

Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

SINCE NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

THANK YOU!

I want to give a big shout-out thank you to the Ferguson city residents that have graciously contributed to the Ferguson Neighborhood News. It is because of people like you that we can go to press each month. But more than that, it shows me that our community is very much alive and, from the comments I have read, this paper is serving a purpose. I promise that we will never divulge your names and addresses. Anyone that donates remains anonymous.

We strive to keep a positive spin on what is happening around the globe and if I fail to keep that positive vibe, please give me a swift kick. It is very easy to go negative in the world we live in. Especially with the instant feedback we get daily in the form of Facebook, twitter, nextdoor, instagram, you name the app and there are more negative comments than positive. I try to limit my comments as I scroll through the barrage of articles that are not so positive in nature.

I will admit that I finally got on Facebook. I had my daughter-in-law set me up so I can watch my grandsons hockey games when I cannot attend. To that end, I now have two friends: her and one of my fishing buddies.

I want to thank the volunteers from the Forestwood neighborhood association for their cleanup of the Forestwood area. Great job! Photos are on page 6.

I am happy to see the Garden Studio Cafe opened in June. It was formerly the Corner Coffee House. See the article on page 9.

As someone who dabbles in wood projects, I was pleased to hear about SoulCraft which opened it's doors in 2021. See the article on page 15.

Ferguson is not just a city. It is a community. A community of wonderful caring people. Seek out these treasures of our community and let me know what you think.

Other than that, It's just too hot to do anything but sit on a block of ice.

Papa Deau



On-line edition: fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/

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312 Calverton Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63135

August 23, 2025
8am-Noon

Second Annual PAWPAW FEST

EarthDance

Fresh pawpaws grown at EarthDance Organic Farm School

Pawpaw trees from Forest ReLeaf

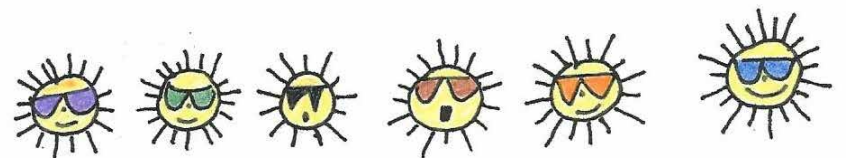
Pawpaw education with farmers & tree experts

Pawpaw treats from local vendors including (but not limited to):

- Pawpaw ice cream sandwiches from SugarWitch!
- Pawpaw Beer from Natural History Brewing!
- Pawpaw booch from Confluence Kombucha!

Learn all about this amazing, native tree fruit! Did you know? Pawpaws can be hand pollinated!

at the Ferguson Farmers Market
501 S. Florissant Rd.
Ferguson, Missouri 63135



August 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	Lego Club Drop in and build! Ages 6-11. Saturday, Aug. 16 at 2 pm	Teen Makers Make a perpetual calendar! Register at bit.ly/fmplmakers24 . Tuesday, Aug. 19 at 6 pm
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FIRST Lego League Challenge
We're gearing up for a new season of FIRST Lego League! FIRST Lego League is a weekly team-based robotics programs where kids ages 9-14 build and program a robot, complete a science project, and learn how to work together.
Info Session: Wednesday, Aug. 6 at 6 pm. Register at bit.ly/fmpl67047.

Adult Events

Readings on Race Book Club Chapters 8-12 of <i>The Rage of Innocence</i> . Monday, Aug. 11 at 6 pm	Conversations and Coffee Discuss today's news and events. Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 6 pm	Sewing Machine 101 Learn how to use a sewing machine! Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 6 pm
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All Ages Events

COLOR OUR WORLD. The 2025 Summer Reading Challenge ends August 21! Turn in your reading logs to get rewarded!

Summer Movie Monday Join us for our last Summer Movie Monday! We'll show Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem (PG). Monday, Aug. 4 at 6 pm	Fiber Arts Social Club Calling all crafters! Bring your latest project and work while socializing with some fellow crafty people. Thursday, Aug. 14 at 6 pm
Cultural Cuisine We'll head to Mexico and enjoy some delicious dishes! Register at bit.ly/fmplcultural23 to save your spot. Wednesday, Aug. 20 at 6 pm	August Craft Kits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aug. 4-9: Folded Paper Stars Aug. 18-23: Layered Magnets Pick up a free kit while supplies last!

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



August Celebration Shout-outs

- 1 Happy Birthday Mark VonDrasek
- 3 Happy Birthday Janice Beach-Sturgis
- 7 Happy Birthday Brandon M. Fulks
- 8 Happy Birthday Faryn E. L. Burns
- 25 Happy Anniversary Pete and Merrilee Nadeau
- 28 Happy Birthday Shontell I. Burns



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

August at a Glance



- 3 National Watermelon Day
- 5 Forestwood Neighborhood Meeting 6-7 PM
- 7 Ferguson Woods Neighborhood Meeting 6-7:30 PM
- 13 National Filet Mignon Day and Left-Handers Day
- 16 Tell a Joke Day
- 16 NorthHills Neighborhood Meeting 10-11 AM
- 21 Senior Citizens Day
- 23 Partial Solar Eclipse
- 23 Pawpaw fest
- 25 South West Neighborhood Meeting 6-7 PM

Where Oh Where is My Paper?

For anyone who is sporadically receiving your Ferguson Neighborhood News, or not receiving it at all, you may visit the Ferguson Post Office, and ask to speak with the Supervisor. Explain that you have not been receiving it and the carrier will be notified. You should perpetually receive it from then on.



PRAY FOR PEACE

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

Editors Note:

I hope everyone had a good laugh at my typo on the front page last month. "Julu" is a new month. My fingers failed to type what my brain was telling them. Also, the top of each page shows the wrong month. I'm going to blame my old eyes. I just had cataract surgery on July 3rd and July 17th so hopefully as I'm putting this issue together I will be able to see my mistakes. I will admit, I can actually see colors better. I have a shirt I thought was grey and it turns out it was blue. I love my new eyes! (I keep telling you all that I am so blessed)

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

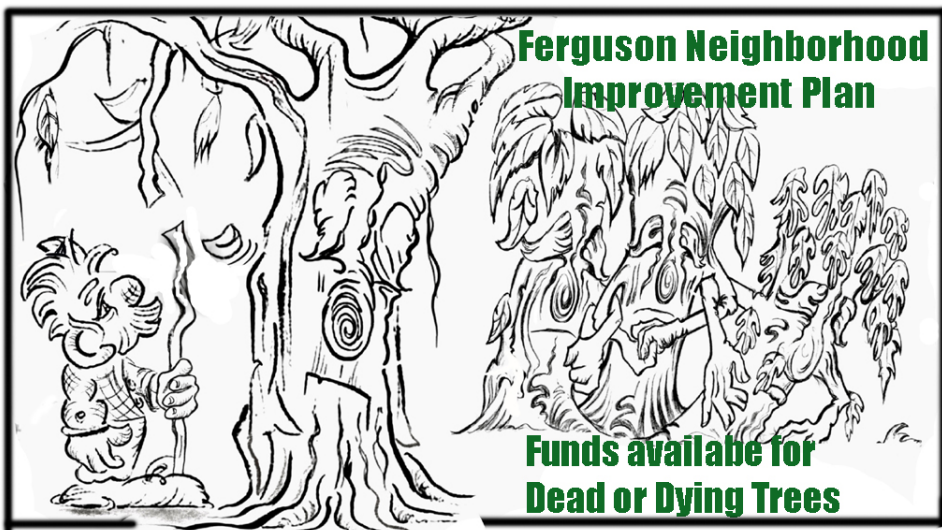
Volunteer with the paper

- 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



Thanks to the due diligence of Larry Robinett, there is still grant money available for help with the removal of dead and dying dangerous trees. The grant is part of the 'FNIP' "Ferguson Neighborhood Improvement Plan". Applications can be gotten on line through the city of Ferguson website, or in person at the Ferguson Library.

Our Path Forward with the Consent Decree

The Ferguson City Council has voted to unilaterally cut funding for the City's Consent Decree with the Department of Justice by 50%, seemingly an attempt by the Council to force the Judge to end the Decree by the end of the year. Yes, it is time for Ferguson to begin exiting the Consent Decree. Ferguson has done this right, in spirit and in action, and it is time that our good intentions and progress are recognized. However unfortunately the path the Council has chosen isn't likely to result in an outcome that is good for the City.

The Consent Decree was entered into voluntarily by the City Council nine years ago after Michael Brown's death, overseen by Judge Catherine Perry. The only way the Decree can come to an end is for Judge Perry to rule us substantially compliant, and the City to maintain that compliance for two years, or for the Department of Justice and the City together to request the Decree be terminated. Unfortunately, the City Council has burned some good will with the Judge by voting to essentially defund the Decree without even notifying the Court.

There is a path forward. The DOJ has recently ended the Louisville and Minneapolis Consent Decrees. Ferguson is far closer to completion than either city was. Ferguson needs to approach the Department of Justice to see if it will support declaring Ferguson fully compliant, and beginning that two year timeline, and further ask the Judge to allow us to self-monitor and report over that two year period. If we are able to self monitor, we will save the largest cost of the Decree, the cost of the outside monitor. In two years, we will have fully complied with the Decree.

In some ways, the requirements of the Consent Decree have been a moving target, changing after we have made progress on a given initiative. However even with that, the City is substantially compliant with most of the Consent Decree. We have fulfilled our obligations on the Municipal and have made significant progress on our obligations on policing, other

than training. Now that we are close to fully staffed, our Police Department is finally able to begin the extra training the Decree requires. Again, Ferguson has done the Decree right, in spirit and in action. Declaring the City substantially compliant, and allowing it to self-monitor and report progress on the officer training and any other open issues would allow us to achieve full compliance while also freeing up needed funds to help keep Ferguson livable.

This path forward is only possible if Ferguson, and particularly the Ferguson Council, are unified and working together. When I was on the Council, working with the Mayor we made a major effort to ensure Council meetings were civil and that the Council was united. Because the Judge is unlikely to rule Ferguson substantially compliant unless the City is unified and working together on a shared future. Unfortunately it now seems the Council meetings are far less civil.

I know that for some the Consent Decree will always be a point of contention. And yes, I agree, the Consent Decree was in some ways disproportionate to the size of our City and what actually happened. However I am also proud of our City's response to the Consent Decree, and the work Ferguson, and particularly the Ferguson Police Department have done. Ferguson is one of the most integrated, friendly communities in St. Louis. Working together, the City and Police Department have created a new template for effective, Constitutional Policing with strong ties to our community.

There is no going back. We must continue to move forward on the Consent Decree, supporting its goals and implementation in spirit and in action. Our Council needs to move beyond the divisiveness and anger. We need our Council unified and talking with one voice to the Department of Justice and Judge Perry. If we can do so, we have a legitimate opportunity for the Consent Decree to begin coming to an end. Not because we defunded it, but because Ferguson has shown the United States what is possible when a strong, diverse community comes together.

Blake Ashby served on the Ferguson City Council and was a board member of the Ferguson Neighborhood Policing Steering Committee

Ferguson City News - August 2025

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

AUGUST 2025

Aug 2	Paw Patrol Day
Aug 9	Eco Festival
Aug 16	Germanfest
Aug 23	Paw Paw Festival
Aug 30	Back to School

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

FERGUSONFARMERSMARKET.COM

FERGUSON PARKS & RECREATION
 WWW.FERGREG.COM

SAVE THE DATES!

Ferguson Fall Spooktacular
 October 25, 2025
 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Ferguson's Winter Wonderland
 December 19, 2025
 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

FERGREG.COM

CROSSWORD

Schools Out

By Robin Shively

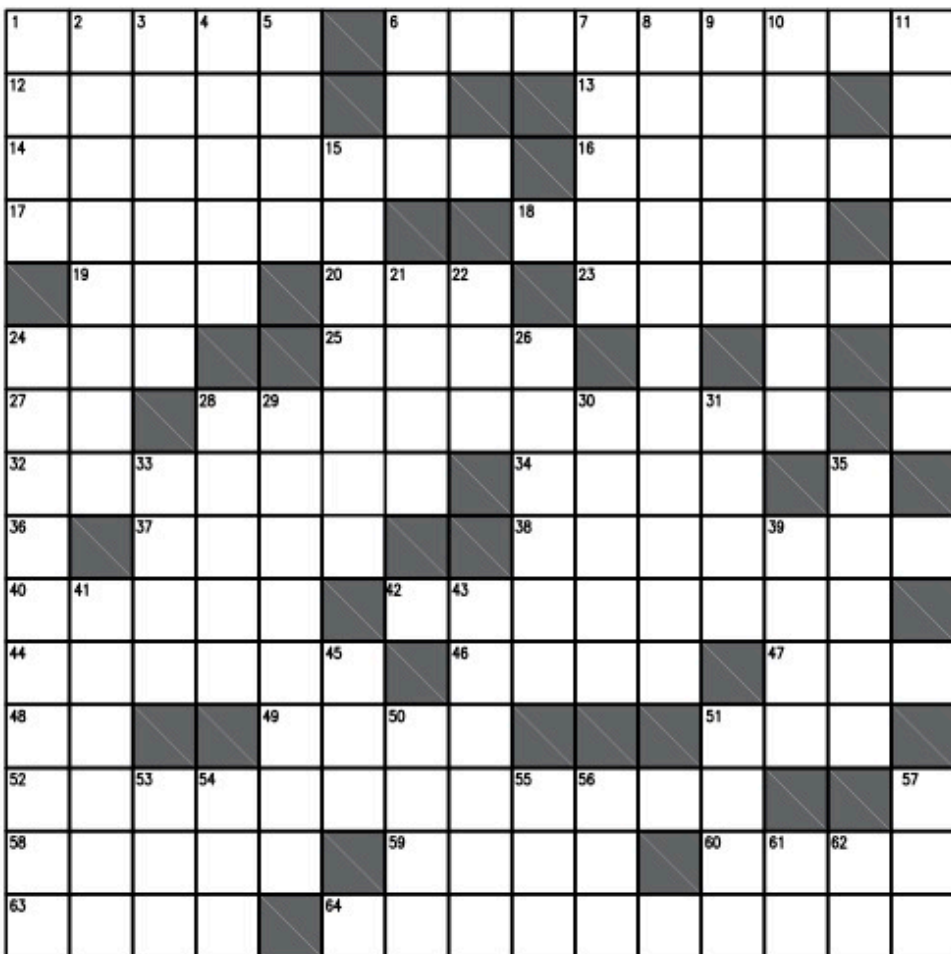
ACROSS

1. Leans
6. Ames famously demonstrated to Carson his skill in throwing these
12. With 28 across, hit song by Mungo Jerry
13. Big name in retirement accounts
14. Moral zealots
16. Conflict
17. Well-beaten instruments
18. Sprat's diet
19. RPG
20. Saint in Portugal
23. Settle comfortably
24. Lincoln's son
25. It's not exactly humerus (but it's close)
27. He wants to phone home
28. When "the livin' is easy"
32. Sharpens again
34. R&B's Braxton
37. Ash containers
38. Web correspondence service
40. Act like a drama queen
42. Preferences
44. Felt
46. English buns
47. "Little" car in 60s hit
48. Beginning of Tigger goodbye
49. Barely a dent
51. Goddess of the dawn
52. With 28 across, Liza's acting debut movie
58. ___ of trust
59. Word with a double meaning?
60. Egyptian wader
63. Debt holder's security
64. Withdrawing

DOWN

1. Stones' logo
2. Flood (with)
3. Leave at the altar
4. "The ___ Man", 1949 film
5. Seven in Lisbon
6. "Unit" of fun
7. Mr. Bean
8. With 28 across, song that mentions a "County fair in the country sun"
9. Gillette Razors
10. Carve
11. Stage background
15. Takes for granted
21. Offerings for the needy
22. It's the loneliest number
24. What the second letter of 27 across stands for
26. He pulled a sword from a hard place
28. Types
29. Not necessary
30. Blows a horn
31. Quiet performer
33. Large Tasmanian pine
35. Santa makes, checks and receives them
39. Jason's ship
41. First person pronouns
43. Richly seasoned stew
45. Subtle insult
50. Knob on a plant stem
51. Modify text
53. Shot or shirt
54. Lay figure?
55. Patriotic ladies' grp.
56. Futbol cheer
57. NYC arena, for short
61. Prefix for centennial or lingual
62. A kind of crowd

Solution on page 13



TRIVIA

K to K

All answers begin and end with the letter K.

1. Small newspaper or candy stand, (for example)
2. Subspecies of Brown or Grizzly bear native to Alaska
3. Russian Submarine which sank in 2000 killing all on board.
4. To "check" n a game of poker.

(Answers on page 13)

ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Kimberly Kabak Epperson

August 8 @ 1:00 - 4:00 pm FREE

Saint Louis Art Museum
1 Fine Arts Dr. St. Louis MO 63110

Baby and Me: World Breastfeeding Month Celebration

Bring the whole family for a fun indoor afternoon celebrating World Breastfeeding Month. There will be storytime, a puppet show, baby and me yoga flow, giveaways and raffles, and a special screening of the documentary Milk by Noemi Weis. Plus more! More info is available at www.stlbfc.org



August 15, 16, 22, 23 @ 8:00 pm

\$\$ Tickets vary
Union Avenue Opera
733 N Union Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63108

Salome

The 2025 festival season of Union Avenue Opera will close in a blaze of passion and peril. Richard Strauss' Salome is a provocative, electrifying masterpiece based on Oscar Wilde's notorious play.

August 21 @ 7:30 pm

\$35 - \$45
City Winery
3730 Foundry Way, Suite 158 St. Louis, MO 63110

Poetry vs. Hip Hop - 10 Year Anniversary

Poetry vs. Hip-Hop takes the stage at City Winery St. Louis for a night of culture, craft, and creativity! Experience the legendary friendly battle of wits and stage presence between Poets and MCs for cash and prizes, where YOU the audience choose the winner!!

August 28 @ 8:00 pm

\$75-300
The Munny in Forest Park
Diana Ross and Jon Batiste

This summer, two acclaimed performers will headline an unforgettable season finale on the Munny stage: international music icon Diana Ross and multi-Grammy Award winner Jon Batiste.

August 2, 9, 16, 23 @6pm FREE

St. Ferdinand Park
25 St. Ferdinand Drive, Florissant, MO 63031

Music Under the Stars

Enjoy another great season of Music Under the Stars on the brand new Playamigo Stage in St. Ferdinand Park.

- August 2: Rockin' Chair,
- August 9: Butchwax & the Hollywoods,
- August 16: Dr. Zhivegas,
- August 23: Taylor Made

August 7-17th, 2025

(Thursday to Saturday at 7:30pm and Sunday at 3pm)

\$\$ Various costs
Grandel Theatre
3610 Grandel Square, St. Louis, MO 63108

10th Annual Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis

Join us for the 10th Annual Tennessee Williams Festival from August 7 to 17, 2025, featuring "A Streetcar Named Desire," performed at The Grandel. Fans can also join walking tours of the Central West End, scholarly panel discussions, Stella shouting contests, epic pool parties and more. For Festival schedule check <https://www.twstl.org/>.





Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

Most of you know that my retirement part-time job is as a Concierge at Norwood Hills Country Club. My position gives me the opportunity to meet interesting people. I enjoy talking to some of the “veterans” of the club.

Last week a gentleman approached my desk with a small binder and a scrap book. The small binder contained the meeting minutes from the Norwood Hills Women’s Committee. The earliest entries began on Wednesday, October 26, 1938. The final entry was dated Thursday, October 17, 1951. I read these documents with interest and thought about these dedicated women.



The most interesting item, however, was the scrap book.

I must admit, growing up I knew little about golf and had no idea how popular the sport had become. To be honest, my mom was from Mexico, Missouri and Jefferson City and my dad was from a

farming community in Central Missouri. Golf was not a priority for them or their families. For them golf was considered a sport for the more well-to-do, and that they were not.

I digress. This scrap book was full of newspaper articles carefully cut from the St. Louis Globe Democrat and placed on pages within by Mrs. Bea Higgins.

The Globe Democrat covered in detail the preparations for a Charity tournament benefitting St. Louis Children’s Hospital starting in November 1972 through tournament that started in July 1973. The scores for the 4-day event were reported in detail as well as the final scores and the winner. The winner of the tournament was Gene Littler. His prize was \$42,000. There was great interest and excitement in St Louis the fall of 1972 and summer of 1973.

One article was about lining up major sponsors and support for various stations and holes for the tournament. This column, “Golf Notebook”, was penned by Globe Democrat writer Bill Beck. A local amateur golfer, Pete Scott, stepped up to help recruit sponsors. His pitch was based on what he considered a self-evident truth that everyone in St. Louis want the city to be major league in golf just as it was in other sports. Mr. Scott’s intent

was to showcase St. Louis and polish the city’s image as a summer tourist center.

He was wrapping up one such presentation with a major corporation in St. Louis. His impression was that the presentation went very well, and the group was eager and enthusiastic about sponsorship. The executives told him what a fine impression he had made. His excitement to close the deal was met with a “however”. This corporation informed Mr. Scott that they were not interested in perpetuating golf in St. Louis and did not want the St Louis Children’s Hospital Charity Tournament to become an annual occurrence.

I would certainly like to know who those executives represented. Shame on them. Thanks to Emerson Electric, Monsanto, Anheuser Busch, Ralston Purina, McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) Breckenridge Hotel Corp, (Ramada Inn) and Granite City Steel sponsorships were generous and happy to be included.



There were so many human-interest stories in this scrap book. I learned that Evil Knievel was a golfer! Evil Knievel and Lee Trevino were “hustlers”. Their friendly, often outrageous wagering was well reported in the paper. Quoted from Evil Knievel: “I’d be glad to play Lee Trevino for \$10,000 a hole and play him even, if he’d jump over 13 trucks with me the night before”.

This article could share so many stories.

I would be remiss if I did not name some of the celebrities who came to St. Louis for this tournament in 1973. These celebrities included Bob Hope, and of course, Evil Knievel and Lee Trevino. Other golf greats and celebrities included Stan Musial, Hale Erwin, Tom Watson, and Gary Player, just to name a few.



I am still a bit angry and disappointed by the unwillingness of that one corporation that refused to sponsor. Those executives considered St Louis not worthy of a top-level Golf Tournament. I can only think about how St. Louis and Norwood Hills Country Club may have become a top tournament venue in the country.

The clipped newspaper articles unintentionally included some advertising which I found interesting. How about this ad from Good Year Service Stores which included a price for a lube and oil change for \$4.44 or a full engine tune up for \$28.88 or a Ford/Chevy muffler for \$12.77?

I hope you enjoyed reading my article this month. Whether we are avid golf enthusiasts or not, a little local history is always welcome.

I encourage and enjoy your comments and criticisms. My email address is manhattamarian@gmail.com.



Under The Hood With Robinwood

By Bob McGartland

The Golden Age of Muscle Cars

If the sound of a roaring V8 engine gives you goosebumps, you’re not alone. The golden age of muscle cars — from about 1964 to 1974 — is remembered as one of the most exciting chapters in American automotive history. It was a time of bold designs, raw power, and surprisingly affordable performance, when cars weren’t just a way to get from point A to B — they were a lifestyle.

Most enthusiasts trace the birth of the muscle car era to the 1964 Pontiac GTO. It wasn’t a luxury vehicle or a high-end sports car — it was a midsize car with a big engine stuffed under the hood. The GTO proved that you didn’t need a Ferrari to go fast — just a V8 and a fearless attitude. Its runaway success kicked off a horsepower war among the major automakers.

Ford soon introduced the Mustang, a smaller, more affordable performance car that appealed to a younger generation. Chevrolet fired back with the Camaro, and not to be left out, Dodge unleashed the Charger and later the Challenger. Plymouth got in the game with the Road Runner and Super Bee — quirky names for seriously fast machines. Each year, cars got louder, more colorful, and more powerful. Hood scoops, racing stripes, and names like “Hemi” and “Boss 429” became part of the culture.

But muscle cars weren’t just about power — they were about accessibility. These cars were built for the everyday driver. A teenager

with a part-time job could dream of owning a used Chevelle SS or a Mustang Fastback. Young drivers could learn to wrench on their cars in the driveway, adding a four-barrel carburetor or swapping out a camshaft. Muscle cars created a bond between man and machine that felt personal, not corporate.

Cruise nights, drag races at the local strip, and hanging out at the drive-in became cultural rituals. For many, your car said everything about who you were — loud and proud, rebellious and free.

Sadly, the golden era couldn’t last forever. By the mid-1970s, rising insurance premiums, strict emissions regulations, and the oil crisis slammed the brakes on the muscle car movement. Horsepower figures plummeted, and the once-thrilling rides lost their edge.

But muscle cars didn’t fade away completely. Their legacy lives on in the hands of collectors and restorers, and in modern takes on old legends. Today’s Dodge Challenger and Ford Mustang pay tribute to their ancestors while boasting advanced technology and refined power. The golden age of muscle cars reminds us of a time when cars were more than machines — they were a symbol of freedom, excitement, and individuality. It was a decade when the streets echoed with the rumble of American muscle and the thrill of the open road was just a turn of the key away.

We still have 6 weeks of summer left. I hope everyone stays cool by a swimming pool and getting their vacations in before school starts. As always Robinwood Automotive and Tire is here to take care of all your car care needs. Visit us at robinwoodauto.com



MERFERD



When I first Moved to Ferguson...



I realized that in the Jeske Park neighborhood no one knew their neighbors. The kids had once made friends, played ball in the field, but had grown and some have gone, and the old folks saunter on... with their dogs.

So Merferd and me made a 'Dog Logue' that we manage to this day. The logs and logues (diaries), get worn over time, filled with thoughts, and pictures, prayers and rhymes. We make knew ones. It's a remote way of connecting, but not as remote as scrolling.

The Ferguson Neighborhood News is kind of like that, our "Dog Logue", without the BARK' on,

Let's keep it going.

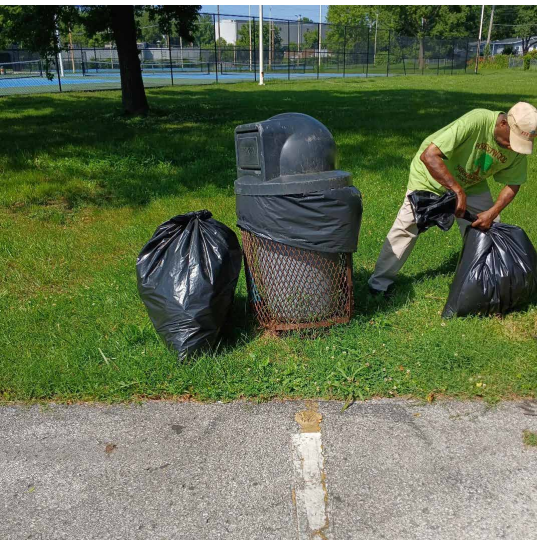
To help Keep this paper, become a monthly 'FRIEND' For electronic payments call 314-524-3440 and ask for Danielle, or mail checks to Ferguson Newspaper Group 312 Calverton Road St Louis Mo 63135

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

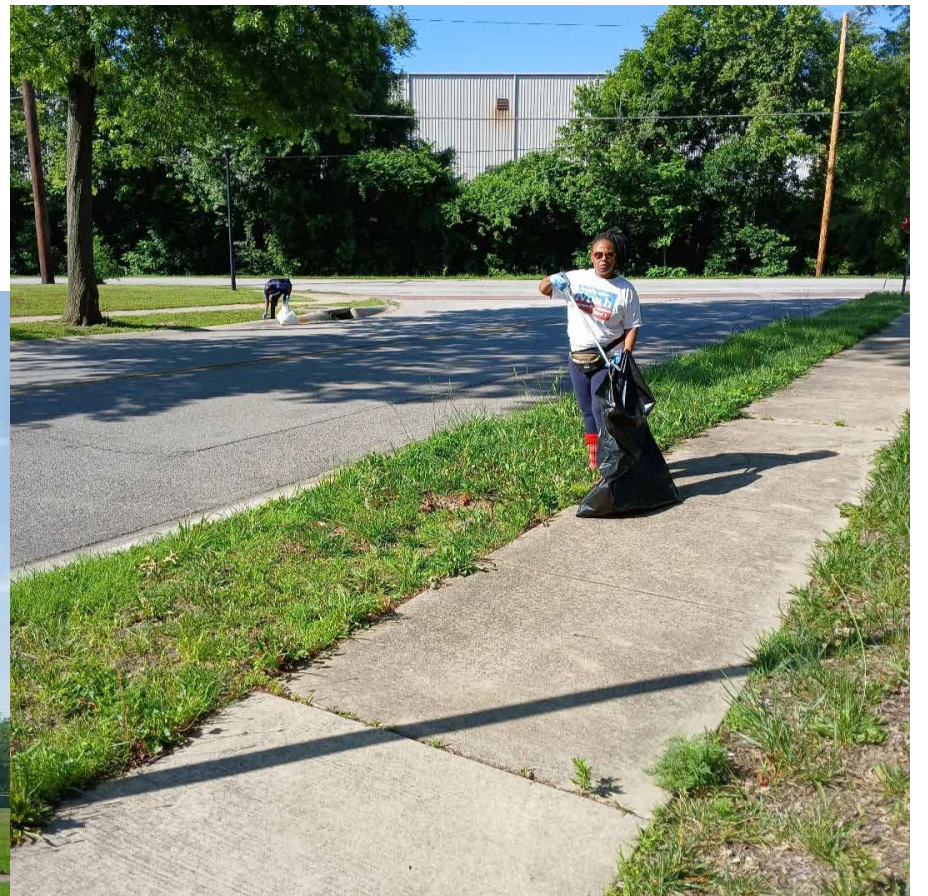
Wendell Phillips 'Phil Berwick 'Phil' 314-568-8367

freedomcryinfo@gmail.com Merferd.com

Forestwood Neighborhood Association Clean-up



On Saturday June 21st members of Forestwood Neighborhood Association began clean up efforts in their neighborhood and park.



Motto: Forestwood is not just a Community it's HOME

What's Fresh in Ferguson in (mid to late) August?

By Jess Coffin

Yup! It's the "Missouri banana," aka the pawpaw!

Missouri's favorite funky fruit is getting the star treatment at Ferguson's 2nd Annual Pawpaw Fest, hosted by EarthDance Organic Farm School and the Ferguson Farmers Market on Saturday, August 23, 2025, from 8 a.m. to Noon! The fest promises a flavorful, educational, and quirky (like the fruit!) celebration of the largest edible fruit native to North America.

Pawpaws' creamy, custard-like flesh tastes like a tropical mashup of banana, mango, and melon - but they grow wild in Missouri woods, not the rainforest. And, believe it or not, they are classified as berries! EarthDance will offer multiple varieties of fresh pawpaws at the fest, each with its own unique flavor notes - some a bit more citrusy, others leaning nutty or vanilla-like.

EarthDance growers and Forest ReLeaf of Missouri tree experts will be on hand with pawpaw seedlings and info for aspiring backyard or community orchard growers. You'll also learn about the fruit's ancient roots. Pawpaw trees date back over 50 million years and once fed megafauna like mastodons, who helped spread their seeds across the continent with a little help from their digestive systems. Today, pawpaws are still a favorite snack for opossums, raccoons, foxes, and other forest critters who follow their noses to the fruit's ripe, tropical scent.

Pawpaw blossoms are considered botanically "perfect." This means each deep burgundy blossom has all of the necessary parts to reproduce. They are protogynous, which means they are one sex when they open, then they transition to another as part of their natural developmental process. They're pollinated not by bees but by flies. Since flies aren't always reliable, some growers hang rotting meat from branches to attract the flies, or hand-pollinate with paintbrushes. "We hand pollinate, but we haven't tried hanging meat yet," Production Manager, farmer, and educator Will Delacey says. "As a teaching farm, it seems like an experiment we need to try though."

Of course, the festival is also about flavor. Treats will include pawpaw ice cream sandwiches from Sugarwitch, pawpaw beer from Natural History Brewing, and pawpaw kombucha from Confluence Kombucha. And more local vendors will join the fun with pawpaw-forward pancakes, sauces, baked goods, and more.

For anyone who wants to bring the taste home, a pawpaw ice cream recipe is included in this edition of the Ferguson Neighborhood News - just right for making your own creamy pawpaw treat after the fest.

Kids and curious adults can enjoy hands-on pawpaw activities throughout the morning, and taste this short-season fruit rarely found in a grocery store while it lasts - it ripens for just a few precious weeks each year.

Whether you're a pawpaw pro or a curious first-timer, come out to the Ferguson Farmers Market for a fruity morning of flavor, folklore, and fun.



EarthDance Organic Farm School's Pawpaw Ice Cream Recipe

(Adapted from Hank Shaw's recipe at <https://honest-food.net/paw-paw-ice-cream/>)

Makes about 1 quart

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Churn time: 20 - 40 minutes

Total Time: 1 hour - 1 hour and 40 minutes

Ingredients:

2 cups mashed paw paws, about 5 or 6 pawpaws

3 cups cream

1 cups milk

1 cup sugar

1/2 a vanilla bean or 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

5 egg yolks

Salt and lime zest (optional, to taste *when serving)

Prepare your pawpaw mash. We find it easier to process pawpaws that have been frozen and allowed to partially thaw. They peel easily, and then you're just left to remove the seeds. Once peels, you can also smash it all through a colander to try to remove the seeds. With fresh, ripe pawpaws, you can slice in half like an avocado, remove seeds, then scoop pulp out with a spoon or your hands.

Once peels and seeds are removed, use a hand blender or stand blender to emulsify the pawpaw pulp. Add a small amount of cream if needed. Cover (so the flies don't get into it) and set aside.

Separate your egg yolks out. Beat the egg yolks in a bowl. Cover and set aside.

To make the custard for the ice cream, heat the cream and milk and sugar in a pot over medium heat to the steaming point, about 165°F. If you're using a real vanilla bean, add it to the mixture now. If you are using extract, hold off for now.

Stirring the eggs all the time, add one ladle of the hot cream mixture into the egg yolks. Keep stirring and add a second ladle full of hot cream - this is tempering the eggs so they don't curdle. Once it's well mixed, pour the egg mixture into the pot, and stir.

Heat it back to the steaming point, stirring often. It's ready when it thickens to nappe consistency. You can do a finger test to see if you're there: Dip a spoon in the custard, it should coat the back such that when you run a finger across the spoon, it holds a line and doesn't immediately flow back together. Now's the time to stir in the vanilla extract if that's what you're using. Remove from heat.

Whisk in the pawpaw mash until it's all well combined.

Pour the custard into a bowl or mason jars. Set the bowl or jars into a larger bowl filled with ice to cool the mix down quickly, or set on counter until cool enough to refrigerate. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours, up to 24 hours.

When the custard is cool, remove the vanilla bean if you used one.

With an ice cream maker, remember to freeze your canister for at least 24 hours. Put the mixture into your ice cream maker. Turn it on, and let it churn to desired consistency, about 20-25 minutes. It should be soft serve consistency. If you want scooping consistency, put in freezer for about 2 hours.

If you're hand churning, you can pour it into your canister. You also need to prepare a tub containing ice and rock salt. Place the canister in your bucket of ice and salt, and hand churn until it reaches desired consistency. If you want scooping consistency, put in freezer for about 2 hours.

Serve with a sprinkle of salt and lime zest to taste.

Pawpaw Fest 2025

Saturday, August 23 | 8 AM – 12 PM

Ferguson Farmers Market, 501 S Florissant Rd

Admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

Midseason Magic: 2025 EarthDance Apprentices Reflect on Growth, Community, and Purpose

It's midseason for the 2025 Summer and Full Season Apprenticeships at EarthDance Organic Farm School, and the team describes this year's group as cohesive, passionate, and full of heart. "We really do love each other," Summer Apprentice Mary Reising says.

"Every group of apprentices is special," says Production Manager Will Delacey. "But this group is the most positive and energetic bunch I've seen."

"They just really lift each other up," adds Jo Phillips, Harvest & Distribution Manager. Apprentices come from all walks of life: social work, data management, agriculture, and computer science. They share a passion for environmental care and food justice, and they're learning together what it takes to farm regeneratively.

Adara Ameer, a Full Season Apprentice, reflects, "Every step matters along the way... by fixing one problem, you can solve many. It is in everything. Everything is connected in that way." Adara hopes to grow food and care for the environment, including plants, microbes, and people.

Patrick Bridges, a Summer Apprentice and Ferguson native, shares he wants to return to his agricultural heritage. "That was taken from us, the joy of farming and working with the soil. Too many people of African descent associate agriculture and farming with enslavement, and it shouldn't be like that. I want to reclaim that," he said. "On top of learning the craft of agriculture, everyone's attitude, willingness to help, and patience while explaining new skills to apprentices makes the experience here great."

Jairel Brown, a Summer Apprentice and founder of The PLANT Youth Foundation, says, "I've learned so much about planting and harvesting... and I know it's something I'll carry with me. I'm especially excited to share it with the kids I work with."

Brett Hallmeier, a Summer Apprentice an agriculture student, notes, "The thing I know I will take with me is the process of slowing down... it's a

habit I know will fade in and out, but will stay with me." Brett aims to have a farm of his own one day.

"For me," says horticulture student and Summer Apprentice JoJo Henderson, "EarthDance has shown me how essential people are to my life and well-being... It's got me asking questions like, 'Should I buy bread from Schnucks or does someone in my area have a wonderful sourdough recipe?'" JoJo has a passion for people, plants, genetics, and education.

Annie Henehan, a Summer Intern through the Pershing Foundation reflects, "There's a shared purpose here. Everyone is focused on helping the farm thrive, and there's just as much care for each plant, each beet, and every inch of soil as there is for each person. It's a strong, grounded community - not just between people, but between people and nature. That connection really makes this place special." Annie hopes to eventually work in technology that supports social change.

Brooke Nelson, a Full Season Apprentice, says, "The work is pretty consistently busy and fast and tiring, but every day feels like an accomplishment." Brooke wants to work outdoors and grow food for people in support of community-based food systems.

"The apprenticeship has been a total nervous system reset," says prison education program director and Summer Apprentice Mary Reising. "Spending quiet time with the plants... has been so healing." This is her first farming work, and she is interested in food justice and regenerative agriculture.

Daniel Tracy, a Full Season Intern adds, "At EarthDance, I've learned the value of slowing down and really observing before reacting." Daniel is currently working to establish his own farm in rural Missouri.

With four weeks left for Summer Apprentices and more months to go for the Full Season crew, their roots here are already deep. You can meet our apprentices at the Ferguson Farmers Market (Saturdays 8am-Noon) and EarthDance Pay What You Can Farm Stand (Fridays 3-6pm and Sundays 11am-3pm).



Full Season Apprentice Adara Ameer



Summer Apprentice Patrick Bridges



EarthDance apprentices, interns, and farmers



Full Season Apprentice Brooke Nelson



Summer Intern Annie Henehan



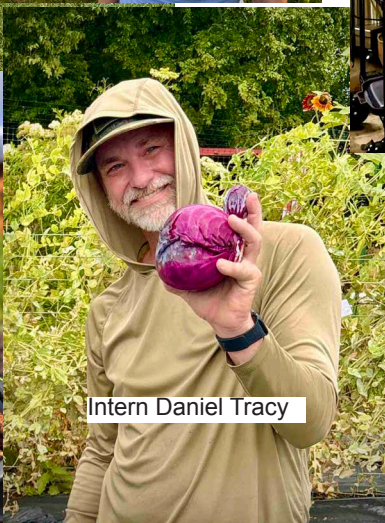
Summer Apprentice JoJo Henderson



Summer Apprentice Mary Reising



Summer Apprentice Brett Hallmeier



Intern Daniel Tracy



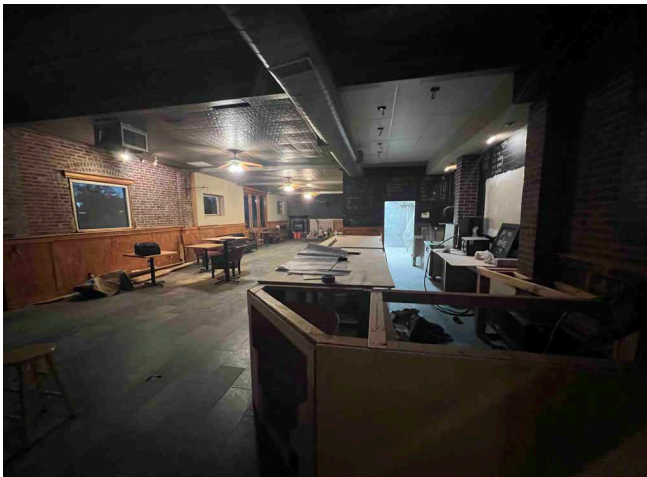
The Garden Studio Cafe Story (part one)

On June 7th, 2025 a genuine miracle happened in our city. The Garden Studio Cafe, formerly known as the Corner Coffee House, officially opened to the public. But let me back up to a key moment in the beginning of our story.



I passed the Corner on an extremely hot day in June 2015 and saw two little girls outside with a table on the patio selling lemonade. I pulled over and bought two cups under the watchful eye of their mother who introduced herself to me as “Lizzie”. We had an amazing conversation about the events that had captured the world’s attention here less than a year earlier. I learned that her family owned the coffee shop and was impressed by her deep love for Ferguson. She expressed frustration about the bad reputation and that she only knew how to change her portion of the world. I’ll never forget her saying, “I’m not a politician, I’m in the restaurant business. I can’t give you justice, but I can give you a cookie!” I really appreciated that conversation, understood, and agreed with her powerful sentiment. But my next thought was, “I want justice AND a cookie! Is that possible?”

I had no idea that two years later the Corner would close and be on the market. When I saw the for sale sign, something inside me leapt. I walked around the building several times and simply prayed, “God, you know we have no money but if you have need of this space and want to do something here using me, please make a way.” For the next year, I would make this same circle around the building multiple times a week. There is a story in the Bible about a man named Joshua who was instructed to walk around a city called Jericho seven times, then it would be given to him and his people. In many ways, this building became my Jericho.



At least five irrefutable miracles happened before getting to the closing table in February 2019. In future articles, I’ll detail a few of them as well as some of the incredulous challenges that we faced in what became a six year journey toward opening day. Along the way, countless people from around the country banded together to create this space through financial generosity, volunteerism, and prayer. But not everyone has been in our corner and we’ve endured some mind boggling resistance. Yet we are tangible proof of the answer to an ancient biblical question, “If God is for you, who can be against you?”

Today, every guest comments on how unbelievably nice The Garden is which was just one of our major goals for capturing and changing the narrative. Our gallery includes some of the important history that preceded our 2014 moment in a way that answers three of the Ferguson Commission’s unique calls to action. Our focus on excellence, beauty, reconciliation, healing, community, conversation, and even a little controversy; is serving our community and creating something that people from out of town are making the trek to experience.

We’re seeing customers from all over the St. Louis region who are utterly surprised! Recently one gentleman exclaimed, “Man, this place seems like something you find in Frontenac or Ladue!” A Fed Ex driver confessed, “I deliver all over St.Louis and hit up all the coffee shops. I was scared to try this place because I didn’t think it would be any good...but this Blackberry Hill drink may be the best coffee I’ve ever had in my life!”

We don’t serve full meals yet but we are working with several food entrepreneurs who are using our commissary kitchen to develop some light food options beyond our current baked goods. It has been an honor to meet our neighbors and serve excellent coffee, teas, lemonade, and pastries in a space that will make you feel at home and that will elevate your soul. In a world full of hopelessness, this is a space where hope grows. As suggested, cookies and lemonade make the world feel better so those can definitely be grabbed here once again; with a side of justice in the spirit of love. Come see us!



Financial Focus – Is Debt Free Possible?

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)

Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

Last month, I suggested learning more about how the federal spending budget works. As a concerned citizen and a grandmother, I don't want my grandchildren burdened by the careless spending we are creating today. With Congress less concerned about representing the people and more concerned about pleasing the party, I worry about the future. So finding ways to save money and reduce our deficit are important, but making sure our government continues to operate with the correct balance of powers between the three branches also needs to be honored. We'll start with a little info about the government's fiscal year and budget process.

The United States government runs on a fiscal year from October 1st thru Sept. 30th. So we are still in the current 2025 fiscal year and so far the government has spent \$5,345,518,215,303 (that's over 5 trillion). This is about 218 billion more than during the same period last fiscal year. While spending is what we often look at during the budget process, looking at revenue to cover the spending is needed. In the current fiscal year 2025 the government has generated revenue of slightly over \$4 trillion which as you can see doesn't cover our spending listed above and illustrates just what our deficit is. To make sure that we can pay all of our expenses and obligations to stay in good standing among our lenders, we do what all good Americans do we borrow to cover our debts. The government can sell marketable securities like Treasury bonds, notes and bills among others. Of course, we pay interest which is determined by risk and luckily we are considered a pretty safe investment so our average interest rate is only 3.304%. As of July 15th this fiscal year, the United States has spent \$921 billion on interest alone. While the interest rate doesn't look too bad compared to a credit card, wouldn't it be nice to have that \$921 billion to spend on something else or use it to reduce the deficit.

So we are still in the current fiscal year of 2025 until September 30th. Our current deficit is over \$1 trillion and we are spending nearly that in interest to maintain our standing in the financial world. About 51% of all revenue comes from individual and business income taxes; another 34% comes from Social Security and Medicare taxes; and finally the rest comes from payments to federal agencies for leases, sales of natural resources, usage and licensing fees – if you've visited a national park you have paid the government some of this revenue. It is obvious to any junior high student that the amount of money coming in cannot cover the amount of money being spent. So we must look at our spending next.

Last month, I mentioned the different types of spending in the government's budget – mandatory, discretionary and supplemental. Social Security, Medicare and other entitlement programs are mandatory expenses, while discretionary spending includes about 50% for defense and the rest for education, transportation, housing, environment, science and social service programs. Supplemental spending includes things like the four appropriations passed in 2020 to help with COVID. As the Budget for the 2026 Fiscal year is being created, we'll look at the discretionary spending for places to save money quickly. If you are looking to your own expenses this is where you may cut back on groceries or entertainment. For the government this means looking at how we have been spending our discretionary funds. In early May, a "skinny budget" was released it was later updated with funding recommendations. I was surprised by all of the parts of the Department of Labor being eliminated or combined. The Department of Education is also being cut drastically with many other programs being eliminated entirely. Now I can see why all of the comments on social media believe the cuts are just too drastic.

Rather than look at each of the reductions, the one I am most familiar with is the Job Corps which falls under the Dept. of Labor. Its current funding is \$1.76 billion annually and it is cited as being ineffective and therefore being eliminated. This program began in 1962 to serve young people aged 16 to 24 with jobs and training and has grown overtime, serving over 2 million youths. Having worked with many non-profits, I've seen these young people at work. My granddaughter was involved during her college

years and early years of employment. Today she owns a business providing service in her community. So I can safely say I believe the program is effective. Yet as much as I would like to see this program continue, it may not be possible to continue as a government program. It is often necessary to re-evaluate programs periodically or even claw back some funds that may be needed elsewhere more.

Looking at one program and determining how to either save money or just eliminate is hard enough, but seeing the number of programs being slashed is very painful. So while I understand, those looking out for our best interest need to understand too and look at what is best for all. As many economists will tell you there are only four ways to reduce our deficit – first keeping inflation under control, second to maintain a stable and responsible government, third to decrease spending and finally to raise taxes.

We often don't see what our elected officials do and hopefully, seeing a bit of the budget in the works for the new fiscal year will help us to understand some of the decisions they must make. It's going to be interesting to see how much we can really save and how those savings can be directed towards the deficit and not just put into other programs. Next month, I will continue to look at other types of spending and how it affects becoming debt free. If you have any questions or comments you may send them to cleav73@gmail.com.

Affinia Healthcare awarded \$25,000 grant to support health outreach efforts

ST. LOUIS, MO – Affinia Healthcare has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Episcopal Presbyterian Health Trust to support community outreach events for increased access to health care.

"This generous grant supports our continued commitment to delivering essential care to uninsured and underinsured individuals in our community," said Affinia Healthcare President and CEO Dr. Kendra Holmes.

The funding will support 12 outreach events planned through the remainder of the year, with an opportunity for the grant to be renewed for two additional years.

Outreach events are held to offer Medicaid enrollment and appointment assistance. The outreach team also organizes medical and dental events for adults and children at the various health centers, and a monthly mental health event for men. The grant will help cover expenses related to outreach initiatives including facility and security staffing, incentives, and marketing.

"Our Outreach team works to ensure everyone in the community has access to healthcare by eliminating barriers like lack of insurance," said Outreach Director LaDon Meriweather. "Receiving this grant helps us to continue our efforts to ensure anyone who may be eligible to receive Medicaid and access high quality healthcare, can do just that."

On average, the Outreach Team assists with processing 120 Medicaid applications weekly.

The St. Louis Community Foundation serves as the liaison for the grant and will help to facilitate related reporting.

To schedule an appointment, please call 314.814.8700.

Christen Blackmon, Outreach Specialist, speaks with a member of the community at a recent tornado relief stop. Health outreach efforts will receive additional support from a \$25,000 grant from the Episcopal Presbyterian Health Trust.



What is Raghib Drinking?

By Raghib

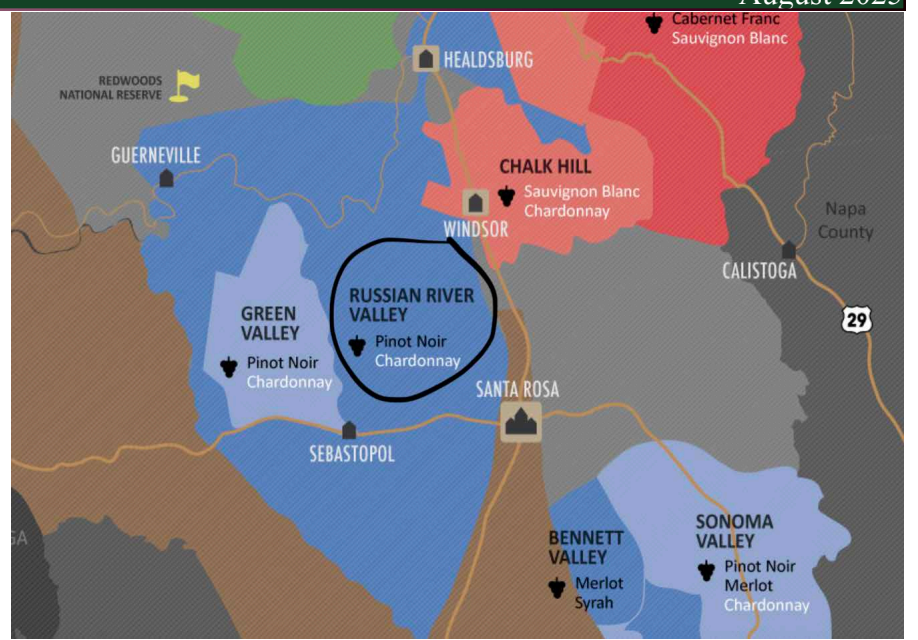


I live in a great neighborhood and live next to a great neighborhood. It's not unusual to see neighbors walking their dogs, mothers walking with babies in strollers, and couples getting in their steps. When we chose this neighborhood 19 years ago, we were one of the youngest couples and knew that it would be a great place to raise a family. Okay Raghib, we get that you love your neighborhood, but we want to read about the wine! (LOL). Actually, my neighborhood intro relates to the wine that will be the focus of this column. Just indulge me for a few more sentences. There used to be a time where neighbors looked out for each other. As a kid, I remember neighbors helping neighbors. One of the best memories is when one of our neighbors just purchased a new pick-up truck. One night, he piled the neighborhood kids, along with his own kids, in the bed of his pickup truck and drove us downtown to see the arch. We had blankets, snacks, and we had a great time! I got word a few years ago that that particular neighbor had passed on. He was such a good neighbor! I do my best to be a good neighbor. A few years ago I even downloaded the Neighborhood App thinking I would enjoy reading good communication with neighbors and good neighborhood stories! As quickly as I downloaded it, I deleted it. There was constant gossip, farmongering, and bad news. I'm glad I deleted it! Maybe you should too. I digress.

A few weeks ago I was driving my pickup truck and noticed a neighbor trying to deal with a very large tree branch that had fallen in her yard. I pulled over (because that's what good neighbors do) and told her that I had a chainsaw and I would cut it into pieces as soon as I returned from Menards (if you know me in real life, you know that I am always working on a home project LOL). I returned with my chainsaw and cut the large branch into manageable pieces. My neighbor was so happy! I was happy too because it felt good to help a neighbor. After I finished cutting up the branches, my neighbor mentioned that she reads my column and knows I LOVE red wine and offered to buy me a bottle of wine for helping. She asked me my preference and I told her to choose. Fast forward a week later, my neighbor gifted me with a very good bottle of Pinot Noir. She had no idea that Pinot Noir is my pound for pound favorite! I had always wanted to write about the Pinot Noir's of the Russian River Valley so that gift turned out to be a perfect segue! You see, good things happen when you are a good neighbor!

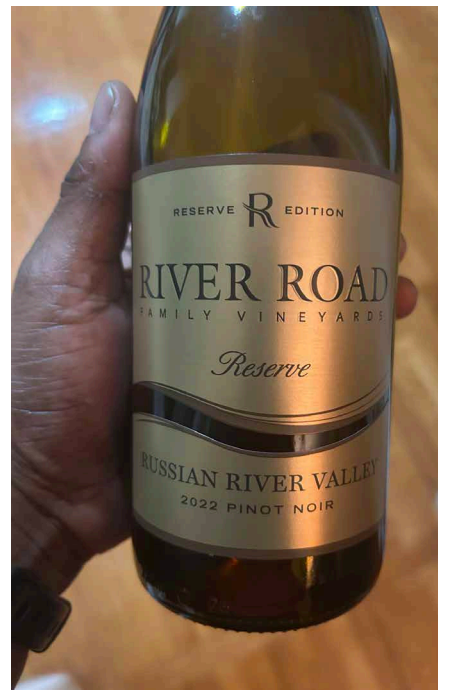
The Russian River Valley is an appellation located in Sonoma County, California. The cool climate, fog, and proximity to the Pacific Ocean make the conditions perfect for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

As someone who has been to Napa Valley and Sonoma far too many times that I can count, my preference is Sonoma because the people of Sonoma have always struck me as good neighbors and they absolutely love visitors! There are a lot of pickup trucks in Sonoma and it has a small country town feel and the lack of wine pretension is my glass of wine (you see what I did there LOL). Earlier in my wine journey on a



visit to Sonoma, I was at a Zinfandel tasting by a female wine maker. I asked a question about the difference between white Zinfandel and red Zinfandel. With her cowboy hat and work boots on she responded, "Zinfandel is red, just as God intended!" At that moment I became a convert and was buying anything that she was selling LOL! Okay, back to Pinot Noir! This is a photo of the delicious Pinot Noir that my neighbor bought for me.

River Road Family Vineyard is located in the Russian River Valley, specifically the Green Valley. According to their website, the Green Valley fog and the afternoon Petaluma Wind Gap keeps their vines cooler than surrounding areas. River Road Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Reserve, 2022. With a price point of below \$25, this is an awesome bottle of wine. The perfect cherry and plum notes help this wine achieve what I call refined elegance. I paired it with grilled chicken and pasta and it did not disappoint!



You may want to secure a few bottles of this wine because the price point will not last for long.

One final note. As you are reading this column, I will be on a family vacation to Paris, France and the south of France (Loire Valley). Because I have good neighbors, they will be checking on our home and watering our flowers while we are away. I look forward to sharing my experiences in France in September's Column. Remember to be a good neighbor.

Happy Tasting!

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Please Just Stop!

The world seems to get crazier and crazier, including the pet overpopulation problem. With over 33 years in rescue, I've seriously never seen it this bad.



All of our shelters and rescues are busting at the seams and have **NO MORE ROOM**. They have dogs and cats stashed away in cages in every nook and cranny. There's not a magic wand that they can wave to create more space when there is none. And animals keep pouring in. Please be a part of the solution.

PLEASE...

1. STOP BREEDING! SPAY & NEUTER! Every single litter that is born takes away homes for animals that are desperately waiting and praying for a home. Many of these poor dogs are going stir crazy in cages, stressed to the max going in constant circles from being caged in a stressful environment. Please stop breeding and get your dogs and cats spayed and neutered. We have so many resources offering very cheap and often FREE spays and neuters. PLEASE make the call.

APA
apamo.org
(314) 254-3443 call for appointment

Carol House Quick Fix Pet Clinic
stlspayneuter.org
(314) 771-PETS call for appointment

Humane Society of Missouri
amcma.org
(314) 951-1534 call for an appointment

2. STOP DUMPING! Pets are supposed to be for life. Sometimes life can become overwhelming and there doesn't seem to be enough time for you to give to your dog or cat. Or you're moving. There are many places that will allow your pet to move with you. Or you're having a baby. Google "How to Introduce your dog to new baby" and follow the steps. Plan ahead. There are many excuses used to discard a pet. And there are solutions to almost every problem. Take the time to find the solutions.

Dumping on the streets to fend for themselves should never happen. It's a cruel world, and these animals end up running scared, starving to death, getting hit by a car, or being horribly abused by bad people.

Dumping at a shelter should be a very last option. It's easy to dump and drive away, but it's far from easy for that animal. Imagine having a family and then suddenly you are scooped up and dumped at a shelter. The air is filled with scary smells, and there is 24/7 ear piercing constant barking from hundreds of other stressed dogs.

A home may or may not be found, but it's highly likely that one won't be. At least not for a very long time...weeks, months and sometimes years. And the longer that a dog or cat sits at a shelter, the more incredibly stressed they get and the less adoptable they become, no fault of their own. It's like doing time in jail for a crime you didn't commit.

3. STOP BEING A CRUEL OWNER Dogs don't ask for much and give so much in return. But they do desperately need social interaction, food, water, and exercise. Having a dog live its life in a pen or tied to a tree is no life at all. Dogs suffer just like we do. They feel emotion just like we do; joy (ever seen a tail wag), excitement, pain and sadness. If you're going to have a dog, the least thing you should do is to provide these basic critical needs.

Mistreating or neglecting your dog (s) is a nuisance and burden to your neighborhood. Don't be "that neighbor".

Pet ownership is a big responsibility not to be taken lightly. Let's all make the world, including our community here in Ferguson, a better place. Do the right thing.

Dara Ashby~Ferguson Animal Coalition
dara@fergusonanimalcoalition.org



One dog, her puppies & their offspring can produce more than 60,000 puppies in six years!



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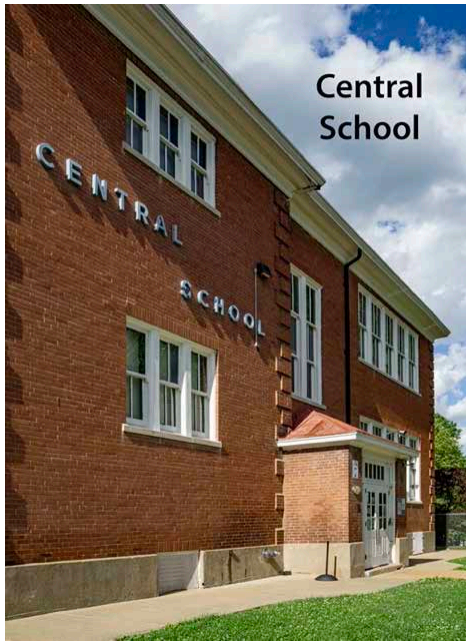
Ferguson Has A History Museum

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.



A year ago, June 2024, we wrote an article on the Ferguson-Florissant R-2 public schools and school buildings which are located in Ferguson. In this issue we are going to take a look at Vogt School.

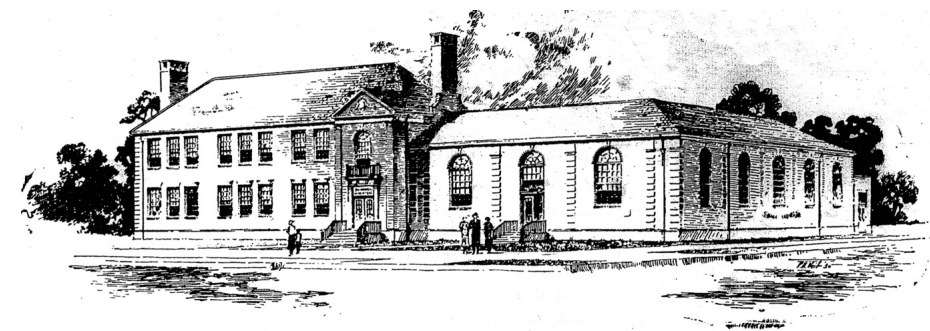
Ferguson established a public school system as early as 1867 with a 1-room building on Wesley Avenue near Florissant Road. By 1870 a second room was added. The school was moved to a building (still standing and a private home) at what is now 110 South Clark. In 1880 a new building



Central School

with 2 classrooms on the first floor and a village hall on the second was built – this was Central School. Central housed students from grades K through 10th Grade (2-year high school). In 1885 Ferguson built a school for “negro” children, the Vernon School, located around where Farachi Pizza is located. In 1903 the School District of The City of Ferguson was established and the high school was extended to 12th grade (4-year high school). In both 1904 and 1908 additional classrooms were added to Central. In 1927 an elementary school was added on Chambers Rd., Griffith School (small

frame building). By 1930 Central School was getting crowded with all 12 grades and only Griffith to take some of the load. A high school needed to be added and that school would be Vogt.



In 1930, under the leadership of Superintendent Virgil C. McCluer, the School District of the City of Ferguson issued a bond issue for \$100,000 to build a high school on a cow pasture and open-air theatre (The Airdrome) along the south side of Church Street. Originally the Community Hall Association bought the land for a community hall (Central’s second story was now classrooms). This did not pan out, and the land was sold to the school district for \$4.00. The new school was designed by a St. Louis architect, William B. Ittner (1864-1936).

Ittner was a nationally recognized designer of public buildings, especially schools (over 430 schools). His designs featured “natural lighting, inviting exteriors and classrooms tailored to specific needs. One of his classic Art Deco buildings is the Continental Life Building in the Grand area of St. Louis (uptown). More traditional designs included the Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral and the Missouri Athletic Club building in the city. He designed around 37 schools in the St. Louis area including such classics as Soldan and Sumner High, Maplewood-Richmond Heights High, Normandy High and Harris Teacher’s College.

The cornerstone was laid on May 22 (the time capsule included the signatures of all Ferguson students). The John M. Vogt High School opened on September 9, 1931. Vogt was a local businessman who owned the Vogt Grocery in the Bindbeutel Building (Church & Florissant Rd). Vogt, who died in 1932, was a member of the School Board for 23 years. When the school opened Alice Hall was the principal and the staff totaled seven teachers (5 women and 2 men). Grade cards in the Ferguson School District did not use the traditional A-B-C-D-F grades. You could earn an E-S-M-U-F grade, instead. In 1932 Vogt had two male cheerleaders, Duane McCullum and Curt Owen. By 1933 there were 77 students (33 girls and 44 boys). In the early days there was no school cafeteria – most students probably brought their own lunches – but a lunch wagon would show up in front of the school for those who wanted to buy a lunch.

Vogt High School saw a number of important events during its brief history as a High School. School publications got their start here including the name

for the yearbook, The Crest and the school newspaper, The Scoop. These names have followed the evolution of high schools thru Ferguson High to the present McCluer High School (ironically named after the superintendent who built Vogt High). 1936 saw the beginning of a ½-day Kindergarden (extended to full day in 1997). In 1947 Missouri passed the Reorganization Act designed to consolidate the many small schools and districts in the state.

Ferguson School district was merged with the smaller Florissant School District to create the Ferguson-Florissant R-2 School District (serving Ferguson, Florissant, Cool Valley, Dellwood, Calverton Park as well as small areas of Hazelwood and Normandy.



Vogt would serve as the high school until 1939 when Ferguson High School on January would open. Following that, Vogt would serve as a Junior High School and an elementary school. In 1981 it closed as a school and opened as an administrative center housing a pre-school, an alternative High School, a dining area for senior citizens as well as a cable TV studio. In September 1985 it returns to an elementary school under the direction of Karen Van der Graf, who’s residence was the old Vogt home. Vogt returned to an administrative center and is currently under consideration to be sold by the Ferguson-Florissant R-2 School District.



Vogt School

In 1985 Vogt School was registered as an Historical Place and received a Landmark Plaque.

Membership in the Ferguson Historical Society is open to anyone – membership levels range from \$20.00 to \$50.00 a year. If you are interested in joining or have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact Jerry Benner at fjbenner@mindspring.com. You are also welcome to visit the History Museum at 1064 Smith (behind the Community Center) by e-mailing the above address. Note: we will need to schedule a date for you, so ask well in advance

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

26 C
J. M. Vogt High School
 FERGUSON, MISSOURI
 Session of 19.28.19.29.
 Report of.....White, Robert.....
 Subject.....American History.....
 Teacher.....Mr. J. A. Czekanski.....

Term	Grade	Absent	Comments
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2	St	0	"
3	E	0	"
Semester	S		Examination Mt
4	S	1	
5	S	0	
6	S	2	
Semester	S-		Mon final



SOULCRAFT

We make things good.

Soulcraft is a not-for-profit community wood shop in Ferguson where people come to learn the art of making—with their hands, and their hearts. Since opening our doors in 2021, we’ve mentored over 300 people, most of whom had never picked up a tool before stepping into our shop. Whether they walk in curious, cautious, or just looking for something new, they walk out with new skills, confidence, and a tangible sense of pride in what they’ve created.

Website: <https://www.soulcraftmakers.com>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Soulcraft-112358341116352>
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/soulcraftmakers>

Rodney
 Soulcraft
 “We Make Things Good.”

soulcraftmakers.com
 618-610-7930
 431 S Florissant Rd.
 Ferguson, MO 63135



At its core, Soulcraft is about more than just woodworking. It’s about reclaiming the joy of making and restoring what’s been lost—connection, craftsmanship, and community. We believe that when people make things, they begin to see the world, and themselves, differently. They slow down. They pay attention. They take pride. And in a world that often feels disposable or rushed, that matters.

We offer mentorship-based woodworking programs for people of all experience levels. We also do commission work to help fund our operations—from custom tables to handcrafted gifts—and we pour that revenue right back into keeping the shop accessible. There are no paid staff. No big endowment. Just a dedicated group of makers, mentors, and neighbors who believe in the power of showing up and building something real.

Soulcraft is also a space for stories. Every shared project is a chance to pass something on. We’re building more than furniture—we’re building relationships and reviving the belief that craftsmanship can be a force for good.

If you’re curious, you’re welcome. If you want to learn, we’ll teach you. If you want to help, we’ll find a place for you. Come see what’s possible when we put our hands—and hearts—to work.

We love hosting families, small groups, and even whole neighborhoods for hands-on experiences. Whether it’s a parent and child working side-by-side, a youth group learning how to build a bench, or neighbors coming together to make something for their block, Soulcraft is a space where people can create not just projects—but memories. These shared moments are some of the most meaningful work we do, and we welcome opportunities to open our doors for more.



Soulcraft was invited to a recent gathering of West Ferguson Neighbors, held in June at the Plaza at 501. Rodney brought his handheld programmable router and taught neighbors how to personalize hardwood keychains by engraving their names on them. In a 2024 West Ferguson Neighbors event Rodney helped people make bird feeders. These are great activities and he only charges for the cost of materials.





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