

Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

City of Ferguson Names De'Carlton Seewood as City Manager

Following a nationwide search, the Ferguson City Council has named De'Carlton Seewood as its new City Manager.



Seewood, who recently served as Village Manager, for the Village of Richton Park, Ill., was responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of all municipal departments and managing personnel to ensure consistency in both direction and operation. He also provided policy recommendations to the elected body and implemented adopted legislation throughout the municipality.

"Mr. Seewood has over 20 years of governmental experience and we believe his vision and commitment to the City of Ferguson will be a great asset to our residents, business owners and other stakeholders," said Ferguson Mayor James Knowles III. "He has a proven track record of being fiscally responsible, while also managing governmental affairs in a timely and efficient manner."

Seewood is no stranger to the City of Ferguson. He served as assistant city manager from 2001 to 2007. During his previous tenure, he worked to revitalize Ferguson's business community by helping to create a redevelopment plan for downtown, establishing a street-scape plan and assisting with the development of a farmers market, which is considered one of the jewels of the city.

From 2007 to 2009 Seewood worked as the city manager for Berkeley, Mo. While there, he reduced a \$2 million dollar deficit in the General Fund, turning it into a \$2.5 million dollar surplus in 2 years. He also worked on the development of Berkeley's North Park area, which has brought tremendous development to North County.

Seewood, a native of East St. Louis, Ill., has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Mo. and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Seewood, will be paid an annual salary of \$110,000.

FERGUSON'S 2015 Twilight Christmas HOUSE TOUR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 • 3-7pm

TICKETS: \$12 in advance, \$15 day of tour

Available at Paul's Market, Ferguson City Hall & Corner Coffee House
Also at Pearce Neikirk & Partners Realtors, 427 S. Florissant Road, from noon to 4pm on Dec. 6

Sponsored by Pearce Neikirk & Partners Realtors LLC
FOR MORE INFO: call (314) 521-5002 or (314) 495-2304

All Proceeds Benefit the Ferguson Caring League

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ALLIED WASTE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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

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

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

Free Carriage Rides

Thursday, December 10th
5:30 - 9:00 P.M.
Plaza at 501
At the Corner of S. Florissant Rd. and Suburban Ave.
Enjoy Hot Cocoa, Toasty Fire Pits, and Ride Through
Downtown Ferguson in a Horse Drawn Carriage!

For more information call 314-524-5197

Happy Holidays from CityWalk



Greetings from CityWalk

With the holiday season upon us, we hope that you are enjoying your stroll down CityWalk for the holidays. There were many familiar as well as new faces that were spotted at The Northern Lights Christmas Market and Lighted Parade. From the live holiday music, children activities, and the live ice sculpture demonstration, there was plenty to do for everyone. CityWalk would like to thank the vendors and patrons who made our Northern Lights Christmas Market and Lighted Parade memorable.

We are excited to see all the new activity taking place on CityWalk. New businesses are opening within our community and all are welcomed. If you are a new business to CityWalk, we would love to get to know you and your business. CityWalk offers many opportunities for you to mingle and network with other businesses on the Walk. Visit our website for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities hosted by CityWalk.

We wish to welcome the following new businesses to CityWalk. Almost Picasso, Blessings Closet, Moma Chichi Place, and Sheparding Images Studio. The variety of products and services available from our businesses contributes to vastness and intrigue of CityWalk.

Be on the lookout for our remaining holiday festivities including our final quarterly breakfast for 2015. We invite all CityWalk businesses to participate in this end of the year event.

(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 located at 427 S. Florissant Rd. Our next meeting is December 17, 2015. All businesses located in the Ferguson Special Business District are invited and welcomed. 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.

New Downtown Ferguson Store Provides Clothes for Job Seekers at Little or No Cost

City of Ferguson leaders joined Nikki Wilson, owner of **Blessings Closet** Thrift Boutique, at the store's grand opening on Friday, October 30.

Wilson's staff was also on hand during the event. Blessings Closet, which is a 501(c) 3 organization, located at 307 South Florissant Road in Ferguson.

Wilson says the store will provide fashionable, low-cost clothing options for the everyday North County resident or visitor. One of the most unique offerings of this new Ferguson business is a program that helps economically challenged men and women obtain professional clothing at little or no cost. Additionally, Blessings Closet has partnered with St. Louis based Better Family Life to provide affordable business casual clothing to those who are just entering the workplace or may have difficulty purchasing items for work.

Wilson says her business will hopefully be a blessing to the residents of Ferguson, North County, and ultimately the entire St. Louis Region.

The Plumber's Crack

By Oh Baby bigohbaby@sbcglobal.net

Grey skies, bare trees, holiday lights brightening the night, crowded stores, children trying not to be naughty, salt and snow shovels on display, it must be December and time for our Christmas edition of the Plumbers Crack.



your plumbing fixtures.

One thing you can do is turn the thermostat on your furnace up by a degree or two when your bathing and back down when you're warm and toasty. This not only makes you feel better, and saves on your water heater, it

also puts a smile on Jimmy Knowles face. Unfortunately it's that bad time of year for our plumbing systems. I should be happy since I'm a business man but I also have a soft spot for people's wallets this time of the year.

It sounds like some help might be on its way. We recently saw a stainless steel water heater at a trade show. It supposedly comes with a lifetime warranty and has special insulation. I will be getting more information on this as it comes available. None of our local supply houses carry these and so I don't have much info on them at this time.

Yes, it's that dreaded term, 'water heater leaking.' Why this time of year you ask? Well, Oh Baby is gonna tell ya.

Well my friends as I mentioned in the opening . . . it's the Holiday season. Hopefully we can all make it a time of compassion and love for our friends and neighbors. Christianity was born on this Holiday. No matter what faith or religion you follow it has turned into a season of giving and that everyone seems to celebrate.

Just like the outside temperature, the water temperature also drops coming into your home. That in turn causes your water heater to work a lot harder. Just using a little bit of hot water will cause the water heater to turn on. That also means more expansion and contraction of the tank. The gas or electric bill goes up and the chances of the tank springing a leak increase.

In that spirit please look to help the less fortunate, whether it be with a meal, a gift for a child, or just a smile with a handshake or hug.

There is not a lot you can do to keep this from happening. One mistake a lot of us make is turning up the temperature on the heater. That is a mistake, it just makes the water hotter which I know makes you feel better in that shower or soaking in that tub. It does not make the heater work any less hard, in fact it makes it work a lot harder and can cause damage or shorten the life of

Shop Ferguson first and God Bless you all and Merry Christmas.

Oh Baby

P8563, D8563

Premier Plumbing Solutions

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

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

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

524-0222

Saturday, December 19th Ferguson Indoor Farmers' Market

Join us for our Winter Market! The Ferguson Farmers Market goes indoors through the winter months every 3rd Saturday from 9:00am – noon in the warm comfort of St. Stephens Church at 33 North Clay in Ferguson.



Our winter market features many of our farmers, vendors and artisans as well as our delicious made to order omelets. You don't want to miss it!

St. Stephen's Church
33 North Clay – 9:00 am to noon

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

CALL BOB
524-1264

See Bob on Job column on Page 17

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 inclusion in the following month's paper.

Keep Your Home Safe for the Holidays

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



Christmas Trees

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday

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

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant."

Caring for Your Tree

- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame, or sparks.

- Place the tree out of the way of foot traffic and do not block doorways.
- Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Holiday Lights

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

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

Decorations

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials placed away from heat vents.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use sturdy, non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down.

- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.

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

Have a safe a Happy Holiday, The Ferguson Fire Department

FREE RESUME WORKSHOP
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 12
9 - 11 AM
FERGUSON LIBRARY
PRESENTED BY
JOBSandMORESTL



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DEC 7 - DEC 18 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
RESUME WRITING | WORKPLACE PERFORMANCE
INTERVIEWING AND NETWORKING | BUILD YOUR SELF-CONFIDENCE
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TO REGISTER CALL: 314-283-2215
OR EMAIL JOBSANDMORESTL@OUTLOOK.COM
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Snow Route Streets

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

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

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

The following streets have been designated as snow routes:

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

Ferguson Police Department Hosts First Neighborhood Policing Planning Meeting

More than 130 people gathered at Greater Grace Church on Saturday, November 7 to attend a community meeting aimed at implementing a Neighborhood Policing program within the City of Ferguson.

The event gave residents, business owners and other community members an opportunity to hear about the work that will be involved to shape the new initiative, as well as ask questions about the program. Neighborhood policing involves teams of officers that are assigned to work with residents and businesses in a specific area of a community with the goal of building positive and strong working relationships.

Ferguson's Interim Police Chief Andre Anderson told those attending that community support is essential for neighborhood policing to be a success.

"We need the community to tell us what they want us to do. We need to listen to them and develop plans around what they would like for us to do," said Anderson.

The meeting held on November 7 was the first of several such meetings that will take place throughout Ferguson within the next several weeks with various stakeholders including the city's youth.

As the initiative gets underway, volunteers are needed to serve and participate in the following areas: Neighborhood Policing Steering Committee; Implementation Teams, Community Action Planning Sessions and Neighborhood Roundtables. For more information on the Ferguson Neighborhood Policing initiative or to volunteer, call Lt. Ray Nabzdyk at 314-524-5277.

Numbers to Remember:

Ferguson City Hall.....	314-521-7721
Ferguson Community Center	314-521-4661
Ferguson Library	314-521-4820
Ferguson City Garage	314-521-8373
Police.....	314-522-3100
Fire Department.....	314-522-1122
Republic Services.....	636-947-5959

Ferguson Community News Page

Having Faith that brighter days are ahead By Mayor James W. Knowles III

"Optimism is the Faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."

– Helen Keller – American Author
1880-1968



The month of December is long known for the season of holidays in the Judeo-Christian tradition. We often think of December as the "Season of Giving", related to the Christian tradition of Christmas, but many of the major religions celebrate important holidays this month. Obviously most people know that the Jewish faith celebrates Hanukkah. However the Muslim faith will sometimes celebrate Ramadan during December, many in the African tradition celebrate Kwanza, and for followers of the Seinfeld tradition, who can forget the "Festivus".

People have been celebrating holidays during the month of December since the dawn of religions; in fact, one specific date in December has been celebrated even before the establishment of most of the religious traditions we know today. That date, is the recognition of the Winter Solstice.

As early as Neolithic (New Stone Age) times, early man studied astronomical events as a way of understanding the seasons to help guide the sowing of crops and the storing of food reserves for the winter. The Winter Solstice marks the day in which the tilting of the earth's axis and our orbit around the sun makes for the longest period of darkness during our 24-hour day, and the shortest period of light. In essence, it is the shortest "day" of the year, and the longest "night."

As the earth is always rotating and orbiting the sun, the length of day and night is always changing too. As the winter solstice mark's the longest period of darkness, it also marks the point in our year in which every day after the solstice will increasingly have more daylight. So every day after December 22, 2015, will have more daylight than the last day (until the Summer Solstice in June 2016).

In the past year, our community has experienced its own winter solstice, the time when we experienced our longest period of darkness. We've endured a great deal over the past year as a community, but like the solstice, we've now reached that point where every day the light lasts a little longer. Every day things seem a bit brighter than before, and every day we should have faith and optimism in what the next day will bring.

As a community we have struggled through a long period of instability, which made it difficult to keep staff from leaving and made it even harder to move the community forward on the many projects and reforms set forth from the Council. This month, with the hiring of our new permanent City Manager, Mr. De'Carlton Seewood, we mark the point in which we have brought new stability to our staff and our city services. The challenges ahead for the council, City Manager, and staff are still great, but there is renewed optimism about our ability to address these issues.

The time we have to address these challenges is short, and it is extremely important that we have a City Manager that can hit the ground running. Mr. Seewood formerly served as Ferguson's Asst. City Manager for 7 years and he combines the strength of knowing the community while bringing a fresh perspective to our city government after being away from us for nearly 8 years. He is uniquely qualified to be able to step right into city hall and ensure that city services are maintained, while also helping us find new and innovative ways to be more effective and efficient in our city's operations.

Over the next month, the City Council will also be hosting conversations with the community regarding some of these challenges we face as a community, and the options the City Council and Manager have to address these issues. Your input is an important part of plotting the community's path forward. The first one is December 12th, from 10am – Noon at the community center.

I have a great deal of optimism for our city and our community, and I've seen first hand how far we've come over this past year. With your help, every day in our community can and will continue to be brighter than the last.

May all of you have a Merry Christmas and a blessed Holiday Season.

City Hall News

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

The meeting date is:
Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Ferguson City Hall will be closed in observance of Christmas on Friday, December 25, 2015. City Hall will also be closed for the New Year's holiday on Friday, January 1, 2016.

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Ferguson Neighborhood Organizations

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

Group	Next Mtg.	Location	Contact
Forestwood Park Neighborhood Group	Dec 1 7 pm	Emmaus Bible Chapel 900 Highmont	Donald Stevens 314-561-0379
Jeske Park Neighborhood Assc.	TBA	Ferg Community Ctr 1050 Smith Ave	Kate Mazzacavallo katemazza@yahoo.com
Nesbit-Newton	TBA	St Peter's 1425 Stein Rd	Paul Beins 314-869-5080
Northwest Ferguson	TBA	First Baptist Church 333 N Florissant	Shelley Davis leeshel57@sbcglobal.net
Old Ferguson East Neighborhood Assn.	TBA	Corner Coffee House 100 N Florissant	Glenda Rickard glenda.rickard@mercy.net
Old Ferguson West Neighbors	TBA	Corner Coffee House 100 No Florissant	Larry Robinett ldrobinett@gmail.com
Robert-Superior Neighborhood Group	TBA	Robert-Superior Park	Irene Kidd kiddirene87@gmail.com
Southwest Ferguson Neighborhood Group	Jan 11 7 pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe 17 Hawkesbury	Atefa Young atefayoung@yahoo.com
Wabash Neighborhood Assn.	TBA	First Baptist 333 N Florissant	Shonnette Morgan sdenisemor@hotmail.com
North Hudson Neighborhood	TBA	Ferg Community Ctr 1050 Smith	Mary Simmons hudsonhills63135@gmail.com
North Hills Neighborhood	TBA	Our Lady of Guadalupe 17 Hawkesbury	Keith Kallstrom 314-524-1720
North Elizabeth Assn	TBA	Ferg Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Renee Benage rbenage@sbcglobal.net

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

Ferguson Community News Page

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

COMMUNITY CENTER

Facility Rentals

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

Don't miss out on The Ferguson Parks and Recreation Departments Holiday Promotion from November 28-December 24! Huge holiday savings available if you purchase a Combo Center Pass for both the Community Center and The Splash at Wabash!

Call or come up Ferguson Community Center for details: 314-521-4661

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: Wed., Jan 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: Wed., Jan 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, Jan 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, Dec 28 (8 week session)
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: \$40/Members; \$45/Residents; \$50/Non-Residents

Private Dance Lessons

Are you going to a wedding, on a cruise, or will you be attending a social event that includes dancing? Are you an engaged couple that need to learn a routine for their first dance? Or do you just want to learn to dance for fun and fitness in a class designed to teach you the styles of dance you want to learn? Private dance lessons are the answer. Classes are taught by Diane Brown, instructor and choreographer of 30 years. Diane can teach you most any style of dance including Ballroom, Latin, Swing, Salsa, Hip Hop, Tap and Ballet. For wedding dances, she can teach the bride and father-of-the-bride and the entire wedding party, as well as the bride and groom, a dance to the music they have selected for that special day.

Fee: \$45 for a one hour class for up to 4 students
\$5 more for each additional student
Beginner's discount: receive a discount for 6 classes if paid in full at the first class. \$38 per class.

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.

The Wayside Dog Park is now half price for the half of the year.

Yearly Fee: \$15 Residents; \$30 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, Dec 14; Wed, Nov 16; Fri, Dec 18
(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, Dec 19 (Ongoing 6 week sessions)
Time: Sat 9am
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: \$40/Members; \$45/Residents; \$50/Non-Residents

SENIORS

Senior Center

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

Yahtzee

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

Ages: 18 and up
Date: Wed Dec 16
Time: 11:30pm-2:30pm
Location: Community Center
Fee: \$9/Members; \$12/Residents; \$15/Non-Residents

Mystery Meal

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

Ages: 50 and up
Date: Fri, Dec 11
Time: 10am pickup
Fee: \$32/Members; \$37/Residents; \$42/Non-Residents

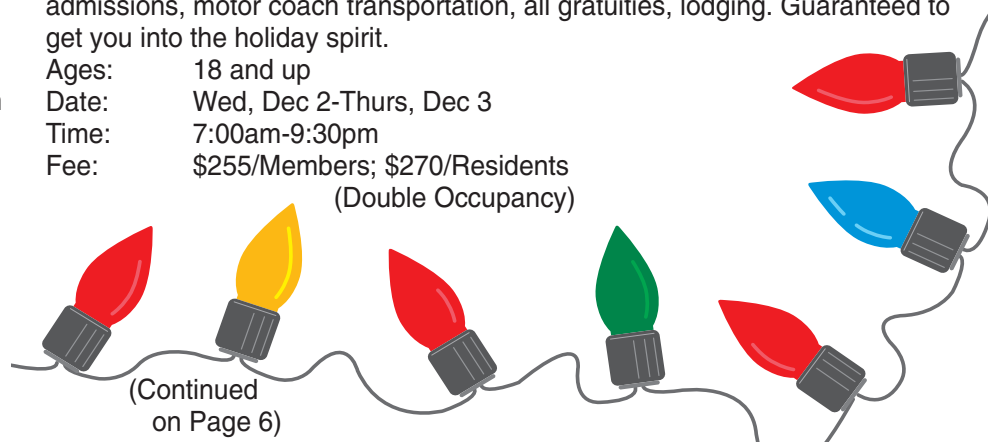
TRIPS

Christmas in Peoria, Illinois

Start the trip off with lunch at the Par-a-dice Casino Hotel. Here you'll enjoy a luscious lunch buffet. Next see a glass blowing demonstration at J Dragon Glass. This opportunity offers a complete understanding of glass as a studio movement in America. As it begins to get dark we will drive through the East Peoria Festival of Lights. This is a one-of-a-kind light display. To end the day we'll enjoy a hilarious professional comedy show at Conklin Dinner Theatre. Day two begins with breakfast at the hotel. Then test your luck in the 35,000 sq. ft. casino. From there we'll board the Spirit of Peoria for a holiday cruise. In an old fashioned Christmas town you will sing along with your favorite carols. Sign up today for 2 days of FUN! Includes: 1 breakfast, 2 lunches, 1 dinner, all admissions, motor coach transportation, all gratuities, lodging. Guaranteed to get you into the holiday spirit.

Ages: 18 and up
Date: Wed, Dec 2-Thurs, Dec 3
Time: 7:00am-9:30pm
Fee: \$255/Members; \$270/Residents
(Double Occupancy)

(Continued on Page 6)



Ferguson Parks and Recreation Continued from Page 5.
Call 521-4661 to register for any of these events.

TRIPS

Chicago's Holiday Spirit

Highlights of this 3 day trip include: a city tour complete with local guide, visit to Macy's with lunch in the historic Walnut Room, visit to the Christkindlmarkt, a visit to the Museum of Science and Industry as it comes alive featuring its "Christmas Around the World" display, and a holiday luncheon and musical performance of "White Christmas" at the Jacob Henry Mansion Estate in Joliet, IL. Included in this package: 5 meals, motor coach transportation, lodging at the Hilton Garden Inn, all admissions, tax and tips.

Ages: 18 and up
Date: Mon, Dec 7-Wed, Dec 9
Time: 7:00am-10:00pm
Fee: \$435/ Residents; \$460/Non-Residents (Double Occupancy)

Old Cathedral/ Dinner at Kemoll's/Lights

We begin our afternoon by visiting the newly renovated Old Cathedral. The Old Cathedral sits in the shadow of the Gateway Arch. There we'll see some of the renovation work that has just been completed. Then it's on to dinner at Kemoll's Restaurant. The view as well as the food is amazing. After a FABULOUS dinner it's on to the Christmas light display at Tilles Park. What a way to kick-off our Christmas holidays!

Ages: 18 and up
Dates: Mon, Dec 14
Time: 3:00pm-8:30pm
Fee: \$75/Residents; \$80/Non Residents

SPECIAL EVENTS

Holiday Home Decorating

Light up your neighborhood for the holidays by entering the Ferguson Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Home exteriors will be judged on originality, creativity of lighting arrangements, and traditional holiday themes. The first and second place winners in each ward will be presented with a commemorative plaque and a temporary yard sign for their hard work. You may enter your own home or any other Ferguson home by calling the office at 314-521-4661. Registration deadline is Monday, Nov 30

Date: Wed, Dec 2
Time: Judging 5:30pm-9:30pm
Fee: Free/Residents

Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Join us for a morning of pancakes and a visit from Santa! Santa is flying his reindeer down from the North Pole to visit his friends at the Ferguson Community Center. Admission includes all you can eat pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and a coloring book for children. Pre-registration is required for this event, space is limited.

Featuring Chris Cakes Pancakes!

Date: Sat, Dec 19th
Time: 10:00am-12:00pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: \$3 children; \$5 adults

Ferguson winter and spring Brochure will be Available Soon!

I ♥ Ferguson

**Christmas Special!
One Free Christmas Ornament
or Mug with a \$50 purchase**



Inscription on reverse of both mug and ornament is "Merry Christmas from Historic Ferguson 2015"



Scarf says "I Love Ferguson," so shirt may be worn all winter long.

Don't forget us when doing your Christmas shopping. Lots of shirts, hats, jackets, etc., plus this great looking Christmas Tee shirt.

**I ♥ Ferguson shop is located at
299 South Florissant Road**

314-254-7400

Almost Picasso
18 Church Street, Ferguson
North County's first Paint and Sip studio

- Birthday Parties
- Girls Night Out • Date Night
- Fundraisers


Come in, have a glass of wine and create your own Picasso
Phone: 314-801-6671 • email: almostpicasso1@yahoo.com to get more info and discounts

Marsha Medley Piano Plus
Music lessons for all ages.
pianomedley.com
314-441-6748



Where Learning and Laughter Live!

St. Peter's UCC 2015 Advent Schedule



11-29
"Tis the season to be Merry"
Luke 21:25-36

12/6
"The Little Lights Are Not Twinkling"
Philippians 1:3-11

12/13
"Where's the Tylenol?"
Luke: 3-1-18

12/13
Creative Ministry
Christmas Concert
7:00 pm

12/20
"The Rockets Red Glare"
Luke 1:39-55

12/22
The Longest Night
Prayer Vigil
6:00-8:00 pm

12/24
"If I Wake Up Tomorrow..."
Luke 2: 1-20
7:00-11:00 pm

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

Presents...

The 2015 St. Peter's Christmas Concert



Featuring

Evan Cole
David Horstman
Kay Love
St. Peter's Hand Bell Choir
St. Peter's UCC Worship Choir

Come Celebrate the sounds of the Season!

Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 7pm
This Event is FREE

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
1425 Stein Rd
Ferguson, MO 63135
314-521-5694

Christmas With the Puppets



The entire family can celebrate the Christmas season together.

**Sunday, December 20, 2015
at 5:00pm**

Snacks and crafts following program
First Baptist Ferguson
333 N. Florissant Rd
Ferguson, MO

Breakfast With Santa

Saturday, Dec. 12
9:00 to 11:00 am

First Presbyterian Church
401 Darst Road



Includes:

- Breakfast
- Arts & Crafts
- Santa Shop
- Picture With Santa
- Free Vision Screening for children (6 months to 16 years)

Donation of Peanut Butter for the Food Pantry is requested.

More information?
Call 522-8542

Electrical Fire Closes Another Ferguson Business

Bakery in Scott Plaza Is Condemned by Fire Marshall

1130 North Florissant Rd. in Scott Plaza



cakes by Nette

Nette is closed but trying to find kitchen space to rent to fulfill all her current orders. Please keep her in your prayers as she tries to rebuild and bounce back from this catastrophe.

314-562-7193

sweetinfo@cakesbynette.com

Ferguson Christian Church
Annual

Cookies (by the Pound) Sale



Homemade cookies, candies and snacks to purchase for all your Holiday enjoyment. Come have a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate and visit with old and new friends as you shop our wonderful homemade crafts! We look forward to seeing you.

\$7.00 per pound.
Crafts priced by the piece.

**Sat., Dec. 12
9 am to 1 pm**

Ferguson Christian Church
303 N. Elizabeth

FLIERS Treasures and Treats Sale

Gift Items and Baked Goods Too

Friday, December 4
9:00 am-5:30 pm

and

Saturday, December 5
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
In Library Auditorium



Ferguson Library 35
No. Florissant Rd.

Thank You!

The Ferguson FLIERS (Friends of the Ferguson Library) would like to thank everyone who helped to make our October, 2015, Book Sale a success. Your donations and patronage were greatly appreciated. We could not have done it without you!

We look forward to seeing you at our April, 2016, Book Sale (probable dates are April 21, 22, and 23, 2016).

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 12th

12:00 a.m.	Gathering, song, prayer
1:00 a.m.	Eucharist
2:00-4:30 a.m.	Prayer, song, rosary
4:30 - 6:00 a.m.	Las Mananitas
6:00 a.m.	Eucharist
7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
5:00 p.m.	Eucharist (English)
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Reception



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ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH
1413 North 20th St., St. Louis 63106

DEC. 11-12 • 8:00 pm

For tickets or more information call 314-287-5669



Sneak Preview
Ferguson Library Benefit
Friday, Dec. 4
8:00 pm
Community Center

Introducing our new
Artistic Director
Robert Stumpf

GATEWAY
Men's
CHQRUS

gmcstl.org



Lots of FUN!

Join us **December 12th**
9-11am.

BREAKFAST

with
Santa

Only \$7.00 per person
excludes children 1 and under

Photos with Santa & Breakfast
Games, Crafts, Face Paint
and much more!

Must make Reservations
Contact Lizzie for info- lizzielonero@me.com
or Tabby in parish office- (314)524-0500

Our Lady of Guadalupe News

Welcomes Metro Theater Company

The students and staff of Our Lady of Guadalupe School were thrilled to welcome Metro Theater Company on Thursday, November 5, 2015. Metro Theater Company is a professional organization which has treated St. Louis audiences of children and their families and teachers for more than forty years.

This year's touring production is *Talkin' Trash* by Nicholas Kryah. The play tells the intergenerational story of a boy and his elderly neighbor, both of whom are collectors. The OLG students were led to explore the concepts of friendship, bullying, acceptance of diversity, mental illness, and family love. The actors led the student body in a discussion and question and answer session after the performance. Metro Theater Company transformed the school cafeteria into a professional theater and the students were amazed!

Friends on Both Sides of the Missouri River

The students at Our Lady of Guadalupe were thrilled to learn that the students at Francis Howell High School in St. Charles County know that winter is coming.

The students at Francis Howell held a glove collection and chose the OLG students to be the recipients of their generosity. The Francis Howell students, led by seniors Evan Johnson, Sarah Bostic, Grant Morey, Zack Reader, and Lexi Farran, spent time communicating on social media, shopping, collecting, sorting and packing. The result of their efforts arrived at Our Lady of Guadalupe when Evan and Sarah came to present the gloves to the students on Monday, October 12, 2015. The OLG students helped carry in boxes and bags full of gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves. Each student received a new pair of gloves and made new friends.

What a great way for the Francis Howell students to reach out to the children of Ferguson!

EarthDance Farm Receives USDA Grant

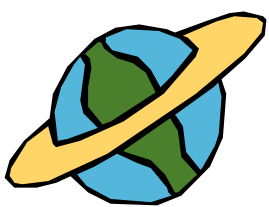
On November 10, EarthDance Farm, the St. Louis region's only organic farm school, was awarded a \$19,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct a feasibility study and develop a business plan to meet the demands of large-scale buyers as well as increase revenues.



The Ferguson based EarthDance Farm was among 258 businesses in the nation to receive the award from the USDA's Value Added Producer Grants Program.

The USDA provides loans, grants and loan guarantees to support essential services such as housing, economic development, health care, first responder services and equipment, water, electric and communications infrastructure.

And Now a Word from Our Planet . . .



Without trees, 2x4s would be 0x0s
Courtesy of Missouri Department of Conservation

(This message is provided by the Ferguson Eco Team.)

Leaf Vacuuming Service

RAUCH'S LAWN SERVICE
314-524-8297

Ferguson business for 26 years! Ferguson resident for 56 years!

<rls11nqtr@aol.com>



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

We ♥ Ferguson

Merry Christmas, from our home to your home!
Pearce & Jan

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

Members of the Ferguson Kiwanis Club Receive Prestigious "Zeller" Award



Four members of the local Kiwanis Club recently received "Zeller" awards for their outstanding service. Pictured above beginning at the left is Marie Gores, Rose Bollinger, Kay Klein and Gracia Myers. The award is named after Walter Zeller who made the first donation to the Kiwanis International Foundation when it was established in 1940

Hello My Ferguson Community,

My name is Dwain Bollinger, and I became a Ferguson Resident when my family moved here in 1966 when I was 6-years old. This past May of 2015, I got engaged to be married to an amazing lady, Shelly Ashley of Springfield, Missouri. We are planning our wedding in June of 2016 and need a place to live.

Currently, I live with my mother in Ferguson, and I ride my electric wheelchair all over town, doing my errands, taking care of my own business, and meeting friends for lunch or dinner whenever the weather permits. Like anybody, I enjoy my freedom and independence, and that's why I like living in the Ferguson Community.

Both Shelly and I want to live here in Ferguson. It is our home. I am asking the Residents of Ferguson if they would contact me if anybody has a 1 or 2-bedroom accessible house/apartment for reasonable rent. We will guarantee that your property will be well cared for and maintained as if it were our own.

Please contact me at: DwainBogart40@aol.com
 Thanks!

The Ferguson Computer Corner



by Doug Neely **A BLESSED & MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

DECEMBER, 2015

let me start out by saying that i will again offer a greatly reduced labor rate for all who have me do any kind of computer repair, upgrade, etc. the rate for personal & home computers will be \$15/hour, which is 50% off. the business rate will be \$25/hour, which is also 50% off. these rates will be in effect during the months of December, January, and February; **so Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, & Happy Valentines Day! :**) (service men & women, police, security and firemen will also get an exceptional deal, which will be disclosed at a later time. just show me your ID. don't worry, it'll be good!)

Something For You To Add to Firefox & Waterfox, dept.

go to <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/> next, note the little search field in the upper right hand corner, and type the following into it: WOT. click on search. you are looking for the add-on WOT for EITHER Firefox or Waterfox, and that stands for Web Of Trust. it should be at the top of those hits. then click on "add to firefox". you will next see a message asking you if you really wanna do this. say yes. then you'll get a message saying that Firefox or Waterfox needs to be re-started to complete the installation. click "re-start now". after a few seconds, all of your web pages will go away and re-appear when the installation is finished.

WOT will give you those little red or green "donuts" (yeah, i know; i have told you all about WOT before, but not all of you are using it,

and being that WOT makes your surfing to new sites a LOT safer, you need to get WOT installed), green being good, and red meaning do NOT go there! (yellow donuts have been added, and they mean "caution"; still, i would ONLY go to sites that have a green donut.)

now, for those who don't remember, Firefox is your 32-bit browser, & Waterfox is your 64-bit browser. if you are using a 64-bit version of any Windows, you can use either browser; but if you have a 32-bit version of Windows, you can only install & use Firefox. interestingly, you can install both browsers concurrently into a 64-bit version of Windows, if you are so inclined.

ME GO NOW!

well, i have to go now. i'm not sure why, but i am sure i have to go do something, and when i get there, i'll know exactly what that is (i hope). be safe as you travel, and come back to us just the same as when you left home, only happier! :)

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

If you would like to ask Doug for some of his free puter advice, call him in the PM hours of most any day at: *314*521*1789*. When emailing, BE SURE TO PUT YOUR LOCAL TELEPHONE # INTO YOUR MESSAGE, and PUT THE PHRASE "i need puter advice" INTO THE SUBJECT LINE. Failure to comply will mean that you've just wasted the time it took you to write him. sorry, but it's like that! :)

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!



Get More Likes on Your Facebook Page

By LaTease Rikard

Since I've been blazing the Facebook trail recently, I want to dive into buying and placing Facebook Ads for your business page. There are clear sets of rules you need to follow when advertising on Facebook. But once you understand them, you will find yourself generating a nice passive income!

First thing first; when setting up your Business Page on Facebook, use a clear, professional profile picture. This is the picture that will be seen first, and whenever you respond or comment to

fans, this photo will be used as a thumbnail, so represent your business and yourself well!

Tailor your posts to the audience you're segmenting. This helps when you are purchasing advertising on Facebook. Make it relevant to your readers, otherwise they won't engage nor share your posts, and isn't that what you want, people to share your content?

Speaking of content, you will want to post updates that offer value and will benefit your fans. This is the kind of content you can use as a Facebook paid ad. Facebook frowns on ads with lots of copy on the photos, or ads that make superfluous claims.

There are several different ways you can create an ad campaign depending on your objective, and there are some seriously ninja ways to optimize your targeting, bidding, and ad placement by using the Power Editor or the Ads Manager. However the fastest and easiest way to get traffic to your content: Boosting a Post on your Facebook page.

In order to have your ads show up in the Facebook Newsfeed, your ad needs to be hosted by a Facebook page. The easiest way to do this is to first publish a Facebook post on your page. You start by creating a post just like you would with one you aren't going to run ads to, then on the bottom of your post Facebook will give you an option to boost it right from your page. You can then select specific targeting to get your post out to your exact and ideal target audience.

You may want to start a "Like" campaign first, that is, create a status that shares relevant information to your target audience, then click "Boost" on that status. This will lead you into the ad campaign set up screen. Here you can determine your audience you want to reach, and set the daily spend limits you want.

Next month, we'll go into how to get your Facebook Ads banned! (these are things you DO NOT want to do!)

Have questions about your social media marketing? Give me a call at 314-255-6686 for your first free consultation.

Ferguson Lions Hall Rental

49 North Clark
314-226-4077



Picture your Baby Shower, Wedding Shower, Wedding Reception, Christmas Party, Family Gathering, and Other Special Occasions, in this spacious hall and large parking area.
Holds the maximum of 75 people.

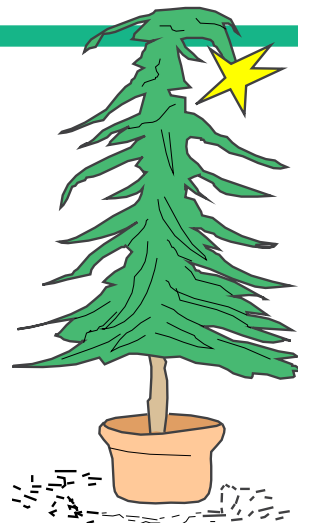
Call 314-226-4077 for reservations and more details
All Proceeds Support Ferguson

Christmas Tree Recycling

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

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

The site will be set up from December 26, 2015 through January 31, 2016.



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1- Based on internal wet braking test results versus Goodyear Assurance ComfortFlex[®] touring tire size H45S815.
2- 90,000 mile warranty for H- and T-rated tires; 80,000 mile warranty V-rated tires. See MichelinMan.com for warranty details.
3- Based on commissioned third-party wear test results versus Continental ProContact[™] with CCOPlus technology tire size 215/60R16.



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Financial Focus

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

For the past couple of months I've been looking at how predatory lending can keep those already impoverished from being able to build wealth. This leaves many in the cycle of poverty. I suggested that education is what could prevent people from falling into the trap of borrowing from such lenders. To challenge my assumption, I spoke to a young man in his thirties about why he chose a high interest lender when he needed a small loan. His answer seemed to come down to the access he had to credit.

While his credit wasn't that bad it wasn't good enough to get a loan quickly when his need arose. What I found even more interesting was that this young man is in the process of working towards his masters in accounting and economics. This seemed to dispel my thought that education on how credit works might prevent such problems. He seemed to already know everything I've been preaching.

So it seems that an even more important part of the problem is lack of access. Many of the poor fall into the payday loan cycle because a need arises and the only choice they have is to borrow from the only place they can. That is starting to change in St. Louis. After my discussion with this young man, I spoke to Paul Woodruff – executive director of an organization called "Prosperity Connection" Please check out their website at: <http://prosperityconnection.org/>. As I scrolled down the home page I clicked on "Excel Center." Right there on the first page I saw this "We have found that simply providing "financial education" is not enough." So apparently, I wasn't the only one who thought people wouldn't use predatory lenders if they knew better. What if everyone had access to credit to be able to solve life's problems, such as a furnace going out in the middle of winter? The consumers may be able to build wealth and stop the cycle of poverty.

Having spent most of my career in banking I saw firsthand how the poor resorting to predatory lenders always seemed to make things worse. My desire to help customers by explaining in detail why they might have been turned down on a loan and what they might do to improve their chances in the future seemed helpful. To me it seemed like people were grateful to have someone care enough to explain things. Once I had to explain to a young customer that we just could not approve his loan request for a Hummer – he just didn't have enough disposal income to be able to afford such a large monthly payment. He told me another lender had offered to do the loan, but the rate was extremely high. Like I told him turning him down was the best favor we could do for him. I did explain that if he were to borrow around \$10,000 to \$12,000 he could get reliable transportation within his means. The customer took my suggestion and I like to think it helped him even more with future financial decisions.

As Paul explained what they do at Prosperity Connection, I had to tell him about some of my experiences as a volunteer teaching financial literacy. Not all of my experiences were that good because in some situations I don't think the students, both young and old, had the real desire to be there. Usually classes would be less than 12 students, so interaction was pretty good. However, many of the students seemed to be going thru the motions just to receive a certificate for having taken the class. It may have been a requirement to complete probation, or to enable them to get a bank account. Even though these were adults they sometimes acted like kids trying to show off to the others.

To me it was very discouraging. Paul explained their approach which often includes one-on-one seminars which seem to have a better track records with periodic check-ins and a mentor to keep up with. The Excel Center provides classes and many other services to help those who are outside the main stream that most people have access to. After talking to Paul I realized that as a banker dealing with customers one-on-one I probably made more of an impact towards helping people get out of poverty than the classes I volunteered to teach. Listening to Paul's enthusiasm and his explanation of the accountability portion of the program made me feel like this could be the key to changing lives for many. This program sounds like quite an improvement over the various other programs that haven't always brought about results.

Now there's still that problem with access. No matter how much money you have there will always be things that come up that must be dealt with and without access to a small loan, the predatory lender still has the upper hand. So this is where I really got excited, Prosperity Connection will be opening the "Red-Dough Money Center" in 2016.

Here those often left out of traditional banking services will be able to handle all of their financial needs and have access to the Excel Center to help them reach their long term goals. They will be able to charge lower fees for check cashing and lower interest rates for short term loans. Over the next few years, Prosperity Connections would like to open more of these centers in the areas most occupied by predatory lenders; this is just the type of program that can give people a choice they've never had before and cause the current high risk lenders to either change their ways or go out of business. Since Prosperity Connections is a non-profit operating the RedDough Center any profits are re-invested to support the Excel Center, scholarships and other social services.

It is worth pointing out that St. Louis Community Credit Union is a proud sponsor of Prosperity Connections and helps to run the Excel Center. It is also the largest African American Credit Union in the United States. The difference between a bank and a credit union is that the depositors are the owners in a credit union. And they are referred to as members. And because the credit union is a

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non-profit, loan rates and earning rates may be better than a for profit institution.

Perhaps one of the best benefits is the investment in the community. This particular credit union works to serve those in many areas that aren't being served by other types of financial institutions. Often these are the same areas that seem to attract payday lenders. So the giving back is even more crucial to the neighborhood and those who live there. Making a difference in the lives of the people in the local community can really spur growth and opportunities for those who have been left out in the past.

Paul also mentioned his involvement with the Ferguson Commission. Many of the issues they are dealing with are being answered by the Prosperity Connection and the RedDough Money Center. This may be just one of the areas that can really help all of our citizens be able to build wealth and create a better life.

If you have comments or suggestions please e-mail me at consultjoan@att.net.

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Business Hours:
Tues. thru Sun. 5:00am to noon
Closed Monday – Closed Christmas Day thru New Years Day!

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!



Whistle Stop
AT THE FERGUSON DEPOT



Train Track Tales at the Whistle Stop

Storytime for preschoolers with Mrs. B will be held at the Whistle Stop Depot Museum on Saturday, December 5 at 10:30 a.m.

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savoybanquetcenter.com Join us on Facebook



Ferguson by Foot

By: Margaret Wolfinbarger

The transformation of Ferguson at the holidays is truly magical. The brick bungalows sparkle with lights and the Victorian homes are trimmed with evergreen boughs and red bows. But it's not just the decorations that make it a wonderful place to live, it's the people.

With the holidays comes expectation and excitement, but also a fair amount of stress. We worry about what to buy for our children when the ends don't quite meet. We struggle in a job that's not fulfilling or with a boss

that could have a little more patience and compassion, and we wish we didn't have to work so hard. We hurry from task to task and consider there are never enough hours in the day, only to collapse into bed at night with another impossible chore list for the morning. We can get so caught up in this whirlwind of busyness that we forget—or simply neglect to remember—the many beautiful blessings that populate our lives. Before we know it, Christmas is just another chore we strive towards, and not the wonderful celebration it should be.

Last year I found myself in just such a situation. My life's circumstances conspired to drag me into the mire of adult responsibility when all I really wanted was to be that child waiting with my family by the tree. So on Christmas Day when I found myself driving to a friend's house to pick up a trailer so I could remove the rubble from my home (we were in the middle of a rehab project) I was a little dejected to find my hosts enjoying homemade cinnamon rolls in the middle of a living room strewn with wrapping paper and gifts. The cinnamon rolls were not the kind that come out of a can. No, these were kneaded by hand, lovingly attended to, sprinkled with raisins and topped with the most delectable icing I've ever seen. I remember how my friend embraced me after she invited me in. It was a long hug that said, "I love you more than words can express. It was a hug that involved tears of understanding for what we were going through personally. Her touch was gentle and kind, but then the most amazing thing happened, she offered me one of those spongy delights. And I forgot about the work ahead of me and how little time I had to get it done. I simply fell into conversation with her family and accepted the grace as it was given.

There are seasons of life much the same as seasons of weather. We go through periods of frantic pace and conversely, doldrums. Sometimes we feel as if we have reached the end of ourselves only to wake up the next morning and discover a little more strength to continue on. We are young and then we are old. We laugh and we mourn. All of these experiences combined make us who we are as human beings. So when the month of December arrives, I try very hard to meditate on what is precious to me, my God, my family and my friends. This year I take great pleasure in knowing my task list has been whittled down to a nub, but I am also learning to take one day at a time—even one hour at a time—instead of planning myself into insanity. So when I think about the cookies that need to be baked and the gifts that need to be purchased for the ones I love, I consider that this is not the true meaning of Christmas at all.

This year I know several friends who went through excruciating personal loss. One lost her son. Another experienced a painful divorce. Yet more are enduring loneliness, joblessness, and physical pain. An expensive watch won't dull the sharpness of their agonies nor will a cashmere sweater (neither of which I can afford). But my presence will. Just as my friend last year held me and offered me a simple cinnamon roll, I consider how I can give back to others who are going through personal trauma. I consider that the holidays can be wonderful, but also painful. As we sit alone and consider our sorrows, the loving care of our friends and family has great power to ease our hurts.

This year I encourage the dear reader of this column to step outside of their situation and seek out someone who is hurting. Seek out the elderly. Seek out the lonely. By comforting those in need we bridge gaps and build a stronger community. For Christmas is a celebration of the best gift humanity ever received, Jesus Christ, and he never meant for us to spin ourselves in circles buying gifts that will break and crumble. But rather, I believe He meant for all of us to spread love and cheer like a warm blanket over our cold and weary neighbors. After all, love is the greatest gift. And there is nothing more sacred or precious that you can give without spending a single dime. For more inspiration follow me on my blog:

www.destinationdiscipline.com

Thanks Friends Of Ferguson Disc Golf

Friends Of Ferguson Disc Golf would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday.

The leaves have fallen and the weather is cooler; time to get back to work. We will be working on the clearing and installation of the remaining 9 holes of the Hudson Park Disc Golf Course over Fall, Winter and early Spring. Keep in touch by keeping up with us on Facebook or email to find out when our scheduled workdays will be.

We are still looking for sponsors for a few remaining holes. Want to be a sponsor? Contact us for the details.

As a reminder, if you want to play but don't have a disc, stop by the Community Center to buy one. Don't want to buy one yet? They also have a disc loaner program (see community center for details.)

Fergusondiscgolf@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/FergusonDiscGolf>

Holiday Safety Tips

Home Safety:

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

Vehicle Safety:

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

The Ferguson Police Department wishes everyone safe and happy holidays!

2015 Citizen Police Academy Graduation



Annette Jenkins, a graduate of the Ferguson Citizens Police Academy in October 2015, is pictured with Ferguson Mayor James Knowles and her grandchild. Chiefs from North County, Former Chief Dan Isom and other special guests attended the graduation. Annette Jenkins is running for council representing Ward 2 in the April 2016 municipal election.



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No class on Wednesday December 16

Blood Pressure Clinic
Thursdays December 3rd and 17th at 10:15 a.m.
RSVP by calling 314-838-3877

Tai Chi for Seniors-FREE class
Fridays 10 a.m.
No class December 25th
Reduce stress, strengthen joints, develop balance and coordination.
RSVP by calling 314-838-3877

Christmas Happy Hour
With Bryan Foggs & Olivia
Join us for good music, good times Tuesday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m.
RSVP by December 4 by calling 314-838-3877



Stay Well!
Join us for GENTIVA Home Health Low Vision Program Thursday, December 17 9:30 a.m. Complimentary Breakfast 9:00 a.m. RSVP by calling 314-838-3877

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Under The Hood With Robinwood

By Bob McGartland

Back by popular demand . . .
I want to leave the hood closed this month related to an automotive subject and open the door of our hearts towards others. After last year's generous response of donations and support from the community and the warm positive effect the gifts boxes had on our seniors, we are putting together our Shoeboxes for Seniors drive again this year.

There are many donation programs during Christmas time that support children but there aren't as many that help out our senior citizens. Once again Robinwood Automotive is partnering with Dr. Robyn Lawrence from Get Well Family Chiropractic with our holiday drive for senior citizens. It is a simple idea of taking a shoe box, filling it with useful items, wrapping them up and giving them as gifts to our older adult seniors.

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

To sweeten the boxes, we will also be collecting candy bars, holiday candy, small packages of

cookies and gum. A \$5.00 gift certificate to fast food restaurants is something they would also enjoy.

If you want to make a monetary donation; we will use the money to purchase items to fill the boxes. We also need your shoe boxes. Empty out those shoes, dust them off, add some items and bring them in.

There will be two drop off locations. Get Well Chiropractic office located at 111 Church Street suite #111, located across from Ferguson City Hall; or bring your items to Robinwood Automotive at 803 South Florissant Rd

We ask that your donations be dropped off by Thursday December 17th. So spread the word and get those donations in! The shoe boxes will be distributed to seniors by the Saint Vincent De Paul of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church at their food pantries, along with other local churches and organizations just in time for Christmas. Please let us know if someone in your neighborhood could use some holiday cheer. Just give us their name, address and phone number and we will deliver a shoe box to them before Christmas. We have seen how these gift shoeboxes bring our senior citizens some comfort and joy!

I will have this information posted on our website at robinwoodauto.com

Dr Robyn Lawrence and I want to thank you in advance for your generous support. We wish all of you God's many blessings of peace and joy this holiday season and throughout the year.

Readings On Race Book Club Change for December

The Ferguson Readings on Race Book Club will meet at the Corner Coffee House on **Monday, December 14**, at 6 p.m., for dinner and a discussion of *Dog Whistle Politics* by Ian Haney Lopez. The occasion will not only be for holiday fellowship and conversation but also for a celebration and appreciation of the work of Co-Facilitator Dan Sachs, who is moving from the St. Louis Metropolitan Area at the end of the year. Costs for the event, expected to be less than \$20 per person, will be shared among those who attend.

The book club was formed to explore ideas to increase members' understanding of the dynamics of relationships among people of different races. In January the group will return to the Ferguson Municipal Library for a conversation about *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehissi Coates.

For information about the book club, call Carla Fletcher at 314-524-3644, or email Carla at carlajeanfletcher@yahoo.com or Dan Sachs at dansachs77@gmail.com

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Ferguson Florissant School District News

About the Ferguson-Florissant School District

The Ferguson-Florissant School District, located in suburban St. Louis, serves more than 11,000 students from preschool through 12th grade with an excellent comprehensive educational program. Fully accredited by the state of Missouri, the Ferguson-Florissant School District operates 17 elementary schools, three middle schools, three A+ and AdvancED-accredited high schools and an alternative school. In addition, the District includes a nationally-recognized early education program, the award-winning Challenger Learning Center space education facility and the Little Creek Nature Area, a 97-acre nature preserve which offers experiential learning opportunities for students in science, biology, ecology and related areas of study.

Emerson Donates \$5,000 to Ferguson Middle School Library

Emerson recently announced its donation of \$5000 to the Ferguson Middle School library. The funds will be used to support the diversification of books to engage more students in the love of reading and to purchase production resources for the student-run broadcasting studio, Echo Live.

Holly James, library/media specialist at Ferguson Middle, advocated Emerson's support after the global corporation announced an initiative to support the growth of the community of Ferguson in the areas of education and youth development. James, who was hired this school year, took inventory of the school's library collection and determined the majority of the collection was over 10 years old. The collection is missing books for students reading at lower lexile levels, high-interest books highlighting African-American characters, and fiction to appeal to youth culture.

"Mrs. James is going to do a survey of students' interests for the selection of books and align the purchases to the needs of students based on reading data," said Dr. Katy Chambers, principal of Ferguson Middle School.

According to Chambers, there will be a revolving account set up that will be dedicated to the monitoring and tracking of funds from the donation. The Echo Live student news crew will do a feature story about the donation and use of funds. The video will be sent to Emerson as a thank you for their generous donation and support of developing the education and leadership of Ferguson youth.

School Districts 2015 State Assessment Scores Announced

Results from the 2015 Missouri Annual Performance Report (APR) for the Ferguson-Florissant School District show an increase in the District's overall score. Ferguson-Florissant received 97.5 points out of a possible 140 points on the state's annual assessment, or 69.6 percent.

Ferguson-Florissant remains fully accredited.

This year's score of 69.6 percent is a 3.9 percent increase from last year's score of 65.7 percent. Among the five standards measured in the Annual Performance Report (APR), Ferguson-Florissant saw a 20 percent increase in College & Career Readiness, a slight decline in Subgroup Achievement, and flat scores for Academic Achievement, Attendance, and Graduation Rate.

"We are not satisfied with these results, and we have taken action to increase our performance," said Ferguson-Florissant's new Superintendent Dr. Joseph Davis. "Our community experienced unprecedented turmoil over the last school year, and we understand that it is difficult for students to perform well in school in the midst of such distress. Education will empower students to move forward from these difficulties, and we are committed to providing a world class education in the Ferguson-Florissant District. Since my start as Superintendent July 1, we have begun evaluating all facets of the work we do for students. Using the strategic plan created by our stakeholders we are focusing our efforts on those practices that are proven to provide the greatest results for students."

Working closely with the Board of Education and Dr. Davis, the District leadership team is implementing a framework for powerful results. This framework will narrow the focus of district efforts to those proven practices which yield the greatest results for students.

LIFE IS GREAT!

I just figured it out: I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager) I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance (Social Security and/or a pension). I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license (so far) and my own car. I have ID that gets me into bars. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, and I don't have acne.



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MAUREEN ZEUGIN JOINS WADDELL & REED

Creve Coeur, MO - Waddell & Reed announced today that Maureen Zeugin has joined the firm as a Financial Advisor in the St. Louis Division. Prior to joining Waddell & Reed, Zeugin was a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones in Ferguson, where she had worked since 2010.

As a financial advisor, Zeugin will assist individuals, families and businesses with a broad array of financial needs to include offering a full-service brokerage platform, recommending long-term investment strategies and developing customized financial plans. She has a passion for building long-lasting, personalized client relationships and takes a holistic view of each client's financial situation, which Managing Principal Nick Miskov believes makes her an ideal fit as a financial advisor at Waddell & Reed.

Previously, Zeugin also has worked for Homecomings Financial, Mainline Mortgage and GMAC Mortgage in non-registered capacities.

Founded in 1937, Waddell & Reed has today grown to more than 160 offices nationwide. The company offers a wide array of investment products and services, as well as a variety of insurance products which are offered through insurance companies with which Waddell & Reed has sales arrangements. For more information about Waddell & Reed, or about financial services in general, contact Maureen Zeugin at 314-567-6700, ext. 126.



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See more details next month

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EarthDance Names New Administrative Assistant

Soraya Farmarzi is the new Executive Assistant at EarthDance Farms. This June, she returned to her hometown of Ferguson where she was raised at her family's restaurants, Thyme Table Cafe and Savoy Banquet Center. (She even remembers driving to buy produce at Mueller Farm from Al and Caroline).



Soraya's interest in organic food began during a semester abroad in Oulu, Finland where she experienced life on a reindeer farm and she began to understand the importance of community and it's connection to sustainable food production.

Soraya most recently has been working in NYC as a gardener specializing in indoor plants and container gardens. While in New York she managed an urban garden center, Jungle Design, in Brooklyn, and took horticulture classes at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens.

What Is 'Harvest'?

While developing the hard skills of growing food, the Junior Farm Crew members also work on 'soft skills' (or what I might call 'harder skills'). This includes working on interacting effectively and harmoniously with other people, including giving and receiving constructive feedback, and communicating in front of groups.

On a recent afternoon we discussed some "do's" and "don'ts" of public speaking, one being to refrain from using terminology or acronyms that everyone isn't familiar with. We brainstormed some examples of our farm lingo: JFC (Junior Farm Crew), North 1 (a certain section of the North field), and Yang Ming (a shipping container we use as a storage shed). Then Sean said "Harvest."

"Well harvest is something we refer to on the farm, but it's a word that people are generally familiar with already, right?" I responded.

"No, I told some of my friends what we do here on the farm, and they didn't know what a harvest was."

Sean went on to tell us about the conversation he had with his friends (who are seniors in high school) about what his after-school job entailed, and their varied responses. But yes, many of them were unfamiliar with the term 'harvest.'

Working on an abundantly productive organic farm, the 'harvest' is something I take for granted. It's conversations like this one that pop that bubble and bring me right back to the reality of how far many of us are from the source of our nourishment. We eat without knowing what it's called when you take something from the field. I'm so grateful that Sean was able to have that conversation with his peers and teach them something about farming, simply by letting them know what kind of work happens on a farm. And I'm also grateful that we have regular conversations like this one with our Junior Farm Crew, to help us better understand the gap that exists. Every day we are realizing how deeply needed this re-connection to the land and our food source is.

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Shoe Box Drive

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

Wish List:

- Gloves, scarves, stocking hats, slippers socks
- Tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorant, bar soap, shampoo, hair conditioner, body wash, combs, hair brushes, hand lotion, powder, disposal razors and saving cream
- To sweeten the boxes: candy bars, holiday candy, small packages of cookies and gum
- A \$5 gift certificate to a fast food restaurant is something a senior would enjoy.
- Monetary donations will be used to purchase items to fill the boxes.

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

Donations Due by December 17th

Drop Off Locations:

Get Well Family Chiropractic, 111 Church Street., Suite 111 and Robinwood Automotive, 803 So. Florissant Road

Dr. Robyn's Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Tuesday, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 pm

Pre-School Storytime

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November 2015 Meeting Minutes

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



Captain Dennis McBride opened the November 11th, 2015 meeting of the Ferguson On Watch, welcoming everyone. Also in attendance was officer Eddie Boyd. Eddie is now permanently assigned to sector 5, the Northwest quadrant of the city, to the west of Elizabeth Avenue, and north of Carson & Church street. By assigning officers to permanent sectors, they begin to take "ownership" of the happenings in that sector.

The cover car will no longer be the sole assist to each sector. If the sector 2 car is nearer to the sector 5 than the cover car is, then the sector 2 car will respond, and assist until relieved by the cover car.

What is a Neighborhood Policing Plan?

A Neighborhood policing plan is a step by step plan for implementing community policing by assigning patrol officers to teams responsible for different parts of the city. The plan is developed with input from not only the Police Department and the city but also a broad range of citizens, businesses and community groups.

Steps in the process

The community mobilization event will be held to kick off the neighborhood policing planning process. During this event, the steps to be taken to complete and implement a neighborhood policing plan will be explained. Options for community participation will be explained. After the mobilization event, a neighborhood's policing steering committee will be formed and hold five monthly meetings to develop a draft neighborhood policing implementation plan. Once the draft plan is developed, the police department will host a community action planning session where community members will be brought together to approve the goals and projects included in the draft plan. After the plan is adopted, implementation teams will be formed for each goal that must be reached to implement neighborhood policing in Ferguson.

Park – Walk – Talk

Another feature of community policing is the change to engage the public with parking, walking, and talking with them. The neighborhood will have to get involved to fully implement the neighborhood policing aspects. Additional features include problem solving to provide solutions to neighborhood policing. An example was given as to how to stop speeding in an area. Instead of waiting for the speeder to frequent an area, getting a description of the problem vehicle was obtained. Investigations provided an address in the affected area for the vehicle. After that a conversation (not a confrontation) was had with the driver, who then stopped speeding to his girlfriend's house.

How to leave a message for an officer

Each officer has a "DSN" number. A voicemail can be left for officer with a DSN of 231 by dialing 522-3100 extension 5231 (put a "5" in front of the DSN number).

Problem Solving Overview meeting

Chief Andre Anderson has invited the public to join with other neighbors & key stakeholders for the Neighborhood Policing Problem Solving overview and the meeting was held at the Ferguson Community Center from 6:30 to 9pm.

Taser Donation Update

TASER's top instructors provided training to a host of police employees. The purpose was to familiarize our employees with the product and to select the types of devices that will be used. The final decision will be as follows:

53 Axon TASER Flex Body Cameras

All Patrol personnel will be assigned Axon Flex Body Cameras. Detectives and Corrections personnel will receive Axon Body Cameras.

68 total yellow X2 TASERS and 3 black training TASERS

The X2 is the newest model. Every 2 years they upgrade models and we will receive the new upgrade free of charge within the first 5 years. November 16-18 TASER came back out again to provide 20 employees training. This comes to about \$600,000 in training and equipment that Taser is providing to the Ferguson Police department.

Next Meeting:

The next Ferguson Neighborhood Watch meeting scheduled for City Hall will be at 7:00 pm on December 9th

Cert Update:

The Next Cert training event is scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of December, the 12th, at 08:30.

Have a safe month. Keith :-)K

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This month, Bob is taking a well-deserved month off and the reins of this sleigh have been handed over to Virginia (Ginny) Ellis.

Take it away Ginny!

THE DANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS TREES

by Virginia (Ginny) Ellis

Nodding and bobbing - swaying and waving,

On a hillside, painted in white,
The dance of the trees is taking place,
On this wonderful Christmas Eve night.

A vision given to only a few,
Who must watch from a distance below,
Uninvited, but welcomed guests,
Peering up through the mist and snow.

A fantasy scene from a picture book,
Of trees in silver-white gowns,
That dance in their starlit ballroom.
With a bright winter moon shining down.

"May I have this dance?" asks the sturdy
Pine,

As he bows to the elegant Fir,
Her boughs quivering with delight,
She replies, "I'd be honored, sir."

They bend to and fro - stretch high and low,
In a tempo set by the wind,
Their branches brush in the wind's wild gusts,

Free and undisciplined.
The mighty Redwoods and tall Cedars



Join also in the fun,
Though more dignified and stately,
They cannot be outdone.

Moved by the spirit of the wind,
Which alone gives them good reason,
But coupled with the night at hand,
They dance this Christmas Season.

The Junipers also leap in the breeze,
Small evergreens that they are,
A chorus line of high-steppers,
Each kicking up to the stars.

The Holly bushes are jolly, too,
As they dance on Christmas Eve.
With their bouncing, bright red berries,
And their shiny, spiny leaves,

Trees move with joy at Christmas,
It's that special time of year,
When they dance in celebration,
Of Our Lord's arrival here.

Christmas Eve Night! Oh, what a sight!
The trees bow down, as in prayer,
They bend and sway in marvelous ways,
As for Christmas Day, they prepare.

More poetry by Ginny Ellis at:
poetrybygabby.com

We want to wish everyone a wonderful
and joyous Christmas season and a
happy and prosperous New Year.

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Heather Robinett



**Announces her
Candidacy**

**For Ferguson
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Ward 2**

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Letters to Editor

I'd like to offer a hearty second to the account of Joe Lonero in last month's "Ask Grandma." As our family approaches ten years in Ferguson, there is no family in our community for whom I feel such admiration and respect. The account of Lonero's work in advancing the commercial life of our city is just the tip of the iceberg.

Unlike many businesses, the Loneros help our city and schools by actually paying taxes. While others get tax abatements that won't expire for a generation, Lonero pays taxes on the full value of his developments. The building which houses the Cork paid nearly \$40,000 in property taxes last year. The Ferguson Brewing Company, our favorite restaurant in St. Louis, paid more than \$9,000. The building which houses Cathy's Kitchen, \$17,500. Vincenzo's paid \$6,000, and the Corner Coffee House paid more than \$5,000. And their auto body shop paid more than \$17,000. That adds up to nearly \$100,000 a year in taxes.

Beyond their many wonderful business endeavors here, there is hardly a public or charitable event which the Loneros fail to support. Of course, they have donated much to benefit the city, as well as Blessed Theresa school. Beyond that, you see their generosity right down to little things, like a keg of beer showing up for a festival or event. Without the generosity of the Loneros, many a Ferguson cause would be lacking.

But the most impressive thing to me is that, despite their hard work and tremendous success, the Lonero family is utterly without pretension. Shortly after Joe had his stroke, I had a flat tire while bicycling home from Alton. I stopped at a gas station, and Joe happened to be there, driving home from his own bicycle outing. Without hesitation, he had me put my bike in his truck, and brought me home. And anybody who is a regular at the Brew-house sees that Joe knows his Ferguson friends and neighbors. You can count on a friendly greeting from him whenever you visit.

Finally, because our children were in class together at BTC, we had the opportunity to get to know Mike and Lizzie. They are cut from the same mold as Joe, friendly and unpretentious, hard at work in their business endeavors, and unhesitating in their support for our community. It's comforting to know that their leadership will continue long after Joe has retired. In a place where politicians line up for ribbon cuttings and photo ops for things to which they contributed nothing, the Loneros are a quiet force for good in countless places in our little community. It has truly been an honor to know them.

Sincerely, Nick Kasoff

From the Editor:

I received this the week after the outdoor market closed the end of October, but it was too late to put in the November paper:

The volunteers who set up and take down the Farmers Market are incredible! They put in a full day's work from 6 in the morning until 1 in the afternoon in all kinds of weather on their day off. Each one is more helpful than the next and without them Ferguson's market would be a shell of what it is. All the support they give our community has enabled The Ferguson Farmers Market to remain as one of the better outdoor markets in St. Louis—even when considering those in more expensive or better financed areas. Regardless of whether or not someone ever shops or sells at the market, that kind of community involvement should be greatly appreciated. It's what makes Ferguson special.

McDonald



Here are just some of the volunteers who set up and tear down the market from May thru October.

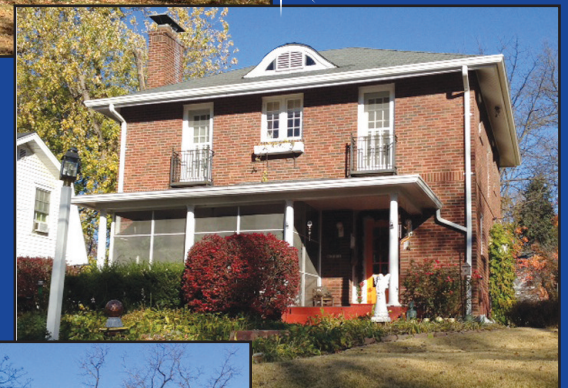
Many thanks to all the volunteers who give their time and effort to make Ferguson a great place to live and work.

Eight Houses to View on the Ferguson 2015 Twilight HOUSE TOUR

Sunday,
December 6
3:00 to 7:00 pm



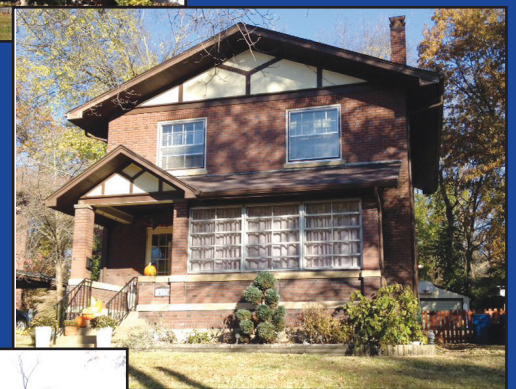
Tickets:
\$12 in advance,
\$15 day of tour



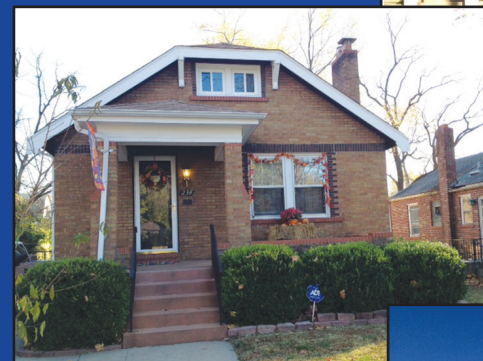
Tickets at:
Paul's Market,
City Hall,
Corner
Coffee House



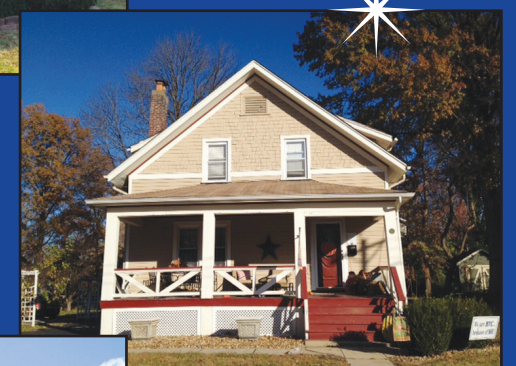
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Provident Receives Commitment Award from Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

Award Earned for Partnerships and Responsiveness to Events in Ferguson



"With much gratitude, the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities honors Provident with the Alliance Commitment Award," stated Susan Dreyfus, president and CEO of the Alliance. "It is an honor to pay tribute in this way to an organization that daily

demonstrates its innovative spirit and dedication to living its mission for the betterment of its community."

Following the shooting death of Michael Brown, Provident pulled together a Crisis Response Team in order to provide counseling support to the community of Ferguson. Additionally, Provident assisted United Way's efforts to offer resources to north county families along with the Urban League's initiatives which include the creation of the Ferguson Community Empowerment Center. Once the center is completed, the Urban League will be housing their Save Our Sons program in this facility, a program that provides job training and career assistance to youth. And, Provident will offer therapy to youth and young adults, in the center and in specific schools.

"We believe that positive mental health is critical to achieving success in life. You can't make responsible decisions about jobs and careers when you're grappling with stress, anxiety or other mental health issues. The challenges that many of these youth have dealt with and continue to face make it difficult for them to excel. By offering them therapeutic support along with coping skills and tools, they are empowered to make positive decisions and move forward with their lives," expressed Steve Sullivan, Executive Director and President of Provident.

Provident has five counseling locations in the metropolitan area-2650 Olive Street, St. Louis, MO 63103; 409 South Florissant, Ferguson, MO 63135; 12755 Olive Boulevard, Ste. 115, Creve Coeur, MO 63141; 3675 W. Outer Road, Suite 203, Arnold, MO 63010; and 5016 North Illinois, Suite A, Fairview Heights, IL 62208. To schedule a counseling appointment, call 314.533.8200.

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

Almost Picasso Coming Soon!

Hopefully, by the time you read this, "Almost Picasso" will be up and running. It will be north county's first "paint and sip" studio.

Located at 18 Church Street (across the alley from Spencer's Bakery) "Almost Picasso" will accommodate private parties, date night, girls' night out and even children's parties.

For adults, you are provided with a canvas and paint upon which you can express your artistic side. The store will provide wine or beer, or you can provide your own drinks and snacks.

For children, ages 7 to 13, canvas, paint, as well as cupcakes will be

provided.

No, you don't have to be an artist to enjoy the afternoon or evening. The idea is to paint, sip and socialize!

The owner once lived in Ferguson, and although he now lives in Florissant, he has continued to patronize Ferguson establishments. He is particularly fond of Montrey's Cigar Bar and the Cork Wine Bar.

"Almost Picasso" is open Wednesday through Friday 5:00 to 10:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Sunday noon to 7:00 p.m.

Phone number: 314-801-6671.
Email almostpicasso1@yahoo.com

Christmas Gifts

I began to list the "Best 10 Christmas Gifts of 2015," but some were not "family friendly" and others were too expensive. Here one gift that I thought might be useful to any computer user.

Open Sesame! Password Reminder Book

A handy little book to help you remember important passwords and user names. If you prefer not to have all your passwords in one place you can just write down a hint to jog your memory.

3.5W x 6H

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Uncommongoods.com \$13.00



Apple for the Teacher Awards



Eight Ferguson-Florissant School District educators were honored by the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. with the 2015 Apple for the Teacher award. The award is presented annually to outstanding educators throughout the United States during American Education Week.

District awardees are:

Laura Caldwell, Halls Ferry Elementary School
Shiela Carves, Johnson-Wabash Elementary School
Michelle Grigsby, McCluer South-Berkeley High School
Michelle Motil, McCluer High School
Dr. Donna Paulette-Thurman, Board of Education
Erica Peques, McCluer High School
Yvette Rhodes, Griffith Elementary School
Dr. Gwendolyn Diggs, Central Administration

Walnut Grove Girls on the Run



Walnut Grove Elementary Girls on the Run team, coaches and buddy runners prepare to run the 5K race in downtown St. Louis on Saturday, November 14, 2015 with 3,500 other local girls.

School District Awarded \$91,500 Grant

The Ferguson-Florissant School District is the recipient of a \$91,500 Farm to School grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The grant, which is to cover the next two years, is a portion of \$4.8 million awarded by the USDA to 74 school districts in 39 states. The Ferguson-Florissant School District is one of only two districts in the state of Missouri to receive funding.

According to Kelly Bristow, the district's dietitian who submitted the grant proposal, the grant will provide the opportunity for culinary students to continue their after-school work program at McCluer South-Berkeley High School. Since last school year, students have been processing locally grown tomatoes and sweet potatoes into delicious marinara sauce and sweet potato coins. The marinara sauce and sweet potato coins are purchased by the district and used in school lunches.

"The grant will also allow for field trips to local farms so that students can experience and see first hand where our food comes from," said Bristow.

Additionally, the Farm to School grant will provide funding for the Little Creek Nature Area and five schools to start raised garden beds that could potentially grow herbs and produce to be used in the district's food program.

Inspirational Christmas Stories

The Gold Wrapping Paper

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.



As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!" As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her. But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full." The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

On Santa's Team

Author Unknown

My grandma taught me everything about Christmas. I was just a kid. I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit her on the day my big sister dropped the bomb: "There is no Santa Claus," jeered my sister. "Even dummies know that!"

My grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth, and I knew that the truth always went down a whole lot easier when swallowed with one of her world-famous cinnamon buns.

Grandma was home, and the buns were still warm. Between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me. "No Santa Claus!" she snorted. "Ridiculous! Don't believe it. That rumor has been going around for years, and it makes me mad, plain mad. Now, put on your coat, and let's go." "Go? Go where, Grandma?" I asked. I hadn't even finished my second cinnamon bun. "Where" turned out to be Kerby's General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through its doors, Grandma handed me ten dollars. That was a bundle in those days.

"Take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car." Then she turned and walked out of Kerby's. I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and crowded, full of people scrambling to finish their Christmas shopping. For a few moments I just stood there, confused, clutching that ten-dollar bill, wondering what to buy, and who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, the people who went to my church.

I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobbie Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in Mrs. Pollock's grade-two class. Bobbie Decker didn't have a coat. I knew that because he never went out for recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher that he had a cough; but all we kids knew that Bobbie Decker didn't have a cough, and he didn't have a coat.

I fingered the ten-dollar bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobbie Decker a coat. I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood to it. It looked real warm, and he would like that. I didn't see a price tag, but ten dollars ought to buy anything. I put the coat and my ten-dollar bill on the counter and pushed them toward the lady behind it.

She looked at the coat, the money, and me. "Is this a Christmas present for someone?" she asked kindly. "Yes," I replied shyly. "It's ... for Bobbie. He's in my class, and he doesn't have a coat." The nice lady smiled at me. I didn't get any change, but she put the coat in a bag and wished me a Merry Christmas.

That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat in Christmas paper and ribbons, and write, "To Bobbie, From Santa Claus" on it ... Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy.

Then she drove me over to Bobbie Decker's house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially one of Santa's helpers. Grandma parked down the street from Bobbie's house, and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk.

Suddenly, Grandma gave me a nudge. "All right, Santa Claus," she whispered, "get going." I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded his doorbell twice and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma. Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness for the front door to open. Finally it did, and there stood Bobbie. He looked down, looked around, picked up his present, took it inside and closed the door.

Forty years haven't dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering, beside my grandma, in Bobbie Decker's bushes. That night, I realized that those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma said they were: Ridiculous! Santa was alive and well ... AND WE WERE ON HIS TEAM!

Christmas Story: For the Man Who Hated Christmas

By Nancy W. Gavin

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids. He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me. Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition – one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children – ignoring their new toys – would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us.



Djeli Tales

By Mama Lisa Gage

Happy Birthday to Mr. Sammy Davis, Jr.

December's joyous season calls us to rise to the challenge of mixing work and play. The onset of cold temperatures and changing weather patterns drives us to weatherize our homes and our cars to brace for the winter ahead. By the same token, we look forward to enjoying more tasty bowls of soup and multiple cups of warm coffee or tea. So savoring the moment with a couple albums or an old movie may bring the day to a mellow close.

Why not start by enjoying the works of Mr. Sammy Davis, Jr. and bring back fond memories of life in the 1930s. Born in Harlem, New York on December 8, 1925, Davis skyrocketed to fame. Being the son of vaudevillians Sammy Davis Sr. and Elvera Sanchez proved to be a blessing which set young Sammy's life into a rapidly upward spiral. He began performing on stage at 3 years old. The Will Mastin Troupe gave Davis a chance to showcase his natural talents to sing, dance, and charm an audience. His unique skills in tap dancing opened the way for new opportunities.

Little Sammy easily glided from stage to screen. In 1933 at the age of eight, he starred with Ethel Waters in the film Rufus Jones for President. Teaming with his father as a teenager in the Will Mastin Trio, Davis wowed audiences with his blazing fast athletic tap dance sequences. The trio's continued success also netted a chance for Sammy to meet dance legend Bill "Bojangles" Robinson.

Coming of age meant big changes for this rising star. First he was drafted to serve in the army during World War II. Upon recognizing his talents, the army assigned Sammy to Special Services to entertain the troops. By the time Davis was released in 1946, his new and improved skits and routines included comedy, impersonations, drumming, and playing the trumpet. In addition to continuing his work with the Will Mastin Trio, Davis worked the nightclub circuit and recorded albums. During this time, he shared the stage with headliners like Frank Sinatra and Mickey Rooney. An unfortunate car accident in 1954 caused severe damage, and Sammy lost the use of an eye. Deep personal reflections lead him to convert to Judaism, and his career stayed on course.

For the next 36 years, the name of Sammy Davis Jr. would become well-known throughout the world. His association with The Rat Pack (Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Peter Lawford, and Joey Bishop) during the 1960s helped Davis to make new ground in breaking down barriers and advocating for civil rights for African Americans. Broadway stages, Hollywood films, television specials, numerous recordings, and lasting activism document volumes of works done by this great man.

Treat yourself to one of the many performances of Mr. Sammy Davis Jr. as a part of your December celebrations, and may the New Year bring you and yours peace and happiness for 2016.



FERGUSON TWILIGHT 5K/10K & FUN RUN - MAY 14, 2016

Run or Walk with us in 2016!

Enjoy a USATF-certified course through Ferguson's beautiful historic neighborhoods in this fifth annual twilight 5K/10K race and one-mile fun run managed under Live Well Events. All races begin and end at the Plaza at 501 (501 S. Florissant Rd., Ferguson MO 63135) with professional timing by Big River Running.

For questions about the race or available sponsorship packages, please contact Race Director Dwayne James at racedirector@fergtwilightrun.com. We look forward to seeing you at the finish line on May 14, 2016!

Happy 30th Anniversary Spencer's Bakery

Four score and seven...

Disembodied Voice : Been there-
#^#%\$%\$ You know how old we are-?

D.V. : Done that.

A big help you are.

D.V. : Well, I could be if I knew what you were doing.

Well, I'm channelling my brilliant wit and wickedly dry humor-

D.V. : First, change the channel. Second, say WHAT??

(ignoring you) to come up with a clever way to thank everyone for the past 30 years.

D.V. : 30 Years?

Yep. December 3rd, 1985 was our first day open. Hence, 30 years.

D.V. : Smart-Aleck.

You should talk. Anyway, as I said, I'm trying to come up with a clever way-

D.V. : Riiight. And you said that, already.

@#%@\$ way to say thanks and if you would stop interrupting
I WON'T REPEAT MYSELF!

D.V. : Well, Mr. Sensitive, you could just 'Thank' them.

What do you mean? Just say 'Thank You'?

D.V. : Exactly.

Should I list them by name?

D.V. : I don't know. I'm in your head (scary) and I know you remember all of them.

Maybe not. But I can give it a shot.

D.V. : Okay - Go.

First, there's (the Lovely) Jane and Mary. Les and Larry.

D.V. : Mary and Larry, sitting-

Stop!! I don't wanna get smacked.

D.V. : Sorry (Not). Do continue.

Okay. There's 'The Donald', Dennis, the other Dennis, Ken, 'Cousin' Phil, Jeanne, Joanna, Jason, Jamie, Amy, Emily, Eric, Marrina, Tyler, Scott, Bill & Darlene, Bill & Linda, Bob, Jeff, Ralph (both of them), Mel, Dorothy, Bob & Delores, Kevin, Jim, Jesse, 'Mad Dog', Annebelle, Margaret. The 'guys (and gals) from the police and fire departments, from UMB, and from Andy Wurm's.

D.V. : Not Bad.

Thanks, but I have to stop there.

D.V. : Why?

Space constraints. But just because we didn't mention you, doesn't mean love you all any less.

D.V. : Well said.

Sadly, we have lost a few customers over the years. They are Catherine, 'Cadillac' Mary, Ed, Bob, Bud, Don 'Hewkie', and George 'Mr. B'. And, of course, our very own Lou 'from Ferguson'.

Again, we couldn't mention them all, but know that they and their families are all in our thoughts.

D.V. : Again, well said.

We've also had some local celebrities grace our doorsteps.

Among them are; Ralph Graczak (KMOX), John Grayson (KMOX), McGraw Milhaven (KSD), and Art Holliday (KSDK 5).

D.V. : Impressive (name dropper).

Thanks, I think. They're all very nice. Especially Ralph, who's been by several times (with his lovely wife Brenda) and was one of Dad's best friends.

D.V. : Indeed.

In closing-ALOOOOOHA!

D.V. : Finally.

@##^#\$ - we would like to thank all of our customers/friends past, present-

D.V. : And future-

for 30 wonderful years and, hopefully, many more to come-

D.V. : Unless we hit that Powerball. Then we are OUTTA HERE!!

(Hi Dad)

Is that your example of brilliant wit.

D.V. : Just sign off.

Many Thanks.

Happy Holidays.

God Bless You All.

Louis Dale Spencer II
Marilyn Spencer
Charles Wade Spencer



ROBYN L. STRANQUIST

Attorney at Law

101 Darst Road • Ferguson, MO 63135
314-521-1401

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.

Heather and Larry Robinett



by the Principal of Central Elementary who loved the idea of a garden at school. This was the foundation for the CE Garden Club, which at present has about 15 members. The third graders start the seedlings in February under "grow lights" that mimic sunlight. Heather helped build their indoor light setup with her son, that enables them to grow seedlings indoors.

So do you want to grow your own organic veggies with neighbors right here in Ferguson? Individual plots are \$10 (yes \$10!!) a year, and you can grow what you want. You will get advice and some seedlings from the Robinettes and other community gardeners. There are also common plots planted up with tomatoes, peppers, potatoes and asparagus and six varieties of apple trees. Every gardener is required to give four hours of service per month to the community garden. If you plant it, you can pick it!

One of the many joys of living in Ferguson is that we seem to have everything in a very small area. Included in our 6.1 square miles are our community garden and our own local organic farm/school. It is no secret that everyone is thinking greener and healthier these days. Vegetarianism is mainstream and many more people, including my family, are moving towards embracing a vegan diet. Ferguson was the first city in the state of Missouri to draw up its Community Garden Ordinance in 2009. This was the brainchild of Larry and Heather Robinette, whom we honor today for establishing, sustaining and expanding our own Community Garden here in Ferguson!

The Robinetts have lived in Ferguson since 2004. Together they have a "brood" of seven kids, "his, mine and ours." as Heather describes their joint family. Larry was raised on a farm in Raymond, IL, was in the mining industry for 15 years and is currently with AT&T, where he met his wife, Heather. He is a handyman with many skills under his belt, doing electrical work, plumbing, flooring, ceilings and drywalling. He hopes to retire in five years and fall back on his handyman skills then.

Larry became President of the Old Ferguson West (OFW) neighborhood group a year ago. He had been Treasurer for four years and on the Board for six. Heather was on the board for two years and then Vice President of OFW in 2010. She was a part of the initial steering committee and helped conduct a survey for teens when Ferguson Youth Initiative (FYI) started in 2009, and recently joined the Board of FYI. She is an electrical engineer and considers herself something of a Super Math nerd! She is very involved in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program for girls.

Needless to say, the Robinetts, including their younger kids, love gardening! Larry grew up with his grandparents, where farming daily was mandatory. Among other things, he learned how to can, and when I left the Robinettes' home, they gifted me with canned apple pie filling and salsa, made with organic apples and veggies from their community garden.

In 2009, the Robinetts partnered with Councilman Dwayne James to start up a community garden in the Old Ferguson West neighborhood. They obtained an empty plot, just one third of an acre, located at Suburban and Mueller Aves, for which the Community Garden pays a nominal fee.



Larry and Heather at th EarthDance Farmers Formal last year.

What are my wishes for Ferguson gardens? A "free" fruit and herbs park or in vacant lots in our city, and our own brand of "guerilla gardening" where experienced gardeners will be paid to lay down garden beds for residents. You get up one morning with nothing there but lawn, and you get up next morning with two or three raised beds, fully planted up with what you and your family will eat that season! I'm ready to have mine done! Lol! In the meantime, I plan to join the Robinetts at their kickoff meeting at the Corner Coffee House next February, where together we will lay out the garden plan of what we want to eat. In March, we will begin gardening in earnest. Every week we will take care of our garden, weeding, etc., and meet for a potluck once a month. For this year, about 12 residents each had one or two plots growing all organic veggies.

Hats off to Larry and Heather Robinett for our community garden! You truly represent the Best of Ferguson! Congratulations!

And a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers and supporters of my column! Thank you for the encouragement all year round! Send your suggestions for people to be interviewed to rfanklesaria@gmail.com.

The author teaches Transcendental Stress Management meditation to members of the public; and provides these services to the family courts in St Louis. She conducts Retreats here in Ferguson, across the U.S. and abroad. She is also a Motivational Speaker and her lectures include corporate presentations on Wellness. www.BestAgainstStress.com
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Heather and Larry Robinett

The Robinetts run the OFW Community Garden and helped set up the Central Elementary (CE) School garden three years ago. Since 2010, the Community Garden has invited neighborhood children to two fun events each year. In the spring they plant a flower in a pot for Mother's Day, have lunch together, and have a grand old time! The kids help in planting up the plot for St Stephen's pantry here in Ferguson. Then they are all excited to come back for the Fall Social for another fun day including sunflower seed-spitting. The kids' interest in gardening led to the next phase in Ferguson gardening. When the Robinett's daughter, Claire, was in kindergarten and their son, Ben, in second grade, they invited their classmates to start a school community garden. Their natural interest in gardening was nurtured

Community Conversation on the City's Budget

Saturday, December 12, 10:00 a.m.

Ferguson Community Center
Event Space, 1050 Smith Avenue

- Presentation on the City's current budget*
- Discussion of proposed budget options
- Give feedback on proposals

**The program will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.*

www.fergusoncity.com [@fergusoncoop](https://twitter.com/fergusoncoop) [City of Ferguson, MO](https://www.facebook.com/CityofFerguson)



Ask Grandma

Last month I wrote about what an asset Joe Lonero has been to the Ferguson Community. Since that time I have thought of many more positive activities in which Joe was involved that I forgot to mention. Not in the least of these items was the establishment of the “Ferguson Times.” My predecessor, the “Ferguson Focus” had virtually gone out of business early in 1999, and it was Joe who came to me one day and asked me to publish a replacement newspaper. He even gave me startup money. “But Joe,” I argued, “what if you don’t agree with something I publish.” “I trust you” was Joe’s reply. Wow . . . how could I ever live up to that endorsement. Joe’s only stipulation was that the first issue be free, and I thought that was such a good idea I decided to carry on that tradition . . . the paper is, and always was free.

When the Plaza @ 501 was built a few years ago, and the City was searching for a name, I hated Plaza @ 501 designation. It sounds like a shopping mall. At the time, I suggested “Lonero Plaza.” Since that time I have changed my mind. I would like to suggest naming the Plaza, “Joe’s Place.”

“Joe’s Place” honors not only Joe Lonero, but also welcomes the everyday “Joe” who is looking for a friendly, neighborhood place to meet up with friends and neighbors, or just to relax. The Plaza has also proven to be a great place for entertainment and special events.

If you agree with me . . . please contact your councilperson and express your interest in “Joe’s Place.”

Streetcars In Ferguson

Reading about the streetcar that is now being built to run down Delmar from the University City Loop to the History Museum in Forest Park reminds me of the similarity to Ferguson in 1900.

*This taken from the City of Ferguson web page:
Streetcars Lead to Expansion*

By the end of the 1800s, Ferguson was a major hub for both freight and passenger rail traffic. As many as six trains a day served commuters working in St. Louis, and Ferguson became a popular location for suburban executive homes. In 1900, a streetcar line opened connecting Ferguson and Kirkwood, another growing suburb 10 miles to the south. Former slaves of Thomas January and other slaves freed after the Civil War contributed to the early establishment of a racially diverse population.

“Ferguson, A City and Its People” published by the Ferguson Historical Society in 1976 notes that:

. . . the streetcar line that connected Ferguson with St. Louis became the longest in the entire metropolitan area. It was called the Kirkwood-Ferguson Line and was numbered 01. It continued to operate until after World War II when it was replaced by bus service.

When Joe Lonero built the lofts at the corner of Suburban and South Florissant Road, he uncovered a portion of the original streetcar tracks that ran up Suburban Avenue and turned north onto Florissant Road. After Joe built the lofts he named them the “Streetcar Lofts.”



A photo taken in 1915 shows the streetcar turning at the Ferguson Loop. You can see the train trestle over Florissant Road at the far left. The Ferguson-Kirkwood line did not go further north on Florissant Road because it did not fit under the train trestle.

The Ferguson Loop is now named the Victorian Plaza.

Photo courtesy of Ferguson Historical Society which now is headquartered in a building in back of the Ferguson Community Center.

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Calendar of Events In and Around Ferguson


Complete Details of These Events Throughout the Paper

Ferguson Northern Lights Parade and Festival	Sun., Nov. 29
Christmas in Peoria	Wed.-Thurs. Dec. 2-3
FLIERS Treasures and Treats – Library	Fri., Sat., Dec. 4, 5
Train Track Tales at the Whistle Stop	Sat., Dec. 5
Ferguson Christmas House Tour	Sun., Dec. 6
Chicago Holiday Spirit	Mon.-Wed., Dec. 7-9
City Council Meeting	Tuesday, Dec. 8
Neighborhood On Watch Meeting	Wed., Dec. 9
Free Carriage Rides – Plaza 501	Thurs., Dec. 10
Mystery Meal	Fri., Dec. 11
City Budget Community Conversation – Com. Ctr.	Sat., Dec. 12
Breakfast With Santa – 1st Presbyterian	Sat., Dec. 12
Breakfast With Santa – Blessed Teresa	Sat., Dec. 12
Resume Writing Workshop – Library	Sat., Dec. 12
Cookies by the Pound Sale – First Christian Church	Sat., Dec. 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day	Sat., Dec. 12
Cert Training	Sat., Dec. 12
Christmas Concert – St. Peters	Sun., Dec. 13
Old Cathedral / Kemoll’s / Lights	Mon., Dec. 14
Aerobics Class Begins	Mon., Dec. 14
Yahtzee – Community Center	Wed., Dec. 16
Pancake Breakfast With Santa – Community Center	Sat., Dec. 19
Indoor Farmers Market – St. Stephens	Sat., Dec. 19
Zumba Classes Begin	Sat., Dec. 19
Christmas with the Puppets – 1st Baptist	Sun., Dec. 20
CHRISTMAS DAY	Fri., Dec. 25

Beginning Adult Dance	Mon., Dec. 28
NEW YEARS DAY	Fri., Jan. 1
Hip Hop / Jazz Dance Begins	Wed., Jan. 13
Children’s Tumbling Begins	Wed., Jan. 13
Children’s Tap and Ballet Begins	Wed., Jan. 13
Handicapped Encounter Christ Dinner – Savoy	Fri., Jan. 15

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