

Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

2021 NEWS 2021



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May is for Mothers and Memories

May is the month in which we celebrate our mothers. We all have a mother, and some of us have adopted other moms as our own. There are women that just have that “mom” effect and we lovingly call them mom. They were the ones we could talk to, play board games with, and were always looking out for us. Most of the “moms” who helped shape me are gone now which makes me sad.

My mother was an actress and singer. And how she could sing. Some of my earliest memories are of my mom singing while doing housework. She would put on records and sing along all day dancing with the vacuum cleaner. She taught us to sing. She said anyone could sing; it’s just speaking words to a tune. I am sure it is more than that but to her, it was like breathing. It wasn’t until shortly before her death that we actually recorded her singing. By that time she had developed dementia and was having a hard time focusing. But music seemed to bring her out of that place no one else could go with her.

After my father passed, I was fortunate to inherit my mothers recipe box. I can still go through revisiting old recipes that are written in her beautiful cursive handwriting. She didn’t print because her penmanship was perfect. And the recipes are still the best and full of her “secret” ingredients. Even though I’ve found over the years that those secrets weren’t top secrets, they still make the difference when rediscovering the smells and tastes I remember from my childhood.

It doesn’t matter how old you get, your mother will always be your mother. Even after my mom passed I still hear her when I echo those same phrases she would use when I was growing up.

That is what moms are all about: cherishing memories.

Memorial Day is also celebrated at the end of this month. It was always a sign that school was about to end and summer was about to begin. And with summer comes swimming, baseball, BBQs, vacations, and heat & humidity. Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Korean War, The Vietnam War, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This Memorial Day let’s remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and pray for all the mothers of the world.



New Routes + New Limits = Safety at Ferguson Twilight Run



Ferguson Twilight Run will host its 12th annual event Saturday, May 15, 2021, with virtual and limited capacity in-person options for the health and safety of the community.

(See Full Story page 15)

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May 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



Tails and Tales Summer Reading Challenge - May 29-Aug. 7

It's that time of year! Pick up your challenge packet starting May 29 to read and win prizes! For more information, visit <https://linktr.ee/fergusonlibrary>.

Dungeons and Dragons - Tuesday, May 4 at 6 pm

Looking to jump into the world of Dungeons and Dragons, or learn how to play for the first time? Join us online as we start our quest! Ages 12 and up are welcome. Register at bit.ly/31jptKW to get the Zoom link.

Puppy Dog Storytime - Saturday, May 15 at 2 pm

Join us on Facebook for a doggone great storytime featuring stories and songs about puppies! Wag your tail over to facebook.com/fergusonlibrary for all the fun.

May Take Home Craft Kits

Pick up a new craft kit each week in May!

- **May 3-8 - Bath Salt Soak:** Pamper Mom or yourself with some relaxing bath salts!
- **May 10-15 - Origami Star Wreath:** Fold your way to a starburst wreath, perfect for adding sunshine to your home!
- **May 17-22 - Suncatchers:** Catch the sun and add some color to a sunny spot!
- **May 24-29 - Plush Keychains:** Stitch up a cute plush keychain for your keys!

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

The library will be closed Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day.

CROSSWORD

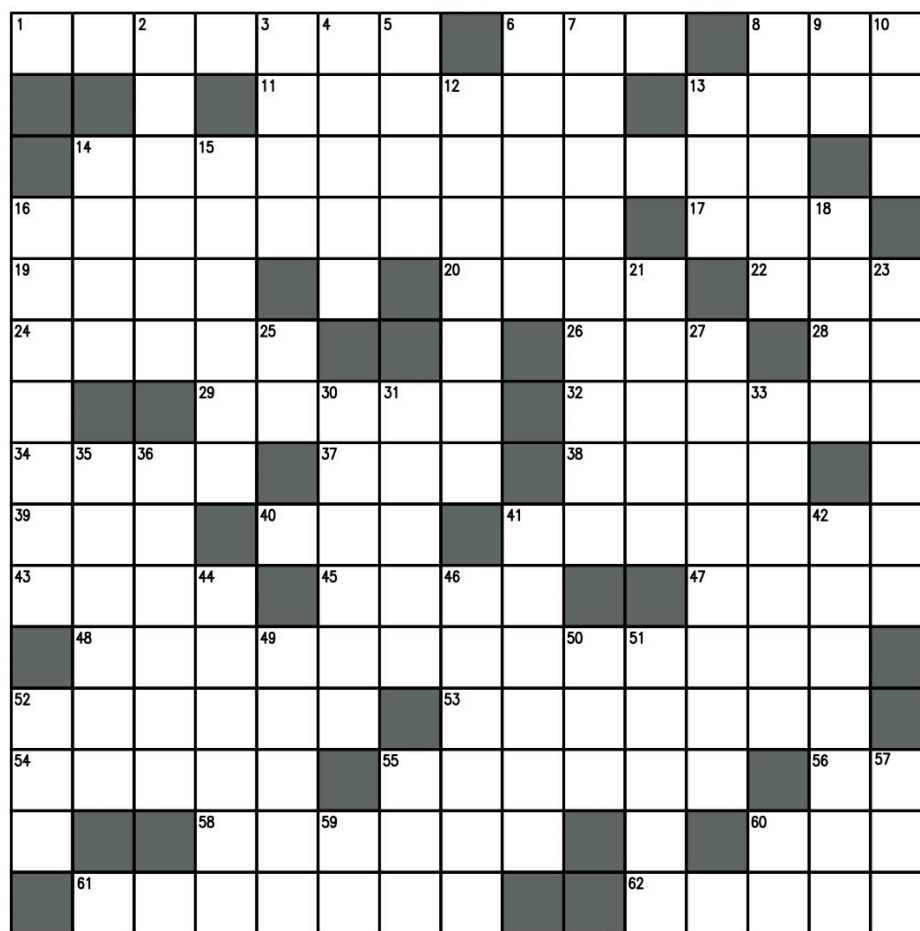
Stay For the Fun!
By Robin Shively

ACROSS

1. Carbonell of The Morning Show & others
6. Painting Deg.
8. Tattler
11. More compact
13. Guys that finish last
14. Subdivisions
16. Eight are in a juice
17. So far
19. Always
20. Workplace safety agcy.
22. Legendary bird of prey
24. Opposite of sur
26. Chi-town transit sys.
28. Sept. or Oct.
29. Greek for character
32. Carl's nemesis at Bushwood
34. Opaque black stone
37. Ketchum who has gotta catch 'em all
38. V.P. #45
39. Piglet's pal
40. CPR pro
41. "Regarding myself"
43. Like a bug in a rug
45. Past Prime Minister of #46 down
47. Geezer
48. Where #16 across, #7 down, & #44 down may be found
52. Profession
53. Most blushing
54. That's no bull
55. Progenitor
56. Hoop__
58. Comedian Russell
60. Poetic evening
61. Brutish
62. Where you may find Colonel Mustard with the candlestick

DOWN

2. Weavers founder
3. French river
4. It may precede race or switch
5. Name-dropper
6. Popular ones feature a cat or Bernie
7. Coop collections
8. Choir platform
9. It feels good in Aug.
10. Online "Talks"
12. Kissin' Kate Barlow's spiced peaches
13. Polite decline text msg.
14. Red hat band
15. Crest
16. Purveyors
18. Large volume
21. Stand-offish
23. Girdle
25. He wants to phone home
27. It is found on a bicycle or a camera with film
30. A song about one was written by #2 down
31. Kitchen appliance brand
33. "Save the cheerleader, save the world" series
35. Food label word
36. Joe Cocker's "___ So Beautiful"
41. Arsenal
42. Stippled
44. Verdant hues
46. Country since 1948
49. It may be followed by badge or scholarship
50. Enzyme suffix
51. Peels
52. Harvest share prog.
55. Med. Cancer screening test for men
57. "___body home?"
59. 3.14159...
60. Overseas econ. Alliance



Solution on page 14

Our Pride and Joy CLASS OF 2021

Do you have a student who is graduating this year? Would you like them recognized for their awesome achievement? You can send them a shout out through the paper for only \$10.

Graduates name: _____
 School: _____
 Parents: _____
 Photo Optional

Email to: savoystl@yahoo.com by the 15th of the month.

Sick Bay Update:
 Our Computer Corner author Doug Neely is now in rehab at home. He is still in good spirits. Please continue to keep him in your prayers. He wanted to say hi and he is still here. We wish him a speedy recovery.

FERGUSON FACTS
Did you know?

In 1905, ordinance number 265 signed by Mayor LeGrand Atwood, formed the Ferguson Volunteer Fire Department. During the early years, a railroad engine remained on the tracks so the engineer could alert volunteers with a blow of the train whistle. Engine whistles were used as our fire alarm system until steam engines disappeared. Later, the city purchased a siren which was mounted on top of the railroad water tank just north of the station. Volunteer firemen were paid \$3 for each fire; the Chief was paid \$4. Firemen had to pull the hose and reel by hand to fires. By the time the winded firemen reached the fire, a burning house was usually in bad shape. The "Town Talk" campaigned for a municipal fire engine. Volunteer firemen sold bricks for \$2 each to raise money for a firehouse.

In 1923, the Department bought its first motorized fire truck. In 1947, the Department became fully paid. Firemen received \$155 a month; the chief was paid \$190 a month. From 1947 to 1952 the police and fire departments shared 37 North Florissant Road. In 1952 the Department moved to a new City government building on Church Street.

In the 1980's a new fire station was built on West Florissant and in 2013 the newest station on Florissant Road was built.

Looking Forward	
May	June
1 - Summer Market	14 - Flag Day
5 - Cinco de Mayo	20 - Fathers Day
9 - Mother's Day	July
15 - Ferguson Twilight Run	4 - Independence Day
31 - Memorial Day	

May Celebration Shout-outs

19th - Happy Birthday Renee Nadeau
 31st - Happy Birthday, Merrilee Nadeau

Email Shout-outs to savoystl@yahoo.com - deadline is the 15th of each month



The Ferguson News Group may be reached

text/voice: 314 249-6323
 email: asroc873@charter.net
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 Instagram - fergusonneighborhoodnews

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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

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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 congratulatory shout out for only \$5

ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Glynis Mary McManamon, RGS

Ferguson Youth Initiative

FYI is planning a poetry slam for May 7th 5:30 p.m.. Check their Facebook posts for more info.



Online Exhibit

GSAC's April exhibit will feature photographer and Ferguson resident Sheila O'Keefe. Sheila is a local photographer who specializes in wedding, engagement, family and graduation photography. She also loves doing landscapes. Sheila got her Digital Certification from St. Louis Community College Meramec.

Ferguson Art Festival: A North County Celebration

At press time, we were still in limbo with St. Louis County Health. Any questions about the Ferguson Art Festival can be sent to info@goodshepherdarts.org. You can also call 314-769-9806 for details.

Ferguson Art Festival: Children's Events

GSAC will feature children's art for the May on-line exhibit and produce a booklet of artworks by local children. We are also working on a live exhibit of children's art at the Ferguson Farmers Market, May 8. The deadline for submitting children's art (digitally) is March 31 – but because you may be seeing this for the first time, we are extending the deadline it to April 6. To submit children's art email images and details (child's name, title of work, medium and your relationship to the child) to info@goodshepherdarts.org. If you want to submit children's work for the live exhibit, include that in the email and we will send you details for delivery and retrieval of work.

Artists at the Market

Good Shepherd Arts Center has a booked a booth at the Ferguson Farmers Market for the full market season. Local artists are invited to take a turn at showing, demonstrating and/or selling their work. The Farmers Market runs May 1 through October 30. Interested persons should email info@goodshepherdarts.org or call 314-769-9806 for an application.

Thank you, all

Citizens of Ferguson, Facebook Friends, STL artists and art supporters: we met and in fact exceeded our goal to raise \$5,000, so the Sisters of the Good Shepherd will turn that \$5,000 into \$10,000. Final update will be in the May Ferguson Neighborhood News.

Resources

We continue to be blessed by the Ferguson Municipal Public Library's wonderful resources, and their support of local creativity. They are still offering weekly craft project kits, yours for the asking. Amy Randazzo, children's librarian, is on the committee for the Children's Events on May 8.

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 and identify yourself as being from Ferguson. See more at artsashealing.org. Thank you, Ferguson Parks and Recreation for this information.

The St. Louis Public Library is offering a free class for adults who want to learn or practice art in a fun virtual setting. Art Studio Central is an hour-long, program recurring every 3 weeks, alternating Fridays and Saturdays. Instructors will demonstrate techniques using various mediums. Working along with the instructor, participants are encouraged to work expressively, ask questions, and share. All skill levels welcome! Materials will be suggested for each class; feel free to use any supplies you have on hand. A limited number of basic supply kits will be available at Central Library for pickup. Images and a relevant booklist for each class will be emailed before the event. There are limited spots. To register, go to <https://slpl.bibliocommons.com/events/> and search for the date you are interested in. After you register a Zoom link will be sent to you before the start of the event.



Anna Keller
Blessed Blessing Some Eggs
First Grade
Blessed Teresa of Calcutta



A North County Celebration
May 8, 2021
A Project of Good Shepherd Arts Center



Tommy Anderson
"Unknown" Creator
North Grade
Parkway North



Khamryn K. United
Fourth Grade
Berkeley Elementary



Beau Seahorse
Pre K
St. Ann's Early Childhood Center



Ferguson Police Department

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To: Ferguson Neighborhood News

From: Chief Jason P. Armstrong

Date: April 13, 2021

Subject: Traffic Safety

Greetings Ferguson Community,

I wanted to take some time and update the community on what we are doing to address the concerns expressed by so many residents about traffic safety in the community. First, let me start by saying that we take the concerns of the citizens very seriously and we attempt to address all of the issues that are brought to our attention. Many residents have expressed their concern and frustration over the frequent reckless and dangerous driving through Ferguson and we share that same concern and frustration.

As we navigate the daily demands of handling calls for service in addition to being proactive to address safety and quality of life concerns, we will make some adjustments in our service delivery. We are currently conducting a pilot program to look at how we are responding to calls for service while at the same time trying to increase our presence and activity regarding traffic safety. With this new initiative we will regularly conduct traffic safety details, but these details will have an impact on our response to some calls for service. These details will include increased police presence and activity in our "hotspot" areas for traffic complaints as well as "danger zones" for serious traffic accidents. During the detail time periods, we anticipate extended response times for low priority calls for service (found dog, derelict vehicle, noise violation, theft report – not in progress, etc.), but all emergency calls for service (violent crime, domestic disturbance, crimes in progress, etc.) will be dispatched immediately as normal. These details will be spread out on various days, at various times of day.

This will be an adjustment for everyone and we ask for patience as we try new things to improve our overall service to the community.

Thanks for your support,

Chief Jason P. Armstrong



Wilson named recipient of 46th David L. Underwood Memorial Lecture Award

ST. LOUIS – St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley named LaRhonda Wilson, associate professor of sociology, recipient of the 46th David L. Underwood Memorial Lecture Award.



The late David L. Underwood was known for his love of education. He was deeply concerned with the welfare of students and staff alike. His dedication went beyond office hours – and he tirelessly gave of his time and talents to further the educational mission at Florissant Valley.

Recipients of the Underwood Memorial Lecture Award demonstrate that same dedication and commitment. Chosen by a committee of peers, the recipient exhibits excellence in instruction and a genuine, humanistic concern for students, faculty, staff, and all of education.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and safety concerns, Steve Ehlen, supervisor of the Engineering Technology Center and the 44th recipient of the Underwood Award, creatively shared clues about this year’s deserving colleague during a presentation held outside the David L. Underwood Library before revealing Wilson as the winner of the prestigious honor.

Janice Nesser-Chu, dean of liberal arts and the 42nd recipient of the Underwood Award, commended Wilson for her dedication to St. Louis Community College and especially the Florissant Valley campus.

“Associate professor Wilson works tirelessly for her students and the community. She is a strong proponent of service learning and has connected students to important issues ranging from the environment to government accountability. While her activities enhance the classroom-learning experience, she goes one step further by incorporating volunteer efforts for students in our local community. Wilson’s commitment to her students, the campus community and North County is unparalleled,” she said.

Wilson also serves as program coordinator for the campus service-learning program and is lead faculty for sociology, anthropology and psychology. Her motto can be summed up in one word: love.

“Love is the motivation behind my teaching and involvement in the community,” Wilson said. “I’m confident that the love and knowledge will spread how it’s needed.”

Wilson is known for being compassionate in the classroom, engaging students and encouraging them to participate in activities that stretch their comfort academically and socially. She is involved in voter registration, education efforts and local politics – having served as campaign manager and political advisor for several successful grassroots elections.

Over her more than 20 years as a teacher, Wilson has enhanced students’ learning experiences by connecting them to court watch programs, voter engagement and environmental activities, reentry populations, services for children and families, communities of poverty, city government, political campaigns, and more.

Wilson has earned awards including: Iota Phi Lambda Sorority Inc.’s Apple for the Teacher Award, League of Innovation’s John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award, North County Incorporated’s 30 Leaders in their Thirties Award, the Organization for Black Struggle’s Unsung Shero Award, and St. Louis American’s Salute to Excellence in Education Award.

Wilson is a member of the American Sociological Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the Lincoln University Alumni Association, and Missouri Sociological Association.

She will present the commemorative lecture in fall 2021.



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PROUD People Reaching Out for Unity and Diversity

FCRB Ferguson Civilian Review Board

FCRB 2020 Annual Report
 Tuesday, May 18th – 6:30 PM CDT

Join our discussion of the Civilian Review Board's in-depth report on the trends and progress of policing in Ferguson.

For more info and Zoom link: www.proud-ferguson.org

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The Best of Ferguson

by Teyuna T. Darris, M.A.



Cathy VerBerkmoes and Israel Lovins - *A Dynamic Duo in Ferguson*

One thing I love about capturing the stories of Ferguson residents is that no two stories are ever the same, and each person I learn about has a unique connection to our hometown. In this month's edition of "The Best of Ferguson", I interviewed a dynamic duo who are also mother and son: Cathy VerBerkmoes and Israel Lovins.



Cathy VerBerkmoes has worked as a classroom teacher in the Ferguson-Florissant School District since 2016. She began teaching at Griffith Elementary in 2016, and recently joined the faculty at Robinwood Elementary in 2020. Cathy is also participating in her school's Instructional Leadership Team.

Israel Lovins is Cathy's third and youngest child, and is on the cusp of graduating from McCluer High School where he has attended all four years, and plays the trumpet in the school's Jazz Band. Israel also played for the Jazz Academy through the Jazz Bistro in St. Louis. When he's not at school, or playing his trumpet with the band, Israel works at the Paintball Park in Bridgeton, MO and owns a film production company through which he produces athletic documentaries and professional photography and videography for St. Louis area sports teams. Israel will study video production at Missouri Western State University in the fall 2021 semester.

It was after living in many places across the State of Missouri, that Cathy decided to settle her family in a place they wanted to call home--- that place was Ferguson, Missouri. Cathy told me "Once I started teaching in Ferguson, and learning the area, we felt we had found our home. So, we started looking to buy a house in the Ferguson area. My realtor tried to convince me to buy my home elsewhere, but I was determined to live in Ferguson. I wanted to own my home in the place where I influence my community and sound my voice."

Cathy also told me that she enjoys hiking, kayaking and spending time at beaches. She also shared that she has "...a commitment to complete the 30/30 St. Louis County Parks Hiking Challenge this year. I've completed three challenges, so far, and it has been great to get out to the parks throughout Saint Louis County to try out the different trails." Meanwhile, her son, Israel, keeps busy working at the Paint Park, and investing time in his company and craft as a videographer and photographer.

In 2017, Cathy earned the Education Specialist Certificate in Education Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri – Columbia, and she is currently trying to determine where she will complete the Doctor of Education degree in the Saint Louis Area. Moreover, Israel graduates from McCluer High School on May 23rd, 2021.

I asked Cathy and Israel, "What are your aspirations and dreams?" Cathy enthusiastically replied, "My dream is to one day be a published children's author writing books for children while sitting in the sand between the ocean and my beachside cottage." She also wants to be an elementary school principal "...working each day to advocate for my teachers, my students, and my families to have the tools, resources, and community resources needed to teach the best, learn the best, and live to the best of their individual potential." Israel, then, replied, "To, one day, be chosen by a major sports team or sports channel to produce film footage to promote the teams and the sports I love most."

I, then, asked Cathy "What are your greatest accomplishments?" She

replied, "My greatest accomplishments are the students I have, and the opportunity to work with them year, after year. I also asked Cathy, "What is your biggest challenge right now?" She replied, "Teaching a hybrid class of 7 in-person students and 14 online students. This has been the most challenging year of teaching for everyone in education in many ways; the curve balls of technology, the worry of knowing students don't have the resources they need and working to make sure they get their needs met, and keeping aware of all the equity gaps then coming up with strategies to ensure the academic needs of all my students are met."

Cathy and Israel are also committed to, and passionate about, serving others. Cathy graduated from the Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) in 2017. In this MU Extension- St. Louis County program, she received leadership training that emphasized community-building principles and strategies, project planning, organizational leadership, management practices and personal leadership skills. Then, in 2018, she completed the Neighborhood Leadership Fellows (NLF) program (another MU Extension – St. Louis County program). In this program, Cathy and other North St. Louis County and North St. Louis City residents learned how to amplify their voices and advocate for community interests in collaboration with regional decision-makers to produce more equitable policies throughout the Greater St. Louis Region.

I asked Cathy to tell me about her impressions about NLA and NLF. She replied, "Both of these community leadership training experiences have been pivotal in my own personal growth in understanding equity and social justice. The strength based leadership training we were given has been transformational to understanding my own assets as a leader as well as how to spot assets in others as I work on teams through my schoolwork, as an educator, and in my community."

Cathy also served a term as a council member of the MU Extension Council of St. Louis County. Cathy enthusiastically talked about her time as a council member of the MU Extension, and said, "I believe strongly in the work MU Extension provides our Missouri communities as a person who has participated in their programming and have had the benefit of their services for myself and for my own children."

Israel is also familiar with the work of the MU Extension Council of St. Louis County as he participated in the Youth Empowerment Program (Y.E.P.) in 2019. Y.E.P. is a youth leadership training program that focuses on high school students and helps them to identify and develop their leadership strengths and to collaborate with others to support community issues and needs through policy.

We closed our interview with me asking Cathy one of my favorite questions: "What three things make you awesome?" She replied, "The three things that make me awesome are my three kids: Andie (26), Elijah (21) and Israel (18). As a teacher and mom, I'm always looking to the future of our youth, hoping for them, rooting for them, and guiding them to create better lives for themselves and for the communities they live and serve in."

It's always enchanting to see a passion for service passed down from generation to generation. And, it can be so impactful when mother and son use their gifts and talents to serve the same community in different ways! I think it's safe to say that Cathy and Israel represent a legacy of service--- and this makes them a dynamic duo in Ferguson.

About the Author

Teyuna Darris grew up in Ferguson, and works as a public school teacher and academic tutor. She is also a PhD student at Liberty University and enjoys reading, writing and narrating poetry and prose.



Ferguson City Hall Information

Finding Your Inner Leader

Growing up, I always shied away from the idea of leadership. I was more comfortable listening to others, and believed leadership was best held by people who sought it out and enjoyed being in charge. Recently, however, my perception of who should be a leader has changed.



Living in the United States, we see leadership take on many different forms. Some public figures lead us with respect and dignity, and others resort to hatred and anger. Some have led us calmly through times of crisis and others have floundered. If anything, this has taught me that just because someone feels called to leadership does not mean that they are fit for such a position. Consequently, just because someone does not feel called to leadership doesn't mean they wouldn't make a good leader. Before self-disqualifying, it's important to define the characteristics of a good leader. From what I've observed, a good leader excels at listening. A good leader cares about their community and brings people together. Most importantly, a good leader has the courage to stay true to their mission.

Framing leadership in this way, we begin to see that there are many leaders in our community who don't hold titles of power. There are community organizers who are attempting to improve people's lives, good neighbors who check in on those around them and create community, and people who are striving every day to lift Ferguson up. Perhaps you are already a local leader and didn't realize it. Yet if you, like me, have hesitated to accept the call to be a leader, I encourage you to seek the courage to stand up for your community. Bring a few friends together and talk about that project you've been considering. Come to a city council meeting and advocate for what you believe the city needs. We can all be leaders in our community and right now, we need your leadership more than ever.

Guest Author
Hannah Vilas
Washington University in St. Louis Joint Degree Student in Law and Social Work

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

Help us in congratulating the re-elected or newly elected members of your Ferguson City Council. For official results or if you have any questions please contact the office of the City Clerk.

Councilmember Ward 1
Phedra Nelson
914 Cheri Heights Ct
Citizens4phedra@gmail.com

Councilmember Ward 3
Naquittia C. Noah
5117 Rockingham Dr.
committeetoelectnaquittianoah@gmail.com

Councilmember Ward 2
J. Toni Burrow
915 Buckeye Dr
Toniette1@aol.com

FERGUSON EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER / BUSINESS RELIEF

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.

LOOKING FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION OF HOW THE CORONAVIRUS IMPACTS YOU?

City of Ferguson..... <http://fergusoncity.com/661/Emergency-Operations-Center>
Center for Disease Control and Prevention..... cdc.gov/covid19
Missouri Health and Human Services..... <https://health.mo.gov/>
St. Louis County..... www.stlcorona.com
Ferguson-Florissant School District..... www.fergflor.org

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COUNCIL MEETINGS - TUESDAY, May 11th & May 25th

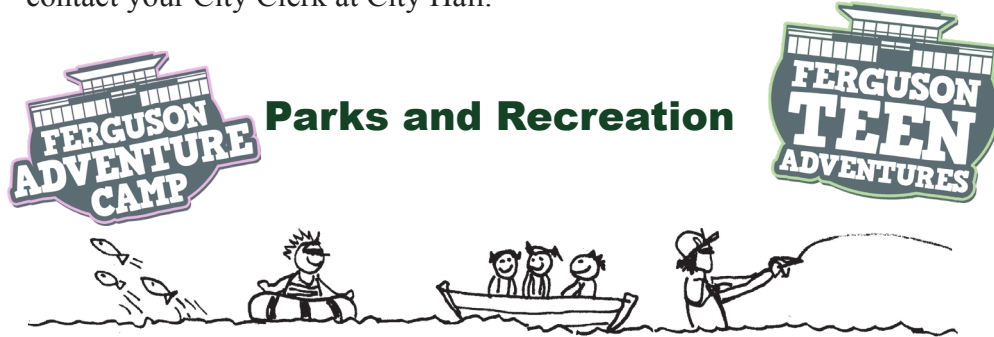
Council meetings are held in City Hall Council Chambers, however, due to the recent State of Emergency this meeting may be held virtually (RSMO 610.015); via Zoom Conference. Visit the website calendar or agenda center for instructions on how to access the Council meeting and/or how to address the City Council during the meeting. A copy of the recording will also be made accessible via the City's Website after the meeting. Feel free to contact the office of the City Clerk if you have any questions.

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.

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-Commissions> or contact your City Clerk at City Hall.



May Luau Bingo

Aloha Kauwela! We are introducing May Luau bingo to welcome the coming of summer with a lunch and bingo featuring your choice of chicken or beef. Take your chance to win bingo prizes and attendance prizes.

Ages: 45 & Up
Dates: Thursday May 6th
Time: Doors Open 11am-3:00pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center (1050 Smith Ave.)
Fee: \$14 Members; \$16 Residents; \$20 Non-Resident

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 Community Center

Hours: Monday-Friday - 6:30am -8pm | Saturday 8am-8pm

Membership Rates	Resident		Non-Resident	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
Adult (Ages 16 - 59)	\$85	\$9/month (\$108 annual)	\$200	\$18/month (\$216 annual)
Senior (Ages 60+)	\$50	\$6/month (\$72 annual)	\$120	\$12/month (\$144 annual)
Youth (Ages 15 and under)	\$50	\$6/month (\$72 annual)	\$120	\$12/month (\$144 annual)
Family	\$165	\$16/month (\$192 annual)	\$300	\$28/month (\$336 annual)

Silver Sneakers and Renew Active

The Ferguson Community Center participates in both Renew Active and Silver Sneakers to offer eligible individuals a facility membership free of charge. Visit silversneakers.com, myrenewactive.com, or call your health insurance provider to check eligibility. Bring proof of membership to either of these programs to the Ferguson Community Center to get your free membership

Residents must bring 2 forms of proof of residency
Monthly memberships must place Credit Card on file and are billed on the 1st day of the month

Splash at Wabash Aquatic Complex

The SPLASH at Wabash Aquatic Complex is Ferguson's favorite place to cool off. The SPLASH has something for every member of the family: spiral slide, speed slide, zero-entry pool, water works play area, lazy river, whirlpool, splash pad playground for younger kids, diving board, six lane lap area and a huge deck area with lounge chairs, umbrellas and tables. The SPLASH also features the Cannonball Café with all your concession favorites. The SPLASH @ Wabash is sure to be the place to be this summer!

Open Daily May 29th – August 22nd.

Located in January-Wabash Memorial Park, 501 N. Florissant Rd.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Open to Everyone					Members & Residents Only	
Adult Swim	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm	12pm - 1pm
Open Swim	1:15pm - 6pm	1:15pm - 7pm*	1:15pm - 8pm	1:15pm - 6pm	1:15pm - 8pm	1:15pm - 7pm	1:15pm - 6pm

*Based on Swim Team schedule, pool will close at 5pm on occasionally Tuesdays.

Members & Residents Only



Daily Pool Prices

	Resident*	Non-Resident
Open Swim	\$3.50	\$6.50
After 4pm	\$2.50	\$5.00
Adult Swim	\$2.50	\$4.50
Tuesday Rates	\$2.00	\$3.00

*Must Have Resident ID Card to receive Resident rates.
Resident ID Cards can only be purchased at the Ferguson Community Center for \$5
**3 and Under are FREE

Wabash Club Membership

	With CC Membership	Residents	Non-Residents
Individual	\$50	\$65	\$125
Family	\$99	\$135	\$210

Membership Includes:

- Unlimited Entry to Adult & Open Swim
- Discount on select activities & classes
- \$1 soft drink at Cannonball Café
- Private Member Parties Once a Month

For more information about Splash at Wabash including Swim Team, Aqua Fitness, and the most updated COVID-19 regulations and restrictions, visit our website at www.FergRec.com

Walk Ferguson- 3 Wards, 100 Miles, 365 Days

Come join us as we walk Ferguson over the next 365 days! Earn rewards as well by registering and tracking your miles at www.fergrec.com. Don't want to walk alone? We also 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. Be sure to follow us on Facebook at @FergRec for meeting locations each week. Sponsored by SSM Health DePaul Hospital.

Start: September 30, 2020

End: September 29, 2021

Weekday Walking Group:

Wednesday's (ongoing) @ 4:00pm

Weekend Walking Group:

Saturday's (ongoing) @9:00am

North County Scavenger Hunt

Join us for a scavenger hunt throughout North County in celebration of National Scavenger Hunt Day! We are joining the City of Florissant, City of Bridgeton, City of St. Ann, City of Jennings, City of Bellefontaine, City of Dellwood, and City of Hazelwood to hide secret items in one of our parks. Here is how it works! Download Actionbound in the Apple or Google Play Store on your phone. Once the app is downloaded, search "North County Scavenger Hunt" to begin playing! There will be 8 items you must find and snap a photo with to be entered into a drawing for a prize. The app is available for download beginning May 17th! Be sure to check out our social media @FergRec on Facebook for updates on the scavenger hunt.

Love your photos and want to share them on social media?!? Share them using #NCScavengerHunt

The scavenger hunt winners will be announced via ALL participating cities social media pages on May 25th! Winners will also be sent an email with instructions on how to claim their prize.

Ages: All Ages

Dates: May 17th – May 24th, Winners Announced on May 25th

Fee: FREE

Field Rentals

Rentals are now available for our fields and courts at Forestwood Park and the Ferguson Community Center! For more information, visit <http://www.fergusoncity.com/597/Athletic-Fields-Courts>.

Ferguson Summer Adventure

Join us all summer long for our action-packed traditional summer camp experience where kids will laugh, explore, and create memories and friendships that will last a lifetime! Campers will experience with weekly themes, crafts, games, swimming at Splash at Wabash, field trips and more, held at the Ferguson Community Center. Registration closes at NOON on the Wednesday prior to the following week's session. Registration is now open!

First registered weeks payment is due at the time of registration. Payment for all other registered weeks is due by NOON on the Wednesday prior to each registered week.

Ages: 5-12

Dates: M-F, June 7th – August 13th

Time: 7:00am – 6:00pm

Main Camp programming runs 8:30am – 4:30pm

Open Door runs 7:00am – 8:30am and 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Location: Ferguson Community Center (1050 Smith Ave.)

Fee: \$80/Person per week

(\$10 Discount for Ferguson Community Center Annual

Members)

Ferguson Teen Adventures

"Too old" for day camp? Ferguson Teen Adventures is designed for older kids with weekly themes, crafts, games, swimming at Splash at Wabash, field trips, and more. Registration closes at NOON on the Wednesday prior to the following week's session. Registration is now open!

First registered weeks payment is due at the time of registration. Payment for all other registered weeks is due by NOON on the Wednesday prior to each registered week.

Ages: 11-15

Dates: M-F, June 7th – August 13th

Time: 7:00am – 6:00pm

Main Camp programming runs 8:30am – 4:30pm

Open Door runs 7:00am – 8:30am and 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Location: Ferguson Community Center (1050 Smith Ave.)

Fee: \$80/Person per week

(\$10 Discount for Ferguson Community Center Annual

Members)

ROADWAY LITTER PICK-UP ON W. FLORISSANT



Pictured above are Karen Proffitt, Mark and David Kueckenmeister, three members of the Ferguson Eco Team participating in the quarterly Litter Pick-up Day on W. Florissant Avenue in Ferguson as part of the county's Adopt-a-Roadway program on Saturday, March 27.

The FET was formed in 2012 and works on awareness, advocacy, and action to ensure environmental sustainability in the Ferguson area and beyond. The team also shows eco videos at their monthly Eco Video Nite and sponsors a booth monthly at the Ferguson Farmers Market. For more information, contact: carletonstock@aol.com.





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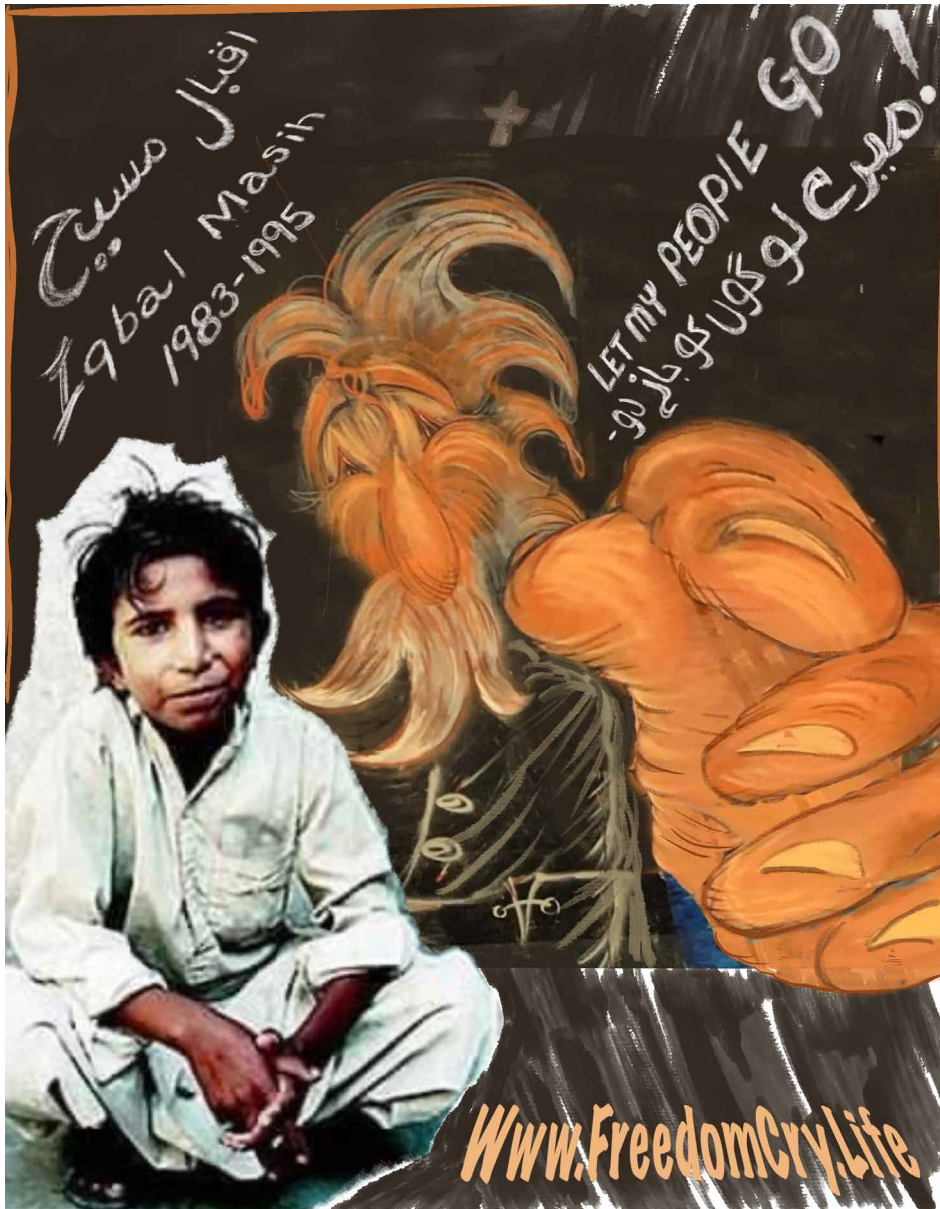
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Ending Slavery from Ferguson to Pakistan

By Wendell Phillips 'Phil' Berwick



Let me explain this TreeToon;

Iqbal Masih was born in 1983 in Muridke, a town on the outskirts of Sheikhpura district, Pakistan. Iqbal's father had taken a loan of a few hundred rupees from a local businessman named Arshad for his elder brother's wedding, but as he could not repay the loan, four-year-old Iqbal was forced to work in a carpet factory.

For six years, Iqbal worked fourteen hours a day, but the debt remained the same. The factory owner only provided one meal a day and worked 14 hours a day all week. When Iqbal Masih was ten years old, he ran away, but the local police officers caught him and handed him over to the same businessman again. He fled in again in 1990, but since the factory owner was influential, he was soon arrested after bribing the police. After being tortured by police for a few days, he was re-arrested to work in a factory. This time the workload was further increased, but a year later Iqbal managed to escape again. This time, fortunately, he reached out to an organization working against "child labor" which freed him from the shackles of slavery in the light of Pakistani law.

Later, Iqbal Masih led the release of about 3,000 young laborers like himself. Iqbal freed 3,000 children of Lahore from the captivity. Iqbal Masih founded the first children's liberation movement at the age of 10, called "Bonded Child Liberation". Now the Christian child Iqbal Masih had become a leader. Iqbal was asked to share his story in different places. When he returned to his hometown of Rakh Bowli from the United States in 1995, on April 16, 1995, while he was cycling, unknown individuals opened fire and killed the little hero. In 2009, the US Congress launched the annual Iqbal Masih Award, which is given annually to one of the world's leading human rights activists.

26 years later after Iqbal's death, there are millions of children remaining in slavery among different industries including carpet factories and especially brick kilns. I've been given an open window to be a part of deliverance to the captives in Pakistan, on the other side of the earth from Ferguson. I don't take it lightly, and I tremble before the task at a times. Any Ferguson freedom loving friends who would like to know more, and how to be a part of ending slavery from Ferguson to Pakistan, can go to www.FreedomCry.Life. Or e-mail me at freedomcryinfo@gmail.com

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Under The Hood With Robinwood
By Bob McGartland

Turning on Your Vehicle's Air Conditioner Will Never Be the Same!

When I mention R-12, R-134A, and HFO-1234yf, do you know what they mean? If you know these are the numbers that reflect the refrigerant (freon) in a vehicle's air conditioning unit, you are way ahead of most of your friends and neighbors. But why are there 3? Let me explain.....

1st, a brief history of when air conditioning was available in automobiles...Way back in 1940, Packard was the first vehicle to have air conditioning. By 1969 approximately 50% of all vehicles had air conditioning. Today 99% of all vehicles sold have an air conditioning system. Every AC system uses refrigerant (also known as freon) to provide that wonderful cool comfort we all enjoy in our vehicles. R-12 was the 1st of the refrigerants to be used in every AC system.

IN 1980 EVERYTHING CHANGED.....

In 1980 a team of scientists in California determined that the Chlorine contained in R-12 was causing damage to the ozone layer. When R-12 refrigerant were vented or leaked, it would drift to the ozone layer. Soon it was discovered that the important ozone layer located over the arctic was actually thinning due to these two refrigerants being used across the planet. In the late 1980's more than 100 countries signed a treaty to eliminate these ozone depleting substances. By 1992 R-12 was virtually phased out of the automotive industry in America.

R-134A TO THE RESCUE.....

Thankfully, a new refrigerant called R-134A was developed. R-134A had NO CHLORINE so appeared to be the answer to correcting the ozone problem while still delivering the comfort automobile owners across the world demanded. Not so fast....a new environmental problem was identified. Global warming! Scientists developed a term called GWP which stands for Global Warming Potential. It is a measurement of how much of a greenhouse gas is trapped in the atmosphere. Carbon Dioxide is the basic measurement of Global Warming Potential. Confused yet.... how do you think folks working on AC systems were feeling? In short, the GWP of R-134A was determined to be unacceptable so yet another refrigerant was needed.

HONEYWELL & DUPONT/CHEMOURS FIND THE ANSWER.....

R-12 had Chlorine that damaged the ozone layer. R-134A had an unacceptable Global Warming Potential and had to also be replaced. The initial phase out date for R-134A was suppose to be 2008, then 2011, and finally 2017. Thankfully Honeywell and Dupont scientists developed HFO-1234yf refrigerant in 2008. The Society of Automotive Engineers Cooperative Research Program determined that HFO-1234yf offered superior environmental performance and was safe to use in automotive applications. R-134A was allowed to still be used as HFO-1234yf was being produced and is still operating in many automotive air conditioning systems. However, as of the 2021 model year vehicles, R-134A is no longer being used in new car manufacturing.

During all of the time that research was being performed, and the new environmentally HFO-1234yf refrigerant was being developed, automotive repair facilities like Robinwood Automotive have been constantly updated with service directories for which refrigerants to use. We have completed current 1234yf certification and have the equipment to service these systems. In addition, with the elimination of R-12, & R-134A, the pressure to make enough HFO-1234yf was off the chart. In 2017 CHEMOURS broke ground on a HFO-1234yf manufacturing plant in Corpus Christi, Texas. The same year Honeywell also opened a plant in Geismar, Louisiana. It appears that we now have an adequate supply of the environmentally friendly and safe, HFO-1234yf to keep you cool for years to come.

Necessity is definitely the mother of invention when it comes to that refrigerant that keeps you comfortable as you drive down the road. So next time you jump in your car, pick up, or SUV and flip to AC, please remember that comfortable feeling you are enjoying is made possible by some smart people that developed a refrigerant that is safe for the environment and keeps you cool too.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your vehicle, Robinwood Automotive is ready to help. Visit us at robinwoodauto.com. Stay Cool!

Family Food Corner

by Chef Robert B. Cleveland

ServSafe Proctor & Examiner, Owner of Cleveland's Cuisine LLC,
Chef Yo Share Kitchen

Welcome to the beautiful month of May and flowers. After all the wet and rainy days of April there's nothing like the beautiful scenery of fresh blooming flowers in May.

Just like May flowers bloom, I'd like to share a snippet of my blooming relationship with my mentor and friend over our passion for food.

It was a nice sunny August evening and I was hosting one of my regular food in wine pairings and I was running a little behind with getting the venue setup. He was an invited guest with a good friend of mine father whom also is a chef. My friend had been briefing me about Jim before hand and said that we would make a good time team because our personality is similar. Here he was and the first thing he said to me like any chef do you need some help and me recognizing the moment I said yes and thank you. Wow, we started working and conversing about the menu and the twinkle I get in my eyes for food I seen it in him. At that moment, I knew this is someone I need to be around. After, the event had come to an end and everyone was hanging around I stopped him and asked if was he interested in mentoring. He smiled and said "it's funny you ask, I was going to ask if you were open to the idea".

That was 8 years ago to the date and we have opened 2 restaurants, helped sponsor 4 chefs and their business, and trained 5 high schoolers into chefs just to name a few. I like to thank Jim for helping me through the rain and nurture me so that we were able to BLOOM LIKE MAY FLOWERS!

Financial Focus

by Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@sbcglobal.net)

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

Some of my first recollections about managing finances came from playing the game Monopoly. It was one of my favorite past times as a kid, our games could last for days. No one ever wanted to give up, there was always property to mortgage or sell. And to keep the game going even longer, we adopted some new rules on bank loans. Today we are constantly reminded of how so many people are sadly lacking in financial knowledge. Being financially literate means one possesses the skills and knowledge to make informed and effective financial decisions. While there are many Financial Literacy Programs to help, most believe they don't go far enough to really change people's behavior that has been learned for many years. So it seems obvious that we need to start with our children. Building good money managing skills while young can help through a life time.

Teaching kids about money really starts early and it is pretty basic. Observing parents and seeing the exchange of goods for dollars is always a teaching moment. Just as parents who've mistakenly let a foul word slip out can attest to, youngsters may not know what it means, but they sure know it gets attention or in the case of money a candy bar. Most experts agree that a child learning to count is about the right age to introduce coins into the equation. Parent's actions speak louder than words, so as I mentioned earlier we may need to watch the examples we are setting. For most lessons parents don't need to purchase an app, tablet or cell phone. Just talk to your children and set examples of the traits most helpful with managing one's finances. The most important of those attributes are delayed gratification, being prepared, always saving some and charitable giving. Developing these habits can give a good basis for learning other skills.

Delayed gratification is difficult at any age. Seems we are all anxious to have things now. Whenever I hear a commercial for a new on-line only bank, I just cringe. A young woman is so happy with her new bank because she can boast to her co-workers about getting her paycheck two days early. How many people have gotten over their heads quickly by borrowing from the future? When the pain of endless debt finally takes hold, people are so deep the only choice may be bankruptcy. So if there is one lesson that you can start teaching early, it is delayed gratification. Waiting for the reward is something we should all practice. When you take your time to save up the money for a purchase, the feeling you get from actually having earned it free and clear is impossible to describe. Making a purchase where you have to borrow doesn't have the same effect. Think about the time you just had to have those skates and begged your parents to front the money – "I'll pay you back with my allowance or I'll mow the lawn for free all month." Paying off that debt was quite painful and the skates didn't make it feel any better. If your child always needs an advance on his allowance, make sure you make it a little painful. Perhaps charging interest might

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

Sun Dried Tomato Chicken Bruschetta

2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
1 ¼ cups Italian salad dressing, divided
4 cups fresh spinach, torn
½ cup crumbled feta cheese
8 sun-dried tomatoes, packed without oil, chopped
1 (1 pound) loaf focaccia bread, cut into 1/2-inch-thick slices
¼ cup olive oil

Step 1

Place the chicken and 1 cup salad dressing in a bowl. Cover, and marinate at least 3 hours in the refrigerator.

Step 2

Preheat the grill for high heat.

Step 3

Lightly oil the grill grate. Discard dressing used for marinating, and grill chicken 7 minutes per side, or until juices run clear. Cool and shred.

Step 4

In a large bowl, mix the cooked chicken, spinach, feta cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, and remaining dressing.

Step 5

Brush the focaccia bread with olive oil, and cook 1 minute per side on the prepared grill, or until lightly toasted. Place portions of the chicken mixture on the toasted focaccia to serve.

help. And don't give in and advance so often that it becomes normal. Set a maximum number of times or reasons you can be awarded an advance on allowances. Seeing Dad save the money over the winter to make sure he can afford the new fishing rod in the spring could be a great example for a child to see.

Preparing for the unexpected is another good experience. The pandemic has caused many families to struggle financially. Lines at food banks to feed so many over the past year seemed like a problem without end. While the government stepped in to help, most were left to their own devices. Using this time to start an on-line business possibly teaching others something may not have paid well, but it was investing in yourself and could lead to helping you be more marketable in your field. That could have been a wonderful message to demonstrate for your children - I may not be able to do what I did before, but I can do something. If your family was financially prepared, your children probably learned a wonderful lesson from the experience. Understanding how things change quickly and often not in our favor, is important to recognize. Sharing how you are dealing with it can make children feel safe. Letting them know about preparing an emergency fund that was built over time is a good example. Asking children to help too, by reducing expenses makes them feel like part of the solution to get through the difficult times.

Like being prepared, always saving is a valuable habit to get into while you're young. Imagine if you had saved 20% of every dollar you ever made, you'd probably be much better off today. And it's a good way to be prepared for the unexpected, but also good to be prepared for an opportunity that may come along that you wouldn't have to pass up because you couldn't afford to participate. Also, the comfortable feeling of having a cushion always at the ready, allows some discretion in taking some chances with investments which often pay off in the long run, being comfortable enough to wait can really pay off. Adopting a rule of saving a portion of allowance, gift money or earned money can pay off big in the future.

Being charitable is another way to demonstrate to your children the importance of giving back. Allow them to see you do that with your own money. Going to church and dropping the envelope in the basket is a common example. It isn't just with money, but also with time volunteering. Over the past year, there were many heartwarming stories about youngsters or groups of students working to help others by donating to food banks or raising funds for good causes to help others. Families volunteering together can give your child a great experience and show them how we care for others. Sharing our wealth whether it's large or small sends a great message to our children. As your child gets older you can start giving them more choices to make and perhaps some of the tools available to help. Keep in mind technology isn't always necessary, especially when it can be done in our daily routines and maybe a good game of monopoly might help. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at cleav73@sbcglobal.net.

Field Notes from Farm Girl The thrill of the new pasture

As a small farm, we have animals but not in the capacity of animals as livestock. There are plenty of farms that distinguish themselves as poultry or cattle farms or hog farms but we focus on the things we grow. I have nothing but respect for farmers that specialize in livestock, but it's not for me. We eat chicken eggs and it ends there. We have turkeys but at Thanksgiving we take pictures with them and joke about how lucky they are to live here. Really it's not a joke. As far as farm animal lives, our farm is the place you want to be. You'll never be eaten but you could be pet or spoiled to death. The rest of the time feels like a Disney movie.

Winter is probably the only time the animals here are anything less than happy. In the fall, grass doesn't regrow as fast and as it gets colder, it just stops growing and then every large animal transitions to a diet mainly of hay. It's not great. It's like getting home from a cruise and getting military or astronaut rations instead. There's a palate adjustment and a mood adjustment that matches. It's this time of year that I am most grateful animals don't talk. Maybe I should say I am grateful that I don't speak donkey, cow or horse. I'm pretty certain there is some cursing when the grass is gone.

Fresh grass not only tastes better, but it's like the difference between the coffee you could make at home vs. Starbucks. Something about having to go get the Starbucks somehow makes it taste better. The effort it takes to go get it or the travel time gives you more time to anticipate and when you taste it, it must prepare your tastebuds to like it more. I'm guessing. I think fresh grass is like Starbucks for horses. They have to move to different locations to get it and there's the looking for the new location and the time thinking about needing to move and then the satisfaction of getting it finally. Horses on a green pasture is the epitome of a farm scene. They are happy and content as long as there is green grass. Everyone is familiar with the saying 'the grass is always greener...'. Yeah, horses wrote that.

Winter and a non-stop diet of boring hay sucks. I get it. Cows don't seem to care as much as horses, but the horses don't like it. What they don't like even more in being kept in a smaller enclosed area for winter to keep them from trampling and condemning their beloved pasture to death by compressing it from all the monotonous standing in place. Confining them probably only makes the fact that they only get hay even more dreadful.

As the weather warms, and in their small paddock, our four horses look longingly over the fence the their not-ready-yet buffet. They can see it. They can smell it. As their winter hair begins to shed and the aroma of those baby grass sprouts dance in their nostrils, they grow short tempered and impatient with the humans who deny them their favorite food. Like every parent knows, it's no fun having to say no and be the bad guy.

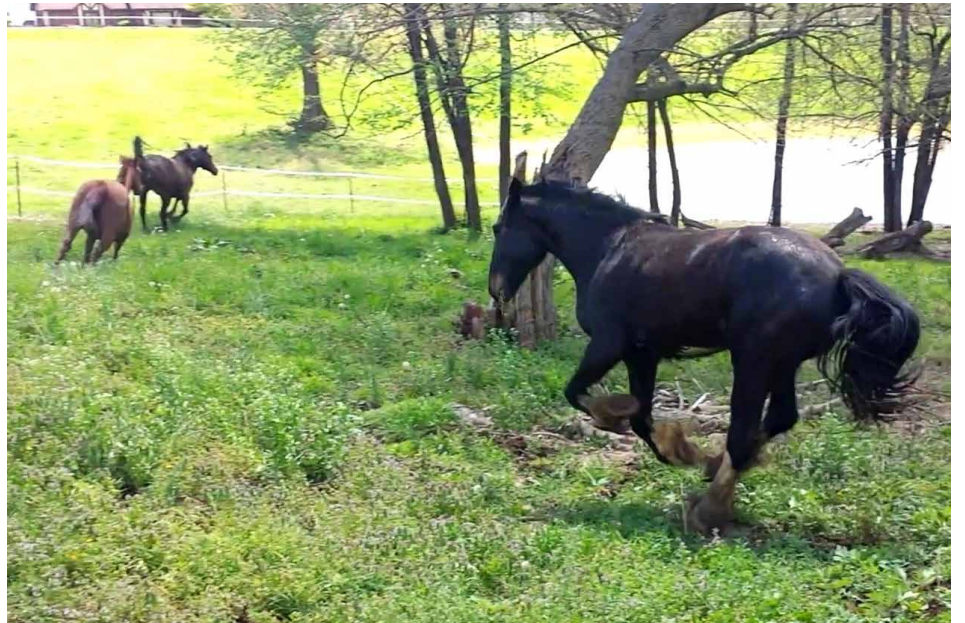
Days and days, lead to weeks and weeks of watching and giving us mean looks. The horses sometimes even team up with the bored cow to push a fence over to give them an excuse to get to the grass early. (That really happened). Not this year. The fence got extra attention and repair in the last year of Covid. The tension and mood of the herd kept building for the sake of giving the grass more time to grow.

Last weekend we had Friday rain. You can't reopen a pasture just after rain. The new sprouts aren't strong enough or tough enough to withstand the responsibility of growing and holding soil together and also getting smushed by 1500 pound animals. It's too much. You can destroy months of pampering, reseeding and regrowth by reopening too soon. It's a mistake many first time parents make: giving in to a temper tantrum only creates more troubles. I've done that before and now I'm committed to the untenable role of defending new grass. I take all the long looks and profanity muttered in their equine tongue. It's what I have to do.

By Sunday, and with the help of Mother Nature, it was finally time. We walked the pasture and the carpet of grass was dry and durable. The density was thick and resilient. Without any other reason to postpone, we agreed it was ready. The horses lined up at the fence line with focused eyes and pawing feet, affirmed that indeed it was the end of hay. Patience with beautiful grass only feet away was wearing thin. After months of being the bad guy, I look forward to changing roles. No drumroll or fanfare, just opening the gate. From hell back to heaven in seconds. Relationship repaired, faith restored and four horses, 3 miniature donkeys and two cows race to get their first bites of Spring. It's a beautiful sight. They race and kick and play and celebrate the return of their beloved grass and the contentment they can count on for the rest of summer. It's a thrill to be able to open that gate and in so doing, make such a huge difference for doing so little.

As years go by, I think I look forward to this ritual just as much as they do. It symbolizes something so vital and vibrant after dark cold days. I can hardly wait to give them what they've been waiting for, as well as the pleasure it gives me to see them happy again. The thrill of the new pasture. It's a marker that we've gone back to everything being good and right in the world again, and this year, it's meant more than I would have ever imagined.

Happy Spring everybody! The pasture is green.:-)



Community Gardens

Growing up, we always had a garden. Tomatoes, broccoli, lettuce, zucchinis, green beans, radishes, and corn. There isn't anything that satisfies as much as growing, harvesting, and putting up your own vegetables and then being able to open a jar containing the fruits of your labor in the dead of winter.

North County has always had the best soil. Unlike areas of new development where the top soil has been removed leaving mostly clay, the top soil here is dark and rich. It isn't any wonder community gardens have always been popular in North County.

This month we would like to spotlight one of the community gardens in Ferguson.

A masterpiece of inclusion: Ferguson Farmers Market Community Garden

by: Caitlin Reitz

FERGUSON, Mo. – Many dabble in the art of gardening, but Ron Brown takes its meaning to a new level.

One of his masterpieces is the accessible garden he has designed for participants in United Cerebral Palsy Heartland's day programs.

Brown, a resident of Ferguson, Missouri, is well known in the community for helping design the community garden next to the Ferguson Farmers Market. A nonprofit he founded, Friends of the Market Community Garden provides volunteer efforts and programming in support of both market and garden. The garden was his first project after completing his Master Gardener training through University of Missouri Extension in 2018.

Shortly after, UCP Heartland asked for his help developing an accessible garden space and activities for clients at its adult day care center. Brown said he knew immediately that the project was going to be a big part of his life.

Since that first contact in 2019, Brown has transformed part of the community garden into an area where UCP Heartland's day program participants can learn and thrive. The program, Brown said, is part of Friends of the Market's mission to help people "become more self-reliant, build their self-esteem, give them something to do they haven't been able to do before."

Raised beds make gardening accessible for many of the participants who use wheelchairs. Brown convinced the city to donate a nearby house that had been slated for demolition. He converted two rooms for hydroponic gardening using reclaimed PVC fencing and installed an accessible kitchen and bathroom.

Brown hosted the very first group from UCP Heartland on March 3, 2020. The group made birdhouses out of gourds with the goal of selling them at the farmers market. They scraped the seeds out of the gourds, planning to come back to paint them and plant the seeds. Brown realized each person's individual skills and created tools that made the work easier for them. "They all smiled, I cried," he said.

Shortly after that visit, UCP Heartland closed due to COVID-19, and the program remains on hold. Nevertheless, Brown learned a lot from that first Friends of the Market event and has big plans for the future. He is exploring the idea of doing a "virtual learning" program and establishing a monthly rotating schedule for interested UCP Heartland clients and caregivers to enjoy the garden when in-person activities resume.

Meanwhile, Brown, other Master Gardeners and volunteers are planning their activities for about 12 weekends of the 2021 farmers market season. They hope to continue with their traditional spring and fall plant sales, a food booth where they serve breakfast and lunch, and a Master Gardener answer desk.

"I like the farmers market in Ferguson because it's very inclusive, it's very open," said Master Gardener Jim Morrison, who says the market provides a much-needed opportunity for like-minded people to get involved in the community.

Brown has donated produce to local restaurants throughout the pandemic and will continue to do so after. Residents can rent out one of the 15 non-raised beds for only \$10 a year.

Brown's countless hours of work throughout the pandemic show just how dedicated he is to the art of building community through gardening. Brown is prepared for the day when UCP Heartland can start up with the Friends of the Market program once again.

You can visit the Ferguson Farmers Market at 501 S. Florissant Road, Ferguson.

The market operates 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays from May 1 to October 30. For more information, visit www.FergusonFarmersMarket.com



Clockwise from top left:

Before the pandemic, UCP Heartland clients and staff enjoy a day making birdhouses out of gourds.

Program participants turn dried gourds into birdhouses and plant the seeds for next years garden.

Ron Brown prepares for the 2021 growing season.

Friends of Market Community Gardens renovate space for indoor gardens and storage

For more information or to volunteer or donate, contact Ron Brown at fomgarden@gmail.com

Friends of the Market Community Garden is designated a 501(c)3 charitable organization

Old Ferguson West Community Garden

Corner of Suburban and Mueller

4 x 8 Plots have all new soil with no weeds available for rent - \$10 for the season

Contact: Ron Brown at fomgarden@gmail.com



Old Ferguson West Community Garden

Wabash Community Garden

Corner of Abston and Dade

Contact: Shonnette Morgan at sdenisemor@hotmail.com

4x8' plots available for rent - \$15 for the season



Wabash Community Garden

Hello Ferguson!



by Marian Linck

Happy Spring!

The pandemic has resulted in changes in many of our routines and lives. Many of us are working from home with more flexible schedules. Some of us found ourselves without a job. I was working for an engineering company as a receptionist and as an administrative assistant. An office without engineers because they are all working remotely does not need a receptionist! I found myself cleaning out drawers and closets and tackling a cluttered basement. One can do that just so long and you start looking for something constructive to do outside your own home. That is when I found the group of individuals who keep Ferguson weed free and blooming all spring, summer, and fall. I enjoyed the company of the group and learned a few things about plants, weeds, and the other members. They are a friendly bunch but also intent on getting the job done. With any luck they will resume their optional “coffee hour” after the hard work which of course the “pandemic” ruined last year.

I was asked to reach out to the readers of this fine paper and recruit some more helpers. Many hands make light the work. I bet there are a few of you out there wasting time binge watching TV or playing games on your phones. We can all benefit from fresh air, sunshine (that means Covid fighting Vitamin D!!) and exercise. Gardening is just the solution for those winter blues. Pulling weeds offers some fine frustration relief. Mad at the boss? Did your spouse aggravate you this morning? Yank a weed, feel better.

Kathy Noelker is my neighbor and the “chief gardener”. She has quite the green thumb and loves keeping Ferguson beautiful. Kathy asked me to share this request for just a little of your time and brawn.

Mrs. Noelker offered her personal history of the Flower Department which I found interesting and inspiring. Ferguson has some of the BEST residents anywhere, no matter what some may think. Here is that short history:

In September and October of 1999 Joe Lonero and Bud Cider created designs for the new garden beds at the Victorian Plaza and the Ferguson Library. Joe and Bud asked if I would head up a design plan for plant material for these two sites. I asked a friend to help, and we co-founded the “Ferguson Volunteer Flower Department.

On October 24th of that year a bobcat prepared the site and about 12 volunteers planted perennials in the first beds at the library. Hundreds of dollars’ worth of grasses, shrubs and flowers were donated by Maxwell Homestead Nursery in Florissant and Joe Lonero.



The workers above left to right are Neil Noelker, Kathy Noelker, Jerry Thayer, and Debbi Koenig. Oh my, we were so much younger 20 years ago!

Now, the “The Ferguson Volunteer Gardeners” need You!

We are looking for anyone who would enjoy spending a small amount of time each week (1 hour) with friendly Ferguson citizens to help our community and keep the gardens of the Ferguson Library and the Victorian Plaza looking beautiful. We have recently lost some of our faithful gardeners and would be glad to welcome new gardeners to our fun group. We do not take attendance; we are glad when your schedule allows you to come help in our community garden.

All levels of experience are welcome. Give gardening advice or learn from others while you help. We will start back up on Wednesday, May 5th, and then every Wednesday morning from 9am - 10am. Seriously, that is it! If you enjoy these gardens as you frequent these spots or travel down Florissant Road, please consider giving a little bit of your time. Our hard-working volunteers thank you!”

Please join the volunteer “Flower Department”. You may contact Kathy Noelker at 521-3613 or knoelker@sbcglobal.net and let her know you would like to join the gardeners.

I enjoy writing these articles and welcome your suggestions. Writing for this paper keeps me engaged with a community I have grown to love in the last 20 years, yes, I am a relative “newcomer” to Ferguson. While there have been times when I was genuinely worried and sad for my “home” my confidence that we shall remain a healthy diverse and cohesive community continues to prevail.

You may reach me at manhattanmarian@gmail.com

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The Ferguson Farmers' Market has a long history in our town - through ups and downs, epidemic. We're extremely proud to be entering our 20th season! Events and activities are still limited due to COVID and while it's disappointing to open the market for a second season under the same conditions, let's look forward and picture a market where we can stand next to each other to buy fresh, local produce, sit together while we eat breakfast and talk with our neighbors, and enjoy live music and special events. It's our hope we can have a few events as the season goes along. Please check our website and facebook page to keep up-to-date on vendors, possible events, music, and other information, or if you'd like join us as a volunteer. Vendors can apply through our website as well.

For now, wear your masks, sanitize as you enter the market, keep socially distanced, and see you there!

fergusonfarmersmarket.com

It is so nice to see everyone coming out through the week!

Please join us for our Sunday brunch and enjoy a flight of Mimosas or a handcrafted Bloody Mary.

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Line art provided by Sharon Nadeau

Crossword Solution from page 2

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Ferguson Team Competes in FIRST Lego League Eastern Missouri Regional Championship

The Viper Bots, a robotics team in Ferguson, competed in the FIRST Lego League Eastern Missouri regional championship on March 27, where their robot took fifth place and they presented a new board game they developed.

The team, consisting of Ludi, Josie and Joseph Renaud and Miles and Micah Nasiiro, was one of just 14 area teams to earn a spot in the regional championship. They advanced after winning the “champions award” and the top robot score in their qualifier at Southeast Missouri State University on Feb. 20.

In FLL, teams of 4th-8th graders build and program a robot to score points by completing autonomous missions, and they develop a research project related to the season’s theme. This year’s theme, “RePLAY,” was about encouraging physical activity.

The Viper Bots created a fitness board game called “Sofa Potato” in which players collaborate to capture the world’s laziest mastermind. You can see their board game, and even download printable PDFs, at <https://github.com/Viper-Bots/sofa-potato>.

This is the Viper Bots’ sixth season, and their first time winning a qualifier. They began as a school-based FLL team, founded by the late Jadzia Renaud, Jossie Gates, and their classmates at Vogt Elementary, and sponsored by the Girl Scouts. After Vogt closed, the Renaud and Nasiiro families continued the team independently.



The Viper Bots are, from left, Micah Nasiiro, Josie Renaud, Miles Nasiiro, and Ludi and Joseph Renaud.



Viper Bots Miles Nasiiro and Joseph and Josie Renaud watch as their teammates Ludi Renaud and Micah Nasiiro run the robot at the game table during a FIRST Lego League qualifier on Feb. 20 at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Mo

New Routes + New Limits = Safety at Ferguson Twilight Run

Ferguson Twilight Run will host its 12th annual event on Saturday, May 15, 2021, with virtual and limited capacity in person options for the health and safety of the participants and the community. This year’s run will welcome up to 700 participants to run or walk the 1 mile, 5K, or 10K distances in person. All distances are offered virtually with unlimited participation; virtual races can be completed on your own schedule. To accommodate necessary changes for in person events, the run will start and finish at STEAM Academy at McCluer South Berkeley High School, 201 Brotherton Lane, in Ferguson. Parking will be available at STEAM Academy.

The 5K (3.1 miles) and 10K (6.2 miles) routes will use most of the Ted Jones Trail. The 5K will run east on Brotherton/Woodstock before turning North on Bermuda. Participants will turn right at Paul Ave and run up Elizabeth, turning around and then following Paul Ave to St. Louis Ave; entering the Ted Jones Trail via Short Ave.

5K participants will exit the trail at Woodstock and finish at STEAM Academy. 10K participants will continue on the Ted Jones Trail with a turn around point on the trail at the UMSL campus.

The 1 mile distance starts at 4 p.m.; the 5K and 10K distances start at 5 p.m. For the safety of in person runners and walkers, there will be staggered starts between pace groups for the 5K and 10K. Road closures are expected between 4:45 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The 2021 Ferguson Twilight Run will feature virtual events throughout the entire week including a virtual concert by Ferguson’s very own Brian Owens. The concert will be televised via Zoom and Facebook Live on Friday night. Check the website for a complete schedule of events.

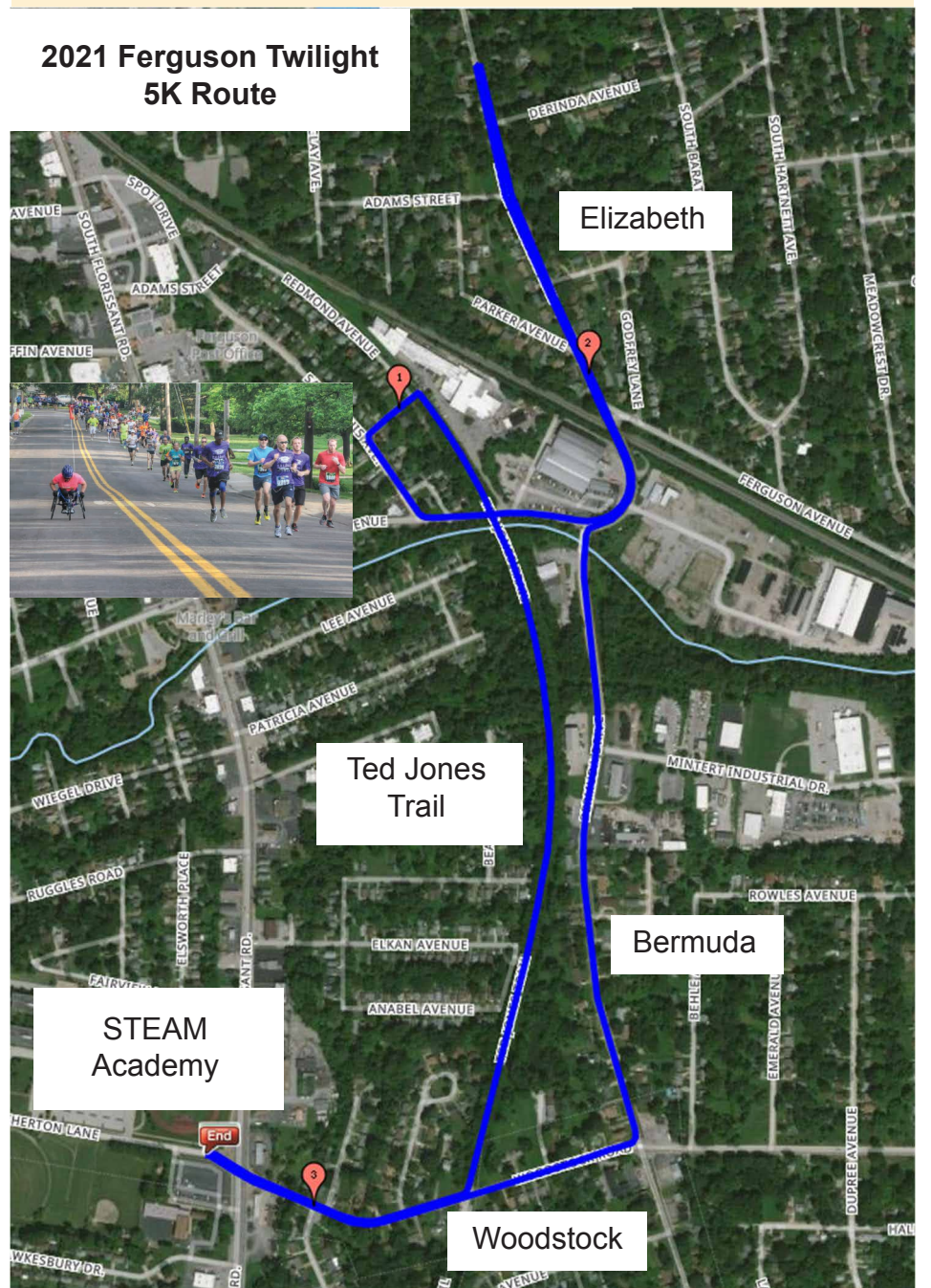
Ferguson Twilight Run debuted in May 2010. The 2021 beneficiaries are A Red Circle, Emerson Family YMCA, Girls on the Run St. Louis Ferguson-Florissant School District, and St. Vincent Home for Children.

2021 Sponsors include Emerson, Negwer Materials, and the City of Ferguson. For more info: www.FergTwilightRun.com

CONTACTS

Dwayne T. James, 314-325-2197 racedirector@fergtwilightrun.com
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