

Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

SINCE NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

Melissa Etheridge assists Dellwood R&R Marketplace fundraiser

by Rob Tayloe

During the late afternoon on March 02, 2024, about 80 people had the pleasure of seeing and hearing the Grammy-award winning Melissa Etheridge, as she came to the north side of St. Louis county, to assist in fundraising to revise a former shopping center into a new magical facility, that currently has a bank, spaces for your offices to rent, a rehab center, a training center, a Cathy's Kitchen To-Go, a child care center, and eventually a black-box theatre... all thanks to the hearts and visions of such as Cathy's Kitchen Restaurant & Diner's owner Cathy Lucas Jenkins, her husband Jerome, and so many other wonderful people here.

I love this area, and as my dad & his brothers & sister were raised in Berkeley, and then me in St. Ann, and I now live in Ferguson, I've a high affinity for this area... and such as this development is simply grand, there is much to be proud of in our area.

As Melissa stated herself during this wonderful event: "This is the sort of thing that changes communities. This is not a band-aid. This is not just teaching someone to fish. This is teaching them to own the fish market."

Thanks much to Cathy, Jerome, Melissa, and EVERYONE ELSE involved in this development, that is yet another step forward for OUR community!



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SPRING PLANT SALE & PAY WHAT YOU CAN FARM STAND SEASON REOPENING

PLANT SALE New this year: the Plant Sale is on the Farm!
 Friday, May 3rd, 3-6pm Meet and chat with our farmers IN PERSON while you shop!
 Saturday, May 4th, 9am-1pm Most starts in the Plant Sale are \$4/species.
 Sunday, May 5th, 11am-3pm Customers may use card, cash, or SNAP/EBT to purchase all edible starts (SNAP/EBT are non-eligible for flowers).

FARM STAND EarthDance offers organically grown fruits, herbs, and vegetables for sale on a Pay What You Can basis. Customers choose the price of their purchase based on what is affordable for them.
OPENING WEEKEND Or donate to support healthy food access for all!
 Friday, May 3rd, 3-6pm Open May - November, Fridays 3-6pm and Sundays 11am-3pm.
 Sunday, May 5th, 11am-3pm Stay tuned for a calendar of Farm Stand events!

233 S. Dade Ave, Ferguson MO | 314-521-2006 | www.earthdancefarms.org



April News and Events at the Ferguson Public Library

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

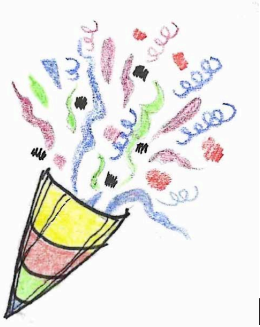
Children and Teen Events	
Stories and Songs for Little Ones Join us for storytime! Ages 0-5. Wednesdays at 10 am Saturday, Apr. 6 at 10 am	Lego Club Drop in and build a masterpiece with our Lego bricks! Ages 6-11. Saturday, Apr. 20 at 2 pm
Rainforest Life Sciences The rainforest is amazing! Learn more with us and some hands on activities. Monday, Apr. 22 at 5:30 pm	Rainforest Art Make a rainforest watercolor while we learn how to save the rainforest! Thursday, Apr. 25 at 5:30 pm
Adult Events	
Readings on Race Book Club We will discuss chapters 7-12 of <i>The Righteous Mind</i> by Jonathan Haidt. Monday, Apr. 8 at 6 pm	Conversations and Coffee Enjoy a discussion of all the latest news over refreshments! Tuesday, Apr. 9 at 6 pm
National Scrabble Day Celebrate everyone's favorite word game with us! Saturday, Apr. 13 at 1 pm	Good Mental Health Learn how to stay in good spirits at this month's Topics in Health! Tuesday, Apr. 16 at 6 pm
All Ages Events	
Bicycle Maintenance Learn how to keep your bike in good shape! Register - bit.ly/fmplbike24 Thursday, Apr. 4 at 6	Eclipse Overview The solar eclipse is almost here! Learn where you can go to see the eclipse, how to safely watch it, and more. Saturday, Apr. 6 at 1
FLIERS Spring Book Sale Come stock your shelves for spring! Thursday, Apr. 18: 4-7:30 Friday, Apr. 19: 12-5:30 Saturday, Apr. 20: 9-3	April Craft Kits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apr. 1-6: Pinhole Projector • Apr. 15-20: Flextanglers • Apr. 29 - May 4: Jeweled Suncatcher
Cultural Cuisine Join us as we explore foods and ingredients that show up across traditions! Register - bit.ly/fmplcultural23 Wednesday, Apr. 24 at 6	Fix-a-Flat Clinic Does your bike have a flat tire? Learn how to repair it so you can keep riding! Register - bit.ly/fmplflat24 Tuesday, Apr. 30 at 6

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

April Celebration Shout-outs



1 Happy Birthday Leslie Reed
 13 Happy Birthday Papa Deau
 27 Happy Birthday Peter Nadeau



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

April at a Glance



- 1 April Fools Day
- 2 Jeske Park Neighborhood Meeting 7PM
- 5 Forestwood Neighborhood Meeting 7pm
- 8 North Elizabeth Neighborhood Meeting 7PM
- 9 Eid al-Fitr
- 15 Tax Day
- 18 West Neighborhood Meeting 6PM
- 18 - 20 FLIERS April Book Sale (see ad)
- 20 NorthHills Neighborhood Meeting 10AM
- 20 Last Indoor Winter Farmers Market 9 - Noon
- 22 Earth Day & Passover
- 22 South West Neighborhood Meeting 6PM
- 25 South Central Neighborhood Meeting 6PM
- 25 Ferguson Woods Neighborhood Meeting 7PM

FLIERS APRIL BOOK SALE

Thu, Apr 18: 4-7:30
 Fri, Apr 19: NOON-5:30
 Sat, Apr 20: 9-3:00

Extra categories include vintage sheet music, lots of biographies, more theater books

Ferguson Municipal Public Library
 35 N. Florissant Road, Ferguson, MO 63135

For info, call (314) 521-4663



LAST INDOOR WINTER FARMERS MARKET
for the season
April 20, 9am-12pm
Produce, baked goods, meat, eggs, hot food, free coffee, live music!
 St. Stephen's Church, 33 N. Clay

PRAY FOR PEACE

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 - 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
 - Elicuios Restaurant
 - The Hive Cafe

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 Amherst New York - April 3 - 7 2024
 Peter Nadeau - Defense

The Ferguson Newspaper Group may be reached

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 Please send all ads to Gary: asroc873@charter.net

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- 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

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Give a congratulatory shout out for only \$5

Swing For Tomorrow's Stars

By Rob Tayloe

On February 22, 2024 an event titled "Swing For Tomorrow's Stars" was held to raise funds and assist sharing the work that the Jazz St. Louis organization has done, and continues to support the jazz academy along with engagement programs for school kids at the Chase Park Plaza's Khorassan Ballroom. The event reportedly raised over \$500K!



St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones was in attendance presenting plaques to both Marsalis brothers and to David Sanborn, the latter also receiving the inaugural "Steward Center Lifetime Achievement Award".

As a finale, our local Saint Boogie Brass Band shared their music as a "spontaneous" parade from the main stage out into the hotel lobby.



The Marsalis Brothers
Wynton (clarinet) and Branford (trumpet)



Brothers Wynton and Branford Marsalis, Wynton (sax), Branford (trumpet) along with Dan Zimmer (piano), Victor Goines (also on saxophone), Carlos Henriquez (upright bass), and Obed Calvaire (drums)



Joe Torry - St. Louis born comedian / actor sharing his humor



David Sanborn - St. Louis born saxophone musician sitting on chair receiving awards

Photography by Rob Tayloe

Your Vote Still Matters

"You can't love your county only when you win."

-President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. State of the Union Address 2024

Voting is one of the most important acts that a citizen of the United States can do; it is more than an honor and privilege, it is our moral obligation. Many, many men and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice giving their lives for all of us to have the freedom to vote.

As I contemplate the upcoming municipal election the Voting Rights Act of 1965 weighs heavily on my mind.

"The Voting Rights Act of 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, aimed to overcome legal barriers at the state and local levels that prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote as guaranteed under the 15th Amendment to the United States constitution. The Voting Rights Act is considered one the most far-reaching pieces of civil right legislation in the U.S. history." -Rock the Vote

Far too often some of us take voting for granted, dismiss the opportunity to vote, and even think our vote doesn't matter. Your vote matters because each citizen has the right to cast their vote for a candidate and or ballot measure of their choice. We have seen in the last presidential election that your vote matters. It becomes very important that each voter, young or older, educate themselves on the candidates and the issues on the ballot.

Historically, citizens believe that the most important election in this county is the presidential election. Yes, it is important, however, we should not by pass the state and local elections. The local elections effect the quality of life of all the citizens in the community. The local elections determine several of your local taxes including utility taxes, property taxes, economic development sales taxes and more.

Local elections determine which candidate will lead your local government. What matters most to you? The council members who are running in this election will set the tone and course, direction of our community.

March is Women's History Month. Women have always championed the right to vote. Two women stand out to me. When we closely examine the life of Sojourner Truth it is easy to recognize her passion for women's rights. She was a women's rights activist and an inspirational leader in Black history. Truth delivered a now famous speech at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, 1851, that has become to be known as "Ain't I a Woman?" The delegates to the 1851 convention were being challenged to demand that women have the right to vote. Truth's fiery words were an attempt to persuade the audience to do just that.

Another courageous woman, Eleanor Roosevelt a diplomat, humanitarian and First Lady, took the Kennedy administration to task for its lack of women in federal appointments. She was also a board member of the New York State League of Women Voters and directed the League's national-legislation committee.

To all candidates if you win or lose it is a common curiosity to congratulate the winner. By doing so you are supporting the concepts that we have one community and no factions. When you don't congratulate the winner, you are harboring ill feelings and you are stuck and can't move forward for the good of the community. It sends a negative message to the community and breaks the cohesiveness.

These women and countless others have helped us understand the power of voting. On April, 2nd please exercise your right to vote. Your Vote Still Matters.

Connecting,
Mayor Ella M. Jones

CROSSWORD

“An Eventful Year”

By Robin Shively

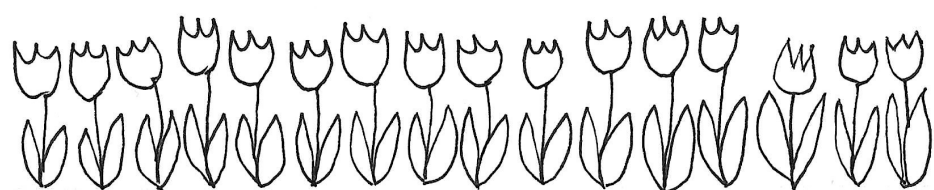
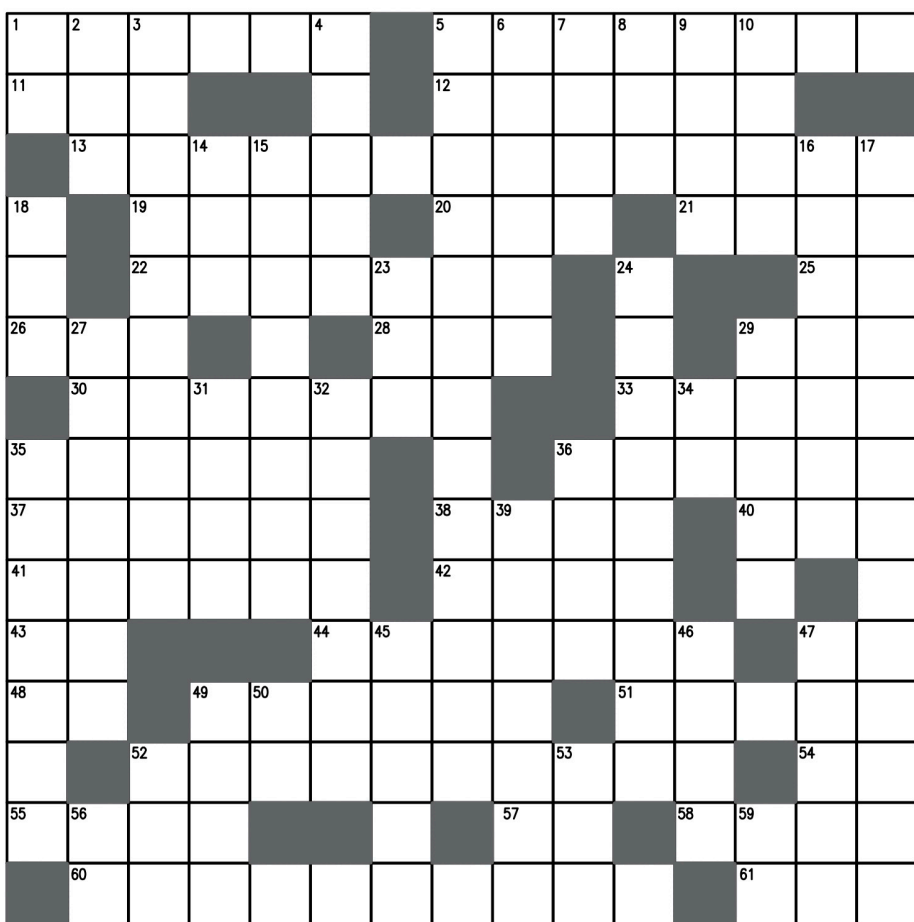
ACROSS

1. Street stone
5. Bit of light in the sky
11. It may be barred
12. Absence of sight
13. Aurora borealis
19. Salmon
20. May be taken by tsp.
21. Star Trek officer
22. M. C. at 12th Street & Vine?
25. Architect Pei
26. Corduroy and Rip Van Winkle are known for it
28. Gov. agency
29. Reverse alphabet linkup
30. Don't rain on them
33. Watch too many old Friends?
35. Address for Pete of baseball
36. Filled oblong pastry
37. Farmers do it to crops
38. Waterloo group
40. Business owner's I.R.S. reduction
41. Auto arachnid
42. Raise
43. M.D. alternative
44. Clefairy or Raichu
47. O.R. staff member
48. “__ You Like It”
49. Maker of electric scooters
51. Spock advocates it
52. Road celebration?
54. H.S. class
55. Juan's greeting
57. Atop
58. Grammy Best New Artist winner Bon __
60. Independence Day
61. Food scrap

DOWN

1. Jefferson or Madison
2. Possess
3. Ice house get together?
4. Cultural customs
5. Where one may buy fresh produce
6. They lie within the outers
7. __ Gold snacks
8. Anti-swell pen
9. Goes crazy (with “out”)
10. Waikiki locale
14. Mythical bird
15. 2013-2015 T.V. cooking competition show
16. Pacific northwest natives
17. Warm weather recital
18. Pale
23. Hurry
24. Channing & Burnett at the tavern?
27. Pertinent
29. Live
31. Paul's long and winding one
32. Venison pastry?
34. MO's neighbor
35. Fast seasoning brand?
36. Online banking serv.
39. “__ my horses”, Toby's request
45. Gentry's “__ Billy Joe”
46. Response to the Little Red Hen
47. More mature
49. And others
50. BNSF or CB&Q
52. StL school founded in 1818
53. Nose M.D.
55. The glove did not fit him
59. Whiskey brand

Solution on page 13



ITS OUR TURN

By Dr. Larry Brown

With all the negative things that our communities are experiencing on the international front as well as the national and local scene, there is plenty of room and a real need for us, as citizens and caring individuals, to become involved in as many rescue efforts as possible and not wait for others to address the issues or do nothing, thinking the issue will pass.

We are alive now, and it is up to us to make this the best possible world for us to live in. That is why we are still alive- to make a contribution of some kind.

There are so many issues that are affecting us negatively, that it shouldn't be too difficult to pick one to try and help solve.

Many of us have been content to observe from the sidelines, but what we have seen are certain situations growing worse.

It causes us to question where this world is going. We must take part NOW in addressing these issues, in order for them to have a positive outcome.

Some of us have wanted to become involved but are afraid that we might somehow be affected negatively. so we just observe the undesirable and maybe comment on the issue, but stay on the sidelines as an observer or commentator.

We have observed many times that things worsen rather than improve, but often we don't know why because we have not involved ourselves to the extent that we understand all or most of the issues affecting the situation. Therefore, we don't know what needs to be done.

It is terrible for us to have to look back on our inactivity and be forced to say reluctantly, “ I should have, or I would have, or I am sorry that I didn't “ It often is too late at that point!

We may choose our issue and how to become involved so that our fears of involvement are removed .At least then we can participate in some way, rather than have things occur to our dissatisfaction, but inability to do anything about things.

You may discover that by actively participating, you may feel better, even if you are unable to change the situation or “win “ as we know it. At least you can say that you tried or you may obtain a better understanding of the situation or condition. You may even gain some insight on what may need to happen in the future to eliminate or correct the negative situation or condition from reoccurring.

We seem to be “ going to hell in a handbasket” because of our own lack of involvement in issues that affect our very lives!

We have a responsibility to become involved! What are you going to do about it? If you need some help on deciding how you will become involved or which issues need your involvement, you may contact us at www.gracechapelministries.org or our email at gracechapeldevelopment@gmail.com.

Whatever might be the case, you know how much time you can devote, what kind of financial resources you can commit, and what your primary concerns might be. GET INVOLVED. THE TIME IS NOW!



Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

I know my readers understand my husband and I love Florida and try to travel there as often as possible. One of our favorite spots is Destin Florida. Another favorite destiny is St. Augustine. We decided to visit St. Augustine the last week in February this year.

We usually drive to our various Florida destinations. We enjoy the journey! Because weather in February is unpredictable, we decided to fly to Jacksonville and drive a bit south to the oldest continuous settlement in the United States, St Augustine, Florida.



Sunrise

The adventure began quite early on a Saturday. Our kind neighbor selflessly volunteered to shuttle us to the airport at 5:00am. We chose curbside check in and disposed of our baggage, including a giant bag containing golf clubs. Kudos to the gentleman that checked our bags and printed our boarding passes. He was cheerful and courteous despite the hour of the day.

The pleasantness ended there. It was early and my mind was still a little foggy. Upon entering Terminal 2 for Southwest Airlines, I was confused by the signage. It was unclear which line was for "PreCheck" and which line was for those who are less frequent travelers. I approached a young lady and asked which line was for us to queue up in. Her reaction would not have been any worse if I had walked up and kicked her in the shins. She sneered and pointed. We attempted to follow her pointed finger. Of course, we chose the wrong line. No problem, the TSA worker just calmly moved us and our documents to the appropriate location.

May I ask a question? Are TSA workers trained NOT to make any eye contact? Are they also trained to be surly? Please, I need to know. As we were going through security with our carry-on bags a razor was noticed in my husband's bag. To be fair, yes, he should have known not to pack the fancy razor with the fancy double edged razor in his carry-on. Said razor was in a velvet bag in a plastic soap container. TSA had to really dig to find it. Dig is exactly what she did, scattering belongings everywhere. When she found the contraband, she said it had to be disposed of. Now this is a fancy expensive razor, Rich was fine with disposing of the blade but no more. Not once did this woman explain what she was digging for, nor did she explain what needed to be done with what and how. She escorted him to a trash can assuring him she would get him back in line. She then disappeared and my husband had to navigate back to me through other crabby, sleepy travelers. We had also taken our shoes off as good travelers are supposed to do. I looked around for a place to sit and put my shoes back on...nothing. Now, I am OLD and cannot stand on one foot to shoe the other. Nor am I interested in sitting on the floor to put my shoes back on. I can get down on the floor but getting back up to a standing position is not as much fun and not attractive.

Now I am a crabby sleep deprived traveler and asking if 6:00 am is too early for a stiff drink.

The rest of the day went smoothly. The Southwest employees did not disappoint and are still as pleasant as always. The flight was uneventful.



Fort Matanzas

St. Augustine is beautiful. We had a lovely condominium right on the beach. We visited some of our favorite restaurants and tried a few new ones. One of our favorite places is the "Tini Martini Bar". Should you find yourself in Old St. Augustine, please treat yourself to this tiny bar that makes the best cocktails ever. The bar is truly tiny. There are six bar stools and three tables for two.

St. Augustine is famous for the Castillo de San Marcos Fort. A lesser-known fort is a few miles south, Fort Matanzas. We took a ferry across the Matanzas River to visit the fort. This is a continuation of the tiny theme. The structure was big enough to house 7 men and a couple of cannons.

One day we traveled south of St. Augustine to Melbourne, Florida to visit someone who had lived in our house in Ferguson. This lovely woman called me one Sunday morning and asked if I lived at my current address. I felt a little uncomfortable at first but said yes. She went on to inform me that she lived there during her middle school years. Her father had been employed by McDonnell Douglas and had been transferred to Coco Beach, Florida



Henry

to work within the space program. We chatted for a while, became "Facebook Friends" and we have gone to visit her every time we have been in St. Augustine. She is such an interesting person who lives in a small but beautiful, beachy decorated home directly across from the beach. She is a true animal lover who hand feeds the squirrels, has a colorful obnoxious parrot named Henry, a friendly dog, and a cat. We cherish our visits with her.

I do hope this month's story did not start out too "complainy." Our trip was relaxing and wonderful. We enjoyed the restaurants; the outlet mall shopping and my husband was able to practice hitting golf balls several times.

Thank you for letting me complain a little and sharing our travel experience this month. You may send your comments, positive or negative, to manhattanmarian@gmail.com.



Digital Ferguson - Firewall!

by David Pickens

I am guessing almost all of you have probably heard of a firewall, as in network firewalls being overcome by hackers as shown on TV on NCIS Cyber. And some of you probably have a pretty good idea of what a firewall might do for a network. And then there are those of us who have been involved in IT networks for decades and eternity and know that a firewall is the single most important security appliance you can possibly own on Planet Earth to secure yourself from dangerous cyberattacks. And a surprising and quite alarming 27% of small businesses and not-for-profits don't even own one.

I do realize very few of you in my audience are business owners, but all of you shop at businesses. And also most of you work at some business or another. So you might be wondering how protected your information is when you are shopping at a local business, or working for one. We are all stakeholders in a society that depends on our digital information being safe and secure, in a world in which that safety and security is increasingly threatened by Bad Actors. So how do firewalls help us?

Every computer connected to a network has 65,535 ports. A port could be considered sort of a computer address where a particular service lives. Another computer can knock on a particular port of another computer over a network, and ask if that port is open for business. If it is that port will respond – answer the door if you will. For example when we type “Google.com” into the address bar of a web browser we are actually knocking at the door of a computer on Google’s network – Internet port 443 to be exact - and asking if port 443 has something for us. And Google (assuming it is working) sends you their default Google search page in response.

We are simplifying things a bit, but the first Google computer that actually hears your request for a web search page is a firewall. The firewall in this case is acting sort of like a postmaster, listening to requests for ports on the Internet and forwarding those requests to the appropriate computer when that port is available – or open. There are lots of specific ports for specific services, and these are called well-known ports because they have been standardized. But the important thing to understand is it is the firewall that sees the request first and then decides whether it is OK to allow the request to go through. It is the rules that the firewall owner enters into the firewall that determines whether a request is blocked or passed through into the network.

I have monitored tiny networks with firewalls that reject thousands of request per hour. Large networks may receive millions of unwelcome request per second! I say unwelcome because the majority of these are Bad Actors knocking on every address – from port 1 to port 65,535 to see whether there is an answer back and the possibility for entrance into the network through trickery or stealth. Firewalls do this silently, automatically like the lovely little robots they are.

So one of the first questions I ask any outfit I get involved with is, “Where is your firewall?” And all too often the answer is, “We don't have one.” I usually don't tell them this, but actually this is rarely true. They almost always have lots and lots of firewalls – because there is a firewall on every PC and Mac connected to their internal network. (Smart phones have them also for all the good it does anybody. That's a subject for a whole another article.) But these PC / Mac firewalls are installed at setup with default firewall settings that will offer some protection while allowing the most common ports to be open for business – like for email, web browsing, and many basic network housekeeping services. But the vast majority of ports are closed for safety's sake.

But here's the secret sauce that a firewall offers, is that it can't be fiddled with. Employees fiddle with their computers. It seems to be in human DNA somehow. And employees sometimes download and install stuff you might not want – like software that allows them to connect to their work computer from home, the software THEY like to use, not that silly stuff that the IT department makes them use because of their silly “security” rules. So they install the software they like, and it drills a little hole in their personal computer's firewall so that it can talk over the Internet. Then they test it out and discover it doesn't work because your MAIN company firewall, the Big Boss of all firewalls, prevents the connection from happening. (Then they call IT and whine that there's something wrong with the network and then the IT Department knows they caught another one.)

Another scenario that is actually pretty common is that an employee innocently clicks on an email link and malware embedded in the email link charges out and installs some virus on their computer. Of course depending on the virus installed this could cause trouble for their computer but the Main network firewall will prevent the hackers from connecting deep inside the network and doing more damage. This feature sort of

illustrates why these appliances were called firewalls in the first place. Just as an actual firewall does not prevent fires from starting, they help slow down fire from spreading and causing deeper damage. A firewall gives firefighters a little time.

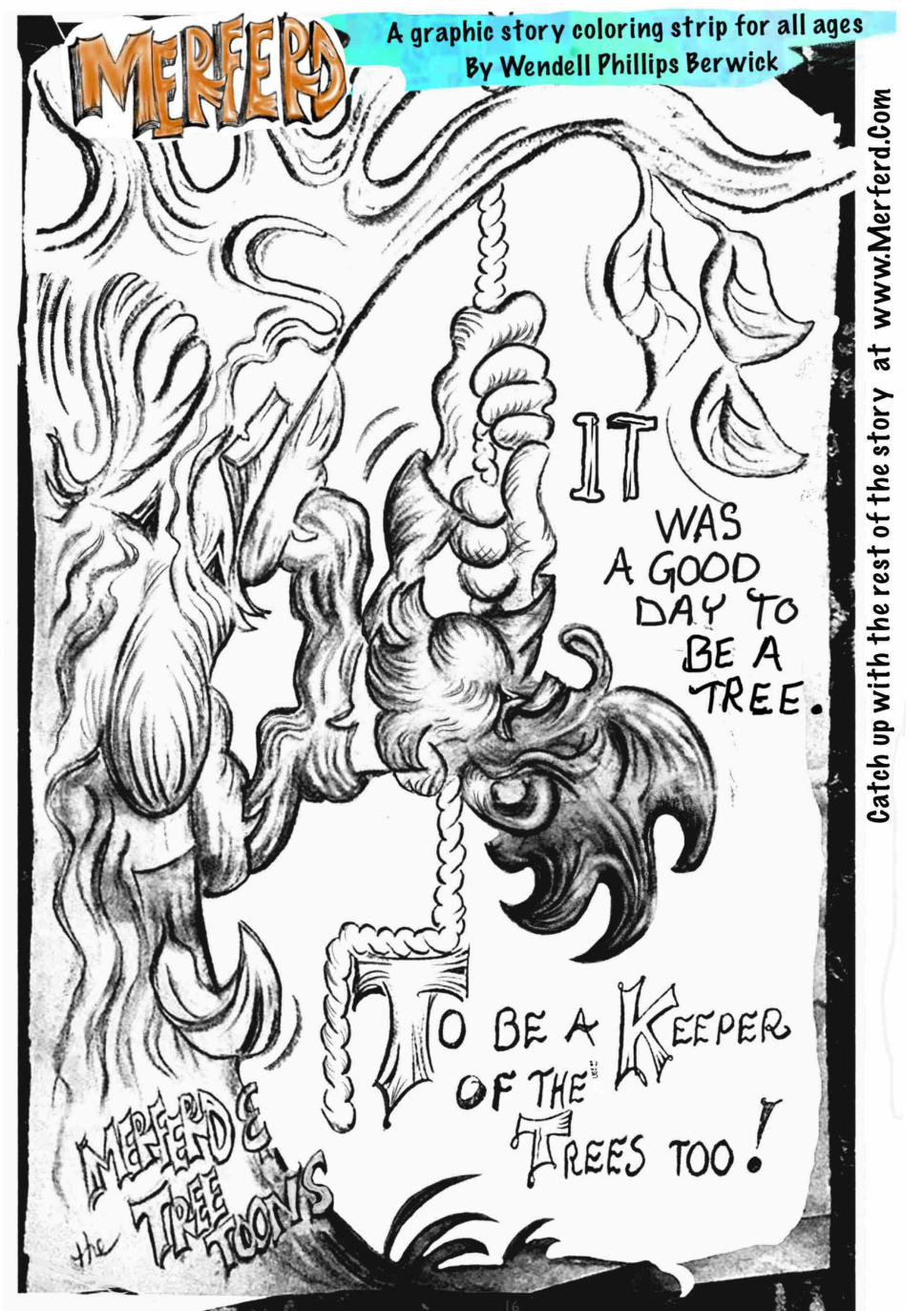
But the old reason for naming these devices “firewalls” has faded long ago. Modern firewall appliances have been taking on more and more responsibilities for network security than being a simple traffic cop or fire stop. Depending on the options and subscriptions purchased, they can look deeply into the traffic flowing into and out of a network to decide if anything appears to be nefarious. They can shut down access to pornography and other types of inappropriate traffic. And yes they can even shut down stuff you just don't want people doing – like visiting Facebook or using Spotify. Of course these decisions ought to be left entirely up to management but inevitably IT will get blamed.

And on top of all that, there are even options to set up firewalls to inspect every system on your network, searching for virus infections, computers missing latest security patches, unauthorized software installations, and monitor other types of compliance like what applications people are spending their time using.

In light of the extreme threats – often from State-supported threat actors – that every network connected to the Internet faces today, it is sheer madness to operate in such an environment without the additional assistance of a firewall. A firewall appliance, together with an effective data backup system, are both integral partners in combating the damage these threat actors present to the safety and security of your customer and employee data. Don't be part of the 27% without one.

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



Forty-eight Boxers

by Michael Pierce



Several years ago I had a job interview for an out-of-state organization. A family member lived about twenty minutes from my interview location, so I stayed with him for a few days.

The day I arrived he was at work, so he told me where his hidden key was. I got the key and went inside. I knew it would be a few hours before he got home, so I decided to help him a little and do the dirty dishes from the day before.

I started doing his laundry because there was a pretty good-sized pile. I sorted it out – colors, towels, dirt dishrag, some socks... And 48 boxer shorts.

I had to laugh. The boxers were a load on their own, so they went in first. Then the colors, and then the towels.

I folded the stuff, and I marveled at the oxers, making four towers of twelve each.

A little later I went searching for toilet paper and couldn't find any, so I drove about a block to the store and bought him a 48 roll pack.

When he came home later, I told him I did his laundry, and bought him some toilet paper, since I couldn't find any. He says it's in his bedroom closet, an unopened 48 roll pack. I told him he now has 96 rolls, which should last him a few years. He laughs.

I asked about the 48 boxers. He said he hadn't had a chance to do laundry for a while. He's been working a lot of overtime, so when he needed clean underwear, he'd buy a six pack of boxers.

I looked at his face. His eyes looked weary, his face haggard for a 30 year old. He said he'd fix us something to eat. I told him we're going to the steakhouse.

We had a good dinner and a good time. As we talked and laughed his eyes lit up, his face didn't look so haggard, and he looked relaxed instead of exhausted.

I stuck around for a few more days after the interview. We spent a lot of time talking about family, life, and everything else we could think of. And 48 boxers.

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FOR THE LONG HAUL AND THE LITTLE MOMENTS.

THE MICHELIN® DEFENDER™ TIRE

Spotlight on Business

by Trish Cook

If you have recently driven past Ferguson Motor Service, located at 32 North Florissant Rd in Ferguson, you may have noticed some changes. The bright new sign painted on the side of the building, paying homage to the original owner's logo, and the new glass windows in front are breathing new life into the building.



Originally founded in 1935 by Otto Hermsmeyer and "Bill" Wunnenberg. Prior to the new owners taking over on February 14, 2023, the building was also owned by Bud and Connie Dake, and most recently by Kevin Huber before he sold it last year.

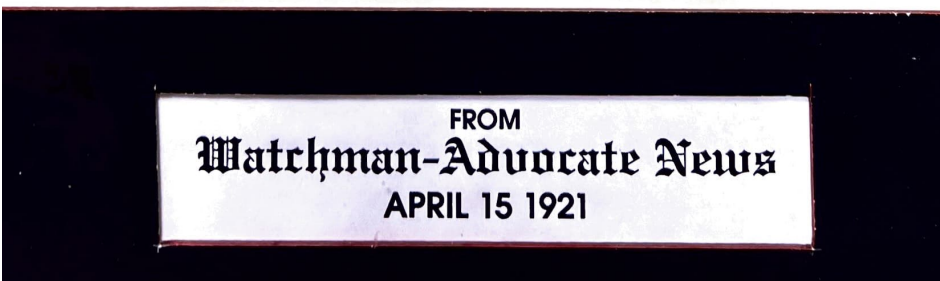
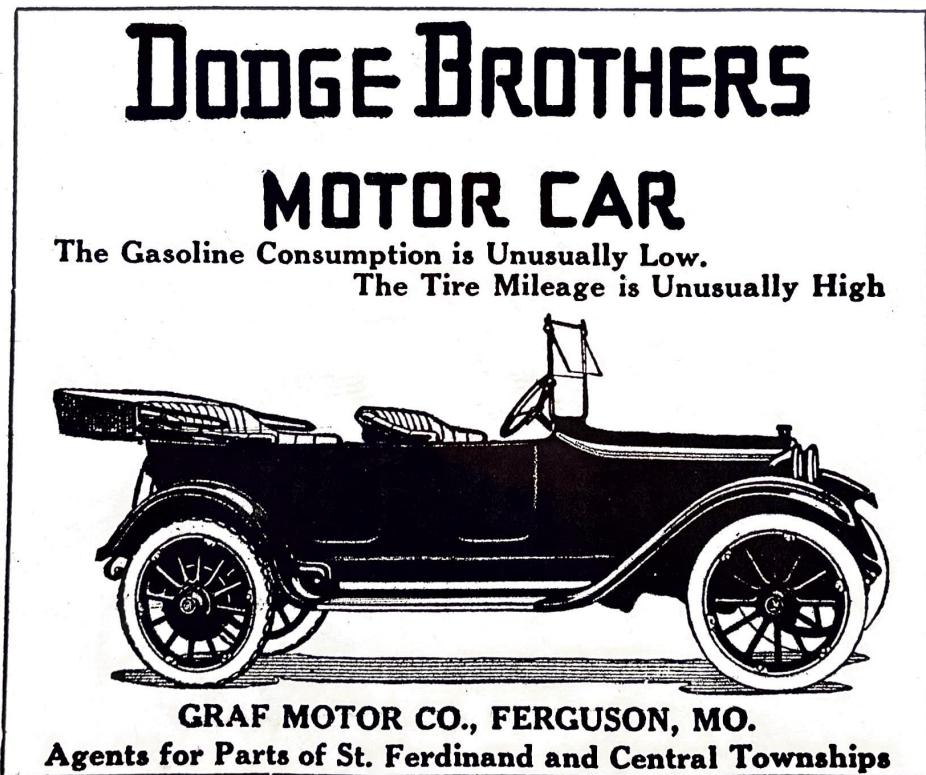
This structure is rich in history, and the architecture alone is fascinating to look at. It is 10,000 square feet and filled with modern technology as well as old relics such as a sign that proudly hangs on the back wall of the parts room from when it used to be a Chrysler Dealership. At one point, the back of the building was rented out to Southwestern Bell (now known as AT&T for our younger readers) and their office and time clock are still there. The new owners took over one year ago and they are still clearing out about a hundred years' worth of stuff. I am thinking some of these things could go to our Ferguson Historical Society for preservation and display.

Michael Quinlan (Florissant) and Erich Suellentrop (Brentwood) quietly took ownership from Huber to not disrupt the flow of the business. Now amid opening a used car lot, they thought it was important for the community to get to know them as the new owners. To celebrate their one-year anniversary they went public on social media to thank the Ferguson community for their support and a successful first year in business.



The new and improved Ferguson Motor Service is the brainchild of a 20-year friendship. Michael and Erich's parents were friends long before these two met and became friends. After working in the vehicle industry for many years, in 2021 Michael had the opportunity to be a Car Lotz General Manager for the nationwide company. Within a matter of a few days, he was forced to terminate a service side business manager and immediately offered the position to his friend Erich. Tanya (office worker) and Chris (technician) also came from Car Lotz to join Michael and Erich when they took ownership of Ferguson Motor Service. And Dustin Schmidt joined the team as Digital Media/ Website Manager/ Car Salesman. Michael and Erich have a great team working with them and every Friday morning before they open for business, they have a meeting where everyone offers ideas, suggestions, and solutions. They have respect for all their employees and what they bring to the team. Michael knows the importance of having the right people with you for a successful business.

The first year, business has been booming for Michael and Erich and things are only getting better. Currently they have 7 employees but are considering adding more technicians as well as some sales personnel. Here's a little-known secret, just as the very first owners did back in 1935, Ferguson Motor Service offers used cars for sale. At the time of our interview, the vehicles were parked in back near the professional building, however by the time this article is published, they will be well on their way to opening a Used Car lot in the old Koob's location right here in Ferguson. Their average price for a vehicle is \$10,700 with an average monthly payment of \$400. They offer "buy here, pay here", cash deals, and outside financing is also available through many vendors they have working relationships with. Their temporary sales lot is already bringing visibility to areas as far away as Poplar Bluff MO and from the Illinois side of the river as well. They offer a much-needed service right here in our community. Their affordable prices, reliable vehicles, and good reputation will surely draw more people to our other fine Ferguson businesses as well. Buy a car then celebrate with a cold beer at Brewhouse or an ice cream at Picasso's! They also offer a concierge service. A salesperson will come to your house with a computer and discuss vehicle and purchase options with you.





FERGUSON TWILIGHT RUN

5K★10K
1-MILE FUN RUN

Get Ready for the 15th annual Ferguson Twilight Run

Ferguson, MO – Let’s get ready for Ferguson Twilight Run! The streets of Ferguson will be filled with runners, walkers, water stops and cheer stations on Saturday, May 18. Participants enjoy one-mile, 5K (3.1 miles) and 10K (6.2 miles) distances on routes that are USATF-certified by Big River Running Company.

2024 is the fifteenth year for the run/walk in Ferguson.

“We’re just a few weeks away from 15 years of an exciting journey of health, wellness and community,” said Dwayne T. James, race director, Ferguson Twilight Run.

Register to Run, Walk

Whether you run or walk, you can 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, located at the intersection of Florissant Road and Suburban Avenue.
- Participants will receive a T-shirt and finisher medal; age-group winners will receive awards.
- Baby joggers/strollers and service dogs are welcome on the course, but pets must stay at home.
- 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, volunteer opportunities 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. The 2024 beneficiaries are Girls on the Run St. Louis Ferguson-Florissant Schools, Strength and Honor Mentoring & Tutoring, A Red Circle, and Emerson Family YMCA.

Be a Sponsor or Vendor

There are opportunities to support Ferguson Twilight Run as a sponsor or vendor.

Negwer Materials is the 5K Presenting Sponsor and BJC Healthcare is the 1-Mile Presenting Sponsor. Other sponsors include City of Ferguson, Ferguson Brewing Company, Elicious, Big River Running, the James family, Blue’s Art House, Terrain magazine, Soulcraft, Great Rivers Greenway, Saint Louis Track Club, Athletico, Park Central Development, North County Inc., KAI, First Baptist Church of Ferguson, Beacon/SO-CAYR, Bywater Development Group and Midwest BankCentre.

Learn more about sponsorship levels at fergtwilightrun.com.

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



Under The Hood With Robinwood

By Bob McGartland

Spring Forward with Confidence: Your Essential Guide to Post-Winter Vehicle Care

As we bid farewell to the unique challenges of an unusually dry winter, it’s time to focus on preparing your vehicle for the warmer, the vibrant months of spring. Despite the absence of heavy snowfall, winter’s fluctuating temperatures and dry conditions can still leave a mark on your vehicle, making the transition to spring a critical time for maintenance and care.

The Heart of Spring Readiness: Fluid Checks

A comprehensive check of your vehicle’s fluids stands at the forefront of spring readiness. From oil to coolant and brake fluid, ensuring these are at optimal levels is essential for the smooth operation of your vehicle. This maintenance step is not just about enhancing performance; it’s also about securing the longevity of your vehicle. Proper fluid levels ensure that your car runs efficiently and can help prevent long-term damage.

Tire Care and Inspection

Tire inspection is another crucial aspect of post-winter care. Even in the absence of winter’s harsh ice and snow, tires can still suffer wear and need to be inspected for damage and proper inflation. For those switching from winter to all-season tires, rotation is recommended to promote even wear and extend the life of your tires.

The Importance of a Thorough Cleaning

A thorough cleaning, both inside and out, can rejuvenate your vehicle’s appearance and functionality, potentially revealing any hidden issues. Paying special attention to the undercarriage and areas prone to collecting road debris is vital. This not only helps in maintaining the aesthetic appeal of your vehicle but also in preventing rust and corrosion.

Preparing for Spring’s Unpredictable Weather

Spring’s unpredictable weather calls for replacing worn wiper blades and ensuring your windshield washer fluid is topped up. These simple yet crucial steps are key to maintaining clear visibility during spring showers, ensuring safety on the road.

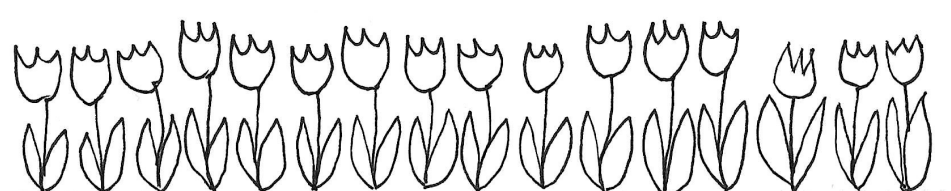
Concluding with a Professional Inspection

A professional inspection ensures your vehicle is thoroughly prepared for spring. A detailed check-up should cover critical areas such as the suspension, alignment, and brakes. This ensures safety and reliability for the increased driving that often comes with warmer weather.

Conclusion

As we transition into the new season, ensuring your vehicle is ready for the road is paramount. A vehicle that’s well-prepared for spring not only offers peace of mind but also enhances your driving experience. Whether it’s through professional services or your own diligent care, taking these essential steps can make all the difference in how your vehicle performs in the coming months. Let’s welcome spring with a vehicle that’s ready for every journey ahead.

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. Visit us at robinwoodauto.com



Be a Solution to the Pet Overpopulation

By Dara Ashby



Reasons to spay/neuter animals

Shelters are sadly exploding with homeless dogs and cats. Adoptable animals are being euthanized to make space. Spaying and neutering is FREE for residents here in Ferguson through the APA community outreach program! Spay/neuter slows population growth

Without spay and neuter initiatives, homeless animals are often euthanized, neglected or die of disease. Sterilization is critical for management of free-roaming dogs and cats and related disease control concerns.

When effectively delivered and combined with vaccinations, spay/neuter provides a humane and effective way to reduce the number of animals living on the streets, and improves the health of those remaining. Sterilizing community dogs and returning them to their territories on the streets allows for a natural reduction in their population over time and leaves the most socialized dogs on the streets. We have found that the public views these sterilized and vaccinated dogs (identifiable via an ear notch or other marking) more favorably and the human-dog interaction improves.

Sterilizing pets prevents them from contributing to the problem of homeless or abandoned dogs and cats.

Spay/neuter curbs undesirable hormone-related behaviors

Females no longer have a heat cycle; this eliminates the attraction and approach of unwanted attention by male dogs.

Roaming is greatly reduced; male dogs, especially those used for security, are less likely to wander off an owner's property if they do not have the hormone drive to pursue a female in heat. This way, they can better serve as watchdogs, may not need to be tied up, and are less likely to contract disease or suffer injury. Neutered dogs may actually be more protective, as they no longer are distracted by the temptations of breeding with females or fighting with other males.

Spraying and marking in males is reduced.

Spay/neuter reduces health risks for the animals themselves

There are a number of potentially fatal health conditions and transmissible diseases that animals can contract or develop as a result of being intact and breeding; for example, pyometra, TVT, and reproductive cancers. These risks are eliminated when the animal is spayed or neutered.

On the whole, animals who have been sterilized at an early age tend to live longer, healthier lives, potentially increasing their lifespans by an average of one to three years for dogs, and three to five years for cats.

Spay/neuter is cost effective

By spaying or neutering your pet, you save the cost of caring for future litters and reduce the likelihood of your pet needing veterinary treatment for injuries occurring when roaming or fighting.

Myths:

Myth: An animal needs to have a litter/one heat before sterilization.

Fact: Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier.

Myth: It's not natural to spay/neuter and will upset my dog or cat.

Fact: The domestication of animals removed them from the "natural order" and placed responsibility for their care with humans. Applying human emotions to animals is neither realistic nor applicable when it comes to identifying a need for sterilization.

Myth: I want my dog to be protective.

Fact: It is a dog's natural instinct to protect home and family. A dog's personality is formed more by genetics and environment than by sex hormones.

Myth: I do not want my male dog or cat to feel like less of a male.

Fact: Pets do not have any concept of sexual identity or ego. Neutering will not change a pet's basic personality. He does not suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered.

Myth: My pet will get fat and lazy.

Fact: The truth is that most pets get fat and lazy because their owners feed them too much and do not give them enough exercise.

Myth: But my dog (or cat) is so special, I want a puppy (or kitten) just like her.

Fact: Your pet's puppies or kittens have little chance of being an exact copy of your pet. Even professional breeders cannot make this guarantee. There are homeless pets waiting for homes who are just as cute, smart, sweet, and loving as your own.

So please, please be a part of the solution and get your pets spayed and neutered! Fixem' for FREE by calling the numbers on the flyers!

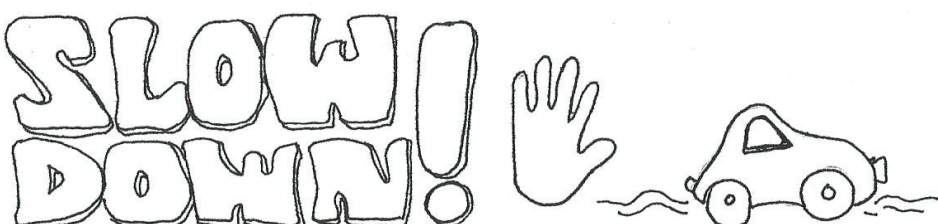
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Ferguson Animal Coalition
Dara@fergusonanimalcoalition.org
314.853.7550

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The EarthDance Pay What You Can Farm Stand opens May 3, 2024

By Jess Coffin

Even as pandemic pressures have eased for many, food insecurity continues to rise, and the EarthDance Organic Farm School team wants you to know that they are right here in Ferguson, they are growing fresh food with love for the earth and our community, and they want to share it with you!

The purpose of the EarthDance Pay What You Can Farm Stand is to improve local access to nutritious food. EarthDance recognizes that many of our neighbors face systemic inequities or personal challenges, or both, that limit their access to the benefits of a diet rich in fresh produce. With the Farm Stand, EarthDance seeks to offer a solution to these barriers.

The farm stand emerged in 2021 as a hopeful resource hub during the pandemic, aiming to bridge a growing gap between people and healthy food. EarthDance offers organically grown fruits, herbs, and vegetables for whatever a person can pay - meaning people can shop their produce and pay nothing, pay a discounted price, pay the retail value, or pay it forward, helping to balance the scales. In 2024, the team is already working diligently to grow and share more fresh food, and to plan a season that inspires wonder and joy while imparting valuable knowledge and skills for healthier living.

Margaret Gerker, EarthDance Operations and Farm Stand Manager, has been with the farm stand since its beginning. Margaret said that implementing a “pay what you can” model at the Farm Stand over the past three years has been successful in many ways. “I am so proud that we have increased our number of North County and Ferguson customers served at the farm stand,” they said. “Our Ferguson neighbors are who we set out to serve through our farm stand—they are the priority!” In 2023, the farm stand served 745 customers, many of whom return each week. 1 in 4 farm stand customers are Ferguson residents, and 60% live in North county.

Offering food using this model also continues to present challenges. The EarthDance team has recently been reflecting on the balance of helping to



Margaret Gerker & Alisha Harris at the EarthDance Farm Stand

empower customers while asking for help in addressing an unjust food system. “It can be hard to make sure that people who need the discount know that’s why we’re here,” Margaret said. “There are systemic inequities that make it so healthy food is easier for some folks to get than others. And it’s also challenging to do this while, at the same time, asking people with fewer barriers and more resources to pay it forward - because that is what’s necessary for this setup to work. Our hope is that people will feel a sense of connection to the food and the work and lean into choosing solidarity - we are all in this together.”

For Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator Alisha Harris, and for the whole EarthDance team, the Farm Stand is more than a place to find fresh produce; it’s a hub for making community connections. The EarthDance team is passionate about inviting people of all ages from all walks of life to join in enriching activities at the farm, creating a space where food, learning, and fun are as balanced and fruitful as the soil.

2024 will mark the Farm Stand’s fourth season, and it will be Alisha’s second in her role at EarthDance. Alisha’s family is deeply rooted in Kinloch, which is right behind the farm. She remembers listening to her mom talk about her great grandma’s backyard food garden. Working at the farm and especially at the Farm Stand, Alisha feels connected with her love of the earth, food, and people. “When someone can hand me whatever they have and then walk away with a big bag of produce that I helped grow, it touches my heart. And, in that, I’m connected with them and with our community.”

Alisha’s recent professional development visit to Shelburne Farms in Vermont bolstered her confidence in her role at the teaching farm. Shelburne is another education non-profit that hosts “transformative programs for educators and students to help inspire an emerging generation of changemakers.” Alisha came to EarthDance in early 2023 with a background in nutrition and holistic healing, but had not previously worked in agriculture. Inspired by the collective passion she found at Shelburne, along with other newcomers to farming and gardening education, Alisha is stoked in her commitment to joyfully connecting people with fresh food and farming & gardening.

With shared passion and expanded capacity in having each other as farm stand co-conspirators, Margaret and Alisha spearheaded an amazing 2023 Farm Stand season. Together, they organized an array of engaging

activities and collaborations like cooking demonstrations, eco-crafting, yoga, children’s story hour, and more.

Now, in 2024, they plan to deepen the offerings, with a particular focus on cooking and play for people of all ages. Margaret is especially excited about what 2024 has in store. “Joia Walker, our Farm to School Educator and chef extraordinaire, will be hosting cooking demos at the farm this year and teaching folks how to cook our yummy veggies!”

“We want people to taste the food,” Alisha said. “Having a meal prepared for someone and seeing their face light up! People can see that, ‘This is healthy, but it tastes amazing! And it’s affordable!’ It’s a full circle moment.”

As for play, Alisha said, “Everyone has an inner child, and you’re never too old for wonder and joy.” She hopes that these will be common threads in all of the gatherings at the farm stand and on the farm in 2024.

The team invites suggestions for Farm Stand activities, and you can email alisha@earthdancefarms.org if you or someone you know has a suggestion or an offering to share.

The 2024 EarthDance Farm Stand promises a full season of farm-grown goodness, nurtured with care on and in organic soil. As the Farm Stand prepares to open its doors on May 3, 2024, anticipation mounts for a season brimming with fresh produce and community engagement.

Kicking things off with their annual plant sale May 3rd, 4th, & 5th, the team is already seeding and growing a wide variety of plants for people to grow in their own home or community gardens! And, in the Farm Stand, visitors will find early-season crops like Hakurei turnips, spring greens, Goumi berries, tart cherries, and more. And you can look forward to summer favorites like cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, strawberries, blackberries, and so much more!

As Alisha, Margaret, and the team start another season of growth and learning, they invite you to join them for abundant hope, joy, and food, along with lots of learning and fun, all in the interest of a healthier, more vibrant future, right here in Ferguson. Stay tuned for details! Subscribe to their monthly email newsletter on our website at www.earthdancefarms.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @earthdancefarms.org

May - November Farm Stand Hours:
 Fridays 3 - 6pm, Sundays 11am-3pm
 EarthDance Organic Farm School, 233 S. Dade Ave., Ferguson, Missouri 63135
 314-521-1006



THE NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

	2023	2022	Difference
Retail value of produce distributed	\$12,202	\$6,729	↑ 81%
Customers	745	525	↑ 42%
Discounts provided	\$3,294	\$1,287	↑ 156%
Donations at check-out	\$1,185	\$1,305	↓ 9%

GROWING LOCAL

In our third year of Pay What You Can Farm Stand operations, we are continuing to reach and feed more of North County, a federally recognized food desert.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

“[The Farm Stand is] very helpful for low-income families. I have 4 kids and it's very affordable and I am very grateful.”

“The Farm Stand has helped provide for my family organic, blessed food that without y'all wouldn't have happened.”



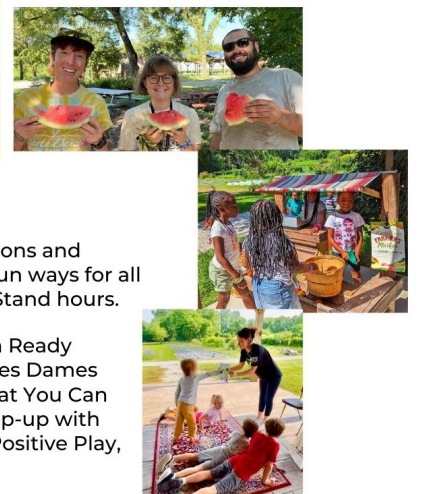
WHO SHOPS WITH US?

1 in 4 customers are Ferguson residents!



60% of customers are Residents of North St. Louis County

“I am extremely interested in the mission of EarthDance and plan to take Spring Training. The produce is spectacular.”



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS!

This year we partnered with several organizations and businesses to offer additional education and fun ways for all ages to spend time on the farm during Farm Stand hours.

Thanks to all who joined us for Story time with Ready Readers; Cooking classes with Chef Joia and Les Dames D'Escoffier; Craft class with Perennial; Pay What You Can Yoga with Alisha, Rachel, and Molly; our fall pop-up with Katie's Cultured Kitchen & Inherited; Simple Positive Play, Strength & Honor Summer Camp, and more!

The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely I gotcha! Lol!

APRIL, 2024

Wincalendar.com

Let's go here and see what we have in store for this month, shall we?

1st---April Fool's Day...some of you have been waiting for this day for a whole year!

7th---Divine Mercy Sunday...boy! Do we ever need divine mercy!

15th---Tax Day...perhaps the most dreaded day each year!

22nd---Earth Day...a day that puts unusual excitement into unusual people! :)

26th---Arbor Day...go sit under the shade of a tree! (plant a tree first, tho!)

26th---International Chernobl Disaster Day...study history so you do not repeat insanely stupid actions!

Do You Remember When...?, dept.

Do you remember, I think it was during Operation Desert Shield, that our government dumbed-down the GPS we used on our cell phones? (They did some other things that we weren't told about, some of which we do not know the extent of even today!)

Of course, all of the government's stuff kept working just fine, maybe even better than it ever did. Our government said that they didn't want to allow the evil terrorists to use GPS against us. In other words, the biggest group of users were the citizens of the United States. That's right; our own government treated us as though we were terrorists. Well, they still do that today, especially if you own a gun and a bible. Who knew?

They also slowed down the internet for us, that is, when it wasn't down. And they monitored the lines of communications, especially cell phones, when they were up in between outages and other interruptions. Why? The gov't didn't want to empower terrorists. That means us. Didn't know that, did you?

Let me take a moment here to speak of a communications system that they do not control. Remember back in the 60's through to the 90's when almost all of us had CB radios (and some had amateur radio) systems? Some still exist today.

One day, when the proverbial excrement strikes the oscillating atmospheric relocation device, we would still have the Citizen's Band and amateur radio systems that will allow us all to keep communicating. You won't have the internet to do that, so your cell phones will be useless. Think about that.

Now, If you do try to communicate on your cell phone or home phone, you will be tracked and monitored. Big brother is coming for you if you speak ill of your big brother. Innocent, are you? Don't worry! Your big brother will easily find something to charge you with. At least in the beginning. Later, he will just come by and collect you; who needs to charge you if you will just be locked up...for life. This is the new version of being cancelled. How does it sound to you?

Oh, by the way. If you are having any trouble accepting this as true, just look up this word when you have some time on your hands: echelon.

ME GO NOW!

Well, I hope to see all of you next month. Now, if you don't see me, I'm sure I'll be just fine, somewhere, for a little while, at least until I am fully "de-briefed". The lucky ones will be those of you who have managed to save all of my columns since 2000.

So, I do hope to see you, at least some of you, in church, (IF we still have churches) at least before the end of the year! Blessings to you and to yours!

IF YOU would like to get some of Doug's FREE puter advice, just email him at: fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com

Be sure to put the phrase "I need puter advice" into the subject line of your email. Also, include your local telephone number so he can call you back. One last thing: I know I caught some of you with my story above, so GOTCHA! Happy April Fool's! God's blessings to us all!

Crossword Solution from page 4

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Ferguson Has A History Museum



Last issue we talked about an exciting event we presented to the public, this issue we will see and talk about an exciting piece of Ferguson history recently discovered – a quilt. Not just a beautiful quilt but a quilt with a special history related to Ferguson schools and students and especially a Ferguson-Florissant elementary teacher and librarian: Marjorie Eakin Bremer.

We will get to the story quickly, then fill you in with some historical information. Mrs. Bremer loved teaching her elementary students reading – especially books her students loved. She asked her individual students to make quilt squares of their favorite book. Below you see one of those quilts.

4 elementary schools in the Ferguson-Florissant School District – all in Ferguson. We have yet to confirm the years in which she either taught or was the librarian in each school, but we do know that she spent time in Central School, Vogt School and Griffith School. Some Facebook responses indicate that she was a 1st grade teacher at Central in 1957-58. Facebook also noted that she taught 1st grade at Vogt. Another response indicates that Mrs. Bremer also served at Ferguson Methodist Church as their librarian. According to notes by her daughter, Marian, the quilts were most likely created in the early 1970's. Looking at this quilt we have to assume that the quilts were made while she was a librarian as the individual squares do not look like first grade art. Mrs. Bremer died in 1998 at the age of 81.

Currently the quilt is in storage, looking for an appropriate space to display it. It is large and takes a big space. At one time this quilt was on display at the Ferguson Public Library when the library was located in the current City Hall Building. If you remember the old library, it was hanging from the balcony.



This is a huge quilt: 6-foot by 9 foot consisting of 56 individual squares, each square 7-inches wide by 8-inches tall. We will be showing you selected individual square in hope that you or someone you know may recognize their own artwork.

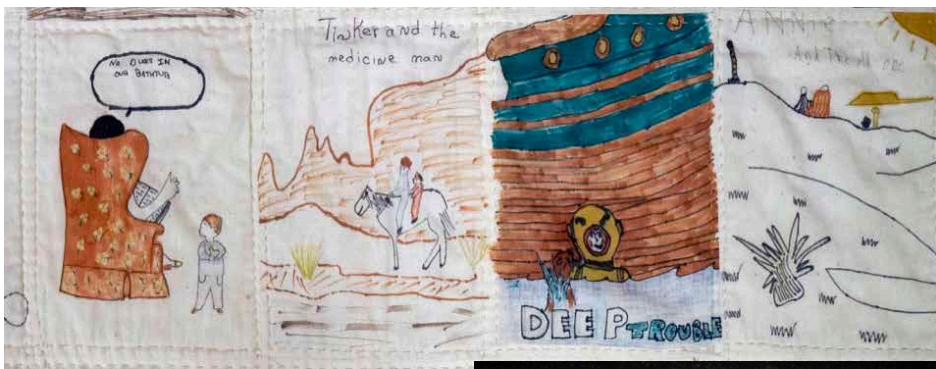
The quilt covers a number of titles including those to the left. Also included are How to Eat Fried Worms, Freaky Friday, Girls are Equal Too, and as shown, No Ducks in Our Bathtub. Other panels will show you some other titles.

The children designed each panel. After the panels were collected, Mrs. Bremer and other teachers sewed the quilt together and added the edges. The quilt you see is just one of the many quilts Mrs. Bremer created over her years in Ferguson.

Marjorie Eakin Bremer was born in Pittsburg, Illinois in 1916. When she was 4-years old her family moved to Ferguson. She went to grade school in Ferguson and started Ferguson High School, but finished in Decatur, Illinois. She noted, in a brief autobiography, that she experienced culture shock by moving from Ferguson High with a senior class of 30 to Stephen Decatur High and a senior class of 400. After graduation, she then Miss Eakin attended MacMurray College, the University of Colorado and Millikin University. She graduated with a BA in teaching. As she noted, in Illinois a woman had to be 30 years old and single in order to teach. For that reason, she moved to Ferguson. But – she didn't teach! She worked a number of jobs, including working for Ferguson City Hall.

She eventually married Clemens Franz Bremer, a banker, and moved to Ste. Genevieve. They had two children (Marian and Thomas). Clemens, however, died when the children were 4 and 6, thereby passing on to her the full responsibility of raising her children. She eventually moved back to Ferguson and began her teaching career. We know that she taught in





If you recognize Mrs. Bremer (photo to left) or a square on this quilt – or maybe doing another quilt, we would like to hear from you. You could help fill out this wonderful Ferguson Historical story. Please contact any member of the Ferguson Historical Society or drop an email to me at fjbenner@mindspring.com. We will get back with you quickly.

This story came from documents in the Ferguson Historical Society archives, including a brief autobiography of Mrs Bremer, some Facebook responses and a brief history by Mrs. Bremer’s daughter, Mariam.



Membership in the Ferguson Historical Society is open to anyone – membership levels range from \$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

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