



Ferguson

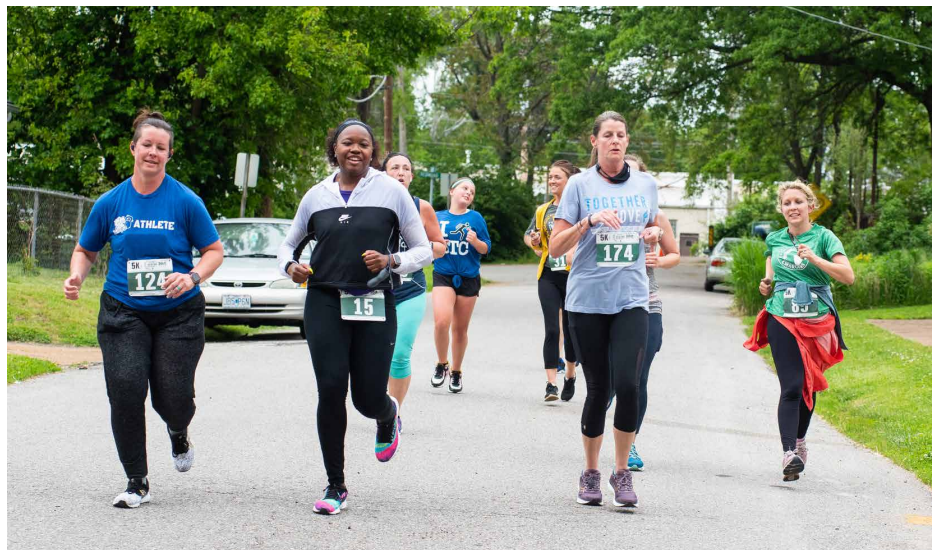
NEIGHBORHOOD

2021 NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities since 2021

13 Years! Ferguson Twilight Run



For 13 years, Ferguson Twilight Run has welcomed runners and walkers, family and friends, neighbors, visitors and so many more to enjoy a run for everyone. The annual event is Saturday, May 14 and features one-mile, 5K (3.1 miles), 10K (6.2 miles) and 10-mile distances.

A new race - FTR 13.1 - will offer participants a half-marathon distance by pairing the 5K with the 10-mile. Runners will do the 5K route first, then set off on the 10-mile course.

“We’re thrilled to come back with the full Ferguson Twilight Run experience! There’s a special energy that comes with the runners, walkers, volunteers, and neighbors who join us for the race each year, and we’re thrilled to experience that energy for the 13th year,” said Dwayne T. James, race director.

Race Start and Finish

Ferguson Twilight Run will start and finish at Plaza at 501, at the intersection of Florissant Road and Suburban Avenue.

The one-mile starts at 4 p.m.; the 5K and FTR 13.1 distances start at 4:45 p.m. The 10K and 10-mile distances start at 5:15 p.m.

Routes are USATF-certified by Big River Running Company.

Free Concert

The free post-race concert returns with high-energy party dance band Top of the World. The concert starts at 7 p.m. at Plaza at 501.

Virtual Participation

All distances are offered virtually with unlimited participation; virtual races can be completed on your own schedule during race week, May 9-15, 2022.



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A Run for Everyone

Ferguson Twilight Run debuted in May 2010 as the first evening race in North St. Louis County. Since the beginning, the run encourages a sense of community while supporting a common interest. Proceeds are donated to nonprofits in north St. Louis County that promote the healthy and sustainable benefits of fitness. To date, more than \$100,000 has been given to community organizations through the Donnie White Sr. Memorial Beneficiary Award. The 2022 recipients are A Red Circle, Emerson Family YMCA, Girls on the Run St. Louis Ferguson-Florissant School District, and St. Vincent Home for Children.



Volunteers and Sponsors

Ferguson Twilight Run relies on countless community volunteers to plan and coordinate every aspect of the event - from the planning committee to cheer stations, water stations and road closures, start and finish area, packet pick up, informing neighborhood residents and more - to make it a success.



Ferguson Twilight Run will follow the health and safety guidelines recommended by public health and local government officials. If any changes are necessary, details will be posted online.

CONTACTS

Dwayne T. James, 314-325-2197 racedirector@fergtwilightrun.com
Nez Savala, 816-678-9071 miss_tv@yahoo.com

MAY 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

In Person: Krafty Korner - Wednesday, May 11 at 6 pm
Enjoy doing crafts and want to have some company? Interested in starting a new craft and unsure how to go about it? Meet up with us and bring your crafts or other projects to work on. **Registration required.** Register at bit.ly/fmplkrafty or give us a call today!

Virtual: Anything Goes Storytime - Saturday, May 21 at 2pm
Anything goes at this month's storytime! We'll read some of our favorite books and sing some of our favorite songs. Join us on Facebook (facebook.com/fergusonlibrary) for all of the fun!

In Person: Game Night - Wednesday, May 25 at 6 pm
Bring your favorite game or try one of ours and let's play! All ages are welcome to join. **Registration required.** Register online at bit.ly/fmplgame or give us a call today!

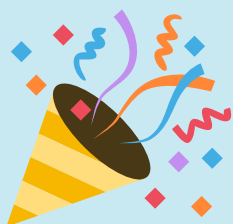
**Summer Reading Challenge
May 28-August 8, 2022**
Dive in and read this summer! This year's Summer Reading Challenge starts on May 28. Read to win fabulous prizes! For more information, visit bit.ly/fmplsrc22 or drop by the library to hear about all the fun!

May Craft Kits

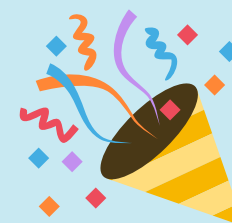
- **May 2-7:** Flower Bookmark
- **May 9-14:** Braided Bracelet
- **May 16-21:** Embossed Foil Weaving
- **May 23-28:** Optical Art Weaving
- **May 31-June 4:** Jellyfish Wind Chime

Pick up a free craft kit each week in May. Available on a first come, first served basis, so don't delay!

May Celebration Shout-outs



- 7 - Happy Birthday Nancy Hahne
- 19 - Happy Birthday Aunt Renee
- 31 - Happy Birthday Merrilee Nadeau



The market opens for its 21st season with our tradition of fresh local produce, special events, hot breakfast and lunch, fresh breads and sweets, live music, kids' art activities, and more. New this year - yoga at the market!

MAY EVENTS

- MAY 7 -** Good Shepherd's Art Center's 2nd Annual Ferguson Youth Art Festival
 Mother's Day Drawing for House Plant
 Live Music - Gateway Science Academy International Youth Orchestra
- MAY 14 -** Spring Plant Sales!
 - Ferguson Volunteer Flower Department Bulb and Plant Sale
 - Windy Hill Bedding Plants Sale
 Live Music - Readus Miller
- MAY 21 -** Chef Nesee from That's So Good Cooking Demo - 10am
 Live Music - Ritenour High School Jazz Band
- MAY 28 -** St. Louis Area Foodbank Food Drive 8am-noon
 Live Music - Chad Evans

f Every Saturday • May-October • 8am-12pm • Plaza at 501

May at a Glance

- 2 Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 7 Farmers Market at 501 Plaza (opening day)
- 8 Mothers Day
- 14 13th Annual Twilight Run
- 30 Memorial Day



Paper not delivered?

If you know of someone that has not been getting our paper, please let us know. We cannot make miracles happen, but will do our best in trying to resolve the issue. We have paper stands at:

- Ferguson Community Center
- Robinwood Automotive
- Schnucks in Ferguson
- Dellwood Rec Center
- Ferguson Library
- Ferguson City Hall
- Reds BBQ
- Ferguson Brewing
- Ferguson Style & Spa
- Florissant Valley Community College
- Drakes Place Restaurant
- Ferguson Farmers Market

PRAY FOR UKRAINE

The Ferguson News Group may be reached

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

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. As we are all volunteers, this is a non-paying position.

ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

By Beth von Behren



Starting this month, Artful Considerations will have a new byline. Glynis Mary McManamon has handed off the art writing baton to Ferguson resident and writer Beth von Behren.

Many thanks to Glynis for her great work over the past year.

If you walk through the neighborhoods of Ferguson, or through any neighborhood or park in the region, you can see evidence everywhere that spring has arrived. The grass is tall. The dogwoods and azaleas are blooming. The redbuds are budding. There is so much natural beauty all around us at this time of year. It's breathtaking. We are also entering the season of outdoor art fairs and festivals, so we will list a few of those in this month's column.

In Ferguson

- Ferguson Farmers' Market music schedule in May: Gateway Science Academy Youth Orchestra on May 7. Readus Miller on May 14. Ritenour Jazz Band on May 21. Chad Evens on May 28.
- Good Shepherd Arts Center at the Farmers' Market: Second Annual Ferguson Youth Art Festival, May 7, featuring 70 pieces of original art by local youth and a mini-book art activity for kids. Other events at the Market in May: Bridigitte Atkins, jewelry, May 14; St. Louis Artworks, May 21; and Friends of Taiwan, May 28.

Festivals and Fairs around the Region:

- Laumeier Sculpture Park, 35th Annual Art Fair, Mother's Day weekend, May 6-8. Features 150 juried artists from across the country, local food and beverage vendors, activities for kids, and live music. Proceeds support the park. Admission per day is \$10 for ages 11 and up (free for 10 and under). Hours are Friday, May 6, 6:00-10:00 p.m. Saturday, May 7, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, May 8, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For parking and other information, visit www.laumeiersculpturepark.org.
- Art Outside, Schlafly Bottleworks. "Like beer, art brings people together." Features +60 artists on the parking lot at the Bottleworks, 7260 Southwest Avenue in Maplewood. Free admission. Hours are: Friday, May 27, 4:00-9:00 p.m. Saturday, May 28, 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, May 29, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Food and beer will be available for purchase.
- African Arts Festival, 31st Annual Festival, May 28-30, World's Fair Pavilion, Forest Park. Hosted by the African Heritage Association of St. Louis. Featuring artists, music, and dance. Free admission. Hours are: Saturday, May 28, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, May 29, 11:00 a.m., to 8:00 p.m. Monday, May 30, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- St. Louis Shakespeare Festival - 22nd year. "Much Ado About Nothing" will open in Shakespeare Glen in Forest Park on June 1 and run through June 26, Tuesday thru Sunday nights. Pre-performance entertainment will warm up the audience an hour or two before the nightly 8pm show time. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Admission is free - bring a blanket or chairs - or you can purchase reserved seating in person or at www.stlshakes.org.

If you have art news or an art topic you would like to see covered here, please send your information and ideas to Beth via email: optinpr@gmail.com.



Editors note: I wanted to take a moment to thank Sr. Glynis for her dedication to the arts and her faithful submission of Artful Considerations since the Ferguson Neighborhood News began last year. Although I never had the opportunity to meet Sr. Glynis face to face, our correspondence this past year has been enlightening and sometimes humorous. She let me know that she would be leaving the St. Louis area sometime this summer and had a person lined up to take over for her. So I am sad to lose her without meeting her, but we are blessed to have had her spin on the arts for over a year.



WOW! What a Bass!

Dan "Popeye" Williams landed this whopper large mouth bass at January-Wabash lake on April 16th on a rattle-trap.

This monster weighed in over 8 pounds. He told me he has been fishing at January-Wabash since he was a young boy and has caught numerous good size fish from the lake

Great job Popeye!!

THIS SPELLS HELP FOR LOTS OF FAMILIES THIS YEAR!

LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX. WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

National Partners

We're BACK!

After a pandemic hiatus the Letter Carrier Food Drive will be here again. It will be on May 14th and all food collected in Ferguson will go to our local food banks at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, St. Stevens and the St. Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry. If there is a problem with your donation feel free to contact Tom Henseik at 314-580-9471 or John Knowles at 314-359-8758. We will be happy to arrange a pick-up of your donation. Thank you in advance for your participation.

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CROSSWORD

Free Bananas!

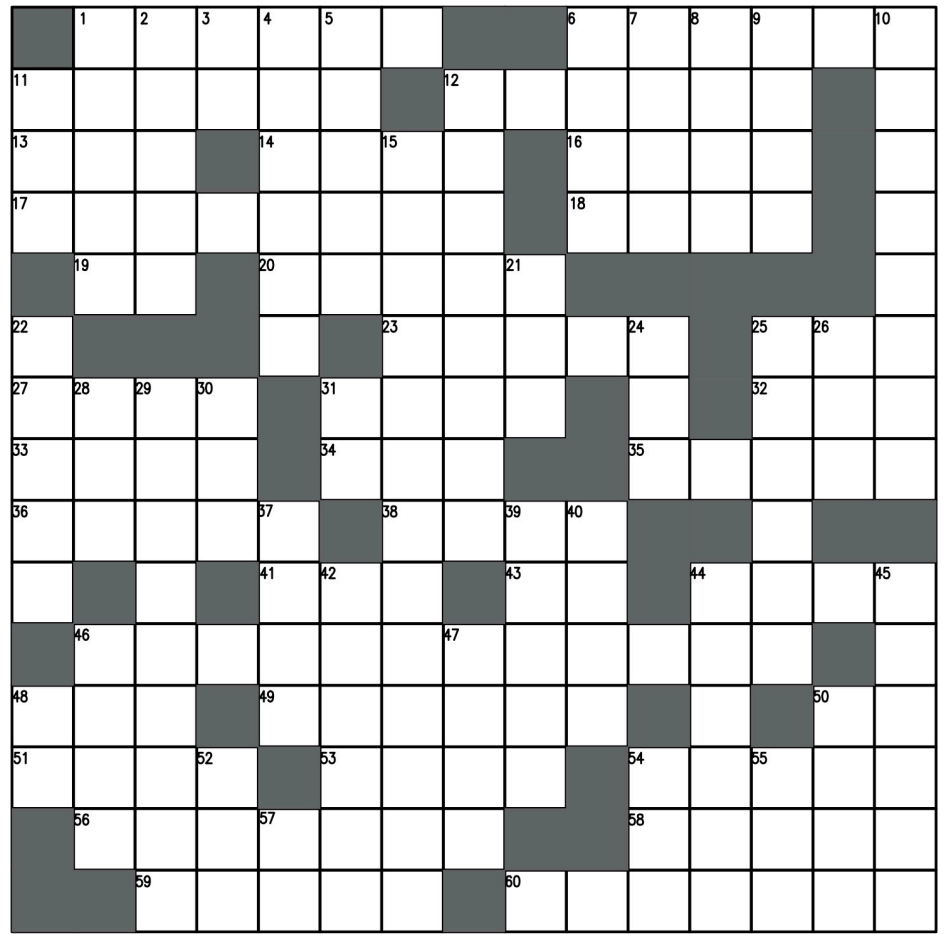
By Robin Shively

ACROSS

1. Gathered fabric
6. Bolt's bolt?
11. Closest pal
12. Rhyming enjoyable sprint
13. Stevedores' org.
14. Great detective of kid's books
16. Tiny bit
17. Huck Finn musical
18. Start of a Christmas story
19. ___ la vie
20. Grass
23. Cabal
25. H.S. math
27. Injure
31. Pear variety
32. Masked drama
33. Inventive notion
34. Musician Brian
35. Jem's sister
36. Fend off
38. Burnt ones are smoking good eating!
41. ROTC relative
43. On location
44. Competition for cars or candidates
46. Training program for potatoes?
48. Dot follower
49. King genre
50. Chimney Rock st.
51. O'Hara family home
53. Tempo
54. Former bull
56. Tropical malady
58. Ferber novel
59. Hero's hardware
60. Transparency

DOWN

1. Artifact
2. Grammar subject
3. 12 in.
4. Finale
5. Abandon
6. Two jiggers
7. Place for a figurehead
8. ___baga
9. Barefoot Contessa and name-sakes
10. Dusk
11. Crumb catcher
12. Scottish-American comedian Craig
15. 2.2 mile route on former Wabash right of way
21. It may be an S.A.S.E.
22. Skin opponent
24. Sit-up targets
25. Parka
26. Reed or Grant
28. Fruit drink
29. Change instructions for computer
30. Name for a girl born this month?
31. Word in famous soliloquy
37. Scottish bay or arm of the sea
39. Crusoe creator
40. Don't do this for Bond
42. Priyanka's maiden name
44. Certain college or university head
45. What "E" stands for in an Einstein formula
46. Over-fill
47. Largest dolphin
48. Extra work hrs.
50. Irish god of war
52. It may be pale
54. U.S. no. issuer
55. Sushi shrimp
57. Julian BC successor



Solution on page 13

"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

Community Gospel Choir of St. Louis

Gospel Choir Returns to Live Performing with Free Concert in January-Wabash Park

A free concert of gospel music will be presented by Community Gospel Choir of St. Louis on Saturday, June 4 at 6:00 p.m. The free concert will be held at the Bandshell in January-Wabash Park, and guests are welcome to bring their lawn chairs and refreshments. The concert is being presented in partnership with PROUD (People Reaching Out for United and Diversity).

Community Gospel Choir has been on a two-year live performance hiatus due to COVID, and the choir is excited to be returning to live performing. "The choir did produce two live virtual concerts during COVID, but gospel music is meant to be performed live and in person," said Suzanne Palmer, artistic director and conductor of the choir. "We have been working hard on this music, and we feel the audience will be moved by not just the music but our message of racial unity."

Bringing together singers from all backgrounds, the Community Gospel Choir seeks to build bridges that restore unity to "community." The choir was formed in the summer of 2007 and has grown to more than 50 members. It has become recognized as one of the premier gospel choirs in the region, as well as one of the most diverse choirs.

PROUD is a Ferguson based organization working to encourage Ferguson resident to work together to build a community of harmony and equity, within a diverse group of people.

SOUTHWEST FERGUSON



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING.

SW FERGUSON COMMUNITY STREETS

RUGGLES HERN ROCKINGHAM BROTHERTON WEIGEL HILL FAIRVIEW
HAWKESBURY ELLIOTT MARVIN MARION BELMONT GROVE TESMORE
THOMAS EDNA DORECHESTER CUNIFF PEMBERTON REASOR GROVE ELSIE
AIRLINE FALMOUTH WALLINGFORD

4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH @ 6PM

YOUR INPUT AND FEEDBACK IS APPRECIATED!

ZOOM MEETING

CALL IN TO JOIN +13126266799

MEETING ID 874 2591 2048 PASCODE 172357
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87425912048?pwd=bDBVO-ER5QXIWWGNsdkw0VEtncUtnZz09>



The Best of Ferguson



by Teyuna T. Darris, M.A.
“Cynthia Brown--- Enriching Community through Entrepreneurship and Legacy”

Ms. Cynthia Brown is an expert stylist who began her career in cosmetology in the 1990s. And, she is the proud owner, operator and senior stylist at the Exotic Trenz Salon in Ferguson, Missouri.



Relaxing on Vacation

Cynthia has lived in the Ferguson Community for thirty-two years, and shared that it was in 1990 when she purchased her home in Ferguson. She passionately explained, “I wanted to give my family better opportunities.” Ms. Brown is proud of her family, and shares that “raising my children to be successful has been my greatest accomplishment. My eldest daughter, Ashaley, is a

trainer and owner of athletic gear. My son, Jerry, has expanded the Exotic Trenz legacy with Exotic Trenz Kennel and JTB Moving and Hauling. My youngest will be my last child to graduate from the Ferguson-Florissant School District where she is the current captain of her high school volleyball team.”

Ms. Brown continued by sharing that she enjoys gardening, interior design, fashion in her free time. She also enjoys volunteering as a member of the Order of Eastern Stars. Ms. Brown also told me “I spend most of my time with my four beautiful children and seven wonderful grandchildren--- all of whom attend the Ferguson-Florissant School District.



Enjoying a night on the town

Volunteering and giving back to her community are also important to Ms. Brown, as she explained, “I host game nights at my salon to help the kids in the neighborhood get to know each other better. I also serve on the of Ferguson Special Business District board.”

During our interview, I asked Ms. Brown that famous Saint Louis question, “Which high school did you go to?” She replied, “Soldan High School.” I, then asked her, “What are some of your dreams and aspirations?” Ms. Brown replied, “I aspire to be the most successful realtor, open more Exotic Trenz Salons around the country and travel to see the world.”

I, then, asked Ms. Brown, “What are the three things that make you awesome?” She replied:

- 1) Innovative
- 2) Entrepreneur
- 3) Social Butterfly

After learning about Ms. Brown, I began to realize that her three self-descriptions are three characteristics that people might often need to achieve their personal and professional goals.

And, meeting Ms. Brown, and learning about her story, provides us another example of the fact that a passionate and long-term commitment to family, self and community are indeed possible, and can greatly impact those around us.

One of my favorite parts of Ms. Brown’s story is that she seems to have inspired her children to become entrepreneurs through her personal example. A mother who demonstrates a passionate commitment to her family, herself and to her community is a top-notch winner in my opinion. Moreover, as a school teacher, and former kid, I absolutely appreciate the youth outreach that Ms. Brown does to help the kids in her neighborhood to get to know each other.



Traveling

I think it’s safe to say that Ms. Brown’s personal example will serve as a model to her family and community as one that enriches others through entrepreneurship and legacy.

Ms. Brown, thank you for allowing me to share your story.



Exotic Trends Salon in Ferguson, Missouri.

Ferguson City Hall Information

Nothing To Fear

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

- Marie Curie

Dear Neighbors,

FEAR is False Evidence Appearing Real. It is an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or threat. We have had an increase level of fear in this country lately, mostly due to the pandemic. As unlikely as it may seem, one of the two most common fears is that of change and that of success. When the fear of change in the air, success will struggle against it, and often finds a way to burst through it and emerge as a light from the doubtful past into a triumphant future. Elections are an example of fears that can immobilize us and leave us immediately strategizing on how to put things back the way they were. Even now, with our local elections over and some COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, fear can still immobilize us and cause us to stay in the same place, with the same ideas and thoughts. But the past cannot live in the future and the future cannot thrive in the past.



We see a vibrant community blooming in Ferguson. New businesses are opening and potholes are being filled. There are several new businesses, such as Marley’s has a new owner and that business will open soon, Onyx Business and Printing Center, the City Council recently approved LMAC Holding, LLC to build 30 two-bedroom units to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing for seniors. In addition, Archwell which has facilities in various locations, recently opened during the summer and is become the best performing healthcare facility here in Ferguson out of their four locations. A new Nursing Home located on Chambers Rd. opened in January 2022. Let’s not forget Five Below recently opened in the same building as Burington which is already in operation. Yet, there is still a multitude of discussions that focus on what is not happening as opposed to the great things that are happening. As always most want to move forward while few want to impede progress.

We are even making progress in doing at that we can to ensure that our citizens are able to live, work and play in a safe community. Our Chief of Police, Frank McCall is working diligently through their hiring challenges and have emerged with 5 new officers

in the last six months. We’ve also hired one cadet for the Academy which begins late April. Two to three possible cadets in process for the June Academy class, and we are currently interviewing two potential officers who are already certified police officers. That’s what we call progress.

There is even a lot of talk about Ferguson having an active Mayor and that is absolutely a good thing. Being active in the community is a great way to establish connections with the citizens, business owners and visitors. Attending grand openings and meetings is relationship building. It’s always a great gesture to appear at all events to show the new business owners that they have located their business in a city that cares. They are bringing much needed tax revenue to our city and we should always stop by and support their businesses. Why would anyone get upset, because the mayor has time to attend the various events around the city? Should efforts affords great opportunities, to stay informed and get to know those whom you serve?

Our city is growing, thriving and on the path to a triumphant future. Why would anyone complain about that? Why would there be individuals who want to go back to the past, a past which is blessing us by forcing us to learn from it, as we move forward into a victorious and fruitful future.

In conclusion, I for one, am choosing to grab hold of our great future, move in it and through it so that I can meet those whom I serve. Yes, I have heard that I am very active and that I show up in so many places. Yes, that is true because there are so many great things going on in so may places that I want to witness our City’s great transition. You should try it. It might make the fear move over so that success can thrive in your life.

“Don’t Do Less and Accept Less.” - Jeanette Epps

Connecting, Mayor Ella Jones

HOW DO YOU GET YOUR FERGUSON CITY NEWS?

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

Tuesday, March 8th and Tuesday, March 22nd 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 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	First Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
Plan Commission	First & Third Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Civilian Review Board	First Monday	6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting	April 19th & April 26th (Election Schedule)	7:00 p.m.
Farmers Market	Second Wednesday (Monthly “in season/bi-monthly “out of season”)	6:30 p.m.
FSBD	Third Tuesday	5:30 p.m.
Park Board	Third Wednesday	6:00 p.m.
Senior Commission	Third Thursday	9:30 a.m.
NPSC	Third Thursday	6:00 p.m.
Human Rights	Third Monday	6:00 p.m.
Library Board	Fourth Monday	6:00 p.m.
Redistricting	Third Thursday	5:30 p.m.

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.

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

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.

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 Distric..... www.fergflor.org
- Vaccine Locator<https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/find/#map>



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

Splash at Wabash Aquatic Complex

Ferguson's favorite place to cool off in the summer will be back open daily from May 28 till August 21st and on weekends 8/27-8/28 and 9/3-9/5. For all of the pricing, policies, and information you need, head over to SplashatWabash.com

4th of July Celebration

The parade, festival, and fireworks will be back in Ferguson on Monday, July 4th. We are currently seeking organizations and businesses interested in participating in the parade or being a vendor at the celebration. Full event schedule is available at Ferguson4th.com

Summer Concert Series

Rock out with us this summer at our expanded summer concert series featuring an eclectic selection of great bands at Plaza at 501 AND at the Bandshell at January-Wabash Park. Head over to FergConcerts.com for the full schedule.

Come Work With Us!

Ferguson Parks and Recreation has a ton of fun, flexible, and rewarding jobs available both seasonally and year-round. Work with kids at camp, soak in the sun at Splash at Wabash, or provide excellent customer service at the community center. Check out all our amazing jobs at jobs.fergrec.com.

Adult Programs, Bingos, Casino Trips, Movies at the Firehouse, Shakespeare in the Park, and More!!!

We have so many fun programs, events, and opportunities for everyone this summer. Check out all of the details, read through our summer guide, and register online for any program at www.FergRec.com



Ferguson Adventure Camp

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

- Ages: 5-13
- Dates: M-F, June 6 – August 12
- 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: \$82/Child

Week #	Dates	Theme	Location
Week #1	June 6 - 10	Zootopia	St. louis Zoo
Week #2	June 13 - 17	Disney Week	Lightyear @ Marcus Theater
Week #3	June 20 - 24	Superhero	Urban Air
Week #4	June 27 - July 1	Mad Scientist	Science Center
Week #5	July 5 - 8 No Camp 7/4	Stars and Stripes	Bowling
Week #6	July 11 - 15	Adventureland	City Museum
Week #7	July 18 - 22	Grinchmas in July	Ice Skating
Week #8	July 25 - 29	Under the Sea	Aquaport
Week #9	Aug 1 - 5	Carnival Theme	Roller Skating
Week #10	Aug 8 - 12	Anything Goes	End of Camp party

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>.



Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

I have shared in a past article information about Gateway Pet Guardians. GPG, for short, is a shelter in East Saint Louis, Illinois. They do wonderful work with stray animals. Most of the strays are placed in foster homes rather than in a kennel. Volunteers spend time with the animals and attempt to discover what their personality is and any health problems the animal may have with the hopes of finding suitable forever homes for them. GPG evaluates the strays for heartworms and treat them. They are careful to spay and neuter as well as take care of all the vaccination requirements.



Grady and his buddy Pawty” with a young lady whose nursing schedule did not make it easy to fully foster a dog. She would take Grady on her weekends off. They would take walks, play in her tiny apartment and Grady would get honest homegrown love. The crate she had for him took up a great deal of space in her apartment. We met Grady, took him home with us and the rest as they say is history.

Grady loved the car ride to his new forever home. He loved the stop at Petsmart so we could provide a bed and food for him. Everything was FUN! Everything made him happy and excited...a little too much so sometimes.

We quickly realized that this happy energetic dog needed training. We spent Saturday mornings with a trainer and did our best to reinforce that training during the week at home.

Then the pandemic arrived.

Training sessions were cancelled, stores were closed. Friends and family did not come to our house to visit. We had introduced Grady to our son’s dog, Hugo and they liked each other. Even those visits had to be halted. We became the only people Grady had any interaction with. We became his “pack.” We continued reinforcing the training we learned. He knew how to sit for a treat, “place” was a good command when he was just so excited about an impending car ride. He offered his paw for a shake before he would get his



Goin’ for a ride

We found Grady on the Gateway Pet Guardians website in 2019 where there are pictures and a story for every adoptable dog. I loved his smile and his backstory included that the staff of GPG named him “Grumbling Grady.” He was a “talker” and a favorite of the volunteers.

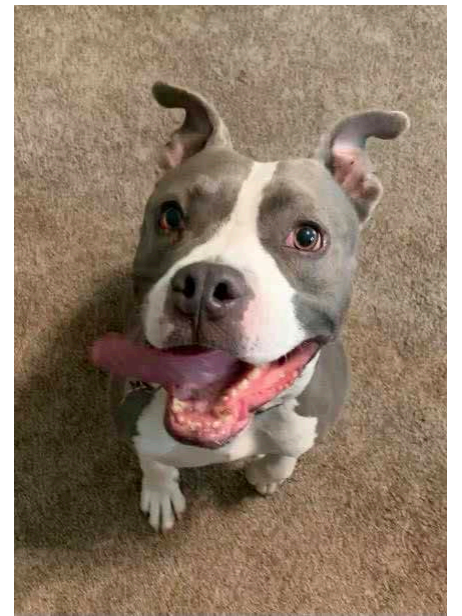
We adopted our dog Grady from Gateway Pet Guardians the weekend after Thanksgiving in 2019. We went to see him for the first time while he was attending a “Slumber

bowl of food and he reluctantly laid down when the command was down. Grady became my husband’s office mate, HR director, head security detail and best friend.

What I am leading up to is that Grady has crossed the “Rainbow Bridge.” One day he was his crazy yet affectionate normal self, the next day refusing to eat and two days later septic. We do not know what happened to this 4-legged family member. The illness progressed too quickly, and we are still trying to process the events of last week.

Any of you who have known the unconditional love of an animal understand the feeling of loss and sadness. The house is too quiet. There is no one waiting at the door for you when you come home. No one is on watch at the window to alert you to the arrival of the mailman, UPS guy or an Amazon truck.

No dog can replace the spirit and energy of Grady. We do want a dog in our home again. We have begun the process. We want to be careful not to fall in love with the first dog we visit, however the need is great.



Grady

I encourage you to look at the GPG website, even if you have no intention of adopting a dog or cat. The website is well done and the stories for each animal are very entertaining.

Thank you for letting me share a little of our sadness. I attempt to keep these articles positive and informative. On that note I want to thank those of you whom have read last month’s story about the 100th Anniversary of Norwood Hills Country Club and sent their comments to the club manager. Ferguson Times has quite the circulation! This paper is read by folks in Pasadena Hills and as far away as St Charles! I had no idea. One individual from St Charles sent a newspaper article from a 1970 St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper to the club manager. You, my readers, have made me just a little famous among some of the staff and members of Norwood especially with the “Ladies Card Groups.” Stay tuned for Norwood History Part II.

P.S. In my previous story about Norwood Hills Country Club 100th Anniversary it came to my attention that my offhanded remark about an Episcopal Church where I had been employed had been taken the wrong way. A few of the readers of my story thought I was referring to St. Stephens Episcopal Church on North Clay. Let me be clear. St. Stephens has always been a good neighbor. We worked together during the holiday seasons and our Christmas parties with parking in turn for donations to their food pantry. My intention was never to imply that St. Stephens was my employer. I regret any misunderstanding.

I am grateful for the opportunity to share a little with the readers of this paper. You may contact me at manhattanmarian@gmail.com.

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City of Dellwood Information

City of Dellwood Council Meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30pm. The meetings have been virtual for close to two years now due to Covid. We have yet to go back to in person meetings.



THE PROBLEM WITH PLASTIC BAGS

submitted by the Ferguson Eco Team

From major waterways such as the nearby Mississippi River plastic bags make their way to the ocean, where some poor critters such as endangered sea turtles mistake them for other critters such as jellyfish on which they love snacking.

Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year, which require 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture. ... Up to 80 percent of ocean plastic pollution enters the ocean from land. At least 267 different species have been affected by plastic pollution in the ocean. 100,000 marine animals are killed by plastic bags annually. Try to use less plastic bags and Please remember to recycle your plastic bags.

One last thing: If you want to see an eye opening movie on plastic. Go to the discovery channel on the Internet and look for The Story of Plastic.



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The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely
May, 2022

8th...Mother's Day...if I have to tell you what this day is about, you are in serious trouble!...give your mother your love!

26th...Ascension Day...if I have to tell you what this day is about, Jesus will be very disappointed in you! Your church will tell you which Sunday it will be celebrated.

30th...Memorial Day...after God, we owe our service men and women the greatest debt and honor, as they are why we are still here, and are living free.

Stuff That Happened To Me, dept.

Once upon a time, in a land far away, a then friend of mine, told me how he found a cure for having the tools on hand to kill puter infections. You see, back then both he and I would go to a customer's house (or work) to disinfect their puter. Altho we both had largely the same anti-virus programs, we did differ in a small but very important way to go about this task. He loaded his software onto a hard drive, and would then just plug it in to the puter via the hard drive bus. When the puter turned on, all the software would be available to run from that drive, THROUGH THE PRIMARY DRIVE, WHICH WAS INFECTED. See? Not at all a big deal if you don't mind not being able to get the main drive cleansed, with the added plus of getting his own software drive infected as well. I tried to remind him how these infections work. I should not have had to do that; he should have known. Any time you introduce a clean drive (of any kind) into an infected system, it too gets infected. (yes, there are a very, very, very few exceptions, but do you wanna take that chance?)

he had other uses for this drive, which was to install other helpful software into customer's puters. Like driver support, system monitoring software, and others, to name just a couple. So, you can see how this practice would be a very, very, very bad thing.

I did the same, except for one little tiny difference. I used an optical disc, which, after burning, I closed the session. This meant that NOTHING could be written to it beyond what I just burned onto it. I could put it into any puter, no matter how infected it was, and my disc would

be impervious to all infections, and could never be able to transfer any infection to any drive in any puter, period.

Later, I found a company who made some of their USB drives with a hardware switch, or lock, which, when used, prevented any infection from getting into it. We now call such capabilities "write protection". Good stuff!!! :)

Epilog, dept.

So, what happened to my friend and his hard drive? I don't know. We didn't talk much after that. About a year or so after that, he told me to get lost, and stay that way.

People should be careful what they ask for, they may get it. Not only that, but I believe that nobody ever has too many friends. We need each other. If that were not true, we would all have been placed on our own little planet, all by ourselves. Last I checked, we are all here together. Seems to me that we should learn to live with each other, help each other and love each other. Somebody out there prove that statement otherwise. I dare you!

ME GO NOW!

Before I go to celebrate stuff, I want to tell you something else about people. Treat them all as your friend, until you can't. Let them know you love them. When you get older, you will miss them all. Even if they tell you to get lost, or worse. Some of them won't even bother to notify you. That is called shunning. It is not a nice thing to do. Ever. We are all sinners, but I am saved. How about you? Blessings to you and to yours!

IF YOU would like to ask Doug for his world-famous free puter advice, first decide how you wish to contact him. *314*521*1789* is the number to dial on your phone, as long as your phone puts your name and number onto his caller I.D. box. Fair is fair.

When emailing, send to is: fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com Make certain that you put the phrase "I need puter advice", without quotes, into the subject line, and include your local telephone number into the body of your missive. If you don't, he will not get your email. Not including your phone number means that he will not be calling you to discuss your puter issue. And don't call in the A.M., either! So there! :(



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With mortgage interest rates climbing and more rate hikes likely on the way, it looks like this red hot real estate market may finally be headed toward a cooling off. The 30-year fixed-rate average hasn't jumped this quickly since 1994, while overall inflation accelerated to 8.5% in March, the strongest pace in 40 years.

That means many buyers will have less money to spend on housing....by some estimates, around \$40k less than they were able to spend previously. So the days of crazy competition and homes escalating tens of thousands above list price may be coming to an end.

Which means for sellers....Get your house on the market NOW! The window for maximum profit may be closing soon! So give me a call and I'll be happy to run the numbers for you. I might even have info about your house history in my archives, like this 1957 ad for Black Oaks....

cheers, Shannon Howard

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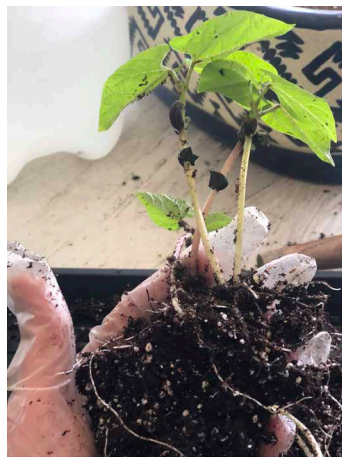
Field Notes from Farm Girl - T-Shirt Wisdom

I bought a t-shirt the other day. It had a cute saying on it and it had to do with gardening, so of course I bought it. It arrived, is cotton, soft and exactly what I thought it would be. I put it on to head to the garden for some cleanup. Later that day, when I went inside to wash my hands before lunch, I caught my reflection in the mirror, and though the print was backwards, the words really hit me. My shirt says, 'Into the garden I go, to lose my mind and find my soul'. The rest of the afternoon, the words swirled in my head. What I thought was an impulse buy, like the candy at the grocery checkout lane, may be much more than that.

Did you know that 20 million people who had never gardened before, began gardening during the pandemic? One in every 4 people took up the hobby of gardening. In the initial stages of lockdown, with more time at home, it seems like a no-brainer. As food supply and supply chains were stretched, many people planted pandemic food gardens. Other began gardening and growing things for stress relief or to balance out the anxiety the world was throwing at all of us. When the world is out of control and outside is the safest place to be, it makes total sense. By circumstance, millions of people discovered that the things you can grow are only half the satisfaction of the whole hobby of gardening. Surveys say that the people who began gardening in 2020, 2021 and this year, are likely to continue.



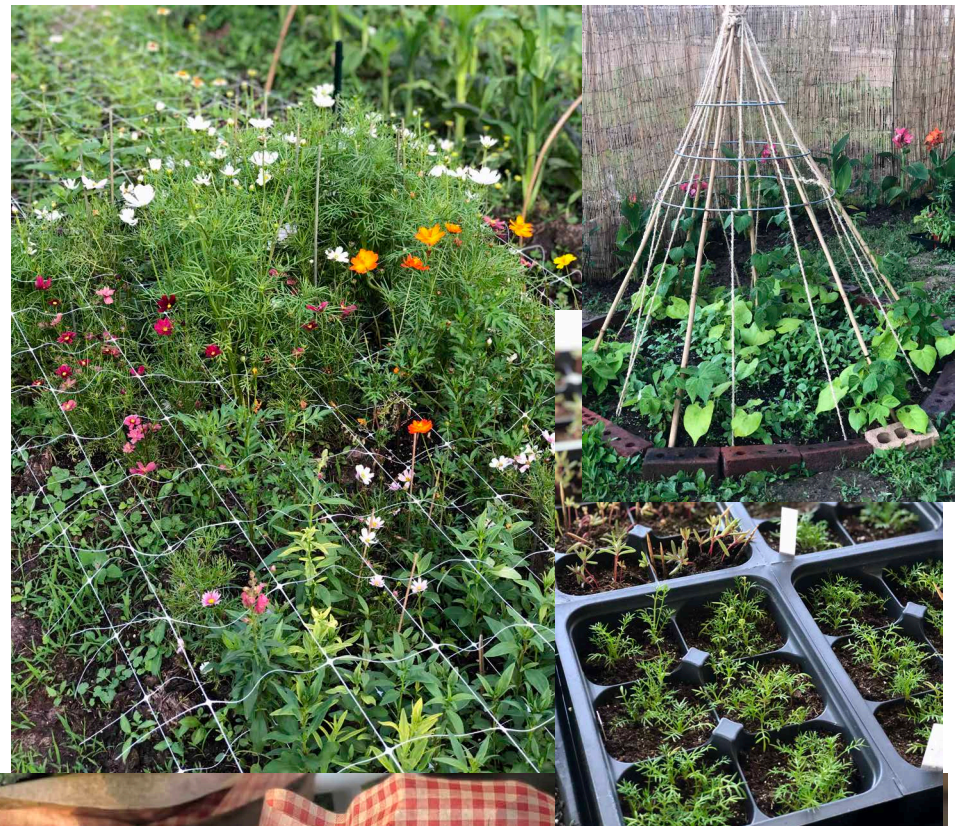
So back to my shirt, I'm hoping that many, many others have found this simple saying to be true. At a time when the news is excruciating, and try as we might, we can't be the change we wish to see in the world. A garden is the microcosm that you can control. It's the world you create and manage as your own horticultural dictator. As a little kid, I had a Japanese garden with small cactus and succulents in sand with little lead Japanese pagodas, houses, bridges, and people all arranged in the little garden. Like a dollhouse, I rearranged and made up stories for the objects and people.



Now as an adult, I am supreme ruler of a bigger and more diverse garden. I am the numero uno in charge of marshaling troops to fight the incursion of lethal buttercup that is invading in the eastern region of the garden. I can send soldiers to suppress the battle for the tomatoes fought by the guerilla force of green hornworms. I can even create propaganda to get the carpenter bees to stop eating wood, and distract them to focus on the giant marigold instead. I am so powerful that by growing certain flowers and plants, I can accept the moving migration of butterflies through the borders of my empire. I can even plant my flower neighborhoods to increase the

number of pollinators we attract through our open garden borders. I can create special areas for plants that have suffered damage or need special treatment to recover and provide extra care and supervision to rehabilitate them back into their garden homes and variety family. All of my subjects adore me because I am a benevolent ruler, and because I am fair and just and because I buy their loyalty with their own favorite variety of fertilizer and necessary nutrients. When a neighborhood is being menaced by a stronger force of beetles, aphids or moths, It's me they call to come rescue them. And I do. I have a big responsibility with all of this power. 'The buck stops here' so if there's a problem, I have to solve it. I can't blame any failings on anyone else or set up someone else to take the fall. I have made myself dictator for life, so nothing I do is just to look rosy before an election cycle. These are my subjects and I owe it to them to keep the weeds at bay, keep the water flowing, and protect them from the things they cannot control, like wind and cold.

My dominion is ever expanding to make space for new diversity and the collaboration of members of my garden community. A leader should be flexible and creative, and my garden world shows that. There is even whimsy, and my little microcosm supports the arts with lots and lots of music and singing to lighten spirits. We have butterflies, bees dancing on the tops of flowers, daddy long legs and walking sticks doing ballet, and spider aerial circus performances to entertain all who live within. No garden neighborhood is without support and resources. I would easily say that I have happy subjects. I was made to be a good garden leader and I think this 'job' is the most important one I've ever had. My ratings are through the roof, but most importantly, the t-shirt is right: 'into the garden I go, to lose my mind and free my soul'. As I think about that notion, I am heartened that maybe some of those new 20 million gardeners might also have discovered this magic and the power it gives to make a world that is what we want our bigger world to be. Growing a garden isn't just what you can grow in the dirt but what you can grow within yourself. Just think of the possibilities. If we each have our own square of goodness in mind and in soil, what it would be like to bind them all together as a giant quilt of making the world better one garden or gardener at a time.



Financial Focus – Say No to Fuel Tax Rebate

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

It seems that the media just won't let us forget about gas prices. Have they ever interviewed someone at a gas station who said "aw it's not so bad I lived thru the seventies?" No they always find the guy in the big truck saying "It's going to cost \$69 dollars to fill this truck up."

So I really didn't intend to write about gas prices either. But I couldn't resist when I saw the headline in the paper – Missouri motorist can soon file for fuel tax rebate. Seeing this headline just might have gotten a few people excited. So I figured it couldn't hurt to find out more.

If anyone recalls this came up last May, when Senate bill 262 was approved by the State Legislature and then signed off by Governor Parson in July. It took effect October 1st, 2021 being the first increase in our gas tax in twenty-five years. Last year, Missouri had the 2nd lowest fuel tax in the Nation, only Alaska was lower. Last year a report from the American Society of Civil Engineers graded our fair state with a D- and a C on our infrastructure. It also noted that 12.5% of bridges in Missouri were structurally inadequate. So you would have thought it was an easy sell. Yet, knowing how people love rebates they tossed in the rebate provision. That little part was what turned off the legislators who voted against it. It was approved by a narrow margin and now it's time for the rebates to kick in and that is what our headline was all about.

When first introduced the President and CEO of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry suggested the passage of this bill would improve our state economy by \$1.8 billion. He also believed this fuel tax increase could spark our recovery from the pandemic and keep Missouri a major transportation hub in the mid-west. So for now we'll wait and see. I do wonder if this can all happen if we just give back the tax increase with the rebate. We'll soon find out. The process to seek the promised rebate is gearing up, the Department of Revenue already has some information at <https://dor.mo.gov/taxation/>. The law requires a person to fill out an on-line form at the beginning of each fiscal year – July 1st. This first year you will need to wait until September 30th to file. The Department of Revenue announced the electronic form will be ready in June. First, and foremost you'll need to have printed receipts for every purchase of gasoline in Missouri. If you haven't been keeping them you may want to start for next year because the next requisites are moot if you don't have receipts. You'll need your VIN# which is perhaps the easiest piece of information to find.

Next, you'll need the date of the fuel sale probably on the receipt and the name and address of the purchaser, likely yourself, or if you ever loaned your car to another you may need their information and the receipt they got when they filled up your car. And hopefully you will find the name and address of the seller on the receipt, along with the number of gallons purchased and charged the Missouri fuel tax. Keep in mind the rebate is only on the 2.5 cent increase. While these requirements may be tedious, they might encourage more people to forget about the rebate. Since I don't have my receipts – didn't want to hurt the environment using all that paper – I won't be doing going after mine. However, just to see what could have been I will estimate my possible rebate. My vehicle gets about 30 miles to the gallon and I travel across the state pretty often, so I am estimating a bit high. The tank holds 15 gallons and I fill up 6 times a month which comes to 90 gallons. So in a year I may be buying 1080 gallons (90 x 12) which would make my rebate \$27. My time is worth more than that, so I am happy to have saved all the paper from the receipts I didn't print off. Most people are probably not going to pursue the rebate either. But it does make me wonder just what the law makers were thinking introducing this silly part of the law.

Perhaps they were thinking about how we could spend the \$500 million dollars from the tax increase for roads and bridges. Maybe they didn't realize that Missouri Department of Transportation already has a gap of \$745 million for high priority bridge and road work. Or maybe they did and that's why the increase was approved with the trivial rebate to make it more popular. So while the tax goes up each year until 2025 when it reaches \$29.50, we will have the opportunity to apply for a rebate. We can only hope that the process is enough to discourage anyone from doing so – the money is needed for our infrastructure. And let's also hope the cost of setting up and maintaining the on-line form for senseless rebates doesn't cost us tax payers in other areas. Not sure, they even figure the cost of these extra responsibilities reviewing the rebate forms approving them once confirmed against other records. And who is keeping these records? Them will we actually issue paper checks and mail them. Or will your rebate be automatically deposited into your bank account, more information you'll need to provide.

So if you're concerned about high prices don't look for a rebate to help. The best way to save on gas is to cut back on driving. Conserving by ride sharing or using more fuel efficient vehicles is looking better all the time. Because time is money and I don't like wasting time or money, I can see no reason to go after a rebate that won't even fill up my gas tank once. I do hope we can provide more funds to keep up our roads and bridges. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at cleav73@gmail.com.



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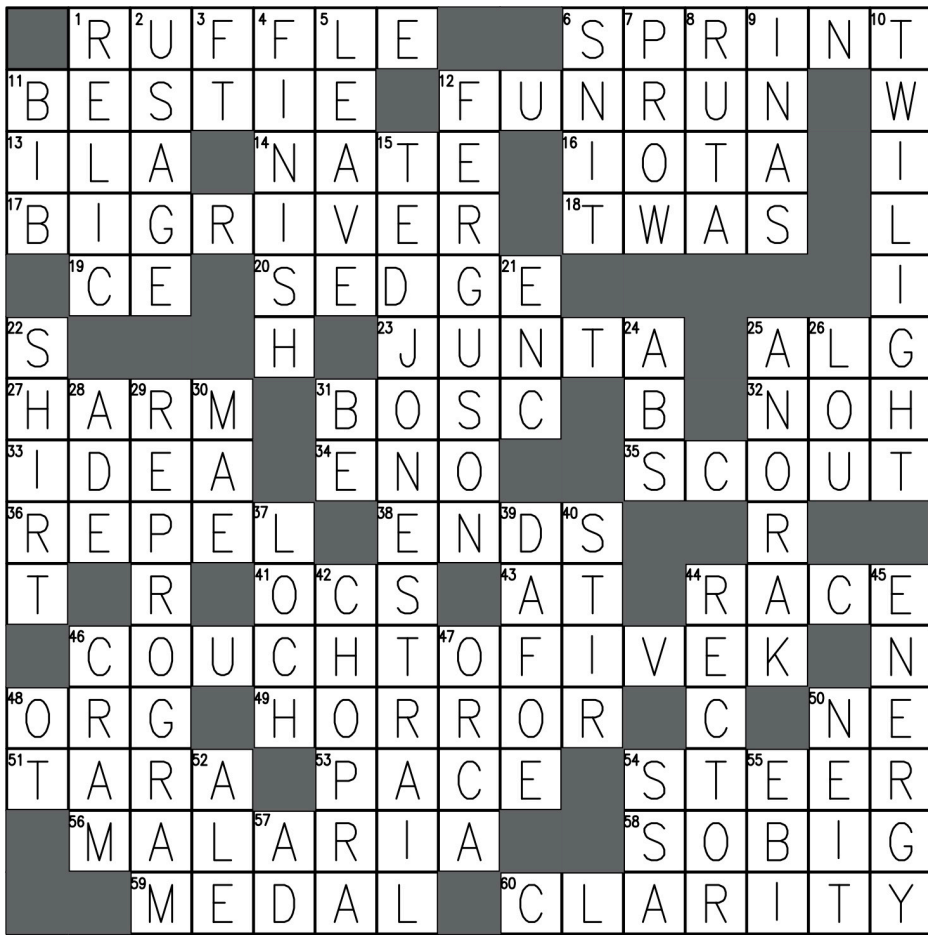
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Crossword Solution from page 4



Speeders and potholes and trash – oh my! Who ya gonna call?

by Becky Mueller

We all like to complain about what needs to be done in Ferguson. All too often we want someone to blame for all the problems. So let's take a look at who really is in charge in this city.

Ferguson has a City Manager form of government.

City administration is the responsibility of the City Manager. A City Manager is hired by vote of the City Council. It is a full time, salaried position. Professional "experience in or knowledge of municipal administration" is a requirement for the job. It is a nonpartisan position. The City Manager is responsible for hiring and supervising all other city personnel and department heads except the Chief of Police. The Manager has primary responsibility for day-to-day administration of Ferguson. The Manager makes recommendations for the city budget, economic development, taxation, etc. These recommendations, however, must go to the City Council for final approval.

The City Council's powers are limited.

They make the rules and set the priorities, but others in city government put them into effect. The City Council hires the City Manager and Chief of Police. The Council appoints members of the advisory boards and commissions. They receive recommendations from the City Manager, Police Chief, and the Boards and Commissions. They have the power to make final decisions and give final approval for the City budget and all policies. These decisions are then sent back to administrative personnel to act on. For example, who is responsible for potholes? The Council can put money in the budget for street maintenance. They can rule that fixing potholes should have priority over salting icy streets, but that is all they can do. The Public Works department decides which potholes to fix and when. If we get especially bad winter weather, Public Works has to figure out how to clear the streets and still fix the potholes.

The Mayor has very limited powers.

Although the Mayor is elected separately, the Mayor really does not have much more power than any other City Council member. The responsibilities of the City Mayor are defined in the City Charter, as follows: [Article III. Section 3.7] Section 3.5.3 allows the Mayor to fill a Council vacancy, but only if the Council fails to do it. The Mayor has no power to enact or change rules and priorities without approval by the rest of the City Council.

By the way - The Council Members and Mayor are paid very little to serve our City. Council members receive an honorarium of \$250 per month; the Mayor gets \$300 per month.

"The mayor shall have no regular administrative duties. The mayor shall preside at all meetings of the council and shall be recognized as head of the city government for all legal and ceremonial purposes and by the Governor for purposes of military law. The mayor shall have the same right to vote as any other member of the council, except as provided in section 3.5.3, but shall have no veto power."

So how do I, a citizen, get anything done?

- First go to the City website (www.fergusoncity.com) and report your concern. On the home page, click on the "How Do I ..." box to locate the report form.
- Call an appropriate City department. If that doesn't get action, write to, call, and/or email the City Manager and Council members. Contact information is on the City's web site.
- Show up for meetings and express your concerns. There are town hall meetings, Neighborhood Association meetings, and twice-monthly City Council meetings.
- Volunteer - Help with City clean-ups. Serve on a Board or Commission. Obey speed limits.
- Vote.

For further information about how your local government works, see the following:

PROUD's website (www.proud-ferguson.org); under previous events there is a video of PROUD's presentation "Understanding How Your Local Government Works."

Ferguson's official website (www.fergusoncity.com); click on Your Government, then Code of Ordinances and click the browse button. The menu box on the left side has a heading "Part 1 – Charter"; this will take you to the City Charter that fully defines the requirements and responsibilities of all City personnel.

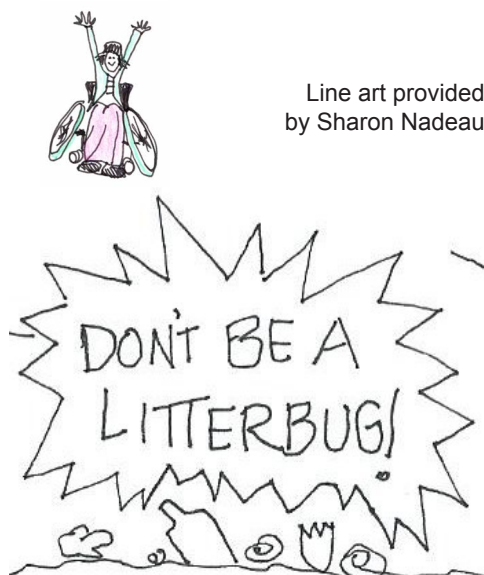
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Line art provided by Sharon Nadeau

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 people reading this article to join in the conversation. Contact information is at the bottom of this article.

The following article has two main purposes. The first is seen below – an interesting part of Ferguson history. The second purpose will be revealed at the end.

From 1875 to 1954 State of Missouri law declared it “unlawful in the public schools of this state for any colored child to attend a white school or any white child to attend a colored school”. Ferguson Station in 1875 (we were a rural area rather than a city), was essentially a Southern leaning community as was most of rural Missouri. Negro children generally were offered little if any formal education (Negro was a term used at this time and will be used in this article until after 1954). There is evidence of some sort of school existing in the Ferguson Station and Jennings Station area in the early 1880’s. Little is known about this earlier school.



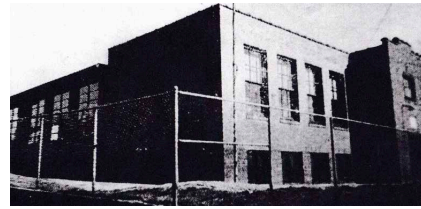
Vernon School

Despite Ferguson Station’s Southern leanings, in 1885 a sort-of-miracle happened.

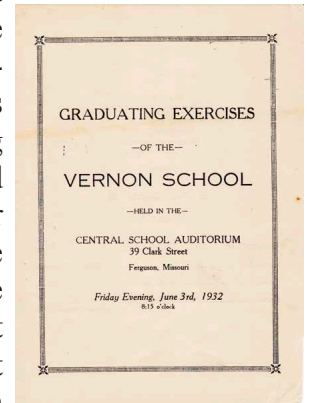
Two veterans of the Civil War -one a Confederate soldier (Christopher Ellerbe) and one a Union soldier (Thomas Allen) proposed that the Ferguson School District #3 Board of Education locate “a suitable location and erect a proper building for the colored students”. The board accepted and proposed a 20-cent on \$100 dollar tax to cover the approximate \$1000.00 needed. An acre of land, located on Florissant Road just south of Maline Creek (522 Florissant today), was purchased from Harrison Tiffin for \$300. A Mr. Niebling agreed to build a one room frame building for a cost of \$750.00. At the start of school 1885 the new school was ready for students. The school board would continue to call this building “The Colored School” but the school was usually known as Vernon School. (We could not find out why that name was selected). In 1903 the old Ferguson Station School District became the School District of Ferguson.

The Vernon School was an elementary school. Negro youth of high school age would normally be sent to Webster Groves Douglas High School – the only accredited Negro high school in St. Louis County until 1956 (Douglas closed in 1978). Black high school students were attending Ferguson High School in the later 1950’s.

It would seem all is well for Negro children in Ferguson Station and later in Ferguson. However, all was not roses and sunshine. White men teachers were paid the most, women about half that and Negro teachers even less than that. Also – the State of Missouri ruled that once a school dropped lower than 10 students it would be shut down for at least six months. While the larger white population only showed a 35% attendance rate and the Negro community a 45% attendance rate, the Vernon School frequently dropped below 10 students and was closed. Negro children then had to attend a school in Jennings Station (4 miles away). With this less than consistent education, it was a tough road.



By 1905 Missouri required attendance of all children aged 6 through 21. At this point, education for everyone became more reliable. As the years progressed the Vernon (one-room) School became too small. In 1927 a new brick two-room Vernon School was built along Carson Road (near Kinloch). In 1952 the School District of Ferguson became the Ferguson-Florissant R-2 School District and two more rooms were added to Vernon School. A 1932 Graduating Exercises program for the Vernon School displayed the class motto: “Plan your Work—Work Your Plans) along with the class colors of Royal Purple and Old Gold. In 1954 the Supreme Court of the United States declared segregated schools against the Constitution of the United States. The district began integrating it’s schools, however the Vernon School would continue as a Black only school until it’s closing in 1967.



That was the first purpose of this article. Now is the second. While the Ferguson Historical Society has many folders of information on other Ferguson Schools (Central, Lee Hamilton, etc.), we have only one thin folder on Vernon School. If you attended Vernon School or know of anyone who has – we need to gather their personal information and any artifacts they might have for us to copy. If anyone knows who Mr. or Mrs. Vernon was or why the school was named the Vernon School – we would love to know. Please use the contact below.

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 summer (hopefully).

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



Under The Hood With Robinwood By Bob McGartland

6 ways to boost your vehicle's fuel efficiency

If you’ve needed gas lately, you may have noticed that prices have increased dramatically over the last several months. Those price increases have most Missouri drivers asking themselves how they can save on gas and make their car more fuel efficient. If you’ve been scratching your head on some ways to boost your car’s fuel efficiency, then keep reading as we unpack 6 ways to give your car’s efficiency a little boost.

1. Tires

When your tires are inflated properly, they can not only reduce wear and tear on your tires, but they can also increase your fuel efficiency. If your tires are not inflated properly, they can decrease your fuel efficiency by 3%. We recommend checking your tire pressure once a month.

2. Alignment

If you’ve hit that bump in the road or a giant pothole this Spring, your alignment can be off. If your alignment is off, that can decrease your gas mileage by as much as 10%. Signs that your alignment could be off are pulling to one side while driving, shaking at high speeds, and nose diving when coming to a stop. Ensuring your car is in proper alignment can go a long way to making your car more fuel efficient.

3. Fueling

We know it’s tempting to invest in that higher octane gas to increase your miles per gallon. But if your car needs lower octane gas, you might not be doing yourself any favors. For instance, if your car requires 87 octane, 89 or 91 octane fuel will not increase your fuel efficiency. This will just cost you more at the pump without any added benefit. One more thing to consider about filling up; your car will be more efficient if you keep your gas tank above ¼ full. When your gas tank starts to empty,

your fuel pump will need to work harder, decreasing your efficiency. Consider stopping for gas sooner rather than later to keep your car in top condition.

4. Sensors and indicator lights

When those pesky indicator lights go off, we know it can be tempting to ignore them or put off having your mechanic check it out. Whether they are informing you of a real problem or are faulty and going off for no reason, those sensors give you important feedback on the fuel efficiency of your car. Sensors that indicate tire pressure, engine emissions, and check engine lights can all be signs that your car needs some TLC when it comes to fuel efficiency. Taking your car into the mechanic as soon as you can helps you stay informed about your car’s performance and efficiency.

5. Weight in your trunk

It’s normal to store and put heavy items in your car’s trunk. But did you know that the heavier your car is, the harder it must work to stay fuel efficient? For every 100 pounds you drive around with in your trunk, your fuel consumption will decrease 1-2%. When in doubt, throw it out – at least throw it out of your trunk to save on gas.

6. Preventative maintenance

Here’s a fun fact: your vehicle can burn up to 30% more fuel if it’s not properly maintained. Perform regular service maintenance, ensure your tires are inflated properly, that your car is in alignment, and all those indicator lights are in working order. If it’s been a while since your last maintenance appointment, it’s a good idea to get that scheduled.

These 6 areas of your car can boost your fuel efficiency and save you money at the pump. If you’re ready to have these looked over by a mechanic, our team is ready to help. Simply make an appointment to ensure your car is running efficiently today and all year long.

May God Bless all of our mothers this month. Happy Mother’s Day!

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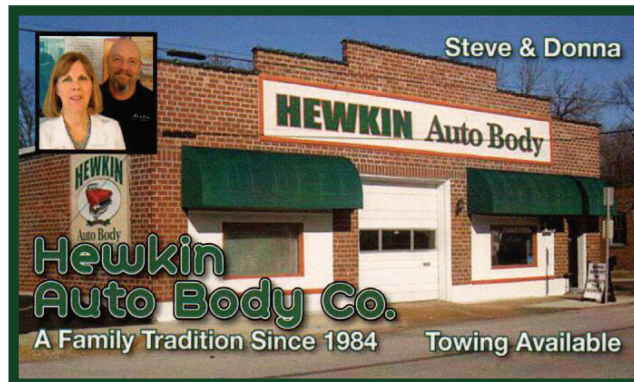
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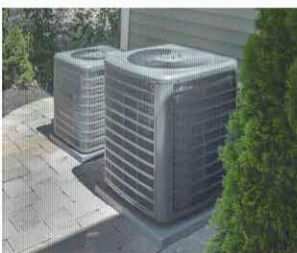
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