



NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor

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**‘THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD’ IS THE THEME OF 55TH ANNUAL
VALLEY OF FLOWERS PARADE AND FESTIVAL MAY 5, 6 AND 7**

Dr. Randy Jones of Cross Keys Animal Clinic Is 2017 Parade Marshal

The Valley of Flowers Festival in Florissant, traditionally the first festival of spring in the metropolitan St. Louis area, will feature a theme of The Valley of Flowers Celebrates **“THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD”** for the 55TH annual event. This year’s festival takes place from Friday, May 5 through Sunday, May 7, with the Valley of Flowers Parade held on Sunday, May 7.

This year’s festival once again will feature many free and fun-filled activities for families, including the “Children’s Celebration of Performing Arts” on the James J. Eagan Civic Center grounds at the intersection of Parker Road and Waterford Drive. Internationally renowned Nino the Clown and his Old World-style circus will give five free performances on Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6 in the traveling troupe’s 500-seat big top set up adjacent to the food court.

“Once again the City of Florissant is pulling out all the stops to provide a wonderful weekend of family entertainment with many free productions and events,” said Florissant Mayor Thomas Schneider. “All of these fun activities will culminate with the annual parade and crowning of the Valley of Flowers Queen and Her Court on Sunday, May 7 at the Duchesne Knights of Columbus fairgrounds. We invite all of our residents, neighbors and friends to join us for this annual salute to spring in Florissant.”

Other performers at the Children’s Celebration will include Babaloo Music and Fun, innovative juggler Greg Kennedy, RW Magic’s entertaining magic act, the Kincaid Karacter Puppets, the Bubble Bus, and the “Pirate School.”

Dr. Jones, a native of Florissant and a graduate of McCluer North High School and the University of Missouri’s veterinary medicine school, took over ownership of Cross Keys Animal Clinic from his father after practicing veterinary medicine elsewhere around the country. In 1986 Dr. Jones agreed to provide free veterinary services for the K-9 dog of his friend, Florissant police officer Tom Jost.

Today, Dr. Jones continues to provide voluntary veterinary services for the four dogs serving the Florissant Police Department in its K-9 unit. With his commitment and dedication to pet owners through Florissant and North County, Dr. Jones is an ideal choice as **Grand Marshal** for this year’s Valley of Flowers Parade.

Other events scheduled for the Valley of Flowers Festival include a “People’s Walk” sponsored by the St. Louis Stuttgart Volksmarch Club; a car show courtesy of Florissant Old Town Partners; a Gardeners of Florissant plant sale; “live” music at the Hispanic Festival sideshow tent from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 6; a “Pretty Baby” photo contest for children ages 2 years and younger; a food court with multi-cultural flavors; a craft fair, vendor fair and flea market; sponsors’ informational booths; high school baseball games; a pitch, hit and run competition; and tours of St. Ferdinand Shrine.

The City of Florissant presents its Festival performing arts events with financial support from the Regional Arts Commission and the Missouri Arts Council. For information on the Valley of Flowers Festival at the James J. Eagan Civic Center, the Duchesne Knights of Columbus Fairgrounds, St. Ferdinand Shrine or in historic Old Town Florissant, call 314-837-0033 or visit www.florissantvalleyofflowers.com.