

# Ferguson

## NEIGHBORHOOD

SINCE NEWS 2021



### Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

For Timely Release – May 2025 edition, Ferguson Neighborhood News

#### 16 Reasons to #RunwithFerguson, Saturday, May 17



Ferguson, MO – In celebration of the 16th annual Ferguson Twilight Run, here are 16 reasons to #RunwithFerguson on Saturday, May 17.

1. Ferguson Twilight Run is an ORIGINAL! It's the first evening race hosted in North St. Louis County.
2. You can RUN and WALK with hundreds of your closest friends.
3. THREE DISTANCES - one mile, 5K & 10K - to challenge your endurance.
4. Colorful RACE T-shirts. Very cool.
5. Oh-so-shiny-FINISHER MEDALS.
6. Bananas, granola bars and high fives! Oh my!
7. The BEST NEIGHBORHOOD CHEER STATIONS and water stations.
8. A post-race party with FOUR deejays!
9. AWARDS for age-group winners. So. Many. Awards.
10. Ferguson Twilight Run GIVES BACK! The Donnie White, Sr. Memorial Beneficiary Award has given \$129,850 to nonprofits in NoCo since 2010.
11. SUPER SPONSORS! Ferguson Twilight Run sponsors give generously to promote healthful and active living.
12. Professional timing and certified routes by BIG RIVER RUNNING COMPANY, a St. Louis leader in the running community.
13. LOCAL VENDORS in the finish area to support your health and wellness.
14. Flag-raising by the FERGUSON FIRE DEPARTMENT.
15. Safety and security from the FERGUSON POLICE DEPARTMENT.
16. VOLUNTEERS! Ferguson Twilight Run is successful because of dedicated volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to make the race a reality.

#### Race Details

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.

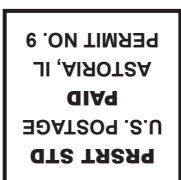
- The race starts and finishes at Plaza at 501, located at the intersection of Florissant Road and Suburban Avenue.
- Race festivities are 4:30-9:30 p.m. including music and vendor booths
- Race start times: One mile at 5 p.m., 10K at 5:45 p.m., 5K at 6 p.m.
- Registered participants receive a T-shirt 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.

#### 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)

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
ECRWS



312 Calverton Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63135

### 2025 Ferguson Twilight Run

Saturday, May 17, 2025



### May 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		
<b>Stories and Songs for Little Ones</b> Join us for storytime! Ages 0-5. <b>Wednesdays at 10 am</b>	<b>Lego Club</b> Drop in and build! Ages 6-11. <b>Saturday, May 17 at 2 pm</b>	<b>Teen Makers</b> Drop in and craft! Register at <a href="http://bit.ly/fmplmakers24">bit.ly/fmplmakers24</a> . <b>Tuesday, May 20 at 6 pm</b>
Adult Events		
<b>Readings on Race Book Club</b> We'll discuss <i>Invisible</i> by Stephen L. Carter. <b>Monday, May 12 at 6 pm</b>	<b>Conversations and Coffee</b> Discuss the news over light refreshments. <b>Tuesday, May 13 at 6 pm</b>	<b>Dealing with Debt</b> Learn how to address and tackle debt. <b>Wednesday, May 28 at 6 pm</b>
All Ages Events		
<b>Fiber Arts Social Club</b> Craft and chat! Bring your knitting, sewing, crocheting, etc. projects and work while socializing. Beginners are welcome! <b>Thursday, May 8 at 6 pm</b>	<b>Mother's Day Tea</b> Celebrate all of the important women in your life at our annual tea! Register at <a href="http://bit.ly/fmplmother23">bit.ly/fmplmother23</a> . <b>Saturday, May 10 from 11-2 pm</b>	<b>2025 Summer Reading Challenge</b> May 24 - August 2 Let reading color your world this summer! Win prizes and enjoy special events all summer long. <b>Summer Reading Kickoff</b> Enjoy Inside Out 2 and sign up for the challenge! <b>Friday, May 23 at 6 pm</b>
<b>Cultural Cuisine</b> Join us as we explore the tastes of Mexico! We'll try some traditional dishes and flavors that you might not be as familiar with. <b>Wednesday, May 21 at 6 pm</b>	<b>Craft Kits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>May 12-17:</b> Horizontal Stripe Bracelet</li> <li>• <b>May 27-31:</b> Ping Pong Ball Lantern</li> </ul> Pick up a free kit while supplies last!	<b>The library will be closed Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day.</b>



## May Celebration Shout-outs



7 Happy Birthday Nancy Hahne  
 19 Happy Birthday Aunt Renee'  
 31 Happy Birthday Merrilee Nadeau

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

### May at a Glance



- 4 Star Wars Day  
(May the Fourth be with you)
- 4 Gospel in the Park 4 PM January-Wabash Bandshell
- 5 Cinco De Mayo
- 6 Forestwood Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM  
Emmaus Bible Chapel 900 Highmont Dr.
- 8 Jeske Park Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM  
First Baptist Church of Ferguson 333 N. Florissant Rd.
- 11 Mother's Day
- 12 North Elizabeth Neighborhood Meeting 7PM  
Ferguson Community Center 1050 Smith Ave.
- 15 West Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM
- 17 North Hills Neighborhood Meeting 10 AM
- 17 16th Annual Twilight Run 4:30 - 9:30 PM
- 22 South Central Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM
- 22 Ferguson Woods Neighborhood Meeting 7 PM  
North Hills Methodist 10771 Trask Dr.
- 26 South West Neighborhood Meeting 6 PM
- 26 Memorial Day
- 30 Trivia Night Fundraiser for Drakes Place

# TRIVIA NIGHT

**VIP TABLE OF 8 \$350**      **TABLE OF 8 \$200**

Includes  
VIP Food Area  
Special Drinks & Snacks  
Personal Waiter  
10 Mulligans  
8 Tickets for Raffle  
Team Game

**FUNDRAISER  
FRIENDS OF DRAKES PLACE  
THEME: A FESTIVAL OF FOODS**

**FUN GAMES - DRINKS - PRIZES**  
**MAY 30, 2025**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM**  
**FUN BEGINS AT 7:00 PM**

**Ferguson Community Center**  
**1050 Smith Avenue, Ferguson, MO 63135**

**BYOB & SNACKS**

To Register & Pay  
Contact Bridgett Lewis  
314.537.4283  
[msbri1960@gmail.com](mailto:msbri1960@gmail.com)

*"A FIRE LEAVES A WOUND.  
THE COMMUNITY IS THE HEALING OINTMENT!"*

## 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](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**



## FERGUSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday, June 14**  
 10am - 4pm at the History House  
 Located behind the Community Center.

Join us for history, conversation, refreshments, enter a free drawing for a fun experience, and maybe a surprize or two! Details to come!



In conjunction with Historic St. Louis "Summertime Past" event. [historicsaintlouis.org](http://historicsaintlouis.org)

Community Gospel Choir of St. Louis

Joyful Noise  
**GOSPEL IN THE PARK**

Annual **FREE** Outdoor Concert  
January-Wabash Park Bandshell  
**SUNDAY, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 4PM**

Presented in partnership with



For more information see [www.proud-ferguson.org](http://www.proud-ferguson.org)  
Facebook: People Reaching Out for Unity and Diversity



Community Gospel Choir of St. Louis

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 12, 2025  
For more information, contact Tom Ptacek, 314-704-8720  
**Community Gospel Choir and PROUD Partner for Annual Spring Gospel Concert**

Joyful noise will be heard on May 4 at 4 p.m. as the Community Gospel Choir returns to the January-Wabash Park Bandshell for the annual free gospel concert. Called “Joyful Noise: Gospel in the Park,” residents are invited to celebrate the arrival of spring with an uplifting afternoon of soulful harmonies and joyous praise in the park.

The choir will again partner with PROUD (People Reaching Out for Unity and Diversity) to offer this concert as a gift to the Ferguson community.

“This is our fourth annual Spring concert in Ferguson,” said Suzanne Palmer, artistic director and conductor of the choir. “This year, we will have some special guests performing with us. And we invite everyone to bring the whole family, as we will have activities for the kids.”

Community Gospel Choir’s mission is to use the power of music to break down barriers, foster unity, and bring healing to our community. The choir has more than 60 members and has become recognized as one of the premier gospel choirs in the region.

PROUD is a Ferguson-based organization working to encourage Ferguson residents to work together to build a community of harmony and equity within a diverse group of people.



# Ferguson City News - May 2025

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8AM - Noon | Every Saturday (May-Oct)  
Plaza at 501 (501 S Florissant Rd)

### MAY 2025

- May 3 Kickstart the Market
- May 10 Petals & Produce
- May 17 Lettuce Celebrate Salads
- May 24 Splash Into Summer
- May 31 Summer of Superheroes

**Tiny Sprouts**  
FREE to Kids Ages 3-10  
Weekly Incentives  
Prizes and Swag

**FERGUSONFARMERSMARKET.COM**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MAY 2025

- May 16 Summer Concert - McLovin  
7 PM - 9 PM | Plaza at 501
- May 17 Fire Department Open House  
12 PM - 3 PM | House 1
- May 24 Splash at Wabash  
Opening Day

### JUNE 2025

- June 7 Cops and Bobbers  
8 AM - 12 PM | JW Lake
- June 14 Juneteenth Celebration  
4 PM - 9 PM | Forestwood Park
- June 16 Summer Concert - JAM  
7 PM - 9 PM | Plaza at 501

**FERGREG.COM**

# CROSSWORD

## Free Bananas!

By Robin Shively

### ACROSS

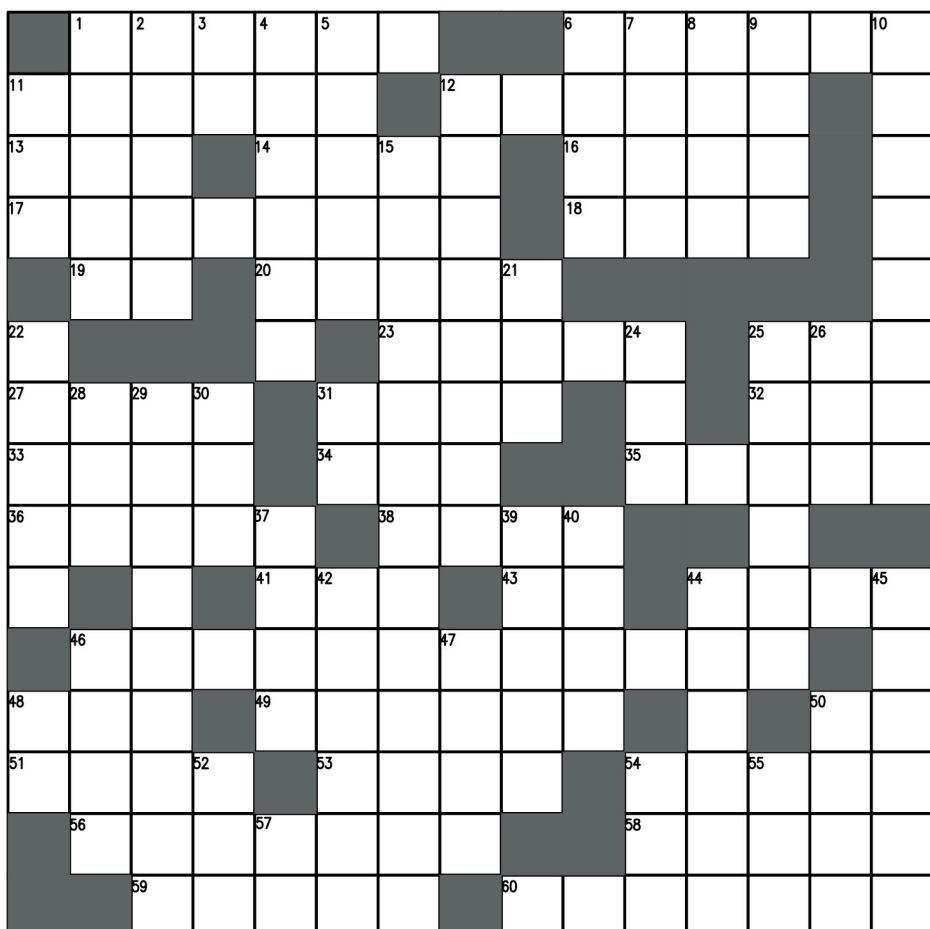
1. Gathered fabric
6. Bolt's bolt?
11. Closest pal
12. Rhyming enjoyable sprint
13. Stevedores' org.
14. Great detective of kid's books
16. Tiny bit
17. Huck Finn musical
18. Start of a Christmas story
19. \_\_\_ la vie
20. Grass
23. Cabal
25. H.S. math
27. Injure
31. Pear variety
32. Masked drama
33. Inventive notion
34. Musician Brian
35. Jem's sister
36. Fend off
38. Burnt ones are smoking good eating!
41. ROTC relative
43. On location
44. Competition for cars or candidates
46. Training program for potatoes?
48. Dot follower
49. King genre
50. Chimney Rock st.
51. O'Hara family home
53. Tempo
54. Former bull
56. Tropical malady
58. Ferber novel
59. Hero's hardware
60. Transparency

### DOWN

1. Artifact
2. Grammar subject
3. 12 in.
4. Finale
5. Abandon
6. Two jiggers
7. Place for a figurehead
8. \_\_\_baga
9. Barefoot Contessa and namesakes
10. Dusk
11. Crumb catcher
12. Scottish-American comedian Craig
15. 2.2 mile route on former Wash right of way
21. It may be an S.A.S.E.
22. Skin opponent
24. Sit-up targets
25. Parka
26. Reed or Grant
28. Fruit drink
29. Change instructions for computer
30. Name for a girl born this month?
31. Word in famous soliloquy
37. Scottish bay or arm of the sea
39. Crusoe creator
40. Don't do this for Bond
42. Priyanka's maiden name
44. Certain college or university head
45. What "E" stands for in an Einstein formula
46. Over-fill
47. Largest dolphin
48. Extra work hrs.
50. Irish god of war
52. It may be pale
54. U.S. no. issuer
55. Sushi shrimp
57. Julian BC successor



Solution on page 13



# ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Kimberly Kabak Epperson



## May 1 @ 10:00 am -6:00 pm \$Free

Saint Louis Artists' Guild  
12 N. Jackson Ave. Clayton, MO 63105

### 'living- language- land' Inspired

The St. Louis Artists' Guild is proud to present an exhibition with SAQA KS-MO-OK Regional members (primary and secondary) who were asked to select at least one word and create one or more art quilts inspired by that word based on their research and creative voice. Featured are over 50 artworks from a total of 20 artists from 7 different states!

In consideration of AAPIH month:

## May 1 - June 21 11:00am - 5:00 pm \$Free

Bruno David Gallery  
7513 Forsyth Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63105

### Becky Moon: Sticks and Stones

Sticks and Stones, an exhibition by Korean-born artist Becky Moon, is the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery. In describing this series of paintings, the artist says "There is nothing as everlasting as the invisible human mind. The mind is a refuge for those who long for a land they can never return to. I want my paintings to be flag posts that remind the existence of the mind that it is real, alive, and persistent. Even when all is lost, the mind lives on."

## May 10 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm \$Free

Little Creek Nature Area  
2295 Dunn Rd. Florissant, MO 63033

### EcoTones Concerts

This full-scale EcoTones features 14 members of the world-class St. Louis EcoTones Ensemble in an all-ages ticketed musical event open to the public. From 10:00-11:00am, audience members walk a "Music Trail" through multiple ecotones in the preserve, hearing small ensembles perform music directly inspired by the flora and fauna surrounding each trailside stage. This portion of the event is to be immediately followed by a sit-down concert set at Little Creek Nature Area's Pavilion at 11:30am featuring a convergence of all 14 members of the St. Louis EcoTones Ensemble. Attendees should plan to BYO-EVERYTHING: camp chairs, food and drink and should wear appropriate footwear. Tickets are Pay-What-You Want with a limited number of free tickets available on a first-come-first-serve basis by emailing [ecotonesconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:ecotonesconcerts@gmail.com).

## May 24 @ 10:00 am - 8:00 pm \$Free

World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park  
1904 Concourse Dr. St. Louis, MO 63110

### St. Louis African Arts Festival

The St. Louis African Arts Festival aims to increase awareness of the global contributions that African people and people of African descent have made through artistic, cultural and educational programs. Attendees can enjoy the African marketplace with arts and crafts, clothing and jewelry, alongside cultural demonstrations, traditional foods and African films.

## May 31 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm \$Free

Northside Workshop  
1306 St Louis Ave. St. Louis, 63106

### Decolonize the Garden: From Seeds to Bees

Learn about Native plants with artist Juan William Chávez and horticulturist and Indigenous community member Rico Rose at the Northside Workshop and explore how social practice art and gardening can support and advocate for Indigenous issues through self-expression, environmental stewardship, and community building. Registration is required.

## May 31 @ 7:30 pm \$25 - \$149

Loretto-Hilton Center  
130 Eager Rd. Webster Groves, MO 63119

### This House: A World Premiere

This House, a world premiere presented by Opera Theatre of St. Louis, embraces the notion that we all walk in the shadows of our ancestors. A house is more than four walls and a roof – it is a keeper of memories and a witness to legacy. The Walker family has lived in the same Harlem brownstone since the 1920s, and they have fought hard to keep what they have. As hidden truths about the family's legacy come to light, Zoe begins to realize that the secrets harbored within these walls are deeper and more profound than she ever dared to imagine.



# Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

Most of us know someone on the “Autism Spectrum”. I am certainly not here to discuss the causes of autism or dispute or confirm any recent research into the condition. I am however concerned about the increased incidence of an Autism diagnosis.

“Autism or autism spectrum disorder refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) autism affects an estimated one in thirty-six children and one in forty-five adults in the United states today” copied from Autismpeaks.org.

“Autism looks different for everyone and each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. Some autistic people can speak, while others are nonverbal and communicate in other ways. Some have intellectual disabilities, while some do not. Some require significant support in their daily lives while others need less support and live entirely independently.” copied from Autismspeaks.org

I thought a brief description of autism disorder was important in this article. Thank you for your patience before I get to the real reason for this month’s contribution.

Our godson is on the autism spectrum. He is also one of the smartest people I know. I wanted to share his story with you because I think he, his supportive family and a local program deserve acknowledgement and praise.

Some of you may know our godson, Alex. We have been frequent visitors to Ferguson Brewing Company, especially on Thursday evenings. When he enrolled in a program at UMSL and was living on campus we invited him to have dinner with us occasionally on our dime. “Occasionally” quickly became a weekly event!

Just two miles from Ferguson is the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Within this university is a program designed to give individuals on the autism spectrum to become productive, positive members of society. The UMSL SUCCEED Program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis is for high school graduates designed for young men and women just like Alex. It provides training in independent living, academic, and job skills, often

leading to entering a degree program. Our godson, Alex, had the benefit of this program at UMSL and will soon graduate with a degree in Information Systems with a minor in Cybersecurity. He has been consistently on the Dean’s List.

The benefit of the succeed program and Alex’s determination to succeed was life changing for him and his family. Social workers while he was in high school encouraged his mom to enroll him in a program to teach him a simple skill. They were convinced he would never be able to go to college, earn a decent living or even live independently. I told him to send every one of those social workers a graduation announcement and show them just how wrong they were.

When we had our weekly dinners at the brewery we always sat at the bar, usually visiting with the same bartender every week. One Thursday we arrived as a twosome instead of the three of us. The bartender immediately noticed and wanted to know where Alex was. We had to let her know he was home for the summer and not close enough to drive in on Thursdays. She could not resist commenting on how much he had changed within the year. She said the young man who barely spoke to her much less make eye contact with her had become very friendly and engaging. Often at the bar there would be out-of-town visitors. My husband and I would typically introduce ourselves and make menu recommendations. If Alex overheard our conversations and realized our new acquaintances were in the IT industry, we lost him. He intended to soak up as much information as possible from our new friend.

This article is written with much pride and love for our godson. I am also sharing this information for the benefit for anyone else who has a friend or relative diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. There are a lot of bright, funny, and engaging people trapped within their diagnosis. There seems to be more children diagnosed with this disorder. I make no claims as to whether the rate of autism is rising because of greater awareness and better screening or something else more sinister within our environment. I do not know but I genuinely welcome continued research and discovery.

Once again, thank you for letting me share with you this month. You may contact me by email at manhattanmarian@gmail.com.

<https://www.umsl.edu/education/oipe/program/index.html>

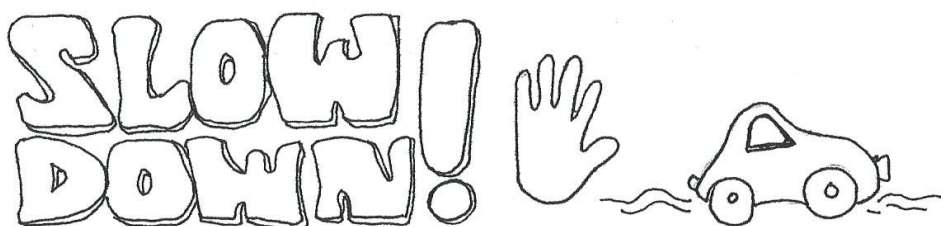


## North County Native promoted to Assistant Director

ST. LOUIS, MO – Dr. Iesha Draper has been promoted to Assistant Director, Pediatrics, with Affinia Healthcare.

Dr. Draper is a North County native and graduate of Riverview Gardens High School. She earned her bachelor’s degree at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine from A.T. Still University in Kirksville, Mo. She completed her residency in Pediatrics at Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital/St. Louis University.

Dr. Draper has worked in the community health center setting for over five years, joining Affinia Healthcare at Ferguson in 2023. She is passionate about caring for children in the community and has a focus on behavioral health and autism screening. Dr. Draper looks forward to advocating for patients and colleagues on a largerscale.



# Get Growing! Garden for a Healthier, Happier You

By Rachel Levi

Did you begin this year with high hopes, big plans and renewed enthusiasm for cultivating well-being, joy, and zest? If growing season 2025 is your time to take action for better health and more pleasure, I recommend growing your own food this year.

As the Development Director at EarthDance Organic Farm School, I've seen over and over again how growing food can help people lead happier lives. At EarthDance, we teach people to grow food in harmony with nature. We pass on principles of soil stewardship and techniques to manage weeds and pests. Becoming an amazing farmer takes years, but you can grow a few veggies in containers this year with minimal instruction. Here are just a few of the ways you'll benefit.

You'll carve out time outside. Spending time outside provides you with vitamin D and helps regulate your sleep and waking cycles. People who spend at least 30 minutes a day outside before noon fall asleep faster and spend more time in deep sleep.

You'll be more physically active. Beyond fitness, moderately challenging physical movement has so many benefits! If you are digging, weeding, watering and harvesting in your garden, you will trigger a cascade of feel-good chemicals in your brain and body. Exercise boosts mood, lowers anxiety, opens you up to social pleasures and helps you sleep better.

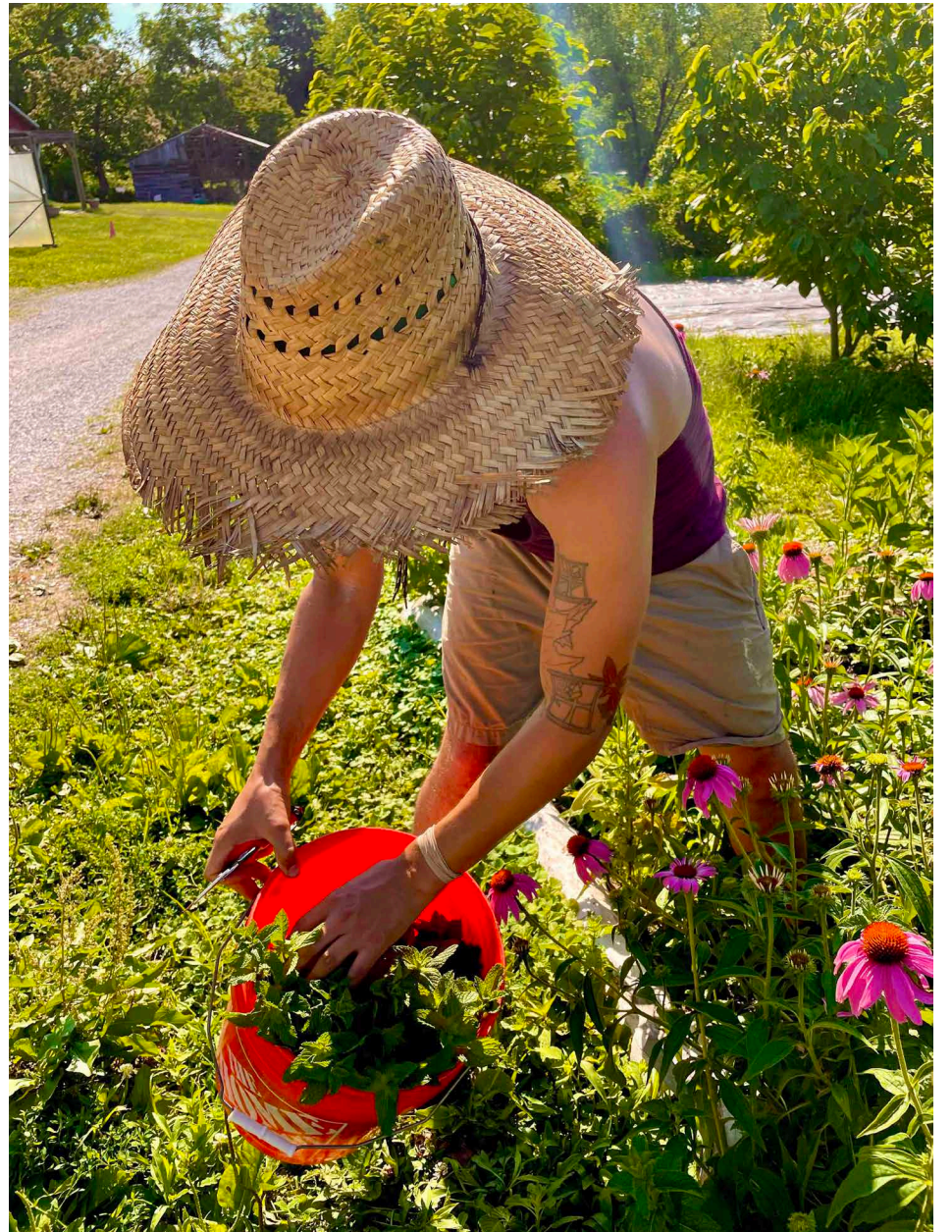
You can make skin-to-soil contact. Scientists are increasingly interested in our microbiome: the billions of living, infinitely tiny, wildly diverse critters that live everywhere in and on us. Contact with living soil enriches the gut microbiome, the community of microorganisms that inhabit our digestive tracts. A growing body of evidence shows that a healthy gut microbiome is essential for our wellbeing, and that even the smell of healthy soil has antidepressant effects on humans.

And, of course, you'll eat your fresh, nutrient-dense food!

If you're new to gardening, don't feel you need to grow enough for a salad at each meal. Start small ~really small. My first food garden was a row of "cut and come again" baby greens that grew in a shallow pot by a sunny window inside my apartment. Google around for a more thorough beginning gardening tutorial, but here are the basics: Assemble one or more big containers with good drainage, a few bags of organic potting soil, some organic fertilizer, and a chosen veggie or herb "start." You can buy pots or use a five-gallon bucket drilled with holes in the bottom.

Start with seedlings: Pay what you can for organic plant starts at the EarthDance Plant Sale May 2, 3, 4 (see ad for more info) or at many grocery stores, farmers markets, big box hardware stores, or garden stores. Pick a sunny spot (you'll need at least 8 hours of full sun to grow most vegetables) and figure out your water source (hose, sprinkler, watering can?). Put them all together, and give your garden daily love and attention. It will give you the same.

If you'd like to learn more about EarthDance offerings, including classes, volunteer opportunities, youth programs, and more, visit [www.earthdancefarms.org](http://www.earthdancefarms.org)



The physical movement that many people do when gardening has many benefits. Digging, weeding, watering and harvesting in your garden help trigger a cascade of feel-good chemicals in your brain and body and can boost mood, lower anxiety, open you up to social pleasures, and help you sleep better.



Spending time outside provides you with vitamin D and helps regulate your sleep and waking cycles. People who spend at least 30 minutes a day outside before noon fall asleep faster and spend more time in deep sleep.



You can make skin-to-soil contact. Contact with living soil enriches the gut microbiome, the community of microorganisms that inhabit our digestive tracts. A growing body of evidence shows that a healthy gut microbiome is essential for our wellbeing

## Boredom Busters to Help Keep Dogs in Good Homes

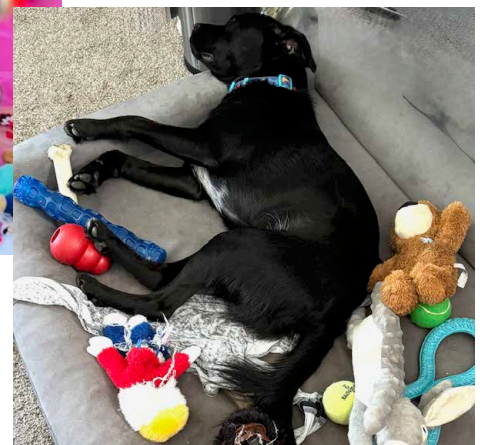
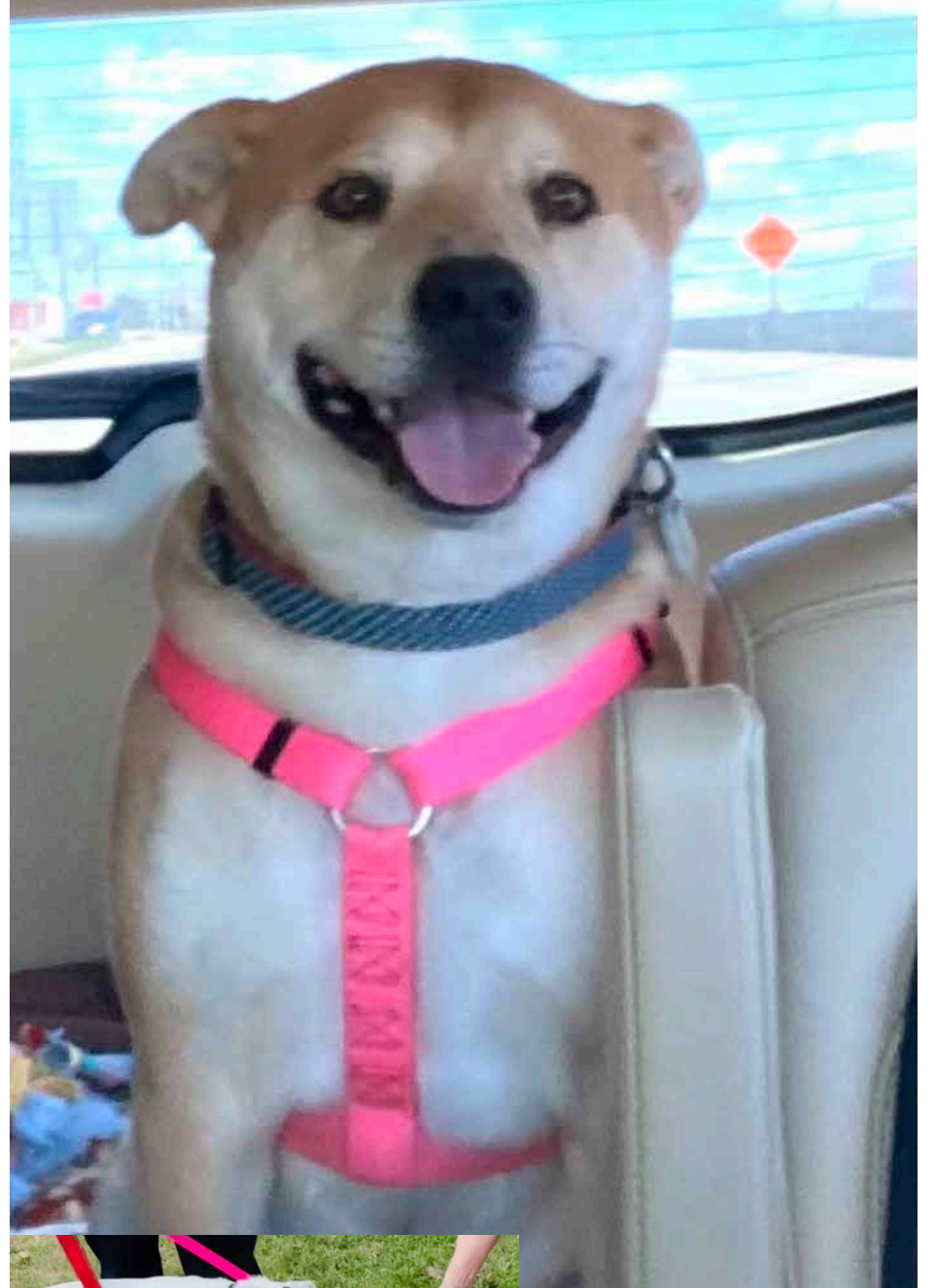
By Dara Ashby ~Ferguson Animal Coalition  
(501c3 organization to keep pets safe and happy)



People call me regularly for help with their destructive, bored dogs. With the pet overpopulation crisis happening, PLEASE DON'T DUMP YOUR DOG. Work with them and help keep them mentally and physically happy. This will help you, too!

Over the course of my many years in rescue, I have collected a fairly large bag of tricks for helping dogs succeed in their homes. Hopefully this information will help other dog parents. Exercise is critical but mental stimulation is just as important for your dog's health and happiness. Boredom can lead to behavioral problems, destruction, and frustration for both of you. Because of their nature, dogs need opportunities to solve problems and exercise their minds. A bored dog is an unhappy, frustrated dog which leads to you being unhappy and frustrated; chewed shoes, remote controls, unwanted digging, etc. Below are some tried and true things that you can do, to provide mental stimulation for your companion dog.

1. Sniffs on walks. When going on walks, let your dogs sniff like crazy. A dog's nose is like our eyes when we read the newspaper, filling their minds with lots of great neighborhood information. Don't pull your dog away when they discover a good smell.
2. Enrichment lick toys. Invest in enrichment toys that you can stuff or cover with peanut butter, plain yogurt or cream cheese and keep in the freezer, ready to go. A marrow bone, once emptied, can be restuffed with these things listed above and provide hours of challenging entertainment. A Kong can also be used. Lick mats are a great resource also. Spread these with yummy ingredients and keep in the freezer ready to grab. You can find these on Amazon or Petco.
3. Foraging toys. Treat dispensing toys, snuffle mats and dog puzzles provide mental challenge and foraging that dogs naturally love to do. Fill these with their favorite small treats or kibble. You can find these on Amazon or at Petco. Also google Sniff Games for dogs.
4. Kiddie pool. Buy a plastic kiddie pool and fill with hard plastic (dog safe) balls and hide treats in the pool. Or for the digger dogs, provide an A-OK place for them to dig by filling it with sand and hide treasures (treats) in the pool. You can find these on Amazon or Petco.
5. Splash pool. Get a splash pool for hours of entertainment. Many different varieties can be found on Amazon.
6. Keep a toy box filled with a variety of different toys and chew bones. Variety is the spice of life for active minds.
7. Schedule doggy playdates with a friend or neighbor. Having time with other dogs is critically important for continued socialization and enrichment plus dogs will love you for it. NOTE: If your dog hasn't spent time with other dogs, follow these steps found here: <https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/resource/how-successfully-introduce-two-dogs>
8. Car rides. Dogs love seeing the world. A nice car ride is a great alternative to a walk, especially on a rainy or cold day. This is a great way to wear them out. NOTE: If you have a dog that gets carsick, check this article out: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/carsickness-in-dogs/>
9. Provide an entertaining window view. Dogs love watching activity. They love sitting in front of a window waiting for you to come home. Keep the curtains open and shades up so pup can watch the world outside.
10. Canine Enrichment FB page. If you are on Face Book, join the Canine Enrichment FB page for some great ideas from other dog parents just like you.
11. Doggy Day Care. Enroll your dog at a local doggy day care place. Be sure to do your research to make sure it's a positive, safe place for your dog to go to.
12. Group dog training. Enroll you and your dog in a group dog training class. It's important for you to be with your dog when going to any type of dog training. Learning together helps you form an important bond with your dog. It also gets you out to meet like-minded people and make new friends. Group classes will help build your dog's confidence. Dog socialization is very important throughout their lifetime, providing many positive experiences. Be sure to use "force free" training classes. Petco, Petsmart, and for those in St. Louis, Greater St. Louis Dog Training Club in Florissant at <https://gsltc.org/> is a great place to check out.
13. Dog Agility Clubs. For the Einstein doggies out there, or those that LOVE to climb, leap, herd, and run, joining a local agility club can be awesome for your dog's brilliant, busy mind and a lot of fun for you as well. For those in St. Louis here is the link for Greater St. Louis Agility Club <http://www.stlouisagility.org/>



# 'Friends of the Paper'



I found out that one of the principal partners of this paper had been covering the over run costs. That issue was going to possibly be the last. I offered to cover half of the shortage that month, by buying and using this page to make a plea. If we had a hundred 'FRIENDS' pledge \$10 a month it would really help. And if fifty could pledge \$25 per month, it would be clear sailing, and delivery could continue to every Ferguson home of the jewel of this FREE PRESS, the *Ferguson Neighborhood News*.

When a town has it's own HARDWARE STORE, BICYCLE SHOP, and PAPER, it's Americana at it's best. Two of them are no more. It won't take much to keep the good news newspaper of our city rolling, but will be too much of a burden for only Bob McGartland, Gary Nadeau, and myself to handle the printing

We are grateful for the advertisers, because otherwise, the tradition carried on by Dorothy Seiter, and handed off to the editors mentioned above, would have been a dream of yester-year. Here is a last thought about the beauty of having our community happenings spread open on our dining room table; We can spill our coffee, tea or drink on the paper and life moves on. We dare not spill it on our phone.



To help Keep this paper, become a monthly 'FRIEND' For electronic payments call 314-524-3440 and ask for Danielle, or mail checks to Ferguson Newspaper Group 312 Calverton Road St Louis Mo 63135

The Author/Artist is an Arborist & Abolitionist, freeing kids in Pakistan from bonded labor. See FreedomCry.Life

Wendell Phillips 'Phil Berwick 'Phil' 314-568-8367

freedomcryinfo@gmail.com



I had painted over a sexual image and vulgarity at south Grand and Miami

## Friends of freedom "From Ferguson to Pakistan"



My organization brings hope to kids who are hungrier for education and freedom than the meager meals they get to eat. We have 18 schools in brick yards serving hundreds of children who were being robbed of education. Several of our school boys and girls who are trapped in illegal child labor recently appealed to their nation from the Lahore press club. The government of Pakistan finally set aside a day to honor Iqbal Masih who helped to free 3,000 children from slavery. He was assassinated April 16, 1995. Pakistan has done nothing about the modern day slavery of bonded labor since, and NGO's have done little.

We do very much with little.

Freedom Cry is a 501 (c) (3) non profit registered in the USA and as Living Tree Foundation in Pakistan.

Donations welcome through the website FreedomCry.Life Or by check to Freedom Cry 417 Nancy Place Ferguson Mo. 63135

Wendell Phillips 'Phil' Berwick / 314-568-8367





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

**6 Steps to a Clean Car INSIDE & OUT**

As the winter season finally loosens its grip, we look ahead to warmer days, road trips, and maybe even rolling the windows down again. But before you hit the road for spring and summer adventures, your vehicle probably needs a little TLC. After months of slush, salt, and grime, it's time for a proper cleanup — inside and out.

Here are 6 smart steps to get your car looking, smelling, and feeling like new again.

**1. Start with a Good Rinse**

Don't dive in with the soap bucket just yet. Hose off the whole car, especially the wheel wells and lower panels. This knocks off that gritty winter residue — salt, sand, and mud — so you're not rubbing it into the paint during the wash.

**2. Give It a Gentle Wash**

Use a proper car wash soap and a microfiber mitt. Skip the dish soap and the old T-shirt rag — they're tough on your paint. Start at the top and work your way down, rinsing often.

**3. Don't Forget the Undercarriage**

Your car's underbody took the brunt of winter driving. Whether you spray it down yourself or run it through a wash with an undercarriage blast, this step helps prevent rust and corrosion where it's hardest to see.

**4. Clean Out the Cabin**

Missouri winters drag in all kinds of mess. Empty out trash, vacuum the carpets and seats, wipe down surfaces, and clean the inside of the windows. Bonus points if you shampoo the floor mats.

**5. Check the Details**

Now's the time to look over your vehicle: Are there any rock chips, cracks in the windshield, or worn-out wiper blades? These small fixes go a long way in keeping your car in top shape.

**6. Protect and Refresh**

Finish off with wax to protect your paint, a quick tire shine for curb appeal, and maybe a new air freshener to make it smell as good as it looks.

**Optional Bonus Steps (If You're Feeling Ambitious):**

- Clean the Engine Bay: Wipe it down gently — no pressure washer. A clean engine compartment helps with spotting leaks early.
- Polish the Headlights: Cloudy lenses? A restoration kit can do wonders for nighttime visibility.
- Clean the Trunk or Cargo Area: Winter gear out, beach towels in.
- Treat Leather or Condition Interior Surfaces: Keep vinyl, plastic, and leather from drying out or cracking in the sun.

Giving your car a full spring detail isn't just about showing off a shiny ride — it's about taking care of one of your biggest investments. A clean, well-maintained vehicle lasts longer, drives better, and just feels right. Missouri roads can be tough, but a little spring refresh goes a long way.

So grab your hose and bucket, or get in line at your favorite carwash, and make your vehicle look as good as a sunny April day.

If you haven't read the article about the fire at Drake's Place Restaurant, please do. There's information about a trivia night fundraiser we are putting on to help fill the gap the insurance company is not covering. Come out on Friday, May 30th to show your support to Bridgett and Sonny Lewis, and Drake's Place Restaurant.

After all of the April showers we've had, let's get out and enjoy some nice spring time weather!

**YOUR OPPORTUNITY**

By Dr. Larry A. Brown

When the time comes for you to participate and “do your thing” then don't hesitate, but gladly and with gusto, make your input. You will feel better forever, and also be able to measure and compare your input with the desired outcome. You may also be able to determine what else may be necessary to add in order to achieve the desired results.



Often, decisions are made in and for your life that you have no Involvement in or input, so don't miss this opportunity. It is said that “If You Don't Show Up, then You Need To Shut Up”.

Now, I am sure that you would not like that.

Opportunities don't always come when they are needed or desired, so take advantage of them when they become available.

Treat the chance with sincerity and much thought because you may not have the same opportunity again,

Assume that your input is important and needed and that the timing is right. It isn't often that we have an opportunity to make a decision - making input so take every advantage when you get the opportunity. It could be the one thing that is necessary in order to make everything work out perfectly. Don't be shy, nor think that your involvement is irrelevant, that things are going to work out anyway. Don't miss your chance. Maybe you are in the right place at the right time !

It is our responsibility to ‘SPEAK UP’.

Won't you be glad that you have made a difference?

That may just be the reason you are here. You never know. However, you know that keeping your mouth shut is not profiting anyone, not even yourself !

It is true that “we must take the ball while it is in our court if we are to score “

If you are having trouble with this or need help in identifying when the opportunity arises, contact us at [www.gracechapelministries.org](http://www.gracechapelministries.org) or [gracechapeldevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:gracechapeldevelopment@gmail.com).

You are here for a purpose! Don't fail to act when the opportunity presents itself. We need you



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## Financial Focus – Tariff Uncertainty!

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)

Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

By the time you read this, our new administration will have been in office for about 100 days. So much has happened in this time and while change is necessary, it has been very swift and unsettling for many. My own concern is that the sweeping changes are causing our leadership role to raise uneasiness across the globe. The past month has been a roller coaster with tariffs and watching the stock and bond markets react. It does make one nervous, so how do we deal with it.

For those who are young enough and have money to invest, many economists have suggested it is an opportunity. Prices are down in the market and past experience shows they can recover and money will be made. Staying put and leaving your investments alone is another strategy. For those without much savings, this may be really hard. As I've mentioned in prior columns – building an emergency fund to get through tough times is essential. And certainly this emergency fund should not be in a volatile type of investment. It is a fund that should be established that you can access easily and without much penalty. Having this established makes it much easier to let your market investments ride out the storm.

If you are living paycheck to paycheck and your only savings is in a 401K checking its value is going to bring on angst. So unless you desperately need that money, just let it ride. Often, those who are nervous will look to borrow money from their 401K or other investments believing that the end is near and better to use it than lose it. This should be a last resort. When I was in my twenties, we made an investment and then watched as it went down, down, down. As anxious as we were, it came down to being able to sleep at night. With two small children and not much of a reserve to rely on during tough times, we bailed and moved what was left of our investment into a CD at a bank to keep from losing more. Looking back, I wish we could have held out and stuck with it, but we didn't. In later years, we learned that long term investments fluctuate and better to not watch them that close, hence the words "long term." That is when we also learned the lesson about building our emergency fund and having it easily accessible. Knowing you have that cushion will help avoid the worry of getting out of a long term investment before it hits bottom or has time to correct.

What about the people close to retirement age or those who have already retired and haven't reached the age of 73 yet. They are not required to withdraw IRA, 401k or 403B funds, but can they hold out long enough for their investments to recover. If you must take a required minimum distribution (RMD), you need to strategize in choosing how much and which accounts to use assuming you have more than one investment. Combining the amount of all of your IRA funds to determine the RMD will help you select the least painful account to withdraw from. Also, this money will be taxed so looking at your choices with a Financial Advisor can help you decide. If the funds aren't needed for living expenses, you may find a charity to distribute funds to which can ease your tax burden. Another option is to look for a place to keep the funds that may be less risky because as we age, no one knows when we will need the money



to help with medical care, household help or being able to stay in one's home. Also, those with a 401K, 403B or other type of fund which may need to look at a separate RMD for these retirement funds.

My investment statements for the first quarter arrived and as expected my accounts took a beating. Even though I had adjusted my portfolio to more conservative types of investments prior to retiring, it doesn't look good. I have sometime before doing RMDs, but investments that seemed safer than staying in mutual funds aren't looking as attractive now. With the tariff news reverberating across the globe, the United States isn't looking as safe in this uncertain environment. Countries that have loaned us funds in the past to help us maintain our deficit spending may be starting to worry. This could result in higher interest rates for our country's debts which have grown to astronomical amounts over the past 40 years. We can only watch and wait.

Small business owners are looking at their own businesses and the effects of the tariffs. Depending on how they get raw materials or who their customers are can make a big difference in their costs. Planning for the future is difficult in this environment and some business owners interviewed on news programs have offered a bleak outlook with the constant changes coming out. And as we are reminded much of the increased costs will be passed on to the consumer.

We keep hearing that this pain will bring forth much gain and return the United States to greatness. Some believe we should just buy American goods, what we'll be finding out is just how much of our goods are created using raw materials from other countries. Believing that manufacturing jobs will move back quickly and be staffed with people willing to work for the amounts that employers were paying to staff overseas, seems like a pipe dream. All of this may sound easy, but it is very complicated. Back in the last half of the twentieth century, businesses left finding it cheaper to produce in a poorer country paying workers less. We also found many ways to avoid using people to do jobs. Automation and robotics have shown the way to lower prices and keep costs down. So in the meantime, we need to ride out the storm and as I mentioned last month let's remember how we became a world leader, built a group of allies that shared many of our beliefs and how to stay united through it all. If you have any questions or comments you may send them to cleav73@gmail.com.

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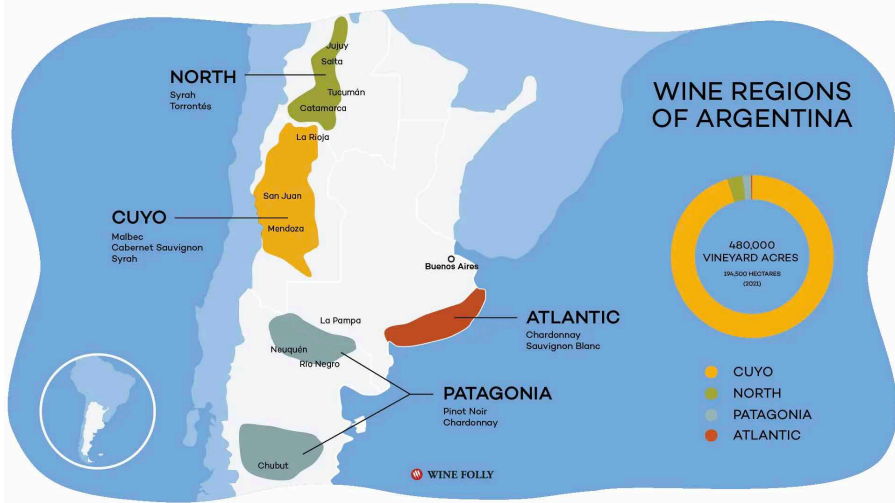
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# What is Raghib Drinking?

By Raghib

If you are reading this, World Malbec Day (April 17th) has passed. Although Argentina produces other varietals, like Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Sauvignon Blanc, it is best known for its production of Malbec. You can find a decent and everyday drinking Malbec for under \$10. If you increase your price point another \$10-\$20, you can find some excellent value Malbecs. Of course, if you want to spend \$50+, you can find a few incredible Malbecs! In order to really appreciate Malbec, we have to first understand Argentina's wine regions.



There are four major wine regions in Argentina, North, Cuyo, Atlantic, and Patagonia. For the purpose of this column, we will focus on Cuyo and the sub regions of Medoza. According to Wine Folly, "The majority of Argentina's vineyards are located at the base of the Andes Mountains, in an area with both ample sunshine and snowmelt for irrigation. These conditions result in plump, deep-colored wines of which Malbec is the most important variety." Mendoza produces more than 75% of Argentina's wine! My first introduction into Malbec was Gouguenheim Malbec. Back then, my wine palette was just beginning to develop and the hints of tobacco and licorice was a different experience. With the price point under \$10, it was a great value then and a great value now. Occasionally, I grab a few bottles if lamb or steak is on the menu. **Gouguenheim Malbec, 2020.** A good Malbec from Tupungato,



which is the northernmost region of Uco Valley. The Uco Valley is a sub-region southwest of Mendoza. Its high elevation helps deliver a wine that is rich in color, with strong hints of dark fruit, tobacco, and licorice. Can pair with lamb or steak. 100% Malbec. Price point \$10. .

Next up, we have **Pampa Family Reserve Malbec, 2019.** This wine is a great Costco find! This Malbec is from Mendoza. However, the lushness of the wine, its deep garnet color, and the strong hints of dark fruit, chocolate, cedar, and nutmeg allows me to believe that it is from the sub-region of Luján de Cuyo, which is just west of Mendoza. I paired this with a nice Wagyu steak from Paul's Market! 100% Malbec. Price point \$30.



Last, but certainly not least, is a very nice Malbec blend that has grown to become one of my favorites! **Bonarda - Malbec Tikal Patriota, 2020.** This Malbec is from La Consulta, which is the oldest subregion in the Uco Valley. This blend is 60% Bonarda and 40% Malbec. Bornada is the second most widely planted grape in Argentina. This wine is exquisite and absolutely beautiful! The way the Bornada balances the robustness of the Malbec, gives it a smooth, balanced taste, with hints of spice, plum, and chocolate. I paired it with baked salmon. However, the beauty of this wine is that you can pair it with almost anything. Price point \$20+.



Before I end, I want to give you a little bonus note on La Consulta, which as I mentioned, is the oldest subregion in the Uco Valley. Some of the most expensive Malbecs are grown in this subregion. Catena Zapata Malbec is grown here and those bottles can easily cost you \$100!

Happy tastings!



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# Support Drake's Place Restaurant: Rebuild After Terrible Fire Damages

"A fire leaves a wound. The community is the healing ointment"

On the morning of January 16th, a devastating fire tore through Drake's Place, forcing the restaurant to shut down indefinitely. While everyone is incredibly thankful that no one was hurt, the losses are overwhelming. Thanks to the swift response of the Ferguson Fire Department, the damage wasn't a total loss to the structure.

Unfortunately, insurance coverage falls significantly short of what is needed to recover.

Drake's Place has been a cornerstone of the community for over 10 years. Among its daily operations, the restaurant has helped to make unforgettable memories for their patrons, for example: wedding anniversaries, baby showers, gender reveals, graduation parties, repasts, history making watch night parties and more—all with the support and love of the amazing community it calls home.

Drake's Place has stood together arm & arm with the community through very difficult times: the 2014 unrest in Ferguson, the challenges of COVID-19, the George Floyd protests, and even the summer's devastating flood in July of 2022 to the recent tragic event that occurred this past August to the dedicated police officer who was severely injured.

Beyond serving great food, Drake's Place takes pride in training young people in hospitality, teaching them skills for excellence and opportunities for a brighter future. Now, Drake's Place needs your help to rebuild.

Your support will go directly toward repairs, replacing damaged equipment, and helping the restaurant to reopen so it can continue serving and uplifting the people of this community & beyond.

The Drake's Place family is honored and humbled by so many who have offered encouraging sentiments and offers of support. Thank you for your prayers, love and generosity during this difficult time. Together, we can bring Drake's Place back stronger than ever. ❤️

Come out in support of Bridgett and Sonny on Friday, May 30th for our Trivia Night fundraiser at the Ferguson Community Center. Doors open at 6pm, trivia starts at 7pm.

Theme: A Festival of Foods – Prize for best table theme.

\$200 for a regular table of 8 includes: beer, soda, cups and ice, BOYB and your own snacks

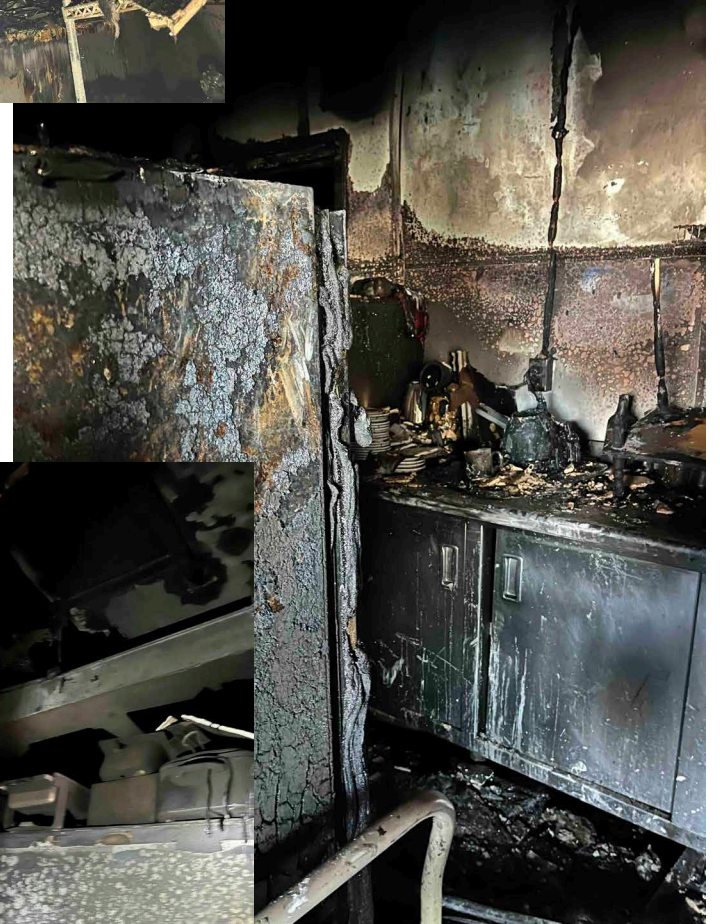
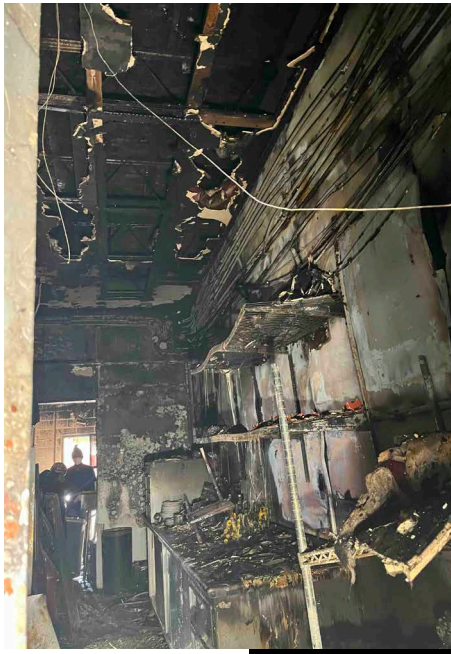
\$350 for a VIP table of 8 includes: food buffet, special drinks, personal waiter, snacks for the table, mulligans, and 8 raffle tickets

Sponsorships are available too!

To purchase a table or become a sponsor, contact Bridgett Lewis at 314-537-4283, email [msbri1960@gmail.com](mailto:msbri1960@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing everyone on May 30th.

Thank you for your support. Bridgett and Sonny Lewis



# God Speaks

by Doug Neely  
MAY, 2025

MARK CHAPTER 16  
KING JAMES VERSION

16 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

This, in a nutshell, is what God wants us to know after Jesus was crucified, died, was buried, and was resurrected. He traveled to bring the Word to us.

Since then, anyone who has not heard, is to be told.

As Christians, this is our job. Jesus has already paid for our sins so that we may enter heaven; **THAT IS THE GREAT MESSAGE!**

## Crossword Solution from page 4

	1	R	2	U	3	F	4	F	5	L	E		6	S	7	P	8	R	9	I	N	10	T	
11	B	E	S	T	I	E						12	F	U	N	R	U	N					W	
13	I	L	A				14	N	A	15	T	E		16	I	O	T	A					I	
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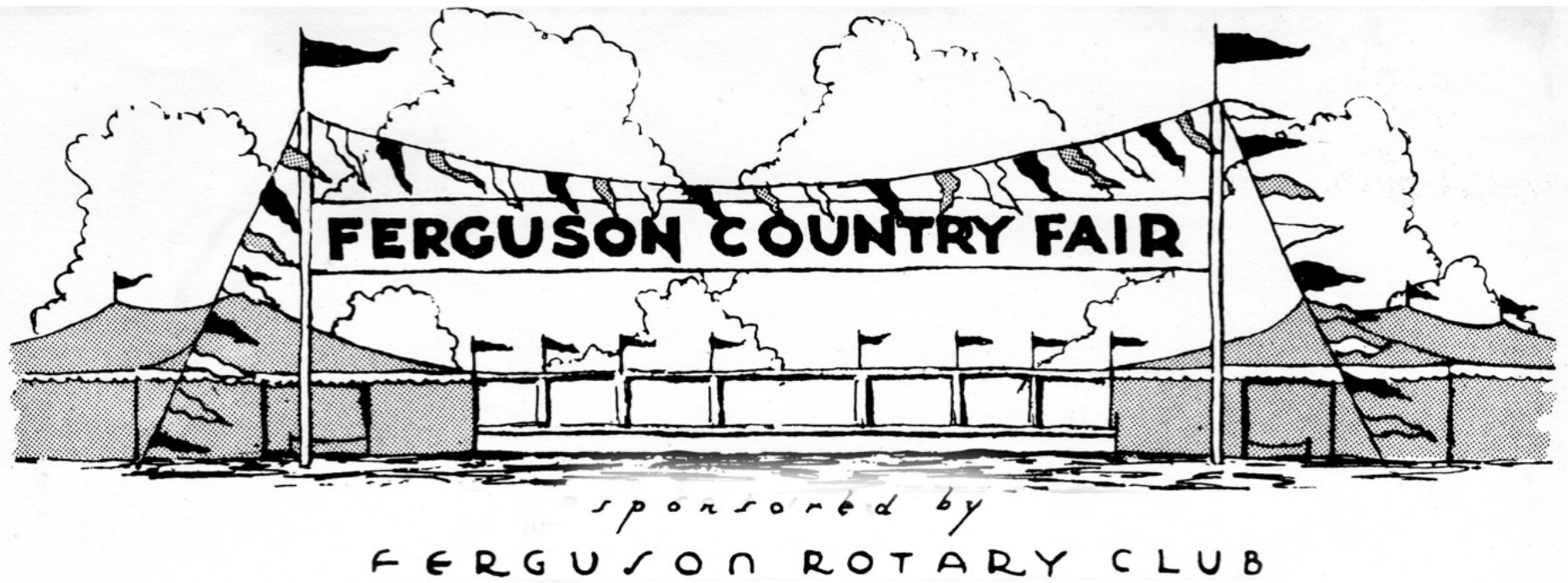
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## Ferguson Has A History Museum

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.



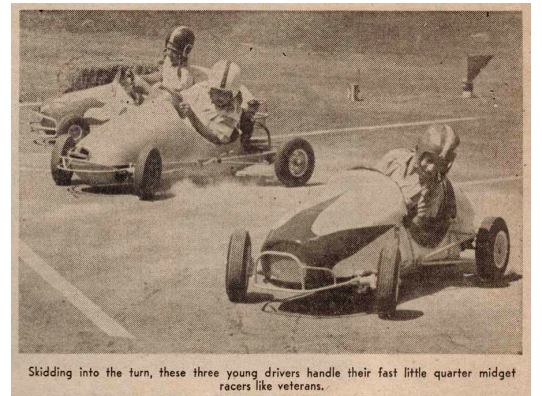
In the last three months we featured the Ferguson Country Fair – an event sponsored by the Ferguson Rotary from 1949 until 1961. We had mentioned that Rotary International was and is an organization of businessmen and professionals dedicated to assisting their community. A key person in the creation and operation of the fair was Bill Crume (President in 1949 and some years to follow). Ferguson Rotary disbanded in 2011. In this month’s article we will detail the final years of the fair, 1957 to 1961.

In last month’s article we presented some of the more outstanding events during the 1949-1957 years. As a reminder, some of the key events were: the flying saucer, the “Mutt Show”, the wedding between Evelyn Kelley and “Eddie” Allred, the Boxing Cats, the Treasure Hunt, the many parades, the local talent (Scouts, dancers, entertainers) as well as the fair memoires of Kathy (Owen) Noelker. As you will find out, the final years also offered many new events and ideas for promotion of the Ferguson Country Fair.



The 1957 Ferguson Country Fair opened on Wednesday September 4th for four days. This was the 9th consecutive fair. Like the earlier fairs, and included by popular demand, was the food and crafts tent with the contests and displays along with a livestock area. Once again, the fair featured a “Greased Pig” contest (“the pig will be good and greasy”). The creators of the fair were always looking for a good “gimmick” to bring people into the fair. One of 1957’s gimmicks is the Mayor’s Milking Contest – where several local mayors would compete to see who was the best “milker”. There were other unique contests: The Boy with the Most Freckles and to keep things equal, The Girl with the Longest Pigtails. This is the first year that we noticed the addition of a Rock ‘n Roll Band – The Jokers. By 1957 people my age were getting old enough to attend the fair on our own. The Jokers were a welcome addition. Admission prices held steady at 25-cents for adults and 10-cents for kids. You can bet we stooped a little when we paid.

Judy (Craig) McCarty, on and off a resident of Ferguson recalled the 1957 fair. She remembered that Leonards House of Jewels (then located on the corner of Carson and Florissant Rd), handed out envelopes containing a note for either a rhinestone or a real diamond. You took your unopened envelope to the store and would receive what you won. She won the diamond, had a ring designed for it and wears it today.



Skidding into the turn, these three young drivers handle their fast little quarter midget racers like veterans.

The 1958 fair also started on a Wednesday, September 3 and went through the 6th. Before looking at the events of 1958, we need to remember that the purpose of the fair was two-fold: one was to bring the city of Ferguson before the area and second was to raise money for local groups. The Rotary announced that previous fairs had put lights on Ferguson High’s field, financed a Japanese exchange student, bought an inhaler for the Fire Department, and for 1958 it was helping finance a new hospital to be located at Brotherton and Florissant Road. I don’t remember anything about that hospital and to my knowledge it was never built. The stage featured the Johnny Polzin Dance Band, the “Country Cousins” square dance group, the Ferguson High Chorus and, once again, the Emma Ogle School of Dance. But the big event was the Quarter Midget Auto Racers. These professionally built little racers (capable of about 30 mph) were driven by kids from 4 to 15 – their dads were the pit crew.

In 1959 the fair ran from September 9th through the 12th. As in past years it was held on the Merchants Parking Lot (the parking lot to the west of Aldi). This was a big year for livestock with cattle, hogs, sheep along with turkeys and chickens. You can add some new smells to the cotton candy and hot dogs. Featured acts included Ernie Heldman (a very famous local magician) along with Captain Eddie who swung around on a high pole, Norma Koch (Acrobat),

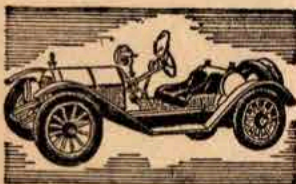
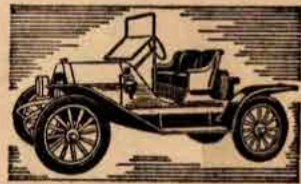

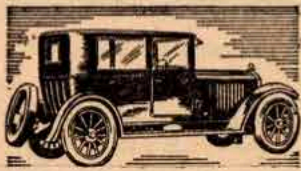
Reutaus (a puppeteer and skater) and Bob Holt an impersonator. One highlight of the fair was an opening parade of antique autos.

In 1960 the fair started on Wednesday, August 17 and ran through Saturday the 20th. This is the first time the fair started in August. Featured acts this year included Kimris “the Sabre Jet Sensation” (ariel act), Jim O’Neil who did barrel-jumping, Deede Dawn (a contortionist), McGinty and Ray a

Big name professional entertainers, several acts each night, different each night. See "Captain Eddie", America's most famous sway-pole act, twice each night.

# ANTIQUUE AUTO SHOW

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1961, which began on August 23rd and ended on August 26th, was the final year of the Ferguson Country Fair. Apparently McGinty and Ray (Ray was the "Wonder Dog") were invited back and added were the Del-Raes, an ariel act. The Rotarians added a Fish Fry to the events along with two car auctions: on Friday night a Plymouth was auctioned and on Saturday it was a Ford. No reports on how that came out. Cars were definitely a focus as there was also a Renault Dauphine Contest. The Dauphine (a small French car being introduced to compete with the Volkswagen Beetle) was driven all four days of the fair. To win the car you had to be the closest to guess the actual miles per tank of gas. We also don't know how that came out – was the Dauphine more economical than a Beetle – We do know that a Mr. Humphry, of 305 Tiffin, won the car with his guess of 141 miles on one tank. There was also a large display of aircraft (McDonnell) and military (Army) equipment.

On the last day of the fair, the organizers of the fair took a survey of people's reactions to the fair. 1006 people were surveyed – half of which were from Ferguson. 80% were from North County. The remaining 20% came from all around St. Louis City and County as well as Illinois. When asked "how did you hear about the fair?" about half the people responded "How could you NOT hear of the fair". To the question "What did you like best?", many simply answered that they liked everything about the fair – however the Art & Hobby show, the livestock areas and the professional and amateur acts rated highly. While generally positive, there were a few negative comments including the cost of the rides, lack of places to sit and relax, some thought the fair area was too small and a few wanted the sale of Beer. The report summary, as submitted by Bill Crume, was "all in all, the results of the survey indicate to me that we are performing a valuable project in the field of community service, through giving people pride in their home town, and that we are also doing a good job at selling Rotary." The fairs were a success! Why did they stop?

The fairs stopped for me as in 1961 I graduated from High School and went to college. I was no longer around in late August or September. I have heard that there were some "smaller" fairs after 1961 at a different location in Ferguson, but I have located no proof of this in the archives.

My summary of the fairs, based on my personal experiences (that's me on the left and my Dad on the right) along with research from the History House, is that the fairs were a great success and a great part of the history of Ferguson. Following the war was a great time of growth for the City of Ferguson – a great time for the growth of civic groups like the Ferguson Rotary. History is made up of notable events and people, but it is also a story of everyday communities and their citizens. What did people do in their everyday lives? What interested them? What activities did they prefer? The Ferguson Country Fair helps to answer these questions. Look at the events, the entertainment, the activities the fair offered – you see what everyday citizens of the area – of the time – enjoyed. Take away the "instant communication" of today, would we enjoy the same things?

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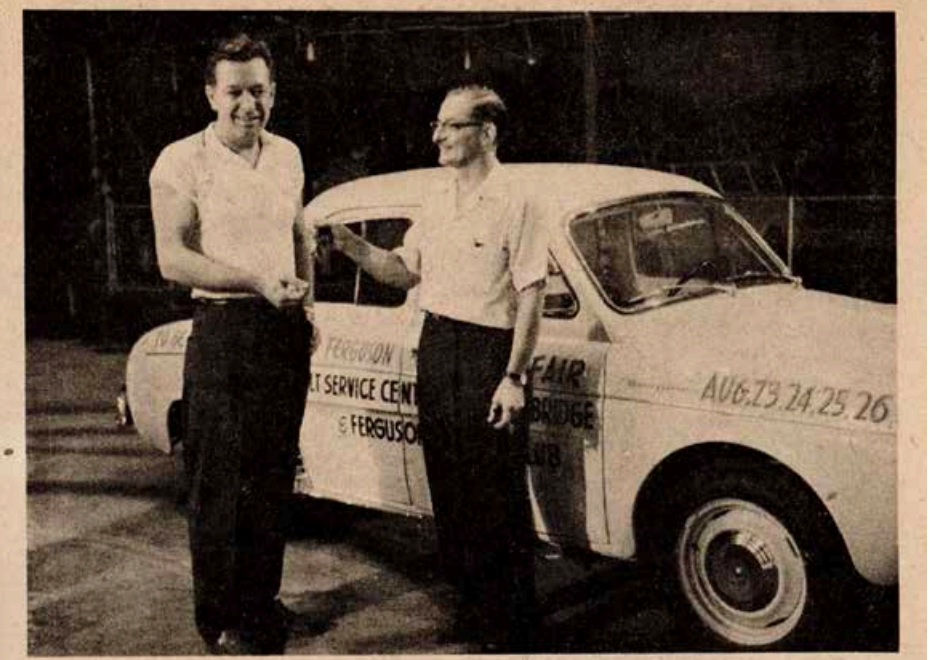
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Winner of Renault - Dauphine given away at Ferguson Fair, was Mr. Humphrey of 305 Tiffin, Ferguson 35, Mo. Miles cars Traveled was 141 miles on one tank of gas. People in picture left to right Rotarian's: Mr. E. Gough, winner Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Eugene Ziaja and Dr. Boettcher.

Would we still love to see McGinty and "the Wonder Dog" Roy or a man swinging around on a high pole. Possibly. We still have the Missouri and Illinois State Fairs with similar events and updated entertainment. Times change. We change, but we still love to have fun!

Information for this article came from personal memories and the files of the Ferguson Historical Society.

**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."*



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