



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

THE FERGUSON FARMERS MARKET INDOORS AT ST. STEPHEN'S

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST – 9AM TO 12PM
33 NORTH CLAY – FERGUSON

FERGUSON INDOOR FARMERS MARKET

Holiday Market



- * FRESH WINTER PRODUCE
- * MEAT, EGGS, BAKED GOODS
- * HOT PREPARED BREAKFAST
- * VARIETY OF CRAFTERS & ARTISANS
- * LIVE MUSIC by CURTIS BUCKHANNON
- * FERG ECO TEAM with BIKE BLENDER

* DIY PHOTO BOOTH WITH SANTA *
Kids holiday costumes provided

Come for the farmers. Stay for the fun!

FERGUSON NORTHERN LIGHTS

At Plaza 501 – Sunday, December 1st
Parade at 5 p.m. Theme: "Parade of Trees"
(floats should depict different and outrageous Christmas trees).

Parade begins at First Baptist Church, travels south on Florissant Road and ends at Plaza @ 501.

Pick up parade applications at:
Community Center or <fergusoncitywalk.com>
Mail to: Northern Lights Planning Committee
248 S. Florissant Rd., Ferguson, MO 63135

Lighted Parade: 5:00 pm
Carriage Rides: 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Tree Lighting Ceremony 8:00 pm
Also, kids activities, Face Painting, Food, Vendors and Photos with Santa.

Questions, call 314-302-7589
or email rchabot@mobileyecaresolutions.com

COUNCIL MEETINGS – HOLIDAY NOTICE

December 10th at 7 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

CITY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The City of Ferguson business offices will be closed on the following days:


Wednesday, December 25th – in observance of the Christmas Holiday

Wednesday, January 1st – in observance of New Year's Day

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December Events at the Ferguson Public Library

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

FLIERS Treasures, Trinkets, and Treats Sale

Do your holiday shopping while supporting the library! A variety of gift items, vintage goods, and sweet treats will be for sale.

Friday, December 6: 9-5:30 pm | Saturday, December 7: 9-3 pm

Winter Reading Program - December 9-January 25

Win prizes for reading this winter! Pick up your log any time between December 9 and January 25 for a chance to win a prize. Attending library events will earn you more raffle tickets! Fun for everyone!

Holiday Movie Series - Fridays in December at 4 pm

Get into the holiday spirit with some fun winter movies! For more information and a list of films, please call the library or visit us online.

There will be NO movie shown on Friday, December 6.

Wine Bottle Painting - Saturday, December 14 at 2 pm

Back by popular demand! Paint a snowy scene on a wine bottle. All supplies will be provided. Registration is required.

Winter Break Warm-Up - Friday, December 20 from 2-6 pm

Celebrate the start of winter break with movies, crafts, and more! We will show two movies as part of our Holiday Movie Series and have different activities available. All ages welcome!

A parent must stay in the building for children ages 9 and under.

GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF AN ONGOING PROGRAM!

- Monday, Dec. 2 at 2 pm – Sewing Machine and Cricut Orientation
- Monday, Dec. 2 at 6:30 pm – Learn to Sew
- Monday, Dec. 9 at 6 pm – Readings on Race Book Club
- Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10 am – Yoga @ the Library
- Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 5 pm – Tuesday Night Book Club
- Saturday, Dec. 21 at 12 pm – Card and Paper Club
- Every Monday at 10 am – Ferguson Sewing Club

We will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31, and Jan. 1 for the holidays.



December 2019

It's December. That special month where everyone dreams of bigger and better things. The month where miracles do happen. This month, I would like to dream of what I would like to see my down-

town look like. If I was looking to move into this community, how would our downtown and Ferguson Main Street encourage me to make Ferguson my home.

Since we're dreaming, let's dream big. If we could have anything we want, what would that look like?

When driving into our downtown, the first impression I would want to see is a bustling area. People walking, riding their bikes, sitting at a sidewalk café enjoying their meal. Tree lined streets with flower pots adding that splash of color along the sidewalks.

Bistros and bakeries wafting the smell of their fare onto the streets. Cafes and diners where we could find a small meal for breakfast or lunch. A corner grocer where we could pick-up something to take home to make for supper or stop and have dinner in a nice restaurant.

On special occasions, we could enjoy music at a local establishment or at an outdoor venue. Maybe even a cultural arts center where we can enjoy a play or a songwriter showcasing their new music. Maybe take in a comedy show or even go dancing to a Big Band Orchestra.

People could be seen just sitting on a bench enjoying the day. Restaurants with outdoor seating where people could enjoy their meal with a beer or a glass of wine while doing a little people watching.

The new modern buildings blend in with the historic architecture of our downtown when it was a destination. Office space and small manufacturing jobs draws people, young and old, to a place where there is not much of a commute. Mixed-use buildings where people can live and work in a business at street level. Young people living downtown making our Main Street the street where it's happening.

What are these young people looking for in a community? Farmers markets, galleries with rotating exhibits, storefronts with beautiful displays and art, restaurants, craft breweries, and a source of entertainment. The streets and sidewalks would be free of litter. Flower pots lining the sidewalk. Windows in the stores decorated and showing off their ware. Flags would be waving in the breeze. The local business owner out on the sidewalk welcoming new patrons and enticing them into his place of business by showcasing the quality of their ware.

These are some things that come to mind when I dream of my perfect downtown. What about you? What are your dreams? What would you like to see as the miracle of our downtown?

Yes, as you know, Ferguson already has a lot of the offerings that I have mentioned in my dream downtown. I hope you make good use of them, because if we don't frequent these establishments, they won't be here long. And, if we can't help a business stay in business, will more businesses be flocking to our door?

Main Street 314-882-1337

The Plumber's Crack

By Oh Baby dave@premierplumbingstl.com

Trees bare, lights replacing leaves, yards decorated, smoke billowing out of chimneys, frosted windows, kids behaving – not being naughty, malls packed; it's got to be December and time for a frozen Plumbers Crack.

Well my friends, it seems like we just popped the cork on a new year and it's already Christmas. We got our 1st taste of winter in November and thankfully it warmed up some. Hopefully it's not too late to talk about the cold weather and your plumbing.

I hate to harp on this every year, but get them hoses off the outside faucets. It not only saves the faucet but the hose. If you have shut offs on the outside faucets, shut them off and open up the faucet. Check your outside drains; make sure all the leave and debris are off them. Empty your fountains and bring in the pumps. Walk around your house and look at the foundation. We had an extremely wet year. Dirt can wash away and with any precipitation it could freeze and cause cracks or leaks. If you have water lines running in front of windows in your basement make sure those windows are sealed. The slightest draft with a high wind chill can freeze those pipes in an instant. If you have an overhang on your kitchen, make sure everything is sealed up tight and if your drain is slow get it cabled. Drains freeze and break too. On those super cold nights with a high wind chill open those cabinets with plumbing on an outside wall, and put a fan blowing into the cabinet at night. Letting a faucet drip is OK but if your drain is



running slow it can freeze up also.

Remember when the air temperature drops so does the water temperature. So when you shower turn the water on the faucet a little hotter. Do not turn up the water heater. They already work harder in the winter and a little jump in temperature could finish it.

Well followers of the Crack I hate boring you with these tips every year but we have new readers and a friendly reminder doesn't hurt.

I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and to open your hearts to those less fortunate. A gift, such as a ride to church doesn't have to be monetary. Feed a family that might not have Christmas dinner. If you can buy a toy or some clothes for a child that may not have something under a tree, it will give you the true feeling of Christmas. Be safe on New Years and party like it 2020.

God Bless one and all.
Oh Baby

You could hear a pin drop

JFK'S Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, was in France in the early 60's when DeGaulle decided to pull out of NATO. DeGaulle said he wanted all US military out of France as soon as possible.

Rusk responded, "Does that include those who are buried here?"

DeGaulle did not respond. You could have heard a pin drop.



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524-0222

The Ferguson Times may be reached . . .
by phone: 314-524-1958
or by mail: Dorothy Seiter, 16 Sandringham, Ferguson, MO, 63135
or by email: cider@att.net

Copy for ads for the paper must be received by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's paper.

**CITY OF FERGUSON CANDIDATE PETITIONS
AVAILABLE – NOVEMBER 1, 2019
ELECTION NOTICE – APRIL 7, 2020**

The City of Ferguson, Missouri, will hold an election on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, for the office of Mayor for a 3 year term. Any person wanting to file a declaration of candidacy for this office must also submit a petition signed by at least 50 and not more than 75 registered voters. The petition forms are now available in the City Clerk's office and may be picked up at any time during regular office hours.

The petitions may be submitted upon the filing of a declaration of candidacy but must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. CST on January 21, 2020, and must be accompanied by a \$10.00 filing fee, which will be returned if the candidate receives at least 5% of the votes in the election.

The petitions and declarations of candidacy must be filed with the City Clerk at Ferguson City Hall, 110 Church Street. Under State Law, declarations of candidacy will be accepted starting on the opening date for filing and will not be accepted after the last date for filing. Candidate filing for the Ferguson City Council will open at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, which date is the sixteenth Tuesday before the election. Candidate filing will close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, which date is the eleventh Tuesday before the election. For further information, please call the City Clerk at 524-5152.

CITY OF FERGUSON
Octavia Pittman, City Clerk



Join us for the
**OurFerguson
Strategy Workshop**

What
A strategy workshop to guide the City of Ferguson's comprehensive plan

When
Tuesday, December 17, 2019
6:00pm to 8:00pm

Where
Ferguson Community Center
1050 Smith Avenue, 63135

Bring your family—
all ages welcome!

Share your voice and
ideas for Ferguson's future

Guide the strategy that will
shape the city



OurFerguson is the City of Ferguson's first comprehensive planning effort since 1997. This plan will outline a long-range vision for the city's approach to land use, housing, jobs, business, open space, and more. At the last workshop, the community had detailed discussion around the city's challenges and opportunities in each of these areas.

At this workshop, the planning team will share the input from previous workshops, highlight results from the Community Aspirations Survey, and present a **holistic strategic framework** for what can happen in the community. **We need your input** to make sure we develop the right strategies and identify the top priorities for action.

Visit **OurFerguson.com** and the OurFerguson page on Facebook at **fb.me/ourferguson**. We will update the website and Facebook page regularly, so please visit often. If you have any questions or ideas, reach out to us at **info@ourferguson.com**.



Celebrate the 71st
International Human Rights Day
with
Ferguson Human Rights Commission!



3rd Annual Open Mic Event
Sunday, December 1st, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Come and share your original or non-original
spoken word, poetry, song, rap
in commemoration of and in advocacy of human rights!
Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Tea and Desserts will be provided.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
33 No. Clay, Ferguson, MO 63135



Ferguson Municipal Courts

Did you know about first requests for continuance?

A Defendant may request a First Continuance if the Defendant has not yet received a continuance. There are several ways to do this.

1. By phone: The Defendant may call the Court Clerk at least 48 hours prior to their first scheduled court appearance at (314) 524-5264, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
2. By filling out the Continuance Request Form located at <https://www.fergusoncity.com/567/Request-a-Continuance> and at the Ferguson Municipal Court clerk's window.
 - A. The Continuance Request Form may be submitted:
 - 1) In-Person at the Clerk's window at Ferguson Municipal Court (located at 222 S. Florissant Rd, Ferguson, Mo 63135) during normal business hours;
 - 2) By e-mail to FergusonCourt@fergusoncity.com; or
 - 3) By fax at (314) 524-4127.
 - B. The Court Clerk shall date-stamp the request once it is received.
3. A Defendant may also request a First Continuance by appearing in court on the scheduled date and requesting a continuance from the Judge in person.

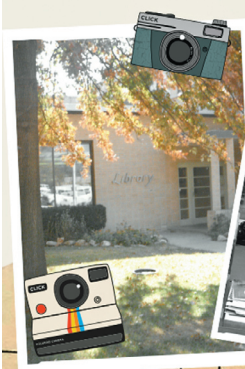
The Municipal Court Judge will grant all requests for a First Continuance.

For more information regarding continuances and other useful facts, please visit the Ferguson Municipal Courts web page at: <http://www.fergusoncity.com/60/The-City-Of-Ferguson-Municipal-Courts>. While you are there, browse through the rest of the City's website for more beneficial information regarding City Government, Upcoming City Events, and much more.



**We're celebrating 90 years...
And we want you to be a part of it!**

Calling all library patrons! Share with us memories of your hometown library from today and the past 90 years. The library plans to celebrate all year long with special exhibits, displays, and posters and would like to feature real patron experiences from its past and present.



Join the celebration! Submit your images and memories to arepking@fergusonlibrary.net.

Questions?
Call 314-521-4820.



We get it. It's cold out and you want to let your car warm up before you get in.

We're asking you to reconsider. Don't leave your vehicle running unattended with the keys inside.

Nope, not even in your driveway.

Help prevent auto theft, don't make it easy.

Ferguson Community News Page

During the "Season of Giving", we all have something to give

By Mayor James W. Knowles III

"Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same -- with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead."

– Blessed Theresa of Calcutta Roman Catholic Sister, Nobel Prize Winner



There has long been a national discussion on what to do about poverty and how it can best be addressed. While the poor have always been with us locally, we have seen an uptick of the visible effects of poverty in our community. Whether it be the now all too common sight of homeless residents on our streets, or homes that have been allowed to fall into disrepair because of the lack of resources to maintain them, poverty is more visible in our community than in recent memory.

Often when we think of the poor or people in need, we think of material things. Most people who haven't experienced poverty or worked with the poverty-stricken imagine the cure for these societal ills is a financial solution. If everyone just had more money or just had some materials items they were lacking, the problem would be solved. Throwing more money at the problem, that's how our government usually approaches a solution to the problem of poverty. If only it were that easy.

A few years ago, I spent a weekend in East St. Louis and at the St. Patrick Center downtown as part of a regional leadership program I was chosen to participate in through FOCUS-St. Louis. And though I have spent many years volunteering with people in need, it wasn't until that weekend I realized something very important about poverty. One of the people I met was formerly homeless, and eventually rose from a state of homelessness and poverty to have a family and be a functioning member of society. He emphasized that poverty was not just a state of being without material items, but for many that are caught in a generational cycle of poverty, it is a state of mind. Breaking that cycle took more than just money, food, clothing, or housing assistance, it took personal attention and interaction to change that mindset.

He likened treating poverty like an illness. Being in poverty can mean you are without a home or without the means to meet your financial obligations or without food. But those are just symptoms of a greater ill. We can treat those symptoms like you treat symptoms of disease, but that only brings short term relief until you can cure or kill the root cause. When it comes to poverty, material items can sustain you physically, but knowing that someone genuinely cares about you can sustain you emotionally and spiritually. That emotional and spiritual fulfillment is what helps cure the poverty state of mind. Curing that mindset is paramount to helping elevate people from a state of poverty.

This month, many families will celebrate the Christmas or Hanukkah holidays. Whether you celebrate the season as a statement of your religious beliefs, or simply as a secular societal holiday, we often refer to the season marked by these holidays as the "Season of Giving." This is the time of year when many people not only take the opportunity to give to their loved ones, but also to strangers in need through a variety of charitable activities. Whether it is giving money or giving time, charities like our local food pantries, PAKT, and the Salvation Army, are just a few wonderful ways you can help treat the symptoms of poverty this season. But giving money isn't the only way you can help.

We all have different means for helping those in need; some have more financial means than others. But regardless of our financial situation, we can all give something back to our community in terms of volunteering. There are countless opportunities to volunteer at shelters, soup kitchens, food pantries, and toy drives to help treat those symptoms of poverty. In many ways, taking the time to volunteer and connect with those poverty-stricken people can have a more lasting effect than by simply giving money. By touching individuals lives and showing they are people who are cared for, we can help change their state of mind and work to lift them from poverty.

Whether you spend a shift volunteering at a local soup kitchen or simply show a stranger poor in spirit a random act of kindness, we all have the power to bring a level of emotional and spiritual fulfillment to our friends and neighbors. Giving material items is important to sustain those in need but making that personal connection with those you are helping can be a truly transformative event in their lives. Charity is about love and caring. Connecting the recipient of charity with the giver, touches both lives.

I encourage all residents to take a moment to give back to your neighbors and your community in any way you can. Whatever your means, whatever your station in life, you can make a difference in another person's life. Please visit the Ferguson City website for a list of local charities you can support or volun-

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	TBA	Emmaus Bible Chapel 900 Highmont	Donald Stevens 314-561-0379
Jeske Park Neighborhood Assn.	TBA	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Stephani Von Drasek 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	Ferguson Library Large Conf. Room	Glenda Rickard 314-524-8115 glenda.rickard@mercy.net
Old Ferguson West Neighbors	TBA	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Larry Robinett ldrobinett@gmail.com
Robert-Superior Neighborhood Group	TBA	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	TBA
Southwest Ferguson Neighborhood Group	TBA	Ferguson Library 35 No. Florissant	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	Mary Simmons hudsonhills63135@gmail.com
North Hills Neighborhood	TBA	Fire Station #1 200 So. Florissant	Keith Kallstrom 314-524-1720
North Elizabeth Neighborhood	Dec 9 7 pm	Ferguson Community Ctr. 1050 Smith Ave	Renee Benage 314-705-0993 rbenage@sbcglobal.net
Ferguson Woods	TBA	North Hills Methodist 10771 Trask Dr	Donald Moore 314-226-3109
South Ferguson	TBA	Fire Station #1 200 So. Florissant	
Southeast Ferguson	TBA	Empowerment Ctr. 9420 W. Florissant	Latasha Brown 314-465-9757 brownlatsham@go.wustl.edu

Ferguson City News?

How do you get your Ferguson News?

- Like our Facebook Page: City of Ferguson, MO
- View Updates on Charter Channel 993

Did You Know?

NOTIFY ME

You can sign up to receive notices of meetings, hearings and other postings by registering your email address using the Notify Me Icon. You can submit a request for records using the Record Request icon.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.fergusoncity.com

You can do all this and more on the city's website. For more information contact Octavia Pittman, City Clerk at 314-521-7721 or opittman@fergusoncity.com

EVER WONDERED HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT?

Consider volunteering on a Ferguson Board, Committee, or Commission. We have multiple vacancies available. The list includes committees like the Architectural Review Board, Plan Commission, Park Board, Personnel Board and others. For more information regarding vacancies, requirements, roles and responsibilities and/or how to apply, visit <http://www.fergusoncity.com/57/Boards-Commissions> or contact your City Clerk at City Hall.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 10th at 7 pm in the Council Chambers.

teer for. If you want to volunteer but don't want to go alone, call my extension at City Hall 314.521.7721 x2105 and it will connect you directly to my cell phone. You can join me and my family personally as we volunteer this holiday season.

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

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; Toni Burrow, Ward 2; Fran Griffin, Ward 3; Byron Fry, Interim Ward 3; Jeff Blume, Interim City Mgr.; 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 Pages

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

COMMUNITY CENTER

Don't forget to pick up the new Parks & 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 250 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

NOW OFFERING MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Resident Youth – \$6 per month (12 month agreement)
Resident Adult – \$9 per month (12 month agreement)
Resident Senior – \$6.00 per month (12 month agreement)
Resident Family – \$16 per month (12 month agreement)

Non Resident Youth – \$18 per month (12 month agreement)
Non Resident Adult – \$18 per month (12 month agreement)
Non Resident Senior – \$12 per month (12 month agreement)
Non Resident Family – \$28 per month (12 month agreement)

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.

FITNESS

Walk this Weigh

A group exercise class that mixes traditional callisthenic and body weight exercises with interval training and strength training designed in a way that pushes the participants harder than they'd push themselves. Participants may be indoors and outdoors. Format and routine change weekly. Instructor acts as a coach to ensure proper technique and alignment.

All Ability Levels Welcome

Age: 16 & up
Days: Saturdays
Start Date: Sept 21st
Time: 10:00am-11:00am
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: \$25/Members; \$30/Residents; \$35/Non-Residents

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Silver Sneakers Program

Silver Sneakers is a fun, energizing program that helps older adults take greater control of their health by encouraging physical activity. Unlock the door to greater independence and a healthier life with Silver Sneakers. With certain Medicare plans you can be eligible to join this program. Silver Sneakers provides a free fitness center membership and free select classes at the Ferguson Community Center. Call the Ferguson Community Center to find out if you qualify for this fabulous program, 314-521-4661.

Silver Sneakers Classic/ Chair Yoga

This class is designed for seniors or someone who is starting to workout 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 utilizing hand held weights, tubes and a Silver Sneakers ball. A chair is made available for seated and/or standing support.

Days: Tues & Thurs
Dates: Ongoing
Times: 8:55 am-9:55 am
Fee: FREE/Silver Sneakers Members; \$3/ Everyone Else

Silver Sneakers Cardio Circuit/ Yoga

Silver Sneakers Cardio Circuit combines fun with fitness to increase your cardiovascular and muscular endurance power with a standing circuit workout. Upper body strength work with hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles, and a Silver Sneakers ball is alternated with low-impact aerobic choreography. A chair can be used for standing support. Please bring your own mat.

Days: Tues & Thurs
Dates: Ongoing
Times: 7:55 am-8:45 am
Fee: FREE/Silver Sneakers Members; \$3/Everyone Else

Personal Training

Get into shape with the Ferguson Community Center's personal trainers. We now offer personalized training for all of your fitness goals! Group training, one on one, meal plans and fitness assessments.

Individual Packages

1 Session: \$35/ Members; \$40/ Non-Member
5 Sessions: \$150/ Members; \$175/ Non-Member

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Wayside Park Unleashed (Dog Park)

Ferguson's Dog Park features a large and small dog area and is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Dog Park ID required. Owners will need to bring up-to-date shot records: rabies, DHPP, and Bordetella to the Ferguson Community Center to obtain ID.

Yearly Memberships are free for residents or non residents in possession of a valid 2018 ID.

ID Costs: \$5 processing fee per dog; (max three dogs per household)

Park Dedication Program

The City of Ferguson offers a great way to honor or remember a loved one, celebrate a milestone, or simply to have a lasting part in one of our parks. Our Tree Dedication program started in 1989 and has seen over 350 dedicated trees to our City. A Spring and Fall dedication ceremony are held.

The Spring ceremony generally is on Arbor Day (first Saturday in April) and the Fall date is generally the fourth Saturday in October, dates are subject to change. **Tree Dedication \$200**

In addition to our tree program we are pleased to offer our new park bench dedication program. **Park Bench Dedication \$1,000**

Call or visit our website for more information

YOUTH

Nerf War Birthday Packages

Join us for our Nerf War theme birthday party packages! We will host your child's Nerf War birthday party for up to 25 participants. You will receive a 3 hour party block, 1.5 hours in the gym with one of our staff supervising the Nerf War. Then the last 1.5 hours you have a room dedicated for you to have food/drinks, cake, and open presents. The cost includes all nerf bullets, safety glasses, bunkers and the party room. Must reserve 2 weeks prior.

A \$100 security deposit is required at time of birthday party rental.

Days: Saturdays and Sundays
Times: Sat, 2:00pm—5:00pm; Sun, 1:00pm-4:00pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: \$200 Residents; \$240 Non-Residents

Preschool Playdate

Are you and your kiddo tired of being in the house and need something to do? Join us for our monthly Preschool Playdates that children and parents experience together. Each month we will take on a different theme and activity. All of our activities will involve sensory play while making new playdate friends! Grab your friends and bring them to our Preschool Playdates!

Registration deadline is the Monday prior to each session.

Ages: 1-5
Dates: Wednesday, December 11th
Time: 9:30am-10:15am
Fee: \$3/Residents; \$5/Non-Residents

Holiday Drop and Shop

Holiday shopping with children can be stressful. Let us take them while you make the holidays magical. We will have supervised games, crafts, and movies throughout the day. You can drop off your child anytime between 9:00am-4:00pm. If your child is present between 11:00am-12:30pm, they will be fed pizza for lunch! Please bring snacks and a water bottle.

Ages: 5-12
Dates: Saturday, December 14th
Time: 9:00am-4:00pm
Fee: \$20/Residents
\$25/Non-Residents

Register before Monday, December 9th for \$15/Child.

Santa's Little Workshop

Calling all of Santa's little helpers! Santa is coming and needs your help with the last minute Christmas details. Santa and his elves have requested that we make letters to Santa, ginger bread houses, Christmas cards, and more! Who knows, maybe Santa will come visit all of his little elves! Parent participation is required. **Registration deadline is Friday, December 13th.**

Ages: 1-5
Dates: Wednesday, December 18th
Time: 12:30pm-2:30pm
Fee: \$8/Member; \$10/Residents; \$12/Non-Residents





235 S Florissant Rd.
Ferguson, MO
63135

(314) 736-1810



242 So. Florissant Rd. 314-524-7888



HOLIDAY PARTIES

It's not too early to plan your Holiday Parties, or any other celebration this time of year. Vincenzo's downstairs Gathering Room can comfortably accommodate groups of up to 60 people, with a full array of catering and bar options available. There's also a private, fully accessible entrance. For more details, call us at (314) 524-7888.

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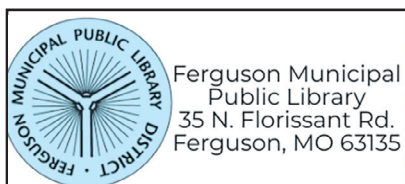
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Ferguson, MO 63135



**Ferguson Municipal Public Library
QUILT SHOW**

The Ferguson Library will
host quilts made by local
quilters from all over the
St. Louis area.

**Thursday, Feb. 20th -
Saturday, Feb. 22nd**

@
Auditorium,
Ferguson Municipal
Public Library



To participate,

turn in a completed registration form to
Ferguson Public Library

by January 17th, 2020

Registration forms can be found at ferguson.lib.mo.us

Ferguson Municipal Public Library
presents:



YOGA @ THE LIBRARY



**SATURDAY, DEC. 14TH
10:00-11:00AM**

Come and learn basic Yoga techniques from
Om Turtle instructor **Martha Philipp**



Edward Jones Perspective

by Joe Meyer

Invest in Your Family and Community

Why do you invest? For many people, here's the answer: "I invest because I want to enjoy a comfortable retirement." And that's certainly a great reason, because all of us should regularly put money away for when we're retired. But you can also benefit by investing in your family and your community.

Let's start with your family members, particularly the younger ones. How can you invest in their future? One of the best ways is to help send them to college. A college degree is still a pretty good investment: The average lifetime earnings of a college graduate are nearly \$1 million higher than those of someone with a high school degree, according to a study by the U.S. Census Bureau.

To help your children or grandchildren pay for any college, university, vocational school or other postsecondary education, you may want to open a 529 savings plan. With this account, withdrawals are federally tax free, as long as the money is used for qualified higher education expenses, including those from trade and vocational schools. (However, if you withdraw some of the earnings on your account, and you don't use the money for qualified expenses, it will be taxable and can also incur a 10% federal tax penalty.) Plus, you retain control of the funds until it's time for them to be used for school, so if your original beneficiary chooses not to pursue some type of higher education, you can name a different eligible beneficiary.

Another way to invest in your family is to help your adult children avoid feeling obligated to provide financial assistance to you. For example, if you ever required some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home, could you afford it? The average cost for a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000 per year, according to a study by Genworth, an insurance company. And Medicare typically

pays very few of these expenses. So, to avoid burdening your adult children – while also preserving your own financial independence – you may want to consider some type of **long-term care insurance**. A financial advisor can help you determine what coverage may be appropriate.

Moving beyond your family, you may want to invest in the social fabric of your community by contributing to **local charitable, civic, educational or cultural groups**. Of course, now that we're in the holiday season, it's the perfect time for such gifts. Furthermore, your gift will be more appreciated than in years past because one of the chief incentives for charitable giving – a tax deduction – was lost for many people due to tax law changes, which raised the standard deduction so significantly that far fewer people chose to itemize deductions. However, you might still be able to gain some tax benefits from your charitable gifts. To name one possibility, you could donate financial assets, such as stocks that have risen in value, freeing you of potential capital gains taxes. In any case, contact your tax advisor if you're considering sizable charitable gifts.

Saving for your retirement will always be important. But don't forget about investing in your family and your community – because these investments can provide satisfying returns.

Joseph Meyer, CFP®
Financial Advisor
Edward Jones
409 S Florissant Rd., STE 1
Ferguson, MO 63135
(314) 524-6333
www.edwardjones.com



You could of heard a pin drop

When in England, at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of 'empire building' by George Bush.

He answered by saying, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return."

You could have heard a pin drop.

Trivia

All answer begin with the LETTER "T"

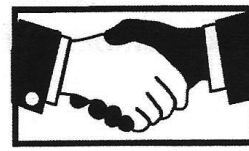
1. Missile, pitchfork or gum
2. Dorothy's dog
3. Fred Astaire's frequent headgear
4. Rod Serling's dimension
5. Annie's song that's two days from yesterday
6. What's love got to do with her?
7. A trio of sight-impaired rodents
8. Astronauts and football fans love these
9. Long ago Ferguson newspaper
10. Greek party attire
11. Roy Rogers' horse
12. Porky Pig's farewell
13. Oversize ping-pong without a table

See answers at bottom of page 23.

T

Can We Talk?

The Strength of Community Lies in How We Communicate.



PROUD

People Reaching Out for
Unity and Diversity

Most of us have experienced meetings or social media exchanges filled with angry, hateful speech. Ferguson residents are affected by the hurts, divisions, and outrage that limit our ability to have meaningful conversations and solve problems together.

This forum is designed to help people deliberate together about how we should approach the issue.

This forum will consider:

- What should we do to revive our ability to work together on the most urgent problems?
- How do we speak and listen respectfully to one another?
- How do we de-escalate conversations that are getting out-of-control?
- How do we share without compromising our own values and positions?
- What are our responsibilities on social media?
- Are there times when anger and obstinacy are required to effect change?

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., **Saturday, 07 December**
Becky and Alan Mueller Residence
435 Darst Road

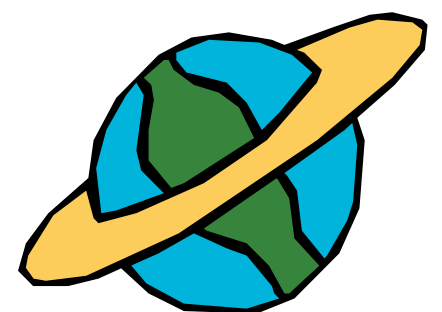
Membership Meeting
Thursday, December 12th
Moolah Temple Grand Ballroom
Happy Holidays!
Ugly holiday sweater party!
Pull out those ugly sweaters!

Sponsors

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

A Word from Our Planet...

Knowledge is power! Get to know the pollution in your community by checking out Good Guide's online "Scorecard" at <http://www.scorecard.org>. The EPA also offers an Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool that displays the locations of regulated facilities at <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-your-community> Our neighborhoods are more than just statistics, but the data is out there - let's use it!



The Ferguson Eco Team

ROBYN L. STRANQUIST
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Snowflake Celebration

With Entertainment by "Frank Viviano" Complimentary Lunch following, Tuesday, Dec. 10th at 10:30 am RSVP by December 6th 314-838-3877



Under The Hood With Robinwood
By Bob McGartland

Shoe Boxes for Seniors Holiday Drive

I am closing the hood on my automotive subject this month and asking you to open the door to your hearts for support of our local seniors. The Robinwood Automotive family will continue its longstanding annual tradition of giving back to the less fortunate in our community with the very popular Shoe Box for Seniors gift drive.

Last year's generous response of donations and support from the community along with the warm positive effect the gifts boxes had on our seniors just touches my heart. There are many local seniors who are living alone or in nursing homes who unfortunately, don't have much of a Christmas. It is a simple idea of taking a shoe box, filling it with useful items, wrapping them up and giving them as gifts to our older adults.

I am asking for your help again in bringing a brighter Christmas to our local seniors. I had the opportunity last year to deliver some of the filled boxes to one of the local nursing homes. I learned how most of the residents don't have family or anyone to visit them. The shoe boxes they received the previous year and the ones they were going to get in a few days make such a difference to these residents. I left the nursing home knowing those shoe boxes with basic care items, that we take for granted every day, are bringing boundless joy to many people.

Here is our wishlist of items we'd like to pack in our shoe boxes: socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, Vaseline, shampoo, hair conditioner,

body wash, combs, hair-brushes, hand lotion, powder and shaving cream. To sweeten the boxes, will also be collecting candy bars, holiday candy, small packages of cookies and gum. If you want to make a monetary donation; we will use the money to purchase items to fill the boxes.

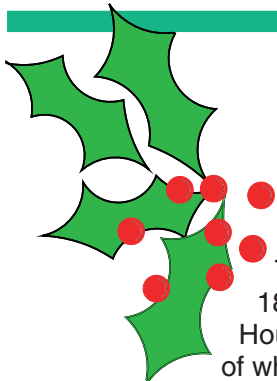
Please drop off your donations at Robinwood Automotive, 803 S. Florissant Road in Ferguson during normal business hours. Our shoe box donations need to be in by Friday, December 13th.

The shoe boxes will be distributed to seniors by local churches and organizations in time for Christmas. Please let us know if someone in your neighborhood could use some holiday cheer. Just give us their name, address and phone number and we will deliver a shoe box to them before Christmas. So, spread the word and bring your donations in! Follow your heart in helping our local seniors. I am grateful for whatever you can do to help spread some Christmas Joy with human dignity.

I want to thank you in advance for your generous support. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Please keep all our less fortunate children, families, seniors and those who find the holiday season difficult, in your prayers.

Jesus is the source of true inner joy and peace. It is our wish that everyone is filled with the love of the Christ Child and God's blessings of joy and peace this Christmas season and throughout the year. Merry Christmas,

Bob



2019 Florissant Old Town Christmas House Tour

Tickets \$20 for Adult & \$5.00 for Children under 18 are now on sale for the 2019 Old Town Christmas House Tour. This year 14 locations, are featured, some of which have not been available in years past.

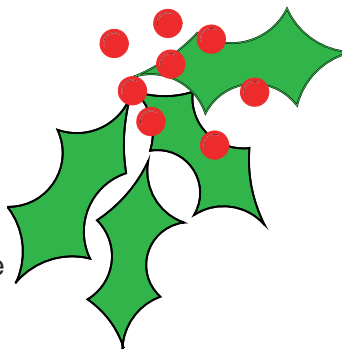
The Historic House Tour scheduled for 1-6 pm on **Sunday, December 1st** is a wonderful way to both explore the rich history of the Florissant area and get into the holiday spirit as many homes will be decorated for the coming season.

"Tickets sold out in 2018 and are already going fast. Those interested should get their's early." stated, Historic Florissant's President, Gina Siebe.

Included on the tour is the Gittemeier House at 1067 Dunn Road built in 1860 which was saved through the efforts of Historic Florissant, Inc.

Tickets may be obtained at Dooley's Florist & Korte's Custom Framing on rue St. Francois or by contacting Historic Florissant, Inc at 314-565-1468.

Historic Florissant, Inc is Celebrating 50 years of preserving homes and family history in the Florissant area relying completely on donations and the work of volunteers to continue this effort. Further information is available at 314-565-1468, HistoricFlorissant.com, historicflo@aol.com or at Historic Florissant, Inc (HFI) on Facebook.



Early Christmas Decorations?

A couple in San Antonia was notified by their Home Owners Association to take down their Christmas decorations that they had put up on November first. The family with young children truly love Christmas and since the wife is expecting their third child on Christmas Day, they thought they would have everything Christmas related finished by the time the Holidays arrived.

I don't know about you, but early Christmas decorations don't bother me; but Christmas decorations still up by the end of January do.

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Traveling With Marveena



by Marveena
Miller
Shanahan

As I plan out our next Christmas adventure, 10 days in Krakow, I have been thinking a lot about our last three Christmas trips. Last year we visited Estonia for nine perfect, cold, snowy days, with daytrips to even colder Finland and Sweden. The year before was 10 days in Iceland and in 2016, a seven-day Central American cruise. Everyone has had a big laugh at my choice for this year's Christmas trip...Poland. I don't know why, because if you Google "Krakow at Christmas" you read statements like; "fairylend scenery", "Krakow may well aspire to the title of the world's capital of white Christmas", "beautiful location", "drinks to die for", or my favorite, "Krakow becomes a beautiful wonderland". This sounds to me like the perfect place to spend Christmas!

In 2016 we cruised from Tampa to Honduras, Guatemala, Belize and Mexico for our first Christmas vacation. Slough zip-lining in the rainforest of Honduras, visiting the Mayan ruins in Guatemala, tubing down rivers in Belize and swimming in Mexico on Christmas Eve. While pleasant, the boat was not festive and it did not seem like Christmas to me. That's when I discovered I wasn't running from the Christmas season, I actually loved the Christmas season; I was running from the commercialism of the holiday.



The following year we went polar opposite and headed to Iceland and this month's article is all about Iceland. We flew out of New York and landed in a beautiful, snowy paradise. Even the drive to the hotel was festive with snow and Christmas decorations everywhere. In December, there is only about five hours of daylight, so that required some adjusting. After landing and riding the shuttle, we arrived at our hotel and it was already dusk. Outside our hotel window was an ice skating park, set up in the center of the city for Christmas. Hot chocolate being sold by vendors, Christmas music playing and restaurants

packed with friends and family celebrating. Iceland has a lot to do and we tried to do as much as possible so on our first full day we headed out to horseback ride. As we pulled up a gentle snow started to fall and we bundled up, and picked out horses. We rode as the sun came up over the horizon. Crisp air, snow flurries and a beautiful sunrise equated a beautiful start to our Christmas trip. (If you want to see the cutest video, I have posted the horses playing in the snow.) We finished the day walking around the downtown center, finishing with drinks at the local Irish bar. Iceland is extremely expensive, so if you are planning a trip, look for '2 for 1' drink and happy hour specials. We had meatless nachos, 2 for 1 drinks (only two each) and it was over \$50! Plan accordingly.



The following day we were up early and headed to our whale watching tour. The water was rough, and they gave us the option to schedule another day, a refund, or a free Dramamine. I took the Dramamine (Chris didn't) and we bundled up again and headed out. The seas were so awful you couldn't even go out on the deck. One of us was sick, your guess, and with visibility less than 50 feet, we didn't see any whales, or anything else. But, how many people venture out to the North Atlantic – in December. After our boat ride we had an afternoon tour of Reykjavik. My favorite was visiting the location where the Reykjavik Summit, where a meeting between Pres. Ronald Regan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, was held in 1986 (see photo above to the right). We finished the night off walking up and down the city streets listening to Christmas music being piped throughout.



The Blue Lagoon was today, and the saying "you have to go but once you do you are probably not going back" would be accurate. If we hadn't have gone, I would have felt like we missed something, but I agree, I wouldn't do it again. The Blue Lagoon is in the southwest area, about 30 minutes from Reykjavik, and always on the list of things to do before you die. It is located on a black lava field, the water is always 102 degrees, a beautiful blue color, and there is an allure about being in hot water while watching it snow, but there are many other lagoons that offer a much more intimate experience.

Considered one of the 25 world wonders, it features a restaurant, bar, spa, and numerous waiting rooms. It is overpriced, overcrowded and somewhat overwhelming. You need to make reservations weeks ahead of time and have a strict time schedule once there. It was so crowded you could barely swim, the wait for our "free drink" was over 15 minutes and there were so many people taking selfies you couldn't relax. My advice, go see it, make it quick, and move on to something else. The rest of the day was spent relaxing in Reykjavik.



Finally, something Chris could not wait for, a mountaintop snowmobile adventure. An all day tour of Iceland's Golden Circle, a loop of roughly 190 miles, featuring a geothermal area with geysers Geysir and Strokkur (which erupts every 5-10 minutes), the majestic Gullfoss waterfall, and the Thingvellir lava canyon, finishing off with a 1 hour snowmobile ride on the Langjokull glacier. It was snowing a bit that day but the lava canyon in the snow was mesmerizing. I could have spent hours there it was so peaceful and relaxing. As we headed up to the glacier the snow was heavy, so much so that we needed a much, much bigger truck to get there. Once we arrived and headed out on the snowmobiles, it was snowing so hard we could hardly see where we were going, but it was a lot of fun and I would do that again! It was a long day, about 12 hours in total, but a fun day worth repeating!

Our last full day excursion, my favorite day in Iceland, was a 17 hour day trip to see the black sand beaches and the ice diamonds of the Jokulsarlon glacier. Our first stop was a walk through the Vatnajökull National Park, but it was dark so you had to carry flashlights. Listening to the waves crash in pitch black sky, with only the light of the flashlights, was such an eerie experience. The air was cold, the snow was falling lightly, and it was so tranquil to almost be unreal. As we continued to the Skogafoss and Seljalandsfoss waterfalls, it was still dark, but they had spotlights and we were able to see them. As we continued to Reynisfar, we saw small villages with striking architecture. The wind at Reynisfara is intense and often sweeps an unsuspecting tourist into the sea! The guide stresses the importance of not getting very close to the water's edge and although we did some exploring, I am not sure I even touched the icy water. The beauty of the black sand crashing into the rocks is all the memories I needed.

We finally arrived at the Jokulsarlon glacier but as we only had about 45 minutes of light left, we needed to explore quickly, and we did. The giant icebergs that have recently broken off the glacier Breiðamerkurjökull, are situated just behind the lagoon. The smaller icebergs are often referred to as ice diamonds and they are just as sparkly and clear as the name would suggest. It was my most favorite place in Iceland.

Our last excursion was an evening Northern Lights hunt. It had been cloudy, rainy or snowy every day, so I was pretty sure we wouldn't see the lights and I was correct; we were never able to see the lights. The clerk at the hotel said they had been visible early in December, but you just never know when they will appear. We did visit the Secret Lagoon, Iceland's oldest swimming pool. The pool, recently renovated, holds on to its old fashioned charm. The pool is fed by natural hot springs seeping up from the earth, creating a crystal clear and beautifully warm natural lagoon. If you have a chance, visit this lagoon, and if you are only going to visit one, skip the infamous Blue Lagoon and come here. After our swim we had a delicious family style buffet with our tour group. It was disappointing not to see the Northern Lights, but the evening was enjoyable and peaceful.

Our last few days were spent enjoying the city of Reykjavik and all it has to offer. Charming streets, cozy coffee shops and all the holiday cheer one could want. The tradition in Iceland is to buy a book for Christmas Eve, so the only gift we purchased each other was a book. After our lovely Christmas Eve dinner, we opened our books, had a bottle of wine and enjoyed our evening in the quiet stillness that is Christmas Eve in Europe. No running to be at multiple places by certain times, no last minute shopping, hoping we had enough, hoping we had bought the right gift or making sure it was "enough". I thought maybe that feeling was a fluke, but after being in Estonia last Christmas, I think Christmas is just different in Europe.



We flew out early Christmas morning, leaving the airport at 6:00 a.m. I won't miss that this year as luckily I have the entire week off.

Don't forget to follow me on Instagram, "TravelingwithMarveena"

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MUST SEE DECEMBER EVENTS



THE NUTCRACKER DECEMBER 19 - 23



The Nutcracker has become a Saint Louis favorite with dazzling costumes, sets and special effects. The large professional cast of company dancers and special guests swells with students from the school of the Saint Louis Ballet in children's roles. The holiday favorite is performed to the traditional Tchaikovsky score.

The Nutcracker takes place on Christmas Eve, when a little girl falls asleep after a party at her home and dreams herself into a fantastic world where toys become larger than life, battles ensue, and her beloved Nutcracker comes to life to defend her from the Mouse King. A holiday treat for the whole family!

Please contact the ticket office at 314-516-4949 for more information.

AMBASSASADORS OF HARMONY DECEMBER 13 - 15

The holiday season doesn't begin in St. Louis without the Ambassadors of Harmony!

This December, the Ambassadors of Harmony chorus will once again rekindle the joy and magic of the holidays with its always popular Sounds of the Season concert.

Celebrate with the Ambassadors as the chorus puts on five heartwarming concerts filled with musical favorites that will get you in the spirit. The show has become a yearly tradition over the past three decades by combining comedy and the lighter side of popular holiday songs with classic carols and sacred music that tell the story of the season.

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HOLIDAY STRESS

Between last-minute gift shopping and hectic family gatherings, the holidays send many people searching for headache relief. Luckily, you don't have to surrender to seasonal stress. Instead, follow these three holistic care tips to keep calm during the festivities.

1. Limit Sugar

While most people enjoy snacking on festive sweets during the holidays, consuming too much sugar can leave you feeling anxious and irritable. To maintain a calmer state of mind, you can go easy on the desserts this season. You may find it helpful to fill up on a healthy snack before heading to a holiday party where you'll be surrounded by sweets.

2. Take Time to Relax

Often, the best way to manage stress is to take some time for yourself. Don't hesitate to turn down a party invitation if you're feeling burnt out, and take advantage of relaxing activities when you can. For instance, many people de-stress and find headache relief by spending time in nature, listening to peaceful music, or practicing yoga or meditation.

3. Get Active

Physical activity causes your body to produce endorphins that improve your ability to sleep and decrease stress. That doesn't mean you need to commit yourself to frequent, intense workouts during the busy holiday season; instead, take a walk at least three days a week for 30 minutes each time. If your schedule is booked solid, you can break up the 30 minutes into shorter walks throughout the day for adequate holistic care.

For expert help finding holiday headache relief, turn to the health professionals at Get Well Family Chiropractic. Located in Florissant, MO, this trusted wellness center has been providing a wide variety of holistic care services for more than 20 years. The wellness team will help you create your own personal path to healthy living, allowing you to make the most of your holiday celebrations. Visit them online to learn more about their services, which include chiropractic adjustments, nutrition advice, and headache relief, and call (314) 524-2580 to schedule an appointment today.

Contact them online, or at (314) 524-2580
to schedule your appointment.

Dr. Robyn's Office Hours:

*Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm-6:30 pm
Tuesday, 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm Saturday, 9:00 am-Noon*

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**Wednesday
December 11, 2019
8:00 am to 9:30 am**

**IBEW Local 1439
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St. Louis, MO 63139**

Cost \$20.00
Pre-registration is required for this special holiday buffet breakfast.

Register at:
extension.missouri.edu/stlouis/classes.aspx

How will Missouri's new medical marijuana laws affect you?

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For more information
please Call 314-521-5694
9:00am - 4:00pm Monday- Friday
www.stpeterschurch.org

Sherlock's Pal



Here's a question that has fascinated me ever since I wrecked my Suzuki 100 at the ripe old age of fourteen and nearly died from a crushed kidney: When is it okay to "play God"?

Before I elaborate on that phrase, let me clearly state that I am super happy my dad picked me up from the ground, carried me to the car, drove me to the hospital, and turned me over to the medical professionals. I realize that my 8 1/2 inch scar is a reminder that in 1974 they needed to cut a little wider to extract a kidney than they do today, but I'm not complaining. I've still got one good kidney and a battle scar to impress my grandkids . . . and to tell them to stay away from motorcycles.

According to Darwin's theory, "survival of the fittest," I should have attained my angel wings on December 27, 1974 and should never have been given the opportunity to reproduce and replicate my accident-prone genes in my offspring. Instead, I can just tell them, "Stay away from motorcycles" and hope that they will naturally exhibit better sense if and when they decide to engage in stupid behavior. Thankfully, most people do not include life-saving measures on their list of "playing God" scenarios. Unless we belong to a faith tradition that rejects medical intervention to save or enhance life, we will continue to get checkups, take our prescribed medications, and allow the surgeons to work their magic when necessary.

Nevertheless, where do we draw the line? As I write this article, I'm sitting in my wife's hospital room as she recovers from a knee replacement surgery. One could argue that this was "elective surgery," and yet if she didn't get her knee replaced soon then, well, if mama ain't happy, nobody is happy.

So, if quality of life medical interventions does not qualify as "playing God," then what does? Due to the fact that a Dr. Porter decided to circumvent nature's desire to knock me out of the picture in 1974, I grew up to study ethics in grad school. When I took a course on medical or bio-ethics I was introduced for the first time to the concept of "playing God." I learned that the Frankenstein story helped to frame the question about how far science can or should go in creating, altering, or destroying life. The question arises, obviously, in the abortion and cloning debates. We also heard it in the HGH or steroid controversy in the Olympics and Major League Baseball. And don't forget Jeff Goldblum's character, Ian Malcolm, in Jurassic Park, saying, "God creates dinosaurs, God destroys dinosaurs, God creates man, man destroys God, man creates dinosaurs."

Typically, the "playing God" question arises whenever there is a controversial decision concerning who gets to live and who gets to die. But let's be honest: other than the occasional parent who takes the "I brought you into this world and I can take you out" comment too literally, most of us go through life without having to "play God" in that way. About the closest most of us will get is having to make a heart-wrenching decision about the fate of a beloved pet.

GOD

Years ago, I had a white German Shepherd puppy that decided to leave the yard one morning and go exploring the woods behind our rural home in East Texas. Apparently, a local teenager was fond of shooting animals before his school bus arrived and either felt threatened by the puppy or mistook her for potential venison sausage. He blew off her right front leg. I took her to the vet, thinking we would put her to sleep because her quality of life would be intolerable. The vet looked at me and said three-legged dogs don't wake up in the morning and say, "Darn, I've only got three legs!" Playing God has never been so easy.

Dr. Jimmy Watson
Pastor, Immanuel United Church of Christ
Ferguson, MO
sherlockspal@yahoo.com

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December, 2019 by Bob McCarty

Historic Window Restorer

Happy December. The last month of the second decade of the 21st Century. Merry Christmas. My occupation, at this time is a 'Historical Window Restorer' or Preservationist. That means that I go into old buildings and remove the window sash

from it's jamb and restore it to like new.

We remove the original glass, or at least the glass that occupies it's frame, remove all paint, repair any bad parts, or replace them if necessary, and return them to their jamb. Also included is the removal of paint or caked on dirt and stain from the jamb. (The jamb is the area of the case that the sash slides up and down.) Oil or stain the jamb because we don't want anything like paint causing the sash to get stuck in its track. Replace sash cord with new and if chains have replaced the cotton sash cord and is painted, we replace the chain. Install the original sash back into its case and call it a day. If the window does not have any sort of weather stripping, we work with the client to install the best type for them and their windows.

I bet a lot of you already knew all of that. But, did you know that the sash as we know it is around 345 years old? That's right, close to three and half centuries! 1675 was about the time that the vertical moving 'Hung Window', as it was known, was developed, not invented. (This was after the Great Fire of London in 1666, when most of the English city was burnt to the ground.)

The predecessor of the hung window was a horizontal sliding window. The sash would be slid from side to side past each other in their frame. These windows are known today as the 'Yorkshire' Light or Sash.

Most windows in homes and buildings of this era were casement, windows that would swing from its side. They were being replaced with the increasingly popular hung window, which were used almost exclusively in newer buildings from cottages to palaces in Britain and the United States until early in the 20th Century. You could say that was a phenomenal 250-year success story because of the excellent design along with improvements that the sash window enjoyed.

The Hung Sash only had the bottom window opened and was held open with a stick or pins that would slide through the sash and lock it in place in the jamb. When the 'Double Hung Window' was developed, both sash were able to move vertically past each other. This helped the occupants of these older homes stay comfortable. (We've talked about how these windows would help with the cooling of a house.) For instance, a double hung

window could have the top sash open to let the hot air in a room escape while an open bottom sash would allow the cooler outside air into the house without much worry about wind driven rain. If all you had were casement windows on a windy and rainy day, the wind would allow the window to blow open allowing the rain to soak the floors.)

Another positive attribute of the sash window is since it is hung from the top and not the side, there would be less chance of the window being forced down with its own weight. Less distortion means a longer life. You can find 150-year-old, or more, sash that are still serviceable. Don't you wish that the maintenance-free window, that was recently installed, could be repaired to last 150 years.

The older double hung sash windows had muntins between the pieces of glass. Glass was not as large then as it is today, so they made do with what they had. With the advent of better and larger panes of glass, the muntins were discarded in favor of the larger glass panels. These larger pieces of glass weren't cheap either, but if you could afford this glass, by all means you let your neighbor know you could afford a large, unobstructed view.

The downfall to this larger glass was that the added weight, which wasn't distributed evenly through the muntins, would loosen the bottom rail of the upper sash. The window horn came to save the day. Not only did it help keep the bottom rail from loosening, but added a better look to the sash and its case.

Not all windows stopped using muntins in their design. It was mostly determined with the style of the house. Most older styles still have muntins in its windows, and some may only have them in its top sash. Aesthetics' has a lot to do with this part of the design. The parts of the sash are able to be made thinner than its predecessor, becoming the main feature of some of those classical styles. Afterall, the windows are the eyes to the soul of a house.

Sash windows are not as highly regarded today as they once were. They are being ripped out and replaced at an astronomical rate. Between 70 to 80 percent of the historical windows in America have been sent to the landfill unless an entrepreneurial soul has saved them and is trying to sell them on Craigslist.

These old windows, in the hands of someone that knows what they're doing and has the patience, can be repaired; and since they can be repaired, we won't be installing plastic windows in their place and replacing them every 20 years. (That's why they call them replacement windows.)

Until next month, and before the editor edits this down to a couple of paragraphs, Bob is On the Job. Merry Christmas.

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Horror Over Heroin

Come join us on

December 4, 2019 6-9pm

at the

St. Louis County Library Prairie Commons Branch
915 Utz Lane
Hazelwood, MO 63042

for the debut premiere of CLAIMED featuring BURN OUT, a short film from Bug-Juice Productions.

Both films may not be suitable for all audiences - parental guidance is recommended due to violence/gore.

Admission is free

We are accepting donations for To write Love on Her Arms & cans of food/non-perishable for T.E.A.M. food pantry.
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Ferguson Motor Service



Ferguson by Foot

By: Margaret Wolfenbarger



I stood in line behind the woman who was unloading a cart full of bulk items indicative of a bake-off. Sugar. Flour. Large amounts of cream cheese and powdered sugar. I couldn't resist the question, "What are you going to do with all of that cream cheese?"

She smiled and said, "Goosey butter cookies. Every year my daughters and I take a day to bake cookies for the holidays. It is a time-honored tradition." She then told me how much she was looking forward to her daughters coming in on their

college break. I imagined them in the kitchen, covered in flour and sugar while listening to holiday music. It reminded me of all the years I spent making cookies to give as gifts for my family members.

The holidays are wonderful for the warm memories they produce but can be problematic for people with addictive tendencies. I left the store with a Bing Crosby song on my lips and a plan to run home and bake cookies. I longed for the nostalgia of rolling up my sleeves and making a sweet treat that makes my family happy. I was half-way home when I realized the fallacy behind that plan. My relationship with sugar is complicated and every time I make cookies, my will-power crumbles and I end up consuming too much. The cultural stigma for overindulgence in food is not disregarded the way alcoholism or drugs is, but the addiction is no less painful. The cycle of temptation, consumption, regret and guilt are no less torturous. And because sugar—like cocaine heroin or alcohol—depresses the brain, it takes several weeks to excise the chemical from my system so that it doesn't consume my every thought. My friends tell me I have tremendous will-power, but the reality of addiction is, I see my future state should I capitulate to my impulses and, frankly, it is important to my health that I abstain.

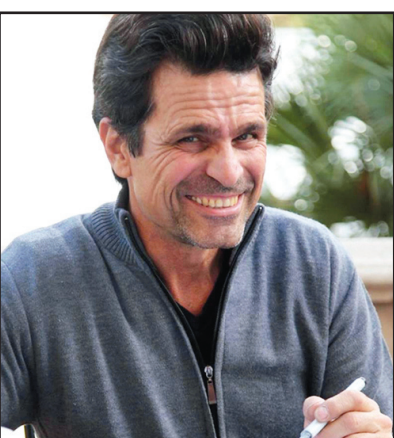
Why am I sharing this with my readers? There are many among us who struggle with addiction and the holidays present so many opportunities to "fall off the wagon". Every ad on television tells us to celebrate and enjoy the festivities but many of us don't have natural stop mechanisms. While some of us have put safeguards in place, we still fall prey to commercial stimulation and manipulation. Worse than the media are our family and friends who insist we can "just take one or two" or who try to cajole us to let our guard down and just enjoy. These realities are tough and can even cause relational strain. It is important to find a safe person or place to go when under pressure—whether that be a recovery program, church, or simply a friend you can trust.

I am learning that while I enjoy nostalgia and the memories of days gone by, I can create new memories. Rather than making cookies for my family, I can make an ornament or use beads to make a necklace. Pinterest is flush with ideas for how to make and give the special people in your life a treasured gift. I can also politely stand my ground and refuse to participate in cookie exchanges without guilt. Cookies are my drug of choice and so I must abstain. I choose to surround myself with people who understand and support my condition and take leave of those who don't.

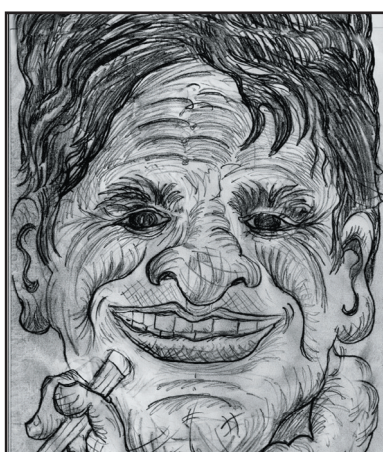
My love for Christmas is not diminished by my choice to abstain from sugar-laden confections, nor should yours be if the addiction is of another variety. I want to encourage those who are struggling to maintain sobriety that we do have the power and capacity to walk away from temptation. If you find your thoughts consumed, call your sponsor, pastor or a hotline. Get help. Don't go back to that helpless place of horror.

This year, rather than celebrate with cookie-baking (and eating) I have decided to make a new family tradition. I have learned that by focusing on what I can have or do rather than on what I cannot, I possess more joy. Of course, the greatest joy of my heart is that I have Jesus helping me and loving me every step of the way. And when I consider the baby Jesus lying in a manger so that he could grow up and die for my sin, so I might be free of addiction forever, well, that is the greatest glad tidings of all.

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



Phil Berwick. Merferd's creator, at the left and a self portrait.



Merferd Paints for Peace

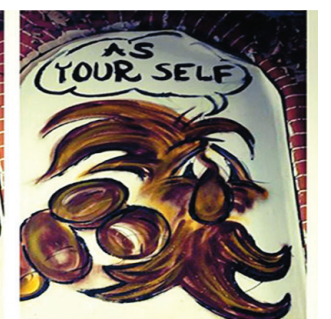
Merferd has been on the south side, the north side, on buildings, board ups and the Ferguson Library. On billboards, trees and television, on a grandpa and granddaughter in Ferguson.

NOW...after over 40 years of drawing him on napkins, with rhymes, and the *Ferguson Times*, Merferd and the Treetoons are about to appear in a graphic novel coloring book.

Copies will be for sale on some Saturdays at the Ferguson Municipal Library and at Spencer's Bakery.

The artist, Phil Berwick, will be available at the Caboose Park Saturdays from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. during the Holidays to sign your copy. Go to the living tree website for further details.

All proceeds benefit local charities.



FFSD BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE FILING BEGINS DEC. 17

Individuals wishing to file a Declaration of Candidacy for three open seats in the 2020 Ferguson-Florissant School District Board of Education election may do so beginning at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17. The three-year terms of current board members Rob Chabot, Donna Paulette-Thurman and Jessica Ponder will expire in April 2020.

Declarations of Candidacy may be picked up in the Office of the Superintendent, 8855 Dunn Rd., Hazelwood, MO from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on days the district is open. Under Missouri law, the first day to file as a candidate is Tuesday, Dec. 17. Filing closes at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020. District offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 23 through Friday, Jan. 3, 2020 and Monday, Jan. 20, 2020. The annual election for the Board of Education is Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

Individuals wishing to file for candidacy for the Board of Education must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 24 years old
- A resident taxpayer of the school district
- A resident of the state of Missouri for at least one year

In addition, the candidate must follow these procedures:

- File a declaration of candidacy
- Line up for filing pursuant to district Policy 4013

The Ferguson-Florissant School District board election in April 2020 will be conducted by cumulative voting, a change ordered by the federal court. In cumulative voting, voters cast as many votes as there are seats. Voters are not limited to giving only one vote to a candidate. Instead, they can give their votes to one or more candidates. For instance, in this election for three open board seats, voters could choose to give one vote each to three different candidates, one vote to one candidate and two votes to another, or three votes to a single candidate.

Nov. 13, 2019 meeting

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



Officer B. McJames opened the November 13th, 2019 meeting of Ferguson OnWatch, welcoming everyone. The September 2019 crime stats were passed out and reviewed. Apparently, the October version was not yet available.

Officer McJames did tell us that she noticed an increase in "10-50's" or accidents at Pershall & West Florissant. At one time we had cameras at that intersection, which helped reduce the accident count, as it also helped increase the ticket count. With those camera's being removed, the ticket count is obviously down, but the accidents are going back up.

Traffic Program

A new Traffic Program is in the trial phase, which uses 2 officers on 12 hour shifts full time enforcing the speed zones on Florissant, Chambers, Elizabeth, West Florissant, and New Halls Ferry. The trial period ends in January, 2020, and a decision as to continuing it on a permanent basis will be made. This could also include covering accidents and other traffic issues with the same Traffic officers. "Leaving the scene of the accident" issues have been going down.

Temp Tags

A lot of temp tag issues are being sent to the court system. Officer McJames removed a 2017 temp tag from a car, as it upset the owner. Any 2018 temp tags are also being removed. Any license plates that do not belong to the car they are attached to or the vehicle owner are also being removed.

Crimetips:

- (1) Don't leave your purse or your gun or other valuables in your car. A lot of property damages are crimes of opportunity.
- (2) Don't leave your car running unattended. This creates another opportunity for a crime to occur, like stolen vehicles.
- (3) Don't chase the car that just hit you. Take a picture of the vehicle to help the police identify the suspect vehicle.

Neighborhood Watch is working!

In the Forestwood subdivision neighbors saw someone trying door handles and called it in. The police found the guy in someone's vehicle, sleeping!

Anok is back!

Anok is back on duty with officer Klaus. Anok was retired officer Casem's dog. This now puts a K-9 in all 4 sectors of Ferguson. The other 3 are Merica, Kojak & Champ.

More officers coming on board

6-9 officers are in the hopper, to come on board. It looks like January is when the open Sergeant and Lieutenant positions may be filled.

B. McJames backstory

Officer McJames grew up in Ferguson, and graduated from McCluer High School. She said she always wanted to become a police officer. However, an opportunity to become a Flight Attendant presented, and she worked for 17 years at TranStates Airlines. When the opportunity came to join the police force, she knew her customer service skills of handling up to 50 passengers at a time and her CIT training could come in real handy with the new Community Policing model. She has been on our Ferguson Police Department for about 1 year.

Next meeting date

Our next Ferguson On Watch meeting is the 2nd **Wednesday, December 11th** 7:00 PM at City Hall. Have a safe month!

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The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely has Christmas wallpaper to go! :)



DECEMBER, 2019

is it just me, or where did all those months go? I do believe that this year really did go by unnaturally fast! Amazing!

So anyway, what's going on this month? Glad you asked!

December 1st

Advent begins. We prepare for the coming of our Lord. This continues until Christmas Day.

December 2nd thru 30th
hanukkah.

December 24th

Christmas Eve. (traditionally included as a part of the Christmas celebration)

December 25th

Christmas Day.

Let's take a moment to think about Christmas. It is one of the few Holy Days wherein even non-Christians celebrate. Perhaps not in the same way as we Christians do, but it is done anyhow. So, how many atheists put up a Christmas tree? Jews? Muslims? Maybe not most, but a lot do. Why do they do that? You'll really have to ask them, but my guess is that they are celebrating only the gift-giving part, because that is what most people celebrate. As a Christian, I celebrate Christmas as the birth of my Lord Jesus Christ. I see Jesus as the Father's gift to me, as my only Salvation from eternal damnation. Giving gifts to each other is a way to remind us all of our Heavenly Father's Gift to us. No better gift exists. No other gift gives me more solace and peace and happiness.

MY GIFT TO YOU!, dept.

I have some gifts for you. They are Christmas-themed, and you may have as many as you like. Wallpaper, screensavers, and other eye-type-candy for your electronic devices. So, whatever device has control over your eyes, you can find something to pretty it up! :) Just go to the websites below and download whatever strikes your fancy!

<https://wallpaperplay.com/board/religious-christmas-wallpapers>

<https://www.crosscards.com/wallpaper/>

<https://wallpaperaccess.com/christian-christmas-nativity>

<http://getwallpapers.com/collection/christmas-wallpaper-and-screensavers>

<http://getwallpapers.com/collection/religious-christmas-wallpaper-christmas-backgrounds>

ME GO NOW!

I have to go now and get ready for Christmas! (I know; I should've been doing this ALL YEAR LONG! Well, in truth, it has been in my thots and prayers most of the time, especially when I say my prayers at night!) It is my great hope that YOU will have a most blessed and merry Christmas! I pray that YOU will receive The Greatest Gift possible, and also give The Greatest Gift possible to all those you love, and that should be everyone. There is nothing more satisfying, nor is there anything more precious! MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL!

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

If you would like some of Doug's FREE puter advice, you can call him at *314*521*1789* in the afternoon or evening of most any day. PLEASE DISREGARD THE OUTGOING MESSAGE FROM THE ANSWERING MACHINE! If you wish to email him, do so at: fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com. BE SURE TO PUT THE PHRASE 'i need puter advice' INTO THE SUBJECT LINE, AND INCLUDE YOUR CALLBACK NUMBER SO HE CAN CALL YOU WITH ADVICE! He will not be able to assist you if you do not follow these steps. Remember to leave some room for dessert! :)

Boys & Girls Club Opens in Ferguson



Boys & Girls Club Opens in Ferguson just blocks from where Michael Brown was shot 5 years ago in an event heard around the world.

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- Job/education assistance
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Heating and Cooling Tips

- Always unplug chargers when not in use because they use energy even when not actively charging.
- Buy small power strips for your electronics – they can cut your energy use by up to 10%.
- When replacing appliances or electronics, look for the ENERGY STAR label, which identifies high-efficiency products

Ferguson's Very Own Library is 90 YEARS OLD!

Ferguson Library seeking patrons' memories of their hometown library The Ferguson Municipal Library is happy to announce that 2020 will mark the library's 90th year of service to the community. The library plans to celebrate all year long with special exhibits, posters, and events. But, it cannot do it alone. The library needs help from its patrons.

Patrons can join the celebration preparation in two ways: 1) submitting pictures or 2) submitting memories.

If patrons have any photographs of library visits or events from today or the past 90 years, please submit these images to the library. Don't have a digital copy of the image? No problem. Bring the image to the library and library staff will digitize it. Digital copies can be submitted via email to arepking@fergusonlibrary.net. Please include with any image submission: your name, your age, the date the image was taken (if known), the name(s) of the person(s) in the image or place (if applicable), a brief statement of context for the image (or what is going on), and your contact information, either email or phone.

If patrons have any memories of the library, its buildings, its collections, its staff members, or library events and experiences, the library would love to hear about them. Memories can be submitted as email messages, typed documents, handwritten letters, or recorded audio files. Please submit memories via email to arepking@fergusonlibrary.net or in person with library staff. With any memory submission, please include: your name, your age, and your contact information, either email or phone.

Names will not be used in exhibits or other media without the express permission of the patron who submitted the image or memory. Patrons are encouraged to submit images and memories all year long and beyond this anniversary celebration. The library will hold on to these memories for future anniversary celebrations and for future generations. Patrons hoping to be featured in the 90th anniversary library exhibits, displays, and posters should submit their images or memories by January 15, 2020.

Please direct questions about this process to arepking@fergusonlibrary.net or ask for Allison at the library circulation desk. See ad on Page 3.

Artful Considerations

by Robin Shively and Glynis Mary McManamon

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything." -Plato



This is the time of year to take advantage of all the Christmas concerts and Winter musical programs being offered by churches and schools. Some of the local churches announce their special events elsewhere in this publication and often schools will have events posted on their websites. FYI (Ferguson Youth Initiative), in the backbay at 110 Church Street, also holds a free monthly SLAM art event for teens on first Fridays beginning at 6:00 p.m.

A quartet from the Gateway Science Academy will offer a free concert on Saturday, December 14 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Arts Center, 252 South Florissant Rd. These young people are exceptional and very professional. If you close your eyes you would imagine them to be seasoned, mature musicians. Don't miss this treat.



Artist De'Joneiro Jones and his work entitled "Life is a Song Worth Singing".

The show, "400 Years and Beyond", commemorating the observance of 2019 as the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Africans to be sold into slavery will run through Friday, January 17, 2020 at Good Shepherd Arts Center. De'Joneiro Jones, an artist, art collector and art broker, is curating the exhibit. Mr. Jones will include his own work and works by: Kris Mosby, Vaughn Davis, Esau Head, Brock Seals, Billy

Williams, Jim Pegg, Daniel Jefferson, Roland Burrow, Dail Chambers, Joseph LaMarque, Danny McGinnist, Michelle Lewis and Laveal Jones.

GSAC gallery's regular hours are: Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturdays 12:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. During the holidays, the gallery will be closed November 28th & 29th, and December 22nd through January 3rd.

Call for Art: Good Shepherd Arts Center has postponed the juried student show, "Who Is My Neighbor?" The new opening will be Sunday, March 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m. The new deadline for submissions by high school and undergraduate students is January 20. You can download applications from www.goodshepherdarts.org. Print it out, complete it and send a screenshot along with jpgs of up to three submissions of your artwork. Artwork should speak to the theme of repairing divisions, uniting people, creating an inclusive and peaceful world.

To submit information about local artists, exhibits and performances to be included in future columns, contact Robin at cornersframing@gmail.com.

Call for Art: The annual Ferguson Municipal Public Library Quilt Show will take place February 20th-22nd, 2020. The library seeks works from local quilters throughout the St. Louis area for the exhibit. To participate, turn in a completed registration form by January 17th, 2020. Registration forms can be found at www.fergusonfrom.lib.mo.us.

Pictured are photos of the recent Library Quilt Show:



Mysteries of the Night by Barbara Bast



Charleston Trio by Susan Trommler



Basket of Flowers by Irene Ebbsmeyer from Marsha Wood

CALL FOR ART QUILT SHOW



The Best of Ferguson

by
Ruffina Farrokh Anklesaria, M.A.

Susan and Ank Ankenbrand, Ph.D.



I had the pleasure of working with Susan and Ank Ankenbrand at the I Love Ferguson store when we were all volunteers after the Mike Brown crisis in August of 2014. Susan was chirpy and cheery and Ank was quiet and unassuming. They were both a joy to be around, easy to get along with.



I was surprised to learn at my interview with the Ankenbrands that Ank has a Ph.D. in Counselling from St Louis University. In all the time we had worked together and known each other, he had never mentioned this once! He got his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Eastern Illinois University and his Ph.D. from St Louis University.

Ank grew up on a farm in Mt Carmel, Illinois and when he left college he became a 7th and 8th grade teacher at the junior high school in Charleston, IL. He taught there for five years and also coached basketball and track. After this, he worked at the Florissant Valley campus of St Louis Community College for 38 years, where he was head of the Counselling Department. Ank still teaches the Master's program one night a week at Lindenwood University.

Ank moved from Charleston, IL to St Louis when he had to do his one year residency. At that time, one of the requirements was the ability to communicate in a foreign language! He chose Spanish and had to translate a full page! After Ank's first year of Ph. D. studies, he worked full-time as well. This was uncommon back then. He came to St Louis with his wife Susan and their 7-month old baby, fully expecting to move back to Charleston, but that never happened. Instead, at the end of his training, he was hired by St Louis Community College and he moved to the county. He and Susan have been here ever since - 45 years!

Susan's father was a history professor at Eastern Illinois University. She was in her freshman year at the same college when she met Ank, who was doing his Master's at the time. This was in 1962. Susan graduated with a B.Sc. in Education and Journalism and taught one year full-time at Sumner High School in St Louis. Sumner is the oldest African American High School west of the Mississippi, and it was a very prestigious institution to teach at. During this year, she was the sole support of the family as Ank was finishing his Ph.D., and she remembered it being a very challenging year in more ways than one!

Susan was a substitute teacher in the Ferguson/Florissant school district for 16 years, teaching everything to the elementary grades. She also became a St Louis tour guide, a job she has done for many years, and continues to do. She started with the St Louis Convention and Visitors Commission, now called "Explore St Louis." She worked for other companies as well, doing walking tours and bus tours. Susan described how you could take a walking tour downtown, starting at Union Station, walking east on Market Street, around the main post office and back to Union Station, spending a leisurely two hours strolling. She also works for a company that does meet and greet. She meets passengers at the airport and ensures they get proper transportation to hotels or their final destination. At present she's with a company called "Corporate Transportation."



Susan and Ank were married the day after President Kennedy was assassinated! They were married 56 years on 23rd November. They have three sons, featured in the photo below: from left, Mark (54), Todd (49) and Chris (51). They also have three grandchildren.

The Ankenbrand sons, from L: Mark, Todd and Chris

Susan was a Ferguson city councilwoman for 16 years, until 1996. Ank was on the Ferguson/Florissant school board for 9 years until 1991. They have both been volunteers at Lambert International Airport for the past five years, manning the Information Desk at Terminal 2. The Ankenbrands are Catholic and attend church in Hyde Park in the city.

Susan and Ank are consummate travelers, having visited over 40 countries in the last 35 years! Their travels have taken them to Asia, Europe, Africa, North and South America. Susan has fallen in love with Paris and is going there next week



with her grand daughter! Ank loves southeast Asia, Vietnam and Cambodia. They have many wonderful memories from their travels, from breathtaking views at Machupicchu in Peru, to gondola rides in Venice. They happened to be in Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, just when the Arab Spring was breaking! They left the country an hour before the president left and remember the tanks in the street and the curfew declared the day before their departure. It was a scary time and their guide was afraid for them and for the other tourists on the tour. They were in Tunisia for two weeks.

Susan has fond memories of Turkey as well, one of her favorites places visited, and both she and Ank enjoy spending time in London, where they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with one of their sons and two grandchildren. Their travels also took them to Thailand and India. During their visit to Honduras, there was a touching moment that they never forgot. There was a young boy 10-12 years old, whom the guide was close to. The boy was asked what he got for Christmas and he replied "nothing." They then asked him what he would have liked for Christmas and he enthusiastically responded, "a bike." Those on the tour, including the Ankenbrands, all chipped in to buy the boy a bike. When they gave it to him the next day, there were tears all around!



The Ankenbrands and I feel that travel broadens our awareness and makes us count the many blessings we enjoy here in America. Enjoying different cultures and peoples is an education in itself, and it makes us realize we are part of a wonderful tapestry of humanity.

Ank, for the past 40 years, has made a special Christmas tree ornament that he gives as gifts to 150 lucky people! The Ank Christmas tree featured below is decorated with all the ones he has made over the years! What a lovely tradition! I send all good wishes to you, my readers, for a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and congratulate Susan and Ank Ankenbrand for representing the very Best of Ferguson!



The author teaches the Transcendental Stress Management program and conducts retreats at home and abroad. She is recognized as a spiritual leader specializing in giving Shaktipat by sight (transference of spiritual energy) and enabling others to have refined perception through the opening of their third eye. Email: rfanklesaria@gmail.com www.BestAgainstStress.com 314 766 4391



Ask Grandma

Christmas

I was born two days before Christmas in 1934. In those days, new mothers and their babies were kept in the hospital for 5 days or longer. That meant that in 1934, my mother was not at home on Christmas day. For years I was told by my older siblings that the only thing they got for Christmas that year was a new baby.

My youngest child was born seven days before Christmas. My doctor asked me if I wanted to be home for Christmas and when I answered in the affirmative, he said to meet him at the hospital the next morning (it was December 18th). They didn't have epidurals in 1964, but something termed "Twilight". After I was situated at the brand new location St. John's Hospital in Creve Coeur (now Mercy), I was given a shot to bring on contractions and a shot of Twilight.

The Twilight did not have time to work before Ellen was born. The nurses adjusted the mirrors in the operating room so that I could watch, but I didn't look because I was afraid I'd be frightened.

So . . . I was home for Christmas . . . but being faced with 5 other children . . . I thought longingly for that nice quiet hospital bed where the baby and my meals were brought to me, and all I had to do was sleep. If you are a male reading this column, you have no idea how tired you are after having a baby. My husband would say, "In Korea the women had their babies in the field, strapped them to their backs and went back to work". "Yeah," I would counter, "and they died when they were in their twenties".

My husband had an aunt who went to 5:30 a.m. Mass on Christmas morning, and then would come to our house. Of course, the children had been up hours before she arrived, but we always made them wait for Aunt Mamie before opening that one last present, because she got such a kick out of watching the kids' delight. One year the present to be opened last was a race car set. The plastic track was run around the living room floor and up on ramps and around curves. At the bottom of one ramp was a flagman, and as a car would approach, he would go out on the track with his flag and, of course, the car was suppose to stop. This particular track malfunctioned and the car would hit the flagman every time he walked out on the track. Aunt Mamie laughed and laughed every time the flagman flew across the room.

That particular Christmas and Aunt Mamie was one of the highlights of Christmas' remembered.

Another memorable Christmas was more recent. A number of years ago we decided as a family it was too daunting a task to try to give everyone a present, so we drew one name. You gave one present and you received one present. Each year we set a different present criteria. That year it had to be a present "As Seen on TV".

Grandson, Justin, received one of those lanterns that you can see for 5 miles away. When he lifted the top the whole room was filled with white light. Someone sang, "Alleluia", and everyone joined in. Justin would lift the top every so often during the evening and "Alleluia" would fill the house. Then he would lift it just a little so that we only got to "Allel" before he closed it down. I guess you had to be there.

Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year
to my *Ferguson Times* family

TOY TOWN

We are fortunate to be one of the designated drop-off locations for this year's Salvation Army's Toy Town toy drive. Please remember the needy children in our community by dropping off a new, unwrapped present at our office between now and December 13, 2019.



At your service,
Joseph R Meyer Marveena Miller
Financial Advisor Branch Office Administrator

Please note: Edward Jones and its associates cannot accept monetary donations.

Answers to Trivia, Page 12

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Trident | 8. Touchdowns |
| 2. Toto | 9. Town Talk |
| 3. Top Hat | 10. Toga |
| 4. Twilight Zone | 11. Trigger |
| 5. Tomorrow | 12. "That's all folks" |
| 6. Tina Turner | 13. Tennis |
| 7. Three Blind Mice | |

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Calendar of Events In and Around Ferguson

Complete Details of These Events Throughout the Paper

- Ferguson Northern Lights Sun., Dec. 1
- Old Town Florissant House Tour Sun. Dec. 1
- Ferguson Human Rights Day – St. Stephens Sun, Dec. 1
- toritime at the Library Tues., Dec. 3
- Horror Over Heroin* Movie – Prairie Commons Libray Wed., Dec. 4
- SKiwanis Chartering Ceremony – Community Ctr. Thurs., Dec. 5
- Parents Night Out – St. Peters Fri., Dec. 6
- FLIERS Treasures and Treats Sale – Library Fri. & Sat., Dec. 6 & 7
- PROUD meeting – 435 Darst Rd. Sat., Dec. 7
- Breakfast With Santa – Community Center Sat., Dec. 7
- Holiday Light Contest Judging Sun., Dec. 8
- Reading on Race Book Club – Library Mon., Dec. 9
- Ferguson Council Meeting – City Hall Tues., Dec. 10
- Ferguson OnWatch meeting – City Hall Wed., Dec. 11
- North County Chamber Membership Mtg.– Moolay Temple Thurs., Dec. 12
- Yoga at the Library Sat., Dec. 14
- Bottle Painting – Library Sat., Dec. 14
- Justin Goolsby Birthday Bash – Hwy. 66 BBQ Sat., Dec. 14
- Breakfast with Santa – 1st Presbyterian Sat., Dec. 14
- Soap and Scrub Gifts – Library Sat., Dec. 14
- OurFerguson Strategy Workshop Community Ctr. Tues., Dec. 17
- Tuesday Night Book Club – Library Tues., Dec. 17
- Winter Break Warm-Up – Library Fri., Dec. 20
- Card & Paper Club – Library Sat., Dec. 21
- The Vine Indoor Market – St. Stephens Sat., Dec. 21
- Holiday Hangout – Zion Lutheran Sat. Dec. 21

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