

Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities



Ferguson Youth Initiative

F.Y.I. Hosts First Annual Pinewood Classic

A Fundraiser to #SupportYoungPeople

Saturday, December 10th • Starting at 1:00 p.m.
Ferguson Community Center
(1050 Smith Avenue, Ferguson)

FYI is transforming this age-old Boy Scout event into a community spectacular for all ages. Shape a block of wood into a sleek racing machine or showcase your creativity in the design competition. Registration is now open! All entries come with a car. Visit us online at <<http://fyiferyouth.org/fyipinewoodclassic/>> for rules and sponsorship information.

This event will feature three derbies, on a four-lane track beginning with the Teen Classic for ages 13 - 19 (entry fee is \$5.00) from 1:00pm until 3:00pm. Next, the Open Adult Classic will kick-off at 4:00pm until 6:00pm (entry fee \$30.00).

The Ferguson Youth Initiative (FYI) is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization which was started in 2010. We began serving the youth of the Ferguson community by encouraging them and engaging them as active members of the community, developing programs as needed, and further communicating and partnering with existing community youth programs.

The Pinewood Classic is one of the many ways through in which FYI carries out it work. We're just looking to further our Initiative to #SupportYoungPeople throughout the City of Ferguson, and the surrounding school district, and your participation in this event will help us to do this!

For more information about this topic, please contact Dwayne T. James by calling 314.494.4762, or dwayne@fergyiyouth.org.



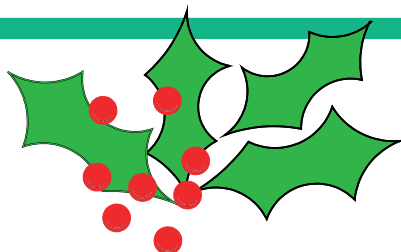
Saturday December 17th Ferguson's Indoor Farmers' Market

Farmer's Market open the third Saturday of the month, now through April.

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

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

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ALLIED WASTE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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

Because the Christmas and New Years Holidays fall on Sunday, your trash pick-up date remains the same as always.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

ADVERTISEMENT

FERGUSON'S 2016 Twilight Christmas HOUSE TOUR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 • 3-7pm

TICKETS: \$12 in advance, \$15 day of tour
Tickets available at Paul's Market,
Ferguson City Hall & Corner Coffee House
or at Pearce Neikirk's Office
on December 4.

All Proceeds Benefit
the Ferguson Caring League

This Tour is Bike Friendly

FREE* CARRIAGE RIDES

Thursday, December 8th
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Plaza @ 501
(at the corner of South Florissant Road and Suburban Ave.)
Enjoy hot cocoa, toasty fire pits,
and a great movie, *A Christmas Story*.

*FREE for Ferguson Residents and Businesses only,
Proof of Residency Required.



Holiday Greetings from CityWalk

First of all, I want to offer a big thank you to the restaurants and patrons who participated in Dine Out on November 9th! All the figures aren't in as of this writing, but through your support and generosity, over \$2,550 was raised to benefit our award-winning Ferguson Farmers market.

The Holiday Season in Citywalk officially kicked off with the Northern Lights festival and lighting of the Christmas tree at Victorian Plaza, adding to the festive decorations on street lamps and businesses! The lighted decorations along Citywalk can be viewed and enjoyed from carriages on Thursday evening, December 8th. The carriage rides are offered free to Ferguson residents and employees of Ferguson businesses, courtesy of Citywalk, to show appreciation for your continued support of our businesses and events. Join us that evening at Plaza 501 for hot cocoa, toasty fire pits and a Christmas movie.

Another traditional event is the Ferguson Christmas Twilight House Tour, which benefits the Ferguson Caring League. On Sunday, December 4th, seven wonderfully decorated private residences will be open for viewing. This year, the variety of architectural styles include century-old Victorian and Italianate manses, classic Bungalow cottages, and Mid-Century Modern ranches. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Corner Coffeehouse, Paul's Market, or City Hall. They may be purchased on tour day at Pearce Neikirk and Partners Realty, 427 South Florissant Road.

There are many more special holiday events at businesses, churches and schools along Citywalk and down neighboring side streets of which to take advantage. Get out, enjoy your community and show your support by shopping and dining at Ferguson's many fine local shops and establishments! We at Citywalk, wish you a peaceful and joyful Holiday Season!

(This final section is for Citywalkbusiness owners only.)

The Citywalk Advisory Board meets the 3rd Thursday of the month from 5:30 till 7:30 at the office of Pearce Neikirk, and all Citywalk business owners are encouraged to attend. However, there will be no Board Meeting in December. Instead there will be a full membership event on Thursday, December 15. Watch your mail and email for forthcoming invitations. There is an opportunity for purchase for use of the Citywalk billboard at 270 and North Florissant Road in the upcoming winter months. If your Citywalk business is interested, email marveenamiller@hotmail.com for details.

What can you do to avoid such scams as holiday shopping season ramps up?

1) Vet any shopping apps by visiting a retailer's website. If you see an app for a brand you like in the Apple or Android app stores, don't just download it blind — visit that retailer's website to verify the app and then follow their link to its correct source.

2) Read those reviews! If the app you're looking at seems fishy, chances are that will be reflected in the app's reviews by those who've downloaded it before. And if there aren't any reviews, beware — a good rule of thumb is "Don't be the first to try a new app out," just like you should rely on the advice of IT experts and not be the first to download a new operating system or software update.

3) Look out for misspellings and other typos. This applies equally to the world of apps as it does to the world of phishing emails and other social engineering scams. If an appeal to download an app is riddled with odd language or misspelled words, it's probably a fake. Professional developers and major retailers employ stringent quality control before they release an app. You can also look at the screenshots that are required to be included in an app store description — if they look grainy or low resolution, avoid downloading that app.

4) Avoid giving out too much information. This should be a no-brainer in our data breach-dominated day and age, but if an app requests a lot of info from the get-go (credit card numbers, access to photos or contacts), it's probably a fraud. Accidentally granting permission like that is often just the mistake hackers are waiting for you to make.

5) Don't click on any pop-up ads. This applies equally to websites as to apps, but any time you get a lot of irritating pop-up ads, use caution. Clicking on one of those can lead a user to an external illicit site that installs malware or other viruses on your device.

This holiday season, vigilance is required to stay safe on the digital front. If you plan on doing any shopping online or via smartphone app, make sure the portal you're using is legitimate and safe by following the tips outlined above. Looking for more ways to enhance security and keep your data safe? Contact CMIT Solutions today. We worry about IT so you don't have to.

The Ferguson Times may be reached . . .
by phone: 314-524-1958
or by mail: Dorothy Seiter, 16 Sandringham, Ferguson, MO, 63135
or by email: cider@att.net
Copy or ads for the paper must be received by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's paper.

The Plumber's Crack

By Oh Baby bigohbaby@sbcglobal.net

Blinking Lights, bare trees, painted store windows, winter coats instead of fall jackets, children trying to be on their best behavior, it must be December and time for a Holiday Plumbers Crack.

Well my friends it's a festive time of year so Oh Baby is going to start with some good news. Good news for a lot of you any way . . . those of you who quit using bleach products in your toilet tank because of the damage done to the internal parts.

There is a new product on the market that will get your pretty blue water back and keep the jets in your bowl from liming up. I don't normally like giving product names but in this case I'll break the rules. It's made by Fluidmaster . . . yes the same people that make your fill valve. This is the company that changed how toilets work internally. It's very simple to install. It also comes with refill cartridges. It's in an inclosed compartment that has an inlet tube and an outlet tube that goes directly in your fill tube in the tank. Those of you who don't know the fill tube is the tall circular tube in the center of your tank. If you already have Fluidmaster fill valve you don't even need a tool to install it. I put one in my toilet at home and my wife loves it. I like it because the wife doesn't know if you forgot to flush the toilet.

Another exciting product news I have found the distributor for the



stainless steel water heater with a lifetime warranty. The only thing bad about these heaters is they are only made in electric. The elements are warranted for 7 years. It still is pretty cool that the tank has a lifetime warranty. If your interested in one these, most plumbing companies now have access to them.

Next month I'll get you ready for a possible harsh winter.

It's that time again . . . Christmas is upon us . . . a great time for people to come together. I hope that is the case this year. It's been a trying year . . . the worst since the civil war. It's time to mend fences and be one. More now than ever check on the elderly, share a meal with a friend, love and hug them babies, get involved in your city, and shop local first.

Merry Christmas and
God Bless you all,
Oh Baby

You can read the "Ferguson Times" on line. FergusonCityWalk.com

P8563, D8563
Premier Plumbing Solutions



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

Dave Walters (Oh Baby)

Master Plumber / Drain Layer / Licensed / Bonded

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

524-0222

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

CALL BOB 524-1264



See Bob on Job column on Page 17



What's it like to work with EarthDance on the farm and at the market?

Find out with these volunteer opportunities!

On the 3rd Friday of each winter month, we will be harvesting for market. Contact Nick Speed at volunteer@earthdancefarms.org to sign up.

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, November-April, we will be vending at the Winter Ferguson Farmers Market. If you are interested in volunteering at the EarthDance booth, please email Matt Lebon at matt@earthdancefarms.org.

Winter Market: 9am – Noon
St. Stephens 33N Clay, Ferguson MO 63135

EarthDance Organic Farm School
233 S. Dade Ave
Ferguson, MO 63135
Tel: 314-521-1006
Website: earthdancefarms.org



New Year's Eve Bash Savoy Banquet Center

119 South Florissant Road

Tickets available
by calling
314-324-4298



Saturday, December 31st, 2016 – 7:00 pm til ?
Dinner, Open Bar, Late Night Hor D'oeuvres, Balloon Drop
Champagne Toast
\$50.00 / Person In Advance
\$60.00 / Person After Nov. 30th

Dr. Ujjwal Ramtekkar Receives NAMI's 2016 Exemplary Psychiatrist Award

Dr. Ujjwal Ramtekkar, Child Psychiatrist and Physician Director, Specialty Clinics and Telehealth Outreach at Compass Health, will receive the 2016 National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) Exemplary Psychiatrist's award, a distinctive honor that only 12 psychiatrists in the United States were chosen to receive this year.

"I'm humbled and honored to be receiving this award from NAMI. My engagement with the Boards of NAMI and Provident, a mental health agency, provide opportunities for the mutual exchange of information and knowledge in the mental health field, creating an inspiring synergy for collaborative action, advocacy, and research," expressed Dr. Ramtekkar.

Dr. Ramtekkar provides face-to-face and telemedicine for patient care, in addition to providing administrative duties for the Compass Health sites across the state. Previously, he was a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at Mercy Clinic - East Communities, Mercy Children's Hospital in St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Ramtekkar serves on the boards of NAMI (St. Louis Chapter), Provident and Our Little Haven. He is also a contributing member of American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), American Psychiatric Association (APA), and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). Recently, he was appointed Secretary of the Greater St. Louis Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP regional chapter) and engaged in a statewide multi-agency initiative to improve access to psychiatric care for children in the state of Missouri.

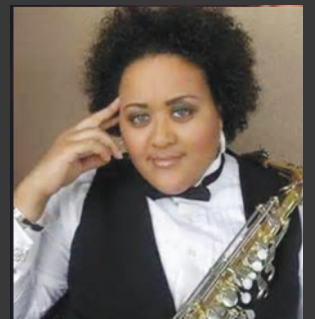
Serving the St. Louis Area since 1860, Provident is an accredited, nonprofit, United Way-funded agency that provides counseling, suicide prevention and intervention, and community support programs.

Janet Fain
314.802.2629
jfain@providentstl.org [<http://www.newstime-mo.com/wp>]



Rhoda G.
Performing

Proceeds
Benefit the
Ferguson 2017
4th of July
Festival



Happy Holidays from JOBS and MORE STL

As the year comes to a close, JOBS and MORE STL thanks all our facilitators that came in, gave of their time, and conducted classes with us. We thank the citizens of Ferguson for recognizing JOBS and MORE STL in 2016. In the New Year 2017, JOBS and MORE STL has plans to be bigger and better than ever. We plan on expanding our vision and expand out job base for employment.

Do you need a job? Or want a better job? JOBS and MORE STL will continue to offers workshops and seminars in 2017, including our one-day Resume Builder Seminar. In 2017, take the first steps to build your resume, and target your next job.

JOBS and MORE STL wishes everyone Happy Holidays!
Here are some thoughts to share:

- Excellence: We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit. *Will Durant*
- Holidays: The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. *Helen Keller*
- Holidays: Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more. *Dr. Seuss*
- Holidays: A candle is a small thing. But one candle can light another. And see how its own light increases, as a candle gives its flame to the other. You are such a light. *Moshe Davis*
- Diversity: We all should know that diversity makes a rich tapestry and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color. *Maya Angelou*

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. Interested? Have questions? Contact JOBS AND MORE STL at jobsandmorestl@outlook.com or 314.922.5059, or visit the web at jobsandmorestl.org

Great Christmas Gift for All Ages!



Painting for Peace Coloring Book
available at Corners Frameshop
and I Love Ferguson Shop

Give a gift that also helps the community.

Our Very Special Thanks to These Sponsors Who Contributed to the Success of the Northern Lights Festival

- Christian Hospital • Negwer Materials
- BJC Health Care • Montrey's Cigar Lounge
- Ferguson Lion's Club • Ferguson Licence Office
- CityWalk • City of Ferguson
- Ferguson Farmers Market • Corner's Frame Shop
- Tax Prep Zone • Savoy Banquet Center

Ferguson Community News Page

Having Faith that brighter days are ahead

By Mayor James W. Knowles III

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

– Helen Keller – American Author 1880-1968



The month of December is long known for the season of holidays in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

We often think of December as the "Season of Giving", related to the Christian tradition of Christmas, but many of the major religions celebrate important holidays this month. Obviously most people know that the Jewish faith celebrates Hanukkah. Many in the African tradition celebrate Kwanza, and for followers of the Seinfeld tradition, who can forget "Festivus".

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

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

As the earth is always rotating and orbiting the sun, the length of day and night is always changing too. As the winter solstice mark's the longest period of darkness, it also marks the point in our year in which every day after the solstice will increasingly have more daylight. So every day after December 21, 2016, will have more daylight than the last day (until the Summer Solstice in June 2017).

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

As a community we have struggled through a long period of instability, which made it difficult to keep staff from leaving and made it even harder to move the community forward on the many projects and reforms set forth from the Council. In the past year, we've been able to hire a number of well-qualified key staff members that will help bring stability to an otherwise unstable city staff, and continue the work of rebuilding and revitalizing our community.

Through the Council's responsible fiscal policy coupled with the passage of this year's voter-approved tax increases, the city has a balanced budget, maintains a healthy general fund balance (sometimes referred to as "reserves"), and we now have the resources necessary to maintain city services at a level our citizens expect. This and many other reasons should give residents plenty of reasons to be optimistic about our collective future.

However, with all the progress that has been made, there are still challenges that lie ahead for the city. As I talk to business owners, residents, and even just visitors to the community, I hear the individual concerns that each of them bring. There is much work to be done along our W. Florissant Rd. business corridor, there are still housing issues that plague our neighborhoods, and of course the safety of our streets, neighborhoods and businesses are always a concern. The Council and city staff will be working diligently with our neighborhoods and businesses to remedy these concerns. The additional staff and resources now available gives me continued optimism about our ability to address these issues in the next year.

While the Council and staff are certainly important components of any community improvement effort, the real key to addressing issues in our city, is the involvement and cooperation of citizens like you! Whether it be the wonderful community events we have or the crime control efforts of neighborhood watch, the key to our community's success is the involvement (no matter how small) of our citizens.

With your help, every day in our community can and will be brighter than the last. May all of you have a Merry Christmas and a blessed Holiday Season.

Ferguson Neighborhood Organizations

Dates & times subject to change. Check www.fergusoncity.com
 Unsure of your group? Call 314.524.5257

Group	Next Mtg.	Location	Contact
Forestwood Park Neighborhood Group	Dec 6 7 pm	Emmaus Bible Chapel 900 Highmont	Donald Stevens 314-561-0379 ddd-steeess@att.net
Jeske Park Neighborhood Assc.	TBA	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	jeskepark-neighborhood@gmail.com
Nesbit-Newton	TBA	Nesbit-Newton Park	Paul Beins2016 314-869-5080 pbeins@yahoo.com
Northwest Ferguson	TBA	First Baptist Church 333 N Florissant	Shelley Davis leeshel57@sbcglobal.net
Old Ferguson East Neighborhood Assn.	TBA	Corner Coffee House 100 N Florissant	Glenda Rickard 314-364-4306 glenda.rickard@mercy.net
Old Ferguson West Neighbors	Jan 12 7 pm	Corner Coffee House 100 No Florissant	Larry Robinett ldrobinett@gmail.com
Robert-Superior Neighborhood Group	TBA	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Irene Kidd kiddirene87@gamil.com
Southwest Ferguson Neighborhood Group	Jan 8 7 pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe 17 Hawkesbury	Atefa Young atefayoung@yahoo.com
Wabash Neighborhood Assn.	TBA	First Baptist 333 N Florissant	Shonnette Morgan sdenisemor@hotmail.com
North Hudson Neighborhood	TBA	Ferguson Community Ctr 1050 Smith	May Simmons hudsonhills63135@gmail.com
North Hills Neighborhood	Jan 9 7 pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe 17 Hawkesbury Dr.	Keith Kallstrom 314-524-1720
North Elizabeth Neighborhood	Jan 9 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Renee Benage rbenage@sbcglobal.net
Ferguson Woods	TBA	North Hills Methodist 10771 Trask Dr	Ella Jones Ejones@fergusoncity.com

Ferguson City Council Appoints Judge Terry Brown as Municipal Judge



Terry L. Brown was sworn in as Municipal Judge for the City of Ferguson, MO, on November 8, 2016. Judge Brown served as Associate Circuit Judge for Mississippi County, MO, in the 33rd Judicial Circuit for 24 years. He was elected in 1990 and re-elected in 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2010. He stepped down from the State Court bench at the end of his sixth term on December 31, 2014.

Since then, the Missouri Supreme Court has assigned Judge Brown to hear cases in courts where a judge is disqualified and in courts with a temporary judicial vacancy. As a State Court Judge, Judge Brown heard and disposed of more than 30,000 criminal cases, 10,000 family law cases and thousands of juvenile court cases. He also served as Municipal Court Judge for the cities of Charleston and East Prairie, MO, for 24 years.

Judge Brown was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Mississippi County, MO, in 1986, and served in that office for 4 years before becoming a State Court Judge. The Judge graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Missouri--Columbia, in 1983, with a degree in political science and history. He graduated from Washington University Law School with a Juris Doctor degree in 1986.

He lives in the Lafayette Square neighborhood in the City of St. Louis.

The Ferguson City Council will meet just once during December

Tuesday, December 13
7:00 p.m. at Council Chamber
in City Hall

110 Church Street

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; Linda Lipka, Ward 1; Ella Jones, Ward 1; Heather Robinett, 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

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
Half price through the end of the year
\$5 per additional dog (three dogs per family).

Aqua Fitness

Stay fit this fall, join us for this low impact water exercise class at McCluer South Berkeley High School indoor pool. This class is great for all exercise abilities as you can make the workout as challenging or laid back as you want. The ability to swim is not required.

Days: Mondays & Wednesdays – 5:30-6:30pm
Fee: \$5 drop in Or . . .
\$35 Residents; \$40 Non Residents per 5 week session
Class is offered free as part of our *Silver Sneakers* Membership, sign up at the Community Center today!

FITNESS

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. Check with your health insurance provider to see if you apply! For more information call the Ferguson Community Center, 314-521-4661.

Silver Sneakers Classic

This class is designed for seniors or someone who is starting to work out for the first time. Have fun and get moving through a variety of exercises designed for a total body workout that will increase muscular strength, range of movement, and activity for daily living skills. A chair is made available for seated and/or standing support.

Days: Tuesday and Thursday
Time: 10am
Fee: Free/ Silver sneakers members
\$3/ Non- Silver sneakers members

Silver Sneakers Advance

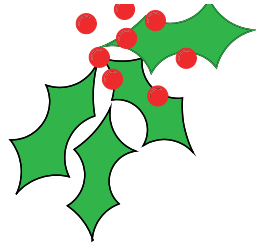
Combine fun with fitness to increase your cardiovascular and muscular endurance power with a standing circuit workout. A chair is used for standing support, stretching and relaxation exercises

Days: Tuesday and Thursday
Time: 8:55 am
Fee: Free/ Silver sneakers members
\$3/ Non- Silver sneakers members

Silver Sneakers Water Aerobics

Offers lots of fun and shallow water moves to improve agility, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance. No swimming ability is required and a special Silver-Sneakers techniques will be used to develop strength, balance, and coordination.

Days: Monday and Wednesday
Dates: Ongoing
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: McCluer South Berkeley
Fee: Free/ Silver Sneakers members
\$5/ Non- Silver Sneakers members



SENIORS

Mystery Meal

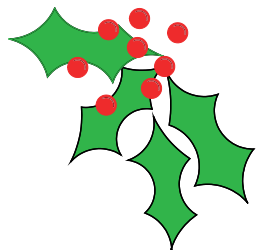
If you love good time and enjoy fun-loving people, then this program is for you! Every trip is an adventure, so register to enjoy the day with good times and good friends. Due to the popularity of this program, residents have registration priority. All residents can receive door to door pickup. Fee includes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

Ages: 50 and up
Dates: Fri. Dec. 9
Time: 10 am pickup
Fee: \$32/Members; \$37/Residents; \$42/Non-Residents

Yahtzee

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

Ages: 18 and up
Date: Wed. Dec. 14
Time: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
Location: Community Center
Fee: \$9 Members; \$12/Residents; \$15 Non-Residents



Christmas Mystery

Santa's elves have been back at it, working hard to make this year's Christmas Mystery Tour another BIG surprise! Count on surprises that will make your eyes pop open as big as the moon. Early dinner included with this evening of fun! Grab your friends and join us for some great holiday surprises!

Ages: 18 and up
Date: Wed. Dec. 7
Time: 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Fee: \$82/Residents; \$87/Non-Residents

St. Stanislaus/Kemoll's/Lights

Begin our afternoon by visiting the beautiful St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish Catholic Parish. We will get a history talk on this beautiful restored church. Then on to dinner at Kemoll's Restaurant. The view as well as the food is amazing. After a FABULOUS dinner it's on to the light display at Tilles Park. What a way to kick-off your Christmas holidays!

Ages: 18 and up
Date: Mon. Dec. 12
Time: 3:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Fee: \$75/Residents; \$80 Non-Residents



Pancake Breakfast with Santa


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

Featuring Chris Cakes Pancakes!


Date: Sat, Dec 17
Time: 9:00am – 11:00am
Location: Ferguson Event Space
Fee: \$3 children; \$5 adults




December Events
at the
Ferguson Public Library
For more information, call 521-4820 or visit
our website, ferguson.lib.mo.us



Hour of Code
Tuesday, December 6 from 6-7:30 pm
Celebrate Computer Science Education Week and the power of code with an Hour of Code™ event at the Ferguson Public Library! All ages welcome, but a caregiver must be present for children ages nine and younger. Registration is required.



Holiday Crafts
Thursday, December 15 from 4-6 pm
Get into the holiday spirit with some crafting fun at the Ferguson Public Library! We'll bring the supplies and ideas, you bring the creativity. All ages are welcome, but a caregiver must be present for children ages nine and younger.



Holiday Closings
The library will be closed on Saturday, December 24 and Monday, December 26 for Christmas. We will also be closed Saturday, December 31 and Monday, January 2 for the New Year.
★ *Happy holidays from all of us to you!* ★



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Holiday Services
Longest Night Prayer Vigil
Wednesday, Dec 21, 2016
6pm-8pm
Christmas Eve Services
Saturday, Dec 24, 2016
7pm
11pm
St. Peter's UCC
1425 Stein Rd
Ferguson, MO 63135
314-521-5694

Save the Trees!

Friends, residents and nature lovers are invited to come help the Friends of Ferguson Disc Golf save the trees at Hudson Park. A lot of the big beautiful trees that make the park and course are being choked by the vines that continue to work their way skyward. On **Saturday December 10th**, we will meet at 10am and begin vine abatement. Bring your loppers, handsaws and pruning shears and dress for the environment. If you don't feel like going deep in the woods, we are looking for people to help haul brush, too.

Remember, even though the weather is turning colder and the nights are getting longer, this doesn't mean you have to hang up the discs for the season. Bundle up and grab a glow disc and flash light and get out there and enjoy the sport.

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/Fergusondiscgolf
Or email us at Fergusondiscgolf@gmail.com

The Ferguson Municipal Library

I am so thankful that I am Director of your library. When I first got my Masters in Library Science, I started working for St. Louis Public Library. I quickly realized that I was not going to be happy in a big system. I need that local focus, to work at a library that turns every bit of its attention on a single, united community, to care about individuals and small businesses and educating our children and the future of our specific place and our specific citizens. Being director of your library allows me to focus all the library's efforts toward making a better future for Ferguson and its people.

I am also exceedingly thankful that, way back in 1930, Ferguson committed itself to having a local library to begin with, to chasing a library's special mission. I am thankful that you have kept that commitment, and that we have a chance to be vital to this day. If this had not happened, you would be paying tax money to the county library system, and would have no library in Ferguson to show for it. In August of 2014, no library would have been here to have school when the schools had to be closed. No library would be offering your children coding and robotics classes in your city, giving them skills they can turn into a career right here in Ferguson. No local resume writing classes, job skills classes, computer use classes, business support, book clubs, free books, online access, free meeting places for community organizations, and more, all from right here at your local library. No one would have this laser focus on you and what you need as a citizen of Ferguson. I would not have come to know and love this town and its people. Thank you for recognizing how vital a hometown library can be.

We, like most public libraries, have a three-fold mission. We provide life-long learning opportunities for Ferguson, a way to continue growing and changing through learning. We provide cultural literacy opportunities, so we, as a people, can better understand ourselves, and then better understand others. This is step one of bringing everyone together. Finally, we provide a safe, neutral place to gather, putting ourselves at the center of the community's work, especially its intellectual work. For as long as our community cares about these things, the library will be here, working hard to help us grow as individuals and as a community.

That's why libraries have books. Books have long been an extraordinarily good means to fulfilling those missions: from books on how to start a small business; to giant, glossy art books; to book club meetings to share our personal growth. And, frankly, books continue to be at the heart of what we do. But, we also look ahead, using new technologies and techniques, and investing in future means to meet our mission. That starts, of course, with offering ebooks and downloadable audiobooks, but also includes making technology available to the public, offering databases to businesses, and always looking for the most economically sound investment in the learning technologies we will use tomorrow.

We move forward. The American Dream so often starts with learning how to start a business, develop a skill, or expand your understanding. Libraries provide the means for this growth, the tools for self-improvement. Your library helps you become a better you. Your library helps your community become a better community.

Scott Bonner, Director, Ferguson Municipal Library



FLIERS
Treasures, Trinkets and Treats Sale
Gift Items and Baked Goods Too
Friday, December 2
9:00 am-5:30 pm
and
Saturday, December 3
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
In Library Auditorium
Ferguson Library 35
No. Florissant Rd.

Thank You!
The Ferguson FLIERS (Friends of the Ferguson Library) would like to thank everyone who helped to make our October, 2016 Book Sale a success. Your donations and patronage were greatly appreciated. We could not have done it without you!

Breakfast With Santa

Saturday, Dec. 10
9:00 to 11:30 am

First Presbyterian Church
401 Darst Road

Includes:

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



Donation of Peanut Butter for the Food Pantry is requested.

More information?
Call 522-8542

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Monday, December 12th

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



Blessed Teresa of Calcutta School Breakfast With Santa

Saturday, December 10th – 9:00 to 11:00 am

Cost: \$7.00 / person (all children must be accompanied by an adult) (There is no charge for children under 1)

Pictures, crafts, games and more

Don't forget your check book. We will be selling TAP! Great for Christmas needs!



If you cannot make this event, or there is inclement weather, there will be NO refunds since we must purchase food, crafts and more for this event.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please make checks payable to BTC
Return names (of attendees), telephone number, and check to school or contact Linda Zanders 314-265-1370 or <lmzander@cs.com>

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Presents
The 2016 Christmas Concert

FEATURING
David Horstman

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
Donna Spaulding
St. Peter's Handbell Choir
St. Peter's Worship Choir

Come celebrate the sounds of the season

December 11, 2016
7:00pm
This Concert is FREE
Childcare provided

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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
2016 Advent Worship

November 27
Rejection
Isaiah 2:1-5

December 11
Hospitality
Matthew 11:2-11

December 24
Redemption
Luke 2:1-20

December 4
Community
Isaiah 11:1-10

December 18
Forgiveness
Romans 1:1-7

December 25
A Celebration of
Lessons and Carols

An Advent Series Based Upon
Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"



You are invited to a
4-Session Advent Bible Study
(in preparation of the Christmas Season) at
Immanuel United Church of Christ

126 Church Street (in the lower level of the Church Sanctuary Building)

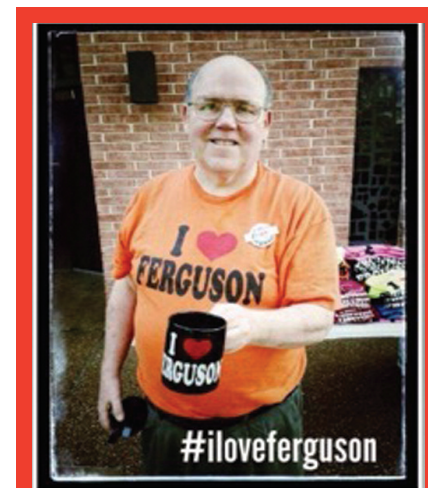
Dates are:

Wednesdays at Noon, Nov. 30 & Dec. 14
A Soup & Bread Lunch at Noon – followed by Bible Study
AND/OR
Wednesdays Evenings, Dec. 7 & 21 at 6:00 p.m.
With Soup & Bread Supper, followed by Bible Study

You are welcome to attend all four sessions or as many as you can.
Parking is available behind the Church or across the street.
Handicapped accessible. For more info call: 314-521-7324

Save the Date!
Saturday, January 14th
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or call 314.210.0909



The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely



CHRISTMAS MONTH IS FINALLY HERE!

Advent has started, and we are getting ready for Christmas on the 25th; temporally AND spritually (i trust). to help you get into the right frame of mind & soul, i have decided that some appropriate wallpaper & screensavers would help do the job.

1. this site has primarily what most would call traditional Christmas offerings, as well as some for the 2017 New Year. the selection isn't that large, but all are nicely done. <http://www.freechristmaswallpapers.net/>

2. here are some for your Android phone from Google. again, not many, but nice. <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.blackbirdwallpapers.christmas>

3. this page shows one particularly stand-out manger scene. there are links to a few others (Christmas tree, fireplace, snowflakes, and a Merry Christmas Angel). <http://www.freechristmaswallpapers.net/wallpaper/Christian->

Christmas/

4. this site has QUITE a number of screensavers to choose from. i cannot view the actual screen-saver, but the stills they show look like the offerings would be just the ticket for the "home for the holidays" types. (looks like that to me, anyway!) <http://newfreescreensavers.com/new-free-screensavers/downloads/christmas-screensavers>

5. how about a good selection of animated 3D screensavers AND LIVE wallpaper, all at one place? planetsoft has both! (i think their term LIVE wallpaper may be their terminology for animated wallpaper.) <http://www.3planesoft.com/holidays-screensavers/christmas-3d-screensaver/>

KNOW THIS! the above are sites that have been LIGHTLY scrutinized, and NOT THOROUGHLY RESEARCHED! i have used WOT (Web Of Trust) installed on my browser to know which sites that show up in my search should be

safe. i have gone to the sites listed to see for myself, and have NOT searched or tested other pages on these sites. make sure that you do your own research before you send your kids "out there". as a matter of fact, you should do that for any websites your children use. i say this because one website (that i did NOT include above) was, in my view, not good for kids, as they offered "sexy" Christmas wallpapers & screensavers on the same page, mixed in with the ones acceptable for the whole family. this is totally unacceptable to me. (it's truly a terrible thing to HAVE to say this about stuff that SHOULD be appropriate for CHRISTMAS! "adult" stuff should NOT be so openly & easily available to children, especially when you think you are at a website which has some proper moral standards!)

i hope that even if you don't find something you like listed above that you will do your own search for what is right for YOU & YOUR FAMILY! just be careful out there!

ME GO NOW!

but before i do go, i want to wish for you all the most blessed Christmas to you and to yours! also, i would like to invite everyone (especially those currently without a church to call home) to come with me to my church.

Grace Chapel is at 10015 Lance Dr.

in Bellefontaine Neighbors. (go east on Chambers & pass thru Moline Acres. as soon as you have passed under the bridge, it's on your left.) not only that, but we will be having Advent services on Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th & 14th at 7pm. YOUTH NIGHT follows the service at 8pm. there will be a dinner served at 5:30pm just before each service (free will offering). if you have any questions, call the church office at 868-3232 during normal working hours. or, you can call me at the number below. be sure to let us know if you need a ride! please call for further info on Christmas Eve, Christmas & New Year's services. happy Holydays! :)

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

If you need some of Doug's puter advice, wanna ride to church, or just wanna chew the fat, call him from about 2PM until about 11PM of most any day at *314*521*1789* (DISREGARD the outgoing message). For those of you who think EMAIL is best, use: fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com to send him your missive. be sure to include your local telephone number for his reply, and be sure to put "i need puter advice" into the subject field, regardless of why you write. If the above is not done, don't expect to hear back from him (but you'll still have Christmas to enjoy!) :)

Zion Child Development Center's New Playground

Zion Child Development Center was blessed on October 29 with a brand new playground with the help of the Veiled Profit Foundation, The Royal Vagabonds, Emerson Electric, Negwer Materials, Hutchensons Recreations and Design, and the contributors of the Go Fund Me account.

The playground was named in honor of the late director Penny Kammeier. Our children are having the best time playing on our new playground. Stop by and check it out.



We have some openings at our
Child Development Center for children
24 months-12 years old.
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¹ Based on internal wet braking test results versus Goodyear Assurance® ComfortMax™ touring tire size P185SR15.
² 90,000 mile warranty for H- and T-rated tires; 80,000 mile warranty V-rated tires. See michelinman.com for warranty details.
³ Based on commissioned third-party wear test results versus Continental® ProContact™ with ECOPlus technology tire size 215/60R16.



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Financial Focus

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

Finally it's over. We know that Donald Trump will be our next President. As we've seen in the financial world the effects were at first disturbing with the value of our dollar dropping significantly. Not to worry, things leveled off a bit and some things are looking better mainly because the uncertainty of who would be our next president is over. However, we know uncertainty is always a problem in the economic world and now it involves the worry of what he will do. He made some pretty big promises on the campaign trail.

While protests continue, most Americans have accepted the results and the first meeting between the President and President-Elect went better than many expected. Like every new president, Trump will soon find out that being president isn't a free ticket to do whatever you want. There are many rules and with our balance of powers, changes are not always easy.

Promises made during a campaign are not always as popular when reality sets in and the effects of those changes are taken into consideration. While we all know that Trump has not followed the normal protocol in his campaign, expectations about his presidency are causing many to be fearful and the media certainly doesn't help with that.

Since my concerns involve how well the majority of the people are doing financially, I am concerned that so many people are worried. Fear is causing people to do some pretty crazy things and I really feel those fears are unfounded. I truly believe that our president-elect does want to improve things for the majority of the people. So I hope those who are making assumptions or putting too much emphasis on what he might do or what he said he would do, can give the Republicans a chance to show what they can do now that they have the power. Eight years ago there were many cries for this same opportunity for newly elected President Obama. And at that time things were much calmer than they are now, but the economy was in worse shape. As president, Obama faced gridlock rather than cooperation many times. And he did use some executive powers which he has been criticized for. So let's let the government work and pray that those in office have the entire country in their best interest. Forcing gridlock and not being able to communicate civilly will not promote the improvements that Donald Trump has promised. And no matter who you are if the country grows stronger and more fiscally sound it will help us all.

So what could we do with \$400,000 a year? On the campaign trail Trump said he would work for free and he reiterated it again in an interview recently. So I wondered if he really could. Under our current statute he is supposed to take a salary. Some have speculated that he could just accept a dollar in pay to be in compliance. While this seems like a generous thing for our new president to do, it is unlikely that he really can. We've had two past presidents who gave their salaries to various charities, President Kennedy and President Hoover. In addition Hoover supplemented the income of his staff with a portion of his salary. Even our first President did not want to take a salary, however Congress insisted because it was in the constitution that he would receive compensation. They felt that our government officials should accept pay "without shame." Not doing so, could possibly create politicians who get into debt to wealthy friends rather than accepting their pay. As pointed out, paying the President well was to enable the possibility that a less wealthy person could run for office without fear of bribery or corruption. Just reading about that made me think about the cost of running for office today. That's a whole topic in itself. So if Trump must take a salary let's see if he can direct it to something more positive. Over his four year term that's \$1,600,000 and while it seems like a drop in the bucket compared to our deficit, he may be able to help a charity or others in some way.

The concerns of illegal immigrants are very real. During the campaign, it was often joked about. Sure he can build a wall and have Mexico pay for it. Well if anyone could do it, it seemed logical it could be Donald. With the election he proved he could hear the people. From what I've looked into I think there is going to need to be some changes. It may not be quite what some were expecting, maybe more fences. Or perhaps they will recognize that we have a border now and improving it might make more sense. The way it may get paid for will probably involve charging Mexico for something else – perhaps a tariff on goods. He is also talking of suspending immigration which in many people's mind isn't such a bad idea. Considering threats around the world, protecting our own is one of the things most people do feel the government should be involved in. And the final part of his many promises regarding undocumented immigrants is his threat to repeal Obama's executive order to allow them to stay in the United States. We've been seeing so many government officials on both sides admitting that we really can't just deport that many people who have set up their lives here. So I am willing to trust that some reasonable choices will be made by those in office. The unintended consequences of such action may undermine the other things Trump is prepared to take on.

And one of those will be to cut taxes. As I look at my tax return for 2016 in the next few months, I will be thinking about some of the changes that could be in store with a restructure of the tax code. We've heard many talk about abolishing the IRS, however I don't think Trump has that intention. His plans involve simplifying things by reducing the number of tax rates, increasing the standard deduction amounts, and eliminating the head of household filing status that helps single parents. Studies have indicated his plan would likely lower taxes for many. However, single parents will be forced to file as a single individual making their tax rate higher. That's what we've been hearing; I have wondered if perhaps the higher standard deduction amounts might offset this. And again reducing the number of tax rate schedules to just three rather than the seven we

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currently have isn't going to help everyone. Again I plan to trust that those in power will consider such things.

Another big item in the President-Elect's plans involves repealing the Affordable Care Act. With the recent increases in costs, many people are unhappy. The gradual evolution of the ACA hasn't lived up to what was hoped for and there are many who feel it goes too far with requirements for insurance providers that are helping cause the rise in costs. Yet, just going back to the way it used to be can't and won't happen. A new plan has to be implemented to take its place. And right now we haven't heard too much about what that might look like. Trump has already indicated there are parts of the ACA that he recognizes need to stay. He agrees that pre-existing conditions should not prevent someone from getting insurance and parents need to be able to keep their adult children on their insurance plans until age 26. So it really looks like an overhaul might be in order along with some other options. He has also mentioned Health Savings Plans in place of insurance for some. I know the requirement to buy health insurance has not accomplished the goal of covering everyone. There are still so many that cannot afford it. And to some this requirement is another one of those government overreaches into some of our freedoms. So let's see what they can come up to replace it.

There is so much to hope for with this election upset. Like many people I could not bring myself to vote for one or the other of our major candidates, so I chose a third party. And the rest of my voting was for a person not a party. This election was brutal, and those who may be unhappy can show their pride by accepting defeat. That doesn't mean to just sit back and pray for Trump to fail. It means staying involved by communicating not just talking but also listening. Knowing what is going on and knowing who your local representatives are will help your voice be heard in a positive way.

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

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Ferguson by Foot

By: Margaret Wolfinbarger



Life is precious. Sacred. Fragile. Never has that been more obvious to me than in recent days as I watch friends and family struggle with health issues such as chronic or terminal illness. I watch with a certain sense of melancholy as the holiday lights pop up and the stores ramp up their holiday exclamations with the same old enticements to buy things we don't really need. After all, when faced with the choice between a flat screen television and a cure for your child with leukemia, the choice is rather simple. Sometimes it feels like this world is so full of distractions from the things that really matter.

When I was a child, the magic and mystery of Christmas always began at home. I wondered and worried over the gifts marked from Santa. Would they contain the lumps of coal I certainly deserved or some other precious trinket I had begged for? When I wasn't sneaking into the refrigerator to steal Christmas cookies meant to be given as gifts, I was trying to finagle my way into the wrapped packages under the tree. My little girl heart was so restless in the weeks prior to the actual day that I had to get up at night and eat candy canes right off the tree or the nervous anticipation surely would have killed me. My poor mother would drag me back to bed with sticky fingers and a stern warning about tooth decay, but that was little deterrent for this sugar fiend. I would simply bide my time until the next opportunity presented itself to satisfy my sweet tooth.

We spent a lot of time at church during the holidays. My mother played piano and sang, and my sister and I did the same. Between recitals, school parties, and church programs, I was "done" with the Jesus stuff by mid-November. It often felt like the actual goodie day would never arrive, but somehow I survived the annual rigmorole and could return to my regularly scheduled mischief in January. Looking back with time-wizened eyes, I still think my favorite moments happened while sitting in church on Christmas Eve. I sang carols and listened to the old time story about the baby who came to save me from my sins. God knew I sure had a lot of them I needed saving from! Still, I loved the simplicity and safety I enjoyed as a child—a blessing I can appreciate all the more now that I am an adult and more familiar with pain and suffering.

The stress and pressure of the holidays as a grown-up is brutal. Between navigating work schedules, family schedules, preparing the food and buying the gifts, I find it challenging to relax. And then there are all those expectations! I feel like I'm performing rather than celebrating. It seems like no matter how much I try to simplify, I always get sucked into spending more than I want to, not getting enough rest, and still feeling somewhat disappointed with the result. Especially when the stress stimulates my sweet tooth and my schedule pushes back against my exercise regimen. It's all fun and games until your pants don't fit, right?

So I'm caught in this tension of trying to recreate for my children what I experienced as a child and trying to simplify the chaos of my adult responsibilities, and the only people winning are the department stores. Somehow I don't think this is what God intended Christmas to be. But this year I find the added reality of friends enduring the loss of a child, others fighting cancer and my own struggles as the mother of a child with juvenile diabetes. If I had one wish for Christmas morning, it would be a day free of blood sugar testing and insulin shots. And those are just two of the many frustrating realities of caring for a child with a life threatening condition. Still, when I consider how fortunate we are to live in an age where his condition is manageable with medication, I thank my creator. And not only for that, but because I know my blessings far outweigh the curses. The love we have for each other is stronger than petty annoyances. And even the extra few pounds I will inevitably gain in December are a reminder that I will not endure a night wracked with pain from not having enough to eat.

Out of the abundance of the heart flows many good gifts, and so it shall be for the Wolfinbarger's this holiday season. Instead of getting caught up in the commercial concerns, I intend to share what we have with those who don't. I intend to spend more time hugging people and listening well than shopping. And I hope the byproduct will truly be more joy and peace in our

home and others. Because thousands of years ago there was a group of people who felt lost and abandoned by God because of their selfish choices. But he didn't leave them there. He sent a baby boy into the world to save them and us. He is the prince of peace and the only reason we celebrate Christmas at all. So no matter how many distractions I face, no matter the disappointments, sorrows or sicknesses I can't cure, I rest in the knowledge that love, His love, really can conquer all. In fact, it already did.

For more inspiration follow me on my blog at www.destinationdiscipline.com.



'Give Kids A Smile' Provides Over \$300,000 In Free Dental Services



The Give Kids A Smile organization is celebrating the success of its 30th consecutive dental clinic. The organization today announced that the event, held Oct. 28 and 29 at Saint Louis University's Center for Advanced Dental Education, provided \$341,163 worth of free dental care to 386 area children in need. The clinic was made possible thanks to a host of supporters and hundreds of volunteers, which included dentists, dental students, hygienists and hygiene students. The next Give Kids A Smile clinic is set for

February of next year. Those eligible can already begin registering by calling 636-397-6453 or visiting www.gkas.org.

The children attending the most recent clinic received X-rays, professional cleanings, fluoride treatments and sealants, as well as fillings, root canals and oral surgery, as needed. There was an entertainment area for children to enjoy after they received services, which included face painters, balloon artists, games, a visit from Delta Dental's Tooth Wizard and a Spanish-speaking Tooth Fairy. Each child also received a dental care kit, a nutritious sack lunch, a book and other prizes.

"Once again, it was incredible to see how many children benefitted from the numerous dental services provided at our most recent two-day clinic," said Joan Allen, executive director of Give Kids A Smile. "Thanks to the generosity of key financial contributors like Delta Dental of Missouri and the Missouri Foundation for Health, and the countless dental professionals who donate their time and talents, we are truly transforming the smiles, and lives, of local children who would otherwise not be able to avail of this type of care. With 30 consecutive clinics now behind us, we look forward to hosting many, many more."

To date, Give Kids A Smile has provided \$8.2 million worth of comprehensive dental care services completely free of charge to 15,096 local underserved children through the organization's dental clinics held each February and October since 2002. All services are provided completely free of charge for toddlers and school-aged children through 8th grade, who are Medicaid-eligible, qualify for a school lunch program or need dental assistance due to other circumstances. Individuals are seen by appointment only. To register for the February 2017 clinic, call Give Kids A Smile at 636-397-6453 or visit www.gkas.org. The registration process includes the completion of health history and consent forms. Appointments are given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Give Kids A Smile was developed by Jeffrey Dalin, DDS; B. Ray Storm, DDS; Tom Flavin, DDS; Mark Ortinau, DDS and Jan Storm, RDHB, in February 2002 to provide children of families who cannot afford dental care with access to the benefits of dental services. GKAS is made possible thanks to major contributors including Delta Dental of Missouri and the Missouri Foundation for Health, which is a philanthropic organization whose vision is to improve the health of the people in the communities it serves. Other supporters include William R. Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein Foundation, Saint Louis University's Center for Advanced Dental Education, Young Dental, Colgate-Palmolive Company, DEXIS, First Pacific Corporation, Greater St. Louis Dental Society, Henry Shein Dental, Keller Dental Laboratory, Patterson Dental, Cardinals Care and Cuivre River Community Trust.

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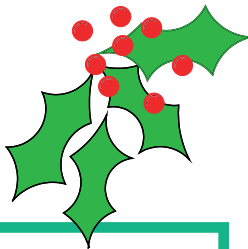
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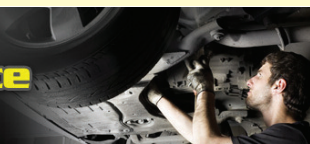
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Under The Hood With Robinwood
By Bob McGartland

Shoebboxes For Seniors 2016

As we find ourselves heading into the Christmas Season, let's open our hearts towards others. Last year's generous response of donations and support from the community and the warm positive effect the gifts boxes had on our seniors, we've decided to continue the Shoebboxes for Seniors drive again this year.

There are many local seniors who are living alone and unfortunately without family support. The simple things we take for granted every day brings great joy to someone when that wrapped shoebox is opened.

Once again Robinwood Automotive is partnering with Dr. Robyn Lawrence and Get Well Family Chiropractic with our holiday drive for senior citizens. It is a simple idea of taking a shoe box, filling it with useful items, wrapping them up and giving them as gifts to our older adults. Dr Robyn and I are asking for your help in bringing a brighter Christmas to our local seniors.

Here is our wish list of items we'd like to pack our shoe boxes: Gloves, scarves, stocking hats, socks, tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorant, bar soap, shampoo, hair conditioner, body wash, combs, hair brushes, hand lotion, powder, disposal razors and shaving cream.

To sweeten the boxes, we'll also be collecting candy bars, holiday candy, small packages of cookies and gum. A \$5.00 gift certificate to fast food restaurants is something they would also enjoy. If you

want to make a monetary donation; we will use the money to purchase items to fill the boxes.

We also need your shoe boxes. Search your closets, look under your bed, dust them off, empty out those shoes, pick up a few items and bring them in.

There will be two drop off locations: Robinwood Automotive, 803 S. Florissant Road in Ferguson, 314-524-3440; or Get Well Family Chiropractic, Dr. Robyn Lawrence's new office location at 580 N Hwy 67, Suite #5 in Florissant, 314-524-2580.

Please drop off your donations by Friday December 16th so we can be ready to spread the joy by Christmas.

So spread the word and get those donations in!

The shoe boxes will be distributed to seniors by the Saint Vincent De Paul Society of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church at their food pantries along with other local churches and organizations just in time for Christmas.

Please let us know if someone in your neighborhood could use some holiday cheer. Just give us their name, address and phone number and we will deliver a shoe box to them before Christmas.

Dr. Robyn Lawrence and I want to thank you in advance for your generous support. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Also, for those who find the holiday season difficult, let's keep them in our prayers.

We want to wish everyone God's blessings of peace and joy this holiday season and throughout the year.

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Captain Dennis McBride opened the November 9th, 2016 meeting of the Ferguson On Watch, welcoming everyone. He passed out the October Crime Review, which contained the monthly crimes sorted by FBI types (Assaults, Burglaries, etc.). He then introduced our guest speaker for the night,



By "Keith Kallstrom"
<keith.kallstrom@gmail.com>

Commander Frank McCall

The Consent Decree that Ferguson signed with the Department Of Justice (DOJ) called for a position to be created within the Police Department that would provide for coordination of activities between the Police, the Federal Monitors, and the DOJ.

Commander McCall began his program by introducing himself to the group. He had 31 years in law enforcement, 4 years in the Marine Corp, and 27 years in the City of Berkeley. He came through the ranks of the police department, and eventually ended up serving as Berkeley's Police Chief for the last 9 years, before he retired. After 6 days of retirement, he began his new post with Ferguson.

Frank is pleased to report that many of the things the DOJ wants us to do, we are already doing. Frank's job entails documentation, and meetings with the DOJ (which he has already been doing once per week) and the Federal Monitor. He also reports that he believes confidently that we will be able to do what is required by the decree properly and expeditiously. As a Chief, he is very familiar with policy, and is ready to work with the police department to successfully implement any new policies with coordination from the various neighborhood groups.

Back Stoppers Donation

Chief Delrish Moss was also in attendance at our meeting, and accepted a donation from the Ferguson American Legion Post 161 for \$200 for the Back Stoppers organization, an organization that helps fallen officers and fire fighters. The American Legion has also provided ballistic vests for Ferguson's K-9's, to the tune of about \$1000 per vest. In addition, they had just completed a \$4300 Flag pole installation project at the Ferguson Community Center. Those 3 flag poles are proudly positioned just in front of the building.

Chief Moss has been in law enforcement for 32 years. He reported that Commander McCall has been a tremendous help already with our consent decree. Chief Moss reported that a 5 year consent decree lasted 20 years in Puerto Rico. He also reported that the police department he came from in Miami had a 1700 man department, with a 22 page decree due to 9 fatal shootings. For comparison, the Ferguson consent decree is 137 pages for a much smaller department.

Ferguson Digital Neighborhood Watch

Blake Ashby was invited to give a presentation on a possible project for us. We are working towards a community-funded and operated Digital Neighborhood Watch in Ferguson as part of the Ferguson On Watch program. Video captured by commercial and residential security systems has become an important tool in helping police solve crimes. Our goal is to piece together a network of video security cameras in every neighborhood in Ferguson. If the video cameras capture a face or a license plate, it can give the police a far better chance of identifying the culprits as they investigate. There are lots of different ways for residents to participate.

Register your existing video security system. If you have a security system with exterior facing video and would be willing to share video with the police, we are asking you to send us an email so we can add your contact information to a registry that will be shared with the Police. We need your name, address, the street or intersection your system captures and if you also have other outside views, such as your back yard.

Buy a video camera and point it at your street. Any high resolution exterior video camera (approx.. \$300) will work, with the video captured either on your home computer or in Cloud Storage on the Internet (approx.. \$100-200/year).

Help us select one IP video camera that we can recommend. There are lots of camera and storage options out there. If we can do the research to come up with a recommended camera & storage plan it will make it easier for residents to buy a camera and participate in the program.

Help install video cameras. For a lot of our residents, setting up the video camera and storage will be a technology challenge. It would be great if we had a few tech savvy residents that could volunteer their time to install cameras for those that need help.

Help review footage. Actually using the video to help the police will require some work; someone will have to review the footage to see if it has captured a car or license plate. If residents do not have time to review their video footage, volunteers could help (with the owner's permission, of course). We would like to build a list of volunteers who are willing to review video so the police don't have to do so.

Evaluate Project NOLA. (<http://projectnola.org>) Based in New Orleans, Project NOLA is a community funded video surveillance network with over 1600 cameras throughout the city. They work with communities like Ferguson to help them create and even operate a video surveillance network for

their community.

We can help keep Ferguson Safe. Ferguson is going in the right direction. But it's going to take some time to rebuild our police force. A digital neighborhood watch program can be an important tool for police, helping their efforts to keep Ferguson safe. Email us at keepfergusonsafe@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Thanksgiving [Turkey Day] Safety (These apply to Christmas also)

Captain McBride read some safety tips regarding food poisoning, fire, and Thanksgiving (Christmas) Travel Safety. A flyer provided by Councilman Keith Kallstrom was available at the sign-in table for participants to take.

Food Poisoning: Follow these steps for a great Thanksgiving (Christmas) feast:

- Safely cooking a turkey starts with correct defrosting. The turkey can be thawed in the refrigerator, submerged in water in leak-proof packaging, or in a microwave.
- Cook the turkey immediately after thawing. Don't slow cook or partially cook the turkey; check temperature with a meat thermometer.
- Put leftovers away within 2 hours after serving the food.
- Store food in shallow containers.
- Remove meat from the bone before being put away.

Fire – The average number of cooking fires doubles on Thanksgiving (Christmas). Here are several ways to avoid this:

- Don't leave the kitchen while frying & grilling. If deep frying a turkey, keep the fryer outside, away from walls, fences, and other structures.
- Keep the fryer away from moisture to avoid burns from steam & spattering oil.
- Use a timer and do kitchen checks when simmering, baking, broiling and roasting
- Keep pot holders and food wrappers 3 feet away from the stove or other hot surfaces. Kids should stay 3 feet away too. Make sure the handles of pots and pans are facing inward.
- Avoid loose clothes, especially those with long sleeves, while cooking.
- Make sure all candles and smoking materials are put out after the guests leave.

Travel Safety

- Pack an emergency road kit in case of a breakdown or accident.
- Make sure to have a copy of your car insurance card.
- Don't forget to pack your mobile phone and car charger.
- Buckle up and watch your speed.
- Fuel up, don't fill up. During the holidays, people tend to overeat, and become sleepy. If you have a long trip home, make sure to give your food plenty of time to digest and fill up your travel mug with some coffee.

Next meeting:

The next Ferguson Neighborhood Watch meeting scheduled for City Hall will be at 7:00 pm on **December 14th**, 2016. There will be a discussion of the previous month's crime stats, and then a get together for a Christmas party.

Have a safe month. Keith :-)K

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Election Notice – April 4, 2017

CITY OF FERGUSON CANDIDATE PETITIONS AVAILABLE



The City of Ferguson, Missouri, will hold an election on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, for the office of Mayor for a 3 year term. Any person wanting to file a declaration of candidacy for this office must also submit a petition signed by at least 50 and not more than 75 registered voters. The petition forms are now available in the City Clerk's office and may be picked up at any time during regular office hours.

The petitions may be submitted upon the filing of a declaration of candidacy but must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. CST on January 17, 2017, and must be accompanied by a \$10.00 filing fee, which will be returned if the candidate receives at least 5% of the votes in the election.

The petitions and declarations of candidacy must be filed with the City Clerk at Ferguson City Hall, 110 Church Street. Under State Law, declarations of candidacy will be accepted starting on the opening date for filing and will not be accepted after the last date for filing. Candidate filing for the Ferguson City Council will open at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, which date is the sixteenth Tuesday before the election. Candidate filing will close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, which date is the eleventh Tuesday before the election.

For further information, please call the City Clerk at 524-5152.

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Shoe Box Drive

Get Well Family Chiropractic and Robinwood Automotive have teamed up again this holiday season to spread some joy to the seniors of our community who are living alone and unfortunately without family support. Let's show them some love and let them know they are safe and cared for this year.

Wish List:

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

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

Donations Due by Friday, December 16th

Drop Off Locations:

Get Well Family Chiropractic, 580 No. Highway 67, Suite 5 in Florissant, and
Robinwood Automotive, 803 So. Florissant Road, in Ferguson

Dr. Robyn's Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 am to 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. 6:00 pm
Tuesday, 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 pm

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Bermuda and Central Elementary Schools Receive National Award

Bermuda and Central Elementary Schools have been honored with the 2016 Let's Move! Active Schools National Award for their outstanding efforts in creating an active school environment. Let's Move! Active Schools is part of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative. The Let's Move! Active Schools National Award is the nation's top physical education and physical activity distinction for K-12 schools and celebrates a school's commitment to providing students with at least 60 minutes a day of before, during and after school physical activity. Only 544 schools across the country achieved this prestigious honor in 2016.



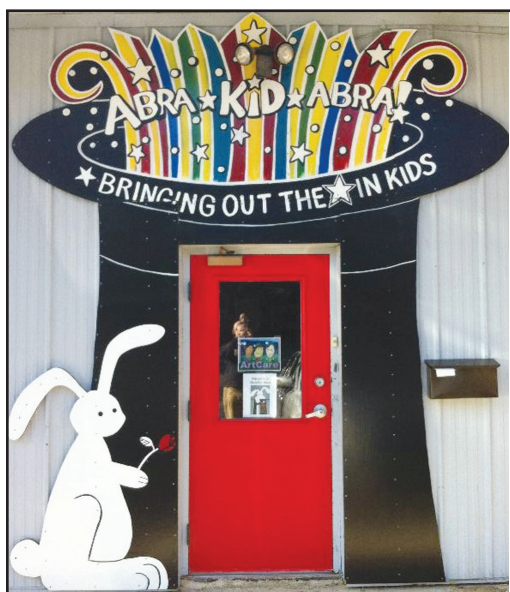
"I would like to congratulate Bermuda and Central Elementary Schools for their outstanding work last year with their wellness initiatives. The physical education instructors/wellness champions did an AMAZING job with their assessments and executing action plans that benefited Ferguson-Florissant School District students," said Cedric Brown, the district's wellness coordinator. "Additionally, I would like to thank the principals of Bermuda and Central for their support and dedication to the Healthy Schools Healthy Community grant, because without their leadership and support, their champions would not be able to do these good works for our students."

Powered by a national collaborative of leading health, education and private sector organizations, Let's Move! Active Schools equips schools with the resources, programs, professional development and grants to increase physical education and physical activity opportunities for students, and to cultivate an active school environment.

"We commend Bermuda and Central Elementary Schools' model work around enhancing physical education and physical activity opportunities and inspiring students to go from zero to sixty both in the classroom and in life," said Charlene R. Burgeson, Let's Move! Active Schools executive director. Both of these schools are leading the way in this generation-changing movement that is transforming our nation's schools into active and healthy hubs."

To earn a Let's Move! Active Schools National Award, a school must have met significant benchmarks in five areas: physical education; physical activity before and after school; physical activity during school; staff involvement; and family and community engagement.

Bermuda Elementary Students Will Soon Amaze With Magic



Students at Bermuda Elementary School will soon be able to amaze their friends and family with magical tricks learned through their participation in Abra-Kid-Abra Magic Academy. Abra-Kid-Abra, which is run by two St. Louis area magicians, helps students develop their presentation skills and confidence through classes in magic, circus, comedy, balloon art and math magic.

Fifteen students from Bermuda will be selected to participate in the after-school magic academy, which begins Jan. 9 and will meet for one hour, one day per

week for eight weeks. The students' selection will be aligned with the school's PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) initiatives. Normally, the cost to participate in Abra-Kid-Abra Magic Academy is \$140, however the program is being offered to Bermuda students at no charge. Bermuda is the first school outside St. Louis Public Schools to receive this opportunity.

"Abra-Kid-Abra held a fundraiser in October with 100% of the proceeds being used to host the Bermuda magic academy," said Robert Goodwin, music teacher at Bermuda. "All funds beyond paying for the magic academy will be donated to the music program to provide students the opportunity to attend fine arts cultural events at venues such as the Sheldon Concert Hall and Fox Theatre."

Each student participating in the magic academy will receive their own magic box, which consists of items to perform various tricks. The culminating activity of the academy will be a performance by the students for friends and family.

District Awards Educational Technology Grants

The Ferguson-Florissant School District has awarded educational technology grants to Commons Lane Elementary School and the Challenger Learning Center. The district's Technology Services department sponsors the competitive grants. Commons Lane and the Challenger Center were among 12 buildings that submitted proposals for funding.

Commons Lane will receive \$8,300 to purchase MP3 players called Playaways, which are audiobooks, and a 3D printer. By purchasing over 100 audiobooks, students will be allowed to listen to literature that they would not have had the opportunity before. Once the novel is complete, they will have an opportunity to create a 3D artifact from the book using the 3D printer.

"Many students want to read books outside of their reading level," said Heather Carroll, principal of Commons Lane. "Our goal is to create technology proficient students and increase both academic and physical fitness."

Playaways offers mobility for students, who will be encouraged to walk as they listen to books to increase physical activity.

The Challenger Learning Center will use its \$8,875 technology grant to purchase two 3D printers and develop programs that support the district's efforts to utilize innovative applications of technology. The printers will be primarily utilized in school-based programs including simulated space missions and related workshops. They will also be integrated into other educational programs including summer camps and family workshops.

"The 3D printers will be utilized in the simulated space missions in a similar way that is currently taking place in real life. In 2014, NASA created its first 3-D printed item, leading the way for further developments. In the mission, students could encounter an emergency situation that would require creating a tool or small piece of hardware to make a repair. The instructions and guidance could be provided by students in mission control to the spacecraft, where the object would be printed and installed," said Tasmyn Front, director of the Challenger Learning Center. "This type of collaboration and communication not only emphasizes teamwork and communication, it also provides experiences that are very similar to the real world, giving students confidence and interest in pursuing degrees and/or careers in the STEM field."

Richard Miller, the district's director of Technology Services, along with other staff members, recently visited each site to announce their selection as grant recipients. Technology Services provides educational technology grants each year to support programs within the district.

School Districts State Assessment Scores Announced

Results from the 2016 Missouri Annual Performance Report (APR) for the Ferguson-Florissant School District show an increase in the District's overall score. Ferguson-Florissant received 98.5 points out of a possible 140 points on the state's annual assessment, or 70.4 percent.

Ferguson-Florissant remains fully accredited.

This year's score of 70.4 percent is a .8 percent increase from last year's score of 69.6 percent. Ferguson-Florissant School District showed growth and earned 100 percent of the points for Standard 1 English. Strong growth in Government scores resulted in 100 percent for Standard 1 social studies. This is a significant increase over the past two years and demonstrates the effectiveness of increased collaboration among teachers through Professional Learning Communities within the District. Nine Ferguson-Florissant schools showed improvement in their APR over the previous year, and nine schools scored over 80 percent including all three District high schools.

"While we are pleased that we remain fully accredited, we are not satisfied with the rate of improvement. We realize that significant change takes time, but we want more for our students now," said Ferguson-Florissant's Superintendent, Dr. Joseph Davis. "Over the past year we have evaluated current practices, implemented several new initiatives based on our findings and proven practices elsewhere, and established new leadership in many of our schools. We fully expect to see the results of those changes in the coming year."

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Clapboard

– by Bob McCarty

Webster defines the word clapboard as a narrow board that is thicker at one edge than at the other and that is used to cover the outsides of buildings. Most of the frame style older homes in Ferguson were originally covered with clapboard siding; although many of these same homes have been

covered with concrete based shingles or steel, aluminum, and vinyl siding. The thought process here is that the old peeling paint will just go away if it is covered up.

At the corner of Tiffin and Clark, 202 Tiffin Ave., is where Mike Dreyer and Kortnie Huddleston live in their 104 year old home that is covered with clapboard siding. If you live in the area or were just driving down the street, you may have noticed that Dreyer and Huddleston took a different approach. They took the old paint down to the clapboard itself.

I chatted with the couple a few months back while they were still in the process of removing the paint and asked them what they were thinking to take on a project such as this. Here is some of that conversation as to why we need to preserve our environment so that future generations can learn how our history has inspired us to protect it.

Why did you decide to remove the paint from the siding on your house? “We had a lot of alligating paint as well as some peeling,” said Dreyer. “The earlier layers of paint had deteriorated and lost adhesion; it was peeling down to the bare wood. We had counted at least nine different colors so we figured that there were at least 18 to 20 coats of paint on the house.”

Why not just install vinyl over the existing siding? Huddleston replied that, “We live in an older home and we didn’t want to lose the aesthetics that our home affords the neighborhood.”

What are the advantages of removing all of the paint? “First of all, it will be “a lot easier to maintain,” says Dreyer. “We won’t have to worry about the earlier layers de-laminating and creating more areas of peeling paint before the expected life span of the paint.”

Did you test for lead paint and did that have any bearing on your work process? “Yes, we tested areas around the house with the swab test and we found the presence of lead. I wasn’t worried about working in that environment because I wore protective clothing and followed lead safe working conditions. Knowing that I took the appropriate precautions, such as a respirator and, working lead-safe, I wasn’t too concerned about contaminating myself or the neighborhood.”

While restoring a house that was built in 1912, did you find a lot of rotted wood? “I was actually amazed that I found so little rot,” replied Dreyer. “There were a few areas, mostly around the corners and where some nail heads were exposed to the elements, which rusted the nail head which in turn deteriorated the surrounding wood. Also, at the dormers, some of the previous repairs – where the roof met the wood of the dormer, I found some rotted areas.”

What was your process? Dreyer explained, “After suiting up to protect myself, I used what is called a Paint Shaver. It is a grinder style tool that incorporates a cutter head that is adjustable to take off as much paint as is necessary. It has a shroud that pulls the debris into a vacuum. I used a HEPA vacuum to collect all of the removed paint. After grinding the paint off, I came back with a circular sander with the same type of attachments, in order to keep the dust down, to smooth the wood; because the shaver is kind of rough on the siding. I finished everything up with a palm sander at the edges.”

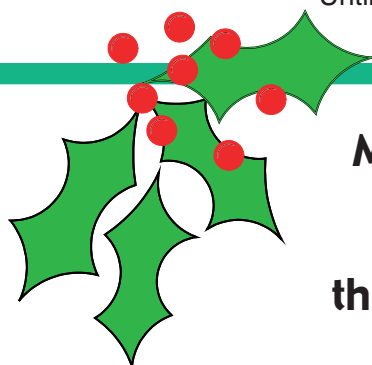
How much time did you spend removing the paint from your house? “We didn’t keep a log or time sheet, but we figured between 8 to 10 hours per week-end and we took some time off work so we could get it finished up; somewhere around 250 hours give or take,” replied Huddleston.

Would you do it again? “Yes!,” said Dreyer. “But not in the near future,” responded Huddleston. “There’s nothing better than giving the house a fresh start,” they both agreed.

What’s next? “Indoor work. We have a lot of wallpaper to remove and decorating the house room by room. It takes time to get your home how you want it, but when we’re finished, it will be our own,” Huddleston said.

As you are reading this, the house has been primed and painting begun with final touches coming next spring. If you happen to see them out working in the yard, give them a thumbs up. They deserve it. I’m sure if they have the time they would be happy to answer any questions.

Until next month, Bob is on the Job.



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and stay with you
throughout the year.**

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11am-11pm
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Fall Tree Dedication



Former Ferguson Councilman Brian Fletcher and several former residents were remembered in a tree dedication ceremony on Saturday, October 29, 2016.

Ferguson Mayor James Knowles III and Council members Ella Jones, Keith Kallstrom and Linda Lipka, and Assistant City Manager, Matt Unrein participated in the ceremony at the Ferguson Community Center.

The ceremony is part of the City of Ferguson's semi-annual tree dedication ceremony where the city, residents, and former resident's plant trees in our many parks in honor of their loved ones. For the past 27 years, the City of Ferguson has been recognized by Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to effective urban forestry management

Ferguson Council members purchased a tree for Brian Fletcher. "Brian dedicated his life in service to the citizens of this community. The impact of his efforts can still be seen throughout the city. As our community moves forward, we should remember the example he set for the citizens of this community." said Ferguson Mayor James Knowles III.

A total of five trees were planted on Saturday, October 29, 2016. Each person participating in the tree dedication ceremony will receive a plaque from the city.

The following individuals dedicated trees to their loved ones and received a certificate for planting in the ceremony:

- Brian Fletcher, presented to Linda Fletcher
- Cole Owens, presented to Laura and Susan Owens
- Avion Marshbank Terrell, presented to Dana Mabins
- Gary Voss, presented to Gail Voss
- Gerald and Geraldine Mullen, presented to Matthew Soderberg



Membership Meeting
Thursday, December 8th
Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport Hotel
Happy Holidays!
Ugly holiday sweater party!
Pull out those ugly sweaters!

Sponsors




CELEBRATE CARES

We are having a toy & food drive for the needy this holiday season.
New, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items.

Seven Houses to View on the Ferguson 2016 Twilight HOUSE TOUR

Sunday,
December 4
3:00 to 7:00 pm



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

Bike Friendly



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



Tickets:
Pearce Neikirk's
Office, 427
So. Florissant Rd.
On Dec. 4,
noon to 4pm



More Info:
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or
314.495.2304



**Proceeds to
Ferguson Caring
League**



**Ask your
friends and
neighbors to
join you!**

Community Center Gets Play and Fitness Equipment



Thanks to the Ferguson Fraternal Order of Police, the Ferguson Community Center now has a brand new playground for kids. Victoria Babb, a Florissant native, headed a pilot program called Play 4, which brings communities and organizations together to benefit children. Babbs gathered the police associations in St. Louis City and St. Louis County to help fund and build the playground.

Police, community leaders, volunteers, even children, joined together to assemble the playground equipment and spread the mulch that finishes the landscaping.

The Ferguson Community Center, located at 1050 Smith Drive, which opened just two years ago after the

Michael Brown incident, is undergoing many improvements to make the very successful center even more so.

Along side the playground is an adult fitness course that is sure to be put to good use by parents and care givers as the kids use the play area. Just a few feet away are the sand volleyball courts that have been a recent addition to the center.

Ferguson City Spokesman, Jeff Small, said, "There is a focus on moving forward and the kids are certainly at the forefront of that. This lets them just be kids and not be bombarded by the serious things that we are forced to talk about in this community."



The adult fitness stations are adjacent to the playground.



SNOWBALL

I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.

I made it some pajamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first - it wet the bed!

(Written by Shel Silverstein)

Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis



SAVE the DATE

2017 Inspiring Teacher Celebration
January 26, 5-7pm
At UMStL's ED Collabitat Space

Please join us for an evening to celebrate teachers who have inspired the current and future generations of explorers and innovators.

In honor of the Space Shuttle Challenger crew, we will be recognizing 7 teachers with the 2017 Inspiring Teacher Award.

[Nominate a Teacher](#)

Deadline for nominations is December 16, 2016

For more information, visit challengerSTL.org/inspiringteacher



Three Wise Women

Do you know what would have happened if there had been Three Wise WOMEN instead of Three Wise MEN?

The WOMEN would have:

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- Cleaned the stable,
- Made a casserole, and
- Brought practical gifts (like diapers!)

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Book Club Adds Exciting Changes

The Ferguson Readings on Face Book Club is adding new dimensions to its program, including documentaries as well as books, with members choosing topics and volunteering to facilitate discussions about them.

The December selection will be the book, *Generations of Captivity* by Ira Berlin. This will be a special conversation over a pot luck supper at on December 12. For more information about this event, call Carla Fletcher at 314-524-3644 or email her at carlajeanfletcher@yahoo.com

Look forward in 2017 for discussions about the documentary, *The 13th*, a presentation on the subject, *Why Black Act the Way They Do*, and the books, *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance and *Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead.

To learn more about the book club, get in touch with Ms. Fletcher, Ferguson Library Director Scott Bonner at sbonner@fergusonlibrary.net, or Program Director Amy Randazzo at arandazzo@fergusonlibrary.net



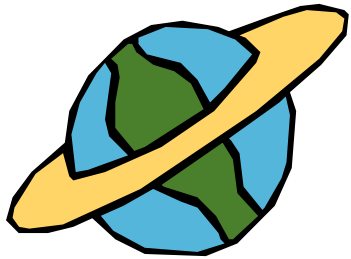
My Ferguson Community Calendar What's up in Ferguson, Missouri

There is something NEW & EXCITING in the Ferguson Community. The "My Ferguson Calendar" website myfergusoncalendar.com has been created (by lifelong resident Tom Claffy) to unite the people of Ferguson by compiling all of the many wonderful events and opportunities happening in our community, into one, easy to use, cell phone friendly location. You can also set it to download certain events directly to your calendar if you choose.

SO MANY WONDERFUL things are happening here but many don't realize it. Subject to a few exceptions, as stated in our posting policies, all events are welcome. The plan for the calendar is to continue to grow, sharing all activities & events with everyone in our community... and the world.

Volunteers from Ferguson are welcome to post events. You can very easily post and manage events that you have authored via the My Events button. If you are not comfortable with posting or managing your own, use the Contact page to send us the information (and a photo if you have one) and one of our volunteers will handle the details.

All expenses for My Ferguson Community Calendar paid for by myfergusoncalendar.com. This is a community effort and has no official affiliation with the City of Ferguson.



A Word From Our Planet . . .

Be good to our Mother Earth this Christmas—and your pocketbook, too! Gifts made at home with loving hands, gifts of personal treasures, and gifts you purchase close by will say "Love" and "I care."
The Ferguson Eco Team

Ferguson Forester

When fall comes we speak of leaves turning colors, but they don't 'turn' as we may think. As days shorten and nights cool, the green color disappears, the chlorophyll dissipates, and colors which have been there all along are revealed. The layers of our lives are like that. As the sap drops down, it's now safe to prune live growth off your trees. But prune smaller diameter branches. Large flush cuts at the trunk will make for hollows.



Recently, artists came from across the world for the annual "Paint Louis" event along the Mississippi River flood wall. Although people had been doing graffiti on the flood wall for years, nobody had ever put together a real graffiti production. Graffiti wasn't getting the attention it deserved. So "Paint Louis" was inaugurated in 1995. It has now become a true international event.

My tree trimming/Tree Toon painting bucket truck got 'tagged' and my paint stolen, but I still had fun. Follow Chouteau east to the dead end and drive slowly along the legal two mile graffiti art wall. It will be worth the drive.

I'm down from the hills after spending three days on a hike on the Appalachian Trail with a friend. When not hiking on the trail he told me tales about hiking on the trail. I learned that hard core hikers acquire trail names. My friend's trail name was Chainsaw. The first night in the tent I found out why; he snores like a chainsaw. Folks hike the Appalachian Trail for various reasons. Some are trying to figure out life, some are at a crossroads in careers, others have had love lost, and of course there's the excitement and challenge.

I'm homeward bound, and the picture in my mind of Ferguson has hikers, walkers, dog walkers, bicycle and bus riders. It might not be the Appalachian Trail spanning many states, but it's a trail of many states spanning Ferguson.

Through the month of October in various locations there are 'Paint for Peace' displays of the art phenomenon that happened in south St. Louis, Dellwood and Ferguson. Google "Outside In: Paint for Peace". Make sure to also check out Ferguson Sculpture artist Bryce Olin Robison's exhibit through October entitled (#Ferguson) at St. Louis' Flo Valley.

Wendell Phillips (Phil) Berwick
Arborist/ Living Tree Care
Artist/ Creator of Merferd and the Treetoons

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

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BE AN ANGEL AND BRING JOY TO A CHILD AT A TIME THEY NEED IT MOST.

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- Host a group collection or toy drive

* For more information or to request a child or group wish list, contact Laura Rau at 314-830-6286 or lrau@mgstl.org

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Zion Fish Fries return on March 3, 2017.

If you would like to volunteer, call Sue Dunham at (314) 524-7677

Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Littlest Christmas Tree

© Amy Peterson Published on April 2009

The littlest Christmas tree lived in a meadow of green, among a family, of tall evergreens. He learned how to whisper the evergreen song, with the slightest of wind, that came gently along.

He watched as the birds made a home out of twigs, and couldn't wait till he, too, was big. For all of the trees offered a home, the maple, the pine, and the oak, who's so strong.

"I hate being little," the little tree said, "I can't even turn colors like the maple turns red. I can't help the animals like the mighty old oak. He shelters them all in his wide mighty cloak."

The older tree said, "Why, little tree, you don't know? The story of a mighty king from the land with no snow?" Little tree questioned, "A land with no snow?" "Yes!" said old tree, A very old story, from so long ago".

"A star appeared, giving great light over a manger, on long winter's night. A baby was born, a king of all kings, and with him comes love, over all things."

"He lived in a country all covered in sand, and laid down his life to save all of man."

Little tree thought of the gift given by him, then the big tree said with the happiest grin, "We're not just trees, but a reminder of that day There's a much bigger part, of a role that we play!"

"For on Christmas eve, my life I'll lay down, in exchange for a happier, loving ground. And as I stand dying, they'll adorn me in trim. This all will be done, in memory of him."

"Among a warm fire, with family and friends, in the sweet songs of Christmas, I'll find my great end. then ever so gently, He'll come down to see and take me to heaven, Jesus and me."

"So you see, little tree, we are not like the oak who shelters all things beneath his great cloak. Nor are we like the maple in fall, who's colors leave many standing in awe."

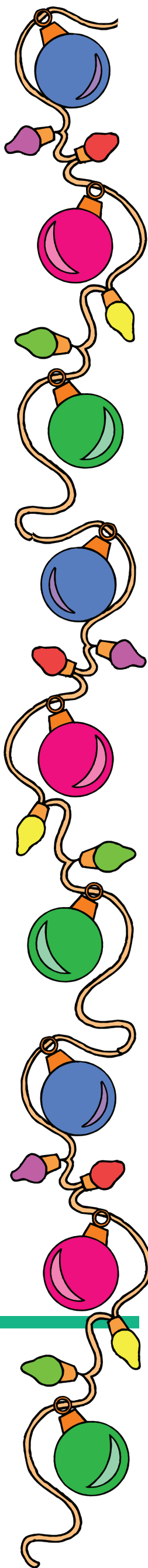
"The gift that we give is ourselves, limb for limb, the greatest of honor, in memory of him."

The little tree bowed, his head down and cried, and thought of the king who willingly died. For what kind of gift can anyone give? Than to lay down your life when you wanted to live?

A swelling of pride came over the tree. Can all of this happen because of just me? Can I really bring honor? By adorning a home? By reminding mankind that he's never alone?

With this thought, little tree began singing with glee. Happy and proud to be a true Christmas tree.

You can still hear them singing even the smallest in height, singing of Christmas and that one holy night.



Holiday Membership Sale

November 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016
Purchase your Community Center Membership at these rates and Get 1 Individual Class Enrollment for FREE (Trips and Special Events Excluded)



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Ferguson Community Center
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(314) 521-4661



Two Letters To Santa By Annabel Sheila

I wrote a letter to Santa To make sure he would know
It's only two weeks until Christmas,
And we still don't have any snow.

Just didn't want his reindeer To have to work too hard.
I was afraid they might get stuck
In the mud outside in our yard.

I mailed my letter on Monday, Only two days ago.
As I dropped it in the mailbox, It slowly started to snow.

It's been snowing ever since, More as each day goes by.
I'm getting kind of worried now That Santa will think I lied.

I'll write another letter, And mail it off today.
Tell Santa not to worry, There'll be lots of snow for his sleigh.

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**Open House
Sunday, January 29th**
PreK 3 & 4 and K- 8th Grades

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.



Sandy and Tom Sansevere

In August 2014, I received an email from the late Brian Fletcher, our former Mayor. It was a call for residents to come together to declare their love for Ferguson and to do so simply by working together to assemble "I Love Ferguson" (ILF) yard signs. Sandy and I both started volunteering for the I Love Ferguson shop, alongside scores of residents who came forward to raise money for businesses affected by the upheaval at that time.



Tom and Sandy Sansevere



Sandy and the author volunteering at the ILF booth at the Northern Lights parade

Sandy became the manager of the ILF shop, coordinating the activities of the volunteers, stocks, mailings, and everything else that made the store work. Sandy and I became close friends as we worked together. The ILF was the place where many of us residents met for the first time and started new friendships. Sandy was always available for press interviews and she did many of them, even up to a few days ago. She was part of the Hope, Love and Beauty project done by a Los Angeles production company in summer. The film has not yet been released.



I Love Ferguson Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Sansevere's home

With the passing of the founder of the ILF, Sandy became the Chairwoman of the Committee. Sandy is a popular face of Ferguson and leader of the group of volunteers who continue to spread positivity from Ferguson. I Love Ferguson T shirts, caps, hoodies and memorabilia have been sold to people from 58 countries! Over \$140,000 has been donated by the ILF to rebuild Ferguson businesses.

Sandy is married to Tom, who is on the Ferguson Pension Board. She is also on the Ferguson Landmarks Commission. Tom has lived in Ferguson for 44 years. Sandy and Tom have been married 26 years and have four children: Davis, Lexi (Alexandra) Hannah and Alex. Their kids were brought together by Tom and Sandy from three foster homes as they wanted to reunite the family they adopted. Their children ranged in ages from 7 to 13 when they were adopted.

By 2014, their home was an empty nest. In that same year, Sandy retired from her job as a respiratory therapist and a cardio pulmonary technologist at NW and NE Christian Hospital after 35 ½ years of service.



Sandy campaigning for Yes on Prop P and E

Tom was President of the North County Labor Legislation Club for two years, up to just recently, and before that he was Vice President for about 10 years. He was the Democratic Committee Man in Ferguson from 2008 to 2016. He is an electrician journeyman belonging to IBEW Local 1. Tom has been an early riser setting up the ILF booth at the Farmers' Market every week and Sandy has been helping to run the booth. Tom, Sandy and I worked together as volunteers to inform residents on the benefits of voting yes on property and sales taxes.

The Sanseveres believe in the strength of Ferguson residents who worked together to survive two tornadoes and two riots in the last few years. Their motto is to not complain but to get involved in the community, to be kind, and to accept people's differences.

I congratulate Sandy and Tom Sansevere for representing what is the Best in Ferguson and take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The author teaches Transcendental Stress Management meditation to members of the public; and provides these services to the family courts in St Louis. She conducts Retreats here in Ferguson, across the U.S. and abroad. She is also a Motivational Speaker and her lectures include corporate presentations on Wellness. www.BestAgainstStress.com 314-521-4390



Ask Grandma

Christmas Time

"When you were young, what was your favorite Christmas present?" asked by granddaughter.

The gift I remembered the most was the Christmas I asked for a pair of figure skates.

That Christmas Santa left me a beautiful pair of white figure skates and I was thrilled. But, the trouble with figure skates is they are tight fitting and don't allow room to wear heavy wool socks. My brothers all had hockey skates and they would wear two and three pairs of socks (I think mostly to fit in the hand-me-down skates that any large family had in the attic). With all that insulation, their feet did not freeze 20 minutes after we got out on the lake.

I grew up in Pasadena Hills and there was a lake 4 or 5 blocks from our house. It was great for skating, but a little too far to walk back home when your feet were too cold to even think about the fact that you were walking all by yourself.

My parents also skated. They wore skates called "racers," the kind that Apollo Ono wears. In fact they met while skating at the Wintergarden, an indoor rink that I believe was in the Central West End. When I was old enough to drive, my sister and I would go to the Wintergarden, and it was much more enjoyable than skating outside with the temperature hovering around zero.

Yes, kiddies, in those days, we had many a winter day when it was really cold. I don't know if they allow skating on the Forest Park lagoon any more, but years ago the ice had to be 6 inches thick before skating was allowed. That meant it had to be cold and stay cold for a long period of time . . . and it happened often. When my children were young, skating was permitted on January / Wabash Lake. Those were fun times. In fact I did a couple of terms on the Parks Board with the main purpose of permitting skating on the lake again. It didn't happen.

Sometimes my brothers and I would walk over to the lake at Glen Echo Country Club. That lake had a family connection just like the Wintergarden because my dad (who grew up in Normandy) used to caddy at the country club.

The boys always played hockey at Glen Echo because they had some sort of goal posts setup at either end of the lake. Sometimes, they even let me be the goalie (lucky me!).

"Well, what was your worst Christmas present?" my granddaughter persisted.

That was the year I asked for a football . . . I got a doll.



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Calendar of Events In and Around Ferguson

Complete Details of These Events Throughout the Paper

Branson Trip	Wed.-Fri., Nov. 30-Dec. 2
Treasures & Treats Sale – Library	Fri.-Sat.-Dec. 2-3
Ferguson Twilight Christmas House Tour	Sun., Dec. 4
Hour of Computer Code – Library	Tues., Dec. 6
Christmas Mystery Tour	Wed., Dec. 7
Free Carriage Rides – Downtown Ferguson	Thurs., Dec. 8
N/W Chamber Membership Meeting – Crowne Plaza	Thurs., Dec. 8
Mystery Trip	Fri., Dec. 9
Vine Cutting at Disc Golf Course	Sat., Dec. 10
Breakfast With Santa – Blessed Teresa	Sat., Dec. 10
Breakfast With Santa – 1st Presbyterian	Sat., Dec. 10
Cookies by the Pound & Craft Sale – Ferg. Christian Church	Sat., Dec. 10
FYI Pinewood Classic	Sat., Dec. 10
Christmas Concert – St. Peters	Sun., Dec. 11
Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day	Mon., Dec. 12
Ferguson "Reading on Race" Book Club Mtg.	Mon., Dec. 12
St. Stanislaus/Kemoll's/Lights Trip	Mon., Dec. 12
Ferguson City Council Meeting – City Hall	Tues., Dec. 13
Lunch and Yahtzee – Community Center	Wed., Dec. 14
CityWalk Membership Meeting	Thurs., Dec. 15
Holiday Crafts for all Ages – Library	Thurs., Dec. 15
Ferguson Indoor Market – St. Stephens	Sat., Dec. 17
Pancake Breakfast with Santa – Community Center	Sat., Dec. 17
Longest Night Prayer Vigil – St. Peters	Wed., Dec. 21
Christmas Day	Sun., Dec. 25
4th of July New Years Bash – Savoy	Sat., Dec. 31
New Years Day	Sun., Jan. 1

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