and I'll be glad to give you a free consultation.



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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.

Along with allergy season, we are getting into a presidential election year. Several politicians have already thrown their hats in the ring to see who might be elected in 2016. Election years are so interesting because we actually start to hear some suggestions on how our nation can deal with its problems and make a better life for all of its citizens. And of course on the ugly side, we also start seeing the mudslinging and negative political ads. It appears we will have many choices on the Republican side and with that we may have ideas that can help make improvements in the systems we know are broken. One specific area that has been under attack since its inception has been the Affordable Care Act. And if Republicans win they have promised to end Obamacare.

While I have long thought changes were necessary in how we manage health care, I also must admit that the goals of the ACA really haven't been met. The three key goals of the law were to offer consumer protection by outlawing pre-existing conditions as a reason to charge more or disallow coverage. It also tried to make access to health insurance available to everyone and the big part of this was allowing young people to remain on their parent's plans longer. In both of those areas it has succeeded. The other big goal was to control health care costs and here we are finding that costs continue to escalate for some more than others. Prior to the law we had about 45.4 million Americans uninsured. Now we have about 11 million more covered which means there is a very significant number still uninsured. As a part of cost control, it was thought that getting more people covered would help because many of the uninsured were healthy young people. With the newly insured we seem to have more of the older and less healthy crowd. This will continue to be an issue unless there are better ideas on improving the number of insured. And forcing people to purchase health insurance has been one of the things many have complained about. The fines to be paid by those who decide not to get insurance don't seem to deter them from making that choice. Another way to control costs is to keep Americans healthier to begin with. With the changes in the types of regular maintenance and check-ups, we may see this down the road. For right now, it doesn't seem to be improving quick enough.

As much as the Republicans want to revoke the ACA, I suspect they are realizing that many like it and getting rid of it won't be easy. So perhaps they can come up with some changes that can improve the existing law. It was recently announced that Ted Cruz is getting his family's health insurance through the government health exchange because of his wife's leave from her job. This news is great because now he will have experience with the current system that he has been against. He has even created a Health Care Choice Act that would repeal the Affordable Care Act. I haven't looked into his plan just yet, but his experience in current system should prove valuable in his drive to do something better.

A story has been in the news for the past couple of weeks which is very disturbing and while thinking about health care, I wondered how it affected this family's situation. The trial just ended resulting in guilty verdicts for the parents of a young boy with autism. I know that not everyone is able to meet their family's health care needs even with the improvements that have come with the Affordable Care Act. So I wonder if looking at the economics of their situation might lend a little more sympathy for the parents. If the parents are sentenced for the maximum, it could mean seven years in prison. My understanding is that either one or both of the parents are working, although I really don't know this to be fact. We do know that there are five other children in the home and the parents had wanted to keep the family together rather than institutionalizing the autistic child. These things seem admirable and the family according to their family physician their child appeared well cared for. Yet as the pictures of the bed were available it was hard to dispute that this was a poor choice for the six year old child. When this was discovered nearly five years ago, I remember being horrified when I saw pictures and heard about the conditions in the home at the time police and a State social worker stopped by. At that time the autistic child was removed from the home. Shortly after he was returned and the family is still living together with all of the children under one roof. It does seem as if things may not have been quite as bad as first suspected or they would not be living together. The most troubling aspects during the initial contact had to do with the police being unable to release the child from the enclosure and the Grandmother who was responsible for watching the children unable to assist with any instructions. And of course, there was also the comments made that urine and feces spilled from the bed once it was opened.

All of these things were brought up in trial and left little room for any sympathy. The parents have denied some of these things and the father doesn't understand how they could not open the child's enclosed bed. As I read about the trial, I couldn't help but, think about the difficulties this family was facing. Would those who have never experienced a similar situation be the ones casting stones? I also wondered what may have changed in the past five years since the incident. Certainly the family is still living together as reported. There have apparently been no other incidents of abuse and it was reported that a worker provided by the health department visits the family daily. So I wonder, is seven year's in prison really the best option?

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As I did a little research on autism I found it can be a very stressful diagnosis to deliver to a family. I would have already guessed that, but actually seeing stories in print made me even more sympathetic towards this family. As I checked things out it appeared there were a number of resources that could help families like these with therapy sessions, ideas on coping with caring for the child and being a good parent to the other siblings. According to WebMD, in extreme cases the costs of such therapy could reach $100,000 a year. From a study in 2007 the Journal of Family and Economic Issues found families paying up to $30,000 per year for behavior therapy. It was easy to see how this could easily bankrupt a family.

Since most of the damaging testimony seemed to revolve around the bed or "cage" as it was referred to, I wondered what alternatives the family had prior to the visit by family services and the police that day. I know they spoke of the bed the family had wanted for their son, but couldn't afford. I never saw a picture of it, so I don't know if it was the same style of a large crib, like you might see in a hospital. As I looked for some choices parents of an autistic child might have I easily found several. I only checked out a few and realized that most were more like a tent than a cage. However I did find one dealer that had beds that were wooden and did almost look like cages you might see on a box of animal crackers. They looked very sturdy and possibly fun for a child. In my research on autism it seemed important to provide the child a safe place to sleep or get some alone time, so it seems this type of enclosure bed is a necessity. Finding the actual price of these beds wasn't as easy. Only a couple actually showed the price, the one I liked the best had a minimum cost of nearly $3000. I did see one that was in the hundreds, but it did not seem nearly sturdy enough for the situation.

I do hope that the sentencing will be made with what is best for this child and the entire family in mind. With the help they have received over the past five years, I hope they have learned about better choices for their family and that may help keep them together. If you have comments or suggestions please e-mail consultjoan@att.net.

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Sat., May 9.....cookies and cream
Sun., May 10.....closed
Mon., May 11 .....closed
Tues., May 12.....Almond Joy
Wed., May 13 .....banana foster
Thurs., May 14 .....cherry bon bon
Fri., May 15 .....death by chocolate
Sat., May 16.....birthday cake
Sun., May 17.....closed
Mon., May 18 .....closed
Tues., May 19 .....smore
Wed., May 20 .....Butterfinger
Thurs., May 21.....chocolate heath
Fri., May 22 .....French toast
Sat., May 23.....M&M
Sun., May 24.....closed
Mon., May 25 .....closed
Tues., May 26 .....turtle swirl
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Fri., May 29.....Andes mint chip
Sat., May 30 .....banana pudding

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Page 12_Layout 1 5/4/15 9:12 AM Page 1

Ferguson by Foot

By: Margaret Wolfinbarger



I was jogging down the street with perfect form. My feet matched the exuberance in my heart as my powerful leg muscles propelled me up and down each hill. My arms swayed to the rhythm of my stride as I rounded a corner and took a deep breath. I considered how good it felt to run and look good doing it. Lycra never looked so good as it did on me that day. And then I woke up.

Okay, I'll admit it. I have the self-confidence of a minnow. When I am walking or jogging I honestly feel like Gumby must feel on a warm day; melty, squishy and a little drippy around the arms. I have seen strong and lithe joggers running up and down the hills of Ferguson as if they were in a Nike commercial. They cast a casual glance my way as we pass, but their eyes seem to say, "Look at that marshmallow girl! Who does she think she's kidding?" I try to suck my stomach in, but it jiggles nonetheless. I try to flex my arms, but they wobble, and the problem is, then I can't breathe so I have to slow down and catch my breath—but only after the perfect runner has passed—I might add. So I hobble back home, secretly dreaming of the glorious day in the future when I will have the perfect body and the perfect attitude and all the self-confidence in the world.

Except, oh wait! I'm never going to have the "perfect" body. When one has lost a tremendous amount of weight, there is always a certain amount of saggage (think sag and baggage). Besides, I will never be 20 again. I will never have a size 6 waist (as if that is the measure of perfection) and I will never be blond. Wait, I could totally be blond! Listen, if there is one thing I have learned about living a healthy lifestyle it is this: stop comparing myself to other people. It is so easy to get hung up on appearance in today's culture. Magazine articles scream at us to lose weight, get fit and look like a Greek god. As if that is the only thing in life that matters—looking good. When did we begin to correlate our self-identity with the shape of our bodies? Why do we continue to confuse our self-worth with external beauty or lack thereof? Do the people we love and who love us really care if we look good in a swimming suit? Come on!

I suppose it's easy for me to say all of this since I've lost the weight, but I remember well the years I spent as an obese individual longing for hope—any kind of hope—that I could be attractive. I felt invisible, although that was probably more due to my personal insecurities than how others viewed me. But I still get stuck in that loop today. I tell myself I have to keep the weight off or people won't like me anymore. And then I feed my addictions with unhealthy foods like ice cream and begin to worry that I've lost my grip on maintaining my smaller size. I could drive myself crazy(and have) running down this bunny trail of useless worry.

Life is a precious gift and we must decide how we want to use it. Who we are and what we look like are two separate things. We can be the most beautiful person in the world and have a hateful heart that does nothing but wound those around us. I would like to propose that sometimes the best thing we can do is take the microscope off ourselves and instead focus on someone else. If we are lucky, we all share the same fate. We will grow old and our bodies will decline. No amount of diet and exercise will stop it. Hopefully, living a healthy lifestyle will give us a better quality of life with which we can find a way to better serve others, but there is no delaying the inevitable.

With that in mind, I'm off to visit my neighbor. She's going through a rough time right now and I'll bet some cookies will really cheer her up. And if I nibble off the corner of one, so be it. No one saw me so it didn't happen anyway.

Ferguson Library
2015 Summer Reading Program
May 18th thru Aug 2nd

Find Your Origin Story!



Young people will have the chance to experience their own secret origin this summer as the Ferguson Municipal Library presents this year's Summer Reading Program "Every Hero Has a Story." The Summer Reading Program is open to all ages with multiple program tracks with special incentives for all. This year's theme celebrates the stories that bring out the best in each and every one of us. From the costumed crime fighters of comic books, to the heroes of mythology from all over the world as well as the real heroes of ancient times, the recent past, the present, and those heroes who have yet to come into their own!

Registration begins May 18th 2015. To learn more, please call the Ferguson Municipal Library at 314-521-4820 or come on in and talk to our own library heroes for more information!

Come meet award-winning author

Sharon Draper

at the Ferguson Municipal Public Library!

May 6th, 4 - 6 pm

in the auditorium

Sharon will be signing copies of her newest book, *Stella by Starlight* as well as others.

Books will be for sale from Main Street Books.

For more information, call the library at 521-4820



TEEN POETRY CONTEST

$200 PRIZE FOR THE WINNERS!

Drop off your one page poem at the Ferguson Library Auditorium
35 N. Florissant Rd., Ferguson, MO 63135

Saturday, May 16, 2015
between the hours of 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Guidelines:

- (1) page TYPED poem on an 8-1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper
- 500 word maximum
- Topic or theme must be about FERGUSON
- Type your first & last name on the poem, age & telephone number
- Contestants do not have to live in Ferguson to participate
- Must be between the ages of 13-18 years old to participate.

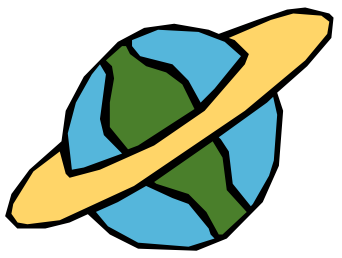
One winner from each age group
(Group #1) 13-15 yrs. (Group #2) 16-18 yrs

Poem can be about your view of Ferguson before August 2014, after August 2014, the present state of Ferguson, your view of the future of Ferguson, or any other perspective you may have.

Your thoughts, unique perspective and interpretations are encouraged and important. Poems can represent any point of view.
Winners wil be determined by I.C.E.

Award presentation will be held on **Saturday, May 23, 2015** at 12:30 p.m. in the Ferguson Library Auditorium.
There will be one winner from each age group.
(Winners will be notified prior to May 23rd.)

Contest sponsored by the Institute for Community Economics
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Friday, May 8, 15, 22, 29 10:00 a.m.
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Complimentary Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.
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Happy Hour 11:30 a.m.
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World Bird Sanctuary
Wings for Seniors Program
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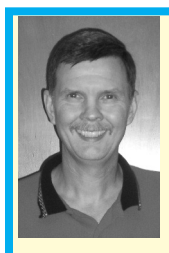


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Under The Hood With Robinwood

By Bob McGartland

Is Your Summer Vacation Destination All Set? Make Sure Your Vehicle is Ready to Get You There!

Before you set off on that spring fishing trip or much needed summer break, make sure your vehicle is also up to the trip. The last thing you need to do is start off your vacation with a breakdown. Here is a list of the things that I like to recommend as we enter the warm driving season…

1) Tires are one of the most important components of your vehicle, and many times the least to be checked. Winter's salt and grime is tough on the rubber, and potholes can destroy a tire in seconds. Please stop in at your service and repair facility and have a tire inspection done

2) A brake and suspension inspection is a good idea. Much like tires, your suspension and brakes get beat up all winter. Next to good tires, proper handling and stopping come next. With your next oil change requesting a brake and suspension check is a good plan.

3) Have your coolant tested. Your vehicle's radiator serves you all year round. After keeping you warm all winter, making sure your coolant level is correct and in good condition. Also it is very important to making sure your engine thermostat is operating at the correct temperature as we drive in hot weather.

4) Have your transmission fluid checked for condition and levels as well. Before heading out for a spring or summer road trip with your boat trailer or camper is an excellent time to have a transmission fluid flush performed. On all wheel drive and four wheel drive vehicles the differential fluids and transfer case fluid be inspected and service as needed.

5) Is your A/C ready? Now is the time for an annual A/C system performance test. With cooler spring temperatures the air can feel cold coming from the vents. Yet if the system is under charged on hotter days the air from the vents will not be as cold.

6) More batteries fail from the heat of summer than the cold of winter. Have your battery tested and at the same time have the battery terminals serviced.

7) Get your hoses and belts inspected before you leave. Having a belt break or a hose start leaking can put an end to an enjoyable trip in a few seconds.

8) Get your air filter inspected and changed if dirty.

9) Good visibility is important and a streaking windshield while driving into the sun is not fun for any of us. Inspect the wiper blades and check the washer squirters operation. Don't forget about the rear wiper blade and washer.

With the hot summer weather just around the corner and before you take off on road trip, I strongly recommend having a pre-summer vehicle inspection completed. Catching trouble spots on your vehicle early will save you both money and inconvenience.

The Taste in Ferguson fundraiser event is moving to a new date this year to Sunday September 13th at the Savoy. More news about the event coming in the months ahead.

Happy Motoring! Visit us at RobinwoodAuto.com.

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Provident's Fund-A-Ferguson Counselor Appeal Achieves Success

Following the tragic death of Michael Brown, Provident's Executive Director, Steve Sullivan appealed to a specific list of corporate donors to obtain funding for at least one additional therapist in Provident's Ferguson Counseling Office, one of six in the metro area. "I knew the traumatic events in Ferguson would increase the need for services in this area," expressed Sullivan. His personal appeals were addressed with donations from Emerson, , Crotzer & Ormsby, LLC; The Lowenbaum Partnership, LLC; and Thomas Patrick Giblin, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP.

"I'm extremely grateful for the generous responses from our corporate leaders in this community. Our corporations are always willing to step-up in times of need."

In addition to the support from the Fund-A-Ferguson Counselor appeal, Provident also received a grant from United Way to offer free counseling to adults, 20 years of age and older, who have been impacted by the events in Ferguson. To schedule an appointment with one of Provident's therapists, simply call 314.533.8200.



Pictured: Pat Sly, Executive Vice President, Emerson; Cindy Reeds Ormsby, Crotzer & Ormsby, LLC; Margaret Schicker, Provident's Director of Clinical Services; James Keeton, Provident's newly-funded Ferguson counselor; and Steve Sullivan, Provident's Executive Director.
Not pictured: Michael Lowenbaum, The Lowenbaum Partnership, LLC; and Thomas Patrick Giblin, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP.

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The primary means of prevention of such arteriosclerotic disease is to engage in regular vigorous exercise and eat consistently nutritious food selected from all five food groups. Regular chiropractic care helps you get the most out your exercise program and nutritious diet. By keeping your spine aligned and your nerve system operating at full capacity, regular chiropractic care helps you achieve optimum levels of good health, including healthy brain function.

May Events:

May 5 *Salsa and Sombreros – join us for chips and salsa and wear your best Mexican attire – 4 to 6 p.m.*

May 10 *Mother's Day – all month long . . . refer a veteran or current military and Dr. Robyn will donate $20 to the Warrior's Child Scholarship fund. This scholarship is thru the Northwest Chamber of Commerce. For more information, please visit the Northwest Chamber of Commerce @ Welcome To The Northwest Chamber of Commerce and click on the diploma*

Dr. Robyn is available to speak to your group. Just give her a call.

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

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Story Time at the Library



Three Sophomores Selected to Attend Missouri Scholars Academy

Three Ferguson-Florissant School District sophomores have been selected to attend the 2015 Missouri Scholars Academy (MSA). Will Bump and Griffin Jones, who attend McCluer North High School, and Michaela Davis, a student at McCluer High School, will attend the three-week residential program to be held June 7-27 on the campus of the University of Missouri-Columbia. They are among 330 Missouri students selected to attend the academy.

Every public and private high school in the state is allowed to nominate at least one student for the academy. Academically, students represent the top one-half of one percent of the state's sophomore class. Students are selected based on their PSAT scores, IQ test and a series of written essays. MSA provides a wide range of activities as well as intensive instruction in specialized areas. Guest speakers, performers, discussions and career education will be combined with extracurricular and social activities to round out the curriculum.

Founded in 1985, MSA celebrates its 31st season this year. The goals are to help gifted students achieve their full potential and motivate them to use their abilities to attain high standards of achievement, to encourage local schools to improve and expand gifted education programs, and to assist in providing the state with experienced faculty and specialized curriculum for such students. For over 25 years, MSA was sponsored, in full or in part, by the state. The 2015 academy is supported in part by funds provided by the University of Missouri, MSA alumni and friends, Missouri corporations, and a student activity fee. By the end of the 2015 academy, over 9,700 Missouri high school students and teachers will have participated in MSA since its inception.

Teacher is the Academy of Science-Monsanto Teacher of the Year

Tanya Brown, a teacher at Cool Valley Elementary School, has been named the Academy of Science-St. Louis-Monsanto Teacher of the Year. Brown was selected for the honor from close to 200 nominees in the St. Louis region. She will receive $,2000 for professional development and $500 for classroom supplies.

Brown was honored by the FFSD Board of Education at its April 8 meeting and by the Academy of Science during its 2015 St. Louis Outstanding Scientist Awards Dinner on April 9.

McCluer North Baseball Program Receives $1,000 Grant

The McCluer North High School baseball program is the recipient of a $1,000 Thomas R. Brown Athletic Grant. California Casualty, provider of the Missouri NEA Auto and Home Insurance Program, provides the grant. The funds will help with the purchase of much needed athletic equipment, offset participation fees and improve safety for student-athletes.

McCluer North is among 87 public high schools from 29 states receiving a portion of this year's $101,200 in grant funding from California Casualty. Since its inception in 2011, over $400,000 has been awarded to more than 300 high schools across the nation.

Representatives from California Casualty visited the school on Thursday, April 9 where they presented baseball coach Mike Calihan, other coaches and team members with a $1000 check. The grant is named after California Casualty Chairman Emeritus Thomas R. Brown, who recognized that teamwork and success on the field translated to the classroom.

Ferguson Lions Support McCluer Project Graduation

The Ferguson Lions Club, an organization dedicated to providing community assistance when needed, support for sight, hearing, and food pantries, among other charitable activities, was called to action after they received a letter from McCluer High School requesting assistance. Every year the school and PTSO hold a lock-in for the Graduating Senior Class. This event, according to Assistant Principal Kurtis Downing, is a night where the students have a great time. But due to unforeseen circumstances they had to cancel a critical fundraising activity. It was an easy decision for the Ferguson Lions Club to support the youth of Ferguson/Florissant again this year. On Thursday, April 2nd, a check in the sum of $ 1,400 dollars was presented to Yvonne Lillard, Vice President of the PTSO. Congratulations to the McCluer Seniors. The Ferguson Lions Club is proud to support our future leaders.



Pictured from the left: Lions President Jeff Greiner, Lions Treas. Bob Richardson, PTSO Vice President Yvonne Lillard, Lion Fola Olishile, Lion Cornel Robinson, Youth Committee Chair Lion Ginny Richardson, PTSO Secretary Alisa Tyus, Lion Dave Bernard, Lion John Lipka, Lion Patti Knowles, and Senior Assistant Principal Kurtis Downing. Lion Helen Bernard took the picture.

Students to Participate in the Missouri Fine Arts Academy

Fourteen students from the Ferguson-Florissant School District have been selected to participate in the Missouri Fine Arts Academy (MFAA) this summer. The students, who had to submit an online audition, essay and recommendation from their fine arts teacher to qualify for selection, will be among 200 students from throughout the state to participate in the academy. According to Doug Erwin, FFSD's K-12 fine arts content leader, the district has had the most students from throughout the state to be selected for the academy for the fourth year in a row.

The MFAA is a three-week summer residential program for highly motivated student artists in visual arts, theatre, dance, creative writing and music. The academy offers an intensive schedule of classes in interdisciplinary and discipline-specific arts, and a wide range of co-curricular activities. MFAA is conducted with the support and cooperation of Missouri State University. Students who complete the academy earn three hours credit in interdisciplinary studies, which is transferable to most college or university degree programs.

McCluer North High School: Vocal Music – Dennis Barber, Pfalin Burton, Mariah Hamilton, Olivia Jones, Tyron Long, Cortez Murray, Chauncey Patterson and Machaella Smith; Theatre – Troy Caldwell-Day and Leah Sutherlin

McCluer High School: Theatre – Rachel Ingram and Kyahna Johnson; Band – Kalie Strain

McCluer South-Berkeley High School: Band – Sekaia Young

Ferguson From An Historical Perspective

The City of Ferguson has a rich history; it was one of the first suburban communities in the St. Louis area and is 160 years old.

An historical overview of Ferguson will be the program for the Saturday, May 16 luncheon of the Ferguson-Florissant (North County) Branch of the American Association of University Women. A panel of local history experts will give the presentation. The program will also include awards and other short presentations. The public is invited to attend. The luncheon will be held at Rizzo's Restaurant, 1839 Dunn Road, in Florissant, beginning at 11:30 am. Selections will be made from the luncheon menu. Reservations are required.

For information or reservations, call 314-831-5359, 314-831-6884 or e-mail gwenrosenfeld@sbcglobal.net.

March 2015 Meeting Minutes

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

Lt. Ray Nabzdyk opened the April 8th, 2015 meeting of the Ferguson On Watch, welcoming everyone. Patrol officer Matt Miller and Captain Dennis McBride were also in attendance.

Police shot on protest line
After last month's neighborhood watch meeting was over, Lt. Nabzdyk was called back to the police station because about 75 to 80 protesters had gathered at the police station. The protesters kept blocking Florissant Road and were pushed back two or three times. A little before midnight two officers were hit by gunfire coming from the Harrison and Tiffin area, on top of the hill. Ray reported that he saw the muzzle flash. The officers pulled their weapons but did not fire as they were unable to locate the target suspects. The remaining protesters went running every which way. Both officers left the scene by separate ambulances to Barnes Hospital. After that a squad of about a dozen officers secured the crime scene, approximately 125 yards away. About 25 detectives from St. Louis County arrived and interviewed all the witnesses.

After giving us this report, Lt. Bill Ballard arrived and relieved Lt. Nabzdyk. One of the neighbors asked about pitbull dogs and Capt. McBride discussed our current ordinances on it. After some discussion Capt. McBride asked the requester to call them (at 522-3100) for service when they saw the pit bulls outside. Another resident discussed breeding pitbulls in the Nesbit-Newton neighborhood. The officers promised to give them a visit in the next week.

Another attendee added derelict vehicles to the conversation and Lt. Ballard provided responses to her.

Both Capt. McBride and Officer Miller talked about neighborhood policing. When working under Chief Moonier, the police had permanent sectors assigned and that helped the officers become familiar with the people and families in the neighborhoods. Capt. McBride has been with the Ferguson police department for 39 years and recalled the benefits of neighborhood policing from the past. When you see someone walking down the street with a filled pillow case, call the police for service (522-3100).

We also discussed a drug violation event that occurred on March 4 at Forestwood Drive and Chambers where a vehicle stop was made due to active warrants. After a short cordial conversation, drugs and a sawed off shotgun were recovered from the car.

Most of the calls taken at the police department are anonymous. Some calls need your name and address to support a complaint. Call for service at 522-3100, and the dispatchers will assist you.

Next meeting of the Ferguson Neighborhood Watch is scheduled at City Hall at 7:00 pm on May 13th.



CERT Update:
Fire Extinguisher training was part of the April CERT meeting. If you fight a fire remember the word P.A.S.S, which stands for pull, aim, squeeze, sweep. Pull the pin, aim low at the base of the fire, squeeze the handle, and sweep from side to side at the base of the fire until it appears to be out. If you have the slightest doubt about whether or not to fight a fire, DON'T! Get out and close the door behind you.

Do not fight a fire if the fire could block your only escape, or if the fire is spreading too quickly. Also, if the type or size of the extinguisher is wrong or the fire is too large, or you don't know how to use that fire extinguisher, leave immediately!

All of us who attended received hands-on experience with using fire extinguishers on a burning fire in a barrel on the Police Department parking lot.

Have a safe month. Keith :-)K

Emerson Donates Netbooks to Early Childhood Program

Thanks to Emerson, students in the Ferguson-Florissant School District's Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program are using Netbook tablets to supplement their instruction. Emerson donated eight Netbooks that are being used to provide effective instruction through the use of technology to students who have significant communication needs.

"The Netbooks can be helpful with children on the autism spectrum in several ways," said Deborah Toole, an ECSE teacher. " We are initially using them as a highly preferred reinforcement for difficult tasks/activities, but at the same time encourage or require the use of visual motor skills and problem solving."

Toole says the students are very receptive to the Netbooks and look forward to using them. "We can be working on a very important, but difficult task with a child who may refuse to cooperate and if given Netbook time as a choice of reinforcement to work towards, the level of motivation explodes," she said.

Prior to receiving the Netbooks in early April, instructors were using "Tech Talkers" which incorporate using pictures that have been loaded into the device.

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Reservations Required

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Living In An Old House

– by Bob McCarty

You live in an old house and you know why you love your home. Do all of your family and friends think you have simply just lost your marbles because you are always obsessing about what is done and what needs to be done?

Here is an article I found on the internet from 'Circa, where old houses come to play, Magazine', that pretty much describes what it's like to live in an old home. It's called the:

'Ten Signs You're in a Fixer Upper!' By Candice Whitlow.

1. There's always at least one unfinished project going on!
I know! It's hard to pick just one.
2. You forget about certain quirks your house has until company comes over!
Seeing a toothbrush and a tube of toothpaste by the kitchen sink, because the bathroom is mid remodel is totally normal, right?
3. There are tools EVERYWHERE!
We would like to think of the air compressor in the living room as a conversation piece. Not to make you feel like you live in a constant construction sight.
4. People look at you like your crazy if they have never lived in a fixer upper!
But it's the most awesome kind of crazy.
5. A weekend without plans is always best because you have two whole days free to work on your house!
Spend an evening out on the town? No thanks! I would rather spend the evening covered in sawdust, plaster and paint at home.
6. You lose your sanity from time to time!
I thought it was important to put this in the middle of the list because this tends to happen to me mid project.
7. Your garage, basement, or attic is where you hoard all of the various old house parts you've collected over time!
Light fixtures, windows and doors! Oh my!
8. People come up to you and ask when your house will be finished, and all you can do is laugh!
Finished? Don't they know the work on an old house is never done?
9. You seem to forget about losing your sanity once you finish a difficult project and you can't wait to take on another one!
That's probably still classified as insanity but seriously, sanity is overrated.
10. Through all of the ups and downs that you face while fixing up an old house, you know a new, finished house would just be boring!
There's no place like an old home!

Candice Whitlow lives in Doniphan, Missouri, where there is an old house on every corner; kind of like Ferguson. Whitlow has worked closely with the City of Doniphan Historic Preservation Commission, documenting the city's historic downtown buildings. She devotes most of her spare time restoring her 1920s cottage style bungalow.

You can check out the Circa Old Houses website at circaoldhouses.com. When I find an entertaining article like this, I will be more than happy to share them with you, with permission. Even though you do own an older home/fixer upper, it's not all work and no play, but there is always that satisfaction you get after giving a full day or two of TLC to your house.

Until next month, Bob is on the Job and don't forget, if there is a subject, in regards to older home/building maintenance you would like for me to touch upon, let me know, you can contact me at paintedeffects@sbcglobal.net with a subject of BobonJob or by phone at 314-524-1264.

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Pecan Brown Ale – Brewed with pecans directly added to the mash. Six different malts is what give this ale its nutty malty flavor.
Munich Dunkel – Characterized by the depth and complexity from the toastiness of the Munich malts.
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Let's get ready to #RunWithFerguson

One mile, 5K, 10K distances! Finisher medals! Live music! Cheer stations! Teams! Families! Health! Fun! Can you feel the excitement? The sixth annual Ferguson Twilight Run is Saturday, May 16, 2015 in downtown Ferguson, and it's the only evening race in North St. Louis County.

Expectation and Tradition
This community event has become an expectation and a tradition since 2010. This year, participation is capped at 2,500. Registration will continue through race day, or until the cap is reached. Individual runners, walkers and teams are encouraged to register in advance.

Why do you #RunWithFerguson?
Who better to tell you about why they participate in the Ferguson Twilight Run than those who plan to join us on race day.

"This run is about community, about strength, endurance and the joy of diversity! It's fitness and love and a party on top!" ~ Becki , Ferguson Twilight Run Facebook testimonial

"I wanted to run to take part in a positive community event in Ferguson. Never having run before, I joined the Couch to 5K program and I've been inspired and challenged by the people in the group. Running 3.1 miles still seems like an impossibility to this newbie, but with the help of the C25K team, I know we'll get there." ~ Marc, Ferguson Twilight Run Facebook testimonial

"My son has autism and took up running three years ago. He says running helps him feel great about himself and fit in with other runners." ~Rick, Ferguson Twilight Run Facebook testimonial

Live Entertainment and Cheer Stations
There's more to the race than running and walking. Before the race begins, live music entertainment greets participants as they head toward the start line at Plaza at 501. A drum circle will take the lead for pre-race festivities, followed by a free concert with the Dirty Muggs throughout the evening.

The Dirty Muggs are a high energy experience with diverse and eclectic music to make you "get on the dance floor, tap your toe or shake something." From hip-hop, pop, rock and old school soul, Dirty Muggs is a popular St. Louis band with a huge following, performing at venues across the area. As you wind through the neighborhoods of historic Ferguson, cheer stations will motivate and encourage you to make it to the finish line. The cheer stations range from small bands to residents to community organizations shouting 'Way to go!' 'You can do it!' 'WOOOO!'

Support for the Community
Since the first race in 2010, the Ferguson Twilight Run has donated proceeds to community organizations that represent healthy, sustainable aspects of fitness activities.

The 2015 beneficiaries are Emerson Family YMCA, Girls on the Run at Bermuda Elementary, Ferguson Youth Initiative's Earn-a-Bike Program, Marygrove, St. Vincent Home for Children and Friends of Ferguson Disc Golf. Each agency will receive a percentage of the proceeds from the race.

In memory of our friend and Ferguson Twilight Run Planning Committee member, we renamed the beneficiary award to the Donnie White, Sr. Memorial Ferguson Twilight Run Award. Donnie passed away in September 2014. We are humbled and honored by his leadership and support for the race over the years. With the blessing of his family, we are grateful to share his spirit with the nonprofit organizations in our community.

2014 Best Neighborhood Support Award
Each year, the race has grown in participation and popularity. For three consecutive years, Ferguson Twilight Run has received the Best Neighborhood Support award from Big River Running Company.

Big River Running, which is a sponsor of the Ferguson Twilight Run, said the race earned the award because of the "overwhelming amount of support from local businesses as sponsors and vendors, the extremely high turnout of local residents to participate, the tremendous encouragement along the route from local residents, and the great community atmosphere before, during and after the event."

Register Today
Race fees for the 5K and 10K events are $25; on May 16, the fee increases to $30. The One-Mile Fun Run is $10. Teams of 10 or more get $2 off each person's entry fee. Registration includes a performance shirt and a medal for 5K and 10K race finishers. One-mile registration includes a cotton shirt. Join your friends for the race and register online at fergtwilightrun.com.

#RunwithFerguson
Show your support for Ferguson Twilight Run on social media and use #RunwithFerguson.

Twitter: @FergTwilightRun Facebook: Ferguson Twilight Run

RACE DAY SCHEDULE

10-6 pm	Race Day Registration (available only if we are below cap) & Packet Pickup
4:30pm	Pre-Race Entertainment
5:00pm	Start of one-mile Fun Run
5:45pm	Start of 5K Run/Walk
6:15pm	Start of 10K Run
6:30pm	Post-Race Concert by Dirty Muggs
7:45pm	Awards Ceremony
10:00pm	Post Race Festivities End

Alternative Spring Break Kids Help Spruce Up Ferguson

16 kids from states such as Wisconsin, Michigan, Louisiana and New Jersey spend a whole day mulching, cutting back perennials, digging and placing stepping stones and did whatever was necessary to help make the Ferguson gardens showplaces.





The kids, with help from members of the Ferguson Volunteer Flower Dept. (below) worked at the Library, the UMB parking lot and then picked up trash along Hereford, Airport Road and the entrance to Shop 'n Save.

The kids worked hard and were a delight . . . laughing and smiling the entire time.



Author Donates 10 Of Her "Painting for Peace in Ferguson" Books to the Ferguson Municipal Library

In late March, Carol Swartout Klein, author of the newly released children's book "Painting for Peace in Ferguson" donated 10 of the books to the Ferguson Library in Ferguson, MO to use in its healing kits. The library's healing kits are available for check out and include books about dealing with traumatic events and a stuffed animal that they can keep.

Klein, who grew up in Ferguson and still has a deep affection for her childhood hometown, created the book to show the basic idea that anyone, at any age has a talent that they can contribute to help others even when things seem to be at their worst.

"Painting for Peace in Ferguson" is Klein's first book and all proceeds from the book, after printing costs, will go toward youth programs in North County as well as helping small businesses in the community. The book does not go into what caused the unrest in Ferguson, rather focuses on how people came together to begin the healing process through the art of the Paint for Peace effort.

The book is available at the Corner Frame Shop, I Love Ferguson store and independent book stores throughout the St. Louis region. For more information you can visit online at: paintingforpeacebook.com



Author Carol Swartout Klein presenting Library Director, Scott Bonner, with one of the ten books she donated to the Library.





The Junior Farm Crew provides youth with an education in agriculture, nutrition & the environment, & leadership skills training. Sometimes hands-on learning leads to farm finds like this horn worm.



Through the Farm & Garden Apprenticeship, we grow future farmers & leaders of the good food movement. Pictured: washing tasty greens for the Ferguson Farmers market.

Support EarthDance on GiveSTL Day

GiveSTL Day 2015
St. Louisans are coming together Tuesday, May 5th, for GiveSTL Day, a 24-hour (midnight-midnight) online donation campaign to support local non-profits. We are excited to connect with you through the local good food movement and sustainably grow food, farmers, & community together.

5 Reasons to Give on 5/5/15

- Be a part of a national campaign supporting nearly 800 non-profits
- Have a long-term impact on the St. Louis community
- Win prizes like cash & sports tickets
- Grow the good food movement
- Support the causes that are important to you

Questions?
Email development@earthdancefarms.org or call 314-521-1006.
Copyright © 2015 EarthDance, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
233 S. Dade, Ferguson, MO 63135

Two Orchestras Combine to Present Symphony On Sunday, May 3rd

The Florissant Valley Symphony Orchestra and the St. Charles Community College Orchestra will present a combined concert at the St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley on **Sunday, May 3rd at 3:00 p.m.** in the Terry M. Fischer Theatre on the college campus. Adminission is Free.



The 70 piece orchestra will perform Debussy's "Three Nocturnes," Prokofiev's "Lieutenant Kihe Site," and Bizet's "Carmen Suite No. 1." The women's choir from St. Charles Community College will join the orchestra in the Debussy Nocturnes.

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Ferguson's Own Rae Mohrmann Runs Her 100th Marathon



Local fitness instructor Rae Mohrmann made a splash April 12th by running her 100th marathon at the GO! Marathon in St. Louis. You may have seen Rae running around town on one of her training runs, or you may have attended one of her fitness classes - but she wasn't always a runner.

Rae started to run at around the age of 30, and found she had a passion for it. However, she did not run her first marathon until she was 49. When she completed her first marathon she thought she could do better, so she trained for another. Being goal oriented, she set a goal of doing a marathon in each state, which she accomplished in 2010 by finishing first in her age group in Anchorage, Alaska.

Rae then set another goal to run 100 marathons and now belongs to an elite group of athletes who have accomplished this feat. Rae says it's great to have goals, but she feels like it's the journey that counts and not necessarily the destination. Running all these marathons in various states and countries has allowed her to travel, reconnect with old friends, and share good times with family and new friends.

If you want to learn more about running, Rae recommends joining a local track or running club to be surrounded by people who can help with advice and training. Most of all - just get moving - you may find your passion in exercise, too! Congratulations Rae!

–by Renee Benage

Huge Neighborhood Garage Sale

Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 8 AM to 4 PM.
Pasadena Hills

Many residents are participating so there will be a wide variety of items from baby needs to tools and appliances and everything in between.

We will also have some lemonade stands sponsored by our younger residents.

We welcome all to come and browse and enjoy our lovely neighborhood.

McCluer High School's McWord Poets Participate in Poetry Finals

Student poets from McCluer High School recently competed in the UrbArts VerbQuake Finals poetry competition. Known as the McWord Poets, Anthony Banks, Kayla Sheppard, Evelyn Kumeh, Jahmia Collins, and Tomorrow Hill performed group and individual pieces receiving much applause from the audience.

This was the first time the students participated in the competition and beat out six other schools to make it to the final level. The group placed sixth in the finals behind some really stellar and experienced competition.



NCI Names 2015's Award Recipients To Be Honored at 38th Annual Breakfast and Leadership Celebration

North County Incorporated (NCI) is pleased to announce that our annual Business Development, Community Development, Elmer Belsha Leadership, Excellence in Partnership, Public Service, Special Recognition, and Sustaining Our Community award recipients have been chosen. The 2015 award recipients will be honored at NCI's 38th Annual Breakfast on **Friday, May 29, 2015 at 7:30-9:30 a.m.** at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel. This year's presenting sponsors are HDR Engineering, SSM DePaul Health Center and St. Louis County and St. Louis Economic Development Partnership. The public is encouraged to attend and tickets are only $45.00 per person. Generous sponsorship packages are still available. Reservations are required; please call NCI (314) 895-6241 or go to www.NorthStLouisCounty.com.

NCI's Business Development Awards will be presented to those whose efforts positively affect the economic development and business climate of the North County area. On Friday, May 29, 2015 NCI will honor Raven Development for The Crossings at Northwest, and Watlow Electric with a Business Development Award.

NCI's Community Development Awards will be presented to those whose efforts positively benefit youth, residents, civic organizations, or others through selfless acts. Rosemary Whitehead, Founder of Love In Action Community Outreach Center, Jack Olson, Board member of Spanish Lake Community Association and University of Missouri-St. Louis will be honored with Community Development Awards this year.

Carolyn Marty, President of the Greater North County Chamber of Commerce and NCI Executive Board member will receive the prestigious Elmer Belsha Leadership Award, which is presented annually to an individual whose long-term commitment to NCI and the North County region has had a positive impact on the community and/or public body that they serve.

Excellence in Partnership Awards will be given to organizations or companies that have partnered with NCI to make a significant impact on the North County community for the betterment of the area's quality of life through special initiatives and/or projects. The partners being recognized are, Regional Business Council and St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, St. Louis Regional Chamber.

Public Service Awards will be presented to outstanding individuals, elected, appointed, or employed by a public body whose long-time service has had a positive impact on the community and/or public body they serve. Chief Robert S. Pruett, City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Denny Coleman, CECD, HLM, FM, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership's CEO and Mayor Viola Murphy, City of Cool Valley

Special Recognition Awards will be presented to individuals or organizations that have made a significant impact on the communities and citizens of North County. Those receiving this award are Scott Bonner and the I Love Ferguson Committee.

Sustaining Our Community Awards will be presented to individuals, organizations or companies that went above and beyond their usual roles to impact North County with programs and resources that sustain or improve quality of life. Emerson, St. Louis Crisis Nursery and The Urban League will all be honored with this award.

NCI's 38th Annual Breakfast is made possible by these generous sponsors:

Presenting Sponsors are HDR Engineering, SSM DePaul Health Center, St. Louis County and St. Louis Economic Development Partnership. Corporate Plus sponsor is St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley, The Bridge at Florissant and U.S. Bank. Corporate sponsors include, Christian Hospital, Commerce Bank, Community News, Favazza & Associates, LLC, Johnny Londoff Chevrolet, NorthPark Partners, and SSM Rehabilitation Network.

North County Incorporated is a regional development organization, which acts as a catalyst to define and advocate economic and community development for North St. Louis County. NCI was established in 1977. The Board is composed of community leaders and business owners. Dan Boyle, Esq. of The Boyle Law Firm LLC is the current Board of Directors Chair.

North County Incorporated
350B Village Square Drive
Hazelwood, MO 63042
(314) 895-NCI1 (6241)
Web: www.northstlouiscounty.com
Email: nci@northcountyinc.com

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Djeli Tales

By Mama Lisa Gage

May Days for Teachers

The idea of officially honoring a teacher began as early as 1944 and today has grown into an annual celebration held on every first Tuesday of a full week in May. This year's National Teacher Appreciation Day is on May 5.

I began teaching twenty six years ago. Since 1989, my life has been blessed with a multitude of experiences that really warmed my soul. I was inspired to write and perform this little ditty called "Shh!" in 2001 as a parody highlighting the antics of my home-school class. The children of Academic Home Care simply could not wait to visit with their favorite librarian, now retired, LaRita Hayes-Wright. The bus ride from Normandy to University City on the Lucas Hunt bus was always the welcomed treat of the week.

We walked to the bus stop, ducks in a row.
Backpacks full, all ready to go.
60 cents in the meter, 2-by-2;
Bus 64 southbound, thought you knew.
Cornered at Delmar, a stop past Kingsland;
Out we climbed for our weekly wing-ding…

Line at the front door; the button we pushed.
Walked in quick, so's not to get smooshed
U-City Library, up the big stairs;
Clump, clump, clack, clack, ran fancy footwear.
Bumped against the bookcase,
'bang' went a book.
Up went her shoulders; her head just shook.

"Shh!" said the desk clerk, "Not so loud.
Keep down the noise. Hold down the sound."
"Shh!" she said, "Now children don't fight."
We shh-ed and apologized, "Yes, Ms. Wright."

Coats on the floor; all papers spread wide.
Books pulled open for a peek inside.
'Pop' went the binding, out gave the seam.
"Oops" went the children, "We didn't mean…"

Writing really quickly, puzzles on the mind.
Crack bent the lead, no choice this time.
Line at the sharpener, sharpen to a point.
Zzzzzz went the sharpener;
'pow' popped a joint.
12 looked at each other;
12 looked at the floor.
The teacher just sighed and the desk clerk roared…

"Shh!" said the desk clerk, "Not so loud.
Keep down the noise. Hold down the sound."
"Shh!" she said, "Now children don't fight."
We shh-ed and apologized, "Yes, Ms. Wright."

Into the bathtub, with 3 or 4 books,
Rush to the table, the benches shook.
Pieces to the puzzles, all mixed up.
No room on the bean chair, pushing erupts.
The bean bag rips, and the children yell,
"You did it!" "I didn't!" "Well, I'm gonna tell!"

"Shh!" said the desk clerk, "Not so loud.
Keep down the noise. Hold down the sound."
"Shh!" she said, "Now children don't fight."
We shh-ed and apologized, "Yes, Ms. Wright."

The teacher announced, "It's time to go."
The children cleaned up, all ducks in a row.
They filed to the desk, put on a big grin,
And said in unison, with her heart to win,
"Thanks, Ms. Wright, you have a nice day.
Sorry for the trouble and too much play."
"It's alright children. Good-bye for now,
And remember as you leave, shh, not too loud."

My students would crack up laughing each time I performed this one, joyfully pointing fingers at which kid they thought caused the most disturbance. Of course, this is a fabrication because my little ANGELS would NEVER misbehave at the library.

The challenge of teaching reaps its own rewards, but it doesn't hurt to nudge the process a bit. Plan to show abundant appreciation to the teachers in your school community. Their smiles will linger a lifetime, and your sentiment will motivate them to go that extra mile.

My former student, Wesley, works at the Aldi location in Ferguson. He thanked me recently for giving him a great math experience. That kid… young man, definitely made the sun shine brighter in my day.



Ferguson 4th of July Family Fun Festival 2015



Parade and Nominations

FERGUSON CELEBRATE CHILDHOOD HEROES

That's the theme for the 2014 Fourth of July Parade and Festival. You have time for your company, organization, neighbors or just individuals to plan and begin building your parade float. The parade steps off Paul Avenue at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 4th, and marches north on Florissant Road to January Wabash Memorial Park where the day-long Festival and fireworks begin. Get into the spirit of celebrating Ferguson's renewed spirit. To enter the parade is free, just call the Parks & Recreation Department at 521-4661 for an application.

YOUTH ACHIEVERS

The Committee is also accepting nominations for the 2015 Ferguson Youth Achievers. If you are a Ferguson resident attending high school, and excel in scholastics, sports or community, you are eligible to receive a scholarship from the 4th of July Committee. Call for an application at 521-4661, or write to Ferguson Fourth of July Festival, Ferguson Parks and Recreation Department, 501 North Florissant Road, Ferguson, Missouri 63135.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, May 29, 2015
For more information, call 521-4661.

4th of July Entertainers



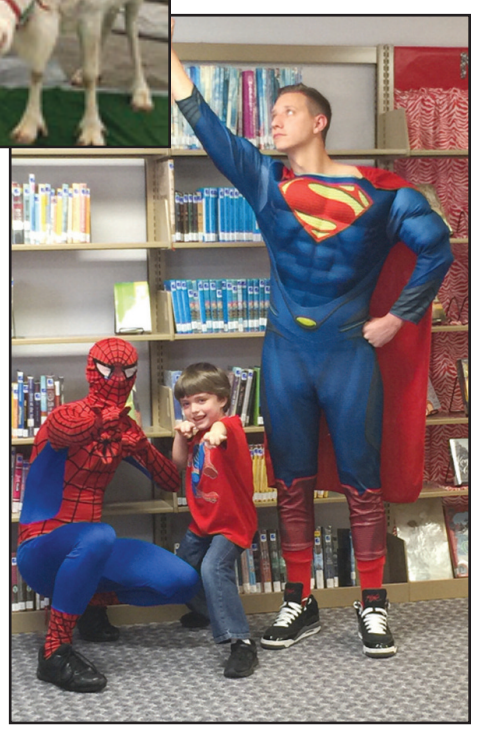
Plan on watching the parade and then spending the day at January-Wabash Park! Stay and enjoy the fireworks that end a whole day of wholesome fun right here in Ferguson.

It's a 4th of July tradition.

The 4th of July Committee has arranged for a number of heroes to be at our Festival, including Superman, Spiderman, Snow White, various Princesses, and the characters from "Frozen."

Children and adults alike will enjoy interacting with the characters and taking memorable photos.

In addition there will be a petting zoo, fun crafts for kids and many more activities. And it is all Free!



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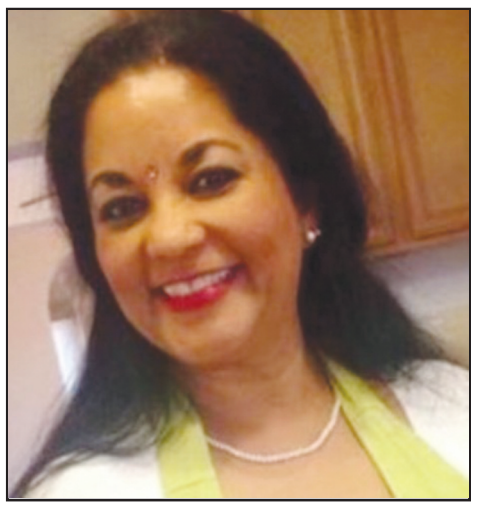
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The Best of Ferguson

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

– by Ruffina Farrokh Anklesaria, M.A.

Volunteers of the I Love Ferguson Shop and the I Love Ferguson Committee



"It was the worst of times, it was the best of times."
A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens.

This quote comes to my mind as I reflect on the events that unfolded in our sleepy little town on 9 August 2014, that awakened us from a suburban slumber that showed us both the worst and the best in human nature. As the name of this column suggests, I will focus on the Best!

The second week into the drama, residents received an email inviting us to come together to make signs saying "I Love Ferguson." Frankly, I had been so shocked at the events overtaking our city so vividly brought to us day and night on CNN and other news media, that I was relieved to do something positive and to meet other residents. We met at the Corner Coffee House in a side room Mike Lonero generously allowed us to use. A trickle of residents became a room full of us. We organized ourselves and had sign-making down to an art in no time! Each person specialized in one small area: I was the person stacking signs. I worked next to Lisa Reed Knowles who turned out to be our Mayor's wife. Brian Fletcher, our former Mayor, had come up with the idea to bring residents together for this positive effort to benefit local businesses and the Ferguson Youth Initiative.

Instead of being consumed by the destruction that took place and all the negatives, residents put their energies into doing something positive. We got to know each other. We were all in this together. Soon our product line increased. We were selling T-shirts emblazoned with our I Love Ferguson motto and buttons. Dorothy Seiter, editor of this newspaper, had loaned us her button-making machine and kept the supplies coming for it as well. We were all proudly wearing our new I Love Ferguson Ts and buttons.

We were sandbagging our little city against the tide of negative press coverage that we were getting. We wanted peace; we wanted friendship and we wanted love. We needed each other. We knew the truth. We were a diverse people who had lived together for so many years without incident. We wanted things to go back the way they were, but we also wanted change, for everyone to feel included, respected and appreciated.

As the wave of press rolled into our little town, we residents learned how to surf to meet them. We came to sell T-shirts and make signs; we stayed to give press interviews. It was truly amazing and awe-inspiring to see how the Corner Coffee House was transformed into a beehive of activity. I gave interviews to the BBC, NPR, NBC, The New York Times, German newspapers, Swedish Radio, French and Chinese tv, Fox 2 news, the St Louis Post Dispatch, Trinidad tv and newspapers, and so many more (I stopped counting at 30). We were under pressure but we were working together, rising up to meet the challenge. We had each other and felt we could get through this together, stronger and better than before.

It struck me how our community was uniting for good at this time of crisis. As volunteers came through, previously unknown to each other, the merchandise, cash and iPad were left in each other's charge. We were raising funds to rebuild our businesses and kindling spirits to see us through our toughest times. Our volunteers grew from a handful to 15 of us on roster, and greatly expanded when we went out on an outreach program to get the signs out, to a full 200 on buses, in cars and on foot.



The City Coffee and Creperie in Clayton showed us their love when they bought 31 Ts to outfit their staff, in solidarity with the people of Ferguson!

We outgrew our makeshift headquarters and moved into unused offices that were converted by residents and generous donors into the I Love Ferguson store. We were always busy. The glue that kept us together was the thought that we were working for our common good. Each gave what they could: I was good at interviews, so I worked the press. I also learned a trick way to fold T-shirts on YouTube and entertained the press and residents coming in to shop. I folded "trick Ts" especially when someone looked like they needed a smile! I was particularly pleased when I confounded even the military guy who came in and did a double-take when I folded my T in a few seconds.

Sandy Sansevere rose up to be manager of us volunteers and she invited us all to her lovely home on Elizabeth Ave, that she and her husband Tom shared. It was Christmas time and we volunteers had grown fond of each other in the four months that we had worked together. We had a wonderful party with the tastiest vegetarian lasagna made by Tom specially for me! Everything was beautifully decorated, and the joy of the season was matched by the warmth in our hearts.

Volunteers learned on the job. We learned to run credit cards on iPhones, on PayPal jacks and online. The I Love Ferguson Committee kept it all together and organized for us to be trained to run our FaceBook pages and our website. We learned to do retail, to process orders online, ship packages and to juggle the press. We gave interviews all through the day and sometimes on the pavement as we came to the shop or as we left. We bought the press coffee, lunch, tea, took them home with us and took them around our city. I even did a documentary for French television.

It was such a joy meeting all the wonderful women and men who had remained faceless all the years before. It took a crisis to bring us all together, to put names to familiar faces that had shopped together in the same Farmers' Market, run together at Twilight Runs, worshipped together at church, ate together at fish fries, and volunteered together at the Corner Coffee House.

I was totally inspired by those who brought joy and positivity every day to our shop and traded smiles and hugs as we sold merchandise to help our businesses. I was touched by strangers who brought us food, volunteered for an hour "in the back" while we held the shop in the front. I felt that this vibrant, strong, resilient group of people were simply the best! The Best of Ferguson! Yes, I salute the Volunteers at the I Love Ferguson shop and on the I Love Ferguson Committee, for shining the light of positivity at the darkest hour for our city:



Volunteers from L: Dorothy Kaiser, Sandy Sansevere, Ruffina Farrokh Anklesaria, Brian Fetcher, Tana Coffer, Ken Wheat

Current Volunteers:
Sandy Sansevere, Manager; Dorothy Kaiser; Ken Wheat; AD Robinson; Ank and Susan Ankenbrand; Ann Brown; Ceil Webber; Elaine Wirt; Inez; Jackie Dehmer; Mike Brandan; Pam Peters; Pat and Peggy Faul; Tana Cofer; Chastity Ballard; Barbara Tiasword; Annette Jenkins and Hedessah.

I Love Ferguson Committee members:
Brian Fletcher, Chairman; Donna Hewkin, Treasurer; Rob Chabot; Sandy Sansevere and Tony Burrows.

To all of you, thank you on behalf of all the residents!! We love you and it has been a pleasure working with all of you!

Send your nominations and comments to: BestofFerguson@tsmo.org.

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Ask Grandma

Tornadoes

Last month I told you about the Ferguson tornadoes that I have witnessed. What I didn't tell you about was the aftermath of the 1967 tornado.

All the shingles were torn off our house which was located on Forest Avenue. After the insurance check arrived, my husband bought the shingles and began the repair. It is a single floor home with a porch attached to the back. My husband brought the shingles up to the porch roof and began hammering them in place. I thought at least I could be of some assistance, so I climbed up onto the porch roof and would hand him shingles one at a time so that he could work faster.

After about 15 minutes of this endeavor, I decided that placing the shingles didn't look so hard, so I got a hammer and apron and started to apply the shingles myself. The job went very quickly . . . it was a small house . . . and before long I was on the peak of the roof. However, that part of the house overlooked the driveway and part of the basement was out of the ground. When I looked down I thought it looked the distance of a football field. "What would happen to my family if I fell?"

Well, I froze. No matter what my husband said, I was convinced I was going to fall to my death, or worse, be crippled for life.

Finally, with my husband holding my hand, I scooted on my butt to the middle of the roof and was able to crawl to safety.

So . . . did I learn my lesson? Fast forward ten years. A new house, a new husband, and teenagers instead of young kids. We bought the house (on Tiffin) on foreclosure for $20,000. That was an absolute steal even in 1977. The problem was it was a disaster. It needed new roof, furnace, updated electrical, plumbing . . . there were no screens or storm windows, and some of the windows did not close. There were no gutters and the garage was listing to one side. Not such a great deal after all. But . . . we knew all these things when we signed the papers.

After finishing the absolute necessary repairs, we decided to tackle the roof. There were 2 and in some places 3 layers of roof (in those days the roofers would keep putting roofs on top of the old ones). I called four companies to give me an estimate. I would see their trucks pull up to the house, look at the roof, and pull away; never to be heard from.



My husband was a traveling salesman and left town on Monday and would not return until late Friday, so the kids and I (remember they were all teenagers) decided we would replace the roof ourselves. My oldest son, Don, and his friend stripped off the old shingles. It took a week to gather and dispose of them. Then, after laying the tarpaper, the whole family climbed out the upstairs window and onto the roof.

I guess you know that you start shingles at the bottom edge. The bottom edge happened to be over the driveway . . . and it is a two-story house with 10 foot ceilings. It didn't look like a football field away . . . it looked like TWO football fields. "OK Don, we'll flip a coin to see who climbs over there to the edge and starts the shingles." I lost. But I just couldn't make myself go to the edge. Finally Don reluctantly consented to take the dangerous necessary first step.

Well the roof went pretty well, except Laura (who now owns the house) wasn't lining up the shingles. She was working in the middle and there was a dip where she was working. On close inspection the roof looked pretty bad, but it was a black roof and from the ground it was hardly noticeable. Besides, who looks at roofs. More important, it was watertight and didn't need replacing for 15 years.

I swore it was the last roof I would walk on . . . but I've said that before.

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Calendar of Events In and Around Ferguson

Complete Details of These Events Throughout the Paper

Spring Rummage Sale – St. Stephen's	Fri.-Sat., May 1-2
Ackerman School 5K Run / Walk	Sat., May 1
Trivia Night – Ferguson Community Center	Fri., May 1
First Friday Art Walk –Church Street	Fri., May 1
Bel Canta Chorus – St. Peters	Sat., May 2
Community Colleges Symphony – Flo Valley	Sun., May 3
N/W Inc. Business Expo – Orlando's	Tues., May 5
Meet the Author – Sharon Draper – Ferguson Library	Wed., May 6
Town Hall Meeting – Community Center	Thurs., May 7
Zumba Classes Begin	Sat., May 9
Ferguson Springfest	Sat., May 9
Mailcarriers Food Drive	Sat., May 9
Mother's Day	Sun., May 10
Beginning Adult Dance	Mon., May 11
Children's Tumbling Begins	Mon., May 11
Children's Tap and Ballet Begins	Mon., May 11
City Council Meeting	Tues., May 12
Hip Hop Jazz Dance Begins	Wed., May 13
Town Hall Meeting – TBA	Wed., May 13
Rummage Sale – Immanuel	Sat., May 16
Free Workshop to Heal Health & Well Being	Sat., May 16
Teen Poetry Contest – Ferguson Library	Sat., May 16
Historical Overview of Ferguson – Rizzo's	Sat., May 16
Pasadena Hills Garage Sale	Sat., May 16
5K / 10K Ferguson Twilight Run / Walk	Sat., May 16
Food Truck Monday	Mon., May 18
N/W Chamber Membership Mtg. – Crowne Plaza	Wed., May 20
Civil War Museum & Crystal City Underground Trip	Thurs., May 21
Spring Concert Series – Ralph Butler Band	Fri. May 22
Teen Poetry Contest Presentation – Library	Sat., May 23
Ferguson Swimming Pool Opens	Sat., May 23
City Council Meeting	Tues., May 26
Central School 135th Anniversary Celebration	Tues., May 26
Senior Lunch & Bingo – Community Center	Thurs., May 28
NCI Annual Breakfast – Renaissance STL Airport	Fri., May 29
Biggest Yard Sale in History	Sat., May 30
Summer Day Camp Begins	Mon., June 1
Vacation Bible School – Ferguson Christian Church	Mon.-Fri., June 1-5
Trip to Effingham, Ill.	Thurs., June 5
Mystery Trip	Sun.-Thurs., June 7-11
Sunday Symphony – Powell Hall	Sun., June 14
A Gardener's Delight – Long Shadow Gardens Trip	Thurs., June 18
4th of July Cocktail Party – Community Center	Sat., June 20
Lantern Festival – Botanical Garden	Tues., June 30



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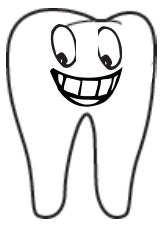
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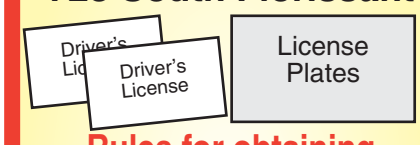
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