

Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

2021 NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities since 2021



It wouldn't be Black History Month without mentioning such greats as Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglas, Booker T. Washington, Malcolm X, Jackie Robinson, Langston Hughes, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., B.B. King. But what about our local black sports legends: Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, Curt Flood, James "Cool Papa" Bell, Ozzie Smith, Jackie Joyner Kersey. Oh, where would we be as a nation without thee. A lot to be proud of.

It was only days before my 17th birthday that Dr. King was assassinated. April 1968: The Vietnam War was in full swing, I was a junior at South County Technical School. Five years earlier president Kennedy was assassinated. Then in June 1968, his brother, Robert was assassinated. So many senseless murders. Dr. King's murder led to riots in Washington D.C. from April 4th to the 8th and riots in Chicago from the 5th through the 7th.

It was a crazy time but at least we had music. And how about the music? The Motown sound hit and began showcasing more and more great black musicians. If it weren't for Motown we would still be listening to Lawrence Welk. They gave us artists like Aretha Franklin, Smokey Robinson, Diana Ross and the Supremes, The Temptations. And that was back in my day.

From ragtime through the blues, jazz, gospel, classical, rock & pop to hip-hop, St. Louis was and still is a melting pot for the greats in most genres. Think of the great black musicians from the St. Louis area. We have been blessed. Scott Joplin, Albert King, Miles Davis, Willa Mae Ford Smith, Robert McFerrin Sr. (The first black baritone at the Metropolitan Opera House), Ike & Tina Turner, Nelly. That is only one artist from each genre. The list goes on and on.

For this Black History Month let us all come together with music - whatever your style or taste, let's be kinder. Think of Dr. King. And B.B. King or Albert King.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." - MLK



Winner Winner, Paul's Market Dinner!

Congratulations to Beth Newport the winner of the "Name the Paper Contest" who suggested "Ferguson Neighborhood News".

Beth has been a resident for 7 years come July and says what she loves about living in Ferguson are my wonderful neighbors whom she calls bright beacons. My favorite things to do in Ferguson has yet to be determined because there are so many bright lights. I love driving around and admiring the different houses. So much diversity in landscapes and personal affects. Plus I can be anywhere within 5-15 minutes.

The Ferguson News Group wishes to thank everyone who submitted an idea. I attempted to respond to every submittal but if I did not, please accept my apologies. I also realize we did not post a deadline for submittal. Again, my apologies. We were under the gun to get a name prior to the February issue as this will allow us to move forward with a website, Facebook, twitter, etc.

The final decision was based on the entries submitted by the community.



lineart provided by Sharon Nadeau



February News and Events at the Ferguson Public Library

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

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION BY VISITING US ONLINE!

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing rapidly, and that means our services are changing rapidly too. Please check our website or visit our Facebook page to get the latest information about our services before visiting the library.

Love, Love, Love Storytime - Saturday, Feb. 20 at 2 pm

Grab the ones you love and join us on Facebook for stories and songs all about love!

February Take Home Craft Kits

Pick up a new craft kit each week in February!

- **Feb. 1-5 - Valentine's Card:** Stitch a heart into a card to give to a loved one!
- **Feb. 8-12 - Woven Heart Pouch:** Learn how to make a Dutch heart and turn it into a pouch to hold your things!
- **Feb. 16-19 - Gee's Bend Paper Quilt Art:** Learn about the history of the quiltmakers of Gee's Bend and create a paper quilt to decorate your home!
- **Feb. 22-26 - Ribbon Bookmarks:** A few quick stitches, some ribbon, and a button are all you need to make a lovely bookmark!

As always, our craft kits are free and are handed out on a first come, first served basis. Pick one up with our curbside service today!

The library will be closed
Monday, February 15 for Presidents' Day.

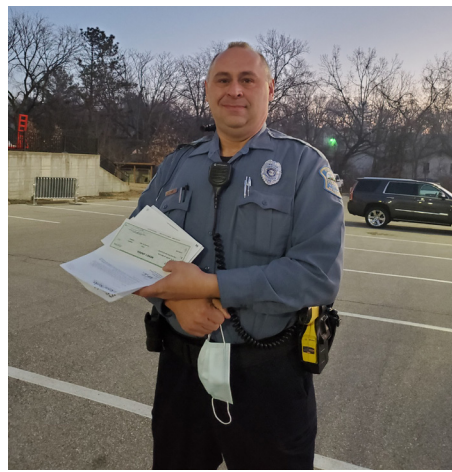


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FERGUSON HEROES

Royal Banks of Missouri held a “Royal for Heroes” contest to recognize members of the community who go above and beyond in their careers and especially during the pandemic. Four members of the Ferguson Police Department - Officers John Hank, Drew Cannady, Jilly Bean, and Joshua (Jay) McKenny along with K-9 companion, Merica - were nominated by staff from their University City branch. The nominators stated they felt the officers work together like family but are dedicated to their profession, through numerous challenges. They are also very committed to the community of Ferguson with a combined 25 years of service. The officers were awarded a Royal Banks of Missouri Money Order for \$100. Congratulations to these hard-working, loyal officers!

Pictured from left. Officers, Jay McKenny, his trusty K-9 Merica, Jilly Bean, Drew Cannady, and John Hank.



FERGUSON FACTS Did you know?

What is now the city of Ferguson was founded in 1855, when William B. Ferguson deeded 10 acres of land to the Wabash Railroad in exchange for a new depot and naming rights. The settlement that sprang up around the depot was called Ferguson Station.



SPOTLIGHT ON GREATNESS

I want to give a shout out to Adaron “Pops” Jackson - Educator and musician. Pops serves as Assistant Teaching Professor and Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Missouri - St. Louis where he conducts the Jazz Orchestra and teaches Jazz improvisation. One of the great jazz leaders of our time (in my mind) and he plays a mean piano. Pops, you are a blessing to our community. We got a chance to catch him at JazzStl - wow! If you get a chance, check him out. You will be glad you did. Google: “Adaron Pop’s Jackson”

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In the Months Ahead:

- March
 - 14 - Daylight Savings Time
 - 17 - St. Patrick’s Day
 - 27 - Passover
 - 28 - Palm Sunday
- April
 - 4 - EASTER
 - 15 - TAXES DUE
- May
 - 9 - Mothers day
 - 15 - Ferguson Twilight Run
- June
 - 20 - Fathers Day

Lenten Fish Fry’s

Around Ferguson, there has always been a debate over which parish/church had the best fish during Lent. Fish fry’s were always good in Ferguson as they brought more of our community together in a relaxed social atmosphere.

Due to COVID-19 the following changes have been made to our beloved fish fry’s.

Blessed Theresa of Calcutta
 February 19th, March 5th, March 19th
 Drive through from 4:00 - 6:30 pm
 For ordering visit www.btccparish.org

Zion Lutheran fish fry is suspended until further notice

Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Fish Fry with some Latino Flavors
 February 19, 26, March 6, 13, 20, 27
 Drive through from 4:00 - 8:00 pm

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The Ferguson News Group may be reached

text/voice: 314 249-6323
 email: asroc873@charter.net
 Like us on Facebook @fergusonneighborhoodnews

This paper is made possible through volunteers and advertisers

Advertise with the paper

Copy for ads for the paper must be received by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month’s paper.
 Please send all ads to Tony: savoystl@yahoo.com

Volunteer with the paper

- Info Gathering
- City Meetings - attend and summarize City Council Meetings
- Other Meetings - assure all city-wide events summaries gathered
- Neighborhood groups
- Diversity Meetings
- Business Spotlight

Donate to the paper

Give a birthday or anniversary shout out for only \$5

FERGUSON WINTER FARMERS’ MARKET



This year the winter market is being held outside at St. Stephen’s Church, 33 N. Clay. Due to COVID, no tables or chairs will be provided for gathering and food will be to-go only. This month’s market will be on **Sat., Feb. 20, 10am-1pm. Masks are required.**

ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Glynis Mary McManamon, RGS

Impressive Art, Easy Social Distancing



The exhibit of Odili Donald Odita's unique flag art, "From Periphery to Center," is extended through March 21, 2021. The exhibit is in the Laumeier Sculpture Park in Sunset Hills and in our own Jeske Sculpture Park.

Odita is best known for hard-edged, abstract paintings and public murals, using strong fields of color. "From Periphery to Center" features flags, the designs of which emerged from his reflections on periphery and center. In designing the flags for this installation, he focused on the geographic and social relationship between Ferguson (North County) and Sunset Hills (South County)." Jeske Sculpture Park is located at 211 Thoroughman Avenue.

Jeske Sculpture Park

Almost Picasso Moved to S. Florissant Rd

Ferguson's own paint and sip spot, "Almost Picasso" has now moved from Church Street to new digs at 415 S. Florissant Road. You can check out their Facebook page for upcoming events. Their phone number is (314) 801-6671.

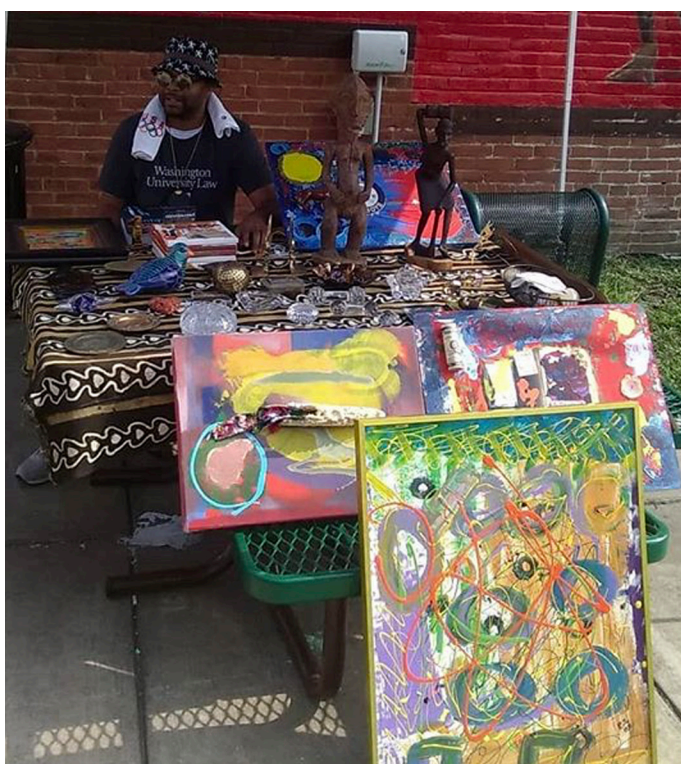


Almost Picasso's new digs

Online Exhibit

February will feature De'Joneiro Jones, an art collector, mentor of young artists and an artist himself. The exhibit, "All God's Children Got Rhythm" will feature Jones' own work.

Jones is a life-long citizen of St. Louis. His work explodes with energy. Stand back and you see splashes of loud, bright, insistent color, texture, and shape. Then look closer: you will find any number of objects collaged into the work: a postcard advertising a high fashion retail store, a Jimi Hendrix postage stamp. His work allows us to contemplate racial and socio-economic tensions we experience in our society. The many questions posed in his canvases invite us to think deeply about our experience of being human in a time of division and confusion. De'Joneiro Jones will speak on Sunday, February 21, 2 p.m. via Zoom. You can request the link via info@good-shepherdarts.org. There is a limit of 100 participants.



De'Joneiro Jones

Spring is coming and so is the first "Ferguson Art Festival"

Artists interested in participating in the "Ferguson Art Festival: A North County Celebration," planned for Saturday, May 8, can find the application form on the GSAC website, www.goodshepherdarts/ferguson-art-fair or request a link or hard copy application via info@goodshepherdarts.org. Spots are being identified along North and South Florissant Road and West Florissant Avenue where live art-making can be observed. Cost of participation is \$20. There will be some limited spots at the 501 Plaza with tent space or pavilion access at a premium of \$40. Artists must be juried in, so are asked to attach an image of work to the application. This outdoor event will take into consideration social distancing. You can also call 314-769-9806 for details.

We will also begin recruiting volunteers to help with set up (locating and marking assigned spots), visiting artists to see if they need breaks, and helping with communication.

Resources

The Ferguson Municipal Public Library continues to offer take home craft kits. Check out the library announcements to see what will be offered in February.

I love miniaturizing. Maybe it is not an art, but it does involve some creative energy. Dollhouses are not a thing these days. They seem to belong to a bygone era. Still, I find following four persons on YouTube fascinating. Akameru Kawaii and SugarCharm Shop have wonderful demos in polymer clay. But truly gifted are Kat at "The Square to Spare" and Kat (a different Kat) at Real Life Dollhouse Miniatures. These two ladies use materials that are easy to get your hands on: foam core, card stock, popsicle sticks and make extremely realistic furnishings. Dollar Tree had a few pieces of wooden dollhouse furniture and these ladies offered ways to jazz up the pieces.



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JAMBALAYA

This is my favorite Mardi Gras recipe. I only make this once a year and it goes fast.

Gary

- 2 Tbsp Butter
- 2 Tbsp Paprika
- 1 Tbsp Cumin
- 1/4 tsp Cayenne pepper
- 1/4 tsp Black pepper
- 1 tsp Salt
- 8 oz. Andouille Sausage sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 2 chicken breasts (boneless skinless) cut in 1/2 inch pieces
- 2 ribs celery sliced 1/4 inch
- 1/2 green pepper diced
- 4 green onions chopped
- 1 cup long grain rice
- 3 cups chicken broth (2 cans)
- 1 lb shrimp peeled and deveined

Saute sausage & chicken in butter. Add paprika, cumin, cayenne, black pepper and salt. Saute for another minute then add tomatoes, green pepper, celery, and most of green onion plus chicken broth. Bring to a simmer/boil (med/high). Then add rice & mix well. Cook 45 minutes med/simmer. When rice is tender, stir in shrimp and cook covered five minutes. Add remaining green onion.

DRIVERS NEEDED

North County Meals on Wheels urgently needs drivers. If you can spare a couple hours a week, please call 953-6800 Mileage is reimbursable. Your help can make a difference in someone's life.

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Ferguson City Hall Information

Blessing and Groundbreaking Mercy Clinic Ferguson



It is my hope that you would enjoy this speech that I shared with the participants of the Mercy Groundbreaking.

Today's ceremony is more than a groundbreaking for a building; it represents a **ground-breaking opportunity** for collaboration, for partnership, for cooperation that will benefit the residents of Ferguson for decades and generations to come.

I want to especially thank Donn Sorenson and everyone at Mercy and Health & Homes STL for their vision and perseverance to make this project a reality.

The health and well being of our community starts with the health of our people. Not just their physical health but their mental health as well. We also know that there are other determinants that impact our health and the health of our community. Do you feel safe in your community? Do you have access to transportation? Do you have green spaces and safe walkways for pedestrians? Do you have mental health services in the neighborhood? What programs are available for our young people and our seniors? Do you have access to a good paying job so that you can put food on your table and take care of your family?

All of these issues help determine the health and well-being of a person and of our community. They are all interconnected. And just as we are preparing and laying a foundation to build a new facility in this space, each of these health determinants I just mentioned is a building block that creates a strong foundation for community health and wellness.

The transformation of the West Florissant Corridor will revitalize our community. I want to thank Michael McMillan and the Urban League for all they are continuing to do to develop the western end of the corridor. The Urban League made history with the Ferguson Empowerment Center built on the grounds of the former Quick Trip that was burned during the Michael Brown unrest.

Dr. Flint Fowler is helping so many of our youth with the fabulous new Boys and Girls Club and their beautiful facility--this is what it takes, all of us working together in these difficult times to create and sustain a stronger, healthier community. Not one of us can do this work alone. We must join together and continue uplifting our people and our community. So, as I take my seat, I will leave you with this Chinese parable about the elephant and the hummingbird:

One day an elephant saw a hummingbird lying on its back with its tiny feet up in the air.

"What are you doing?" asked the elephant.

The hummingbird replied, "I heard that the sky might fall today, and so I am ready to help hold it up, should it fall."

The elephant laughed cruelly. "Do you really think," he said, "that those tiny feet could help hold up the sky?"

The hummingbird kept his feet up in the air, intent on his purpose as he replied, "Not alone. But each must do what he can. And this is what I can do."

We must all do what we can. On behalf of the Elected Officials, Staff, and the Citizens of Ferguson, I thank you for doing what you can.

Mayor Ella M. Jones

Be sure to get up to the recreation office to register or call us at (314) 521-4661.

COVID-19 Update

Over the next few months, Ferguson Parks and Recreation will be slowly and safely bringing back programs and classes for the community. Be sure to follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/FergRec or check out our website at www.FergRec.com for the most up-to-date information.

2020 Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure

Ferguson Parks and Recreation's brochure has gone digital! Due to COVID-19, we will not be mailing copies of our brochure this fall. Be sure to check out our fall 2020 brochure at www.fergrec.com.

Community Center

Memberships

Resident Youth –Yearly \$50
Resident Adult –Yearly \$85
Resident Senior –Yearly \$50
Resident Family – Yearly \$165

Non Resident Youth –Yearly \$120
Non Resident Adult – Yearly \$200
Non Resident Senior –Yearly \$120
Non Resident Family – Yearly \$300

NOW OFFERING MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Resident Youth – \$6 per month
Resident Adult – \$9 per month
Resident Senior – \$6.00 per month
Resident Family – \$16 per month

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

Residents must present 2 forms of identification to receive a resident rate.

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. Spring and fall dedication ceremonies 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

Arts as Healing

Arts as Healing Foundation STL is excited to provide free weekly zoom art lessons to the Ferguson Community. Arts as Healing seeks to address the problem of stress, loneliness, depression, and emotional isolation by introducing the magic of art and creative expression. With each class, you learn something new, find success in creating, and are inspired to do more. This program is for ages 18 and older, has 20 spots available, and all materials needed are provided. For more information please call (314)370-3700 or email artsashealing@gmail.com. See more at artsashealing.org

Lucky the Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt

Join Ferguson Parks and Recreation on a scavenger hunt through our local parks for Lucky the Leprechaun! Check out www.fergrec.com or @fergrec on Facebook on March 1st for more details.



Ferguson Community News Page is published monthly and is paid for by the City of Ferguson

City of Ferguson City Council: Ella Jones, Mayor; Linda Lipka, Ward 1; Stephan Garrett, Ward 1; Heather Robinett, Ward 2;

Toni Burrow, Ward 2; Fran Griffin, Ward 3; Byron Fry, Interim Ward 3; Jeff Blume, City Mgr; Public Relations Intern, (314) 524-5229

City Hall: 110 Church Street, 63135, (314) 521-7721. Website: www.fergusoncity.com Contact Us by Email: Information@fergusoncity.com

Ferguson City Hall Information



Ferguson Parks and Recreation Summer Camps

Summer is right around the corner which means it is almost time for Ferguson's Summer Day Camps! We have been working hard to plan fun and safe camp experiences for the 2021 summer season. Be sure to stay tuned on February 18th for more information!

Walk Ferguson- 3 Wards, 100 Miles, 365 Days

Come join us as we walk Ferguson over the next 365 days! We will have 2 walking groups each week to help you accomplish your goals. Each walking group will walk approximately 1.5 miles for about 30-45 minutes.

Not able to join one of our walking groups, but want to get out and walk? No worries, you can still get out and walk on your own.

Be sure to check @FergRec on Facebook every Monday for meeting locations for the week.

Want to stay in contact and be the first to know the weekly meeting spots? Visit www.fergrec.com and submit your contact information to be added to our list!

Please remember to wear your face mask.

Start: September 30, 2020

End: September 29, 2021

Weekday Walking Group:

Wednesday's (ongoing) @ 4:00pm

Weekend Walking Group:


Saturday's (ongoing) @9:00am



HEART TO HEART

#SpreadtheLove


Join Ferguson Parks and Recreation along with the Ferguson Youth Initiative in spreading the love to our local senior living homes. We are looking for individuals, families, or groups to create letters that we will send out to our seniors this Valentine season.



Submit letters by February 12th

Mail or Drop Off Letters

Ferguson Community Center
1050 Smith Ave.
Ferguson, MO 63135

Sweetheart Stroll

Grab your sweetheart for a stroll at sunset through January Wabash Park. While on your luminated stroll around the lake you will pick up a rose for your sweetheart and get a chance to take a photo at our enchanted photo booth. Don't worry the evening doesn't end here! You'll then stroll on over to our Cupid's Cafe to pick up a delicious take home meal for 2 complete with spaghetti and meatballs with a side of garlic bread, provided by our gracious sweethearts at Savoy Banquet Center. Along with your take home meal for two, you will receive a date night box to complete at home with your sweetheart. The date night box consists of one "stuff your own" teddy bear kit, Valentine craft, word search, coloring pages, and a few extra treats! The Sweetheart Stroll is open up to all ages, but spots are limited, so be sure to register early as you won't want to miss this unforgettable evening with your special someone.

- Registration Deadline: February 5, 2021 (spots are limited)
- Open to Sweethearts of all ages
- Take Home Dinner: Spaghetti with Meatballs dinner with a side of Cheesy Garlic Bread provided by Savoy Banquet Center.
- At Home Date Night Box:
 - 1 "Stuff Your Own" Teddy Bear Kit
 - Valentine Craft
 - Word Search
 - Coloring Pages
 - Special Treats
- Registration Fee:
 - \$20/Couple (includes dinner for 2, a rose, and a date night box)
 - \$10/Additional Person (includes 1 additional dinner, a rose, and a date night box)

Register by calling (314) 521-4661 to pay over the phone or by stopping by the Ferguson Community Center at 1050 Smith Ave.



General Municipal Election April 6, 2021 Candidate List

Councilmember Ward 1

Phedra Nelson
914 Cheri Heights Ct
Citizens4phedra@gmail.com

Stephen Garrett
38 S. Barat Ave
Stephen@pelorus.design

Councilmember Ward 2

Erica M. Brooks
462 Mueller Ave
Ebcfcc2021@yahoo.com

Arbie Peterson
701 Moundale Dr
arbiepeterson@gmail.com

J. Toni Burrow
915 Buckeye Dr
Toniette1@aol.com

Councilmember Ward 3

Naquittia C. Noah
5117 Rockingham Dr.
committeetolectnaquittianoah@gmail.com

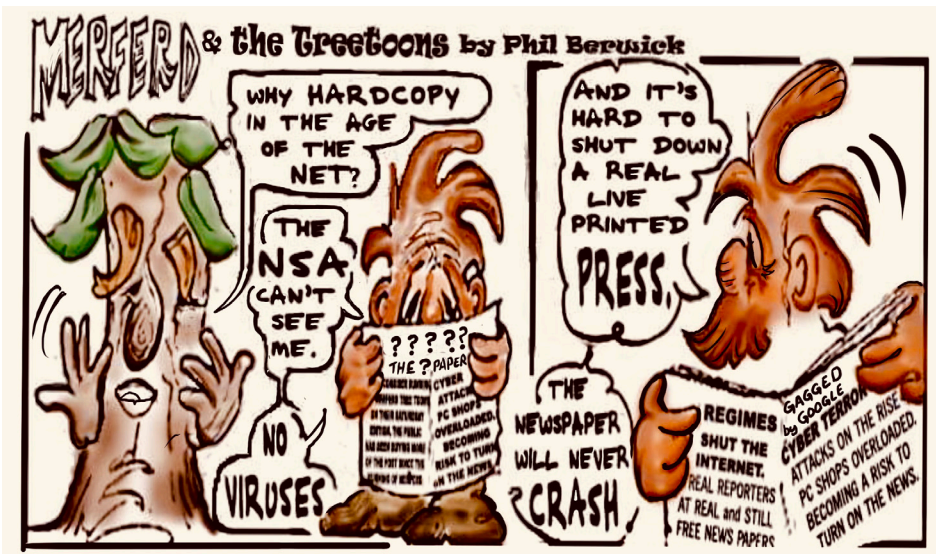
LaTasha M. Brown
9395 Caddiefield Rd Apt F
brownlatasha@go.wush.edu



From Ferguson to Pakistan and Back (Part II)

By Phil Berwick

The first time I traveled to Pakistan to free a bonded labor camp of thirteen families in modern day slavery, it seemed surreal. This second time, having encountered brick masters, (slave masters) who rob three million minority Christians of the little freedom they have, and then my returning back home, it's America this time that seems surreal. The USA has been the vanguard and defenders of freedom around the world, and so I'm stunned by the increasing on-line censorship of spiritual or divergent political opinions, while debauchery is given room to roam and reign. It's been written by the prophet Isaiah, that in the last days evil will be called good and good evil. What you're now holding in your hand will not be easily taken down or censored.



Before I explain the humanitarian reason of my trip, I need to share a little bit about the people of Pakistan. They are precious in many ways, earning a fraction of the money Americans make, and for harder work. Yet, they must pay the price we Americans pay for many of the same things. A garment, or tool or an appliance, that costs the average American citizen a few hours of work, will cost the average Pakistani several days or weeks of work. If anyone wants an android phone that can do the things that our phones do, it will cost three months of work. So most must be content with the cheaper track phones. The possessions are few, and the garments and priority items for basic needs, are precious and well taken care of.



The countryside of Pakistan is bustling with people coming and going to markets with produce, hand cut in the fields. In Pakistan, as in all third world countrys, if a man or woman does not work, their family does not eat.

When I would come from the rural areas into the villages or the small cities, traffic was what I call, "crazy cool". There are no traffic lights or stop signs, so busy intersections, have motorcycles and bicycles, water buffalo, donkey carts, large trucks, and rickshaws weaving in and around one another, at times barely missing each other by inches. Now there are accidents with broken bones and worse, and even though bigger rigs are constantly honking their horn's at smaller rigs to move out of the way, there is no road rage. And among the poorest of the poor, I never heard complaints about what they don't have. I am mostly amazed, that the bonded laborers of the 18,000 brick kilns do not harbor hate against their cruel brick masters. I never wept so many times in my life, not just of sorrow, but the manifest presence of the love of their saviour.

A family who's unjust debt has been paid in full, on a donkey cart ride to freedom, from a life that would have been spent in slavery. The wife, Jasmine almost died giving birth to her third child in the brick yard.



So about these brick masters; they are the only ones, who for generations, and up until this very time, that minorities can ever get a loan from. And because of this, and because police are paid off, the constitutional law that prohibits bonded labor has never been enforced. Banazir Bhutto, once the Prime Minister in a man dominated, Muslim dominated nation fought for the law against this scourge and it cost her life. The few humanitarians who have cried out for the rescue of the indentured servant's of their country, disappear, have legs broken, or worse. So I made sure with the ten different masters who I made appointments with and confronted, that it would be God that did the speaking, and not me. They could kill me, but they would not kill God. I also had a concern for my two different interpreters, who assisted me in two of the different states, Okara and Kasur.

In my August trip, I only spoke with one brick master, the one who I paid \$13,000 to for the freedom of 13 families, who had spent most of their lives in slavery. I'm an excellent arborist, but not a very good businessman. I never had such satisfaction spending that much money... it's the ONLY time I've ever spent that much money. We had lost our house and farm in DeSoto to Bank of America in 2008, and it was the primary reason why we ultimately landed in Ferguson.

I had planned to do the same thing when I returned to Pakistan over Christmas, that I had done on a hot August day; Empty an entire brickyard of human beings. But my wife saw my striving, and the overhead costs of my tree business was draining what I wanted to take to Pakistan with me. Precious people in two brickyards had been told my intentions, to buy their freedom, and I was about ready to sell two of the only pieces of equipment I had that were still working, to keep my word. Theresa insisted that I slowed down and hear what God would have to say. I did not slow down, but I did hear what God had to say. I 'heard' that I was not to feel that I had failed families, but rather, that I was to speak with



Children of a widow, whose husband died in that brick yard pause warming their cold clay covered hands by a fire. I took this shot at 10:00 am on a 39 degree morning. They had been making bricks since 5:00 am.

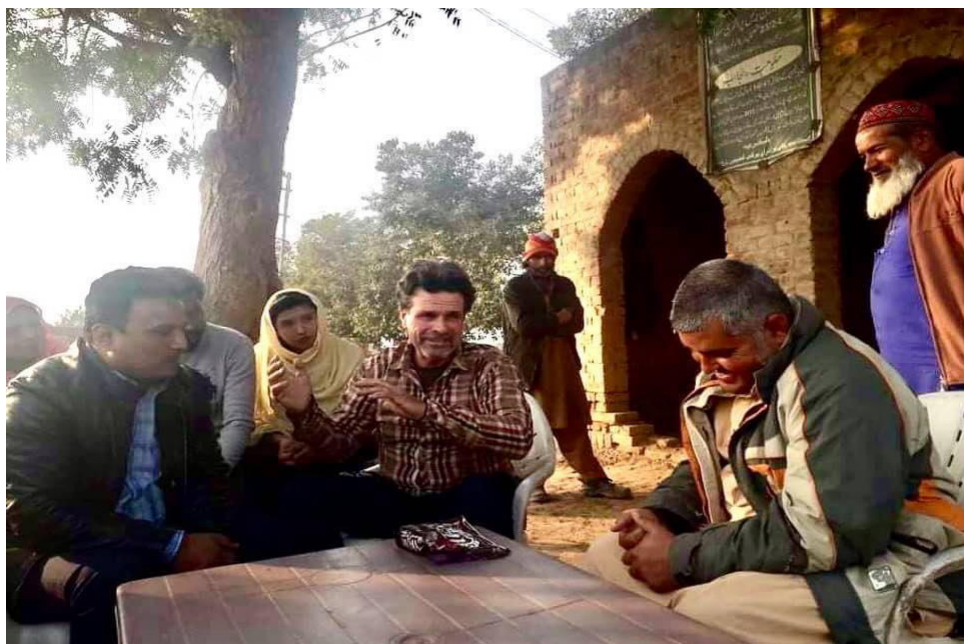
This was an intense 45 minutes of discussion with Mr Khan, Brick master of the Kahn Brick Company. I would be able to return to the USA eventually, but my hosts, Susyanna and her brother Shanza and their family, must remain in the vicinity. My interpreter and friend Nadeem Gill must remain in the vicinity. So we went into conference with each brick master, with carefulness, consideration, and respect, but believing that God would give us the words to go straight to their hearts, and conscience, and every time God was faithful to do that. Mr. Khan asked me to let him keep his people until June, and then he would consider letting some go free. It was much more hope than we had gotten from any of the other nine brick masters.

(Continued on Page 7)

From Ferguson to Pakistan and Back Part II

(continued from Page 6)

There were light hearted moments, and goodwill, every brick master receiving a family size of M&Ms made in America. Mr Kahn was only one of two out of ten brick masters who we felt we had made some headway with.



The brick master is convicted of his sin, and the others, confessed that what he was doing was wrong. He's agreeing to let his bonded slave laborers go free for cheaper than his original demand. The bag of M & M's from America helped. So did the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

A brick yard in Pakistan, where a widow and her four children, still bear a heavy load of her dead husband's unjust debt. Bonded laborers of Pakistan do not get to attend school, do not get to learn to read or write, so the 18,000 bonded labor brick kilns of Pakistan have insidiously and successfully kept minority Christians in subjugation in modern day slavery for generations. I've begun a fundraiser for this family. Even though the father's small debt to a brick master should have been paid off long long ago, now that he has perished, and buried in a plat of land, that brick masters said aside for families to bury their loved ones over the decades of their bondage, there was no mercy shown to Selma and her four children. The deceased father's family still has to mercilessly rise before 5:00 am making a quota of hundreds of bricks, only earning them enough for a meal a day. During the spring and summer months, they as the other families do in the 18,000 brick kilns will be rising at 3 AM to beat the severe heat, and working until 3 PM. Again, one of the most wicked things about this scheme, the children are never educated, ensuring laborers in ignorance for generations. The heart of Pakistan needs to turn from hard brick, to soft clay, and to follow the law in their constitution that has never been enforced. We should not be having to pay off the brick masters who pay off the police. Freedom cry is a 501 C3 non profit. If anyone is interested in helping to free other families such as Selma's, Email me at freedomcryinfo@gmail.com, or more information can be found, at the BrickYardsBlog.com and donations made at www.freedomcry.life.





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I am standing with a widow and her four children. They rise at 5:00 am each morning to spend a long day making bricks. They are kept from getting an education.



WALK FERGUSON

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Are you ready to be rewarded just for walking around Ferguson?!? Thanks to SSM Health we will be providing milestone rewards at 25, 50, 75, and 100 miles. There are a few ways to register to start earning rewards for walking Ferguson. You can register in person at the Ferguson Community Center or you can visit our website, www.fergrec.com.



Once you are registered, you must track your miles and log them at every 10 miles you walk. You can log your miles by visiting the Ferguson Community Center or submit your miles on our website, www.fergrec.com. For every 10 miles logged, you will receive a "toe token". When you hit a special milestone (25, 50, 75, 100 miles) you will get a special reward sponsored by **SSM Health**.

The Walk Ferguson Walking Challenge will begin October 7th, 2020 and end October 6th, 2021

Walking Groups


Want to Walk Ferguson but not alone? We will have 2 walking groups each week to help you accomplish your goals. Each walking group will walk approximately 1.5 miles for about 30-45 minutes.

Weekday Walking Group: Wednesday's @ 4:00pm
Weekend Walking Group: Saturday's @ 9:00am
 Meeting locations will vary around town and be posted on the @FergRec Facebook page each Monday.

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Field Notes From A Farm Girl

As a North County (St. Louis) farm girl, I'm used to the swing of the seasons and I do all that I can with the dirt, sun and rain of any given year. When it's cold, I make plans for how to get back to work as the temperatures rise, sunlight increases and Mother Nature grants me another chance to grow new life. I'm used to hard work, long days and what it takes to run a small farm, but 2020 was a hard kick for everyone and aren't we all still trying to figure out what to expect from this brand-new year?

Fall 2019 I ordered seeds and made plans to expand our farm garden. In the late winter of 2020, as COVID strained supplies and grocery stores were stretched to the breaking point, I made the decision to plant every seed I had with the thought that what I grew may need to feed the people around me if the supply chains we depend on, broke from the strain of the pandemic. The garden itself were like a cell that kept doubling and doubling. It was long days, aching body, and a hope that everything would thrive and be the support that mankind has needed since the first human saved seeds. Deeper and deeper into Spring, then Summer, our stores were able to keep up but our garden didn't know so she grew and grew and grew. She produced like people's lives depended on it. I never told her to slow down or stop. Instead, I took all our homegrown babies to the Ferguson Farmer's Market. Our seeds of hope grew into happiness for others and friendships with shoppers brave enough to come see us. It was the most satisfying and incredible experience in a year where each of our own worlds seemed to shrink.

Being a farmer took on a greater meaning and importance last year, and as the cold winds of fall made their way to us, a sadness crept back in. This small farm's garden had given and given and given all year long. In turn, she added much to the lives of others but none more than me as she was my sanctuary and solace, and the place I most wanted to be. In my garden, I felt safe.

My last big garden day was Thursday October 15th as the forecast called for temps below freezing the following day. There are things we can do to protect individual plants but there was no magic trick up my sleeve to protect the entire garden. I frantically began cutting all my blooms, picking all the remaining fruit, snipping all the herbs, digging up potatoes & carrots and salvaging anything I could before the killing frost just hours away. That night I exhausted all my LED light strips, killed my phone battery and ended with just moonlight and the feel of my plant babies as guides. Basket and baskets and more baskets transported home to be inspected in incandescent light. It was quite a haul, but from the looks of the flowers in the front beds of our house the next morning, the frost claimed without discrimination.

Winter blew in and stayed and this past weekend, I went back to my garden to imagine what work we need to do to get ready for 2021. I felt a sadness as I prepared to see her grey and bleak and broken after knowing her in her bright vibrant strength of summer. I opened the gate slowly. Corn stalks, cannas, giant Zinnia, Hollyhock, Cosmos and tomato plants all slumped over with a general pale dry wheat color everywhere. Except the sweet potato vines, which were pretty much black, it's what I imagined. Monochromatic and dead. I walked the pathway in, past the last planting of corn, the Thai & Chinese long bean tunnel, past the pots of Purple Bumble Bee tomatoes, past all of the squash (Zucchini, Crookneck, Acorn & Cucumbers). All dead and withered, but to my right, the vibrant and vertical (and very happy) Brussel Sprouts stood like ready soldiers. Their stalks filled with their beautiful clumpy sprouts. I walked through rows and rows of what were over 20 varieties of colorful heirloom tomatoes, and in the carrot tubs on the ends, little carrots peaked out of the ground. By the time I got to the onions and potatoes, more diligent green sprouts saluted. Pressing my luck, I turned into the herb garden, and screaming purple were the cabbage that played possum all summer. Peeking out from the leaves along the path were fat and velvety leaves of Sage. And Parsley! Chives and more onions! I walked farther and the Yarrow that I had tortured all Summer were fluffy green ferns of life. The drabness of the landscape melted away as my eyes and heart now focused on all the green. The green of hope. The green of life. I had a brand-new appreciation for all these sweet babies that had made it through winter and that had a resilience I hadn't seen in the hot days of summer.

Farm life is hard work but as evidenced every single day of the year, it is a testament to the hope we all so desperately need. I have always thought that life with animals and plants teach us important lessons that get drowned out in the chaos of too much human noise. The answers to what is good and right are all right here on a farm. Seeing this resilience firsthand, I can't help but be hopeful. I wanted to pass along this message to you,

that despite the way we as humans see things, there are greater and bigger cycles afoot and with a little bit of love, resilience, patience, and perseverance, we'll all get out of winter just fine. Into the new!

With love,
Farm Girl





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Family Food Corner

by Chef Robert B. Cleveland

Welcome back and this month do I have a story for you but before I go into it, I have to let you into my world for a second.

For 2 years I managed a coffee shop and for me it was a major accomplishment. It was the second restaurant I helped open but this was different. I actually had a chance to develop its look, atmosphere, menu and hire staff. This coffee shop was the talk of the town, I mean we had mayors, city officials, even congress men and woman on top of the neighborhood attending. My staff and I were making a difference in the area I grew up in and what a wonderful feeling.

During this time, I would bring my daughter to work just like any parent to show her what I had accomplished but to also, teach her about the business as much she could take in. So, from time to time I would show her how to make espresso, hot chocolates, and even serve food to customers. But this particular day it was different she said "daddy I got this." I paused for a minute and then I look and ask got what if you don't mind. She immediately looks at me and tells me I know what I have to do I don't need you to guide me anymore. What's so funny is she was only 8 years old at the time, so I did like any other responsible parent does, I said I'm from the show me state, show me then. Sure, enough she started doing everything I had taught her plus getting on staff members as if she ran the place. Boy my heart felt so much pride and joy all I could do was smile and laugh. It's one thing to see her grasp the concept of working to accomplish a goal but to want to pick up the gift, man I can't ask for anything else. Oh, let me tell you, she can also cook my friend. She makes some good fried chicken, eggs, fish, and Alfredo pasta. I know we all are dealing with this pandemic but it's a time we all needed at some point to slow down and enjoy each other in our families.

This recipe I make once a month and my daughter enjoys. Once you try this you will never buy store made tortilla shells again.

Flour Tortilla:

- 4c All-purpose Flour
- 1-1.5c Water
- ½ tsp Salt
- 1tsp Baking Powder
- 4Tbsp Lard (or Crisco)

1. Put flour, salt, and baking powder into a bowl and mix well
2. Work lard into flour mixture with your fingers until it resembles coarse meal.
3. Add 1 1/2 cups of warm water and stir until a soft dough form.
4. Turn dough out onto a flour surface and knead 15-20 mins. Cover and set aside for 10 mins
5. For 12" tortillas, divide dough into 8 balls and roll out
6. Heat a large dry cast iron skillet over medium heat
7. Cook tortillas, one at a time until blistered and charred in spots
8. Wrap in clean dish towel to keep warm



THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION OF ST. LOUIS PROVIDES FUNDING AND FREE WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS HEADING TO COLLEGE IN THE FALL

St. Louis, MO—The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis is **accepting applications for its interest-free student loan and scholarship/grant programs through April 15, 2021**. Qualified students of any age, who are enrolled or plan to enroll in a postsecondary program for 2021-22, can be awarded a renewable, interest-free loan of up to \$11,000 annually. Grants vary in amount. Students must meet the following criteria:

- Be pursuing a first certificate or degree at an accredited, nonprofit college, university, or technical/trade school
- Demonstrate significant financial need
- Have earned a high school diploma or GED and have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Be a permanent resident of the St. Louis metropolitan area, for at least two years prior to application (geographic area varies by grant)

To be considered for funding for an interest-free loan and/or grant from The Scholarship Foundation, students must complete and submit online the general application, the Foundation's interest-free loan application, and/or grant application on the St. Louis Graduates' Scholarship Central website (myscholarshipcentral.org) by April 15, 2021.

The Scholarship Foundation is also hosting **FREE online workshops and grant information sessions**. Workshops will aid students and families in successfully navigating the financial aid process and understanding college affordability. Information sessions will explain the grant opportunities to which students may apply. For additional assistance please call 314-725-7990 or email info@sfstl.org.

The workshop, **Decision-Making: Using Financial Aid Offer Letters to Assess Affordability**, is being offered three times and will help students assess and compare financial aid packages and determine next steps.

Wednesday, March 3, 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Wednesday, March 24, 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Wednesday, April 28, 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Registration is required for all workshops, which will be held online and are free and open to the public. For more information or to register, go to <http://bit.ly/SFSTLworkshops>.

To attend a virtual information session about a specific grant opportunity, go to <http://bit.ly/SFSTLInfoSessions> to learn more and register.

BJC Scholars Fund – Tuesday, February 2, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Deaconess Foundation Nursing Scholarship – Wednesday, February 3, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

rootEd Undergraduate Scholarship – Tuesday, February 9, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Neil Molloy Memorial Scholarship – Wednesday, February 10, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

rootEd Community College Transfer Scholarship – Tuesday, February 16, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Horizon Housing Foundation Scholarship – Wednesday, February 17, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Ava's Grace Scholarship – Tuesday, February 23, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis, a nonprofit organization founded in 1920, is based upon the conviction that an educated society is essential to a democracy. The Scholarship Foundation provides access to postsecondary education to members of our community who otherwise would not have the financial means to fulfill their educational goals. Annually, 550 students are awarded approximately \$5 million in direct financial support in the form of interest-free loans and grants from The Scholarship Foundation. For more information, visit www.sfstl.org.



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4 Reasons Why Good Posture Is Important

Submitted by Dr. Robyn Lawrence
Get Well Family Chiropractic

Slouching the neck and shoulders forward or swaying the back with an exaggerated curve are common examples of poor posture. When you repeatedly sit, stand, or lie down in the wrong positions, you might experience back pain, discomfort, and health problems. According to chiropractors, good posture entails keeping your chin parallel to the ground, rolling your shoulders up and back, and maintaining a neutral spine. Here's what you need to know about the importance of good posture.



1. Keep Your Balance

Correct posture assists with standing up straight, which stabilizes your center of gravity and keeps your weight centered over your feet. This helps you maintain your balance while engaging in physical activities such as running, dancing, and practicing yoga. It also prevents unsteadiness, falls, and injuries while walking, rising from seated positions, and hauling heavy items.

2. Align Bones & Joints

When you sit, stand, or lie down with good posture, your bones and joints will remain in alignment, which supports the proper function of muscles. When muscles move properly, they put less pressure on joints, which prevents deterioration of cartilage and ligaments that can lead to chronic back pain and degenerative arthritis.

3. Prevent Neck & Back Pain

Slouching can put pressure on the spinal cord and compress the nerves, resulting in pain, stiffness, or tightness in the neck and back. Poor posture can also exacerbate pain and discomfort associated with pre-existing conditions such as herniated disks and osteoporosis. Sitting upright with your body weight evenly distributed can reduce pressure on the spine and nerves to relieve pain and improve quality of life.

4. Support Proper Breathing

Hunching forward while standing or sitting puts pressure and weight on the ribcage and gradually compresses it over time. This can constrict the internal organs, such as the lungs and diaphragm, and make breathing difficult. Correct posture helps to maintain the correct shape of the ribcage to maximize lung capacity and promote deep breathing.

Winter Fire Safety

Space Heaters

Use space heaters with care. Space heaters should only be used as temporary heating and they should be plugged into a 20-amp circuit, if at all possible. They should never be used with an extension cord. These devices require a good amount of space to be used without any fire hazards. Just like fireplaces, children and pets should not sit closer than three feet in front of a space heater. Avoid placing heaters near curtains, table cloths or other fabrics. Always make sure your space heater has an automatic shut off switch, which forces the heater to shut off as soon as it reaches a dangerously high heat level.

Extension Cords

Don't use flimsy extension cords. Always use heavy-duty, quality cords that are grounded for fire safety. Never run extension cords under rugs or in an area that may pose a tripping hazard. Keep in mind that an extension cord is meant to be used as a temporary solution. So if you are using an extension cord on a regular basis, you may want to hire an electrician to install permanent power.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

You can never have enough smoke detectors. Smoke detectors should be placed in each bedroom, in the halls adjacent to bedrooms, and on each level of the home including the basement.

Continued on page 10

The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely

FEBRUARY, 2021

Holy Days & other observances this month.

2nd—Groundhog Day—he is more accurate than the weatherman!

7th—Super Bowl—THE Highest Worship Day of Those who cannot stand up!

9th—National Pizza Day—eating pizza is very satisfying!

14th—VALENTINE'S DAY—men who forget this day are doomed to have NO GIRLFRIEND for a whole year!

15th—PRESIDENT'S DAY—used to be 2 separate days; what a rip-off!

16th—Mardi Gras—another excuse to misbehave with others!

17th—Ash Wednesday—A Holy Day used to remind us all that we are a LOT more sinful than we all think we are! We should get ashes every day!

26th—Purim Starts—read the book of Esther in the Old Testament!

Puter Definitions, dept.

in no particular order....

Software: apps or programs that are written in a programming language that hardware can understand, used to make the hardware do helpful things for us.

Malware: any software that is used to do helpful things for someone else, and is damaging to us in a certain way or ways. This malware is usually unwanted by the owner of the puter.

Protective software: any software that makes our puter safer, and which fights malware, and/or removes malware from our puter. May also help to prevent infection. Usually, protective software comes in several different varieties, each used to fight a certain type of malware; not all protective software is useful against all types of malware. As with anything in life, no software is perfect, and has varying levels of desirable AND undesirable actions, but these are usually more desirable than undesirable.

USER: that would be you, or anyone else with access to your puter, whether allowed by you or not.

OWNER: the one who owns the puter, and who may, or may not, be a user.

Important Points, dept.

1. it is incumbent upon the owner to insure that all actions taken by any user are proper, safe, and legal.

2. it is the job of the owner, or of the user appointed by the owner, to keep the puter in an updated condition, and to keep the puter in the most efficiently useful condition, and to install all necessary software and hardware.

3. Install only the software/hardware required for the puter to do its job; any additional installation will

likely cause the puter to operate more slowly, or with errors, even if the additional installation has been approved for your puter.

4. When installing SW or HW, be certain that that technician KNOWS how to do it. If you are not that person, find someone who does. Puters can be very badly damaged by someone who does not know their own limitations.

5. Upgrading SW or HW is a far less expensive option to a new computer. You can upgrade SW, up to and including the Operating System, and HW, to include the Central Processing Unit and/or the RAM, a.k.a. Random Access Memory. Usually, upgrading the ram, is the best use of \$\$\$.

Another excellent upgrade would be to replace the HARDdrive with a Solid State Drive, or SSD. Such an upgrade would also be a great time to put on a fresh copy of your operating system.

If you have some puter terms you want me to define for you in simple language, or if you have a puter term you want defined, tell me. I would be happy to help. Just ask whatever puter question you like, and I will do my best to give you a good working explanation.

ME GO NOW!

It's probably gonna be too soon for us all to attend church on the 17th, Ash Wednesday, but some of you may have the opportunity to go and attend safely. We should all continue to keep all of us in our prayers. You may not see it, but it does help in a lot of ways. Just ask God to take special care of those we name as being more dear to us. He will still take care of ALL of us; He promises to do that in the bible. i'm going to get my ashes, and to say my prayers. God's blessings to us ALL!

IF YOU WOULD like to ask Doug for his FREE PUTER ADVICE, it's best to call him on the phone at *314*521*1789*, in the PM hours of most any day. When emailing, make sure to send to him at fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com You should also put your local telephone number into the text of your email, and put the phrase "i need puter advice" into the subject line, or he will not be able to contact you.

Ashes are a blessing in that ashes help us remember our sins, and to be penitent, preparing us for Easter!



Winter Fire Safety (continued) frm page 9

Carbon Monoxide detectors should be located in the hallway adjacent to bedrooms, and on each floor if you have a home that has natural gas or liquid propane. Combination smoke and CO detectors are also available. If there are people in the house that are hearing impaired, consider installing visual strobe detectors for their safety.

Make sure your detectors have fresh batteries in them and change them in the spring and fall.

Candle Safety

Candles can provide a wonderful ambiance and delightful fragrance, but they are also responsible for starting two out of every five decoration structure fires each year

Get flame without the fire. Consider replacing traditional candles with flameless battery operated types. But don't forget to turn them off when leaving the house as LED lights do get hot.

Get flame without the fire. Consider replacing traditional candles with flameless battery operated types. But don't forget to turn them off when leaving the house as LED lights do get hot.

Don't leave the room. Never leave a candle burning unattended and, if you are going to be stepping away from the candle for several minutes, it's safer to blow it out rather than risk a potential hazard.

Use caution when decorating with candles. Always use sturdy candle holders to keep them from tipping over or touching a flammable surface. When decorating, keep candles at least 12 inches away from all flammable items.

Chimney and Fireplace Safety

Wood burning fireplaces can produce creosote which has the capability of igniting inside the chimney. If you use your fireplace regularly you should have it inspected and cleaned yearly. It is important when burning wood in your indoor fireplace to use dry, seasoned hard wood.

Always cover your fireplace with a screen, either a metal screen or tempered glass will protect from any sparks leaving the fireplace. Still, you want to make sure children and pets keep at least three feet away from a burning fireplace.



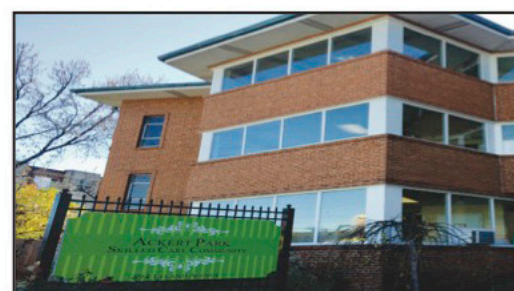
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Financial Focus

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@sbcglobal.net)

Business Manager for St. Joseph Parish in Cottleville
Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

Last month I wanted to share hope for the New Year and ended with new technology possibly being a key to our economic recovery. That came to mind while listening to an interview about an Annual Tech Fair recently. Due to the pandemic, this Tech Fair was changed from a one day in person event, into a four day virtual event that can be visited by everyone. So I listened with great interest as they touted some of techno wonders now possible.

While I dislike admitting I'm a senior, I realize not being tech savvy puts that label on me. Some of the older generation have really embraced technology and don't always need to ask their grandchildren to help set up a new television or iPhone. Sometimes I even amaze my friends with my tech knowledge, but there are also those times when I am so glad to have my offspring to assist.

As a member of the older generation some of these new tech inventions seem a bit crazy to me. Why would you need a doormat that alerts you to someone at the door? Seems to me a door bell and small peep hole would work just fine. The example of a seeing a delivery being left on your porch that you could then quickly bring inside might be a reason. But, if you are at home wouldn't you hear it happen or perhaps you'd get an alert on your cell phone. We've heard of the grocery delivery that could arrive at your home and with the right app, allow the delivery person access to your home to put your groceries away when you are not even there. Most of the people I know couldn't believe someone would want that service. We've also seen the small robots that drive about delivering small packages. Not sure if the demand for some of this will be big enough.

For several years Alexis and Siri have been at our beck and call. I'm of the age that still has trouble using them. When I feel the need to know what year a movie I'm watching was made I will use my phone to find out. You can probably guess how I might do that without asking Siri.

I just type in the name of the movie using my phone's internet. And I am truly amazed at the wonderful trivia I can find out at a moment's notice. Useless trivia and fun facts are at my fingertips. Maybe I prefer it this way because I feel lazy just asking Siri. Or maybe it's the way I was raised. As a young student, I would often call out to someone else in the house to see if they could spell a word for me. If either of my parents were within earshot, the answer was always to go look it up in the dictionary. They would explain that it helps you learn how to find the answers by using the tools we have like the dictionary. I'm not sure if that is still a requirement for students to have a pocket dictionary with them at all times. I guess today we call that a phone.

Our phones are perhaps the biggest revolutionary piece of technology we've really embraced over the past twenty years. To some extent we've been pushed in that direction, but the information available using our phones has been pretty impressive. Back in the old days, I recall someone needing to leave work because they remember they left their iron on because they were using it to getting ready for work. The mad dash home to prevent a possible fire was nerve shattering. Now we see those commercials showing a person recalling they may not have locked all of the doors at home and with the touch of a finger you can do it from anywhere. And during most of 2020, we were using much of the new technology to teach and work from home. While we also discovered many of the shortcomings, technology made so much possible.

So even though you may never buy that robot that will pour you a glass of wine and bring it to you from the kitchen, we have many new products and services available that we never dreamed of before. If this expansion of technology will help our struggling economy I'm willing to give some of the new ideas a try. I got a Fit Bit and found myself challenging others in my circle to compete on steps. Never thought I would do that. Touchless faucet and soap dispensers have been a plus during the pandemic helping us keep sanitized without spreading possible germs on the handles. Recently, we got my mother a Grandpad to help keep her in touch with family and friends. Getting her to use it and not forget how has been quite a challenge. The joy of getting to see her great grandson's virtual Christmas program made it worth the struggle. And using visual calls to communicate and made her much happier while being on lockdown. Within a couple of hours, we were able to share pictures of a new great grandchild born last month which truly amazed her. And it has shown her that some of the new things she has tried to avoid can be beneficial.



Perhaps we wouldn't be so helpless if we do actually embrace this new technology and learn how to live with it. Knowing how to find the answers on making it work for us, just might be right a touch screen away. They say "necessity is the mother of invention" and this past year has brought about many new such ideas. If we continue to adapt, it may just help us to a better future. As always, I like to remind everyone to learn from the past and embrace the future. Believe it or not at one time there were naysayers complaining that the horseless carriage would never really take off. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at cleav73@sbcglobal.net.



Under The Hood With Robinwood
By Bob McGartland

EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE & THE RIGHT TOOLS ARE GAME CHANGERS IN AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE

Recently I had a lady call me at the shop with a check engine light on her 2015 model vehicle. She explained she had been to two auto parts stores who hooked up her car to their code reader scanner, read the code and suggested she needed this certain part. She took her car to an auto repair shop; they only read the code and gave her an estimate to replace the same part the two auto parts stores also suggested. The repair shop estimate was over \$500.00 to replace this part. Since she had 3 different people tell her this part was needed based off reading her code, with no additional testing performed; she asked me for an estimate to replace this part. I asked her some more questions to get a better understanding of what was going on with her vehicle. Then I explained we needed to go further to verify the exact cause of why the check engine light was on before I could give her an estimate... here lies the problem. All a code reader scan tool does it gets the auto technician "in the ballpark". Here is a good way to understand scan tools and check engine light diagnostic services... the scan tool just gets you in the 80,000 seat stadium. The real problem is located under the seat in section 112, row 12, seat 4. See the challenge? This is when experience, knowledge, and the right tools kick in.

Don't get me wrong, the right scan tool does help. Notice I said "right". Many of the vehicle manufacturers have very dedicated & special scan tools that are also VERY EXPENSIVE. With a lot of later model vehicles if a repair shop is trying to perform testing with a "one size fits all" scan tool, there is a strong chance they may not identify the real problem. The right scan tool for the vehicle being serviced is important. BUT THE REAL WORK comes when a tech gets under the hood.

How do you know that a repair facility has trained, knowledgeable and experienced technicians? There are a couple of simple things to look for:

1) Make sure the shop displays the ASE logo. This stands for Automotive Service Excellence which is an organization that provides training and certifications. There are 8 different areas of the vehicle that technicians are trained in, and the best techs achieve a "Master" rating. There is also an "Advance Level" certification that is focused on engine drivability codes and emission system problems.

2) If the shop is a AAA Approved Auto Repair Facility, it has met the high standards that AAA requires to be part of their Approved Auto Repair family. This relates to the training and knowledge of the technicians, the equipment that the facility has available to repair and service vehicles, and how the shop ranks on customer satisfaction surveys all done by AAA. To be a AAA Approved Facility your shop must score 90% or higher on customer satisfaction surveys.

In closing, please know all automotive repair facilities are not created equal. If you are a first-time customer, please do some homework before you drive in. Check the shop's website, read their reviews, check with some friends. When you do arrive, feel free to ask some questions. How many years of experience do the techs have? What ASE level does the tech working on my vehicle have? How many years have you been in the business? Good shops appreciate being asked.

At Robinwood Automotive we are proud to be a AAA Auto Repair Facility, have experienced ASE Master and Advance Level technicians, and have served the greater Ferguson area for 38 years. At the time of this article the lady with her check engine light on again has not come in. I hope she does because I know we can diagnose and efficiently repair her problem.

Happy Valentine's Day. Lets make 2021 a great year for all of us! If you are having any vehicle problems or concerns, give us a call or visit us at robinwoodauto.com.



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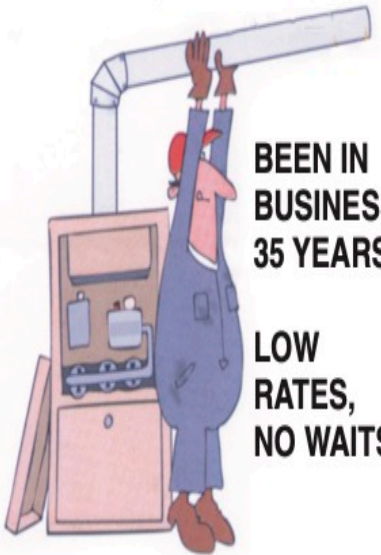
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