



# Ferguson

## NEIGHBORHOOD

SINCE NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

### MOVE AHEAD ANYWAY!!

By Dr. Larry A. Brown

Don't let anything stop you from moving ahead with gusto! Too often, we wish to blame someone or something for our lack of progress. We are quick to place the blame on someone else. As a matter of fact, we may go out of our way in doing so. It's easy to place the blame for lack of progress on another individual, the overall conditions, or anything else rather than take responsibility for the lack of positive movement!



No matter what conditions exist nor what the situation may be, we should not place the blame on these circumstances on others, but take the responsibility, ourselves, for moving forward. We can always blame, rather than take an honest look at ourselves. As a matter of fact, we should always begin with ourselves. Then we know immediately, what other resources or individuals we need to add in order to achieve the progress.

Often. We decide that something is impossible to achieve because we can't see ourselves having or handling all the resources necessary to be successful when all that is really needed is for us to augment our own abilities with the other things needed for success. We need to "win" challenges rather than accept defeat, or postponement.

Others are counting on us to overcome obstacles and get things done. Sometimes, we look at a need, and don't even attempt to make the desired changes, because we think, upfront, that it will be too difficult and that success cannot be obtained.

We exemplify the self - defeat syndrome in many of our challenges and opportunities. If we start to change the situation, unexpected support may be obtained, but if we act defeated at the front end, no help may be given the opportunity to surface. In this instance, we have become our own worst enemy

It is very important to approach and accept challenges with the mindset that we can, and must, be successful. That becomes the driving force we may need to overcome any obstacles to our path.

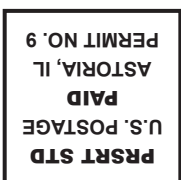
The universe has help available to us, but it cannot be commanded for use unless we exemplify the desire and tenacity necessary to be victorious. Therefore, we must press on and meet the obstacles so that we become conquerors rather than acceptors of defeat. We must eliminate "defeat" from among the choices we have!!

It is important to our future generations that we adopt the attitude of success and always strive to achieve!!



On-line edition: [fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/](http://fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/)

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February 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](http://fergusonlibrary.net)

### Children and Teen Events

<p>Stories and Songs for Little Ones Join us for storytime! Ages 0-5. <b>Wednesdays at 10 am</b></p>	<p>Lego Club Drop in and build! Ages 6-11. <b>Saturday, Feb. 15 at 2 pm</b></p>	<p>Teen Makers Paint like Alma Thomas! Register at <a href="http://bit.ly/fmplmakers24">bit.ly/fmplmakers24</a>. <b>Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6 pm</b></p>
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### Adult Events

<p>Readings on Race Book Club Part 2 of <i>Master Slave Husband Wife</i> by Ilyon Woo. <b>Monday, Feb. 10 at 6 pm</b></p>	<p>Conversations and Coffee Discuss the news over light refreshments. <b>Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 6 pm</b></p>	<p>Crafternoon Make some Valentine's Day cards! For more info, contact Taneesa. <b>Friday, Feb. 14 at 3 pm</b></p>
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### All Ages Events

<p>Board Game Day Beat the winter blues with an afternoon of board games! Drop in and play. <b>Saturday, Feb. 1 from 12-3:30 pm</b></p>	<p>Roots and Blues with Lady J Huston Join us as musician and genealogist Lady J Huston explores family roots and blues music through stories, history, and songs. <b>Thursday, Feb. 20 at 6 pm</b></p>
<p>The 2025 Quilt Show Enjoy a display of beautiful quilts! <b>Thursday, Feb. 6: 12-5 pm</b> <b>Friday, Feb. 7: 12-5 pm</b> <b>Saturday, Feb. 8: 10-3:30pm</b></p>	<p>Craft Kits • <b>Feb. 3-8 - Felt Quilt Square:</b> Make your own quilt square! • <b>Feb. 18-22 - DIY Memory Game:</b> Create a game to take with you! Pick up a free kit while supplies last!</p>
<p>Fiber Arts Social Club Craft and chat! Bring your knitting, sewing, crocheting, etc. projects and work while socializing. <b>Thursday, Feb. 13 at 6 pm</b></p>	<p>The Ferguson Public Library will be closed Monday, February 17 for Presidents' Day.</p>
<p>Cultural Cuisine We'll explore everyone's favorite tasty treat - chocolate! <b>Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 6 pm</b></p>	

If You Have Items of Interest, Contact - [asroc873@charter.net](mailto:asroc873@charter.net)



## February Celebration Shout-outs

14 Happy Birthday Danielle Henderson  
 21 Happy 6th Birthday Matilda Schmermund  
 25 Happy Birthday Lori Adams



Email Shout-outs to [asroc873@charter.net](mailto:asroc873@charter.net) - deadline is the 15th of each month



### February at a Glance



- 2 Groundhog Day
- 4 Forestwood Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM  
Emmaus Bible Chapel 900 Highmont Dr.
- 10 North Elizabeth Neighborhood Meeting 7PM  
Ferguson Community Center 1050 Smith Ave.
- 13 Jeske Park Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM  
First Baptist Church of Ferguson 333 N. Florissant Rd.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 North Hills Neighborhood Meeting 10 AM
- 17 Presidents Day
- 20 West Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM
- 20 Roots & Blues - Lady J Huston - Ferguson Public Library 6 PM
- 24 South West Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM
- 27 South Central Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM
- 27 Ferguson Woods Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM  
North Hills Methodist 10771 Trask Dr.

### Saving the Paper and Beyond

When I first began humanitarian work in Pakistan, I was taken aback by some reactions, even from my own relatives such as; "what about your family?" Or, "Our country has its own problems." Or this; "What about our own homeless?" I answer that I've been there, done that, still do it. I have always been passionate about saving something or someone sometime. Yet I've never seen a skin and bones homeless American ( unless they're emaciated from drug use) , nor any of the 15 million mainly male migrants that've been invited across our border to freely eat and stay a long while.

Between stepping into my tree truck for a 15 minute ride to drop off firewood to a homeless camp, or into an airplane for a 15 hour flight to drop off freedom to a souls in bonded labor camps in Pakistan, the only difference is 15 hours... and the plane fair.

Some other time I might write about who and what else I've saved along the way, but left hand forgets what right hand does these days. No wonder I end up with a pile of right hand work gloves, or a pile of just lefts.

Enough all ready. I don't finish reading anyone else's long articles, so the heck I'm going to write anything more. We're hoping columnists begin to regularly pitch in. Even if they don't, I wouldn't have anything to halfway read, except our faithful advertisers.

This is all I've got;  
**HELP US SAVE THE PAPER.**

For volunteer freedom of the press paying subscribers;  
 Options- Call 314-524-3440 and ask to speak to or leave a message for Danielle, or send checks to Ferguson Newspaper Group  
 312 Calverton Road  
 St Louis Mo  
 63135



Wendell Phillips 'Phil' Berwick  
 Artists/ Arborist /Abolitionist

#### The Ferguson Newspaper Group may be reached

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

This paper is made possible through volunteers and advertisers

#### Advertise with the paper

Copy for ads for the paper must be received by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's paper.  
 Please send all ads to Gary: [asroc873@charter.net](mailto:asroc873@charter.net)

#### Volunteer with the paper

- Info Gathering
- City Meetings - attend and summarize City Council Meetings
- Other Meetings - assure all city-wide events summaries gathered
- Neighborhood groups
- Diversity Meetings
- Business Spotlight

#### Donate to the paper

Ferguson Newspaper Group  
 312 Calverton Road  
 St. Louis, Mo. 63135

**Give a congratulatory shout out for only \$5**

#### A BIG THANK YOU to the following for their generous donations:

Don and Andrea James, Val and Annabelle Bush, Dara Ashby, Joan Cleaveland, Ank Ankenbrand, Donna Graef, John McDonald, Ann Brown, Philip Lum, Marsha and Deb Gebhardt, Raghbir

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

## PRAY FOR PEACE

**Please continue to keep officer Travis Brown and his family in your thoughts and prayers.**

#### Happy New Year from the Ferguson Police

On New Years eve no one wants to be stopped by the police. And we all know the paranoia when we see those flashing red and blue lights. Instead of a ticket for a minor infraction, drivers received warnings and a \$100 gift card!

What a wonderful way to usher in the new year.  
 Thank you Ferguson Police!

# Ready to *upgrade* your primary care?

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**The Ferguson Public Library offers outstanding programming every month.**

LADY J HUSTON PRESENTS  
**ROOTS & BLUES**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH @ 6PM**

JOIN LADY J HUSTON (TRUMPETER, VOCALIST, AND GENEALOGIST) FOR A MUSICAL JOURNEY AND TOOLS TO DISCOVER YOUR FAMILY HISTORY. THIS MULTI-MEDIA, INTERACTIVE EVENT IS ESPECIALLY DESIGNED TO TEACH THE EVOLUTION OF BLUES MUSIC & TO DISCOVER HOW THESE HISTORIES INTERTWINE, CREATING A RICH TAPESTRY OF CULTURE, EMOTION, & RHYTHM WITH TODAY'S MUSIC THAT RESONATES THROUGH THE GENERATIONS. ALL AGES WELCOME!



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT TANEESA AT THE FERGUSON LIBRARY BY CALLING 314-521-4820 OR BY EMAILING [FEEDBACK@FERGUSONLIBRARY.NET](mailto:FEEDBACK@FERGUSONLIBRARY.NET).  
35 N FLORISSANT FERGUSON, MO 63135

Go to the library website <http://ferguson.lib.mo.us> to learn more and to register.

Upcoming adult programming:  
Cultural Cuisine - Chocolate! February 19 at 6 PM  
Annual Quilt Show - February 6, 7 and 8.



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

**HEATER CHECKLIST**

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

**Types of electric space heaters**

- Oil or water-filled radiator**  
Heated oil or water travels through the heater.
- Fan-forced heater**  
A fan blows warm air over metal coils.
- Ceramic heater**  
Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.
- Infrared heaters**  
Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

**Fact**

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

**WANTED! Book donations for the FLIERS April, 2025, book sale!**  
Needed: Fiction, Non-fiction, sci-fi, cookbooks, recent textbooks, etc.  
**\* As soon as possible! \***  
Please leave donations (clearly labeled FLIERS) at the Ferguson Municipal Public Library, 35 N. Florissant Road, Ferguson, MO 63135  
Some pick-up may be possible.  
For info, call (314) 521-4663



# CROSSWORD

“Stay for the Fun”

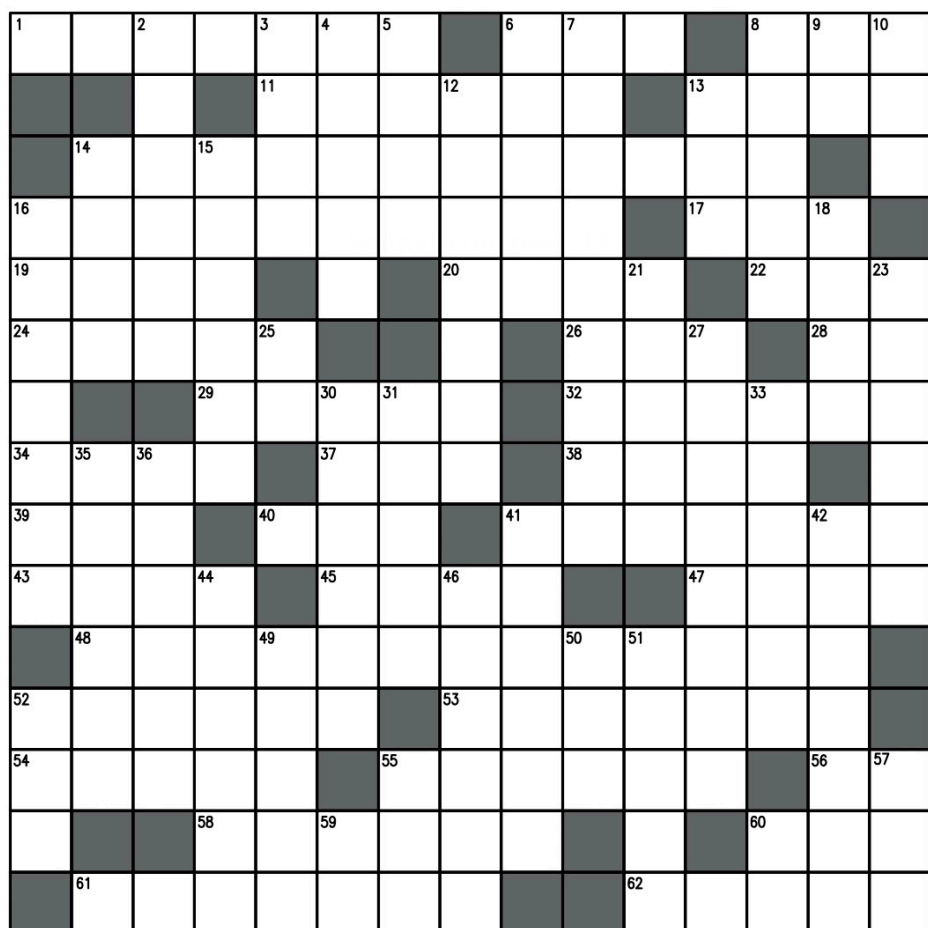
By Robin Shively

**ACROSS**

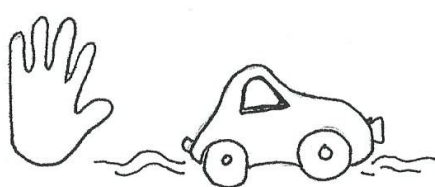
1. Carbonell of The Morning Show & others
6. Painting Deg.
8. Tattler
11. More compact
13. Guys that finish last
14. Subdivisions
16. Eight are in a juice
17. So far
19. Always
20. Workplace safety agcy.
22. Legendary bird of prey
24. Opposite of sur
26. Chi-town transit sys.
28. Sept. or Oct.
29. Greek for character
32. Carl’s nemesis at Bushwood
34. Opaque black stone
37. Ketchum who has gotta catch ‘em all
38. V.P. #45
39. Piglet’s pal
40. CPR pro
41. “Regarding myself”
43. Like a bug in a rug
45. Past Prime Minister of #46 down
47. Geezer
48. Where #16 across, #7 down, & #44 down may be found
52. Profession
53. Most blushing
54. That’s no bull
55. Progenitor
56. Hoop\_\_
58. Comedian Russell
60. Poetic evening
61. Brutish
62. Where you may find Colonel Mustard with the candlestick

**DOWN**

2. Weavers founder
3. French river
4. It may precede race or switch
5. Name-dropper
6. Popular ones feature a cat or Bernie
7. Coop collections
8. Choir platform
9. It feels good in Aug.
10. Online “Talks”
12. Kissin’ Kate Barlow’s spiced peaches
13. Polite decline text msg.
14. Red hat band
15. Crest
16. Purveyors
18. Large volume
21. Stand-offish
23. Girdle
25. He wants to phone home
27. It is found on a bicycle or a camera with film
30. A song about one was written by #2 down
31. Kitchen appliance brand
33. “Save the cheerleader, save the world” series
35. Food label word
36. Joe Cocker’s “\_\_\_ So Beautiful”
41. Arsenal
42. Stippled
44. Verdant hues
46. Country since 1948
49. It may be followed by badge or scholarship
50. Enzyme suffix
51. Peels
52. Harvest share prog.
55. Med. Cancer screening test for men
57. “\_\_body home?”
59. 3.14159...
60. Overseas econ. Alliance



**SLOW!  
DOWN!**



# ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Kimberly Kabak Epperson

**February 1st 10:00-4:30pm \$8**  
**St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum**



The Artist Who Captured Eichmann

This is a temporary exhibition that tells the exciting exploits of Peter Malkin, a Mossad agent who played a pivotal role in apprehending Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires in 1960. Malkin sketched and painted on the pages of a South American travel guide, creating a unique artistic chronicle of his experiences. This one-of-a-kind exhibition seamlessly blends art and history into a compelling narrative about justice, espionage and memory – all told through the eyes of an artistic spy.



**February 5th 7:00pm \$35-90**  
**Repertory Theatre of St. Louis**

Clyde’s

Can a sandwich act as a gateway to redemption? Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage presents the Tony-nominated play, Clyde’s. Clyde’s tells the story of ex-convicts in a run-down little kitchen who work together on a spirited culinary quest.

**February 14th 7:30pm (ticket \$ varies)**

**Touhill Performing Arts Center**

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra Tchaikovsky’s Romeo and Juliet — The Romantics

Tchaikovsky celebrates the passionate connection of Romeo and Juliet, while using technology to enhance the sonic splendor of the SLSO with a real-time electronic processing technique called “augmented orchestra”.

**February 21st 11:00am - 5:00 pm FREE**

**Mildred Kemper Lane Art Museum**

Seeds: Containers of a World to Come

This exhibition features ten contemporary artists’ paintings, sculptures, films and installations, which range from abstract to speculative to documentary. Together, the artworks suggest the seed as a timely means to address existential matters, and the exhibition aims to spark active and imaginative responses to reframe our connection to the natural world.

**February 27th 7:30pm \$35-75**

**Berges Theatre at COCA**

Saint Louis Dance Theatre Winter Concert: (RE)BUILD

Be among the first to witness the company premiere of Sechs Tänze by Jiří Kylián, who served as artistic director and house choreographer of Nederlands Dans Theater for more than 30 years. The program also features the return of Notes on a Farewell by Guggenheim Fellow Tommie-Waheed Evans. This is the first of four unique programs offered between February 27th and March 2nd.





# Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

As I attempt to make this article interesting there is an abundance of snow outside, there are cabinet confirmation hearings in the background on the television. Neither are positive or fun, but such is life in this world in which we find ourselves.

Six to eight inches of “thunder snow” was dumped on us. My husband and I attempted to excavate our vehicles and shovel what we could. We are old and somewhat broken. Do not get me wrong, we are both very healthy. Before the snow I tripped on my house slipper, fell in the bedroom but first had to slam my ribcage into the edge of the dresser. Fairly sure there is a broken rib or two. We both have shoulder issues and as long as we stay active with our workout group, we remain mostly strong and flexible. Staying active is indeed the secret to staying healthy. We finally enjoyed the services of our neighbor’s nephew who came over and used his snow blower on the stupid long driveway we have.

All that being said I was stuck at home for days. I kept busy taking down Christmas decorations and babying my injured ribs. My basement is a cellar, so I must go outdoors to transport the multiple tubs of decorations down there. I am not accustomed to being cooped up, so my mental health suffered some and I have been known to soothe myself with a cocktail or a glass of wine. No judgement, please.

Now, let me tell you a little about my curmudgeon husband. Most of us in the Midwest as children enjoyed snow. We built snowmen. We went sledding on the biggest, most dangerous hills we could find within walking distance. This poor man claims he has never had a positive experience with snow. As a kid the neighbor kids mercilessly threw snowballs at him, as he claims, simply because he was the only kid on the block attending the Catholic School in the neighborhood. As a young adult in college a fraternity snowball fight always resulted in frozen fingers. 1982 is the last thunder snow I experienced and remember. This storm resulted in 10 to 12 inches of snow. This particular snowfall coincided with his need to return to work after a lengthy absence due to reconstruction knee surgery. There he was, sitting in the back seat of our 1977 Caprice Station Wagon with the injured leg extended straight. It was then my job to drive him and his



crutches downtown to work. I tried to talk him into staying home a couple more days, but my pleading was ignored. We avoided the interstate and plowed our way through side streets to downtown St. Louis. I think I may have attempted to drive I-70 home. My memory of that day is unclear. Keep in mind, neither my husband nor I were 30 years old at the time. We were young, stupid and I was adventurous.

At the time I may have looked at this activity in the snow as an adventure. I am also the person who thought hanging out in New Orleans during hurricane Lily was a unique adventure as well. The power went out and we took the stairs from our hotel room on the 6th floor to the lobby. One problem...part of those stairs also served as the fire escape and were outside. We went down those steps in sidewise stinging rain. Hmm, sounds like a subject for another article. Stay tuned.

My dog, Simon, is tolerating the snow fairly well. He is not getting his morning walk. Nor is he getting to play with his friends at the dog park, but he is being a good boy. We take him for a ride in the car as often as we can and that appeases him.

Amazon is not enjoying our snow shoveling efforts either. This morning the delivery person drove halfway up the driveway and tossed the package into the side of our snow packed yard. Do you know how hard it is to find a white package partially buried in the snow? Just look for the Amazon logo. Today I ventured out in earnest! I went to the post office, visited a physician about my ribs. I “got my nails done,” visited my friends at the cosmetic counter at the Galleria Dillard’s and had a dental checkup. “Look mom! No cavities.” I my case, “Look mom, I do not have to replace a crown this year.”

Please share with me some of your snow or hurricane adventures. Thanks for reading this month. You may contact me at [manhattanmarian@gmail.com](mailto:manhattanmarian@gmail.com).



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Fire at Drakes Place Causes Extensive Damage

They are grateful to the community for the support they have received so far. At this point they are closed but are looking to rebuild with the help of our community.

Check their Facebook page for any fund raising events and updates

Please consider donating to keep this fine restaurant in Ferguson

# Level up Your Gardening Game this Spring with EarthDance Organic Farm School

By Jess Coffin

North County residents Lashonda Lockhart and Evelyn Adrian, both of Florissant, are proof that a little guidance can go a long way in transforming backyard gardening into a bountiful success. Both attended the Spring Training for Gardeners classes offered by EarthDance Organic Farm School last year, and they couldn't be happier with the results.

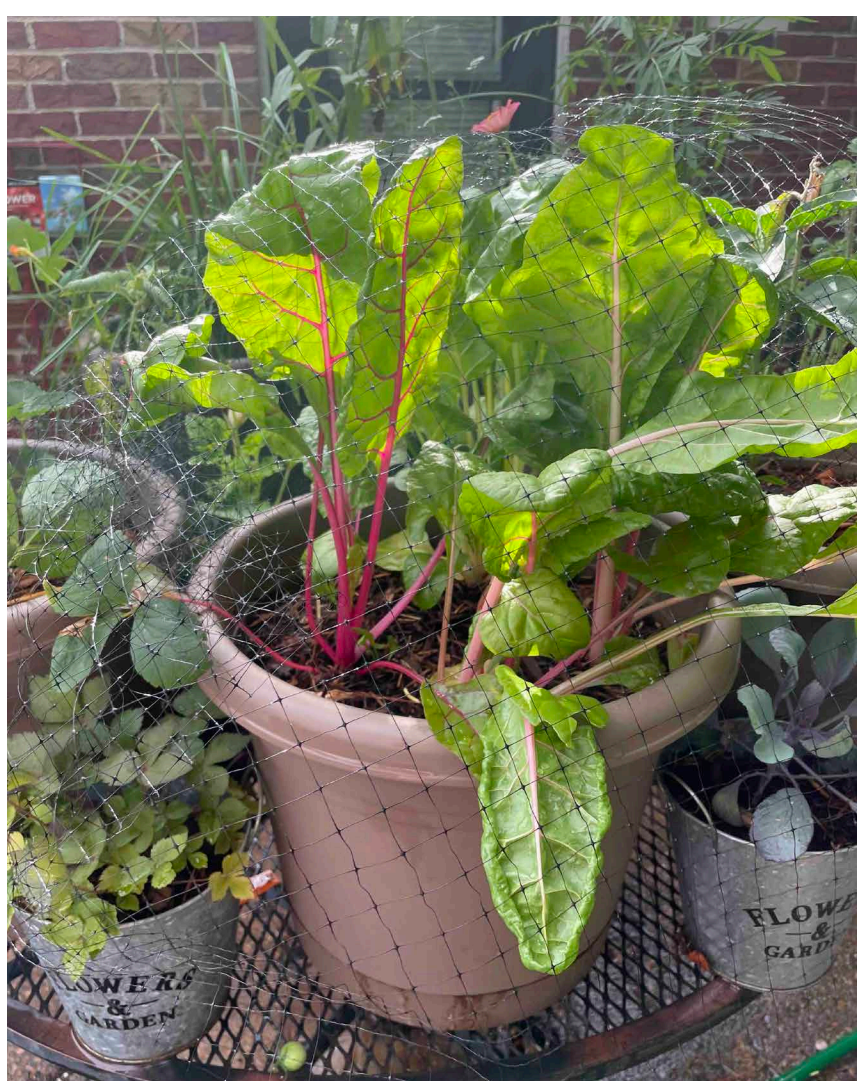
"My kids and I learned so much in such a short time," said Lashonda. "We did a salad garden this season with cucumbers, basil, kale, cabbage, and tomatoes. The cucumbers were the star of the show! We had so many that we gave some away and even made pickles. When life gives you cucumbers, make pickles!"

Lashonda discovered the importance of plant placement and sunlight. "I didn't think about the height of plants or the direction of the sun before class. Now I know better! I even grew squash and cucumbers outside the box to maximize my space," she explained.



Farmer/educators Jena Hood and Will Delacey talk about the importance of using the right soil for starting seeds during Spring Training's Starting from Seed 2024, the first hands-on class. At left are participants Lashonda Lockhart and two of her children, who participated in the class with her.

Evelyn also experienced a transformation in her garden. "I learned so much about how to plant and when. We learned how to do companion planting for things that grow well together and what plants interfere with each other," she shared. "I learned to deter pests without insecticides or traps using that companion planting, with light mesh, or just plain vigilance to remove the larva as they appeared. Since bugs and squirrels had played



Some of 2024 Spring Training participant Evelyn Adrian's chard. "I learned to deter pests without insecticides or traps using that companion planting, with light mesh, or just plain vigilance to remove the larva as they appeared,"



Farmer/educator Jena leads a group in the EarthDance demonstration garden during Spring Training 2024.

havoc with my garden in years past, I was especially happy with this new knowledge. Guess what? It worked!"

Evelyn is also looking forward to a prolific strawberry garden this year. "Last year, on [instructor] Will's recommendation, I got Honeoye because they send out runners, which establish new plants," she said. "Boy did they! I started with three. I had so many new plants, I didn't transplant all of them and still have a dozen in my greenhouse."

The five-week Spring Training course, designed for beginners and seasoned gardeners alike, combines online classes with hands-on workshops. The program covers everything from soil health and seed starting to plant placement and organic pest control (and more!)

Both Lashonda and Evelyn would recommend Spring Training to anyone ready to work at making their gardens more beautiful and bountiful. "Spring Training gave me confidence and results. I can't recommend it highly enough," Evelyn said.

Spring Training is available as a Full Course (5 online classes + 3 hands-on workshops), or anyone anywhere can learn and grow remotely with the 5 live-online course option (you can pick and choose or take 'em all!)

Spring Training veteran coaches Jena Hood, Will Delacey, Jo Phillips, Kaitie Adams of the Savanna Institute, and Ro Kicker of Ro's Wigglers are back for another banner season. And, new to Spring Training in 2025 is Seed St. Louis Chief Programs Officer Dean Gunderson!

EarthDance team members shared it's a joy to work with these brilliant collaborators. "Talk about fruitful cross-pollination," Jena, who is EarthDance's Director of Agriculture and Education said. "We're especially happy about this new partnership with Seed St. Louis for Spring Training. EarthDance's demonstration garden and the Oscar Lee Orchard are Seed St. Louis Community sites, and our organizations are mission-aligned. We're looking forward to co-hosting workshops at several other Seed St. Louis Community Gardens, and co-coaching with Dean - he's a very knowledgeable and engaging teacher."

For anyone dreaming of fresh produce from their own garden, Spring Training offers an accessible way to grow (use their Pay What You Can model to take any of their classes and workshops) that also inspires. Visit [earthdancefarms.org](http://earthdancefarms.org) to learn more about this mid-March through mid-April class, and sign up for the upcoming season.



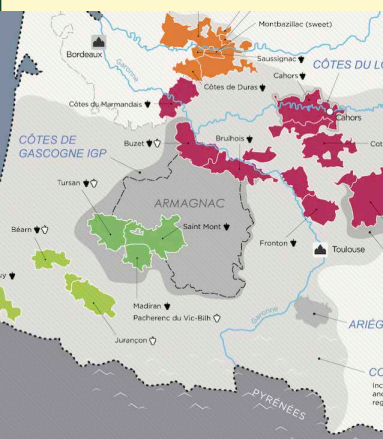
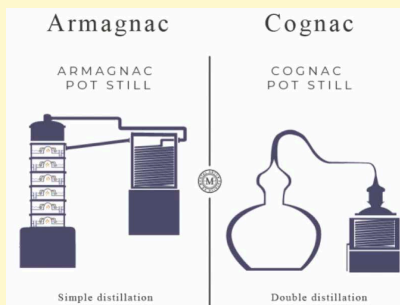
From left, EarthDance Director of Agriculture & Education Jena Hood, Production Manager Will Delacey, and Harvest & Distribution Manager Jo Phillips, all of whom are Spring Training instructors.

# What is Raghib Drinking?

By Raghib



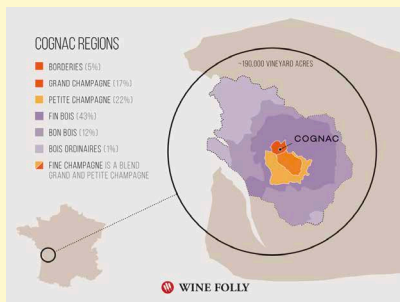
Winter is upon us! January’s snow storm impacted us all. The kids had multiple snow days, flights were cancelled, and lines were long at local grocery stores, as we all stocked up on food...and drink. Wine snobs often like to remind us that when seasons change, your wine should change. The typical rule of thumb is that white wines are for late spring and summer and that red wines are for fall and winter. Well, I don’t pay too much attention to wine snobs (LOL). If I did, I would have missed out on this superb White Bordeaux that I tasted a few days ago. Next month’s column will be dedicated to Bordeaux. I know, I’m sorry. However, while I have your attention this month, I want to share to introduce you to one of my favorite after dinner digestifs, Bas-Armagnac. In the words of the great jazz musician, Wynton Marsalis, “Bas-Armagnac will put a little smile on your face” . Marsalis even wrote a nice jazz tune called Armagnac Dreams! I digress.



Let’s rewind a bit. A few sentences ago, I introduced you to the term digestif. A digestif is typically an alcoholic beverage that is enjoyed after a meal to aid in digestion. Digestifs are usually taken neat (no ice). Digestifs vary by country. In Spain, Brandy de Jerez is a popular digestif. In Italy, grappa is popular. In France, Cognac, Armagnac, and Bas Armagnac are popular choices. Let’s focus on France. In a previous column, I explained how the French are really serious about their

wine appellations and they are equally serious about the Cognac and Armagnac regions as well.

Cognac and Armagnac are both French brandies, but they differ in how they are produced and how they taste. Cognac is from the Cognac region of France, just north of Bordeaux. It is distilled twice in pot stills. It is lighter in color with hints of caramel, orange, vanilla. Armagnac is from the Armagnac region of France, just south of Bordeaux. It is distilled once in column stills. Armagnac tends to have a richer and concentrated flavor, with hints of dried apricot, nutmeg, and cedar and other woody undertones. There are a lot of other details regarding Cognac and Armagnac that are beyond the scope of this article. In the future, I may devote a full column to those details. Okay, back to Bas-Armagnac! You may be asking yourself, “If Cognac and Armagnac come from specific regions in France, where does Bas-Armagnac come from?” Excellent question! Bas-Armagnac also comes from the Armagnac region. It’s one of the three sub regions in Armagnac, along with Ténarèze and Haut Armagnac. The terroir (ter-war) of each of these sub regions are very different, which influences the color and taste of



the brandy. My favorite sub region is Bas Armagnac and the sandy clay soil gives the brandy a tawny hue with tasting notes of oak, dried fruit, nutmeg, and vanilla. Prices of Bas-Armagnac vary, depending on its age. A quality 15 year old Bas-Armagnac will cost between \$50-\$60 and a quality 25 year old will cost upwards of \$100. Pictured are two of my favorites; Dartigalongue 15 year old Bas-Armagnac; Delord 25 year old Bas Armagnac.



So my friends, after dinner, on one of these cold winter nights, treat yourself to a delightful glass of Bas-Armagnac because it will put a little smile on your face. Happy Tastings!

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH, 2025

By Dr. Larry A. Brown

It is very important to remember Black History Month as an earned and deserving time. For those who have decided to make the United States their home as well as those who have been born in the USA, it is worthwhile to be reminded of the vast contributions that Blacks have made in the development of this country.

During the beginnings of the development of our land, Blacks were used to accommodate this development on many levels. Blacks were brought to this country which needed development, to assist in the many areas that needed attention.

Blacks provided housekeeping services and birth services for selected non-black homes in this developing land many years ago. Blacks provided the gardener services including the maintenance, management, and growth for the many gardens and yards. Blacks created many inventions, accommodations, new – ways, and short cuts as they performed their duties for whomever owned them. They invented many things and way of doing things during this period of the country’s evolution.

It is a matter of record that America’s first president, George Washington, owned more than 300 Black slaves, while he was president of the country. Blacks performed in the bedrooms and the fields during that period of time.

Blacks also helped build and expand the highway systems that allowed for the expansion and coordination of the land. There were a number of Blacks who invented ways to build and designs for construction, as well as those who performed the labor necessary to build these highways and streets.

There were structures needed. Buildings, homes, offices, warehouses, and plants were built with Black labor as well as permanent cities and other structures. Without the creativity and hard work of the Black population which was brought to this country, the expansion could have not occurred as rapidly and permanently as it did.

During this time and forever, Blacks have done human research on issues, illnesses, and situations, affecting and improving the quality of life of those who reside in these United States.

Upon being allowed freedom of some kind, Blacks have helped nourish and expand the sporting industry for which this country is known. Boxing, basketball, baseball, football, track, and other sports have all benefited and expanded from the presence and participation of Blacks.

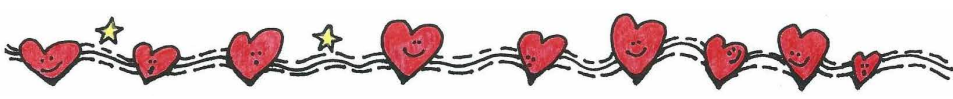
Black History allows all within the country, to focus on the positive and many contributions of this sector, and not just react to current media news and sensational columns that don’t paint the whole picture. As a matter of fact, it gives a more accurate and comprehensive view of this very important segment of our community.

The newer generations need this kind of exposure and attention in order to get a better understanding and appreciation for this sector. Often, the time and years will lose, muddle, or change events and occurrences, but permanent structures, live individuals – families, as well as recognitions such as this one, BLACK HISTORY MONTH serves to keep the record as history moves on.

As we look at other things that involve Blacks during this special period of time, (Politics, government, entertainment, education, religion) we can gain further respect and admiration for this permanent and very important sector of our community.

*Grace Chapel Ministries works to see that people thrive and survive within their communities and that folks do well while they are alive in this world.*

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# Let's Be their Voice

Dara Ashby, Ferguson Animal Coalition  
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## Ban the Breed or Ban the Breeder

It seems like a day doesn't go by without seeing a social media post about a dog or dog(s) running loose. And many of those dogs are "pit bulls". The term "pit bull" is really not a breed but rather a general term used to describe dogs with similar physical characteristics, often including the American Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier. Mastiffs, Argentinians, and Cane Corsos can also fit into the bully breed category.

These dogs are often mischaracterized for being "bad" dogs, when actually it is the owner who should be considered a "bad" owner. Many factors go into forming the way a dog behaves. Any dog for that matter.

**Training:** How the dog is raised and trained.

**Socialization:** How well is the dog socialized with people and other dogs.

**History of mistreatment:** Whether the dog has been abused in the past.

The term "bully dog" refers to a group of dog breeds that share a common ancestry and have similar physical characteristics. These breeds are generally descendants of the Old English Bulldog and were originally bred for various purposes, such as bull-baiting, dogfighting, and as working or companion animals. Today, bully breeds are known for their unique appearance, strength, and loyalty. It's important to note that the term "bully" does not mean that these dogs are inherently aggressive or mean-spirited. In fact, most bully breeds have a friendly and loving temperament, if raised right.

## WHAT ARE THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF BULLY BREEDS?

Bully breeds share several physical traits that make them easily identifiable. Some common features include:

- Muscular, stocky build. Bully breeds typically have a strong, sturdy frame and well-developed muscles, giving them a powerful appearance.
- Broad chest and shoulders. These dogs have wide chests and shoulders, which contribute to their overall strength and stability.
- Square-shaped head. Bully breeds often have a distinct square-shaped head with a wide, flat forehead and a short, broad snout.
- Wrinkled skin. Many bully breeds have loose, wrinkled skin, particularly around the face and neck.
- Short coat. Most bully breeds have a short, dense coat that requires minimal grooming.

## WHAT IS THE TEMPERAMENT OF A BULLY DOG?

Despite their tough appearance, in healthy living environments, bully breeds are generally known for their loving, friendly, and loyal nature. Some common temperament traits include:

- Affectionate. Bully breeds are known for their strong bond with their owners and love being part of a family.
- Intelligent. These dogs are quick learners and can be easily trained with positive reinforcement techniques.
- Protective. Due to their loyalty, bully breeds can be protective of their family and home, making them excellent watchdogs.
- Energetic. Many bully breeds have high energy levels and require regular exercise to stay happy and healthy.
- Sociable. With proper socialization, bully breeds can get along well with other dogs and even cats.

Unfortunately, Ferguson seems to have exploded with backyard breeders. What is a backyard breeder? A backyard breeder is an amateur breeder, where in most cases the conditions for the mom and dad and litters born are substandard, and NOT healthy environments, with little emphasis on ethical treatment or the well-being of the dogs. When a dog is viewed as simply a money maker, the dog loses. And so does the neighborhood that they live in.

These dogs typically live their lives chained to a tree or a car. Or kept caged in a basement and only brought out when it's time to breed them or have a litter of puppies. I am aware of far too many here in Ferguson who are living their lives in these sad situations.

The cycle is a brutal one. Litters and litters are born by under-socialized, neglected, and even abused moms and dads. And so the cycle continues. The puppies are sold as under-socialized, neglected puppies who grow into under-socialized adult dogs. There is typically no concern by the backyard breeder about who they sell these puppies to. So, these puppies end up being backyard breeder moms or dads themselves who often get dumped on the streets when no longer useful. Or end up running away from substandard living conditions if they have an opportunity to.

Living a life on the end of a chain or in an outdoor pen or caged in a basement without regular exercise or positive human interaction, the dog becomes frustrated and desperate. Dogs need proper exercise and positive experiences in order to become happy, healthy, well-adjusted dogs. Neglected dogs become fearful and sometimes even aggressive. These "victims" end up running the streets.



Animal control is called and so the dogs end up in shelters. If you walk into any shelter in St. Louis on any given day, you will see that most dogs sitting in cages, hoping to get out, are bully breeds.

We must stop this cycle. The only way to do this is to shut down backyard breeders and mandate spaying and neutering of all pit bulls/bully breeds in our community. Banning a breed that is mislabeled due to bad breeders is not the answer. We need to get to the root of the problem and that is to stop the reckless and irresponsible breeding by mandating spaying and neutering of bully breeds in Ferguson. Below is an example of a regulation that our neighboring community has.

Florissant currently has a mandatory spay and neuter regulation for pit bulls. Here are some requirements:

- A person cannot own, keep, or harbor a pit bull that is not spayed or neutered unless the pit bull is under 8 weeks old.
- If the pit bull cannot be spayed or neutered without a high risk of serious injury or death, a veterinarian must certify the condition.
- The owner must submit documentation to the Director of public Works within 30 days of taking possession of the pit bull.

As a community, we can break this cycle by updating our very old regulations regarding bully breeds. We should eliminate the breed discrimination ban because pit bulls (and other bully-breeds) can be wonderful additions to the family when raised properly. We need to put backyard breeders who are raising under-socialized and poorly adjusted bully-breeds in Ferguson, out of business by requiring the spay and neuter of all bully-breeds.

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## Under The Hood With Robinwood

By Bob McGartland

### The Rise of Subscription-Based Car Ownership: A Different Way To Hit the Road

Hey there, friend. You know how back in the day, owning a car was a big deal? You'd save up, buy your wheels, and take care of it like it was a member of the family. Well, times are changing, and there's a new way to get behind the wheel without signing your life away: subscription-based car ownership.

I know, it sounds a little fancy, but stick with me, and I'll break it down for you. It's kind of like Netflix, but for cars. Instead of buying or leasing, you pay a monthly fee, and in return, you get to drive a car—and sometimes even swap it out for another one. They usually throw in insurance, maintenance, and even roadside assistance, so all you really have to worry about is gas (or charging, if you're rolling in an electric car).

#### What's the Deal with Subscription-Based Car Ownership?

Here's how it works. You pick a subscription plan, pay a monthly fee, and bam—you've got yourself a ride. Some programs let you swap between different types of vehicles, so if you need a sedan for everyday driving but want an SUV for a road trip, you can make the switch. You're not stuck with one car for years like you are with a lease, and you don't have to deal with buying and selling when you're ready for something new.

Prices can vary widely depending on the program and the type of car you choose. For example, an everyday vehicle like a Toyota or Ford might cost around \$700–\$900 per month, while luxury brands like Jaguar, Porsche, or Mercedes could set you back \$1,500–\$3,000 or more per month. These prices typically include insurance, maintenance, and other perks, but you'll want to read the fine print.

#### Why It's a Sweet Deal

There's a lot to love about these car subscriptions. First off, they're super flexible. Life changes, right? Maybe you're moving to a city and need something small, or maybe you're headed on a big adventure and need something rugged. With a subscription, you're covered.

It's also pretty darn convenient. Insurance, maintenance, and even things like oil changes are usually baked into the price. No more worrying about budgeting for unexpected repairs. It's all taken care of.

Plus, if you're someone who likes variety, this is a dream come true. You can drive a sleek sedan one month and a sporty convertible the next. It's like having your own personal car showroom. Most subscriptions include new cars, but some programs offer a mix of new and gently used vehicles, giving you even more options to fit your budget.

#### But, There's a Catch...

Now, I won't sugarcoat it—these subscriptions aren't cheap. You're looking at a higher monthly payment than if you leased or financed a car. If you're someone who likes to hold onto a car for years and get your money's worth, this might not be the route for you.

Mileage limits can also be a sticking point. Many subscription services have caps, usually around 1,000 to 1,500 miles per month. If you go

over, you'll likely have to pay extra fees. And while the flexibility to swap cars is great, some programs require you to stick with your choice for a minimum time period, such as 30 days.

Also, these programs are mostly in bigger cities right now. If you're out in the sticks, good luck finding a service nearby. And don't forget—you don't own the car. When the subscription ends, you're left with nothing but memories of your sweet ride.

#### What Do Big Automakers Think?

Automobile manufacturers are leaning into this trend in a big way. Companies like Volvo, BMW, Porsche, and Mercedes-Benz have launched their own subscription services, seeing it as a way to attract younger drivers and meet the demand for flexibility. They view it as an opportunity to build brand loyalty by letting customers experience multiple models without the commitment of ownership.

#### What's Down the Road?

I gotta say, I think this whole subscription thing is only going to grow. Younger folks are all about flexibility and avoiding the headaches of ownership. And with electric cars and self-driving tech on the horizon, the whole game could change. Imagine subscribing to a car that drives itself—no maintenance, no gas, just smooth rides all the way.

#### Should You Give It a Go?

If you're someone who likes to try new things, or just doesn't want to commit to one car, a subscription might be perfect for you. But if you're a die-hard car owner who loves the idea of building equity and sticking with your ride for the long haul, this might not be your cup of tea.

So, what do you think? If you're curious, maybe it's time to test the waters. After all, life's too short to drive the same car forever. Just make sure to read the fine print and figure out if the price is worth the perks. Whatever you decide, I'll be here, ready to ride shotgun whenever you need advice.

#### Adding a Personal Touch

Want to know something cool? Some subscription services even offer high-end perks. Imagine driving a luxury car you'd never dream of owning, like a Tesla Model X or a BMW M4. It's like living the dream without the hefty price tag of ownership.

On the flip side, these services are also starting to cater to eco-conscious drivers. Brands like Polestar and Audi are offering electric vehicles in their subscription fleets, which means you can go green without worrying about long-term commitments.

#### Is It for Everyone?

Not really. Families with a tight budget or those living in rural areas might find these services impractical. But for urban dwellers, digital nomads, or anyone who loves trying the latest and greatest in automotive tech, subscriptions offer a glimpse into the future of driving.

Whatever your situation, it's worth keeping an eye on how this trend evolves. Who knows? Someday, owning a car might seem as outdated as using a rotary phone. Until then, keep exploring the road ahead, and know Robinwood Automotive is always there for any of your car care needs. or advice. Visit us at [robinwoodauto.com](http://robinwoodauto.com).

Happy Valentine's Day Everyone!



## Remembering Bob Kuban

I just learned that Bob Kuban passed away. He and his "In Men" were a staple in north county. They used to play almost every Monday night at Jackson park in Berkeley. We used to go up to the park to watch the rumbles (fights between rival schools). Usually it was teens from Riverview, Fairview, or Jennings fighting with the Ferguson and Berkeley teens. Of course fights back then didn't involve gunplay. Mostly fisticuffs and an occasional chain.

Bob Kuban and the In Men featuring "Little Walter Scott" had one big hit: "The Cheater". But some from that album like "You've got your troubles" were also very good. They had a good horn section and were popular around here because they could play a lot of Motown which was the sound back then. Songs like Harlem Shuffle and In the Midnight hour showcased the organ and horn section. Along with Walter Scott's vocals; they were a staple in the St. Louis music scene.

Bob played with multiple artists: Chuck Berry, Ike & Tina Turner, and The Temptations and clubs around St. Louis from Club Imperial to gas light square.

His band played at our prom in 1968. They were the "go to" band back then. We'll miss you Bob.

Papa Deau

# Financial Focus – Building Wealth

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)

Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

Just one month into the New Year, you might be reviewing your own financial situation and putting together a personal financial statement to see your net worth. This is an important part of planning for the future. Taking into account what you own (assets) and what you owe (liabilities) provides your net worth. Hopefully, your assets are more than your liabilities or you have a negative net worth and will need to do some work to change this to build wealth. Making choices that will increase this net worth and grow to meet your family needs is something to work towards. One way to do this is to make your hard earned money grow. So let's look at some options for growing the money you already have which may be in a savings account or may be set aside for a specific purpose like retirement.

First goal if you don't already have it is to sock away funds for emergencies. It is often suggested that this needs to be enough funds to cover at least 90 days of expenses or more. Looking at various banks or credit unions can help you find the best place to keep your emergency funds handy and still earn a decent interest rate. Not keeping your emergency fund in the same institution as your checking account may make this easier, so you don't borrow from it. Often you can earn more interest at a credit union, so keep that in mind while checking rates. Depending on what this amount is you could also consider investing a portion in a CD (certificate of deposit) that comes due every 3 - 6 months. Also keeping a high balance in a money market account may also give a better return. Some banks are also starting to offer high yield savings accounts – these are typically on-line banks. With a high yield savings account the rate is variable based on the current market rates – right now the average savings account rate in the United States is less than half a percent. So this is worth looking into for comparing. As with all of your choices you'll want to also look at any fees that may be involved in some accounts. Knowing how quickly funds can be accessed when needed is another good question.

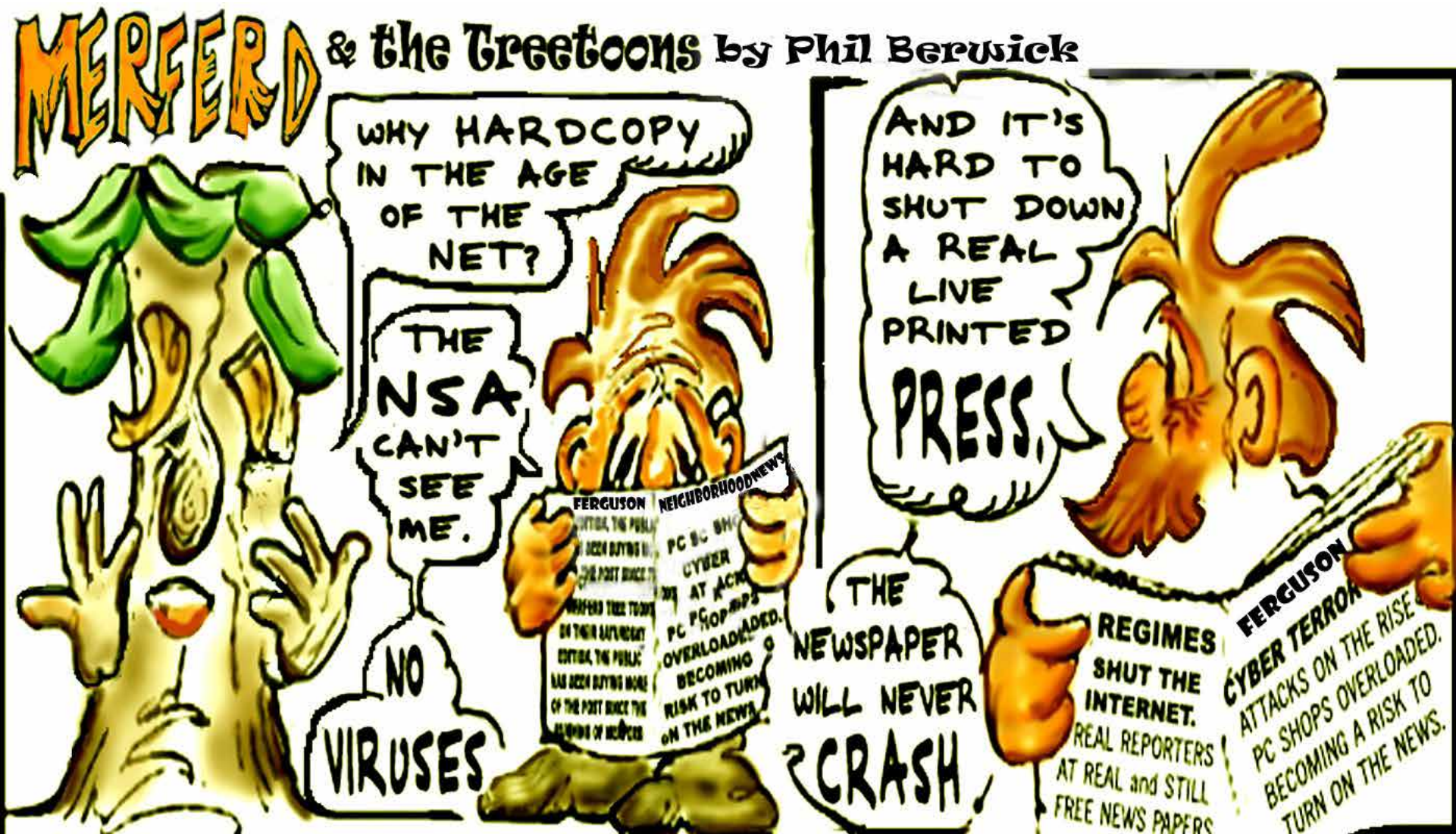
Once you have your emergency fund set aside, you should look at other alternatives for retirement investments. If you are employed and have a 401K or some other type of retirement fund where your employer will match contributions, this is a must. It is basically free money and is always your money after a qualifying period of becoming vested. If you leave that employer before the vested period usually about five years, you may not keep the funds the employer contributed. However, all the funds you contributed will always be yours and can be moved into an IRA or other investment if you change employment. Some companies vest employees immediately, so this is a no brainer. Do contribute at least the amount they will match!

If you have other things you want to save for like a vacation or education, you may want to have another account to keep these funds segregated. Planning the amount to save every month and setting up an automatic transfer can help you keep this financial goal on track. When you will need these savings funds will help determine how to invest them. If you are close to retirement age, you may want to be more cautious with your invested funds. And of course if you are younger you should be looking for a higher return on retirement investments. At this point speaking to an expert is a good choice. Often the bank you deal with may have a brokerage area to help. Your employer may have a firm involved that can provide advice on your retirement funds. Choosing a Financial Advisor is crucial as we look at other longer term investments.

Investing for individuals is a highly regulated industry and Financial Advisors must be licensed and pass rigorous tests to maintain their licenses. With that said, we've all heard horror stories of people who have lost everything by following the advice of someone who may have offered higher rates without fully explaining the risks or possibly using a fraud scheme to take advantage of others. In my past I've known licensed representatives who have sold products based on the amount of commission they would earn not whether it was best for the customer. Over the years, this confusion with the title of "Advisor" brought about a regulation in 2019 called Reg BI (Regulation Best Interest) which requires Financial Advisors registered with the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) to abide by fiduciary duty. This meant putting the customers' interest ahead of their own which is what most people would like in an advisor. A few questions you should ask your financial advisor – How do they charge for services? Are they acting as a fiduciary? Could they provide references from other clients? When investing for long term and growth you need to know your advisor and have a level of trust.

Some of the products you may be offered are Mutual Funds, Stocks, and Annuities. Treasuries and municipal bonds are other investments which may be considered safer. Traditionally these have a specific term and yield. If you need funds sooner, you may be able to sell them and depending on the current market conditions get a premium or be forced to sell at a discount. Having your advisor provide current knowledge on the products that may be best for you is smart. Choosing your advisor will involve some fees, but the value of this person's expertise and ability to understand the market and your needs can improve your success in meeting your objectives. Next month I will offer some other ideas for improving your net worth by looking at the other side of your Personal Financial Statement showing your liabilities. Reducing them also improves the bottom line.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at cleav73@gmail.com



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**“The Lord plans my day, I just live it.”**

My son said this a few weeks ago and it has resonated with me. I got to thinking that this is a great way to approach each day knowing the Lord is leading you in the direction you should go.



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# The Sick - Tonya

By Patricia Brothers

Tonya rolls over, and looks at the time on her phone. Technically she should be getting dressed for school. Even with the blackout curtains she can tell that the sun has not risen yet. In her mind, as long as the moon is out – she will be too. She closes her eyes for another round of sleep. No sense of getting to school early or on time even. She pulls the covers over her face. She can faintly hear her mom and sister getting ready for work and school downstairs. Secretly, she was mildly jealous of Amanda. After being an only child for so long, how could she not be?

Back to sleep she goes. Until ... “Tonya! Get up! Let’s go! You’re going to make us late again!” Phylicia yells from the bottom of the stairs.

“Ugh!” Tonya mumbles under her breath. While she does love her mom, these are moments when she absolutely can’t stand her. In the back of her mind Tonya wants to scream “leave me alone” however, she knows that it would lead to dire consequences and arguments that will last for days. She slowly rose up from the bed and stretched. She grabbed her toiletries and headed for the shower. She didn’t care if they were late. She was taking a shower before she got dressed.

Tonya descends from the stairs as if she is royalty. Amanda looks up at her and smiles. “You were almost going to miss breakfast Sissy.”

Tonya just stares at her. Today was not a good day for Amanda and all her rainbows. Amanda stands up from her chair and runs to Tonya. She hugs her so gently. Tonya could not help but to melt in that instant. Her sister really isn’t that bad. She just has her moments. Tonya knew that she meant the world to Amanda. Deep down Tonya loved Amanda way more than she let on. She returned the embrace and pats Amanda on the head. Amanda looks up, smiles, and returns to eating.

Phylicia pivots to face Tonya. “Hey. Do you have all your stuff packed? We don’t have time to stop for coffee or turn around if you forget something.” Tonya rolls her eyes. Slightly irritated, she scoffs. “Yeah.” A deep sigh follows.

“I am not even going there with you today. Whatever happens, that’s on you. Let’s go. Amanda, finish your plate and put it in the sink.” Tonya noticed Phylicia seems to be in a mood also. This is going to be a fun ride to school.

“I’m ready momma.” Tonya musters to say without the full-on attitude. Phylicia’s back is facing Tonya. She’s putting away the clean dishes. “That’s fine. Amanda, go get your coat and backpack. I put some stuff and snacks for you in that bag over there.” Phylicia nods her head to gesture over her shoulder to where the bag is lying.

Tonya looks in the same direction. “What am I five?” Curiosity gets the best of her and she moves toward the bag to open it. Inside Tonya can see that her mom really did understand her. There was nearly all of her favorite snacks and candy. Maybe being five and mom packing her bag does have some rewards. Tonya moves the items around taking in the full inventory. “Thanks.” Tonya swipes the bag and heads to the door. She sets the bag down on the coffee table to put on her coat and shoes.

Phylicia follows behind her. Amanda is sitting on the couch with her iPad watching mindless kid videos. Tonya looks at Amanda like right now she’s the perfect kid, but deep down she truly is Satan’s spawn. That made her chuckle. Which in turn made both Amanda and Phylicia look at her strange. “What’s funny Sissy?” Amanda stares at Tonya as if her face changed. Tonya took a step back.

“Nothing. It’s just sometimes you’re so cute and innocent. Then other times, you’re such a demon child. Either way it goes, you’re still my Sissy.” Tonya shocked herself with that last sentence.

“Then don’t bring it out of me and you have nothing to worry about.” Amanda looks very sinister and smiles.

Phylicia stares in bewilderment. “I don’t know what’s happening here. But take it to the car.”

Tonya opens the door. Out of nowhere, as it seems, Amanda is out of the door and halfway to the car. Tonya has an idea to name her Speedy. Tonya is the opposite. She prolongs the inevitable of going to school as much as humanly possible. She seems to take one step every few seconds. Amanda leans against Bella (that’s her name for the car) and crosses her arms impatiently waiting. Tonya looks at her and shrugs.

Tonya’s and Phylicia’s phones get a notification. Phylicia fumbles in her pocket to find her phone to see what it was. It’s odd that they both would get a notification at the same time. Not unlikely, but very odd. As they look on their phone; it’s a warning from the CDC of a possible pandemic. Phylicia pivots on her heels and heads back towards the door.

“Mom! Where are you going?” Tonya yells behind her.

“I’ll be right back. You guys need masks.” Phylicia yells over her shoulder. “I’ll be right back!” Tonya is thankful for the delay.

Tonya now leans against the car. “Can you at least unlock the door?” The car doors unlock. Amanda gets in her booster seat. Tonya sits in the front. Tonya looks at her phone once more. She contemplates if it’s even worth going to school.

“What does it say?” Amanda sounds so innocent.

Her speaking however startles Tonya. Amanda was so quiet that she forgot that she was there. “Nothing. Just a bunch of people who are sick because they don’t have good sense or good hygiene or someone around them doesn’t and doesn’t care that they don’t.” Tonya spoke as matter-of-factly as she normally does. She shrugs her shoulders and leans her head on the headrest.

“People are gross.” Amanda makes a face.

Tonya chuckles. “Yeah, they are. But mommy’s right. Wash your hands Manda Bear, stop hugging people so much and stay out of their face. Last thing we want is for mommy to think that she gave it to us. The guilt would eat her alive. Plus, if mommy’s not around, then just think ‘who’s gonna give us what we want’.” Tonya looks into Amanda’s eyes through the rearview mirror.

Amanda speaks, “definitely not you. You’re broke.” Amanda smiles a sinister smile.

“And this is why I can’t stand you.” Tonya places her AirPods in her ear and tunes out the world. Amanda aimlessly goes back to her iPad. Phylicia gets into the driver seat. Tonya cracks her eyelid only enough to see that Phylicia is passing her a mask. She takes the mask and wraps the string around her wrist.

Phylicia turns to Amanda. “Here baby. Make sure you wear this at all times except to eat and drink. Be very careful.”

“I know. I know.” Amanda groans. Even at her young age she sounds so very old.

Phylicia backs out of the driveway and heads down the street. As they enter the intersection, that is when reality kicks in. A man was standing on the corner coughing. Clear as day, the blood splatter in his hand told Phylicia everything she needed to know. She ensured the windows were rolled up and the air circulation was turned off. Tonya removed her AirPods and placed on her mask. Amanda followed suit.

Phylicia also put on her mask. There was a solemn and grim feeling in the air.

“Mom? Honestly. I don’t know if I feel comfortable going to school.” Tonya’s voice was muffled through the mask, but she knew her mother understood her.

Phylicia looked away from the man. “I agree. But right now. Even though they are quarantining and such, I think it’s still doable. Just do as I ask and we should be okay.”

“And what about you? You’re practically ground zero.” Tonya voice was elevated.

“Yes. I know. That’s why I need you guys to follow my instructions to the letter.” Phylicia could not hide the fear and worry. Tonya picked up on it. “Okay top flight NP. What is it that you are not telling us?” Tonya dove straight in.

“I can’t say anything. Not yet any way. I don’t have all the information yet, but that’s supposed to change today when I go in. There is no cure per se, but there are preventative measures. There are experimental medicines. Technically speaking, I have been on them since it started. This is expected to reach pandemic levels.” Phylicia looked worried and that worried Tonya. “God Tonya! I’ve said too much. You cannot say anything to anyone.”

Tonya returned the worried feeling. “I know mom. But this thing hasn’t been out that long.”

Phylicia stopped at the red light instead going through it like normal. “It’s been longer than you think. Like I said. It’s just now starting to be public knowledge.”

“Mom! Mom! Mom!” Tonya’s eyes widen.

Phylicia follows her gaze. That is when they both see a group of approximately 10-15 people bleeding from orifices and attacking cars.

“Mom! We have to go!” Tonya pats Phylicia’s arm in a panic.

Phylicia turns the car around. She nearly crashes into oncoming traffic as everyone had the same idea. Get away from the sick. *To be continued..*

**Crossword Solution from page 4**

1	N	E	S	T	O	R	S		6	M	F	A		8	R	A	T			
		E		D	E	N	S	E	R					13	N	I	C	E		
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16	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S		17	Y	E	T					
19	E	V	E	R		Y		20	O	S	H	21	A		22	R	O	23	C	
24	N	O	R	T	25	E				26	E	L	S		28	M	O			
D			29	E	T	H	O	S		32	G	O	P	H	E	R				
34	O	N	Y	X		37	A	S	H		38	G	O	R	E				S	
39	R	O	O		40	E	M	T		41	A	S	F	O	R	M	E			
43	S	N	U	G		45	M	E	I	R				47	C	O	O	T		
	48	F	A	R	M	E	R	S	M	50	A	R	K	E	T					
52	C	A	R	E	E	R			53	R	O	S	I	E	S	T				
54	S	T	E	E	R			55	P	A	R	E	N	T			56	L	A	
A			58	N	I	P	S	E	Y					60	E	E	N			
	61	B	E	S	T	I	A	L				62	S	T	U	D	Y			

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**God Speaks**  
by Doug Neely

**The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost**

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,[b] 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Acts 2:1-13 NIV (New International Version)

The above bible passage from Acts tells us of the Holy Spirit, and of some of His gifts to us. The rush of wind, the tongues of fire, speaking in tongues (or other languages), which is something most of the apostles did not know how to do, as they knew only their own native language. Are we to assume that anyone who gets drunk can speak a language that they have never learned?

Do you see the hand of the Spirit at work here?

Doug the scribe  
February 2025

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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 and become a member.



It was a great year for your Ferguson Historical Society. We have been more active in the Ferguson community than in past years. We have hosted two open houses, hosted a "Slavery in St. Louis" exhibit, sponsored a Facebook page on noteworthy women with a connection to Ferguson, had our first fundraiser in years (Help Us Launch Our Website) and finally hosted our second Annual Holiday Lights Tour.

The first Country Fair was in 1949 and, according to our records, continued until the final fair in 1961. It may be safe to assume that Ferguson's civic leaders of the 1940's were born in the early years of the 20th century – some from small towns in rural counties – towns or counties with the relief of summer boredom coming with the country fairs and their rides, agricultural shows and contests and cooking contests. While the stated reason for the fairs was, "to call attention to resources and business opportunities in the community", I see a deeper motivation on the part of these men to bring the memories of the country fair to the new generation - the kids of the 1940-1950's. The Ferguson Country Fairs featured all of these things. The fair was held in the large parking lot currently used by the businesses along Florissant Road on the east side – the lot used by Aldi's. It did not extend past Spot Drive as that area was the bus turnaround area and had several buildings, now gone (remember Gasen's Drugs and Ike Baxter's Barber Shop).

# 2024

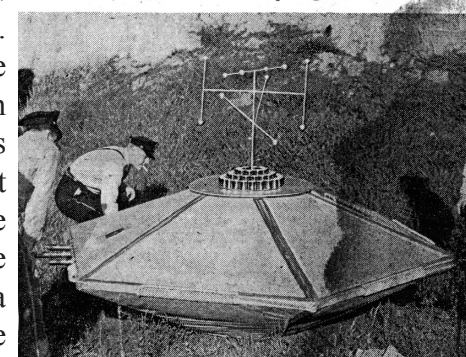
This article is just an introduction to the Ferguson Country Fair – future articles will go in more detail about this interesting part of Ferguson history. The idea of investigating the fair came about on a drive with a first-grade friend from Central School (ca 1950) on the return from a Ferguson High class reunion. We were remembering the good times we had at these fairs. It was time to investigate. The History House has many files on the fairs – files which will be investigated in future articles. For now, I will give you two "teasers" to bring you back in future months.



You may not think of Ferguson as a center for great holiday lights – BUT it is. Our president, Mary Haux, thought so and traveled around Ferguson finding the best examples. Tickets went on sale. We then, as in 2023, used a Ferguson Jolly Trolley to launch the formal tour on December 19th. We began with a reception including snacks and drinks then headed out with Mary as our tour guide. There were some great examples of holiday lights – many houses along with a giant Santa. The hour tour ended around Plaza 501 with a visit to one of Ferguson's newest businesses: Soulcraft – a company offering a comprehensive wood shop and training for interested people. What's more interesting is that The Ferguson Volunteer Flower Department, who usually decorates Soulcraft's windows, has provided some Christmas display items from the old Ferguson Department store. The elves are on display for all to see.

The 1950's were a period ripe with tales of extraterrestrial vessels and beings – think Area 51 in Nevada. Why shouldn't Ferguson become a center of this activity. From an article of the period, "The saucer was discovered on a grocery parking lot at South Florissant and Tiffin Avenue (Andy Worm and the Police & Fire Stations). Ferguson policemen, a fire engine, deputy sheriffs and state highway patrolmen came speeding to the scene. The saucer opened up and out crawled a boy clad in a black suit, wearing goggles. He held a sign which read: 'It came from Mars to visit the Ferguson Country Fair'" The story reached all local media, radio, TV and print as well as across the USA. Great publicity! Funds raised by the 1950 Fair were pledged to purchase lighting for the Ferguson High School athletic field.

Ferguson's 'Flying Saucer'



A second reason for writing about the fair came after I had looked through dozens of photographs of the fair (to be shared in later articles). I came across this photo – to the right is my dad, Fred Benner, our neighbor, Buddy Bayer and to the left, me. My guess is that this was taken at the 1953 or 54 fair – probably a hot dog stand.



For future articles, we are asking any people who grew up in Ferguson from 1949 to 1961 – and who remember attending the fair to contact me at the email address at the end of this article. Please – if you have memories of the fair – contact me by the end of February.

We look forward to 2025 – but this article is not just about our past year – it is also the beginning of an article on an event which brings back many memories by those of us who grew up in Ferguson in the late 40's and 50's. The Ferguson Country Fair was the idea of members of the Ferguson Rotary, founded in 1947. Rotary International is a group of civic minded businesspeople, professionals and corporate officers who meet regularly, plan civic events as well as fund local community needs. It is a large international organization with groups throughout the world. The Ferguson Chapter of Rotary no longer exists.

### Tune in next month for more on the Ferguson Country Fair.

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](mailto:fjbenner@mindspring.com). You are also welcome to visit the History Museum at 1064 Smith (behind the Community Center) by e-mailing the above address. Note: we will need to schedule a date for you, so ask well in advance



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

# FERGUSON TWILIGHT RUN

## 5K★10K 1-MILE FUN RUN

For Timely Release – February 2025 edition, Ferguson Neighborhood News

### Lace up your shoes! Ferguson Twilight Run is May 17, 2025

Registration is open for the 16th annual community run/walk.

**Ferguson, MO** – Look at the calendar. Today is the day you register for the 16th annual Ferguson Twilight Run. It’s also the day that you dress in layers, lace up your athletic shoes and walk or run to get ready for the walk.

“We truly appreciate the support from Ferguson neighbors and businesses when it comes to Ferguson Twilight Run. When we started in 2010, there was a lot of excitement. Now, 16 years later, it’s still exciting” said Dwayne T. James, race director.

### Race Day

Ferguson Twilight Run is Saturday, May 17, 2025. 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.

Register online at [fergtwilightrun.com](http://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 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 and YouTube for information about course routes, street closures, packet pick up, registration, 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. To date, more than \$129,850 has supported a host of programs and services focused on impacting positive, healthy outcomes. In 2024, the beneficiaries included Girls on the Run St. Louis Ferguson-Florissant Schools, Strength and Honor Mentoring & Tutoring, A Red Circle and Emerson Family YMCA.

Applications for the 2025 award are due Friday, Feb. 28. Your organization must be a registered nonprofit in good financial standing, promote active living in North St. Louis County and provide physical activity opportunities focused on health in North St. Louis County. Application details are online.

### Become a Sponsor or Vendor

There are opportunities for area businesses, community organizations, family groups and individuals to support Ferguson Twilight Run as a sponsor or vendor.

Learn more about sponsorships at [fergtwilightrun.com](http://fergtwilightrun.com).

### History

Ferguson Twilight Run debuted in May 2010 as the first evening race in North St. Louis County. The run/walk 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](mailto:racedirector@fergtwilightrun.com)  
 Nez Savala, 816-678-9071 [miss\\_tv@yahoo.com](mailto:miss_tv@yahoo.com)





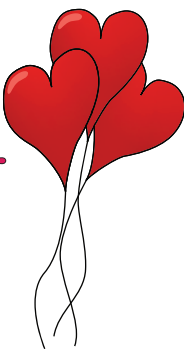
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