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SPOTLIGHT ON FERGUSON

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FERGUSON City Hall

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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Independent Monitor for City of Ferguson Consent Decree Selected by Judge

U.S. District Judge Catherine D. Perry has approved the team that will serve as Independent Monitor of the Consent Decree for the City of Ferguson.

Squire Patton Boggs (SPB) led by Clark Ervin was chosen out of a pool of four finalists by the City of Ferguson and the Department of Justice. The cost shall not exceed $1.25 million over the first five years or $350,000 for any single year. Mr. Clark Ervin is a partner in the Government Investigations & White Collar Practice Group at Squire Patton Boggs.

Before joining the firm, he served as the Inspector General of the United States Department of State and the United States Department of Homeland Security. At these agencies, Mr. Ervin conducted scores of inspections and audits and made hundreds of recommendations to make those agencies more effective, efficient, and economical.

The Independent Monitor will assess and report on whether the requirements of the Agreement have been implemented. The Independent Monitor will also determine whether the implementation is resulting in constitutional and otherwise lawful policing and administration of justice and increased community trust between the public and the Ferguson Police Department and Court.

"I'm excited that both the City of Ferguson and the Department Justice have worked together to complete the process of choosing an Independent Monitor," said Ferguson City Manager De'Carlon Seewood. "This is a true testament that the collaboration between both parties had a mission and that is to do what's best for the Ferguson community and its police department," added Seewood.

The City of Ferguson and the Department of Justice worked collectively in selecting SPB that will serve as Independent Monitor.

Judge Catherine D. Perry has scheduled an update hearing on the status of implementation of the Consent Decree for Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at 1 p.m.

Letter to the Community by Ferguson Police Chief Delrish Moss

Earlier this year the City of Ferguson entered into a consent decree with the U.S. Department of Justice after an investigation sparked by the shooting death of Mr. Michael Brown by former Ferguson Police Officer Darrin Wilson.

Civil unrests, protests, and a number of federal and state level investigations ensued after the tragic incident. The findings of federal investigations, along with the glaring spotlight on Ferguson, tarnished the Police Department's reputation. The Mayor, city council, and newly appointed City Manager De'Carlon Seewood, are now dedicated to restoring the city and police department's reputation. As a result, city leaders set that mission for me when I was appointed Chief of Police.

In a very real sense, the Ferguson Police Department is working tirelessly to become a model of police professionalism and restraint. The majority of officers are embracing the need for new policies and training that emphasize the principles that all people are treated with respect and courtesy. Community engagement is critical to our success, the idea that all people regardless of race, economic status, gender, or creed should be viewed as equal under the law. It is also being made very clear, that deadly force should only be used only when it is absolutely essential to save a life.

Although we are working with laser focus on the future, the responsibilities of the FPD to keep the public safe have greatly expanded. The heavy workload comes amid budgetary constraints and high levels of attrition leaving fewer police officers on our streets. The police department is aggressively seeking grants and other funding opportunities to ease the budget shortages. We are also working hard to recruit a diverse group of police officers as part of our program for preventing criminal activity in our city.

Ferguson police officers have a right to be proud after going through more than their fair share of hard times. We cannot afford to become complacent, however, as more needs to be done and further improvements made.

With the support of Mayor Knowles, the City Council, and the encouragement of the Administration, the Ferguson Police Department will strive to improve and commit to making Ferguson one of the safest, cleanest, and most livable cities in America

Ferguson Welcomes Officer Drew Canaday

Ferguson native, Drew Canaday, was recently sworn- in as Ferguson police departments newest hire. Officer Canaday becomes the seventh African- American police officer in the department. He is the first recipient of a scholarship adopted by Ferguson City Council members in 2014, to attend the St. Louis County Police Academy.

FULL STORY HERE

City of Ferguson Mayor and Police Chief Support Partnership with Cigna

THANK YOU!
Cigna

Interns from across the country helped organize an event where local leaders can play a role in their professional development. Mayor James Knowles and Police Chief Delrish Moss were some of the invited guests at a Cross Industry Leadership Summit sponsored by Cigna Healthcare.

FULL STORY HERE

Show Your Support for New Businesses in Town

Say hello to the owners and staff of Banana Yummies at 497 Airport Road.The business held a grand opening in late June, although they are no strangers to visitors of the Ferguson Farmers Market. At Banana Yummies you will find a delicious and unique selection of bakery items and burgers, along with frozenbananas with all the fixings you can imagine. The business is open from 119pm Tuesday through Saturday.
https://www.facebook.com/BananaYummies/
http://www.bananayummies.com/menu/4589617391

Another new business in Ferguson wants to help keep you looking your best. The City of Ferguson and the Greater North County Chamber of Commerce welcome Candy Couture Boutique to 9104 West Florissant Avenue. A ribbon cutting ceremony will officially open the business on Friday July 8th at 10:30am.

New Program Helps North County Residents Become Home or Business Owners

Representatives from the St. Louis chapter of The United Way recently introduced a unique program to guests at the Ferguson Community CenterThe United Way sponsored the informational meeting about a new program available to North County residents starting in the fall.

The Individual Development Account program is a financial education and matched savings program to help people save for a first time home purchase, small business start-up or post-secondary education. The program's goal is to develop the long-term financial stability of income qualified households through savings incentives, financial and asset-specific education, budget and credit counseling, and credit building.

The education and savings program was made possible through a partnership between The United Way of Greater St. Louis and Emerson.

If you would like moreinformation, contact 314-421-0700 or visitwww.HelpingPeople.org

Community Leader Profile

Career in TV Leads to Job as Ferguson Spokesperson

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Being "discovered" is not a luxury everyone receives in their professional lives. Former KSDK reporter and anchor Jeff Small is certainly an exception to the rule. Small, born and raised in Alton, did not set out to have a career in the news business. It later became a reality following volunteer work at Jackson State University where he majored in Criminal Justice.

Small was a TV newsman for stations in Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana before landing at KSDK in St. Louis where he earned two prestigious Emmy Awards. In 2012 Small made began working as a model, actor, and corporate brand ambassador before starting a new career in public relations.

"I met ELittle Communications Group founder Johnny Little while I was working at KSDK," Small said. "He was handling public relations for St. Louis Public Schools, and we kept in contact after I left Channel 5."

ELittle eventually came to represent the City of Ferguson following the 2014 death of Michael Brown. Small had already begun working with the PR agency prior to the events in Ferguson. He remembers getting a call about the possibility of providing strategic media counsel and assisting the city now known around the world.

"I was honestly floored when Johnny told me he'd signed to represent Ferguson," Small said. "I knew it would be a lot to undertake, but I thought I could bring something to the table."

"At the end of the day, I wanted to come on board and not necessarily represent officials, but the leaders as well as the 20,000 residents of Ferguson," Small added. "Let me get in there and see what I could bring to the table because while city officials come and go, the residents and families of Ferguson will always be there."

Small says his new role has been the most challenging in his career, but also the most important. He says faith and support from friends and family continue to be the motivation to go the extra mile to help make Ferguson a better, and changed community.

"Big Fun" Helps Support North County Kids

The Young Professionals Board of The Little Bit Foundation will hold its ninth annual Big Fun event at 7pm on Friday, July 29th at the Thaxton Speakeasy in downtown St. Louis.

"Big Fun," is an opportunity for civic minded professionals under 40 to enjoy food and drinks as they network and learn more about the Foundation's mission. The Little Bit Foundation (www.thelittlebitfoundation.org) partners with 4 schools in North County including Koch Elementary and Highland Elementary. Starting this fall the list of partners will also include Lewis and Clark Elementary in North County.

The Little Bit Foundation works to eliminate barriers to learning by providing for the basic needs of disadvantaged children in the St. Louis area. The organization currently serves 6,500 students in 22 partner schools in St. Louis city and North County, representing 4% of the total child population living in poverty in the region today.

Longtime Leader in Ferguson Fire Department Retires after 40 Years

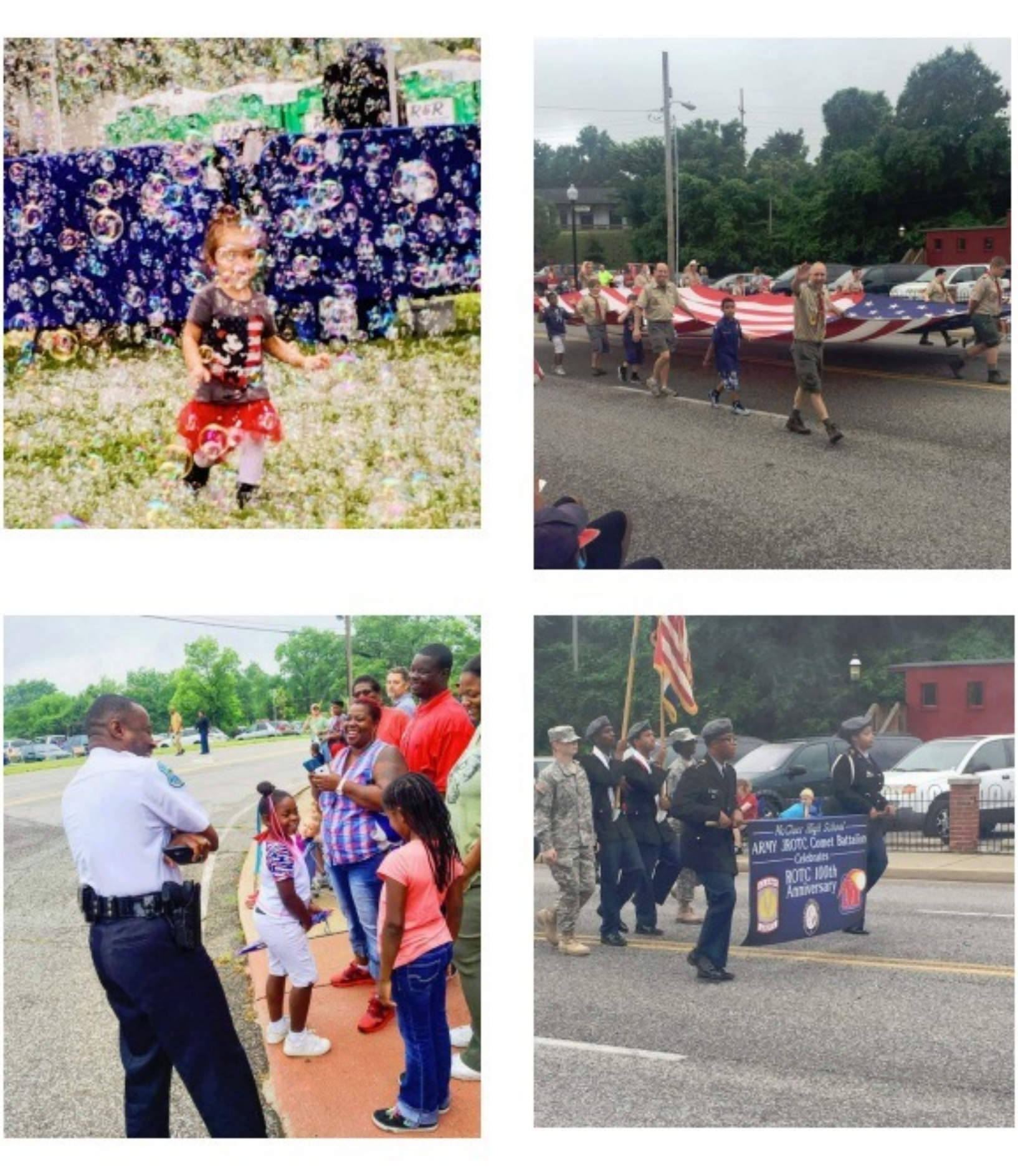
In exchange for a life as a retiree, a widely recognized firefighting career is ending for Steve Fair. On June 30, 2016, Assistant Ferguson Fire Chief Steve Fair retired on the same day he began his career decades ago.

Over the years, Fair received many hugs, words of appreciation, and some very important acknowledgment of his role in saving lives.

Two prestigious awards were presented to Fair after he rescued a young boy from a burning home, and a man trapped in a burning car. "I received a medal of honor from the St. Louis County Fire Chief's Association and a Medal of Honor from the Ferguson VFW in 1981 for rescuing a 7-year-old boy from a burning house on Courtney in Kinloch in November of 1980," said Fair.

Upon his retirement Fair was presented with a proclamation by the City of Ferguson along with a standing ovation. Fair briefly fought back tears as he thanked his family and community, and looked ahead to a new chapter being retired.

A Look Back at Ferguson's Fourth of July Celebration #IndependenceDay



Months of hard work and dedication paid off as huge crowds came to be a part of the annual Independence Day festivities in Ferguson. It included a parade from Suburban and South Florissant Rd. to January-Wabash Park, the site of the day-long festival.

Guests were treated to several family friendly activities including pig races, a petting zoo, and performances by dance groups. This year's Citizen of the Year Ralph Rockamann, former owner of Sportsprint, was honored along with others.

The day of fun went off without a hitch as the focus was on celebrating a special occasion as one community. It all came to an end with a fireworks display that lit the sky above Ferguson as families made their way back home safely.

VIP'S from one of the Largest Privately Held Companies in the Midwest Spend a Day Working at EarthDance Farms

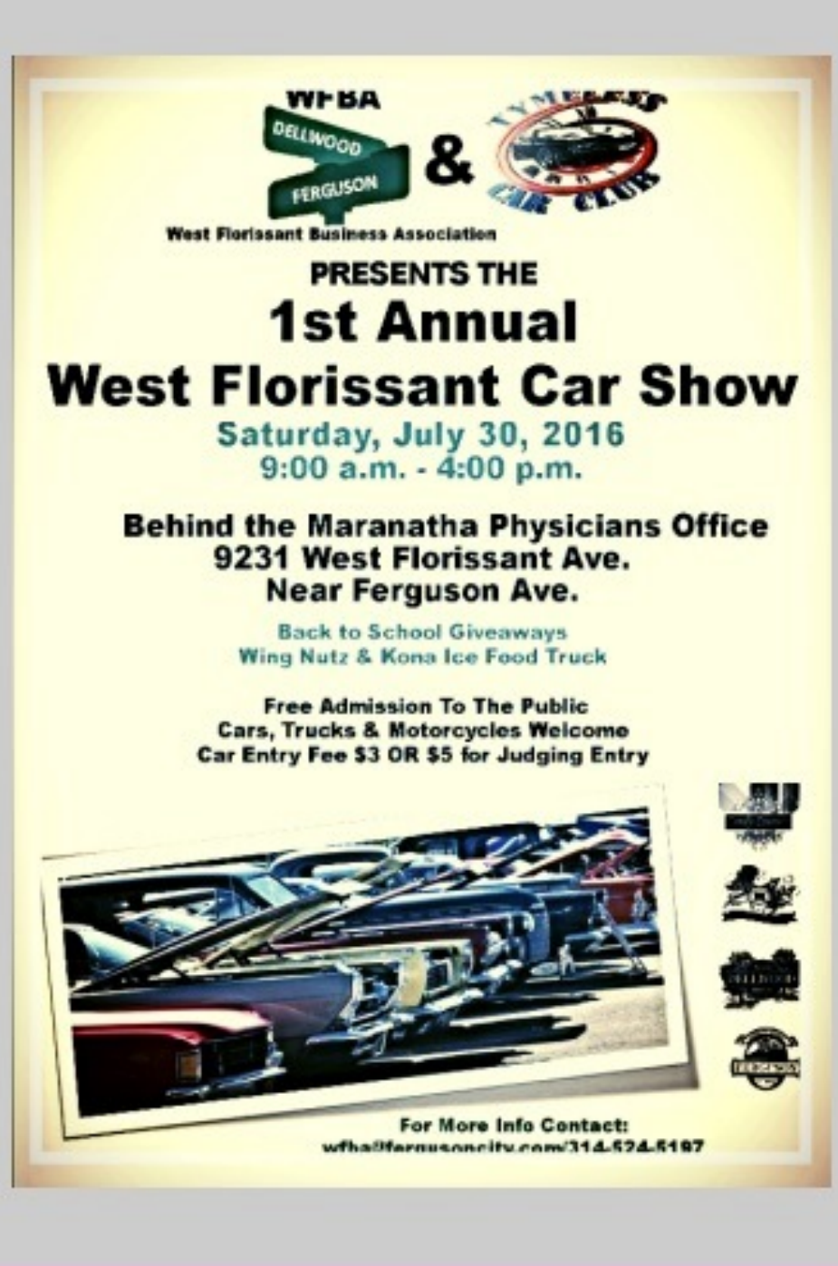
Not even the sweltering summer heat in Ferguson could stop volunteers from helping out with a special project at EarthDance Farms. It's a construction project to build the Harvest House, where staff and many assistants will bring in produce before it's weighed, washed, and cooled.

The building will also sometimes double as classroom and meeting space.
On a recent Saturday in July, 12 volunteers from the Paric Corporation rolled up their sleeves and got to work on the Harvest House project. Keith Wolfoff, the President of Paric brought along some high ranking staff to pour a concrete floor, including a Vice President of Operations, the Director of Corporate Sustainability, and engineers.

EarthDance officials say the poured concrete floor will make it possible to apply for additional food safety certifications in the future, and to serve larger institutional buyers. It also means EarthDance Farms will continue to supply goods for the Ferguson Farmers Market as well.

You can find Harvest House photos online at: https://www.facebook.com/earthdancefarms/

Bring Out Your Nicest Cars and Help West Florissant Business Owners


WFBA
DELLWOOD
FERGUSON
&
CAR CLUB

West Florissant Business Association
PRESENTS THE
1st Annual
West Florissant Car Show
Saturday, July 30, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Behind the Maranatha Physicians Office
9231 West Florissant Ave.
Near Ferguson Ave.
Back to School Giveaways
Wing Nutz & Kona Ice Food Truck
Free Admission To The Public
Cars, Trucks & Motorcycles Welcome
Car Entry Fee $3 OR $5 for Judging Entry
For More Info Contact:
wfba@fergusoncity.com/314-524-5197

This weekend kicks off a Free Car Show sponsored by the West Florissant Business Association.

The group includes more than 2 dozen owners with businesses along the West Florissant corridor. The group was formed just over a year ago with support by the City of Ferguson and the City of Dellwood.

Members of the association meet regularly to discuss topics such as how to obtain grant money, and prosper with a stronger, centralized, collective voice in the corridor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ODD SQUAD: THE MOVIE

The City of Ferguson will host an advance screening of the film on *Thursday, July 28*, 2016 at the *Ferguson Community Center Teen Room*, located at 1050 Smith Ave. The screening will take place from *1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

The first 50 children to arrive will receive an ODD SQUAD badge! There will be ODD SQUAD activity sheets for all attendees.

Citywalk Concert Series

These free concerts take place most 2nd & 4th Fridays each month, April through November, 7pm - 9pm at Plaza at 501.

2016 Line Up

August 12: Odds Lane, Rock
August 26: Bedlam Brothers, Americana
September 9: Taste of North County, 3 Homegrown Favorites

Ferguson Farmers' Market

Come for the farmers. Stay for the fun!

An award-winning market Saturdays 8am-12pm, May through October. The farmers come indoors for the Winter Market the 3rd Saturday of each month, November through April 9am - noon. More information at

http://fergusonfarmersmarket.com/

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If you have great story ideas or pictures, feel free to email them to Media@fergusoncity.com