

Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

SINCE NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE LATELY?

By Dr. Larry A. Brown

Many people often make one good deed, or a few, and then do nothing else. They often refer to those previously done good deeds and take plenty of credit for the good that they have done. This is ok and it can make one feel good, but



It is always needed and if we don't do it, then, who will do what we have an opportunity to do?

Often, we have a tendency to dwell in the past and live on our past accomplishments. There is a requirement, however, for us to perform good things for as long as we can. There is always a need.

No matter what our present status is, as long as we can do something good, the world will benefit and we, personally, will feel good and have more to talk about and reflect on in the future.

It becomes most unfortunate when a person reaches the end of life and few can recall anything that the individual did in the past, that was good, Then it is too late to add a good deed to the resume.

Wouldn't you wish for people to have something good to say about you? We must remember that people often forget the good deed or often take a good deed for granted.

It is important to remember that TIME can also play a part. There are always new generations of people that have needs, and they are not likely to be aware of the good thing you did in previous times.

It must become an attitude and a way of life, so that we don't have to recall the past because we are still doing good things currently.

That is why we are asking you to think about and say what you have done lately. If you can't identify anything, then it is time to resume your efforts and if it was a long time ago, it may be time to get about the business at hand. You won't be sorry!

Also, it may inspire others to do something. The world can certainly use more people doing good deeds now, more than ever before.

It is a good thing to perform introspection, a look at how we are doing, from time to time.

We can become so busy that we forget to put things on our list of things to do. We may have good intentions but never get around to doing anything. That is why we must ask the question, "What have you done, lately?"

ONE WINTER MARKET LEFT THIS YEAR!

FERGUSON WINTER FARMERS' MARKET

SAT, APRIL 19, 9AM-12PM

Fresh local produce, meat, cheese, specialty brats, honey, herbal teas, **FREE** coffee, hot breakfast, breads and baked goods, live music, unique gift items, and much more!

SUPPORT OUR VENDORS!

St. Stephen's Church
33 N. Clay



On-line edition: fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/

April News and Events at the Ferguson Public Library

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

Children and Teen Events

Stories and Songs for Little Ones Join us for storytime! Ages 0-5. Wednesdays at 10 am	Teen Makers Create kanzashi flowers! Register at bit.ly/fmplmakers24 . Tuesday, Apr. 15 at 6 pm	Lego Club Drop in and build! Ages 6-11. Saturday, Apr. 19 at 2 pm
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Reader's Theater Workshop
Practice reading and public speaking at this interactive workshop! Join us and local writer Ricki Connor as we work together to act out some short scenes.
Ages 8 and up. **Thursday, Apr. 17 at 6 pm**

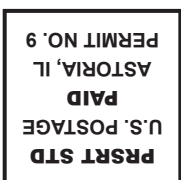
Adult Events

Conversations and Coffee Discuss the news over light refreshments. Tuesday, Apr. 8 at 6 pm	National Scrabble Day Celebrate word games and play Scrabble! Wed., April 9 at 6 pm	Readings on Race Book Club We'll discuss <i>Radical Atlas of Ferguson, USA</i> . Monday, Apr. 14 at 6 pm
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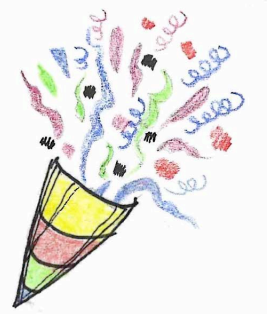
All Ages Events

FLIERS Spring Book Sale Support the library and fill your shelves! Thursday, Apr. 10 from 4-7:30 pm Friday, Apr. 11 from 12-5:30 pm Saturday, Apr. 12 from 9-3 pm	SAVE THE DATE! Mother's Day Teatime Celebrate the important woman in your life at our annual tea! Register at bit.ly/fmplmother23 . Saturday, May 10 from 11-2 pm
Fiber Arts Social Club Bring your latest craft project and work while socializing. Beginners welcome! Thursday, Apr. 10 at 6 pm	Craft Kits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apr. 14-19 - Paper Hyacinths: Make an everlasting bouquet! Apr. 28 - May 3 - Star Keychain: Bead up a star to hold your keys! Pick up a free kit while supplies last!
Cultural Cuisine Enjoy a taste of India with us! For adults and children with supervision. Wednesday, Apr. 16 at 6 pm	

POSTAL CUSTOMER
ECRWSM



312 Calverton Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63135



April Celebration Shout-outs



4 Happy Birthday Marla May
 10 Happy Birthday Sue Terry
 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
- 1 Forestwood Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM
Emmaus Bible Chapel 900 Highmont Dr.
- 5 Ash Wednesday
- 10 Jeske Park Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM
First Baptist Church of Ferguson 333 N. Florissant Rd.
- 12 Passover
- 13 Palm Sunday
- 14 North Elizabeth Neighborhood Meeting 7PM
Ferguson Community Center 1050 Smith Ave.
- 17 West Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM
- 18 Good Friday
- 19 North Hills Neighborhood Meeting 10 AM
- 20 Easter
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 South Central Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM
- 24 Ferguson Woods Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM
North Hills Methodist 10771 Trask Dr.
- 28 South West Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM

Letter to the editor March, 2025

COUNTY PROPOSITION B, does B stand for BAD?

In our County of a million people, we depend on the Government for Health, Safety, Transportation, Code enforcement, Recreation and more so must take ballot changes seriously and avoid long term remedies for a short-term problem.

On April 8 St. Louis County voters will decide if Proposition B will DESTROY, not restore, the balance of power that our county government already has. We are being asked by a legislative branch, embroiled in an extended clash with the executive branch, to give them unchecked executive power to fire department heads without cause. County Department Heads should only have one boss! The remedy for better governance is not changing the charter but for Dr. Page to explore ways to lower the temperature and for the Council to chill out and give the County Executive a fighting chance to reconcile differences. Cooler heads can and must prevail.

I am speaking from experience with 32 years of legislative service on the Florissant City Council and 8 years as the full time Mayor. I know the frustration of a Council Member with a full time Mayor and the challenges as Mayor with sometimes-hostile Council Members to chart the best path forward. The Florissant Charter kept us in our lanes. By rejecting Prop B voters can send a strong message demanding that the County Council and Executive work together to find some level of harmony to get things done that will benefit all of us going forward without destroying the existing balance of power.

Respectfully submitted by
 Thomas P Schneider
 Florissant Mayor 2011-2019, City Council member 1979-2011

PRAY FOR PEACE

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

The Ferguson Newspaper Group may be reached

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

This paper is made possible through volunteers and advertisers

Advertise with the paper

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

Volunteer with the paper

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

Donate to the paper

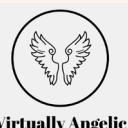
Ferguson Newspaper Group
 312 Calverton Road
 St. Louis, Mo. 63135

Give a congratulatory shout out for only \$5

VIRTUALLY ANGELIC FOUNDATION
 PRESENTS

DIAMONDS AND PEARLS WOMENS DAY BRUNCH AND CONCERT

Saturday May 3, 2025 12:00 pm - 4:00pm
 Ferguson Community Center
 Special performances by D.O.N. and Snow
 Tickets are \$25. to RSVP and to Purchase tickets visit
www.virtuallyangelic.com



There will be no tickets sold at the door
 Ticket sales end April 29, 2025



FLIERS APRIL, 2025, BOOK SALE

Thu, April 10: 4-7:30
 Fri, April 11: NOON-5:30
 Sat, April 12: 9-3:00

Fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks, jigsaw puzzles, and out-of-print books
 Ferguson Municipal Public Library
 35 N. Florissant Road, Ferguson, MO 63135
 For info, call (314) 521-4663



Saving Our Paper... Through the Storms...

March is supposed to come 'In like a Lion and Out like a Lamb', But in the middle of last month it came in like a howling monster of tornadoes and 90 mile per hour gusts. Ferguson and Dellwood, Jennings and all of St Louis for that matter have experienced the wrath of nature and man. The righteous 'wrath' of Creator God is only exceeded by His love.

Thankfully citizens and patrons are beginning to help keep the Ferguson Neighborhood News from blowing in the wind. Through life's storms, may our roots grow deeper, our branches stronger, and our limbs resilient so that no opposing seen and unseen forces can ever uproot, burn or break.

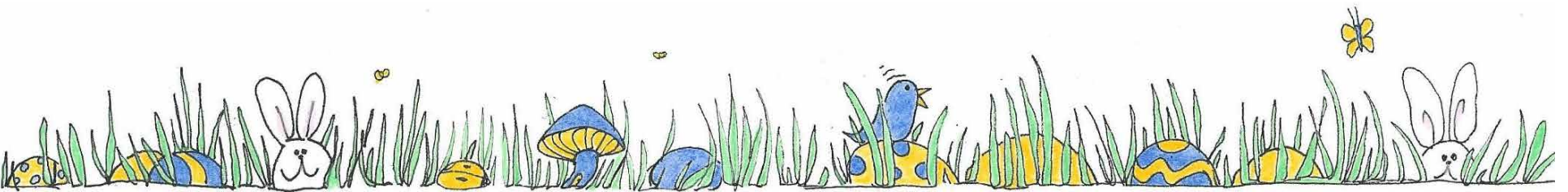
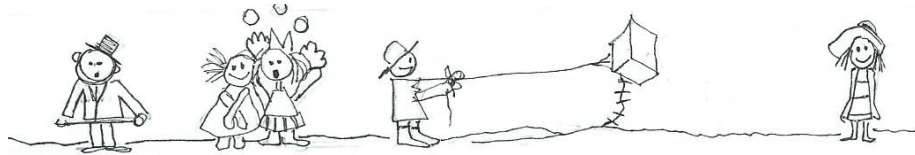
HELPING TO KEEP OUR PAPER THROUGH THE STORM
For volunteer paying subscribers call 314-524-3440 and ask for Danielle for on line one time or recurring payment. Checks can Be made out to and sent to ; Ferguson Newspaper Group 312 Calverton Road St Louis, Mo 63135 **THANK YOU!**



FERGUSON EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AT JANUARY-WABASH MEMORIAL PARK

You are invited to come and celebrate Easter at the annual 2025 Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 20 at 6:30 AM at January-Wabash Memorial Park, located at January Avenue and North Florissant Road. The service will be held outside on the west side of the lake. Bring your own chair if desired. Clergy from various churches and ministries in Ferguson will also participate. Coffee and donuts and fellowship to follow. What a great way to begin the celebration of resurrection and new life!

This special service is sponsored by the FERGUSON MINISTRIES ALLIANCE. A free-will offering will be taken for Ferguson Warming Center & Send Relief, both which benefit the Ferguson Community. For more information, please contact Jeff Finnegan(314) 524-0500- or huck_finn61@hotmail.com



Ferguson City News - April 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

WWW.FERGREC.COM



ADULT EGG HUNT

April 11 | 7PM | Community Center | \$12/Person (Pre-Registration Required)



EMBER'S EGGSTRAVAGANZA

April 12 | 7PM | Wayside Dog Park | \$10/Dog (Pre-Registration Required)

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

April 23 | 9:30AM-Noon | Community Center | FREE



Opening Day is May 3rd | 8AM-Noon | Plaza at 501
WWW.FERGUSONFARMERSMARKET.COM

CROSSWORD

Crossing the Old Man

By Robin Shively

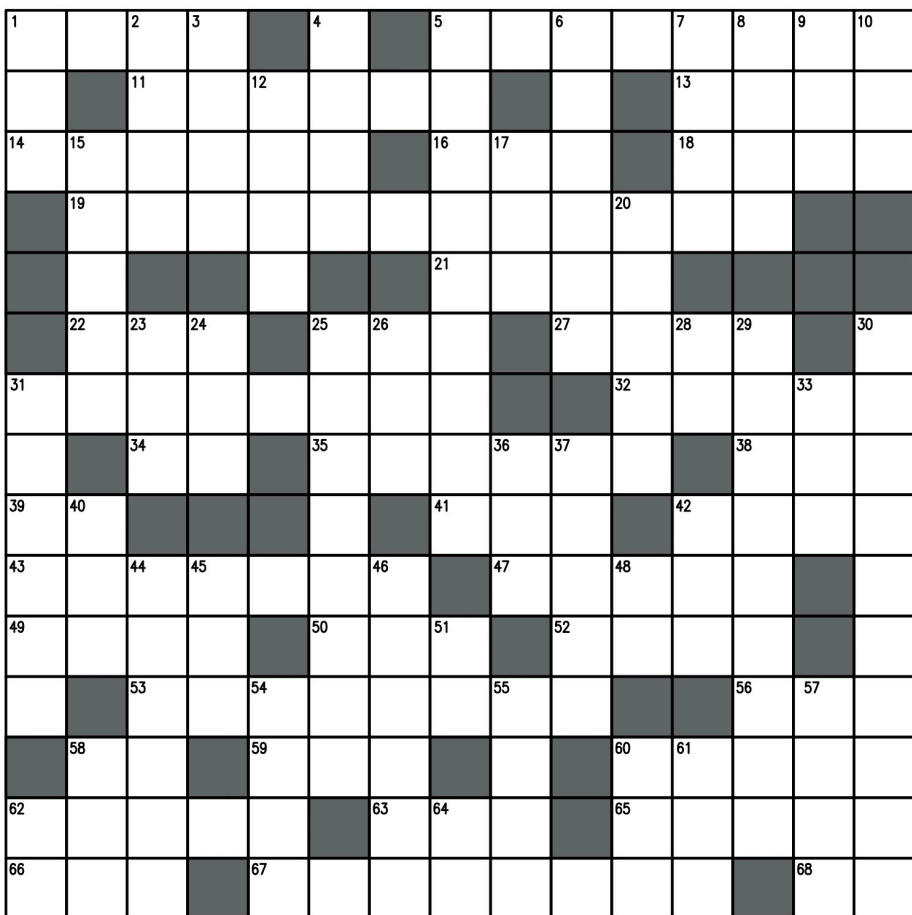
ACROSS

1. ZZ Top tune
5. Hot pepper
11. Internet interruption
13. Tea title
14. Aspen
16. Half a tenner
18. #1 dad?
19. Ledge of limestone upriver of St. Louis
21. Middle name of Vader's voice
22. Something for a criminal to go on
25. Cosmonaut's lab
27. Pricing option
31. Military post since 1826, with 5 down
32. Word following pork or pot
34. He wants to phone home
35. Iowan city on the Mississippi
38. Sch. support org.
39. Bread tune
41. Neither companion
42. Serving customers
43. Arness character, plus kin
47. Grant consent
49. Many-shaded color
50. Type of t.v.
52. Work for
53. November honorees
56. URL addresses
58. Iron symb.
59. Cyclops' one distinctive feature
60. Listlessness
62. Only artwork signed by Michelangelo
63. JAL's local rival
65. Marvel's the Cat
66. "___ a go"
67. Commemorative monument
68. Word before Cid or Greco

DOWN

1. 20% is a nice one
2. Jun. aspirant
3. Hoop or dance
4. Stable mate
5. See 31 across
6. "The Raven" lady
7. Summit
8. Self-educated bridge designer
9. Firearm rights org.
10. Cave salamander
12. Follow
15. City in Florida's "Horse Country"
17. Irish org.
20. 1804-06 journal writer
23. Is, pluralized
24. He doesn't suffer fools
25. #25 in a top position
26. Tina's early partner
28. Centennial st.
29. Really trendy
30. He's the Man
31. Span, or hint to several of this puzzle's answers
33. Fr. Holy woman
36. Hawaiian tree
37. Cravings
40. It may be noble, balsam, or Fraser
42. Atop, in verse
44. Places to drive Chevys in song
45. Soap ingredient
46. Horror 5-film franchise, since 1996
48. Egyptian god with falcon head
51. Gov. lawyer
54. There's no "I" in it!
55. "Warm", during a hunt
57. Like the driven snow
58. Apt
60. Traveler's approx.
61. Zero
62. Particular irrational number
64. Amount of satisfaction achieved by the Rolling Stones

Solution on page 13



ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Kimberly Kabak Epperson

April 2nd 10:00 am-12:00 pm \$Free
 Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum
 4947 West Florissant Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri



Cathleen's Caravan Tour

Join us for a guided caravan tour! Drive along in your car and follow the caravan led by our Master Guide Cathleen. We will drive to a few different locations inside historic Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum. At each location, we will all exit our vehicles and Cathleen will give us a tour through history! Space is limited and reservations are required.



April 5th 11:00 am-2:00 pm \$Free
 Healthy Flavor Community Garden and Market
 55 Chambers Rd. Riverview, 63137

Art in the Garden

A Red Circle presents Art in the Garden, an arts-based event that connects community members with placemaking craft activities at the organization's outdoor garden and farm sites. The spaces are designed to combat the food deserts plaguing parts of the North County region while highlighting the value of creative arts experiences.

April 4th, 10th, and 17th 4:30pm \$Free
 St. Louis County Library - Rock Road Branch
 10267 St. Charles Rock Rd. St. Ann, MO, 63074

You Can't Spell Earth without ART!

For ages 5-15! Join Bread and Roses teaching artists to create art and learn environmentally friendly practices for kids who want to take good care of the Earth. We will use techniques such as painting, collage, mixed media 3D sculpture with recycled materials.

April 11th 10:00 am-11:00 am \$Free
 First Baptist Church of Ferguson
 333 N Florissant Rd. Ferguson, MO 63135

Free Education Concert Presented by The Bach Society of Saint Louis

Get ready for a FREE Education Concert that provides a behind-the-scenes look at pursuing a music career! Enjoy an exciting lineup of musical theatre and classical favorites performed by the talented 2024-2025 Bach Society Young Artist award recipients. During the concert, you'll hear directly from these singers about their unique journeys and the experiences that inspired them to follow their passion for music.

April 26-April 27th 11:00am-5:00pm \$Free
 The Muny Grounds in Forest Park
 #1 Theatre Drive St. Louis, MO 63112

St. Louis Earth Day Festival

The theme this year is "Climate Hope", and there will be a special focus on vendors, sponsors, and educational resources that inspire and empower solutions to climate challenges.

Whether you are going for the food, the music, or the activities, you will leave more inspired about real progress being made to heal our people and our planet, more connected to those around you, and more knowledgeable about how you can take action in your daily life!



SAVE THE DATE

MAY 30, 2025 at the
Ferguson Community Center
Trivia night to benefit Drake's Place
More info coming in May's paper



Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

Today is March 15, the day this article is due. It is early morning, and I am currently recovering from a vacation in Key West. I say recovering because travel issues were apparent and stressful. The time in Key West was warm, sunny, and relaxing. We visited the typical tourist attractions including Truman's Little White House, Mallory Square, a rum distillery, and a butterfly conservatory. We enjoyed some local food and drink. The sunset at Mallory Square was beautiful.



My favorite attraction in Key West is chickens. I have always enjoyed chickens and often considered getting a coop and raising chickens. The thought of my own chickens is always dismissed by my practical minded husband.



Feral chickens roam free in Key West. Wild chickens have been inhabiting the island paradise for two hundred years. These colorful chickens and roosters can be seen strutting around town. They are in the streets and on the sidewalks. The crowing from roosters can be heard everywhere at all times of the day. They are unafraid of the hustle and bustle of city streets. They do not shy away from people and often hang around the outdoor dining spaces hoping for a handout. I had a chicken take a crumb right out of my hand.

Just how did these chickens get to Key West and take over the island? Locals call them "gypsy chickens." Wildlife experts believe the chickens roaming Key West are descended from a fowl native to Cuba known as the "red jungle fowl" Early settlers to Key West brought chickens to the island in the 1820s. These chickens were raised in the usual way as domestic chickens and used for their meat and eggs.

In the 1860s, a large population of settlers arrived from Cuba. These Cuban settlers brought with them their own cultures and traditions, including that

of cockfighting. They also brought red junglefowl from Cuba for the fights. In the 1950s, another wave of Cuban immigrants brought even more fowl to the island.

In 1986, cockfighting was banned in Florida. This angered the cock-fighting community. They said, fine, we are no longer able to use our chickens for fighting we will just turn them loose in Key West and the city can deal with them. Raising hens for meat and eggs has become a former practice and most residents get their chicken meat and eggs from grocery stores. With egg-laying hens and fighting roosters living freely on the predator-free island, their population grew uninhibited.

As fun and iconic as the chickens are, imagine living with roaming feral chickens day-to-day. The chickens can be a nuisance for island residents. They are noisy and produce a lot of messy droppings. But the chickens are protected by law, and it is illegal to kill or harm them.

Key West residents have a love-hate relationship with their wild chickens. While the chickens are an important part of Key West culture, their numbers can get out of hand. There is an effort to keep the population under control. The city has passed laws forbidding feeding chickens. It used to be popular for tourists to feed them popcorn or french fries. But if they are caught doing that today, they can be fined. Good thing I did not know about that law while I was feeding a friendly rooster a crumb from my Key Lime Pie.



I find the Key West chickens so beautiful. I am accustomed to red chickens as well as yellow and black ones so I cannot get enough of those colorful roosters. The colors include red, gold, black, blue and brown. Their feathers sparkle in the sunshine.

I really want some Key West chickens!!!

Thanks again for letting me share my story. If you have any ideas how we can get some pretty chickens in Ferguson let me know. Maybe I am just kidding...

You can contact me at manhattanmarian@gmail.com.

How can we market Ferguson as a good place to live?

By Becky Mueller

This was the question PROUD asked at the first City Council candidate forum on March 6th. The following is what I wish the candidates had said that evening.

Ferguson already has a lot to offer. Ferguson has many assets and resources, but they are under appreciated and under used. We need to market Ferguson's potential.

One asset is Location – Location – Location. Ferguson is bounded by 70, 270, and 170, three of the county's major arteries. We have two Metrolink stations, and we're close to the airport. This gives people easy and rapid access to many other places. Visitors can easily reach Busch Stadium, the entertainment venues on Grand, and all the places in Forest Park. The Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park is a safari park and conservation center that is set to open in North County in 2027.

What can we develop here that would make Ferguson a base where visitors want to stay when accessing all the other attractions?

Second, Ferguson has Space. Emerson campus will soon be vacant. There are empty stores along Florissant and West Florissant. As we tear down deteriorated houses, there can be space to build back with something better. We have small homes for sale that could attract first time buyers and down-sizing seniors. We have beautiful historical homes. Let's start looking at the vacancies as assets instead of liabilities.

How can we market these spaces to people who would be willing to both live here and invest here? How can we attract businesses that would enhance our city as well as bring increased income?

Most importantly, we have all of Us. Our greatest asset is our diversity. Diverse income levels. Diverse ages. Diverse religions, races, and cultures. Diverse talents and skills. Too many people want to make that diversity a source of division and conflict.

How can Ferguson do more to appreciate and celebrate that diversity?

I was disappointed with the bleak tone of the responses to the forum question. None of the six candidates had much to say about Ferguson that was positive. Two focused primarily on the problems, essentially describing Ferguson as run down, crime ridden, poverty stricken, and hopeless. One candidate even said that there was no point even trying to market Ferguson until we can fix the problems. None of them seem to have a vision for ways to enhance and market the assets we already have. Yes, we need to keep working on the problems. At the same time, we also need to realize the potential power of our assets. Developing our potential can bring in resources we can use to decrease the problems.

The OurFerguson 2040 Plan already offered many suggestions for what can be done. Council Members and City officials – dig out that plan from the City Hall shelves. Talk with and listen to citizens in all three wards. Bring in advisors from other communities that have been revitalized. Use the resources and expertise available from nearby colleges, universities, and corporations. Together, we can develop a creative vision of what Ferguson can be. Together we can make the potential a reality.

Spring Training for Gardeners Kicks Off with Inspiration and Practical Tips

By Jess Garrett

With spring approaching, gardeners are eager to start planting. EarthDance Organic Farm School right here in Ferguson recently launched its 2025 Spring Training for Gardeners with the first class, “I want to grow food, where do I start?” led by Jena Hood and Kaitie Adams. This session provided practical advice and encouragement, helping both new and experienced gardeners begin their season with confidence.

Finding Your “Why”

Class began with a reflection on personal motivations. Jena Hood, EarthDance’s Director of Agriculture and Education, emphasized that understanding the “why” behind gardening is key to long-term success.

Kaitie Adams, a former EarthDance farm manager and current Demonstration Farm Director at the Savannah Institute, led participants through a visualization exercise. “Close your eyes and picture your dream garden,” she encouraged. “Why do you want to grow?”

Participants considered their reasons—whether to grow fresh food, connect with nature, create beauty, support biodiversity, or continue family traditions. Kaitie shared her own top three motivations: feeding her family, enjoying the beauty of plants, and spending time outdoors with her energetic three-year-old.

Resources and Challenges

With motivations in mind, gardeners listed their available resources, such as tools, compost, or a sunny windowsill. Kaitie also encouraged them to acknowledge challenges like limited space, poor soil, or persistent pests. She reassured them that setbacks are normal. “Gardening, like farming, is an experiment every year,” she said.

Jena reinforced that every garden—whether a backyard plot or a few potted herbs—is valuable.

Planning and Planting

Jena covered key factors for choosing a garden site, including sunlight, soil quality, and water access. They explained the benefits of different setups:

- Raised beds for better drainage and weed control
- In-ground gardens for those working with native soil - test your soil!
- Container gardens for patios and small spaces, or if you may move

The instructors also shared planting tips:

- Cool-season crops (spinach, peas, radishes) thrive in early spring.
- Warm-season crops (tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers) need consistent warmth.
- Perennials (thyme, oregano, chives) return yearly with little maintenance.

Jena advised participants to check local frost dates and to use almanac.com or the Seed St. Louis Planting calendar to time their plantings correctly.

Gardening Basics

Jena and Kaitie wrapped up with essential tools: a soil knife/hand trowel, garden hoe, watering can, and pruning shears. They emphasized mulching for moisture retention and watering consistently, ideally in the morning.

Looking Ahead

As the session ended, Jena reminded participants that gardening is a learning experience. “There’s no such thing as a failed garden,” they assured. “Every season is a chance to grow.” With fresh inspiration, participants left ready to dig in and enjoy the rest of the 5-week course and the growing season ahead.

Not enrolled in Spring Training this year? Learn to grow food by volunteering at EarthDance! Our next (monthly) volunteer orientation - plus a free public tour for those just curious about EarthDance - is Saturday, April 12, 2025, and you can sign up here: <https://earthdancefarms.org/volunteer/>

Getting your garden ready and wanting to start with organic transplants? Join us for our Pay What You Can Spring Plant Sale, May 2, 3, 4th! (See ad for details.)

Not planning to grow your own food this year (or just want to supplement ‘til your garden is producing?) Pay What You Can for EarthDance produce - Shop with us at the Ferguson Indoor Farmers Market on Saturday, April 19, 2025 from 9am-Noon at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Ferguson, and EVERY WEEKEND beginning in May at the Ferguson Farmers Market and the EarthDance Pay What You Can Farm Stand (Seasonal Grand Opening Weekend - Friday, May 2, 2025, 3-6pm and Sunday, May 4, 2025 11am-3pm!)



EarthDance Farmer Educators Jena Hood, Will Delacey, and Jo Phillips are part of the 2025 Spring Training for Gardeners coaching team. Kaitie Adams of the Savanna Institute, Ro Kicker of Ro’s Wiggles, and Dean Gunderson of Seed St. Louis (not pictured) are also 2025 coaches.



Spring Training 2025 participants make observations in the EarthDance greenhouse.

Affinia Healthcare Director selected for Missouri CHW of the Year

ST. LOUIS, MO – Candace Henderson, Affinia Healthcare Director of Community Health, has been selected for the Missouri Community Health Worker of the Year.

Henderson is celebrating nine years with Affinia Healthcare this month. She joined the community health center as a researcher for an infant mortality project grant. Once that grant ended, she enrolled in the Community Health Worker program at St. Louis Community College. She completed the program and later was promoted to Lead Community Health Worker. She was promoted to manager and in 2023, director of Community Health.



Candace Henderson has received the Missouri Community Health Worker of the Year award. The award was presented by the Community Health Workers Association of Missouri

Henderson is proud of the work she does in the community.

“The work of a CHW is not just a job; it has to be your passion, work done for patients with grace and dignity,” Henderson explained. “It’s more than just being there; it’s listening, trusting, and advocating for our patients. It’s the foundation for change that can be seen and felt by the community and patients.”

According to American Public Health Association, a community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served.

This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality of service delivery.

“CHWs ensure our patients have access to high-quality healthcare and critical wraparound services, a link that is critical to the Affinia Healthcare mission,” said Dr. Kendra Holmes, Affinia Healthcare President & CEO. “We are extremely proud of the work Candace and the CHW team do for patients and the community overall. The honor is well-deserved.”

CAPTION: Candace Henderson has received the Missouri Community Health Worker of the Year award. The award was presented by the Community Health Workers Association of Missouri.

About Affinia Healthcare

Affinia Healthcare is an award-winning, nationally accredited health center, providing affordable primary and preventive health care for St. Louis, Missouri, area residents. Affinia Healthcare is a community health center, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and is accredited through The Joint Commission and National Committee of Quality Assurance organizations. Established in 1906 as the Holy Cross Dispensary, Affinia Healthcare today serves over 43,700 people per year, of whom more than 90 percent have incomes under 100 percent of the federal poverty level. Approximately 70 percent of patients served are Black or African American, 11 percent are Hispanic/Latinx, and over 4,000 are un-housed.

The Affinia Healthcare Foundation helps support the mission of our community health center by providing funding to serve the most vulnerable and disenfranchised in our community. The Foundation depends on a wide array of funding sources and individual donor contributions to fund the care for these communities. To make a donation to the Affinia Healthcare Foundation, please visit www.affiniahealthcare.org/donate.

For more information about Affinia Healthcare, call 314-814-8700, or visit www.affiniahealthcare.org.

The Five Freedoms for animals

Written by Animal Humane Society
Animalhumanesociety.org



The Five Freedoms are internationally accepted standards of care that affirm every living being’s right to humane treatment. These standards were developed by Britain’s Farm Animal Welfare Council in 1965 and adapted by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians for companion animals in shelters.

The Five Freedoms ensure that we meet the mental and physical needs of animals in our care:

Freedom from hunger and thirst by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigor. This must be specific to the animal. For example, puppies, adult dogs, pregnant cats, and senior cats all need different types of food provided on different schedules.

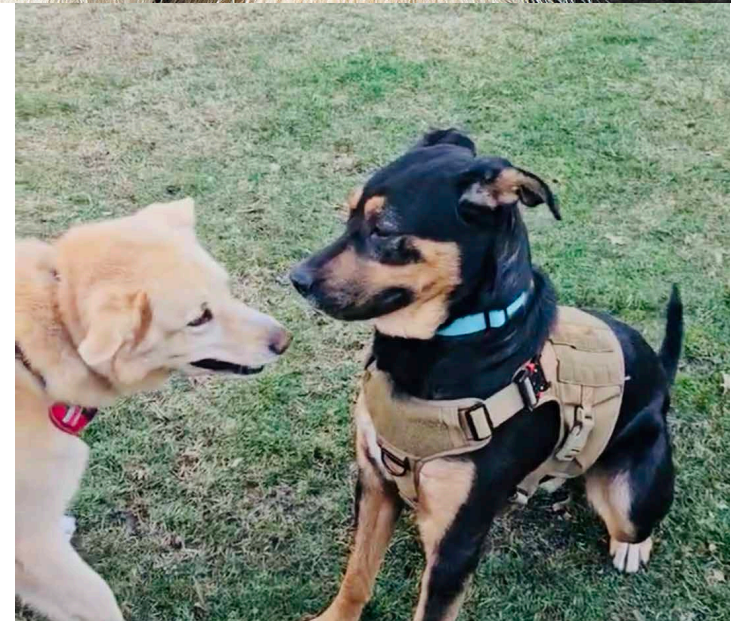


Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area. This means you should provide soft bedding and an area with appropriate temperature, noise levels, and access to natural light. If an animal is outside, it must have shelter from the elements as well as appropriate food and water bowls that will not freeze or tip over.

Freedom from pain, injury, or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment. This includes vaccinating animals, monitoring animals, physical health, treating any injuries and providing appropriate medications.

Freedom to express normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal’s own kind. Animals need to be able to interact with — or avoid — others of their own kind as desired. They must be able to stretch every part of their body (from nose to tail), and run, jump, and play. This can be particularly challenging when animals are housed in individual indoor or outdoor kennels.

Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering. The mental health of an animal is just as important as its physical health — as psychological stress can quickly transition into physical illness. These conditions can be achieved by preventing overcrowding and providing sufficient enrichment and safe hiding spaces.



FERGUSON TWILIGHT RUN

5K★10K 1-MILE FUN RUN

For Timely Release – April 2025 edition, Ferguson Neighborhood News

Race Routes! Street Closures! Ferguson Twilight Run is May 17!

Ferguson, MO – Everyone in Ferguson asks two questions this time of year: What’s the race route for Ferguson Twilight Run? Will my street be closed?

Well, we’re sure the Ferguson Twilight Run route map will give you the answers.

The blue-green dashes enclose each race route and the surrounding residential and business areas. If your home or business is within the dashed space, be prepared for street and road closures between 4:30-7:45 p.m. Some closures may last a bit longer for the safety of runners, walkers, volunteers, cheer and water stations. Please tell your friends and neighbors so they’ll be prepared, too.

Race Day

Ferguson Twilight Run is Saturday, May 17. 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. 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.
- **Race festivities are 4:30-9:30 p.m.** including music and vendor booths
- **Race start times:** One mile at 5 p.m., 10K at 5:45 p.m., 5K at 6 p.m.
- Registered participants receive a T-shirt and finisher medal
- **Awards ceremony at 8 p.m.;** Age-group winners will receive awards
- **Baby joggers/strollers and service dogs are welcome on the course;** pets must stay at home.
- **Want more details?** Follow Ferguson Twilight Run on Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube for 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 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.

To be eligible for consideration, the organization must be a registered non-profit in good financial standing, promote active living in North St. Louis County and provide physical activity opportunities focused on health North St. Louis County. 2025 beneficiary awards will be announced April.

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.

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
 Nez Savala, 816-678-9071 miss_tv@yahoo.com





Under The Hood With Robinwood
By Bob McGartland

Choosing the Right Tire: A Comprehensive Guide

Choosing the right tires is one of the most important decisions for ensuring your vehicle's safety, performance, and longevity. Tires are the only part of your car that touch the road, and selecting the right set of tires can make all the difference in how your vehicle handles various road conditions and weather.

1. Understand Your Driving Needs

Your driving habits and the types of roads you frequent should guide your tire selection. For daily highway commuting, touring tires offer a smooth and comfortable ride. If your routes include gravel roads or off-road adventures, all-terrain tires provide the durability and traction you need. For drivers seeking improved handling and grip, performance tires are designed for enhanced responsiveness and control.

2. Match Tires to the Climate

Seasonal changes significantly impact tire performance. All-season tires are a good choice for areas with mild winters. However, in regions with heavy snow and ice, winter tires provide better traction and control thanks to specialized rubber compounds and tread designs. During the warmer months, summer tires offer improved performance by resisting heat and maintaining better contact with the road.

3. Choose the Correct Size

Selecting the correct tire size is crucial for safety and performance. The recommended tire size for your vehicle can be found in the owner's manual or on the sticker inside the driver's door. Using the wrong size can affect your car's handling, fuel efficiency, safety and on some vehicles damage drivetrain components. Always ensure the tires you choose meet the manufacturer's specifications.

4. Monitor Tread Depth

Tread depth is critical for safe driving, especially in wet or slippery conditions. Tires with worn tread have reduced traction, increasing the risk of accidents. A simple way to check tread depth is the penny test: insert a penny into the tread with Lincoln's head down. If you can see the top of his head, it's time to replace your tires.

5. Consider Longevity and Mileage Ratings

Tires vary in their longevity based on type, design, and usage. Check the tire's mileage rating to ensure you are selecting a set of tires that aligns with your driving habits. If you drive long distances frequently, investing in high-mileage tires can provide better value over time.

6. Invest in Quality

While it may be tempting to choose the most affordable option, investing in quality tires can save money in the long run. High-quality tires offer better performance, durability and safety. Cutting corners on tire quality can lead to faster wear, poor handling, and a greater likelihood of unexpected tire issues.

7. Seek Professional Advice

With so many options available, selecting the right tires can be overwhelming. Consulting with a trusted tire professional, like the experts at Robinwood Automotive and Tire, can provide clarity. Our team can offer recommendations based on your vehicle, driving habits, and budget; ensuring you choose the best tires for your needs.

Final Thoughts

Choosing the right tires is an essential part of vehicle maintenance. It requires understanding your driving needs, local climate, and the specific requirements of your vehicle. Taking the time to make an informed choice can lead to better performance, improved safety and longer tire life.

If you're unsure whether your tires are ready for spring and summer driving, stop in at Robinwood. We will gladly perform a free tire inspection to ensure you are prepared for the road ahead.

Financial Focus – Uncertainty

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)

Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

Uncertainty pretty much sums up where we are today. The market doesn't like it and most people are nervous with change coming so quickly. Of course, there are those who trust in the process and feel the result will justify the means. Things I am hearing brought to mind a column I wrote in 2012 discussing whether it was possible to run a government like a business. That year Barrack Obama was seeking his second term and his opponent Mitt Romney's business experience is what got him the Republican nomination. And today it seems that President Trump's experience in business is what got him where he is. Trump and his team are doing their best to run our government like a business with little regard for the status quo. Here is portion of my 2012 column that may be worth looking at today:

March 4, 1801 Thomas Jefferson explained the government's function in his first Inaugural address:

“A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvements, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government.”

His explanation doesn't even begin to suggest government provide anything other than restraining us from hurting each other, basically enforcing law. Today we have become more accustomed to expecting government to do even more to protect us. But no one expects nor is government designed to make a profit. This difference can present many problems for a government if we only measure the monetary results as a business does.

Another key difference between government and business is how they acquire funds. The government has coercive power. The people wouldn't voluntarily pay taxes. Yet most people don't mind paying their fair share for amenities like police protection and having a set of laws to help protect us. They just don't want to pay more than is necessary and fair.

No one gives money to a business without getting something in return. A company can increase their prices to improve their profits, but they can't make you buy from them. Customers may choose to buy elsewhere. Government on the other hand must increase taxes to improve earnings – as we know this is not automatic – it must be voted on. When taxes cannot be raised the government may continue to operate in a deficient because we allow it. (This was just seen with the debt limit increase)

Another method the government has to raise money is to issue government securities. This is the same way many of us finance our expenditures - we borrow money. Treasury bonds and savings bonds are examples. When a person buys the bond they are loaning money and will receive a specific rate of return at a future date. Even local governments will find revenue for specific projects by issuing municipal bonds – this is often how

sewers, highways and other types of infrastructure are paid for. This isn't necessarily a bad way to pay for certain things, but it is debt and it must be paid back with interest. I just heard that the interest paid on our Public Debt for the month of March was \$24,682,649,179.83. Kind of takes your breath away, doesn't it. (Keep in mind that was 2012 - The Congressional Budget Office projects interest costs for 2025 to be \$953 billion)

So what does a business do when it realizes its costs outweigh its revenue? They would likely begin to slash budgets within the organization. Sometimes business can be ruthless when it comes to the bottom line. The company could also borrow money from a bank or possibly issue some corporate bonds. Of course, it is debt and it must be paid back with interest. The other catch for a business is that depending on their financial strength they may find it difficult to borrow. So their salvation depends on cutting costs and increasing sales. A business doesn't have to look out for the good of the public, so it's easy to make the decisions that may be necessary to bring spending or costly inefficient operations to a halt. A corporation can eliminate those who are not contributing to the bottom line. If these tactics don't work chances are they will have to shut their doors.

On the other hand, government can't just have citizens removed if they become a drag and aren't contributing to our bottom line. The government has the responsibility to protect us and our quality of life. Imagining our government creating policies with profit being the only goal is actually kind of scary. If our decisions are made with no regard for the impact on the general public it would seem that the wealthy would benefit more and the poor would have even less.

The main component that prevents our government from being more like a business is the concern for the welfare of our citizens. We are fortunate to live in a place where the government does try to improve our way of life. However we are starting to realize that some of the methods we have created have really gotten in the way. As I've suggested in some past columns our economy cannot be sustained when we allow our government to do too much for us. We have already gone down the slippery slope of allowing government interference in our lives to protect us more. What we need is a way to pull back a little and improve the systems we have to bring about more personal responsibility.

Back to the present, I feel a few things need to be added. Reputations matter in both business and government. As changes are made to improve efficiency and fairness we can't forget that. Over the last century the United States became a world leader and built a group of allies that share many of our beliefs, such as freedom of speech and human rights. So it is important for all citizens to demand our representatives in government protect these rights. We also need to recognize that change is necessary and can be painful. Being united in these efforts can hopefully bring us closer together to find the best ways to make it work. If you have any questions or comments you may send them to cleav73@gmail.com.

Greening Ferguson

Do you want to learn more about what you can do to support the environment and enhance the image of Ferguson at the same time?! Residents are starting to come together to suggest and contribute to greening and sustainability efforts at the City level and at the individual home level. If you are interested in being alerted to upcoming Greening Ferguson activities, please send your name and address to Taylor Paschall, who is a young and devoted Ferguson resident, native landscape professional, and one of the organizers of the developing Greening Ferguson Committee. paschalltaylor1@gmail.com

Meanwhile, we can all add to the greening of Ferguson and the environment by using our recycling service as fully and as carefully as possible. Most people who care about the environment make an effort to recycle. Republic Services, which provides recycling services for Ferguson, has clarified which materials can be recycled. All plastic except Styrofoam. And NO glass because if or when it breaks and gets mixed in with paper, the whole 'batch' is no longer recyclable and becomes garbage.

Let's all do our part for the environment!

Recycling: Simple as 1-2-3

Only Throw

- Cardboard (flattened) and paper
- Metal cans
- Plastic bottles & jugs - lids on

Empty, Clean, and Dry all recyclables

Don't bag it!

No glass! No Styrofoam!

Republic Services - Recycling simplified



What is Raghib Drinking?

By Raghib



If you have been reading this column, you know I avoid wine snobbery. However, I have a confession to make...I think I may be a cheese snob (LOL). Seriously, a delicious cheese is like manna from heaven. A quality cheese, with a thin slice of salami, on top of a wafer cracker, with your favorite wine is culinary heaven. What do I mean when I say a quality cheese? I mean a cheese from raw milk, whether it is cow, goat, or sheep. It also means that the cheese has been aged. Let's start with cheddar. A quality cheddar is aged anywhere from 9-24 months. One of my favorite cheeses is Flory's Truckle! Made from the milk from cows from two of Missouri's Dairy's, it's an absolute delight! Fruity and nutty, with hints of lavender, sage, and citrus. It is expensive, but worth it!



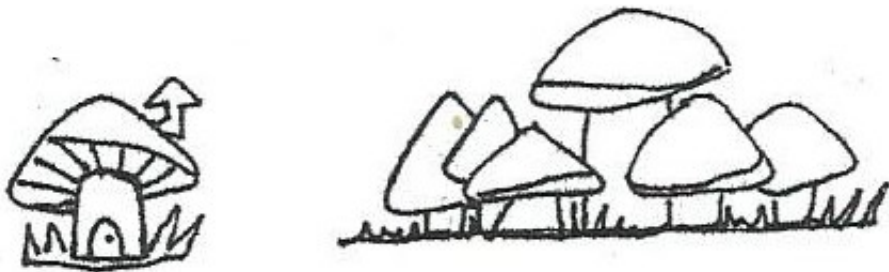
Okay, back to the wine! If you know anything about French wines, you know that wines from the Pomerol Appellation are absolutely fantastic! They are expensive and sell fast! However, it is possible to experience a "Pomerol wine" with a fraction of the costs! There is another appellation just north of Pomerol called Lalande-de-Pomerol. It has a similar microclimate and similar soil type. The price point is reasonable and the wines are delicious! One of my favorites wines from Lalande-de-Pomerol is Château Canon Chaigneau Cuve 8a, 2020. The good news is that it tastes great now, but in a few years it will be absolutely fantastic. The bad news is that I have acquired the last remaining bottles in the St. Louis area. However, there are other bottles from Lalande-de-Pomerol

available, but I don't know how long they will be available. Also, in the future, I will be hosting select tastings and you may be able to taste it then.

Château Canon Chaigneau sits on one of the highest plateaus in the Pomerol region. Its mineral rich clay and limestone soil means that the vines are deep and old. The winemaker, Thierry Garnaud, is the star here. According to Château Canon Chaigneau website, "His methods are clearly his own; but the premise is one of letting the vines and the grapes do the talking, with minimal intervention, and according to traditional methods. Core to his beliefs is that wines should not be too heavy, concentrated or extracted, and avoiding many modern practices which can lead to over alcoholic, 'heady' wines."

Château Canon Chaigneau Cuve 8a, 2020. An absolutely delicious Bordeaux from Lalande-de-Pomerol. Hints of dark fruit, with spice, cedar, and tobacco. Can pair with lamb or steak. Price point \$21.

Happy tastings!



THE PROBLEM WITH PLASTIC BAGS

submitted by the Ferguson Eco Team

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

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

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



Alicia's Dream

By Patricia Brothers

“If you go down in the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise. If you go down in the woods today, you better go in disguise. For every bear that ever there was. Will gather there for certain because, today's the day the teddy bears are having their picnic.”



Alicia hummed as she walked along the edge of the woods. Blissfully unaware of the ill-gotten fate that was to beget her. She sat there near the edge of the river. Today, the fog was thick and beautiful. And eerie. The hairs on the back of her neck pricked. She hummed the song to take the edge off. She wrapped her long, wine-colored hair into a ballerina bun. She hummed while waiting for her friends to arrive. They were taking a small camping trip to relax. She decided to come out a little early to scope out the best place to set up camp.

She looked around not being able to fully shake the uneasy feeling. She looked at her cellphone. There was only one bar. No matter. This is the meeting place, and her friends will be here shortly she thought. She took off her shoes and put her feet in the water. The river looked calm and yet when she stared closely – she could see it was nothing but calm. Something brushed her feet. She chuckled. A shiver came through her body. She then decided it was best that she took her feet out of the water to be safe. She slid on her flip flops and walked further down the river. She could make out the bridge and the trees. The birds were chirping as if things were normal. Things were not normal.

She thought to herself. What would she do if something came out of the water? Or even out of the trees. She went to grab her lucky shoes. She wore them hiking and slipped off the edge of a cliff. She was able to hold onto a thick, protruding root. Her shoes provided the grip needed to scale back up. Her heart began to race reminiscing about that day. She looked down, wiggling her perfectly manicured pink toes. She grabbed a pair of socks. She sat on the large, wedged rock. She slid on the socks and tennis. Then she heard a noise.

She jumped. She looked to the left. She looked to the right. Nothing. She spun around. Still nothing. Now she is wishing she did have more than one bar on her cellphone. She heard the noise again. She started sprinting away from it back towards the car. She felt something on her heels, and yet when she turned around – nothing was there. She wanted to scream, but the Sci-Fi horror fan in her knows that is a bad idea. She moved quickly to the car only to realize that she left her keys, bags and camping gear near the rock. She prayed that someone would show up soon.

Alicia trots off. For this to be a relaxing weekend camping trip – it is nothing but that. She stays focused running then realizes she left her bag. She continues to look around and assess her surroundings. She reaches the rock where she left her belongings. Her bag shredded like it has been through a cheese grater. Whatever belongings that she does see leads to a trail into the woods. She searches around in the sand and the surrounding areas. She cannot find her keys. She follows the trail of clothes and other items. She hears a faint sound of keys jingling. She knows that distinctive sound. Everyone tells her that her keys sound like a dog collar. She has not heard another sound like it other than dog collars.

She moves toward the sound. The feeling overcomes her again, but she at least needs her keys. Everything else can be replaced. She reaches the edge of the woods. She looks left, then right. The fog has truly gotten thicker. She hurries toward the sound of her keys. Bad idea Alicia, she thinks. She keeps going. She pulls out her cellphone to use for light. The sun seemed to set quickly. So many thoughts are running through her head. She has never been afraid of the woods. Today, she is terrified. It is all the unknown. She yells out, but she is cut off as if someone grasped her by the neck and covered her mouth. She fights with the air. She passes out.

Alicia is coming to, laying on the ground. She sits up. The wind is knocked out of her. She is dizzy. The screen of her cellphone is broken. She sucks her teeth. Her head is pounding. She tries to make out if she has a signal and if so, can she make a call successfully. The voices again resume. She attempts to stand up and a force pushes her back down. She is trying to reason what is happening, but nothing she deduces makes sense. She attempts to stand several times. Each time, Alicia is knocked further and further back with extreme force. She screams. She heard footsteps. She struggles to scream once more, and her voice escapes her. She feels her mouth opening, but nothing comes out.

She is finally able to stand. She makes a mad dash towards the single shred of light that looks to be an opening. She no longer hears Mike and Dana calling her name. Her heart is racing so fast. She trips. She tumbles over twice. Her vision is now blurry. She remains there listening to the sounds. Finally, something familiar. Birds. Dear? Frogs. She wants nothing more than to get out here. Her vision finally comes in focus. She looks over the path. She was hoping to see twigs, roots, or something that would have caused her to take such a hard fall. Nothing. Did she trip over her feet? That is so unlike her.

That feeling of a presence is back. She sees or hears nothing. Everything goes quiet again. She comes to the realization that she may not make it out of these woods ... alive. She stands only to find she has rolled her ankle. She runs regardless of the pain. She is not going to give up that is for sure. She moves with determination. She finally makes it to the edge of the woods. She can see the river. The moment she attempts to step out of the woods. Something yanks her hair, and she falls backwards. She goes to scream; it is muffled by the unknown.

The way she is being held down and dragged; she cannot break free. That moment of determination and resolve to live diminishing with each second. She closes her eyes. She knew that whatever this is – it was the end. Before her heart stops, she hears her flesh ripping. She lets out a gurgle. She can hear her bones breaking. She never opens her eyes. She did not want to know. Alicia jumps up in the bed panting. That was the worst dream she ever had.

Patricia Brothers is a native St. Louis author who has always dreamed of acting and writing. She began this journey early on in her high school career starting with supporting roles and eventually landing her first starring role as Eleonora in the stage adaptation of Eleonora and The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe. She loves writing and scored the highest grades in her English class. Although praised for her work it also led to weekly meetings with the guidance counselor. Now she writes to entertain the masses. Her vivid imagination and intrusive thoughts lead to great stories such as Death by Imagination and Stella's Revenge. Her Only Desire and Never Go in the Woods Alone are soon to be released. The greatest thing about her writing is "It all depends on whose imagination you are using" ..

Happy Easter from Ferguson Neighborhood News



Crossword Solution from page 4

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Happy Easter!

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FOR THE LONG HAUL AND THE LITTLE MOMENTS.

THE MICHELIN® DEFENDER® TIRE

God Speaks

by Doug Neely

APRIL, 2025

Isaiah 53:5 ESV
But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
This verse tells us that Jesus suffered for our sins.

Matthew 27:v50
Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.
This verse tells that Jesus died.

Luke24:v1-6
On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen!

Jesus’ resurrection.

If Jesus had not suffered AND died AND rose from death, we would not have any salvation. This Easter story is central to our salvation, and there would be no salvation without it. And if you do not accept it, you have NO salvation. Celebrate real life through Jesus!
Have a blessed Easter!

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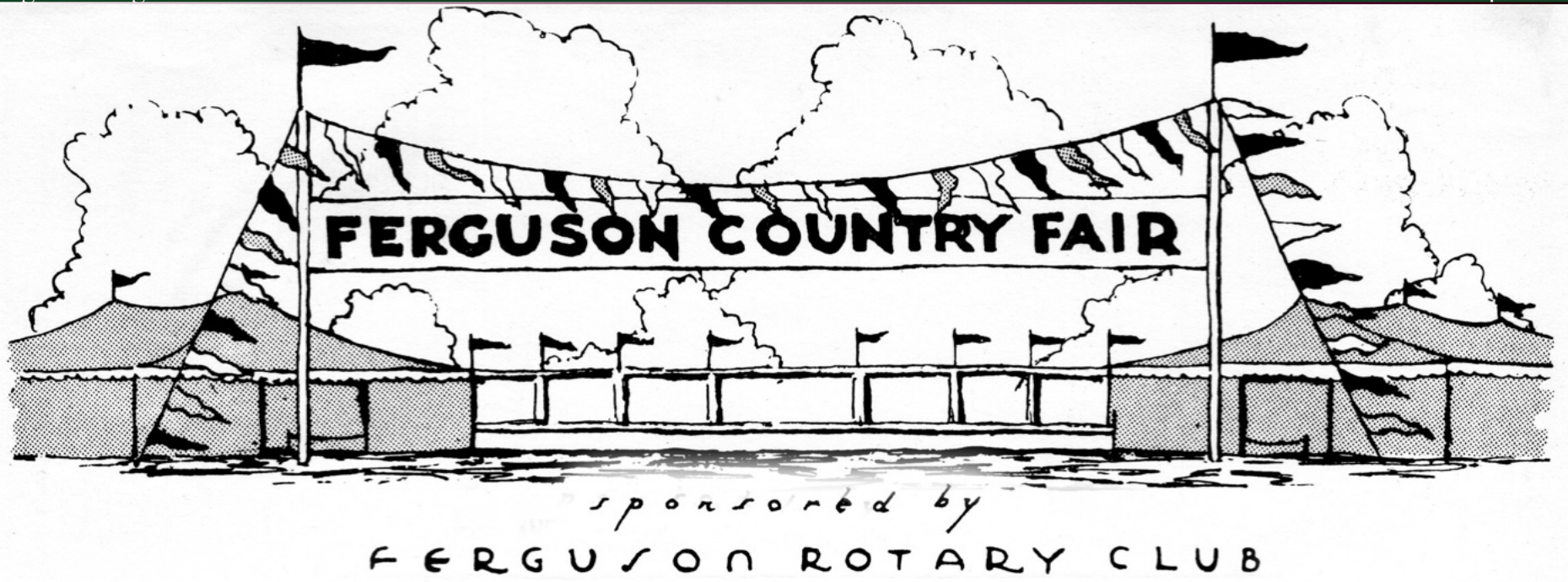
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Ferguson Has A History Museum

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.

In the last two months we featured the Ferguson Country Fair – an event sponsored by the Ferguson Rotary from 1949 until 1961. We had mentioned that Rotary International was and is an organization of businessmen and professionals dedicated to assisting their community. Ferguson rotary disbanded in 2011. In this and next month’s article we will detail specific years of the fair along with some personal reflections of the fair. This month 1949 to 1956.



It was Bill Crume, President of the Ferguson Rotary, in 1949 who came up with the idea of a country fair – and lead the fair effort until the end in 1961. The fairs were all held on the parking lot on the south side of Florissant Road – the lot currently behind stores and next to Aldi. The 1949 fair had a definite “country” flair, consisting of two large tents and featured farm equipment, food and craft contests and home appliances. Of course, there were rides and “tests-of-skill” for the kids and “young” adults. The disk to the right was widely distributed around North County – rumor says that it was even dropped from airplanes – cannot back that up – but as you will see with future fairs, Rotarians were very creative people. Admission 10 cents.



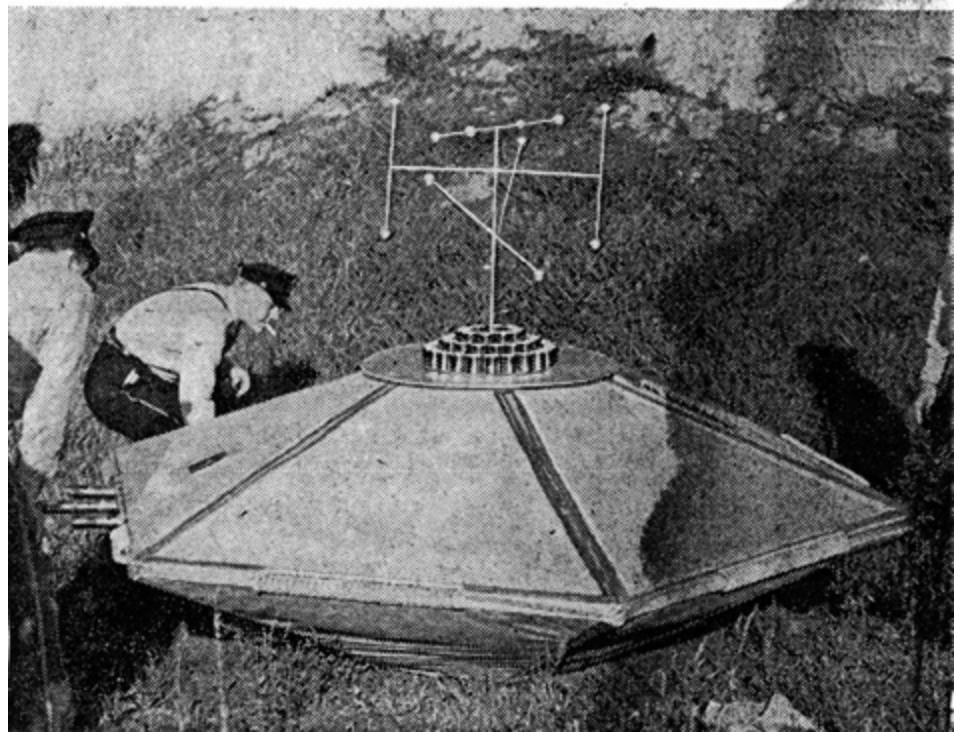
The second fair, in 1950, was also a Thursday thru Saturday fair (Sep 7, 8, 9). It kicked off with more than a round disk – we said these Rotarians were creative- it kicked off with a flying saucer. The stunt worked as people all over the US and foreign countries read of the promotion. The fair continued in the “country” fashion with old fiddlers, jugglers, a performing mule and “DeeDee” the contortionist. There were also free chest x-rays and a dog show (only a slight resemblance was necessary) for everyday people and their “mutts”.

We don’t have much information about the 1951 Fair – no folder exists. We do know that in 1951 they added a 4th day – the fair from this point ran from Wednesday to Saturday (in 1951, Sep. 5, 6, 7, 8)

Sept. 3, 4, 5, 6 were the dates for the 1952 Fair. Along with the typical “country” tents and events, the Fair featured the following: a “Sad Sack comedian (Sad Sack refers to WWII GI cartoons), boxing cats, a comedian/xylophonist, a trampoline act as well as “Lou Morgan” who rides anything on wheels. Don’t know what that means, but was probably interesting. By now, the fair was a big success – but the creative Rotarians weren’t through.

The 1953 Fair opened on Sep. 9th (10, 11, 12) with the promise of an actual wedding and an egg-throwing event at County officials and, for the first time, no food or craft competitions. This first was so unpopular that they were brought back in ’54. The egg-throwing was also contested by some (some people complained that this was a waste of food (memories of WWII rationing) – the Rotarians explained that these were all “out-of-date eggs which could not be sold. However, nobody thought the idea

Ferguson's 'Flying Saucer'



of egging county officials was a bad idea!). The wedding, however was popular. Evelyn Kelley married Edward D. Allred (owner of Eddie’s Snack Bar at January-Wabash Park) on Thursday Sep. 9th. The Methodist pastor, Rev. Robert Jones, married the couple. Local stores provided many wedding items with Ferguson Department Store donating the bride’s gown. American Airlines donated transportation for the honeymoon in Mexico. Local entertainment included Norma Jean Aubuchon, a championship baton twirler, and Bill and Don from Radio station KXLW. Added to all of this was a rooster crowing contest (we assume among people not actual chickens). The Ferguson Country Fair always gave people something to crow about.

The 1954 Fair (Sep.8, 9, 10, 11) again featured the food and craft events – events which would continue until 1961. A new contest was presented – a “Treasure Hunt”. 10 tickets were handed out with \$250 in prizes possible (about \$3000 in 2025 money). Note the warning at the bottom of the ticket. As a result of this contest, a boy was rescued from a flag pole! In addition to the normal fair activities, 1954 featured a “sports-car” parade. On Friday night the fair featured an auction for a 1954 Ford-perhaps from Stivers Ford, located just up the block. Local groups began to appear on the fair stage including Explorer Post 365 (St. John and James), dancers from the Emma Ogle School of Dance and the Ferguson High Mixed Ensemble. Over 30,00 people from all over St. Louis City and County attended the fair – and the number kept growing over the years.





In 1955 the Fair opened on Sep 7 (8, 9, 10) and featured Firefighting and Civil Defense demonstrations and exhibits. Civil Defense began during WWII and continued during the years following the war as we were now in the Cold War. Civilians, not military, took on the responsibility of making certain that we were secure. Big at the time were the new voting machines. They were present along with instruction of their use. Polio was still big in the news – the Sister Kenny Foundation had a solution and were present at the Fair (see cartoon at right). So was “Susie” the “Smartest and cutest baby elephant. Entertainment featured a local Rotarian, Dr. Louis Boettcher as “the Great Imposter”

The 1956 Fair continued to be a 4-day event (Sep. 4, 5, 6, 7.). The Fair began, as past fairs had, with a parade, this year lead by this truck (parked at the old fire house) and featured even more vehicles from our military. The shot (to left) also shows you a visual idea of the location of the Ferguson Country Fair – the big sign at the entry to the Fair, between buildings on Florissant Road. The tank was towed here, it was not part of the parade as tanks tend to tear up the road. This fair also featured local talent: once again was Dr. Lou Boettcher, this time as a pantomimist, the Ferguson High Majorettes, and Brownie Troop 783. A member of this troop was Judy (Craig) McCarty who’s memories of the fair will be in next month’s article, could not remember what they did – but enjoyed it. “The

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Teen Agers”, a song and dance group may have also been a local act. No information on them is given. They could have been a 50’s “rock” band or not. We will not see “rock” a part of the Fair until next month.

We will conclude with some personal Fair reflections from Kathy (Owen) Noelker. Kathy was a child/teenager during the fair years. “There were many booths of chance where you could win prizes. My favorites were the large stuffed animals, the celluloid figures like small dolls with colorful feathers on their heads. Every year I would win a goldfish or two. At this booth the tables were full of small round fish bowls and to win you had to throw a ping pong ball into the bowl. This was the fish you won! I always won a prize at the “guess-my-weight” booth. They never guessed high enough. My most vivid memory was the huge ferris wheel. The bar to safely hold you in did not lock! We were little kids and held on very tight while we rocked and rocked the chair of the wheel. The highlight of the summer was the fair coming to town.”

More on the Ferguson County Fair in next month’s article.
Information for this article came from the files of the Ferguson Historical Society.

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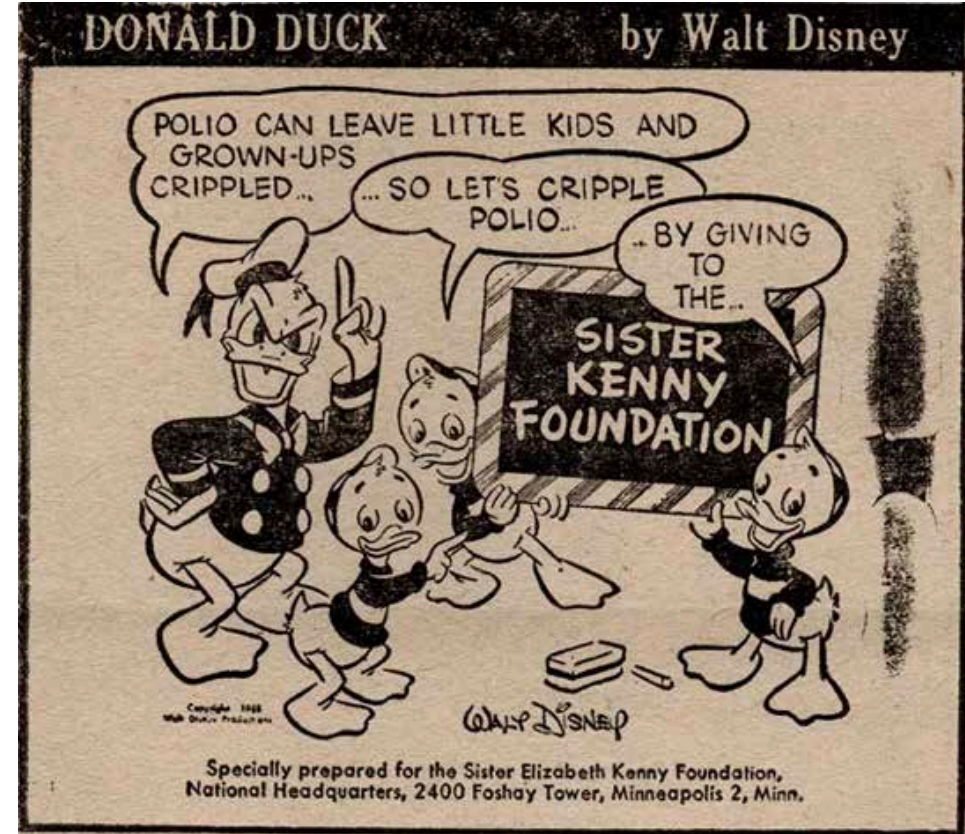
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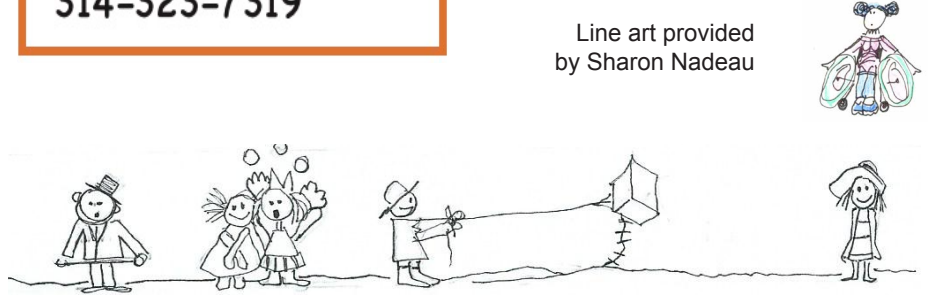
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