



Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

SINCE NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities



Ferguson... there's a new energy on Darst Rd and it's coming from two young driven, entrepreneurs who turned hustle into a full-blown business.

Meet Andy Knight and John Shanahan, the faces behind Ferguson Auto Body Sales & Service are now officially open in the former Hewkin Auto Body building.

But this isn't just another shop opening... this is a story built on grit, loyalty, and a 15-year bond.

It all started with a retaining wall. Yeah, you read that right.

About 15 years ago, Andy was knee-deep in a project when John showed up to lend a hand. Different paths, same mindset. That moment sparked a partnership that would evolve into something much bigger.

From there? They didn't slow down, they leveled up.

John, coming from the food industry, teamed up with Andy and hit the streets with a massive portable grill. They weren't just cooking they were everywhere state fairs, packed festivals, private events... building a name, building a grind.

Then COVID hit. Most people paused — they pivoted.

Fast forward to last fall...

Andy, with years of auto-body expertise, spotted an opportunity to see the old Hewkin building sitting quietly. He turned to John and said: "Let's build something real. Right here. Right now."

And just like that Ferguson got its newest powerhouse.

For John, it hit even deeper. Growing up, he spent countless days in Ferguson visiting his grandparents, Jim and Betty Shanahan, long-time community roots. Opening here? It wasn't random. It was personal.

Now, backed by supportive neighbors like Mark Arnold (who's been holding it down right behind the shop), these two are bringing life back into the empty space and into the community.

Now Open at 15 Darst Road
Ferguson Auto Body Sales & Service is ready to serve with:

- Collision Repair
- Auto Painting
- Auto Detailing
- Glass Replacement

Monday–Friday: 8AM–5PM
Saturdays: If the doors are open... pull up!
314-522-9468

Follow on Facebook: Ferguson Auto Body Sales & Service
NOW HIRING Techs & Staff Wanted

BIG Grand Opening Event Coming Soon



May News and Events at the Ferguson Public Library

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



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, May 16 at 2 pm

Adult Events

Book Signing: Marilyn Parker
Meet local author Marilyn Parker!
Saturday, May 2 at 6 pm

Game Night
Relax with a game! Adults and teens.
Monday, May 4 at 6 pm

Coiled Pine Needle Baskets
Make a basket in this 2 part class!
Thursdays, May 7 and 14 at 6 pm

Readings on Race Book Club
Defund by Sandy Hudson.
Monday, May 11 at 6 pm

Conversations and Coffee
Discuss today's news and events.
NEW: Thursday, May 21 at 6 pm

Black Author Book Club
Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson
Wednesday, May 27 at 6 pm

All Ages Events

Mother's Day Teatime
Grab your mother or other important woman in your life and celebrate with us! We'll enjoy tea in fancy cups and a light lunch. It's an annual tradition! Registration is required for this program. Please register at bit.ly/fmplmother23.
Saturday, May 9 from 11-2 pm

UNEARTH A STORY.. 2026 Summer Reading Challenge
May 23 - August 1

Read, dig, and explore this summer! Win prizes and enjoy special events all summer long.

Summer Reading Kickoff
Enjoy Night at the Museum (PG) and sign up for the challenge!
Friday, May 22 at 6 pm

Fiber Arts Social Club
Bring your latest project and craft and chat.
Thursday, May 14 at 6 pm

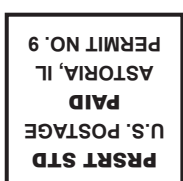
May Craft Kits
• May 11-16: Paper Flower Wreath
• May 26-30: Pterodactyl Puppet
Pick up a free kit while supplies last!

Cultural Cuisine
Join us for a tamale feast as we visit Mexico!
Wednesday, May 20 at 6 pm

The library will be closed Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day.

On-line edition: fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/

POSTAL CUSTOMER
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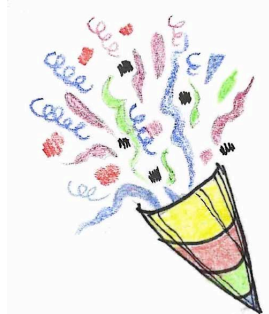


312 Calverton Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63135

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



May Celebration Shout-outs



7 Happy Birthday Nancy Hahne
 8 Happy Birthday Jane Baniak
 19 Happy Birthday Aunt Renee'
 31 Happy Birthday Merilee Nadeau

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

May at a Glance



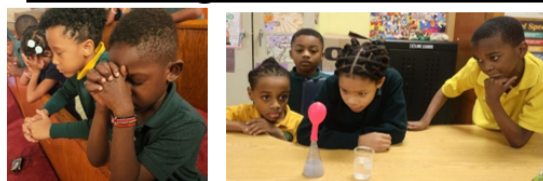
- 1 May Day
- 5 Forestwood Neighborhood Meeting 7-8 PM
- 14 Ferguson Woods Neighborhood Meeting 6-7:30 PM
- 10 Mothers Day
- 16 NorthHills Neighborhood Meeting 10-11 AM
- 25 Memorial Day Observed
- 25 South West Neighborhood Meeting 6-7 PM
- 30 Pollinator Party 233 S Dade 11AM-1PM
- 31 Greening Ferguson Festival 501 Plaza 1-3PM



Salem Lutheran School - Black Jack

5190 Parker Road, Florissant, MO www.salembjmo.org
 314 741-8220 E:sscherer@salembjmo.org

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For service to Christ and the world!



Good News!

Officer Travis Brown is back in St. Louis to continue his recovery.
 Please continue to keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

PRAY FOR PEACE

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



GRAND OPENING

SATURDAY, MAY 9

11AM TO 9PM

IT'S TIME TO GATHER, EAT AND DRINK.

ADVERTISEMENT DISCLAIMER

The Ferguson Neighborhood News supports our local businesses by following fair and equitable advertising guidelines.

The paper does not endorse or recommend any business that advertises with the paper.

Please do your due diligence before engaging to do business with any company.

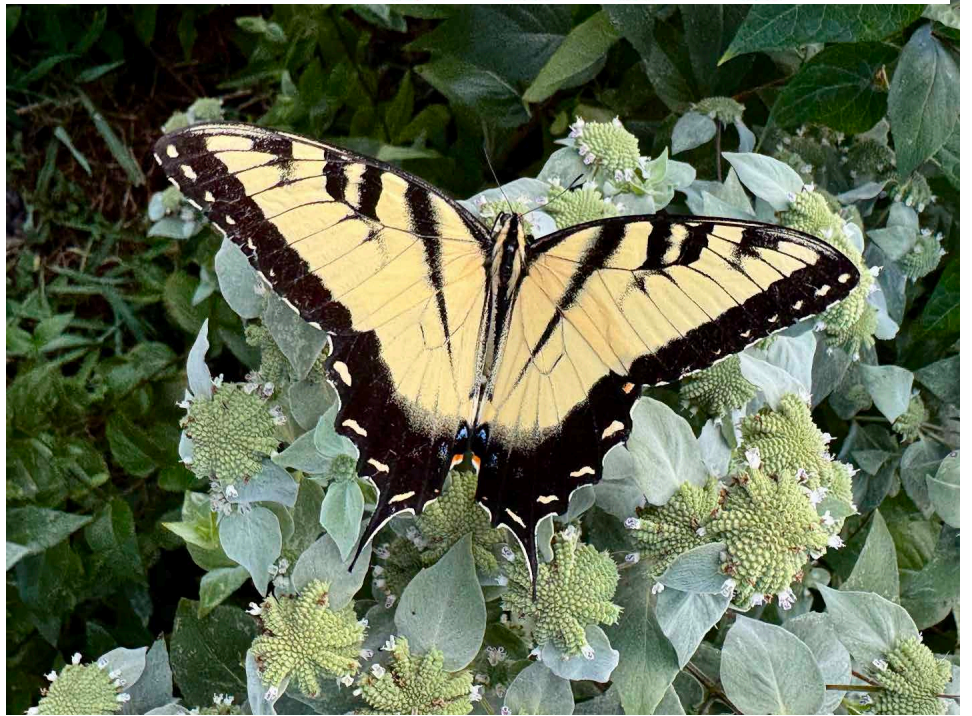
GREENING FERGUSON

Ferguson is an exceptionally 'green' city. It has more parks than most cities of a similar size and has more and older trees than many parts of suburbia. It was first named a National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA in 1989! This attention to supporting nature and natural landscaping has become especially important as climate change has been negatively affecting human well-being and causing the extinction of so many pollinators, birds and other native species.

And now, Ferguson has plans to make our city even greener! Greening Ferguson is a new volunteer organization under the auspices of our Parks and Recreation Department. Director Joseph Seastrom says Ferguson has been wanting to expand plantings of native trees and flowers in our parks but hasn't been able to budget enough person-power to do the desired plantings and maintenance. Enter...Greening Ferguson! This group of volunteers will enable the 'green goals' of the Parks Department and even make suggestions about additional plans.

Greening Ferguson members will also work to share information, enthusiasm and native plants with residents, so that more native habitat will exist in our own yards. No activity is better at combining pleasure and purpose than creating and observing natural habitats.

Join us for the inaugural Greening Ferguson event on May 31st!



Tiger Swallowtail on Mountain Mint



May 31, 2026 1-3pm

501 Plaza 501 S Florissant Rd

GREENING FERGUSON FESTIVAL

Introducing the Greening Ferguson Group within the Parks and Rec Department!

- Free native plants from Greening Ferguson members
- Native plant sale by Papillon Perennials
- Information about creating your own native habitats
- Free beer from Good News Brewing for volunteer sign ups
- Live music 🎵



ARTFUL CONSIDERATIONS

by Kimberly Kabak Epperson



May 5, 2026, 7:30 PM, \$27

The Grandel 3610 Grandel Sq., St. Louis, MO 63103

Alarm Will Sound: 25th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrate 25 years of bold, boundary-pushing music with this electrifying anniversary concert. Blending precision, experimentation, and fearless creativity, Alarm Will Sound delivers a dynamic program of past favorites and future-forward works—an exciting, high-energy snapshot of an ensemble constantly evolving.

May 9, 2026, 6:00 PM, \$28+

Machinists Hall Inc. 12365 St. Charles Rock Rd., Bridgeton, MO 63044

Mother's Day Weekend: Live Experience

Celebrate Mother's Day weekend with a high-energy night built around live music, performances, and nonstop entertainment. Featuring multiple artists, DJs, and hosts, this vibrant celebration brings together great vibes, dancing, and community energy for an unforgettable night out honoring moms in style.

May 9, 2026, 1:00 PM, Free

Field House Museum 634 S. Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102

Poetry in the Garden

Set in a charming historic garden, this lively afternoon of poetry brings together local voices for an inspiring celebration of creativity and expression. Enjoy powerful readings, fresh perspectives, and a welcoming atmosphere as poets share original work that sparks imagination and connection—all in honor of St. Louis literary history.

May 15–24, 2026, 7:00 PM, \$26

COCA – Center of Creative Arts 6880 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63130

Alpha Players: Matilda

A brilliant girl with a sharp mind and secret powers takes on cruel parents and a terrifying headmistress in this high-energy musical adventure. Packed with humor, heart, and a little bit of magic, Matilda is a bold celebration of courage, cleverness, and standing up for what's right.

May 17, 2026, 7:00 PM, Free

House of Miles 1701 Kansas Ave, East St. Louis, IL 62205

House of Miles Showcase

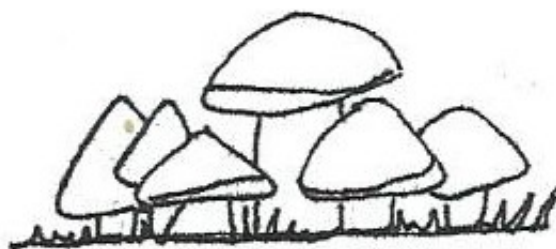
Celebrate 100 years of jazz legend Miles Davis at this powerful community showcase. Centered on collecting and sharing real stories about Miles, his family, and the House of Miles, this event brings history to life through voices, memories, and legacy.

May 23, 2026, 10:00 AM, Free

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

35th Annual St. Louis African Arts Festival

Celebrate culture, rhythm, and community at this vibrant all-day festival in Forest Park. Featuring live music, dance, art, and food, this high-energy event honors the rich traditions and global impact of Africa and the African Diaspora—an unforgettable experience for all ages.



CROSSWORD

Free Bananas

By Robin Shively

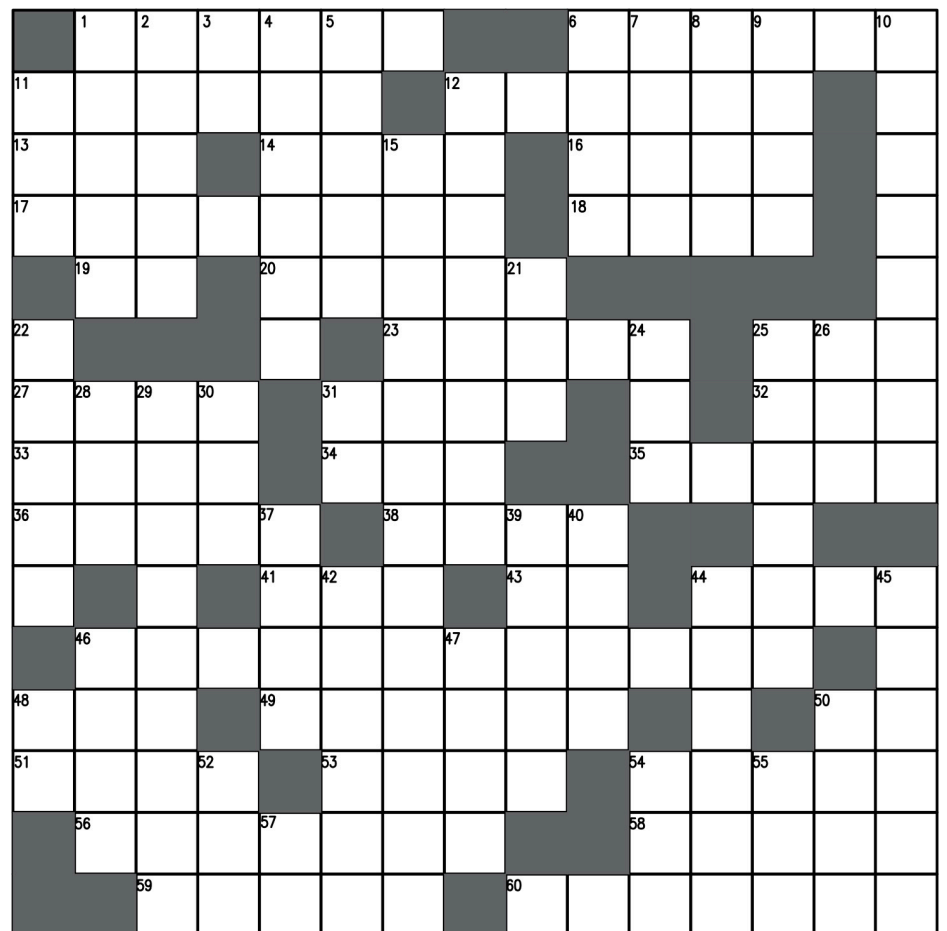
ACROSS

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

DOWN

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

Solution on page 13



TRIVIA

All oysters are born as which gender?

(Answers on page 13)

From the Desk of the Mayor-Elect:

A New Chapter, Together
To the Residents of Ferguson,
First, thank you.

Thank you for your vote, your voices, your time, and your belief that our city’s future is worth showing up for. Whether you supported me, supported the other candidate, or are simply watching to see what comes next—I want you to know this: I am here to serve all of Ferguson.

This moment is not about a campaign anymore. It’s about a community.

Over the past months, I’ve had the privilege of speaking with many of you—at your doors, at community events, and in conversations both planned and unexpected. I’ve heard your concerns about safety, about development, about opportunity, and about being heard. I’ve also seen something just as powerful: a deep pride in Ferguson and a shared hope that we can move forward—together, with purpose. That is exactly what I intend to do. The mayor is one voice among several on the City Council, working alongside our City Manager and fellow council members to guide decisions for our city. Real progress in Ferguson has always come from collaboration, thoughtful discussion, and a willingness to work across differences—not from any one individual acting alone.

And collaboration starts with respect.

- Respect for differing viewpoints.
- Respect for the process.
- Respect for one another as neighbors.

We will not always agree—and that’s okay. In fact, it’s necessary. Healthy communities grow through dialogue, not division. My commitment is to lead with openness, to listen carefully, and to approach every issue with both thoughtfulness and accountability. You may not always agree with every decision—but you will always know that it was approached with care, consideration, and a genuine desire to do what is right for Ferguson. As I prepare to take office, my immediate focus is on listening, learning, and building strong working relationships. That includes meeting with city staff, connecting with community leaders, and gaining a deeper understanding of the issues currently before the council. I want to ensure

that from day one, decisions are informed, balanced, and rooted in what best serves our residents—not just in the present, but for the long-term future of our city.

There are important conversations on the horizon—around economic development, public safety, infrastructure, and how we position Ferguson for responsible growth. These are complex issues. They deserve transparency, patience, and meaningful community input. My goal is not to rush decisions, but to make the right decisions—ones that reflect both opportunity and responsibility.

You deserve to be part of that process. That’s why communication will remain a priority for me. This column is one of the ways I plan to stay connected with you. Each month, I will share updates, perspectives, and reflections on where we are as a city and where we are headed. Just as important, I encourage you to stay engaged—attend meetings when you can, ask questions, share your thoughts, and remain an active part of Ferguson’s future.

Because the strength of our city does not come from City Hall alone—it comes from its people.

Ferguson is a city with a rich history, resilient residents, and incredible potential. We are not defined by any single moment or challenge. We are defined by how we respond, how we grow, and how we choose to move forward together.

I believe in this city. I believe in its people. And I believe that our best days are ahead—not because of one person, but because of what we are capable of achieving together.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve.
 With respect and commitment,
 Adrian Shropshire
 Mayor-Elect, City of Ferguson

Ferguson City News - May 2026



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

MAY 2026

- May 2 Spirit of STL Kickoff
- May 9 Mums at the Market
- May 16 Band Day
- May 23 Salad Fest
- May 30 Summer of Superheroes



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

FERGUSONFARMERSMARKET.COM



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2025

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

JULY 2025

- July 4 Ferguson 4th of July
10 AM-Parade | 6 PM-Festival
- July 18 Summer Concert - Just In Time
7 PM - 9 PM | Plaza at 501
- July 25 Holidays at Hudson Disc Golf
7 PM - 9 PM | Plaza at 501







FERGREG.COM

Growing Native at EarthDance

We strive to create a harmonious and inviting environment for the species who call EarthDance home. Much of this work starts with what we grow. This year, to prepare for our sixth annual Plant Sale, our Garden & Volunteer Coordinator Dani put a larger emphasis than ever on planting native species.



Purple coneflower. This vigorous and hardy plant has become the poster child for native planting in Missouri. But what you might now know: it produces edible roots and petals!

“I am really excited for how successful our germination rates were for my first season of really growing natives. We successfully grew over twenty species including three varieties of both echinacea and milkweed.”

Prairies full of native flowers thrived in pre-colonial America, especially in present-day Missouri. These habitats are vital for critical species of pollinators, birds, and mammals like bison. In recent years, there has been a groundswell of excitement for growing native in the St. Louis region, and Dani was thrilled to spotlight and share these plants at the farm.

Dani shared: “I am especially excited about the Swamp Milkweed. It is a powerhouse native for Monarch butterflies. I also love Wild Quinine. It’s a lesser known native that I have really grown to love. It’s got a long bloom time from May-August and is a great fit for native and cottage style gardens.”

Compared to turfgrass, which grows roots mostly in the first 12 inches of soil, some native flower roots can grow up to 15 feet deep, maintaining and sustaining strong soil composition. This helps the farm become a haven for pollinators to further support our cycle of sustainable farming.

We hope this will help inspire you to grow native this year! For more information about growing native, we recommend checking out the Wild Ones - St. Louis Chapter, and the Missouri Prairie Foundation website. PLUS, for more in the world of natives and pollinators, check out our Pollinator Party on May 30th, details below!

As a reminder, our on-site Pay What You Can Farm Stand (Fridays 3-6pm, Saturdays 11am-3pm until September) and Ferguson Farmers Market at 501 N Florissant (Saturdays 8am-noon until October) are now open.

Events coming up at the farm:

Gardening class, Maximizing Your Garden’s Potential - May 30th, 9am-1pm at 233 S Dade.

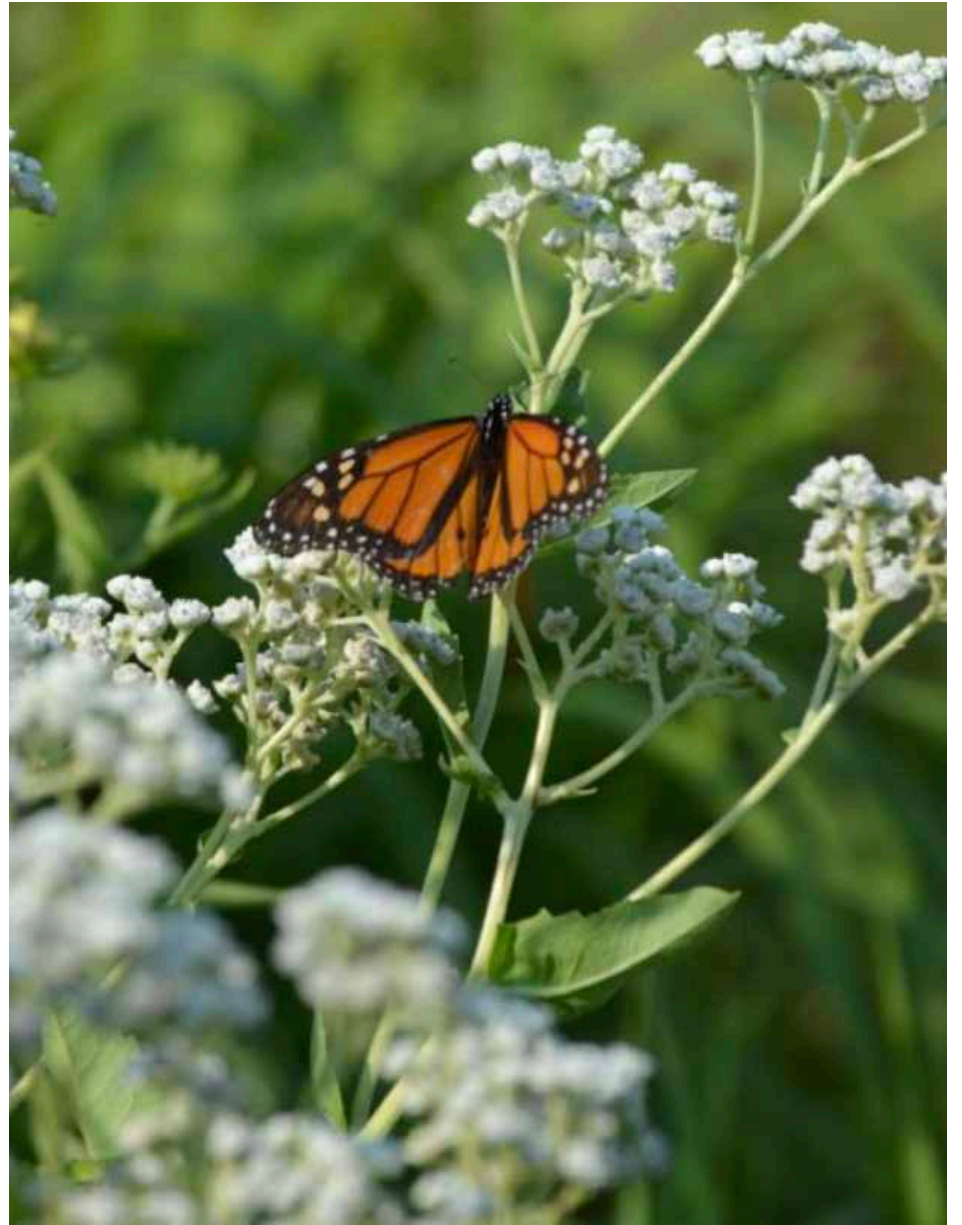
Join EarthDance garden coaches Jena Hood and Dani Fuhrman for an in-person workshop, designed for anyone looking to maximize your space and manage your resources with less guesswork. Learn practical strategies for cultivating abundant gardens using vertical structures, containers, and efficient irrigation methods. Jena and Dani will guide you through water-wise techniques that protect this precious resource while keeping your plants thriving, from drip systems and mulching approaches to thoughtful container selection and plant pairing. Register at earthdancefarms.org/spring-training.

EarthDance Pollinator Party - May 30th, 11am-1pm at 233 S Dade.

Join us for a joyful & educational presentation with Dr. Kyra Krakos & Dr. Nicole Miller-Struttman of their research on ways to support pollinators and the habitats that sustain them. More information and activities provided by: Wild Ones St. Louis, Grow Native!, Seed St. Louis, Forest ReLeaf, Jubilee Farmstead, Barefoot & Bloomin’, and more. Please consider dressing as your favorite pollinator and bring a sack lunch! Registration is free at earthdancefarms.org/programs/workshops-classes/. Donations in support of the event are welcome.

Summer Solstice Fermenting Workshop - June 20th, 11:30am-1:30pm at 233 S Dade.

Make the most of summer’s early bounty by joining Jena & Rachel for this on-farm, hands-on workshop! Learn how to make your own delicious, probiotic veggie snacks, along with some tips, tricks, and health benefits of fermented foods. Snack on prepared samples and make your own farm-fresh kraut or Cortido to take home with you. Produce from the farm will be provided. Register at earthdancefarms.org/programs/workshops-classes/.



Wild Quinine is bringing Dani joy this year. Its flat-topped clusters of white flowers serve as a perfect landing pad for bees, beetles, wasps, and native flies.



Solidago (goldenrod). Large bumblebees love traversing the showers of delicate yellow blooms that show in fall on this native perennial.



Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

I am going to admit something most of you will find impossible and appalling. Please do not cancel me. Please do not judge my character. If you like me now, please do not change.

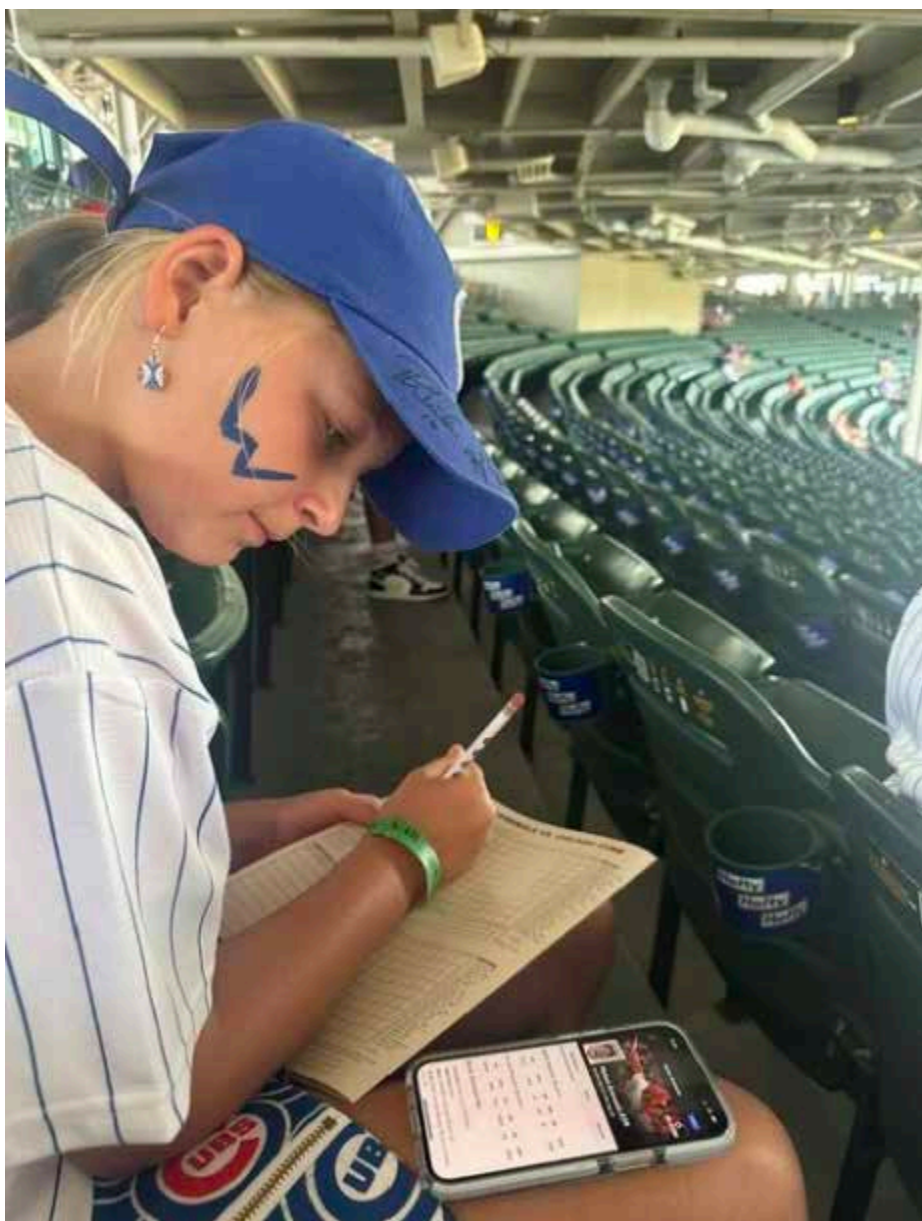
Here goes....My husband and I as well as our oldest son are.... Wait for it....Cub Fans.



You can blame our son, Chris and cable TV and the station WGN out of Chicago. Chris would come home from school and chill for a while before baseball or soccer or basketball practice. He dearly loved the game of baseball as he still does. He would wonder through the cable channels until he found a baseball game. Quite often WGN would be broadcasting a day game. They only played day games at the time as they had not installed lights at Wrigley Field yet.

He watched as many Cub games as possible and claimed first baseman Mark Grace as his all-time favorite baseball player. When Chris had a choice about what number would go on his uniform it was always #17, Mark Grace's number. He even wore Number 17 while playing college ball at Truman State.

Let me back up just a little bit. Our children were involved in sports at Corpus Christi while my husband and I were also involved with the athletic department and running the various concession stands. An associate priest



at the time had access to school buses. He thought it would be an exciting time if we went to Chicago as a group and saw a Cubs-Cardinal game. We happily booked some hotel rooms and boarded the bus.

We took the "L" from our hotel to Wrigley Field. For most of us it was the first time to ride mass transit, especially the iconic the Chicago "L". Stepping off the train on game day was quite nearly a religious experience. The crowd around the stadium, the smell of hot dogs and particularly the smell of natural green grass and dirt hit me hard. I fell in love with Wrigley Field. Becoming a Cub Fan would happen later.

Remember Harry Caray? Most of us were sad when he left as the Cardinal announcer. He was beloved in Chicago as well. We thought it would be fun to take bubbles to the game. Sometime well into the game we pulled out the bottle and began blowing bubbles. One of our friends had the radio broadcast while watching the game. It was a thrill when we heard Harry Caray begin singing "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles". Within minutes security came by and politely asked us to put the bubbles away. We complied but the thrill of having Harry notice us will forever be in our hearts.

That trip to Chicago inspired us to start watching Cubs games with our son. Cub fans never gave up winning the pennant and ultimately the world series. The Cub Fans favorite phrase at the end of the season was always "there is always next year". That dream finally came true in 2016.

We became avid fans and even travelled to Chicago in January to attend Cubs Conventions. We attended events, collected autographs, and met players. We met Harry Caray as well. Harry had his own groupies. Every year at the convention we would spot three elderly ladies who must have had a full wardrobe of Cubs Gear. Every day they would dress exactly alike and follow Harry around all day every day of the convention. One would find the ladies dressed all in white on Sundays. They were having so much fun following Harry and attracting attention.

Back in the days of our convention attendance Southwest Airlines had a program "Friends Fly Free". The fares were affordable and "free" was indeed a bonus. We allowed the boys to bring a friend along a few times. We flew into Midway Airport and took the "L" to the Hilton Tower in downtown Chicago. The convention was in this hotel at the time.

Our son invited his friend Daniel one year. He was a big baseball fan. This young man filled a suitcase with items he hoped to get autographed. We trudged six blocks from the train station to the hotel in six inches of freshly fallen snow. Quite a trek. I was hoping he had also included some clothes for the weekend in that stuffed heavy suitcase.

We are now a divided family. Our younger son has become a Cardinal fan, thanks to his wife's extended family. I do not think they would have so lovingly accepted him had he remained a Cub fan. Our oldest son remains a die-hard Cub fan and while his wife and two older daughters do not share his love for the Cubs he has converted his youngest daughter. He finally talked his wife into naming a child Addison. This young lady truly shares his love of baseball and the Cubs. She loves baseball so much she knows how to keep score at a game.

The name Addison is significant because Wrigley Field sits between the streets Clark, Addison, Sheffield, and Waveland. He would have named his son Clark. Clark is also significant because our son was a huge Superman fan when he was little, but I guess that is another story.

So, I have come clean about the Chicago Cubs!

Thanks for letting me share this month. You can reach me at manhattanmarian@gmail.com.



WE OWE IT TO THEM

Living here in Ferguson has many positives; our little town is rich in diversity and has many wonderful people, has beautiful, glorious old trees and historical homes. However, when it comes to dogs and cats, it is oftentimes not so wonderful. The neglect and disregard for animals is very sad. The mistreatment of dogs that I see here doesn't have to keep happening. Every single one of us can do better for the dogs and cats that rely on us. They have some pretty basic needs.



plus vaccinations for Ferguson residents. Call (314) 649-3737 to schedule an appointment. There really is no good reason not to do the right thing.

So, with all this said, let's all make our community better by keeping our pets safe and healthy, both mentally and physically.

LET'S ALL PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THINGS FOR OUR CANINE & FELINE COMPANIONS WHO RELY ON US.

"Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or an animal is at stake. ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dara Ashby-Ferguson Animal Coalition
 Email: dara@fergusonanimalcoalition.org
 Website: Fergusonanimalcoalition.org



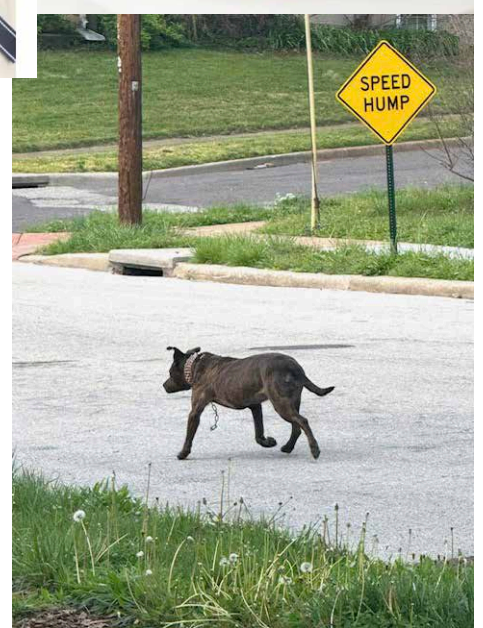
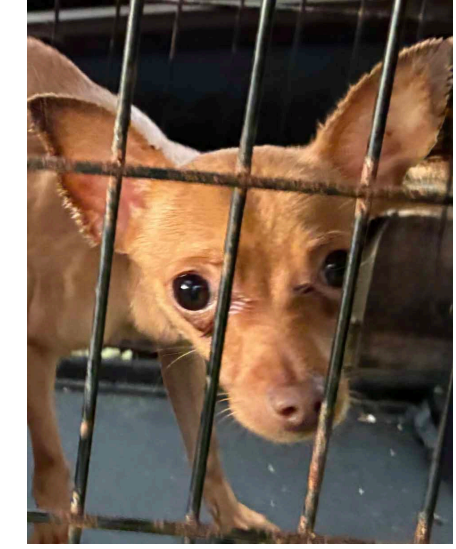
1. **KEEP THEM SAFE AND OFF THE STREETS**~ Accidents do happen. Dogs slip out the door or hop a fence when left unattended. But there are solutions. First and foremost, please keep a watchful eye on them. You cannot just leave a dog outside for hours and hours and expect them not to want to seek attention and go see the world. Dogs are social by nature and need human interaction. And never, ever leave a dog unwatched if you don't have a fenced yard. Too many dogs are disappearing never to be seen again. Fix the fence, put a gate up at your front door if you have kids that keep leaving the door open. Put a sign on the door as a reminder: WATCH THE DOG. And put locks on your gates.



2. **KEEP AN ID TAG ON THEIR COLLAR**~ Ferguson residents are very lucky to have a resource here in Ferguson who will make ID tag sliders for FREE for Ferguson canine residents. Send Soulcraft a message or stop by and they will engrave a tag with your phone number and address on it so in case your dog does run away, they can easily be returned. Soulcraft, 431 S. Florissant Rd, Ferguson, MO (618) 610-7930. There is really no excuse.



3. **PROVIDE FOOD & WATER.** It is the law to provide food and fresh water for your dogs and cats. Especially with the warm weather here, they must have fresh water at all times. Pets suffer from the heat just like we do. And feed them twice a day and be sure they are getting enough food. There are too many super-thin dogs and cats seen running our streets. There are pet food pantries available if you get into a tough situation and are needing assistance. Call any one of our local shelters for information on how you can get pet food assistance: APA (314) 645-4610, St. Louis County Animal Care & Control (314) 615-0650, The Humane Society (314) 951-1588.



4. **DOGS ARE SOCIAL and NEED HUMAN INTERACTION and EXERCISE**~ If you get a dog, please plan to spend time with them. If you don't have a fence, plan to give them daily walks BUT keep in mind hot pavement can easily burn paws. On hot days, walk early morning or evening after the sun goes down. If your dog is dog friendly, register them at our local Wayside Dog Park. Registration is required. Take proof of vaccinations (rabies, DHPP, and Bordetella) to our community center located at 1050 Smith Avenue, plus a \$5 annual registration fee. You can read the important park guidelines on the city webpage, Fergusoncity.com. This is a great way to meet your fellow neighborhood dog lovers and your dog will be very grateful, too. Socialization is critical for your pup's wellbeing.

5. **PLEASE DON'T DUMP YOUR DOGS** ~ If you suddenly find yourself feeling overwhelmed with the many responsibilities that come with having a dog, please reach out for help. You can send me an email for helpful tips. Or reach out to Courtney Musgraves, founder of "Can't Get Right K9 Training". Courtney is a pretty amazing canine behaviorist & master teacher located right here in North County, with a focus on relationship building and positive reinforcement for both you and your dog. His number is (314) 899-6571 and his videos can be viewed on FB, TikTok, NextDoor and Instagram. Just type in: Can't Get Right K9 Training, to watch him in action.

Or call North County Obedience Training, 4401 Lindbergh, Florissant, MO 63033, (314) 741-2445, for group classes. Their website is ncotc.com.

6. **PLEASE SPAY & NEUTER**~ If you are contributing to the pet overpopulation problem by intentional breeding or even have an oopsy litter, this is just like contributing to the need to euthanize (put to sleep forever) healthy dogs and cats, simply because there is no more room. Shelters have more homeless animals than space and every single puppy or kitten born adds to the crisis we are experiencing. A spayed and neutered dog and cat is also way healthier and happier and less likely to want to roam. The APA is offering FREE spays and neuters

A day in the life of a dog tied in the back yard.

6:00 a.m.
 I can see and hear people moving around in the house but no one comes outside to check on me. They are talking and laughing; I wish I could be with them.

6:30 a.m.
 I'm hungry and thirsty. I tipped over my food and water bowls last night when I got tangled in my chain.

6:45 a.m.
 The chain is too tight and it's cutting into my neck.

8:15 a.m.
 The people who live in the house are all leaving. I try to run toward them with my tail wagging, hoping they will notice me, but my chain snaps me backward and I fall to the ground. It's no use.

8:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 I'm not sure what I'm supposed to do with myself. I can't protect the house from my chain. I don't have any toys to play with and there are no other dogs to keep me company. Maybe if I bark, someone will show me what to do or come and play with me - I decide to bark all day.

2:30 p.m.
 The animal bylaw officer arrives and posts a notice on the door of the house. He looks pityingly at me. Do I look bad? I know I'm dirty but it's hard to stay clean when I'm always sitting in dirt. I pace in circles and growl and bark at him because I don't know what else to do. I growl and bark at other people passing my yard too.

3:15 p.m.
 The smallest person from the house has returned. Maybe he will play with me! He does not. I go to the bathroom in the same place I always go, a few feet from my shelter.

5:30 p.m.
 The rest of the people are home. One of them removes the notice left by the animal bylaw officer and yells at me to stop barking. I pace back and forth, confused.

6:00 p.m.
 I smell food in the house. I am still hungry and thirsty.

7:00 p.m.
 One of the people from the house comes out to see me. He fills my food and water bowls and I am so happy for this attention that I jump up in excitement, spilling both bowls and dirtying his clothes. He scolds me and declares that this behaviour of mine is one of the reasons I am not allowed to live in the house with him.

8:00 p.m.
 Another lonely night. I dream about being on a chain because it's all I know.



2026 Ferguson Twilight Run

Saturday, May 16, 2026



FERGUSON TWILIGHT RUN

5K★10K 1-MILE FUN RUN

Neighbors - Get ready for Ferguson Twilight Run, Sat., May 16

Know the details of the race route, street closures, parking and more.

Ferguson, MO – Ferguson Twilight Run is weeks away, and it’s time for our neighborhoods to get ready for hundreds of runners and walkers. We want you to be informed of race day details so you can enjoy the event, too.

Race Day Details

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.

For the safety of participants, volunteers, water and cheer stations, streets along the race route are closed, including streets in residential areas. Please review the race map to see which neighborhoods will have temporary street closures.

- The race starts and finishes at Plaza at 501, at the intersection of Florissant Road and Suburban Avenue.
- Festivities at the Plaza start at 4:30 p.m. and end by 8:30 p.m.
- One-mile starts at 5 p.m., 10K starts at 5:45 p.m., 5K starts at 6 p.m.
- Streets will be closed to traffic from approx. 4:30-7:45 p.m.
- A race map with closure times is online at fergtwilightrun.com.
- Volunteers and local law enforcement will close and monitor streets throughout the race.

Entertainment

Music makes the party! Live deejays will drop high-energy beats – DJ Big Papa G, D2THAC and DJ \$OL – with emcee Toni Roper, on the Plaza from 4:30-8:30 p.m.

Registration through Race Day

Do you still need to register for Ferguson Twilight Run? You can register at fergtwilightrun.com. Sign up as an individual, create a team, join an existing team, or be a virtual participant.

Race day registration will be available May 16 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Soulcraft, 431 S. Florissant Road, Ferguson, Mo. 63135.

Parking, Shuttle

Free parking and shuttle service makes it easy to get to and from the race start and finish. Shuttle service is available 3:15-9:15 p.m.

Park at McCluer South-Berkeley STEAM Academy, 201 Brotherton Lane, Ferguson, Mo., 63135.

Sponsors

Presenting sponsors are Negwer Materials, Big River Running Company, City of Ferguson, and The James Family. Sponsors also include Good News Brewing Co., Sportsprint, Vincenzo’s Properties, Soulcraft, Blue’s Arthouse, First Baptist Ferguson, St. Louis Track Club, Prestige Consultants, LLC. A full list is online 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

The Vine Educational Workshop Series, “Do you know...”

Spring 2026

St. Stephen’s & the Vine Episcopal Church Ferguson
 33 Clay Ave. Ferguson, MO 63135 314-521-0138
www.ststephensandthevine.org

Come join us as we gather speakers and information to share with our friends and neighbors! As we continue our inaugural Workshop Series, “DO YOU KNOW...”, we offer an informal and relaxed setting, in the heart of Ferguson, for our neighbors to drop in and learn about valuable community resources that can improve the quality of life through expert speakers addressing topics relevant to our community. Through the expertise of these community partners, we can bring resources to improve and strengthen our community.

Our First series is focused on Education, Housing and Personal Finance. Depending on the success, interests and feedback expressed in surveys and conversations we receive from the spring series, we hope to continue offering relevant workshops in the future.

Last month we hosted three workshop. This month we offer our final workshop.

May 20, 2026, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The fifth workshop will be **“Do you know how to create a personal budget, the significance of your credit score and how to communicate and discuss financial matters with loved ones?”**

Talking about money can be difficult — and avoiding the conversation often makes financial stress even worse. Join experts from the University of Missouri – St. Louis and Community America Credit Union for a practical, supportive workshop on budgeting, credit, debt, and communicating about money with the people closest to you. Small-group discussions with trained financial coaches will help you put principles into practice.

Laura DeVore Watt, M.Ed.
 University of Missouri-St. Louis
wattl@umsl.edu
 St. Stephen’s and the Vine
 Neighborhood Leadership Academy Final Project Fall 2025
laurawatt1206@gmail.com

What is Raghib Drinking?

By Raghib

I'm going to let you in on a secret among oneophiles. That secret my friends, are second wine labels. Historically, without getting too technical, second wine labels were popularized in France. They allowed wine that was not "suitable" for their first label to be sold at a fraction of the cost. In many instances, the grapes from second wine labels come from the same vineyards as first label wines.



In other instances, the grapes from the second wine label may come from a lesser known vineyard that the first label owns. . If it sounds confusing, let me explain in another way. Let's say you were at an art auction where the featured artist is Picasso. There are several paintings from his Cubism period that are very expensive and there are other paintings from his Blue Period that are not as expensive. You bid and you come away with a painting from the Blue Period. Although paintings from his Blue Period may not be as popular, you still own a Picasso! Such are second wine labels.



First up, Duckhorn wines! If you haven't had Duckhorn you are missing out. A Merlot from Duckhorn can cost over \$100! The second wine label for Duckhorn is Decoy. Decoy is less expensive. A Decoy Merlot costs between \$15-\$20. Decoy is marketed as the entry point to Duckhorn wines.



("Rehearsal dinner" wine line up)

Next up is Goldeneye wines. Located in the Anderson Valley in Mendocino County, California. My best friend had his wedding in Mendocino County at a gorgeous winery! While there, I had the opportunity to spend some time at the Goldeneye winery. It was an experience that I will never forget. Anywho, Migration is the

second wine label to Goldeneye. A Goldeneye Pinot Noir will cost you upwards of \$50 and a Migration Pinot Noir will cost around \$25. The picture below shows the wines served at my best friend's "rehearsal dinner" before his wedding in Mendocino County.

Next up, Opus one! I have had the pleasure of visiting the Opus Wine Winery several times and each time is an incredible experience. If you read my March column, you are aware that I mentioned that Opus One 2006 was one of the best wines that I have ever tasted! Well, Overture is the second wine label of Opus One and Overture the grapes used come from the same estate, "the fruit is harvested and vinified with the same care, precision, and attention to detail as Opus One." In terms of price, an Overture Red Blend will cost you just under \$200.



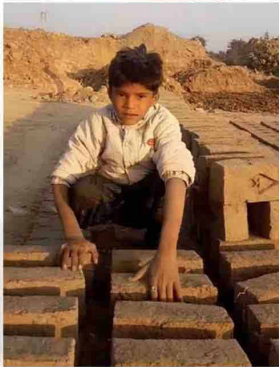
In a past column, I mentioned that Guillaume Gonnet is the winemaker that you should get familiar with. His Le Reveur, Côtes du Rhône, which translates to The Dreamer, is one of my favorite bottles of wine! On a recent visit to my local wine merchant, I found out that Guillaume has a second wine label called The Bird! I purchased the Syrah and it did not disappoint and at a price point \$10, I will be going back for more!



Happy Tastings!

FRIENDS OF THE PAPER PAGE

Phil Berwick



I was to speak from the Islamabad press club to the conscience of Pakistan in April. It's government finally acknowledged Iqbal Masif, a boy who had won freedom for over 3,000 kids in bonded labor. He was assassinated at age 12. My Pakistani Freedom Cry (Life) team warned that it was a dangerous time to come to Islamabad. During the USA and Iran talks, the city was under lock down, so our Freedom School System children, under lives of lock down, spoke to the press from their brick yards.



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

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

freedomcryinfo@gmail.com Merferd.com

Financial Focus – Who Likes Income Taxes

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)

Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

Should Missouri join the nine states that currently have no State Income Tax? The idea to eliminate taxes always sounds good and the ways to make up that lost revenue seem so simple. Most everyone recognizes the need for taxes. This is how roads, airports, healthcare, public safety and a variety of other public services are paid for. While the U.S. Constitution gives the Federal Government the right to impose taxes, every state has a state constitution and laws allowing taxes to be collected on a variety of things. We've been told that our state's income tax makes up about two-thirds of Missouri's general revenue. And this year individual income tax revenue is expected to be \$8.7 billion. That's a lot of revenue to make up and even though the resolution has passed in the House, it must go to the Senate and eventually to the voters. So this is something we should pay attention to because other taxes will have to take the place and may cost more than you would think.

As we are being convinced by politicians in favor of the resolution, you may hear about Texas. Back in 1971, I lived in Texas with my parents for about 6 months. Back then I had low paying jobs, so perhaps that's why the lack of state income tax didn't seem like a windfall. I did notice that sales tax was higher than in Kansas City, Missouri, however most food essentials were not subject to sales tax. I recall my mother touting that to the relatives back in KC. Since it became a state in 1845 Texas has never had an income tax. This may be why they limit services provided and look to other taxes to generate revenue. Today Texan's spend more on healthcare and real estate taxes to fund some services. Tennessee is another state with no income tax and they have the highest combined state and local sales tax of any state. This is the concern I hear about most often, low income earners may not pay income tax, but they do pay sales tax. It is considered a regressive tax because everyone pays the same amounts regardless of income. Often the poor actually end up paying more of their income on sales taxes.

If we decide to eliminate the income tax and replace it with regressive taxes like sales tax, "affordability" may become more of a problem in our current environment of rising prices. Our state income tax rate of 4.7% is average compared to other states with income taxes. Some states do vary rates based on earned income. In California, those with earned income under \$21,512 pay 2% while those earning over one million pay 13.30%. Some believe that such a progressive income tax discourages hard work. Yet California has some of the most highly paid people, many millionaires and not much trouble attracting innovation. Our income tax of 4.7% does cost those in higher income brackets more, but this is certainly not the kind of progressive tax California has. Hearing the no income tax crowd blaming our measly 4.7% income tax rate for holding us back seems crazy. We are still waiting to see how the real estate tax freeze for seniors is going to play out and affect spending on schools and public services. Earlier this

month, St. Charles voters turned down extending the Real Estate Property Tax relief to others regardless of age. Even though only 21% of voters turned out, they were wise enough to recognize that 97% of the R.E. taxes go to schools, libraries, fire and ambulance districts and cities. And this was on the ballot while the state is promoting the no income tax resolution. It is popular to cut any taxes.

Back in 2012, Kansas decided it was time to eliminate income tax and bet on the economic boom that would result. When they figured out it wasn't happening they had to switch gears quickly and by 2017 income taxes were back. Sometimes the projections and assumptions that are made in planning do not come to fruition. As we know other factors can affect what is happening right here. Look at the gas prices, we are constantly reminded that we are living in a global economy and what happens halfway around the world can cause problems for us. We've heard business owners complain that some tariffs are driving them out of business and uncertainty about the future is making it hard to commit to investing and growth. That is another reason, we should be cautious. There are many reasons companies choose to invest or not invest and often attracting them to re-locate in our state may have little to do with the tax rate. As a matter of fact many have suggested that Missouri is already considered a very affordable part of the country to live in. Perhaps that is what we need to spend our time and energy on promoting.

Associated Industries of Missouri recently sent a legislative alert to the House with their opposition to the tax reform resolution in its current form. They detailed some input and also compared the change in the number of businesses in Missouri to the nine states with no income tax. Seeing that Missouri ranked #2 in attracting or creating businesses in 2024 – 2025 was impressive. And, noticing that only Washington gained more businesses and Florida lost nearly twice the amount we gained makes me believe our income tax isn't the problem. Sometimes politicians look for a problem to solve that may make them popular yet not really be much of a problem at all. So stay tuned if the Senate passes the resolutions to phase out the income tax, we'll be asked to vote on it.


The debates about this change should start explaining how we will fund state government. Using both progressive and some regressive taxes helps share the burden of funding government. Watching for changes at the federal level that may shift the cost of some public services back to the states or affect inflation may also be of concern. And it's been suggested that the state could move responsibility for public services to a local level. A local government may need to add another small % onto the existing sales tax to help fund services. This could cause "affordability" in our state may become an issue. In the meantime, be prepared to make the best choice for Missourians. If you have any questions or comments you may send them to cleav73@gmail.com.



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Donations in support of the event are welcome!







Happy Retirement Bob



Under The Hood With Robinwood
By Clinton Nesselbush

How the Ford Assembly Line Changed the Way We Drive

Under the Hood: Opening Message

After 25 years of writing these monthly articles, I am passing the torch to Clinton Nesselbush. He became the new owner of Robinwood Automotive and Tire in February, after being part of the Robinwood Team for over 17 years. The transition has gone well and now he is taking over the task of continuing the Under the Hood with Robinwood articles. Rest assured, Clinton and his staff will be there to continue the same quality customer care our customers have come to expect from Robinwood. Take Care Everyone, Safe Motoring, and God Bless!
Sincerely, Bob McGartland

How the Ford Assembly Line Changed the Way We Drive

There was a time when owning a car was a luxury reserved for the wealthy. Automobiles were built slowly and came at a cost most families could only dream about. Then came one of the most revolutionary ideas in industrial history - the assembly line. When Henry Ford introduced it in 1913, it didn't just change how cars were built, it changed who could own one.

Building Cars Faster Than Ever

Before the assembly line, building a car could take 12 hours or more. Skilled workers would move from station to station, assembling each vehicle piece by piece. It was detailed work, but it was slow and expensive.

Ford flipped that process on its head. Instead of workers moving to the car, the car moved to the workers. Each person had a specific task, repeated with precision as the vehicle progressed down the line. This innovation reduced production time for the Ford Model T to about 90 minutes. What once took half a day could now be done in under two hours.

The result was simple, cars could be produced faster, more efficiently, and at a much lower cost.

Making Car Ownership Possible for Everyone

The biggest impact of the assembly line wasn't just speed, it was accessibility. As production costs dropped, so did the price of vehicles. The Ford Model T became famously affordable, opening the door for middle class families to own a car for the first time. This wasn't just about transportation; it was about freedom. People could travel farther, commute to work, visit family, and explore new places without relying on trains or horse drawn carriages. The automobile shifted from a luxury item to an everyday necessity, forever changing how people lived and worked.

A New Standard for Industry

Ford's assembly line didn't just revolutionize the automotive world; it set a new standard for manufacturing across industries. From appliances to electronics, the concept of mass production spread rapidly. The idea of efficiency, consistency, and specialization became the backbone of modern manufacturing. While today's vehicles are far more advanced than the early Model T, the core principle of streamlined production still plays a major role in how cars are built.

From Then to Now, Built Better, Driving Farther

Today's vehicles are safer, more efficient, and more technologically advanced than anything Henry Ford could have imagined. Yet the goal remains the same, to provide reliable transportation that fits the needs of everyday drivers.

What's changed is how long we expect our vehicles to last. With proper maintenance, today's cars can stay on the road for many years and many miles. That's where modern automotive care comes in, helping drivers protect their investment and keep their vehicles running smoothly long after they leave the lot.

A Message from Robinwood Automotive

At Robinwood Automotive, we want to personally thank you for trusting us with your vehicle care. Our team is proud to continue serving this community with honest, reliable automotive service you can count on. Whether your vehicle is brand new or has been on the road for years, we're here to help keep you moving forward safely and confidently.

Clinton Nesselbush - On Site Owner

God Speaks!

by Doug Neely

MAY, 2026

Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

In this world today, many of us think that the world will soon come to an end, as exemplified by the never-ending amount of evil in the world. It seems literally un-ending and leaves us drained of body and spirit. Every day!

DO NOT FEAR!

The Almighty God of all will save us! Pray to HIM for deliverance, and you will be saved!

doug the scribe.

If you would like to ask the scribe any questions, contact him at this email address:

fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com

Be CERTAIN to include your local phone number, and the best time to call. Put the phrase “I need some God stuff” into the subject line.

May God bless you and yours!

Crossword Solution from page 4

	1	R	U	F	F	L	E			6	S	P	R	I	N	T							
11	B	E	S	T	I	E				12	F	U	N	R	U	N	W						
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TRIVIA ANSWER

Oysters are born male—but then things get really weird. As they mature, oysters can change sex and may switch multiple times during their lives. This remarkable flexibility helps make oysters one of the most reproductively prolific species in the ocean. Their ability to shift from male to female likely evolved as a survival strategy, allowing populations to maximize reproduction. Scientists believe environmental factors, including water temperature, may influence when oysters change sex, though much of the process remains a mystery.

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.



Your Ferguson Historical Society has had a very busy first quarter of 2026. Last month we covered the Pat Washington talk on Ferguson's role as a Sundown Town. For the month of March, we sponsored the second of two Candidate Forums presenting candidates for Ferguson Mayor. March 31st saw a good number of people gathering at the Ferguson Community Center to hear the two candidates, (in alphabetical order) Nicholas Kasoff and Adrian Shropshire. "The Ferguson Historical Society is honored to host this forum as part of its commitment to preserving and sharing the story of Ferguson. This event is intended to provide residents and the broader public

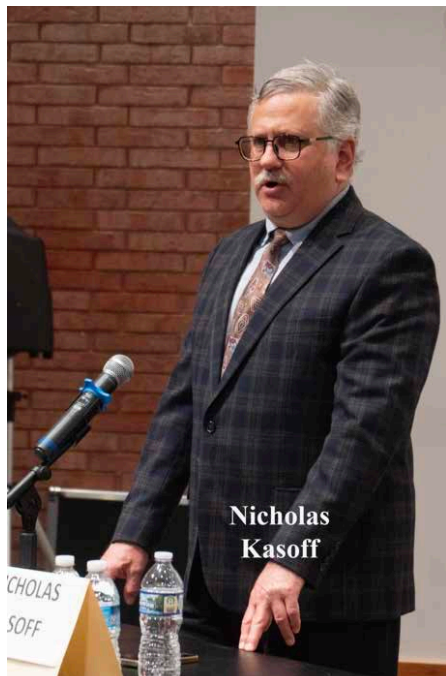


Maggie Sullivan

with the opportunity to hear directly from the candidates about their vision, priorities and leadership". History is more than "long-ago and far-way" and FHS, a non-political organization, wants to be part of history as well as a depository of history. Maggie Sullivan and Dr. Masa Massenburg-Johnson were moderators. Neither Maggie (a member of the FHS Board of Directors) or Dr. Massenburg-Johnson are a resident of Ferguson. Each candidate was given the opportunity to present their case, the audience was able to submit questions in writing, and each candidate was given time for their summary. It was a pleasant evening full of information. Results of the Ferguson Mayor race, on April 7, 2026: Adrian Shropshire won.



Adrian Shropshire



Nicholas Kasoff

But this article is also about history, not recent but well in the past. In the March 2022 edition of the Ferguson Neighborhood News, we ran an article about Ferguson being a railroad town. In this part of a two-part article, we will cover some of that railroad history. In the second of we will reveal the social impact the railroad had and has on the Ferguson social world.



Steam power in the form of railroad engines begin in the 1840's and by the 1850's it was beginning development in eastern Missouri. By 1855 three railroads were developing in the St. Louis area. One, the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad ran from St. Louis to Iron Mountain, operating mainly for the shipment of metal to the Mississippi. A second, the Pacific Railroad ran from St. Louis to Franklin Missouri (in Franklin County) and west. Franklin was renamed, Pacific, in honor of the railroad. (So, while

the Pacific Railroad never made it to the Pacific Ocean, it did make it to Pacific). Both of these railroads later became part of the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

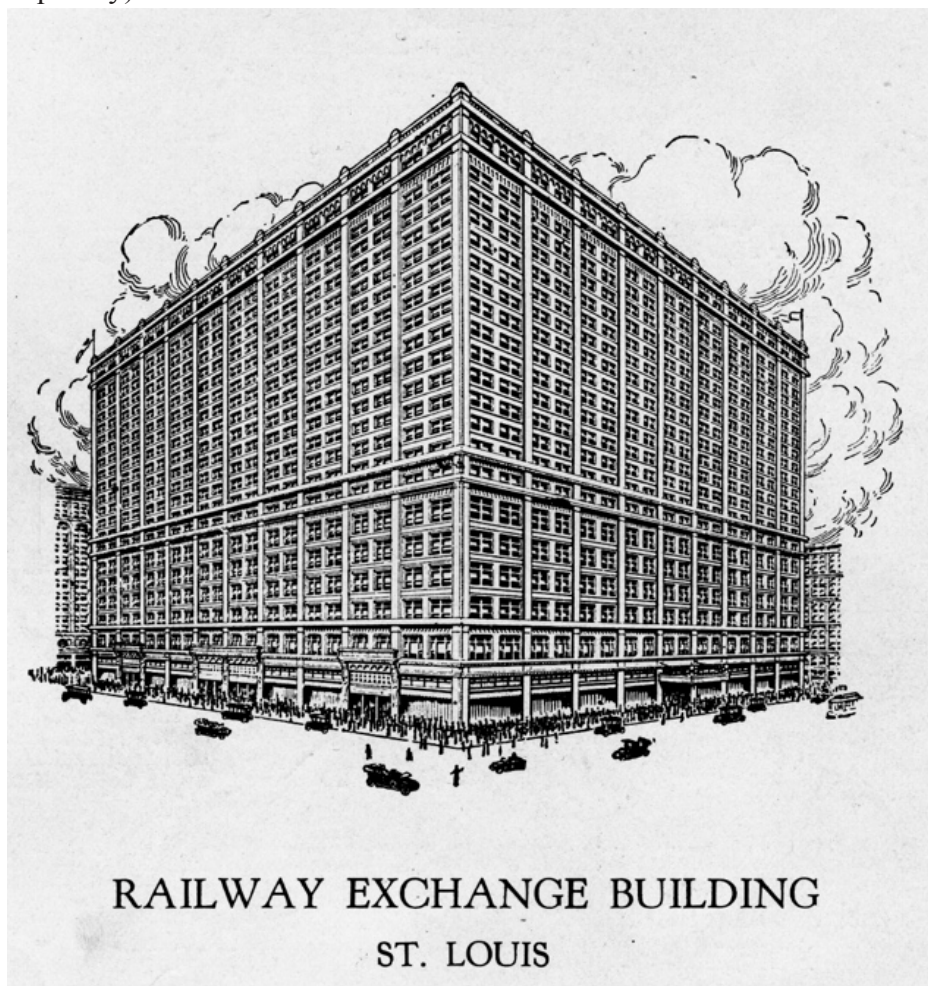
The third railroad was the North Missouri Railway – this is the one which mixes its history with Ferguson's. William B. Ferguson arrived in the area in 1845. At that time, it was a half days ride from St. Louis City.



In 1855 he donated about 10 acres (in what is now downtown Ferguson) to the North Missouri Railway – as payment the depot was to be named "Ferguson Station" – Then Ferguson left and headed west to California. Enter Thomas T. January into the railroad picture. While January arrived here in the 1840's with his enslaved people and wealth and built a mansion on the hill over the spring-fed pond, January's Pond, he becomes important in our railroad history.

Steam engines need either coal or wood to fire the engine. They also need water – heated water becomes steam – steam is what drives the pistons which drive the engine – they are steam engines. Steam engines needed sources of water near the tracks. January had the spring-fed pond right here in Ferguson. A pipeline was run from the pond to the depot and the North Missouri Railway had the water stop west of St. Louis.

Enter the Wabash Railway. Railroads during the 19th century went through numerous bankruptcies and mergers. The North Missouri Railway became the St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern Railway in 1879. In 1915, it became the Wabash Railroad Company – the company we most associate with Ferguson. (Watch the words Railway and Railroad as they change frequently).



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Ferguson's current depot was constructed in 1885. During the years between 1900 and 1950 there were as many as 8 tracks for switching along with 6 passenger trains daily – and passenger trains were not as important as freight trains. Trains also served as a community communication center using the engine bells and whistles to issue warnings and community gatherings.

The Wabash became a Class 1 national railroad serving 5 states (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri) and one province in Canada, Ontario. Its national headquarters were in the Railway Exchange Building in St. Louis. If you are old enough, you might recognize the first eight floors of the Railway Exchange Building as the Famous Barr Department Store. While vacant today, the building is part of plans to revive some of St. Louis fine old buildings.

The Wabash underwent periods of change over the years. In 1889, it was the Wabash Railroad Company. In 1931 it was reorganized as the Wabash Railway Company only to go back the the Wabash Railroad Company in 1941. During World War II all railroads were critical – Ferguson included era - with Emerson Electric, the Match Company, and the aircraft industries in the area. By 1964, during an era of big railroad mergers, the Wabash became part of the Norfolk and Western Railroad. In 1982 the N&W became the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Many trains still run past the old Ferguson depot however none stop here anymore. BUT – there is still part of the Wabash Railroad existing in Ferguson – that is the subject of next month’s article. On a hot summer day, you may take part in it – perhaps you have spent a 4th of July watching fireworks there – or maybe you have just enjoyed dropping a fishing line or taking a walk around the pond. We are talking about January-Wabash Park! But, in 1911 it was called “The Wabash Club”

More of this next month. *Thanks to Wabash Railroad Historical Society for notes.*

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. We have capabilities to do oral histories and would love to add to our collection on any Ferguson or North County subject.

“The Ferguson Historical Society preserves Ferguson’s historical record and engages the public through programs, research and exhibitions that deepen understanding, strengthen civic pride and connect past, present and future generations.”

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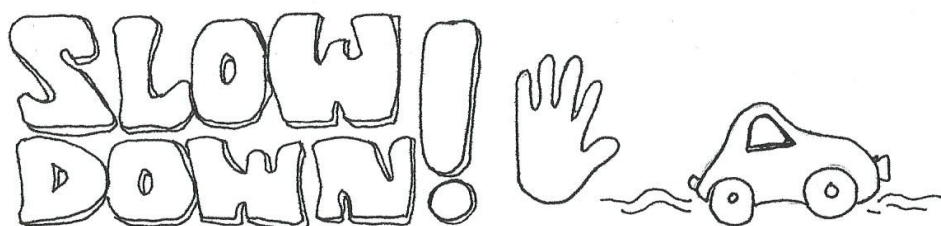


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Walking into ‘Original Gents’, across the street from the Ferguson fountain and depot, is like a step back into time. It’s a grooming experience from the head to the heart. Barber Stylist Quentin Felton has given me the best hair and facial cuts in my 70 years of growing hair. And I have walked out with refurbished high style shoes acquired for a bargain. Founder Eugene Potts’ philosophy is this; “You have to look at your faith, you have to look at your character, you have to look at your content.” Do something ORIGINAL, gents, and visit them.
Wendell Phillips (Phil) Berwick



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