

Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

2021 NEWS 2021

Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities since 2021

Baby, it's cold outside!!!

As I write this, the temperature is 7 degrees but sunny. I love winter.

My grandson asked me yesterday what my favorite season is. I told him spring because everything seems to be coming alive again. But I love all the seasons here in Missouri. That is one of the reasons I love Missouri: it has all the seasons. Winter is pretty much in full swing in February which gives us a good reason to snuggle with our love ones while we enjoy a warm fire, movies, and hot chocolate.

Groundhog day, although not a holiday we get off for, gives us hope that winter will soon be over and we will be dreaming of warmer weather, longer days, and a chance to shed our extra layers of clothes. But I absolutely love February because it has Valentines day and after this short month: trout season opens.

February also gives us the cold weather that attracts the eagles along our great river-ways which is a good reason to get outside and enjoy the beauty of our world.

I pray you all have a wonderful February. Stay safe, stay warm, and stay connected with your family and loved ones.

Papa Deau

SWEETHEART STROLL

Come take a stroll at sunset around January-Wabash Lake with your valentine! You receive a rose to give to your valentine while you take a stroll through our lantern lit path, have an opportunity to snap a photo, grab dinner and a special treat.

Date:	Monday, February 14
Time:	5:00pm-8:00pm (must arrive by 7:30pm)
Location:	January-Wabash Memorial Park
Fee:	\$15/Person
Reservations:	314-521-4661



FERGUSON WINTER FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday, February 19, 9am-12pm
St. Stephen's - 33 N. Clay

Fresh produce, meat, eggs, honey, tea, coffee, made-to-order omelets, breakfast sandwiches, live music by Zyi Li, kids art activity, and so much more!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
Remaining winter markets: March 19 and April 16
Opening Day Summer Market May 7, 8am-12pm

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February 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

Electronic Recycling Drive - Saturday, Feb. 12, 9-12 pm
Do you have any old broken down electronics cluttering up your home? Bring them to our Electronic Recycling Drive at Forestwood Park! MRC Recycling will take your old, broken down, or just plain unwanted electronic items and dispose of them properly. Some items have a fee - for a complete list of fees and accepted items, please visit bit.ly/fmplrecycling.

Virtual: I Love Me Storytime - Saturday, Feb. 19 at 2 pm
Let's celebrate all the things that make us great with our I Love Me Storytime! We'll read stories and sing songs all about us. Join us on Facebook (facebook.com/fergusonlibrary) for all the fun!

February Craft Kits
Pick up a new free craft kit each week in February!

- Feb. 7-12 - Mosaic Art Card: Craft a pretty card to send to your favorite Valentine!
- Feb. 14-19 - Block Prints: Try your hand at making art using an easy block printing method!
- Feb. 22-26 - Collage Art: Use scraps cut from magazines, newspapers, and more to make a picture!
- Feb. 28-Mar. 5 - Floral Portraits: Embellish a portrait of yourself or another person!

The library will be closed on Monday, February 21 for Presidents' Day.

PRESIDENTS DAY

February Celebration Shout-outs



14 - Happy 60th Birthday Anne Frese aka Miss Anne



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

February at a Glance



- 1 Lunar New Year
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 4 Ferguson Youth Initiative S.L.A.M
- 10 Little Love Bug 10:00am-11:00am
- 12 Electronic Recycling Drive 9 - 12 Forestwood Park
- 14 Valentines Day
 - Sweetheart Stroll 5 - 8 January Wabash Lake
- 18 & 21 Schools Out, Camps In!
- 19 Winter Market Arts St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 9 a.m. – noon
- 21 Presidents Day
- 23 Bingo! Laissez les bons temps rouler (see page 7)

A New Columnist has Arrived

We want to welcome Trish Cook as a new columnist. She will be focusing on the businesses that advertise with us. Her new column is “Spotlight on Business” (page 10). We at the paper thought it would make sense to spotlight the wonderful businesses that continue to support our paper. They are the reason we can continue publishing and mailing the Ferguson Neighborhood News month after month. Welcome Trish!

We also will have another writer coming on board next month. That writer is Dasha Harrold who has a background in education with an emphasis in special education. She enjoys writing about events, profiles, Lifestyles, shorts, reviews, travel and even poetry. We are looking forward to her addition to the paper.

I sometimes struggle to fill these pages so it is wonderful to welcome new writers so I do not have to write any more than necessary. I’m sure all the readers will appreciate less of my ramblings and more pertinent columns.

Papa Deau



Writers wanted!

We are always looking for new perspectives from our community. If you enjoy writing or have a talent for talking to people and transfer that to the written word then we would love to hear from you.



Whats Missing:

We do not have a crossword Puzzle for February. Robin and her husband are on vacation but she has assured me she will have a new puzzle for our March edition.



13TH ANNUAL
FERGUSON
TWILIGHT RUN

14
MAY

4:00PM - 1mile
4:45PM - 5K & "FTR13.1"
5:15PM - 10K & 10mile
7:00PM - FREE Concert

VIRTUAL
OPTIONS
AVAILABLE

introducing the "FTR13.1"
- a "5K+10mile" race option
celebrating our 13th
Ferguson Twilight Run

FERGUSON
TWILIGHT RUN
10m*5k*10k
& 1 MILE FUN RUN

#RunWithFerguson

The Ferguson News Group may be reached

text/voice: 314 249-6323
email: asroc873@charter.net
Like us on Facebook [@fergusonneighborhoodnews](https://www.facebook.com/fergusonneighborhoodnews)
Check out the on-line edition fergusoncitywalk.com

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

Donate to the Neighborhood News

Page2

Advertise with the Neighborhood News

ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Glynis Mary McManamon, RGS

Creativity in the Age of Uncertainty

What purpose does art and creativity serve at a time like this? Robert Motherwell said: “Art is much less important than life, but what a poor life without it.” There has to be a way, if not to make sense out of the strange new COVID infused life we are living, then to draw beauty out of it.



Writing & Arts Group Calls for Entries Celebrating North St. Louis County

North County Writing & Arts Network, a collaborative of writers/poets and other creatives, is producing an anthology highlighting North County St. Louis life, neighborhoods, memories, landmarks, etc. Submission is open to individuals 18 and older, or with signed permission from parent or guardian. Individuals must have lived experience as resident/former resident, employee, student, etc., and a clear connection to north St. Louis County. Individuals not meeting the above criteria may also submit content on a North County hero, landmark, neighborhood or event for consideration. Submission period ends **March 31, 2022 at 12:01 a.m.**

Submissions will be accepted by **email ONLY**. Individuals may submit up to two files: e.g., two poems, two stories or two art/photo files or a combination of these disciplines. Written submissions must be in Word format, single space, 12-point font. Art/photos must be in black and white and jpg format. NoCoWAN reserves the right to reject submissions unsuitable for this publication including: unrelated to North County St. Louis, using non-inclusive language and/or excess profanity.

A limited number of black and white ads will be available for purchase by authors, businesses, artists or related organizations. Individual artist/author ad fee is \$40 for ¼ page. (Full page is approximately 6X9 inches). Business or organization ad fee is \$100 for full page.

To submit work for consideration or to questions contact: nocowan@yahoo.com. Details about the anthology can also be found on the North County Writing and Arts Network group Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/329779723839325>

Peggy Nealy Harris ARTS Podcast Is Here

Peggy Nealy Harris’ “Peggy’s Creative Space” podcast will launch in February. The schedule was not available at press time. The full link is at the end of this blurb; however, Google Peggy’s Creative Space Podcast for the link. If you’re up for strings of numbers and letters, go to: <https://music.amazon.com/podcasts/5f43e3d9-0c4d-434a-b932-954c9ea87ee0/peggy-s-creative-arts-space>

You Can Do This: Caitlin’s Creative Corner

Plan: Who is this Valentine’s card for? What do they like? Do you have any “inside jokes” or stories you can add to make it special? Decide what pictures and words you want to put on your valentine. Gather materials: What do you have? Play with the materials. See what you might create. Work with a friend. You will need: cardboard, scrap paper, scissors or cutting tool, adhesive (such as glue, tape, rubber bands, paper clips, bobby pins, pipe cleaners), drawing/painting tools (markers, crayons, pencils, paint), and other scraps you have around the house: old clothes, tags, get creative!

Create: Start by folding paper to make a card OR cut out a shape as the base for your valentine (a heart, a circle, a dinosaur...) THEN draw, cut, or glue designs onto your card. Think about valentine’s you’ve received: what did you like about them? You can add fun lettering and colorful drawings.

Revise: Step back and look at your design. What works? What doesn’t? Get advice from others; make adjustments.

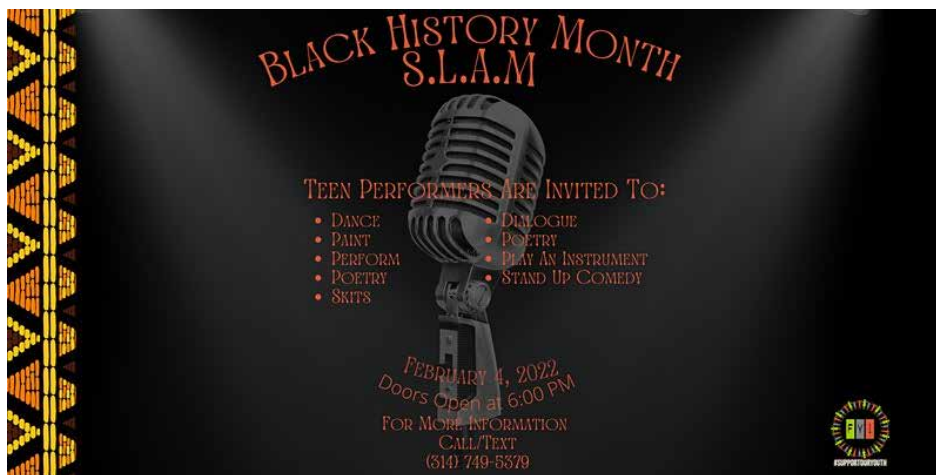
Reflect: Give your Valentine to a friend or loved one! Watch their reaction and see how happy they are that you thought of them! No matter what, someone is always happy to get a handmade gift.



Dinosaur & Unicorn by Caitlin McCall

FYI: SLAM

The February 4 Ferguson Youth Initiative S.L.A.M is an opportunity for teens to express themselves through Style Literature Arts and Music. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. For more information, call or text 314-749-5379 or message them through the FYI Facebook page.

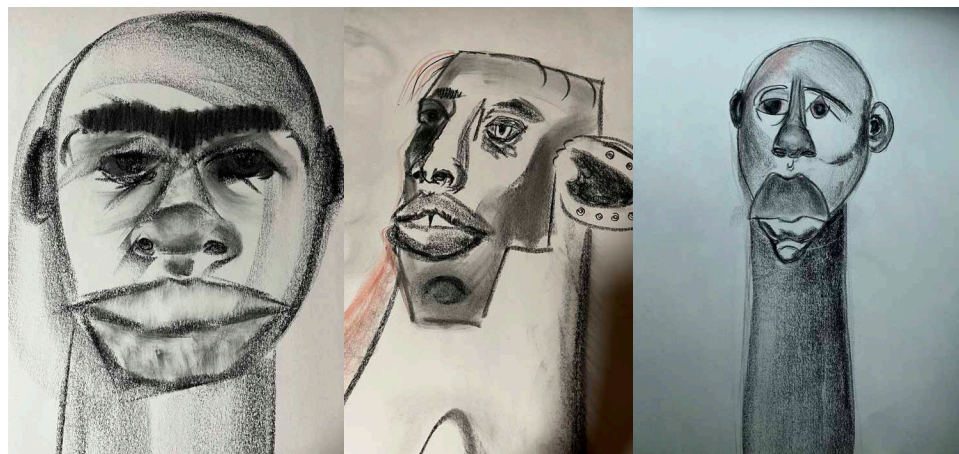


Winter Market Arts

Denise Magditch is featured artist at the February Winter Market, February 19, at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 9 a.m. – noon. Shannon Corgan, artist at the cancelled January market will be rescheduled. Shannon’s work is in the current exhibit space on the GSAC website until February 1; after that, it will move to the Archives. GSAC will continue to offer creative hands-on activities at the market.

Live Exhibit at St. Peter’s UCC CRC:

Davion Henry’s “WARPED” will be on exhibit in the Gallery in the Community Resource Center, 1433 Stein, at St. Peter’s United Church of Christ. The show will run from February 5-March 19. Giant heads, rendered in charcoal, project varied worlds of emotion. Mr. Henry’s subtitle for the show is “The Wails Inside Our Minds Can Become Disfiguring.” “WARPED” will be the February feature in the GSAC virtual gallery www.goodshepherdarts.org. To view the live show, call GSAC at 314-769-9806. During COVID protocols, you must be masked to enter the building.



“Warped” by Davion Henry

February Crafts Kits at Ferguson Library:

The library continues to provide craft kits, which can be accessed from the lobby or from curbside when the library has pandemic restrictions in place.



Hearts Open to Art:

GSAC will launch its annual appeal on February 14, “Hearts Open to Art.” Funds raised cover operating costs (including maintaining the website and newsletter), supplies (office and art supplies for exhibits and activities), and expenses anticipated for the Second Annual Ferguson Children’s Art Festival scheduled for May 7 at the Ferguson Farmers Market. Due to early bird donors, GSAC has already raised \$ 600 towards its \$15,000 goal. Donations can be submitted through the Facebook page, website, or mailed directly to GSAC, PO Box 11042, Ferguson MO 63135.



An Introduction to Chiropractic Care During Pregnancy

by Dr. Robyn L Lawrence DC
Get Well Family Chiropractic

Pregnant women often experience aches, pains, nausea, vomiting, and other discomforts as their bodies change and start producing new hormones. This is particularly true as one’s due date nears. Many people consider visiting a chiropractor for relief but feel uncertain whether this type of treatment is safe during the pregnancy. The following guide outlines what you should know about chiropractic care and pregnancy.

Is It Safe to Visit a Chiropractor Visit During Pregnancy?

In most cases, chiropractic care is a very safe method of treatment during pregnancy. It is noninvasive—meaning it doesn’t involve surgery or the introduction of other instruments into the body—and it does not utilize pharmaceuticals, chemicals, or other medications that could lead to complications.

As part of their training, all chiropractors learn to treat pregnant women. These professionals often use special cushions and adjustment tables to make sure the patient is comfortable at any stage of pregnancy. However, for best results, consider visiting a provider whose specialties encompass prenatal or perinatal care, just as you would when choosing a physician.

How Can a Chiropractor Help?

A woman’s posture changes during pregnancy as the baby grows and her center of gravity shifts. This, along with hormonal changes, can lead to spinal or joint misalignments, causing back and neck pain, stress, and inflammation.

Chiropractic care can improve these discomforts through the manual manipulation of the joints and spine. In many cases, back pain lessens dramatically, and morning sickness improves. By having the pelvis realigned to the optimal position, you may even experience a shorter, easier labor. This can also increase the chances of having a natural childbirth, if that is your goal.

If pregnancy is making you uncomfortable, consider making an appointment with one of the skilled chiropractors at Get Well Family Chiropractic in Florissant, MO. We are a respected wellness center serving families throughout north and northwest St. Louis County. We specialize in holistic care that treats and promotes entire-body healing using chiropractic adjustments, vibration therapy, essential oils, and other techniques. Patients often experience relief from chronic headaches, back pain, and neck pain. Read answers to frequently asked questions at www.getwellfc.com, or call (314) 524-2580 to make an appointment.

“The LORD loveth the Gates Of Zion
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.” (Psalms 87:2)



Come worship with us Sundays 10:30 – 1:00 pm
“Enter ye in at the strait Gate:” (Matt 7:13a)

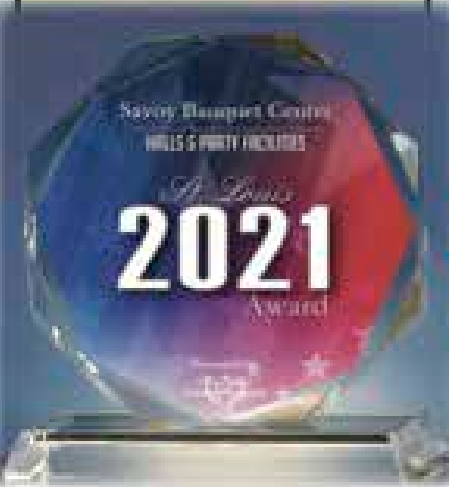
Gates Of Zion Temple
511 Airport Road • Ferguson, MO 63135
314-222-3471

Pastor Nathaniel Warren
Evangelist Marilyn Warren
Gatesofziontemple@gmail.com





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palmerforward3@gmail.com
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JAX DOG TREATS



Jax Dog Treats are 100% clean all meat dog treats. Jax Dog Treats launched in July 2020 from the reality that a trained dog is a happy dog. But not everyone could afford professional training guidance so we decided to help. Jax Gideon Jackson AKA Ferguson's Dog is a 2 year old German Rottweiler Service Dog to his mom a retired Air Force Veteran who spreads smiles whatever he's seen. Jax Dog Treats gave their first Training Scholarship to two golden Labrador mixes December 4th and is excited about future scholarships. They are attending school at Unique Canines in St. Charles, MO who by the way recently donated a canine to our Ferguson Police Canine Unit.

Jax Dog Treats products, specials and scholarships can be viewed on Instagram.
Jax Dog Treats
IG-Jax Dog Treats
314-764-1790
Jaxdogtreat314@gmail.com

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Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

Happy New year!

Let me begin this month’s story by saying I love to decorate for Christmas inside and outside of the house.



I replace pictures on the walls with Christmas pictures. I put away our everyday dishes and replace them with Christmas dishes, I swap out all the cocktail and wine glasses with a “Winterberry” design from Pfaltzgraff. I love that pattern and have bought most of it in the last ten to fifteen years from Macy’s at half price and occasionally Marshall’s or even Old Time Pottery.

We deck the staircase with garland and lights. We put a candle in every window and hang wreaths in the windows along with stringing lights on the porch railing and the brick wall that separates our front and back yard.

One year we bought some wide red cellophane type plastic and wrapped it around the house with a bow over the door so the house would appear to be a Christmas present. We had Christmas trees in the yard and a tree in every room. I even have Christmas quilts, comforters, and pillow shams for all three bedrooms.

When I was employed at Saint Louis University, we consistently hosted the department Christmas party. That was one excuse to decorate every room. The entire faculty and staff were invited as well as students. We had a hundred people in our home sometimes. St Stephen’s Episcopal Church was always kind enough to let us use their parking lot, well, that is, after we bribed them with enough



canned goods to feed an army. We requested that each guest bring a non-perishable food item when they came to the party. My department at Saint Louis University was a generous bunch and would not bring just one item. They brought cases! I loved those people.

We also hosted my husband’s engineering company one year. They continue to tell us that that was the best company Christmas party they have attended, then and currently. We have an upright grand piano from 1904 (oh! That is another story, stay tuned) and one of engineers sat down and played Christmas tunes while everyone took a turn standing in front of our Christmas tree for photos. Once again, we bribed the kind folks at St Stephen’s Episcopal Church and once again the engineers were more than generous. I deeply miss those days.

Fast forward to 2021. The virus has created a genuine fear of big house parties. My husband works from home and rarely sees the other engineers anymore and I was unfortunately a “budget cut” from Saint Louis University in 2017 (after 20 years of exemplary service to the University and the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics).

Finally, I am getting to the point of this story. I have so much fun putting out the Christmas things. The house looks so bright and beautiful. We do not do as much outdoors as we have in the past, but we still think it looks nice.

January 7th, Christmas, and New Years has passed. Outside is a “cold bucket of suck” and I begin to take down and put away the Christmas stuff. As I trudge to the basement to get the Rubbermaid bins the excitement of Christmas is over. It is cold and I cannot find half the stuff I took down when the Christmas decorations went up. I am regretting all the decorating. I am tired and this year we were sick around New Years. As I pack things away, I talk to myself and plead with myself to not do it again next year. I am quite sure I will have forgotten that conversation next year as I go into the basement the day after Thanksgiving to drag everything up the steps again.



Thank you for letting me share my stories with you. You may reach me at manhattanmarian@gmail.com





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You'll never look at Monday's the same way. Now open for lunch 11am-4pm every Monday!

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1220 Spirits canned cocktails, Waves Cider Company canned ciders, Brick River Cider Homestead Cider, and Mother's Brewing Company canned seltzers *now available!*



LONDONLEE BOUTTIQUE
8 Church Street
Ferguson, MO 63135

Hello Neighbors!

I'm Tierra. LondonLee Boutique is a new small business located in the heart of Ferguson, Missouri. We carry children's clothes and accessories! I named the boutique after my two beautiful daughters, London and Leeona. We are proud Ferguson residents established over 7 years. Don't hesitate, stop in, bring a friend! See you soon!

Come in and see us today! Deals this good don't last forever.



Ferguson City Hall Information

ONE MISTAKE

Hello Neighbors,

A friend of mine posted this story on her FaceBook page and the story started me thinking about how people may handle their mistakes made in their lives. When a mistake is made it becomes very important to understand and learn from the mistake and continue to move forward. When we stop and analyze the mistake too long, we start doubting our self-confidence. Some people even start allowing their critics to take residence in their mind. Yet, we have to continue to move forward instead of listening to what our critics have to say about the mistake.



Mayor Ella Jones

Here is this lovely story. I don't know if it true or not, but there is a lesson in this story that everyone can apply to their own lives.

"One day Albert Einstein wrote on the board:

- 9 x 1 = 9
- 9 x 2 = 18
- 9 x 3 = 27
- 9 x 4 = 36
- 9 x 5 = 45
- 9 x 6 = 54
- 9 x 7 = 63
- 9 x 8 = 72
- 9 x 9 = 81
- 9 x 10 = 91

The chaos started suddenly in the hall because Einstein made a mistake. Correct answer 9 x 10 = 90. And all his students ridiculed him.

Einstein waited for everyone to be silent and said:
"Despite the fact that I analyzed nine problems correctly, no one congratulated me. But when I made one mistake, everyone started laughing. This means that even if a person is successful, society will notice his slightest mistake. And they'll like that.

So don't let criticism destroy your dreams. The only person who never makes a mistake is someone who does nothing."

What a fitting story for Ferguson. We have done so many things correctly, like focusing on the health and growth of our community, but ONE MISTAKE keeps us complaining about what the government is not doing for us.

We must remember that a problem is an opportunity; it brings to our attention something that we can do something about. We also must remember that a mistake can simply be the right decision exercised at the wrong time or an action that brings forth additional insight and wisdom. When looked at that way, our outcomes are not always bad or good. Sometimes they are merely steps leading to the desired outcome or providing a new insight or path.

One thing that I have learned is this. It is very important to understand the lens through which we analyze our lives, our successes. We must go deeper to examine the lens through which are decisions are made; understanding that the law of timing is usually in place and that often both knowledge and wisdom are often housed in those things we perceive as failures. Here is a great statement that is very true. Andrew Carnegie once said, "As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do."

Connecting,
Mayor Ella M. Jones

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



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



You can also submit a request for records using the Records Request Icon.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.fergusoncity.com

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

COUNCIL MEETINGS – HOLIDAY NOTICE

Tuesday, January 11th and Tuesday, January 25th at 7 pm. Council meetings are held in City Hall Council Chambers, however, to protect the health and safety of the public 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. 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.

CITY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

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

Monday, January 17th – in observance of Martin Luther King Holiday

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.

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 or sign up on our website for notifications.

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 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; Eric Osterberg, City Mgr; Public Relations Intern, (314) 524-5229
City Hall: 110 Church Street, 63135, (314) 524-5060. Website: www.fergusoncity.com Contact Us by Email: Information@fergusoncity.com

Ferguson City Hall Information

City Meeting Calendar

Board/Committee/Commission Meetings typically have reoccurring schedules and may be held in various locations. Currently, to protect the health and safety of our citizens these meetings are primarily being held virtually (RSMO 610.015); via Zoom Conference unless otherwise needed. Visit the website calendar or agenda center for instructions on how to access public meetings and/or to view the complete listing of meetings, dates, times, etc.

FNIP Meeting	Tuesday, February 1st	6:30 p.m.
Plan Commission	Wednesday, February 2nd	7:00 p.m.
Civilian Review Board	Monday, February 7th	6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting	Tuesday, February 8th	7:00 p.m.
Farmers Market	Wednesday, February 9th (Monthly “in season/bi-monthly “out of season”)	6:30 p.m.
FSBD	Tuesday, February 15th	5:30 p.m.
Park Board	Wednesday, February 16th	6:00 p.m.
Plan Commission	Wednesday, February 16th	7:00 p.m.
Senior Commission	Thursday, February 17th	9:30 a.m.
NPSC	Thursday, February 17th	6:00 p.m.
Human Rights	Monday, February 21st	6:00 p.m.
City Council	Tuesday, February 22nd	7:00 p.m.
Library Board	Monday, February 28th	6:00 p.m.
Redistricting	TBD	TBD

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

Ferguson Parks and Recreation

Be sure to follow us on all of our social media for the most up-to date information!
Facebook: @FergRec | Twitter: @FergRec | Instagram: @FergParks
www.FergRec.com

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				

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There are multiple vacancies available. The list includes committees like the Architectural Review Board, Human Rights Commission, Park Board, and others.



For more information regarding vacancies, requirements, roles and responsibilities and/or how to apply, visit <http://www.fergusoncity.com/57/Boards-Commissions> or contact your City Clerk at City Hall by calling 314-521-7721.

Little Love Bug

Do you have the cutest little love bug? Bring your little love bug to our Valentine themed afternoon of crafts, snacks, and photos! We will decorate a valentine cookie, make cards, decorate your valentines box (please bring your own shoe box), and we will make picture frames. We can’t wait to see you and your little love bug for an afternoon of Valentine fun! Register by February 1, 2022

Dates: Thursday, February 10
Time: 10:00am-11:00am
Location: Ferguson Community Center
Fee: \$8/Child

Sweetheart Stroll

Come take a stroll at sunset around January-Wabash Lake with your valentine! You receive a rose to give to our valentine while you take a stroll through our lantern lit path, have an opportunity to snap a photo, grab dinner and a special treat.

Dates: Monday, February 14
Time: 5:00pm-8:00pm (must arrive by 7:30pm)
Location: January-Wabash Memorial Park
Fee: \$15/Person

Schools Out, Camps In!

Schools out, but camp is in! Come join us for an action packed and supervised ONE day camp 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: Feb 18 & Feb 21
Time: 7:00am – 6:00pm
Location: Ferguson Community Center (1050 Smith Ave.)
Fee: \$16/Child

Bingo! Laissez les bons temps rouler

Description: It’s Mardi Gras! “Let the Good Times Roll” as we celebrate with evening Bingo and Beads! Livations, Music and Food! Wear your brightest colors and join the festivities

Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022
Time: Doors open at 5:30, Dinner at 6:15
Fee: \$15 Residents \$20Non-Residents

The Best of Ferguson

by Teyuna T. Darris, M.A.



“Peggy Neely-Harris - The Artist and the Activist”

It’s not everyday that you get to meet someone who is known for her myriad talents and craft as an artist, and for her unyielding commitment to the welfare of her community. A few weeks ago, I was grateful to receive the opportunity to learn about the work of Mrs. Peggy Neely-Harris and her decorated career as an artist and as an activist. Therefore, I’m glad to present Mrs. Peggy Neely-Harris in February 2022 as The Best of Ferguson.

Before living in Ferguson, Michael and Peggy Harris relocated from Kansas City, Missouri to Cool Valley, Missouri. Not long afterwards, the Harrises decided to make their home in Ferguson, Missouri. Soon, Mrs. Harris began working in the Ferguson-Florissant School District as a Classroom Assistant with Title I Programs while she completed her communications degree at the University of Missouri in Saint Louis. Mrs. Harris also shared that she had initially began her studies in dietetics until she decided to study communications.



Peggy Neely-Harris smiling for the camera as she shows her award from the Christian Arts Awards in Branson, Missouri.

I first met Mrs. Harris (with her husband, Michael Harris) on a cold and rainy morning in October 2019 at the Ferguson Municipal Public Library during a neighborhood meeting. My first impressions of Mrs. Harris were that she (along with her husband) is very kind, passionate about our neighborhood and committed to maintaining the beauty of our neighborhood. Then, three years later, as I began to prepare to write this article, I found myself reading, analyzing, and watching the large body of digital content which features the excellent work of a very talented, beautiful, and creative singer, actress, creative arts instructor, and activist named Mrs. Peggy Neely-Harris. She is a testament to the fact that Ferguson, Missouri has a treasure trove of wonderful people.

As our interview continued, I asked Mrs. Harris, “What are your hobbies or pastimes?” She enthusiastically replied, “All things art! And, hiking and all things nature!” Mrs. Harris shared that “Advocacy for Freedom and justice has been important for me. But my advocacy extends throughout the community! I have supported Black History all my life through character re-enactments, encouraging people to vote, and providing creative arts services for local officials of Saint Louis County and for the City of Ferguson”.

To elaborate, Mrs. Harris is one of the initial supporters of the Readings on Race Book Club at the Ferguson Municipal Public Library with the late Carla Fletcher, whose memory is cherished by many of her neighbors throughout the Ferguson Community. Mrs. Harris also performed Jazz music at the Ferguson Youth Initiative’s First Annual Banquet, in addition to taking the lead in a neighborhood project to reconstruct and update the entrance to Northwest Ferguson (at the intersection of Frost Avenue and North Florissant Road). This effort included new shrubbery, cleaning-up vandalism and installing new light poles.

Moreover, as a veteran of the arts, Mrs. Harris has been cast in many musicals at various colleges and universities throughout her career. Including being cast as an extra in the Broadway musical Mamma Don’t, and as an actress in the 2009 IMBD-rated film American Streetballers. She was also cast in a nationally-advertised commercial for Shutterstock. Mrs. Harris’ film credits include working as a stand-in in King of the Hill, and as an extra in NBC’s Unsolved Mysteries. She also works in the creative arts ministry at her church, and, with her husband, Michael, owns I H Productions Creative Arts Services. Mrs. Harris credits her hometown high school speech and drama teachers with inspiring her to pursue a career in the arts.

Mrs. Harris not only dedicates much of her time and attention to performing. She also dedicates much of her time to honing her craft!

She shared, “I have enhanced and refined my gifts, qualities and skills through various college courses, workshops, seminars and professional development work...my soul is happiest with The Arts. That is why I continue to share this craft with others and try to help provide platforms for those who have similar passions”. Mrs. Harris also shared that this platform is her podcast and vlog, Peggy’s Creative Arts Space--- which she launched in January 2022.

One of my favorite parts of Mrs. Harris’ story is that she comes from a large and musical family. She shared, “Even as early as a child, I would simply be compelled to flex my voice (instrument) with riffs, tunes, and melodies ...they were effortless. I later realized through my Christian walk that it was an anointing, and I’ve been forever grateful for that.”

Mrs. Harris continued by sharing that her mother and grandfather were self-taught musicians, and her father gave their family an upright piano. She continued, “...I gravitated towards sharing my singing in classrooms, events, churches, and later in life on professional stages of all kinds. I even tried my hand at my first professional music video for Street Ministry.” Mrs. Harris also proudly shared that her grandfather, Walter Ruff, was as Big Band Jazz musician who was friends with Big Band Jazz legend Count Basie.

As we continued our interview, I asked Mrs. Harris that famous Saint Louis question “Where did you go to high school?” To this, she replied, “Osceola High School in Osceola, Arkansas”. Then, I asked her my favorite question: What are the three things that make you awesome? She replied, (1) I have great classroom management skills! (2) I’m care-free, a Creative Artist and a go-getter!, and (3) I’m a magnet for attracting and drawing out the best in kids (especially), and people in general...”

Before I close this article, I want to mention that Mrs. Harris’s work includes a European singing tour with the United States Department of Defense, serving as the opening talent for an event which featured Dr. Maya Angelou, and many other stints and services in the arts and activism (including work with the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition, the Transformative Justice Coalition and Indivisible) throughout the Greater Saint Louis area and throughout the United States.

Writing about Mrs. Harris’ story reminds me of that ancient story of a carpenter concerning whom the writer said, “And there are also many other things...which...if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written... (John 21:25)” As a columnist, I am constrained by word space and deadlines, therefore, I find myself wishing that I could tell Mrs. Harris’ entire story because I believe that everyone who reads her entire story can be refreshed and inspired.

I am grateful to each person who has allowed me to capture their story in The Best of Ferguson. And, each time I read and listen to my interviewees’ answers to my questions, they leave an impression on me that further helps me to appreciate and better understand this complex experience that we’re all enduring, called, “Life”. And, I’m grateful to capture this part of the story of such a great artist and activist.

Mrs. Harris, thank you for allowing me to capture your story.



Participating in the Regional Arts Commission workshop in Saint Louis, Missouri.



As an actress at The History Museum 2018



Peggy Neely-Harris featured with fellow activists and, now, Congresswomen Cori Bush (MO-1)

The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely

God has TOLD us to LOVE each other as we love ourselves.
Are YOU gonna ARGUE with HIM about that??? well, ARE YOU???
GO THINK THIS OVER REAL GOOD!!! SO THERE!!! :)

FEBRUARY, 2022

First Corinthians 13:13 says, “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

If you are like me, the question I must have answered is: WHY?

Please google that question while I continue. You should know that you will find a dozen or more answers for that, and they all sound like very good answers. However, for me, I have always been just a little bit different than others; mind you, not better, but different. I don’t follow the crowd; I usually go off on my own, and after a while, I do come back, so to speak. some of you may think I am still out there. Fair enough! :)

allow me now, to hold forth.

Without love, for what do we hold out hope? For what do we place our faith in? Nothing at all, because there is no reason to. Nothing is important enough or matters enough to even bother with any of that. Why waste our time. Let’s just continue on and live our lives with no real meaning. And when our life is over, we will just die. Just as in our lives, there will be nothing after death. Why should there be?

I could go on, but I think you get the idea. There is great meaning in life because we love and are loved. By each other, but mostly by God. I have always thought that we love each other not only because of His love, but with His love. ALL love comes from God. If you don’t think so, write me and tell me where YOU think it comes from!

Did You Know?, dept.

Did you hear that Micro\$oft is coming out with Windows 11? I considered doing a column about it for you, but it seems that most of you no longer have the excitement and interest in a new M\$ operating system like you used to. Remember standing in line outside of your favorite computer store to be the first to buy your copy?

See? You don’t even remember, do you? Well, I could tell you that is a grandiose thing that basically will remind you of W10. I could say that it will do some stuff that 10 couldn’t do. Yeah, sure. I could tell you that it still will not run your favorite old programs or games. That goes without saying.

The only thing I feel reasonably good about telling you is that it will lack what you want, and give you plenty of whatever you care not a whit for. (I LOVE to tack those prepositions onto the end of a sentence...don’t YOU???) :)

Well, why don’t we just agree that if you wanna hear about some W11 stuff, write to me and tell me all about your burning desires; I will try to dish some out to you!

A Goodie That I Did NOT Get For Christmas!, dept.
I have a feeling that I will not get it for Valentine’s Day either.
What’s a body to do? IDK!

I had fervently hoped that the Linux gods would have given me a new operating system for my little tablet. No joy in my little corner of the world! Maybe another time? I live for a multi-device Linux universe. Don’t ask me what that is; it just sounded good!

ME GO NOW!

I normally have lots of love for all of you, but I don’t usually make a big deal about it, except for certain times of the year. This is one of ‘em! :) I wish I could hug all of you and ask you to be my Valentine! Heck, I would even kiss some of you! :0

Also, remember that I am always open to any suggestions you may have about topics you would like me to write about. (see there? I did it to you again! Another pesky little preposition!) hee, hee, hee!!! :)

Anyhow, I want you all to know that I dearly love you, and I greatly miss meeting you when you bring me your puter for repair. Keep the faith and the hope and the LOVE!

IF YOU would like to get some of Doug’s world famous puter advice, contact him in one of two ways. Call him at *314*521*1789* in the PM (Post-Meridian) hours of most any day. I need your local number and name to appear on my Caller I.D. window. If I am not available when you call, I will check my Caller I.D. and call you back. Of course, you can shoot off an email to him at: fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com
When emailing, be certain to put the phrase “I need puter advice” into the subject line, and put your local telephone number into the body of your missive, or there will no joy to share between us. THANK YOU for following these rules!

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Spotlight on Business

by Trish Cook

The Lions Club International has the most members of any charitable organization worldwide. And we are fortunate to have a Lions Club right here in Ferguson MO.

The hall was built in 1998. Members Harry Henderson (owner of former longtime local business Bermuda Heating and Cooling), Bob and Ginny Richardson, Don Madras, Bob Erickson, Ed Neikirk, and Bill Squires were all instrumental in the construction of the facility and it was personally funded by the members as well as through fundraising efforts. After the contract with the D.M.V. ended they decided to use their meeting hall as a rental hall to continue their charitable efforts.



A fun and interesting fact about longtime member Bob Erickson is that he was an avid bike rider well into his late years of life and he was the first person to ride a bike across the new Alton Bridge when it opened in 1993. The Lions Club members spend each year organizing fundraisers and assisting with events across North County and their mission is to help improve the lives of the visually impaired and prevent avoidable blindness in Ferguson and our surrounding communities. Here is a list of the organizations supported by The Lions Club: Jamestown New Horizons – Therapeutic Horseback Riding, Leader Dogs For The Blind, Missouri School For The Blind, Children’s Hospital, Ferguson Parks and Recreation – Youth Activities i.e. Halloween Spooktacular and other special events for youths and they work very closely with Katelyn Haniford, Saving Sight/ Kid’s Sight, American Braille/ Braille Books For Children, and The Bennett Project – support for children with pediatric cancer. They assist in the financial needs for eye exams as well as Guide Dogs. And they also support our local food pantries.



The Club members work tirelessly to reach their annual fundraising goals to help support their many causes and a good example of that is when Jeff Greiner (15+ year member) was President in 2014 during the unrest in Ferguson while everything was shutdown and our city came to a screeching halt, he received a standing ovation during a speech because

they were still able to meet their goals and continue their charitable efforts for our communities.

The Lions Club’s biggest money maker is their rental hall. Located at 49 N. Clark Avenue in Ferguson MO. When you look at their ad in the Ferguson Neighborhood News, you’ll notice it states, “all proceeds support Ferguson”. Other than their low overhead costs of running and upkeep of the hall, they tend to bring in between \$20k and \$30k annually through hall rentals and most of it goes right back into Ferguson and all the other charitable organizations supported by the club. Patti Knowles oversees handling the phones and booking the facility to the public. She can be reached at 314-226-4077. This hall holds 75 people maximum and is perfect for Baby/ Wedding Showers, Birthday bashes, Graduation Parties, Family Reunions, Repasses and Homegoing Celebrations, and so much more. There’s a large parking lot, easy access with just two steps into the front door, a refrigerator, and plenty of counter space. You can bring your own ready-to-eat foods and snacks or have your event catered. However, they have no heat sources such as stoves, ovens, or microwaves.

Costs to rent the hall are: \$275 for WEEKDAYS only for up to 4 hours with a \$125 deposit. Or \$375 for WEEKENDS for up to 7 hours with a \$125 deposit. And you can also drive up to the rental hall any time and drop off used glasses in their special box. They will be repaired and given to someone in need.

There is a great need for new members at this time to help keep their charitable efforts going. The Lions Club located here in Ferguson meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. They used to have about 50 members at any given time. Due to aging members and other issues, their membership is down to 10-15 currently. Becoming a member of The Lions Club costs just \$75 a year and you are welcome to come to a meeting and talk with everyone and see what it’s all about or you can also look them up on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FergusonLionsClub or Lions Club International at www.lionsclub.org/en. Being a part of the Lions Club means you would get to participate in all their community events and be a part of the charitable activities that help support the many causes throughout Ferguson and neighboring communities. It’s a great way to give back and to invest in the children of our communities and so much more.



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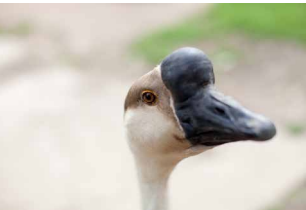
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Field Notes from Farm Girl - My Feathered Valentines

Life on a farm is non-stop activity. It starts as the sun comes up, and often go on into the evening. There’s always something to do, something that needs to be fixed, an animal that needs to be tended to, a garden in need, or any manner of things. There’s no time off, no days off, no vacation and you’re up and out early. There’s not much of a plan where you’ll be when, so lots of farmers adapt and have creative systems to make things work. One of the funny bits is that when someone comes to see you, mailman arrives, or you have an appointment, who knows where to find you. You need a traveling doorbell. The solution? Geese. In addition to strolling around with free-range chickens and ducks, a goose will always squawk and call when someone new arrives. For most of the day, geese follow



their other feathered friends around. Because of their size, they also do an excellent job of disincentivizing bigger birds of prey like hawks, eagles and owls from swooping down from the sky to steal small and unsuspecting chickens. Mostly they’re poultry bodyguards, but if a new truck comes down the driveway, don’t worry, you’ll hear them from the farthest edge of the farm. They don’t just announce the guest, they will usually come to greet them, and like a Rottweiler, they may let you get out of your vehicle, but they’ll keep you in place until their owner comes and shooshes them away and tells them it’s ok. You think I’m kidding, think back to any movie you’ve seen with a farmyard or country estate, and look for the geese. Most times, the job they do is actually part of the plot of the scene 9think ‘Babe’, ‘Charlotte’s Web’ etc...). It sounds funny, but they do this without any training or encouragement. Unlike some sweet varieties of chickens, and the goofy and friendly nature of turkeys, geese are not the animal you think when you’re looking for something soft and cuddly. They’re very intelligent. They’re naturally protective. They also have fairly long life spans for a farm animal. On our farm, we have 12 geese.

Many years ago, a neighbor of a friend sought us out after neighborhood dogs attacked her pair of African geese. The attack left the female dead with her mate, standing over her body wailing in defeat. She asked us to take



him in to keep him safe. At the time we had a female African goose without a mate, and she thought they might pair up together. We agreed thinking it might be a potential love match. At that time, we had ‘Georgie’ the female African goose, but we also had a male and female pair of Sebastopol geese named ‘Fred’ & ‘Ginger’. Georgie was the third wheel to the movie star couple of curly feathered white geese. When Fred & Ginger walked by, it was like being an extra on a film shoot. They had glamour, style and an aloofness that would make anyone, much less a third goose, feel left out. Bringing ‘Wally’ to live at our farm was going to help the neighbor, Wally and poor Georgie. Fingers crossed.

Needless to say, the old adage about the best laid plans, is no joke. Wally and Georgie met, looked at each other, and as the rest of us waited to hear angels sing, they held each other’s gaze for about 20 seconds, and then as if to say ‘not impressed’ kept walking in separate directions. Apparently humans suck at waterfowl matchmaking. At least I do.



What I did not expect, was that as Wally continued walking past his meeting of the eyes, he stumbled into the aura of Fred & Ginger. Cinematically in slow motion, with golden sunlight splashing off her feathers as she bathed in the Mr. Turtle pool, Wally discovered the sight of ‘Ginger’ like a small town buy who arrived in Times Square as one of the Rockettes walked by. He had that Warner Brothers cartoon character look of ‘smitten’ written all over his beak. That was it. Nothing else mattered. It was if his whole life up until this afternoon had brought him into this world just for her. It didn’t matter that she had a man, Wally was a goner. If he had lifted up a John Cusack boombox, a la ‘Say Anything’, it would have made perfect sense.



Now mind you, being smitten doesn’t mean you lose all sense of decorum, (at least not for this goose). Instead of throwing himself at her, making her a mix tape or writing love-sick poetry, he seemed to respect her relationship status and set himself for a life of worshiping her from afar. He settled on somewhere in the middle. If the only way he could watch her was by being the bodyguard and butler for both Ginger AND Fred, well then that is what had to be done. And that’s exactly what Wally did. He walked them everywhere, let them know when the kiddie pool had fresh sparkling new water, when humans were throwing bread, where to find the best bugs and the best shade to siesta in for the afternoon sun. Wally was the best manservant this side of Downton Abbey. It didn’t matter that it was a little shameless. A man has to do what a man has to do, and he seemed happy. As happy as he could be to be in love with a ‘married’ woman. Fred and Ginger grew accustomed to this over-the-top royalty treatment. Who wouldn’t?

Half a year goes by, and things are exactly the same. It was hard not to feel sorry for Wally, but he held his head high. He had purpose. Then one day, as a farm friend is heading up the driveway in his big truck, out of nowhere, Fred makes a last-minute run to cross the road.



It was a fateful and losing calculation on his part. The big truck won. It was heartbreaking. It was also, blessedly quick. He did not suffer. Thankfully. As we do on this farm of farm animals as friends, funeral arrangements were made. Ginger was inconsolable. Thank heavens for her devoted friend Wally who was there at ever hour of the day for a shoulder to cry on. Her status did not change. She was still guaranteed prime access to everything because of Wally, and I think like many grieving widows eventually do, you learn to depend on the kindness of other people. Days and a week went by, and a change began to happen. Her sadness was replaced with teenage playfulness. They roamed the sunny pasture amid butterflies and picnicked like a new couple. Maybe they stayed up late at night in the chicken coop telling each other stories of their youth. Whatever happened, Wally never looked happier. Ginger never looked happier, and for once, everything felt right in the world.

When you try to make things happen, it never turns out the way you plan, but if you let things happen on their own, it seems like the results are pure wonder. I was never happier to be wrong. From then on, I listen to Wally and what he has to say. He was determined. The heart knows what the hear wants, and just like that, it all worked out in the end. You could tell they were a happy couple because even in the midst of their bliss, if any car or truck came down the driveway, the two of them were the perfect farm doorbell this farm has ever seem. As soon as they were done squawking, they went back to canoodling. Remembering this love story always reminds me to cherish animal wonder.

Happy Valentine’s Day everybody!

(Stay tuned for Wally Part II next month)



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Financial Focus – Dealing with Inflation

by Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@sbcglobal.net)

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

Last month I ended with the somber news that what's painful now just might be the medicine we need to move our economy in the right direction and allow less interference from the Fed. Complaints about inflation are high and of course no one wants to pay more for things, but it might be time for us to accept that we can't continue to solve problems as we have been. As prices rise, the inflation rate has moved up to 7% for the first time in nearly forty years. People are nervous and expect something to be done. Looking at the methods used to keep our ailing economy going since 2008 last month, didn't offer much comfort. Economists are predicting this will last through the summer and raising interest rates seems to be the Fed's strategy to curb inflation. Looking back at the last period of uncontrolled inflation during the 1970's may help those at the Fed and in government learn how to best balance the response to avoid a similar outcome. Raising interest rates during that period after other policies failed made things worse leading to rates of around 20% and stagflation. No one wants that to happen.

It is important for our leaders to look at what is causing this inflation. First and foremost the pandemic created a bad situation and we have not quite recovered. Although our economy made it through without much suffering, it did so with help from government stimulus to businesses and individuals. During all of this rates have been held low and unemployment has also been low. The markets remained strong, and as I recognized last month the results have been good for the wealthy, but not so good for most Americans. So perhaps the Fed raising rates isn't the best response, but small adjustments may help. Last June, Janet Yellen U.S. Treasury Secretary spoke about President Biden's 4 trillion spending proposal indicating that while it would increase rates and possibly inflation, it would be good for the economy in the long run. As she explained, both rates and inflation have been too low for too long.

Most people understand the basic premise of our economy is based on supply and demand – when this is out of balance the result is economic problems. At this point, we seem to have plenty of demand, but not enough in supply. So some economists question the decision to raise rates because even though rates have been low it hasn't led to economic growth

as I mentioned last month. And while the responses by the government last year were necessary, it is now time to find ways to increase economic growth by controlling the pandemic and adjusting the economy by investing in domestic and global supply chains. With that in mind, raising interest rates won't necessarily help, but perhaps incentives for businesses to do the right things might improve the situation.

Another factor that has been brought up often has to do with wages and getting workers back to work. We've seen the docks in California full of inventory waiting to be moved to its destination. The problem was identified as not enough workers or drivers to get the trucks loaded and moving. And while some wages are going up, they aren't keeping up with inflation and the current state of our pandemic response has made it more difficult for workers to return as they must deal with illness or exposure due to the pandemic or possibly family needs with schools or day cares being closed. Some blame inflation on the higher wages necessary to maintain employees and others blame restrictions about vaccines or testing being required of employees. The chaos we are experiencing in all facets of daily life has an effect on this as well which leads to some of the problems with supply and demand. The continual fighting about our pandemic responses in court doesn't help.

We're being told that the Fed plans to raise interest rates 4 times this year expecting that to help curb inflation. This type of inflation may not respond well and some fear it may worsen things. Motivating workers and businesses to increase supplies could help balance things. While some may want to blame the current administration, we can only hope that most people realize the predicament we've gotten ourselves into over the past twenty years by trying to avoid pain. Considering what the current administration has to deal with, I believe they are doing a pretty remarkable job. The Biden plan is costly, but the long range effects may be just what we need. Recognizing how it will be paid for may be a bitter pill for some, but we've got to invest in the future of our country. Infrastructure and expanding business to help balance supply and demand are so important to our future, we can only hope that our leaders can agree and make decisions based on the long term goals rather than short term goals like getting re-elected. Keep this in mind when going to the polls. Keeping the current the current administration's hands tied only leads to gridlock and we must be able to move forward. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at cleav73@gmail.com.



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Human Rights is Civil Rights. This Black History month the Ferguson Human Rights Commission would like to recognize Civil Rights, Human Rights and Black History.

Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the

United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. Black History Month's first endorsement was Negro History Week, created in February 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, known as the "father of Black history."

Woodson is a Harvard educated historian who started a group now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Woodson was the son of a former slave and was the second African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. He formed his group 50 years after the abolishment of slavery in the United States. The purpose of the Human Rights Commission is to prevent or eliminate discriminatory practices.



The HRC focus areas are: Housing, Employment and Public Accommodations.

Human rights are rights that all humans have, simply because they are human. There are many historical documents that cover human rights but The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, passed by the United Nations after World War II, is the most important worldwide document. In the United States, federal, state, and local laws cover rights of American citizens based the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution. Sometimes these rights are called civil rights. Ferguson's Human Rights law, or ordinance, can be found in Chapter 21 of the City's Municipal Code.

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Under The Hood With Robinwood
By Bob McGartland

Do you and Your Vehicle Feel the Love at Your Current Auto Repair Facility?

As February is the month that we all celebrate love on Valentine's Day; Are you and your vehicle getting the loving attention you deserve? At Robinwood Automotive, we love all our customers! For 39 years we have delivered automotive services to our friends and neighbors in the greater Ferguson area. 100% customer satisfaction has been our # 1 goal from our 1st day!

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If you are not feeling the love at your current automotive service provider, please accept my invitation to join hundreds of your friends and neighbors who have selected Robinwood Automotive and Tire... "Automotive Repair from People Who Care!" Happy Valentine's Day everyone, and we would LOVE to see you at Robinwood Automotive! Visit us at robinwoodauto.com



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When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

HEATER CHECKLIST

- Purchase a heater with the seal of a qualified testing laboratory.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from anything that can burn, including people.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- Keep children away from the space heater.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

Types of electric space heaters

Oil or water-filled radiator
Heated oil or water travels through the heater.

Fan-forced heater
A fan blows warm air over metal coils.

Ceramic heater
Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.

Infrared heaters
Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

Fact

Two in five deaths in space heater fires involve portable electric space heaters.



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!!



Let's Cook

I have been cooking since I was about 12 years old. When my mom came home from work she would want to take a nap so she would say to me: why don't you start dinner and I'll finish after my nap.

I learned that if you like to eat, you should learn how to cook. The recipe below is one I found on-line and it is really good.

Beef Medallions in Red Wine Sauce

Ingredients:

- Beef Medallions (I get them from Paul's)
Black Pepper
Salt
1 – 2 large shallot or Medium onion
10 - 12 Mushrooms
1/2 Tbsp sugar
1/2 Tbsp Red Wine Vinegar
2 Large Garlic Cloves
1/2 tsp Thyme
1/2 tsp Rosemary
1/2 Tbsp Flour
3/4 Cup Beef Broth
3/4 Cup Dry Red Wine (Cabernet or Merlot)



Directions

Flatten Meat 1/4 – 1/2 inch thick. Season with salt & pepper

In large skillet heat on med – high melt butter & saute meat until brown. (2 minutes a side) this will depend on how rare you want the meat. Just remember the meat is going to continue to cook and then will be added to the sauce.



Remove meat.

Add butter, add mushrooms and onion saute 10 minutes.

Add sugar & cook 4 minutes.



Add vinegar, garlic, herbs, flour. Stir 1 minute until absorbed.

Add broth & wine. Bring to boil reduce heat and continue cooking to reduce to about 1/2 cup. Return beef to pan – heat 1 minute.

Serve with egg noodles, asparagus or green veggie and a glass of the wine you used to cook with.
Enjoy!! Papa Deau

Ferguson Has A History Museum

Ferguson, indeed, does have a Historical Society and a History Museum and we are moving forward with the help of our readers of the past many weeks. We encourage any of you reading this article to join in the conversation. Contact information is at the bottom of this article.

There is a building, in the same block, next to Central Elementary School, which many of you may not even be aware of. A building which has held huge significance in the history of Ferguson. It was once the Masonic Temple of Ferguson Lodge #542. While this article will include some information about the Masons, it is really about the building and its importance in the social life of Ferguson residents.



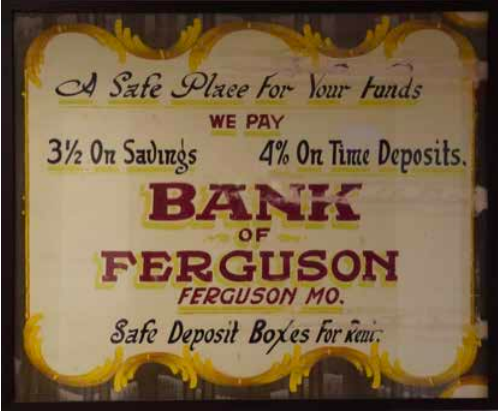
Masonic Lodge #542 came to life in 1889 With meetings held on the second floor of The Bindbeutel Building (another historic Ferguson building on the corner of Florissant and Church). The temple was built in 1926 by the John Epple Construction Company (a onetime Ferguson company still in business today). The building not only housed the Masons but also the women’s Eastern Star and eventually the Job’s Daughters (girls) and the DeMolay (boys)

Like many things in Ferguson, the Masons and their lodge are somewhat the product of the Wabash railroad. Records indicate that many of the early members were employed by the railroad. While it was a member’s temple, it quickly became an entertainment center for Ferguson residents. Starting the year it was built, the temple became a movie theatre under the operation of a Mr. Heulett. Mr. Heulett is an important man in the history of Ferguson entertainment as by 1936, on Christmas Day, he opened the Savoy Movie Theatre (See Ferguson Neighborhood News Vol.1 No.10).

In the 1920’s, the Masons decided to raise funds for the building by having stage curtains made. These were special curtains in that they would include advertising by local merchants. We are fortunate that these curtains still remain today as a visual history of Ferguson merchants.



Some of these merchants are still around today: Bank of Ferguson, Behle Supply, Negwer Building Materials and Ferguson Sheet Metal. These four sections of the curtain have remained in good shape. In 2020, your Ferguson Historical Society had them cleaned and framed. They are currently on display at the Ferguson Community Center. The remainder of the curtains are in storage but not in good shape. Next time you visit the Community Center, take a right after the desk and check these out.



The Masonic Temple has been a large part of the Ferguson social scene during the last century. It became the location for many churches to hold their services until they could have their own place. During World War II, it became a center for the Red Cross to make bandages and provide child care for the working women. It became a center for many community theatre groups, Boy and Girl Scouts troops and community dinners and events. Maybe, most importantly, it was a great hill to ride your sled down as a kid. (maybe taken over by Lee Hamilton Hill). The building is currently owned by the Ferguson-Florissant School District and is used for storage. Next time you drive along Clark Street, take a look at two historic buildings: Central School and the Masonic Temple.

This article came from “News & Notes” Winter 2020 by Jeanne Boetcher, edited by Keith & Kathy Eckberg.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact Jerry Benner at fjbenner@mindspring.com. You are also welcome to visit the History Museum beginning in March (hopefully).

“The Ferguson Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Ferguson Missouri. Membership is open to all sharing our interest.”



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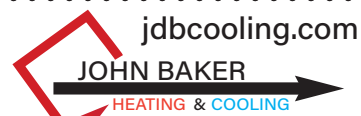
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