April, 2017

Ferguson Times

Established 1894 — Oct. 1999

CITY OF FERGUSON, MO.

Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

The Ferguson City Council will meet twice in April.
All meetings will be held in the
City Council Chambers at 110 Church Street.
The meeting dates are:
Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m.

CITYWALK CONCERT SERIES

May 12	All 4 Nothing
June 9	Casanova Quartet
June 23	Rhoda G.
July 14	Erin Body
July 28	Yard Squad
Aug. 11	Vicky Michaels & the Edicks Way Band
Aug. 25	Fan Fare
Sept. 8	Pat Liston
Sept. 22	Streetfest

Mark Your Calendar!

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Unless otherwise noted
501 So. Florissant Road · 524-5197
citywalk@fergusoncity.com • www.fergusoncitywalk.com

April Events at the Ferguson Public Library

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

Fine Free Week - April 10-15

In honor of National Library Week, return your overdue books, CDs, and DVDs, and we will waive your fines! Damaged items will not be accepted.

St. Louis Community College Tech Fest

April 8 from 10 am - 1 pm

Computer on the fritz? Smart phone not acting so smart? Bring your device and get some help at our FREE Tech Fest!

DON'T LET THESE GREAT PROGRAMS BUZZ BY!

- **Readings on Race Book Club:** Monday, April 10 at 6 pm
- **FLIERS Spring Book Sale:** April 20-22
- **Tuesday Night Book Club:** Tuesday, April 25 at 6 pm
- **Crafternoon - T-Shirt Tote Bags:** Friday, April 28 at 5 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

- **Forest Park Owls:** Thursday, May 4 at 6 pm
- **Monday Makers:** Monday, May 15 at 5 pm

CALL US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Schnucks Store Set to Open March 29th

The downtown Ferguson Shop 'n Save store, located on North Florissant Road, closed in late February, and a Schnucks store will open Wednesday, March 29th at that location.

At the same time as the opening of the new Schnucks, the Schnucks store on South Florissant Road in Cool Valley will close.

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Saturday, April 15th
Ferguson Indoor Farmers' Market

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
This is the last indoor market.
See you outside at Victorian Plaza on May 6th.

9:00 am to noon

Outdoor Market Begins May 6th

StreetFest Fundraiser

Upscale Brunch at Drake's Place
701 S. Florissant Rd., Ferguson
Sunday, April 2, 2017, 11-2
Reservation's Highly Recommended, 314-736-1140
$25.00 Per Person
Tickets available at Drake's Place

Enjoy a delicious Sunday Brunch and help sponsor Ferguson's Falll Streetfest

If You Have Items of Interest, Contact The Ferguson Times – cider@att.net

April 2017 CityWalk

Are You Hungry?

Over recent years, Ferguson has engaged in a visioning process. There has been a particular focus on planning for the Downtown Area. Participants in the 1999 Ferguson Downtown Vision process included "full-service restaurants" as something they wanted to see in the next twenty years. "Downtown Ferguson was once the heart of economic activity for the northern suburbs, featuring streetcar service to nearly the entire region. Florissant Road was lined with restaurants, department stores, offices…" (Downtown Strategic Development Plan, hereafter DSDP, page 17). In a public open house, September 13, 2008, people described the kinds of restaurants they wanted to see: the desires ranged from franchises (with a view to attracting college students, who identify with brands), to white tablecloth dining. There was also a request for international or ethnic restaurants, kid friendly and non-smoking restaurants, healthy food choices coupled with hamburgers. So: an eclectic assortment of restaurants.

Where is Ferguson Citywalk at today making this a reality?

There are twenty-four or more restaurants in the Citywalk district. It's "or more" if you include the three bakeries and the potential of grazing at the Farmers Market.

So what have we? First of all, there are currently four pizza places: Imo's, Little Caesar's, Papa John's and Faraci Pizza (a Ferguson Original). There are several franchises: Popeye's, Quiznos, St. Louis Fish & Chicken Grill and Subway. There are four Chinese restaurants: Chinese Express, New Chinese Gourmet, Ferguson Chop Suey and Queen's House.

Then there are the Ferguson CityWalk Originals. The beauty of original, non-franchised locations is that they can only be found here in downtown Ferguson (except for Faraci Pizza, established in Ferguson, which has expanded to other locations). It's great for Fergusonians in two ways: it presents some nice options close to home, and it draws people into the area.

These are the Ferguson Citywalk Originals:
Banana Yummies, Cathy's Kitchen,Celebrity Southern Soul Food, Cork, Corner Coffee House, Drake's Place, Faraci Pizza, Ferguson Brewing Company Restaurant and Pub, Marley's, Mimi's Subway Bar and Grill, Vincenzo's Italian Ristorante, The (soon to return) Whistle Stop, (Montrey's Cigar Lounge isn't technically a restaurant, but it is certainly a Ferguson CitywalkOriginal.)

The restaurant business can be tough. Small businesses do not have the economies of scale that a McDonald's or Domino's boasts: small businesses pay more for ingredients and equipment than a big franchise. That means they must charge more than McDonald's – of course, you get a higher quality menu item for that money. The hours are demanding and create a real balancing act for a family business. With all those challenges, this small area along Florissant Road, Airport Road and Darst has a pretty nice concentration of small business restaurants.

The next few columns will explore the restaurant history of the Downtown District (Ferguson Citywalk). Possibly, by the time the current locations have been written about, there will be one or two new arrivals!

(This final section is for Citywalk business owners only.)
The Citywalk Advisory Board meets the 3rd Thursday of the month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the office of Pearce Neikirk, and all Citywalk business owners are encouraged to attend.

Ferguson Easter Sunrise Service at January-Wabash

The 2017 Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will be held Sunday, April 16 at 6:30AM at January-Wabash Memorial Park, located at January Avenue and North Florissant Road. The service will be held on the west side of the lake. Bring your own chair if desired. Giving a brief meditation for the informal service will be The Rev. Larry Lemke of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ferguson, and clergy from various churches in Ferguson will also participate. What a great way to begin the celebration of resurrection and new life!

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

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

The Plumber's Crack

By Oh Baby *bigohbaby@sbcglobal.net*

Rain and sunshine almost daily, calming winds, trees blooming, grass turning green, flowers, yard signs everywhere, churches filled, car washes loaded, potholes being filled, It must be April and time for a blooming Plumbers Crack.

Yes my friends it's April and I'd like to add a little follow up to last months remodeling tips. There is a growing problem in the kitchen and bath remodeling industry and it is causing all sorts of problems. I'm talking about granite and marble counter tops. I'm not talking about the actual material, but the installation and the by products that go with them. The biggest and most common problem are the under-mount sinks. Again it's not the materials it's the installation. The first thing the granite salesman should ask or check for is the drain location. Why is this so important you ask, well Oh Baby gonna tell ya.

In most of the older homes the drain comes out of the wall at about 17" off the floor (not the cabinet floor). If you're having an under-mount double bowl sink installed you could have a drain in the wall that is too high to accept the sink. Now add a garbage disposal and your really in trouble. It's the same with a single bowl under-mount sink. They do make different depth under-mount sinks. The problem starts with the salesperson and gets worse with the installer.

Some of the new companies selling granite hire outside contractors to install it and they just want to drop it in and run. The top granite companies will tell you that the sink has to sit 24 hours before you connect the plumbing to sink. This lets the adhesive bond to the granite. The good granite companies tell you this before they sell it to you. They also find out what kind of faucet your buying so they can make sure they drill the holes for a perfect fit. The salesman should be involved through this whole process.

Another problem is the dishwasher. Plumbers won't drill into the granite. There are special clips that should be installed with the top that allow the dishwasher to be fastened.

In closing, find the granite company that's been doing this for a while and don't be afraid to ask these questions. Finally if they want to install the plumbing see if they are licensed to do so and if you want to re-use your disposal or any other parts make sure they leave them for you.

Well enough of that boring plumbing talk . . . it's time for a public service announcement. As I mentioned in the opening, yard signs are up everywhere. Yes, in a few days we have an election and as I travel around town I hear people complaining about this or that. Instead of complaining you have a chance to do something about it. Get off your plumber's crack and vote. People have died to give you that rght, so take advantage of it.

Yeah and while I'm talking tough, shop local first, get to know and offer a helping hand to your neighbors, get involved in your city, and most of all watch out for and love them babies.

Happy Easter and God Bless you all. Oh Baby

Premier Plumbing Solutions
P8563, D8563

Say "I Love Ferguson" When presented your bill and receive..... $10 OFF
Dave Walters (Oh Baby)
Master Plumber / Drain Layer / Licensed / Bonded
• No Service Charge • Free Estimates
• 10% Senior Discount (Maximum of $50)
• Compare our Price on Water Heaters
524-0222

IF YOU LIVE IN AN OLDER HOME AND YOU WANT TO HELP MAINTAIN YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW
CALL BOB 524-1264
PAINTED EFFECTS CONTRACTING llc
BOB ON JOB

See Bob on Job column on Page 17

Independence Day Parade and Festival to Be Held on July 1st

On Saturday, July 1st, 2017 the City of Ferguson will host an Independence Day parade and celebration. The theme of the parade for the Independence Day celebration is **"Ferguson Celebrates National Landmarks".** All interested community groups, clubs, churches and organizations are invited and encouraged to participate in the parade. In addition to parade floats, anyone interested in having a concessions booth should make reservations early; vendor space is limited. Anyone who knows a deserving recipient of Citizen of the Year should submit nominations to the Citizens Fourth of July Committee. Student Achiever nominations are also being accepted. The Student Achiever award is a monetary scholarship that goes to a Ferguson high school aged student.

There are also several upcoming events to note as well:

Ham and Bean Dinner April 21, 2017 at St. Stevens Church
4:00-7:00PM – $8.00 all you can eat

Cocktail Party June 3, 2017 at the home of Kurt and Laura Cavin at 218 Tiffin – 5:30-9:30PM – Tickets will be $30.00/per person
The chairman of the committee is Chris Shanahan and he can be reached at 314-422-8550.

Scott Negwer NCI's 2017 Chairman of the Board

The Board of Directors for North County I ncorporated (NCI), a regional development association, has elected Scott Negwer, President, Negwer Materials, Inc., as the organization's Chairman of the Board of Directors for 2017.

This is a one-year term beginning January 1, 2017. Negwer succeeds Sean Hogan, who served as NCI's Board of Directors Chairman in 2016.

Don't Forget to Vote on Tuesday, April 4th

Present Council Members pictured above are from the left, Laverne Michom and Keith Kallstrom representing Ward 3, Wesley Bell and Heather Robinett representing Ward 2, Mayor James Knowles III, Ella Jones and Lynda Lipka, representing Ward 2, and City Manager: DeCarlon Seewood.

The vote on April 4th will choose the mayor who will be in office for 3 years. James Knowles III and Ella Jones are both running for that office.

All-You-Can-Eat

Ham & Bean or Chicken & Rice Soup

Friday, April 21
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Church (33 North Clay, at Darst)

Your dinner consists of Ham & Bean Soup, or Chicken & Rice Soup (or try both) with cornbread, dessert and drink!

Adults: $8.00
Children: (under 12) $4.00

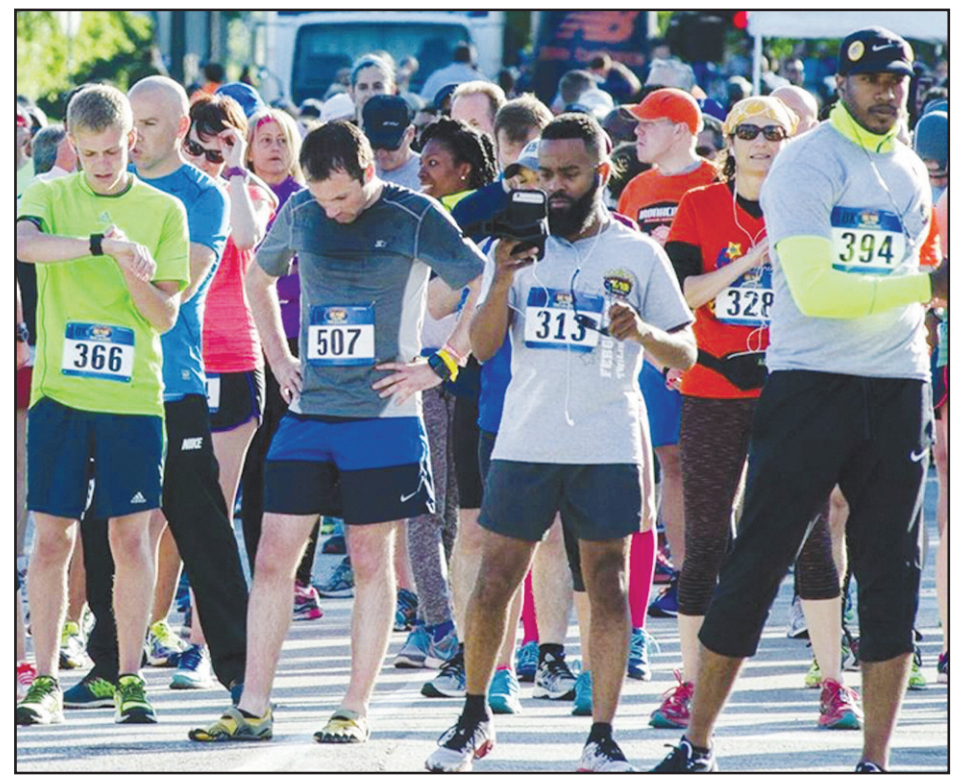
We Need Your Help!
All proceeds go toward funding the Ferguson 4th of July Festival and Parade.

A Word From Our Planet "Avoid Using Bottled Water"

The water is neither safer nor cleaner than most tap water, and water bottles are a consumer item being sold for major profits, which only hastens the corporate control of the world's water sources. Bottled water is not regulated or tested the way tap water is, and it costs as much if not more than gasoline. In addition, fossil fuel energy is used both in the transportation of bottled water and in the production of new plastic. And finally, the disposal of the plastic bottles after use adds to environmental degradation. (A message from the Ferguson Eco Team). Contact carletonstock@aol.com.

Want to run the Ferguson Twilight 5K, But Don't Know Where to START?

Join Big River Running's beginner 5k training program to help you get to the "START" line of the Ferguson Twilight 5k this May! START – Start Training and Racing Today – is geared for people new to running, or getting back into the routine after a long time off, this structured, fun and friendly training is a no pressure, supportive plan designed to help you meet your goals. Guided with passion by experienced coaches who create a positive training environment where teammates share similar goals and feel like family.



The program began March 15! Details about START can be found here: http://www.bigriverrunning.com/run/training/start-5k-program/.

Ferguson Community News Page

Reconciliation is our path, not Retribution
By Mayor James W. Knowles III

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish, a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all…"
Abraham Lincoln – 16th President of the United States – Second Inaugural Address

One hundred and fifty years after the assassination of President Lincoln, most Americans would characterize him as the savior of our great nation and beloved by all that knew him. His strength and resiliency kept our country together through a divisive and bloody Civil War. While history has certainly treated him well, and his accomplishments include being the great emancipator of the slaves, the truth is that he was not universally loved in his time.

The Civil War was not supported by many that stayed loyal to the North. The prospect of a long and bloody war that was taking hundreds of thousands of young men's lives, began to wear on the sensibilities of many in the North. Many believed that Lincoln should pursue a peace with the Confederacy that would allow them to remain a separate, sovereign nation. Many others, especially those in Lincoln's own party, believed that only a unified nation, free of slavery, would be a righteous end to the war.

Lincoln had a great task ahead of him, keeping together the many factions of those loyal to the Union, all while finding an end to the war that would lead to a reunification of our great Union. Lincoln knew, as he said in his second Inaugural address, that the only way to truly heal a broken nation, and to "bind up its wounds" after the war, was to embrace all, including those in the South that many saw as traitors. One of his first acts was to pardon and restore rights back to those in the South that swore allegiance to the Union. This course of action was embraced by many as an act toward reconciliation, but angered others who felt it was too charitable, and instead sought revenge and retribution for the many years of war and the institution of slavery.

On April 14th, 1865, Lincoln's charitable plan for reunification and reconciliation ended when he was assassinated by a southern sympathizer, still angered by the defeat of the Confederacy. Ironically, it was the death of Lincoln at the hands of Confederate sympathizers that would lead to radicals taking power, and the institution of harsh "reforms" in the South that further infuriated Southerners, eventually leading to another century of mistrust and hatred. The inability of the government to seek true reconciliation between the North and South eventually led to policies such as segregation, Jim Crow Laws, and the brutalization of many African-Americans in the South.

As a keen student of history, I've tried to live by Lincoln's example as we've gone through our own period of turmoil. Throughout the past two and a half years, I've sat before police officers, protestors, residents, and even visitors from far away to hear their concerns. People on all sides have made good points, and many have valid concerns, but it is incumbent upon our leaders to approach these issues objectively, evenly, and justly. As Lincoln did, we must resist being pulled into the emotions of one side against another, instead we must open our minds and our hearts to seek our common humanity, that we may realize in the end, there are no "sides", just our one community.

Lincoln's dream of reconciliation, as he expressed in his Inaugural, was thwarted because those who continued to seek retribution and revenge drove a deeper divide in the South, causing animosity that still lingers today. I see those same forces operating in our city today. Much like the radicals after the Civil War who claimed the high ground of righteous indignation, these individuals claim their goal is healing, but their tactics are more likely to cause animosity and division, than reconciliation.

Depending on the outcome of this election, this may be my last column as your Mayor. It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve you in that capacity for the past six years. I have served this community in one way or another my entire life, and I will always continue to serve my fellow citizens in whatever capacity I can.

If this is my last column to our citizens, I want to leave you with this solemn hope and wish; that this community will seek true reconciliation, that those who continue to seek retribution will be rebuked, and that the community can move forward, together, to improve the lives of all who live, work, and play here. That the scars of the past are healed, and this community can begin anew. With malice toward none, with charity for all.

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	Apr 4 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 Beins 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 314-524-8115 glenda.rickard@mercy.net
Old Ferguson West Neighbors	May 4 7 pm	Corner Coffee House 100 No Florissant	Larry Robinett ldrobinett@gmail.com
Robert-Superior Neighborhood Group	TBA	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	TBA
Southwest Ferguson Neighborhood Group	TBA	Our Lady of Guadalupe 17 Hawkesbury	Atefa Young atefayoung@yahoo.com
Wabash Neighborhood Assn.	TBA	First Baptist 333 N Florissant	Shonnette Morgan sdenisemor@hotmail.com
North Hudson Neighborhood	TBA	Ferguson Community Ctr 1050 Smith	May Simmons hudsonhills63135@gmail.com
North Hills Neighborhood	TBA	Our Lady of Guadalupe 17 Hawkesbury Dr.	Keith Kallstrom 314-524-1720
North Elizabeth Neighborhood	TBA	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

Fire Department Promotions

The Ferguson Fire Department is proud to announce two recent promotions. John Hampton has promoted to the position of Assistant Chief and Ken Zeilmann has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

Assistant Chief John Hampton has served Ferguson fire department with distinction for 21 years. He is a highly decorated fire fighter to include three separate Medals of Valor from the St. Louis Chief's Association. He achieved the rank of Captain in 2006 and was promoted to Assistant Chief earlier in the year. He holds a degree in Fire Protection Technology and is trained as certified Fire Officer through the state of Missouri. As Assistant Chief he will not only serve as the commanding duty officer for A shift, but will also perform a number of additional duties including the training officer of the entire department. He and his wife, Chris, have three sons and the oldest currently serves as a fire fighter paramedic for Florissant Valley Fire Protection District.

Captain Ken Zeilmann is a third generation fire fighter that has over 22 years in the fire service. He began his career with the Berkeley Fire Department where he served for 11 years. He has been with the Ferguson Fire Department for the last 11 years. Over his career Ken has received several awards including two Medals of Valor from the St. Louis Chief's Association. After mutli-phase promotion process including written tests, sand table exercises and oral interview boards Ken was awarded the rank of Captain on February 20th of this year. Ken will serve as a Company Officer on Aerial Rescue Pumper stationed at Fire Station 2. He and his wife Amy have 3 children.

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 get up to the Recreation Office to register or call us at (314) 521-4661.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Don't forget to pick up the new Destination Recreation brochure with a complete list of programming offered throughout Ferguson at the Ferguson Community Center or online at www.fergusoncity.com

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.

Memberships

Resident Youth – Daily $1/ Yearly $50
Resident Adult – Daily $3/ Yearly $85
Resident Senior – Daily $1/ Yearly $50
Resident Family – Yearly $165

Non Resident Youth – Daily $3/ Yearly $200
Non Resident Adult – Daily $5/ Yearly $200
Non Resident Senior – Daily $3/ Yearly $120
Non Resident Family – Yearly $300

Each patron is required to have an I.D. card which can be purchased at the front desk of the community center. Residents must present 2 forms of identification to receive a resident ID card. There is a $5 fee for each card. If the card is lost/stolen, a new card can be issued for $5.

PROGRAMMING

Children's Tumbling

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

Age: 3 ½-7 years old & 8-13 years old
Start Date: Mondays (8 week session)
Time: 5:45pm-6:40pm (3 -7 years old)
6:45pm-7:40pm (8-13 years old)
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $39/Members; $44/Residents; $49/Non-Residents

Children's Tap & Ballet Dance

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

Age: 7-15 years old & 8-13 years old
Start Date: Wednesdays (8 week session)
Time: 5:45pm-6:40pm (3-7 years old)
6:45pm-7:40pm (8-13 years old)
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $39/Members; $44/Residents; $49/Non-Residents

Children's Tap, Ballet, Jazz & Hip-Hop

This is a wonderful opportunity for a child to learn creative movement along with simple dance steps and routines in tap, ballet, jazz & hip-hop. Tap and ballet shoes are highly recommended but not required. No jeans, baggy clothing, tennis shoes or bare feet.

Age: 3 1/2-7 years old
Start Date: Mondays (8 week session)
Time: 5:45- 6:40
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $39/Members; $44/ Residents; $49/ Non-Residents

Hip Hop/ Jazz Dance

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

Age: 14-18 years old
Start Date: Wednesdays (8 week session)
Time: 7:45pm-8:40pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $39/Members; $44/Residents; $49/Non-Residents

Beginning Adult Dance

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

Age: 18 & Up
Start Date: Mondays (8 week session)
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Time: 7:45-8:40
Fee: $45/Members; $50/Residents; $55/Non-Residents

Private Dance Lessons

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

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

AQUATICS

Aqua Fitness

Stay fit this winter, 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.

Start Date: Mondays & Wednesdays
Time: 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!

Swim Lessons

The ability to swim is an invaluable life skill, let us help you learn or refine your skills. Join us this fall as we offer swim lessons for ages 4 and up at

Age: All ages
Location: McCluer South Berkeley High School indoor pool.
Start Date: Mondays & Wednesdays
Call for details

FITNESS

Intro to Fitness

Join the Ferguson Community Center staff and learn how to properly use the fitness equipment in our fitness center. This class is offered once a month and you must pre-register at the front desk.

Age: 16 years old and up
Days: Tuesdays
Time: 7:45-8:40pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: FREE/Members; $2/Residents; $3/ Non-Residents and Guests

Tap Dancing for Fun & Fitness

Get a fun and creative workout while learning a new skill--Tap Dancing. Easy yet energetic tap steps enhance the rhythm of the song and motivate you to move with the music. You'll enjoy hearing the tapping of your feet and will hardly realize you're working out and burning calories! The class ends with a cool down and light stretching. Tap or hard-soled shoes are highly recommended. No tennis shoes

Age: 16 years old and up
Start Date: Wednesdays (8 week session)
Time: 7:45-8:40pm (Age 14-18)
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $34/Members; $39/Residents; $44/Non-Residents

Slide Dance

Do you want to enjoy your workout while also having fun? Try out our slide dance class! It is an 1 hour dance class designed to teach basic and intermediate slide dance skills and routines. Participants are given a chance to grow more comfortable on the dance floor while having fun and socializing with others in the community. Wear comfortable clothing and adhere to these 3 rules: have fun, forgive, and keep moving!

Age: 18 & Up
Start Date: Mondays (8 week session)
Time: 6:30-7:30
Location: Community Center
Fee: $25/ Member; $30/ Resident;
$35/ Non-Resident

(See more Parks and Rec Activities on Page 6)

Aerobics
This fitness program is designed for all skill levels. High Impact Aerobics will improve your heart rate, increase energy levels, as well as improve strength and flexibility.
Age: 18 years & up
Days: Monday, Wednesday, or Friday (8 week session)
Time: 6pm-7pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $25/Members - 1 day per week
$30/Residents - 1 day per week; $35/Non-Residents - 1 day per week
Additional Days:
$10/members add day; $15/residents add day
$20/non-residents add day

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 SilverSneakers techniques will be used to develop strength, balance, and coordination.
Days: Monday and Wednesday
Dates: Ongoing
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: McCluer South Berkley
Fee: Free/ Silver sneakers members
$5/ Non- Silver sneakers members

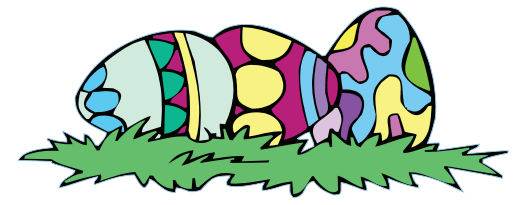
SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

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.
2017 Wayside Dog Park memberships now on sale.
Yearly Fee: $30 Residents; $60 Non-Residents; $5 per additional dog (three dogs per family).

Computers for Seniors
Do you feel like you're left in the Stone Age while technology keeps moving forward? Do you have grandchildren who you would like to keep up with through social media? If so, then sign up for Ferguson's Computer for Seniors course. This class will start with teaching you very basic computer functions and extend your knowledge until you surfing the World Wide Web with confidence and ease. Note: This class requires participant to create an email account.
Age: 50 and older
Dates: TBA (6 weeks)
Times: 11:00am-Noon
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $20/Member; $25/Residents; $30/Non-Residents

Adult Easter Egg Hunt
The Easter Bunny has dropped his eggs all over the fields of the Ferguson Community Center. Rumor is 30 of those eggs are filled with prize tickets. This "egg-cellent" event is open to adults 21 and older. So grab your basket and flashlight for an evening down memory lane. Our concession stand will be open for snacks and refreshments, no outside drinks allowed. Pre-registration is recommended for this event. Maximum event size: 100.
Date: Friday, April 14
Time: 7:30pm
Location: Community Center
Fee: $8 Residents; $10 Non-Residents

Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Hop over to January Wabash Park for the annual Egg Hunt. The park will be filled with brightly colored filled eggs for Ferguson children (8 and under) to enjoy. The children will be divided into separate hunts by the following ages: 3 – 4, 5 – 6, 7 – 8. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for photo opportunities. Children should meet at the upper parking lot of January Wabash Memorial Park with their own basket.
Date: Sat. Apr. 15
Time: 10am SHARP!!
Location: January Wabash Park
Fee: FREE Children 3 – 8 years old



TEEN PROGRAMMING

Laser Tag
Come join us for an epic indoor sports arena. Attractions include a ninja warrior course, laser tag, and many more activates. We will have unlimited play for 2 hours followed by a pizza party!
Age: Teens 13-17
Date: Saturday, April 22
Time: 2:00pm—7:00pm
Location: Community Center
Fee: $15/Residents; $20/Non Residents

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Mystery Meal
If you love good food and enjoy fun-loving people then this program is for you! Every trip is an adventure, so register to enjoy the day with good times and good friends. All residents can receive door to door pickup. Fee includes transportation via the Jolly Trolley and a meal.
Date: Fri. May 5
Time: 10am pickup
Fee: $32 Members; $37 Residents; $42 Non-Residents

Lunch and Bingo
Come and treat yourself to an afternoon at one of Ferguson's fantastic lunch and bingos. Our March bingo celebrates St. Patrick's Day with corned beef and cabbage as well as a contest for the best dressed leprechaun. Our May bingo event celebrates the coming of summer with a lunch and bingo featuring your choice of chicken or beef. Cost includes lunch as well as bingo. Maximum size: 125.
Date: Thurs, May 25
Time: 12pm-3pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $10 Members; $14 Residents; $18 Non-Residents

Yahtzee
There is no need to know the rules, come and have a good time at our next Yahtzee event at the Ferguson Community Center. We'll start the afternoon chowing down to a great tasting lunch. After lunch, the excitement begins with 3 thrilling games of Yahtzee. Great prizes, good food and lots of laughter are in store. Door-to-door transportation via the Jolly Trolley is available for Ferguson residents. Advanced registration is required.
Date: Thurs. April 13
Time: 11:30am – 2:30pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $8/Members; $12/Residents;$15/Non-Residents

Isle of Capri – Cape Girardeau, MO
If you have a lucky number, a lucky token, or a lucky charm, be sure to bring it along today when we visit the Isle of Capri Casino in Cape Girardeau, MO. Whether you play the slots or the tables, this could be your lucky day. Regardless of how you fare in the casino, you'll still come out a winner with the tremendous buffet selection you will find here. They offer everything from a huge array of salads, vegetables, pastas, meats and desserts. In addition to the free buffet you will also get $5.00 free in slot play. It's hard to beat a deal like this one. Cost includes: motorcoach transportation, lunch, taxes and tips.
Date: Tues. April 25
Time: 9:00am – 6:00pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: $34 Residents; $39 Non-Residents

Washington, DC
The best of Washington D.C. will be scheduled during this 7 day trip jam packed full of fascinating sights and legendary landmarks. Sights to be visited include: the U.S. Capitol Building, the WWII Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Mount Vernon, Korean Veterans Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, White House (*per invitation), Pentagon Memorial, the National Museum of African American History and Culture in the Smithsonian, the Supreme Court and much more. On the way home we will visit Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson. Plan on capturing the capital experience in 2017. This trip is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 4 – Saturday, June 10th. Call the community center to be placed on an interest list. Information will be made available in late January.

(See page 19 for Athletics)

Athletics

Sand Volleyball

Come try out the brand new sand volleyball complex located at the Ferguson Community Center. This beautiful complex features three courts with high quality white sand and 10' buffers between courts. Join our inaugural leagues today!

Sunday Funday League – Coed

Age:	21 and up
Start Date:	May 7th – Aug 6th (Games not scheduled during holiday weekends)
Time:	1-4pm
Location:	Ferguson Community Center
Fee:	$150/team

Wednesday League – Coed

Age:	21 and up
Start Date:	May 10th – July 12th
Time:	5:30 – 8:30pm
Location:	Ferguson Community Center
Fee:	$150/team

3 on 3 Coed Basketball League

Grab 3 of your closest friends and join the Ferguson Recreation 3 on 3 coed basketball league. Teams are made of 4-6 players allowing for substitutions. There will be seven weeks of games and 1 week of playoffs.

Ages:	18 and up
Date:	May 16th – July 11th
Times:	6:30-9:30
Location:	Ferguson Community Center
Fee:	$200/Residents $225/Non-Residents

Adult Softball

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

Men's (Over 50)	Thurs, April 20
Length of Season:	20 Games
Fee:	$600/team

Field Rentals

Field rental space is available at the Ferguson Sports Complex at Forestwood Park. Payment is due in full before a field permit will be issued (Requests within 48 hours of use may not be accepted).

Rental Prices	Field #1	Fields 2-5
Daytime	$10/hour	$10/hour
Lighted	$20/hour	$15/hour
Grooming Fee	$15	$10

Zion Fish Fry

The Zion Fish Fry is here! It will be held until August 25, 2017 from 4pm to 7pm, in the basement of Zion Lutheran Church. It's the best cod, catfish, shrimp and chicken tenders in the neighborhood. There will be delicious homemade desserts that will be provided by different organizations each week. We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you.

MID-EAST AREA AGENCY ON AGING

FERGUSON

Ferguson Senior Resource Center
Located in the Ferguson Community Center
1050 Smith Avenue, Ferguson, MO 63135
(314) 867-5661
ferguson@mid-eastaaa.org

We invite you to come by the Center open to those 60 years and older to enjoy a delicious lunch and participate in the many activities. The Center is open Monday- Friday from 9am to 3pm with lunch served daily at 11:30am.

Upcoming Activities

Tuesday, April 4th 11:15-12:00pm	"Brain Health"
Wednesday, April 5th 11:00- 12:00pm	Fire Department Blood Pressure Check
Wednesday, April 19th 10:00-11:00am	"The Joy of Reading"
Thursday, April 20th 11:00-12:00pm	Fire Department Blood Pressure Check
Friday, April 28th 10:00-11:00am	"Living Well with Vision Problems"

Weekly Activities

Mondays at 9:30am	Mixed Cards and Games
Fridays at 9:30am	Get Creative Craft Group
Fridays at 10:30am	Find Out Fridays

Please call (314) 867-5661 to register for lunch, $4.00 suggested donation.

Fish Fries

Our Lady of Guadalupe– 1115 S. Florissant Road – 522-9264

Time: 4:00 to 8 p.m.

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 21, 28

Latin Flavor Fish Fry with Entertainment

Adult Dinner $9.00 (5 ounces of fish & 2 sides)

Child Dinner $5.00 (3 ounces of fish & 2 sides)

- Nachos with cheese $2
- Shrimp (Fried) 12/$10.50
- Shrimp individual $1.00
- Catfish Fillets $10 per lb.
- Cod Fish Fillets (Fried) $10 per lb.

* Mexican Rice * Cactus Salad

- Baked Tilapia $5 each
- Ceviche by the pound with Tostada $10
- Chile Relleno $5 each
- Fish Tacos Order of 3/$6
- Tacos de Papa (potato tacos) order of 3/$5

Soda $1.00 – Coffee $1.00 (free refills) – Beer $3.00

Did You Know

Provided by: Mid-East Area Agency on Aging • info@mid-eastaaa.org

MID-EAST AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Gardening can provide an aging adult with a low impact way to exercise with physical, psychological and nutritional benefits. This hobby has very little limitations allowing people of all ages and capabilities to get involved. Modifications and adjustments can be made to create raised beds, indoor containers and automatic irrigation, making gardening manageable for everyone. Gardening is about getting outside and connecting with nature and friends at any level of experience. Listed below are some of the many benefits of gardening.

1. Fresh air, nature and gardening decrease stress and anxiety.
2. You can garden alone or with people building lifelong connections.
3. Regular time spent outside ensures vitamin D from the sun.
4. Stimulates all the senses and awakens you connections with nature.
5. This low impact exercise keeps joints flexible and a wide range of movement through stretching, squatting, bending, twisting and pulling.
6. People that grow their own food tend to eat more fruits and vegetables.

Gardening has many benefits but for aging adults some thought needs to go into the layout and design of the garden.

1. Add benches or chairs, preferably under shade trees.
2. Create raised narrow beds to improve drainage and access.
3. Craft vertical gardens using trellises, cages and fences, limiting bending.
4. Paths should be wide enough for wheelchairs and walkers and level.
5. Install an irrigation system to cut down on watering.
6. Plant in containers that can be placed close to home or use small inside containers.

Gardening is a wonderful way for aging adults to stay active, remain independent and connect with friends and family.
(Senior Health Memos 2013 and AgingCare.com)

Mid-East Area Agency on Aging is a community of older adults, volunteers and staff here to help you feel more engaged and help you "age in place." MEAAA has a variety of programs and activities to help you maintain your cognitive function; visit www.agingmissouri.org to find out about our exercise classes, activities, and health programs.

1 (800) 243-6060 www.agingmissouri.org

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Facebook Ads vs. Google Ads

By LaTease Rikard

So, I've been having a bit of fun with Facebook Ads. Fun you say? Yes fun. I've been using them to create awareness, get page likes, and to sell products. For the price I paid for the ads, I'd say my experiment was a success. I've used both Google Adwords and Facebook advertising, and I find Facebook easier to use. First of all the user interface is simple and straight to the point. While the Adwords user interface is more challenging and requires some mild research to learn how to use it. Another disadvantage of using Google Adwords is that it is widely accepted knowledge that you will lose or spend lots of money on Adwords just to learn how to use it. That's not for me. To say I have a small amount of fear when it comes to using Adwords is a massive understatement.

Facebook Ads are different. I say that because they're more affordable, offer precise audience targeting, and they send you an analysis after your campaign has run that help you convert more the next time you create an ad campaign.

There are different methods of promoting on Facebook. Say for instance you want to promote your website. Maybe you want to get people to visit your website where they can take action, such as learning about your products or shopping your online store. Website promotions are an easy way to create ads that send people to a specific URL, such as your website's homepage or your online store. And when you promote your website, your ads will be delivered to people within your audience who are likely to click them.

I recently set up a Facebook Ad Campaign for my page Holiday Deals. Sure I set this up during the holidays to offer deals and specials on all the affiliate campaigns I'm part of. But when I saw people were still scouring the page and making purchases, I decided to beef up that page with even more deals. I set up a campaign designed to increase my conversions.

I got 4 sales out of 574 views, and 27 clicks. I spent $10 on an ad that ran for 1 day. This isn't the first time I bought ads on Facebook. But it is the first time I made money from that form of marketing. I had to try different things, different demographics along with different day parts to run the ad.

If you're feeling adventurous and want to run a campaign, try to make different campaigns with different objectives (one campaign where you just directly sell, one retargeting campaign, one campaign for your subscribers, etc). Then analyze your data after the campaign has run. Look at the data not as a success or fail, but as a form of intelligence gathering so when you run another campaign you will get better based upon your previous experience. That's all marketing is, testing, testing again, and testing some more. You have to learn how to in order to be successful. I'm watching one business owner on Facebook run ads that are converting at a 70% conversion rate. Pretty good huh? I'd say so!

Another tip is to join different Meetup Groups around the area where business owners get together and discuss what's working and what isn't. It's a great way to expose your business to people who don't know you exist and may need your service or product.

Until next time, look me up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, or you can call me 314-495-2497.

Pearce Neikirk and Partners Realtors

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email: pearce4homes@yahoo.com

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1122 HUDSON RD...won"t you be my neighbor $249,500

Hudson Rd is well known for being "out in the country" with its wide open spaces and horse farms and stables. This fabulous ranch home is located just around the corner from the Ferguson Community Center and only three doors down from Hudson Rd Park. Sitting on a level half acre, this custom design space features three + bedrooms with a huge Master bedroom suite, three and a half baths and three garages. The great room and dining room overlook a wooded area and the kitchen is large enough to handle a chefs convention. There is a third full bath, sleeping area and family room in the lower level and the laundry is located on the first floor just off of the kitchen. BONUS...The neighbors are pretty swell as well! Call us today

#2 MILLER PLACE

This bungalow ranch will charm your socks right off! With three plus bedrooms and two full baths, it is the BEST buy in the neighborhood. Enjoy coffee on the screened porch, bar-b-ques on the spacious deck and horseshoes in the privacy fenced back yard. You can walk to the Ferguson Farmers Market, STREETFEST, and host of other attractions including the WHISTLESTOP! This home is pretty much maintenance free on the outside with newer roof and siding. Both baths and the kitchen are newer as well! Call us today for special financing packages!

1530 WASHINGTON $123,500

Call Amy at 314 660-8050 to visit this very special, full brick Cape Cod. Beautiful hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths and a huge master bedroom suite are a few of this home's many features. The backyard is large and perfect for gardening or maybe even a small truck farm! The lower level is partially finished with a family room and laundry and the breezeway could easily be turned into a year around sitting room. Call today!

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The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely Did you know that Jesus LIVES & has saved us from eternal damnation? well, He does! so there! would you like a personal introduction? i'd be happy to! :)

IT'S STRANGE, VERY STRANGE!
i say that because i have, of late, gotten calls from those of you regarding the malfunctioning of their printer. why is that? is there something in the electricity? the ink? the paper? beats me, that's for sure. still, to help out, i have decided to include some advice this month which will give you some measure of protection against a sick printer, as well as help to fix it once it is sick.

1. i think the primary reason for such problems might be that your printer's drivers & software is not up to date. a driver is like a translator to both the hardware & the software. think of it as needing to have its languages updated with new words that both the HW & SW now use. when i say to update your software, i am saying to check for new versions of that program. to do this, it is best to go to the printer manufacturer's website to see if new programming is available for your printer. if so, download it & install it. altho you can get new drivers thru the control panel (go to the device manager and open the line that mentions "printer", then right click on that item and select "update" or "update drivers"), the software update should include new drivers if there are any.

2. see if there are any updates for your OS. your operating system may be out of date, and new SW updates for your OS may have an impact upon your printer drivers/SW.

3. speaking of your OS, when you buy a new printer (or any other HW, for that matter), you need to make sure it will support the drivers/software on the new printer's installation disc. look in the user's manual to make sure that your OS is listed as compatible with the printer's SW. if it is not, it may become necessary to get a newer OS. this is not often necessary, but when it is necessary, you're just gonna have to bite the bullet & git 'er done!

4. let's not neglect the HW! sometimes malware can interrupt the proper operation of a printer, but that is kinda rare. however, the USB cable, for instance, is not so rare to fail. it may have been subject to a lot of stress over the years, and may need to be replaced. or it may have gotten pulled out of its USB socket at the back of your puter. of course, the power cord or power block may have gone bad. if so, buy a new one. it's a good idea to do a self-diagnostic on the printer every now & then (maybe once a year) to see if the printer is ready to respond to your print command, before you really need to get that bank statement printed out to take to that lawyer!

5. make sure you use the right ink for your printer. to ensure this, use a trusted ink supplier. going to the store or ordering online for the brand name that matches the brand on your printer will get you the right stuff. but if you find their pricing a bit too stratospheric, go to 123inkjet.com. there are others, so choose one that you trust. i just happen to have used 123 many times in the past. bad ink can physically damage the "jet nozzles" in your inkjet. if the ink solids (the pigmentation which provides color) are too large, the nozzles will be stopped up. if the liquid used to suspend the solids is not correct, the ink may leak or rust something. both are not good situations.
use the proper ink, or plan to buy a new printer on a regular basis.

6. make sure that you are using good paper. check to see that the brightness & whiteness level is high enough to give good contrast. make sure the paper has the correct level of porosity to prevent edges from being fuzzy as the ink is absorbed into the paper. (more porosity, more fuzziness, so get the least porous paper you can find.) make sure the weight is sufficient to prevent easy tearing/folding. make sure the paper does not produce a lot of paper dust when it is running through the printer. you'd be amazed at how fast that dust can gather and boogar up the machinery inside. good paper & ink are key to keeping your printer dependable.

7. finally, there is one other common occurence to guard against. nobody ever knows how it happens, but we do know well when it happens. if, for whatever reason, you find multiple listings of your printer in the device manager (look in the control panel), you will have to remove them. for each line that names the exact same printer, do a right click on that listing and select "delete" and restart your computer after all of them are deleted. when Windows restarts, it will re-install the printer (once). it may be necessary to have your printer installation disc handy if/when Windows asks for it. if so, follow the directions.

8. ok. one more tip. if you have a computer/OS heading towards a double-digit age, it is very likely that a new printer will not function on it. however, if your puter/OS is new, and the printer is quite old, there is a much better chance that the OS itself will be able to provide the necessary drivers, but the printer SW program will be very basic in its capabilities. Windows 7 is very good at this; 8, 8.1, & especially 10 much less so. (M$ got rid of most of the legacy compatibility with those.) i guess this one is more of a warning than a fix or precaution, but its importance is high, nonetheless.

printers and the printing they do for us is extremely important when we need that hard copy. i hope that this covers most of the more likely situations that you may find yourself facing. if you need more assitance, please take advantage of my FREE puter advice. or go buy a new printer. your choice.

ME GO NOW!
so now you and your printer are all set for service!
i trust that now that Lent has properly prepared you for Easter, as well. now i won't tell you that if you don't go to church on Easter that you'll go to he11, but i will say that you might be on the road to finding out what an eternity of being in a very not nice place would be like. please take advantage of this FREE advice! or plan for an eternity in a very EVIL environment! (there is no buying your way out of that!) have a blessed Easter! i'm going to go get dressed for church! :)

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

If you need some FREE puter advice, or just wanna jaw, please call Doug in the PM hours of most any day at *314*521*1789*. WAIT for the beep to leave a brief message, and he will return your call soonly. If emailing is your thing, use: fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com, and make sure to put your local telephone number into the body of your missive, and put i need puter advice into the subject field, or you won't be hearing from him. Have a happy, joyous Easter, and may God bless us all!

Dr. Gina Frey to Speak at April AAUW Meeting

Washington University Professor Dr. Gina Frey will be the featured speaker at the April meeting of the Ferguson-Florissant AAUW. Her presentation will center around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education as it relates to college students. Dr. Frey is executive director of Washington University's Teaching Center and co-director of its university-research center. One of Dr. Frey's major interests is increasing the number of women in STEM fields. During her college career she was a recipient of one of AAUW's grants to women scholars.

The Ferguson-Florissant (North County) American Association of University Women branch meeting will be **Monday, April 17, 2017** at 7:00 pm at Immanuel UCC, 211 Church Street, Ferguson.

The program is free and open to the public.

For more information call 314-522-0413, 314-831-5359, or 314-831-6884.

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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.

Financial Focus – What's a Dollar Worth?

It's all about the money! How many times have we all heard that before? I'm not sure who said it first, but it certainly has been repeated a lot. And today more than ever it seems to be such an important part of our lives, the almighty dollar! For most people thinking about money conjures up thoughts of what money can buy and the cost of goods compared to days gone by. And for some that's about what it comes down to. Most of us probably relate to comparing what a dollar can buy at various times throughout history. The nostalgia of looking at the birthday cards with the price of things from the year you were born can surprise even some youngsters. When I watch old movies I am always noticing the prices in store's windows or on display signs.

While comparing how far a dollar can go brings back memories, to really appreciate the importance of our US dollar we'll need to look at how it became the most powerful currency in the world. We certainly aren't the only country to have widely accepted currency, but our strong dollar is the most widely accepted. The United States printed its first paper money in 1861. By this time most countries agreed to adopt the gold standard as a means of standardizing transactions in the world trade. This allowed paper currencies to have a guaranteed value tied to gold. However, when miners headed for the gold rush the influx of gold deposits caused the prices to go down and also the value of the currencies tied to gold. This problem led to the creation of the Federal Reserve in 1913. It was supposed to stabilize gold and currency values.

When World War I began the Federal Reserve was put off as European countries suspended the gold standard on their currencies. In order to print more money to pay for the costs of war, it seemed necessary at the time. However, printing more money led to hyperinflation which proved the value of keeping currency backed by a guaranteed value in gold. This also gives an example of why with today's huge deficits we don't just print enough dollars to pay it all off. If we did the value of the dollar would drop like a rock.

When the Depression hit, some countries again suspended the gold standard. As the price of gold rose many people went to banks to exchange their dollars for gold, banks were failing and those persons with gold began to hoard it fearing any financial institution. To counteract, the Federal Reserve tried to make the dollar more valuable by raising interest rates. This only made things worse because the cost of doing business went up resulting with increases in bankruptcies. That caused higher unemployment. Sometimes looking back it is so easy to see how doing something to try to help can actually make things much worse.

When President Roosevelt was elected one of the first things he did in response to the bank failures and people hoarding gold was to close the banks and have all gold turned over to the Federal Reserve Bank. Being able to exchange dollars for gold was done. He also ordered Americans to turn in their gold for dollars. His response seems drastic, but at the time it seemed important to preserve the world's largest reserves of gold. There was also a concern about other countries redeeming currency for gold. With the Gold Reserve Act of 1934, Roosevelt allowed the government to pay its debts in currency not gold. It also prohibited private ownership of gold without a license and authorized the President to devalue the gold dollar by 40%. Once the Depression was over countries were able to go back on a modified gold standard.

The confidence in our dollar really came about with the 1944 Bretton Woods Agreement. Prior to this most countries operated on the gold standard. What that meant was that as governments exchanged currencies they could be redeemed for their value in gold upon demand. In 1944 the United States held the largest gold reserves and our dollar was backed by gold. When the world's developed countries met in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire they set the rate of exchange for all foreign currencies to the US dollar. This effectively made our dollar the world currency. Most other currencies throughout the world are only used in their home country. The strength of our dollar is involved in over 85% of foreign exchange market trading. While Europe, Japan and China are among other global currencies, the United States continues to be the strongest.

After World War II our economy prospered, our gold reserves were adequate to cover our outstanding foreign dollars. As Americans bought more foreign goods with dollars, some countries began to worry that the United States could not back up the dollar in gold. By 1970 gold reserves were much lower compared to the foreign dollar holdings. Some foreign countries were now demanding to have their dollars redeemed for gold. Concerned about our own reserves being depleted, President Nixon removed the gold standard from our dollar. By that time, the US dollar was already the most dominate world currency. We were in a period of double digit inflation and Nixon's reaction was drastic, but it was responsible for improving economic growth. And with it came inflation and higher interest rates. In 1976, gold was allowed in the free market and its value went quickly from $42 to $120 an ounce.

Thinking about all of these experiences in history does seem to set off some alarms in my head. We've all heard the doomsday naysayers who are selling books or videos on how to protect oneself from the collapse of the world economy. When we listen to the financial wizards explain the economic situation or give advice on timing the market, they can make it sound easy. It really isn't that easy for the average investor to try to keep up and still have a life. Following the basic rules for managing your financial future is the best advice to fall back on. Whenever I hear or see someone touting "the end is near" or buy gold while you can; I want to think more positively and as long as I have choices I really can.

So back to looking at the value of that dollar in my pocket, what is it really worth? To some it measures their own self-worth, to others it means there will be food on the table tonight and most importantly it is our means of acquiring goods or services. So the role of our currency is important.

Next month, I'll explore more about the value of our dollar today. And answer some questions I've wondered about: Is a strong dollar good? Why do some countries sometimes devalue their currency? If you have any comments or questions, please e-mail me at consultjoan@att.net.

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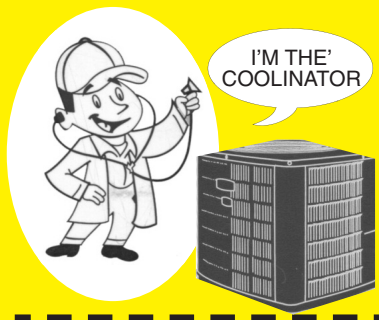

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Ferguson by Foot

By: Margaret Wolfinbarger

Courage comes in many colors. There is the strident red that flashes in the moment of frustration and forces necessary change. Yellow indicates a retreat from the habits which have so long enslaved the will. Black sets the hard line that will not be crossed, while white signifies that surrender is sometimes necessary. Blue evokes the feeling of satisfaction that comes once a goal has been met and green prompts us to begin again when we have failed in some regard. Properly invoked, courage is like a pinwheel blowing in the wind. Colors blend and flash in an intricate phenomenon that dazzles the senses.

There are two phrases I hear frequently from people who wish they could experience the weight loss success I do: "I wish I had your discipline" and "You're too hard on yourself". These conversations are curious because while they used to make me question myself and my motives, now I find them to be a reflection of the person expressing them rather than a compliment or put down of my specific choices.
In case you were wondering, I have not arrived in the land of Perfect Discipline. There are no mini D's bowing down to my perfected existence worshipping me as Queen. For instance, last week my co-workers decided to celebrate something or other and brought in different varieties of cookies. In order to execute perfectly timed torture, they placed them on the table outside my cube. And since I was dealing with some emotional issues, the cookies clobbered me. Now you must understand that I did not eat one, but the clobbering was nonetheless intense. By the end of the first day I felt as if I had run a marathon. The intense mental battle required to resist eating ALL of the cookies was excruciating (and I do not use that word lightly). At the end of the second day I threw them away because I have decided that wiffle-waffling between binge eating and abstinence is not good for my brain or my body, and since I knew I could not eat just one, I decided not to eat any. So when someone says to me, "I wish I had your discipline", what they are really saying is, "I choose to eat what I want when I want it and it's not fair that I can't lose weight." Living a healthy lifestyle requires sacrifices not everyone is willing to make.

I had lunch with a friend over the weekend and she reiterated her stance that complete abstinence from certain foods is me "being too hard on myself." She heaped on the guilt like a pack of linebackers pile up bodies during a football game. But I refuse to lie beneath the pile while my ribcage is crushed. I'm not too hard on myself. To the contrary. I feel more free now than ever before in my life. Not just physically free, but emotionally and spiritually free. Thus I have come to the conclusion that I am no longer food disordered, no matter how many people try to tell me otherwise. I know my body and I am managing it to the best of my ability. Can she say the same?

So what does this mean for you, dear reader? It means that we are all on a journey called life. Some of us have learned that it takes incredible courage to resist the societal tide and forge our own path. My path looks a little odd to some (depending on where they are in their journey) but I am happy walking it. And guess what? You can be too. And you don't have to buy an expensive gym membership, or pay a dietician, or get gastric bypass surgery, or join the latest and greatest weight loss fad. I'm living proof that you can make a lifestyle change and stick to it even when some days I don't really feel like it.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to living a healthy lifestyle. Every body responds differently to foods and exercise. My dad used to reference the bodies of our immediate family and say we are so efficient we would survive in a famine when everyone else dies. (That's because we tend toward the meatier side of society.) But I now like to say we are all individuals. There was a time I found comfort in a bag of microwave popcorn and a soda. Now I find relief that I am not enslaved to food and have the freedom to explore my neighborhood on my bicycle and help my neighbors who are in need. I couldn't do that when I weighed 310 pounds. I constantly felt tired, had a back ache, and felt unhappy that I couldn't do the activities I wanted to.

Today the color of my courage is light blue. I have made peace with the fact that I cannot indulge in even one cookie (one part white flag of surrender). And even when I think I want a cookie, I know I will be content with an orange instead. I have found some excellent sugar free chocolate (thank you Russell Stover and Trader Joe's) and enjoy my bread-free lifestyle. I can run with my dog, out-rake my 15 year old, and still enjoy whole wheat homemade pizza on occasion. This doesn't mean my guilt has evaporated or that I don't arm-wrestle myself away from ice cream at times. It simply means I am choosing to be brave. Consider this question today, what is the color of your courage? And if you don't have one, maybe it's time to start designing your own pinwheel.

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

Conley Gibbs, Jr. to Speak at Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast

Conley Gibbs, Jr. serves as the Pastor of the Gateway Community Church of Christ. He began public ministry at the age of 12 in his hometown of Chicago. In the 30 years since, he has become a nationally sought after speaker for churches, universities, conferences and civic groups. His speaking style has been consistently described as powerful and practical.

Pastor Gibbs attained his academic preparation by attaining the following degrees:

- A.A.S. in Business Administration – Robert Morris College
- B.S. in Human Development – Southern Christian University
- Master's in Organizational Leadership – St. Ambrose University

Additionally, Gibbs authored two books: *A Symphony: Creating the Sound of Marital Hamony,* and *The Preacher, The People & Problems,* both available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. His journalistic endeavors also include a past monthly column in *Word Up Magazine & Community Guild* in Michigan. Pastor Gibbs has served on the Board of Directors for several civic interests including organizations promoting social and economic development.

Most importantly to this man of God is his family life. He has been happily married to his friend, confidante and love of life, Donita, They have two college-aged children. As a family, they serve to help others in their faith journey.

The Ferguson Kiwanis Club presents its 34rd Annual

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Wednesday, April 12th – 7:00 am sharp

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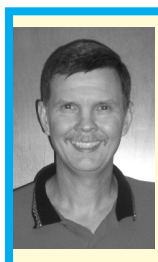

Under The Hood With Robinwood

By Bob McGartland

Ah at last, after our seesaw winter weather, Spring is in the air. So, what better time to get out and enjoy the warmer longer days ahead, than right now. If you're ready to clean the winter gunk from your car, here is some expert advice.

Spring Cleaning Tips for Your Vehicle

These suggestions are from the pros that detail cars every day.

Use Two Buckets

Use one bucket to hold your clean suds, and another bucket to hold clean water. Before you dip your cleaning mitt or brush into the clean suds, rinse it off in the clean water bucket and wring it dry. Then, you are always putting a clean mitt into the clean suds that will go on your car. If you only use one bucket, you are moving dirt off of your car, into your suds and back onto your car.

Detail the Trim First

Use a trim protectant or restorer before waxing the paint. Wash and dry your vehicle, then apply the trim protectant. The product will repel polish and wax that might otherwise stain your trim.

Consider Microfiber Cloths

Microfiber cloths and towels are great for efficiency, lower friction and scratching, and easier washing, rinsing and drying. It is important to remember to wash your microfiber as a separate load, not mixed in with the regular laundry and rags. Microfiber will trap the lint from cotton towels, defeating the purpose of the wash. Remove any labels and stitching before you use the microfiber towels, in order to avoid scratching the paint of your vehicle.

Check the Paint with a Grocery Bag

Once you have cleaned the paint's surface, it is important to make sure that you have really removed all the dirt before you seal the surface with wax. Put your hand in an ordinary thin plastic grocery bag, and run it over the surface of the paint. The plastic bag will amplify any bumps and imperfections, so that you can go back and detail again.

Use a Buffer to Apply, but a Towel to Remove

Consumers sometimes get confused by the name of the tool, and use a power buffer to remove wax or polish from the painted surfaces of their cars. A buffer can leave erratic swirl marks in your clear coat and paint if used to remove product. Use the buffer to apply wax, and then use a soft, dry cloth to remove it. You will avoid burning the paint or damaging the clear coat, and you will have a thin, even coat of wax.

Cleaning the Interior

Before vacuuming your carpeting, de-mat the fibers by using a stiff nylon brush. Then, when you vacuum, the dirt will be free in the carpet, and will be much easier to extract. To remove stubborn pet hair from the carpets, put on a pair of latex gloves and then rub your hand over the carpet. The static electricity caused by the latex glove will help bring the pet hair up to the surface of the carpet for easy removal by hand or vacuum.

Dry the Glass in Two Directions

Get into the habit of wiping the interior glass in a horizontal direction, and the final wipe on the exterior in a vertical direction. Then, when you find the inevitable streak, you will know if it is on the interior or exterior of the glass.

Auto detailing can be a great way to make your car look better and last longer. Here at Robinwood, we hope you enjoy your spring drive in your detailed car! As always visit us at robinwoodauto.com

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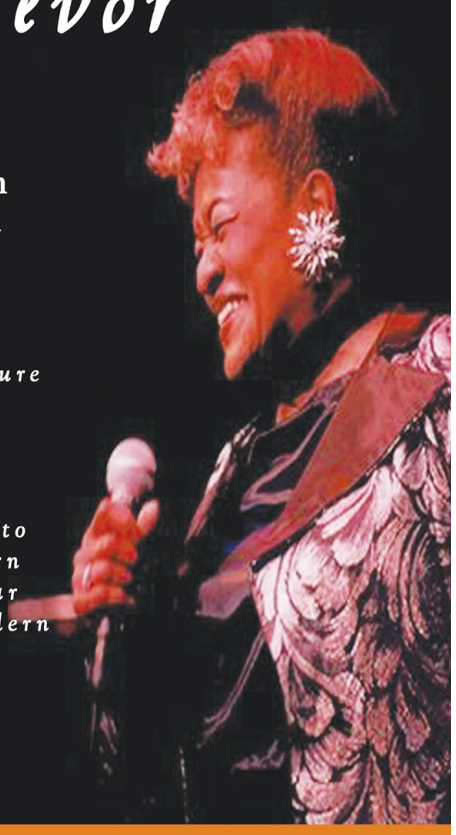

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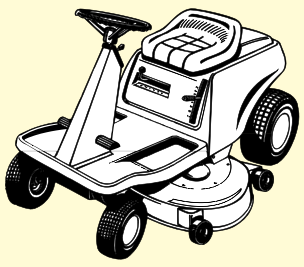

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However, despite the badgering of family and friends to get out and exercise, and the constant prodding of media sources, it remains true that exercise is very good for us and we all actually know this. The real missing piece for each of us is the recognition that exercise is in our self-interest and that we will choose to take action on our own behalf. In other words, no one can convince us. We as individuals are the only ones who can make that difference.

How do you get to that place of choosing? First, by being willing to undertake a truthful self-assessment. If you find that you'd like to lose weight, have more energy, or have more restful sleep at night, then you might choose to begin a program of regular exercise. You do this, not as a result of someone telling you that you need to, but as a course of action that you have chosen. Then, after approximately six to eight weeks of participation in your new activities, you assess the results. If you like what's going on, then you'll probably choose to continue.

And then, surprisingly, if you've reevaluated and reaffirmed a few more times, you may wake up one day to find that you have become a person who exercises. You no longer have to think about this. You no longer feel that exercise is a burdensome activity. You actually now enjoy these activities and authentically appreciate the wonderful results you have been obtaining.

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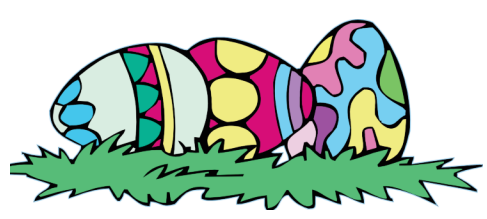


Your Hometown Library in Dollars and Cents

By Scott Bonner, Library Director, 314-521-4820
or sbonner@fergusonlibrary.net

In an effort for increasing transparency, I want to update you on the Library's financial situation by looking at our various income sources in turn – tax funding, 2014 donations, ongoing donations, and state funds. It is not exciting, I know, but it is important.

We receive the vast majority of our funding from property taxes. If you own property in Ferguson, your property taxes include 22 cents per $100 assessed valuation of your home and property. Assessed valuation is 19% of appraised value. You can find the amount that you pay for all the services the library offers throughout the community by looking at the back of your property tax bill, where it is a separate line item. For someone with a $50,000 home, about $20 a year goes to support the Ferguson Public Library – about the cost of a trade paperback book. This money goes only to your local library. We are not part of the St. Louis County Library system, so your money does not leave your community and will always be directed to your needs, not to somewhere across the county. We are not a department of the City of Ferguson, so their money and our money are unrelated. The amount of money the library gets fluctuates as assessed property valuations change. We have seen a dramatic fall in tax monies since 2010. In fiscal year 2011, the library received $443,219 in tax monies. In the most recent completed fiscal year, 2016, the library received $366,678. That's a 17% decrease in only 5 years. The previous library director had to cut library hours, turn full-time jobs into part-time jobs, eliminate the children's services position, and cut healthcare benefits.

Did you know?
The Ferguson Municipal Library, that serves 21,000 people was voted the "Gale/LJ 2015 National Library of the Year."

Do you know which library came in 2nd? Nashville Tennessee which serves 500,000 people.

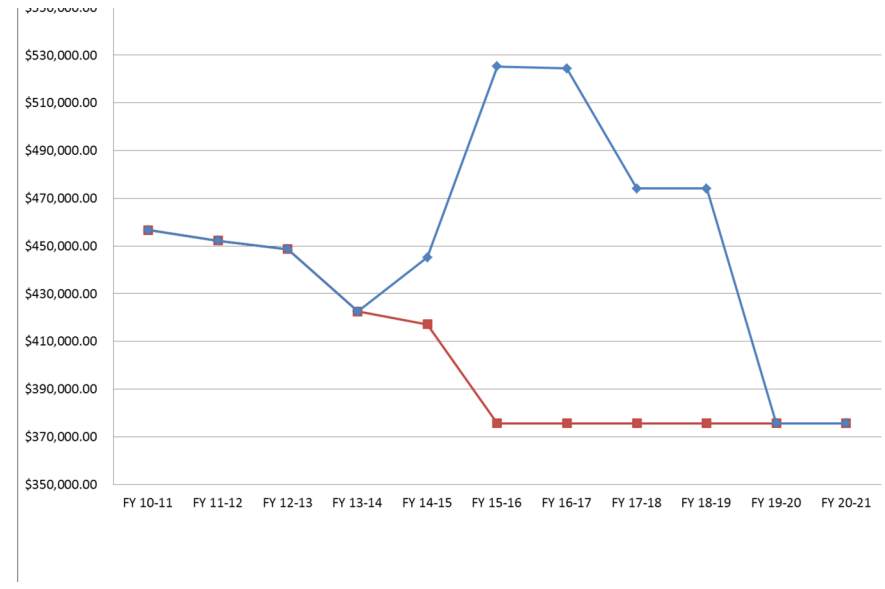
But, for the past 2 years, we have not been hurt by those falling tax funds, and have been able to revive children's services and other programs. That's because, during the turmoil in 2014, people across the country appreciated the library's role in building community and bringing people together, and they donated. It was almost entirely done through small donations - $20, $30, $50 – but they added up to a whopping $450,000. This one-time windfall has made all the difference in the past few years. The Library Board immediately began planning the most prudent and responsible uses for the money, creating a 5 year plan to do things like make updates that were 20 years overdue, create new programs to respond to the needs of the Ferguson community, and make the library more attractive and welcoming. See recent Ferguson Times articles for details of the many improvements we have made, from installing handicap-accessible doors to teaching our kids how to code. For the past 2 years, we have been able to operate like a better-funded library than we otherwise could be. We can keep this going for a few more years, but then this one-time windfall will run out.

To extend this increased capacity to serve Ferguson, we have been doing other fundraising. Before 2014, we were getting about $2,000 or $3,000 per year in donations, most of it from our Friends group, the FLIERS. Some of those 2014 donors have become long-term allies, so we predict about $3,500 per year in ongoing donations. In recent months, we had a targeted fundraiser, where we sent a 2-year update to everyone who had donated in 2014, including a request for another donation, if they could afford it. This has raised another $51,000, for which we are very grateful, but we cannot count on that indefinitely. We are also exploring corporate donations.

We get some funding from the state. It varies, but the most recent amount is $5,396 per year, and we do not expect it to increase and fear it might decrease.

Our other income sources are internal, and we try to keep them to a minimum. I know, that sounds crazy. But, we encourage patrons to turn in items on time so they don't have to pay overdue fines or pay for lost items. We do charge for prints and faxes, but the goal is only to cover our costs, in order to minimize the impact on our poorest patrons.
Putting this all together creates a complicated picture. Since librarians are notoriously frugal by nature, and like things to be very straightforward, library finances are usually simple. But those donations in 2014 brought a bit of complexity along with opportunity. To give a clearer picture of what our funding from outside sources looks like when you combine all these factors together, I made the chart below. Instead of putting the 2014 donations in 2014, I am spreading them out to show when we use them, not when we got them. The chart needs to predict future years, so you can see what will happen once the 2014 donations run out. For predictive purposes, I am presuming no change in the amount of tax monies we bring in or state aid, repeating the 2015-2016 amounts for future years. For predicting donations, I will not presume another donation campaign, since I cannot predict how much it might raise.

Ferguson Municipal Public Library District
Estimated Revenue 2010-2021
Red = funding if these had been normal years
Blue =the difference 2014 made



This is the arc of our library funding, from 2010 until 2020. The red line shows tax funding, state funding, and ongoing donations – what we might have had if the past few years were normal years. The blue line shows what difference the 2014 donations made, along with follow-up fundraising from the same donor base.

As you can see, we have been able to operate like a better-funded library over the past few years, and will for a few years more, but a radical change is coming in 2019. We have been thinking about the pain that will bring, what we will have to change, and how to serve as best we can under those conditions.

I hope this transparency helps you understand how your library works and what funds it. I am happy to answer any question you may have, at sbonner@fergusonlibrary.net or 524-7840.

Thank you.

Thank you.

APRIL
22

BENEFIT FOR FERGUSON POLICE OFFICER J. KEVIN HILL & FAMILY

BENEFIT FOR OFFICER J. KEVIN HILL & FAMILY
TRUNK SALE – 30 SPACES AVAILABLE & BBQ
THE TUFFY GOT BLUES BAND – NOON TO 4 P.M.

Mimi's 46 North Bar & Grill
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

JUNK IN YOUR TRUNK? 30 PARKING SPACES AVAILABLE. NO FEE TO RESERVE PARKING SPACE. CALL MIMI TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT. SET UP YOUR TABLE AND BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR. FOOD & DRINKS SPECIALS. COME TO SELL, COME TO BUY, COME TO EAT, DRINK & HAVE FUN. BRING YOUR FRIENDS.

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BOB ON JOB

Why Are Barns Painted Red?

– by Bob McCarty

I thought you would never ask? This is the story and I'm sticking to it! For the short answer, it's tradition. But how did this tradition start?

The early farmer and barn builders in America would take into consideration the weather. They would track the movement of the sun, the wind and water drainage when considering the barn site. When these barns were being planned, it wasn't just location that was looked at, but the building materials found in that location. Remember, back in the early days of America, Amazon Prime wasn't available. These early barns were not painted and since everything was from the area and to paint your barn, or even your house, would have been considered extravagant, showy, and even vulgar.

Did the Farmer or barn builder become lazy in later years? By today's standards, far from it. It was more of the idea of “to error on the safe side.” In other words, mold and moss would grow on the untreated wood and begin decaying the wood. Rather than expending the energy of replacing the wood, as mentioned earlier, this was early America and the Big Box Stores weren't on every corner . . . the farmers began treating the wood with preservatives such as Linseed Oil which was made from seeds of the flax plant.

This oil had an orange color and with the additions of milk and lime, paint was made. This combination of ingredients was applied to the barn wood and it dried quickly and was a long lasting coating. They added ferrous oxide, rust, which is a poison to the mold and moss that grew on and in the wood. Ferrous oxide comes from iron and with iron being the most abundant element in and on earth, when a handful of the rusty colored clay dirt from around the farm was added to the concoction, the Barn Red color was created. Barn Red is not a bright red color more of a burnt-orange red.

With the wood protected with the oil paint that was made right there on site, other benefits came from the colored wood. The farmers wanted to make sure there livestock was comfortable and the darker color on the barn would help heat the barn in the colder months. (And we don't want to forget that it is easier for a cow to find it's barn when it is painted red. Just kiddin' about those crazy cows, they’re colorblind.)*

The immigrants from Holland, where some barns from the old country were made of brick, learned, of course, to build a barn of brick would cost more than many of these farmers could afford. The next best thing would be to paint the barn to resemble brick. Seeing as how bricks would have been made using the clay from the ground from around the farm, why not use that same clay to color the paint that would protect the barn. This would describe why many of the barns owned by the Pennsylvania Dutch were painted barn red.

But what about the white barns of the Ohio Valley on into the Corn Belt. A couple of thoughts about the white barns of these areas could be that the farmers wanted to portray cleanliness and purity, especially on Dairy Farms. The farmers would white wash the interior of their barns yearly to portray this, and eventually the white washing migrated to the exterior, helping to preserve the wood year after year. The migration of the settlers west along the National Road into Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, and the ethnic traditions of the people would determine if their barns were painted red or white.

What about those black barns and even the black fences in Kentucky? The majority of the barns that are painted black in 'Ol' Kentucky' are tobacco barns. These barns sport this black color to help raise the temperature in the barn. This extreme heat helps cure the tobacco for market.

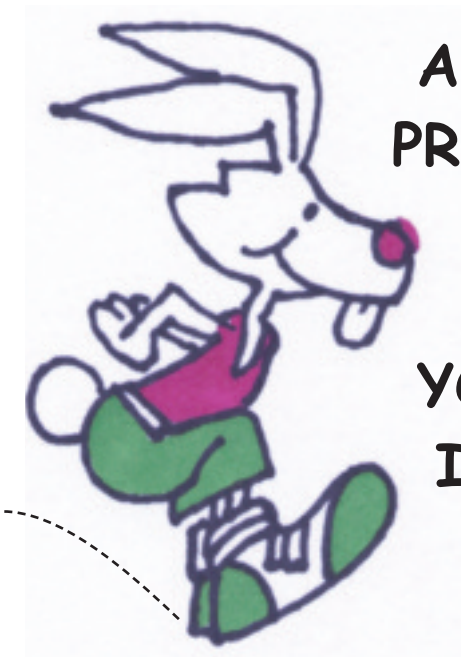
The paint, or product used on these barns is creosote. It is a tar like substance that keeps termites and other creatures from nibbling on the wood. For that very reason, fences on working horse farms are painted black with creosote to keep the horses from chewing up the fence. It just doesn't taste good and the smell keeps those same horses from rubbing against the fence rails, knocking down the fence and wandering off on a galloping adventure. (Besides these great reasons to have a black fence, when the creosote would peel off of the boards, it's not real visible, therefore the fence would look nice even with peeled areas.)

There you have it, now you know why barns are painted red, white, and black. When you started reading this I bet you weren't expecting to learn why barns are painted white and black too. And to completely blow your mind, other colors were used on barns in different areas of America.

Until next month, Bob is on the Job and Bob is always trying to come up with interesting tidbits of Americana to hold his, and your interest. If you have anything that might interest you that you have always wondered about. Drop me a line at www.paintedeffects@sbcglobal.net and put BobonJob in the subject box. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

* For all of you Grammar Nerds out there, you know who you are, (M.C.Grammar), I hope you noticed the use of There, Their, and They're in the article. Yes, I did that on purpose.

HOP ON IN...



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Ferguson Partnership of Churches

Vacation Bible School

“Hero Central”

Discover Your Strength in God!

June 26-30, 2017

9:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon

Immanuel UCC Educational Building
221 Church Street
Welcome ages 3 years old (by July 1st, 2017) to 6th grade (completed)
Teen Helpers grades 7th and up

VBS IS SPONSORED BY THE FERGUSON PARTNERSHIP OF CHURCHES:
BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA CATHOLIC CHURCH,
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ST. PETERS UCC, ST. STEPHENS EPISCOPAL, ZION LUTHERAN

Five Vie for 3 Seats on the Ferguson-Florissant School District Board of Education

Five candidates are vying for three seats in the Ferguson-Florissant School District Board of Education election, April 4. The candidates are:

Dr. Donna Paulette-Thurman, 60, has lived in the Ferguson-Florissant School District for 30 years and has served on the district's Board of Education since 2014 and is currently the board's president. Dr. Thurman is a retiree of FFSD, where she served as principal of Griffith and Holman Elementary Schools. She is a member of New Sunny Mount Baptist Church, the Florissant Democratic Club and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is also the Missouri School Boards Association (MSBA) Regional Executive Committee Chairman for School Resources and has received MSBA Advanced and Master Level certification. Dr. Thurman holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Texas-San Antonio, and a Doctorate of Education in Education Administration from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Jessica Ponder, 30, has lived in the Ferguson-Florissant School District her entire life. She and her husband Dan have an 18-month old daughter who is enrolled in the district's Parents as Teachers program. Mrs. Ponder is a parishioner at Sacred Heart Church in Florissant where she is founder and president of SHAPE - a young adults ministry, volunteers for Mid-American Boston Terrier Rescue and Stray Rescue of St. Louis. She is also a member of the Missouri National Education Association (MNEA). Mrs. Ponder graduated cum laude from the University of Missouri-St. Louis with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and received a master's degree in education from Lindenwood University. She is employed by the Riverview Gardens School District.

Rob Chabot, 51, has lived in the Ferguson-Florissant school District for 23 years. He and his wife Lisa, have two children who attend McCluer High School. Mr. Chabot is a practice administrator at Mobile Eye Care Solutions. He is a two-term member of the FFSD Board of Education, where he has served as president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. He is a U.S. Navy veteran, serves on the boards of I Love Ferguson and Ferguson Special Business District, and is a member of the Lions Club, Greater North County Chamber of Commerce, Northwest Chamber of Commerce, Ferguson Farmers Market, StreetFest and a 4th of July committee volunteer. Mr. Chabot holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College and a Master of Education degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Roger Hines, 42, has been a resident of the Ferguson-Florissant School District for over 14 years. He and his wife Jeana, have three children. One child is a graduate of McCluer North High School, one is currently attending McCluer North, and the youngest child attends Combs Elementary School. He is a member of the Combs Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), the Superintendent's Parents Advisory Council and president of the Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) at McCluer North. He also holds membership in several community organizations including the Prince Hall Masons and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Mr. Hines, who has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from St. Louis University, is currently a project manager at Anixter.

Donna M. Dameron, 54, has lived in the Ferguson-Florissant School District for 25 years. She and her husband John have three adult children. The youngest child is a graduate of McCluer South-Berkeley High School. Mrs. Dameron has served on the Cool Valley Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), McCluer South-Berkeley Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO) and the Rezoning Advisory Group at Cool Valley. She has held leadership positions in the City of Cool Valley and was treasurer of the McCluer South-Berkeley PTSO. Mrs. Dameron attended St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley studying real estate and is retired from the banking industry.

PROBE Sixth Grader is FFSD Spelling Champ

Jadzia Renaud, a sixth grader in the PROBE gifted program, is the Ferguson-Florissant School District's 2017 Spelling Bee champion. Renaud, who has won the event for the second consecutive year, competed against elementary and middle school students who represented their respective schools as building level winners. Grace Raycraft, a sixth grader at Parker Road Elementary, is the runner-up and Breeze Collins, a fifth grader from Holman Elementary placed third. Renaud, Raycraft and Collins, along with other building-level winners, will compete in the annual Greater St. Louis/Post-Dispatch Spelling Bee.

McCluer High Pommies Capture First Place in State Dance Competition

The McCluer High School Pommies proved once again why the are ranked among the area's best dance teams during recently held state dance championships. The Pommies competed in the Missouri State Dance Team Championships (Division 3A) and placed first in the "Prop" category with their "Clean Up Mix" routine. The Pommies also placed third in the "Kick" category with their "New Attitude" routine.

Coached by McCluer staffers, Rega Wesley-Stewart and Jackie Allen, the Pommies have consistently ranked among the top teams in state competitions.

In addition to the team honors, individual Pommies were also recognized for their academic success during the state competition. Lauren Peterson and Elyse Frazier received certificates and medals for maintaining cumulative grade point averages (GPA) of 4.0. Samantha Hobson, Bria Caldwell, Shanna Whitley, Daya Clinton and Sherell Kent received certificates for their cumulative GPAs of 3.5-3.9

Vote April 4th

MAYOR James W. Knowles Re-elect

Proven Leadership * Unmatched Experience
Lifetime of Service

Mayor Knowles has committed a lifetime of service to this community, as a volunteer, a coach and mentor to our youth, as our city's youngest ever councilmember, and as our Mayor through two devastating tornadoes and the unrest of 2014.

Mayor Knowles has been instrumental in the progress we've made over the past decade. His education, experience, and leadership is crucial to making sure we continue the tremendous work we've started.

Find out more about Mayor Knowles and his plan for moving our community forward at **www.jamesknowles.com**
or find his profile on Facebook.com

Paid for by Committee to Re-Elect James W. Knowles III,
Tom Sansevere, Treasurer

Elect the Champion for Our Children and Our Community

To the Ferguson-Florissant School Board

"My greatest desire as a FFSD Board Member is to help provide ALL students with a quality education and teachers with quality colleagues in quality schools."

ELECT EXPERIENCE THAT WILL IMPACT:

- **Student Achievement**
- **Quality Instruction**
- **Fiscal Responsibility and**
- **Community Engagement**

During the one term that Dr. Paulette-Thurman has served on the FFSD BOE, she has gained valuable experience that will serve the District well for the next three years. As a FFSD Board Member she has:

- Served as President, Vice President and Assistant Secretary
- Served as a Delegate to the Missouri School Board Association (MSBA)
- Successfully completed the Public Education Leadership Project at Harvard Business School
- Assisted with the selection of the new superintendent
- Helped to design the superintendent evaluation tool
- Helped plan and approve the purchase and opening of the new STEAM school
- Received Advanced, Master and Distinguished level board certification from MSBA
- Been elected to serve on the MABA Member Resources Committee for Region 7
- Presented at the 2016 annual MSBA Conference
- Helped to lead FFSD to full accreditation
- Helped FFSD maintain a balanced budget with 17% reserves
- Served on a variety of committees in the district (Strategic Plan, Board Work Plan, Superintendent Transition Team, District Code of Conduct, Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP), FFSD negotiations)

Tuesday, April 4th VOTE FOR

DR. DONNA PAULETTE-THURMAN

Endorsed by: Grade A for Change, North County Labor Club and Ferguson-Florissant NEA

 # 1 On Your Ballot

Paid for by Grade A for Change: Judy Ferguson-Shaw, Treasurer

Candidate Forum for Ferguson Mayor

Thursday March 30th – 6:30 p.m.
Ferguson Event Center, 1050 Smith Avenue
Questions may be submitted to Ferguson Business District at fergusoncitywalk.com
Topics to include: Business and Economic Development, Housing and Public Safety.

Co-Sponsored by Ferguson Special Business Distict and the West Florissant Business District

Ferguson-Florissant School District offers Early Education Programs

If you have a young child, birth to age 5, and live in the Ferguson-Florissant School District your child is eligible to enroll in the district's early education programs.

A free quality preschool experience with degreed, certified teachers is available to district children. Three-year-olds attend class two mornings per week; 4-year-olds attend three or four half-days. Families receive Parents as Teachers personal visits.

A free developmental screening is designed for all young children, ages 3 months to 5 years. Hearing and vision are also checked. If any type of concern is indicated, in-depth testing is offered.

For children ages' birth to 5 years, Parents as Teachers offers a free program for all families. PAT provides free personal visits, parent-child activities, developmental information, screenings and prenatal visits. This free program with degreed, certified parent educators is available to all families who choose to participate.

LINK Family Time is daytime program for parents and their children from birth to age 5. Opportunities to experience a wide range of social, motor, sensory, and creative learning activities in preschool like setting are provided.

The district's Child Development Centers are open to all. These centers o¬ffer excellent, year-round care and education that helps prepare your child for school. For information call (314) 506-9472 or visit our website, www.fergflor.org

McCluer High School Junior Jacob Tiemann to Compete at the National DECA Competition

McCluer HIgh School Junior Jacob Tiemann took third place in his category of Marketing Communication Series at the Missouri DECA State Competition held in Lake of the Ozarks on March 13, 2017. Jacob will be competing in the National Competition in Anaheim, CA at the end of April. Jacob's teacher, and mentor, Timothy Lakey, will attend the competition with him.

Jacob Tiemann and Destiny Davis were highlighted in an article written by Steve Mariotti, of the Huffington Post in October of 2015. Destiny placed first, and Jacob second at the NFTE Youth Competition held at Ameren UE, in St. Louis, Missouri on May 15, 2015. Both Students won cash prizes as well as having their expenses paid to compete at the National event held in New York City. It was there that the students met Mr. Mariotti. The achievements of these dedicated students, their connection to Ferguson, and desire to

FFSD Financial Coordinator Receives Missouri Leadership Award

Latonya Robinson, a federal financial coordinator for the Ferguson-Florissant School District, has received the Missouri State Leadership Award from the National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators (NAFEPA). She has also been selected by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to participate as a member of the Committee of Practitioners for federal programs. The committee is required by federal law to advise DESE on federal program issues associated with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA) of 1964 as amended by ESSA.

March 2017 meeting minutes
Reported by Keith Kallstrom
(Keith.Kallstrom@gmail.com)

Lt. William (Bill) Ballard (wballard@ fergusoncity.com) opened the March 8th, 2017 meeting of the Ferguson On Watch, welcoming everyone. Lt. Ballard is the Ferguson Police Department's facilitator for the Ferguson OnWatch group. He passed out the February 2017 Crime Review, which contained the monthly crimes sorted by FBI types (Assaults, Burglaries, etc.). He then introduced our speaker for the night.

Annette Jenkins
-Neighborhood Policing Steering Committee-

Annette is one of the Facilitators of the Neighborhood Policing Steering Committee (NPSC), which is a focal point for community participation in the development and implementation of a plan to improve the community/police working relationship, implement problem oriented policing, establish and carry out public safety priorities, and reduce threats to the quality of life in neighborhoods in all areas of Ferguson, including those most affected by negative interactions with the police. The NSPC has a significant, formal role in helping the City in satisfying its obligations under the Department of Justice Consent Decree.

The NPSC operates under the "Consensus Model", and uses 3 facilitators to steer this voluntary committee. The facilitators are Annette Jenkins, Adrian Shropshire, and Francesca Griffin.
Annette passed out some literature to the group. A brochure titled "Neighborhood Policing: Lead the Change" "Community and Police Partnerships: Your Community, Your Police"

To accomplish these obligations, the NPSC had formed 5 committees.:
• Facilitation: was
(1) tasked to meet with the monitor to better understand Monitor reports,
(2) Consult with the City and FPD to develop and implement policies describing how the City will receive, consider, respond to, and act upon NPSC recommendations in a fully transparent and timely manner.
(3) Provide the City with input regarding the implementation of this Agreement and provide the community with information about the status of implementation.

• Youth / Outreach has the additional assigned task to Coordinate with neighborhood groups and work with the FPD to establish and carry out public safety priorities.

• Municipal Code / Ordinances subcommittee is also to
(1) provide input to the FPD and City on law enforcement issues
(2) Advise the FPD on strategies, training and policies to improve community relations and the promotion and improvement of bias-free policing
(3) Provide recommendations to the City Council with regard to reform of, and amendments to, the Ferguson Municipal Code.

• Police hiring, training, recruitment subcommittee has the additional tasks of
(1) Sending representatives from the NPSC to sit on the Training Committee as described in paragraph 49 of the consent decree
(2) Providing input, through consultation with the City on a written Recruitment Plan, in the hiring and recruitment process for new officers, including lateral hires, as set forth in Section XV of the consent decree.

• Neighborhood Policing Plan & Community Engagement Plan subcommittee has the additional tasks of
(1) Consulting with the FPD and City on the development and implementation of the Neighborhood Policing Plan described in paragraph 26 of the consent decree.
(2) Assist in the development of the community-engagement plan described in paragraph 20 of the consent decree, and
(3) Consult with the City to develop a plan for neighborhood mediation.

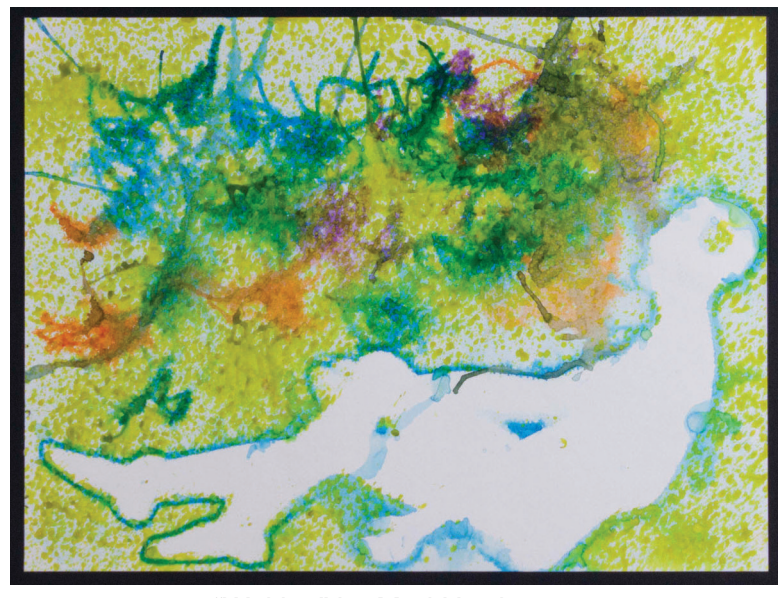
Annette reported that we needed new members from Ferguson to help us set these directions. The use of the Consensus Model allows opinions from living outside Ferguson to affect and delay the process disproportionately. Efforts to empower Chairs & Co-chairs have been going on for 2 years, unsuccessfully. She reports that a drastic decline in member attendance has occurred. Annette gave us a copy of a letter from a Ferguson resident that observed that "Our model of resistance to any form of organization has led to confusion."

If you would like the opportunity to help set the direction of the NPSC, please attend a meeting which is on the 3rd Thursday of each month, currently held at City Hall.

Lt. Ballard then gave the updates on the crimes that occurred during last month, and fielded questions regarding current crime happenings.

Our next meeting is April 12th at City Hall.

Inside Insight: An Artistic View of Feelings and Emotions



"Waiting" by Marj Harrington

Good Shepherd Studio will host "Inside Insight," a group exhibition on feelings and emotions expressed by the artists of Fine Line Studios. The show will open Saturday, April 8, 2017, with a reception from 4-6 p.m. The show will run through April 27. The Gallery will be closed, however, on April 14 and 15 (Good Friday and Holy Saturday).

Fine Line Studios is an arts-based day program supporting adults with developmental disabilities, located in the Bridgeton neighborhood of St. Louis, Missouri. Their motto is: "Through the arts, we enrich the lives of those we serve." Fine Lines Studios is a part of Resources for Human Development, a national non-profit dedicated to empowering and supporting the more vulnerable members of our community.

COCA

Unveils The St. Louis Map Room

It opened on March 3, but runs through April 9, 2017, COCA (Center of Creative Arts), in collaboration with Jer Thorp's Office for Creative Research, has taken over the gymnasium in the Stevens School, a shuttered northside neighborhood middle school, to create The St. Louis Map Room: a pop-up community space for exploring and creating original, interpretive maps of the city that reflect the personal stories of its residents and fostering dialogue around civic data.

As a result of an open call to the St. Louis community, a diverse set of groups – including middle school, high school, and university students, artists, senior citizens, neighborhood representatives, and more - will take part in free facilitated workshops working together to make large-scale maps (10' x 10') that express their experiences. Finished maps will be ceiling mounted and on public display.

"We're interested in something beyond typical geography: not just factual dots marking places people go and the routes they take, but the unique perspective of St. Louis residents, their experience of being there, what makes their maps different from a typical city map, or from the map of others," said Jer Thorp, the lead advisor/artist for The St. Louis Map Room and the founder of the New York City-based Office for Creative Research. "Mapping is a very subjective process, and the end result reflects the politics and experiences of the person making the map."

Thorp was struck by the city's divided geography and began to explore the role that map-making has on the identity of communities and its residents. "This project creates an opportunity for open and honest discussion that can become replicable in other cities facing similar challenges."

Free and open to the public, visitors will be invited to explore present and historic civic data using maps as instruments. Interactive projections will allow viewers to overlay these community maps with census data.

Stevens Middle School, 1033 Whittier St, St. Louis. The public entrance is on the Finney Avenue side (north) of the School. Parking is available on the street, as well as in a parking lot directly off of Finney, just west of the entry. Public open hours for visits and observation are Tuesdays through Fridays 10am to 2pm; Saturdays and Sundays 12pm to 5pm; Thursday evenings 4pm to 8pm; and closed Mondays.

C.E.R.T. Happenings

The next C.E.R.T. meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of April, the 8th, at 9:00 am. The planned topic is "Pit Crew CPR". This type of CPR has a higher survival rate than the previous type under the ABC format. At this meeting we will also meet the Ferguson Fire Department C.E.R.T trainer, Captain Kenneth Zeilmann.

Have a safe month. Keith :-)K

New Director of Music and Creative Ministries at St. Peter's UCC

In late February, the Personnel Committee of St. Peter's United Church of Christ (www.stpeterschurch.org) acted upon the recommendation of the appointed Search Committee by extending a call to David Anderson of Marine, Illinois to serve as our Director of Music and Creative Ministries. David has over 12 years of experience directing worship and hand bell choirs, currently serving as the Choir Director of Collinsville United Methodist Church in Collinsville, IL.

David has received Bachelor degrees in both Church Music and Elementary Education from McKendree University and a Masters in Education Administration from Purdue University. He has extensive background, familiarity, and experience in the United Church of Christ. One of the qualities of St. Peter's that attracted David to our position was our Open and Affirming identity, the theology of the United Church of Christ, and the desire he and Chanda share to raise their family in an inclusive and diverse faith community

David and Chanda have also lived in Arizona where they have both taught in the public school system as well as on a Native American reservation. He has also taught math in North City.

Says David of this opportunity to join our staff and ministry, "My wife and I are excited to be starting this new journey of faith and music with our family at St. Peter's UCC." On February 10, David and Chanda welcomed their first child into the world, a son named James Dean Mills.

David will begin his ministry with St. Peter's UCC on March 20, 2017, with his first Sunday in worship among us being March 26.

In his own words, hear some more about our new Director of Music and Creative Ministries, David Anderson:

"I live on and help run my family horse farm. We have chickens, horses, cats, dogs, and more! My musical career began at the age of four, starting piano lessons with my mother. I continued to develop my piano skills through grade school, added the clarinet in middle school, and in high school, added the organ to my list of instruments. In high school, I had a short internship with Wicks Organ Company to repair my first pipe organ that I installed in my parents' home. From then on, I knew what lay in my future. I am a third-generation church musician, and I love both playing and working on pipe organs."

St. Peter's is excited to have David joining their staff and is looking forward to his ministry with St. Peter's and the larger community!

Governance In Ferguson: What Does It Mean?

Ferguson is a charter city. This means we have "home rule" powers, able to establish our own charter (like a constitution), deciding what powers and limits our city government will have, so long as the powers we choose are not specifically denied by the state. Other cities and villages—3rd and 4th class cities—have only the powers of governance specifically granted by the state.

Ferguson has a council-manager form of government, the most prevalent form of government in the United States. This means a city council is elected to set policy, enact ordinances and budgets, and hire and supervise a professional city manager who is authorized to administer all operations of the city. The council's authority exists only when it is meeting as a whole. Any council member, including the mayor, who directs any activity of any city employee by himself or herself is subject to recall or impeachment.

Ferguson's city council consists of seven members, two from each ward and one "council representative at large," the person designated as mayor. The mayor has no more power than any other council representative except as the primary spokesperson for the city. In fact, the mayor's power is otherwise limited to presiding over meetings and voting as one of the seven council members.

This is in contrast to the strong mayor form of government, which is how the City of St. Louis and Florissant are governed. These cities have full-time paid mayors elected separately from the city council and charged with responsibility for the entire day-to-day operation of the city.

The differences between these forms of government are significant. While there are advantages to both, Ferguson's council-manager structure provides for professional management that is required by law to remain separate from politics. The separation of politics from the administration of the city guards against political favoritism and nepotism found in other cities. This is further reinforced by the requirement that all elections remain strictly nonpartisan. While city council representatives do often have party affiliations, they are expected to keep these connections separate from their roles as city leaders.

Spring time in Ferguson!

It's time to start cleaning up those yards and homes after the winter chill.

The Code Enforcement Inspectors will start looking for tree and leaf debris. This will need to be cleaned up from all front and rear yards and flower beds.

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

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

Grass Cutting

The City of Ferguson has a vegetation ordinance that regulates the maintenance of all privately owned properties (Chapter 46, Sections 1-28). The intent of the ordinance is to promote sanitation, prevent neighborhood deterioration and preserve property values. The assistance of all property owners and/or tenants is needed to maintain high standards.

It is unlawful for any person having control of any lot or tract of land, or any part thereof, to allow or maintain on any such lot or tract of land, thereof, any growth of weeds grasses, vines, annual plants, and vegetation other than trees, shrubs, cultivated flowers and vegetation in gardens, to a height exceeding seven (7") inches. Nor shall such growth be allowed on the street or right-of-way or sidewalk adjacent to or adjoining any such lot or tract of land.

The City Inspectors inspect properties with respect to the grass ordinance. If the property is in violation a grass warning notice is issued to the property owner, one copy is left at the property and another copy is mailed to the owner. The inspector then re-inspects the property seven days later. If the grass has been cut the violation is abated, if the grass has not been cut it goes on a cut list and is forwarded to our contractor who will cut the grass. This charge is then attached to the property and an invoice is mailed to the owner who also receives a summons for court. This notice is issued only once during the grass growing season and the property is checked periodically for further violations.

Let's all be responsible and take care of our properties and keep the grass and vegetation trimmed.

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The Best of Ferguson

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

– by Ruffina Farrokh Anklesaria, M.A.

Rob Chabot

I first met Rob Chabot when he was Committee Secretary of the I Love Ferguson group and I was a volunteer at the store. He was one of the founding members of this Committee, along with the late Brian Fletcher, Steve Hewkin and Judy Pappert. This was in 2014, just after the Mike Brown crisis had taken place. These four people gave us residents something positive to focus on at a very difficult time for all of us. This gave us optimism and hope for our community and we channeled our energies into rebuilding, fund-raising and volunteering.

Rob and Lisa Chabot getting ready for the 2017 Shamrock Ball

Rob enjoys community work. He's involved with Street Fest, the 4th of July Committee, and the Farmers' Market setup. He loves the people of Ferguson and the different dynamics in each group he volunteers with. He has been a Director on the Ferguson-Florissant School Board for six years and is up for re-election for another three years. He has a Masters in Education from the University of Missouri, St Louis. He also did a dual degree pre-law program in History and Government at Columbia College in Missouri.

Rob was in the navy for four years and this included a six-month stint in the Persian Gulf. He and the crew provided logistic support for the operation during the Iran/Iraq War under President George Bush Sr. The marine transport ship he worked on, the USS Mount Vernon, took battalions of marines and dropped them off to their designated work areas. He visited the Philippines for three weeks, rehabbing the ship, and Thailand for one week. His ship was based at Long Beach, CA.

Rob Chabot in the Navy

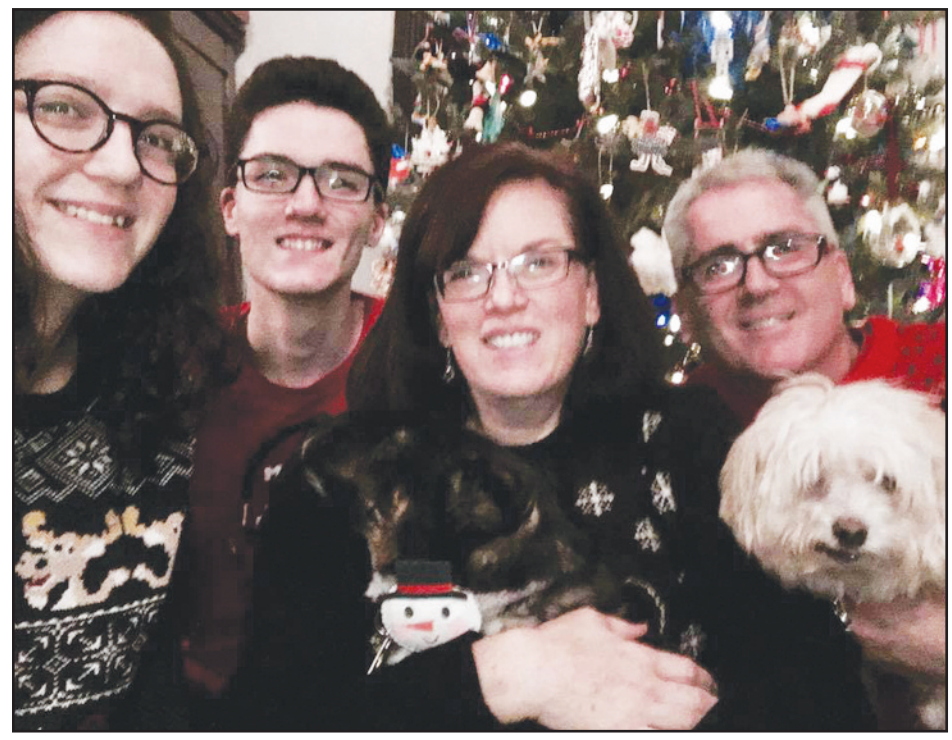
In 1994, Rob moved to Ferguson and married his wife Lisa. They have two children: Jacob, 18 and Sophie, 15. Lisa is an optometrist and together Rob and Lisa run Mobile Eye Care Solutions which provides eye care to about 110 nursing facilities.

Rob was one of the founding member of the Old Ferguson East Board and served on the Ferguson Traffic Commission for four years. He chaired the campaigns in 2016 for a necessary increase in property taxes, sales tax and utilities tax. I was amazed at the thoroughness in the campaign preparation and it was fun working with another group of Ferguson residents who were willing to give of their time and energy just for the common good.

Rob and his family love to travel around the US in their RV. They typically spend 2 weeks every summer doing just that together! Their travels have taken them to Kansas, Utah, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, Colorado and the East Coast - they have gone to Myrtle Beach in South Carolina six times, camping on the beach just 200 yards away! They visited Disney World and Key West, among other places. Vacation time for the Chabots is family time and happy time!

Rob is an avid runner as well, having completed 9 half marathons in the St Louis area and in Illinois.

Rob says all his work here in Ferguson is about enjoying our close knit community and the friendships made in the last few years. Anywhere you go in Ferguson you meet people you know. The Mike Brown crisis actually helped foster this kind of closeness. Everyone chipped in to make Ferguson a place we can call home, not just a place to live. He says: "our friends are our extended family." Every year, for the past four years, five or six Ferguson families come together for Christmas brunch and now the group feels like family! This is especially important to Rob as his family lives far away.



Rob and Lisa with their children Jacob and Sophie

I always think of Rob as a real leader in Ferguson. He does what needs to be done with an esprit de corps that brings everyone together to accomplish the task at hand. I'm glad I had the opportunity to volunteer with groups that had him at the helm. He is a bright light in Ferguson and I congratulate him for representing what is the Best of Ferguson!

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

I recently attended a St. Louis History Museum speakers' series on early German settlers in St. Louis. The big three cities for German immigrants were Cincinnati, Milwaukee and St. Louis, with St. Louis having the largest German population.

The speaker mentioned that during World War II, there were several German interment camps in the St. Louis area. Although I had heard of the Japanese interment camps in California, I had never heard of German interment camps.

It turns out that in 1940 (two years after WWII started, but a year before the US entered the war) there were 1.2 million Germans who were born in Germany, placed in camps in the US, 5 million detainees had 2 parents born in Germany, and 6 million had 1 parent born in Germany. There were 15,000 intered in various camps in Missouri.

The speaker mentioned that one of these camps was in the Chesterfield area of Gumbo Flats*. At the time, Hellwig Brothers farms owned a great expanse of fields east of the Missouri River along Hwy 40, where upscale shops and homes now reside. With the American fieldhands, now soldiers, the prisoners were allowed to work the fields. They made 80¢ a day. As a kid, I remember riding down Hwy 40 and seeing tiny houses all along the road. I thought these small shacks housed itinerant fieldhand families, but perhaps some of them were for the prisoners.

Why were the Germans imprisoned? It seems that the Nazi party tried to organize German citizens who lived abroad to join their party. It is estimated at 3% to 9% actually did participate in this organization.

I remember sometime during the war when I was a youngster, a carpenter roamed around the neighborhood trying to find work. He must have been an immigrant because he had a thick German accent and, because of the anti-German sentiment, had difficulty finding work. My dad hired him to remodel the basement (we called it a rathskeller) and he lined the walls with knotty pine. Even though my dad was German and his parents spoke a lot of German in their home, dad did not trust this man and would lock the basement door whenever he was working. He apparently found other work in the neighborhood because a number of friends had knotty pine "rathskellers" after the war.

Pictured above are actual German prisoners being escorted into the mess hall at Gumbo Jail.

* Gumbo Flats: Nickname of Chesterfield Valley in the flood plain. The flat plain flooded frequently and left the dirt thick and heavy, much like gumbo.

Gumbo Jail: A jail located on the Gumbo Flats was finally abandoned in 1993 after most of it was underwater. A search turned up the fact that German prisoners of war were kept in this jail.

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Calendar of Events In and Around Ferguson

Complete Details of These Events Throughout the Paper

Environmental Film – St. Stephens	Tues., Mar. 28
City Council Meeting	Tues., Mar. 28
Tuesday Night Book Club – Library	Tues., Mar. 28
Tackling Tough Skills – MU Extension	Wed., Thurs., Mar. 29-30
Mystery Trip	Thurs., Mar. 30
Madco "Freedom" Presentation – Touhill	Fri., Sat., Mar. 31 & Apr. 1
Saturday Academy – Wellspring	Sat., Apr. 1, 15, 29
FYI Banquet – Norwood Hills CC	Sat., Apr. 1
Streetfest Fundraiser Breakfast – Drake's	Sun., Apr. 2
VOTE	Tues. Apr. 4
Tech Fest – Electonic Help – Library	Sat., Apr. 8
Jeanne Trevor Concert – St. Peters UCC	Sun., Apr. 9
Reading on Race Book Club Mtg. – Library	Mon., Apr. 10
Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast – Savoy	Wed., Apr.12
Yahtzee – Comm. Center	Thurs., Apr. 13
North County Chamber Membership Mtg. – Orlando's	Thurs., Apr. 13
Adult Easter Egg Hunt – Comm. Ctr.	Fri., Apr. 14
Children's Easter Egg Hunt – January-Wabash Park	Sat., Apr. 15
Breakfast with the Easter Bunny – St. Peters UCC	Sat., Apr. 15
Indoor Farmers Market – St. Stephen's	Sat., Apr. 15
Jazz Justice Music Workshop	Sat., Apr. 15
Brewhouse 7th Anniversary	Sat., Apr. 15
EASTER SUNDAY Services – January-Wabash	Sun., Apr. 16
AAUW April Meeting – Immanuel	Mon., Apr. 17
City Council Meeting – City Hall	Tues., Apr. 18
FLIERS Spring Book Sale – Library	Thurs., Fri., Sat., Apr. 20, 21, 22
Adult Softball Begins	Thurs., Apr. 20
4th of July Ham & Bean Dinner – St. Stephens	Fri., Apr. 21
Earth Day Clean-up – Forestwood Park	Sat., Apr. 22
Teen Laser Tag Trip	Sat., Apr. 22
City Council Meeting – City Hall	Tues., Apr. 25
Tuesday Night Book Club Mtg. – Library	Tues., Apr. 25
Isle of Capri Trip	Tues., Apr. 25
Crafternoon – T-shirt Tote Bag – Librar	Fri., Apr. 28
Free Gospel Concert – North Hills UMC	Sun., Apr. 30
Mystery Meal	Fri., May 5
Sand Volleyball Begins – Comm. Center	Sun., May 7
Letter Carriers Food Drive	Sat., May 13
Florissant Child Development Trivia Night	Sat., May 13
Basketball League Begins	Sat., May 16
Lunch and Bingo – Comm. Center	Thurs., May 25

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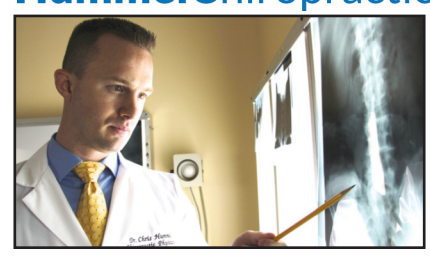
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