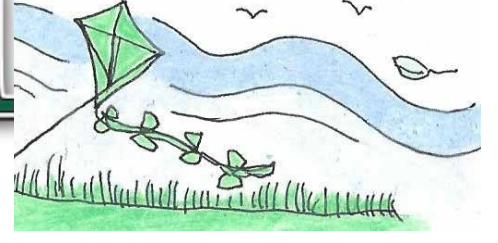


# Ferguson

## NEIGHBORHOOD

### 2021 NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities since 2021

### The Reports of Our Demise is Greatly Exaggerated.

I love great quotes. The headline above paraphrases Mark Twains telegram from London to the press in the United States after they prematurely reported his obituary.

I know a post was made on social media, but we think that was a little premature as it was made as we were working to get the March edition finalized.

As I do not like to mince words: due to rising costs for both printing and bulk mailing, along with diminished support from local businesses advertising with us, this has put a strain on our small volunteer organization. In February the Postal Service withdrew from our account double the price we have been paying for postage without any advance notice to us. Also they informed us this was going to be the normal price from now on. As of this writing we still don't have the answers of what is going on with the Postal Service. Go Figure!

At first we knew with this dramatic unexplainable price increase, there was no way we could continue to publish the Ferguson Neighborhood News. Recently we found a new printer that has provided us with some reasonable printing and mailing options to at least print a March edition. We will be implementing some other changes we hope will help shore up our future.

#### We now want to turn to the community for your help.

First we need a large response from everyone to let us know if you read the Ferguson Neighborhood News each month. Simply send a text to Gary Nadeau at 314-249-6323 or email [asroc873@charter.net](mailto:asroc873@charter.net) with a yes or no answer. Your comments are welcome too.

Next we also could use a few more local residents and or business owners who are willing to join our organization and help with some of the behind the scenes work in producing this paper each month. Please reach out to Gary.

Even if we do not print, we will be posting the electronic copy on the Ferguson City Walk website. All past copies are posted including some archives of the Ferguson Times.

The city walk website was down for a few months as there were server upgrades. It is now back on line thanks to Blue Tapp. <https://fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/>.

I want to thank each of our contributors and advertisers for their faithful support of the paper for the past two plus years. Although I have only met a few of you, I feel we have developed a good working relationship and hopefully produced something that was appreciated by the community.

This paper has been provided to each household free of charge by the work of volunteers. We have striven to present the good side of Ferguson and not dwell on what we are all subjected to in main stream and social media. You will not find a Tic Toc challenge in our pages. What we challenge you to is support your community paper.

Without a community paper to wrap fish in, cover the bottom of the birdcage, or use it for paper mache, we really are not a community.

Papa Deau



## FERGUSON INDOOR WINTER MARKET

**NEXT MARKET MARCH 18!**

**9:00am-12pm**

**Last market April 15**

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

**33 N. Clay • Ferguson, MO**



### March News and Events at the Ferguson Public Library

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

**Stories and Songs for Little Ones - Saturday, Mar. 11 at 10 am**  
Join us for some stories and songs for your littlest readers! We'll also enjoy some time to play and make new friends. For children ages 0-5 and their adult caregivers.

**Beginning Needle Felting - Saturday, Mar. 18 at 10 am**  
Learn the basics of needle felting and create a wool dryer ball to use at home! **Registration is required - space is limited!** Please contact Taneesa at the library to register.

**Virtual: Mayoral Candidate Forum - Wednesday, Mar. 22 at 6 pm**  
Meet the candidates and learn their stance on the issues facing our community at our Virtual Candidate Forum, moderated by the League of Women Voters! Submit your questions in advance by visiting [bit.ly/fmplmq23](http://bit.ly/fmplmq23) then hear their answers on Mar. 22 by visiting [bit.ly/fmplmayor23](http://bit.ly/fmplmayor23).

**Electronic Recycling Drive - Saturday, Mar. 25 from 9-12 pm**  
Have some old electronics cluttering up your home? Dispose of them properly by bringing them with our Electronic Recycling Drive with Ferguson Parks and Recreation! County households can get up to 3 items free. **Event takes place at Forestwood Park.** For more information, please visit [recycle.fergrec.com](http://recycle.fergrec.com).

**Virtual: School Board Candidate Forum - Wednesday, Mar. 29 at 6 pm**  
Meet the candidates and learn their stance on the issues facing our school district at our Virtual Candidate Forum, moderated by the League of Women Voters! Submit your questions in advance by visiting [bit.ly/fmplsbq23](http://bit.ly/fmplsbq23) then hear their answers on Mar. 29 by visiting [bit.ly/fmplschool23](http://bit.ly/fmplschool23).

**Book a Librarian**  
Get one-on-one help with resumes, technology, and more by booking a librarian! Set up an appointment by contacting Taneesa.

**Ongoing Programs**

- **Readings on Race Book Club** - Mar. 13 at 6 pm
- **Sewing Club** - Mondays, 9-12
- **CAASTLC** - Tuesdays, 1:15-4

**March Craft Kits**

- **Mar. 6-11:** Wrapped Pencils
- **Mar. 20-25:** Rainbow Magnet

Pick up a free kit while supplies last!

## March Celebration Shout-outs



- 8 - Happy Birthday Frank Fujarski
- 14 - Happy 11th Birthday Jack Bowes
- 20 - Happy Birthday Richard Bowes
- 25 - Happy 3rd Birthday Beck Schmermund
- 28 - Happy 10th Birthday Luke Nadeau



Email Shout-outs to [savoystl@yahoo.com](mailto:savoystl@yahoo.com) - deadline is the 15th of each month

## March at a Glance

- 1 Opening Day of Trout Season
- 3 Fish Fry - BTC 4:30 - 7PM
- 9 Jeske Park Neighborhood 7PM  
(see ad page 4) 
- 10 Fish Fry - BTC 4:30 - 7PM
- 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins -Spring ahead
- 17 Fish Fry - BTC 4:30 - 7PM
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18 NorthHills Community Meeting 10AM  
(see ad page 4)
- 18 Farmers Market - 9 to noon St. Stephens Episcopal
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 22 Beginning of Ramadan
- 23 South Central Community Meeting 6PM  
(see ad page 4)
- 24 Fish Fry - BTC 4:30 - 7PM
- 31 Fish Fry - BTC 4:30 - 7PM

## ST. LOUIS COUNTY ELECTION BOARD – Election Judges Needed for 2023

In the upcoming April 4th, 2023, General Municipal Election in St. Louis County, voters will be choosing candidates and deciding on ballot issues for various public entities. Election Judges and Student Election Judges are needed to administer such elections in Missouri.

The St. Louis County Election Board is accepting applications for people who are interested in serving as Election Judges for the April 4th, 2023, Election. Additionally, the Election Board has an excellent High School Student program that gives students an opportunity to work with veteran Election Judges providing hands on experience in learning how elections are conducted.

Election Judges play a pivotal role in making it possible for citizens to rightfully exercise the franchise on Election Day. A typical election may have approximately 65% of voters cast ballots on Election Day at over 200 polling places across St. Louis County. Election Judges set up the voting equipment at the polling location, manage the voting process, and secure the ballots for collection at the Election Board. They are truly the “backbone” of the electoral process.

Election Judges are awarded a financial stipend of \$280 for their service. Students may receive a stipend of \$170 or earn 16 community service hours.

Serving as an Election Judge gives citizens a chance to perform an important civic duty and allows them to actively participate in their community.

Contact Jim McHugh of the St. Louis County Election Board to learn more.  
(314) 615-1858  
[jmchugh@stlouiscountymo.gov](mailto:jmchugh@stlouiscountymo.gov)

## PRAY FOR PEACE



## Paper Available at the following Locations:

- As we are in transition, if we do continue printing we will place hard copies in our news stands. 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
  - Paul's Market

## The Ferguson News Group may be reached

text/voice: 314 249-6323  
email: [asroc873@charter.net](mailto:asroc873@charter.net)  
Like us on Facebook @fergusonneighborhoodnews  
On-line edition [fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/](http://fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.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 Gary: [asroc873@charter.net](mailto:asroc873@charter.net)

### 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

# ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS



By Beth von Behren



**BOOKS:**

St. Louis Literary Award: If you love to read, then you might be interested to know that the 2023 St. Louis Literary Award will be given to author Neil Gaiman in April. The ceremony itself is sold out, but Neil will be in town for the awards ceremony, which will be hosted by St. Louis native Jon Hamm, who appeared in the Netflix adaptation of Gaiman's "Good Omens."

The literary award, presented annually by Saint Louis University Library Associates, honors a writer who "deepens our insight into the human condition and expands the scope of our compassion." Recent awardees include Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie, John Updike, Zadie Smith, and Tom Wolfe.

**EXHIBITS:**

Art in Bloom is back! This free show of wondrous floral displays will run for one weekend only at the Saint Louis Art Museum: Friday, March 2, through Sunday, March 4. "Dozens of works from the museum's collection will be imaginatively interpreted through floral design by the region's most talented florists." Member hours are 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., all three days. Tickets not required. **PARKING:** The museum suggests attendees park in one of the lots across from the Visitor Center in the park and take the free shuttle, which will depart every 20 minutes, all weekend long. The nearby lots and the garage are likely to be full. They also suggest avoiding the Hampton entrance by the Zoo. For a list of this year's floral designers, visit their website: <https://www.slam.org/event/art-in-bloom-2023/>

Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) Spring/Summer Exhibits: CAM changes exhibits seasonally, and the next exhibit opens March 10 with "Artwork for Equity" (through May 14) and "ArtReach: Tales from North St. Louis" (through August 13). CAM is located in the Grand Center Arts District at 3750 Washington Blvd. Free and hourly street parking is available on both Spring Street and Washington Blvd.

First Fridays in Grand Center Arts District: March 2 and April 7, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. On the first Friday of every month, museums and galleries are open later and offer free admission. Some restaurants offer specials. For a list of participating sites, visit: <https://www.grandcenter.org/firstfridays/>

**MOVIES:**

Oscar Nominees: Marcus Theatres is once again offering a showcase of this year's Best Picture and Short Film nominees. You can see the showcase at Marcus's Ronnie's, Chesterfield, and St. Charles Cinema movie houses. An electronic passport will get you into all the screenings for \$40 (a \$30 savings over individual film tickets). The showcase will run through March 12. Visit [marcustheatres.com/bestpicture](http://marcustheatres.com/bestpicture) for the schedule of films or to purchase tickets. The Academy Awards will be shown on ABC on Sunday, March 12.

**MUSIC:**

- March 1: Voodoo CSNY, Broadway Oyster Bar, 9:00 p.m.
- March 1: International Anime Music Festival, The Factory, Chesterfield
- March 5: Crash Test Dummies, Delmar Hall
- March 13: Buddy Guy, The Factory, Chesterfield
- March 18: The Soul II Soul Tour, Chaifetz Arena
- March 26: Toto, Dogs of Oz Tour, Stifel Theatre
- March 29: John Mayer, Enterprise Center



Neil Gaiman



Art in Bloom 2020 (St. Louis Art Museum)

**North County**  
WRITING & ARTS NETWORK  
**GSAC**  
SERVING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ART

Is your Dream Home at the end of the rainbow?  
Let me help you find your Pot of Gold.  
Call, Text or Email me today!

**Georgia Denise Rossel**  
Broker Associate  
Alexander Realty Inc.  
314-323-7547  
[georgiadells4u@hotmail.com](mailto:georgiadells4u@hotmail.com)  
Facebook: @georgiadeniserossel





# Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

Hello Ferguson.

Have I mentioned before how much I love Ferguson? We have friends and family who have expressed their “concern” for us continuing to live in North County. It is difficult to put into words how to disagree with their concerns, but I am hoping to do exactly that in this short article.

Let me first begin by saying my husband and I are both life long North County residents. I grew up in the Castle Point neighborhood. I attended St Casimir Parish Grade school and went on to Rosary High School in Spanish Lake. My husband grew up in St Aloysius Parish in Spanish Lake and attended the grade school there. He also went on to Rosary High School, where we met.

I do not want to give the impression that the only neighborhoods we are familiar with are within North County. We are not exactly homebodies. We get around the St Louis area as well as the state of Missouri. I have family in Central Missouri, primarily, Jefferson City, while my son lives in South City and another son lived in Fenton before he left the cold Midwest winters for Scottsdale, Arizona. We have friends and family in Ballwin and Wildwood.

I could share with you my opinion of Jefferson City, but maybe another time and it will not be glowing. My opinion is not mean and devastating by any means, just an honest observant opinion, but once again, I digress. Let me start with “diversity”. The kind of diversity that few talk about. Of course, racial diversity is important and certainly has a positive effect on our city. Have you thought about the diversity of housing? Ferguson supports small 2 bedroom bungalows and huge 100 plus year old homes. Some of these larger homes could well be considered mansions. If you can not find a house you can love and/or afford in Ferguson, you are not looking hard enough. Housing diversity leads to socioeconomic diversity. When my family moved here from Jennings we were looking for a larger home that would give my father his own living space as well as our family of four. We toured homes in Webster Groves and Kirkwood. The homes in those communities were big and certainly met our needs. However, the homes we could afford needed a lot of repairs. My favorite was a “green” (aqua? Turquoise? Sea foam?) home on Providence in Webster Groves. It had a perfect “mothers-in-law” quarter, but the main portion of the house had no kitchen cabinets or appliances, and the home needed all new windows. I wanted that place so much despite all the flaws. Then we found our home in Ferguson and as they say the rest is history.

How about the fact that those of us living in Ferguson are within 5 miles of FOUR Aldi stores! Who does not love Aldi? Let me expound a little more about Aldi. I have been to Aldi stores all over the city and county, possibly the country. I should have a map and put pins on the Aldi stores I have visited...there I go getting off subject again. The Aldi shoppers in North County are polite, kind and always offer a cart without asking for a quarter. I know this is a very small gesture. Most of us can afford a quarter, but it is a kind friendly gesture. I shopped in O’Fallon, Missouri for my mother-in-law for well over a year. The customers there were self-absorbed, ignored their howling children, parked the shopping cart in the middle of the aisle blocking other customers and never ever gave me a free grocery cart.

That leads me to kindness and politeness in general. One afternoon I went to the Dollar Store, actually the Dollar and a Quarter Store, but OK, they have not changed the name. As I was leaving, a half dozen young men were barging their way in. They made no eye contact, were sullen and rude. I was about to judge them when the last young man held the door open for me. That one moment of kindness made the bad feelings go away. I have had similar incidents happen as well. I have conversations at Sam’s and Schnucks with perfect strangers. Our conversations are friendly, and it seems neither of us care that we are of different race and background.

North County and Ferguson also have an abundance of local restaurants and shops. We love local restaurants. When we travel, we always seek out the local places. If the owner of a small business treats everyone with the same respect and good service, their business will do well. They will have repeat customers.

Another plus for Ferguson is the proximity to two major interstate highways. Our home is less than three miles from I-270 and less than 3 miles from I-70. We can be in downtown St. Louis in 20 minutes and Chesterfield in less than 30 minutes. Location! Location! Location!

Say what you want about Ferguson.

Yes, we hear gunfire a bit too often. Yes, Elizabeth Avenue is often a racetrack. Problems like these exist in all neighborhoods. As a community we should address these problems and make Ferguson a truly beautiful place to live.

Please tell me how much you love Ferguson. You can reach me at [manhattanmarian@gmail.com](mailto:manhattanmarian@gmail.com).



“How To Make The Most Of The CRAP We're Handed” or “MULCH ME GOOD!” Treetoons.net



# Ferguson City Hall Information

## 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  
 TikTok: @FergParks

Program Guides, Online Registration, and More: [www.FergRec.com](http://www.FergRec.com)

### March Adult Day Trips & Programs

Cindy's Coffee Corner	Thursday, March 2	FREE
Get Your Kicks on Route 66	Wednesday, March 8	\$25
Sweet & Salty Social	Thursday, March 9	FREE
Game Day	Monday, March 13	FREE
Leprechaun's Bingo	Thursday, March 16	\$25
History Museum & Café St. Louis-Pure	Friday, March 24	\$35
Game Day	Monday, March 27	FREE
Bally's Casino	Wednesday, March 29	\$75

### How to Register:

Online: Visit [Register.FergRec.com](http://Register.FergRec.com)

Phone: Call (314) 521-4661

In-Person: Visit the Ferguson Community Center



## Come Work for Us This Summer!

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](http://jobs.fergrec.com).

### Positions Available at Splash @ Wabash

- Lifeguard
- Pool Manager
- Front Desk Attendant
- Concession Attendant
- Swim Team Coach
- Swim Team Assistant Coach

### Positions Available at Ferguson Adventure Camp

- Camp Counselor
- Group Leaders

### Positions Available at the Ferguson Community Center

- Front Desk/Building Attendant

### Spring Adventure Camp

Join us this spring as we escape into our spring break Adventure Camp! This spring break we will have an action-packed traditional camp experience where kids will laugh, explore, and create memories and friendships that will last a lifetime! Campers will experience several themed days, crafts, games, field trips, and more, held at the Ferguson Community Center. Payment is due at the time of registration.

Ages: 5-13  
 Dates: M-F, March 27 - March 31  
 Time: 7:00am - 6:00pm  
 Main Camp programming runs 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
 Open Door runs 7:00am - 8:30am and 4:30pm - 6:00pm  
 Location: Ferguson Community Center (1050 Smith Ave.)  
 Fee: \$85/Child



### Tiny Tots Takeover

Are you looking for something fun for your toddler to do? Join us for our bi-weekly Tiny Tots Takeover at the Ferguson Community Center. We will have activities, trampoline, slide, bounce house, and more for your tiny tot to play with. Parent participation required.

Ages: 0-5  
 Dates: Every 2nd Tuesday of the Month & Every 4th Friday of the Month (January-April)  
 Time: 10:00am-11:00am  
 Location: Ferguson Community Center (1050 Smith Ave.)



### Ember's Dog Egg Hunt benefiting St. Louis Pet Adoptions

Grab your pup and their friends to join us for our annual Dog Egg Hunt at Wayside Dog Park! We will have dog treat eggs scattered throughout the park for your pups to find and special prizes. This year we have partnered with Ember, the Ferguson Fire Dog's supporting non-profit, St. Louis Pet Adoptions. This event will be free for all dogs, but donations are strongly encouraged. All donations will benefit St. Louis Pet Adoption.

Dates: April 1  
 Time: 10:00am  
 Location: Wayside Dog Park  
 Fee: FREE, Donations are encouraged

### Bunny Brunch

The Easter Bunny will be hopping over to the Ferguson Community Center for our 2nd Annual Bunny Brunch! We will have a bunny, an egg hunt (ages 13 & under only), activities, food, and refreshments.

Egg Hunt: Ages 13 & Under  
 Meals: All ages that are accompanying a minor  
 Dates: April 8th  
 Time: 10:00am  
 Location: Ferguson Community Center (1050 Smith Ave.)  
 Fee: \$5/Child (Includes Admission, Egg Hunt, and Meal)  
 \$2/Each Adult (Includes Admission and meal)



### Mulch Madness

Dates: Saturday, March 18  
 Bracket 1: 9:30am - 11:30am (Forestwood Park & Lang-Royce)  
 Lunch: 11:30am-12:30pm  
 Bracket 2: 12:30pm-2:30pm (Dade Park & Robert-Superior)

Join us on Saturday, March 18th to help us mulch and clean up 4 of our park playgrounds. We will have all the tools you need; we just need some helping hands! Lunch will be provided at Forestwood Park at 11:30am for all the volunteers!

Register online at [volunteer.fergrec.com](http://volunteer.fergrec.com)



### Stories at the Station

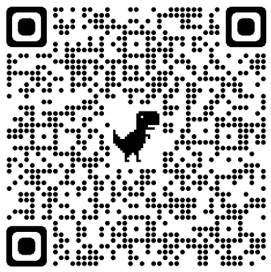
Back by popular demand! Join us at the Ferguson Fire Department and Ferguson Police Department for Stories at the Station. Our tiny tots will hear a story and get a tour of the station! Parent participation required.

Ages: 0-5  
 Ferguson Police Station: February 28  
 Time: 10:00am  
 Fee: FREE





# FERGUSON TWILIGHT RUN



**5K★10K**  
1-MILE FUN RUN

Registration Now Open

**SATURDAY**  
**MAY 20** 2023

Festivities begin at 4:30PM  

- Pre-race Entertainment
- Cheer Stations
- Medals for ALL Finishers
- Free Post-Race Concert

## Financial Focus – Key to Prosperity

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)

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

Last year, St. Louis City Mayor Tishaura Jones signed the “Working Families Bill.” The plan is to provide 440 poor families with a \$500 check monthly for 18 months. Over the past year this plan has been very controversial with concerns that just handing out this extra \$500 will be like another lesson from the past that “giveaways don’t work.” So, what’s different about this legislation? The following additional programs or funding are included:

- Funds to expand qualified health centers in north and south St. Louis
- Funds to create a Bureau of Behavioral Health to deal with substance abuse and misuse.
- Funds to provide jobs and programming for youths through the Office of Violence Prevention and St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment.

It will be interesting to see how well this works. Access to more health centers in the north and south city may improve health for those areas. Better health can also lead to more productivity and possibly more workers available for the local economy. Creating the Bureau of Behavioral Health is not a guarantee that those with addiction issues will actually seek help. Not to be a naysayer, I just hope that access will be enough. And certainly, providing jobs and training for youth is a good thing.

These funds are coming from the American Rescue Plan Act passed by congress in March 2021. The intent was to aid those impacted by the pandemic including families, governments, businesses, schools, and others. To find out how St. Louis is using these funds you can check out this website <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/ARPA/index.cfm>. As part of this metropolitan area we see the challenges faced by the city involving crime, poverty and lack of services in certain areas, this may just touch on those problems. As Megan Green the Board of Aldermen President commented “this is a real chance to break the cycle of poverty.”

When I hear those words – break the cycle of poverty – it brings to mind the failure of the War on Poverty which was expected to solve these problems in the sixties. At that time the emphasis seemed to accept that providing material resources to those in need such as food, clothing and money would enable them to become productive and live happier lives. What was not addressed were the psychological and moral struggles

## A word from our

**PLANET**

### 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.

including irresponsibility, alcoholism, drug addiction, self-destructiveness, mental illness, etc. This helped create a situation of continuing to throw money at the wrong problem. Receiving goods and services without any responsibility on those recipients to apply themselves to improve their lives, created some of the problems we continue to see today. To help people help themselves there needs to be some established guidelines to be met. Of course, that makes a welfare program much harder to implement. So that will be one of the challenges with the Working Families Bill.

While I want to be optimistic and believe it will work, past evidence proves over and over again that we can’t determine how people will respond to help. Some studies say it eliminates motivation and encourages the breakdown of the family. Some of you must recall the tales of the Welfare Queen collecting money to support her many fatherless children. While some of these stories were true, it left many believing the poor were lazy and working the system. However, for many trying to get out of the poverty cycle, they found obstacles like a reduction in assistance because a mother set up a college fund for her child – when it was discovered that she had saved \$600. She probably should have been rewarded with matching funds to help her child get to college – that would have helped. Some of our past methods actually helped keep the cycle going.

Which brings to mind Lynn Schmidt’s column in the Post-Dispatch shortly before Valentine’s Day. She cited research done on the effect of strong and stable families reducing childhood poverty. The statistics showed a link between violent crime reduction and marriage. And also, prosperity and marriage. Lynn went on to suggest a “success sequence” with 3 basic steps: get at least a high school education, work full-time and marry before having children. This seems like an easy approach to reduce crime, and childhood poverty, while improving economic mobility for families. The studies showed that even those from poorer backgrounds can ascend above them just by sticking to these 3 steps. While we don’t often want to admit that some of our social problems have to do with a decline in moral standards, it seems obvious there is cause and effect here. Over the past fifty years or so we’ve seen more acceptance of unmarried parents, divorced parents and single parents. Being a parent is tough enough, but when you have an ally in another parent the job gets much easier. So maybe marriage needs to be restored as more the norm today. Her column included this quote from Harvard sociologist Robert Sampson: “Family structure is one of the strongest, if not the strongest, predictors of ... urban violence across cities in the United States.” It all seems so logical and maybe some of the methods we are trying now can take note. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at cleav73@gmail.com.

# Four Decades of Trusted Automotive Service By People Who Care

By: Sophia Fish

At the time, no one could have guessed that a young teen from Baden, Missouri who helped his neighbor fix his family’s car, would one day run his very own automotive and tire service shop and that it would still be running forty years down the road. Bob McGartland fell in love with problem-solving. Sometimes things were an easy fix while other times it’s a new problem to be solved. McGartland explained how he loves helping and working with others. All of this combined, led McGartland to join the automotive world.

After high school, he studied at Ranken College before joining an independent auto repair shop. After that, on March 15th, 1983, he bought Robinwood Service in Florissant and leased three bays from Sinclair Gas Station. That worked until 1987 when Sinclair Oil canceled the lease and McGartland went up the road and found Ferguson. McGartland met Randal Willy who owned a tire shop. McGartland and Willy made a deal for McGartland to buy the storefront.

McGartland has loved and been involved in the Ferguson community ever since Robinwood moved to Ferguson. He believes that if you own a business in a community, you need to be involved. While Robinwood might have brought McGartland to Ferguson, he hasn’t left since 1991 when he moved his family here.

McGartland kept the Robinwood name because of his existing customers, and for the new ones to come. The checkerboard tower that stands out on South Florissant Road is there to provide peace of mind for customers. This is seen through the mission statement of the company; “Automotive repair by people who care.” McGartland went on to explain that he has a professional obligation to inform his customers of any safety concerns while their vehicle is in the shop. He wants to build a long-lasting relationships with customers. He’s had some of the same customers since the very beginning in 1983. He hopes that Robinwood helps “make Ferguson a better community” which will ripple from the business to the residents. Which he has done time and time again.

Along the way McGartland made it known that there were a lot of ups and downs. McGartland married the love of his life, Peggy, in December of 1989 and raised three children, Robbie, Maggie, and Kelly. Sadly, he lost Robbie in 2012 which motivated him to start Angels at Work. Alongside Linda Lipka they formed the Taste in Ferguson fund raising event that residents have looked forward to attending for the past ten years. McGartland has also overcome the rapid and ever-changing technology of new cars, especially in the past decade. All of his hard work has paid off as he was awarded the Business Person of the Year from the Greater North County Chambers of Commerce.



Bob - September 1987



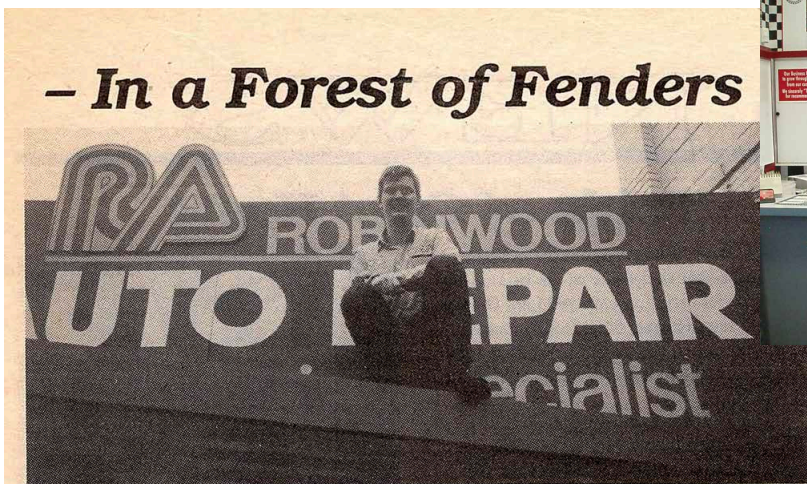
Original Location



Robinwood Sept 1987 New Location



Robinwood October 1998



Bob - March of 1993



Bob - December 2004



Robinwood June 2013



Robinwood - February 2023  
Clinton, Bob, Mark, Danielle, Brandon

# Digital Ferguson

by David Pickens

Digital Ferguson is a new column on all things digital, from smart thermostats to computers, mobile devices, and beyond. David grew up in Jennings and after many travels has settled in Ferguson for the last twenty years. He hopes his articles will be of interest to home users and business owners alike.

## How to Avoid Losing Everything

I lost a sound recording once. That might sound like no big deal but it was the only recording of a song I wrote and recorded long ago. I could recreate it but all the studio time spent getting the drums and vocals and guitar just right are just gone.

I had a similar but far more heartbreaking experience with a pastor friend who came to me with a USB thumb drive that had stopped working. She had all her sermons on that drive, thirty years of work. "That is my backup drive," she said. "But it doesn't seem to have anything on it now. All my files are missing."

When I asked her whether she had these files anywhere else, she said "No. They are all on my backup drive." I literally felt sick. And over a weekend I tried every computer forensic trick in my catalog to recover her files, but

they were gone, gone. The drive had completely failed, all the data was lost, and a lifetime of sermons were lost.

As computer hardware has become more and more reliable it has become really easy to take that reliability for granted, and not back up our work and precious memories like our photograph collections – or a lifetime of sermons. Let this be a reminder to create a real backup of the things that are important to us, that we will cry over if they are gone. I back up all our home systems at the start of every year, and then periodically through the year.

And for the business owners out there I have to say in my 40 years of technology the vast majority of businesses large and small that I have worked with did not have an actual working backup system in place when I started, though they always did soon after I started! So look into that because a loss there can not only be heartbreaking, it can be extremely costly.

*David has been in Information Technology in almost every role possible for such a long time it would take a supercomputer to calculate. The first computer someone let him play with was in an F4-E. His first PC was a Timex Sinclair because he could not afford a TRS-80. He is currently running a computer consulting practice.*

*You can contact him at david@bigpurr.com.*



# Ferguson Fire Department Safety Tips

## Clothes Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your everyday routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

## AND DON'T FORGET...

Dryers should be properly **grounded**.

Check the **outdoor vent** flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.

Keep the area around your dryer **clear** of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

Clothes that have come in contact with **flammable substances**, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

## FACT

! The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.



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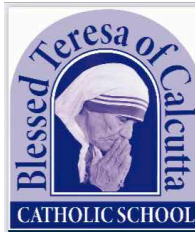
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If there are not rules, laws, or principles by which people use as a guide for living, then we stand the undesirable chance of each one living according to his own standards, which may infringe upon the standards of others. Chaos can result in situations like this, and progress can certainly be thwarted. When we were kids, we were taught that stealing from someone was wrong and that we should not do this. We were also taught that we should not tell lies. We were instructed that we should honor our fathers and mothers and always obey their wishes.

We were also taught not to covet our neighbor's assets. Later, we discovered that these rules were part of the Ten Commandments as described in the Holy Bible. There were other rules of living that we should follow which were and continue to be, a design for living which we should adopt.

Our society is now craving for us to live by certain standards so that this civilization and its people may survive and prosper. Whatever happened to the Golden Rule that we became aware of as toddlers? You may be surprised at the large number of people who have never heard of it. It almost seems like we have become communities where anything goes and each to his own.

Terms like community and village have only retained their geographical meaning and not their socio – economic relationship that suggests certain areas where people join together, respect each other, and prosper together. We are failing to do this and therefore it becomes an ominous signal for disaster and failure. Only the strong survive until a stronger power emerges. The requirement for mutual respect becomes non – existent and everyone tends to be cautious and wary of one's neighbors.

Long ago, neighbors knew each other's names, and enjoyed each other's company. Respect for our neighbor's property and belongings was the order of the day.

With the rash of car thefts, murders, and other crimes upon neighbors, it seems that our communities have disappeared and lawlessness is becoming more like the order of the day.

Oh, for the restoration of the Ten Commandments , or some positive guide by which we all can survive. It starts with an individual commitment to love and respect each other and each other's things, whatever they may be. If you wish to help improve the condition that exists around you, you are invited to support our work which is designed for this purpose. For more information, visit our website at [www.gracechapelministries.org](http://www.gracechapelministries.org) . Our email address is [gracechapeldevelopment@gail.com](mailto:gracechapeldevelopment@gail.com).

It is up to us individually to make this a better world and to eliminate evil wherever it exists.



**Under The Hood  
With Robinwood**  
By Bob McGartland

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

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

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

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

- 1) Make sure the shop displays the ASE logo. This stands for Automotive Service Excellence which is an organization that provides training and certifications. There are 8 different areas of the vehicle that technicians are trained in, and the best techs achieve a "Master" rating. There is also an "Advance Level" certification that is focused on engine drivability codes and emission system problems.
- 2) If the shop is a AAA Approved Auto Repair Facility, it has met the high standards that AAA requires to be part of their Approved Auto Repair family. This relates to the training and knowledge of the technicians, the equipment that the facility has available to repair and service vehicles, and how the shop ranks on customer satisfaction surveys all done by AAA. To be a AAA Approved Facility your shop must score 90% or higher on customer satisfaction surveys.

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

At Robinwood Automotive we are proud to be a AAA Auto Repair Facility, have experienced ASE Master and Advance Level technicians, and have served the greater Ferguson area for 40 years. At the time of this article the lady with her check engine light on again has not come in. I hope she does because I know we can diagnose and efficiently repair her problem.

If you are having any vehicle problems or concerns, give us a call or visit us at [robinwoodauto.com](http://robinwoodauto.com).

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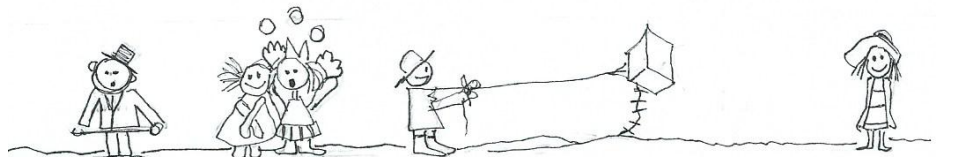
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**Crossword Solution from page 4**

1	G	2	E	3	R	M			4	T	R	U	5	F	6	F	7	L	8	E		9	C
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**The OT Lens**

by Chelsia Bradley



The OT Lens

Ready, Set, Clean: Spring Cleaning without the Stress

March is here, and the February chill is beginning to thaw. In two short weeks, we will jump our clocks forward in recognition of Daylight Savings Time and look to the future for warmer weather, sunnier days, and spring blooms. During this season of restoration, many of us are inclined to break out our brooms and trash bags for some much-needed spring cleaning. What better way to welcome in the sunshine than with the dusting of window sills and steam cleaning of airy curtains?

Spring cleaning is an ancient tradition that reinvigorates the spirit. The Cleveland Clinic argues that a good spring cleaning fest can evoke feelings of accomplishment, aid in de-stressing you, improve your focus, fend off depression, and reduce the number of hazards in your home.

While most of us would agree that the proposed health benefits are enough to kick-start our cleaning frenzy, others may find the idea completely overwhelming; that is okay.

Here are some tips to help take the stress out of this experience:

- Tackle one room at a time.
- Start with a plan that informs how you will move through the process.
- Allow yourself ample time.
- Who says spring cleaning has to take place in just one weekend? Permit yourself to tackle this task over a few weeks.
- Utilize a pre-made checklist, or create one of your own!
- Utilize the resources available to you to reduce stress.

Pinterest has a ton of pre-made, downloadable cleaning checklists to help guide this process. Use them in their original form, or allow them

to help you design your own.

- Hire someone!
  - Take the hard work out of spring cleaning by hiring a professional. Check out websites like Groupon to find affordable professional cleaning services.
  - Introduce house plants to your favorite rooms.
  - Liven up your space and enlist the help of house plants to improve the air quality of your indoor space.
  - Opt for natural cleaning products.
  - A little vinegar, baking soda, and your favorite essential oils can go a long way when cleaning. Save money (and the environment) by opting for natural, healthy-friendly cleaning products.
  - Don't forget the details.
  - How often do your light fixtures, vents, and baseboards receive the attention they deserve? Tackle these often overlooked areas to freshen up your space from top to bottom.
  - Organize. Organize. Organize.
  - Put ease into next year's spring cleaning by organizing as you go. Reduce clutter by dumping or donating unused items, and organize remaining items into storage containers and bins. You will thank yourself in 2024.
- Have bulk items ready to be hauled away? Empowered Homes powered by Keller Williams Realty is sponsoring a hauling service this month where our bulk item removal partners come to you for your removal needs. Spaces are limited, but contact me for more information!

Chelsia Bradley  
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**The Ferguson Computer Corner**

by Doug Neely

MARCH, 2023

“These are the times that try men’s souls.”

Thomas Paine in The American Crisis, 1776-1783

This month’s column will be different. But then, these times are much different than even a decade ago. And not for the better, I assure you. Of course, you already know this.

And there may come a day that you will not have your phones, tablets, puters, tv, cable and what all electronic thingies for communication and entertainment. These might go out for a few minutes, a few days, a few weeks, a few months, or maybe years.

We’re talking a serious “comm-tainment” event. You could even enter a new age group, if you live thru it! Will you ever be the same? Idk. BUT! You WILL have a completely different life, for the rest of your life, no matter how much shorter it may be. Or not. Who knows? But will electronics be our death-knell? Probably not. But some of you may feel like it is. We probably won’t be able to help you; you’re already dead! :)

Anyhow, I live month to month to put out this column. (just as good a reason as anything, huh? LOL!)

this month’s column would’ve been a true joy to write if I hadn’t been so sick with the “Chinese Flu”, as many of you have already experienced, or are experiencing, or will experience. I hope to be out of the woods by the time you read this.

Please continue to pray for us all. He WILL take care of us!

## Ferguson Has A History Museum

Ferguson has a Historical Society and a History Museum. We encourage any people reading this article to join in the conversation. Contact information is at the bottom of this article.

In the last three issues, we have been presenting information about four of the earliest church buildings in Ferguson: First Presbyterian Church (1871), St. Stephens Episcopal Church (1872), Mt. Olive (1880) and Sts John & James Catholic (Blessed Theresa) (1882). This month we will look at the Ferguson United Methodist Church. The Ferguson UMC is no longer an operating parish; however, the building still stands and has undergone a couple recent uses. More on all that later. In this article I will refer to the historic Methodist Church as “the Methodist Church” but the current iteration of the church is the United Methodist Church.

Like all Protestant Christian Churches, the United Methodist Church was ultimately the product of a separation from the Roman Catholic Church. There were several key people in this separation: Martin Luther for Lutherans, John Knox for Presbyterians and in the case of Anglicans, King Henry VIII. The Methodist Church began as a revival effort of the Anglican Church in the early 18th century by two brothers, John and Charles Wesley. John was the primary theologian and Charles was the main music man. Modern Methodism is renowned for the wonderful music created by Charles Wesley. John Wesley traveled to the American Colonies (Georgia) in 1835 in order to offer worship to Native Americans. Apparently, it did not go as planned and he returned to England. Followers of the Wesleys did begin to come to America as early as the 1770’s and the beginnings of Methodism were on American shores.

There were three great growth periods in American religion. The first Great Awakening (1730-1740) was a great start. The “Awakenings” were a time when religion became more emotional – more personal – as opposed to rote attendance or intellectual study. This, added to the increased literacy of Americans, gave a more independent air to American religion. America was an essentially rural and spread-out society. Religions such as Methodism focused on bringing religion to as many people as possible – often not by ordained Bishops or ministers but by laymen dedicated to spreading the word. The Methodists were famous for “Circuit Riders”, often lay ministers who literally rode on horseback and offered services in the wide-open spaces, bringing religion to the “people”.

Following the death of the Wesleys, the Methodist Church formally separated from the Anglican Church and became “The Methodist Church”. The second Great Awakening (1790 – 1840) offered a real boot to the growth of the Methodists. By 1839 the church split into two factions over the issue of slavery creating a North and South church. Ironically, the two factions did not rejoin until 1939. Over the years there have been many splinters in the Methodist Church. Perhaps the most famous is the AME or African Methodist Episcopal Church. In the early 20th Century the Methodist Church formally became The Methodist Church USA. In 1968 the Methodist Church USA joined with the United Brethren to become The United Methodist Church – where things stand today.

It was a Reverend John Clark (an associate of John Wesley) who first brought Protestantism to Spanish America (Missouri) – west of the Mississippi River. In the late 1700’s, in Spanish America, it was illegal for a Protestant church to exist – but Clark persisted. He was stationed in Kaskaskia Illinois Territory. As a man who hated slavery and church hierarchy, he would sneak into Missouri to offer services then steal back to safety. This continued until 1803 and the Louisiana Purchase (then from France). By 1805 Clark moved to the Coldwater Creek area and established a church. In the early 1800’s there were four Methodist groups in the North County area: Coldwater Creek, Spanish Pond, Eden Chapel and the Bridgeton Church. But there was none in Ferguson. Ferguson Methodist Church formed out of these early churches,

In November 1886, the first services were held in Tiffin Hall (corner of Tiffin & Clark) – Tiffin Hall was a building used for many public purposes. Ferguson, at this time was known as Ferguson Station and would not become an official city until 1894. By 1888 the Church moved into its own home (on the same corner as the Tiffin Hall) and that technically is the first Methodist Church in Ferguson. Some years later, land was donated by Louis Maul (BarBQ Sauce fame) at the site of the present church (Wesley and Florissant Rd). In 1938 a fire completely destroyed that building.

The current church was completed around 1940. The educational wing and offices were added in 1960. The church had a

long and prosperous life in Ferguson until September 26, 2010 when the Ferguson United Methodist Church closed its doors and merged with St. Marks United Methodist Church. Like many mainline churches, what was once a large and successful church with a fine history simply goes away – in fact, not in spirit.

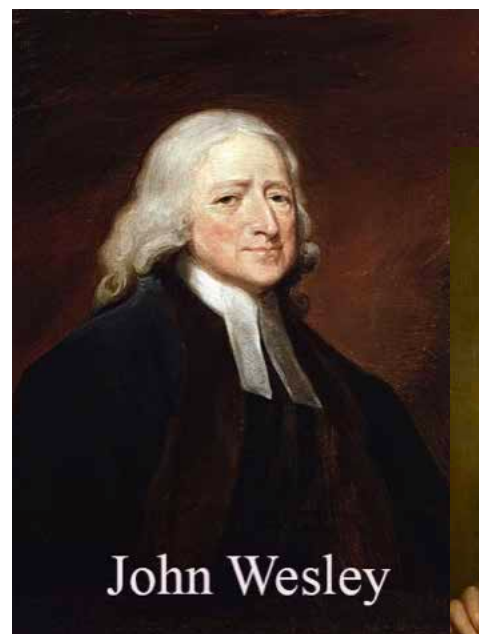
Since 2010 two churches have taken over the building which was once Ferguson United Methodist. The first came in around 2014, around the time of the Michael Brown shooting – The Wellspring Church. It lasted a few years and was instrumental in the community’s dealing with the shooting. The newest church is the current Liberty Community Worship Center. The spirit and the soul of Ferguson UMC is alive and well in the communities of new and different worshippers.

Next month we will explore another early Ferguson Church.

Stories of churches in the Ferguson area come from documents in the Ferguson Historical Society archives. Special thanks to Sandy Hunter, long time member of Ferguson UMC, for her personal input.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact Jerry Benner at [fjbenner@mindspring.com](mailto:fjbenner@mindspring.com). You are also welcome to visit the History Museum at 1064 Smith (behind the Community Center) by e-mailing the above address. Note: we will need to schedule a date for you, so ask well in advance.

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



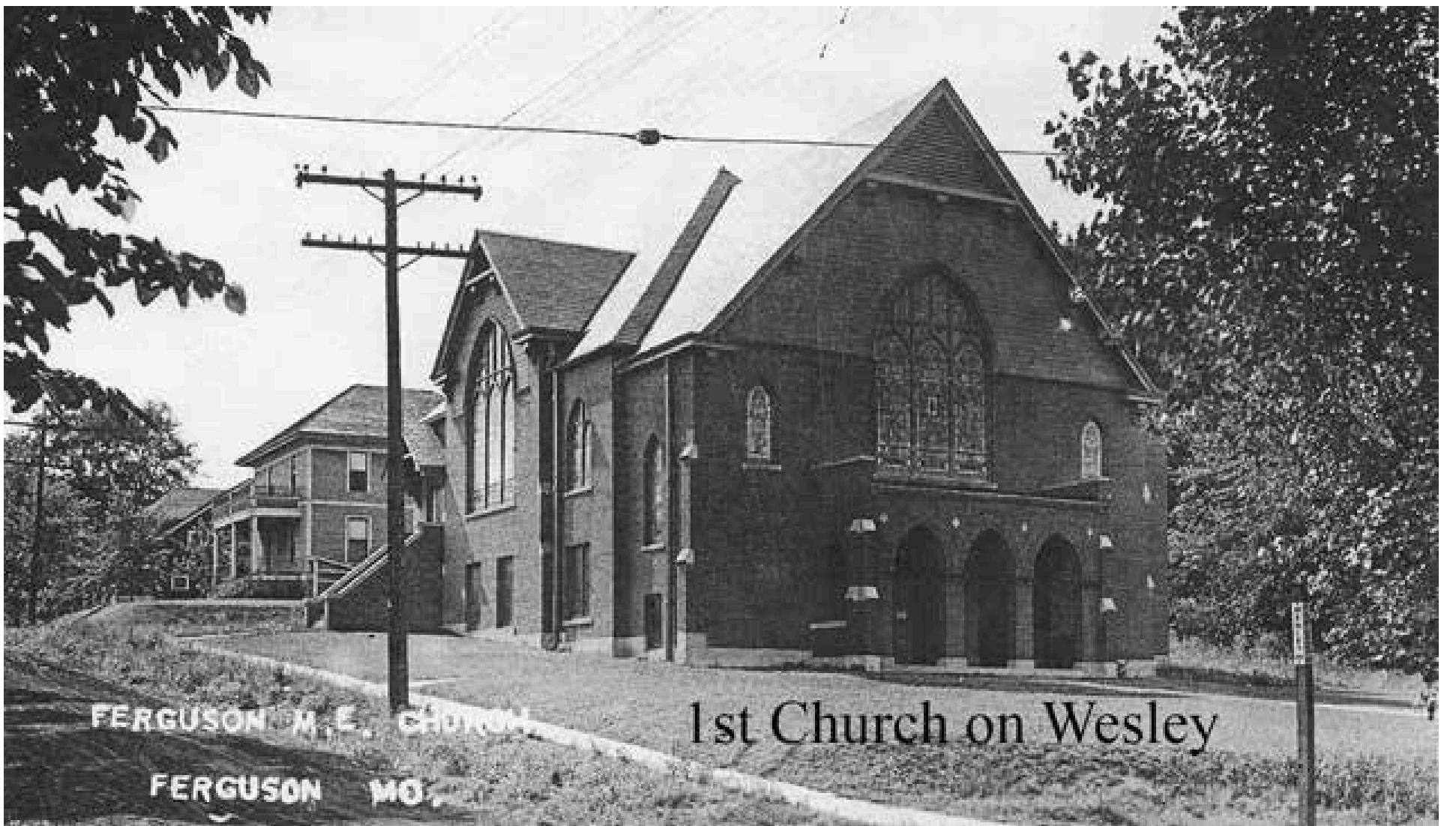
John Wesley



Charles Wesley



1940 UMC Church





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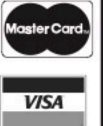
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