

# Ferguson

## NEIGHBORHOOD

### 2021 NEWS 2021

Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities since 2021

# Missouri's Teacher of the Year

James Young, musical theatre teacher at Johnson-Wabash 6th Grade Center, had an unexpected surprise when district administrators and the current 2021 Missouri Teacher of the Year, Darrion Cockrell, entered his 5th-hour class. Superintendent Dr. Davis announced Young as the 2022 Missouri Teacher of the Year. District and building administrators flooded his class with balloons, flowers, and rousing applause, including Curtis Terry, assistant director with Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, with this history-making announcement. Young will be the first Ferguson-Florissant School District teacher to receive this honor and only the second African-American educator since the program's inception in 1957.

"It is an incredible honor to celebrate Mr. Young as the Missouri Teacher of the Year," said Superintendent Dr. Davis. "He exemplifies the impact teachers have in touching the lives of students and the students in our community."



2022 Teacher of the Year Celebration

Young grew up in Kinloch and attended Ferguson-Florissant Schools. He resides in Ferguson with his wife and seven children. His grandmother, a retired music educator from Ferguson-Florissant School District, instilled the idea of going into education at a young age. He has spent most of his 14-year teaching career in the District. "I grew up here, went to school here, graduated from McCluer North, and came back to teach here," said Young. "This honor is for every FFSD student and the entire community. This recognition represents that we have great teachers doing great things in public education. We get it done."



Dr. Davis and James Young

Throughout his career, building collaborative partnerships have been an integral part of his teaching experience. He has worked with organizations like St. Louis Dancing Classrooms, St. Louis Classical Guitar, Strings Attached, and LIFE Arts Inc. to help bring high-quality arts education to his students and the school community.

"Missouri is fortunate to have so many passionate, dedicated educators, and James is certainly one of those shining stars in our state," said Commissioner

of Education Margie Vandeven. "James's teaching style emphasizes the importance of developing both academic and life skills through arts education, and he strives to educate the whole student. As the pandemic continues, this is an important focus for so many educators, so James will certainly be a wonderful representative as our state's Teacher of the Year."



James Young

Young earned a bachelor's in music education from the University of Missouri — St. Louis. Young will serve as Missouri's representative in the National Teacher of the Year program. He will be honored during DESE's Teacher of the Year recognition event in Jefferson City on Tuesday, October 19, along with the other six finalists, semi-finalists, and Regional Teachers of the Year.

The Missouri Teacher of the Year program recognizes the efforts of effective teachers, working tirelessly to provide a high-quality education to their students.



## OCTOBER NEWS AND EVENTS AT THE FERGUSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

For more information, please call the library at 314-521-4820 or visit us online at [ferguson.lib.mo.us](http://ferguson.lib.mo.us)

### IN PERSON: CREATURES OF MYTH AND LEGEND – OCT. 14 AT 6 PM

Join us and the World Bird Sanctuary at January-Wabash Park as we learn how owls and other animals have inspired myths and legends around the world. We'll also meet some feathered friends! **Registration required.** Register online at <https://bit.ly/fmplmyth> or call us at 314-521-4820.

### VIRTUAL: GHOSTS AND GHOULS STORYTIME – OCT. 16 AT 2 PM

Scare up some fun with us at storytime! We will enjoy stories and songs all about ghosts, ghouls, and other not-too scary creatures. Join us on Facebook ([facebook.com/fergusonlibrary](https://facebook.com/fergusonlibrary)) for a hauntingly good time!

### VIRTUAL: STL SCAVENGER WITH DEA HOOVER – OCT. 20 AT 6 PM

Ready to take the STL Scavenger Hunt? Learn all about Dea Hoover's new book, *STL Scavenger* with a virtual author visit! **Registration required.** Register online at [bit.ly/fmplscavenger](https://bit.ly/fmplscavenger) or call us at 314-521-4820.

### VIRTUAL COSTUME CONTEST

Think you've got the best Halloween costume around? Enter our Costume Contest! Check out <https://bit.ly/fmplcostumes> for more information.

### VIRTUAL PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

Show off your carving skills by entering our contest! Check out <https://bit.ly/fmplcarving> for more information.

### OCTOBER CRAFT KITS

Pick up a new FREE craft kit each week in October while supplies last!

- **Oct. 4-9 - Monster Bookmarks:** Create a scarily cute monster to mark your place!
- **Oct. 11-16 - Halloween Trick or Treat Bags:** Decorate your own bag to take with you while trick or treating!
- **Oct. 18-23 - Beaded Spider Wind Chime:** Make a spooky decoration to catch those chilling fall breezes!
- **Oct. 25-30 - Pipe Cleaner Pumpkins:** Use some simple materials to make a simple pumpkin to decorate your space with!

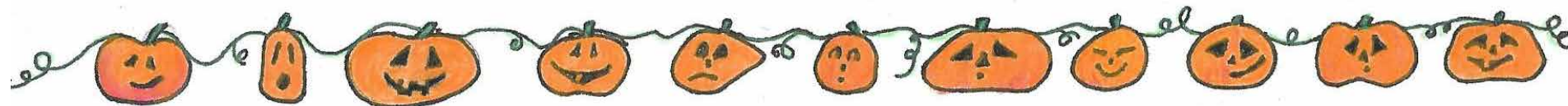
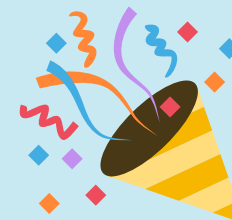
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# October Celebration Shout-outs



27 - Happy 23rd Birthday Kelly McGartland

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



## CROSSWORD

**Funny Bones**  
By Robin Shively

### ACROSS

1. Prefix for sapien
5. Rumour Has It singer
9. Hammer and Escher
12. Just somewhat
13. Nary a one
14. Milk sources
16. First part of a riddle
17. Shortstop Ripken
18. WNW's opp.
19. "The Natural State" (abbr.)
20. Comes close
22. Jr.'s pop
23. Second part of riddle
28. Third part of riddle
29. Bar man's abbr.?
32. Franken or Jolson
33. Mistake by 17 across
37. Type of plywood
40. Per unit (abbr.)
41. Inch or volt
43. Urn
44. Infinity Stones-collecting Marvel villain
47. "Magnum, \_\_\_"
48. Beginning of answer to riddle
50. Shaw of swing
52. St. Lunatic
53. Texted chuckle
54. Middle of answer to riddle
58. Conclusion of answer to riddle
60. Neighbor of F.F.S.D.
62. Discretion is the better part of it
63. Car brand
66. Prostitutes
67. Cinderella's was midnight

### DOWN

1. Partner of hem
2. Not that one
3. Willie in the Hall
4. Most strange
5. Word replaced by an ampersand
6. Huey's uncle
7. Implore
8. Lease
9. Yours truly
10. Chocolate bean
11. "Gentlemen, \_\_\_ your engines"
14. A fiver doubled
15. Big Stl string grp.
21. For example (abbr.)
22. Skin and bone
24. Singer Chaka
25. Slippery fish
26. St. bordered by 8 others
27. Franchise that began with Eleven
30. Tool with teeth
31. Roots drummer
34. Hurried the girl?
35. Prefix for looker or going
36. Actor Torn
38. Noble no. 18
39. List-ending abbr.
40. Parisian water
42. Moniker for Tim
45. Blue shade for a southern porch
46. Sommelier's prefix
48. Look upon
49. TV Tarzan's kin
51. Decompose
55. Private getaway?
56. Really serious
57. An indication of resistance
59. Gallivant, with about
61. Spotted cube
64. Often preceded by HV
65. Jayhawk sch.

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### October at a Glance

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- 11 Columbus Day
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- 31 Halloween

### 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 congratulatory shout out for only \$5

### Climate Change: Where We Are and What We Can Do

#### A presentation by Rev. Carleton Stock

Presbytery Earth Care Team  
 Saturday, Oct 2, 2021 10 am  
 Lutheran Church of the Living Christ  
 2725 Concord Drive, Florissant  
 Sponsored by the Ferguson-Florissant Branch  
 American Association of University Women  
 Refreshments will be served.  
 For information call 314-831-5359

# ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Glynis Mary McManamon, RGS

Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are: Ferguson and North County Arts Organizations and Advocates



I am consistently amazed to discover the rich creative resources in North County. I keep learning about little organizations doing great things in the arts. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to unite in a way that honors the individual gifts yet amplifies the power?

Tuesday, September 14, I met Peggy Neely Harris for the first time. A Ferguson resident, Peggy's impressive resume includes film/television, commercial and theatrical performances. She sings, acts, is a storyteller, is a past COCA Teaching Artist and did her patriotic service with the Department of Defense through European singing tours some years back, to name only a few of her gifts and experiences.



Peggy Neely Harris

Her husband Michael works in Structural Engineering by day and Music Engineering by night. Michael's father played upright bass under Big Band leader Count Basie. Michael's intense love for music and desire to continue his father's legacy prompted him to build his own in-home, fully digital recording studio: i h productions, LLC. i h productions – "intersection of sound and sight" – provides media arts studio recording services and arts enrichment programs, with Peggy Neely Harris as owner/teaching artist. You can contact Peggy at 314-521-6388 (telephone) or by cell, 314-813-3740. Her website is www.peggyneelyharris.com.

"I am very interested in seeing the arts flourish in North County: to bring all the little egg baskets together," said Peggy. As we talked, we found ourselves imagining a "North County Arts Village." Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could link all these hidden organizations – including providing them with a large, flexible, sharable space – where they could carry out arts activities that build up community?

What do you think of this idea: as an artist, an art organization and/or a citizen of North County?

### October Exhibit online at [www.goodshepherdarts.org](http://www.goodshepherdarts.org)

On October 1 look for the works of Kate Moore Freeman at [www.goodshepherdarts.org](http://www.goodshepherdarts.org) in her new show "Chonganda's Children." Kate Moore-Freeman is a St. Louis native, a writer, and a mixed-media artist. A reverence for ancient artistic techniques, a passion for where modern technology can take art, and veneration for common consumer culture waste materials drive her artistic pursuits. With "Chonganda's Children", Kate has joined her love of plant life, her interest in mythology, and her photo-manipulation skills to come to better understand the plant spirits in her environment.

### Artists at the Market

Featured artists at the October Ferguson Farmers Markets will be:

- October 2 Angela Busackino
- October 9 Mechelle Engelhardt
- October 23 JW Curry
- October 20 Davion Henry

### Third Annual Good Shepherd Arts Center's Annual Y'ART Sale

Saturday, October 16, GSAC will hold its third Y'Art Sale. This will be a scaled down version of the event. However, as in the past, various household items, art supplies and art will be available to you for a donation (you decide the amount) to GSAC. Your support makes it possible for us to host artists at the market, provide arts activities for kids, have kept us going online with virtual exhibitions, and will help us to come back "live" with future events, exhibits and activities.



### Ferguson Youth Initiative

FYI will host a SLAM. on Friday, October 1 at 6:30 p.m.

### Fall Fine Arts Night at St. Peter's United Church of Christ

located at 1435 Stein Road will host Rik Roberts on Friday 7 p.m., October 15. Rik Roberts' stand-up routines were featured on "DryBar Clean Comedy", "Pure Flix Comedy All-Stars", "Huckabee on TBN", CMT's "20 Greatest Redneck Moments", SiriusXM's "Blue Collar Radio" and "Laugh USA" stations. Roberts' trademark performance is an impression of Barney Fife from the Andy Griffith Show (a role originated by Don Knotts). Mark your calendar as well for November 5, when Lauren Lee is scheduled to perform at St. Peter's.



Rik Roberts

### It's Official: We Have a Location

We are now officially residing at St. Peter's Community Resource Center, 1433 Stein, Ferguson MO 63136, 314-736-4213 ext.108. But our mailing address is: GSAC, PO Box 11042, Ferguson, MO 63135. There is some limited exhibit space for 2-D art, and we invite undergraduate artists (and ambitious, serious high schoolers) to submit proposals for solo and small group exhibits. We hope to add exhibit space for professional fine visual artists in another Ferguson location in near future.

### GSAC Director in Exhibit at Gretchen Brigham Gallery

Glynis Mary McManamon, RGS, GSAC's executive director has three artworks in the exhibit "Who Is God: Visualizing Hope" October 2 - November 28 (12:30 p.m.) at the Gretchen Brigham Gallery, Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Boulevard. Persons who wish to attend the opening reception are invited to do so on Saturday, October 2 between 1 p.m. - 2:30 pm. Father Terry Dempsey, SJ, will give his juror's talk from 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.



Persons who want to view the exhibit at other times can sign up for a private viewing during the week. Note, it must be done a day in advance. Signups can be done through this link: <https://www.union-avenue.org/agua> No sign-ups are required for persons visiting the Gretchen Brigham Gallery on Saturdays from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. Gretchen Brigham Gallery is certified Missouri ArtSafe. Visitors need to wear face masks, prepare to social distance, and should not visit if they have any symptoms of illness.

### IF IT'S WORTH SAYING ONCE, IT'S WORTH SAYING 1000 TIMES

- Teachers, parents, grandparents: encourage kids to make art and plan to submit it for the second annual "Ferguson Children's Art Festival" Saturday, May 7, at the Ferguson Farmers Market
- The Ferguson Municipal Public Library continues gives out a different craft kit every week.
- GSAC has a new mailing address: PO 11042, Ferguson MO 63135 and will move our offices to the St. Peter's UCC Community Resource Center on September 15:
- North County artists, especially Ferguson-based artists: contact us at [info@goodshepherdarts.org](mailto:info@goodshepherdarts.org).



Past FYI SLAM





# Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

October 2021

Now that summer and pool season is over or nearly over, I think it is safe to share my pool story with you. I say “safe” because maybe I am a little superstitious when it comes to my pool.

Most of you know that I live in an old 125+ year old house here in Ferguson. The pool is at least 60 years old. It is not a beautiful pool, but it’s a pool, something I never thought I would have. Rich folks had in-ground swimming pools!

When my husband and I looked at this house with the real estate agent he looked at the dirty water, the uneven concrete deck and said, “no way this can be functional”. There was the challenge I needed, and I said, “watch me”!

The history of this pool is an interesting one. On a Sunday morning I got a phone call from someone asking if I lived at my address, I hesitated and said “well, yes, but who is this”? She identified herself and said her family had lived in my house until her dad transferred from McDonnell in Hazelwood to Florida to participate in the space program. We chatted about my big old house for a while. She wanted to know if the house was still haunted, and I assured her that the ghost did not bother us. Her dad and a couple of neighbors had dug the pool. One guy was a pipe fitter, another had access to a backhoe and yet another had a gunite gun. A few beers and some hard work produced an oddly shaped, rough around the edges swimming pool. Forty years later in June of 1999 we buy the house, and my goal was to clean up the pool and swim in it by the 4th of July. We drained it, painted the bottom, figured out all the equipment with the help of a neighbor and proceeded to fill ‘er up. I met my goal!

As summer went on, we realized that one thing we had to keep up with was keeping the pool full. Was this natural evaporation? Was this a leaky pool? It was a leaky pool.

Now concrete pools always leak a little. Every spring I would drain the pool and look for possible leak locations. I learned how to patch the suspect areas with some quick drying concrete patch. I would then paint the pool and fill. This went on every spring for many years. One spring we had a big blowout between the side of the pool and the floor. My husband and I got in there and did some serious patching. I likened my efforts to filling a cavity in a giant tooth (spoken like the seasoned dental assistant that I was at the time).

The pool continued to leak every year until about 3 summers ago when it started losing water faster than I could fill it. Our water bill was unimaginably high. We agreed at the end of that summer that we would patch and paint again the next spring but if it was leaking that much we would say “bye-bye” to our beloved pool. During our efforts that next spring I had a thought. We were watching TV and there was a commercial for a product that seals and waterproofs everything. I think you may know what I am talking about without making this article a free commercial. The producers of this “paint” built a boat with screen on the bottom, paint the screen with this product and the boat floats! I suggested we paint the patches with that stuff What did we have to lose but a little time and elbow grease? Well, it worked! That pool held water like it had never held water before. It was our little summer miracle! We saved the pool for at least one more summer!!



The best news? This product seals the pool so well I find fewer blow outs and have less patching in the spring. It continues to hold water...now, dealing with algae...that would be another story entirely.



A couple years ago the former inhabitant of my home came to St Louis to visit some of her childhood friends. Her friends talked her into calling me and asking if they could come visit. They all had such fond memories of the house and wanted to relive some of that childhood. There was some hesitancy because the ghost had been quite active while her family lived here, but she came for a visit despite her fear of the ghost her family had named George. She loved the changes we had made in her childhood home and appreciated seeing that we were still enjoying the pool. She also shared a story about the pool. There is a small structure near the pool that we call “the pool house”. Do not be too impressed, it is literally a three walled structure that we can sit in to get out of the sun and use to store pool floaties in the winter. The story is that many a young person had discovered that the roof of said pool house would serve well as a “cliff” from which one could jump into the pool. I assured her that my sons and their friends had discovered that as well and we make sure our homeowners liability insurance is always paid!

Once again, thank you for allowing me to share my stories. I am always happy to receive your comments and suggestions for future articles.

Happy Autumn  
My email address is manhattanmarian@gmail.com.

## FERGUSON LIONS HALL RENTAL

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### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

I am both sad and glad to announce that our “Best of Ferguson” Author Teyuna Darris has accepted a public elementary teacher position in Prince George’s County, Maryland. Teyuna moved in August to begin her new endeavor.

Teyuna is one of those rare individuals who has both ethics and a dedication to whatever job she undertakes. As an example, when she informed me about her new position, she also told me she is actively looking for a replacement writer, still in the meantime she has begun work on articles to finish this years editions of the Ferguson Neighborhood News. Wow! Wouldn’t any employer love to have her.

Because of the pandemic, we have not been able to meet face to face and for that, I am sad.

To me, Teyuna is “The Best of Ferguson”.

If anyone is interested in filling in as Teyuna transitions to her new position (she is still contributing), please contact the Ferguson News Group.  
email: asroc873@charter.net

PapaDeau



# Ferguson Boxing Champ

Academic and Athletic Complex (AAC) Saul's brute boxing and fitness Gym is pleased to announce our boxing gym has a National Silver Glove Champion in the youth classification 11-12 years of age. The tournament took place August 31, 2021 through September 2, 2021 in Independence Mo.

Marcel Vaughan Jr. is an amazing young man in that he had less than a year experience and only 4 bouts under his belt before taking the championship title in his age group. His parents are elated that he is doing so well. Marcel is an only child who does well in school and comes to the gym faithfully.



Silver Glove Champ Marcel Vaughan Jr.



Championship bout in Independence Missouri

I visited Coach Saul Washington at his Brute Boxing and fitness gym where he gave me a tour of his facility. Saul is a former police officer and firefighter so naturally his gym is also used for guns & hoses training. Saul is passionate about the sport and giving back to his community. Thanks Saul!

Saul invites anyone interested to come to his facility at 3156 Pershall Road.



Coach Walter Foster, Marcel Vaughan Sr., Marcel Vaughan Jr., Coach/Mentor Saul Washington



Check out our newly covered patio seating area for a terrific out door dining experience!

Two new items added for your taste buds to enjoy!  
On draft, we have a Kentucky Common, a pre-prohibition dark cream lager, (5.5% abv)  
And for dessert: Homemade Bread Pudding!  
They just happen to pair very nicely together.

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233 S Dade Ave, Ferguson, MO 63135

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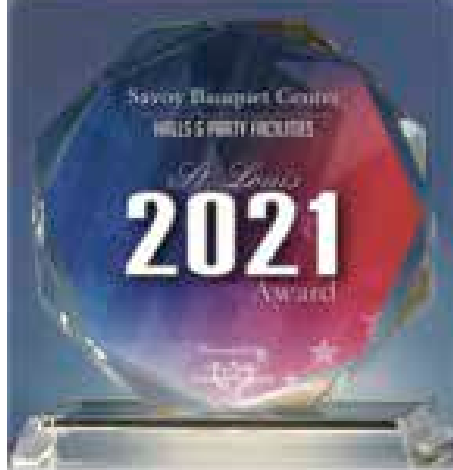
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# Ferguson City Hall Information

## FOR RENT/FOR SALE

On a warm summer day travelling throughout our community anyone can notice an increase in For Rent or For Sale signs. People moving in and out bring about change. We are an ever-changing community. According to the April 1, 2020 Census the population of Ferguson has decreased from the April 1, 2010 Census. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fergusoncitymissouri>



Mayor Ella Jones

The For Rent and For Sale signs have citizens wondering ‘who is going to be my new neighbor?’ Will our new neighbors have children or are they going to be seniors? A lot of questions are going through citizens’ minds. The truth of the matter is that all of us are concerned with the For Rent and For Sale signs. Housing rentals and/or sales must stay in tune with preserving our neighborhoods with quality housing for promoting homeownership and increasing the property value of each house. Living next door to a nuisance property or an abandoned property creates a hardship for residents and the neighborhood. Neighborhoods that are plagued with too many abandoned houses and nuisance properties are rapidly heading in the direction of a downward spiral. Maintenance of properties, enforcement of building codes, and drug prevention, are critical factors that aid in the sustainability, beautification and stabilization of the community.

There is an influx in our community from out of state investors, many of whom don’t seem to have the community’s best interests at heart. They are landlords, but are often more commonly referred to as speculators.

While many speculators are engaged in real estate transactions that are not detrimental to the communities in which they are doing business, such is not the case with the particular group of speculators that I’m referring to. Members of the latter group often acquire housing that is abandoned or in foreclosure. Typically, they make minimal or no repairs to the properties prior to renting them to renters on whom they have done little or no screening. Once their properties are rented, such speculators collect rents, but often fail to adequately maintain the properties. They may have multiple renters in succession moving in and out of the houses. Yet, the properties continue to decline and become eyesores in the neighborhoods. Eventually, they may end up vacant and abandoned again and the cycle is repeated.

Many individuals and families purchase housing to create homes where they can put down roots for a secure quality of life and/or where they can raise their children. Neighbors welcome all residents to their neighborhoods hoping that all will continue to bring value and share the common goal of a safe and inviting place to live. When new neighbors move into a community, it is always nice when they are warmly welcomed by the existing residents.

Yet, we find out sometimes there are different outcomes. Landlords must be held accountable for the tenants that they plant in neighborhoods. Of course, we are welcome landlords who are reputable and want to be a part of the growth of our community. However, there are other landlords who don’t share the same value system and who are not interested in the development of the community. Such landlords don’t keep up their properties and are not selective of the tenants who they rent their houses to. Behavior of this sort starts a crack in the public safety and welfare of the neighbors and the experiences are not good for anyone.

Mayor Ella Jones



## 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](http://cdc.gov/covid19)  
 Missouri Health and Human Services..... <https://health.mo.gov/>  
 St. Louis County..... [www.stlcorona.com](http://www.stlcorona.com)  
 Ferguson-Florissant School District..... [www.fergflor.org](http://www.fergflor.org)

Ferguson Community Center				
Hours: Monday-Friday - 6:30am -8pm   Saturday 8am-8pm				
Membership Rates	Resident		Non-Resident	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
<b>Adult</b> (Ages 16 - 59)	\$85	\$9/month (\$108 annual)	\$200	\$18/month (\$216 annual)
<b>Senior</b> (Ages 60+)	\$50	\$6/month (\$72 annual)	\$120	\$12/month (\$144 annual)
<b>Youth</b> (Ages 15 and under)	\$50	\$6/month (\$72 annual)	\$120	\$12/month (\$144 annual)
<b>Family</b>	\$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](http://silversneakers.com), [myrenewactive.com](http://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

## 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 Fall Spooktacular

Join us for our annual Ferguson Fall Spooktacular located at the Ferguson Community Center. We are so excited to bring the Fall Spooktacular BACK in person! The Fall Spooktacular is designed for all ages so grab your family and friends and join us for an evening full of spooky fun! Festival will include trick-or-treating, haunted house, hay rides, inflatables, balloon artist, and more!

**Date:** October 30, 2021  
**Time:** 4:00pm-8:00pm  
**Location:** Ferguson Community Center

## Pumpkin Carving

Tis the season for pumpkin carving! Help us create spooktacular pumpkins for our “Pumpkin Trail” at the Ferguson Fall Spooktacular. Pumpkins and supplies will be provided.

**Dates:** October 23 @ Fire House #1 (12:30pm-2pm)  
 October 24 @ Lang-Royce Park, (1pm-3pm)  
 October 27 @ Community Center (4pm-6pm)  
**Fee:** FREE

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; Phedra Nelson, Ward 1; Heather Robinett, Ward 2; Toni Burrow, Ward 2; Fran Griffin, Ward 3; Naquittia Noah 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](http://www.fergusoncity.com) Contact Us by Email: [Information@fergusoncity.com](mailto:Information@fergusoncity.com)

# Ferguson City Hall Information

## Little Goblins

Bring your Little Goblin or Ghoul to the Community Center for some trick or treating fun! Participants are encouraged to wear costumes. There will be spooky crafts, pumpkin decorating, and a small snack will be provided. We will end this spooky day with trick or treating around the Community Center. Parent participation is required. Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 20th.

**Ages:** 1-5

**Dates:** October 26

**Time:** 10:00am - 11:30am

**Location:** Ferguson Community Center

**Fee:** \$8/kid, Parents are free

## Preschool Pop Up Playdate

Come join us for our Preschool Pop Up Playdate! We will have outdoor games, balls, hula hoops, and more. You will even get a chance to play on our playgrounds. This is a great opportunity to meet new mommy and me friends!

**Ages:** All Ages

**Dates:** Oct. 13 @ January-Wabash Park

Nov. 10 @ Forestwood Park Time: 10:00am-11:00am

**Fee:** FREE

## Howl-o-ween Pet Costume Contest

It is time to show off your pet's best howl-o-ween costume! Snap a photo of your pet in their costume and share it with us by emailing [thecenter@fergusoncity.com](mailto:thecenter@fergusoncity.com) or tagging @FergRec on Facebook. Submissions are due by October 29th and the winners will be shown off at the Ferguson Fall Spooktacular on October 30th.

Prizes will be awarded for "Most creative pet costume", "Funniest Pet Costume", and "Best Dog/Owner Combo".

**Dates:** Submissions due Oct. 29

**Submit to:** [thecenter@fergusoncity.com](mailto:thecenter@fergusoncity.com) or tag @fergrec on Facebook

## Halloween House Decorating Contest

Halloween is "creeping" up on us and it's time to proudly display your cobwebs and spiders and out-BOO your neighbors by entering the Halloween House Decorating Contest. We want you to share your wicked ways and talents for all of Ferguson to see. Whether you go full blown haunted house, spooktacular yard display, or maybe you conjure up your kid friendly decorations and line your driveway with carved pumpkins. No decoration is too big or small to enter this spooktacular Halloween Decorating Contest.

To enter, submit your address to [thecenter@fergusoncity.com](mailto:thecenter@fergusoncity.com). All displays must be set up and turned on by 6:00pm, October 25th. Deadline to enter is October 24th at 5:00pm.

For more information on the contest and more ways to enter visit [www.fergrec.com](http://www.fergrec.com).

## Zombie Nerf War

Calling all zombies, time to grab your nerf guns and head to Hudson Park for the inaugural Zombie Nerf War just for teens! Dress in your best zombie outfits and come hang with us for a night full of Nerf War's, pizza, and prizes! Zombie makeup and nerf bullets will be provided. Please provide your own Nerf gun.

**Ages:** 11-15

**Dates:** October 22

**Time:** 6:30pm-9:30pm

**Location:** Hudson Park Fee: \$8

## HOWL-O-WEEN PUP PLAYDATE

All pups need a playdate! Join us for our Pup Playdate at Wayside Dog Park. We will have a howl-o-ween themed playdate with spooky treats and an opportunity to snap a photo of your pup. All pups are encouraged to dress in their costume, but it is not required.

**Date:** October 16th

**Time:** 11:00am – 12:00pm

**Location:** Wayside Dog Park

**Fee:** \$5/Dog, Free for Wayside Dog Park Members

## Monster Mash Bingo

Let's do the Monster Mash in the best way we can and that's with a Ferguson Bingo and Lunch. Come dressed in costume or not and celebrate the spooky month of the year with us. This event will include bingo, bingo prizes, attendance prizes, and a delicious lunch.

**Date:** Thursday, October 28th

**Time:** Doors Open at 11am. Ends at 3:00pm

**Fee:** \$15 Members/Residents  
\$20 Non-Residents

## Octoberfest Game Day

Come one, come all! Test your skills and your luck with a variety of games like Yahtzee, Dominoes, Card games, and many more! We will be providing a lunch consisting of BBQ bratwurst/hotdogs and sides prepared by Ferguson Community Center Staff. Includes: Lunch and Games

**Date:** Friday, October 8th

**Time:** 10:00am-2:00pm

**Fee:** \$12 Members/ Residents  
\$14 Non-Residents

## Murder Mystery Dinner | Zombie Love

This is the first ever murder mystery dinner at the Ferguson Community Center brought to you by Jest Murder Mystery Co. Calling all Zombies! Calling all Zombies! Come to the murder mystery show that thinks outside of the coffin! That's right! We've got the perfect show for you!

The fee for this event will cover the cost of the dinner, tips/gratuities, and entertainment. Cash Bar will be available during the event.

Wednesday October 20th | 5:00pm-9:00pm

\$57.00 per person

Ferguson Community Center (Event Space)

## Sunset Boat Cruise "No Worries"

Join us as we set sail into the sunset aboard The Hakuna Matata out of the Grafton Harbor. We will cruise down the Mississippi River for 2 hours with a boxed dinner catered by Oyster Bar. Drinks will be available to purchase on board at the tiki bar. Absolutely no personal drinks allowed.

The fee for this trip will cover the cost of the cruise, catered boxed dinner, tips/gratuities, and motor coach transportation.

Wednesday October 13th | 3:00pm-8:00pm

Fee: \$57 Residents; \$61 Non-Residents

Leaving from Ferguson Community Center

## School's Out Camp

School's out, but camp is in! Come join us for an action packed and supervised day filled full of games, crafts, and activities! Campers are able to be dropped off and picked up anytime between 7:00am-6:00pm, but MUST be signed out by an authorized parent/guardian. Campers must bring a lunch, but a snack will be provided.

**Ages:** 5-13

**Dates:** Nov 1 & Nov 2

**Time:** 7:00am – 6:00pm

**Location:** Ferguson Community Center Fee: \$16/Day, per child

## Winter Adventure Camp

Join us this winter as we escape into a Winter Wonderland Extravaganza! This winter break we will have an action-packed traditional camp experience where kids will laugh, explore, and create memories and friendships that will last a lifetime! Campers will experience several themed days, crafts, games, field trips and more, held at the Ferguson Community Center.

**Ages:** 5-13

**Dates:** M-F, December 20th – December 31st (No Camp 12/24)

**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

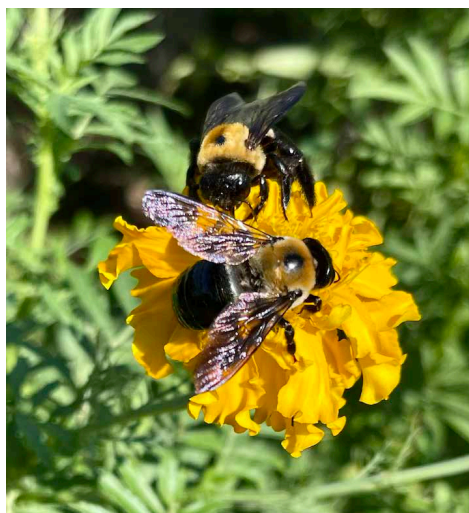
**Location:** Ferguson Community Center (1050 Smith Ave.) Fee: \$16/Day, per child

# Field Notes from Farm Girl - Bee Best / getting by with a little help from your friends

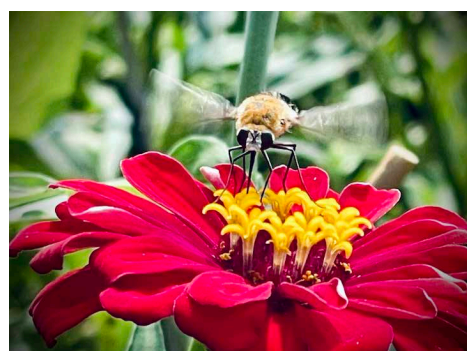
Simply put, we need more bees. Bees are dying. Humans are screwing it up. Pesticides and other human related idiocy has put the bees and the valuable role they play in peril.

To put a finer point on it, quoting directly from worldbeeday.org:  
*“In order to be able to feed the world’s growing population, we need even more food. The greatest contribution of bees and other pollinators is the pollination of nearly three quarters of the plants that produce 90% of the world’s food. A third of the world’s food production depends on bees, i.e. every third spoonful of food depends on pollination. Over the past 50 years, the amount of crops that depend on pollinators (i.e. fruit, vegetables, seeds, nuts and oilseeds) has tripled. Bees play an important role to the scope of agricultural production.”*

Ok so basically, bees are really good. We need them. We need to let them do their job. We need more of them. It’s tough times in the bee world. They have their own man-made pandemic, and their numbers are down. In recent years, I’ve seen a lot less bees out and about on the farm. A few here and there buzzing over clover, and lots of other bugs around doing their own individual things, but few sweet little determined worker bees.



Last year, with a global pandemic, ‘stay at home’ orders and fluctuating guidelines, it was the perfect year as a human (me) to spend as much time in the garden as possible, and in so doing, plant flowers like life on earth was going to end.

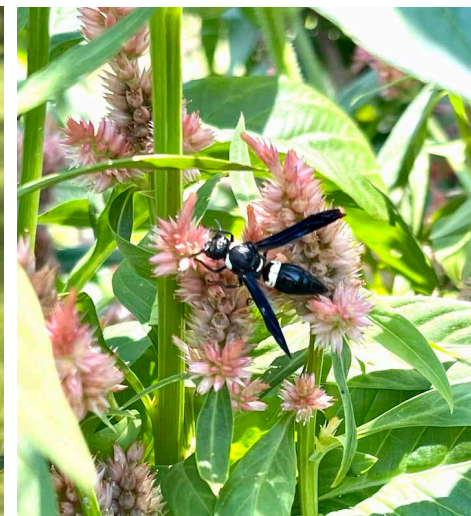
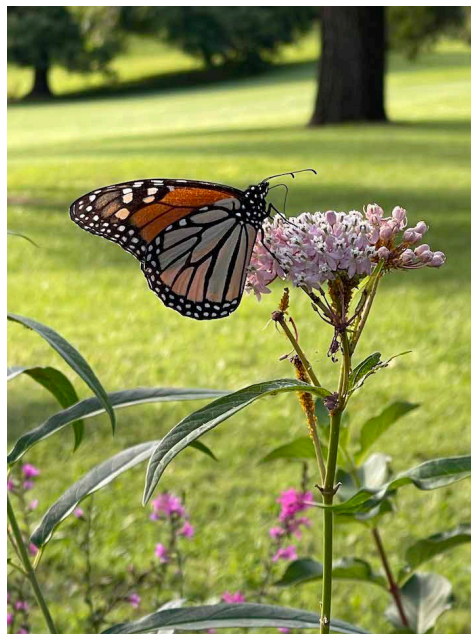


Last summer the carpenter bees were fascinated with the planter boxes I built from my popsicle fence I took down. They were utterly beside themselves with devoting every other carpenter bee withing a 20-mile area to helping them make holes in the wood. The moths made their way through the garden eating

all the leaves of my broccoli, cauliflower, kale, cabbage, and Brussel sprouts so that it looked like a garden of green Swiss cheese. The butterflies did whatever they do, and of course there were flies buzzing about, as well as wasps making nests, and yellowjackets buzzing around but they were all on separate and specialized missions. There were occasional bees but nothing crazy.

This year, or pandemic year 2.0, I planted in the same space, with flowers replacing some of the less successful vegetables, and I expected to see the usual suspects of insects, all doing their own separate things again. That is not what happened. At all.

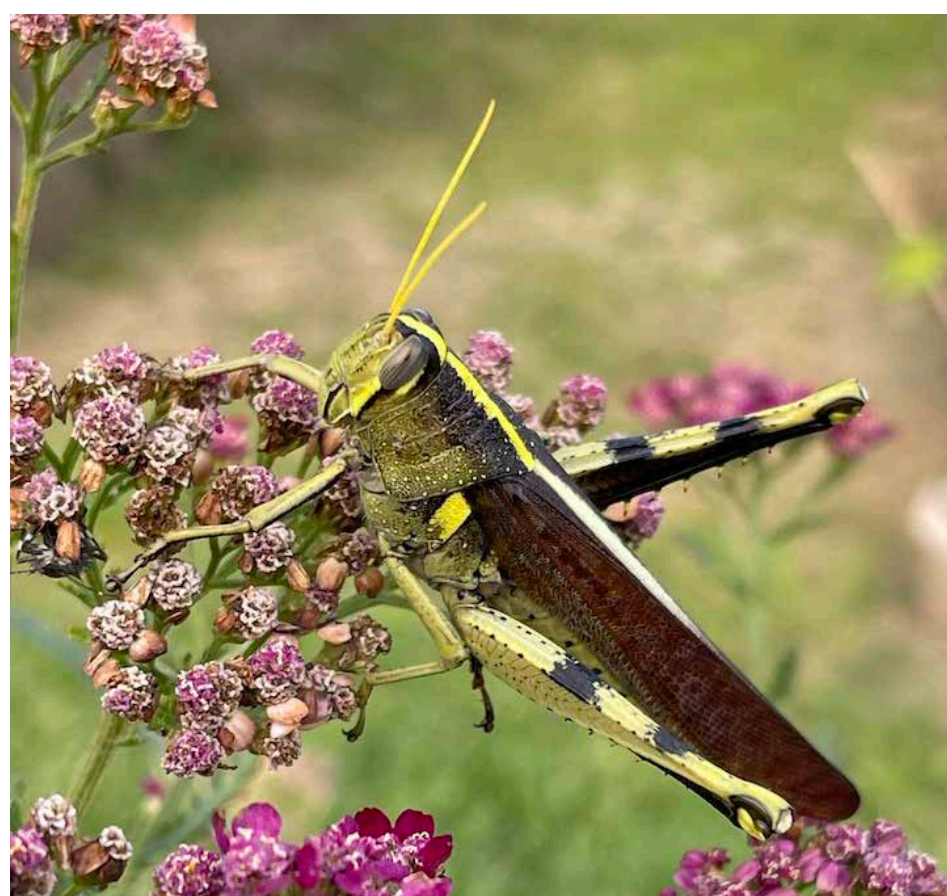
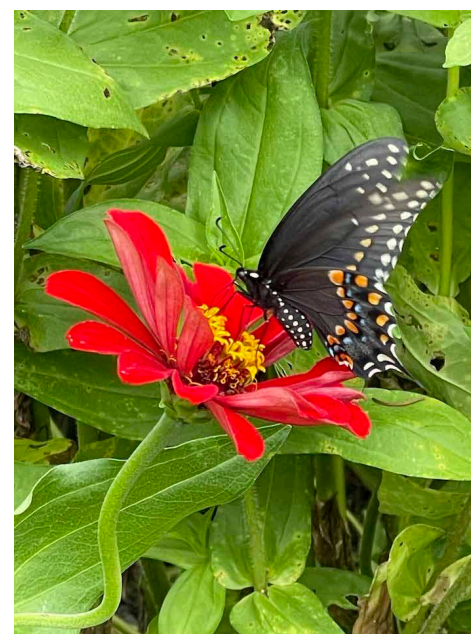
Instead of playing their normal roles, the insects of my garden, deputized themselves as volunteer assistant bees. Instead of eating my wood boxes, the carpenter bees went to work as reserve bees and are helping to pollinate. I’ll tell you it’s a comical to see these Mac truck sized Carpenter bees landing on delicate little flowers. Totally secondhand awkward. They must have sent out a memo because they’ve adjusted to work on the heavier, more weight bearing flowers like the giant marigolds, zinnias, chive blossoms and spotted bee balm, where if they land on it, it’s not like the chubby kid flipping over the pool raft.



The moths also got the memo. They stay busy with the zinnias, cosmos, and celosia. The gangly wasps focus on cockscomb and heavier flowers.

The butterflies work feverishly going from zinnia to zinnia, dodging the speed demon hummingbirds who buzz through the garden like Tom Cruise in Top Gun. Even the little yellow jackets get in the mix to help the bees out on the tiny pale butter sunflowers. The bees are very appreciative to have the extra set of hands (and legs) to move pollen dust around from flower to flower. In fact, we see several different types of bees all working in unison. There are types of bees that I can’t identify. It doesn’t matter. Shoulder-to-shoulder, they’re getting it done. They don’t care. One mission. One goal. There are grasshoppers, crickets, cicadas, and a matriarchal gorgeous black and yellow garden spider, with an elaborate web that I imagine is the insect dry erase board of the garden. Collectively with the garden spider being the continuum, they all spin cooperative magic. (Secretly, I think the spider ate all the mosquitos, which is the best magic I could hope for in my garden).

It’s as if the insect world has watched all the separation and division in the human world and decide that coming together to help the bees and lighten their load, they might somehow spark us dumb humans back into remembering that unity is strength, and that when we all work towards a common mission, together, we succeed. It’s still going on every day. Each day, I probably arrive just in time to miss the ‘Monster’s Inc’ style workforce meeting where the spider points out each team’s mission on the white board of her web, and that all the bugs ‘high five’, head out and get busy pollinating the garden and picking up the slack to help out the bees. It’s a thing of beauty and wonder. It’s something that I wish everyone could see. I can’t help but think that sometimes the answers to life’s difficult questions and challenges are right there in front of us, just in unlikely places. You may not be able to see it from where you spend your day, but the I do believe the bugs have the right idea.



**THE WELDERS**

By Susan Ankenbrand

A legend in her own time! Who knew this description fits Ferguson resident Stephanie von Drasek, a member of a music group showcased in the Missouri History Museum’s new exhibit ST. LOUIS SOUND? The exhibit covers local music from the late 1800’s to the 2000’s.

Gazing into their past at the premier of the exhibit stood several members of “The Welders” including Stephanie (Lasater) von Drasek dressed in a black glitter dress and red strappy heels. St. Louis’ first all-girl group whose music predated punk rock merits a large display including some of the outfits worn for performances.



It was 1975 when Stephanie and four girls between the ages of 13-15, who attended Cross Keys Junior High and McCluer North High School, decided to form a band. The idea was born as they passed notes back and forth during school. They were straight A students who loved music and dressed like it was

the 60’s. “Kids at school thought we were weird, but we were accepted because we were smart and a lot of teachers accepted and encouraged us,” remembers Stephanie.

The idea was not completely farfetched. The friends had some musical background, however slight. Caroline Fujimoto, Jane Fujimoto, Kelly (Rusty) Draper, Julie Benz and Stephanie spent the good part of a year telling people they were a band before it actually materialized.

First there was the problem of obtaining instruments. Stephanie and three of the band members worked at the Dragon Inn on North Lindbergh to raise money to buy them. Eventually, there was Caroline on bass, Jane on drums, Kelly and Julie on guitar, and Stephanie as the vocalist.

Of course, every band needs a name. According to Stephanie the girls sat around and made a list of funny names such as “The Atrial Ventricular Nodes” or “The Old Cow Died.” Ultimately, they settled on “The Welders.”

“The irony of young petite girls with a name like ‘The Welders’ appealed to our sense of humor,” laughed Stephanie. “As an innate protective measure all the girls used the last name WELDER which allowed us to be incognito until the current exhibit. Everyone was always protective of us.”

Stephanie described the band as leaning toward glitter rock which is high energy, fun, sing along music that makes people want to get up and dance. Costumes are an important part of the genre, especially platform shoes which Stephanie sported until high school when Converse became her footwear of choice. Her love of sequins and glitter on everything has never died completely.

“We were doing something different than what others were doing at the time,” explained Stephanie. “The band was influenced by glitter rock bands such as the New York Dolls.”

The group practiced in the Fujimotos’ basement and played their first gig in November 1976 at Blueberry Jam in Hazelwood. Performances followed at 4th & Pine in St. Louis and Stonehenge in Illinois. Stephanie admitted that at the beginning they didn’t necessarily think they were good, but they were funny and put on a good show. For example, Stephanie would come

out with a bag of props such as a big white Styrofoam reindeer from a grocery store liquor display. Comedy was part of their act.

The band’s play list consisted of original songs such as “S-O-S,” “Debutantes in Bondage” and “P-E-R-V-E-R-T” which vocalized what things were like for teenage girls. The songs were funny but with a bite.

Eventually, though, in 1979 Stephanie found other interests and left the band which went on to record a four track single without her. “The Welders” disbanded in 1981, but the single, after various problems, was issued by a St. Louis label in 2010.

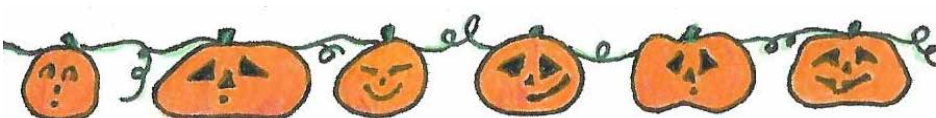
Although no longer performing, Stephanie’s love of music has never waned. She and her husband Mark von Drasek have been married for 17 years. Live concerts are a huge part of their lives. The last show they attended was in early 2019. They have coped during the pandemic by listening to music, especially KDHX and DJ, G Wiz. Their concert calendar is finally getting back on track, and Stephanie is looking forward to seeing her beloved band ”Spark” in person next year in Nashville.

Besides music, art and shoes have been a thread through Stephanie’s life. She has been at City Museum for 21 years as the retail director, and it is where she met her husband. Currently Mark works for the Veiled Prophet organization as a float sculptor. And the shoe thing? Stephanie was one of four “Shoe Divas” featured in City Museum’s 2000 exhibit “The Really Big Shoe Show” which included a life-sized photo reproduction of her shoe closet.



As for “The Welders,” Andrew Wanko, public historian at the Missouri Historical Society and content lead for the new exhibit, heard about the group through word of mouth. According to Wanko, when preparing the exhibit and talking to people in St. Louis’ music world, he kept being told he needed to check out “The Welders.” His discovery is now others’ discovery.

“It is so much fun to be recognized for something we did 45 years ago,” exclaims Stephanie.



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<b>Mann Meats</b>	<b>Wedding Wonderland Cake Studio</b>
	<b>12oh7 Herban Eatery</b>

**Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 11, 2022 for the 10th annual Taste in Ferguson**

**Understanding How Local Government Works**

**Wednesday, October 27th, 6:30 PM**

*Are you confused about how the city of Ferguson actually works?  
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Zoom Meeting ID: 881 2781 6240  
Passcode: 829803

For more info: [www.proud-ferguson.org](http://www.proud-ferguson.org)

# Financial Focus – How We Spend Money!

by Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@sbcglobal.net)

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

It was a beautiful day attending my first outdoor event in nearly 2 years. As we strolled around looking at various pieces of art work, my friend took off to find a beverage tent. When I spotted him, it seemed to be taking a long time. He returned chuckling about his experience completing the transaction. He had cash but, the merchant explained they don't deal with cash. He was offered a way to pay with his phone, and when he showed his flip phone that got a laugh. Finally, he was able to pay with his credit card, but he couldn't get a printed receipt. The young man suggested it could be e-mailed and that nearly send him over the edge, because he doesn't do e-mail. This situation has become more common place over the past ten years. So it's not really about how we spend, but more about how we move our money from our accounts into the merchant's account. Today, we are seeing less and less opportunities to utilize actual cash to pay for anything and in most cases it is much safer than dealing with cash. It was only about forty years ago when many money management guides would suggest the envelope system for those starting out to make sure they were able to pay all of their bills. The way it worked was that when you got paid if it wasn't already in cash, you would actually cash your paycheck and then divide the money into marked envelopes – rent, car payment, utilities, groceries, clothing, etc. Whatever was left over would be your fun money and for most folks just starting out that wasn't much. Using this method helped many people learn quickly how manage their money and eventually be comfortable abandoning cash and moving towards writing checks. Today it is pretty rare for people to write checks in a retail environment. Yet some still write out checks for the monthly bills and put them in the mail, like the friend I mentioned earlier. With on-line bill pay and the price of stamps going up, this is also becoming a thing of the past. Back in the era of paying by check, it wasn't long before the criminals learned how to generate revenue with check fraud. Most of this would seem pretty amateur today. One of my favorites was the person who stole a check from an older individual and took it to the bank. On the back with the endorsement read a short note "please cash this check for my granddaughter because I am ill." Yes, a banker actually cashed the check because the signature was shaky and the young lady explained he was so sick he was shaking. Before my time, checks just had a bank's name and the customer would fill the rest in. I can only imagine how easy it would have been to pass a bad check or one with a forged signature. Some people think everyone was more honest in those days, but I suspect percentage wise it's about the same. When Magnetic Ink Recognition, MICR came about it got tougher to play the game of writing checks without funds hoping

they wouldn't clear until payday. Kiting as it was called was illegal and checks clearing faster and more efficiently with MICR encoding helped discourage that. However, those crazy crooks came up with ways to mess with the MICR encoded on the bottom of checks. This enabled them to steal a great deal of money. By putting a new MICR strip over the other one, a different account with more money might end up being debited for the wrong check either mistakenly or on purpose. By the time it would be discovered in a monthly bank statement, the crook would be long gone. And typically any information gathered during the paying out on the check would be discovered to be phony, as well.

Once credit cards hit the scene, transacting business became a little safer for customers and business owners. The instant approval on credit card transactions gave merchants more confidence and they could avoid the costs of dealing with insufficient or fraudulent checks. Retail stores would often issue their own credit cards offering extra perks and being a little less strict in the approval process – stores had much to gain not just in fees, but in sales. My first credit card was from J. C. Penney. And of course, it wasn't long before criminals got in the act and figured out ways to make fake cards or change the name while retaining the magnetic strip already on the card. I had heard while working at a bank that a card dropped in boiling water would become soft and the raised letters would flatten and could be changed to read another name. Never actually saw it being done, so maybe it was an urban legend. It's amazing the changes I have seen in the past fifty years. For now credit cards are here to stay, but they are looking different with more ways to make them secure, adding a chip, a finger print, or a picture are a few features. Cards no longer have raised letters and with cell phones it is no longer necessary to really even carry a card. Often just walking out the door can cause your card to be charged. While I have adopted some new methods for paying, I'm still not comfortable with some of the payment systems being used. My friend and I are from the age group, we grew up in the era of the Twilight Zone stories of machines taking over. Perhaps that's why we often have difficulty with technology, we feel less in control. Today a cell phone is a must and being able to utilize the many features is more important every day. This has made me wonder about how the poor are able to manage in this new world of payment systems. The past year, really showed the disparities along economic lines on how schools and businesses were able to continue to operate during the pandemic. Next month I'll be looking at ways the expanded use of technology with transacting business may help eliminate poverty around the world. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at cleav73@sbcglobal.net.



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# The Best of Ferguson



by Teyuna T. Darris, M.A.

“Aaron Harris--- Here to #SupportOurYouth”

Today’s youth are the leaders of tomorrow’s society. And, as an educator, I am glad to see youth that I’ve taught and mentored continue to progress along their journeys as they pursue and realize their goals and dreams. Before I became an educator, I had many experiences supporting youth programming in public schools and organizing and supporting youth summer camps and job coaching.

It was these experiences through which I realized the vital role that youth-led and youth-focused nonprofit organizations, like the Ferguson Youth Initiative (FYI) play in the social, emotional, civic and (sometimes) career development of today’s youth. And it’s people like Mr. Aaron Harris who lead youth-centric programming that is designed to support those needs. Hence, this month we will read about the work and commitment of Mr. Aaron Harris to #SupportOurYouth in Ferguson, and throughout the Greater Saint Louis Region.

The Ferguson Youth Initiative is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 2010 with the purpose to support the social and civic development of Ferguson youth. In 2016, Mr. Aaron Harris joined the organization as its Executive Director. In this role, Mr. Harris was tasked with the objective to facilitate the realization of the organization’s goal to #SupportOurYouth through youth-centric programming and causes in partnership with the City of Ferguson through its Ferguson Youth Advisory Board (FYAB). During our interview, Aaron shared with me that serving as the Executive Director of the Ferguson Youth Initiative has given him many opportunities to positively impact the lives of a diverse group of teens in and around the City of Ferguson. Some of the ways in which he has done this is through FYI’s SLAM events which provide youth the opportunity to showcase their unique talents with others through poetry, dance, music, acting, photography and other artforms. I asked Aaron, “What do youth enjoy the most about FYI’s SLAM events?” He replied, “Watching the many ways that youth are creative artistically. Seeing them be able to have fun and be creative is an amazing experience.”

Aaron also coordinates the FYI Drop-In, which provides an after-school open-house at the FYI Backbay. The Drop-Ins provide a safe place for Ferguson teens to meet-up, create artwork, use computers, eat food and play video games in a casual atmosphere. I asked Aaron, “What attracts youth to hang-out at the FYI Drop-In? To this, he replied, “Free Snacks. Also, it’s a space for them to hang with their friends in a chaperoned space where they can be themselves and relax”.

The Ferguson Youth Initiative is also known for its Next Steps program. This career-readiness program provides mentorship to teens, aged 15 to 19, by providing them with the career-readiness skills needed for the job search and hiring process, financial planning and post-secondary education. This includes helping youth with resume-writing, saving their money, completing job trainings and possibly gaining employment. I asked Aaron “How has the Next Steps program impacted the youth who participate in it? He replied, “It has provided the opportunity to remove the mystery away from college or career search. Through Next Steps, employers and recruiters are invited to participate and speak with the

youth about the multiple pathways to success”.

When he’s not directing a youth-centric nonprofit organization, Aaron enjoys watching ‘80s and ‘90s television shows like “Cheers” and “In The Heat of The Night”. He also enjoys playing video games with the FYI teens during the FYI Drop-Ins.

Aaron also shared that he completed his undergraduate degrees in history and political science at the University of Missouri (in Columbia). I, then, asked him that famous Saint Louis question: “Where did you go to high school?” To this, Aaron replied, “Marquette High School (in Chesterfield, Missouri).

I also took some time to ask Aaron about his dreams and aspirations, and he told me that he hopes to one day host a youth music festival that showcases young people sharing their musical talents. I asked him to explain the reason for this desire. He replied, “I love music and when good music is playing people tend to focus on the good in the world and in the community. Seeing a diverse group of people dancing and laughing is an awesome feeling”.

Aaron also shared that he is a volunteer at Innovation High School’s job readiness program. As a volunteer in this program, Aaron provides professional dress sessions for the students who are preparing to enter their internships.

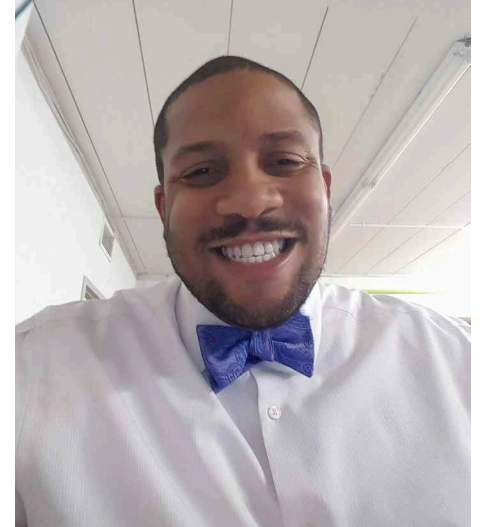
I, also, asked Aaron one of my favorite questions: “What makes you awesome?” To this, he replied, “(1) My children and wife, (2) trying new foods, and (3) grilling.”

Working with youth and building effective relationships that empower youth to realize their full potential can be a tiresome task, but is worth every effort. This is because youth-centric work is, by default, a cultural, moral, social and (sometimes) financial investment that helps to further build communities as we #SupportOurYouth.

Mr. Aaron Harris is one of those people who not only take pride in this special work, but he has demonstrated a commitment to the development and empowerment of youth in a way that will support them along their journeys for many years to come as he continues to #SupportOurYouth.



Mr. Harris visiting with the Stanley Cup at Earth Dance Farms.



Mr. Aaron Harris smiling for the camera in his signature bow-tie at the FYI Backbay



Mr. Harris with FYI Board Chair Winnie Caldwell and FYI Board Secretary Megan Isgriggs at the St. Louis American’s “40 under 40” event



Mr. Harris posing with the local AKA chapter during the MLK Day of Community Service at the FYI Back Bay.



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**Nominate a Ferguson resident or Ferguson based group to be Ferguson's Fourth Annual Human Rights Advocate of the Year!**

The purpose of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) is to prevent or eliminate discriminatory practices by making recommendations to the Ferguson City Council with regard to actions, policies, or legislation. There is a complaint process to investigate cases of discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations (please see our website at [www.fergusoncity.com/533/Human-Rights-Commission](http://www.fergusoncity.com/533/Human-Rights-Commission)). The HRC is also dedicated to educating the community on human rights.

The Commission is seeking nominations for its annual human rights award. Nominees should be individuals or groups who have made specific, significant contributions to improving civil rights, human relations or civility in our community. The Ferguson HRC would like to award a group, an adult individual, and a young person working for human rights in our community. We welcome nominations demonstrating success in the following areas, among others:

**HOUSING:** People or organizations who have ensured compliance with fair housing laws; who have worked to increase the availability of accessible housing; who have worked to make affordable housing more available through advocacy.

**EMPLOYMENT:** People or organizations who employ a diverse workforce; who stress fair employment practices; who have implemented successful training programs; who have established and implemented effective affirmative action plans; who have worked for fair employment through advocacy.

**PUBLIC ACCOMODATIONS:** People or organizations who are known for welcoming initiatives in terms of diversity in their businesses and other groups that need the support of Ferguson residents. These people or organizations go out of their way to accommodate people regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age as it relates to employment, or familial status as it relates to housing. They have been involved in developing accommodations and advocating for people with disabilities; who actively strive to hire people with disabilities; who have been instrumental in fighting for the rights of people with disabilities.

Who do you think has worked to uphold human rights (civil rights) in Ferguson?

Nominations can be for:

- An adult (age 21 and above):
- A young person (up to age 21):
- A group working in Ferguson:

Name of nominated person or group: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you make this nomination? Give reasons with evidence of the person or group's activities based on the three areas of human rights specified above AND/OR bringing the community together in working for justice on other human rights issues. You can attach additional information, if necessary, to this form.

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations are due on October 18, 2021. Please send or email this form to Ferguson Human Rights Commission, 110 Church Street, Ferguson, MO 63135. Email address: [HumanRightsCommission@fergusoncity.com](mailto:HumanRightsCommission@fergusoncity.com)

The Ferguson Human Rights Advocate of the Year award winner will be announced in the Fall of 2021!



**Ferguson Fire Department's Home Fire Safety Tips**

**Check Your Detectors**

Spring forward, fall back, and check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. When you change your clocks, also change the battery in your detectors. Developing this habit is a good way to remember a simple task that can save your life. Be sure there are working smoke detectors on each floor of your home, particularly outside of sleeping areas. Approximately 20 percent of detectors don't work because of dead or missing batteries. In addition to replacing smoke detector batteries twice a year, smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years.

**Space Heaters**

Space heaters need space, too. As the weather gets cooler, space heaters come out of their summer hiding places. Remember to leave at least 3 feet of space around your heater. Unplug it when not in use.

**Cozy Up to a Safe Fireplace**

Fireplaces are involved in thousands of home fires each year. Before you toss a log on the fire, have your chimney inspected annually and cleaned when needed. Creosote, the buildup of deposits, is a top reason for fireplace fires. In addition, cracks can allow poisonous carbon monoxide to seep into your home. And finally, a thorough inspection will remove any animals that may have built a home in your chimney during the summer. The fire protection association also suggests the use of fireplace screens to keep sparks from floating out. In addition, don't leave your home or go out or go to bed with a fire left burning. And if you have a gas fireplace, have all the connections and lines checked.

**Have an Escape Plan in Place**

Be sure you have a family fire escape plan, and practice it regularly. Have an escape route for each area of your home and a designated meeting place outside. Draw a map of the escape plan and make it easy for all members of the family to understand. Train every one to stay low to the ground when escaping a fire. If you must travel through smoke to your exit, crawl and keep your head at level of 12-24 inches above the floor. Windows may provide a secondary means of escape from a burning home. For two-story homes, we would suggest the purchase of a non-combustible escape ladder that's tested and listed by an independent testing laboratory. Store the ladder permanently near the window. Escape ladders are available at most hardware stores. Buy one that hangs away from the house, rather than right up against it. Practice deploying the ladder, including how to use it from a first floor widow.

**Outside the Home**

Never park your car or truck over a pile of leaves. The heat from the vehicle's catalytic converter or exhaust system can ignite the leaves below. The resulting fire could destroy your vehicle. Flammable liquids should not be stored in inside the home. Remove fuel from lawn mowers before storing them for winter. Contact your utility company if trees or branches are not clear of power lines. Prune back trees, and rake up leaves and debris. If you live in an open area with a lot of natural vegetation, consider creating a defensible fire zone around your home. Prune the bottom branches from trees and remove shrubs and trees within 20 feet of your home. Don't store cardboard boxes, paper or other flammable materials in the backyard. These materials provide ready fuel for a fire and all it takes is one spark.

**Have a Plan, Be Safe!!**

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# Ferguson Has A History Museum

As we said last month in a similar article, “Actually, Ferguson has had a History Museum for many years. It’s called the History House and it is located behind the Ferguson Community Center on Smith Avenue.” There you can answer questions about Ferguson’s history – like the following:

**Have you ever wondered why Ferguson’s local banquet center is called the Savoy?** The name goes back the 1930’s when a Mr. Harry Hulett began showing motion pictures at the Masonic Temple (the building next to Central Elementary School). With the money he made he built a theatre on Florissant Road – the present site of the Savoy Banquet Center. The theatre opened on Christmas Eve in 1936. The movie was Ramona starring Loretta Young and Don Ameche. Guess what he named his theatre – the Savoy. In the 1940’s and 50’s it was a Saturday morning gathering place for the kids – featuring westerns, spy movies and outer space serials (designed to bring you back next week). The rest of the time were films aimed at an older audience. The building consisted of a theatre and two small businesses on each side of the theatre. When I was a kid in the 1950’s the shop to the left was a Record Store (remember 45’s and LP’s). The one on the right was a gift shop run by a friend’s mother, Ruth Ohlemeyer.

That all faded away in the 1960’s with the age of television. In 1963 Wehrenbrg Theatres remodeled the building and renamed the theatre the Crown. The Crown, after 20 years, closed in 1993. At some time, the small store to the right was taken over by the Teakwood Shop which was closed in the mid 2000’s when the remaining barber, Marty, retired in his mid 80’s. Today it is the Savoy Banquet Center named after the famous Ferguson landmark - the Savoy Theatre. Inside the center you can still see where the screen was located. The window on the opposite wall is the location of the “cry room” – reserved for (usually) ladies with small children. Times change!

Now you know more about a piece of Ferguson History. Want to know more – wait a month or - why not come visit the History House. Inside you will find displays of historic Ferguson artifacts, photographs and documents dating back to the early days of Ferguson. There are no regular hours, so each tour is an individual experience. Maybe you have some items to donate – to fill out our history. We are planning to be at the Farmers Market on October 9th. Stop by for a selection of Ferguson gifts and books – or just to visit.



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# Back from Pakistan to Ferguson again.

by Wendell Phillips Berwick  
 President/ Freedom Cry  
 Coordinator of international affairs of the Human Liberation Commission of Pakistan.

When the Taliban took over in Afghanistan, friends and family were worried for me, being next door in Pakistan. But I told the, rather to be concerned and pray for the minority Christians, because persecution has already increased by 100 percent. This is also immediately happening in several other Asian and African nations, where powder kegs of Islamist extremism are now emboldened, having watched how a small band in Afghanistan beat the most powerful military in the world. We don't notice this from our high safe perch of freedom, but the minorities of the earth see it and are affected by it.



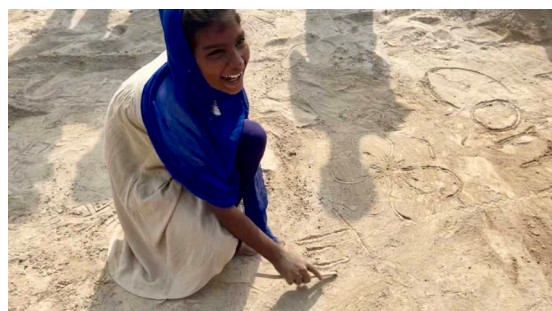
Suwella is one of two million minority children born into and enslaved in bonded labor in Pakistan. Awakening 3 am to begin long before the 110 degree summer heat, the school years are robbed, they make no money for their labor, and are ruthlessly and illegally forced to

work by brick masters in 20,000 brick kiln factories, who in turn, all bribe the authorities.

Suwella was born deaf and mute. I wondered how she was teaching herself how to write when I visited Pakistan last winter. You can see her math on the metal.



Then on this august day a year later, I captured her sister, Rimsha, writing words out in Sewera's clay covered hand.



She wrote the words 'welcome' and 'thank you'.



Suwella ran to the car that brought me to her brick yard as I was leaving, and I took this shot. I gave her my arm band for her other hand. We both knew one day she would be free. She heard me with her heart. She and her siblings must be free.

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### Crossword Solution from page 2

1	H	O	M	O		5	A	D	E	L	E		9	M	C	S		
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