

**Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities**

**WELCOME TO THE FERGUSON TIMES' EXPANDED COVERAGE**  
 (Pasadena Hills, Pasadena Park, Bellerive Acres, parts of Belnor, parts of Normandy and areas of 63135 and Cool Valley).

**Ferguson Virtual TWILIGHT RUN**

2020 is transitioning to a virtual event focused on health, wellness and community. The decision to host a virtual event was influenced by concerns about the spread of COVID-19, yet organizers still want to offer participants an opportunity to stay involved in the 11th annual event.



**What's different for 2020?**

Ferguson Twilight Run kicks off with a running themed spirit week on social media. Virtual Weekend Run starts Friday, May 15 and finishes Sunday, May 17.

Distances include one mile, 5K (3.1 miles), 10K (6.2 miles) and 10 miles. Registered participants can complete their chosen distance any time during the weekend, and will receive a 2020 limited edition FTR T-shirt, finisher medal and \$20 toward a shoe purchase at Big River Running Company.

**How do I participate in the virtual race?**

The steps are easy:

1. Register by May 17, 2020
2. Train for your distance. Stay focused on your personal health and fitness goal.
3. Before FTR Virtual, choose your race location - treadmill, sidewalks, trails or neighborhood streets.
4. Lace up your shoes! You're ready to run, walk or jog your distance. Time your effort on your watch or fitness app.
5. Finish! Share your results and a picture with Ferguson Twilight Run on social media or at #FTRV2020 or #RunwithFerguson
6. Check your mailbox! Your FTR swag will be sent to your home address.

The 2020 beneficiaries are A Red Circle, Emerson Family YMCA, Girls on the Run St. Louis, Ferguson-Florissant School District, and St. Vincent Home for Children. The organizations will also be the beneficiaries of the 2021 Ferguson Twilight Run.

Ferguson Twilight Run debuted in May 2010 as the first evening race in North St. Louis County. Proceeds are donated to nonprofits in North St. Louis County that promote the healthy and sustainable benefits of fitness. To date, more than \$87,000 has been given to community organizations through the Donnie White Sr. Memorial Beneficiary Award.

**CONTACT:** Dwayne T. James, 314-325-2197, Nez Savala, 816-678-9071



**To Our Loyal Farmers' Market Patrons:  
 The Market Will Not Open Until After the Lifting of the Stay-at-Home Order.**



**May Events at the Ferguson Public Library**

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

→ PLEASE NOTE: ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ←

**Grow with Google Webinars**  
 Grow your small business with us and Google!  
 Wednesday, May 13 at 12 pm: [Growing Your Business Online](#)  
 Wednesday, May 20 at 12 pm: [Learning How to Use Google Analytics](#)  
 For more information and how to register, please contact the library and ask for Rachelle.

**Things That Go Storytime - Saturday, May 16 at 2 pm**  
 Let's celebrate cars, trucks, and more at storytime! We will enjoy stories, songs, activities, and more. For kids and their caregivers ages 0-6. Older siblings welcome too!

**Designing with Nature in Mind - Tuesday, May 19 at 6 pm**  
 Join us and Master Gardener Betty Struckhoff as she teaches us how to use native plants to create a beautiful natural habitat in your very own yard!



**2020 Summer Reading Challenge  
 May 30 - August 8**

Take the challenge and read this summer! Read throughout the summer and get rewarded for it. Join us all summer long for fun programs too!

**Summer Reading Challenge Kickoff - Chef Bananas!  
 Friday, May 29 at 6 pm**

Join us and Chef Bananas for a wild and wacky magic show that will leave your sides splitting from laughter! We'll celebrate the start of summer and the summer reading challenge with this fun, interactive show that will make you go bananas! Register for the summer reading challenge that night and get a raffle ticket towards a prize. All are welcome!



For the latest information about our upcoming events, as well as information about our ongoing programs like Card and Paper Club and Crafting with Perennial, please visit [ferguson.lib.mo.us/calendar](http://ferguson.lib.mo.us/calendar) or like us on Facebook!

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POSTAL PATRON



See Page 3 for Mayoral Candidates Response to Ferguson Times inquiries.  
**VOTE ON JUNE 2nd!**



# Ferguson Still Needs You!

I've been reading a lot of posts on Next Door, Facebook's, Ferguson, Missouri Friends, and Neighbors, even articles here in the Ferguson Times about our litter problem. What can be done?

Well my friends, family, and neighbors, it's time that we take matters into our own hands and 'Boycott Litter'. You heard me right, **BOYCOTT LITTER!** Did you hear me that time?

How do we Boycott Litter? Do we need the city to sponsor another litter pick-up day with hot dogs and hamburgers as a reward? Do we continue to complain about our litter problem on social media?

The answer to those last two questions is 'No'. The answer to the first question is that we start a movement! But what is a movement without a name? I'll tell you; a movement is nothing without a name, nothing is what it is, it's nothing. So, I want to propose that we start this Litter Pick-up Movement and we call it;

### Operation Clean Ferg-Nation!

What do you think? Does it have a ring to it? Operation Clean Ferg-Nation. I like it!

What's next? Get out and pick up some trash.

We've all been stuck at home for over a month now and if you're anything like me, you need to get out. Go for a walk but don't forget to take along a trash bag, bucket, trash picking up stick/pincher, and disposal gloves. Walk around the block, or maybe two, maybe even through downtown and pick-up all of the litter that you see, if you can. When you get back home, throw the bag or bucket of trash in your garbage can and put your tools away, just don't forget to take off your gloves and throw them on the ground before washing your hands. (Maybe another civic minded soul will come along and pick-up your gloves.)

There you go; easy peasy. Now don't you feel better about yourself? About your community?

Wait a minute, if you would take a walk past the area that you just picked up every single piece of trash, you'd be lucky to not find more. Did I miss that piece of trash? Am I going crazy? (Well maybe, but I'm not one to judge.) No, you're not crazy, that's new trash! Do you get mad? No, you just pick it up and dispose of it properly and that's why you should always have your arsenal of Litter Disposal Implements (LDI) at your disposal.

My philosophy about the problem with our thoughtless litterers is they don't know better. They were never taught that they shouldn't throw their trash out the window of their cars. (It makes their cars messy, and we don't want that now, do we?) Think about this; trash gets picked up on windy days. I know I threw some trash here yesterday but the wind took care of it. You know that some people may actually believe that, but we know better, because we were there and we picked up the litter.

This is not an issue that is going to take care of itself; if we were to take a walk around the block and pick up all the trash and not do it again and again and again, all of that work would be for naught. This is not a 'one and done' boycott. Yes, we need to keep up the good work. We need to do this and we cannot count on anyone else to do it for us. So, make the commitment and get out there and pick up some trash. If you were to pick up litter for one hour a week for a month, that would be four hours of litter pick-up a month. Could you imagine if 20 people made that commitment of one hour a week, that would be a total of 80 hours of litter pick-up a month, could you imagine if 200 people made that kind of commitment, do the math, that is approximately only one percent of the City of Ferguson's population. We know that more than one percent of the population see litter as a problem, and if they are anything like us, could you imagine?

What do think? Are you ready to boycott litter? Are you ready to join the movement; Operation Clean Ferg-Nation? Eventually, we'll get a handle on the litter problem. The DOJ will say, "Wow, you guys are doing a great job, here's some money, keep up the good work!" (When you dream, dream big.)

The litter bugs won't stop doing their job which means we can't stop doing our job and, **WE WILL OVERCOME** this issue, we just need to keep it up.

Who's with me? Let's do this. I'll see you on the streets with your LDI!

Afterword: I was kidding about throwing your disposable gloves on the ground; you should know better. Dispose of them properly.

<fergusonmainstreet.org>  
**314-882-1337**

## The Plumber's Crack

By Oh Baby dave@premierplumbingstl.com

Get out your wheelbarrows, hoes, and rakes. Put on them coveralls and get busy in them gardens. It's May and time for the Farmers Market and a new Plumbers Crack.

Well my followers of the Crack, since a lot of you have been locked down due to this nasty virus you got a little time for some plumbing tips.

I'm going to start with shut off valves. I get 15 or 20 calls a month about shut off valves leaking. I feel really guilty about going to these calls because most of the time it's something easily fixed by you. Underneath the handle you will see a nut; this is called a packing nut. Over time this packing starts to wear out or get hard and when you go to shut off your water it will start leaking. Well my friends this is where you turn into a plumber. Grab a pair of channelox or a big pliers (pinchers to some of you) and give that nut a quarter turn a little more if needed. Voila you stopped the leak. Disclaimer, if you see that no threads are showing under that nut don't try and tighten it any more. It will have to be repacked.

For those of you that are a little more adventurous, I'm going to tell you how to fix it. 1st turn that main shut off. Loosen that nut all the way off the threads. A little bit of water will come out but with the shut off turned off you won't get a flood. Next take some Teflon tape and spin it into a thin piece of thread. Wrap this around the stem 5 or 6 times; push the nut back on and tighten. You just repacked your shut off.



Some of you old timers might have some graphite packing string around that works even better. This works on most shut offs but not the ones under your sinks or toilets. We will talk about that next month.

Just a quick note on shut off valves for sinks and toilets: when you change faucets of fill valve on your toilets, change that flexible supply line at the same time. I'll go into that a little more next month.

Well my friends I'm going to close it off for this edition like I said in the opening – check out our Farmers Market ( hopefully it will open); wear your PPEs; and if a tradesman does come in your home see that he/she has them on also; including shoe covers.

Shop local when you can and as always check on the elderly and your neighbors. Love and nourish your kids and keep praying we get through this plague.

God Bless You one and all.  
Oh Baby

## To Our Loyal Farmers' Market Patrons:

As you know, during the current conditions, the market cannot be the community gathering place we know and love. However, we are working on alternative ways we can bring you fresh, healthy, local food and support our local farmers. Please watch our facebook page and website, fergusonfarmersmarket.com, for updates on the market and our vendors, some of whom have set up their own options for getting their products to their customers. Feel free to send questions or comments through facebook or to: farmers-market@fergusoncity.com

Stay safe and healthy and let's look forward to when we can gather at our favorite community events again.

P8563, D8563

### Premier Plumbing Solutions

Say "I Love Ferguson"

When presented your bill and receive.....

\$10 OFF

Dave Walters (Oh Baby)  
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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.

## The Ferguson Mayoral Election is Tuesday, June 2nd. PLEASE VOTE!

Below are the responses of the two candidates, **HEATHER ROBINETTE** and **ELLA JONES**, to questions posed by the *Ferguson Times*

*FT: Give a short bio.*

**HEATHER:** Our family moved to Ferguson in 2004 and immediately got involved in the neighborhood. I've served on Council for four years, and as Mayor Pro Tem for three years. I'm married with five kids, two of which are still at home and attend school in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. In my day job, I'm the Director of Software Architecture at AT&T.

**ELLA:** I've lived in our wonderful hometown for forty years and for the past five years I have had the pleasure of serving on the Ferguson City Council. I am a widow and mother of a wonderful daughter. I am a graduate of the University of Missouri-St. Louis with a degree in Chemistry, own my own business and I've served twenty-two years as a Pastor for the African Methodist Episcopal Church. I am the only candidate for Mayor who underwent training sponsored by the Missouri Municipal League and received my Certified Municipal Official designation from the Municipal Governance Institute in September of 2017. In addition, I am and have been the City Council representative for various commissions, including Human Rights, Landmarks, Traffic, Parks, Senior Citizens, West Florissant Business Association, and Mayor pro tem 2016.

*FT: Why do you want to be mayor? It seems like a thankless job.*

**HEATHER:** My initial intent was to continue Consent Decree compliance, encourage economic development and continue the path toward Community Policing. With the Covid-19 pandemic, I realize that some of our priorities as a City have changed. Ferguson deserves strong leadership now more than ever and I believe I am best qualified to lead.

**ELLA:** I love Ferguson and its people and believe that I am the person to lead our City. My focus is to make sure that our City remains stable and will deliver services at the expected levels for the foreseeable future. Specifically, I want to improve the overall quality of life for all of the people of Ferguson, including our business community and patrons, ensure a safe City, and to create a financially stable government that is transparent and accessible to all. I will continue engaging citizens to respond to the 2020 Census to assure that Ferguson gets its fair share. We are in the fourth year of the Consent Decree and I will support the staff as we move forward toward compliance by year five. To accomplish these goals, Ferguson needs a strong, visionary leader who can unite the City's diverse interests, through strategic planning, transparency, inspiration, and communication, I am that person.

*FT: After the coronavirus crisis is over, what do you see as the most monumental challenge facing Ferguson?*

**HEATHER:** There will be 2 – Economic recovery and handling a budget challenge for our City. Where we were focused on bringing homeowners into empty homes, we'll be working to keep families in their homes and businesses afloat. Understanding the budget is critical and I possess in-depth knowledge managing budgets. I have a strong background working with Ferguson's leaders on our City budget.

**ELLA:** The coronavirus crisis is the most difficult challenge to our City in our lifetime. Life as we know has changed forever. My administration's first priority is to make sure that all of our citizens are safe and will be safe. We must help our small businesses re-ignite as they are crucial members of our community. These businesses provide the services our citizens need, they are a major source of the city's revenue through sales tax and they employ many of our residents. I will use all of the resources at our disposal to avoid interruption of basic services. We must access every available government grant in order to continue to provide critical services for our citizens.

*FT: What change/s would you like to see in the Ferguson administration?*

**HEATHER:** I can't imagine a better administration in place for a crisis of this magnitude with the pandemic. Additionally, this administration has made incredible strides over the last year in Consent Decree progression. They have experience with difficult decisions, and I expect that will serve them well in the coming decisions related to COVID-19.

**ELLA:** Innovative thinking must become our new normal. There are resources like the Missouri Municipal League and the National League of Cities, which can provide a wealth of information on best practices and have been proven successful elsewhere. Designated staff members must engage with citizens who have the experience in grant writing and other resources to help bring us more tools to implement innovative programs.

*FT: The last few years there have been major disruptions in the city council meetings. What changes would you like to see to curtail this?*

**HEATHER:** We have an ordinance of decorum which should be enforced. However, I'd like to get to a point where we can both listen to the residents and respond such that disruptions aren't necessary. It really comes down to basic decency on all sides of a point of view.

**ELLA:** As Mayor it would be my responsibility to see that the formal business of the city proceeds in an orderly and dignified manner. We will need to be proactive in our listening to the concerns of residents. Holding regular town hall meetings will provide a healthy outlet for questions and allow public input on city matters. We have important work that must be done by the Council. As Mayor I will be offering appointment times for citizens to discuss their concerns.

*FT: You have both been heavily involved in volunteer work. How do we get more people to step forward?*

**HEATHER:** I volunteer a lot! I can usually be found working hard in the trenches and trying to inspire others to do the same. Finding a good match

for people and their passions is a good place to start to get them involved. People must see benefit from their volunteer efforts and the City can do their part to help set the stage for that.

**ELLA:** The City must actively invite citizens to participate on our many boards and commissions by engaging the community on a more personal level, provide the necessary training to help people understand the value of serving as a volunteer and seek persons who can share their leadership expertise for various projects.

*FT: Do you still see people voting along racial lines?*

**HEATHER:** Not on City Council. I'm proud to have support across racial lines both on City Council and throughout the community.

**ELLA:** Our region has a history of racial problems. Unfortunately, it touches every aspect of our society: economics, housing, education, crime, healthcare, and politics. As a pre-coronavirus candidate, I made every effort to meet voters to introduce myself as an individual and then as a candidate. I wanted them to know me and I would get a chance to know them. They will find out that we share a similar vision and will vote for me not because of our differences but because of what we have in common and our shared vision for Ferguson.

*FT: Keeping in mind that the FT only prints "good" news, how do you address these problems in a positive manner?*

*Trash, Thefts, Run Down Houses, Homelessness, Speeding*

**HEATHER:** Trash pickup seems like a good reason for residents to get outside and get some fresh air during this quarantine. (Stay safe!!)

**ELLA:** Residents must take ownership of their communities/neighborhoods. A strong community that communicates with each other will have City Hall as a partner to address problems. The City has the resources to deal with problem properties and bad landlords, but residents have to partner with the City to collectively address these issues. By pulling together we can make a difference.

**HEATHER:** Thefts (according to police reports at neighborhood meetings) can be thwarted by locking your doors/vehicles and watching each other's properties for suspicious vehicles or people.

**ELLA:** We can educate property owners on choosing the right kind of locks, security systems (cameras and alarms), lighting, and encourage them to report suspicious activity. As much of this type of property crime is committed by youth, we also need to do more to see that our young people have career paths, job opportunities, and positive outlets. We must work closely with the schools to fight truancy and gang recruitment. Neighbors working together by looking out, communicating to other neighbors' things that don't look right and informing City Hall are the best deterrent to bad actors.

**HEATHER:** Run down houses which are vacant can be addressed with incentives for new owners. Those which are owner occupied can be helped with forthcoming Ferguson Neighborhood Improvement Plan (FNIP) resources.

**ELLA:** We must promote the First Time Homeowner Program to encourage homeownership and I want to expand the Home Repair Program so people can get forgettable loans. The City needs help from the State and County to deal with absentee landlords or abandoned properties who often hide their ownership. Landlords must work with the city to bring their properties into compliance with local ordinances.

**HEATHER:** Homelessness is a county-wide issue with no magic wand solution. There are local non-profits working to help the homeless. 643 WARM, food pantries and free clinics are working locally to assist the homeless.

**ELLA:** The City should partner with community-based organizations to provide a place where the police or appropriate personnel could deal with this issue. The municipalities of St. Louis County must work together to develop a collective approach to homelessness. The next Mayor must enlist the aid of the Missouri Municipal League and the County Executive.

**HEATHER:** Speeding is less of a problem since stay at home mandates but is still an issue. Police Chief Armstrong has a traffic unit ramping up to help here.

**ELLA:** Speeding is a persistent problem, not just in Ferguson, but across the country. The police department has, in the past and will again, have a fully staffed traffic unit to address speeders. Their increase visibility will have an immediate impact on the issue. We need to change behaviors of drivers in our city which will help slow traffic down.

*FT: Additional comments:*

**HEATHER:** We are living in unprecedented times due to Covid-19. There is no roadmap handed out to get through this, however Ferguson has always proven resilient. Together, we can do this. Take care of each other, check on your neighbors and please vote either absentee ballot or on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the polls. I'll have hand sanitizers for you!

**ELLA:** When the history of this pandemic is written, the true heroes will be those who pulled together to help each other. Nurses, Doctors, Emergency Medical Technicians, Pharmacists, Firefighters, Police, Grocery Store Workers, Delivery Drivers, Postal Workers, Sanitation Workers, Volunteers, and everyone doing their part at home...thank you. As your next Mayor I will work for a better Ferguson. I would appreciate your vote on Tues. June 2.

# Ferguson Community News Page

## We are no stranger to overcoming adversity

By Mayor James W. Knowles III

*"The same boiling water that softens the potato, hardens the egg. It's about what you're made of, not the circumstances."*

– Anonymous



Nine years ago I was sworn in as Mayor of our community. I had already served on the City Council for 6 years and I had been a resident for a little over 30 years. When I was running for office, in winter 2010 and early spring of 2011, it would seem the region and in fact the world was a very different place then we are in today. Even while many things have changed in our society and in our community, many of the issues we faced then are still the same as those we face today.

Today, in the midst of this global pandemic, we see new challenges affecting our community. Challenges not just faced by Ferguson, or North County, but ones shared by communities across this nation. In a recent *Washington Post* Article, the National League of Cities stated that over 2,100 cities member cities across the country recently stated in a national survey that they expect a revenue shortfall this year due to the effects of COVID-19 pandemic. This equates to 9 out of 10 cities across the nation, with over half of the survey participants stating they are already planning significant service cuts, layoffs, and furloughs of city employees to make us for lost revenues.

As President of the St Louis Municipal League, I have continued to discuss these issues locally with community leaders in our region and have found that local communities are fearful of similar revenue issues. The state of Missouri only allows cities to receive tax revenues from sources that are approved by the State Legislature and then by the voters in their respective jurisdictions. Most cities in Missouri receive a sizeable portion of their revenues from taxing commerce, or sales. Cities like Ferguson get nearly 40% of our city's operating revenue and 100% of our Capital Improvement money (money for street repairs, police cars, etc.) from sales tax. Some communities get over 80% of their budgets from sales tax, making them even more susceptible to fluctuations in sales tax revenues.

With the shutdown of businesses, especially retail and restaurant businesses across the state, some estimate as much as a 33% drop in sales tax revenues. Because sales tax is collected by the Department of Revenue and then remitted locally to the cities, there is always delay in feeling the effects of a drop in sales tax revenue for communities. While we do not have hard sales tax numbers yet to tell us what the shortfall will be, other economic indicators help us estimate that shortfall for Ferguson to be nearly \$1 million less than where we had forecasted to be for our current fiscal year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with additional drops in forecasted revenues next year depending on when the economy is able to reopen for business.

Last month, the City of Chesterfield, whose budget is largely dependent on sales tax revenue, announced the layoff of 63 non public safety employees in the city, and the police department took a voluntary 10% pay reduction in order to stave off any layoffs among the Police Department. In recent conversations with area Mayors, these measures are being considered across the region. In Ferguson, we have instituted a hiring freeze, but we have yet to take any further measures until our first budget discussion this month. For the time being, the hiring freeze may be enough to get us through the current fiscal year, but the effects of this pandemic will likely have long term effects that will last long into next year's budget.

Shopping habits have been changing for a long time, and communities have long felt the effects as smaller retailers gave way to larger stores. Communities with larger stores prospered while communities with the older, smaller shopping centers suffered. Today, we are all suffering together as retail has largely moved to online shopping in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. The concern for the future is this will not change as businesses open back up. Unless the state and local communities can begin to capture this lost sales tax by taxing online sales, it is unlikely that many cities will ever be able to recoup revenue that will be permanently lost to the online marketplace. This is something the state legislature is currently debating and will be an important issue for every community in the state over the next months and years.

There are few certainties in life, and today there seems to be even fewer. Many things which we may have been previously confident about have been thrown into uncertain turmoil. When fighting a new, largely unknown, and invisible enemy like this virus, we can only roll with the punches and make decision based on the very best information available at the time. No community in this region has more experience with this than Ferguson. No

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm. Due to the recent State of Emergency this meeting will be held virtually (RSMO 610.015). We will only discuss matters of importance. A copy of the recording will be made accessible via the City's Website. Feel free to contact the office of the City Clerk if you have any questions.



**LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGES:** City of Ferguson, MO; Ferguson Police Department; Ferguson Fire Department; Ferguson Parks & Recreation; Ferguson Operation "EOC"

**VIEW UPDATES ON CHARTER CHANNEL 993**

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can sign up to receive notices of meetings, hearings and other postings by registering your email address using the Notify Me Icon.

[Record Requests](#)

You can also submit a request for records using the Records Request Icon. VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.fergusoncity.com](http://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](mailto: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, Senior Commission and others. For more information regarding vacancies, requirements, roles and responsibilities and/or how to apply, visit <http://www.fergusoncity.com/57/Boards-Comissions> or contact your City Clerk at City Hall.

## FERGUSON EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The City of Ferguson has created an Emergency Operations Center portal on its website. Here, you will find information related to the COVID-19, helpful resources and links to government agencies as well as the city's responses and adjustments to operations. Visit <http://fergusoncity.com/661/Emergency-Operations-Center> for more information.

## BIDS/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Ferguson often requests sealed bids or requests or proposals for a number of projects and services and we would like to use local vendors. These requests are listed on the city's website. Articles may also be placed in various publications; Countian, Post Dispatch, St. Louis American. If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be made aware of a request related to your operations, please contact the City Clerk's Office or forward your contact information to [<opittman@fergusoncity.com>](mailto:opittman@fergusoncity.com).

## APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> MUNICIPAL ELECTION POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>

Pursuant to governor Mike Parson's Executive Order 20-02 declaring a state of emergency in response to COVID-19 and a request from Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, Governor Parson signed Executive Order 20-03 ordering all Missouri municipal elections previously scheduled for April 7, 2020, to be postponed to June 2, 2020.



The Executive Order declares that ballots already printed for the April 7 election may be used at the postponed date of June 2. Voters who have attained the age of 18 by April 7 will be allowed to cast a ballot. A complete copy of the Executive Order will be placed on the City's website.

people have shown more resilience than our citizens. For once we are not in this fight alone, but we are in it with the rest of the country. Through proper leadership in our government, the commitment of our local business leaders, and the strength of our citizens, we will show the country once again how we can endure a crisis, and emerge yet again stronger than we were before.

May God bless all of you and your families and keep them safe. Our health and safety is in our own hands, I encourage you to take all necessary precautions to keep yourselves safe going forward until this pandemic subsides.

*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](http://www.fergusoncity.com). **Contact Us by Email:** [Information@fergusoncity.com](mailto: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](http://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.

Time: 10:00am – 11:00am  
Pricing: \$25 Members; \$30 Residents; \$35 Non-Residents  
Drop-In Rate: \$6 (New)  
Start Date: Ongoing (Saturdays)

### 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

#### 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

### Field Rentals

Field rental space is available at the Ferguson Sports Complex at Forestwood Park. Payment is due in full before a field permit will be issued (Requests within 48 hours of use may not be accepted). A refundable \$100 deposit is due at the time of payment on all reservations.

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

Help us keep the fields playable: do not use when wet and report any unsafe field conditions immediately.

Please call the Ferguson Sports Hotline for rain out information:  
(314) 286-9102

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Date of Notice May 1, 2020

The City of Ferguson, MO will hold a public hearing to discuss the allocation of \$155,300 in Community Development Block Grant funds which will become available after January 1, 2021. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 pm on May 26, 2020. Due to the recent State of Emergency, this meeting will be held virtually (RSMO 610.015).

### Instructions for Joining the Meeting

Dial +1 312 626 6799 US; +1 646 558 8656 US; +1 346 248 7799 US; +1 253 215 8782 US  
Meeting ID: 987 8934 5566  
Password: 000894

To further its commitment to fair and equitable treatment of all citizens, the City of Ferguson, MO has enacted and/or enforces the following:

A Fair Housing Ordinance prohibiting unlawful discrimination against any person because of race, sex, color, religion, disability, familial status or national origin;

A Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in the admission or access to, or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities;

A Policy of Equal Opportunity to Participate in Municipal Programs and Services regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, familial status, national origin, or political affiliation;

A requirement for bidding on CDBG activities that promotes employment opportunities created by HUD funding and that these opportunities be afforded low-income community residents and businesses.

If you would like information regarding the above policies or if you believe you have been unlawfully discriminated against, contact the following municipal official or employee who has been designated to coordinate compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements referenced above.

Matthew Unrein, Assistant City Manager  
110 Church St, Ferguson MO 63135  
314.524.4721

If you are a person with a disability or have special needs in order to participate in this public hearing, please contact City Hall no later than 10 days prior to the hearing.

For More Information Call:  
VOICE 314.524.4721  
TDD 1-800-735-2466 RELAY MISSOURI

**Nominate a Ferguson Resident or Group for the third Ferguson Human Rights Advocate of the Year Award!** Nominees should be individuals or groups who have made specific, significant contributions to improving civil rights, human relations or civility in our community. Nominations are due on **September 4, 2020**. Nomination forms can be found at <http://www.fergusoncity.com/533/Human-Rights-Commission>. The award will hopefully be presented near Human Rights Day in December!



## Message from Chief Jason Armstrong

Dear Ferguson Community:

I just wanted to share some encouraging words during this time of uncertainty in our society. Everyone of us has been impacted by this pandemic that has altered our way of daily life. Some have been more impacted than others, and some have been impacted more severely than others. We don't know everyone's level of impact, but we do know the best recipe for dealing with trying times is love and kindness. Let's be kind to our neighbors and fellow community members. Everyone does not respond to a crisis the same way and we should not malign those whose actions we disagree with. Let's lift each other up and encourage one another to be the best version of ourselves. Above all let's help educate one another so we can defeat this pandemic.



I believe we all want to get through this as quickly as possible and return to normal everyday life. How we best make that happen is to strictly follow the guidelines that have been set in place. Stay at home unless you need to be out for essential reasons. Avoid groups of 10 or more people. Practice social distancing of six feet apart when around other people. Wash hands regularly throughout the day, especially after touching commonly used surfaces. If you feel sick, stay home and avoid contact with others, if possible.

The police department has made several changes in an effort to minimize the risk of exposure to the virus. Most notably, we are handling some reports over the phone or through email when feasible to do so. All calls are still being documented in our computer system the same way even though an officer may not physically go to the incident location. We are still responding to any and all emergency situations where an officer's presence is critical to the safety and well-being of the community. As always, do not hesitate to call on us if you feel we are needed. The men and women of this department stand ready to provide the highest-level service.

*"Culture makes people understand each other better. And if they understand each other better in their soul, it is easier to overcome the economic and political barriers. But first they have to understand that their neighbor is, in the end, just like them, with the same problems, the same questions."*

– Paulo Coelho

## From the Desk of The Fire Chief

Our highest priority is to keep the citizens of the City of Ferguson safe and healthy. With that, we cannot stress enough the importance of social distancing and washing your hands. In conjunction with the Ferguson Emergency Operations Center in which Chief Hampton is operating as Director, we are doing everything we can to keep our firefighters healthy so we can continue to respond to your emergencies. If you have a medical emergency do not hesitate to call 911. When our firefighters and the ambulance arrive, be advised that they will be wearing personal protective equipment including gloves, masks, glasses, and possibly gowns and face shields to help protect them. We are wearing our PPE on all medical calls regardless of the severity. We currently have enough PPE to provide for our firefighters, and are continuing to secure more for the future. We do not have enough to provide for residents.

We have multiple staff members within the command structure of the North County Emergency Operations Center. The North County EOC reports to the St. Louis Area EOC.

We currently have our Duty Officer 3002 and both of our firetrucks 3014 and 3024 running out of our Station 1. Our Station 2 is occupied by 3 or 4 Christian Hospital EMS units at any given time. We have also unfortunately had to close our doors to the outside public during this pandemic to reduce the chance of virus spread.

Currently the Missouri National Guard has been deployed to the St. Louis area. In North County they are working directly with Christian Hospital Northeast, Christian Hospital Northwest, and other area hospitals. A hotel in the City of Florissant was chosen as its first "alternate care" site. The hotel will house patients who could develop symptoms or who are recovering from hospital stays.

We ask that you please do your part in helping get this virus under control. Here are some tips on how you can help reduce the spread:

- Wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds on a regular basis
- Avoid gatherings of anyone who does not live in your home, if you have to go out, stay a minimum of 6 feet away from others
- If you have to go to the grocery store, make a list before you leave to try to cut down on possible exposure time
- Cancel any nonessential travel

If you have symptoms such as fever, cold sweats, dry cough, fatigue/weakness, or general body aches contact your primary care physician or call the St. Louis County Public Health Department at 314-615-2660. If you are experiencing shortness of breath or any other symptoms listed above that are severe, do not hesitate to call 911.

For more information refer to: Ferguson Fire Department on Facebook [www.facebook.com/CityofFergusonFireDept/](http://www.facebook.com/CityofFergusonFireDept/)

Ferguson Operation "EOC" on Facebook [www.facebook.com/CityofFerguson-Operation-EOC-1](http://www.facebook.com/CityofFerguson-Operation-EOC-1)

City of Ferguson Website [www.fergusoncity.com](http://www.fergusoncity.com)

### A Word from Our Planet...

Look at our farmers markets today, bursting with heritage breeds and heirloom varieties, foods that were once abundant when we were an agricultural nation, but that we have lost touch with. Bringing all these back helps us connect to our roots, our communities and helps us feed America the proper way.

Chef Jose Andres  
The Ferguson Eco Team



## Grow with Google @ the Ferguson Public Library

Through a series of thoughtfully designed webinars, Grow with Google will show you how to:



Speaker  
**Bryan Caplan**

- Coordinate and collaborate remotely with Google Docs, Sheets, and Calendar
- Establish visibility on Google Search and Maps through Google My Business
- Understand how SEO works and share tips to improve their websites
- Measure your marketing and set goals to help you figure out what channels are driving business

April 29th, 12:00pm - 1:00pm  
**Reach Customers Online with Google**  
<https://community.grow.google/s/event/a0r1E00000CPlcb>

May 13th, 12:00pm - 1:00pm  
**Get Your Local Business on Google Search & Maps**  
<https://community.grow.google/s/event/a0r1E00000CPldX>

May 20th, 12:00pm - 1:00pm  
**Using Data to Drive Business Growth**  
<https://community.grow.google/s/event/a0r1E00000CPldm>

Ferguson Municipal Public Library, 35 N. Florissant Rd., Ferguson, MO 63135



## Changes to your Trash Services

A message from Republic Services.

### Non seniors:

#### Effect now and until further notice:

- Trash material must be contained within your trash container. Material left outside of the container will not be serviced.
- Curbside yard waste and bulk waste programs are suspended for residents of the City of Ferguson, with the exception of the Seniors enrolled in the senior discount program.
- In lieu of curbside yard waste collection during this suspension, a temporary yard waste drop off event will be held on certain days in May to be determined by Republic Services. You will be informed of these events by robo-call or by going to the city web site. Residents can bring yard waste material to these events and dispose into containers.
- In lieu of curbside bulk collection during this suspension, a temporary bulk drop off event will be held on a date in May to be determined by Republic Service. Residents can bring bulk items to this event and dispose into containers.
- Please visit [fergusoncity.com](http://fergusoncity.com) for details about the events.

The recent surge in residential waste and the unique challenges we face require us to make temporary changes to our services. We're working hard to serve you with minimal disruption and keep our drivers as safe as possible. We appreciate your cooperation, thank you

### Seniors only:

**no suspensions and yard waste for all seniors.  
Thursday is collection day.**

This message is for Seniors who are enrolled in the waste program with the Senior discount:

#### Effective now until further notice:

- The recent surge in residential waste and the unique challenges we face require us to make temporary changes to our services.
- The yard waste service day for all seniors receiving the senior discount has changed to Thursday.
- There is no change in your trash, recycle or bulk service days, only yard waste.
- Trash material must be contained within your trash container. Material left outside of the container will not be serviced.

We're working hard to serve you with minimal disruption and keep our drivers as safe as possible. We appreciate your cooperation, thank you.

## Do I Have the Virus . . . or is it Just My Seasonal Allergy?

Coughing, sneezing, runny eyes and nose? Should I be worried about the coronavirus?

Admit it. For the last few months, every time you feel out-of-sorts, you wonder if you should be tested for the virus.

Here's the difference:

#### Coronavirus:

Coughing, fever and sometime, shortness of breath.

#### Allergy:

No fever; coughing, sneezing, runny nose, and sometimes, watery eyes,

sinus pain and headache.

So, if you are being paranoid about your symptoms, do you take antihistamines, decongestants and stock up on tissues or do you turn yourself into the CDC?

You do what you have to do. You take your meds for allergies and stay away from people. Some people who are meeting the public daily, take their temperature every day.

That's the problem. You can't even get a test to say, "you have allergies".

**ABOUT TTIFFANY BUSH**  
A Ferguson homeowner since 2006  
An active and involved parent  
A Member of Spirit Church  
Understands the importance of positive Teacher/ Student Relationships  
City of Ferguson Civilian Review Board Member and its Official Record Keeper  
Experienced in community engagement  
Supported by Wesley Bell, St. Louis County Prosecutor

Donations: Please make checks payable to:  
Grade A for Change, 4526 Eagle Estates Dr. Florissant, MO 63034, 314-837-3904

**ENDORSEMENTS**

**Grade A for Change**  
Political Action Committee  
**Heather Robinett**,  
Councilwoman, City of Ferguson, Ward 2  
**Rev. Dr. Doris Graham**,  
St. Louis Community College Trustee  
**Hazel Erby**, St. Louis County Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
**Jay Mosley**, Representative State of Missouri District 68  
**J. Toni Burrow**,  
Councilwoman, City of Ferguson, Ward 2  
**Rochelle Walton-Gray**,  
St. Louis County Councilwoman, District 4 and the Ferguson Township Democratic Committee Woman  
**Rita Heard Days**, St. Louis County Councilwoman, 1st District  
**Betty Thompson**, former State Representative and National League of Cities Women in Municipal Government, President  
**Robert Parson, Jr.**,  
Councilman, City of Florissant, Ward 8  
**Theodore "Ted" Hoskins**,  
Mayor, City of Berkeley  
**Howard Brown**, Head Football Coach, McCluer High School  
**Ellis Shaw**, former principal, McCluer South Berkeley High School

### Book Recommendations!

Contact the library today to get access to thousands of books with your e-resource card!  
Email: [feedback@fergusonlibrary.net](mailto:feedback@fergusonlibrary.net)  
Ferguson Municipal Public Library 35 N. Florissant Rd., Ferguson, MO 63135

## Why Toilet Paper?

When I first heard about the shortage of toilet paper, I wondered, "Why toilet paper?"

Experts say that when a potentially catastrophic event is forecast, hoarding is really fear of the unknown. The more dramatic the event is suppose to be, the more dramatic will be the response. It is rational to stock up on emergency supplies when something bad is likely to occur. That's why milk, bread and eggs are the first to disappear from the grocery shelves when a major storm is predicted.

But with the coronavirus, no one could predict what was going to happen and what would be needed, so traditional stockpiling turned into "panic" buying. Why would you stand in line for hours to buy way more than you need at an inflated price? Because panic buying and stockpiling huge quantities make people feel they are in control of the situation.

We are told that hand washing and proper coughing is all that is needed to stem the spreading of the virus, but for many people, this was too ordinary. A more dramatic response to such a dramatic event called for people to throw money at things in hopes of protecting themselves.

Finally, panic buying leads to the "herd" effect. The fact that panic buying is happening and social media is reporting it, tells the people that certain items are "scarce". If everyone is buying up all the toilet paper, there must be a shortage, and I better buy all I can find.

One expert said, "If everyone else on the Titanic is running for the lifeboats, you better run too, even if the ship isn't sinking."



## School District News

### MCCLUER HIGH SCHOOL JROTC CADET STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP WORTH \$100,000

Cadet First Sergeant Devon S. Tallent, a senior in McCluer High School's Army JROTC Comet Battalion, was selected by the U.S. Army Cadet

Command for a National level 3-year Advanced Designee Army ROTC Scholarship. This scholarship, valued at \$124,800, was determined through a national process and awarded based on a review of his scholarship application using a "whole person" concept.

"Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me," said Cadet Tallent. "I'll demonstrate great leadership style and I'm really looking forward to sharing my knowledge of the JROTC as a whole and provide a different perspective."

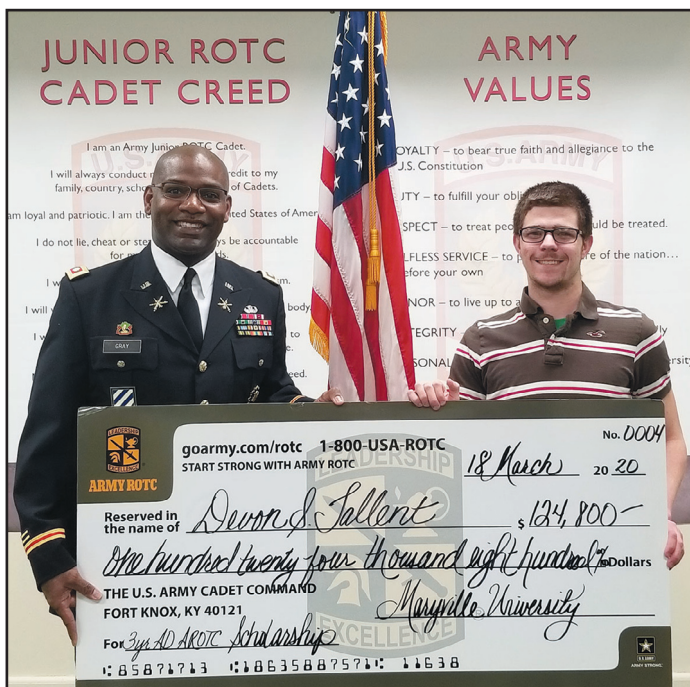
Cadet Tallent's selection offered for him to attend one of his top three universities that he was accepted to: Missouri State

University, Maryville University, and Harris Stowe State University. Cadet Tallent chose to attend Maryville University, where he'll major in forensic science while participating on the swim team and attending Washington University's Army ROTC Gateway Battalion.

"I'm extremely happy and excited that Cadet First Sergeant Tallent was selected," said senior army instructor Lieutenant (LTC) Darrell Gray. "In his three years participating in McCluer's Army JROTC program, he excelled as a leader earning the rank and position of Cadet First Sergeant where he's responsible for teaching, mentoring and leading Cadets under his leadership."

Upon successful completion of the ROTC program and the forensics science baccalaureate degree, Cadet Tallent will be commissioned as U.S. Army Second Lieutenant in either the Regular Army, Army National Guard, or the United States Army Reserves.

"I hope that other Cadets, and students not a part of the program, will be able to see what opportunities the U.S. Army has for college-bound students, and how Cadet Tallent's hard work and dedication has allowed him to continue his academic and career goals, debt-free," said LTC Gray.



### NORMANDY SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE NAMED BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

The Normandy Schools Collaborative has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.



Now in its 21st year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, "Our music teachers' commitment and passion for music education is a driving force of excellence for our students," said Duane M. Foster, Normandy Fine Arts Teacher and Coordinator. "Our students are strong, resilient, passionate, loyal, talented, outspoken, and confident, and our music teachers help our students reach levels greater than their own expectations. Congratulations to the music teachers of the Normandy Schools Collaborative for this outstanding honor!"

Normandy offers a variety of music education options including jazz, marching and concert band, orchestra, chorale, piano, and guitar for students from third grade through high school. The district answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music programs, Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas

"Normandy has a strong, successful track record in Fine Arts, and our music education programs are no exception. If you come to a performance, prepare to be in awe," said Dr. Charles J. Pearson, Superintendent of Schools. "But even more importantly, the students in these programs are leaders among their peers and graduate to become successful in any endeavor, be it in music or any other field. We congratulate and thank our music teachers for always giving our students their best."

The award recognizes that Normandy Schools Collaborative is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation guides implementation in the states and replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) which was often criticized for an overemphasis on testing-while leaving behind subjects such as music. ESSA recommends music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all children.

A 2015 study supported by The NAMM Foundation, "also outlines the overwhelming desire by teachers and parents for music education opportunities for all children as part of the school curriculum."



Opera star Denyce Graves and Normandy High School choir director Duane Foster rehearsed students from Normandy High and Central Visual and Performing Arts High School to perform in the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis Spring Sing in 2015.

## The Surprising Hibiscus



My hibiscus on Christmas Day!

For Mother's Day last year, my son, Ed, gave me a hibiscus plant. I put it outside in a sheltered area, but the wind kept knocking it over. I transferred it to a clay (heavy) pot, but it was always falling over. I finally brought it into my screened porch, in a corner out of the wind, watered it every day, and it flourished.

Last fall, when we were going to have a hard freeze, it was just too pretty to let die, so I brought it inside, thinking I'd have a few weeks of greenery. It kept living. In December I noticed a number of buds, and on Christmas Day, it had 3 beautiful flowers!

As I write this (middle of March), I just picked two buds and put them in water. Look



Hibiscus flowers in March!

at how beautiful! Now I know there is a hardy hibiscus, but on Mother's Day they were not at Thies' Farm yet, so I know it is not that variety. Can't wait to put it back on the screened porch to see if it will thrive again.

## The Ever-Blooming Amaryllis

My sister-in-law, Liz, gave me this amaryllis for my birthday (right before Christmas). By the end of January it was blooming. The instructions said to cut it down, store in a cool dark place and put it outside to bloom again in the spring.

I didn't get around to putting it in the basement and so it sat on the table. Pretty soon in was growing again and then huge buds appear. It bloomed; I cut it down. It grew again. Shown is the 4th set of flowers and it is growing again.





314-291-2131  
 4477 Woodson Road  
 Suite 100  
 St. Louis, MO 63134



## LIMIT THE SPREAD OF GERMS AND PREVENT INFECTION

The Red Cross recommends the following steps to help prevent the spread of germs during this situation:

Stay home if you can and avoid gatherings of more than ten people.

Practice social distancing by keeping a distance of about six feet from others if you must go out in public.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Stay home if you can and avoid gatherings of more than ten people.

Stay home if you are sick except to get medical care.

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; throw used tissues in the trash. If tissue isn't available, cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve, not your hands.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, computers, phones, keyboards, sinks, toilets, faucets and countertops.

- If surfaces are dirty, clean them - use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Wear a facemask if you are sick. You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office.

According to the CDC, COVID-19 symptoms include fever, shortness of breath and a cough. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Call your doctor for medical advice if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop symptoms.

<enter a healthcare provider's office.

## WHO IS AT A HIGHER RISK?

According to the CDC, early information shows that some people are at higher risk of getting very sick from this virus. This includes older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes and lung disease.

If you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 because of your age or a serious medical condition, it is extra important for you to take actions to avoid getting sick.

Stay home as much as you can and avoid crowds as much as possible. Take everyday precautions to keep space between yourself and others.

When you go out in public, keep away from others who are sick, limit close contact and wash your hands often.

- Stock up on supplies.
- Contact your healthcare provider to ask about obtaining extra necessary medications to have on hand in case there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in your community and you need to stay home for a prolonged period of time.
- If you cannot get extra medications, consider using a mail-order option.
- Be sure you have over-the-counter medicines and medical supplies (tissues, etc.) to treat fever and other symptoms. Most people will be able to recover from COVID-19 at home.
- Have enough household items and groceries on hand so that you will be prepared to stay at home for a period of time.

## FINDING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

For the latest information, please visit the CDC website at <cdc.gov/covid19>

Ferguson Public Library 90th Anniversary Special Edition

# Card Design Contest

Special Edition

Submit by: May TBD

Designs cannot:

- incorporate logos and/or sayings
- be vulgar or lewd
- show violence

Design a special edition library card in honor of the 90th anniversary of the Ferguson Public Library!

Your design could be seen by thousands of library patrons!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # / Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lawn care service

Free estimate  
 Ferguson resident

# 314-580-2047

ask for Mike

## Financial Focus – The Value of Volunteering

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@sbcglobal.net)  
Business Manager for St. Joseph Parish in Cottleville  
Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

## Financial Focus – Economic Recovery – How Soon?

So much has happened since I wrote about volunteering last month. Being the best that you can be is even more important now as we work to rebuild our economy without endangering others. Over the past couple of months we have seen a shutdown of about 90% of the economy. As noted by the experts this is historical and possibly worse than the Great Depression. To some this self-induced shut down has been too much and they feel the economic consequences are just not worth it. However, most Americans do seem to agree that the public's health and safety take priority.

The lessons from COVID-19 and the necessary steps taken to control its spread have really demonstrated just how fragile our world is. So as we adjust to the new normal perhaps we can keep in mind the positive changes that have come about as part of our sheltering in place orders. By taking the time to stay home and avoid crowds we've learned to enjoy our families more. It's given many people free time to catch up on reading or doing some home improvements. We may have a better appreciation for others and for the earth. Cleaner air has resulted from the millions of Americans who have stopped driving while sheltering in place. Cleaner water in the Venice canals is another result as people stay home. Perhaps we can have more respect for our earth recognizing that less crowds and being more gentle to our environment can even improve our own well-being. A healthy environment is as important as a healthy economy and could go hand in hand.

Seems like just weeks ago the economic outlook was great. And then things changed. As Jason Furman, professor at Harvard's Kennedy School notes "The economy has never gone from healthy to disaster so quickly." Since our last Great Recession in 2009 the US economy has been on the rise. And many hope that going from disaster back to a healthy economy might go just as quickly. Hopefully, in this process we might be able to improve our ability to be prepared for a future health crisis. As we struggle to determine just when it might be safe to return to the lifestyle we've grown accustomed to, the experts are cautioning against a full return in the near future. From our past experience with a virus we know that finding a vaccine, treatment or other method to control its spread is the key to scheduling a gradual re-opening of businesses. We must take it slow to avoid a strict shut down again.

Other countries around the globe are grappling with the same issues. In some areas they have talked about the need for wide spread testing and perhaps the use a badge or codes on mobile phones to help track those who are possibly immune to the virus. Just seeing how people reacted early on when the father of a young girl attended a dance possibly exposing others to the virus gives cause for concern. The backlash he received certainly exposed the public's fear with the new virus. We've heard other stories where people have been shunned due to their Chinese heritage because it seemed to have originated there. Never mind, that many of those being shunned are American citizens and probably have never even been to China. So in the United States we will be more concerned with our citizen's privacy with regard to the increased testing and results. Along with more testing, a new way to measure contact tracing may offer more helpful information. "Contact tracing" has been lost as the virus has spread so quickly. In the beginning, they tried to determine the source of each known case. As the volume picked up and community spread started to account for more and more cases, we stopped working to find out where it spread from.

Just a few days ago Apple & Google met to announce a method of helping to manage some contact tracing. An algorithm that can track all cell phones would keep track of everyone you've been in contact with – the person you passed in the grocery store line or your teenage daughter who lives in the same house. This information is kept for 14 days. If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, you can share the information on your cell phone and immediately anyone you have been in contact with or near for the past 14 days will be notified by text that someone they had been near has tested positive. The person who has opted in to share this information is not identified in any way, so this protects your identity while offering useful information to others which can help them make better choices that can slow the spread. Others have also pointed out that municipalities should be sharing as much information as possible to allow Americans to make good choices in what they are willing to do as we re-open the economy. Knowledge is the key to preventing the

## Old People News

For years we older citizens have been told that physical exercise helps retain mental alertness.

So, does that mean that the more exercise I get, the smarter I'll be? That still doesn't mean it's easier to get up off the chair and walk around the block. If I trot around the block will I be even smarter? If I run around the block will I be able to work the Sunday New York crossword puzzle in ink? Excuse me for being skeptical.

A recent study from Switzerland University in Geneva has indicated that just the opposite may be true, since our brain is involved when it comes to engaging in physical activity. The study seems to indicate that the brain has to make a real effort to get out of a sedentary lifestyle and that by working on mental capacity, physical activity will follow.

On another note I read that some life insurance companies are deciding not to insure older Americans. They don't want to gamble on senior citizens during the coronavirus crisis by temporarily suspending applications from certain age groups, or imposing tougher requirements.

Prudential and Protective are temporarily halting applications from individuals ages 80 and older. Lincoln has postponed approving policies for that age group and others. Mutual of Omaha Insurance Co. and Penn Mutual Life insurance are temporarily suspending applications for individuals aged 70 or older. Securian Financial has stopped accepting new applications for those 71 and older until at least June 15th.

Another thought on aging. If many seniors are getting by on living on their Social Security check, why are they getting the \$1,200 stimulus check? Since I haven't checked my bank statement, maybe I'm not.

spread as restrictions are dropped. And no matter whether things open quickly or slowly, individuals will be the ones to choose to go out and when.

As things gradually open we may find that making reservations makes a comeback for all sit down restaurants. To limit seating it might be a good idea to just take reservations for a certain number of people each hour. We've already heard one movie theater announce they would open in July with limited seating. Some grocers have been managing the number of patrons allowed in the store right now and may need to continue. Shortened business hours may now be expanded to give more opportunities to limit crowds. As part of our economy shrinking, perhaps everyone should begin to expect less - a 20% cut across the board. Rather than raising prices to keep up with what was previously considered a nice profit for a restaurant – serving less people and buying less food may reap pretty close to the same net profit. Who knows it might work?

Large gatherings like concerts and sporting events may be the most challenging during this period. Like the movie theater, perhaps they could just sell half of the tickets. That would certainly make the lines at the restrooms and concession stands shorter. The real question will be, can they cover the costs of the event if they are at 50% capacity. Travel is another problem during re-opening. We know much of the spread we've seen has been due to travel. Being in a plane where very seat is full had been the norm. In the past couple of months I've heard of at least one situation where only one person was on a flight. Some airlines have already announced that the middle section of seats on the larger planes will be blocked. That will help with the social distancing, but the real test will be the cost and the public's confidence is the safety of being in the plane. Trains, buses and subways will have the same concerns. So the contact tracing may be the help we need deciding when to get out more.

As with any major crisis, the government needs to step in with help the people and businesses that have been affected. The Two Trillion dollar stimulus package is doing just that. Many people have received their stimulus funds and probably most will pay short term expenses. Some will be able to invest, save or spend. What should you be doing with your stimulus funds? If like many Americans you couldn't handle a \$400 emergency – you may want to sock a little of this away. We all need to be better prepared both individually and as a country. As part of the recovery, I hope that this experience will bring out the best. As we hear daily - we are all in this together and we'll get through it together. Are we up to the challenge?

The news often shows money being printed when they talk about the stimulus package. If that were truly the case we'd be in for a rough or perhaps rougher ride ahead. Next month, I'll be looking at how the government comes up with the money for the stimulus. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at [cleav73@abcglobal.net](mailto:cleav73@abcglobal.net)



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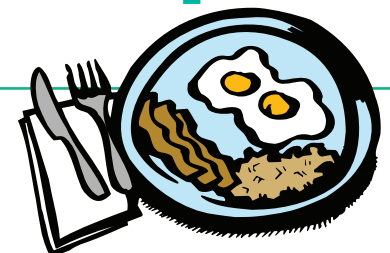
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**Funny Thing About Family Recipes**

Do you have recipes that your mother, or perhaps your grandmother used to make? If you're like my family, the food I made when my children were young are still their favorites. I'm going to print a recipe today that my mother used to make during the really big depression (during the 30s, not the Enron). She used bacon grease as the shortening. I think maybe bacon was easy to get, but butter was scarce.

Before I get to the recipe, have you noticed that all old fashioned recipes call for whole measurements. It's not 2 cups and 3 tablespoons of flour. It's 2 cups of flour. That always made sense to me. If it called for eggs, who knows how big an egg is ... a tablespoon or a tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons. I think the mothers who cooked everyday knew by the consistency of the batter whether to add 3 more tablespoons of flour.

I remember my mother's lemon meringue pie. It was just the right tartness to the sweetness. As I'd watch her put together the ingredients, I couldn't begin to write them down. She would taste the batter and add more lemon juice or more sugar until it tasted right. In making the pastry, she would add the ice water until the dough held together to just the right consistency. Who can measure that?

I've always claimed that the good cook wasn't the one who went to the grocery store with the list of ingredients to prepare a fine meal, but was the mother who could put a meal on the table the day before grocery shopping. A meal that the family would eat and enjoy.

This recipe calls for a whole cup of bacon grease. Are you thinking of the calories or your cholesterol? It's the same degree of sinfulness as making it with butter, but it is much tastier with bacon grease. Now that the pig farmers are breeding leaner animals, rendering a cup of grease may take a few weeks or a few months. So keep a cup in the refrigerator and add to it until you have accumulated a cup. It's a good thing this may take awhile, because of health considerations, you should only make this coffeecake occasionally.

**MOTHER'S COFFEE CAKE**

3 cups flour  
2 cups sugar  
1 cup cold bacon grease  
(if you don't have quite a cup, fill the rest of the cup with butter or Crisco)  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 teaspoon salt

Combine above ingredients until crumbly (I use my hands). Remove 2 cups and set aside for topping.

2 eggs  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 cup sour milk (or add 1 teaspoon vinegar to 1 cup milk)

Add the above ingredients to dry mixture. Beat by hand. Pour into 13' X 8" rectangular greased pan. Spread with reserved topping. Bake 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes (start checking when you smell it baking). (That's another grandmother hint.)

# Edward Jones Perspective

by Joe Meyer

## CARES Act Offers Help for Investors, Small Businesses

As we go through the coronavirus crisis, we are all, first and foremost, concerned about the health of our loved ones and communities. But the economic implications of the virus have also weighed heavily on our minds. However, if you're an investor or a business owner, you just got some help from Washington – and it could make a big difference, at least in the short term, for your financial future. Specifically, the passage of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act offers, among other provisions, the following:

### Expanded unemployment benefits

– The CARES Act provides \$250 billion for extended unemployment insurance, expands eligibility and provides workers with an additional \$600 per week for four months, in addition to what state programs pay. The package will also cover the self-employed, independent contractors and “gig economy” workers. Obviously, if your employment has been affected, these benefits can be a lifeline. Furthermore, the benefits could help you avoid liquidating some long-term investments you've earmarked for retirement just to meet your daily cash flow needs.

**Direct payments** – Individuals will receive a one-time payment of up to \$1,200; this amount is reduced for incomes over \$75,000 and eliminated altogether at \$99,000. Joint filers will receive up to \$2,400, which will be reduced for incomes over \$150,000 and eliminated at \$198,000 for joint filers with no children. Plus, taxpayers with children will receive an extra \$500 for each dependent child under the age of 17. If you don't need this money for an immediate need, you might consider putting it into a low-risk, liquid account as part of an emergency fund.

### No penalty on early withdrawals

– Typically, you'd have to pay a 10% penalty on early withdrawals from IRAs, 401(k)s and similar retirement accounts. Under the CARES Act, this penalty will be waived for individuals who qualify for COVID-19 relief and/or in plans that allow COVID-19 distributions. Withdrawals will still be taxable, but the taxes can be spread out over three years. Still, you might want to avoid taking early

withdrawals, as you'll want to keep your retirement accounts intact as long as possible.

### Suspension of required withdrawals

– Once you turn 72, you'll be required to take withdrawals from your traditional IRA and 401(k). The CARES Act waives these required minimum distributions for 2020. If you're in this age group, but you don't need the money, you can let your retirement accounts continue growing on a tax-deferred basis.

### Increase of retirement plan loan limit

– Retirement plan investors who qualify for COVID-19 relief can now borrow up to \$100,000 from their accounts, up from \$50,000, provided their plan allows loans. We recommend that you explore other options, such as the direct payments, to bridge the gap on current expenses and if you choose to take a plan loan work with your financial adviser to develop strategies to pay back these funds over time to reduce any long-term impact to your retirement goals.

**Small-business loans** – The CARES Act provides \$349 billion to help small businesses – those with fewer than 500 employees – retain workers and avoid closing up shop. A significant part of this small business relief is the Paycheck Protection Program. This initiative provides federally guaranteed loans to small businesses who maintain payroll during this emergency. Significantly, these loans may be forgiven if borrowers use the loans for payroll and other essential business expenses (such as mortgage interest, rent and utilities) and maintain their payroll during the crisis.

We'll be in a challenging economic environment for some time, but the CARES Act should give us a positive jolt – and brighten our outlook.

Joseph Meyer, CFP®  
Financial Advisor  
Edward Jones  
409 S Florissant Rd., STE 1



## Sherlock's Pal

If I were visiting from outer space and just happened to land here on planet earth—pretty much anywhere—I would think that the entire population is OCD. Because I can't see the “bug,” I would be wondering why everyone is standing six feet apart, wearing gloves and face masks, and washing their hands incessantly. I would think this has got to be the cleanest species in the entire galaxy. Even Wild Bill Hickock, who tried to bathe every day (an unusual habit for a gunslinger/lawman on the Plains in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century) would raise an eyebrow about our current obsession with hygiene.



Of course, I'm not an alien and nor has my head been stuck in the sand on some lonely abandoned beach. We are doing all this in order to stay alive. Sometimes life gives us choices, but in what I call the “corona context,” there are no choices. There is no “wobble room.” Covid 19 is no respecter of persons, and even if it were, I don't think I would be one of the respected. Life has changed, and it might even be permanent change. One of the things that occurred to me recently is that the kinds of people we celebrate in our culture might change, perhaps for the better. In “normal” times we tend to celebrate, well, celebrities! It is no coincidence that the two words are related. Until recently we celebrated movie stars, star athletes, famous musicians, politicians, CEO's, and people who are just famous for being famous (I'm looking at you, Kardashians!). I remember, however, how our notion of celebrity changed after 9/11. Suddenly, folks we call “first responders” became our heroes, from police officers to firefighters to paramedics to soldiers. A new genre of American folk heroes was born. The same sort of cultural morphing is occurring today, a shift in who we see as genuine celebrities and heroes.

In this “new normal,” we now celebrate:

- First Responders rather than first place finishers
- Police Officers and paramedics rather than public figures
- Nurses and Nursing Home workers rather than number one box office hits
- Medical doctors rather than movie directors
- Factory workers making medical equipment rather than Facebook media stars making memes
- Truckers rather than track stars
- Cashiers in grocery stores rather than cash-hoarding corporate executives
- Retail workers rather than reality stars
- Media reporters rather than movie stars
- Farmers who make food rather than the famous who make nothing
- Online Educators rather than Oscar and Emmy winners
- Volunteers for the have nots rather than volumes of profit for the haves
- Home Healthcare folks rather than homerun folk heroes
- Garbage Collectors rather than art collectors
- Delivery Drivers rather than NASCAR drivers

I'm not an alien, and if we learn to value the true heroes of our world, I might just stay here on earth.

Dr. Jimmy Watson  
Pastor, Immanuel United Church of Christ  
Ferguson, Missouri

If you have wiped down your keyboard, please write to me at [sherlockspal@yahoo.com](mailto:sherlockspal@yahoo.com)

## Trivia

All answer begin with the LETTER “Y”

1. The Beatles' underwater ship
2. What goes up and down?
3. Heard from the mountains in Switzerland
4. Jewish cap
5. Mouth gape
6. What you measure your lawn with
7. The day before the day before tomorrow
8. Alma mater of most Supreme Court justices
9. Sweet potato alias
10. The Robert who knew best
11. Ranger Smith finds him unbearable
12. A desire for Tokyo cash

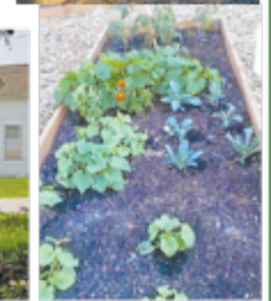
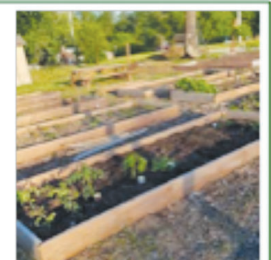
See answers at bottom of page 23.

# Y

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All Events normally listed here for St. Catherine Retirement Community have been postponed for the month of May. Let's hope we can continue our exercise and wellness activities in June.



## Under The Hood With Robinwood

By Bob McGartland

### Essential or Not Essential? That is the Question!

Hopefully by the time you are reading this article, our community, our state, America, and the world will be over the peak with the Coronavirus. In addition, all of us at Robinwood Automotive hope that you and your family were able to weather this pandemic without serious sickness or injury. As most of us were asked to be part of slowing the spread of the Coronavirus by spending the majority of our time at home, or closing our businesses, I wanted to explain why auto repair facilities are considered essential and remained open.

I think we would all agree that the most important group of people during the pandemic are all the healthcare workers, first responders, and the administration and support staff for all of our hospitals and clinics. In addition, everyone involved in the grocery industry—from the truck drivers delivering the food products, the staff stocking the shelves (especially toilet paper), and all the people that keep our local grocery stores running smoothly. Then there are the behind-the-scenes people that are manufacturing the products the healthcare workers require and the food processors that are in the supply chain before products arrive at the grocery stores. These are just two of the more obvious industries that we all are very dependent on every day. There are

certainly many, many, more.

Why is auto repair considered essential? If anyone who works in any of the industries has a vehicle problem, getting them back on the road quickly is essential. This is why Robinwood Automotive and other auto repair facilities are considered essential. In many cases, by staying open, an essential business is losing money because none of us are seeing the number of customers we normally see, but helping the people who work on the front lines of fighting this pandemic is the role we accept. As the pandemic passes, we are confident all of our business levels will return to normal and we will see better and brighter days ahead.

The other day I was talking with a nurse from one of the local hospitals. She was telling me they are working 14 to 16 hour shifts 6 days a week. I asked how are you holding up? She replied I am exhausted, yet this is what we do for our patients. She lives out the message that is placed out in front of Christian Hospital Northeast; "Heroes Work Here".

I have an important request for all of you reading my monthly article—please support all of our local businesses. The silver lining in the 24/7 news coverage of the Coronavirus crisis is the crystal-clear importance of the employment that small businesses provide across America. Before you buy online or walk into a big box store, ask yourself, "can I purchase these products at one of our locally owned businesses?" We are a strong community. Together we will get through this!

Stay safe and Be Well.



## News Flash

### Let's Talk . . . Conversations that Count

Another great program from OASIS! Connect with friends and participants locally and nationally. Participants share experiences and viewpoints and hear from others on socially engaging topics in a friendly and welcoming environment.

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## Traveling. With Marveena



by Marveena  
Miller  
Shanahan

I have struggled with how to start my article this month. I had to cancel our trip to Croatia, and we have decided to postpone our trip to Cartagena, Colombia. Although my Christmas trip to Copenhagen and Oslo seems a possibility, I



read over the weekend that international travel may be on hold for three years. I work in financial services and see how the stock market is affecting clients. Chris works in a nursing home and the stress they are under is immeasurable. Many of my friends are unemployed, some of whom are facing losing their businesses. How do I write about a vacation?

Seeing the world was always my dream growing up. In 3rd grade, when our teachers asked what we were going to be when we grew up, most of the girls said "mommies". I said a "stewardess". In 5th grade, when we were asked where we wanted to live when we grew up, and most kids said in the same town they lived in, I said "everywhere". In the summer of 7th grade my parents took me to Disney World and they couldn't drag me out of Epcot Center. (Back when Epcot first opened they had their World Showcase.) There were 11 countries and with all of the different theme parks I have been to since, I can still remember those countries and the rides. When things were tough, I would dream of visiting other countries, meeting new people and learning about other cultures and beliefs. I would open my Epcot book, look and dream. I always did my papers on a different country, just to learn something new about the world. Chris is usually the voice of reason, saying "focus on what you have seen so far and remember the good times we've had." So, that's what I am going to do with the next few articles, focus on what I have seen and share those places with you.

When Chris and I first met he did not share my passion for traveling. His exact words were, "I have no desire to leave the U.S. and I don't see it ever happening". Funny how things work out! That was fine though because I could travel with friends or travel alone. After my trip to Ireland with friends, he decided maybe he would venture out of the U.S. after all; seems he didn't enjoy being left out and left behind. When we decided to get married, he wanted a big wedding. I did not. We compromised on big wedding equals BIG HONEYMOON! It turned out to be 27 days in Europe. We had a one-month rail pass which started and ended in Paris. In between it was one week in Hungary, one week in Germany, and one week in Italy with six days traveling.



We landed in Paris and were completely unprepared. All the books and movies make it look so easy. Find the train station and jump on a train. Not. It was a Wednesday and we were to be in Hungary for our check-in by Saturday. The thought was we would spend the day in Paris and take the train out the following day. We couldn't figure anything out. All the tours were booked and we couldn't figure out how to read the train signs and so, we panicked. We took the first train we found and hoped for the best. Wrong. A very nice lady explained we were on the wrong train and she got off her train and helped get us to the right train. I saw the Eiffel Tower for all of one second as we were out of Paris as quick as we arrived! Next stop . . . Switzerland. We had to change trains somewhere in France but this allowed us to be able to spend a few hours enjoying the stillness and beauty of the countryside. We had time for a delicious dinner of bread, cheese and tomatoes that 11 years later I still remember, before boarding our next train.

I don't sleep on planes and I refused to sleep on the train for fear of missing

anything. When Chris would sleep I wandered around the train and when he didn't I was glued to the window. I saw beautiful castles and small towns, Alps that looked like they touched the sky and the greenest valleys ever. We arrived in Zurich late in the evening and found a cute little hotel right by the station. I was glad because I was exhausted and entirely too tired to walk around town.



After a night of sleep, and with a few hours before our train was due to leave, we were able to walk around town a bit. Then, it was board our third train of the trip, now heading to Austria. I assumed Austria would be pretty but had no idea just how beautiful it would be. We wound our way through the Swiss Alps and the Austrian Alps, traveling through the tiny country of Liechtenstein and finally arriving in Innsbruck, Austria. We would be catching an overnight train heading into Budapest, switching trains in Vienna later that night. This gave us plenty of time to wander around, have dinner and take lots of pictures. Innsbruck is renowned for winter sports, hosting both the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics. Located between high mountains, it is an access point for the Brenner Pass. The Brenner Pass is a mountain pass through the Alps which forms the border between Italy and Austria. As we sat at this outdoor cafe, Chris looks at me and says, "I could get use to this". If you are keeping up, we have now been out of the U.S. for three days, traveled through three countries and he can already get used to this! (This from the man who once said . . . leaving the U.S., I don't see it happening) We wandered around Innsbruck for hours, so many shops and yes, lots of



Pinocchios, had delicious Austrian wine (mostly whites), and just stared at the magnificence of the Alps. I love the mountains the way others love the beach. Where others can sit on the beach and stare at the ocean all day, that's me with the mountains.

We boarded our night train and headed towards Budapest. We had to switch trains in Vienna but as we only had an hour we didn't risk leaving the train station. The stations in Europe are very nice, some like a small mall, with lots of stores so it's easy to purchase food, snacks, personal care items and souvenirs. Being gone for a month meant we had a lot of luggage. I had two full size bags and a carry-on, Chris had one full size bag and a carry-on, so getting around with that much luggage was tough. Had we less luggage, we probably would have left and walked around Vienna but it just wasn't worth it for the little amount of a time we had. Trains in Europe are known to leave early so this was not the place to being running late. We arrived in Budapest at lunch time, a city I had been dreaming about visiting for a very long time.



I am going to end this month's column here because this is where the real adventure begins. Train strikes, hot dog salad, fainting and petty theft, along with beautiful architecture, friendly people, and an extra day are just a few of the experiences we had in Hungary. Stay tuned . . . to be continued next month.



# The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely (God really does love us, and He will get us past this evil pandemic!)



MAY, 2020

here I am, trying to observe the pandemic, and it's time to write another column. So, here we go!

5th---Cinco de Mayo---(probably will be more popular this year than ever before for all nationalities, I think.)

7th---National Day of Prayer---THE most important day of the year, rivaling Easter, I think.

10th---the next most important day of the year. (if you don't believe me, just ask your mom; or any woman, really.) MOTHER'S DAY! (as if you didn't know!)

16th---Armed Forces Day---honor our selfless protectors.

24th---according to my Lutheran calendar, this is Ascension Sunday.

25th---Memorial Day---another crowd favorite; just don't forget about our honored dead, as they gave their all for all of us.

All the above is from Wincalendar, except the 24<sup>th</sup>, which I got from my Lutheran calendar. That date should also be good for my Catholic brothers and sisters, since our two church year calendars are so similar.

## Something Really Strange Happened, dept.

I put some website addresses in this column last month. The purpose of such, as always, to show proper credit for the information I disseminated to you, and to show you where to go to get more info about the pandemic. here's the thing: when I got my copy of the Ferguson Times, I saw that all 3 of these addresses didn't make the short trip from my puter to print. I have never seen anything remotely like this, and I have no earthly idea as to why or how it happened (or didn't happen, for you purists). Still, I feel it necessary to repeat those addresses for you here, and hope that the websites referred to are understanding and forgiving about this glitch.

1. the Missouri

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/missouri/articles/2020-03-11/missouri-launches-hotline-for-coronavirus-questions>

2. the CDC site:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>

3. the St. Louis County Government site:

<https://www.stlouisco.com/Your-Government/County-Executive/COVID=19>

## Personal & Family Emergency Supplies, dept.

This pandemic is an emergency situation, and we need supplies to live, just like during normal times. We ALL understand this. i'm sure you guys know about the TP shortage. Well, be of concern no more. All you have to do is point your browser to EBAY! As of this time, they are showing me 329 sellers who list TP for sale. (there were over 600 sites, but half of them were shipping from China, so i'm sure you don't wanna getcher TP from them. The stuff might have lead or mercury in it, right? Or not be strong enuff to pre-

vent your little digits from transgressing several layers. (No joy there!) Now, I didn't search, but I am certain that there is a lot of paper towels and tissue and the like available and being sold as well. If you have this need currently unfulfilled, please feel free to partake gratuitously! (I even saw listings for used cloth "rags". I guess you buy it, and when it arrives, it looks like you have to wash it or something. It is unknown how these rags were soiled in the first place, so keep a lid on your enthusiasm.)

## Public Service Announcement, dept.

no matter which side of the topic you come down on, it is a FACT that over 3.7 MILLION NICS background checks were done in March of this year, according to the FBI. you should also know that if one wishes to buy multiple firearms during the same purchase, only one form 4473 is needed, and only one background check needs to be done. This means that each NICS equals MORE than one firearm purchase on the average. So, in March, the total number of firearms purchased in the entire United States is MORE than 3.7 million. 4 million? 5 million? 10 million? Who knows? I think the FBI does, but they do not offer us a further breakdown. I have checked multiple online companies (like Cabela's out in Hazelwood's Outlet Mall), and although their stocks have been assaulted vigorously, they still list quite an inventory available, both new and used. Are firearms being hoarded like TP? No, I don't think so. I think that most of my neighbors have decided that their own lives, and the lives of their loved ones are important enough to put up a rigorous defense, in case the need arises. Not only that, but the reports of shootings on the news have been very few; less than normal, even. To quote a well-respected Marvel Comics story: "with great power comes great responsibility". To that, I say: more power to you! Protect that which you love.

## YOUTUBE, dept.

i'm not going to start listing a bunch of videos here; you can go to youtube.com yourself. I know that you are familiar with youtube. You can find all kinds of stuff there, for entertainment, education, religious purposes, information, etc.

(my church, Grace Lutheran Chapel, has put up several vids of late, and these include entire services inside the church. Good to watch if you miss church!) If you want to go to Youtube to see them, go here:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU0YQhvYyUE\\_MS\\_55IM2dw/featured?disable\\_polymer=1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU0YQhvYyUE_MS_55IM2dw/featured?disable_polymer=1)

## This Just In, dept.

I suspect that a fair number of people have dusted off their puter so they can get online, go to some website and thereby get their dose of humanity to help them get through these people-unfriendly times. We miss our friends and rela-

## RECYCLING INFO

- 1- Know what to throw  
cardboard  
paper  
metal cans  
plastic bottles & jugs  
cartons  
glass
- 2 - Empty. Clean. Dry.
- 3 - Don't Bag It

### ACCEPTABLE ITEMS (clean, dry, empty, not bagged)

ream wrapper - paper around reams of paper  
poster board  
junk mail  
magazines  
paperback books  
newspaper  
milk cartons  
envelopes  
brochures  
paper egg cartons  
cereal boxes  
solo cups (clean, dry)  
cardboard, preferably flattened  
metal cans  
plastic bottles & jugs (empty, clean, put top back on)  
glass bottles (empty, clean, put lid back on)

### DO NOT RECYCLE IN YOUR RECYCLING CONTAINER

soiled paper  
greasy pizza boxes  
food  
electronics and batteries  
construction materials  
toys  
medical waste  
diapers  
yard waste  
scrap metal  
styrofoam  
polystyrene foam (many take out containers)  
clothing  
tools

### OTHER ITEMS

Other items can be recycled or donated -

- 1) electronics, old phones & computers - Look for electronic recycling opportunities, they usually happen in the area a few times a year
- 2) plastic bags - gather and recycle at a local grocery store - NOTE - you can include stretchy plastic, too - newspaper wrappers, bread bags, apple bags, etc. Clean & dry!
- 3) prescription drugs - Florissant police department accepts these - bag them up and drop them off, do NOT flush down toilet.
- 4) garden pot plastic - Missouri Botanical garden usually provides places to recycle - try Thies Farm on Hanley later in the season.
- 5) other items - if it's usable and someone else might want it - offer it up on Facebook marketplace, Craigslist, etc. for free. I've given away lots of stuff this way (I had 12 people want an old wheelbarrow with bad handles!) Google for who might recycle it or want it. Donate to a favorite place (when they are again accepting) - is a charity that takes some household items and gives to needy families - check their website for acceptable items. Goodwill, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul all accept donations (check before you go).

THANKS FOR RECYCLING!!

tives, and we are trying to fix that. I imagine that Skype and zoom and others are really getting a good workout in that regard, and I think that is a very good thing. I mean they are starting to hook up the children to teachers so that the kids can get some schooling done. I say when things stop working the way they should, we sure do have a lot of smart people coming up with a lot of never before heard of solutions; hey, nothing like this has ever happened in recent history!

### ME GO NOW!

Who knows how long this pandemic will last? God does, but we don't. But that doesn't matter. He is still here for us, as He has, and will be in the future. Remember to pray to Him for ANYthing you may need, and He will give us whatever we need. Just don't ask for something that is not good for us, cause you

won't get that. He wants only good things for us! I have to go and pray again! See you next month, and may God bless us all richly!

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

IF YOU like to ask Doug for his FREE puter advice, call him in the PM hours of most any day at: 314\*521\*1789. If you get the machine, disregard the outgoing message, wait for the beep, and leave a brief message concerning your issue, your name, and your phone number, and he will call you back. Or, you can email him at: Make certain to put the phrase "i need puter advice" into the subject line, and include your phone number in the body of the email. Doing this will make it past the filters. Either way, he will be happy to hear from you! Now go pray, and give thanks to Him!



## The Single Houses Of Charleston, South Carolina

by Bob McCarty

When I first heard the term "Single House", I thought they were talking about a single-family house. When I saw my first "Single House", I was enthralled.

Charleston has a lot of Single Houses. In short, a Single house is a house whose skinny side faces the street.



As rumor has it, these houses were built this way because Charles Town or Charlestown, as it was known in the early to late 18<sup>th</sup> century, would tax a home by how much of its frontage faced the street. Actually, this is not the case. When the city was known as Charles Town; it was laid out with long, skinny lots on every block because of limited space. These port towns were usually located on a peninsula between two major rivers, and sometimes walled to protect the town. By laying out the town with long, skinny lots, they could put more houses with street frontage in a limited area.

When the original homes were built in town, they

were made of wood. In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, a fire swept through Charlestown and 25% of the buildings were destroyed. The city's leaders wanted to avoid another catastrophe like this and they suggested, for reasons of fire protection, that newer buildings should be made using masonry, i.e. brick or stucco. Of course, not everyone followed this suit, so you will find that a great variety of styles were used when the town was rebuilt, especially with the Single House. (In case you're curious, the name was shortened to Charleston in 1783, shortly after the Great Rebellion.)

As mentioned earlier, the lots that these homes were built upon were long and skinny. The skinny side of the Single House was built facing the street using many different styles. Georgian, Federal, Victorian, Italianate, and many more styles were used on the Single House. They were built with two to four stories and were one room wide, with the most distinguishing feature being a full-length, covered side porch with at least two stories. The door at the street level led to the first-floor side porch, known as a 'piazza', providing privacy for the home-owner.

As you can see in the floor plan, the Single House was only one room wide. Upon entering the property through the door to the piazza, the actual entry to the house was at the middle of the first-floor porch, away from the street. If you think about it, back in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there weren't any paved roads. With the home's entry off and away from the street, this kept a lot of dust, that was stirred up with daily travel, in the house at a minimum.

Directly in the door you would see the stairway to the upper floors, the living room or reception area towards the street and dining area to the back. The upper floors were where you would find the sleeping area or if the owner was affluent, maybe his office. The kitchen and the servant's quarters were usually detached buildings at the back of the residence or added on in later years, (as shown in drawing).

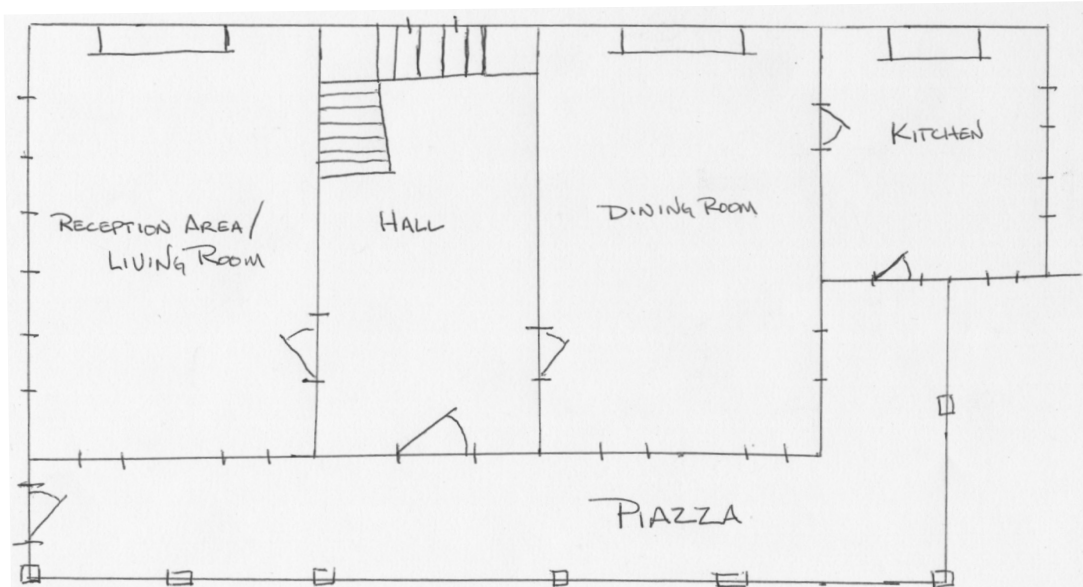
If you were to remember from previous articles, when these types of historical homes were built, they used wide soffits to protect from the heat of the summer sun. This is the reason that the covered piazzas were located on the south or west side of the house. This allowed for protection from the sun in the late afternoon when it was at its hottest. With windows opened to allow the warmer air in the house to be replaced with cooler air from the breezes through the piazza, the interior of the house would be cooled enough to be comfortable. When it came to building in colonial days, we can see that a lot of thought was put into how the houses were able to sustain itself without the help of additional appliances taking up valuable living space.



The piazzas overlooked the grounds or gardens that would allow for the natural cooling effects of the green space.

The north side of the house had very few openings in them, not only for privacy for the occupants, but from any cooler days during the winter. These were the walls that housed the fireplaces in the home, and in the cook house. If there was an opening on the northside of the house, it would be in the stairway, at the center of the home, allowing for more ventilation throughout the middle part of the house.

The Charleston Single House made quite an impression upon me during our travels in the southeastern part of America, and I wanted to share something with you that I found very interesting.



With that being said, Bob is On the Job in a scaled back capacity, as are most of the businesses here in Ferguson. Don't forget our businesses in our downtown and throughout our community. If you are able to purchase gift cards and carryout or pick-up curbside delivery, the businesses need all of the support that we can give. They will greatly appreciate your patronage.

I'm looking forward to the day that we can get back out and carry on with our lives in our brave new world. Don't forget to tip your waiter/waitress.

**Shop  
Locally  
If Possible!**

### Another Message from our Friends at Oasis:

#### Green Tuesdays with Jean Ponzi

Green Tuesdays with Jean Ponzi is a series of FREE online programs that began in April. Join us and learn about all things environmental. From recycling responsibly to native gardening, we will cover it all! A new topic each week.

Jean Ponsi is green resources manager at the Missouri Botanical Garden's EarthWays Center.

To register, contact Oasis at 314-862-4859, Ext, 24.



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## Ferguson by Foot

By: Margaret Wolfbarger



Have you ever started a project only to realize you vastly underestimated the resources needed to complete it? Did you run to the hardware store to pick up a part only to get home and realize you also needed a piece of something else? And then, 5 trips later you threw a wrench at the wall because the socket you purchased was metric, not inches?

I drive an old Chevy because I don't like car payments, but this means it needs frequent repairs. Recently, the cost to replace a belt was beyond our financial means so my

husband undertook the project. He is experienced with car repairs and thought it would be a quick and easy fix. He began to unscrew the bolts only to realize his wrench wasn't long enough for the main culprit. Rather than run to the auto store, he tried to improvise. But the bolt refused to budge because he didn't have sufficient leverage. Worse, he was able to loosen everything necessary to change the belt but not the one bolt he really needed to loosen. Then, the belt slipped off at the exact moment a thunderstorm decided to blow in. And since we don't have a garage, he was suddenly in an interesting predicament, one that seemingly necessitated lots of colorful language.

Life is a lot like a car; we may think we have all the right tools to deal with it until a funky bolt throws us off track. This happened to friends recently who signed up with the foster care system because they have a desire to help underprivileged children. They are young and inexperienced but full of good intentions. They are also idealistic. Therefore, the first child in their care presented a conundrum when expectations met reality.

They lamented, "We are trying to potty train Susie, but she won't go. She can't even communicate the need and we are so frustrated. Do you know when she first arrived, she didn't have a BM for seven days? She is so stubborn! I think we made a mistake. We never should have brought this child into our home."

I successfully potty trained three boys, one of whom was a bed wetter until puberty, so I know a little bit about these things. I also know children in the foster care system are usually there after they have experienced some form of trauma. My heart ached for this young couple. They signed up for a sprint not realizing they were running a grueling marathon.

I gave her the best tool in my bench. I said, "Children are people, not problems to be solved. Love her where she is, not for who you want her to be."

It takes tremendous patience to love tiny tyrants, more so than to work on old vehicles. Both require patience and a generous helping of love. My husband doesn't work on my car because he loves it, but rather because he loves me. Love is tenacious and potent. It covers a multitude of wrongs. Love never fails because it always keeps trying. That is why the "I love Ferguson" campaign was so beautiful. When we love something, we fight for it.

The reality of life is we are human and therefore frail and flabby. We get tired. We run out of patience. We lob wrenches at walls. If we are wise, we recognize our weakness, take a deep breath and try again. When we have exhausted all of our "try again's", we take a break, take a nap, or get a good night's sleep. Some tasks really are impossible for us and we have to humbly admit defeat. But if we choose to learn from the experience, that failure is not wasted and we can use that knowledge for our next project.

Ferguson Municipal Public Library  
presents:

## Resumes and Cover Letters

GETTING THE JOB YOU WANT

Are you working on your resume and/or cover letter? Here are some tips:

1. Don't include your address. All you need is an email and a phone number.
2. It's "Professional Summary" not "Objective".
3. Your **skills** section should include skills, not job titles. Ex. 'Leadership,' not 'manager'.
4. Under **Job Experience**, include the start and end year, not the month (unless the job started and ended in the same year).
5. Under **Job Experience**, use bullet point lists rather than a paragraph.
6. Under **Education**, don't include the year you graduated.
7. Don't use a font smaller than 10 or larger than 12.
8. Keep your resume to 1 page. Companies spend only 7 seconds looking at your resume.
9. Include your name, phone #, and email address as a header on your cover letter.
10. The first paragraph on your cover letter should state the job title you are applying for.
11. Don't repeat what's on your resume, expand on experience and/or education.
12. End your cover letter with a thank you and your contact information.
13. Don't be afraid to ask your local library for help!

For more information, contact the Library at [feedback@fergusonlibrary.net](mailto:feedback@fergusonlibrary.net) or 314-521-4820

FERGUSON MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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## News Flash

**Register today for FREE online programs!** Let's keep learning, meeting new people, and participating in stimulating conversations together. Click on the class information below to get started.

### Ancient Sparta

- Sparta was one of the most powerful city-states in Ancient Greece. Explore the fascinating history with Historian Andrew Cooperman.

### St. Louis Baseball: Little Leagues to Major Leagues

- Hear the story of kids playing in little leagues, high schools and colleges, and of those who made it to the major leagues from St. Louis. Learn about the story of St. Louis baseball – the impact on the community, those who played, and those who watched.

### Surfing and Socializing

- Using social media to stay connected with people isn't as easy as it sounds but once you get the hang of it, you can have a lot of fun! Join this class for an overview of Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube, FaceTime, Google Duo, Skype and Zoom!

### Green Tuesdays with Jean Ponzi

- Join us on Tuesdays at 10 am to learn about all things environmental. From recycling responsibly to native gardening, we will cover it all! Jean Ponzi is green resources manager at the Missouri Botanical Garden's EarthWays Center. Contact EarthWays Center to register (314) 577-0220.

### Cooking from your Pantry

- Jessica Moeller, RDN, LD Nutrition Coordinator at St. Louis University will share tips for making the most of what you can find in your pantry. This session, we will focus on spices and herbs with staples that can be made into quick heart healthy dinners.

### Taking Care of Mental Health in Challenging Times

- Living in the midst of a global pandemic and a time of crisis, it's a natural, healthy response to experience sadness and anxiety. Discuss ways to take care of your mental health during these challenging times with Dr. Timothy Bono of Washington University.

### St. Louis Oasis

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**Give STL Day May 7**, hosted by the St. Louis Community Foundation. Give STL Day is a part of the Foundation's initiative to expand charitable giving in our community and to strengthen our local nonprofit sector. Up to **\$11,000 of donations** received to our **campaign will be matched dollar for dollar** by several generous donors of Oasis. Please help us reach our \$25,000 goal by making a donation to our campaign at 314.862.4859

## STLCC offers new path for adults to earn an associate degree

As life changes for adults – families, jobs, responsibilities, education – plans change, too. For adults who are seeking a change in their education, such as earning an associate degree, St. Louis Community College will offer a new way for adult students to earn a degree, .

Beginning August 2020, students can take the next step in their educational path by completing a degree in two years - including summer - two nights a week.

### How Evening Path Works

Students will attend class twice a week, Monday and Thursday from 6-9:15 p.m., taking one class Monday and one class Thursday. Classes will take place at STLCC-Meramec and South County.

The classes are eight-weeks with two sessions per semester. During the fall and spring semesters, students will complete four classes; in the summer, students will complete two classes.

Evening Path classes are hybrid, meaning students will meet in the classroom setting each week, as well as complete activities and assignments online to fulfill the required learning time each week.

“The program was envisioned and designed to meet students where they are,” said Dr. Ame Mead, division dean, arts and communications, STLCC-Meramec.

“The Evening Path is a clear, coherent educational experience that helps students take the first step – and each successive step – to their goal of an associate degree in a way that makes sense while recognizing their other life obligations. “Because of this goal, the current global crisis becomes another place where we meet our students where they are. If circumstance dictates that we are able to meet in the classroom, we will. If circumstance dictates, we will meet for live virtual lectures - an online version of an interactive and engaged learning experience.

“The purpose remains the same – to serve students effectively and efficiently toward the desired end goal of an associate degree,” said Mead.

### Questions, More Details

For questions about Evening Path, contact Julia Price, admissions advisor, at <jprice76@stlcc.edu> or 314-984-7584.

Learn more about Evening Path online at <stlcc.edu/eveningpath>.

## Wednesday, April 8th Meeting

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



Chief Jason Armstrong and I held a phone meeting for the April meeting of Ferguson OnWatch. Since the city hall venue is closed to meetings due to the Covid 19 pandemic, this method of interview was held instead.

### Covid 19 response

The Chief reported that even under these trying conditions, with changes happening every day, our Police force is doing pretty well. As part of our adjustment, those administrative personnel who have the capability to work from home are doing that. To reduce physical contact, we've made some changes. Our primary change is that low priority reports are being taken over the phone for those situations that don't require the presence of an officer. The other new change we've done is created an email address for people to send in reports, videos, etc.

For dispatched calls that require the presence of a police officer, fire fighter, or paramedic, additional information is gathered by dispatch as to the physical condition of the people at the requested location. Dispatch will ask if anyone is showing symptoms so that whoever responds can be properly attired. Getting as much information up front is key to a successful response.

During my days on the Ferguson City Council we found out that approximately 80% of the calls made are for medical reasons. Our first responders, both fire & police, are equipped with appropriate PPE or Personal Protective Equipment.

### March Crime Stats

Our March calls for service were actually higher than in February. The actual crimes numbers are down, as confirmed by lower property crimes reported, and lower auto thefts. The lower auto thefts are due to the warmer weather; people are no longer warming up their cars unattended. A small change in violent crimes was also noted. 24 in February and 22 in March.

We have seen a significant increase in “Shots Fired” calls. With more people being at home, those that play with their guns are increasing. This is also happening in St. Louis. This is mostly documented by calls coming from our citizens, or our officers in the field instead of reliance on the St. Louis County Shot Spotter program.

One recent incident that was reported on the social media app “Next Door” was when 2 individuals tried breaking in to the ATM at UMB Bank. With the assistance of St. Louis County's helicopter, we were able to capture them in the city later that evening.

### Police Staffing Info

Chief reported that we had 1 new officer come on this week from the academy, and some are in background investigations, prior to being hired. We also have 2 more in the Police Academy that should be graduating in a couple months.

### Budgeting issues

Chief reported that they are just getting started with the annual budget reviews. The main issue facing the city with this pandemic is lower sales taxes are coming in. We should know shortly how much lower the revenues are, and determine what actions we'll need to take to accommodate those lower revenues.

### Public Health Info

We are getting weekly conference calls from the Federal Government including the White House recently, and weekly calls from the State of Missouri. We also have daily updates from St. Louis County Public Health. It doesn't look like we'll be able to open up non-essential business and our community buildings during the month of April.

### Next meeting date

Our next Ferguson On Watch meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at City Hall, if that venue is open for business at that date.

### Spoiler Alert

The Chief is working on trying to create conference calls or other virtual meeting types to enable the continued feedback from our Ferguson Neighborhood groups.

Please have a safe month.



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**For more information and to schedule your tour, please call Lisa at 314-838-3811**

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# Ferguson Mayor, Ferguson-Florissant School Board, Community College Trustees, and MSD on Ballot Tuesday, June 2

## Sample Ballot

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION  
June 2, 2020

Precinct FER-033

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI

DEM \_\_\_\_\_ REP \_\_\_\_\_

Please use a black or blue ink pen to mark your ballot. To vote for your choice in each contest, completely fill in the box next to your choice.

### CITY OF FERGUSON - MAYOR

Three year term  
Vote For One

ELLA JONES

HEATHER L. ROBINETT

Write-in

### FERGUSON-FLORISSANT R-2 SCHOOL DISTRICT - DIRECTOR

Cumulative Voting  
Three year term

DONNA PAULETTE-THURMAN

CONNIE HARGE

KEVIN M. MARTIN

TIFFANY BUSH

Write-in

Write-in

Write-in

### ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - TRUSTEE - SUBDISTRICT 1

Six year term  
Vote For One

KEVIN M. MARTIN

THEO BROWN, SR.

Write-in

### METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS SEWER DISTRICT - PROPOSITION Y

To comply with federal and state clean water requirements, shall The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) issue its sewer revenue bonds in the amount of Five Hundred Million Dollars (\$500,000,000) for the purpose of designing, constructing, improving, renovating, repairing, replacing and equipping new and existing MSD sewer and drainage facilities and systems, including sewage treatment and disposal plants, sanitary sewers, and acquisition of easements and real property related thereto, the cost of operation and maintenance of said facilities and systems and the principal of and interest on said revenue bonds to be payable solely from the revenues derived by MSD from the operation of its wastewater sewer system, including all future extensions and improvements thereto?

YES

NO

Regular April 7th election day was postponed until Tuesday, June 2 in compliance with the stay-at-home directive associated with the coronavirus.

Many of the polling places have been changed this year. If you voted in the Primary Election in March, your polling place will remain the same, otherwise, you should have received a postcard in the mail directing you to your polling place.

If you have any questions, log onto St. Louis County Board of Election, type in your address and your info should appear.

### Ferguson-Florissant School Board:

It should be noted that you have 3 votes in this school board election. You may cast all 3 votes for one candidate, or, for 3 different candidates, or any combination.

If you want additional information about the Ferguson candidates for mayor, please read page 3 of this newspaper for more insight.

NOTE: The ballot printed here is for my address on Sandringham Lane. Your ballot may be different. Log onto St. Louis County Board of Election if you have any concerns.



## 2020 Farm & Garden Apprenticeship

Traditionally, the EarthDance Farm & Garden Apprenticeship is an on-farm, hands-on, education in organic gardening, market farming, and applied permaculture. Due to the need for physical distancing our programming has become primarily digital until it is safe to come together on the farm again. We aim to supply our apprentices with the same tools and knowledge as in previous years, including plants to grow at home so they can still get their hands dirty and virtual field walks with our farmers so they can continue to learn the essential skill of growing food!

## Farming is an Essential Service

Our Founding Director, Molly Rockamann, recently said it best; "The most resilient food system is one where we have local farms all over our region each supplying our own communities with fresh produce." (courtesy of Liz Miller, STLmade via , in the article )

We at EarthDance believe that small farms feeding their communities is not only possible, it is the most efficient and abundant design of modern agriculture. All over the St. Louis region, countless people are wondering how to manage with reduced incomes and limited access to fresh food. Right now, farmers are in their fields and on the front lines of meeting this basic need in their communities. It's happening!

To find locally-grown and-raised food in the St. Louis region, check out **this resource** compiled by our friends at **KNOWN & GROWN STL** !



Programs Manager Tiffany and Farmer Rae, leading a Zoom class on building a garden bed!

## Mother's Day . . . Too Commercialized

People should appreciate and honor their mothers through handwritten letters expressing their love and gratitude, instead of buying gifts and pre-made cards.

**Mother's Day** is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May. It complements similar celebrations honoring family members, such as Father's Day, Siblings Day and Grandparents Day.

The modern Mother's Day began in the United States, at the initiative of Anna Jarvis in the early 20th century. This is not (directly) related to the many traditional celebrations of mothers and motherhood that have existed throughout the world over thousands of years.

The U.S.-derived modern version of Mother's Day has been criticized for having become too commercialized. Founder Jarvis herself regretted this and expressed views on how that was never her intention.

In 1908, Congress rejected a proposal to make Mother's Day an official holiday, joking that they would also have to proclaim a "Mother-in-law's Day". However, owing to the efforts of Anna Jarvis, by 1911 all U.S. states observed the holiday, with some of them officially recognizing Mother's Day as a local holiday (the first being West Virginia, Jarvis' home state, in 1910). In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers.

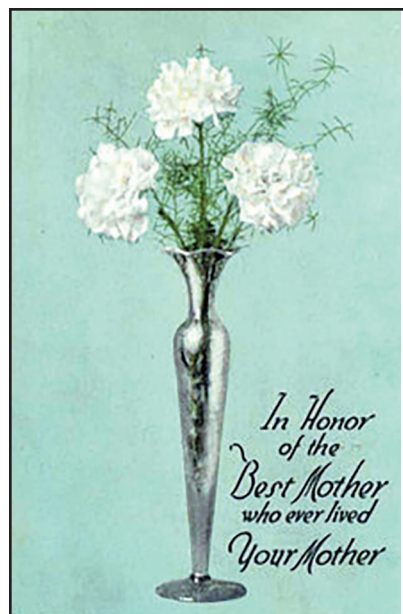
Although Jarvis was successful in founding Mother's Day, she became resentful of the commercialization. By the early 1920s, Hallmark and other companies had started selling Mother's Day cards. Jarvis believed that the companies had misinterpreted and exploited the idea of Mother's Day, and that the emphasis of the holiday was on sentiment, not profit. As a result, she organized boycotts of Mother's Day, and threatened to issue lawsuits against the companies involved.



*Jarvis argued that people should appreciate and honor their mothers through handwritten letters expressing their love and gratitude, instead of buying gifts and pre-made cards.*

### Commercialized Mother's Day

Below are some of the commercial applications that Jarvis dispired:



*To the left is the Northern Pacific Railroad postcard in 1916.*

*Below is a typical Hallmark card.*



### Mother's Day had political significance in Germany:

In the 1920s, Germany had the lowest birthrate in Europe, and the declining trend was continuing. This was attributed to women's participation in the labor market. At the same time, influential groups in society (politicians of left and right, churchwomen, and feminists) believed that mothers should be honored but could not agree on how to do so. However, all groups strongly agreed on the promotion of the values of motherhood. In 1923, this resulted in the unanimous adoption of *Muttertag*, the Mother's Day holiday as imported from America and Norway.



The need to increase the population caused the holiday to be seen as a means to encourage women to bear more children, which nationalists saw as a way to rejuvenate the nation. The holiday did not celebrate individual women, but an idealized standard of motherhood. The progressive forces resisted the implementation of the holiday because it was backed by so many conservatives, and because they saw it as a way to eliminate the rights of working women. *Die Frau*, the newspaper of the Federation of German Women's Associations, refused to recognize the holiday. Many local authorities adopted their own interpretation of the holiday: it would be a day to support economically larger families or single-mother families.

### The Nazis

With the Nazi party in power during 1933–1945, the situation changed radically. The promotion of Mother's Day increased in many European countries, including the UK and France. From the position of the German Nazi government, the role of mothers was to give healthy children to the German nation. The Nazi party's intention was to create a pure "Aryan race". Among other Mother's Day ideas, the government promoted the death of a mother's sons in battle as the highest embodiment of patriotic motherhood. Serving in the army was considered an obligation and a great honor.



Balloons outside in the week before "Mothering Sunday" in the UK.

The Nazis quickly declared Mother's Day an official holiday. This created conflicts with other organizations that resented Nazi control of the holiday, including Catholic and Protestant churches and local women's organizations. Local authorities resisted the guidelines from the Nazi government and continued assigning resources to families who were in economic need, much to the dismay of the Nazi officials.

In 1938, the government began issuing an award called (*Mutterkreuz*), according to categories that depended on the number of children a mother had. The medal was awarded on Mother's Day and also on other holidays due to the large number of recipients. The Cross was an effort to encourage women to have more children, and recipients were required to have at least four.

## The Best of Ferguson

by  
Ruffina Farrokh Anklesaria, M.A.

### Mask-making in Ferguson



Sewing from my bedroom overlooking Jeske Park.

As I write this column, covid-19 is bearing down on our country, indeed the world, and Missouri and most states are on lockdown. We in north county, St Louis, have been on lockdown almost a month. Some of us in the higher risk category have stepped outside only to get some fresh air or to walk the dogs. We have groceries and food delivered, and leave essential shopping to the younger, less susceptible family members and friends. The news is grim as we lose, at this moment, around 2,000 American lives each day to the corona virus. As I read the news on my app, a deep sadness fills my heart. We are echoing what others have experienced as the grim reaper makes his way across Italy, Spain, France, England and so many other countries. I am profoundly moved by humanity weathering the storm together and the small acts of kindness that have surfaced everywhere, even as the contagion is taking lives ruthlessly.

Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) is scarce worldwide, and especially here in the US. We simply do not have enough N95 masks to protect our nurses, doctors, and frontline workers from this plague. Overnight, in the past 2-3 weeks, the wonderful American can-do spirit has risen up to accept the challenge of producing masks at home, in the living rooms across America! Health workers are using them to protect their precious and scarce N95 masks, and others wear them alone, leaving the N95s for those treating patients with the deadly virus.

I now have something good to focus on in this pandemic - mask making! Like most "sewists" I had unused new fabric in my sewing box. I started researching how to make masks and watched several YouTube videos. Groups were springing up everywhere to coordinate the efforts of housebound sewists and the insatiable demands of those in need. Facebook provided the platform for exchange of ideas and for keeping groups organized. I joined the "St Louis Medical Mask Makers Unite" and the "Greater St Louis Million Mask Drive." The latter provided patterns and instruction videos and brought together over 2,000 members at this writing, with a common purpose of producing masks as quickly as possible.



This is the 3 pleat pattern.

After sewing several different patterns I settled on the Aries 1 full-face pattern provided by the GSMM Drive. I also sewed quite a few in the Deaconess (3-pleated) pattern. Both proved popular. I supplied BJC Hospital and my masks were taken also to the NW Healthcare group. I'm supplying

our men and women in blue and all first responders in Ferguson. I enlisted the help of Ferguson residents who donated remnants of fabric on hand for the project and Sara Holmes stepped in to supply me with the all-important Filti.com washable and reusable filter. I initially stripped my white sheets and pillow cases to make ties for the masks. I was burning the midnight oil sewing masks all day, like so many other American sewists.



Officer Jill Gronewald of the Ferguson Police Department wearing an RFA mask

I'm happy to say that the darkness of the pandemic was replaced by the sunshine of optimism with this new project. I started a Facebook page called "RFA Masks" and put all the resources I found in one place. Here there are links to the two sewing groups above, instruction videos, patterns and all that you would need to join the effort. Tasks are divided up as necessary: some make ties only, some cut filters, some sew masks, some deliver and pick up supplies. There's room for everyone.



ER staff wearing home-made masks.

I decided to work independently, supplying my local community first. I offer a free service here in Ferguson to all our frontliners. This is a volunteer effort relying on donors stuck at home like me. So far, it's working beautifully with front porch drop-off and pickups, the norm. You can support this effort by:

1. Purchasing new white XL men's T-shirts to make yarn for ties. I found Shirtmax.com has the cheapest (\$1.64).
2. Purchase at least 2 yards of 100% cotton fabric online (minimum 180-count, tight woven) and have it delivered to me. Patriotic fabric preferred. I will make you 2 masks and use the rest for the project.
3. Donate your freshly laundered fabric remnants and newly washed used T-shirts to me.
4. Purchase mask filter fabric from filti.com
5. Purchase 12-20 gauge aluminum wire to make nose clips for masks. You can stay current on my project needs on the Facebook page dedicated to this.



My daughter Devina Lee Sheng Tim wearing a specialty faux leather mask.

It is always gratifying to work in the non-profit sector, especially when we are part of what could be more correctly called a "war time effort" to meet an urgent need. I am honored to support our men and women in blue and all frontline workers. When someone mistakenly called me a hero I corrected them: "They are the heroes; I only get to sew their capes!"

Hats off to the frontline workers of Ferguson and beyond! We cannot thank you enough for your efforts to protect us during this pandemic. You are the best not only of Ferguson but of the entire world! We are counting on you! And we will make your masks!

The author has lived in Ferguson since 2002 and runs her own property rental business here. She is a meditation instructor and spiritual teacher who gives Shaktipat at her full moon retreats. Nominate yourself to be interviewed for her column at rfanklesaria@gmail.com www.BestAgainst-Stress.com Ph: 314.766.4391



**Pandemic?**

Grandma, do you remember ever living through a pandemic?

No, but I remember very well my first epidemic when I was a kid. It was polio, or poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, a viral illness that can cause paralysis, difficulty breathing and sometimes death.

It was sometime in the 1940s, I was in grade school at St. Anns in Normandy. I believe a girl in my class had it, but no one knew it. She just disappeared from class one day and we didn't see her again until the 8th grade, when she showed up for graduation in a wheelchair and braces on her legs. There were several boys in an upper grade who suffered with polio that everyone knew about. At the time, it was thought that they came in contact with the virus at the Normandy movie theater.

That summer, the Normandy Theater, as well as the Studio in Pine Lawn and the Savoy in Ferguson were all closed. There were pictures in the St. Louis paper (either the Post Dispatch or Globe Democrat) of hundreds of kids clamoring to get into the swimming pool at Fairgrounds Park when the gates were locked. All the pools in the St. Louis area were eventually closed.

Polio victims were placed in a long metal tube with just their heads exposed. It was called an "iron lung" and I believe it was the equivalent of today's ventilator.

In 1952, the polio epidemic reached a peak in the U.S, with almost 58,000 reported cases and more than 3,000 deaths.



At one of Roosevelt's frequent "Whistle Stops", Franklin stands on a caboose holding a cane in his right hand and holding on to his wife, Eleanor, with his left hand.

Franklin Roosevelt, the 32nd president of the United States, reputed to be the only president to be disabled, was a polio victim in 1921 when he was 39 years old (this was before the epidemic I spoke of above). When he ran for political office, he never let it be known that he was paralyzed from the waist down and wore heavy steel braces that locked at the knee and provided enough stability that he could stand with crutches. He often campaigned from the caboose of a train at "Whistle Stops" because he could brace himself on both sides and stand to give his speech. After he became president he held "Fireside Chats" where he could be seated with a blanket on his lap to hide his legs. Because he required extensive physical therapy, Roosevelt's upper body was quite muscular and he appeared very robust.

His Secret Service escorts were given the task of guaranteeing that photographers never

took pictures of Roosevelt that showed his braces or deformed legs, and it wasn't until shortly before his death that he acknowledged his disability. Until that time, I had never heard of polio.

When Roosevelt died while in office, Vice President Harry Truman assumed the Presidential office and declared *"The fight against infantile paralysis cannot be a local war, it must be nationwide. It must be total war in every city, town and village throughout the land. For only with a united front can we ever hope to win any war."* . . . sound familiar?

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**Answers to Trivia, Page 12**

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Yellow submarine | 7. Yesterday  |
| 2. Yo-yo            | 8. Yale       |
| 3. Yodel            | 9. Yam        |
| 4. Yarmulke         | 10. Young     |
| 5. Yawn             | 11. Yogi Bear |
| 6. Yardstick        | 12. Yen       |

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**Calendar of Events In and Around Ferguson**

Complete Details of These Events Throughout the Paper

**ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION**

- Mother's Day . . . . . Sun., May 10
- Ferguson City Council Meeting – City Hall . . . . . Tues., May 12
- Grow Your Own Business On Line – Library . . . . . Wed., May 13
- Neighborhood OnWatch Meeting – City Hall . . . . . Wed., May 13
- Ferguson Virtual Twilight Run . . . . . Fri. - Sun., May 15, 17
- Storytelling – Things That Go – Library . . . . . Sat., May 16
- Design With Nature in Mind Library . . . . . Tues., May 19
- Learn How to Use Google – Library . . . . . Wed., May 20
- Ferguson City Council Meeting – City Hall . . . . . Tues., May 26
- Summer Reading Kickoff with Mr. Bananas – Library . . . . . Fri., May 29
- Summer Readin Challenge Begins – Library . . . . . Sat., May 30



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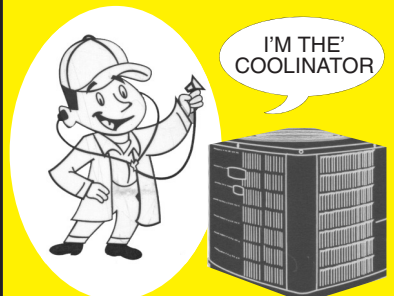
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