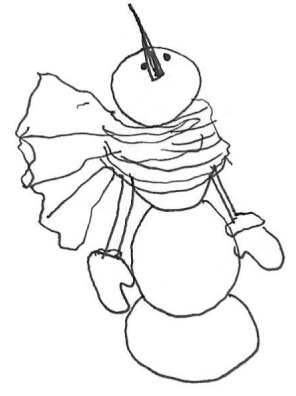




Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

2021 NEWS 2021



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How To Win

By Dr. Larry A. Brown

It is very important for us to learn and practice the techniques for winning because we all enjoy the good feelings that accompany the situation of winning as opposed to the awfully bad feelings and outcomes associated with lg. “Everybody loves a winner, but when you lose, you lose alone”. One technique is “As often and frequently as I am knocked down, I will get up until I win “. Hopefully, though, we can employ and use certain strategies and techniques that will result in our winning without having to “get knocked down “ so often.

To begin with, we must respect the other side, be it an individual, or a situation, and realize that they want to win also. We must learn to listen well, in order to find out the weaknesses, desires, and things necessary to overcome in order to win.

We have to be willing to negotiate or give a little in order to gain the victory. We have to begin the situation with true love for the adversary so that after we win, we can perhaps woo them on our side because in reality, the more we are together, the better off we will be in the future.

We must approach the situation with strong will and determination. We must have the desire to win. If necessary, we must constantly remind ourselves of the benefits that go along with winning, both for ourselves, and others.

We must make sure that the win is not just for us alone, but that it is necessary in order for others to benefit. That is why our hearts must be pure and our thoughts truly aimed for a right and just end.

We must make sure that we have enough resources in order to win. We must be willing to stay the course, until we win. So often, we get accused of starting something and leaving or giving up before the job is completed. We have to exercise the will to remain on the battlefield as long as it becomes necessary, in order to reach a desirable conclusion.

It is entirely possible for each of us to enjoy winning in the future and as a matter of Fact, it is urgent that we win more than we lose, in order to maintain our positive mental well- being.

Let us all decide to become winners this year and not accept facts that we are to be in certain categories and that we are born losers .

You too, can win!!

If you need help, you may contact us at www.gracechapelministries.org or email us at gracechapeldevelopment@gmail.com

May this year be one that we can look back on and declare that we won more than we lost !!

Do your New Year's Resolutions include:

Prioritizing your health? & Growing your own food? or

- Find EarthDance fresh organic produce at the January indoor winter market:
 - January 20, 9am - 12noon @ St. Stephen's Episcopal Church & Pay what you can!
- Apply for the Full Season Farm Apprenticeship
 - Two apprentices will join the farm team beginning February 29, 2024 for 10 months!
- Learn about Spring Training for Gardeners
 - a 5-week course designed for beginners to gardening as well as those who want to plan and maintain their most successful garden yet! www.earthdancefarms.org/spring-training

Full Season Farm Apprenticeship



January News and Events at the Ferguson Public Library

For more information, please contact the library at 314-521-4820 or visit us online at fergusonlibrary.net.

Children and Teen Events

<p>Stories and Songs for Little Ones Join us for storytime! Ages 0-5. Wednesdays at 10 am Saturday, Jan. 6 at 10 am</p>	<p>Lego Club Drop in and build a masterpiece with our Lego bricks! Ages 6-11. Saturday, Jan. 20 at 2 pm</p>	<p>Frosty the Snowman Enjoy a performance of Frosty by the Peppy Puppet Troupe! Saturday, Jan. 27 at 2 pm</p>
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Adult Events

<p>Readings on Race Book Club Join us as we discuss <i>Just Pursuit</i> by Laura Coates. For more info, please contact Amy at the library. Monday, Jan. 8 at 6 pm</p>	<p>Conversations and Coffee Drop in for a friendly conversation about hot topics. For more info, please contact Taneesa at the library. Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 6 pm</p>
<p>Homebuyer Education Learn the ins and outs of buying your first home. Register online at bit.ly/fmplhome23. Saturday, Jan. 13 at 1 pm</p>	<p>Unlock Your Library Potential Your library card unlocks a wealth of information - learn all about Libby, Hoopla, and other digital services! Friday, Jan. 26 at 3 pm</p>

All Ages Events

<p>Winter Reading Challenge The Winter Reading Challenge is in full swing! Last day to turn in your reading log is January 27.</p>	<p>Farm Fresh Cooking Join us for a healthy cooking demonstration! Thursday, Jan. 11 at 6 pm</p>
<p>January Craft Kits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan. 8-13 - Snowflake Suncatcher: Make a colorful snowflake to cheer up your windows! • Jan. 22-27 - Finger Knit Necklace: Use your fingers to make a fun necklace! Pick up a free kit while supplies last! 	<p>Cultural Cuisine Enjoy the flavors of Serbia! Register online at bit.ly/fmplcultural23. Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 6 pm</p>

The library will be closed January 1 for New Year's Day, and January 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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If You Have Items of Interest, Contact - asroc873@charter.net



January Celebration Shout-outs

- 1 Happy Birthday Annabelle Underwood
- 2 Happy Birthday Marilyn Wiley
- 3 Happy Birthday Damauri Booker-Harris
- 4 Happy Birthday JaZavier Harris
- 7 Happy Birthday Diane Guth
- 10 Happy Birthday Linda Eschenfelder



Email Shout-outs to asroc873@charter.net - deadline is the 15th of each month

January at a Glance



- 10 Jeske Park Neighborhood Association Meeting 7PM
- 15 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 16 Ferguson Indoor Winter Farmers Market 9AM-12PM
- 20 NorthHills Neighborhood Meeting 10AM
- 18 West Neighborhood Association Meeting 6PM
- 22 South West Neighborhood Meeting 6PM
- 25 South Central Neighborhood Meeting 6PM

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!
 To Shelly and Leroy for your generous donations.
 We are blessed to have readers such as yourself.

St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantries—We're still here!

The Society of St. Vincent dePaul Conference continues to operate 2 food pantries in Ferguson. BOTH pantries remain open currently, and for the foreseeable future.

Our Tuesday USDA pantry is located at Blessed Teresa Church, 120 North Elizabeth Ave. We are open from 9:30-11:30 A.M. Our Friday pantry is located on Church Street in the old firehouse. We are also open from 9:30-11:30 A.M. **You may attend one of our pantries once a month.** Our pantries are operated to assist all of our neighbors in need of food. We rely on the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Operation Food Search, St. Louis Area Foodbank, local grocery stores, and our generous parishioners and neighbors for the food we distribute. Thank you to everyone who donates!

“In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.”

FERGUSON INDOOR WINTER FARMERS MARKET
Jan 16, 9am-12pm
 Produce, baked goods, meat, eggs, hot food, free coffee, live music!
 Every third Saturday through April at St. Stephen's Church, 33 N. Clay

Paper Available at the following Locations:

- 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
- Eliciuos Restaurant
- The Hive Cafe

PRAY FOR PEACE

The Ferguson Newspaper Group may be reached

text/voice: 314 249-6323
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 On-line edition 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

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

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Give a congratulatory shout out for only \$5

Hiring New City Manager John Hampton

By Blake Ashby

On December 12th the Ferguson City Council unanimously voted to appoint interim City Manager John Hampton as Ferguson's new, permanent City Manager. He will also continue as Ferguson's Fire Chief.

Hiring the City Manager is the Council's most important job. Instead of a Mayor running our city, it is the City Manager's role to oversee all staff and operations. A great City Manager keeps our city running and moving forward. The wrong City Manager leads to all sorts of difficulties: basic services not being fulfilled, staff turnover, and an inability to respond to challenges.

Ferguson's previous City Manager Ferguson was very well qualified, and personally very impressive. However, for a combination of reasons, he was not the right person for the job. Ferguson had significant staff turnover, basic services started to degrade and we only got through the annual budget process by the skin of its teeth. For all his promise, Ferguson was going backwards.

When the previous City Manager quit at the end of January, Chief Hampton immediately stepped in as interim City Manager. One of his first acts was to recruit and convince the City Council to hire new Police Chief Troy Doyle, probably the most qualified Police Chief Ferguson has ever had. He also began working closely with the city departments to improve staffing and operations. Recognizing the skill level of several existing parks and recreation and public works employees, he promoted them into leadership positions.

When I joined the Council in March, it quickly became apparent Chief Hampton was doing a great job. Ferguson had not yet started the City Manager search, but instead paused while Chief Hampton stabilized operations. As he continued to make progress, several of us on the Council began discussing the possibility of keeping Chief Hampton as our permanent City Manager. Initially there was some pushback on the idea – he lacked the educational background and experience of previous City Managers.

What he did have was a 25-year record here in Ferguson, the last ten as Fire Chief. Previous City Managers sometimes seemed like they were in it to build their resume, not because they cared deeply about the city. With Chief Hampton there was no questioning his commitment and dedication. When he said he loved Ferguson and its residents, you knew it was true. As importantly, he KNEW Ferguson. Like it or not, Ferguson isn't a typical small town – we face challenges that almost no other small town in America faces. John Hampton had a knowledge of Ferguson, inside and out, that no other candidate was going to be able to match.

Each month he was also building a track record of success running our city. A previous Mayor, Steve Wegert, summed up the challenges of hiring a city manager. "Having gone through the process of hiring a City Manager twice during my nine years on the Council, I can only sum up the normal hiring process as pretty much a crap shoot. You're handed the resumes of a hand full of candidates that have passed muster by some hiring professional, do your best to draw them out during a "final" interview, perhaps run background and reference checks, maybe a psych exam and you hope for the best." With Hampton, as Wegert noted, we were judging his actual performance, not taking a guess about the future.

Deciding that we wanted Chief Hampton was only a part of the process – we also had to convince him to take the job. The Chief was only a couple of years away from being able to retire as Fire Chief on full pension. He could have glided through the last few years as Fire Chief, with minimal stress. Needless to say, stepping in as City Manager of Ferguson is not a low stress job, and is made even harder depending on the City Council. Ferguson had just been through an acrimonious recall effort and then a fairly harsh election for Mayor. In the eyes of many, the City Council was divided, and council members were putting politics ahead of the good of the city. The Council had to work together to prove to Hampton that we had put divisiveness behind us and were rallying together to help Ferguson move forward.

It took months to convince the Council and Chief Hampton, and then arrive at a compensation package that reflected all he was bringing to the City. However we got it done – we managed to hire our ideal candidate. And it's already making a difference in our City. Recently Larry Robinett, head of the Ferguson Neighborhood Improvement Program, commented "it feels like we've made more progress in last six months than we've made in the previous six years". And it's true. Under Hampton, our city feels like it has turned the corner. Chief Hampton is hiring the right people, giving them the guidance they need to do their jobs well, and keeping them motivated.

So please join the Council in welcoming John Hampton as our new City Manager.



Ferguson
Youth Initiative
Ferguson, MO

-Press Release-

Contact: Aaron M. Harris
Telephone: 314.749-5379
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Email: aaron@fyiferyouth.org

For Immediate Release

Ferguson Youth Initiative and Ferguson Florissant School District AVID Partnership Next Steps

Ferguson, December 8, 2023: The Ferguson Youth Initiative (FYI) will be partnering with the AVID program of Ferguson Florissant School District (FFSD) at McCluer High School. Through this partnership FYI will offer its Next Steps Job Readiness Program to 10th grade students at McCluer High School. The Next Steps Job Readiness Program works with teens 15-19 to assist them with the skills necessary to obtain and maintain employment through an interactive curriculum. "Partnering with the AVID Program to support the students at McCluer High School with their career readiness is an opportunity for FYI to empower more students in the district." - Aaron M. Harris, Executive Director

The AVID program at Ferguson Florissant School District is a Career and College Readiness Program that helps students acquire learning/study skills to increase achievement at the post-secondary level. AVID's mission is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college and success.

visit www.fyiferyouth.org.

About the Ferguson Youth Initiative: The Ferguson Youth Initiative is a non-profit organization founded in 2010 dedicated to empowering teens from Ferguson and surrounding areas. Through mentorship, community engagement, and educational programs, FYI aims to help young people become positive contributors to society.

About Ferguson-Florissant School District

The Ferguson-Florissant School District, located in suburban St. Louis, serves nearly 10,000 students from preschool through 12th grade with an excellent comprehensive educational program. Fully accredited by the state of Missouri, the Ferguson-Florissant School District operates seven Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd-grade schools, six intermediate schools (3rd through 5th grade), two 6th grade centers, two middle schools, two A+ and NCA-CASI-accredited high schools, a cutting-edge STEAM middle school, a nationally ranked STEAM high school, student-centered learning Innovation School and a Restoration and Wellness Center. In addition, the District includes a nationally recognized early education program, the award-winning Challenger Learning Center space education facility and the Little Creek Nature Area, a 97-acre nature preserve that offers experiential learning opportunities for students in science, biology, ecology and related areas of study.



CROSSWORD

Child's Room

By Robin Shively

ACROSS

1. Long. 's counterpart
4. Emerald City creator
8. Criticized
13. Precedes Canada or Jordan in brand names
14. New England sch.
15. Tavern taps
16. Light bulb indicators
19. "7 Words You Can't Say On TV" initials
20. Final Four letters?
21. Cool nickname for a defensive tackle*
24. Long river with a short name
25. Neither esta nor esa
26. Gumbo veggie
27. She'll have it, til her Daddy takes the t-bird away!
28. Lectern
30. My ___ or the highway
31. Irish Sea isle
32. Hole puncher
33. Atmosphere
35. H.S. coach's class
37. 12 units comprising a yr.
38. Smashed in*
40. 1040 pro.
42. WW2 patrol boat
43. BBC's Mr. ___
44. Ancient Canaanite god of fertility and rain
46. Muslim celebration word
47. Adjoin
48. US armed forces branch founded in 1798
51. CBS crime drama
54. 'Don't open - Xmas'
55. 'Everything except ___' (hint: check out the answers to the * clues)
58. Draped frock
59. Pontificate
60. Edible algae
62. Unsuccessful dine-n-dasher?*
64. Driving aid
65. Word before lab in news stories
66. Egotistical focus
67. More compact

DOWN

1. Den
2. Right-hand-man (or woman)
3. They may be peas or cookies
5. No. 79
6. Encourage
7. Tiny greeting?*
8. Larder*
9. 8th largest aluminum producer
10. 'Warm'
11. US Dept. of Def. agency
12. Hoover competitor
17. Linkletter, Garfunkel, & sculpture
18. Recipient of a GBE
22. Complete range
23. Dana Elaine Owens, ___ Queen Latifah
24. Wordplay
27. 4th, on a scale of 7
28. Spill checker?
29. Off-base
31. A domain
33. Sparkling Italian region
34. Often done to Peter, for Paul's benefit
35. Irrational number
36. Type of milk or beer
39. Pricing wd.
40. Presidential advisory groups*
41. Bauhaus artist
42. Hungry
44. Dyed fabric often used for 58 across
45. Words often shouted by quarterbacks and sergeants
49. Cross-hatch
50. System not based on nepotism
51. Action movie scene
52. Meyers or MacFarlane
53. Beginning of a personal demand
56. ___ headed; very blonde
57. Last minute test preparation
61. Apiece
63. Concerning initials

Solution on page 13

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What's Fresh: January '24

Joia Walker - EarthDance Farm to School Educator

It's a new year and we're celebrating here at EarthDance. What's Fresh has made such a great impact on our community and we're elated to continue spreading the word! Last year, we were able to reach about 155 students, 65 parents and 13 teachers during What's Fresh presentations at Ferg-Flor schools. Our goal is to educate more families in our community and encourage more schools to develop school gardens and bring agriculture into the classrooms.

So, what's fresh in January? A veggie that has its own national holiday, spinach! Did you know that March 26th is National Spinach Day? Though we're celebrating extremely early, we couldn't let the winter pass us by without talking about spinach. This little green leaf has been impacting our fields in a big way. In 2023, we grew hundreds of pounds of organic spinach, as well as over 22,000 pounds of other seasonal produce! What a year!

Eating spinach is a great way to add iron to your diet. In fact, there's more iron in 100 grams of spinach than there is in 100 grams of beef! By cooking the spinach, you increase your chances of absorbing the iron that it provides. If you're looking for ways to get the kiddos interested in spinach, try blending and straining it to create a beautiful green paint color! Spinach is so versatile and can be enjoyed in many different ways. Grab a bag of spinach from the EarthDance table at the Ferguson Winter Market and try the delicious recipe below!

Make-Ahead Spinach and Mushroom Breakfast Sandwiches

Level: **Easy**

Total: **35 min**

Active: **15 min**

Yield: **6 sandwiches**



Ingredients

- Nonstick cooking spray, for the pan,
- Salted butter, at room temperature, for the pan and/or spreading,
- 10 large eggs
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- 8 ounces cremini mushrooms, sliced
- 3 cups stemmed spinach
- 6 slices Swiss cheese (about 6 ounces)
- 6 English muffins, split

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Spray a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray or grease with butter.
2. Heat 1 tablespoon of the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring occasionally, until wilted and beginning to brown; about 5 minutes. Add the spinach, 1 teaspoon salt and a few grinds of pepper. Cook until spinach just begins to wilt, stirring occasionally, about 2 minutes. Remove pan from heat and set aside to cool.
3. Whisk the eggs, milk, 1 teaspoon salt and a few grinds of pepper together in a large bowl. Gently whisk in the cooled mushroom mixture, then pour the egg mixture into the prepared pan. Bake until puffed and set, 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool.
4. Place the English muffins cut-side up on a baking sheet and brush with some butter if using. Bake until slightly toasty, 3 to 4 minutes.
5. Once the eggs are cool enough to handle, use a large round biscuit cutter (about 3 3/4 inches in diameter) or the rim of a juice glass to cut out 6 rounds of egg. Using an offset spatula or a butter knife, remove each egg round from the pan and place on bottom half of an English muffin. Top each with a slice of Swiss cheese and the other muffin half. Wrap each sandwich individually with aluminum foil, put in a resealable plastic bag and freeze up to 1 month or refrigerate for up to 1 week.
6. To reheat, unwrap a sandwich and place on a paper towel on a microwave-safe dish. Microwave 1 to 1 1/2 minutes, until the cheese is melted and eggs are warmed through. Alternatively, thaw a foil-wrapped frozen sandwich overnight in the refrigerator, then bake in a 425-degree F oven until warmed through and the cheese is melted, about 10 minutes.



Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

While drafting this article I am deep into the Christmas spirit and activities. I realize that you will not be reading this until January sometime and I hope the Christmas spirit remains a warm memory as you read.

Many of us as children were given "Advent Calendars". Most of these Christmas calendars were simple. You open a door every day in December to be greeted with a lovely picture or a piece of candy. I had such a calendar sent to me by my uncle while he was in Germany. This calendar was little more than decorated cardboard, but it was very dear to me. I looked forward to opening a door every morning and revealing a different Christmas themed picture. The picture on December 24th was of course a manger scene with baby Jesus, Joseph, and Mary. I saved this calendar with my mom's Christmas decorations and enjoyed the same calendar for many years.

Fast forward to modern Advent Calendars. Every morning your dog can open a door to a treat. We have purchased wine calendars and beer calendars. I have seen candy and toys in Advent Calendars. Yes, we did have an Advent Calendar for our dog Grady. He absolutely loved popping a door open for a treat. I must add that this is also the dog that would tear open his own monthly "Bark Box" after he carried it around to show us what he had. So, the cardboard dog treat Advent Calendar was perfect for Grady. Once again, I digress.



Grady

Back to modern Advent Calendars. While in Greece with my 30 and 40 something travel companions, someone thought it might be great fun to make our own Advent Calendars and exchange names. As the old lady in the group, I asked if I could participate as well. I was welcome.



Calendar #1

We had \$150 maximum to spend on twenty-four calendar gifts. We secretly drew names and did not reveal our recipients until we all met the weekend after Thanksgiving to exchange. We met at Civil Life Brewery toting our unusual packages, had a beer and some soup and enjoyed the big reveal. Each of us then had to endure the wait until December 1. My first gift was a small bottle of Ouzo from Greece. I love Ouzo, so we were off to a great start. Every morning I have been greeted with a gift, each one more interesting or unusual than the last. I could list them all, however that would be tedious.

As I draft this article the gift, I opened today was a jar candle from and benefiting the Humane Society of Missouri. She knew my love for dogs, especially rescues.



Advent Ladies

While creating the calendar for the person I had drawn it was difficult to decide if I should have something nice everyday as I feel I have benefitted from or the "Dollar Store" stuff and candy on most days and then something nice on Friday or Saturday. I opted for the occasional nice thing. I hope I did the right thing. Every morning we share our gifts with each other either by a picture in a text to the "Advent Ladies" group or an app called Marco Polo. In case you are old like me, Marco Polo is like FaceTime only short, and you can maintain groups just like texting groups. I am not a fan of my appearance on Marco Polo and the only way you can just use a static picture of yourself is if you pay for the upgraded version. Now, that is not going to happen. (smile)

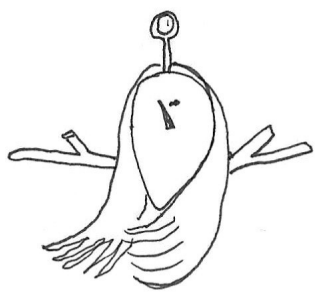


Calendar #2

Currently I have each of my gifts lined up in order on my dining room table. I do know I am going have to find a better spot for my "booty", but it is just so nice to look at and add to every day. I am already wondering about tomorrow. It is an exercise in patience and delayed gratification not to open every package on one day.

I do hope all of you had the absolute best Christmas holiday. I hope you were able to spend some time with family and friends. If you travelled, I hope it was safe. Let us look forward to a happy, healthy, prosperous 2024. I would enjoy hearing about your Christmas traditions, whether they are old or new, as mine were this year. You may reach me at manhattanmarian@gmail.com

With happy warm thoughts,
Marian



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YEARS IN BUSINESS: 40+

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From Ferguson to Pakistan

“Planting Trees in Pakistan”

One day as I walked through yet another brick yard of illegal bonded labor, and suffering of human beings in debt bondage, I looked up and snapped out loud to God; “YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS”. He immediately answered me back to my soul ; ‘That’s right, now you know about it too.’”



Our organization, FreedomCry(Life) combats subjugation of women, children and minorities held in a modern day slavery of bonded labor. There is also the pall over Pakistan of poison air from more than 20,000 raw, coal belching brick yards. And because trees purify bad air, we’re combining the jewel of education for the children of the brick yards with the planting of trees.

As one of the most de-forested nations on earth, much of Pakistan’s tree cover has ended up in the massive underground brick kiln furnaces, the belching towers of which can be seen in every direction. If given a little reprieve and lots of trees, the atmosphere can heal itself.

We are focusing on planting 10 different fruit trees that perform well in Pakistan and also what’s known as the ‘Miracle Tree’; the Moringa. Also known as the Sohanjna tree in Pakistan, it’s one of the fastest growing on the planet, harboring healing in its leaves for many of the ailments families who labor in the disease ridden environmentally hazardous Brickyards are subjected to.

Now that Freedom Cry and our Freedom School System is gaining ground in the Punjab and Sindh regions, the children yearn for books, books, and more books!

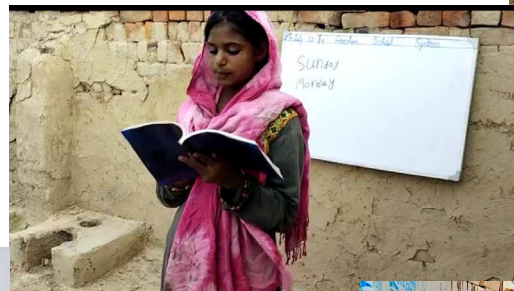
These children, the future of their country that doesn’t know they exist, (though they love their country), are falling in love with TREES, TREES and MORE TREES



Kiran Bao, woman’s advocate and one of our 20 teachers, planted trees at their brick yard school.



Diya uses the same tool for digging the ground and planting a lemon tree as she uses to chop and mix the soil into clay 10 hours a day, as she helps produce her family’s quota of bricks, and just enough pay for a couple plates of food.



Shaffaf Massih, interpreter, friend and cofounder of the Freedom School System, digging trees and ‘digging’ the kids he mentors and loves.

Tahir, my other co-founder is seen with children who are planting trees in a desert area where we’re also digging wells for communities of families whose children and old ones were sick and dying from poor water.



The little crew are protecting the planting sites with these bricks. I realize it looks dangerous, but children born in a brick yard, born into bonded labor have known and handled nothing but bricks and more bricks.



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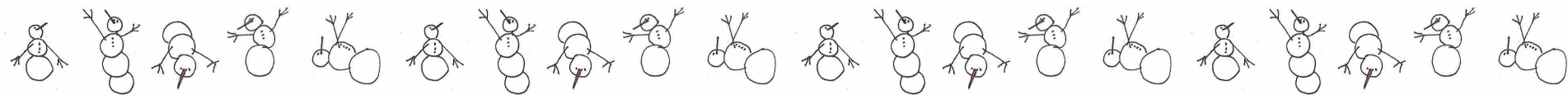
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The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely *UBUNTU WORKS, WINDOWS DON'T!

JANUARY, 2024

From: wincalendar.com

1st—New Year's Day (go to church)
 4th—National Spaghetti Day (Yvonne LOVES Spaghetti!)
 6th—Epiphany (go to church)
 15th—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 We need more like him today!
 21st—National Hug Day*
 31st—National Hot Chocolate Day*
 *the BEST ways to stay warm on a cold day!

If you wanna feel good on New Year's Day, don't overdo it on New Year's Eve. DUH! The above are indeed good ways to concentrate on the good stuff in store for us this year, especially when our church has a service we can go to. I think Dr. King would agree with this.

When You Upgrade Something On Your Puter, dept.
 Sometimes you get a message from the operating system that you need to restart your puter. This could be after an upgrade, adding software, uninstalling software, running certain programs, or anything that is more than just a very minor change.
 The reason for this is to allow the puter to start the change with a fresh slate. (for instance, you have programs currently running, and you need to put them away, so to speak.) now your system can concentrate on the new stuff without another program getting in the way. Your puter can only do so much at a time, and the more it is already doing makes it harder for the changes you made to take affect. This is not so most of the time when using Linux, but it is a necessity MOST of the time on Windows, EVEN WHEN IT DOES NOT PROMPT YOU TO DO SO. Therefore, it will never hurt to restart ALL the time something changes. A good example of this might be when you change the video settings on your puter so that the picture on your monitor can be seen in its entirety. This is called changing your resolution.

The above is just one of the ways in which Linux really shines. You don't have to be a card-carrying nerd if you are using Ubuntu Linux, because it will tell you what you need to do, then you do it. (usually by simply clicking on the RESTART NOW button)

Windows is for PROFESSIONALS; UBUNTU LINUX is for the rest of us.

BTW, you may have noticed that you have been getting a lot of notices about upgrading, mainly concerning security issues from your operating system. Micro\$oft will send you a message telling you to download something, and leave you to figure out IF you need it or not. The old software that's already in your puter is not properly uninstalled, sometimes not uninstalled at all. Not so with Ubuntu Linux. A window pops up, tells you what to do, shows what is BEING UNINSTALLED, SHOWS YOU WHAT IS BEING INSTALLED, LETS YOU KNOW WHEN IT IS DONE, WHETHER YOU NEED TO RESTART, AND YOU CLICK THE BUTTON THAT SAYS "INSTALL". Ubuntu does the rest automatically. Ubuntu lets you know when there is a free upgrade to you operating system. I just always click "install", and let Ubuntu do the rest. Easy-peasy.

ME GO NOW!
 Well, I have to go and get ready for church. Later, at home, Y & I will share some hugs and hot chocolate!
 Is there anything any better? God's blessings to us all, and have a very happy new year!

IF YOU would like to get some puter advice from Doug, just send him an email. Here are the rules:

1. put the phrase "I need puter advice" into the subject line so that he knows it is from you.
2. include your local telephone number into the body of your missive so he can call you.
3. put a brief description of your issue into the body of your tome.
4. follow the above 3 rules and things will go swimmingly!
5. fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com

A Pawsitively Perfect Guide to Bringing Home Your New Adopted Dog

Adopting a new dog can be very exciting...and also very overwhelming and stressful for both you and your new pooch. You will need a LOT of patience and understanding. If done right, you will have a lifelong companion.

That's why we recommend following the 3-3-3 rule when bringing home a new four-footed member of the family.

What is the 3-3-3 rule?

Once you've found your new bestie, it's important to prepare for their arrival by following the 3-3-3 rule. The 3-3-3 rule, is a set of guidelines for the first three days, three weeks, and three months after adopting a new pup. The goal of the 3-3-3 rule is to help your new doggy adjust to their new environment and build a strong foundation for a long and happy life with your family.

The 3-3-3 rule is important because it emphasizes the need for patience, consistency, and positive reinforcement when bringing home a newly adopted dog. Dogs are creatures of habit and routine, and they need time to adjust to new environments and build trust with their new family. And before bringing home your new pup, be sure to MAKE AN ID TAG listing your phone number and address and place on their collar.

The First 3 Days

During the first three days, it's important to give the dog plenty of space and time to acclimate to their new environment. They may exhibit behaviors such as fear, nervousness, or confusion as they adjust to new sights, smells, and sounds. Some dogs may be hesitant to eat, drink, or play during this time. It's important to give them plenty of space and time to acclimate to their new environment. Keep them in a quiet, comfortable room with their bed, food, water, and toys. Limit their exposure to other pets, family members, and visitors so they don't get overwhelmed. This time is called decompression.

During this time, take your new dog outside for potty breaks on a leash, but don't overwhelm them with long walks or trips to the park. This is a time for them to explore and get comfortable in their new surroundings at home. And give them lots of praise.

The First Three Weeks

After the first three days, gradually introduce your new dog to other family members and pets. Keep their routines consistent and give them plenty of positive reinforcement for good behavior. Use treats, praise, and toys to reward them for following commands and going potty outside.

Start introducing them to new environments, such as walks in the neighborhood. But be mindful of their comfort level and keep them on a leash. Is that ID tag on their collar?

The First Three Months

By the end of the first three weeks, your new dog should be comfortable with their new home and family members. During the next three months, continue to reinforce positive behavior and gradually increase their exposure to new positive and safe experiences.

Consider enrolling them in doggy training classes (fear-free training is best), to help them develop good habits and build confidence. This is also a good time to establish a routine for exercise, playtime, and teaching new tricks. SIT is a good starter.

Be patient with your new pup and continue to provide plenty of love and positive reinforcement. By the end of the first three months, your new dog should be fully adjusted to their new home and routines. However, it's important to remember that every dog is unique, and some may take longer to adjust than others.

By following the 3-3-3 rule, you're setting your new dog up for success and laying the foundation for a long and happy life together. You'll also be able to identify any behavioral issues early on and address them before they become bigger problems.

Adopting a new dog is a big responsibility and lifelong commitment. Put in the time and they will reward you in big ways! The most critical thing is to provide lots of exercise, mental stimulation, positive experiences, and especially lots of love.

If you need any tips for training or behavior issues, feel free to send me an email. I've got lots of tricks in my bag and resources to share.

And lastly, please don't leave your dog unattended outside and always keep an ID tag on. Keep their microchip updated with your new current phone number. And please, please, please don't dump your dog. If you're having challenges, just reach out.

"Keeping Them Happy and Safe"

Dara Ashby~Ferguson Animal Coalition

dara@fergusonanimalcoalition.org

The 3 Days, 3 Weeks, 3 Month Rule of Adopting a Rescue Dog

The 3-3-3 rule is a general guideline, every dog is unique and will adjust differently. Give your dog space and allow him to go at his own pace.

3D	3W	3M
		
<p>In the first 3 days,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling overwhelmed <input type="checkbox"/> May be scared and unsure of what is going on <input type="checkbox"/> Not comfortable enough to be "himself" <input type="checkbox"/> May not want to eat or drink <input type="checkbox"/> Shut down and want to curl up in his crate or hide under a table <input type="checkbox"/> Testing the boundaries 	<p>After 3 weeks,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Starting to settle in <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling more comfortable <input type="checkbox"/> Realizing this could possibly be his forever home <input type="checkbox"/> Figured out his environment <input type="checkbox"/> Getting into a routine <input type="checkbox"/> Lets his guard down and may start showing his true personality <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior issues may start showing up 	<p>After 3 months,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Finally completely comfortable in his home. <input type="checkbox"/> Building trust and a true bond <input type="checkbox"/> Gained a complete sense of security with his new family <input type="checkbox"/> Set in a routine
 <p>ADOPT LOVE TRAIN</p>		


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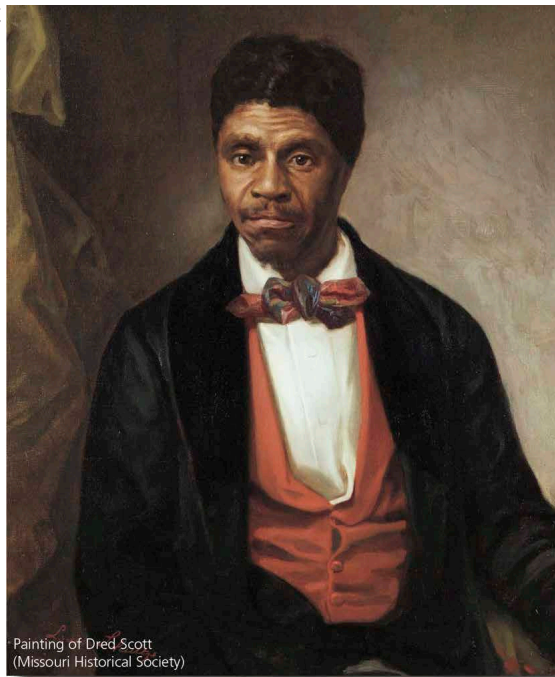
"Last Sale of the Slaves," by Thomas Satterwhite Noble (Missouri Historical Society)

Ferguson Historical Society to Host "Slavery in St. Louis" Exhibit

The Ferguson Historical Society is proud to host "Slavery in St. Louis" a traveling exhibit on loan from the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. Slavery existed in St. Louis for 100 years under French, Spanish, and American rule of the city. Famous African American civil rights leaders such as William Wells Brown, Dred and Harriet Scott, and James Milton Turner were once enslaved in St. Louis.

Using primary sources, individual stories of enslavement, and additional resources for teachers, this exhibit helps us connect with our city's complicated history and how it has been remembered (and misremembered) in the present. Our exhibit will also include information and artifacts from this time in Ferguson's history as well as some information on the railroad and its impact on our area.

We will be hosting the exhibit from February 5 - 9, 2024 at the Ferguson Community Center. There will be open times for the community in the evening as well as open times for student field trips during the day. If you have a class you'd like to bring to the exhibit please contact us. Contact information at the end of the article. There will also be a round table discussion one evening during the exhibit hosted by Nick Sacco, Acting Historian and Curator from the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site.



Painting of Dred Scott (Missouri Historical Society)

Please watch the February Ferguson Neighborhood News and our facebook page for information on times for the exhibit and round table discussion.

In regards to Black history in Ferguson, the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, an African-American church, was built on Eddy Ave at the back of January-Wabash Park in the late 1880s and torn down in the 1970's. The Economic Development Director with the City of Ferguson met with the President of the Ferguson Landmarks Commission before the church was torn down and discussed what to do with the altar. We have no information of what was decided or what was done. Does it exist somewhere, maybe in someone's attic or basement? If you have information on that altar, please contact us.

If you would like to bring a class field trip, have information on the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, or just want to know times for rate exhibit, please contact Mary at marebake@sbcglobal.net or 314-332-5546.



Under The Hood With Robinwood

By Bob McGartland

What Keeps You Warm & Comfortable Inside Your Vehicle During Winter Months?

As winter blankets the landscape in a chilly embrace, ensuring a warm and comfortable interior in your vehicle becomes a top priority. Several features and mechanisms work in tandem to create a cozy environment, shielding you from the biting cold and making winter drives a more pleasant experience.

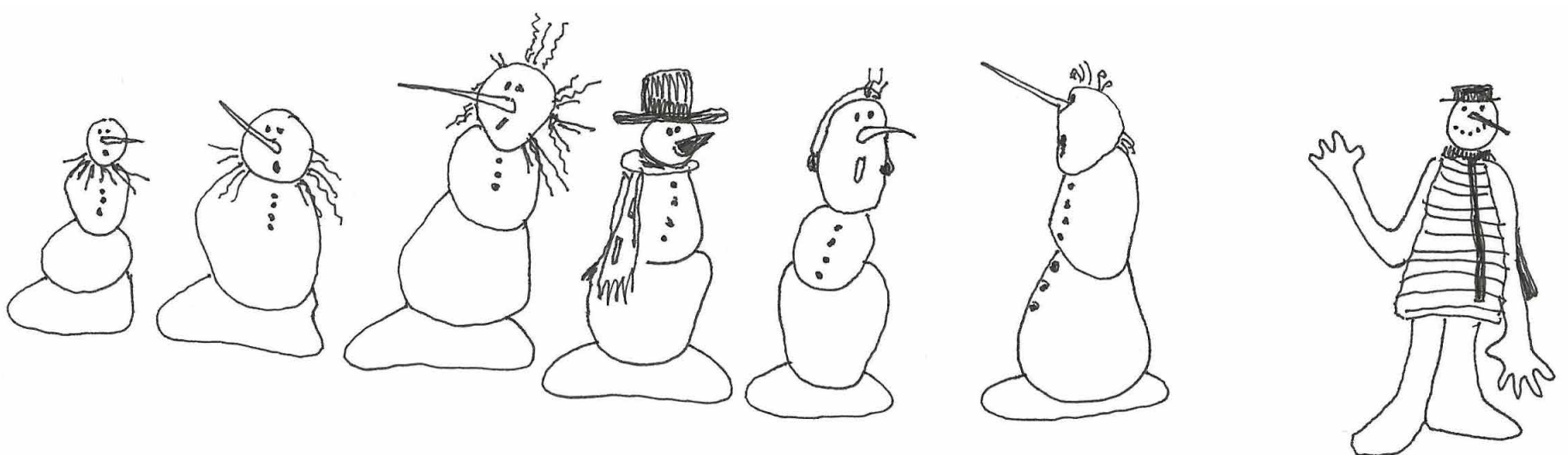
One of the primary contributors to winter comfort in a vehicle is the heating system. Most modern vehicles come equipped with an efficient heating system that utilizes the engine's warmth. The engine produces heat during operation, and a portion of this heat is diverted to the vehicle's interior through the heating system. This can be adjusted using the climate control settings, allowing occupants to set their preferred temperature. Additionally, some vehicles feature heated seats, which provide a direct source of warmth and comfort during colder months. The insulation and sealing of a vehicle's cabin also play a crucial role in keeping the interior warm. Well-insulated windows and doors prevent cold air from infiltrating the cabin and help retain the heat generated by the heating system. Properly functioning weather stripping around doors and windows is essential to eliminate drafts and maintain a consistent temperature inside the vehicle. Regular maintenance checks to ensure the integrity of these seals contribute significantly to winter comfort.

In addition to these features, advancements in technology have introduced remote start systems to many vehicles. This allows drivers to start their vehicles from a distance, warming up the engine and cabin before stepping inside. Remote start systems are particularly beneficial in extremely cold climates, providing a toasty interior and defrosting the windows, reducing the time occupants spend in a cold vehicle.

Properly functioning defrosting and defogging systems are essential for maintaining visibility and comfort during winter driving. These systems use both the vehicle's heater and air conditioning systems to clear frost and condensation from the windows, ensuring a clear line of sight for the driver. In addition to enhancing safety, efficient defrosting and defogging contribute to the overall comfort of the occupants.

A combination of heating and air conditioning systems, insulation, and technological advancements work together to keep you warm and comfortable inside your vehicle during the winter months. Regular maintenance checks and attention to these features can go a long way in ensuring a cozy and enjoyable driving experience, even when the temperatures outside plummet. Whether it's the warmth emanating from heated seats or the reliability of a well-maintained heating system, these features make winter driving a more comfortable and inviting endeavor.

As always, if you have any vehicle service needs, and do not have a regular automotive service provider, Robinwood Automotive would be honored to provide your automotive service needs. Sending everyone Warm Wishes for a Joyous and Prosperous New Year!



Digital Ferguson - Consider A Thermostat Upgrade for Energy Savings

by David Pickens

If you're like me, you're just beginning to feel that financial pinch caused by putting presents on the children and grandchildren and generally spreading holiday cheer all over the place. So here are some ideas for saving some money this year by reducing your home or business energy use.

Depending upon your situation and habits, upgrading your thermostat to either a programmable or a smart thermostat can be one of the easiest ways to start capturing major energy savings. Your typical standard thermostat is beautifully simple – you manually set the temperature and the device keeps the temperature right where you left it. A programmable thermostat will let you set up specific periods for each day of the week in which you want a specific temperature. For example in Winter you can program a cool temp during the day while you work, have the temperature warm up before you arrive home, and later automatically lower the temp back down at night.

Of course for extra super savings you could be like my Dad and just turn the heat on low during the day and then completely off at night and have everyone wake up to icicles on the windows and freezing floors so who needs any of this anyway? But I digress.

A smart thermostat is also a programmable thermostat but it takes things another step upwards and lets you connect to your thermostat remotely over the Internet using your mobile smart phone. I once had a boss who had me set up his entire factory floor using smart thermostats so he could control the heat settings and prevent anyone from messing with them. Yes he was a bit of a control freak. Why do you ask?

But the thing is, these devices give you remote control. And who among us hasn't headed off on a trip for a weekend and wondered if we left the AC on super low cooling down a basically empty house?

In a business situation upgrading to a programmable or smart thermostat is basically a no-brainer, most especially if you have regular hours in which the building requires heating and cooling and is otherwise unoccupied. In a similar way if your household is unoccupied during the daytime while all members work and / or attend school this is another situation where one of these devices is going to help you save tremendously on energy because it's just so easy to forget changing the heat (or cooling) setting when you leave.

Ameren suggests that an average household can expect to save between 10% - 12% on Winter heating costs and around 15% on Summer cooling costs with one of these thermostats. Both types of devices will help you save serious money. The smart thermostat will definitely be more expensive and complex to set up but again you'll have that remote control ability. And who among us has not wanted to conduct thermostat warfare from thirty miles away, eh?

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.



Get out your colored pencils. This is the continuation of a coloring book from Phil Berwick

MERFERD and The TREE TOONS
Merferd Colors the World "
 A graphic story coloring strip for all ages
 By Wendell Phillips Berwick

TREE SAP ROSE.
 MUSIC PLAYED.
 AND THE WOODS SHUFFLED

THEY BECAME KNOWN AS THE
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Don't get lost in the Treetoon woods!
 Catch up with the back issues
 Of the story at www.Merferd.Com

Financial Focus – Pay Noe Buy Later?

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)

Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

Last month I was discussing borrowing which is often thought of as “buy now pay later.” In many instances it is a good idea to borrow and in some cases depending on the purchase it might be the only way. Consider a large purchase like a home. Without a mortgage most people would never be able to afford a home. Another type of borrowing for things to have now and pay for over time is the use of a credit card and that has gotten some people into trouble since it took off about fifty years ago. This month we’ll be looking at another new trend that seems like a version of “pay now, buy later.” And like a credit card transaction it can also help you part with some of your hard earned money, except in this case you will spend the funds ahead of time to protect yourself from a big expense later. It does sound like a good idea, but it could be a poor investment over time. And calling it an investment is probably not the correct term, it’s really more like insurance. It seems like this business model has really taken off in the past twenty years or less. Preparing for the inevitable repairs possibly needed in the future, we could purchase a home warranty plan to relieve us of the worry that we’ll have to shell out a lot of money for repairs in the future. As suggested in some previous columns it seems like I could be better off just putting the amount I will spend for protection into a savings account and to be prepared for emergencies.

These types of businesses seem to be having a boom right now. You can protect your phone, your car and pretty much any large purchase. For some situations this could be a good deal. Part of this “pay now buy later” mentality seems to come from the fact that most people don’t bother to fix things it is almost easier to just throw it away and buy new. And today many things are unrepairable or too costly to fix, they are made to be discarded after use. This is frustrating in many ways. From an ecological standpoint, we find that getting rid of our trash is becoming more difficult and some of it like old computers and cell phones shouldn’t really go in a landfill. So one of the most important things to consider if you are looking at getting a warranty plan is reviewing your needs and comparing them to what the product offers. If you have fairly new appliances that may still have warranties, better to use those free warranties. Also, if you are the kind of person who takes care of things and keeps them in good repair, your concerns about needing this type of plan may be unfounded. Understanding exactly what a plan covers is extremely important. Also, consider if the coverage helps with the purchase of new replacement appliances or does it only cover repairs. If you did need to replace an HVAC system and wanted to do it with a better and more efficient model, you’ll likely need to pay a portion. So it isn’t likely that you will never worry again about home repairs, hopefully you’ll worry less.

While home and car repairs may be the best examples of this type of preventative care, it does seem like we are being offered extra warranties all the time today. As I mentioned earlier, you may be the kind of person that does exactly what the owner’s manual says. I bought a new dryer a few years ago and it doesn’t have a vent to go outside. So at least once a month I need to clean out a part of the vent not cleaned out with each load. I do it diligently knowing that if I don’t chances of having a problem down the road are more likely. We’ve all heard of a young person just out on their own for the first time finding out after a small fire that cleaning out the lint trap of your dryer is important. And when it comes to cars, many young people never learned about oil changes leading to major damage to their vehicle. So if you are a parent please do your children a favor and teach them many of the mundane things you do to maintain your home and vehicle.

So how much does a family need to spend on protection? No one wants to be burdened with an unexpected expense and as we see on ads it is inevitable that we will experience it. The real question is how much it will cost to pay up front for things that haven’t happened yet. From what

I have seen a typical home warranty plan could cost about \$600 per year. Understanding the limits of the plans can help you decide if it is worth the cost. Things to consider may be the age of your home. If you just bought a newly built home it is unlikely you would need to purchase a home warranty. The builder would likely give a warranty on the major systems and structure of the home. While it may not cover a washer and dryer, it covers the most important parts. And you likely have a warranty on those appliances that came when they were purchased. So chances are buying a home warranty would not be wise in this situation. If you have an older home and older appliances, you should do some comparison shopping before deciding if this is best for you.

As with any contract read the fine print. Are there coverage limits per year? How much will each service call cost? Usually you will need to pay those out of pocket. Where do they find their trusted professionals to help? What if you want to replace the item and the recommendation is to fix it – how much input do you have? And in that fine print what does it say about a problem caused by lack of or improper maintenance. Will the warranty company want verification that you did your part to keep your equipment in good repair? If you don’t have evidence of that could they deny your claim? These are the important points to think about.

And while pondering on the best solution for your needs, remember there are other options. Starting that emergency fund and keeping it going with regular deposits could be the answer. And if you do decide you need a warranty plan take your time in choosing the right one. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at cleav73@gmail.com.

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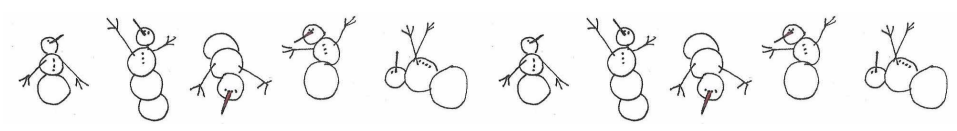
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TUES.-FRI. 11A-5P
SAT. 11A-4P

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EarthDance Organic Farm School

Ferguson-based Organic Teaching Farm to Offer a Paid, Full-Season Farm Apprenticeship in 2024 - Apply by January 15th!

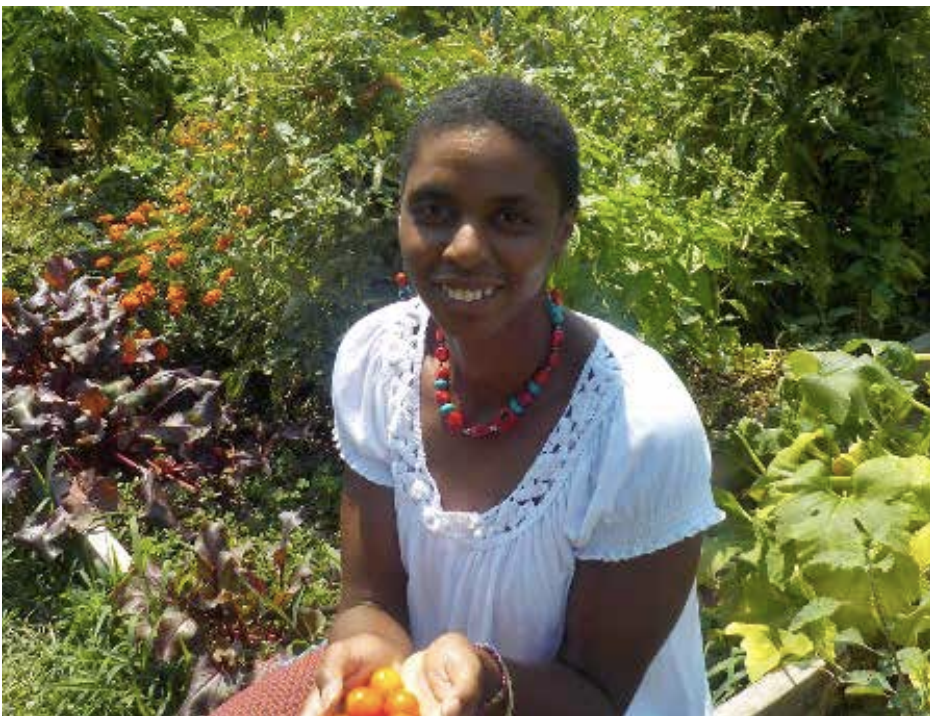
In 2024, EarthDance Organic Farm School will offer TWO apprenticeship opportunities, plus Spring Training for Gardeners, right here in Ferguson.

First up, the teaching farm is accepting applications right now for our Full Season Farm Apprenticeship! EarthDance is offering a **paid, 10-month** farming apprenticeship, **30 hours per week, starting Feb 29th!**

Since 2009, teaching people to grow food in a hands-on, community-based way has been at the heart of our work. Our oldest and flagship program, there are more than 450 apprenticeship graduates, with these outcomes:

- 96% continue to grow food
- 87% grow food to share with their families
- 76% grow food to share with their community
- 61% volunteer their time on other agricultural projects
- 57% train others in food production
- 26% earn income farming

Members of the EarthDance team say they are awe-inspired by each apprenticeship graduate, many of whom are growing food ecologically and advancing food justice in communities near and far. Just a few of them include:



EarthDance Apprenticeship Alumna Reggae Singleton grows food for her family and her community. Reggae Singleton, Class of 2013. Reggae grows food in her yard and several vacant lots in The Ville, in north St. Louis City. She grows and shares food with her family and neighbors, sometimes selling the surplus. “This year, we transitioned to eating something we have grown in every meal, even breakfast,” she said. “I had wished to be at this point long ago. But I am grateful that we made it. We have also been able to repeatedly offer food to four other families! I am pleased to be a sustaining member of a small community. We do a harvest share every week or every other week depending on what’s out there.”

Ro Kicker, Class of 2020. Since the apprenticeship, Ro has worked as the Farm Manager with Urban Harvest STL. Ro grows and harvests thousands of pounds of food for a free farmers market for Rung for Women clients. Ro also teaches people to grow food. They have a new business called Ro’s Wiggler’s aimed at bringing the joy and benefits of vermicomposting (using worms to create compost) to gardeners and plant parents. They also run the Feed the People Garden Project and founded Queers in the Garden, a regularly occurring Feed the People community event. Ro says, “The examples I could give of



the ripple effect I have been able to create in our community as a result of what I learned during the EarthDance apprenticeship are endless.”

Jake Smith, Class of 2013. Jake discovered his green thumbs during his apprenticeship at EarthDance, and after first visiting the Seeds of Hope Community Farm in Spanish Lake, went on to work at and then manage the farm. After several years there, he is now embarking on a new urban farming project called South Side Farm in his hometown of Cape Girardeau, focused on healthy food access and job opportunities. Jake says he definitely wouldn’t be farming today were it not for EarthDance.



EarthDance Apprenticeship Alum Jake Smith teaches people to grow food on a non-profit teaching and production

Jennifer Buehrer, Class of 2019. Jennifer’s participation in the EarthDance Apprenticeship lit a farming spark in her that led to a post-retirement career change. She met her business partner Angela at the Greg Judy Grazing School and they decided to join forces and start a grazing operation together in Grafton, Illinois. Their business model is to ethically raise grass fed and finished goat, sheep, and cattle – to rotationally graze in a regenerative manner that will sequester carbon and restore soils.



Apprenticeship alum Jennifer Buehrer (left) with her business partner Angela is ethically raising livestock to provide food for her community.

There are only 2 Full Season Farm Apprenticeship spots available, so this is anticipated to be a highly competitive program. While previous farming experience is not necessary, some growing experience and exploration into these topics before the apprenticeship is helpful. **We are looking for individuals who are serious about exploring a career in agriculture.**

By the end of the Full Season Farm Apprenticeship, participants will be equipped with the knowledge and skill set to work entry level positions in the agricultural industry and or start a small-scale food production operation like a community or school garden.

Scan the QR Code in our ad or visit our website at www.earthdancefarms.org to learn more about the Full Season Farm Apprenticeship. Applications are due by January 15, 2024.

And, stay tuned for more information on both Spring Training for Gardeners, which will take place in March & April, and the Summer Farm & Garden Apprenticeship!

Apprenticeship Alumni Ro Kicker (in green shirt) teaches people to grow food and loves to share their knowledge about and passion for vermiculture.

Crossword Solution from page 4

1	L	A	T		4	B	A	U	M		8	P	A	N	N	E	D		
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58	S	A	R	I		59	O	R	A	T	E		60	K	E	L	P		
		62	D	I	S	H	W	A	S	H	E	R		64	T	E	E		
65	M	E	T	H			66	M	E		67	D	E	N	S	E	R		



Advocate of the Year

The Ferguson Human Rights Commission presented Blessed Teresa of Calcutta (BTC) with an “Advocate of the Year” award at the Tuesday, December 12th City Council meeting.

The Advocate of the Year award recognizes the contribution of BTC to human rights through our St. Vincent DePaul, food pantries, school, and justice outreach in the community. Deacon Al Love accepted on behalf of the parish.

BTC students/parishioners Ava Weyrauch and Matthew Knapp also received the Advocate of the Year award for raising over \$600 through their lemonade stand in support of the canine unit of the Ferguson Police Department.



2024 Apprenticeship participants will work closely with our farm team for 10 months, learning the full scope of the growing season’s work.



Farmer Will and 2023 Summer Apprentice Zoey tend to the produce and customers at the Ferguson Farmers Market.

2023 Summer Apprentices get a transplanting lesson with Farmer Jena.



2023 Summer Apprentices Cassidy & Joe get a kohlrabi packing lesson from Farmer Jo.



2023 Summer Apprentices Group Photo in Front of the Farm Stand.

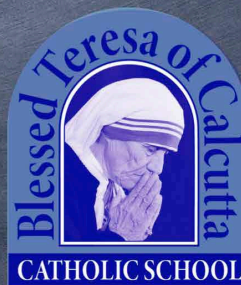
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Open House
January 28th - 12pm-2pm

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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 or become a member. Contact information is at the bottom of this article.



First: We want to thank all who visited our open house on Saturday, December 2nd. If you happened to miss the event, we will notify you of future events in this article.

Last month we featured some holiday stories by an early Ferguson resident, Edward G. Cherbonnier. As the new year begins, we will move away from our early resident memories to the history of railroading – not the railroading of the big guys – not even of the North Missouri Railroad (later to become the Wabash) which figures importantly in the History of Ferguson. This railway was a narrow-gauge (meaning that the tracks were more narrow and lighter than that of the heavier locomotives of the BIG guys). It did not run across the state or the country, it ran only 16 miles. It was not designed to carry freight, it was designed to carry people – originally wealthy St. Louisians from their city homes to their country homes in St. Louis County. In this case, North County.

In the 1870's one must remember that local transportation was by foot or by horse – on dirt roads if an actual road really existed. By the mid 1870's, Dr. Erastus Wells and James Page, of St. Louis, desired to create a rail system to take them from their city homes out to their country homes in North St. Louis County. They were eventually joined by a number of other wealthy investors and created the St. Louis Narrow-Gauge Railroad. The railroad, with the permission of landowners, laid down track going past many of the investor's homes as it passed through St. Louis City. Once in the county, it had stops at designated places, often early county cities such as Bridgeton, Normandy, Kinloch and eventually Florissant (the terminus). Ferguson is missing as Ferguson did not become a city until 1894. The North Missouri Railroad was already going through what was then called Ferguson Station since the 1860's.

Rail service began on October 1, 1878. It ran 4 trains a day from 7:00 AM to 6:30 PM. The train would travel to either St. Louis or Florissant, use a turntable to turn the engine around and head back. The trip took around an hour. Naturally, these wealthy residents did not have this train all by themselves as this became a valuable transportation for all people. The fare was 3-cents per mile traveled. So, a trip from St. Louis to Florissant would cost 48-cents (not cheap at that time).

where the stops were). Follow the map to Lake Ramona and you will see “Ferguson Junction”. If you lived in the Ferguson area, you had several stops from which to choose.

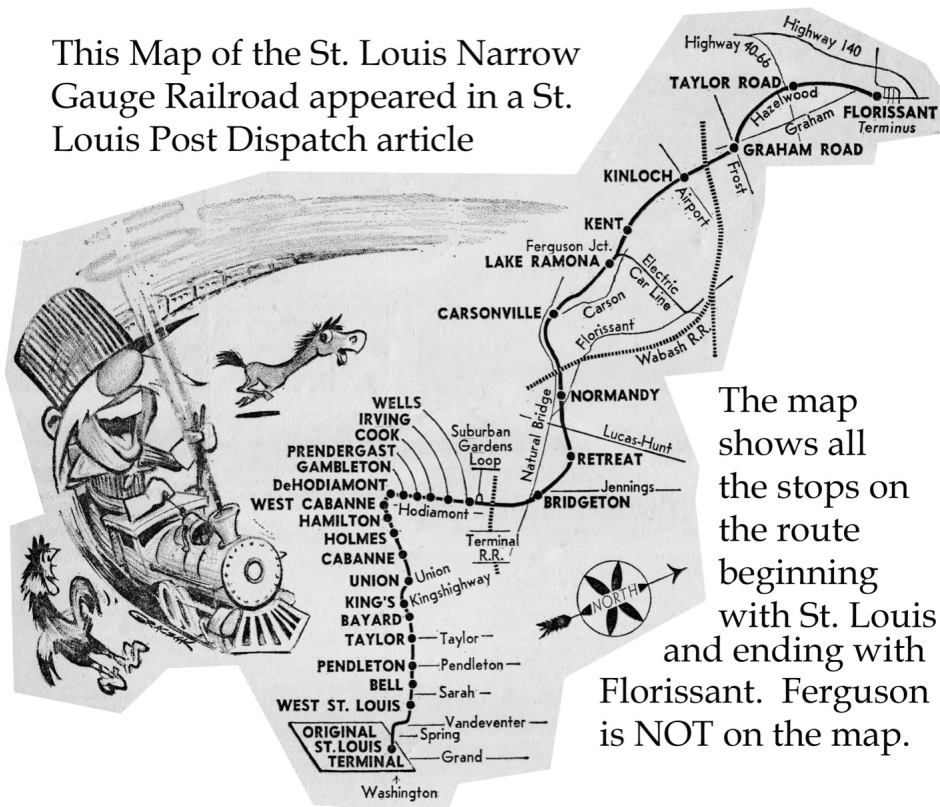
Initially the railroad used steam locomotives but by 1892 it was converted to electricity. In an interview with an Elizabeth Russel (Missouri Historical Society), Russel said, “the train consisted of a small steam engine, a smoking car (for men only) and several small coaches.” “The plush seats were red and had reversible backs”. She also talks of the wonderful things that city kids would see in the countryside as they traveled St. Louis County. The railway shut down in 1931 during the Depression – but actual service continued as the St. Louis and Suburban Railway Company converted the tracks to standard gauge and ran what became known as the Hodiamont Line streetcar service. This service continued until 1969 and was the last streetcar service in St. Louis (until the Delmar Loop – maybe).

There is still a relic of the St. Louis Narrow Gauge Railroad. The old train station in Florissant is still there, although in a different location than its original site on St. Ferdinand between Washington and St. Catherine. In 1971 it was removed, restored and now is located in the Tower Court Park at Washington and Florissant Road. A book “Rail, Mail and Dreams”, written by Rosemary Davidson was published. Research shows that the book is no longer available. Historic Florissant Inc. may have additional photos and documents for those of you interested in further investigation.



These Stories come from documents in the Ferguson Historical Society archives, along with an article from the Independent News (10 Nov 2023) and www.waymarking.com/WMC2R.

This Map of the St. Louis Narrow Gauge Railroad appeared in a St. Louis Post Dispatch article



The map shows all the stops on the route beginning with St. Louis and ending with Florissant. Ferguson is NOT on the map.

Membership in the Ferguson Historical Society is open to anyone – the price is \$20.00 to \$50.00 a year. If you are interested in joining or 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 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.”



The graphic above shows all the stops along the 16-mile route. The St. Louis City stops were mainly the homes of wealthy citizens with name we recognize on streets in St. Louis (Taylor, Cabanne, Hodiamont, etc.). Streets and places in smaller type are current locations to give an idea of

FERGUSON TWILIGHT RUN

5K★10K
1-MILE FUN RUN

For Timely Release – Dec. 14, 2023

Is Ferguson Twilight Run on your 2024 calendar?

Ferguson, MO - Circle the date on your 2024 calendar – the 15th annual Ferguson Twilight Run is Saturday, May 18. Runners and walkers of all abilities will enjoy one-mile, 5K (3.1 miles) and 10K (6.2 miles) distances on routes that are USATF-certified by Big River Running Company.

“Fifteen years of running, walking and encouraging fun and fitness is proof that our community really does support Ferguson Twilight Run,” said Dwayne T. James, race director.

“It’s a time to have fun, to cheer for people who are giving it their all to achieve physical and personal goals, to gather with family and friends, listen to live music, enjoy local businesses and demonstrate the spirit of what it means to be a community.”

Register to Run, Walk

As you’re planning your fitness goals for 2024, be sure to register for Ferguson Twilight Run at fergtwilightrun.com. You can sign up as an individual, create a team, join an existing team, or be a virtual participant.

- The race starts and finishes at Plaza at 501 at the intersection of Florissant Road and Suburban Avenue.
- Participants will receive a T-shirt and finisher medal; age-group winners will receive customized awards.
- Baby joggers/strollers and service dogs are welcome on the course, but pets must stay at home.
- Want more details? Follow Ferguson Twilight Run on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube to keep up to date on details and information such as course routes, street closures, packet pick up, registration promotions, announcements and more.



Donnie White Sr. Memorial Beneficiary Award

Ferguson Twilight Run donates proceeds to nonprofits in North St. Louis County through the Donnie White Sr. Memorial Beneficiary Award. Over the last 15 years, more than \$106,000 has supported a host of programs and services focused on impacting positive, healthy outcomes. In 2023, the beneficiaries included Girls on the Run St. Louis Ferguson-Florissant Schools, Strength and Honor Mentoring & Tutoring, EarthDance Farm and Emerson Family YMCA.

Become a Sponsor or Vendor

There are many opportunities for area businesses, community organizations, family groups and individuals to support Ferguson Twilight Run as a sponsor or vendor. Learn more about sponsorship levels at fergtwilightrun.com under the Sponsor and Volunteer tab.

History

Ferguson Twilight Run debuted in May 2010 as the first evening race in North St. Louis County. 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.

CONTACTS

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

THE DAY TURK PIERCE GOT RELIGION

By Michael Pierce

Turk was my dad’s uncle. His name was actually Earnest. Nobody was ever sure of how he got his nickname.

Turk, his wife Jackie, their daughter Frankie Sue, and their son Danny Ray attended the same church we attended in my dad’s hometown in Arkansas. The land where the church stands had been donated as the site for the church many years ago. My ancestors were honored by having the church cemetery named Pierce Cemetery.

One year we had a revival. In Southern Baptist vernacular, that’s when you borrow another Southern Baptist preacher from another Southern Baptist church (preferably from out of state, so you can listen to some new material), and listen to him present his personal version of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost for about a week. Your regular preacher provides him with food and shelter for the week, so he lives in the parsonage and eats lots of fried chicken.

The last day of the revival finally came on a Sunday not long after July 4th. Turk was in his usual spot, in the next to last row, (he refused to be a back row Baptist), resting his head on his arm on the pew in front of him. Jackie was in her spot in the choir loft. She liked it because she could sing and keep an eye on Turk. Danny Ray and I were sitting behind Turk. The service was almost over. The final hymn (When We All Get to Heaven) was being vocalized by the choir and the congregation.

It was at this point that Danny Ray pulled out a small firecracker and a cigarette lighter. He stuck the firecracker just far enough into his dad’s back pocket that most of the BANG would be muffled, but the concussion of the explosion would still be felt by Turk. He lit the firecracker.

About five seconds later there was muffled bang. Turk jumped up and started waving his arms, hollering, and dancing around. Everyone was excited. Turk finally got the Holy Ghost!

Jackie was not happy. She was staring daggers through me and her son. Same with my mom. Dad was trying hard not to laugh.

Things were back to normal the next Sunday. Turk slept, Jackie sang, Danny Ray sat in the back row, and mom made me sit between her and dad, next to my little brother.

Out of that particular group of folks my brother and I are the only ones left. Turk and Jackie had previously lost their daughter, Frankie Sue, to a devastating tornado on May 15, 1968. She left behind a husband and a young son. She was 27 years old. Her husband never remarried.

Turk took his own life in 1981, decades of alcoholism and depression finally catching up to him.

Jackie passed in 2013, two years after Danny Ray’s passing in 2011. Her heart was broken.

And I make sure these folks are still remembered.



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