Ferguson Times

March, 2016

Established 1894 — Oct. 1999

Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

2016 FERGUSON CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE'S FORUMS

All Ferguson residents are invited to attend and ask questions of the candidates.



Monday, March 14th
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
at First Baptist Church
in Ferguson
333 No. Florissant Road

Sponsored by the Ferguson Neighborhood League

Ward 1 Candidate: .....Linda Lipka (unopposed)
Ward 2 Candidates:.....Heather Robinett, Annette Jenkins, Robert "Bob" Hudgins
Ward 3 Candidate:.....Keith Kallstrom (unopposed / incumbent) – Unable to attend

Mark you calendars for an informative evening with the candidates

"Your vote is important!!"

The election will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Saturday, March 19th Ferguson Indoor Farmers' Market

It may be March, but the monthly Ferguson Farmers Market is still the place to find fresh produce and homemade 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!

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

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PERMIT No. 05158

The Ferguson City Council

will meet twice in March.

All meetings will be held in the City Council Chambers at 110 Church Street.

The meeting dates are:
Tuesday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m.
and
Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Ferguson City Election Focuses on Economic Development and Property Tax Increase

The Ferguson City Council has announced two ballot initiatives on the April 5, 2016 ballot; Proposition E & P. Ferguson voters will decide both questions, which will presented as separate propositions on the ballot.

PROPOSITION E BALLOT – Introduces additional revenues from the Economic Development Sales Tax. Economic Development in Ferguson provides many critical services to the community including facilitating and planning for the future of our residents, and assisting businesses in Ferguson.

Plans for future revenue generated by the extension of the sales tax include major retail development, redevelopment and expansion of existing retail as well as recruiting new, targeted brands to the area.

Sales taxes are paid by anyone who purchases goods or services in Ferguson. This means that the tax burden is spread over residents rather than just those who own property. In addition, a portion of the burden is paid by travelers or visitors who make purchases.

If the sales tax is increased it will still be comparable to the regional destinations where many Ferguson residents go to shop. Sales tax rates in Hazelwood are 10.00%, Florissant is 10.19% and Black Jack is 11.13%.

PROPOSITION E BALLOT LANGUAGE
Shall the City of Ferguson, Missouri, impose a sales tax at a rate of one-half of one percent (0.5%) for economic development purposes?

(VOTE FOR ONE)
FOR THE PROPOSITION YES ❒
AGAINST THE PROPOSITION NO ❒

Instructions for Voters
If you are in favor of the question, punch a hole in the box opposite "YES".
If you are opposed to the question, punch a hole in the box opposite "NO".

PROPOSITION P BALLOT – Introduces a Property Tax Increase of .40 per $100 Assessed Value property tax increase. The average home value in Ferguson is around $89,600 a typical tax bill should be $1,670.19 with the proposed .40 property tax increase the average bill would be around $1,708, an additional $37 to their tax bill.

PROPOSITION P, BALLOT LANGUAGE
Shall the general property tax rate for all subclasses of property be increased by forty cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation beginning in the 2016 tax year?

City Manager De'Carlon Seewood states that if both Propositions are not passed by Ferguson voters in April, the city will be forced to make tough decisions which could mean layoffs and a reduction in services. Without the tax levies some of the proposed budget cuts will include laying off some Police and Fire personnel along with other municipal employee staff reductions. If both Propositions pass, there will be a potential increase to the budget by $1.4 million which will mean most services will continue as normal. There will still be a need for budget reductions.

More information
For more information about the Propositions E & P, visit the city's website at: www.fergusoncity.com or call 314-801-8540.

See the Council Vote to Conditionally Approve An Agreement With the Department of Justice on Page 3

Greetings from CityWalk

Hello to my Ferguson Neighbors, I want to say thank you in advance for your support. I am a North St. Louis County resident, Nikki Wilson, and the owner of Blessings Closet Thrift Boutique that has been open since October 2015, in the heart of downtown Ferguson. I am located at 307 S. Florissant to be exact.

With high unemployment rates and poverty continuing to be a part of the ongoing narrative in Ferguson and surrounding areas – Blessings Closet provides fashionable, low-cost apparel options for the everyday individual. Blessings Closet Thrift Boutique is a 501(c) 3 organization that has a non-profit program called "DRESS LIKE YOU'RE BLESSED," Nikki wanted to provide a place where people can go to get the confidence they need while trying to get into the workforce; without the need to worry of not having an outfit to wear for their interview and ultimately their first days on the job." With the Dress like you're Blessed program, once a person has obtained the job they are able to come back and receive four to six pieces to mix and match to wear to work throughout the following week until they receive their first paycheck.

Nikki says, "a person can look great for the interview." But, what do you wear after you are hired? As an avid thrift store shopper, Nikki also says, "Some people don't realize how awesome you can look for around $10.00. I believe that everyone should be able to obtain simple things such as clothing and still be stylish. I have always been a thriftier since I was a little girl. I inherited this gift from my grandmother Bernice, and my mother Barbara, who is a great help for me at the store. With Blessings Closet, my hope is that people will open their closet and think of how they can be a blessing to others with what they already have that they no longer wear or can't fit. Blessings Closet will not turn away anyone in dire need. Please "Like" our Facebook page Blessings Closet. We will also pick up donations and if you need a tax write off for your donations we will be more than happy to give you one."

Nikki is a mother of twin teenage girls, a graduate of Normandy High School and continuing to future her education to be a Licensed Clinical Therapist. A longtime member of the Church of God In Christ, Inc, she believes that through God's love, the testimony of her life's experiences and the sincerity in her heart that this endeavor is going to be a blessing to the residents of Ferguson, North County and ultimately the City of St. Louis. Her sole desire for Blessings Closet is to change lives by helping people dress like they are blessed!

For more information, please Email Blesssingscloset@msn.com or call 314-877-9888 and we will return your call with 24hrs.

Members of the Special Business District:
Every third Thursday of the month is our board meeting. We meet at 5:30 pm in the offices of Pearce Neikirk located at 427 S. Florissant Rd. Our next meeting is March 17, 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

St. Paddy's day is right around the corner and with a little luck, we'll be playing 18 holes of disc golf at Ferguson's own Hudson Park before you know it. The new holes will bring a whole new challenge to the course and so far look great. We are far from done, but with a little help from our Ferguson and disc golfing friends we could be finished in no time.
We will be working every Saturday afternoon until late Spring depending on weather. Only the rain and snow will keeps us away, the cold won't! The times may vary, but are generally posted on our Facebook site.

Do you know a Scout Troop or high schoolers that are looking for a service project? We have a couple of fairly large projects that will require physical labor and some engineering aptitude. Don't have the aptitude but want to help? WE can always use brush haulers and people to help with trash pick up.

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 *e*mail: 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*



Baseball is on the air. Hats, scarfs,and slacks are the ladies choice; kites flying high; shamrocks; bunny rabbits popping up everywhere. Campaign signs filling yards. It can only mean one thing. It's March and time for some more hot air from the Plumbers Crack.

Well my followers of the Crack, it's March and a lot of you are getting ready for that Spring Cleaning and you start to notice little things like corrosion on your faucets – leaking in places they shouldn't. Wet spots in cabinets you didn't know were there. I could go on and on but I'm sure you get the idea. The next question is do I call a plumber? How much is this going to cost? Can I do it myself? Oh Baby is gonna try and help you answer those questions.

First thing to do is evaluate and ask questions. Let's say that lavatory faucet is working ok but the finish is starting to corrode and you just want to replace it. The smart thing to do is find the brand name of the faucet you have now. If it's a popular brand not a big box or hardware throwaway, you might look to buying the same brand. Why you ask? You know Oh Baby's gonna tell ya. One reason the drain will match up and you will be able to reuse it.

The reason you're changing it is because of the finish. Believe it or not that's a sign of being too clean or sometimes neglect. Being too clean, wow that doesn't sound right. The truth of the matter it's the soapy water that drips off your hands and sits there undetected. Yes, soap will eat through just about any finish. Makes you wonder what's in your system when you were a kid and your mom washed your mouth out with soap for saying the wrong thing. Anyway back to the finish – soap and the chemicals they put in our drinking water can be harmful to the finish. I found the best way to combat this is to take a dry clean rag a couple times a week and just wipe it down real good. It will keep your faucet looking like new for a long time.

The new drain that comes with that faucet can be kept for parts if that pop up ever goes bad. The neglect that I was talking about was a faucet that leaks a little around the handle when you turn it on and the water sits and it will corrode the finish.

That's when we go back to faucet repair mode. It's an easy fix once you get the handle off. A couple of o-rings and your good as new . Our local hardware can be of great assistance on those small matters and save you from paying guys like me.

The other part on changing your faucet with the same good brand is, four nuts off and four nuts on. I know at the beginning of the article we talked about wet spots in the cabinets a lot of the time it is caused from the o-rings on your faucet but I'm running out of space so I will save it for next month.

I mentioned yard signs in the beginning of the article – please take elections seriously. Listen and read up on the candidates and what they are saying and make your own decision, not that of an outside influence. I also mentioned bunny rabbits and that means Easter is upon us. It's great for kids but please remember it's the most solemn and important day on the Christian calendar.

As always take care and hug them kids. Check on and get to know your neighbors it's what keeps us strong.

Oh and one last thing. In last month's paper "Ask Grandma" was telling everyone what she was thankful for but she left herself out. She runs this paper and is active in anything good in this town. So I'm thankful for you Dorothy Seiter. God Bless you and every one reading this paper.

Oh Baby

Premier Plumbing Solutions
P8563, D8563

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

Ferguson City Council Members Vote to Conditionally Approve An Agreement With the Department of Justice

In a 6-0 vote, Ferguson City Council members voted in favor of a Bill that authorized an agreement, subject to certain conditions, between the City and the Department of Justice. Upon its passage, the Bill becomes an Ordinance and City officials are authorized to execute an amended settlement agreement with the Department of Justice.

Those seven conditions on acceptance are that (i) the agreement contain no mandate for the payment of additional salary to police department or other city employees; (ii) the agreement contain no mandate for staffing in the Ferguson Jail; (iii) deadlines set forth in the agreement are extended; and (iv) the terms of the agreement shall not apply to other governmental entities or agencies who, in the future, take over services or operations currently being provided by the City of Ferguson; (v) a provision for local preference in contracting with consultants, contractors and third parties providing services under the agreement shall be included; (vi) project goals for minority and women participation in consulting, oversight and third party services shall be included; and (vii) the monitoring fee caps in the Side Agreement are changed to $1 million over the first five years with no more than $250,000 in any single year.

The Department of Justice must accept the seven amendments in order for the settlement agreement to be valid. If the Department of Justice accepts the seven amendments, it is expected that the amended settlement agreement will be filed with the federal court in St. Louis for approval by the Federal Judge.

Following months of negotiation with representatives of the Department of Justice, the City of Ferguson received the proposed agreement from the Department on January 26. The City held three community meetings on Feb. 2, 6, and 9, seeking public input from the citizens of Ferguson concerning the agreement.

During the time period for public review and comment, concerns about cost and the comprehensive and far-reaching scale of the agreement were voiced. The conditions of approval address those concerns to some extent.
The historic vote avoids the time and cost of litigation and allows the City to continue its focus to ensure constitutional policing and court practices, and provides these benefits to the citizens of Ferguson.

The agreement is outlined in twenty initiatives and states that the provisions of this agreement are meant to ensure protection of the constitutional and other legal rights of all members of the community, improve Ferguson's ability to effectively prevent crime, enhance both officer and public safety, and increase public confidence in the Ferguson Police Department (FPD).

"During the past seven-months, we have worked very hard to ensure that our negotiations were feasible and realistic for the citizens of Ferguson," said Ferguson Mayor James Knowles III. "Although we did not get everything we wanted in the agreement, we certainly made sure that what was agreed upon, can be implemented in a timely and sufficient manner."
A negotiating team including City Council members Wesley Bell, Mark Byrne and Mayor James Knowles III, negotiated with the Department of Justice on behalf of the City.

Both the Department of Justice and Ferguson officials agree to implement the following initiatives within time frames set forth in the agreement.
The terms and conditions include the following:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:
The City will begin to host and participate in a series of small-group structured dialogues, arranged and led by a qualified neutral facilitator, between police officers and community members and groups, with an emphasis on community members and groups who previously have not had strong or positive relationships with FPD or the City.

REFORM OF THE FERGUSON MUNICIPAL CODE:
To ensure constitutional enforcement of the Ferguson Municipal Code ("Code") and further promote community-oriented policing, the City agrees to revise the Code and ensure that it comports with the United States Constitution and other laws; establishes clearly defined municipal offenses and appropriate penalties for violations; and adequately protects the public
health, safety, and welfare.

POLICIES AND TRAINING:
To ensure that officers have the knowledge, skills, and direction necessary to police constitutionally, effectively, and in a manner that promotes both officer and public safety, the City agrees to continue to enhance its policies and increase the quality and scope of training provided to FPD officers and other FPD employees.

BIAS-FREE POLICE AND COURT PRACTICES:
This Agreement, in its entirety, will be implemented in a manner that ensures equal protection of the law for all individuals, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or other protected characteristics.

VOLUNTARY CONTACTS, STOPS, SEARCHES, CITATIONS, AND ARRESTS:
The City agrees to ensure that all FPD voluntary encounters, investigatory stops and detentions, searches, citations, and arrests are conducted in accordance with the rights, privileges, and immunities secured or protected by the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTED ACTIVITY:
The parties acknowledge that First Amendment protected activities serve important societal functions, including promoting transparency in government affairs, ensuring accountability of public officials, and encouraging community feedback—whether critical or laudatory—that ultimately reduce tension and foster a sense of openness and trust between law enforcement and the public.

FORCE:
The agreement outlines several procedures that dictate when force may be used and for required reporting, oversight and investigation.

CRISIS INTERVENTION:
The Police Department will implement a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention with community, health care, and advocacy partnerships to: (a) assist individuals who are in mental health crisis or who are in crisis related to the influence of alcohol or drugs ("individuals in crisis"); (b) reduce the need to use significant force against
individuals in crisis and improve the safety of patrol officers, individuals in crisis and their families, and others within the community; (c) provide the foundation necessary to promote community solutions to assist individuals with mental illness; and (d) reduce the need for individuals with mental illness to have further involvement with the criminal justice system.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM:
Additional policies and procedures are incorporated into the Department's School Resource Officer Program.

BODY-WORN AND IN-CAR CAMERAS:
In an effort to bring continued transparency regarding police activities; improve the effectiveness and reliability of use-of-force and misconduct investigations; enhance supervision of FPD stops, searches, and arrests; and provide material for officer training, the City will equip FPD officers with body-worn and in-car cameras, and will ensure that such devices are used consistent with law and policy.

SUPERVISION:
Additional requirements apply to supervisors within the police department to ensure that the terms of the agreement are carried out.

OFFICER ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT:
The City will provide certain services and assistance to police officers to ensure the officers' physical and mental well-being.

RECRUITMENT:
The City will conduct a broader outreach in attempts to recruit a highly-qualified diverse workforce and will offer one scholarship per year for a candidate to attend the St. Louis County Police Academy.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS AND PROMOTIONS:
The City agrees to ensure its policies for performance evaluations and promotions support and recognize officers who police effectively, lawfully, and ethically.

SUPPLEMENTAL RECRUIT AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING:
To ensure that officers have the knowledge and skills to police constitutionally and carry out the requirements of this Agreement, the City agrees to provide and require training which far exceeds the State's training requirements.

MUNICIPAL COURT REFORM:
The City will adopt, as part of its Municipal Code, procedures applicable to the jail and the Municipal Court and will make certain recommendations to the Municipal Judge.

ACCOUNTABILITY:
The City agrees to certain principles of accountability and agrees to a more-detailed complaint process.

CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT:
To promote transparent and community-centered law enforcement, the City agrees to continue and expand its commitment to establishing meaningful civilian oversight of the police department, primarily through a Civilian Review Board.

DATA COLLECTION, REPORTING, AND TRANSPARENCY:
The City agrees to ensure the collection and tracking of all police and municipal court data that is: (a) necessary to enable the City's ongoing assessment and improvement of its law enforcement practices, as discussed throughout the Agreement; (b) necessary to enable the Monitor to conduct the outcome assessments; and (c) otherwise required by the Agreement, policy, and applicable law.

MONITORING, COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT, AND ENFORCEMENT:
The Parties will jointly select an Independent Monitor ("Monitor"), which will be a team of individuals highly qualified in policing, civil rights, monitoring, and related areas, to assess and report on whether the requirements of the Agreement have been implemented, and whether this implementation is resulting in constitutional and otherwise lawful policing and administration of justice, and increased community trust between the public and the Ferguson Police Department and Court. The Monitor will work with the Parties to identify and address any barriers to compliance.

The projected cost of the consent decree is outlined in the table shown below. To view the entire consent decree, log on to the city of Ferguson's website at www.fergusoncity.com.

No.	Requirement Desciption	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3 AND BEYOND	
		LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
1	Additional Pesonnel Reqd	$515,000	$515,000	$530,500	$530.500	$546,400	$546,400
2	Salary Increase	842,600	1,908,800	867,900	1,966,100	894,000	2,025,200
3	Training						
3A	- Personnel	75,500	127,300	77,800	131,100	35,617	60,000
3B	- Instructors	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	56,000	56,000
3C	- Other Training	38,000	76,000	39,200	78,200	40,400	80,400
4	Out-of-Picket Costs	155,000	310,000	12,500	25,000	13,125	26,250
5	Other Year 1 Costs	249,000	373,500				
6	Monitor	150,000	300,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000
		$2,150,100	$3,735,600	$1,877,900	$3,080,900	$1,810,542	$3,019,250

Ferguson Community News Page

"We" are the City, there is no "us" and "them"
By Mayor James W. Knowles III



"The City is what the City is, because the People are what the People Are"
- Plato, Greek Author, Philosopher
424 BC – 328BC
-Quote from book The Republic

I know it is hard for many people to accept this fact, but 100% of what the City government does on a daily basis is to serve YOU, the citizen. Every rule, every law, every process, goes to serve a public purpose that tries to serve the community as a whole. Sometimes when you are the one that an inspector visits, or that a police officer pulls over, it feels like it is "you" versus "them", but really it is about serving and protecting our collective interests or safety. Every action the city takes is meant to serve a greater purpose in this community, one that each and every one of us individually benefit from.

Next month the citizens of our community will have to make a choice. The choice is whether we will continue to exist as a community or whether the City will likely move towards ruin. It sounds drastic, because it is. Falling Sales Tax revenues, Property Tax revenues, and revenues from fines over the past couple years have now left the city with an operating budget deficit of nearly $2.9 million per year, which accounts for over 20% of our general revenue expenditures. These are the funds that pay for the City Administration, Police, Fire, and Public Works.

This budget deficit has put the City in a position that it must make up the deficit with a combination of budget cuts and an increase in our Sales and Property Tax, or force massive layoffs and cuts to services. Because Parks and Recreation, the Community Center, and the pool are funded by separate taxes, cuts in those areas would not generate the necessary funds needed to fund general fund operations such as Public Safety.

When people look at the City as "they", instead of looking at all of us as one, it is easy to dismiss this as a problem for our city government. The truth is, the problem is all of ours. It will be all of us affected by massive service cuts, which must primarily come from Public Safety in order to balance the budget. Our general fund budget is approximately 75% in city employee salaries, and 75% of that comes from Public Safety (Police and Fire). In order to balance this budget, our staff, which is already paid among the lowest 25% of cities in the region, are taking both pay and benefits cuts in order to help fill the deficit. But that isn't enough. New tax revenue is going to be required to fill this deficit.

While no one wants to pay additional taxes, the truth is that no one will want to accept the consequences of not paying the additional taxes. The consequence will be reducing our police on the street by nearly 20% and closing Fire House #2 at the north end of the community. Our already overworked Police and Fire will struggle to provide adequate services in our community, much lower than the standard of service which people have come to expect. The result will no doubt affect the safety and security of our community.

These difficult decisions are new to Ferguson, but many communities in North County have been forced to make similar decisions recently because of issues with falling revenues. The Ferguson City Council has placed on the ballot two tax increases, both which must pass in order to fill the budget deficit. The first is a half cent sales tax, the other is a $.40 property tax. The sales tax was chosen because the burden is shared by shoppers in Ferguson who also enjoy our city services, not just Ferguson residents. The property tax is the only other tax allowable by state law. While it may not feel this way to property owners in Ferguson, the total property tax paid by our citizens will still be far less than all of our neighbors after the tax increase. This is largely because Ferguson has a municipal Fire Department instead of a Fire District, and we have kept our expenses as a city relatively low.

While paying additional taxes is difficult, it is important that we realize that the city is not some distant thing that is taking our money for no consideration. We are the city, and the money that we contribute to this cause pays for our services and our protection. Those services are important to the continued succeess of our businesses, our neighborhoods, and our households. The taxes paid aren't just an investment in the city, they are an investment in this community, in your property, and in your individual families.

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

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

www.fergusoncitywalk.com

Ferguson Neighborhood Organizations

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

Group	Next Mtg.	Location	Contact
Forestwood Park Neighborhood Group	Mar 1 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Donald Stevens 314-561-0379
Jeske Park Neighborhood Assc.	Mar 10 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Kate Mazzacavallo katemazza@yahoo.com
Nesbit-Newton	TBA	St Peters UCC 1425 Stein Rd	Paul Beins 314-869-5080
North Hills Neighborhood	Mar 14 7 pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe 17 Hawkesbury Dr.	Keith Kallstrom 314-524-1720
Northwest Ferguson	Mar 29 7 pm	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	TBA	Corner Coffee House 100 No Florissant	Larry Robinett ldrobinett@gmail.com
Robert-Superior Neighborhood Group	Mar 15 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Irene Kidd kiddirene87@gamil.com
Southwest Ferguson Neighborhood Group	Mar 14	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	Mar 25 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr 1050 Smith	May Simmons hudsonhills63135@gmail.com
North Elizabeth Neighborhood	Mar 7 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Renee Benage rbenage@sbcglobal.net

Spring Time in Ferguson!

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

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

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

Ferguson Community News Page is published monthly and paid for by the City of Ferguson.
City of Ferguson City Council: James W. Knowles,III, Mayor; Mark Byrne, Ward 1; Ella Jones, Ward 1; Dwayne James, Ward 2; Laverne Mitchom, 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. **Contact Us by Email:** Information@fergusoncity.com

Ferguson Community News Page

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

COMMUNITY CENTER

Facility Rentals
Use one of the Ferguson Community Center's Multipurpose Rooms for your next event or gathering. These spacious rooms are perfect for any occasion. Also, newly opened is the Ferguson Event Center, a 5600 square foot air-conditioned facility with a stage toward the front of the room, which can accommodate up to 450 guests for your next wedding reception or family reunion. Call up to the Ferguson Community Center for booking information, pricing, and any additional information at (314) 521-4661.

PROGRAMMING

Silver Sneakers
The Ferguson Community Center is now enrolled in the Silver Sneakers program for seniors! This program offers free admission to the Ferguson Community Center and Silver Sneakers exercise classes that will be offered in the near future. Check with your health insurance provider to see if you apply! For more information call the Ferguson Community Center, 314-521-4661.

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 recommened by 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.

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

Cricket Camp
Cricket is a growing sport in the St. Louis area. This is the perfect opportunity for your young ones to get introduced to the game. They will learn the basic fundamentals, have a lot of fun in the process, while learning from an experienced coach during this six week camp. Equipment is provided. All that is needed is the proper athletic attire, tennis shoes, water and a snack. Don't miss this perfect opportunity to learn more about this popular European sport!

Ages:	7-14
Date:	Mon, April 4 (six weeks)
Times:	6:00-7:30pm
Location:	Forestwood Park
Fee:	$10

Adult Softball
Teams are needed for adult softball leagues. League fees include one umpire per game, lighted fields, ASA regulation softball, bases, awards and make-up for rainouts. Additional information and rosters can be obtained at the Ferguson Community Center. For field conditions call (314) 286-9102
Supervisor: Jon Gehrin

Men's DH	Sun, April 17
Length of Season:	20 Games
Fee:	$600
Men's (Over 50)	Thurs, April 21
Length of Season:	20 Games
Fee:	$560
Co-ed	Fri, April 22
Length of Season:	10 Games
Fee:	$350

SENIORS

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

Lunch & Bingo
Come and treat yourself to an afternoon at one of Ferguson's fantastic Lunch and Bingos. Our March bingo celebrates St. Patrick's Day with corned beef and cabbage, as well as a contest for the best dressed Irish attire. Cost includes and bingo. Limited to a maximum of 125 people.

Date:	Thurs, March 17
Time:	12pm-3pm
Location:	Ferguson Community Center
Fee:	$10 Members; $15 Residents; $18 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, thicket, 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)

Fox Theater- The Sound of Music

The hills are alive with the brand new production of The Sound of Music to be performed at the Fabulous Fox Theatre. Our excellent seats are located in the Orchestra Section, Rows M,N,O,P, and Q. Before seeing this marvelous show, the group will dine on a pasta dinner at Pietro's in South St. Louis. Registration deadline: Monday, March 21st. Fee includes: transportation, lunch, ticket, taxes, and gratuities.

Date: Thursday, April 28
Time: 4:30pm-10:30pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
* Parking on the North end of Community Center or behind the Community Center only
Fee: $110 Residents; $120 Non-Residents

Huntsville, AL/Chattanooga, TN

This spring head south! Stops include: the Johnny Cash Museum, the US Space and Rocket Center, The Unclaimed Baggage Center, a cruise on the Tennessee River, a visit to Lookout Mountain and a visit to the Tennessee Aquarium. Included in the package are: 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners, motor coach transportation, lodging, all admissions, taxes and tips.

Date: Tues, May 3-Fri, May 6
Time: 7:00am-10:00pm
* Parking on the North end of Community Center or behind the Community Center only
Fee: $635/ Residents (Double occupancy); $660/Non-Residents (Double Occupancy)

TEENS

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

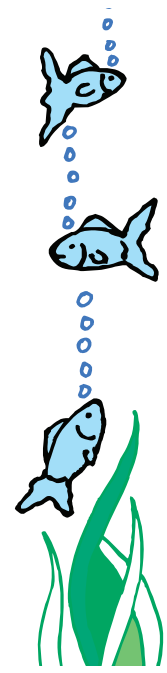
Hop over to January Wabash Park for the Annual Egg Hunt. The park will be filled with brightly colored eggs for Ferguson children (8 and under) to enjoy. The children will be divided into separate hunts by the following ages: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for photo opportunities. Children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

Age: 8 and under
Date: Sat, March 26
Time: 10am
Location: January Wabash Park
Fee: FREE Children 3-8

Adult Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL FOOLS!!! Easter really isn't over – we have eggs everywhere! The Easter Bunny has dropped his leftover eggs all over the fields of the Ferguson Community Center. And rumor is 30 of those eggs are filled with prize tickets. This "egg-cellent" event is open to adults 21 and older. So grab your basket and flashlight for an evening down memory lane. Bring your own refreshments and enjoy a camp fire with us after the hunt. Pre-registration is required for this event.

Maximum event size: 100
Date: Fri, April 1
Time: 7:30pm
Location: Community Center
Fee: $5 Residents; $8 Non-Residents



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!

Ferguson 4th of July Festival Sponsorship Opportunities

Stars and Strips Sponsor: $5,000.00

Sponsorship includes:
- Company name and logo displayed on the City of Ferguson's digital billboard at 501 Plaza for two weeks
- Banner with company name and logo displayed during the 4th of July Festival
- Full page ad in the Ferguson 4th of July Festival program book
- Banner with your name and company logo displayed during the 4th of July Festival Reception Fundraiser (May 7th)
- 8 tickets to the 4th of July Festival Reception Fundraiser (May 7th)
- Company name and logo displayed on 4th of July Festival Poster

Patriot Sponsor: $2,500.00

Sponsorship includes:
- Banner with company name and logo displayed during the 4th of July Festival
- Full page ad in the Ferguson 4th of July Festival program book
- Banner with your name and company logo displayed during the 4th of July Festival Reception Fundraiser (May 7th)
- 4 tickets to the 4th of July Festival Reception Fundraiser (May 7th)
- Company name and logo displayed on 4th of July Festival Poster

Big Boomer Sponsor: $1,000.00

- Full page ad in the Ferguson 4th of July Festival program book
- Banner with your name and company logo displayed during the
- 4th of July Festival Reception Fundraiser (May 7th)
- 4 tickets to the 4th of July Festival Reception Fundraiser (May 7th)
- Company name and logo displayed on 4th of July Festival Poster

Firecracker Sponsor: $500.00

- Half page ad in the Ferguson 4th of July Festival program book
- 2 tickets to the 4th of July Festival Reception Fundraiser (May 7th)
- Company name and logo displayed on 4th of July Festival Poster

Family Fun-Time Sponsor: $250.00

- Quarter page ad in the Ferguson 4th of July Festival program book
- 2 tickets to the 4th of July Festival Reception Fundraiser (May 7th)
- Company name and logo displayed on 4th of July Festival Poster

Friends of Ferguson Sponsor: $100.00

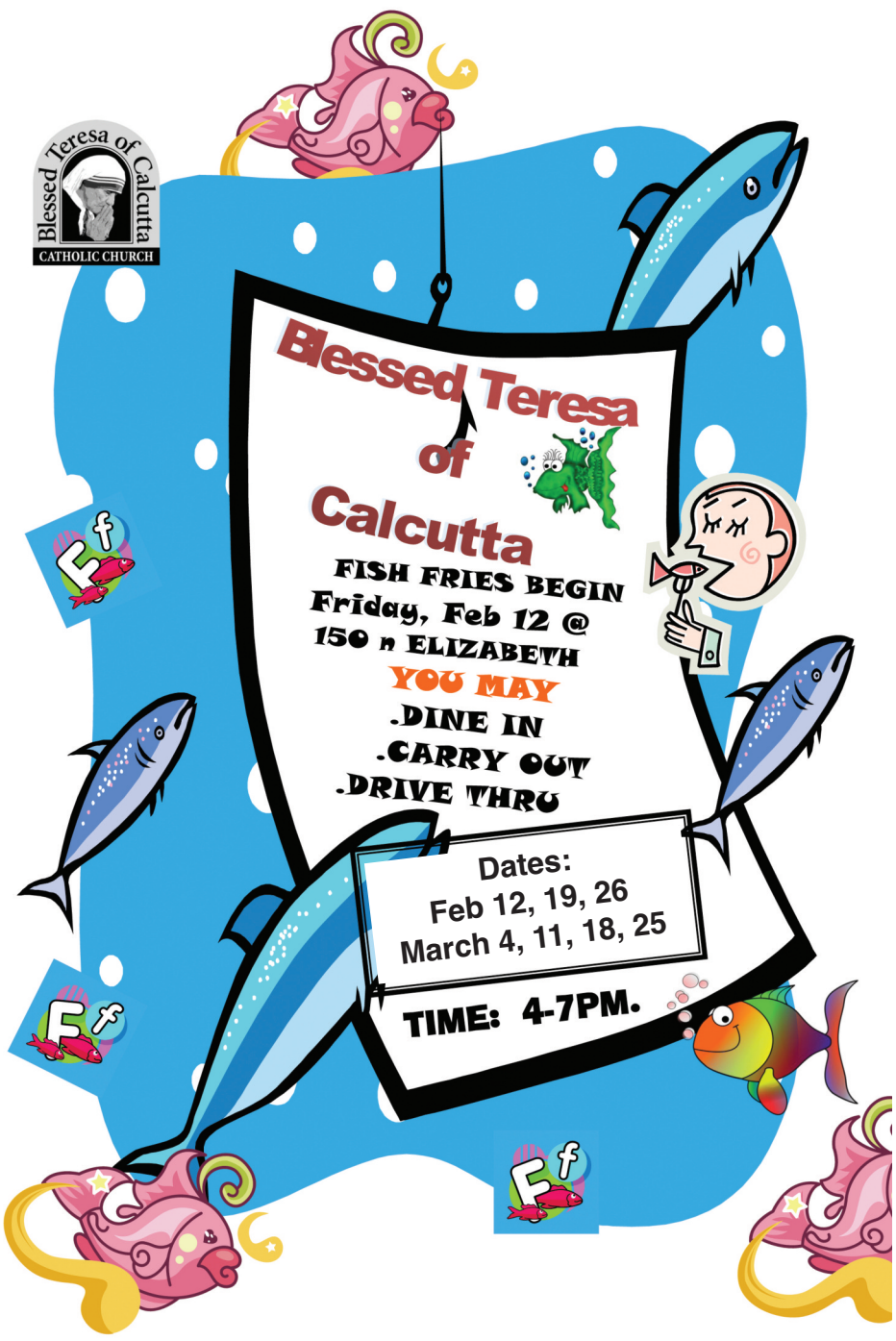
- Quarter page ad in the Ferguson 4th of July Festival program book
- Company name and logo displayed on 4th of July Festival Poster







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.





Ferguson Volunteer Flower Department

Gardeners will meet on **March 10, 6:00 pm** at Ferguson Brewhouse to discuss the upcoming gardening season.
Any and all newcomers welcome -
you do not have to be a gardener!
Contact Renee' at neeage@gmail.com for more info.

CNN Hero Nomination: Brian Fletcher

Submitted August, 2015 by Nancy Hilary Walsh

The following is an excerpt from the 2015 CNN Hero nomination which I submitted for Brian Fletcher. This is an annual event sponsored by Cable News Network, and hosted by Anderson Cooper. The contest is open to nominees worldwide. There are ten finalists each of whom is given $10,000, and the winner is awarded $100,000 for his or her organization. The competition was steep and although Brian did not make the cut, the nomination was still very much worth the effort on my part.

I would like to point out that others played a vital role in the formation of the Committee - Rob Chabot, Steve Hewkins, and Brian's daughter Alice, as well as many committed volunteers. While Brian spearheaded the campaign, it was a group effort, supported by the Ferguson community, and everyone's contribution is greatly appreciated.

I last saw Brian just before Xmas at the I Love Ferguson Store. It was shortly after the CNN Hero Ceremony aired on TV. We agreed that the 10 finalists were very impressive, and noted that they had all been active in their programs for at least ten years or more, making for tough competition. We talked about how heartening it is to know there are people in this world giving their lives over to such wonderful and encouraging causes. I wanted to reassure Brian that he was still our hero, and told him I planned on nominating him again for 2016. We also shared our hope for Ferguson and its future.

I am nominating Brian Fletcher, founder of I Love Ferguson, for CNN Hero of the Year for his tireless work, commitment, and contributions to the people of Ferguson and North St. Louis County, Missouri. His dedicated efforts towards rebuilding the area encouraged our spirits and healed our hearts in the wake of recent tragic events. The organization has raised more than a quarter of a million dollars to help businesses recover, to support our schools, and to fund many other local programs benefiting our youth and the community at large.

Brian Fletcher is a long-term resident and champion of the city of Ferguson. He and his wife, Linda, have lived here for thirty years where they have raised two daughters and sent them to the public schools.

Brian has demonstrated his love for this community in numerous ways. He has chaired town committees, served on the School Board, and most notably as Mayor for two terms, (2005-2011). He now serves on the City Council. As former Mayor, his list of accomplishments is impressive: he fostered the rebirth of the historic downtown business district, Citywalk; the building of the new 501 Plaza; the new McCluer-South Berkeley High School - a state of the art facility; and the Challenger Learning Center. Another noteworthy achievement is the 2010 nomination of Ferguson as the All America City at the National Civic League awards in Kansas City. Ferguson did not win, but was a finalist. Not to be discouraged, Brian and his team returned home more determined than ever to enhance life in the city, creating the Ferguson Youth Initiative, a not-for-profit organization which engages youths in the community by providing programs such as Earn-A-Bike, Earn-A-Computer and Open Arts.

What may be most inspiring is that Brian's dedication stems from his own personal hardship. A diabetic of 30 years, he takes daily insulin injections. And in 1997, after suffering from a viral infection, Brian was diagnosed with Dilated Congestive Cardiomyopathy, a disease of the heart muscle. As a result, one-third of his heart is dead. At this time, he made a vow to God that, "I would continue to help my community as long as He would keep me going." He claims, "It is what motivates me."

Then, when tragedy occurred in our hometown, and rioters looted and burned many neighborhood establishments, Brian proved his commitment in new ways, taking it to new levels.

Continued next month

Ferguson Easter Sunrise Service at January-Wabash Memorial Park



The 2016 Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will be held **Sunday, March 27 at 6:30AM** at January-Wabash Memorial Park, located at January Avenue and North Florissant Road. The service will be held on the west side of the lake. Bring your own chair if desired. Giving a brief meditation for the informal service will be The Rev. Patrick D. Chandler, Pastor of St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Ferguson, and clergy from various churches in Ferguson will also participate. What a great way to begin the celebration of resurrection and new life!

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

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FERGUSON . . . WHERE ALL ROADS LEAD TO HOME!

#7 Bromley



Fantastic 3 bedroom brick ranch provides quiet cul de sac living at its finest. This house has been carefully maintained and many new updates exist. The living room and dining room area is comfortable and attractive, while the kitchen is roomy and functional for the lover of cooking.The finished downstairs provides excellent entertaining or lounging space, as well as a newly updated laundry area, and the workshop area is a do-it-yourselfer's dream. The yard is well landscaped to enjoy outdoors as much as indoors. This house sits in the Princess Elizabeth subdivision community and is conveniently located to schools, parks, shopping, and highway access. Call Amy at 314-660-8050.



404 Darst

It may not be the House of Seven Gables, but the two gables on this fantastic brick home provide it with elegant charm, and amazing upstairs living space, that at one time made this house a quaint bed and breakfast with its handcrafted library, kitchenette, and living space upstairs. The downstairs features wonderful craftsmanship and woodwork throughout the living and dining areas. A cozy sunporch is also a great feature now that spring will be just around the corner. The yard has wonderful landscaping, and even boasts a gazebo from which to enjoy pleasant summer evenings. Call Amy at 314-660-8050.

29 Lake Pembroke – $146,500



Give Wayne a call; (314) 706-1857, when you are ready to visit this classic Pembroke brick Ranch. What a fabulous home. Newer windows and full brick construction block any errant drafts during the winter and summer months. Three bedrooms including the master suite and a total of three full baths, make the morning" rush hour" easy for a growing family. A very nice three season room just off of the family room brings the outdoors inside without the bugs. Check this beauty out soon!



829 Smith Ave.

Call Don at 314-814-0993 to see this home. You can live only one block from the community center and you can't beat that for convenience! The home is loaded with living space, five bedrooms, three baths, a very nice lower level with wood burning fireplace in the family room and bath. The covered patio is perfect for spring and summer barbecues so stop by for a look today!

914 Westwold
Price change – $89,500



Four plus bedrooms, three full baths. Mint move in condition. Call us quick!



Don Schloss

We are excited to welcome Don Schloss to our growing Home team. Don is originally from Perryville, attending St Vincents Catholic School and a Vincentian Seminary. Don studied for three semesters at UMSL then transferred to the UMKC campus to finish up work on his double majors in Music Therapy and Music Education.

Don and his wife Sally have lived in North County for 36 years, 27 of those years in Ferguson. Don and Sally have five children, all graduates of McCluer High School. All five have gone on to graduate from Missouri universities as well as Millikin and Maryville Universities.

Don has worked as a National Board Certified Music Therapist for over 36 years in a variety of hospitals, adult day care facilities, retirement communities and special needs schools. Don is a member of the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish and the St Louis Archdiocesan Lay Formation Program.

Don is already off to a good start in Real Estate having recently helped his daughter Tina in the purchase of her first home. You can reach Don at 314 814-0800 or at schlossdon@gmail.com.

29 Years of helping buyers and sellers with their home needs in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County.

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The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely

THE IDES OF MARCH
St. Patrick's Day, Palm Sunday, and Easter are the stand-out holidays this month; be blessed as you celebrate them. (and Easter is the BEST!)

LET'S TALK ABOUT ELECTRICITY!, DEPT.
actually, more to the point, your electric bill. i'm going to show you how to calculate your puter's energy consumption so that you can save some $ on the electric bill.

your puter has a PSU (Power Supply Unit) built into it to change the 110 AC into various DC voltages to supply power to the components of the puter. all puters these days use a Switching PSU, rated at a maximum of about 250 to 275 watts. unless you have a whole lot of things plugged into your puter (think drives, ram, upgraded processors, upgraded video cards, etc.) your Switching PSU will not draw the full amount of juice it is rated for. let's use 200 watts for this figure. now everyone has to have a monitor, or did you forget about that? power consumption of this monitor will also vary between about 30 to 60 watts, so let's use a figure of 40 watts. keep in mind that i am working with AVERAGE power consumption, as sometimes your puter is in a low-power state and using less electricity. there are several other considerations that affect power usage, but i'm trying to keep it simple, so we won't consider printers, scanners, etc.

in preparation for this column, i called Ameren to determine MY cost for kWh. in the summer, it's about 0.11; in the winter, it's about 0.05 per kWh. it may also interest you to know that MOST of the rest of the nation pays 2-3 times that, or more! (there is also an $8.xx fee tacked on for upkeep of the system & other costs.)

if you leave your puter on 24/7 (i know you don't, but i'm just saying), we would take 240 watts X 24 X 360, and divide that by 1000 to get kWh. this gives us 2073.6; let's make that 2073 even. multiply that by an average of 6 cents, and we have an annual cost of $124.38. no, i'm not telling you to toss the puter, i'm saying that there is room for improvement, to save money. what i am saying is that if you turn your puter OFF when you will not be using it for an hour or more, you could possibly cut this figure in half, realistically speaking. wouldn't it be nice to have an extra $60 in your pocket? even more if you manage the consumption of other devices in your home. if YOU want to figure the actual cost of any given appliance, you should be able to find the wattage rating on the device; then do the math. you could, for instance, add the costs of that printer & scanner, too, as they are ALWAYS ON, aren't they? (for some items, you may have to determine the AMPS used, and multiply that by 110 to get the watts used. isn't this fun? :)

ME GO NOW!
yes, i am out of the hospital, but my surgeon says that it will be another 4 months before i have fully healed. i intend to be out & about, and available to service your puter in less time than that, God willing and the creek don't rise. i am NOW available for EMAIL & TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE, if you would like to contact me for FREE puter advice, or even if you just wanna chew the fat! please do plan to attend church for Easter; it's very important! after all, Jesus had to DIE before being resurrected on Easter to pay for our sins; if He can do that for us, the least we can do for Him is to go to church and THANK HIM PROFUSELY for it. Easter blessings to you and to yours!

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

IF YOU would like to contact Doug, please call him at *314*521*1789* in the PM hours. STAY ON THE PHONE UNTIL HE ANSWERS, AS HE ISN'T MOVING VERY FAST THESE DAYS! When emailing, send to fergusoncomputer-corner@aol.com, and be sure to put "i need puter advice" into the subject line.
A HAPPY & BLESSED EASTER TO ALL!

Ferguson Recreation Presents

SilverSneakers Exercise Program

If you're a group retiree, or part of a Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement Health plan, you may already have a SilverSneakers membership. This active adult wellness program is offered to many Medicare plans across the nation. To find out if your plan offers the SilverSneakers Fitness program, call your health plan's customer service number. If so, simply come in to the Ferguson Community Center, 1050 Smith Avenue, Ferguson, MO and register for a SilverSneakers membership and start enjoying your new fitness center! Bring your SilverSneakers 16 digit number and we can activate your membership right away!
FREE OF CHARGE!

For further information please telephone the Ferguson Recreation Office, 314.521.4661. This wonderful program is open to Ferguson Residents as well as non-residents!

Monday Food Trucks Return to Ferguson in April!

Check schecule in "Ferguson Times" next month!



Ferguson Lions Hall Rental

49 North Clark
314-226-4077



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

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All Proceeds Support Ferguson



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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.

Be careful what you wish for – that's what I've been thinking about as the price of oil drops giving us some real savings at the pump. On the other side we keep hearing just how bad this is for the economy. So what are we supposed to believe and how do we justify feeling good about our own budgets with lower gasoline costs? It may help to have a better understanding of the oil market.

About the time I started to drive we began hearing the issues with our dependence on fossil fuels. To conserve energy, we started buying smaller cars made in other countries to save on gasoline. Electric cars came about and were mostly used for testing the market. Later as they became available some brave souls started buying them. Amid concerns about keeping them charged and just knowing how to fix them made them less popular. I had a relative who bought one of those early vehicles almost 30 years ago – I took it for a test drive and felt like I was driving a golf cart. With his commute being just 4 miles the car worked well for him until something went wrong a few years later and getting it repaired was too expensive because no one locally could do the job.

So as a good citizen we all started looking for ways to conserve energy. I remember hearing how wonderful the world would be if only we weren't dependent on foreign oil. Well today the United States is one of the top oil producers in the world. So why does this seem to be causing some concerns across the globe. With our increase in production, we have lowered our dependence on foreign oil to just 22%. This is the lowest it has been in 45 years. So what could be wrong with this?

Here in the U.S. oil production has been concentrated in mainly two states, Texas and North Dakota. So if the price is lower, you can bet these two states aren't as excited as the rest of us because for them the economic effect may mean fewer jobs and less money. This glut of oil production does have a down side. And if we look at how oil prices are determined there may be more reasons to be cautious.

Most products are priced according to supply and demand. If demand is high and supply is low the price of anything will go up. Likewise if demand is low and supply is high the price will go down. Another part of the equation has to do with "market sentiment." As defined on www.investopedia.com it is:
"The overall attitude of investors toward a particular security or larger financial market. Market sentiment is the feeling or tone of a market, or its crowd psychology, as revealed through the activity and price movement of the securities traded in that market. For example, rising prices would indicate a bullish market sentiment, while falling prices would indicate a bearish market sentiment. Market sentiment is also called "investor sentiment" and is not always based on fundamentals."

So if we think about the market's sentiment, it seems we are somewhat at the mercy of investors when it comes to the price of oil. It is actually set in the oil futures market. A futures contract is a binding agreement giving one party the right to purchase oil by the barrel at a set price on a date in the future. Both parties are obligated to handle their part of the transaction on the specified date. When these oil future contracts are traded it might depend more on the type of trader who in some cases may manipulate the price of oil. If we look at the two types of traders it does give cause for concern. It the trader is a "hedger" he could actually be a big user of oil buying futures to protect his own interests of guarding against higher prices. A trader we are more familiar with is the "speculator." This would be someone who isn't really interested in the purchasing the oil, but just likes to guess on the pricing to buy and sell the contracts with hopes of getting rich.

With that in mind, it is easy to see how the "market sentiment" can influence the price of oil based on the reactions of speculators and hedgers. Just believing that oil demand will increase at some point in the future can cause an increase in price because the future contracts are in great demand. The opposite can also occur causing prices to fall and some investors to be forced to sell short. So while supply and demand have influence there are many other factors at work in determining which way the price of oil will go. And when you consider the differences among nations throughout the world, it's no wonder this commodity can be so volatile. Some countries may actually set their tax rates high to encourage conservation of this non-renewable energy source. Inflation can also cause higher gasoline prices. And most of us are familiar with OPEC (The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) which was founded in 1960 as a cartel to manage the oil supply and set pricing to help protect its member states from fluctuations that could harm their economies. The choices made by OPEC have a much greater effect on the world oil prices than other major producers like the United States and Canada. Many are wondering why OPEC hasn't reduced production.

We worked hard to get this point where Americans were not so dependent on foreign oil. As I mentioned earlier, energy conservation took hold and we made changes. Hybrid automobiles are more common today and we've looked for sources of oil within our own borders finding new ways to get to this limited energy source. Some might ask if it has been worth the cost. Like other commodities, oil is not renewable, so even though we may have increased our production, what will happen when we actually run out. Will other parts of the world then have us over a barrel so to speak? And if we are damaging the environment with fracking, what will the long term effects to the environment be? I don't have the answers, but I do feel pretty good when I can fill up the car. And if it is a problem why doesn't the U.S. lower production, the answer to that has more to do with the development of new oil production and the borrowing done to afford this. Payments are still due and if OPEC isn't slowing down, why would we.

Sometimes what we long for may not be best for us in the long haul, but it sure helps in the short term. Solving one problem may create another – we are now in a global economy so the effects aren't just local. The world is becoming more developed and the large countries like China are starting to increase their reliance on oil. As more parts of the world increase consumption the price will surely be impacted. And all of the other factors involved will respond, these low prices won't be around forever. So keep this in mind and don't base all of your decisions on the current low prices. Please e-mail me at consultjoan@att.net if you have any comments or suggestions.





Noted African American Women from Missouri

Author and educator, Dr. John Wright will present the March program at the Ferguson-Florissant (North County) AAUW meeting. Dr. Wright has written extensively on the black experience in Missouri. His latest books are entitled "Ethic St. Louis" and "African American St. Louis." His presentation will feature noted African American women from Missouri, in honor of March Women's History Month. Included in the presentation will be such notables as Josephine Baker, Annie Malone, and Julia Davis, among others. Copies of his latest books will be available at the event.

The American Association of University Women meeting will be **March 21, 2016, at 7:00 pm** in the Educational Building of Immanuel UCC Church, 211 Church Street, Ferguson MO. The program is free and open to the public. For more information call (314) 522-0413, 831-5359 or 831-6884.

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The Oesterle family, pictured above, of Bethalto, Illinois, celebrated Carolyn Oesterle's birthday at Vincenzo's. Vincenzo's is a favorite of Carolyn's. She became acquainted with the restaurant through her friends at her church, St. Peters UCC in Ferguson.

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Thurs, March 3 .....French Toast
Fri, March 4.....Snicker
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Sun, March 6 .....closed
Mon, March 7.....closed
Tues, March 8 .....Cherry bon bon
Wed, March 9.....Reeces Pieces
Thurs, March 10 ...Dark Choc Coffee
Fri, March 11 .....Turtle Swirl
Sat, March 12 .....M&M
Sun, March 13 .....closed
Mon, March 14.....closed
Tues, March 15...German Chocolate
Wed, March 16 .....Banana Pudding
Thurs, March 17 .....Butterfinger
Fri, March 18.....Cherry Cheesecake
Sat, March 19.....Chocolate Malt
Sun, March 20 .....closed
Mon, March 21.....closed
Tues, March 22 ...Peanutbutter Oreo
Wed, March 23.....Mint Oreo
Thurs, March 24 .....Birthday Cake
Fri, March 25 ....Choc Almond Fudge
Sat, March 26....Death by Chocolate
Sun, March 27 .....closed
Mon, March 28.....closed
Tues, March 29.....Black Forrest
Wed, March 30 .....Trail Mix
Thurs, March 31.....Mud Pie

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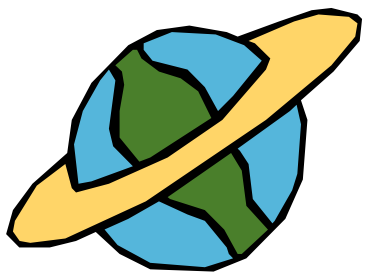
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And Now a Word from Our Planet . . . .



Consider asking your church, school or neighborhood group . . . or your local restaurant to give up styrofoam for products that can be recycled.

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

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March Environmental Film

On **Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 pm** at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Parish Hall (33 N.Clay, at Darst, Ferguson, MO 63135), The Ferguson Ecology Team's Video Night will be showing the acclaimed 2015 documentary THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING, an epic attempt to re-imagine the vast challenge of climate change. Inspired by Naomi Klein's international non-fiction bestseller of the same title, THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines of climate change. Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein's narration, connecting the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis of climate change to transform our failed economic system into something radically better.

A discussion will follow the movie. This event is free (including popcorn!) and open to the public. For more information, contact Carleton Stock, 9314) 521-8418.

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Ferguson by Foot

By: Margaret Wolfinbarger



I was recently filling out medical forms for an appointment with a specialist. Anyone who has been through this process knows how time consuming it can be. It is also a study in self; as in, how well do I know my personal history and that of my family members. We pursue this health evaluation in our attempt to help the doctor determine an appropriate cure for our malady. It behooves us to be honest with both ourselves and the doctor. After all, if we are truly suffering, we don't want to delay relief.

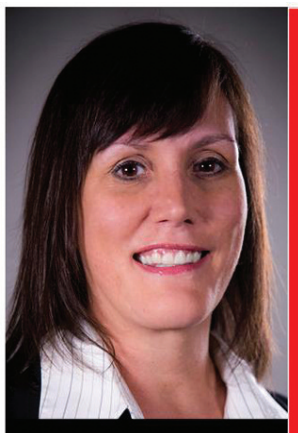
Years ago I went to my GP in search of a cure for my issue of fatness. I say this tongue in cheek, but the memory of my ignorance pains me. I'll put it bluntly, I went to get my thyroid checked. And I remember this heretofore nice man as he sat next to me, patted me on the knee, and said, "Your thyroid is functioning perfectly. Now you just need to be honest with yourself. You know you are eating a lot of snacks, and that is the real reason you have a weight problem." I remember feeling stunned. And then angry. And then slightly homicidal. How dare he say that to me? And in such a condescending tone of voice? He was supposed to help me find a real solution, not just tell me to stop eating "snacks". At the time I had no idea how to live a healthy lifestyle and so his words were like sandpaper against my tender psyche.

That doctor's view of my identity was much different than my own and there was nothing I could do—short of losing 100 pounds—to convince him otherwise. I was trying to exercise and eat less but no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't find success. How I wish he would have recommended a dietician or even a word of sympathy. My attitude toward him changed after that. He became just another cold, clipboard carrying prescriber. I perceived him as unwilling to enter into my pain and truly seek out a cure. I have been told that "good" doctors struggle with "bedside manner" but I counter with this: those who would seek to cure our physical wounds must also address the unseen factors that make up our entire range of symptoms.

His partial diagnosis for me; obesity, was only partially correct. As was his prescription, eat less. He should have asked me real questions about my relationship with food, my activity levels and habits, as well as the part heredity played in my extremely efficient body type. I knew nothing about nutrition and the role it played in losing weight and keeping it off. I was tracking my calories and eating less but I wasn't achieving my goals. I considered myself active. I was exercising and doing vigorous yard work. And I didn't understand why my diet of pop tarts and Taco Bell left me feeling hungry and unsatisfied. I had to learn the hard way that all calories are not the same, much the same as all bodies don't process them the same way. His blatant dismissal left me feeling hopeless. And so I continued on my current course of getting heavier, completely unaware that a healthful diet that actually nourishes the body combined with the right types of exercise would improve my condition.

I've said this before, but words do hurt. They bite. They steal our peace of mind. They mislead, and make us doubt our motives. If we're not careful to filter the words directed toward us from people who do not truly desire to understand us, we can spiral headlong down a rabbit hole of confusion, doubt and ultimately, despair. This applies not only to our health and wellness but to our entire community. It is painful when people outside our region try to diagnose our community and prescribe a cure. They overlook all of the hard work and bridge building that has happened over the years and try to impose a solution that is based on a faulty diagnosis. Our issues are complex because people are complex. Strong community is more than a set of laws put in place to make everyone behave accordingly. Strong community is formed when we build relationships with people. When we take time to set aside preconceived notions and listen with our hearts instead of our pride, we build bridges. When we have the courage to recognize our weaknesses and form a plan to correct our mistakes, we grow stronger. And sometimes we have to be brave enough to stand up and tell ignorant doctors that they don't know what they're talking about if we want to survive.

I am proud of what I have accomplished but my work never ends. I always have to balance my food intake with my level of exercise if I want to maintain my weight loss. My approach has been organic and many people have told me they are not strong enough to do what I have done. The truth is, I feel like I had no other choice. I have done nothing if not prove the point that necessity is the mother of invention. And one of the most important lessons I have learned is when to close my ears and walk away from people who just don't understand my situation. I am grateful for good doctors. They should never be taken for granted. In much the same way I am grateful for good leaders who have the tenacity to stand up and protect the people they promised to serve in order to preserve what is right and true even as they discard what is not. And just as we should take care of our bodies to make them more habitable, we should all strive to learn, grow, and contribute to the community in which we live in order to make it better place for everyone who lives there. For more inspiration, follow me on my blog: www.destinationdiscipline.com.



☑ Vote Heather Robinett

Ferguson City Council - Ward 2

Heather Supports:

Continuing to Implement Community Policing

Keeping Ferguson Financially Solvent

Encouraging More Community Involvement

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- Central Elementary School Garden Founder/Leader
- Ferguson Youth Initiative (FYI) Board Member
- UMSL Neighborhood Leadership Academy Graduate
- OFW Neighborhood Organization Former VP
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- Ferguson Resident since 2004

Robinett for COUNCIL

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Paid for by Robinett for Council, Larry Robinett, Treasurer

Re-Elect Leslie Suzanne HOGSHEAD

For the past 24 years, Leslie Hogshead has been and continues to be a tireless advocate for the students in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. She supports both students, teachers, and staff with her heart and her votes. A district resident for 39 years, Leslie and her family believe in public education. Her daughter, Erin, attended the Ferguson-Florissant School District from kindergarten through graduation from McCluer High School. Leslie founded the PTSA and Project Graduation at McCluer High School.

- **Leadership roles on the Board include, President 4 times, Vice President 5 times, Secretary currently and lead the Board as Chair of the Superintendent search committee for our current Superintendent, Dr. Davis.**
- **Believes in sharing the great things happening every day in our schools with the public.**
- **Working to make our schools "Green".**
- **Dedicated to safe, fair and equitable education for all students.**

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☑ *Your support would be greatly appreciated On April 5th!*



Any questions for comments or need a yard sign, please email me at hogsheadforschoolboard2016@gnmil.com

Paid for by Friends to Elect Hogshead for School Board ~ De. Rance Thomas, Treasurer



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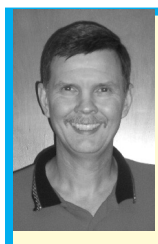
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Under The Hood With Robinwood

By Bob McGartland

Why We Love Our Cars

We love our vehicles. No matter how much gas costs or oil changes, we enjoy our cars. From an extreme paint jobs to custom wheels, integrated sound systems and performance upgrades our excitement over vehicles is alive and well.

It started with the early inventors that loved technology and inspired them to invent the automobile. The first patent was issued to Karl Benz in 1886. Many think it was Henry Ford and his model T, but that took another 20 years. He set new standards in production and made the first affordable vehicle that made it possible for the average American to own a car. Ford Motor Company rolled out 10,000 Model T's in the first year of production during 1906 and helped to put a car in every garage in America. During the early 1900's there were more Model T's on the road than any other car in the world.

For decades cars were the leading form of new technology in the United States. This was back when technology in vehicles had more to do with going faster than with saving gas. Inventions ranging from electric starters that eliminated hand cranking to radios and windshield wipers have made the automobile's evolution a technological dream. Today's cars have complicated computing power and get more horsepower out of less metal and fuel than before. You can add extras to your vehicle to make it as ideal as possible for you.

By having a vehicle, you are able to have your own mode of transportation. This saves you time and stress because you can come and go as you please. This gives you the freedom to travel on the open road.

Spring is the perfect time of year to drive with the windows down, turn on the radio, and go for a relaxing drive to take in the fresh air.

With the love of cars comes the need for service and maintenance. Now that spring is in the air here are a few car care tips after the long winter weather.

Check the air in the tires. When the temperature changes so does the air pressure in the tires.

Inspect your wipers blades. After being frozen to the windshield we see a lot of torn blades in the spring. Our rainy season is coming so make sure you are ready.

Washing your vehicle will ensure a longer lasting exterior. This is the one time of the year where the underside of a vehicle needs some extra attention. It is important to remove all the salt, road grime and chemicals left over from the winter. Driving through a few water puddles is not the same as the high pressure cleaning from a car wash.

If you have any concerns about that pride and joy in your driveway, Robinwood stands ready to help. Until next time… visit us at robinwoodauto.com.

The Ferguson Arborist

The hope of what we don't see



When a tree is dormant, it can look dead, yet the roots are very much alive. The parts of a tree above the ground are on hold, and moving into March trees will be on 'standby'. As the days become warmer and longer, and the winds massage limbs, inner conducting vessels, the plumbing of the tree awakens.

February and March are good times to prune because a trees 'sustenance' is in the roots. But isn't it like most of us not to think about trimming off a branch until it's whacking us in the head?

Maybe that's what happened to our city; that things looked fine until the drooping boughs whacked us in the head. A proper pruning, or crown cleaning includes deadwood removal, thinning and 'crown raising' (those low branches that whack us in the head). A well trimmed tree should look like it doesn't need a trim and yet you cannot tell it's been hacked on. The keepers of this town, the ones who genuinely care about it, have already been 'dead wooding', already 'thinning', already 'raising the crown'. I don't think I was the only one to awaken with a helpless 'dormant' feeling the morning after the DOJ declared the law suit on us. When the Fed's tree shredder comes rolling, there may not be many limbs left for them to hack on. For we are sharpening up our own saw, trimming our own tree as if it were our own, and doing it before the growing season, we are doing it while we're all still dormant.

Wendell Phillips (Phil) Berwick
Pres. Living Tree Care / Certified ISA Arborist
And Creator of Merferd

Captain Dennis McBride opened the February 10th, 2015 meeting of the Ferguson On Watch, welcoming everyone. Joining Capt. McBride was Lt. William (Bill) Ballard. The January meeting had been cancelled due to former Mayor and Councilmember Brian Fletcher's wake being held during the same time period.

Anonymous Tip Line
Lt. Ballard has the Crime Tip Line (314) 524-8177 printed on his Police Dept. Business cards. Calls to this number are anonymous.

Enhanced Crime Review
The January 2016 Ferguson Crime Review report was reviewed. From our December meeting, we found out that 3 specific crimes were going to be further studied. Those 3 are Burglaries, Assaults with Weapons, and Robberies. This Crime Board was initiated to see if any patterns were developing on those issues. On Burglaries, the regular monthly report showed 26, while the task force log of investigated burglaries report showed 29. This difference is accounted for by the fact that further investigations sometimes change the classification from what the initial observations were, like property damage.

One trend that was reviewed was the activity at 9101 West Florissant. The problem solving at the Ferguson Market began in the beginning of January. The traffic to and from that address was reviewed, and they found that persons outside the facility were the subject of much of the traffic. Once the drug sale activity was confirmed, arrests were made.

Another trend reviewed during the month was the locations of burglaries. Descriptions of suspicious vehicles were gathered from the service calls to a hot spot area, and persons of interest were developed from their leads. Those people were identified and conversations with them were initiated. One person lived in Florissant, and had friends in the area. Once those conversations had taken place, burglaries in the area were reduced, and migrated to other out-of-town areas. Our police share intelligence with other police agencies regarding suspects with which they have interest in their respective jurisdictions.

Another element reviewed in the West Florissant area was the code enforcement issues that enabled suspects to run away. Fence repair and trimming of overgrowth were identified with the Park Ridge Apartments and the businesses on West Florissant. Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CPTED) elements were used to enhance the criminal captures process.

Consent Decree Acceptance
The Ferguson City Council voted unanimously in favor to authorize an agreement, subject to certain conditions, between the City and the DOJ. Much like a liquor license, after a public hearing, conditions based upon the public feedback are placed upon acceptance of the agreement. In our case, we were able to obtain public feedback after the 1st reading of the DOJ Consent Decree ordinance. To our knowledge, the DOJ has NOT allowed the public to be a part of the acceptance process, and even though the DOJ only gave us 1 week between readings, which normally is 2 weeks, our public was able to give us feedback during 3 separate sessions. That feedback generated the following conditions.

1) The agreement contain no mandate for the payment of additional salary to police department or other city employees.
2) The agreement contains no mandate for the staffing in the Ferguson jail.
3) Deadlines set forth in the agreement are extended (this was done to allow Ferguson to succeed instead of setting us up for failure)
4) The terms of the agreement shall not apply to other government entities or agencies who, in the future, take over services or operations currently being provided by the City.
5) A provision for local preference in contracting with consultants, contractors and 3rd parties providing services under the agreement shall be included
6) Project goals for minority and women participation in consulting, oversight and 3rd party services shall be included.
7) The monitoring fee caps in the Side Agreement are changed to $1 million over the 1st 5 years with no more than $250,000 in any single year.

As of this time, the DOJ has not agreed to any of the conditions, and have in fact overreached again and filed suit against the city, not recognizing any of the efforts and successes the city has undergone since August of 2014. In fact, 8 ordinances requested by the DOJ in the Consent Decree were given a 1st reading on the same night that the Consent Decree ordinance received it's 2nd reading and unanimous passage.

Next meeting:
The next Ferguson Neighborhood Watch meeting scheduled for City Hall will be at 7:00 pm on March 9th, 2016. We're hoping that our new city manager, De Carlon Seewood, might come visit and have a talk with us.

Cert Update:
On Saturday, February 13th, we had a Review of the existing Ferguson Emergency Operations Plan. Our trainer, Erica Artz, displayed the updates to a 2009 version, that had identified some areas in which CERT was included. The Next Cert worksession event is scheduled for the 3rd Saturday of March, the 19th, at 9:00 a.m. at the training room at Firehouse #1, at which time we will further review the Ferguson Emergency Operations Plan, with a focus on where we can become more valuable, & recommend adoption by the City Department heads, and the City Council.

Future dates: April 9th, 2016 NIMS Refresher: Incident Command system and outdoor search & rescue.

June 11, 2016; Farmer's Market Demonstration & Recruitment.

Job Opening

The Ferguson Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting applications for the following seasonal positions:

January Wabash/Splash Concession Aide

Qualifications: Must be 15 years of age or older, previous experience in public contact and cashiering work preferred.

Duties: Will be responsible to greet patrons; operate a cash register, complete money transactions, daily financial reports and deposits. Will prepare, serve and inventory concession products and keep concession clean. All Concession employees must have their hepatitis vaccination.

Visit fergusoncity.com/jobs and submit an application.

January Wabash/Splash Front Desk Worker

Qualifications: Must be 15 years of age or older, previous experience in public contact preferred.

Duties: This employee will provide quality member service to members and the general public. He/she is responsible for satisfaction of the customers. Will be responsible to greet patrons; operate a cash register, complete money transactions, daily financial reports and deposits.

Visit fergusoncity.com/jobs and submit an application.

Breakfast on a Snowy Morning



Sandy Hunter, Sue Kimberlin, and Jeannie Boettcher were the only customers in the Corner Coffee House Sunday morning. While light sleet/snow was falling these ladies decided to stop on the way home from church for breakfast and/ or lunch. The staff was surprised to see anyone to be out in the snowy weather. "I think they have the best omelets in town'" said Jeannie.

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Neighborhood Policing Steering Committee meeting
Peter Belmio, our Neighborhood Policing (NP) consultant, held a meeting of the Steering Committee at the Ferguson First Baptist Church on January 21st – Where we broke up into 4 different groups, describing our Situation, "Where are we now?" by defining our strengths & weaknesses.

The next phase, #2: Early March – Measuring Forces of Change -"What will the future bring?" by identifying Threats and Opportunities.

Phase 3: April 2016- Develop Goals "What needs to change to adopt NP?"

Phase 4: May 2016 - Form Implementation Teams for Each Goal Include elements of the DOJ Agreement

We need this to work, so can we count on you to help us with that?

Have a safe month. Keith :-)K

Jobs and More StL

JOBS AND MORE STL Continues Training, Will Host Resume Writing Workshop

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 job-seeking achievers with the skills and drive necessary to find employment that aligns with their individual strengths and interests.

JOBS AND MORE STL recently hosted a special, one-day resume writing seminar at the Ferguson Municipal Public Library. Additionally, on February 27, 2015, JOBS AND MORE co-sponsored a job fair at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 1425 Stein Rd in Ferguson. JOBS AND MORE wishes the best of luck to all job seekers in the employment search process.
Do you need a resume, or does your resume need refreshing? Let JOBS AND MORE STL help. Come to the next Resume Writing Workshop, where local subject matter experts will help you craft your resume, to put your best foot forward.

Free Resume Writing Workshop: **March 12 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**, Ferguson Municipal Public Library, 35 N. Florissant Rd. Bring copies of current resume, if available.

Free RISE ABOVE Workforce Training Workshop: March 14-25, M-F, 9:30AM-12:30 PM, Ferguson Municipal Public Library, 35 N. Florissant Rd.

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.

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Regular Chiropractic Care and Regular Exercise

The purpose of any form of exercise, in addition to the sheer enjoyment of vigorously using your body in the way it was designed to be used, is to improve health and well-being now and for years to come. But exercising at a high level requires your musculoskeletal system to be working efficiently and effectively. Nerve interference can irritate spinal nerves and cause limitations of spinal mobility, tight and painful spinal muscles, and mechanical stress on spinal ligaments. All of these structural problems can negatively impact your ability to exercise and may lead to injury. Regular chiropractic care, by detecting and correcting sources of nerve interference, helps restore optimal function to your musculoskeletal system and enables you to enjoy your exercise time to the fullest.

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Dr. Robyn's Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
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fergusonyouthtutors.org
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Email: Fergusonyouthtutors@gmail.com

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with the delivery of meals to our seniors 60+ who are homebound and wish to stay independent in their own homes. The time frame would be about 10:30 – 12:00. Mileage is reimbursable but volunteers do use their own cars. Please call 741-1930 to offer your services and make a difference in the life of seniors.

CLOTHES GIVE-WAY AND VOTER REGISTRATION

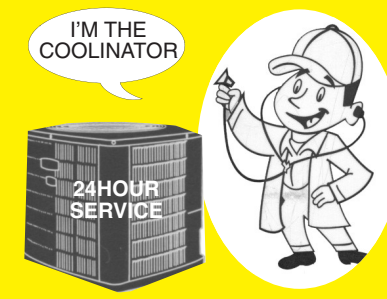
Saturday, April 2, 2016, 9:00A.M.

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Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis Honors the Past and Celebrates Tomorrow's Innovators and Educators

The Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis commemorated the 30th Anniversary of the 1986 Challenger Space Shuttle accident with a program that honored the seven Challenger astronauts, including Christa McAuliffe, who would have been the first teacher to go into space, and recognized seven current teachers who are inspiring our future generation of explorers and innovators.

The award, titled "Challenger Inspiring Teacher Award" was given to teachers who were nominated by former students, administrators, colleagues, and parents. The award recipients included the following:

Holly Camacaro, 3rd-grade teacher at Griffith Elementary School in the Ferguson-Florissant School District, Jessica Foersterling, is a 5th-grade science teacher at St. Mary's School in Alton, IL, Carl Hoagland, Professor of Technology and Learning at the University of Missouri St. Louis, Beth Kassel, 5th-8th grade teacher at St. Justin Martyr Catholic School in Sappington, MO, Diane O'Leary (retired) 6th- grade science at Truman Middle School in the Lindbergh School District, Kyle Selliers, 5th-grade teacher at Signal Hill Elementary School in Belleville, IL, and Cheryl Thomas, 6th-8th grade science teacher at St. Ann Catholic School in Normandy.

"Receiving the Challenger Inspiring Teacher Award at the 30th anniversary honoring the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger is an extreme honor and a humbling experience. The award makes me more motivated to encourage our youth to consider STEM careers," said Dr. Carl Hoagland, Professor of Technology and Learning at the University of Missouri St. Louis.
In addition to the recognitions and awards, the Challenger Learning Center held a program during the day that included future educators—education majors from area colleges and universities, who worked alongside a group of 6th-grade students from Airport Elementary School in Ferguson in a simulated space mission. Those education majors also participated in some hands-on activities that were similar to the ones that Christa McAuliffe was planning on teaching from space.



Challenger Learning Center's Inspiring Teacher award recipients (from left to right): Tasmyn Front, Director, Challenger Learning Center, Cheryl Thomas, 6th-8th grade science teacher at St. Ann Catholic School, Diane O'Leary (retired) 6th- grade science at Truman Middle School, Jessica Foersterling, is a 5th-grade science teacher at St. Mary's School, Carl Hoagland, Professor of Technology and Learning at the University of Missouri St. Louis, Kyle Selliers, 5th-grade teacher at Signal Hill Elementary, Beth Kassel, 5th-8th grade teacher at St. Justin Martyr Catholic School, and Holly Camacaro, 3rd-grade teacher at Griffith Elementary.

About the Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis
The award-winning Challenger Learning Center, located at 205 Brotherton Road in Ferguson, Missouri, provides simulated space missions and other science education programs for schools, scouts and corporate groups as well as for the general public. It features a replica Mission Control center and an orbiting space station.

The Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis is a partnership of the Ferguson-Florissant School District, the Saint Louis Science Center and Education-Plus and is part of the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, an international not-for-profit education organization founded in April 1986 by the families of the astronauts tragically lost during the Challenger space shuttle mission. For more information, visit www.clcstlouis.org.

Vote YES Tuesday April 5

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314-787-1672
www.fergusonunited.org

Celebrate Writers, Celebrate Ferguson, Celebrate Books

"Celebrate Writers, Celebrate Ferguson, Celebrate Books" coming to Ferguson on **March 19th, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** at the Corner Coffee House 100 N. Florissant Rd. Students, writers and readers from Ferguson and surrounding communities are invited to meet and converse with local and regional published authors. Aspiring writers will be able to speak personally with professional writers in an informal setting, and to receive tips and advice on the road to publishing fiction or non-fiction.

Guest authors of mystery, adventure, autobiography, social issues, ghost stories and children's' books will offer a variety of autographed books to purchase. This event is sponsored by FERGUSON WRITERS' GROUP and FERGUSON FLORISSANT BRANCH of AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN. Come and meet your neighbors at CELEBRATE WRITERS! You may be among the next best sellers!

There will be a display of books for sale and for browsing as well as opportunities to speak personally with professionals.

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BOB ON JOB

Spring is right around the corner and everyone is gearing up for the annual spring clean. From the top of the house to the bottom, everything is getting ready to be spruced up. From washing the windows, scrubbing the baseboards, and even putting on a fresh coat of paint to brighten up your own little world, spring cleaning prepares your home for the seasons to come.

You may recall some of our previous conversations in regards to setting up a maintenance program for your home. Spring cleaning is a great way to see some of the issues that sprung up during the course of the past few months. Recently, we were repairing a plaster ceiling with a small amount of water damage. When the water infiltrated the plaster, it mixed with the salts in the plaster and created a bubbling effect on the surface. This effect is called efflorescence. To repair this effect; all that you would need to do is to scrape the bubbled film from the plaster surface and neutralize with a vinegar solution and allow this area to dry. After the area is dried, repair the plaster and smooth into the surrounding area. Of course this is always easier said than done. But, with practice, this project is as easy as a walk in the park.

But plaster repair is not what I'm here to talk about today. Today we want to delve into what is known in the trade as 'Proper Preparation'. Preparation is 99% of a job well done. If all that was ever needed was a fresh coat of paint, than a lot of the world's problems would have been taken care of a long time ago. Back to that plaster repair project. During the patching phase, we noticed that some of the paint around the areas being repaired released from the previous coats, (aka as bubbling). We pulled off the areas that bubbled and before these areas were repaired, a coat of water based primer was applied, to seal the area. We experienced more bubbling of the paint to the point that we had to change our plan of action. What was happening was that when we applied any type of product that had water in it, the layers of paint that were already on the surface were delaminating. Why would this happen?

There are multiple reasons way this happened and I have no idea which one it could be without spending a lot of time and money to get to the culprit. A couple of reasons for this paint failure are as follow;

1. Somewhere in the past, some sort of contaminant got between the layers of paint and had lain dormant until it absorbed enough water from the patching material, primer or paint, to pop any adjacent layers loose.
2. Not priming between coats.
3. Cheap paint.
4. Calcimine paint.

Let's take a look at these four scenarios.

1. If when you're painting your ceilings or walls that haven't been painted for a long time, dirt, grime and other contaminants can adhere to a surface. If these culprits are not removed from the surface before the next coat of paint is applied, you can experience this type of delamination. Although, with this type of scenario, you will more than likely have problems with the new paint not wanting to stick to the old paint.

2. If you know that you are using a one type of paint and move on to another type, than you should always prime. The primers today are far superior to earlier primers and a lot more to choose from, just ask the expert at the paint store what they recommend for your situation. Just remember, "You can put oil over latex but you cannot put latex over oil" without problems. When in doubt, prime.

3. What can I say about cheap paint? Cheap paint is cheap paint! Always has been, always will be.

4. Calcimine paint was very popular throughout the latter part of the 19th century and the first third of the 20th century. Its primary ingredients were chalk and water. The chalk was the binder, (it would adhere to the surface), and water was the vehicle, (it allowed the chalk to be applied to the surface as a liquid).

The calcimine paint was used during spring cleaning because during these eras, wood and oil were used to heat the homes and the soot from these two types of heat sources would collect on the walls and ceilings. Instead of scrubbing the soot from these surfaces, calcimine paint would be used to cover the soot. In subsequent years, the calcimine should have been scrubbed off, therefore removing any soot from the immediate past heating season and applied again. Of course this was not always done and more calcimine would be applied on top of the old calcimine and soot.

Calcimine was also popular in new construction back in the day. When the walls were plastered, there would be a 60 day curing process for the plaster to "season" to the point that the PH-levels in the plaster would accept an oil-based paint. Otherwise, the paint would become blotchy, blister and peel off as the curing plaster reacted with the oils in the paint. With calcimine paint, you could paint the new plaster right away allowing the construction to be completed right away. Which also could be the fifth reason way the paint was peeling, but I will take the fifth on this reason.

With all of this reasoning behind what did go wrong, what did you do to take care of this problem?

After allowing the primers that were applied to the ceiling that bubbled to dry, we scraped off any bubbles that were left exposed. The entire ceiling that was being repaired was primed with an oil based primer. It stinks, but it creates a barrier between the existing paint and any of the water based paint, primers or patching materials that will be applied to the surface. The area was finished with a quality product so that the trap of cheap products doesn't hinder our progress in the future.

Just in case you're curious, in my opinion, the problem that we experienced was twofold. Multiple layers of paint were bubbling from the surface and the layer left on the ceiling had a slight chalky feel to it. If the surface had been primed between a few of the coats of paint over the years, this problem could have been avoided. Therefore, cheap paint and no primer was the problem. So, when in doubt, prime.

Until next month Bob is on the Job.



Market Swings Making You Uneasy? Let's Talk.



Maureen Zeugin
Financial Advisor
Two CityPlace Drive
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Facebook Advertising Made Easy

By LaTease Rikard



I'm so happy that Facebook made it easier to advertise with them! Now you don't need an advanced degree to create an ad, target your market, and pay for the ad! It's so easy and this month I'm going to take you through the steps to set up a Facebook Advertising campaign.

First you want to determine what is the outcome you want to achieve. Do you want to create brand awareness, letting your potential customers know that you exist? Or do you want to create sales? Most people will answer create sales so let's focus on sales creation.

Just a few short years ago advertising on Facebook wasn't worth the time of day for small business owners. The only types of businesses that saw success with Facebook advertising were the major corporations of the world. And even they didn't see much of a return on their investment. Many of those businesses learned Facebook users were unwilling to leave Facebook; they wanted to stay on Facebook as long as possible without interruption.

In an effort to make money, Facebook decided to help advertisers by giving them greater access to ad targeting. That is, when you purchase advertising on Facebook you can use geo-targeting to determine the location of your customers, use geo-fencing which defines the location(s) where you want your ads displayed, and geo-restricting which allows those ads to be only seen in the Ferguson-Florissant areas.

That was genius, and it helped propel Facebook into a multi-billion dollar company. Now advertisers can take advantage of this market targeting with minimal investments.

Setting up your ads does require knowing which keywords are triggering responses from your audience. You can do a little test by observing which of your updates is receiving the most likes and comments. For instance take a look at this insight page from one of the pages I own, Domestic Violence Survivors:

People
Feb. 8 - Feb. 14
Women 35-44
Largest Audience (33%)
Mobile Devices
Most Common Device (81%)

Reach
Feb. 8 - Feb. 14
8,207
People Reached ▲36%
1,237
Post Engagement ▼13%

Page Likes
Feb. 8 - Feb. 14
72
Page Likes ▼23%

Looking at this data, I can tell the age, gender, and the method my audience accesses my page. 61% of them use a mobile device (smartphone, tablet, or iPad,) 33% are women aged 35-44, a highly sought after market segment. If I were to market something to this audience I would make sure it would be something that was both beneficial and valuable to them.

Facebook allows you to use this data and advertise to others on the site so you can either grow your page or sell items of use to them. Actually, if you have a Facebook page just click on "Boost Post" which is underneath your status (only the page admins can see this, your page members cannot see this button) and you will go to a page where you can set up your ad campaign.

6,206 people reached **Boost Post**

Next month we will look at what setting up an ad campaign actually looks like.

Oh by the way, want to join me on Facebook or Twitter? Just follow me and add me as a friend on Twitter @lateaserikard
On Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/latease

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Ferguson-Florissant School District

Area Leaders Encourage Berkeley Middle Students to Dream BIG

Eighth- grade students at Berkeley Middle School recently had the opportunity to meet with area leaders, who encouraged them to set ambitious goals and not let obstacles stand in the way of their success. The leaders spoke to the students as part of the school's 10th annual "Project Dream BIG" event. "Project Dream BIG" is inspired by the story of three friends – Dr. Rameck Hunt, Dr. Sampson Davis and Dr. George Jenkins – who grew up in public housing and made a pact to complete high school, college and medical school successfully. All of Berkeley Middle's eighth graders read, We Beat the Streets, a book on the three men's pact and as part of "Project Dream Big" activities, signed agreements with each other to stay in school and commit to success.

In recognition of Project Dream BIG's 10th anniversary, all eighth-grade students were presented with t-shirts. It was also announced that a $250 savings bond will be awarded to a student at the end of the school year who demonstrated Dream BIG traits.

Halls Ferry Elementary Counselor is Counselor of the Year

Shawnean Callihan, a counselor at Halls Ferry Elementary School, has been named the 2015-16 Elementary Counselor of the Year by the St. Louis Suburban School Counselor Association (SLSSCA).

Awardees demonstrate innovation in guidance and counseling, provide leadership in their program and perform outstanding service to the school community. Jennifer Lane, guidance coordinator for the Ferguson-Florissant School District, nominated Callihan. Callihan was recognized at the SLSSCA Awards Ceremony, which was held during National School Counseling Week on Feb. 3.

McCluer South-Berkeley Students Qualify for State DECA Competition

Five students from McCluer South-Berkeley High School have qualified to compete at the DECA State Career Development Conference in Lake Ozark, MO, March 13-15. The students, seniors Josh Barnes, Rickey Wilbourn, Kelly Garner and Chrisuan Bryant; along with sophomore Diamond Smith, were among the top finishers in the recently held district competition.

"All of the students are model citizens at school and we are expecting great things from them in the future," said Dr. Raghib Muhammad, marketing instructor at McCluer South-Berkeley High School.

DECA is a part of the district's marketing curriculum. "Competition is a way for students to demonstrate what they have learned in marketing and business related classes during the school year," said Dr. Muhammad.

This will be the first time the five students have participated in the state competition.



Actor Tommy Ford Meets With Students

Acclaimed actor, author, producer and motivational speaker Thomas "Tommy" Ford visited several schools in the Ferguson-Florissant School District, including McCluer North High School, as part of the district's Justice Sunday Weekend 2016 activities that were held over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend (Jan. 15-18). Ford met with several student groups, providing motivational words of wisdom and encouraging the students to always strive for success. He also read a book he authored to students at Cool Valley Elementary School.

Justice Sunday Weekend 2016 activities culminated at Greater Grace Church where Ford served as the keynote speaker during the Sunday morning worship service. Ford is best known for his role on the syndicated Martin show.

Volunteer Mediator Opportunity

Applications are available now to people who would like to become volunteer mediators. In January the Community Mediation Services of St Louis (CMS) was identified by the US Department of Justice in its proposed Consent Decree with the City of Ferguson to provide comprehensive mediation services. CMS has worked with both community leaders and the DOJ since October 2014. Whether or not an agreement is reached between the City and the DOJ, CMS remains committed to providing neighbor to neighbor, family and citizen police mediation services to Ferguson as well as to greater St Louis. To do this, CMS needs additional well-trained mediators. The work is challenging, sometimes messy, and takes time but succeeds in managing a process for people to resolve their issues in a safe constructive environment.

The CMS 40-hour mediation training program enhances skills in conflict resolution and serves as a basic foundation for people to become volunteer mediators. Classes, which are limited to 20 people, involve opportunities to practice mediation skills as participants master well-defined principles.

The course is offered in a series of three week-ends spread over a month. The next training is scheduled to begin at noon **Friday, April 1, and continue through Saturday, April 2.** A fee of $400 covers the cost of trainers, materials, facilities, and food. A limited number of scholarships may be available to applicants with limited incomes.

Community Mediation Services is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation based in St. Louis. For more information, contact Executive Director John Doggette at jdoggette@mediationst.org or complete the contact form on the web site, www.mediationstl.org

Officials to Explain Tax Issues at Public Meeting

The Northwest Ferguson Neighborhood Association will host a public meeting at Ferguson Baptist Church on Tuesday, March 29 at 7 p.m. Mayor James Knowles III, Ward 2 Council Representatives Dwayne James and Laverne Mitchom, and City Manager De'Carlon Seewood will present information about the tax issues on the April 5 ballot. A police officer will also be present to update residents on any neighborhood crime issues.

The program will provide an opportunity for residents to meet not only the new city manager, but also Rosalyn Lee, who has been tasked with working with neighborhood groups in Ferguson. The meeting will focus on Northwest Ferguson matters, but is open to all residents who wish to learn more about the tax issues.

Health and Safety Fair for Young Children – Saturday, March 5

St. Louis County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program will attend the Health and Safety Fair for Young Children on Saturday, March 5, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ferguson-Florissant School District's Administration Center, 1005 Waterford Drive, in Florissant. This free event is being sponsored by Ferguson-Florissant School District's Parents as Teachers program.

The mission of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is to improve the environmental health of residents and families in St. Louis County by promoting and eliminating lead hazards to make homes lead safe.

The program tests homes built prior to 1978 for old lead paint. If a hazard is found, contractors develop a plan to remove and/or control the hazards. Most often lead paint is found around windows. When found the windows are replaced with vinyl windows. Home improvement will be done without cost to the homeowner through a "forgivable loan". To qualify for assistance there must be a child under the age of 6 years either visiting or living in the home and the homeowner must meet income guidelines.

Parents as Teachers is a parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten, usually age 5. Certified parent educators provide child development information, parent-child activities, group connections, community resources and developmental screenings. For additional information call the Ferguson-Florissant School District's Early Education Department, 314-506-9066.

10th Annual Lipka Trivia Night

Benefiting the Samantha Lipka Scholarship Fund

SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH, 2016, Doors open at 6:00pm
THE FERGUSON COMMUNITY CENTER IN THE CITY ROOM
(1050 Smith Ave., 63135)

RESERVE A TABLE OF 8 FOR $200.00
40 TABLES AVAILABLE.....Individual Tickets, $25.00,
Tickets include: Beer, Soda & Snacks
Cash Bar Available (no outside liquor allowed)

Night includes: Attendance Prizes, Raffles, Silent Auction, 50/50's and More
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Prizes for:
1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place and last place. Most creative table regarding food, decorations and team!
FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS!

We encourage you to buy your tickets online at www.LipkaTriviaNight.com
For More Information or to make Reservations, Call Linda Lipka at 314-524-4444 or Email at LindaL@SounSationalDJs.com

March Events at the Ferguson Public Library

For more information, call the library at 521-4820 or visit ferguson.lib.mo.us

Call and Response: A History of Negro Spirituals

Journey with us and performer Gregory Carr through the history of Negro spirituals, examining the hidden meanings and messages of beloved songs like "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Wade in the Water".

Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 pm

Adult Computer Classes

Learn some computer basics in our classes designed for beginners! All classes are offered on a first come, first served basis and start at 5 pm.

- Tuesday, March 1 — Internet and social media
- Tuesday, March 15 — Microsoft Word
- Tuesday, March 29 — Microsoft Excel

Storytime with Parents as Teachers

Join Maggie with the Ferguson-Florissant School District's Parents as Teachers program for a preschool storytime that will be sure to please!

Thursday, March 10 at 10 am Tuesday, March 29 at 6 pm

Ask a Pharmacist: Health Insurance

Baffled by your health insurance and prescription drug coverage? Join us and Seth Anato, PharmD to have all your questions answered!

Tuesday, March 29 at 6:30 pm

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Little Creek Coordinator Receives $20,000 Grant

Eric Hadley, the coordinator of the district's Little Creek Nature Area and Science Curriculum and Instruction, has been awarded a $20,000 grant from Verizon. The funds will be used to enhance and expand the outreach of middle school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programming. This is the second consecutive year Hadley has received the grant.

"Our goal is to increase middle school students' awareness and excitement of STEM and to increase student achievement in science," said Hadley.

In applying for the grant, Hadley worked with middle school department chairs to identify needs to support STEM instruction. The grant will be used to purchase materials for model roller coaster tracts and timers, and materials to design and build everyday solutions.

"These materials will be somewhat like 'Makerspace' tools so students can problem solve, design and build the solution," said Hadley.

The grant will also provide for professional development to support teacher learning about STEM and STEM Makerspaces.



Join us for Free Preschool for 3s and 4s!

Our 3-year-old preschool program is designed for children who turn 3 by July 31st of the year they will begin preschool. Classes meet two mornings per week from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Our 4-year-old pre-kindergarten program is designed for children who turn 4 by July 31st of the year they will begin pre-kindergarten. Classes meet three mornings per week from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. or four afternoons per week from 12:15 - 3:15 p.m.

Both programs follow the Missouri Pre-K Literacy Standards that have been set by the state of Missouri. To find out more information about the Missouri Pre-K Standards, visit their website at http://dese.mo.gov

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 2, 2015.



Both Programs Include PAT Personal Visits for Families

An important part of the Ferguson-Florissant preschool and pre-kindergarten program is the regular personal visit with the teacher, parent, and child. Parents often tell us that the personal visits are their favorite part of the program. These one-hour visits occur approximately every five weeks, and can be scheduled during the day or, if needed, early evening. Teachers are also certified parent educators, and talk with parents about their child's development and parenting issues. Everyone does an activity together, learning about how children work in school. In very special situations, these personal visits can occur in the school if no possible home arrangement can be made.

Children with special needs and other preschool children who are enrolled in the inclusion or combined classes have home visits with a Parents as Teachers parent educator. You will meet your parent educator at open house.

It is very important that all appointments for personal visits be honored. This is one of the things that makes this program so successful in helping children be ready for kindergarten. Teachers and parent educators have very busy schedules and appreciate being called if someone is sick and a personal visit must be missed. Parents' ongoing commitment to the full program is very important for children's success.

I-270 Project Moves Forward as MoDOT Identifies Additional Funds for Assessment Study

JEFFERSON CITY - State Senator Gina Walsh, D-Bellefontaine Neighbors, is very pleased to announce the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) has identified additional funds that will allow the I-270 North Environmental Assessment Study to be completed. The study is the next step in the larger I-270 project, which seeks to address congestion, safety and mobility, accessibility and aging infrastructure along the interstate in north St. Louis County.

"The I-270 project was 90 percent complete and had already cost MoDOT $1.3 million when it was stopped after the department implemented the 325 System," said Sen. Walsh. "Thanks to an improving economy and the federal highway bill, we once again have the financial means to conduct the I-270 North Environmental Assessment Study."

The Assessment Study area begins at the I-70 interchange on the west and extends to the Chain of Rocks Bridge on the east. It includes the cities of Bridgeton, Hazelwood, Florissant, Ferguson, Dellwood and Bellefontaine Neighbors.

"The completion of the I-270 Corridor Study has been an important priority for North County Inc. and our communities," said North County Incorporated President/CEO Rebecca Zoll. "This announcement is welcome news. We applaud Senator Walsh's continuous commitment to ensure the Study is completed. This action will help communities see recommended improvements queued up for future funding along this key transportation and commercial corridor, sooner rather than later."

"The I-270 Corridor is one of the most traveled in the St. Louis metropolitan region. Many of its roads and bridges were constructed in the early 1960s; unfortunately, due to their age they are in desperate need of serious rehabilitation or reconstruction. The improvements we're hoping to see realized will benefit thousands of St. Louis residents and businesses for years to come," Walsh said. "Beginning the assessment study is a critical milestone in the larger project. Although we had to hit the pause button, I'm very excited for us to get back on track, and finish what was started."

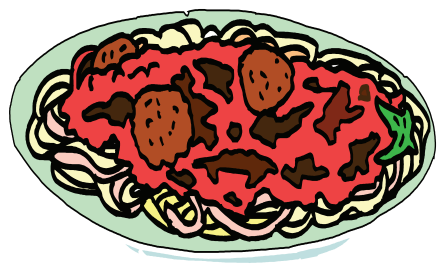
For more information on the I-270 North Environmental Assessment Study, please click here or visit the MoDOT website at www.modot.org



Every Monday at 10:00 a.m.
Ferguson Municipal Library

First Presbyterian Annual

Spaghetti Supper



Saturday, April 2nd
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Adults: $8 Children (6-12) $4
Children 5 and under Free
First Presbyterian Church
of Ferguson
401 Darst Road

Dates to Remember in March:

International Women's Day	Tues., March 8
Daylight Savings Begins	Sun., March 13
Pi Day	Mon., March 14
Saint Patrick's Day	Thurs, March 17
Saint Joseph's Day	Sat., March 19
Palm Sunday	Sun., March 20
Spring Begins	Sun., March 20
Holy Thursday	Thurs. March 24
Good Friday	Fri., March 25
Easter	Sun., March 27



Marilyn Spencer 1939-2016

Thursday afternoon February 11th, the City of Ferguson lost one of its brightest lights. Marilyn Spencer, owner of Spencer's Bakery, passed away.

Marilyn was born on June 20th in Harlington Texas to Charles & Marianne Stuart. They, along with her younger brother Charles, moved to Missouri in 1945. First in Hillsboro, then Afton in '49, and finally Webster Groves in '52. A graduate of Webster Groves High, she attended William Woods College, where she graduated (with honors).

Something magical happened in April '64 when, as a bridesmaid, she was paired with a certain groomsman - who happened to be a brother of the groom. After one and a half years, on November 12th 1965, Louis and Marilyn Spencer were married.

They bought their first house in St. John on Mary Knoll, where they had two sons. Louis II (that's me) in '67, and Charles in '69.

In 1974 we moved to Ferguson where we took over 'Ferguson Bake Shop'. Leaving the name as is, we - well, they - ran it as a pastry and wholesale bakery until two bad winters forced us to close in 1979.

After working for 'Winchell's Donut House' in Overland for 5 years, they decided to try again. After about 6 months of remodeling (that was fun), on December 3rd 1985 Spencer's Bakery was reborn.

Louis and Marilyn ran Spencer's together until Lou's death in April 2006 from cancer. Later that year Mom discovered she had cancer as well. She spent the entire month of August '06 at Christian NE recovering from a hernia operation, right breast removal, and radiation treatments for that (Yow!!).

We re-opened November '06 when she recovered, just as strong as before. Everything was going great. Until that doctor (quack) at Christian NE hurt her leg December 8th '15, which led to her having a broken leg (see February '16 article). Which led to her surgery. And to her undergoing rehab at Delmar Gardens North.

It was there that she passed away that Thursday afternoon.
If there is one thing about Mom . . . one thing to remember, it's her spirit. February 8th - the Monday before - we (Chuck and I) went to see her. Instead waiting for a nurse to help her, she actually got up out of her wheelchair on her own. It was a first since her operation. That showed me that her spirit - her heart - would have conquered all.

People have asked if we're going to keep the Bakery open. The honest answer is we're going to take it one day at a time. We do need help . . . with funeral expenses and everything else. If you would like to help with donations, any help - no matter the size, big or not too big - would be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made to 'Louis Spencer' and sent to:

Spencer's Bakery
100 Church Street
Ferguson, Mo. 63135

Marilyn Spencer. Daughter. Brother. Wife. Mother. Angel.
Visit: <Alexanderstlouis.com> for Marilyn's obituray and to leave comments.

Louis Dale Spencer II
Charles Wade Spencer

Our Little Angel(s)

All of us at Spencer's Bakery would like to thank all of our fantastic customers / friends / family (really, you're all one and the same) for their support, both morally and financially, during this trying time at the bakery. There are a few certain individuals we would like to give a special 'Thank You' to.

Our 1st Angel is Dorothy Seiter, the lovely lady that runs this very paper you're reading right now. She has been very sweet to us over the years, letting us publish our (sometimes goofy) articles in this fine paper (and, hopefully, many more in the future). She was also very sweet to help us out in other ways, which shall remain private. ;) Dorothy, know that Marilyn (Mom) loved you and you have our eternal thanks.

Our second Angel (or Angels) are Mr. and Mrs. Knowles from Knowles Heating and Cooling. Our upstairs furnace developed a 'multiple personality' right after Mom went to the hospital (we figure it was Dad playing games with us from 'up there'). The Knowles have the patience of saints.
Mrs. Knowles (Patti) for taking our calls at odd hours and Mr. Knowles (Jim) for coming out at equally odd hours to work on it. The strange thing is the day they got it fixed was Feb. 12th, the day after Mom 'left' us (we figure when Mom got 'up there', she told Dad to give us a break). They were very sweet to help us out with that, and other things, like they did.
James. Know that Mom loved you as well, and you have our eternal thanks.

Our third Angel is Dr. Robyn Lawrence at the Ferguson Wellness and Chiropractic (right across the street from us). Mom started seeing Dr. Robyn around March last year (wow, has it been a year already?) for, I think, stiffness in her lower back. It was a tremendous help to Mom (although, like Dr. Robyn warned, the 'morning after' was always 'fun'). Mom continued to see her once or twice a week for the rest of the year. And in December, when Mom got her leg hurt (by that quack), Dr. Robyn was sweet to come across the street once or twice with her 'clicker' (?) to try to help Mom out.
She was also my 'go-to gal' when it came to medical terms other doctors threw my way. Robyn, know that Mom loved you as well. And know that I - and the Spencer family - love you for your dear, dear friendship and all you did to help Mom.

And that goes for everyone else mentioned.
Disembodied Voice - And I have some special news.
Hey DV. Where have you been?
DV - Well, I thought I'd wait 'til you were done to give you the news.
? What news?
DV - We're adopting Dr. Robyn into the family.
Really?
DV - Yeah. You got a problem with that?
Nope. None whatsoever. It's just that ... you know how big her family is?
DV - Not really. Why?
You handle Christmas and Birthdays.
DV - No Problem. ;)

God Bless You All. Hug your loved ones everyday

Louis Dale Spencer II
Charles Wade Spencer

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EarthDance is excited to offer CSA shares to the public again in 2016! If you enjoyed fresh, organic produce last season, we'd love to have you back. If you're new to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) we'd love to have you try us out.

Registration is now open and shares go fast! Memberships may open throughout the season, and we do not want to miss an opportunity to share the bounty of our land with all who are interested! Contact Soraya Farmarzi at 314.521.1006 or soraya@earthdancefarms.org.

EarthDance has extended the deadline to apply to our 2016 Farm & Garden Apprenticeship! You've got one more month to apply to the only full season, part time organic farm and garden training program in the Midwest. An apprenticeship at EarthDance not only gives you the skills and confidence to grow your own school, community, backyard garden or farm business, but also creates deep connections to the land and people of St. Louis. Plus you get to take home a share of fresh, organic produce to your friends and family every week!

For more info visit our website or call 314.521.1006!

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.



Ferguson Kiwanis Club

Have you ever wondered who actually puts up all the flags along Florissant Road in Ferguson on Flag Day and on all major holidays? Or who makes the awesome funnel cakes at our 4th of July celebrations, fund-raising for scholarships for Mc Cluer High School? Well, it's the work of the Ferguson Kiwanis Club, a spirited group of mainly seniors, who have been serving Ferguson for between two and thirty years. The club started here 54 years ago, in December 1962, and has been involved in a wide variety of activities, serving kids from pre-school to seniors in high school, since then. Working behind the scenes, here's some of what the Ferguson Kiwanis Club does for our community.

They run the Key Club at Mc Cluer High School, a leadership program for students. Kids benefit from mentoring and from various service projects like painting, a chili cook-off and any others that may be undertaken internationally or initiated by the local membership itself. The group is autonomous and chooses their own projects, how they raise their money and whom they will support. There is a similar Builders Club at Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Ferguson, operating along the same lines as the Key Club, under the auspices of the Kiwanis Club. The Builders Club lends a hand at the Annual Prayer Breakfast hosted by the Kiwanis Club annually, as a service to the community.

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 – $13.00

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

The 33rd Ferguson Annual Prayer Breakfast will be held on **Wednesday 23rd March, at 7.00 a.m.** at the Savoy. I am happy to inform you that I have been invited to be the featured speaker and my talk will be on: My Journey of Faith; East Meets West. Tickets are $13 per person and you can book a table of eight if you choose. Tickets are available from Kay Klein, 314.521.5960 and Garry Wede, 314.383.3233, or from any Kiwanis member. Come out early and support a good cause!

The Kiwanis also run a service project called Newborns in Need, supplying knitted and crotcheted items, blankets, hats, booties, sweater sets, etc, to newborns. They also run the popular Meals on Wheels program, delivering hot meals throughout Ferguson.

The Kiwanis Club has a fund-raising Pancake Breakfast at the end of October at the Savoy every year. Money raised makes it possible for the Club to give scholarships to students and 100% of funds raised is plowed back into its charitable activities.



When I joined the local Kiwanians for their breakfast meeting in early February, I was amazed to find that so few people were doing so much in our community. They are involved in numerous projects and it's only 11 members, down from a high of 65! Would you like to join this service club and become a Kiwanian? The club has had long-standing and faithful members all these years and are looking for new blood! They meet for breakfast at 8.00 a.m. on the second and third Monday of the month, at the Corner Coffee House, and for dinner on the fourth Wednesday. Membership costs $100 per year.

The local Kiwanis Club is affiliated with regional, national and international arms of the organization. The top international project at this time is a five-year program called "Eliminate", done in collaboration with UNICEF to eliminate neonatal tetanus. So far the Kiwanis Club worldwide has raised $110 million to support this goal.

Ferguson is rich in diversity and in the many interests represented here. We are proud that so many residents give of their time freely as volunteers to organizations like the Kiwanis Club. Hats off to the current and past members of the Kiwanis Club and to current president, Rose Bollinger! You represent the very Best of Ferguson!

A Heart Searching For Our City

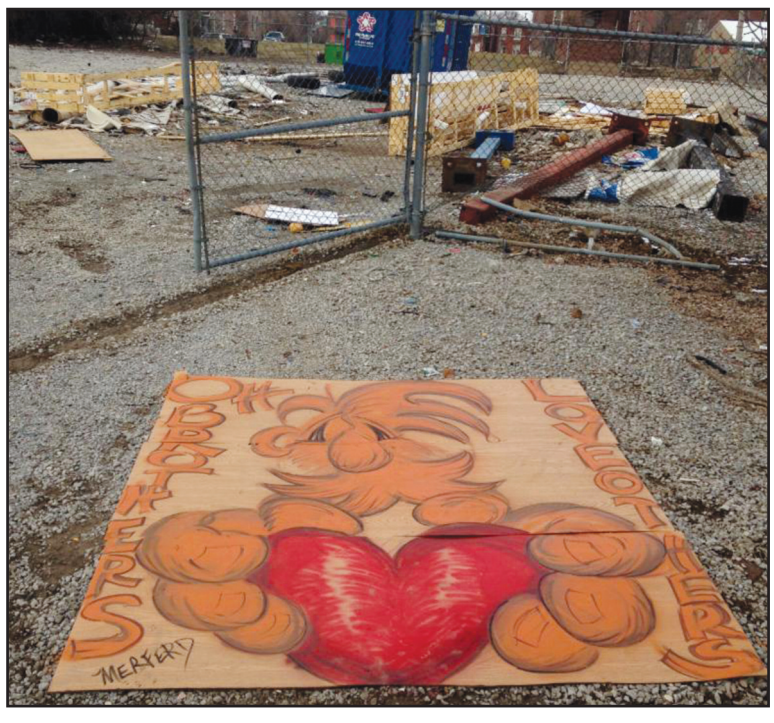


Photo of a typical 'lot' on St Louis Avenue (St. Louis, not Ferguson), our city's namesake. I tore apart a crate on the left for 3 panels, and painted Merferd. I'm done 'WASTING' time with politics, time to LAY DOWN SOME LOVE.

Wendell Phillips (Phil) Berwick
Pres. Living Tree Care / Certified ISA Arborist
And Creator of Merferd

February Was Black History Month



Pictured above is Phil on the right, Phil's wife, Theresa on the left, with Mother Cooper at Dred Scott's grave in Calvary Cemetery.

Every St Louisan needs to know about Dred Scott, suing for his freedom first here in Missouri and then to the Supreme court. I suggest a tour at the old court house.

There was the Missouri Compromise, and almost 200 years later here we are; 'Ferguson'.
We LIVE here, sense the pall in the air, the onset of the federal Government's lawsuit, and exaggerated or not, the entire world envisions our city as racist.

The only thing that is going to FREE us all, is the love that comes from the Creator of us all, that we strive to love brothers and sisters whom we CAN see, if we are to confess the love of the God who we cannot see.

Wendell Phillips (Phil) Berwick
Pres. Living Tree Care / Certified ISA Arborist
And Creator of Merferd



Ask Grandma

What's It Like to Be Old?

I think I have written about this before, but I don't remember (my age). You probably don't remember either (your disinterest). It is rather disheartening when I ask my children and grandchildren about something I've written and the replay is, "Oh I didn't read it."

But anyway, I turned 81 in December. So, I guess by anybody's standard, I am old. I love being old. I wouldn't be 21 again for anything. Not that 21 was bad, it is just that I was so dumb. But stupidity doesn't disappear just because you add years. In fact admitting to others your lack of knowledge in some areas is very enlightening. Most people are more than happy to share their expertise, and if you really listen, you may learn something.

Einstein said, "If you ask a fish to climb a ladder, he will go through his whole life thinking he is stupid."

One of those areas in which I am deficit is electronics. Even though I publish a newspaper on a computer, doesn't mean I know anything about computers. I know the program I use and that's about it. But I have tech support to get me out of jams. I also have 3 daughters in the computer and printing industry that I can ask questions, and, if worse comes to disaster, they may even stop by after work and help me.

So, one of the lessons you learn as you age is to quit trying to do things for which you have no aptitude. When I first started in my own business (I had a graphic arts studio), I took an evening class in accounting. After a semester I learned just enough to realize that I was never going to run a business and keep up with tax laws, accounting procedures, etc. The result is I hired an accountant. One of my smartest decisions.

Like it or not, you young'uns, as you age, and gain more experience, you acquire a certain knowledge which is good, but you also realize your limitations. Acknowledging them is the first step in finding solutions. You can either delegate those areas to someone you trust, or devote the time and energy to becoming more adept.

Along with more experience is the realization that the older you get, the harder it is to absorb new ideas. I think retirement communities have it all wrong. There is something lacking when older adults live with older adults. When the people with whom you associate are approximately your same age, with your same aches and pains, with your same memories and associations . . . there is something missing.

What? you say . . . is wrong with living with people who share your same experiences?

Well, in my opinion, perhaps it is the lack of new ideas, new approaches to today's problems, new music, new manners of speaking, new ways of dressing, and so many other aspects of the younger generations. Living with younger generations (as well as with contemporaries) forces seniors out of their comfort zone to experience a world that is completely different from what they remember. This is good. Retirement communities should mix generations . . . some singles, some families, some seniors. This is how extended families existed in prior generations. This arrangement would also be beneficial to the younger generation who could learn to appreciate the value of the elderly.

On an entirely different note, I had a recent experience that caused me some concern. I came home about 5:30 in the evening and unlocked my front door. It opened but then I couldn't get the key our of the lock. I envisioned going to bed without being able to lock my door . . . but more important . . . that my keys in the lock were visible from the street. I thought about getting a pliers and forcing the key out, but what if the key broke while still in the lock.

I called Jim Alexander, who advertises in this paper (back page). He was at my house within a half hour. He removed the key, oiled the lock and then asked me to gather all the keys that fit that lock. They all worked well except the one that had been stuck. He said to just throw that key away.

Jim was at my house for less than 15 minutes, and his price was very reasonable. If you have lock problems, give him a call at 314-550/0517. Jim lives in Ferguson.

Gift Baskets

Mother of Good Counsel Home

TRIVIA NIGHT

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Calendar of Events In and Around Ferguson

Complete Details of These Events Throughout the Paper

Adult Computer Class – Library	Tues., Mar. 1, 15, 29
Zion Trivia – Savoy	Sat., Mar. 5
Wurstmarket – St. Peters UCC	Sat., Mar. 5
Health and Safety Fair – Ferg./Flor Adminstration Bldg.	Sat., Mar. 5
Children's Tumbling Begins – Comm. Ctr.	Mon., Mar. 7
Aerobics Classes Begin	Mon., Mar. 7
History of Negro Spirituals – Library	Tues., Mar. 8
Ferguson Council Meeting – City Hall	Tues., Mar. 8
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
Parents As Teachers Storytime at Library	Thurs., Mar. 10
Northwest Chamber Membership Mtg. – Orlando's Banquet	Thurs. Mar. 10
Jobs and More STL – Library	Sat., Mar. 12
Ferguson Council Candidate Forum- 1st Baptist	Mon., Mar. 14
Lunch and Bingo – Comm. Ctr.	Thurs., Mar. 17
Teen Trip to "Spot 394"	Fri., Mar. 18
Celebrate Writers – Corner Coffee House	Sat., Mar. 19
Indoor Farmer's Market – St. Stephens	Sat., Mar. 19
Brian Owens Concert – St. Peters	Sun., Mar. 20
African American Women in Missouri – Immanuel UCC	Mon., Mar. 21
Ferguson Council Meeting – City Hall	Tues., Mar. 22
Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast – Savoy	Wed., Mar. 23
Children's Easter Egg Hunt – Jan-Wabash Park	Sat., Mar. 26
Breakfast with the Easter Bunny – St. Peters	Sat., Mar. 26
EASTER SUNDAY	Sun., Mar. 27
Easter Sunday Services – January-Wabash Park	Sun. Mar. 27
Environmental Film – Climate – St. Stephens	Tues., Mar. 29
N/W Ferg. Neigh. Assn. Tax Issue Explanation – 1st Baptist.	Tues., Mar. 29
Parents as Teachers Storytime at Library	Tues., Mar. 29
Ask a Pharmacist – Library	Tues., Mar. 29
Gambling Trip to Tunica	Tues, Mar. 29 - Thurs., Mar. 31
Adult Easter Egg Hunt – Comm. Ctr.	Fri., Apr. 1
Volunteer Mediator Course Begins	Fri., Apr. 1
Mother of Good Counsel Trivia Night	Sat., Apr. 2
Clothes Give-Away – Cathedral at the Crossroads	Sat., Apr. 2
Soroptimist Ladies Night Out – Sacred Heart in Florissant	Sat., Apr. 2
Spaghetti Supper – 1st Presbyterian	Sat., Apr. 2
VOTE	Tues., Apr. 5
Lipka Trivia Night – Comm. Ctr.	Sat., Apr. 16
"Sound of Music" at the Fox trip	Thurs., Apr. 28

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- **Proof of Missouri residence**

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