

# Ferguson Times

Established 1894 Oct. 1999

CITY OF FERGUSON, MO.

February, 2016

Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

## February Events at the Ferguson Public Library

For more information, please call the library at 521-4820 or visit our website at [ferguson.lib.mo.us](http://ferguson.lib.mo.us)

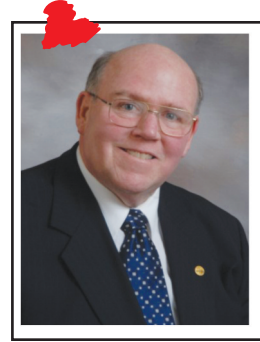
**Adult Computer Class - Keyboarding**  
 Learn the basics of keyboarding in our one hour class. No registration required - class will be on a first come, first serve basis.  
 Tuesday, February 2 from 5-6 pm

**Valentine's Day Crafts**  
 Enjoy an afternoon of crafting to celebrate everyone's favorite day of love. A parent must be present for children ages 9 and younger.  
 Saturday, February 13 from 2-3 pm

**Byte Works Earn-a-Computer Class**  
 Back by popular demand! Register your child for this six-week course in computer essentials. At the end of the course, they will receive a FREE computer! Must attend all six weeks. For kids in 4th-8th grades.  
 Starts Thursday, February 18 from 6-7:30 pm

**Cisco Networking Essentials Course**  
 Jumpstart a career in IT with our FREE Networking Essentials course! Class will meet twice a week for 10 weeks. Registration required.  
 Starts at the end of February - contact us for more information!

## Brian Fletcher - 1959-2016



Early on Sunday morning, January 10, the City of Ferguson lost perhaps its greatest advocate. Brian Fletcher, former Ferguson mayor and present councilman, passed away in his sleep from heart failure.

It has been obvious the last few years, and even more apparent in the last few weeks, that Brian's health had been deteriorating. His diminished energy did not deter Brian from continuing his relentless battle in being involved in the Community, and to defend our City from any nay sayer. Brian became, in the last year and half, along with Mayor James Knowles, the face of Ferguson on local and national media.

Brian grew up in neighboring Dellwood, graduated Riverview Gardens High School and became an AT&T account representative. He served as an alderman in Country Club Hills in the early 1980s before moving to Ferguson. Brian also served a term on the Ferguson-Florissant School Board. He was vice president of Communications Workers of America AT&T local and spent 16 years as a Democratic committeeman.

After the events in August of 2014, Brian resented the portrayal of Ferguson as a racially divided ghetto. He organized the "I Love Ferguson" campaign and opened a storefront on South Florissant Road where "I love Ferguson" tee shirts, hats, jackets and signs are sold. The proceeds from this effort has raised over \$150,000 to help the businesses destroyed or damaged in the 2014 demonstrations.

Through the years I had the pleasure of working with Brian on many Ferguson projects. His knowledge, thorough research, professionalism and willingness to work harder than anyone toward a successful goal was inspiring to all who worked alongside him.

Brian was a member of the Ferguson 4th of July Committee. It was Brian who was the first one to arrive at the preparation for the Ham & Bean dinners that the Committee relies upon as its major fundraisers. He bought the food, set up the kitchen, and then stayed to help prepare and direct the meal. After the last meal was served, it was Brian who stayed, help clean up and locked the doors. That is the sort of dedication that Brian brought to each of his endeavors.

To Brian's family, our prayers, love and support during this most difficult time are with you.

Sincerely, Dorothy Seiter

## Free Tax Prep at Ferguson Community Center

Fridays, 1:00 to 5:00 pm	Saturdays, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Feb. 5-6	March 4-5
Feb. 12-13	March 11-12
Feb. 19-20	March 18-19
Feb. 26-27	March 25-26

Income tax preparation for area residents provided by the Gateway EITC Community Coalition

For more information call 314.539.4062

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## City Council Meetings

The Ferguson City Council will meet twice in February.

The meeting dates are:  
 Tuesday, February 9th and  
 Tuesday, February 23rd  
 at 7:00 p.m.  
 in the City Council Chambers  
 at 110 Church Street.

## Saturday, February 20th Ferguson Indoor Farmers' Market

It may be February, but the monthly Ferguson Farmers Market is still the place to find fresh produce and home-made goods. The market takes place on the Third Saturday of every month at St. Stephens Church, 33 North Clay.



Make plans to visit our vendors 9:00 a.m. to noon to stock up on meat, bread, eggs, winter greens, squash and more!

If you're interested in having your own vendor booth, please contact: Maria at [maria@earthdancefarms.org](mailto:maria@earthdancefarms.org). A one-time application fee is \$25 (waived for non-profits) and booth fee is \$25 for each market.

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

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



## Greetings from CityWalk

Budgets, budgets, and more budgets! There's been lots of talk about budgets in the City during the last few months. One good thing that has come out of these conversations is that more and more residents have become knowledgeable about where the City gets its money and what the City spends it on.

Maybe you've wondered where the downtown business district (also referred to as "CityWalk", or "FSBD", or just "S. Florissant") gets its money from and what it spends it on.

What the downtown business district spends its money on is easier to answer because the results of that spending are very visible. Downtown events such as the Farmers Market, the Concert Series at 501, Streetfest, Northern Lights, and the Christmas Glow Carriage Rides are all funded, some completely and some partly, by the downtown business district. Most of the advertising for these events, so people far and wide know about them, is also paid for by the downtown business district. In addition, the downtown lighting, trashcans, benches, and public landscaping and art are all paid for by the downtown business district.

So where does the downtown business district get its money from? There are two funding sources: a special tax that downtown businesses pay when they renew their business licenses; and the proceeds from the downtown TIF district. (Explaining how a TIF district works is beyond the scope of this column, but google "TIF" if you want to learn more.)

There you have it. Money flows into two funds that the City has setup for the downtown business district, and that money is spent on the things you see and the events you enjoy along the downtown corridor.

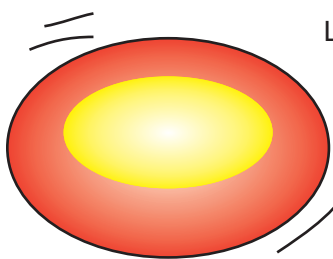
Finally, the FSBD would like to send our condolences to the family of Brian Fletcher. The contributions that Brian Fletcher made to the Ferguson community were tremendous. Mr. Fletcher exercised civic duty to the fullest and he will be missed by all.

(This section reserved for the General Membership Businesses of the FSBD.)

Every third Thursday of the month is our board meeting. We meet at 5:30pm in the offices of Pearce Neikirk's office located at 427 S. Florissant Rd. Our next meeting is February 18, 2016. 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.

## Disc Golf



Love is in the air...and pretty soon that air is going to be filled with flying discs. For those who think disc golf is a three season sport, Spring is on its way and its time to hit the chain links.

In the mean time, the course is improving every weekend. We currently have three full holes carved into the honeysuckle that has taken over the park and we need to get 6 more done by Spring. We need all the help we can get, clearing and hauling brush, removing downed trees and picking up trash.

We will be working every Saturday afternoon until late Spring depending on weather (only the rain and snow will keep us away, the cold won't)! The times may vary, but are generally posted on our Facebook site. If you can't assist with the physical aspect of helping, donations will always be highly appreciated.

Do you know a Boy/Girl Scout Troop or service organization that is looking for a service project? We have a couple of fairly large projects that will require physical labor and some engineering aptitude.

Try playing Disc Golf and enjoy the outdoors!

Fergusondiscgolf@gmail.com      www.facebook.com/Fergusondiscgolf

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.**

## The Plumber's Crack

By Oh Baby bigohbaby@sbcglobal.net

Beads are flying, fish fries popping up everywhere, giant hearts and pictures of dead presidents showing up at department and drug stores, jewelry stores having large diamond sales, football ending, pitchers and catchers reporting . . . man what a month, and to top all that it's time for the sweetheart edition of the Plumber's Crack.



dirt to those areas and pack it in best you can. When it warms up and starts thawing, see that it starts settling in. Then buy some strips of sod and build it up so water runs away from the foundation.

Cover your window wells. The problem with the drains installed in these wells

were never as good as most sewers. And being shallow, the ground settles and they pull apart and leak along your foundation. You don't even know it until it's too late.

About the only thing you can do about Hydrostatic pressure is install a sump pump or in extreme cases drain tile and sump pump. Remember, with the excess water we got this winter, along with whatever snow we get, is going to make this spring dangerous.

Being February we still need to stay vigilant with bitter cold if it shows up by checking drafts when the wind chill is high. Remember your winter tips.

Now that Oh Baby has put a wet blanket or a damper on your month, I'll try and leave you with positive messages.

Now more than ever, check on and get to know your neighbors. Look for a club or an organization to join. A major loss to several of our organizations with the passing of our dear friend Brian Fletcher could use your help. Two such organizations are the I Love Ferguson and the Fourth of July committee.

Watch over them kids and shop Ferguson first. Be safe and God Bless you all.

Oh Baby

Well my friends I wish what I'm reporting this month was a sweetheart. I know I should be talking about frozen pipes but unfortunately I'm going to move ahead a couple of months. Scratching your head? I have been too. Mother Nature got her months mixed up and I'm afraid we are really going to pay for it this spring . . . many of you already have. The end of December and the beginning of January dumped record amounts of rain on an already saturated water table. 2015 gave us record amounts of rain something like 11 inches over normal. Homes that have never had water in their basements before got water in them. The bad part about this is all that rain has eroded soil around foundations making it easier for water to seep in.

Another problem with all the rain is it's now winter, which means that water can freeze along your foundation causing cracks. The main contributors to helping this happen are stopped gutters, stopped up drain tiles from window wells, and hydrostatic pressure.

Now is the time, even though the ground is frozen, to walk around the house. If you see any gaps between your foundation and the dirt, you need to start wheeling in some

P8563, D8563

### Premier Plumbing Solutions



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


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

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

**524-0222!**

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

**CALL BOB 524-1264**



**Painted EFFECTS CONTRACTING llc**

See Bob on Job column on Page 17

## Enjoy the Touhill and Support Ferguson Businesses



On the special dates listed below, you can drive to and park close to the Touhill, then hop on the free Citywalk Shuttle which will bring you back to Ferguson to dine at a variety of restaurants along Citywalk. The shuttle will then pick you up and deliver you back to the Touhill to enjoy the entertainment.

### Pickup Times:

For the 8:00 pm shows – Pickup time will be 4:45, 5:15, 5:45 and 6:15  
For the 7:30 pm shows – Pickup time will be 4:25, 4:45 and 5:45

Saturday, February 13 – 8:00pm .....In It For Love  
Presented by St. Louis Ballet

Friday & Saturday, February 26 & 27 – 8:00pm .....PNC Arts Alive New  
Dance Horizons IV  
A celebration inspired by St. Louis' legendary black artists

Friday & Saturday, April 1 & 2 – 8:00pm .....Swan Lake  
Presented by St. Louis Ballet

Saturday, June 18 – 8:00pm.....Ambassadors of Harmony  
Your favorite a capella chorus entertaining with the songs you love

## JOBS AND MORE STL Continues Training, Will Host Upcoming Job Fair

Are you tired of sending out applications and never getting the job you want? Looking for ways to improve your resume? Have trouble finding and keeping that perfect job? JOBS AND MORE STL can help!

JOBS AND MORE STL is a Ferguson-based 501(c)3 non-profit, providing training and motivation in the job search process. JOBS AND MORE STL's goal is to arm workshop achievers with the skills and drive necessary to find employment that aligns with their individual strengths and interests.



On February 27, 2015, 10 AM – 2 PM, JOBS AND MORE STL will co-sponsor a job fair at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 1425 Stein Rd in Ferguson. Contact JOBS AND MORE STL for more information.

Additionally, JOBS AND MORE STL hosted the latest

FREE Rise Above Workforce Training workshop from January 19 – 29. Congratulations to our achievers from this and all of our workshops. We wish you continued success in all of your future endeavors.

All of our workshop achievers learn the importance of traits such as Integrity and Trustworthiness, Resume Writing, Personal Presentation, Problem Solving and Conflict Resolution. Local HR representatives discuss keys to the job search process, and perform mock interviews. These skills are crucial to achievers in obtaining and retaining employment.

Does this sound like the help you need to find your next great job? Attend our next FREE workshop:

Free Rise Above Workshop: February 8-19, 9:30AM-12:30 PM, M-F, Ferguson Municipal Public Library, 35 N. Florissant Rd. Transportation assistance is available for the workshop.

Contact JOBS AND MORE STL for more information about the services offered, to enroll in one of our workshops, to make a tax-deductible charitable contribution, or to volunteer to serve as a mentor, fundraiser or workshop facilitator: jobsandmorestl@outlook.com, 314.283.2215, on the web jobsandmorestl.org, or visit the JOBS AND MORE STL Facebook page.

## Cold Weather Safety

### COLD WEATHER SAFETY

The Ferguson Fire Department took advantage of the recent cold snap to train on ice rescue techniques at January Wabash Lake. While we prepare to handle extreme cold weather emergencies, we'd also like to remind you that cold weather can be dangerous even if you're only exposed for a short time. Learning to recognize the signs and symptoms of hypothermia can help save someone's life.

### WHAT IS HYPOTHERMIA?

Hypothermia means the body is losing heat faster than it can produce it and body's core temperature drops below 95 degrees. Falling into cold water can certainly result in hypothermia but it can also occur with any exposure to cold temperatures. Signs and symptoms of hypothermia include:

- Shivering.
- Slurred speech.
- Abnormally slow breathing.
- Loss of coordination.
- Fatigue
- Cold, pale skin.
- Confusion or memory loss.

### CARING FOR HYPOTHERMIA

**Signs and symptoms usually develop slowly.** People with hypothermia typically experience gradual loss of mental acuity and physical ability, so they may be unaware that they need emergency medical treatment.



**Call 911 or emergency medical assistance.** While waiting for help to arrive, monitor the person's breathing. If breathing stops or seems dangerously slow or shallow, begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) immediately.

**Move the person out of the cold.** If going indoors isn't possible, protect the person from the wind, cover the head, and insulate the individual from the cold ground.

**Carefully remove wet clothing.** Replace wet things with a warm, dry covering.

**Don't apply direct heat.** Don't use hot water, a heating pad or a heating lamp to warm the person. Instead, apply warm compresses to the center of the body — head, neck, chest and groin. Don't attempt to warm the arms and legs. Heat applied to the arms and legs forces cold blood back toward the heart, lungs and brain, causing the core body temperature to drop. This can be fatal.

**Give the person warm beverages.** Don't give the person alcohol.

**Handle people with hypothermia gently.** Don't massage or rub the person because their skin may be frostbitten, and rubbing frostbitten tissue can cause severe damage.

**Body to body rewarming.** In remote areas where assistance is delayed, practice "body to body" rewarming. Surround the victim with body heat in a sleeping bag, tent or other sheltered spot

Be sure to keep an eye on your elderly neighbors during extreme cold weather as the young and elderly are more easily effected. By looking out for each other and being prepared we can all continue working together to keep this community safe!



Photos in the above article depict the Ferguson Fire Department practicing water rescue at January-Wabash Lake.

# Ferguson Community News Page

## Continuing the Legacy of Mayor Brian P. Fletcher

By Mayor James W. Knowles III



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

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

Though it is far from the first time I've used this quote by Teddy Roosevelt in one of my monthly articles, there is no better way to begin a memorial of the life and service of Former Mayor Brian Patrick Fletcher.

Brian Fletcher lived almost his entire adult life serving his community "in the arena". As a young man in his early twenties Brian was not only active in civic and community programs, he stood up to take a leadership role as an alderman in the City of Country Club Hills. After moving to Ferguson, he continued his role as a leader by taking a leadership position in the local Democratic Club and eventually running for public office in Ferguson.

After spending over a decade serving this community as a member of the Ferguson-Florissant School Board and later as Mayor of Ferguson, Brian decided against running for re-election to focus on his health, which had plagued him for years. Though Brian stepped down from the Council, he never stepped away from serving this community on several city boards, commissions, and committees.

In August 2014, when civil unrest threatened to tear our community apart and unscrupulous media outlets seized the opportunity to promote division in the community, Brian rose to the occasion to spread a unifying message throughout this community by championing our city in the media and working to bring people together in a shared love of this community.

Brian, who had suffered from heart disease for nearly 20 years, worked long and stressful hours to help organize efforts of the "I Love Ferguson" committee and fight back against the disparaging narrative formed by the media. In April 2015, while he should have tended to his own health, Brian was elected back onto the City Council to tend to the health of the community that he served for so long, and that he loved so dearly.

Last month, Former Mayor Fletcher passed away from complications with his long battle with heart disease. It's hard for us to conceive that a man known around the world for I (heart) Love Ferguson, could himself have a heart illness. But those who knew him or even met him know that his heart was huge and filled with love for all the citizens of this community.

With all that Brian did for this community, and all the work still yet to be done, people have asked how we will fill the huge void left by this community servant. For any one person to fill that void is a question to daunting to ask of most people. The level of commitment, time, and sacrifice needed for one person to step into Brian's shoes is unrealistic to ask of people. In order to continue Brian's legacy it's going to take lots of effort, from lots of us.

Ferguson's success has always been because of its people. We have an amazing network of people that follow Brian's example of service to this community, and it will be incumbent upon them, and the next generation of community servants, to fill the void left by our community's champion. Honor Brian's legacy, serve your community in whatever way you can, and as much or little as you can. A wise man once said, "Nobody made a greater mistake, than he who did nothing, because he could only do a little."

## Ferguson Neighborhood Organizations

Dates & times subject to change. Check [www.fergusoncity.com](http://www.fergusoncity.com)

Group	Next Mtg.	Location	Contact
Forestwood Park Neighborhood Group	Feb 2 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Donald Stevens 314-561-0379
Jeske Park Neighborhood Assc.	Feb 11 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Kate Mazzacavallo katemazza@yahoo.com
Nesbit-Newton	Feb 25 7 pm	St Peters UCC 1425 Stein Rd	Paul Beins 314-869-5080
North Hills Neighborhood	TBA	Our Lady of Guadalupe 17 Hawkesbury Dr.	Keith Kallstrom 314-524-1720
Northwest Ferguson	TBA	First Baptist Church 333 N Florissant	Shelley Davis leeshel57@sbcglobal.net
Old Ferguson East Neighborhood Assn.	TBA	Corner Coffee House 100 N Florissant	Glenda Rickard 314-364-4306 glenda.rickard@mercy.net
Old Ferguson West Neighbors	Feb 25 7 pm	Corner Coffee House 100 No Florissant	Larry Robinett ldrobinett@gmail.com
Robert-Superior Neighborhood Group	Feb 16 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Irene Kidd kiddirene87@gamil.com
Southwest Ferguson Neighborhood Group	TBA	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	Feb 2 7 pm	Dine Out at Drake's Place 701 S. Florissant	Mary Simmons hudsonhills63135@gmail.com
North Elizabeth Neighborhood	TBA	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Renee Benage rbenage@sbcglobal.net

## Snow Removal

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

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

- Don't push snow into the street. Placing any materials, yard waste, or snow on a public street is against city ordinance and may result in a fine.
- Clean your own driveway, sidewalk, mailbox, and parking lots. Residents and Business Owners are required to keep their own driveways, sidewalks, mailboxes, and private streets clear of ice and snow.
- Clear the road. No service will be provided if the crews feel they cannot safely plow your street because of parked cars or other obstructions.
- Cul-de-sac's – over the course of the last few years, it has become increasingly difficult for crews to effectively plow cul-de-sacs. Parallel parking is the only approved parking for cul-de-sacs. If cars are parked in any other fashion, we will not be able to plow these cul-de-sacs. It's difficult to plow a Cul-de-sac even when cars are parked correctly; so it's better if no cars are parked in the street at all.

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

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

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

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

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

City of Ferguson City Council: James W. Knowles, III, Mayor; Mark Byrne, Ward 1; Ella Jones, Ward 1; Dwayne James, Ward 2; Keith Kallstrom, Ward 3; Wesley Bell, Ward 3. City Manager: DeCarlon Seewood. Public Relations Intern, 314-524-5229.

City Hall: 110 Church Street, 63135, 314-521-7721. Website: [www.fergusoncity.com](http://www.fergusoncity.com). Contact Us by Email: [Information@fergusoncity.com](mailto: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.

## PROGRAMMING

### Children's Tumbling

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

Age: 3 ½-7 years old  
Start Date: Mon., Mar 7 (8 week session)  
Time: 5:45pm-6:40pm (3-1/2-7 years old)  
6:45pm-7:40pm (8-13 years old)  
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: 7-15 years old & 8-13 years old  
Start Date: Wed, March 9 (8 week session)  
Time: 5:45pm-6:40pm (3-7 years old)  
6:45pm-7:40pm (8-13 years old)  
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: 14-18 years old  
Start Date: Wed, March 9 (8 week session)  
Time: 7:45pm-8:40pm  
Location: Ferguson Community Center  
Fee: \$34/Members; \$39/Residents; \$44/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.



### Computers for Seniors

Do you feel like you're left in the Stone Age while technology keeps moving forward? Do you have grandchildren who you would like to keep up with through social media? If so, then sign up for Ferguson's Computer 101 course for seniors. This class will teach basic computer functions as well as valuable information about the internet. After the completion of this course you will be exploring the world wide web with confidence and ease.

Ages: 50 and older  
Date: Tues, Feb 9 (6 week session)  
Times: 10am-11am  
Location: Community Center  
Fee: \$20/Member; \$25/Resident; \$30/Non-Resident

### Wayside Park Unleashed

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

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

### 2016 Wayside Dog Park memberships now on sale.

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

## FITNESS

### Aerobics

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

Age: 18 years & up  
Date: Mon March 7, Wed March 9, Fri March 11  
(Ongoing 6 week sessions)  
Time: Mon, Wed, & Friday 6pm-7pm  
Location: Ferguson Community Center  
Fee: \$25/Members; \$30/Residents; \$35/Non-Residents  
Additional Days:  
\$10/members add day;  
\$15/residents add day  
\$20/non-residents add day

## ATHLETICS

### 3 on 3 Coed Basketball League

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

Ages: 18 and up  
Dates: Friday, Feb 5  
Times: 6:00pm-9:00pm  
Location: Community Center  
Fees: \$190/ Members/teams; \$200/Residents/team;  
\$220/Non-Residents/team

## 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: Thursday, Feb 11  
Time: 11:30am-2:30pm  
Location: Community Center  
Fee: \$8 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.

Date: Fri, Feb 19  
Time: 10am pickup  
Fee: \$32/Members; \$37/Residents; \$42/Non-Residents

## TRIPS

### "Behive" – Little Theater on the Square

Enjoy an early spring adventure to Amish Country. We will enjoy an all-inclusive buffet lunch at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur, IL. Then we'll travel a short distance to Sullivan and the Little Theater to enjoy this 60's musical sensation, a musical tribute to the women of 60's rock, pop, and soul, "Behive." The greatest hits from music's greatest decade. Cost includes: motor coach transportation, lunch, ticket, taxes and tips.

Date: Wed, March 9  
Time: 8:00am-7:30pm  
Location: Ferguson Community Center  
\*Parking on north end of Community Center or behind the Community Center only  
Fee: \$79/Residents; \$84/ Non-Residents

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

**TRIPS (Continued from Page 5)**

**Tunica, MS**

Yes, it's time for Ferguson's gambling extravaganza. Odds are you'll love Tunica-with lots of casinos and gaming activities for you to choose from. With One-Arm Bandits, hitting "21" in Blackjack, or winning a poker hand, you can be sure to have a winning time on this trip. While staying at the popular Gold Strike Hotel and Casino, we'll also be gambling in Sam's Town, Resorts, Fitzgerald's, Horseshoe, and Hollywood. Five fabulous buffet meals are included in the fee as well as \$40 back in cash. Cost includes: motor coach transportation, two nights lodging, five buffet meals, luggage service, plus driver gratuities.

Ages: 21 and up  
Date: Tues, March 29-Thurs, March 31  
Time: 7:00am-8:30pm  
\*Parking on north end of Community Center or behind the Community Center only  
Fee: \$150/ Residents; \$160/Non-Residents (Double Occupancy)

**TEENS**

**City Museum**

Come explore the City Museum! Make your way through the Enchanted Caves and much more. This 600,000 sq. ft. multi-level interactive museum was built for exploration and fun.

Age: Teens 13-17  
Date: Fri, Feb 12  
Time: 5:30am-10:30pm  
Location: Community Center  
Fee: \$5/Residents; \$8/Non Residents

**Spot 394**

Spot 394 is a pop-up youth center for teens 13-17 years old. The Community Center will be transformed into a youth center where youth can play games, listen to music, and engage in other activities. Food, drink, and attendance prizes will be included as well. Ferguson youth and youth attending Ferguson-based schools are welcome to attend and can purchase up to 1 additional ticket for a guest

Age: 13-17  
Date: Fri, March 18  
Time: 6pm-9pm  
Location: Community Center  
Fee: \$1 per ticket



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ACADEMY

2788 NORMANDY DRIVE  
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A COLLEGE-PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Spring Visits for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls are Available Now!  
**Visit Days are: February 11, March 14, April 5 & 14**  
Register at: [www.iwacademy.org](http://www.iwacademy.org)

**Attention Public School Families:** It's not too late to apply for 2016-17!  
Contact the Admissions Office at 314.725.5850 X1149

A SPONSORED MINISTRY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD



**The Ferguson Kiwanis Club  
presents its 33rd Annual  
Prayer Breakfast**

**Wednesday, March 23 – 7:00 am sharp**  
Savoy Banquet Center, 119 So. Florissant Rd.  
Admission by  
Advanced Donation Only – \$11.00

For tickets contact any member of the  
Ferguson Kiwanis Club  
or call Kay Klein at 521-5960




**FISH FRY**

**Zion Lutheran Church Fish Fry**

123 Carson Road is the gathering place for

Cod, Shrimp,  
Catfish and Chicken.

Also Slaw, Spaghetti, Mac'n Cheese & Fries

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

Every Friday (Zion's Multi-purpose room)  
Starting Friday, February 12th – 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

If you are interested in helping on the fish fry line every other  
Friday, contact Sue Dunham at 314-524-7677

Your dinner is free on the nights you work!

**See you at the Fish Fries!**

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Removal, Shrub Trimming &  
Removal, Overgrowth & Brush  
Removal, Small Tree  
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**Lawn Care & More**

Call Jim (owner)

**314-831-2366**

**BRAIN GAMES!**

**Zion Child Development Center's  
18<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Night**

Saturday, March 5, 2016

Doors open 6:30 pm  
Games begin 7:00 pm

Tickets \$20 per person  
Tables of 8-10



Come out and help the CDC raise money for Summer Camp!

trivia, door prizes, attendance prizes, raffles, silent auction

The Savoy Banquet Center  
119 South Florissant Road  
Ferguson, MO 63135

Call Now  
to Reserve a Table!  
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Please no beer or alcoholic drinks. Thank you.



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to get more info and discounts

# St. Peter's United Church of Christ 67th Annual Wurstmarkt Sausage Dinner



Walk-ins  
Welcome

Carry Outs  
Available

**Saturday March 5, 2016 2pm - 6pm**

\$10.00 For Adults & \$5.00 For Children (6-12)

All you can eat, served family style

For more information or for Tickets call 314-521-5694 or 314-524-4286

St. Peter's UCC  
1425 Stein Rd at West Florissant  
Ferguson, MO 63135

### Wurstmarkt Menu:

Bratwurst, sauerkraut with pork, peas with German spaetzle noodles, homemade mashed potatoes, fresh peeled apples with cinnamon, Helfers pastries and drink – all served family style. All You Can Eat.

## POKER TOURNAMENT



**Sunday, February 21, 2016**

Doors at noon, play 12:30-4:00 pm

Ferguson Lions Club

49 North Clark

**\$45 in advance, \$50 at the door**  
48 player maximum

Ferguson, MO 63135

Call 636.734.3198 with questions  
or to purchase tickets

• 1st, 2nd & 3rd place prizes

• 50 / 50 raffle

• Snacks & bar

• 5 card draw

• 7 card stud

Proceeds benefit the community



## St. Peter's UCC

## Annual

## Blood Drive

**Sunday, February 7, 2016**

**9am - 12 noon**

**In Fellowship Hall**

**St. Peter's UCC**

**1425 Stein Rd**

**Ferguson, MO 63135**

**For More Info**

**Please Call**

**314-521-5694**

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Mississippi Valley  
REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER

**Blessed Teresa of Calcutta**  
FISH FRIES BEGIN  
Friday, Feb 12 @  
150 n ELIZABETH  
**YOU MAY**  
.DINE IN  
.CARRY OUT  
.DRIVE THRU

Dates:  
Feb 12, 19, 26  
March 4, 11, 18, 25

**TIME: 4-7PM.**

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Grab some friends and join us for....

## CPAAA Annual Team Trivia Night



**SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 20**

**TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

1720 REDMAN ROAD  
(BETWEEN BELLEFONTAINE & HWY 367)

8 ROUND EVENT

DOORS OPEN 6:30 PM

PLAY STARTS 7:00 PM

Fundraising event in support of the St. Louis County  
Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

(The CPAA is a volunteer civilian organization whose mission is to support the Officers of the St. Louis County Police Department through community service and increased public awareness while fostering positive interaction between the community and law enforcement.)

Beer, soda,  
snacks & pizza  
included!

50-50, raffle, door  
prizes, with 1st  
and 2nd prizes  
awarded

\$120 per table  
8 players per  
table.

Checks must be  
received no later  
than February 18  
to reserve a  
table. Send your  
check payable to  
CPAAA  
P.O. Box 2136  
Florissant, MO  
63032

Contact:  
cpaaanc@gmail.com  
for questions or  
reservations.

# Ferguson Twilight 5K/10K & FUN RUN MAY 14, 2016

## 7 Years and Still Running with the Ferguson Twilight Run

In 2016, the Ferguson Twilight Run will celebrate its seventh year of fitness, health, wellness and community. Since its beginning in 2010, over 9,000 people have set a goal of crossing the finish line of the Ferguson Twilight Run. The 7th annual race includes a 5K, 10K and 1 mile fun run and will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the Plaza at 501 in Ferguson.

Since 2010, \$64,000 in race proceeds from the Ferguson Twilight Run have been awarded to local organizations that provide the residents of Ferguson and North St. Louis County with programs and events that showcase the enjoyable, healthy and sustainable aspects of fitness activities. Organizations wishing to apply to receive race proceeds through the Donnie White, Sr. Memorial Twilight Run Award should apply online at <http://fergtwightrun.com/live-well-events/beneficiary-application/> by February 19.



The Ferguson Twilight Run is the definition of a community event, led by neighbors for neighbors. The race attracts runners and walkers of all fitness levels, ages and abilities. The people who walk, run, wheel in a chair, or ride in a stroller are joined together in health, wellness, fitness, community, and of course, fun.

Donations from generous sponsors help provide everything from live music at the starting line to trophies at the finish line. Sponsoring the 7th Annual Ferguson Twilight Run allows local businesses and organizations to share in the commitment to healthy and active lifestyles in our community. Learn more about sponsor benefits at [www.FergTwilightRun.com](http://www.FergTwilightRun.com).

In 2016, we ask for your continued support. Register for the sixth annual Ferguson Twilight Run at [www.FergTwilightRun.com](http://www.FergTwilightRun.com). Team rates are available.

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

## Immanuel UCC Welcomes New Pastor

Immanuel United Church of Christ, 125 Church Street in Ferguson, MO, has called a new pastor, Dr. Jimmy Watson, who recently served congregations in Indiana and Kentucky.

Dr. Watson, a native Texan, has a PhD in Theology and Ethics from Baylor University. He was ordained in 1993 and taught at Howard College and federal, state, and local prisons in Texas for several years. Watson published a book last year, titled, "Big Jesus: A Pastor's Struggle with Christology," and has written several devotionals for the United Church of Christ's national website.

Immanuel UCC invites all to our Sunday services at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday school is at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday. On February 10, our Ash Wednesday services will be 1:30 & 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary). Lent services will be held each Wednesday during Lent at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel, located in the top level of the Educational Building. Our Maundy Thursday service is at 7:00 p.m., and Good Friday services are 1:30 and 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary). Easter Sunday services are 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. with special Easter activities for Sunday school.

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style development where every home is a custom design and build, and all are situated on multi-acre sites. The Master bedroom suite features one whole wall of built-in book and display cases and a private bath with sauna. Beautiful wood casements and trims as well as upgraded windows are featured through out the home. Call us today for your visit or we can email you the additional information. Buyers Brokerage is available on this home.



**Welcome Home to Mary Margaret Orbin**

We are happy as heck to extend a "Welcome Home" to Mary Margaret Orbin as she settles in to her new home at 34 Alameda Place.

The Divine Miss M" joins a host of her closest friends in a warm and very friendly neighborhood! Congratulations!

Amy Beikirch-James was the Buyers Agent.

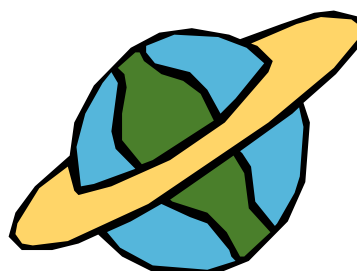


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## And Now a Word from Our Planet . . . .



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



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# The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely



**F.Y.I., dept.**

i have had to admit myself to the hospital in order to have a surgery. something about blood clots and blood vessels and aortas & stuff like that. the first surgery indicated that another one is indicated. well, there you go!

of course, there will need to be a recuperative period, both in, and then out of the hospital. as a result of all this bothersome stuff, i regret to inform you that i may not be available when you call or write. i will do my best, but i apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause you. i will ask Yvonne to give me your telephone #, and i will call you back as soon as possible.

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!, dept.**

my Valentine's gift to you this year is found on these 2 sites. the 1st is at <http://webneel.com/30-beautiful-valentines-day-wallpapers-your-desktop> pick whatever you like; all these

are free to download. (i like the 2nd one best. it's the one with an all red background and red hearts everywhere!) the next great site is <http://www.theholidayspot.com/vale> ntine/wallpapers/ as the site says, download for yourself or to send to a loved one. how very nice & loving!

**ME GO NOW!**

but before i go, i want to say i love you all, and i wish for you to have the very best Valentine's Day you have ever had! also, don't forget to send God a Valentine, and keep your eyes open to see the one He has sent to you!

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

If you wish to contact Doug for his free puter advice, call him at \*314\*521\*1789\* in the PM hours. If emailing, make sure to put the phrase "i need puter advice" into the subject line, and include your local telephone #; he will call back as soon as is possible.

Shepherding Images Studio  
**Good Shepherd Gallery**  
 Opens at 252 South Florissant Road in Ferguson



Glynis McManamon welcomes the public into her gallery.

When I read "Paint for Peace 2" by Wendell Phillips (Phil) Berwick in the January 2016 issue of the Ferguson Times, my heart skipped a beat. The line that struck the loudest chord referred to the "Ferguson-Dellwood-South Grand painting phenomenon" as the "first such thing of its kind to ever happen in America" and cited the vision of the mayor, a local sculptor and the city council for Ferguson to become a destination of the arts."

Allow me to introduce myself: Glynis Mary McManamon, a Good Shepherd Sister and an artist. My work has been mostly Byzantine- and Russian-styled icons, but includes other spiritual and secular art. Prior to my arrival in St. Louis area, my ministry had been full time in the arts. The last four of the twenty years I spent in Louisville, Kentucky, I had a studio/gallery, Shepherding Images, where I painted and showed my work. This studio was in the Highlands – sometimes called "The Greenwich Village of Louisville." Each day I painted there I met new neighbors: people who walked into my place to look at art and to share their personal stories with me.

I came to St. Louis in 2010 at the (strong) request of my province leader who needed my skills in human resources. After five years of administrative work, I was given permission to reestablish my studio. I looked at the Cherokee neighborhood several times, but it didn't fit. Then someone suggested the CityWalk area of Ferguson. I knew about the Paint for Peace event after the fact. As the article said, the riots got loads of media coverage; Paint for Peace, not so much. In my search for a location, I met Mike and Lizzie Lonero. I knew nothing about their connection to Painting for Peace. I did know that something about the place "clicked" and so, I am now a tenant at the former Curves, 252 S. Florissant Road, next to the joyful Cathy's Kitchen.

In addition to my own working studio, I have set up the Good Shepherd Gallery. I'm currently showing my own art. I hope to welcome various community-based groups who might schedule shows in this setting that speak to the Good Shepherd core values of mercy, reconciliation, individual worth and zeal (demonstrated care and concern for others). My beginnings are slow as I get to know various groups and individuals here in Ferguson. I believe Ferguson is experiencing a graced, creative moment in its history. I want to be a part of that. Please come see me, call me at 522-1155, or email me at [rgsicons@yahoo.com](mailto:rgsicons@yahoo.com).

---Glynis Mary McManamon, RGS (Religious of the Good Shepherd)

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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.

It has been an extremely sad week as I write in mid-January. Former Mayor Brian Fletcher died. Ferguson has definitely had its share of great men over the years and Brian was certainly one of them. He championed for the city knowing the people in the community really make the city. As mayor he worked to improve the city's image and as the racial strife and increase in violence came he continued to show us just how many more good people there are in Ferguson. He will be greatly missed.

As I have written about before and we've probably all heard over and over again – white flight has destroyed many communities. And the evidence of that can be seen in the Post Dispatch article lamenting Brian's life. It pointed out that over the past twenty years the demographics of Ferguson changed drastically leading to its poverty rate doubling. Growing up in the sixties and seventies I saw the beginnings of what would eventually lead to the problems we see today. The choices that were made had consequences that continue to come up as we see examples of the way minorities have been left out of the main stream and in some cases prevented from having the same opportunities to get ahead. It isn't just Ferguson it is all over our nation.

So often what I write about may seem to be completely out of reach for some people. Like many others I hope we see change within our current system so that more Americans can see opportunities that will allow them to feel self-worth, to feel safe and to see a future for themselves and their families. One of my goals is always to help people improve their understanding of managing money and building a nest egg. Last month I reviewed assessing your current situation by preparing a personal financial statement. If you did that, you know where you are and it's time now to plan where you'd like to be. You may want to start off by putting at least one goal down on paper, it could be just increasing your savings by \$1000 this year. Next it's time to figure out how you can make that happen.

Looking at how the funds coming in are being used can help you come up with ways to either increase the amount coming in or decrease the amount going out. While this sounds so easy, it isn't. As you review how the money is being spent keep in mind what funds are being used to retire actual debt. If you look back at the personal financial statement you can see just how much you owe in debts. The largest debt for most people is a home mortgage. You may also have a car loan, credit card debt or other kinds of debt. You need to take a look at those interest rates and determine how much could be saved just by eliminating those smaller debts. For some this might be an easy way to come up with more money to save.

Having a good resource to help can be your best option for making some changes really stick. For those who may not be comfortable with financial decisions or perhaps have never been able to work on a plan to build up some savings, you may need more help. Providing access to banking services from a new source that seeks to enable people to build wealth rather than dig themselves deeper into debt, is one big step in the right direction. A couple of months ago I mentioned Prosperity Connections a non-profit organization that can help people develop economic independence. If you can use some one on one help - check out their website at [www.prosperityconnection.org](http://www.prosperityconnection.org). This might be the most important resolution you could have for this year.

If the many people who are now in poverty could get out, perhaps Brian's dream could happen. Learning how to manage your hard earned money and improve your net worth could be the great equalizer. Of course, I realize that just isn't enough. To really improve the quality of life for a family caught in the cycle of poverty there needs to be some steady income. For most that would be a job. For the creative personality perhaps it could be the start of a new business. If a person has been unemployed for a while, the chances of getting hired for anything other than an entry level position can be pretty slim. When the job market is tight employers can be picky and often those less skilled are completely left out. Another resource I've looked at to help with employment is Connections to Success. Their web site is [www.connectionstosuccess.org](http://www.connectionstosuccess.org). This organization provides training and assistance in learning proper skills for seeking employment. The link between poverty and crime is well studied and Connections to Success works to improve the lives of those who have been previously incarcerated. This is another reason so many of the poor are stuck in the cycle. The success rate with those who have gone thru the programs offered can be measured by the number of graduates who have not returned to jail. A quote from their web site really sums up some of the issues we've heard about in the past year and a half. "Components of poverty and crime are like dark clouds chaotically swirling around people, obscuring their vision and impacting their ability to make lasting changes."

Another area that has been focused on as we work to improve life for all in the St. Louis area has been the children. Having good schools and a friendly relationship with police and others who are here to protect and serve is important to help them become the good citizens of tomorrow. One of the most recent changes has been the elimination of library fines for late books – children are now exempt. As a child I recall using the library often and my mother nagging about gathering up the books before they were late. So like many people, I did wonder just what this change might do. Would it cause irresponsible behavior to become the norm? As I looked into this further I did notice that there will still be fees for lost books and if found, those fees could be reduced or refunded. While this seems like a simple thing because certainly the revenue lost over late fees can't be critical to the Library system, it does make one contemplate the

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## Pre-School Storytime

at the Ferguson Library

Every Monday at 10:00 am

Come join us for stories, songs, crafts and fun.

long term effect. Will children go thru life depending on every small gesture of responsibility be eliminated? Let's hope not, a library is a wonderful resource for all children and a real life line for those who may not have access to computers or books, like many of us take for granted.

Just writing about this makes me realize what I pretty much already knew this is a very complicated situation. The cause and effect of the change in demographics can be an endless litany of excuses and revelations into what we can do to change things. The biggest impact to improve everyone's life has to do with their own economic situation and how the community at large can really make an impact is so often debated. With this being an election year, we will all be looking for the candidate that can keep us safe and give more opportunities for everyone to improve themselves. For those who have been marching and demonstrating for this type of action I do hope those affected will look at the opportunities and become more accountable for the changes they can make. If there are equal opportunities – each individual will need to be accountable for his or her own success. There will always be issues and there will always be setbacks, but they can be overcome.

Please e-mail me at [consultjoan@att.net](mailto:consultjoan@att.net) if you have any comments or suggestions.

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- Mon, Feb 8 .....closed
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- Wed, Feb 10.....banana pudding
- Thurs, Feb 11 ....choc. almond fudge
- Fri, Feb 12 .....birthday cake
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- Sun, Feb 14.....closed
- Mon, Feb 15 .....closed
- Tues, Feb 16.....peanut butter Oreo
- Wed, Feb 17 .....cherry cheesecake
- Thurs, Feb 18 .....chocolate malt
- Fri, Feb 19 .....dark chocolate coffee
- Sat, Feb 20.....cookie monster
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- Mon, Feb 22 .....closed
- Tues, Feb 23 .....Butterfinger
- Wed, Feb 24.....chocolate cranberry
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- Sat, Feb 27 .....smore

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**From My Heart**

A million stars up in the sky,  
one shines brighter I can't deny,  
A love so precious a love so true,  
a love that comes from me to you...


*By Mrs. Creeves*

**Valentine Brunch Pizza**

1 tablespoon butter  
1/4 cup chopped onion  
1/4 cup chopped green pepper  
1/4 cup chopped Canadian bacon  
1 (12-inch) prepared pizza crust (already baked)  
8 eggs, beaten  
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper  
3/4 cup Pace® Picante Sauce  
1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (about 2 ounces)  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro leaves

**How to Make It**  
Heat the oven to 400°F. Heat the butter in a 10-inch skillet over medium heat. Add the onion, pepper and bacon and cook until the vegetables are tender. Place the pizza crust onto a pizza pan or baking sheet. Place in the oven to warm. Stir the eggs and black pepper in the skillet. Cook and stir until the eggs are set. Spoon the egg mixture onto the pizza crust. Top with the picante sauce. Sprinkle with the cheese. Bake for 5 minutes or until the cheese is melted. Sprinkle with the cilantro. Cut the pizza into 6 slices.

Taken from the Campbell's Soup website





## Ferguson by Foot

By: Margaret Wolfinbarger

Sadness and loneliness are an ever present portion of our daily lives. I think that is why chocolate is such a big seller. Sad? Eat Dove chocolate. They'll even write an inspirational message inside the wrapper for good measure. After all, we shouldn't feel guilty for eating chocolate, we should feel happy to have that little bit of bliss. The world is often times a dark and dreary place, especially in winter, and especially during February, the month of "love".

It should come as no surprise to the reader of this column that during the winter I consume a fairly unhealthy amount of chocolate. I suffer with a little thing called seasonal affective disorder, and chocolate is, after all, a pretty sweet mood elevator. It takes the edge off a cruel day at work and offers a reprieve from the occasional spousal argument. It even dulls the heartache of waving goodbye to my eldest son, a new Marine, as he departs for places indeterminate. So one can imagine my alarm when I recently read a headline in The Wall Street Journal that said, "Chocolate makers fight melting supply." I read with interest about cocoa bean farming practices in Ghana and the Ivory Coast, and how US manufacturing giants are trying to teach and train poor people to provide a better yield of beans to meet an insatiable demand from consumers. I was worrying about the supply of cocoa beans drying up and the price of my beloved mood elevator soaring when I reached the part of the article that addressed the problem of child-labor in these poor communities. I learned how the little ones must work long hours and late into the night, even forgoing education, to meet the demand of a fat and greedy American (by which I mean me). My heart sank to such depths that not even a kind word from a Dove wrapper would lessen my guilt.

I suppose we all have something to be sad about, and no matter what Nestle or Hershey tell us, chocolate does not solve the problem of pain. To be sure, it is a tasty distraction, but it won't heal the turmoil that swirls through our lives undeterred like some sort of caustic poison.

My obsession with chocolate began when I was a child and I still remember when I was old enough to buy my first pound bag of M&M's without my mother's condescending glare. No longer was I subject to sneaking fudge from the refrigerator at the holidays, or stealing money from my dad's change bin to fund my Reece's Peanut Butter addiction. I found that I had complete freedom to buy and consume as much chocolate as was humanly possible. It helped me cope with the rejection I felt from my peers for things I consider fairly silly as an adult, but which had profound impact on an insecure little girl. Chocolate was my friend when all others scorned me, until it wasn't, and by then I couldn't seem to break the cycle of binging that held me captive for year upon torturous year. It is through this lens that I view the conspicuous candy that has reigned supreme in my heart and on my waistline for just about as long as I can remember. It takes courage to face such a bold enemy, though I am not a knight in shining armor or even a nutritional expert. I only know that too much of a "good" thing can be just as bad as the lack thereof. With that in mind I would like to share—what I consider to be—a few helpful antidotes to pain that don't involve the consumption of unnecessary calories.

A hug is good medicine. Whether it is from a child or a friend, a hug warms the soul. A hug lets someone know you love them, even if you don't like them very much. Ask my boxer, Tank, who has an affinity for open garbage cans. He has never been denied a hug when he asked for one. When my hurts are big, I'm not afraid to ask a friend, "Can you spare a hug?" Their hug is a special grace to my hurting heart.

A kind word is like magic on the tip of a wand just waiting to be released. It takes little effort to use ones words as a blessing instead of a curse. A sincere compliment. An earnest inquiry. While we can't take responsibility for the ways our words are received, we can take comfort in the knowledge that the word gifts we give to those in close proximity have great power. Find someone today who has wronged you and speak three simple words, "I forgive you", and consider the impact. Follow them to the hollows of your heart and watch them fill with something even more unexpected; joy.

Wonder is as much a treasure for adults as for children. When is the last time you sought out the unknown and risked learning something new? Be it a book on mystical sea creatures or exploring the unknown space behind your backyard? I used to traverse such alleys as a child and found not only neighbors waving rolling pins, but little black beetles, peculiar shaped tree limbs, and empty cicada shells. As an adult I have seen Victorian homes in need of rehabilitation that so charmed my imagination that they drove me to walk up steep hills in search of more musings. The gaze of a sleepy owl, the brisk trot of a fox; these treasures I have gathered when I had the courage to wonder and dream about how my life would be different if I had the strength to put down my bag of M&M's and put forth the effort to reduce my waistline.



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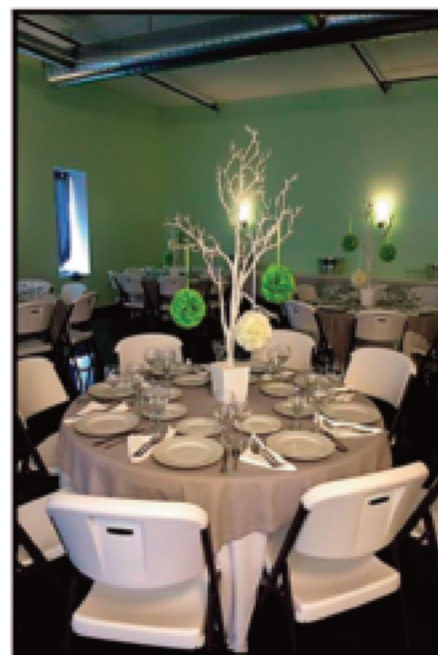
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## Benevolence Trust

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Ferguson is happy to announce the following grant recipients of its newly formed Benevolence Trust.

The Trust has been established to support services to children and families in North St. Louis County delivered by non-profit agencies. Application for Trust funds is by invitation only and this year's awardees are: Father's Support Center; Ferguson Dellwood Community Resource Center; Ferguson Youth Initiative; Neighborhood Houses; Room at the Inn; Safe Connections; and St. Louis Crisis Nursery.



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Chocolate is not my enemy, but neither has it been a faithful friend. Please forgive me, dear reader, if I have shattered any illusions at the expense of sharing my heart. There are wounds that cry out for more than a reprieve by way of dessert. And for those I implore you to look past the quick fix and to tangible help available via the caring hands of a friend or clergyman. But most importantly, during this month when so much of our media implores us to indulge without regret or imbibe regardless of consequence, remember that sadness and loneliness will not be assuaged without that crucial first step; hope.



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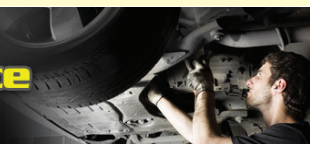
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## Under The Hood With Robinwood By Bob McGartland

### New Safety Features for your Car

Next to computers, the technological advancements for today's new cars are a close second. Many of these features focus on driver & passenger safety.

The seatbelt and airbag are two of the greatest safety advancements, but neither are as technologically advanced as today's features that incorporate lasers, radars, cameras, and more. Here are five new features that combine safety with technology.

#### Backup Camera

With a backup camera, pedestrians, vehicles or any other unseen object is immediately revealed. It is also beneficial because parallel parking is made much easier with a clear view to the rear. This allows you to back up without the worry of hitting something or someone.

#### Forward Collision Alert and Prevention

These camera or radar based systems can save you from rear-ending the driver ahead of you if they stop suddenly. They also prevent you from hitting other things that decide to get in front of your car. If danger is sensed, the driver is alerted via an audible and visual warning or a vibration in the steering wheel. More ad-

vanced systems can apply the brakes if a collision is imminent.

#### Lane Departure Warning

These systems also use specialized sensors to monitor the road ahead. If the car drifts from its lane, the driver is alerted via audible, visual or tactile warning, similar to forward-collision alerts. Higher-end systems have the ability to steer the car back into its intended lane.

#### Blind Spot Warning

Even with properly adjusted mirrors, you may not always know if there is a car driving in your blind spot. With blind spot warning lights near the side mirrors automatically illuminate when a vehicle occupies either of your blind spots, adding an extra margin of safety to every lane change.

#### Android Auto, Apple CarPlay

In properly equipped vehicles, Android and iPhone users now have easy access to their smartphone's navigation, phone, entertainment, and texting abilities. These features are controlled via voice commands or through a vehicle screen displaying a simplified, phone-like interface. This allows better usability and a safer alternative to check your phone. As new technology keeps evolving we get closer to living in the age of The Jetsons.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone. If it is time to treat your car to some mid-winter tender loving care, Robinwood Automotive stands ready to help when needed. Visit us at robinwoodauto.com

## The Ferguson Arborist

There's a deficit in the United States, an urban tree deficit of over 634,000,000 trees. That's 634 million more trees that have been cut down than have been replaced. Fear is a frightful thing. People have had their trees removed only to have a neighbors tree fall on their house. And then your insurance is stuck getting your neighbor's tree off your house anyway. (I didn't mean to cause more fear). People wonder how I stay in business talking folks out of dismantling their trees. Look, if your tree is dead and it is not in the far backyard with owls or a beehive in it, I'll take it down. A tree can look bad but be strong, and by the same token look 'good', while a horizontal crack lurks under the ivy. Pruning and preserving trees is job security, and REVENUE; the air we breathe. And there is no better a time to trim a tree than when it's dormant. But over-pruning can also produce a deficit in a tree.



I see Ferguson as an over trimmed tree. There is little left to cut off. The root zone's been trampled, top soil stripped, fruit is gone, and once healthy bows topped low. Along with all that, lovers and haters have carved their names in the trunk. We, the keepers, have two choices; prune more off the old tree and so send it into shock and irreversible decline, or invest in it, augment, enrich the soil, cultivate and even plant more trees around it. It's a time and season for the citizens of Ferguson to sprout, thousands of seedlings of the stuff and stock of Brian Fletcher.

Jesus once cursed the roots of a tree that bore no fruit and it died. Let's bless the roots of our tree so that it thrives, even in the face of the poachers and sawyers who desired to take it down.

Wendell Phillips (Phil) Berwick  
Pres. Living Tree Care / Certified ISA Arborist

*"Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness." Psalm 37:3*



## Candidate List for April 5, 2016 Ferguson City Council Election

<b>WARD ONE</b> <b>LINDA RM LIPKA*</b> January 19, 2016 3:15 p.m.	818 Le Maisson Court Ferguson, MO 63135
<b>WARD TWO</b> <b>HEATHER L. ROBINETT</b> December 15, 2015 8:00 a.m.	514 Tiffin Avenue Ferguson, MO 63135
<b>ANNETTE JENKINS</b> December 15, 2015 8:43 a.m.	25 South Harvey Ferguson, MO 63135
<b>ROBERT "BOB" HUDGINS</b> January 7, 2016 1:15 p.m.	234 Wesley Avenue, Apt. B Ferguson, MO 63135
<b>WARD THREE</b> <b>KEITH KALLSTROM</b> December 15, 2015 8:00 a.m.	7455 Castro Drive Ferguson, MO 63135

\*Petition pending signature verification by St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners

## Vote YES on the April Tax Increases

The residents of Ferguson will be asked in the April election to approve a new half cent sales tax and an increase in real estate and personal property taxes of 40 cents for every \$100 of assessed value.

If your home is worth \$60,000 you currently pay \$92.62 a month in personal property taxes, \$1,111.44 a year. After the increase you would pay \$96.42 per month, an increase of \$3.80 per month. If you spend \$800 a month shopping in Ferguson, you would pay another \$4 in sales tax. A total of \$7.80 per month in new taxes between the two, \$93.60 a year. Ferguson Truth supports the tax increases on the April ballot, and we hope you will too. We love our city and we think it's worth the money.

If we don't pass the tax increase, our city and our residents will suffer. Most of the money our city spends is on public safety, on police and firefighters. Without the added tax revenue we will have to significantly reduce our police and fire protection, spend less money on street repairs and end the city's support for almost all community events. Personally, we like having safe neighborhoods and well maintained streets and the community events. We know there are residents that are unhappy with the city administration, that believe different decisions should have been made when times were good so that we wouldn't be in this position today. But the city's decisions of three years ago aren't why we have a budget deficit today. It is because of changes in North County and, to a large degree, because of the unrest after Michael Brown was shot.

Yes, much of the deficit that we face is because of the unrest. It caused our property values to drop, caused retail sales to drop and caused collections for fines and tickets to drop below what is normal and allowed for a City of our size. A small portion of the deficit going forward will be the cost of satisfying Department of Justice requirements.

It's been a frustrating year and a half for our small town. Through what can only be described as bad luck we have had the Department of Justice issue a distorted report and then demand expensive changes and we have seen our quiet, integrated city attacked and maligned around the world. We have had our city finances disrupted and we continue to deal with a vocal faction of protesters that want to see Ferguson removed from the map as a warning to other cities.

And now we are having to raise taxes to pay for the consequences of all of this. But it will only take a little bit from everyone to insure our city survives. Frankly, it could be a lot worse. The city is still negotiating with the Department of Justice, but is working to insure that the cost of any settlement will be spent here in Ferguson, adding police officers and improving reporting and transparency – the money will go to make Ferguson an even better city. And while having to pay more in taxes because of bad luck is certainly frustrating, we still have some of the lowest tax rates in our region. We have created one of the jewels of North County, a nice inclusive community with wonderful people and beautiful homes. We would hate to think that a small bit of bad luck is enough to unwind all we have done, to set us back or lead to the destruction our town. Not paying the bill to keep Ferguson alive would prove the protesters right - it would be allowing them to force the end of Ferguson just because we didn't love it quite enough.

But we do love our City. We love our diverse, friendly residents. We love our beautiful old homes, our rolling hills and our wonderful parks. Ferguson is one of the nicest Cities in St. Louis. We hope you will join us in making sure it continues to thrive, and continues to be an example for St. Louis and the United States. We hope you will vote YES on Prop E and Prop C.

Thank you,  
**Ferguson Truth**, a group of concerned Ferguson residents.

## Recommendations for Transforming the Ferguson-Florissant School District

### Report cites many strengths but calls for urgent changes to improve student achievement

The Superintendent's Transition Team convened by Dr. Joseph Davis presented its findings and recommendations to the Ferguson-Florissant Board of Education and the community. The report indicates that while the district has many strengths, significant and urgent change is needed to maximize opportunities for students.

Upon his appointment as Superintendent of the Ferguson-Florissant School District (FFSD), Dr. Davis presented the community with an entry plan that included a review of the district by a transition team of educational leaders from across the country. The Superintendent directed the team to look particularly at four issues of concern identified during his entry: quality administrators and teachers; high performance of students; safe and orderly schools; and effective and efficient operations.

The transition team evaluated current student and staff performance and practice through school visits, interviews with stakeholders, and data analysis in order to develop the report. In a few instances, district leadership took immediate action to meet needs such as:

- professional development for principals and appropriate central office leaders in instructional improvement, which resulted in the engagement with Targeted Leadership;
- a Board of Education retreat with transition team facilitation, resulting in goals for the 2015-16 school year, a communications protocol with the new Superintendent, clarification of roles for the Board and Superintendent, and an evaluation instrument for the Superintendent's performance; and
- the examination of contracts to set better conditions and outcomes for FFSD students and staff.

#### Key Recommendations:

- Leadership
- Governance
- Student Achievement
- Talent Recruitment and Hiring
- Communications

The transition team report highlights four general themes:

- "Loose coupling:" District policies and prescribed practices are not consistently carried out in schools and classrooms.
- The need for urgency: While positive change is emerging, there must be a stronger sense of the need for immediate improvement across the district.
- Leadership capacity building and support: District leaders need a higher level of execution to improve student achievement and maintain accreditation.
- Accountability: Goals and expectations require greater clarification, monitoring and reporting.

In its report, the team provides recommendations in four key areas: leadership and governance, student achievement, talent recruitment and hiring, and communications.

Dr. Robert S. Peterkin, Professor Emeritus at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, chaired the transition team and presented its findings to the Board of Education. He stated, "FFSD has a lot of promise. The staff could not have been more responsive, but it is time for the district to turn promise into reality—The reality of significant improvement of academic outcomes for all students, especially for those who have been underserved thus far. We hope the district uses these recommendations and their own initiatives to accelerate the pace of change. As one of our team said, 'We see no reason why that can't happen.'"

The report also states, "We also acknowledge the cooperation of everyone we engaged within our work. Students, teachers, school leaders, central office administrators, School Board members, union leaders, college administrators, religious and other community members extended themselves so that we would both understand the nature and needs of their schoolchildren and their willingness to support the new Superintendent's efforts to improve FFSD. All members of the transition team commented on the presence of community willingness to support the schools."

Superintendent Davis will present his recommendations based on the team's report and his own "listening and learning" tour at the February 10 meeting of the Board of Education. The Superintendent will then conduct a series of community engagement activities to seek public input on his proposals.

Dr. Davis also announced that he will host a "State of the Schools" event on March 16, at which he will present to the community an update on the district and provide additional detail about his plans moving forward.

The full report is available on the district's website at [www.fergflor.org](http://www.fergflor.org).

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## Ferguson's Human Rights Commission

What is the Human Rights Commission and what do we do? The Commission is here to help all Ferguson Citizens and tenants.

The purpose of the Human Rights Commission is to prevent or eliminate discriminatory practices. The commission cooperates with and render technical assistance through federal, state or other public or private agencies, organizations and institutions which are forming or carrying out programs to prevent or eliminate such discriminatory practices. The Commission makes recommendations to the city council with regard to actions, policies or legislation in furtherance of the policy to prevent or eliminate discriminatory practices. The Commission has the following functions, powers and duties:

- (1) To receive and investigate complaints alleging any discriminatory practices made unlawful in regards to:
  - Discrimination in Housing.
  - Discrimination in Employment
  - Discrimination in Public Accommodations
- (2) To provide third party mediation services to resolve incidences of alleged discriminatory practices.
- (3) To cooperate with other organizations, private and public, to discourage discrimination.
- (4) To encourage fair treatment for all persons regardless of age as it relates to employment, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, handicap, sexual orientation, gender identity or familial status as it relates to housing.
- (5) To advise the city council on human rights issues.
- (6) To sponsor or initiate specifically targeted workshops and on-going programs to improve human relations and to decrease tensions in the city.
- (7) To adopt rules, regulations and guidelines pertaining to the investigation and disposition of complaints consistent with the provisions of this chapter.
- (8) To make recommendations to the city manager for funding human rights enhancement activities.

The Human Rights Commission is comprised of seven individuals appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of the Council. Per Article II of the City Code.

The Commission meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 5:00 pm at City Hall. All are encourage to attend.

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### Heart Disease Is Still Number One!

February is Heart Month. Let's choose 2016 to be THE year we take control of our health once and for all!

According to a recent report, cardiovascular disease claims more lives worldwide than any other disorder. Diseases of the heart and blood vessels, including coronary artery disease, are responsible for more than 4 million deaths in Europe each year and almost one-third of all deaths worldwide. In the United States, coronary artery disease is responsible for nearly 20% of all disease-related deaths. Each year approximately 1.5 million Americans suffer a heart attack. Despite decades-long public health campaigns conducted across the globe, heart disease remains a powerful, formidable foe.

A large part of this problem is related to three classical risk factors for heart disease: high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels in the blood, and diabetes. As worldwide epidemics of obesity and diabetes continue to worsen, it is easy to understand why heart disease remains a number one killer. Obesity is strongly linked to high cholesterol levels, and the combination of diabetes and overweight/obesity is strongly linked to high blood pressure. As the epidemics persist, so does the prevalence of heart disease risk factors. No public health issue exists in isolation, and this is especially true for heart disease.

However, there is good news. Heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, high serum cholesterol levels, and overweight/obesity are all lifestyle disorders. This means that we can take meaningful action on our own behalf and begin to do things that will positively impact our long-term health and well-being. Such lifestyle changes are important for everyone, as people of all ages, races, and genders may be affected by lifestyle diseases.

Lifestyle changes primarily involve modifications to diet, engaging in consistent vigorous exercise, and getting sufficient rest. For example, it is well-known that many people in the developed world consume more calories than they need on a daily basis. The excess calories are stored primarily as fat. Reducing daily food consumption, while adhering to the basic principle of eating from a wide variety of food groups, including fresh fruits and vegetables, will likely result in weight loss and a normalization of high cholesterol levels. Assisting in this process is the practice of engaging in regular vigorous exercise. A proven method is to exercise for 30 minutes five times per week. Such exercise can include walking, cycling, running, swimming, and strength training. The specific choice of exercise is less important than the consistency. The payoff for your commitment to a healthy diet and regular exercise is significant. Research shows that prevention strategies such as lifestyle modifications account for a 50% reduction in mortality from heart disease. This is a huge return on investment.

But in order to reap these rewards, a commitment of time and effort is required. In today's world, good health doesn't just happen. We have to work at it. It's up to us to choose whether we're worth it, whether we want to continue to enjoy a full range of relationships and activities, whether we want to be healthy and well for many years to come. If the answer to these questions is affirmative, lifestyle changes become very important.

*Dr. Robyn's Office Hours:*  
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm  
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## Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address



Ever since Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address, the following version has been the most often reproduced, notably on the walls of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. It is named after Colonel Alexander Bliss, stepson of historian George Bancroft. Bancroft asked President Lincoln for a copy to use as a fundraiser for soldiers. However, because Lincoln wrote on both sides of the paper, the speech could not be reprinted, so Lincoln made another copy at Bliss's request. It is the last known copy written by Lincoln and the only one signed and dated by him. Today it is on display at the Lincoln Room of the

White House.

*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*

*Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.*

*But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*

Abraham Lincoln  
November 19, 1863

## Quotes From George Washington



George Washington was the first President of the United States, the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States.

George Washington/Quotes:

*Be courteous to all, but intimate with few; and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence.*

*If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.*

*Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all.*

*I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.*

*It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one.*

*Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.*

*Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected.*

*Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company.*

*Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant, and a fearful master.*

*Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all.*

## Nuclear Waste

"SAFE SIDE OF THE FENCE", ENVIRONMENTAL FILM ABOUT NUCLEAR WASTE DUMPED IN ST. LOUIS TO BE SHOWN

The Ferguson Ecology Team's Video Night will be showing award-winning documentary "SAFE SIDE OF THE FENCE", **Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 7:00PM** at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (33 N. Clay (at Darst), Ferguson, MO 63135). The film focuses on the environmental impact of the world's first post World War II nuclear waste that has been dumped in the St. Louis region and the damaging effects it has had on places such as the Westlake Landfill and Coldwater Creek in North County, and the steps required to keep workers and the public safe from these dangerous materials presents a seemingly never-ending challenge. A discussion will follow the movie.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Carleton Stock, 9314) 521-8418.

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For the past month, we've been stuck in the grasp of 'Old Man Winter,' and even though it's been relatively warm for this time of year, we've had some pretty bitter days. And those are the days that we really notice that whiff of cool air sneaking in from around our windows.

Well, they're really not that drafty . . . we're just feeling the cool infiltrating the glass and that occasional fugitive draft that does make its way inside. So, should we just get those new replacement windows? No, not until you at least hear the facts!

Yes, when you get those new replacements, you'll feel all comfy sitting next to the window. New windows come with what is known as an Insulated Glass Unit (IGU), that have multiple panes of glass with an airspace between the layers that is filled with Argon, or some other type of gas, to prevent condensation and improve the performance of the window. Because the seal between the multiple panes has not been perfected, you can expect that the average life of an IGU is somewhere between 10 and 15 years and you will soon be seeing the effects of that broken seal in your window. Even though you feel protected with the purchase of your new window and a promise of great savings, the best warranties are the ones where the product outperforms its warranty many times. And the warranties on these new windows are expiring as it begins to fail.

Let's think about the original windows, the ones that I hope are still in your older home. Besides fitting the style of your house, they have served since the house was originally built, be it 70, 80 or even 100 plus years. They may allow that fugitive gust of wind to invade your home, but that is not reason to think of getting a new window unless, of course, you're thinking of maybe adding a storm window to your original.

So, what's the advantage of adding a storm over your original window? When sized, fit and installed properly, storm windows have quite a few advantages, such as;

- Improved air-sealing.
- Noise reduction.
- Improved thermal performance.
- Protects the main window.
- Helps eliminate condensation.

According to a 1999 University of California Berkley study: "Walls, infiltration, and roofs are the biggest contributors to heating loads in the old, uninsulated buildings."

Source: Simulation Research

According to the study infiltration accounts for approximately 25% of heat loss in older buildings and a major place that occurs is around doors and windows. (The remaining 75% comes from the different areas of the house such as; walls, roof the area where the house sits upon

the foundation, the chimney, to list some of the logical places to look.) Another important study by The Center for Resource Conservation in Boulder, Colorado in 2011 showed that:

"It is possible to improve the overall energy performance of existing window systems by well over four fold through repairs, weatherization and installing storm windows with insulated frames."

Restoring and weatherizing your windows and doors and with the help of a storm window or door, will help control the air infiltration and the transfer of hot or cold air through the actual glass, known as conduction, and this will help with your homes energy performance. The storm window will help create that airspace between your original window and the storm without the gases that the IGU's need to be able to perform as is expected. According to Keith Haberern, a professional engineer in New Jersey, who has performed an energy audit study related to historic windows called "Old Wood Window, Replacement Window Energy Analysis" in which he was trying to determine if replacement windows or storm windows would provide better performance and financial savings.

"The payback period for the new windows is 40.5 years. The payback period for the storm window is 4.5 years."

In this study, Haberern determined that a typical un-restored, un-weather-stripped double-hung wood window could have an average CFM (cubic feet per minute) of about 0.5. This generally means that every 2 minutes your window leaks about 1 CFM of air. Compare that same window with the addition of a storm window and you get 0.05 CFM. That means that instead of 2 minutes to lose 1 CFM it takes a full 20 minutes. That is a 90% decrease in infiltration! What if that window was restored to a like new condition? Could you imagine how comfortable you would feel as you sat in your favorite chair reading the *Ferguson Times*?

Haberern also concluded that double-paned windows try to resolve this conduction problem by putting a small airspace between the panes of glass. Storms take the air space to the extreme! The air space between the panes of glass on a storm and the main window is much larger than in any double-paned sash which greatly increases its insulating ability.

Considering all of this information, if the original windows in your house are not protected with a storm window, their placement just might be something to think about. And if you are considering custom wood storms, you are in luck because this is an area that Painted Effects Contracting has experience. If you have any questions, give Bob a call at 314-524-1264 and he would be happy to help you with this type of a project.

Incidentally, Bob is a Ferguson resident with his business located right here in Ferguson.

Until next month, Bob is on the Job.

**Membership Meeting**  
Thursday, February 11th  
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## How to Market to Women

By LaTease Rikard

As a rule women are pretty loyal creatures. We find a product we like and it works well, then we will stick with it. And if that product has an extra bonus feature like saving us money, we will tell our girlfriends about it. As a marketer if you are seeking to reach more women, then this should be the cornerstone of your behavioral strategy when marketing to women. We're really simple creatures, we're just misunderstood.

If you're seeking to change the buying behavior of women, you have to start with the most rudimentary thought as it relates to the product you are seeking to sell. I just told you women are simple creatures; we nurture, we protect, we provide, and we will do what it takes to keep ourselves and family stable and secure (sounds like a man doesn't it?) Not really. Have you ever watched one of the animal channels and watched the behavior of female animals when it comes to the young? It's simple, they make sure their babies are fed, are warm, are safe and secure. On the surface these are basic necessities to all living animals. Since this behavior is simplistic in its execution, then your approach to women when marketing to them should be the same way.

Start small. Think of the woman that decides to go to Dollar General versus Target or Kmart. She goes there because.....? Let's use me as an example: if I were making this decision, I'm going to Dollar General because it's smaller, I don't always have time to go into a big store, and walk the majority of the square footage of the building just to pick up a few personal items. I want simple and I want to save time. So I will go to Dollar General because there is never a long line, I can walk right in and walk right back out with what I needed. Plus, I might be able to save a few dollars on the prices of some of the items I'm purchasing. Like I said, simple.

So, if you're Target or Kmart, how do you change the direction of my buying decision?

I would take a page from Wal-Mart and change up frequently what is at the front of the store. Bring those sale items right to the front of the store and get rid of those cheap less than \$1 store items you have thrown in a hodgepodge of confusion in those front rows. Imagine if Target took that area and placed health and beauty items that were featured in this week's sales offering right in the front of the store when you first walk in? It may sound radical, it may even make that big box retailer uncomfortable, but you can't keep doing the same things hoping for a different result. Just a simple change to get a different response.

Successfully marketing to women is simple. It doesn't take a lot to get our attention, but when you get our attention, please have something worth our time.

## Estate Planning in Missouri

Attorney Robyn Stranquist will present the program for the February Ferguson-Florissant (North County) AAUW meeting.



Ms. Stranquist has been a practicing attorney for almost 30 years in Missouri and Illinois. Her practice focuses on estate planning and probate administration. Her work includes preparing wills, trusts, powers of attorney and health care directives; assisting with probate matters, non-probate transfers

and real estate transactions. This presentation will provide practical information on estate planning and the probate process. Durable Powers of Attorney and Durable Powers of Attorney for Health Care will also be addressed.

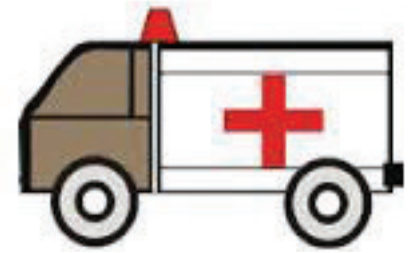
The American Association of University Women meeting will be **Monday, February 15, 2016**, at 10:00 am, in the Educational Building of Immanuel UCC Church, 211 Church Street, Ferguson.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 314-831-5359, 314-867-4755, or 314-831-6884.

## North County Inc Receives Grant from Mallinckrodt

North County Incorporated (NCI) is proud to announce the receipt of a \$100,000 grant from Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals to help fund the Community Health Access Program (CHAP) for Christian Hospital and SSM Health DePaul Hospital, two important hospitals serving patients in North St. Louis County.

Under the program, the hospitals coordinate efforts of their Emergency Medical Services (EMS) resources and Emergency Departments (EDs) to help assure low-income, non-emergent patients - many of whom contact 911 for EMS in times of need - receive the right care from the right resource, at the right time.



The hospitals identify patients for CHAP services based on calls to 911 and visits to the hospital EDs for non-urgent issues or medical conditions that do not require immediate medical attention. Currently, CHAP provides Advanced Practice Paramedic services and referrals to Christian Hospital's Community Health Resource Center for comprehensive evaluation and connections to appropriate resources for non-urgent patients, ultimately assuring that individuals are able to access the outpatient and preventive services they need. Since its inception, CHAP at Christian Hospital has positively impacted more than 10,000 people.

"North County Inc. is pleased to serve as a conduit for collaboration with one of North County's major corporations, Mallinckrodt and top healthcare providers, Christian Hospital and SSM Health DePaul Hospital," said Rebecca Zoll, president and CEO of North County Inc. "This initiative is important because it connects our community's highest at-risk residents with access to preventive and wrap-around services that will improve their health and overall quality of life."

The grant will help Christian Hospital expand CHAP to ensure more patients receive access to care in the most appropriate setting.

"We are thankful that Mallinckrodt recognizes our approach to provide measurable and positive outcomes in low-income populations and is willing to help us refine the program and broaden its access so that more patients can benefit," said Ron McMullen, president of Christian Hospital.

For SSM Health DePaul Hospital, this grant will enable the hospital to work with community ambulance services to develop a model to test the effectiveness of CHAP in its service area.

"CHAP aims to address many of the non-traditional and socioeconomic factors in combination with services that impact community health in a patient-focused manner," said Sean Hogan, president of SSM Health DePaul Hospital. "We are able to make this happen because partners like Mallinckrodt share our mission to improve the health of the community we serve."

St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger commended Mallinckrodt for its contribution.

"This grant exemplifies Mallinckrodt's dedication to North County Incorporated and some of the area's most at-risk residents," said Stenger. "With Mallinckrodt's support, CHAP will connect patients with timely and appropriate care."

Helping to improve lives is part of Mallinckrodt's mission, and the company works to make a positive difference in meaningful ways, according to Mark Trudeau, Mallinckrodt president and CEO. "We are committed to increasing access to healthcare and wellness - strengthening the communities in which our employees live and work. We're pleased to support this program by working together with North County Inc. and two important hospitals that are serving patients in the St. Louis community."

Mallinckrodt is a global specialty biopharmaceutical and imaging business that develops, manufactures, markets and distributes specialty pharmaceutical products and therapies and imaging agents. Areas of focus include therapeutic drugs for autoimmune and rare disease specialty areas like neurology, rheumatology, nephrology and pulmonology; immunotherapy and neonatal respiratory critical care therapies; and analgesics and central nervous system drugs. The company's core strengths include the acquisition and management of highly regulated raw materials; deep regulatory expertise; and specialized chemistry, formulation and manufacturing capabilities.

About North County Inc. (NCI):

NCI is a regional development organization, which acts as a catalyst to define and advocate economic and community development for North St. Louis County. NCI was established in 1977. The Board is composed of community leaders and business owners. Sean Hogan, President, SSM Health DePaul Hospital-St. Louis is North County Incorporated's chairman of the board of directors for 2016.



**Challenger**<sup>®</sup>  
LEARNING  
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ST. LOUIS

## Challenger Learning Center 30th Anniversary

Challenger Learning Center is in partnership with of the Ferguson-Florissant School District and St. Louis Science Center. It is located at 205 Brotherton Lane in Ferguson

info@clcstlouis.org  
314.521.6205  
314.524.3764

**Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis Commemorates 30th Anniversary of Shuttle Tragedy**

**STEM education organization continues the mission of the Challenger Crew**

Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis, part of the living legacy to the astronauts of the Space Shuttle Challenger founded by the Challenger families, continues inspiring the future 30 years after the accident. The international network of over 40 Challenger Learning Centers, has collectively served over 4.4 million students around the globe. The Ferguson site, now in its 12th year of operation, has worked to inspire over 100,000 students to pursue a lifelong engagement in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

On January 28, the anniversary of the accident, Challenger Learning Centers around the country recognized the anniversary through special events, programs, and discussions with their local students, teachers, and community members. The St. Louis location honored the memory of the crew with a simulated space mission with a group of students from Ferguson who worked alongside a group of college students majoring in education who were identified by university professors as being leading future educators.

In addition, an evening program from 4-6pm at the Challenger Learning Center honored the Challenger 51L crew, as well as 7 teachers who received the "Challenger Inspiring Teacher" award. The event will be hosted by Sharon Stevens, former education reporter for KSDK, and is sponsored by Boeing.

"The Challenger families agreed it was important for the world to remember how the crew lived and what they were passionate about, not how they died," said Dr. June Scobee Rodgers, founding chair, Challenger Center, and widow of Challenger commander Dick Scobee. "I know Dick and the crew would be so proud. They would love the enthusiasm of the children who visit our Centers. They were inspiring the future 30 years ago, and we're so pleased that the mission continues to live on today through our Challenger Learning Centers."

Each Challenger Learning Center transports students into a cutting edge Mission Control room and a high-tech Space Station. Using custom-designed simulations, students have the opportunity to fly one of several missions to study the Earth, Moon, Mars, or a Comet. The missions are aligned with current national standards and are accompanied by classroom lessons and activities. This differentiated approach allows for a truly personalized learning experience where students apply scientific knowledge to real-world scenarios and practice 21st century skills like problem solving, critical thinking, communication and teamwork.

"It is an honor to be a part of such an important and meaningful organization that works every day to continue the mission that the Challenger 51L crew set out to accomplish 30 years ago," said Tasmyn Front, director of the Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis. "Our mission to inspire the future generation of innovators, and the example of turning tragedy into triumph, is more relevant today than could have been imagined."

The crew members of shuttle flight STS-51-L included Teacher-in-Space Payload Specialist Sharon Christa McAuliffe, Commander Francis R. "Dick" Scobee, Pilot Michael J. Smith, Mission Specialists Judith A. Resnik, Ellison S. Onizuka and Ronald E. McNair and Payload Specialist Gregory B. Jarvis.

Listed below are some of the programs to be offered this summer:

### Young Astronaut Training Camp

Young astronauts will participate in a variety of astronaut training and astronomy activities. After completing their training, they will go on a mission to the International Space Station. In addition, they will make and take home many "out-of-this-world" projects, such as rockets, space food, and their very own spacesuit!

Ages: 8-10 years old  
Dates: Session 1: June 6-10 Session 2: June 13-17  
Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Cost: \$210

### Astronaut Training Camp

Participants in the Astronaut Training Camp will experience activities similar to NASA astronauts and engineers in training. They will compete in rocket design and launch challenges, experience two simulated space missions, and participate in hands-on activities including a lunar colony that they will design, build, and inhabit!

Ages: 10-13 years old  
Dates: Session 1: June 20-24 Session 2: June 27-July 1  
Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Cost: \$210

### Advanced Astronaut Training Camp

In this unique and popular camp, participants will experience what it would be like to train as a real NASA astronaut. Activities will include mental and physical challenges as well as design competitions. In addition, advanced astronauts will learn basic SCUBA diving skills that will enable them to participate in a one-day underwater spacewalk training simulation. SCUBA training and gear are included in this camp.

(NOTE: SCUBA participants must be at least 10 years old and medically fit to dive. Additional forms are required to register for this camp.)

Ages: 10-13 years old (includes 1 day of SCUBA)  
Dates: Session 1: July 11-15 Session 2: July 18-22  
Session 3: July 25-29  
Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Cost: \$250

### Advanced Rocketeering

Kids who love designing, building, and launching rockets will get a "blast" out of this camp. Young rocket scientists will spend the week using specialty software to design, build, and launch their own rockets. They will also build their very own electronic launch systems and platforms.

Ages: 10 and up  
Dates: June 13-17  
Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Cost: \$275

### Inventors' Workshop

This is the camp that Thomas Edison wishes he could have attended. Young inventors and innovators will love spending time messing about with the inner-workings of everyday gadgets and then using them to engineer solutions to challenges. We'll provide the tools and expertise to help your Young Edison create a masterful "innovation".

Ages: 12 and up  
Dates: June 27 – July 1  
Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Cost: \$275 per session or \$525 for both sessions

### Aquatic Robotics

Make a splash this summer! Using devices such as soldering irons, rotary drills and lots of perseverance, participants will learn basic robotics and build their own custom SeaPerch underwater rover/ROV. They will then learn the basics of SCUBA and participate in a specially designed human/robot hybrid "weightless" mission.

Ages: 12 and up  
Dates: July 18-22  
Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Cost: \$350

### Advanced Aquatic Robotics

This camp is for participants who have previously attended the Aquatic Robotics or Underwater Expeditions camp. Participants will have an opportunity to give their SeaPerch a complete tune-up and/or makeover while refreshing their knowledge of the tools and components used to build it. They will enhance their rover with a selection of modifications (such as lights, cameras, extra motors, and joystick controllers) to make their ROV one of a kind.

(Note: Campers must bring their own previously-built SeaPerch to participate in this camp.)

Ages: 12 and up  
Dates: July 25-29  
Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Cost: \$275

Register by March 1 to get the Early Bird discount of \$20 off our week-long camps.



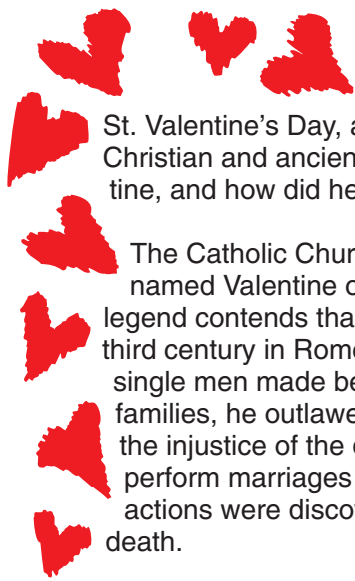
## TAI CHI

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Thursdays, 1:30 to 2:30 pm  
St. Stephen's Church, 33 No. Clay  
\$10 per class suggested donation

Call 314.645.6112

## The Legend of St. Valentine



The history of Valentine's Day, and the story of its patron saint, is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl (possibly his jailor's daughter) who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly, romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

### Did You Know?

Approximately 150 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second most popular card-sending holiday after Christmas. The National Retail Federation predicts that the average American will spend \$13.33 this year on Valentine's Day cards alone. And 62 percent of consumers plan on spending up to \$100 this Feb. 14 on Valentine's Day gifts for loved ones.

The legendary British illustrator of children's books, Kate Greenaway, designed Valentines in the late 1800s which were enormously popular. Her Valentine designs sold so well for the card publisher, Marcus Ward, that she was encouraged to design cards for other holidays.

Pictured here are some of Kate Greenaway designed cards:



## Abandoned Foal Finds a Mother

Hours after his birth, Breeze was found stumbling around by a farmer.

The new-born foal had been abandoned by his mother so the farmer took him to the Devon-based Mare and Foal Sanctuary where they cared for him.

What happened next is heart-warming. One of the staff put a four-foot giant Teddy Bear called Buttons into the stall with Breeze. The foal was instantly attracted to him. He had found a comforting replacement for his mother. The two are inseparable. The caregivers expect Breeze to be fine, thanks to the farmer who rescued him and to those who cared enough to take this little cutie in.

Special thanks to Buttons.



### Dates to Remember in February:

National Freedom Day .....	February 1
Ground Hog Day .....	February 2
Thank a Mailman Day .....	February 4
Superbowl Sunday .....	February 7
Ash Wednesday .....	February 10
Lincoln's Birthday .....	February 12
President's Birthday .....	February 15
Washington Birthday .....	February 22
Leap Day .....	February 29

## Seen Around Town



Brian Fletcher and his brother selling I Love Ferguson paraphernalia at the Ferguson Northern Lights Festival.



Sign in front of Robinwood Automotive.

## “Sock It to the Homeless” Event Saturday, February 27

Almost Picasso. located at 18 Church Street is sponsoring a sock collection for the homeless on Saturday, February 27th. Bring in a new package of socks and paint for only \$12. Regular price is \$35.



Pictured above is a group enjoying painting at Almost Picasso. This is the newest fad sweeping the nation, and now the very first paint and sip destination in North County is located right here in Ferguson.

Come in, introduce yourself, have a glass of wine and create your own Picasso while contributing to a good cause.

314.801.6671  
www.almostpicasso.com

See Almost Picasso ad on Page 6

## Update on Marilyn Special (as of 1-15-16)

Hi everyone.  
Some things have happened with Marilyn (Mom) since our last article-

*Disembodied Voice - So we thought we should let everyone know what happened.*

It started Dec. 8th when Mom went up to Christian Northeast for a checkup with this new doctor.

*Disembodied Voice - You mean quack...*

Anyway, while he was checking her out he - as Mom described it - 'tested the flexibility' of her left knee. When he did this, Mom said she felt a 'twinge' in her upper left leg.

*Disembodied Voice - She didn't think anything of it at the time, but it got steadily worse so that, by Friday the 11th, she could barely stand, let alone work.*

Her chiropractor, Dr. Robyn Lawrence, one of the sweetest ladies around –

*Disembodied Voice - Except for Mom, of course.*

– came over several times to try to help with what we thought was a pulled muscle. Dec. 29th she went up to Christian NE for X-rays. Turns out what she had was a fracture in her left hip and upper left leg.

*Disembodied Voice - I repeat, the QUACK.*

They transferred her to Barnes Hospital on the 30th and had the operation the 31st.

*Disembodied Voice - Happy New Year.*

The operation was success and on the January 5th they transferred her to Delmar Gardens North on Parker to begin her rehab.

*Disembodied Voice - Where, hopefully, she'll be back home crackin' that whip before you know it.  
And any support you can give her morally-  
Or otherwise...*

?...Otherwise?

*Disembodied Voice - You know... Ka-ching (financially) we'll just leave it there.*

Whatever support you can give would be greatly appreciated.

In closing, we cannot wait for Mom to be back at Spencer's Bakery. Hopefully by late February/early March. And if everyone keeps their fingers-

*Disembodied Voice - and toes--crossed, maybe sooner.*

Toes? Really?

*Disembodied Voice - Just sign off.*

ALOOOHA!!

God Bless You All. Be Safe and Healthy. Happy Valentine's Day

Louis Dale Spencer II  
Charles Wade Spencer

## Ferguson Reading On Race Book Club

Meeting at the  
Ferguson Municipal Library  
second Monday of the month ( February 8th )

35 North Florissant Road  
6:00 pm

Everyone is welcome, as are multiple points of view.

ROBYN L. STRANQUIST  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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## The Best of Ferguson

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

– by Ruffina Farrokh Anklesaria, M.A.



**Tony Dansberry, MBA**  
Branch Manager, US Bank, Ferguson

If you haven't met Tony, our local US Bank Manager, as yet, now is a good time to do so! I met Tony soon after he moved to the Ferguson branch on July 27, 2014, just two weeks shy of the Michael Brown crisis. When I moved to Ferguson I was a long-standing customer of Bank of America but the convenience of US Bank on Chambers and Florissant Road, was too much to resist! I came to know the managers and staff of this bank over the years and have enjoyed doing business with them.

Tony Dansberry, is the current manager. He is approachable, easy to deal with, professional, and always finding ways to solve our financial problems. When businesses were burnt down, damaged and looted in August of 2014, this affected banking in our area. Deposits were much less from local businesses and traffic slowed to the bank. Tony stepped up to help local business owners, giving a generous amount of loans compared to the previous year. The bank donated funds to North County Inc. to help local entrepreneurs recover. Although US Bank was right in the middle of the chaos in Ferguson, they never shut their doors during this time.

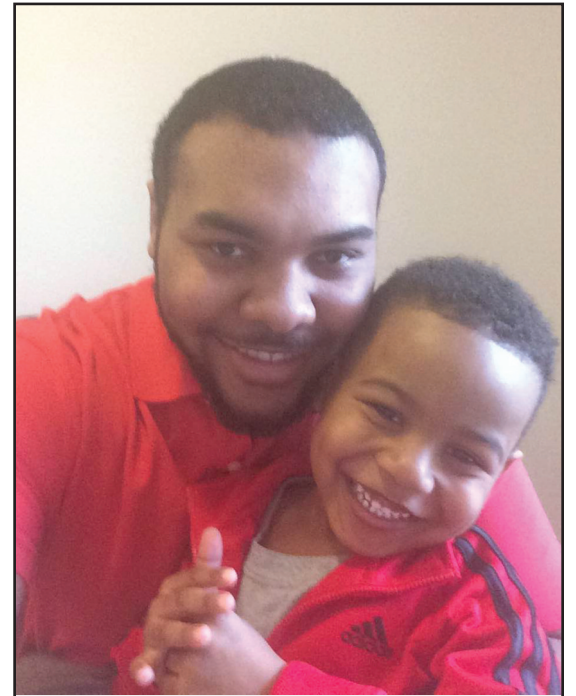


Left is Tony Dansberry. Far right: Ferguson Mayor James Knowles III. At North County Inc. "Shop Small Business" event.

On behalf of the bank, Tony conducted small business workshops in collaboration with North County Inc, teaching clients how to read financial statements and to develop sound financial acumen. At the Ferguson Library, he held seminars on savings that were free to the public. He also taught financial literacy to seniors at McCluer High School.

Tony came to North County in 2011, as part of US Bank's leadership development program. At that time he was based in Florissant. When he came to Ferguson in 2014, he had a staff of nine at the branch that has been here for 15 years serving Ferguson.

Tony comes from Belleville, IL, and played football and did track and wrestling at his high school in Collinsville. He was president of the electronics club as well. He attended Blackburn College in Carlinville, IL, where he studied business management with a minor in economics. He got his MBA from Lindenwood University in St Charles and joined the bank right after.



Tony with his son Malik.

He has been married for six years to his wife Jessica who has her Master's in professional counselling. They have a four-year old son, Malik. He and Jessica attend Baptist church every Sunday, with services from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Tony enjoys recreational shooting and collecting guns. He likes to travel across the United States and last year he visited Memphis, Las Vegas, North and South Carolina. His trip to Paris was cancelled due to unrest there. He already visited Jamaica and Mexico and is looking forward to visiting another "exotic" destination like Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

I am thankful that Tony Dansberry is our local US Bank Manager for he invests himself fully in our community, much to the benefit of business owners and residents. He represents what is the Best of Ferguson! Congratulations Tony!

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](http://www.BestAgainstStress.com) 314 521 4390

## AGI's Inaugural Level 3 Team Sweeps up the Individual and Team Golds at 2016 Legacy Elite Winter Classic Invitational with huge 3 point lead!

Carol Stream, IL- AGI's Level 3 Team took home 1st place this weekend at the 2016 Legacy Elite Winter Classic Invitational scoring 113.175 over Huntley Gymnastics Academy who posted a 110.375. AGI was also the weekend's highest-scoring Level 3 team of all sessions, outscoring Power In Motion Gymnastics (112.425) and host gym Legacy Elite Gymnastics, LLC (110.375).

In the Jr A age group, Moreah Fajerski (37.4 AA), Madison Aldrich (37.1 AA) swept up the Gold and Silver in the All Around Competition. In individual events, Fajerski took 1st in Vault and Uneven Bars with scores of 9.35 and 9.375 respectively. Aldrich took 1st on Floor Exercise with a 9.575.

In the Child B age group, Maya Taylor (37.525 AA), Reese Hampton (37.3 AA) and Claire Crouch (37.15 AA) took Gold, Silver, and Bronze in the All Around Competition. In the individual events, Taylor took 1st place on Uneven Bars with a 9.45 and 1st on Floor with a huge 9.7. Hampton and Crouch tied for 1st place on Beam both scoring a 9.425.

In the Child A age group, AGI's youngest competitor, Addison Bugger, took 1st place on Vault with a 9.3.

This single competition has ranked AGI's Level 3 Team 16th on the '2016 America's Top 100 Level 3 All-Around Team Scores' List with Fajerski, Hampton, Aldrich, Taylor and Crouch making their way onto the list of the America's Top 100 Level 3 Gymnasts!

"These athletes spent the last 6 months in the gym training to be champi-



ons. Their hard work paid off. I am so proud of my Mini-Magnificent 6 for doing their part in putting AGI on the map as one of the best private clubs in the State, Region and Nation! I look forward to seeing what the future holds for this bunch! No doubt they will head back into the gym on Monday working harder than ever!" – Amanda Leigh Sciandra, Head Coach/Owner

Next weekend, AGI's Teams head to Des Moines, IA – the home of Shawn Johnson and Gabrielle Douglas, to take on teams from all over the US at the Chow's Winter Classic Invitational.

The Artistic Gymnastics Institute, LLC is Edwardsville's newest gymnastics training facility and only dedicated Elite Developmental Program in the area. AGI also holds year-round programs for Girls and Boys recreational gymnastics, Preschool Gymnastics, and Cheer Tumbling and offers Open Gym for members and non-members alike. For more information, check us out at [www.agi-stl.com](http://www.agi-stl.com).



## Ask Grandma

Recently the St. Louis Post Dispatch ran a whole section in their Sunday paper on "Why We Love STL." So, in honor of Brian Fletcher, and just because this month we celebrate Valentine's Day, I thought I would enumerate reasons . . .

### Why I ❤️ Ferguson

I love the people of Ferguson who so freely volunteer their time, energy and money to make Ferguson a "destination."

I love Vincenzo's Ristorante because it was the first 'fine dining' restaurant in Ferguson.

I love the cozy Cork Wine Bar (even though I wanted it to be a Martini Bar).

I love the Whistle Stop because sometimes I just can't resist the smooth, decadently delicious chocolate custard.

I love Cathy's Kitchen because Cathy never fails to greet her customers with a smile.

I love C&J Barbecue because we really needed a barbecue restaurant in Ferguson.

I love Montrey's Cigar Lounge because there is now someplace for smokers to go to relax and enjoy themselves.

I love the Corner Coffee House because it is THE place to go to hear the latest news.

I love Shop & Save because we had to wait a long time to have our own grocery store when National Food Center closed.

I love the library where if I don't find the book I'm looking for, they will borrow it from an associate library. (And aren't the new automatic doors great.)

I love the Lonero family (and especially Joe) who do so much for Ferguson. Mike Palmer too, before I forget.

I love the Brewhouse, particularly the new acoustic ceiling that lowers the sound level.

I love Marley's Bar & Grill. Many people do not know how much Kelly and Martin do for the community.

I love Ferguson Hardware where Kim and her very helpful staff assist someone like me who doesn't know what she looking for.

I love our beautiful churches. I particularly love the way St. Stephen's generously allows the 4th of July Committee to hold their Ham & Beans fundraising dinners in their kitchen.

I love our Farmer's Market where people come for the farmers and stay for the fun.

I love UMB Bank . . . I have been a customer for over 60 years.

I love US Bank and the manager, Tony Dansberry, who never fails to wave and smile when I deliver papers there.

I love the Ferguson-Florissant School District with their really dedicated teachers. The District gets such undeserved notoriety from the media.

I love our mayor, who has consistently presented a calm, professional voice and appearance under the most trying circumstances these last few years. Imagine, two tornados and an insurrection on his watch.

I love our new Community Center where I see so many teenagers taking advantage of the activities provided.

I love our housing stock . . . from beautiful mansions to fixer-uppers, Ferguson has them all.

I love the new businesses in Ferguson that put their money and faith in the resiliency of our community.

I love the great prices and friendly help at Sam's (even though it is owned by Stan Kroenke).

I love the baseball Cardinals who have given us so many exciting moments year after year.

I love the Blues and their home towner owner Tom Stillman, who also loves St. Louis.

I love Ferguson's location, where I can live in a small town but still drive downtown to enjoy the big city amenities in just 25 minutes.

I love the proximity of Hwy 70, 270, 367 and 170. Everywhere and anywhere is easy to reach.

I love the town of Normandy (where I grew up) and what they are doing to beautify Natural Bridge Road.

I love our closeness to UMSL and their new swimming pool complex.

I love the Mercantile Library at UMSL. If you haven't browsed the library you don't know what you're missing.

I love our police and firemen. How truly brave they are putting their lives on the line everytime they don their uniforms.

Oh . . . I've run out of space and I have so many more people and things I love in Ferguson.

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### Calendar of Events In and Around Ferguson

Complete Details of These Events Throughout the Paper

- Adult Computer Class – Keyboarding – Library . . . . . Tues., Feb. 2
- 3 on 3 Coed Basketball – Comm. Ctr. . . . . Fri., Feb. 5
- Blood Drive – St. Peters UCC . . . . . Sun., Feb. 7
- Reading on Race Book Club – Library . . . . . Mon., Feb. 8
- Computers for Seniors – Comm. Ctr. . . . . Tues., Feb. 9
- Ferguson City Council Meeting – City Hall. . . . . Tues., Feb. 9
- Lunch & Yahtzee – Comm. Ctr. . . . . Thurs., Feb. 11
- Teen Trip to City Museum . . . . . Fri., Feb. 12
- Children's Valentine Card Making – Library . . . . . Sat., Feb. 13
- Estate Planning – Immanuel . . . . . Mon, Feb. 15
- Children's Earn-a-Computer Classes Begin – Library . . . . . Thurs., Feb. 18
- Mystery Meal? . . . . . Fri., Feb. 19
- Ferguson's Indoor Market – St. Stephen's . . . . . Sat., Feb. 20
- CPAAA Trivia – Trinity High School . . . . . Sat., Feb. 20
- Lion's Poker Tournament – Lions Den. . . . . Sun., Feb. 21
- Beginning Adult Dance Begins – Comm. Ctr. . . . . Mon., Feb. 22
- Ferguson City Council Meeting – City Hall. . . . . Tues., Feb. 23
- Jobs Fair – St. Peters UCC . . . . . Sat., Feb. 27
- Sock It To the Homeless – Almost Picasso . . . . . Sat., Feb. 27
- Free Rise Above Workshop – Library . . . . . Mon, Feb. 8 - Fri., Feb. 19
- Zion Trivia – Savoy . . . . . Sat., Mar. 5
- Wurstmarket – St. Peters UCC. . . . . Sat., Mar. 5
- Children's Tumbling Begins – Comm. Ctr. . . . . Mon., Mar. 7
- Aerobics Classes Begin . . . . . Mon., Mar. 7
- Children's Tap & Ballet Begins – Comm. Ctr. . . . . Wed., Mar. 9
- Hip Hop Jazz Begins . . . . . Wed., Mar. 9
- "Behive" Theater on the Square Excursion. . . . . Wed., Mar. 9
- Teen Trip to "Spot 394" . . . . . Fri., Mar. 18
- Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast – Savoy . . . . . Wed., Mar. 23
- Gambling Trip to Tunica. . . . . Tues, Mar. 29 - Thurs., Mar. 31

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