



Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

SINCE NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

Another Trip Around the Sun

It's a new year and I look forward to a fresh start. It seems every year I do the same thing: Think about what I failed at the past year and promise to work on doing better this year. And that's where I stop. Yes, I promise to work on it but do I? Does everyone do this? I need to know.

In 2026 I will reach a milestone (75 trips around the sun). I can't complain much, I am pretty healthy and other than my arthritis, I get around good, play golf, been doing Tai Chi work outs in the mornings, work around my house and yard like everyone else. I think of a Joe Walsh song lyric: "Life's been good to me so far". I had cataract surgery this past July and it is amazing to be able to see again. But this darn computer is not good for my eyes and wish someone would take over the editing.

As we begin this year, I look forward to venturing around the town to see how Ferguson is doing. I've seen some new businesses opening and some of the older established ones becoming staples of our community. Some advertise with us but a lot choose not to.

If you are a business owner in Ferguson I implore you to begin advertising with the Ferguson Neighborhood News. This paper is made available to all Ferguson residents free of charge. The ads you see in this paper are what is paying for that printing and distribution. In addition to mailing to each resident, we have paper stands in stores, our community centers, and city hall.

I know we normally do not discuss issues that are not positive, but some things need to be addressed if we want our community to continue to be proud. So I will try to be as gentle as possible.

For 2026, I pray that the building owners along Florissant Road clean up their storefronts to make them look as professional as possible. I think some are a disgrace. If you don't believe me take a look at them yourself.

Does the city not have an ordinance concerning signage on storefronts. Am I the only one that thinks this?

Do the business owners not understand that a professional sign has an impact on their business? Your sign is your business signature. Unless you are working on a food truck, you should not have hand painted signs. Customers look at your sign and judge the quality of the product by the quality of your sign. Would you hand out a business card that looks that bad?

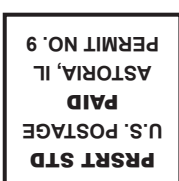
I didn't mean to get off tangent. We live in a great community. And I want Ferguson to remain a vibrant community.

Well, those are my thoughts for 2026. Happy New Year Everyone!

- Papa Deau

On-line edition: fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/

POSTAL CUSTOMER
ECRMSS



312 Calverton Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63135



FERGUSON INDOOR WINTER FARMERS MARKET

JAN 17 • 9am-12pm



Produce, meat, fresh bread and bakery items, hot breakfast, healthy juices, holiday gifts, and live music!

Winter market runs every third Saturday, November through April

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
33 N. Clay, Ferguson



January 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

| Youth Events | |
|--|---|
| <p>Stories and Songs for Little Ones Join us for storytime! Ages 0-5. Wednesdays at 10 am</p> | <p>Lego Club Drop in and build Ages 6-11. Saturday, January 17 at 2 pm</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Animals of the Endangered Wolf Center</p> <p>Learn about the different animals that make their home at the Endangered Wolf Center! You'll even get a chance to meet one of the animals in their care. Date to be announced - contact the library for more info!</p> | |
| Adult Events | |
| <p>Game Night Relax with a game! Adults and teens. Monday, January 5 at 6 pm</p> | <p>Readings on Race Book Club <i>Shielded</i> by Joanna Schwartz. Monday, January 12 at 6 pm</p> |
| <p>Conversations and Coffee Discuss today's news and events. Tuesday, January 13 at 6 pm</p> | <p>Black Author Book Club <i>Before I Let Go</i> by Kennedy Ryan. Wednesday, January 14 at 6 pm</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sewing Machine Workshop</p> <p>Always wanted to learn how to use a sewing machine? Then this is the class for you! Materials and machines provided. Register at bit.ly/fmplsewing25. Thursday, January 29 at 6 pm</p> | |
| All Ages Events | |
| <p>Winter Reading Challenge Pick up a reading log and track your reading this winter to win prizes! Ends January 31</p> | <p>Fiber Arts Social Club Bring your latest project and craft and chat. Thursday, January 8 at 6 pm</p> |
| <p>Cultural Cuisine Ring in the new year with traditional dishes from around the world! Wednesday, January 21 at 6 pm</p> | <p>January Craft Kits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan. 5-10: Winter Art • Jan. 20-24: Egg Carton Penguins <p>Pick up a kit while supplies last!</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">The library will be closed on Monday, January 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.</p> | |

If You Have Items of Interest, Contact - garynadeau2@gmail.com



January Celebration Shout-outs



- 1 Happy Birthday Annabelle Underwood
- 2 Happy Birthday Marilyn Wiley
- 7 Happy Birthday Diane Guth
- 10 Happy Birthday Linda Eschenfelder
- 18 Happy 1st Birthday Lennox Stump
- 18 Happy Birthday Susan Ankenbrand

Email Shout-outs to garynadeau2@gmail.com - deadline is the 15th of each month

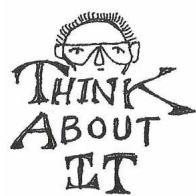
January at a Glance



- 1 Happy New Year!
- 6 Forestwood Neighborhood Meeting 6-7 PM
- 8 Ferguson Woods Neighborhood Meeting 6-7:30 PM
- 14 Ferguson House Tour 3 - 7 PM
- 17 Winter Farmers Market 9AM - 12PM
- 17 NorthHills Neighborhood Meeting 10-11 AM
- 26 South West Neighborhood Meeting 6-7 PM

PRAY FOR PEACE

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



I want to make a special shout-out to Wendell "Phil" Berwick. We as a community are totally blessed to have this man among us. Please read what he has been doing in Pakistan on page 6. Thanks Phil!

I believe we have many more people in our community that are like Phil, they just lay low. Our community is blessed by our people. Think about it.

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION APRIL 7, 2026 Position of Mayor

Nominating petitions available November 3, 2025
Candidate filing opens at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. Nominating petitions will be accepted by the City Clerk (upstairs) in the City Clerk's Office 110 Church Street, City Hall Ferguson, Missouri.

Candidate filing closes at 5:00 p.m. on December 30, 2025

2026 Ferguson TWILIGHT RUN

- 17th annual run
- 5K, 10K, 1-Mile and Virtual Run options
- Finisher's Medal
- Professionally Timed on Closed Course



FergTwilightRun.com

Saturday, May 16

#RunWithFerguson

The Ferguson Newspaper Group may be reached

text/voice: 314 249-6323
 email: garynadeau2@gmail.com
 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: garynadeau2@gmail.com

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

MERFEED

by Phil Berwick

A little over a year ago, when I came down after Trimming Bob's tree, I asked Him...



FRIENDS OF THE PAPER Page



It's going to be the last issue, Bob McGartland sadly said. My friend and mechanic, and owner of Robin Wood Automotive & Tire had been personally covering the printing and mailing cost overhead for months. Some adds had pulled out. And being the Ferguson Neighborhood News' only add sales person, It was taking the tread out of Bob. I offered to split the overage and asked to have enough space to put in an appeal for donors. Editor, Gary Nadeau, 'Papa DEAU', advised that rather than ask for donors, we put forth a call out for "Friends of the Paper". So that's what we do on this page. Please read on....

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

Ferguson City News - January 2026



JOIN OUR TEAM!

SUMMER JOBS

APPLICATIONS OPEN JANUARY 20

JOBS.FERGREC.COM



CROSSWORD

The Iceman Cometh

By Robin Shively

ACROSS

1. So easy!
7. Site admin's focus
11. Cool and unfriendly
13. Some kindling
14. Not well done
15. Slippery one
16. Tango need
18. Linger
20. General's smoker
23. 1% of m.
24. Commander at battle to be remembered
25. Snooty sort
27. Bolt partner
29. Lewis' charity
32. Canaanite god of fertility and weather
33. Riches forerunner?
35. Horrid, atrocious
37. Lecher's stare
38. Floral chain
39. Three, on Capri
40. Jo Nesbo novel
46. Passion
48. Enemy or rival precedent
51. Like a respected citizen
55. Soil
58. Wile E.'s contraption supplier
59. Hawaiian scorpionfish
61. Juarez girl
62. It's not up front
63. "- you wish"
64. Sneaker variety
65. Tranquil

DOWN

2. Push it!
3. High School Musical actor
4. Time period
5. Masked marker
6. Wichita to Memphis dir.
7. Cubic meter
8. Pitcher
9. Like garage rags
10. One does it with Ikea purchases
12. Big name in insulated goods
17. Cowpuncher
19. Appropriate, suitable
20. Donkey incentive
21. Director's direction
22. Rudolph's antagonist
23. Unwanted stocking stuffer
25. Entrepreneurial loan agcy.
26. Collar
28. Employ
30. Female rabbits
31. Ugandan dictator
34. Taj Mahal city
36. At once
40. Monopoly token
41. 60 min. periods
42. Picks from a menu
43. Certain way
44. 2012 Affleck film
45. Largest producer of sweet potatoes in U.S.
47. It may come before oven or treat
49. The H in IHOP
50. The T in STEM
52. Waterproof sheet of material
53. One great fighter pilot
54. Org. representing U.S. African American health Professionals
56. Yellowfin Tuna
57. Tractor-trailer
60. Luke's buddy

Solution on page 13

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| 64 | | | | | | | 65 | | | |

TRIVIA

From 1965 - 1968, John Steed and Emma Peel were lead characters on what cult British Spy series?

(Answers on page 13)

ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Kimberly Kabak Epperson



AUDITION SPOTLIGHT

January 11th, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm, FREE
 Florissant Performing Arts Center #1 James J. Eagan Dr, Florissant 63033

AUDITIONS for Biloxi Blues

Get involved with local theatre this year! The Hawthorne Players are opening auditions for the upcoming performances of Biloxi Blues, directed by Mike DePope, which will take place March 20–29. The story follows Eugene Morris Jerome during basic training in Biloxi, Mississippi, where he documents the challenges, conflicts, and coming-of-age lessons he faces with his fellow soldiers under a strict drill sergeant. Through humor and hardship, Eugene navigates themes of authority, identity, prejudice, and first love, discovering that life can be both harsh and unexpectedly tender. Complete audition information including roles and sides: <https://www.hawthorneplayers.info/auditions.html>



January 7th, 8:00 pm-11:00 pm, \$45 - \$145
 Blueberry Hill

G. Love and Special Sauce

G. Love & Special Sauce is an American hip-hop blues band known for its laid-back fusion of hip-hop, blues, funk, and soul, led by vocalist and guitarist Garrett "G. Love" Dutton. Formed in 1993, the group gained attention for its groovy style, spoken-word-meets-blues vocals, and energetic live performances. Today, the band remains a beloved presence, celebrated for its fresh, genre-blending sound and frequent collaborations.

January 9th, 7:30 pm, \$20
 4431 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO, United States, Missouri 63108
St. Louis Cathedral Concerts Presents Missouri State University Chorale

Led by Dr. Cameron F. LaBarr, the Missouri State University Chorale is the university's premier choral ensemble, made up of talented students from a variety of majors. The group has been featured at major conferences including ACDA, MMEA, and NAFME, and has toured extensively throughout the U.S., Europe, and South Africa.

January 10th, 8:45 PM, \$33 - \$78.50
 Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center 1 Touhill Cir, St. Louis, 63121

Candlelight: Neo-Soul Favorites ft. Songs by Prince, Childish Gambino, & More

Candlelight concerts offer an intimate, multi-sensory live music experience illuminated by candlelight. Performed by the Listeso String Quartet, this event brings neo-soul classics to life in a warm, atmospheric setting, featuring songs by artists like Prince, SZA, Lauryn Hill, and Childish Gambino. Expect a soulful blend of beloved hits reimagined with rich, elegant string arrangements.

January 17th, 7:00 PM, \$20
 Florissant Performing Arts Center #1 James J. Eagan Dr, Florissant 63033

Elvis Meets The Beatles

Experience the concert everyone wishes had happened—a high-energy tribute bringing Elvis and The Beatles together on one stage. With spot-on costumes, period-accurate instruments, and charismatic performances, these tribute artists recreate the excitement and impact of two of music's biggest icons. It's a lively, nostalgic show that feels like seeing both legends live!

January 31st, 6:30 - 11:30 pm, \$125 - \$150
 9th Street Abbey, 1808 S 9th St. 63104

KVV Mardi Gras Ball

This Bridgerton-themed masquerade ball will offer an elegant black-tie evening filled with dinner, dancing, live entertainment, and a premium open bar. Guests can choose single tickets, full tables, or an exclusive VIP balcony experience with private service and enhanced dining. Expect a lavish night of string quartet music, a plated dinner, themed hors d'oeuvres, late-night snacks, and a fully immersive Regency-inspired atmosphere.



Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

Is it time for a “favorite things”, random thoughts and short stories about people and things?

Let me start typing and see what happens.

Once again, I struggle to meet a December 15 deadline with few thoughts or ideas to work with. Add to the mix I foolishly volunteered my home on the Christmas House Tour. I have been decorating since shortly after Halloween and making multiple trips to Old Time Pottery and Home Goods. I have painted the risers on my staircase and some of the chips on quarter round. I have cleaned places that have been neglected. It is now time to put “stuff” (I wanted to use another “s” word :-D) away, vacuum, mop, and make my stove and kitchen look like we never cook. The bathrooms also need to be cleaned and Christmas bath towels and rugs set out. My husband is currently cleaning his office.

I hope you went on the Christmas House Tour and enjoyed seeing how most of us do not actually live in our houses.

This time of year, I get sentimental about certain things in our home and fondly remember how we acquired some of our old and antique furniture. I am certain I have told the story of our upright grand piano. Christmas always reminds me of the day Santa met us at the railroad tracks in Jennings so we could load that piano into a borrowed pickup truck and surprise our son Tim with an early Christmas gift.



There is also a story about our dining room furniture that comes to mind. I was working front desk for a north county Chiropractor. Believe it or not I have always had the gift of gab with patients and clients. I also listen. You can learn a lot about people and the world if you just stop and listen to people’s stories and their personal life lessons. Our patients were like family to me. They told me about their children, grandchildren, their pets and often their plans for the future.

There was one older couple who enjoyed sharing with me. They lived in Baden and were looking forward to downsizing their home and moving to a Senior Community. They were saddened by the fact that they would no longer have room for their dining room furniture. I do not think they had any children and if they did the children were not interested in old furniture. They needed to sell it.

I fell in love sight unseen as Mr. Vogelsang told me the story of the day he purchased the set for his lovely wife. If my memory is correct, Mr. Vogelsang worked for the City of St. Louis and Mrs. Vogelsang was a milliner. He continued to tell me that the year was 1929. The economy in 1929 was troubled and unstable but Mr. V. felt comfortable with his position with the city and was not worried about his employment status. He bought the dining set and had it delivered on the day of the stock market crash on October 29, 1929.

My husband and I went to their home in Baden to negotiate a price and decide if we really wanted the furniture. This couple just wanted their special dining room set to find a good home and a new family to enjoy holiday meals around.

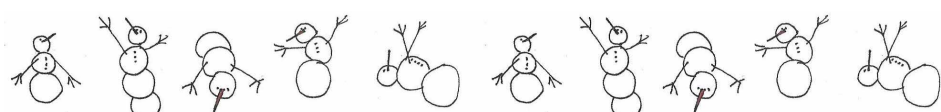


The table was massive as well as the buffet, The china cabinet did not have glass doors to show off china and crystal. That disappointed me a little but as I said I was already in love with the set as well as the couple lovingly handing over their beloved furniture into our care.

At the time we purchased this set we were renting a three-bedroom home in Castle Point with no formal dining room. We moved this giant piece of furniture into the bedroom that was right off the kitchen. It was a tight fit, but we made it work. When purchasing our first home in Jennings, a formal dining room was a priority. Our home in Ferguson is the first home that would adequately support this dining set.

I think I can safely say that we have met Mr. and Mrs. Vogelsang’s expectations of giving their beloved furniture a loving and caring home. Ok, this did not turn out to be a “favorite things” or short stories about random things. This is however a story about something we love and enjoy.

Thank you for allowing me to share me share.
You can reach me at manhattanmarian@gmail.com.



From Ferguson to Pakistan



It's another year and we're on another 67,000 miles per hour ride around the sun. And during the last four go arounds my organization FreedomCry. Life is in 25 brickyards and villages bringing education and hope to boys and girls in debt servitude (bonded labor) with their families.

Children labor 10-12 hours a day rising at 4 am to go to work.

Many of the massive 40 acre brick kilns have poor water. We dug a dozen wells in 2025. And a dozen the year before.

None of the children of the kilns receive education, so we are providing it freely.

Before year's end, in the USA, Christmas was sold off the shelves before Thanksgiving began. In the poor places of earth , where there's little money to buy and little to be bought, It's a celebration of heart and soul that lasts the entire month of December. Jesus is the reason for the season. And Christmas isn't shelved.

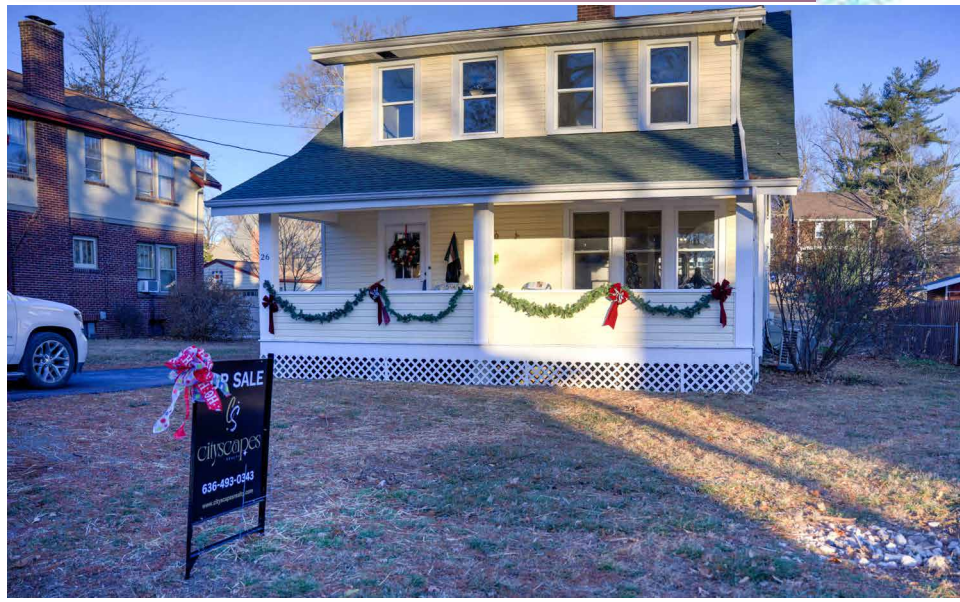
The children of the brick yards make the most of their Christmas celebrations with homemade decorations, such as the used up plants of the brick masters' fields.

Instead of a thick slice of cake that I can gobble up, Pakistanis share a bite. Instead of a glutton of toys from China, the children of the brick yards play with balls of clay.

To help us bring a future and a hope to the children of the brick yards of Pakistan, visit www.FreedomCry.Life checks can be addressed to Freedom Cry and mailed to 417 Nancy Place Ferguson Mo 63135

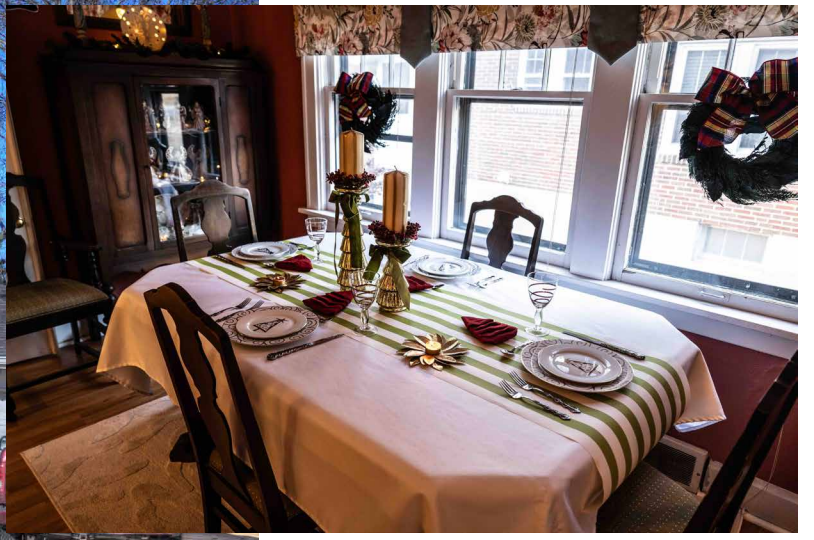
Founder / Wendell Phillips 'Phil' Berwick
314-568-8367



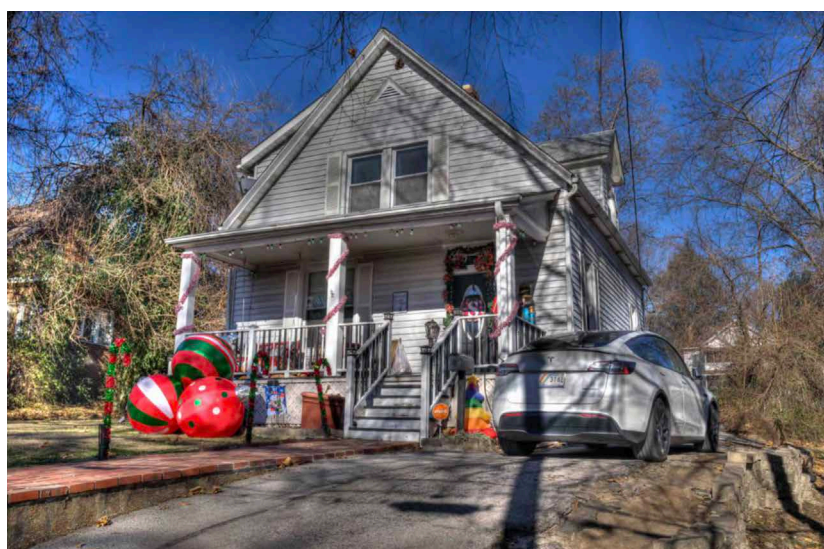
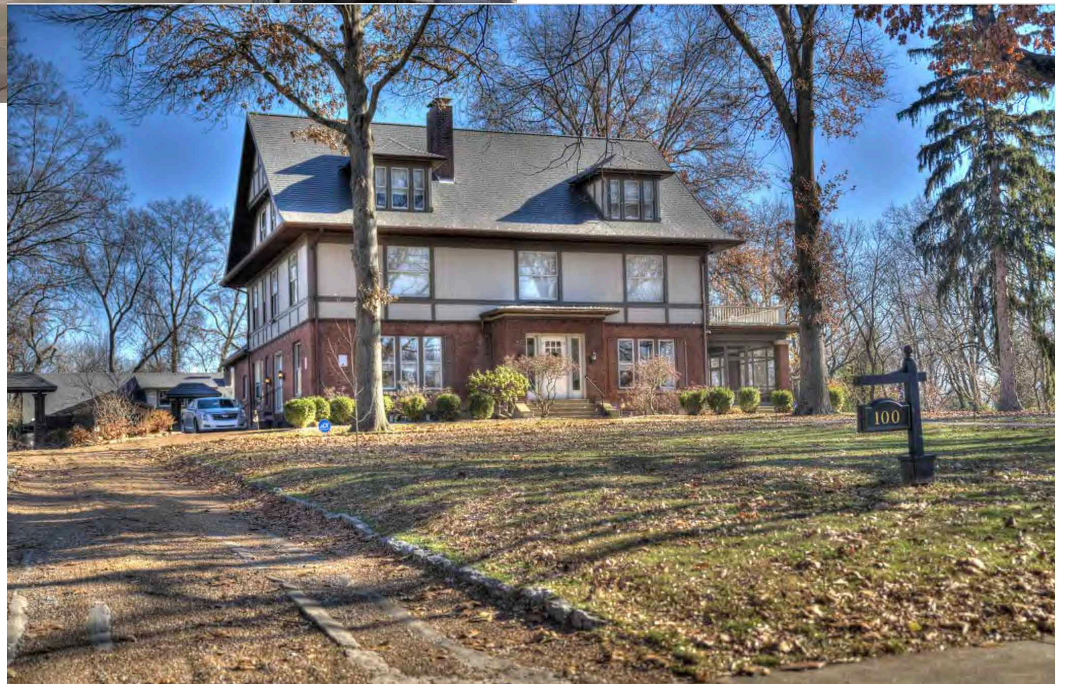


Ferguson, MO CHRISTMAS House tour

"A Fun Annual Event that puts you in the Holiday Spirit!"



Photos by Tim Larson



Happy New Year! Let's all choose compassion over cruelty!

As we start this fresh New Year, I reflect back and think about the pet situations here in Ferguson that were challenging last year, and how we can all do better to make this year more positive for our dog and cat residents. Every day is a good day when we learn something new and try to make the world a better place.



We as pet owners have the power to help our dogs and cats live comfortable, safe, happy lives or lonely, miserable lives filled with agony and suffering. My hope for the new year is that we all choose compassion over cruelty. □

Lost dogs and cats ARE a serious problem. How can we do better this year? First off, keeping an ID tag on every single dog collar is a biggie. Always keep a collar on. If you give your dog a bath, put the collar on right afterwards. Take advantage of our wonderful Ferguson business, Soul Craft offering a FREE engraved ID tag slider that goes on dog collars to Ferguson residents, there is really no excuse. Cats should wear break-away-collars, too. You can also have an ID tag made on the spot and Petco or PetSmart.

Please contain your animals. The responsibility of every dog and cat owner is to keep your pets off the streets and safe at home. There have sadly been far too many loose dogs and cats running the streets. If your fence needs fixing, please fix it. If you need ideas on how to repair your fence, just send over an email. We have many creative and cheap ways to fix fences. If needed, we will even give you some help.

Spay and neuter your pets please. An intact dog or cat is much, much more likely to want to run the neighborhood because it's in their nature. They want to find a mate, and unfortunately, the world does not need any more litters of puppies or kittens being born. Shelters, rescues, and animal controls are all packed and completely out of room. There isn't even room for strays wandering the cold streets. Please keep your pets safe at home and get them fixed. The APA, Humane Society, and Carol House Quick Fix Clinic offer low cost spays & neuters. And of course, our wonderful neighborhood veterinary clinic, Ferguson Animal Hospital, can help, too. Spaying or neutering your pets will allow them to live a longer and healthier life.



Abuse and neglect. It's never too late to learn. Compassion is often times something that you either have or you don't have. I've quite honestly racked my brain over and over to try to come up with ways to instill compassion in those pet owners who seem to have none. Just recently, here in Ferguson, a very young dog's body was carried away by the Humane Society due to owner negligence ending in death. Suffering is real. Dogs and cats suffer just like we do. They feel pain and suffering, and sadness.

As I type this on a 6-degree morning, I think about the 2 short haired designer small dogs in our neighborhood who have been forced to stay outside in these brutal frigid temperatures. Police were called and DID SHOW up. But WHY do people get dogs if they are not going to care for them? I like to think that there are more people here in Ferguson that DO have compassion and I think that we as a whole need to be the voice of the 4-footed animals that have no voice. If you see something, say something. You can remain anonymous, too. Be prepared by taking pictures and videos when you can. Call the STL County Animal Control number at (314) 615-0650 or if after hours, call the after-hours number at (636) 529-8210. And keep calling if the neglect keeps happening. Keep calling because the dog cannot.

Dogs & Cats feel the elements, hot & cold just like we do. Those that keep their pets inside when the weather is freezing cold outside have observed their dogs (or cats) curled up by a crackling fire in the fireplace, snuggled up in soft blankets when given the chance. In hot weather, they are often found lying on the AC vents. Yes, they feel hot and cold just like we do.

Emergency veterinarian clinics have sad proof that too often dogs and cats can suffer from hypothermia and even death from being left out in the cold for too long. Same for heatstroke on hot days. A sad myth is that because they have fur, they don't feel cold like we do. And even a doghouse that is not heated, does not provide enough protection to prevent suffering and often times death due to frigid temperatures.

If you are reading this and you keep your pets outside during extreme hot and cold weather.... It's not too late to change your way of thinking. Stepping up your compassion for these domestic animals will seriously change their whole world in a good way. And yours, too. There is nothing



better than a waggy happy tail. Dogs have an amazing way of showing their appreciation for being cared for. Maybe growing up, your parents always had outside dogs? Just because it was the norm in your childhood doesn't mean it was the right, most humane way of doing things. Let 2026 be the year of breaking the cycle. Also keep in mind that dogs by nature and instinct are pack animals who need and crave companionship. This is one more important reason to bring them inside with the family.

Thanks for taking the time to read this to the end. And thank you for thinking out of the box to improve the life of your dogs and/or cats and the dogs and cats in our community. They will truly appreciate the thoughtful care. Every little act of kindness and compassion given means the world to them.

Dara Ashby
 Ferguson Animal Coalition (501c3 non-profit org)
dara@fergusonanimalcoalition.org



For sisters Alisa, Crystal, and Charlotte Tyus, growing food runs in the family.

Their 86-year-old father’s legendary green thumb shaped their childhood ~ rows of vegetables, jars of preserved food, harvest parties every year, and a deep respect for the land. “Our dad is able to grow everything,” Alisa said. “We spent our summers as kids picking beans, shucking corn, and picking greens ~ by the bushel.”

Now, as adults, each sister has found herself wanting more from her garden: Healthier soil, better yields, the confidence to troubleshoot the challenges that come with gardening in their own unique spaces, and, most important to Alisa ~ flavor!

So, Alisa, who has lived in Ferguson for 25 years, decided to recruit her sisters to take EarthDance’s 2025 Spring Training for Gardeners program together. “If I can grow tomatoes and greens that taste like they’ve been kissed by the sun, that was the inspiration. You know, my daddy just knows stuff. He’s been doing this his whole life, but when we ask him for help, he be like, ‘Get out of the way, this is how you do it,’ and it turns into him just doing it.”



Crystal Tyus, second from right, works with fellow Spring Trainees to fill newly built beds with soil at at COLA Victory Garden as part of Plant it Forward, the third of three hands-on Spring Training events.

From the first Spring Training class, Crystal - who Zoomed in for live-online classes from Columbia, Missouri and drove over for the hands-on classes - felt like Spring Training helped her root more deeply into caring for the soil. And, she expanded her garden twice in 2025!

The results? “My best garden ever,” she said. Ten varieties of tomatoes. Armfuls of okra, cucumbers, cantaloupe, and garlic she planted for a 2026 harvest. She even saved seeds. And she’s shared some of what she learned, supporting gardens at the Ronald McDonald House in Columbia and advising staff and students in school gardens at West Middle School, where she works.

Charlotte’s season looked different ~ full of grow bags, flower pots, determination, and...a whole lot of hungry squirrels. Her garden became a playground for wildlife, which devoured her tomatoes, cucumbers, and even the leaves from her sweet potato vines. Her peppers and mustard greens hung on, but most of what came out of her 2025 garden was more learning.

Charlotte said, in spite of the tough season, she felt her time in Spring Training had been well spent. She learned about companion planting, soil amendments, and container strategies that she will continue to use ~ along with better fencing! She left the season energized and with a plan: Bigger grow bags, better placement, consistent fertilizing, and fencing to deter critters. She even wants to build her own raised beds next year and has the skills to do so, thanks to the hands-on raised-bed workshop during 2025 training.

Charlotte said that Spring Training gave her practical, regenerative methods she could use immediately. Instead of tilling - her dad’s old-school go-to - she learned sheet-mulching with cardboard. Instead of overhead watering, she switched to watering at the base and feeding plants with fish fertilizer. She experimented with companion planting and even built a rotating compost system in her yard.

And, all three sisters agreed: What they gained wasn’t just knowledge, but community, confidence, and momentum. Their family text thread now buzzes with garden photos, seed-saving experiments, and encouragement among themselves and their other sisters across Missouri, Texas, and Illinois.



Alisa (left) and Crystal Tyus listen to the soil at “Staring from Seed,” the first of three hands-on workshops offered as part of Spring Training 2025

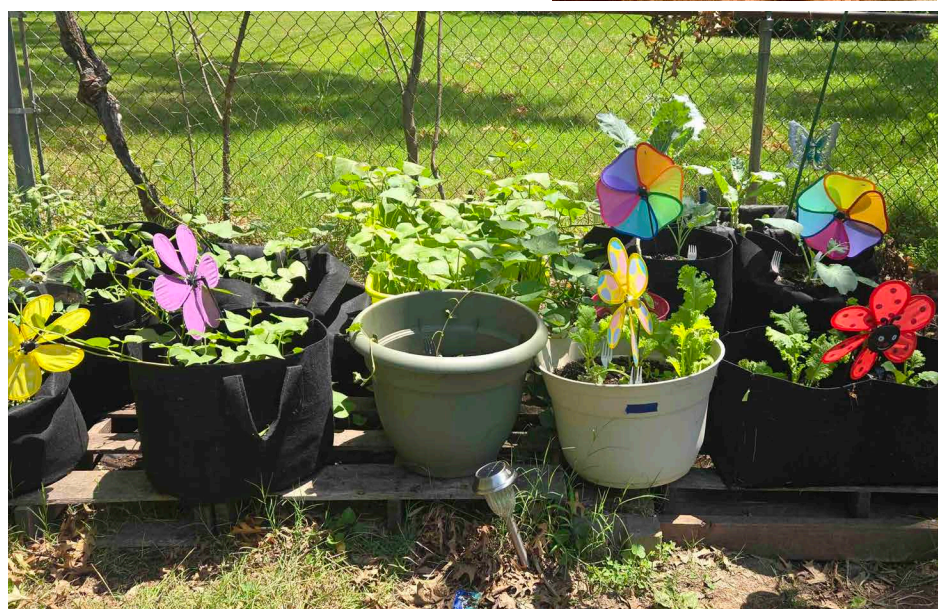
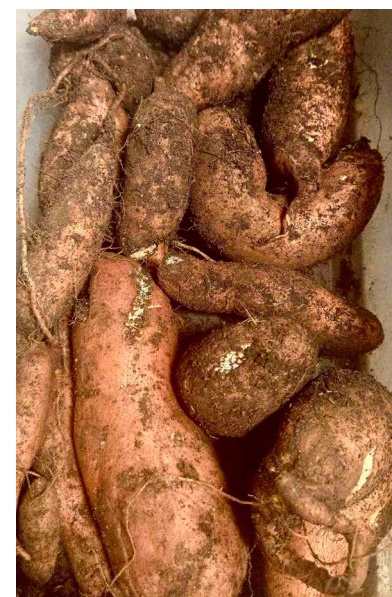
This spring, you can start ~ or transform ~ your own gardening journey, too.

“Get off the fence and do it!” Crystal tells new gardeners. “Even when you think you know gardening, you’ll learn so much, and you might end up teaching others, too.”

EarthDance’s Spring Training for Gardeners is where beginners, long-time gardeners, and whole families grow together. Registration for this 5-week hybrid course is now open! Sign up now for one or all 5 of the online classes. Or register for the full course, which includes 3 hands-on experiences, in addition to the online classes. And, new this year(!) Add-on classes and workshops that will help keep you connected and learning throughout the growing season and into the fall!

Pay what you can to register today at earthdancefarms.org/farmers/spring-training/

Charlotte Tyus (not pictured) grew mostly a container garden in 2025. Charlotte Tyus’ 2025 sweet potato crop.



What is Raghib Drinking?

By Raghib



Is it January 2026 already? Wow! I guess time does fly when you are having fun. I am definitely having fun writing this column and I hope you are having fun reading it. I am not really into making New Year's Resolutions, but there are a few things that I would like to do better.

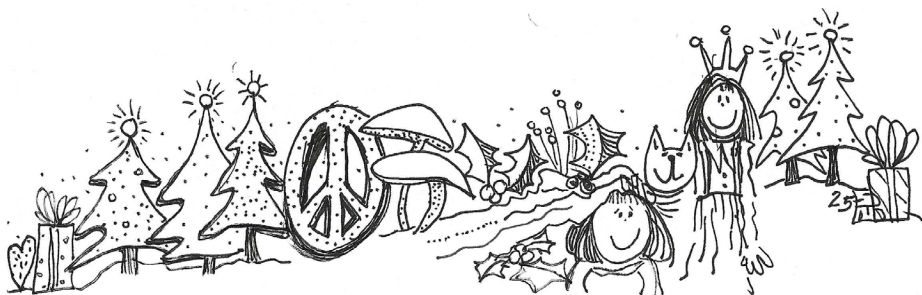
Overall, I would like to take more time to enjoy the life that I have built for myself and my family a bit more. If you know me outside of this column, you know how hard I work and the projects that I undertake. In terms of wine, there are a few things that I would like to do better; 1) Create a way for readers to connect with me for wine recommendation or through organized wine tastings; 2) Focus on white wine and some of the lesser known wine varietals in 2026. One last thing, I know this may be a long shot, but if any current readers know Robyn Stranquist (Attorney from Ferguson), please share this column with her and connect both of us. It would be greatly appreciated.

Okay back to the wine. In my wine journey, I have gone through several phases. My first phase was sweet wine, the sweeter the better LOL. St. James Sweet Velvet Red was probably my favorite! My most recent phase was exclusively drinking red wine. The white wines that I tasted during that time were not so good. Times have changed and my knowledge of white wines have deepened and today there are several white wines that I absolutely love! For most people, the Chardonnay and the dreaded White Zinfandel (sometimes you have to draw a line in the sand folks LOL) are the white wines that are most familiar. However, there are other white wine varietals that you should try.

For this new year, the first white wine that I would like to introduce to you is called Sancerre (pronounced san sair). Sancerre is a wine appellation in France located in the eastern part of the Loire Valley. Sancerre is a Sauvignon Blanc based white wine with a wide range of tasting notes that vary depending on the terroir and micro climate. According to Wine Folly, Sancerre from the Loire Valley "deliver richly textured Sauvignon Blanc wines with ripe gooseberry aromas, bracing acidity, and flinty-smoke flavors." I would add herbal and citrus aromas as well. Comte De La Chevaliere Sancerre is an excellent choice for a white wine. Medium bodied with tasting notes of chamomile, citrus, and melon, this refreshing white wine pairs excellently with salad, roasted chicken, or any white fish like Cod. Price point \$19+

If you read my Top Ten Wines of 2025 Column, you know I am a huge fan of wine maker Ashley Trout and her Brook & Bull wines. Her red wines are excellent and her Chardonnay exceeded my expectations. The Wahluke Slope Appellation is primarily known for red grape varietals like Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, however, as one of the warmest appellations in the state of Washington, the Chardonnay grapes grown there allow for a different tasting experience. According to the tasting notes from Ashley, "Lime and kiwi meet butter, peach pie and nashi pear, trailed by flint and notes of orange blossom, honeysuckle and brioche. Finding the balance between a crisp white wine and a kiss of new oak and rich butter. This chardonnay is the best of both worlds." I couldn't have said it better myself! Brook & Bull Chardonnay, 2022. Pairs well with caesar salad, roasted chicken, and vegetables. Price point \$28+

Happy Tastings!



Financial Focus – Rising Healthcare Costs

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)

Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

Financial Focus – Why Healthcare Cost So Much!

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)

Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

As expected the Senate did not pass the legislation to extend Affordable Care Act subsidies for three more years. When the government re-opened in November, one of the promises was that the Senate would vote in mid-December on the extension and most knew how the vote would turn out. Republicans continue to complain about the ACA and the need to overhaul it, yet there doesn't seem to be a plan. Back in 2017, Republicans had just moved into the White House and the campaign promise of eliminating the ACA and replacing it with something better was coming due. Nearly ten years later we recognize that the ACA didn't solve our problems and the Republicans never really had a plan and still don't. Even though some of the ACA provisions have changed, it is still the best plan for getting more Americans healthcare insurance coverage. With the higher premiums starting in January we may see that change.

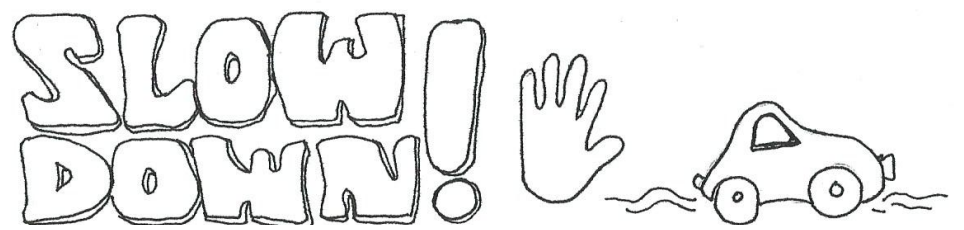
Again, this begs to question why healthcare costs so much. The ACA was supposed to help control costs, yet we have seen an increase every year. Those subsidies that ran out December 31st had also helped the government's costs go up even more. So it does stand to reason that economically, the program is not sustainable. The GOP and President Trump have actually suggested giving government money directly to consumers with deposits to Health Savings Accounts rather than insurance companies. In reality, this may not be a bad idea. As I wrote last month about Medicare, some of its problems involve the government paying insurance companies directly for advantage plans. This shows that health care programs involving private insurance companies being paid to provide services may be the cause of increases in costs and why there are fraud charges against some insurance companies. Seniors moving into Medicare Advantage plans has actually cost tax payers about \$9 billion more than traditional Medicare would have.

So much has changed in the past fifty years with attitudes toward healthcare and the need for insurance. When I wrote about the healthcare concerns in 2017, the GOP recognized they couldn't repeal the ACA because it was too popular. I took a look at how far we had come since 1975. Back then only a catastrophic health issue like an accident or deadly illness with a costly cure would worry people enough to buy insurance. I quoted the following passage from A Minnesota Doctor's Home Remedies for Common and Uncommon Ailments written in 1975 by Dr. John Eichenlaub. "Very few people can go to the doctor for every misery, hurt or disorder. They have to weigh their difficulties against the time and money a physician's care may consume. Unless they have considerable distress, they often shrug off their complaints as burdens to be borne, and carry on as well as they can". Today supporters of a Single Payer Plan have convinced us that "healthcare is a right not a privilege." And perhaps we are less prone to just suck it up as they did in the past. Certainly, there have been many advances in the past 50 years and we have all known many people who might be alive today if some of the discoveries in medicines were available back then. Yet all of those advances have cost us a great deal in money and seem to have made insurance and pharmaceutical companies the recipients of most profits.

Maybe we need to step back to look at what it is we are trying to accomplish. Is the real goal "access to health care" or "access to health insurance?" Are they the same? If it's really about making people healthier and giving them the basic medical care we should be able to do better. I've heard it said both ways and there really is a difference. Access to health care is really already here if you have insurance or the money to pay up front. And even if you have insurance and choose not to keep up on regular check-ups, is it your choice? Access to health care can also be accomplished with special clinics that may provide services free for those unable to get insurance or pay for services. Of course, these types of clinics may not be much help for truly serious illnesses.

The ACA did help make access to health insurance available to more people, but the cost is still preventing many from buying in. We continue to hear about some using the emergency room because they don't have much choice without insurance. Some blame situations like that for our increasing medical costs. Others blame our research and development of pharmaceuticals that can solve many medical maladies. And even with all of this innovation Americans seem to be sicker than ever before. If you create a new medicine, it could be beneficial to identify more people that drug could help. Is that why we keep hearing about pre-diabetes? I'm not saying it's a bad thing, but if we treat some illness too early we may not give our own body enough time to react and clear up the problem on our own. That's something I've read from a doctor's report on health care.

All this rambling makes me wonder - what if we didn't need insurance and we just paid for our health care out of pocket. If insurance was for the truly catastrophic illnesses, maybe we could drive down the cost of basic care for all. We could open a HSA (health Savings Account) and put in a regular amount much like you would to purchase insurance paying monthly or from your paycheck. Maybe we would select different care based on the costs which are pretty much hidden today. Like many people I long for simpler times. So if we look at some of the problems with the ACA, perhaps it can be overhauled with minimal disruption. It will be interesting to see what new ideas can come from the GOP as they try to be realistic on the economics of healthcare. If you have any questions or comments you may send them to cleav73@gmail.com.



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Under The Hood With Robinwood
By Bob McGartland

Birth of the Automobile: Karl Benz and the First Patent

It's hard to imagine a world without cars. No traffic jams, no road trips, no drive-thrus, just a lot of very tired horses. But in 1886, a German inventor named Karl Benz changed everything when he received the world's first patent for a gasoline-powered automobile. He had no idea he was jump-starting one of the most transformative (and noisiest) revolutions in human history.

A Bright Idea with Three Wheels

Long before the roar of engines filled the streets, transportation was a slower, choppier affair. Benz, an engineer with a flair for mechanical puzzles, had been tinkering with engines for years. His dream? To create a "horseless carriage." The result was the Benz Patent-Motorwagen, a three-wheeled contraption that looked a bit like a Victorian tricycle on steroids.

Powered by a single-cylinder four-stroke engine and producing less than one horsepower, the Motorwagen wasn't exactly a speed demon. It could putter along at about 10 miles per hour, if you had a good tailwind and an optimistic attitude. Still, it was revolutionary. Benz managed to combine an internal combustion engine with a lightweight chassis, transmission, and steering. All key components of the modern automobile.

Enter Bertha: The First Road Trip Hero

Of course, every great invention needs a great story, and this one has Bertha Benz—Karl's wife, financier, and, as history tells it, the world's first long-distance driver. In 1888, Bertha decided it was time to show the world what her husband's machine could really do.

Without telling Karl, she took their two teenage sons and embarked on a 65-mile journey from Mannheim to Pforzheim. Along the way, she became the first person to refuel a car—by stopping at a pharmacy to buy ligroin, a form of petroleum used as cleaning fluid. She also unclogged a fuel line with a hatpin and used her garter as insulation.

When Bertha finally arrived at her mother's house, word had spread of the daring adventure. Newspapers buzzed with excitement, and the public's curiosity about this "motorized carriage" grew. The trip proved not only that the automobile worked but also that it could handle real-world roads (or rather, dirt paths).

The Spark That Ignited an Industry

The success of the Motorwagen inspired other inventors and manufacturers across Europe and the world. By the early 1900s, companies like Daimler, Peugeot, and later Ford were mass-producing vehicles, turning the automobile from a curiosity into a necessity.

Karl Benz's invention paved the way, literally, for an entirely new way of living. The automobile changed cities, economies, and cultures. It gave people freedom, speed, and a very good excuse to get out of town on weekends.

From Puttering to Power

Today's cars may be packed with touchscreens, turbochargers, and more computing power than early spacecraft, but every push of the ignition still owes a nod to that three-wheeled wonder from 1886.

So next time you take your car out for a spin, whether it's a shiny new model or an old faithful with a few quirks, tip your hat to Karl and Bertha Benz. Without their ingenuity and courage, we might all still be cleaning up after horses instead of complaining about gas prices.

From all of us at Robinwood Automotive, we wish you a safe, smooth, and happy 2026 wherever the road takes you. Thank you for your trust, your loyalty, and for letting us help keep your journey rolling.



FERGUSON TWILIGHT RUN

5K★10K 1-MILE FUN RUN

For Timely Release – January 2026 edition, Ferguson Neighborhood News

Happy New Year! Commit to Ferguson Twilight Run in 2026
Make a resolution to experience the 17th annual community run/walk

Ferguson, MO – The start of the new year is a time to commit yourself to participating in the 17th annual Ferguson Twilight Run.

"Every year, we hear the best stories of runners and walkers who told themselves 'I'm gonna do Ferguson Twilight Run!' It's fun to know that we're part of someone's personal goals," said Dwayne James, race director.

"It's the 17th year of Ferguson Twilight Run and we're committed to having 1,400 runners and walkers. We'll do what we can to reach the goal because we know what the race means to the community."

Race Day

Ferguson Twilight Run is Saturday, May 16, 2026. Runners and walkers of all abilities will enjoy one-mile, 5K (3.1 miles) and 10K (6.2 miles) distances on routes that are USATF-certified by Big River Running Company.

Register at fergtwilightrun.com. You can sign up as an individual, create a team, join an existing team, or be a virtual participant.

- The race starts and finishes at Plaza at 501, located at the intersection of Florissant Road and Suburban Avenue.
- Participants will receive a T-shirt and finisher medal; age-group winners will receive customized awards.
- Baby joggers/strollers and service dogs are welcome, but pets must stay at home.
- Follow Ferguson Twilight Run on Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube for information about course routes, street closures, packet pick up, registration, announcements, volunteer opportunities and more.

Donnie White Sr. Memorial Beneficiary Award

Ferguson Twilight Run donates proceeds to nonprofits in North St. Louis County through the Donnie White Sr. Memorial Beneficiary Award. To date, more than \$140,350 has been given to programs and services focused on healthy outcomes.

In 2025, the beneficiaries each shared a portion of \$10,500:

- Girls on the Run St. Louis Ferguson-Florissant Schools
- Strength and Honor Mentoring & Tutoring
- Emerson Family YMCA

Become a Sponsor or Vendor

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

Learn more about sponsorships at fergtwilightrun.com.

History

Ferguson Twilight Run debuted in May 2010 as the first evening race in North St. Louis County. The run/walk encourages a sense of community while supporting a common interest. Proceeds are donated to nonprofits in north St. Louis County that promote the healthy and sustainable benefits of fitness.

CONTACTS

Dwayne T. James, 314-325-2197
racedirector@fergtwilightrun.com
Nez Savala, 816-678-9071 miss_tv@yahoo.com



God Speaks!

by Doug Neely

January, 2026

Psalm 27:1: “The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”

2 Chronicles 15:7: “But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.

James 1:12

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

The above 3 verses give us hope for the new year, and promise that God will protect and strengthen you, and offers His reward to you through Jesus Christ, the crown of life.

Is this the very best gift you could have?
Pray, Praise, and give Thanks to the Great Three in One!

If you wish to speak to the scribe, you may email him at: fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com
Be certain to put the phrase: “I need God” into the subject line of your email, and be sure to put your phone number into the body of your text for his reply.

Have a most happy and blessed New Year!
The scribe named doug.

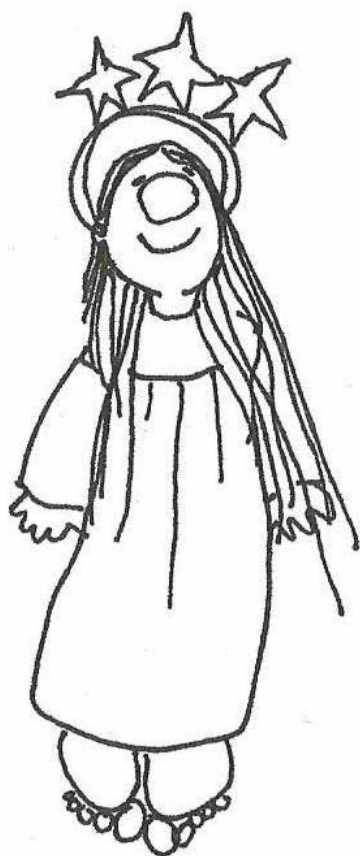
Crossword Solution from page 4

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TRIVIA ANSWERS

The Avengers

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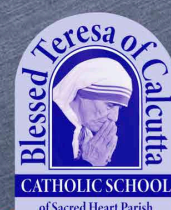
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NEW YEARS DAY

9AM Breakfast & 11AM till Gone: FREE
BLACK EYED PEAS & HAM For Good Luck & Prosperity In The New Year

JAN 1

Ferguson Has A History Museum

Ferguson, indeed, does have a Historical Society and a History Museum and we are moving forward with the help of our readers of the past weeks. We encourage any of you reading this article to join in the conversation. Contact information is at the bottom of this article.



Last month we reported on the Annual Fundraiser, with many photos and commentary. Your Ferguson Historical Society's "History House" is almost never idle. On Saturday December 4th we held our annual "Historic St. Louis" open house. This week we are also going to go further into the history of Ferguson's historic Central School.

The rest of the article will consist of more about Ferguson's historic Central School. To review, the school sits at the corner of Wesley and Clark streets. The first part of the Central School Building was constructed in 1880 (145 years ago). Below is an early 1880's photo of the original building. The dark marks are the result of applying Scotch Tape to the back of the card (never do this!!). As we noted in our September article, the school has undergone many additions in it's 145 years. But we are not here to talk about the building – we already did that. We want to talk about some of the life of that building.

In 1980 Central School celebrated it's 100th anniversary of continuous education. The button shown to the left is a product of that celebration. May 15th thru 17th consisted of three days of celebration provided by students, faculty, PTA and the then-current principal, Don Saali. The celebration included parades, a picnic lunch and an afternoon of races and activities for the students, along with building tours, a car show, an evening variety show and (this is most important) a ringing of the tower bell at 9:45 AM on Friday. That bell had not been rung in over 40 years (before WW II.)



The "Historic St. Louis" Open House is an annual event in cooperation with over 25 additional local historic organizations (like FHS) and buildings – many you may have visited in the past (Campbell House, Eugene Field House, U.S. Grant National Historic Site, etc.). While most of these are older homes of various architectural types, the Ferguson History House (Good Shepherd's nun's home), built in 1959, is considered a "Mid-Century Modern" design (think -The Dick VanDyke Show). If you are in your 70's or younger, you may have lived in a mid-century modern house built, post-war, sometime in the 50's into the 60's. Items from this time period are hot items today. The photo to the left shows our welcome entrance to the open house and offers a good example of Mid-Century Modern. The photo to the right is a view of the unrestored kitchen complete with the colorful aluminum tumblers and pitcher, historic fridge and built-in oven and counter-top range. The turquoise metal cabinets are typical. The kitchen is a favorite place for visitors.

That bell was the school's communication system with the community since 1880. The 1883 school year gives an example:

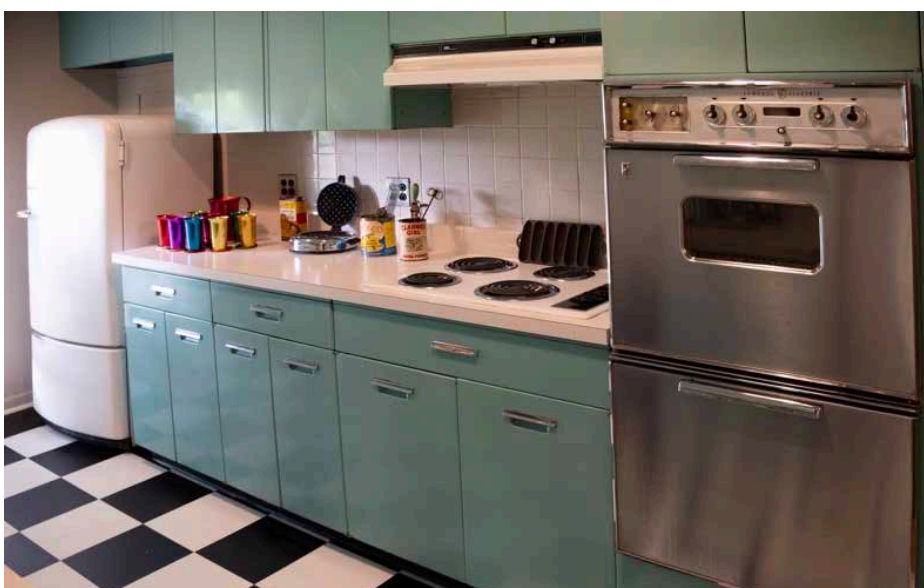
- 8:30 AM – to alert students that school will begin in 30-minutes.
- 8:50 AM – School in ten minutes
- 9:00 AM – School is in session
- Noon – lunch time (many students went home for lunch)
- 1:00 PM – Class begins for the afternoon
- 3:00 PM – School is out for the day.

For this open house we tried to provide some typical mid-century modern Christmas décor. The silver Christmas Tree was typical of this time period as well as the gifts. The photo of the table displays a typical punch bowl and cups along with some snacks, antique ornaments and candle sticks.

In 1984, former principal Red Quillman, under the prompting of his teacher son, Jim, did a test of the bell's range. They determined that the bell, in part due to its height at the top of the 4-story tower on the top a hill, had a range of ½ mile. That translates into from Royal to Paul streets and from Dade to Elizabeth streets. Pretty much of Ferguson at that time. It certainly covered Ferguson in 1880 – and maybe farther because of fewer homes and less-taller buildings. In 1894 the school year began on September 3rd and lasted until June 15th. Today we begin in August and end in May. Central consisted of four classrooms. Classroom One had Prof. J. A Miller (also principal), classroom 2 had Miss Bell G. Page, classroom three had Mrs. Amanda P. Baird, and classroom four had Miss Carrie E. Scott (primary grades). It wasn't a one-room school but a 4-room school educating grades kindergarten thru 10th grade. 1903 saw the addition of 11th and 12th grades. This 1907 (8th) Annual Commencement shows six graduates from the 4-year high school. FHS has a number of these annual commencements for researchers to search for Central graduates. In 1984 Central School became a National Landmark, thus preserving the building's exterior for the future.

If you want to see a classic example of mid-century modern, plan a visit to the History House (also see a lot of Ferguson History. In the next month or two we will feature a calendar of events for 2026.

We need to be reminded that in 1894 Central had a sister building, the Vernon School. Vernon was the "colored school". Its original location was on Florissant Road near where the creek crosses Florissant Road (Farachi's Pizza today). By 1927, Vernon had moved to Carson Road until it closed in 1964 (integration of the schools). Both schools, in the early years, were controlled by the Principal of Central School. We covered Vernon School in June 2024.





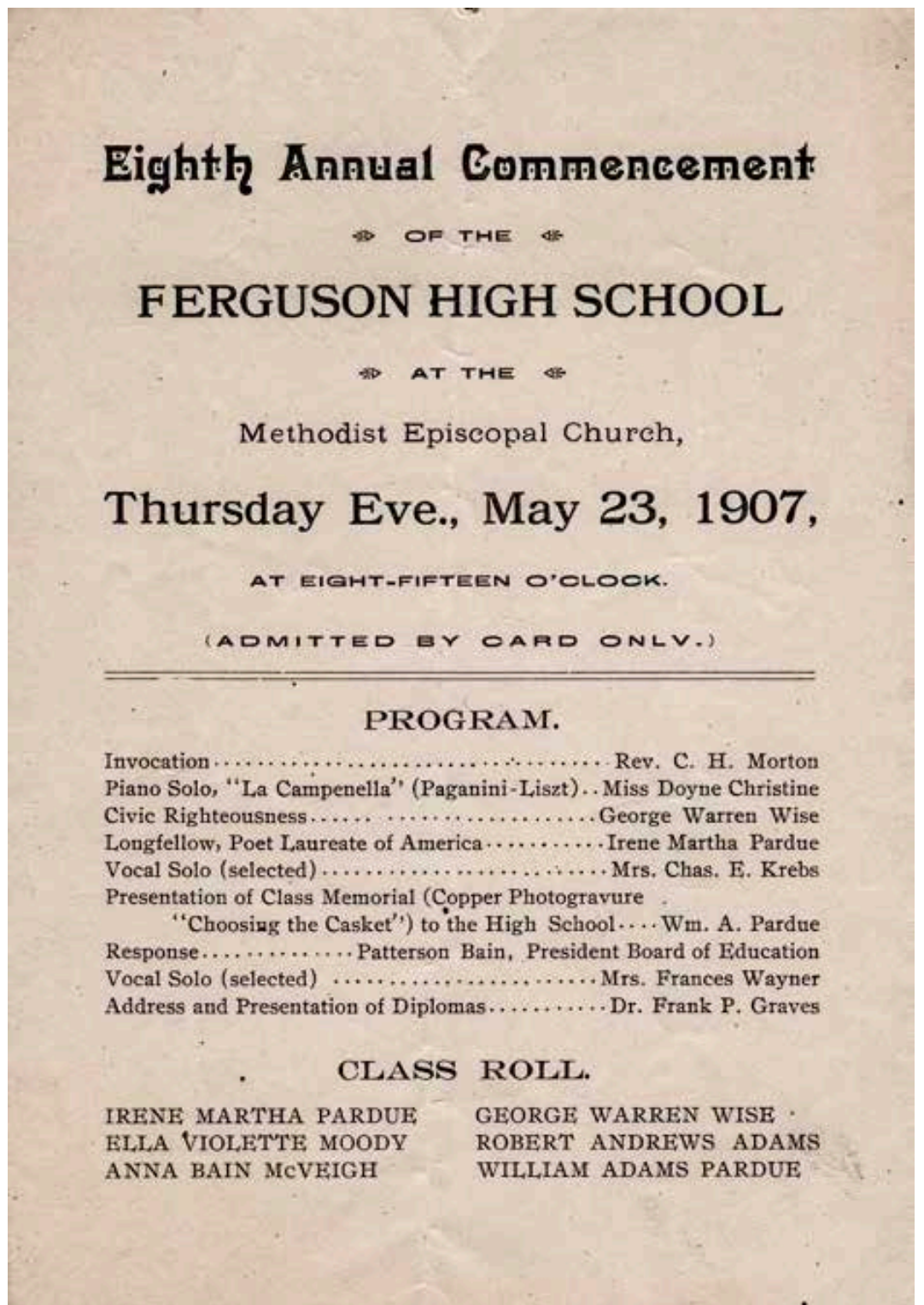
Public School Building, Ferguson, St. Louis County, Mo.



There is a lot more about Central School history which we can cover in future articles. If you have any documents or memories of Central School – anytime along its 145 years of education (or any Ferguson school)– please contact us at the address below. We have capabilities to do oral histories and would love to add to our collection on any Ferguson or North County subject.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact Jerry Benner at fjbenner@mindspring.com. If you wish to become a member or make a money donation, you can send it to Ferguson Historical Society at 716. N. Elizabeth Ave, Ferguson, MO 63135. You are also welcome to visit the History Museum. Please email me at the address to set a date and time to visit. Board meetings are on the third Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Interested people are invited to attend the meetings.

“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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