



Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

SINCE NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

Chasing those Winter Blues

I love February. It's not because of Valentines day or Mardi Gras. It's knowing that trout season will begin when this short month is over.

February seems to have a lot shoved in a short amount of month. It's Black History Month, we have groundhog day, Lincolns birthday, Valentine's day, Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), Ash Wednesday (Lent begins), Washington's Birthday! Is there still a sweetheart stroll? If not, I'm sure there will be sweethearts still out there strolling.

As I sit here piecing this paper together it is 13 degrees and we are supposed to get snow this coming weekend. I finally got all my Christmas decorations down and am getting set up for Mardi Gras celebrations. We (as a community) are blessed to be a part of the French heritage here in the St. Louis area. I read somewhere that St. Louis has a larger Mardi Gras celebration than New Orleans. Is that true? I like to think that we in this region have the best of whatever it is we have. The best baseball fans, the best peaceful celebrations, the best Zoo (Free), the best art museum (Free), the best entertainment and concert venues around the area all within 30 minutes.



EarthDance is offering their spring training again this year. I took the course a couple of years ago and it was really fun. I learned a lot. They are very knowledgeable so ask questions. (see page 6) I would recommend getting back to the soil to everyone. The best reward is sitting back and letting your garden grow and picking fresh vegetables.

I was fortunate to attend my grandsons high school wrestling match. Wow! Those boys can move! Shoutout to James: I'm proud of him as he won all four of his matches.



Hope everyone enjoys February. Have a Happy Valentines Day, remember to party responsibly on Mardi Gras, and enjoy yourself. Trout season is just around the corner.

Peace, Papa Deau



On-line edition: fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/

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FERGUSON INDOOR WINTER FARMERS MARKET

FEB 21 • 9am-12pm



Produce, meat, fresh bread and bakery items, hot breakfast, healthy juices, handmade crafts, and live music!

Winter market runs every third Saturday, November through April

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

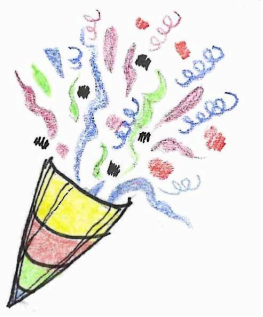


February News and Events at the Ferguson Public Library

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

| Youth 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, February 21 at 2 pm |
| Bookmark Party Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day with a bookmark party! We'll have a variety of supplies out to make your own bookmarks. For children and teens. Saturday, February 7 from 1-3 pm | |
| Adult Events | |
| Game Night Relax with a game! Adults and teens. Monday, February 2 at 6 pm | Readings on Race Book Club Gray Areas by Adia Harvey Winfield. Monday, February 9 at 6 pm |
| Conversations and Coffee Discuss today's news and events. Tuesday, February 10 at 6 pm | Black Author Book Club This Could Be Us by Kennedy Ryan. Wednesday, February 18 at 6 pm |
| All Ages Events | |
| Anansi the Spider Stories with Bobby Norfolk Join us and the amazing Bobby Norfolk for an evening of storytelling! Bobby will perform several Anansi the Spider tales from the Ashanti culture of Ghana. Wednesday, February 18 at 6 pm | |
| The 2026 Quilt Show Enjoy a display of beautiful quilts made by local quilters! February 12-14 | Fiber Arts Social Club Bring your latest project and craft and chat. Thursday, February 12 at 6 pm |
| Cultural Cuisine We're heading to Japan for some tasty ramen and other delights! Wednesday, February 25 at 6 pm | February Craft Kits • Feb. 2-7: Paper Quilt Heart • Feb. 17-21: Adinkra Prints Pick up a kit while supplies last! |

The library will be closed on Monday, February 16 for Presidents' Day.



February Celebration Shout-outs



- 9 Happy Birthday Kathi Asikainen
- 14 Happy Birthday Danielle Henderson
- 16 Happy Birthday Jay'Lenn Clinton-Sinks
- 21 Happy 7th Birthday Matilda Schmermund
- 25 Happy Birthday Lori Adams

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

February at a Glance



- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 2 Forestwood Neighborhood Meeting 7-8 PM
- 12 Ferguson Woods Neighborhood Meeting 6-7:30 PM
- 14 Valentines Day
- 16 Presidents day
- 17 Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras
- 18 Ash wednesday
- 21 NorthHills Neighborhood Meeting 10-11 AM
- 23 South West Neighborhood Meeting 6-7 PM



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

PRAY FOR PEACE

The Ferguson Neighborhood News is Available at the following Locations:

- Ferguson Community Center
- Robinwood Automotive
- Schnucks in Ferguson
- Dellwood Rec Center
- Ferguson Library
- Ferguson City Hall
- Reds BBQ
- Ferguson Style & Spa
- Florissant Valley Community College
- Drakes Place Restaurant
- Ferguson Farmers Market
- Paul's Market
- Eliciuos Restaurant
- The Hive Cafe

TRIVIA

What did a prostitute named Rachel, in Arles, France receive wrapped in a newspaper on December 23, 1888, reportedly told to "guard (it) very carefully"?

(Answer on page 13)

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

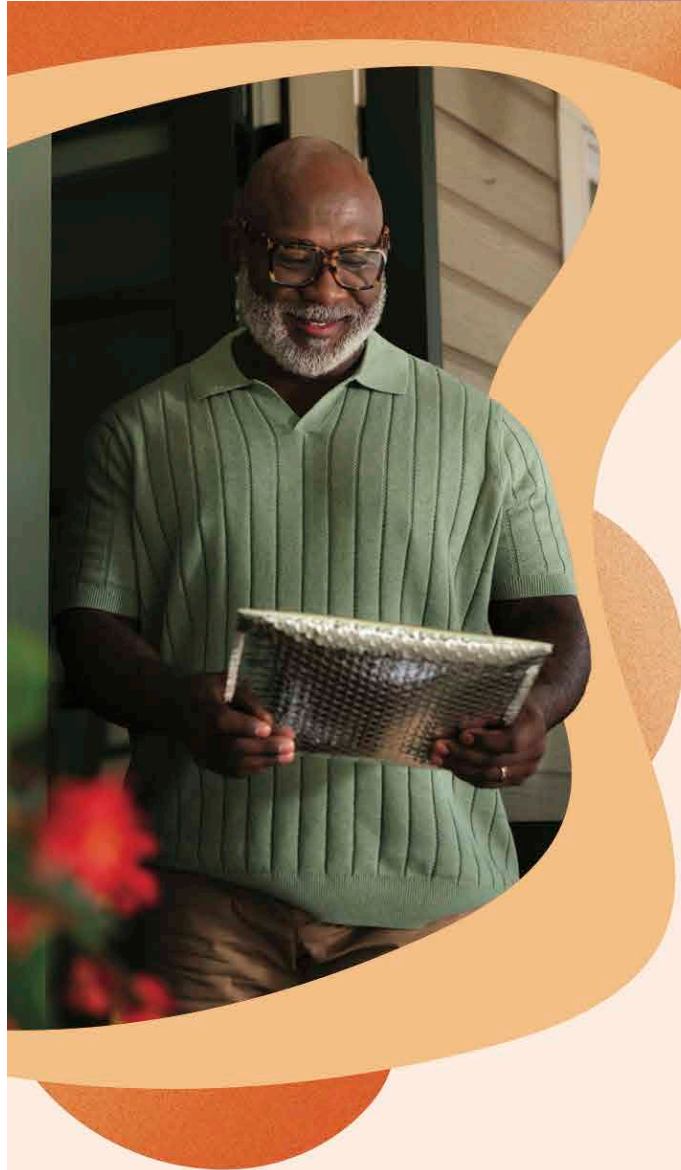
Volunteer with the paper

- 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



Dare to take charge of your healthcare.

Right now, during Medicare Open Enrollment Period, is a great time to move to ArchWell Health. Our doctors take the time to get to know you — not just your symptoms.

With centers right in your neighborhood and same-day sick appointments, we help you make better healthcare a part of your daily routine. Plus, our pharmacy team is always just a call away to ensure your medications are current and delivered right to your door. Take charge of your health today—make the move to ArchWell Health.



Visit [ArchWellHealth.com](https://www.archwellhealth.com) or call (314) 449-9727 and become a member today.



Primary Care for St. Louisans Age 60+

Ferguson City News - February 2026



JOIN OUR TEAM!

SUMMER JOBS

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

JOBS.FERGREC.COM



ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Kimberly Kabak Epperson

February 7th, 2:00pm, \$9
 Florissant Performing Arts Center #1 James J. Eagan Dr, Florissant 63033

St. Louis Family Theatre Series: DINO-LIGHT

DINO-LIGHT is a glow-in-the-dark theatrical adventure kids and families will love. Created by Jim Henson Foundation Grant recipients Ian Carney and Corbin Popp, the show brings a friendly dinosaur to life through dazzling puppetry, dance, and innovative technology. When the dinosaur wanders from home, he journeys through a magical, light-filled world, meeting glowing creatures who help him discover love, friendship, and what it truly means to belong.



February 7th, 11:00am-7:00pm, \$15
 The Pageant 6161 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112

Cycle Showcase STL 2026

Cycle Showcase STL 2026 is a celebration of motorcycles as art—featuring historically significant, hand-crafted, and timeless two-wheeled masterpieces. Drawing from renowned museums and private collections across the country, the exhibition highlights the stunning beauty, innovation, and engineering behind motor-driven transportation. Attendees will experience exclusive, never-before-seen motorcycles through thrilling unveilings that showcase extraordinary craftsmanship, alongside a curated collection of motorcycle-inspired artwork. This is a rare opportunity to see the past, present, and future of motorcycle design brought together under one roof.

February 2nd - 23rd (every Monday), 3:30pm-5:30pm FREE
 Walnut Park Library 5760 West Florissant Avenue St. Louis MO 63120

African American Art Exploration (Black History Month feature)

Especially for kids 5 and up! Learn about a different African American visual artist each week and explore a craft that relates to their works. Children are invited to paint, collage, sculpt with paper, clay or fabric to create their own works to take home. Dress for mess! All supplies are provided!

February 15th, 7:00pm, \$93 – \$390
 Enterprise Center 1401 Clark Ave, St. Louis, MO 63103

The Queens: 4 Legends! 1 Stage Tour

Looking for a Valentine's Day gift that truly wows? Music history will be made as four of the most legendary voices in R&B, soul, and pop come together for one unforgettable night. Chaka Khan, Patti LaBelle, Gladys Knight, and Stephanie Mills—each a trailblazing icon and powerhouse performer—will share the stage for the 4 Legends! 1 Stage Tour. This once-in-a-lifetime concert celebrates decades of chart-topping hits, timeless love songs, and genre-defining anthems that have moved generations. With soaring vocals and unforgettable performances, it's the ultimate way to celebrate love. Experience it live at Enterprise Center on February 15.

February 27th - March 8th, \$18-23, tickets vary
 Florissant Performing Arts Center #1 James J. Eagan Dr, Florissant 63033

Presented by The Alpha Players: Outside Mullingar

Set in the rolling countryside of rural Ireland, this tender and romantic play by John Patrick Shanley celebrates the quiet bravery it takes to open your heart. Anthony, a shy bachelor in his forties, has spent his life devoted to his family's cattle farm, content to keep love at a safe distance. Next door lives Rosemary—warm, hopeful, and deeply in love with the man she's watched from afar for years. With time slipping by and an old family feud threatening to stand in the way, Rosemary must risk everything for the chance at a life—and a love—she's always dreamed of. Gentle, heartfelt, and full of longing, this story proves that true love is always worth the leap.

February 27th, 7:30pm, \$53+
 Powell Symphony Hall 718 N Grand Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63103

Lift Every Voice — Black History Month Celebration

Celebrate Black History Month with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the IN UNISON Chorus, joined by acclaimed vocalist and choral composer Dr. Rosephanye Dunn Powell. For more than 30 years, the IN UNISON Chorus has shared the music of the African diaspora, becoming a permanent part of the SLSO after an overwhelmingly positive debut in 1994. Dr. Powell—hailed as one of America's leading composers of choral and solo vocal music, creator of celebrated song cycles like Miss Wheatley's Garden, Then Here and Now, and Langston Dreams, and professor of voice at Auburn University—brings her artistry and insight to this uplifting concert, celebrating the richness, depth, and enduring legacy of Black musical expression.

February 28th, 7:30pm, \$70 – \$108
 Stifel Theatre 1400 Market St, St. Louis, MO 63103

When A Woman's Fed Up

Grab your besties for a night of laughs, empowerment, and drama with When a Woman's Fed Up! This gripping play dives into love, friendship, and life's messy challenges, following women as they break free from expectations, embrace independence, and claim their happiness. Written by the late David T. Payton (A Good Man is Hard to Find) and Annette Campbell, it's a bold, heartfelt story of resilience, connection, and women supporting women.

CROSSWORD

Winter Respite

By Robin Shively

ACROSS

1. Sting
5. 1945 conference city
11. Beetle's duty
12. Amos or Spelling
13. Tip a teapot
14. Pub pint
16. Locale
17. Big Coon cat
18. Plays
20. Tongue-twister commodity
22. Scull
23. "Children of ___"
24. Many an Irani
26. Military state
29. Easter and Christmas
31. Gen-Z sweetheart
32. Singer Morrissette
34. Sound expressing inquiry, perhaps in Canada
35. Only place in the world where alligators and crocodiles coexist
38. God of mischief
40. Blood carrier
41. Mature
42. Stuffs
43. Covered porch
44. Nook
48. Regret
50. Lyric
51. Longed for
56. Crichton series
57. Al-__
58. Dance center?
59. Geriatric
61. Popular college course
63. Ready for business
64. He has a system
65. Acquire
66. Gmail search option

DOWN

1. Secret supply
2. Strengthen it with some crunches
3. Pi r squared
4. Vile vapor
6. Birthstone
7. Labors
8. Vitamin D booster
9. Name associated with Beats
10. Hakuna ___
11. Siesta or Largo
15. Actor Greene
17. All in one's head
19. Nickname for 27th state
21. That girl
22. Lubricates
25. Grantham's dog
26. Relish
27. Noble UK system
28. Chicken __ king
30. Hockey feint
31. Light literary fare
33. Confuse
36. "Look up the instructions." (in text)
37. D'Artagnon or Cyrano de Bergerac
38. Number of cards in a Roman deck
39. Black __
41. Hoarse
45. Le Pew is known for his
46. Bribable and corruptible
47. Her face is said to have launched a thousand ships
49. Goad
51. Sunday finale
52. Filler for bags or boxes
53. Wall St. newbies
54. Tether
55. Mar on a car
57. End of a block?
60. Yuck!
62. A Kettle

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 |
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Solution on page 13

Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck



You are reading this, no doubt, in February. I am writing this, however, in January. Early January usually means putting away the Christmas stuff and getting your house back in order. There is an “after glow” and warmth from the activities and family events during the holidays. I wish I could say that was the case for me this year. Not complaining but let me get this out of the way before I move on to a positive, light, and happy subject. Shortly before Christmas I had what I called a sty in my eye, The optometrist had another fancy unpronounceable name for this condition. Well, the skin on one’s eyelid can only stretch so far and in the middle of breakfast at Waffle House, it erupted leaving something “icky” dripping off my eye. My husband thinks this a funny story and that is the only reason I am including it.

January brought New Years Eve. We stayed home safe and watched movies. No problem there. January third and fourth included a wake and a funeral for a friend. These events are stressful as most of you would agree. January fifth finds me babysitting my happy little grandson. Around noon the scratchy throat started, then the headache, then the sneezing and coughing. It is now January thirteenth, and I feel like I might survive. I did not leave the house for over a week. I want to clabber whoever I got this from and have no intention of sharing this nastiness. Ok, rant is over.

Shortly after Christmas a friend posted about the “World Happiness Report”. According to the article the United States ranks twenty-four, the lowest ranking in recent history. It also went on to say that if you only polled those 30 years old and under the United States would barely rank in the top sixty. Now, I am not going to try to diagnose this generation and try to point out all the things that they must be grateful for and happy about. I will not cite all the opportunities they have and of which they should be taking advantage. No, not my point at all.

The author of this article is Sean Dietrich. His Facebook page is “Sean of the South.” I started following him after reading this article and hope to be able to continue to maintain my positive attitude and remain as happy as possible within the times we live.

The article continues with the author traveling around the country to talk to people about what makes them happy. The first place he travelled was in the Mayberry County, North Carolina. He claimed this was the happiest place in the world. I almost stopped reading there thinking he could not be serious. Despite my doubts, I continued. Andy Taylor, the Sheriff, Justice of the Peace, and choir member. Sheriff Taylor said he believes happiness comes from generosity. The next person is someone I want to learn a little more about as I am not familiar with Anne Shirley from Canada. Her experience was that “you can nearly always enjoy things if you make up your mind firmly that you will.” Ok, I can take that one too. Happiness is a state of mind.



Next stop for Mr. Dietrich was in Pittsburg to visit Mr. Fred Rogers. Mr. Rogers said there are three keys to happiness. First, be kind, second, be kind and third, be kind. Good thoughts. Let us move on to Mr. Atticus Finch. As an attorney I was expecting something thoughtful and profound. I was not disappointed and here I will quote the article verbatim, *Happiness, Finch explains, is firmly rooted in considering others before yourself. You see, Finch says, before I can live with other folks, I’ve got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn’t abide my majority rule is a person’s conscience.*



Of all the people Mr. Dietrich “interviewed”, and there were a few more in his article that I will fail to mention here. (Partly because I am still a little sick and do not want to work on this article

any longer than I must today 😊) My favorite was Helen Keller. She kindly explains that “we are never really happy until we try to brighten the lives of others.”



This article made me reflect on my attitude and the attitudes I have experienced from others. I have tried to be positive about life and the events life dishes out. I have been called a “Pollyanna” at times and at times I have resented that title. I do not think I will resent that moniker again. What I got from this article is that happiness is not something that happens to you or you must go looking for. Happiness is a state of mind. Happiness is as contagious as whatever I am currently suffering from. Happiness must be shared. Happiness is in the kindness of others and the kindness in our own hearts. The world would benefit from less anger and criticism of others to acceptance and kindness towards ourselves and the rest of the world.

Thank you for putting up with my rant today. I would love to hear from you. You may reach me at manhattanmarian@gmail.com. Happy New Year!

Marian Linck





Fish Fry

IS BACK!

LENTEN FISH FRIES

BLESSED TERESA SCHOOL
OF SACRED HEART PARISH
150 N ELIZABETH AVE.

Friday Nights

Feb. 20th, Feb. 27th, Mar. 6th,
Mar. 13th, Mar. 20th, & Mar. 27th

4:00pm - 7:30pm every Friday

Fish, Shrimp, Fries, Spaghetti, Pizza, Mac & Cheese,
Cole Slaw, Hush Puppies & more for purchase



DINE IN, CARRY OUT,
& DRIVE THRU

CATHOLIC SCHOOL
of Sacred Heart Parish

EarthDance's Spring Training



Farmer Will smiles for a photo with regular Spring Training participant Ms. Trenia.

EarthDance's Spring Training for Gardeners right here in Ferguson is a farm-based gardening course 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 an additional 3 hands-on experiences. 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!

2026 topics include: Choosing a site and what to grow - including annuals and perennials; soil health and preparation; maximizing space and yield; organically managing pests, weeds, and disease; water and other resource management; fall and winter prep for abundant growing in any season; and more!

All classes are offered on an a la carte basis, and, like all of our programs and classes, Spring Training is offered on a pay what you can basis.

What a few of our past participants have said about the program:

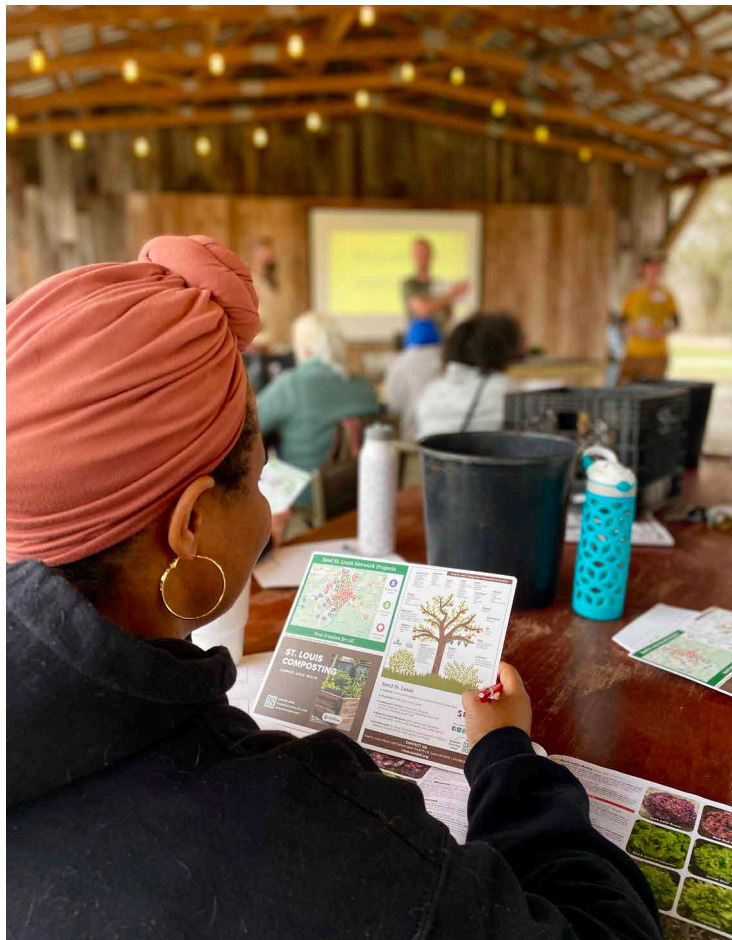
"It feels important to be able to grow my own food. Being more intentional and responsible about what I'm putting in my body. There's so much going on in the world, and I think this is a powerful skill to have. Especially living in St. Louis and hearing about food scarcity in some neighborhoods - something like that shouldn't exist. We should all know how to grow our own food," --Tomminesha, Ferguson resident and 2025 Spring Trainee

"The sliding scale tuition model is what made this program possible for me, I wouldn't have been able to participate otherwise. At first, I was a little nervous. I worried some of the classes might be over my head or that they'd require resources we didn't have. But I was so pleasantly surprised. The pacing of the classes was great - engaging, super informative, and incredibly supportive. It felt like we had a team of gardeners in our pockets - like little coaches cheering us on. It's given me a lot of knowledge for the future and shown me how accessible gardening actually is."—Kayleigh, Des Peres resident and 2025 Spring Trainee

"It's empowering to know how to grow my own food and to feed [my children] - it saves us money, we can all work together, and it's a great experience. We're growing cabbage, kale, and collards. We're a heavy on the greens family! Having that online option to still learn at home, and being able to go back and access slides later...I've really learned a lot and been able to put it into practice." --Amanda, Ferguson resident and 2022 Spring Trainee

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

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



Spring Training for Gardeners offers online and hands-on classes at EarthDance Organic Farm School.



Starting from Seed is a hands-on class at the teaching farm.



New, add-on classes will help gardeners learn to grow abundant food in any season.



Full Course and Bed Building workshop participants will work with our farmer educators and Seed St. Louis instructors to build and fill beds at select Seed St. Louis Community Gardens.



EarthDance farmer educators Jena, Will, and Jo (L to R) are back for another robust Spring Training season, along with (not pictured) EarthDance Garden & Volunteer Coordinator Dani Fuhrman, Seed St. Louis' Dean Gunderson, Adia Hunt of Jubilee Beekeeping, and Ro of Ro's Wigglers and Grow with Ro!



Online and Full Course participants will learn about organic pest, weed, and disease management.





THE FERGUSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
From Sundown Town to "Burn It Down"
A Book Talk with Author Patricia Washington

**Thursday,
 February 19, 2026**

Doors Open at 6:00pm
 Light Refreshments
 Presentation is at 6:30pm
 Followed by Q&A

Ferguson Community Center
 1050 Smith Ave.
 Ferguson, MO 63135

FERGUSON, Mo. — The Ferguson Historical Society will host an author talk and community conversation Thursday, Feb. 19, featuring journalist and communications professional Patricia Washington, whose forthcoming book examines the lasting effects of racial exclusion in America and its impact on Ferguson.

Washington's work in progress, *From Sundown Town to "Burn It Down,"* explores the historical and emotional throughline between the era of sundown towns — communities that enforced racial exclusion through law, intimidation or violence — and the modern-day trauma experienced by Ferguson's Black community following the 2014 killing of Michael Brown Jr.

The book draws on historical analysis, lived experience and civic memory to argue that systems of racial control have not disappeared but have evolved, reshaping public trust, policing and governance in contemporary American life.

Washington brings a perspective shaped by decades in journalism and public service. An award-winning journalist, she later became the first Black press secretary to the mayor of the city of St. Louis and subsequently served as press secretary for the St. Louis County executive. Her career has focused on communicating during moments of crisis and institutional change.

The events in Ferguson unfolded during the final days of Washington's tenure as communications director for St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley. While managing national and international media coverage by day, she also spent time in the streets of Ferguson, witnessing a community grappling with grief, anger and demands for accountability.

That dual vantage point — inside government and alongside community — informs the narrative of her book. Washington currently serves as public information officer for the Ferguson Police Department and as consent decree coordinator for the city of Ferguson, working on issues related to reform, accountability and public trust.

The Ferguson Historical Society said the program aligns with its mission to preserve and interpret local history in ways that deepen understanding of how the past continues to shape the present.

The event will be held at the Ferguson Community Center, 1050 Smith Ave. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the presentation scheduled for 6:30 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session. Light refreshments will be provided. The event is free and open to the public.



Happy “Heart” Month

With February being the month to celebrate Valentine’s Day, it’s the month to express your love to those that are near and dear to your heart. This applies not only to the humans in your life but also to your pets. Dogs and cats are an important part of your family and they definitely appreciate acts of kindness! Even small ones can be huge to them. So spread the love!!!! Here are some ideas.



1. Take your dog on a walk. Dogs love to see the world! We as people, are out and about all the time, going to our jobs, shopping, and attending activities with friends. Just imagine how excited your pup would be if you were to make it a plan to take them on regular walks. And when you go on walks with your dog, LET THEM SNIFF. A dog’s strongest sensory is their nose. Letting dogs sniff on walks is just like us searching the web or reading the newspaper. NOTE: Of course, be mindful of hot pavement and heat in the warmer months. Paws can burn on hot asphalt and heatstroke can definitely happen to animals.
2. Take your pup on car rides. For many years we never even thought about how much joy a car ride would bring to our dogs. But then we decided one day to take them on a family outing. Oh my gosh! Our dogs lit up like Christmas trees. And the big smiles and excitement was over the top cute, seeing their joy, soaking up the world. So now, taking the dogs on car rides is one of our regular activities. Seeing them enjoying the breeze from the windows being halfway down and seeing the smiles on their faces (yes, dogs do smile) actually returns joy back to us. Dogs LOVE seeing the world.

NOTE: NEVER leave your dog in a hot car during warm temperatures. A car, even with the windows cracked, can warm up to deadly temps in just a few minutes during hot weather. A good rule of thumb is to leave your pup at home if you plan to leave them unattended in your car, if the weather is 70 degrees or higher.

It’s also a good idea not to leave your dogs in your car if you don’t have to because too many dogs have been taken that way. **LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS.**

3. Dogs love treats! Just like many of us love a good, yummy treat, so do dogs. Pick up a bag of training treats and work on basics like sit, or just give them daily treats because you love them. If you ask them, they will be sure to let you know they deserve them. Positive reinforcement using tasty treats will add joy to their lives.
4. Provide your dog with toys and interactive games. A bored dog typically gets into trouble. Some examples of what a bored dog does are digging in the yard, chewing your shoes, jumping up on people or getting into the trash. Dogs have minds just like us. Providing them with enrichment activities such as puzzle games, chew toys, and games such as fetching a ball or playing hide-and-seek, can wear a dog out just like physical exercise does. Providing both mental and physical activities keeps Fido out of trouble and your household much more peaceful. You can find many enrichment games on Amazon.
5. Give your pup a window with a view. The absolute favorite spot in our house for our dogs is laying on the big ottoman that we placed in front of our large picture window. They provide a perfect alarm system that requires no batteries. Watching the squirrels hide their nuts. Cars and people going down the street. Alerting us when our mail is delivered or an Amazon package is delivered. Providing a window with a view gives them a job and keeps them busy. Providing a spot for your dog to watch the world outside is a pretty huge deal to dogs.
6. Give your cat fun activities. Cats love hunting by nature. There are many super-cool cat toys that will provide endless hours of play for them. This may even help cut down their time spent pouncing on your head at night when you are trying to sleep. You can find some great cat toys on Amazon that will provide your cat (and also you) hours of entertainment. Or find some lightly used toys on Facebook Marketplace. Your cats will thank you!

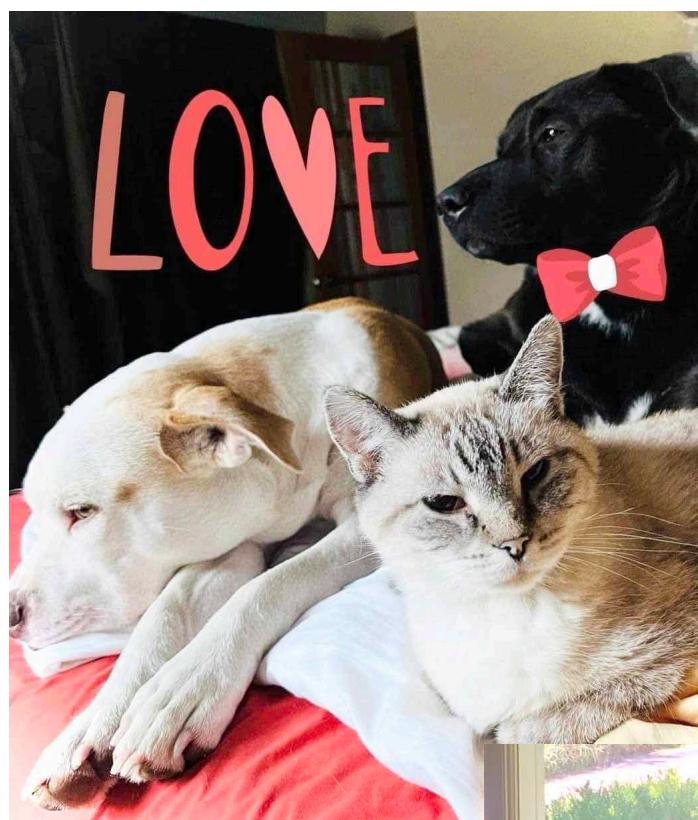
7. Provide a window with a view for your cat. I don’t think there is anything that a cat loves more than to relax on a nice soft perch in a sunny window. Cats love to bask in the sun while watching the regular activities of outdoor critters. This will definitely bring joy to your kitty kat. And please do keep your cat safely indoors. There are too many dangers to risk letting your cat outside to roam. Speeding cars and predator animals are a few.
8. Both dogs and cats love soft things to lay on. If your dog doesn’t already have a soft dog bed, or cat doesn’t have a fuzzy blanket, spurge and give them a soft spot to lay on. They will definitely thank you.
9. Get them a buddy. If your dog and/or cat likes others of the same species, get them a dog or cat friend. It’s great to have a human companion, but there is nothing better if you’re a dog or cat than to have a friendly dog or cat friend to hang out with especially while you are out living your busy life. And actually, statistics show that having 2 dogs or cats are much easier than 1, because they keep each other entertained. Consider adopting from a shelter near you.

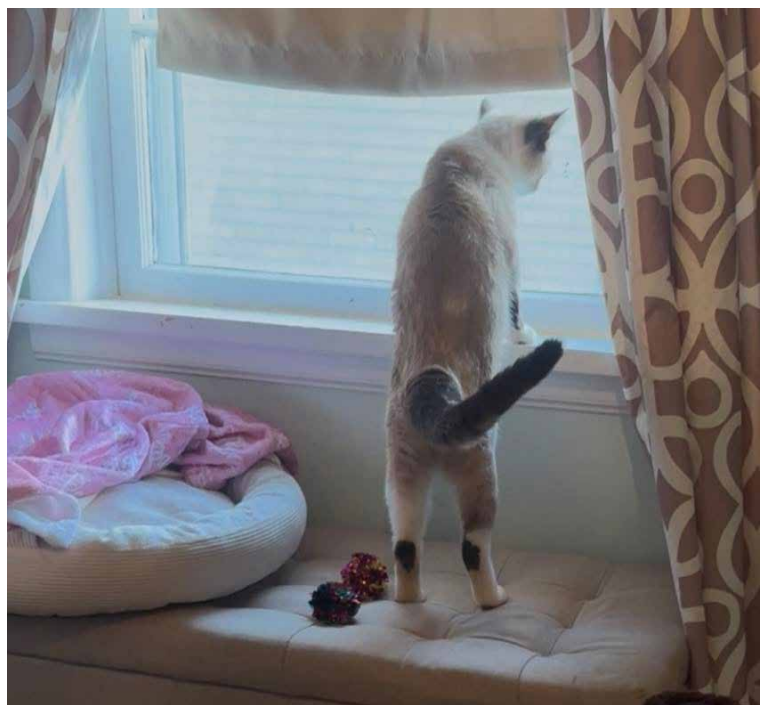
So, this “love” month, spread the love by adding joy to the lives of your dogs and cats. And keep it going throughout the year. It will return back to you trifold, guaranteed. Spreading joy brings joy!

Ferguson Animal Coalition

Email: dara@fergusonanimalcoalition.org

Website: fergusonanimalcoalition.org





What is Raghib Drinking?

By Raghib

My yearly reminder for those who drink wine and/or those who are interested in learning more about wine is that wine, like jazz, should be enjoyed by all. The closest example I can think of when it comes to wine is jazz. It doesn't matter what type of jazz you are listening to, as long as you are listening. Thus, it shouldn't matter what type of wine you are drinking, as long as you are enjoying it. For instance, it took damn near 25 years for one of my best friends to, just recently, admit in our group chat that his favorite jazz tune is Harlem Blues (from the soundtrack Mo' Better Blues). He will NEVER admit this publically. Now, as a jazz head, I think that Harlem Blues is one of the worst jazz vocal songs ever (LOL). But, I will say that the Branford Marsalis Quartet, along with Terence Blanchard, absolutely killed it with Say Hey! Anyways, back to the wine.



As you begin your wine journey, it is important for you to make your own wine rules. Avoid wine snobbery! If you choose to have a red wine with sea food and a white wine with steak, so be it! I enjoyed a \$400 bottle of red wine with Little Caesars Pizza! The most important thing to remember is to enjoy what you are drinking. Below are some of my top wines for beginners.

St. James Velvet Red Wine. This was my first introduction to wine. It's sweet and delicious! The Concord grape delivers! Hints of deep ripe fruit. I've enjoyed this wine with cheese and crackers. Excellent price point. \$9+



Mount Pleasant Estates Port 2013. This fortified wine from Mount Pleasant Estates can stand up to the finest fortified wines out of Portugal! Hints of dark fruit and cocoa. I've enjoyed this wine with beef salami and turkey pastrami. I always keep this one stocked. \$30+



If you noticed, the first two wines are from Missouri! I want to remind you that Missouri is home to the FIRST federally recognized American Viticultural Area (AVA) in the United States, Augusta AVA! Sorry Napa and Sonoma. As a matter of fact, Missouri grapes are credited with saving the entire French wine industry! Currently, Missouri has four AVA's and hundreds of wineries. Wine country is absolutely gorgeous in Missouri. If you get the opportunity, please visit the wineries in Hermann, Missouri and Augusta, Missouri. You will not be disappointed.



Stella Rosa Black. This recommendation came from my older sister. It's a sparkling red wine that in her words is "semi sweet and semi sparkling". She loves it and always has it stocked. Price point \$9+



Saracco Moscato D'Asti. This is one of my favorite desert wines. Light and sweet. Served chilled. Hints of stone fruits. You can drink this with your favorite dessert. Price point \$15+

Conundrum Red Wine. This red blend is from the Wagner family. This is an excellent wine to expand your palette. Hints of dark fruit and chocolate. The Wagner family also makes one of my favorite old world Cabs, Caymus! Back to Conundrum. I had my first experience with Conundrum at SavannahBlue, an absolutely dope contemporary restaurant in Detroit, Michigan. The server made the recommendation and I have been a fan ever since! \$20+



Honorable mentions: Bonanza Cabernet Sauvignon (another Wagner family wine) \$19+; Regal Tej Honey Mead Wine \$10+. Happy drinking. Enjoy!



There Really Was A Man Named Valentine.



FRIENDS OF THE PAPER Page

He sent a letter from a Roman prison, where he was condemned to death for conducting a Christian wedding for a Roman soldier. He signed his letter....

Your Valentine



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

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Financial Focus — Finally time to Fix Healthcare

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)

Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

With the New Year, many people are seeing their health care costs going up especially those getting their health insurance thru the Affordable Care Act program. Those getting insurance thru an employer have also seen costs increase and often employees cannot afford to purchase health insurance even though their employer may be paying as much as 75% of the cost. Since its inception in 2010, the ACA has been criticized as unsustainable. And as we have seen without the subsidies it is proving to be correct.

Nothing was brought forth by Republicans to replace or improve the ACA since. They elected Donald Trump the first time with the promise that it would be eliminated and replaced with something better. Nothing happened. For a quick review the ACA was passed in 2010 and started enrollment in October 2013. In the beginning, there were subsidies to help cover the cost of insurance which cost the government about \$18 billion in 2014. Keep in mind that most of this money was going from the government to insurance companies. The subsidies have grown to about \$135 billion in 2025 and health care costs are still climbing out of control.

We've heard candidates talk about a Universal Health Care system since before the ACA was passed. During all of the discussions complaints about Government insurance causing rationing of health care services and death panels usually shut down any suggestion. Yet as I've mentioned in previous columns, we cannot continue to spend money we don't have. The House recently passed a bill to continue the current subsidies for another three years and we can be fairly certain this will not pass in the Senate. So perhaps we can start having discussions on some major changes in our healthcare system that are long overdue.

Over the years we have bragged about our superior health care system being so much better than any form of government provided health care in other countries. Yet looking at statistics from countries with universal health care we can see our system is failing in the results of several areas. You can find this information on healthsystemfacts.org. The comparison chart has 17 countries listed and most of the information is from 2021 and 2022. On the column for percent of population covered for a core set of health services only three countries were not at 100% - Hungary 95%, Costa Rica and United States were both 91%. I suspect that prior to 2014 that number might have been even lower for the U.S. with less people having health insurance. On the column for healthcare spending per capita in US dollars – the only country over \$10,000 was the United States at \$12,555.26. The second highest was Switzerland at \$8,049.11. On the column for average life expectancy at birth in 2021 Japan was highest at 87.5 and the United States was 76.4 – the only country lower was Hungary at 74.4. In the columns for infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate the United States was the 16th highest out of 17 countries – only Costa Rica was higher in both columns. This is sad considering we have made

so many advances in healthcare and we are spending a higher percentage of our GDP on health than any of the other countries listed – we are at 16.634% and the next highest is Germany at 12.655%.

There were a couple of letters from readers in the Post-Dispatch January 2nd, One pointed out that the ACA needs to be reformed, not eliminated. The other suggested looking at other countries like the Netherlands. As the writer pointed out “The U.S. spends more and gets less because we've built a system where sickness is a business model.”

What if congress could work together for the good of the people? There has to be a less painful solution. Perhaps subsidies could be gradually reduced and we could make certain those with less income are still helped. Meanwhile, changes to our entire healthcare system need to be made, so looking at the Netherlands and other health systems is a good idea. The Netherlands first national health insurance program was started in 1941 using both public and private insurers. Nearly sixty years later at the turn of the century, long waiting lists and other inefficiencies brought about market oriented reform. So the 2006 Health Insurance Act merged the public and private insurance markets into one universal social health insurance program supported by private insurance and mandatory coverage. While the system is not public, it is private and heavily regulated. The government sets a maximum price for every type of diagnosis/treatment. Insurers and providers jointly negotiate prices within those guidelines.

Insurers are not allowed to differentiate prices (for example based on age or medical history), and they must accept all patients. All insurers are required to cover the standard set of treatments determined by the government and everyone is legally required to have insurance.

Looking at several other plans used throughout the world, may help us design a better plan for the United States. Reducing our increasing costs may require government involvement as mentioned in the Netherlands health insurance program. And we may find that our access to providers could also be affected by pricing restrictions. To give more access to healthcare and keep the costs affordable for both the people and the government we may need to look at many options even those that seem unlikely to be accepted by all. We can't keep putting this off and finding the right system will take time, but using the ACA as a basis may help in gradually implementing a more sustainable plan. If you have any questions or comments you may send them to cleav73@gmail.com.

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With profound sorrow and unbreakable love, we remember and honor the lives of Princess Paige Buckner and her devoted mother, Latasha Brown, whose lives were tragically called home together on December 22, 2025. Though their

time on this earth has ended, their love, light, and legacy will live on forever in the hearts of those who knew and cherished them.

Princess Paige Buckner, born September 21, 2016, was a radiant light whose presence brought joy far beyond her years. True to her name, Princess Paige carried herself with sweetness, innocence, and a gentle spirit that touched everyone she encountered. Her smile could brighten the darkest room, and her laughter was pure and contagious. She loved

deeply, dreamed freely, and brought immeasurable happiness to her family. Though her life was brief, her impact was powerful, and she will forever remain a beautiful angel in the hearts of her loved ones.

Latasha Brown, born April 12, 1980, was a loving mother, daughter, sister, and friend whose strength, compassion, and devotion to her family defined her life. Latasha was known for her nurturing heart, unwavering love, and selfless dedication- especially to her children, family, and community. She carried herself with grace and resilience, always putting others before herself. Her love was fierce, her presence comforting, and her legacy one of unconditional care and deep family bonds.

Together, Latasha and Princess Paige shared a bond that words cannot fully capture - a bond of love, protection, and devotion that transcended this life and will continue eternally.



Under The Hood With Robinwood
By Bob McGartland

Happy Valentines Day. How to Love Your Vehicle (and Have It Love You Back)

Valentine's Day is all about appreciation—flowers, cards, maybe a nice dinner. But there's one relationship that often gets overlooked: the one you have with your vehicle. It's there for early mornings, late nights, grocery runs, road trips, and everything in between. If you want many years of trouble-free driving, now is the perfect time to show your car a little love.

Start with the Basics: Routine Maintenance

Think of routine maintenance as quality time together. Oil changes, fluid checks, and filter replacements may not feel romantic, but they are the foundation of a healthy, long-lasting vehicle. Fresh oil keeps your engine lubricated and running smoothly, while clean air and cabin filters help both your engine and your lungs breathe easier. Skipping these basics is like forgetting anniversaries—it may not cause immediate trouble, but it will eventually catch up with you.

Tires: Where the Rubber Meets the Relationship

Your tires are your car's shoes, and worn-out shoes don't get you very far. Proper tire pressure improves fuel efficiency, handling, and safety. Regular rotations help tires wear evenly, extending their life and saving you money. And don't forget alignment—if your vehicle pulls to one side, it's trying to tell you something. Listening early can prevent bigger issues down the road.

Brakes Deserve Attention Too

If your brakes are squeaking, grinding, or feeling less responsive, that's your vehicle waving a red flag. Brakes are one area where procrastination never pays off. Timely inspections and replacements ensure safe stopping and protect other components from damage. When it comes to brakes, love means not waiting until the last second.

Fluids Are the Lifeblood

Your vehicle relies on several fluids to stay happy: coolant, transmission fluid, brake fluid, and power steering fluid. Each one plays a critical role in performance and longevity. Keeping fluids clean and at proper levels helps prevent overheating, slipping transmissions, and costly repairs. Consider it hydration for your car—nobody performs well when they're running dry.

Battery Care: Don't Get Ghosted

Nothing ruins a day faster than a dead battery. Cold winter temperatures and hot summer days can shorten battery life, making regular testing important. Corrosion on terminals or slow starts are warning signs that shouldn't be ignored. A healthy battery keeps everything powered up and prevents inconvenient breakdowns.

Keep It Clean—Inside and Out

Washing your vehicle isn't just about looks. Dirt, salt, and grime can cause corrosion over time, especially in harsh winter climates. A clean interior also protects surfaces from wear and tear. Plus, a tidy vehicle just feels better to drive—like a fresh start every time you open the door.

Pay Attention to the Little Things

Unusual noises, warning lights, vibrations, or changes in performance are your car's way of communicating. Addressing small issues early often prevents major repairs later. Listening carefully can save both stress and money.

A Valentine's Message from Robinwood Automotive

This Valentine's Day, show your vehicle some appreciation—it's one relationship that truly goes the distance. From all of us at Robinwood Automotive, thank you for trusting us with your car care needs. We wish you a safe, smooth, and love-filled driving year ahead, and we're always here to help keep your vehicle happy for the long road ahead.

Ferguson Twilight Run benefits North County nonprofits

More than \$140k given to community for health, wellness since 2010



Ferguson, MO – Did you know that Ferguson Twilight Run gives back to the community to support health and wellness? Beyond the run, the annual event makes an impact among nonprofits in North St. Louis County.

In the early years, proceeds from the race helped pay summer program fees for youth at Emerson Family YMCA. Over time, the program evolved, always with the purpose of health and wellness.

"From day one, the goal of Ferguson Twilight Run has been to celebrate healthy and active lifestyles for residents of Ferguson and North County," said Elizabeth Simons, planning committee volunteer.

"When we give back to local nonprofits that have a similar goal, together our impact goes farther."

Donnie White Sr. Memorial Beneficiary Award

The Donnie White Sr. Memorial Beneficiary Award donates proceeds to nonprofits in North St. Louis County. Named in memory of race planning committee member Donnie White Sr., we remain humbled and honored by his leadership and support for Ferguson Twilight Run. With the blessing of his family, we are grateful to share his spirit with the nonprofit organizations in our community.

Qualifications

To apply for the Donnie White Sr. Memorial Beneficiary Award, organizations must:

- Be a registered nonprofit in good financial standing
- Promote active living in North St. Louis County
- Provide physical activity opportunities focused on health in North St. Louis County

To date, more than \$140,350 has contributed to local programs and services that are committed to impacting positive, healthy outcomes. Past beneficiary recipients include Emerson Family YMCA, EarthDance Organic Farm School, A Red Circle, Girls on the Run Ferguson-Florissant School District and Strength and Honor Mentoring and Tutoring.

The application will be available online the week of Jan. 26-30. Applications are due Friday, Feb. 27. Details will be posted at fergtwilightrun.com.



Ferguson Twilight Run

Ferguson Twilight Run is Saturday, May 16. 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.

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

FEBRUARY, 2026

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

New International Version

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

This month, we will be telling those who are close to us, and some who are not so close, that we love them. The verses above speak of perfect love that we should have for others. As human beings who are imperfect, we cannot on our own, give that kind of love; only God can. That is why we must pray to God to be blessed with that kind of love. Love is not earned, it is freely given to all. If there is one person who does not receive your love, then you do not truly love anyone, especially God. But He will still love you, and help you to love, if you ask Him for that. Love boldly! They will know you are a Christian by your love.

doug the scribe.

IF you wish to contact doug, do so at:

fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com

Be certain to put the phrase: I need God stuff! into the subject line, and include your local phone number within the body of your missive.

HAVE A HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Crossword Solution from page 4

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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TRIVIA ANSWERS

Part of Van Gogh's ear

source: Team Trivia



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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.



Good news this month – some updates and a few new things. As you can see to the right, there is progress for the cabooses. The roof has been tarped and ready for reroofing, new fascia boards are in place and the new metal security windows are in place. Hope for a Spring opening springs eternal. Second, while driving around Ferguson I came across this wonderful mural. It's along Florissant Road south of Darst Rd. You cannot see it if you are north bound, only southbound. Slow down or park in the lot and check this out. Finally – and this is not necessarily “good” news, but it is news. Vogt School was the subject of our FHS48 – (September '25) article. Ferguson Florissant R2 School District has put the building up for sale. If you are planning to start a new school, the building is ready for use.

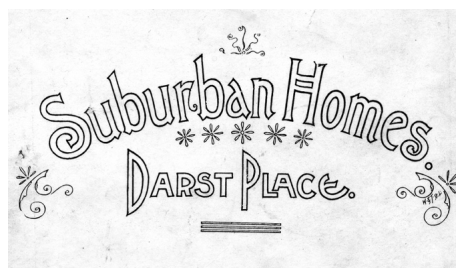


The real focus of this month's article goes way back to the 1890's. It is a fascinating little 4 x 6 advertising booklet, produced in 1891, designed to get people to move to the Ferguson area. It was published by E. S. Guignon & Bro. (I assume a realty company). Remember that 1891 is just shortly before Ferguson became a formally recognized city (1894). The title is “Suburban Homes – Darst Place”. In this and next month's articles we are going to explore what this booklet has to say, and also what it tells us about the Ferguson area in the early 1890s – still in the days of horse-and-buggy transportation, kerosene lighting, water from wells, outdoor toilets, and coal fired heating. This was also true of the City of Saint Louis – but multiplied a thousand-fold. Homes only feet apart, the commercial horse-and-buggy traffic with the attending waste, in winter the massive amount of coal smoke (usually Illinois soft coal) along with the noise of daily commerce. The picture of Darst Place (inside cover) shows a pastoral Ferguson field. On page 3 of the booklet, it gives the whole story:

“The suburban home, as now understood, is a comparatively recent innovation, the result of the introduction of the cable and electric railways. The country seat and the summer residence by the sea or in the mountains have always been the concomitants of wealth, but the suburban home is an entirely novel feature of social life. The country furnishes the ideal of home. The city, with its office and workshop, its forge and factory, its never-ending noise and rattle, its sleepless toilers and restless travelers, can never yield the repose associated with home. The suburbs are the natural retreat to which men flee from the cares of business. They suggest quietude, peace, repose, rest; and the pure, fragrant atmosphere of the fields is a stimulant and feast for the weary body and exhausted brain. All our natural association of ideas leads up to locate the ideal home beyond the limits of the noisy, bustling city.” (the booklet goes on for another page about the poetic benefits of a move to the suburbs)

So, Darst Place in Ferguson is the place to be. Where is Darst Place? It is actually six streets – Forest, Millman, part of Darst, Barat, Hartnett and Centre. The area is shown on a more modern map to the left. I grew up on North Barat and the County records show it as part of “Darst Place”. I grew up there from 1944 and still live in Ferguson. When I recently drove these streets, I did not notice any homes which could date back to the 1890s. From my observations and limited knowledge of architecture, most homes there date back to the early 1910's thru the 1950's. This does not speak to the success of the booklet. People were moving into the

Ferguson area since the end of the Civil War, but not necessarily to this specific area. It would take much deeper research to realize the success of the booklet.



From things we will discuss later, it is apparent that this booklet was not designed for citizens of lesser resources than the upper-middle and upper-class citizens of Saint Louis. As you will see in the page displayed below, poetry figured into the picture the booklet tried to plant in the minds of people with resources. It is also aimed at the men of the family – as they are obviously the ones who must mainly put up with the toils of the city as opposed to the “stay-at-home” lives of the women who were keeping the home and raising the family. That also tells you something about family life in the 1890's as opposed to family life today.

When addressing the City of Ferguson, the booklet begins with:

“No noise, no care, no vanity, no strife;
Men, woods and fields, all breathe untroubled life.”

As has frequently been alleged by the daily papers of St. Louis, the tendency of the population is to the North and West. There are many good reasons for this, but the principal are the facilities for transportation to and from the business centre, and the delightful character of the avenues leading to the suburbs in the direction mentioned. . . . Ferguson lies to the north and west of Forest Park, three miles distant from the city limits, and is reached through the park by the Wabash Railroad, the trip from Union Depot consuming only half an hour, as can be seen by consulting any of the printed time tables of the Wabash Railroad. It is also reached, in the same time, from the Franklin Avenue depot by the Wabash Belt road.”

In future pages, the booklet talks more of Ferguson, the Citizens of Ferguson, the Water Supply of Ferguson (a matter of major concern during this period of time – remember that the City of Saint Louis had a major water problem which needed to be cleared up in time for the World's Fair of 1904), and finally a description of Darst Place.

If you refer to the photo of Darst Place on the right, this brief text from the booklet will give you an idea of the area:



“Darst Place is an old Ferguson homestead which had to surrender to the demand for homes in the suburbs. It is delightfully situated, and is dotted with the forest Oak and other shade trees. It comprises about eighty acres of undulating land, which have been divided into home sites of a size to accord with the general desire for a lawn and shrubbery. The frontage of these sites is, in no instance, less than 100 feet, and the depth varies from 150 to 350 feet. Sidewalks have been laid and the undulating character of the land will protect the streets from any accumulations of mud or water.”

We will go more into Darst Place as the booklet has much more to tell us about Ferguson in the 1890's. The booklet's final paragraph tells why people needed to move to Darst Place.

“The terms upon which home sites in Darst Place are offered to the public are only Ten Dollars cash, and the balance in small monthly or weekly payments. But if you really want a home in this lovely suburb call and see us. E.S. Guignon and Bro. St. Louis, MO.” (The \$10.00 in 1890 would translate into about \$250.00 in today's money.)

One last thing - **A Very Big Thing** - all are invited to a “Book Talk” with Ferguson Police Departments Public Information Officer, Patricia Washington. See page 7 for info.



From Ferguson to Pakistan

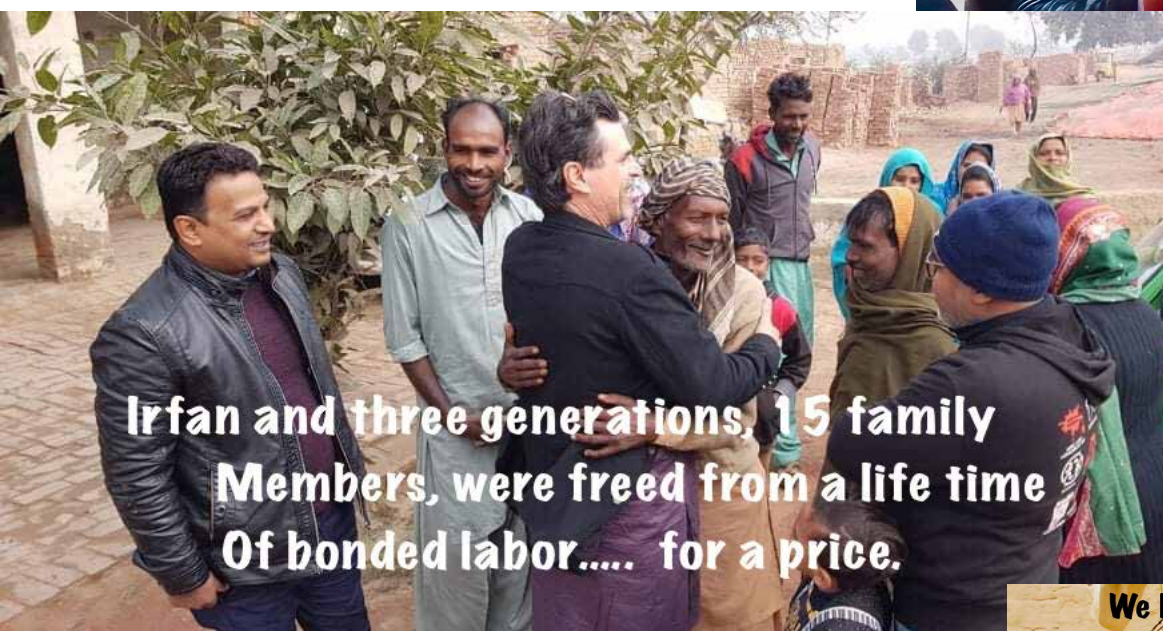


**With a brave brother,
...my left side...**

Nadeem at my side...



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