

Valley of Flowers Festival on May 2nd, 3rd & 4th "Valley of Flowers Celebrates St. Louis' 250th Birthday"



The 2013 Valley of Flowers Queen and Court from left to right: Alex Holzum, Ely Freesmeier, Queen Kelly Mahaffy, Brittany Spiva and Kameryn Bellinger. - Photo courtesy of Rick Niblett Photography

For 52 years, since 1963, the Valley of Flowers Festival celebration has been the "first festival of spring." It features a variety of events, including a magnificent parade!

This three-day weekend festival has activities for everyone from a flower and plant sale to culturally diverse musical performances. There are baseball games, craft and flea market sales, children's activities, a classic car show and of course good food. Carnival games and exciting rides are featured at the Duchesne Knights of Columbus Fairgrounds. The official parade is the highlight

of the weekend. The festival culminates on Sunday, May 4, with the crowning of the Valley of Flowers Queen and her Court at the Duchesne Knights of Columbus Pavilion following the parade.

The Festival is organized by the Valley of Flowers Committee: Chairman, Pat Stinnett; Coordinator, Kati Mahoney; Board Members: Jerry Ahlert, Mark Behlmann, Kathy Blasingame, Mary Gettemeier, Bryan Koen, Mike Kubiak, and Pamela Lee. The Committee works in partnership with the City of Florissant.

Valley of Flowers Festival Offers Something for Everyone at the Duchesne Knights of Columbus Fairgrounds

There will be many activities all weekend at the Duchesne Knights of Columbus grounds on Washington Street between St. Ferdinand and Lindbergh Blvd. (N. Hwy 67) next to St. Ferdinand Shrine. During the entire three-day festival, the grounds are reserved for families. Anyone under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult. On Friday night only, all rides are one ticket. Enjoy the rides, games, great food, and famous barbecue. There are many rides available for younger children, as well as the grand Ferris Wheel for everyone. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday visit the beer and wine garden. The Knights will serve their delicious barbecue ribs, pork steaks, brats, hot dogs, and hamburgers Friday through Sunday. Booths, sponsored by local not-for-profit organizations, will offer a variety of festival foods and games. The beer garden will be open Friday through Sunday.

On Sunday, watch the parade. Immediately afterwards, the Valley of Flowers Queen and her court will be crowned at the Knights of Columbus pavilion. Awards will be presented to the winners of the Valley of Flowers parade, and Pretty Baby photo contest. After the crown-

ing of the queen and her court at the large pavilion, the Knights invite everyone to their Charity Raffle with fabulous items. All proceeds from the Raffle go to help those in need in the Florissant area.

The Knights of Columbus grounds are open on Friday from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m., on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please do not park on the local shopping center lots, Dierbergs, and Florissant Meadows. There is ample parking in the field on St. Charles Street or at St. Ferdinand Park and walk over the path to the festival.

To maintain a family friendly and neighborhood atmosphere, the festival committee has implemented changes to better manage the crowds and traffic flow in and around the festival grounds. The plan includes temporary traffic regulations to prevent festival traffic from interfering with local businesses including the no parking policy at Florissant Meadows Shopping Center and Dierbergs, a well-enforced dress code, and increased overall security. Additionally, no one will be allowed to enter the Knights Grounds after 9:00 p.m. on any evening.

A Magnificent 52nd Parade at 1:45pm on Sunday May 4th

The fifty-second Valley of Flowers Parade, featuring more than 120 units will be magnificent! All parade units will depart from their designated line up positions at 1:45 p.m. Since 1963, the parade has been on Sunday afternoon. This year, on May 4, the parade will feature floats, decorated cars and antique cars, Valley of Flowers queen candidates, marching bands, horses, dogs and many other unique units. The parade will travel west on Parker Road to New Florissant Road. Walking units made up of District 9 Girl Scouts and Rhythmettes and marching bands leave from Atonement Lutheran Church at Parker Road and New Florissant Road traveling south to rue St. Francois. The parade will continue west on rue St. Francois, turning



south again on St. Ferdinand Street to Washington Street. The parade will conclude at the Knights of Columbus grounds, where the candidates will be on stage for the crowning of the Valley of Flowers Queen and her

court. The awards for the parade winners will be announced prior to the crowning. Come early to get good seats for one of the largest parades in St. Louis County.



These area businesses and organizations sponsor the Valley of Flowers Festival:

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Valley of Flowers Queen and Court Crowning



Fourteen high school juniors from eight area schools are competing for the honor of Valley of Flowers Queen who will reign over the Festival activities for the coming year. (See their photos and information elsewhere in this paper). In addition to the queen, a first runner-up and three special maids will be selected. Everyone is invited to attend the crowning at the Knights of Columbus Pavilion following the parade at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 4.

Valley Of Flowers Fun, Food and History at the "New" Old St. Ferdinand Shrine!

The "New" Old St. Ferdinand Shrine is proud once again to join with the community in celebrating Florissant's Valley of the Flowers May 2nd through the 4th. For the last fifty plus years, the Shrine has opened its doors during the week-end-long festival welcoming its neighbors to explore the home of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne and the first Christian church west of the Mississippi. This year the Shrine has planned several events for all ages to enjoy.

• **Giant Flea Market** – inside the old schoolhouse on the church grounds. Items for sale include some from our own attic. Food and drink will be available and a table of free items. Come early for the best selection.

• **Book Fair** – 2nd floor of the old schoolhouse. Thousands of books are available for all readers both new and old, in paperback or hardback. Special pricing - \$4 a bag!!!!

• **Pull-tabs** back by popular demand in front of the schoolhouse. Win up to \$100 on pull tab.

• **Tours** – Come in from the heat and tour the rectory, church, and convent buildings. Learn about the first settlers of Florissant and more about the life of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne. There is no cost for a tour (donations welcome), so take 30 minutes and gain knowledge about our early history.

• **Gift Shop** – The gift shop is located in the rectory building. There are several hard to find items including unique 1st Communion and confirmation gifts as well as St. Rose medals.



• **Free storage of purchases** – Want to get a bag of books or a few items at the flea market but don't want to carry your new treasures around all day? Don't worry we have storage available. Make your purchase and let us hold it for you while you enjoy the rest of the fair.

Finding the Shrine is easy, the lot and grounds surround the Knights of Columbus fairgrounds on the north side. Depending on parking, you might be walking through the lot on your way to visit the rides and booths. For more information check us out on face book, the web at www.oldstferdinandshrine.com or by calling 314-837-2110.

Congratulations and thanks to the Valley of Flowers for 50 plus wonderful festivals.

Walk in the "Volksmarch"

The St. Louis Stuttgart Volksmarch Club will sponsor this "People's Walk" (a noncompetitive, recreational walk meant for family participation) through interesting and scenic areas. It is not a contest of speed or endurance but a leisurely stroll. This Volksmarch is free. Volksmarchers may (for a small fee) keep track of their event/distance in official record books that are available.

The Volksmarch will be held on Saturday, May 3, with registration between 8:00 a.m. and noon in the pavilion located behind the Girardier House at 601 St. Charles Street (Old Town Partners/Valley of Flowers Office). The "People's Walk" begins on the path adjacent to the pavilion and continues through the streets of Old Town Florissant. Many of the activities of the Festival will be highlighted. While on the tour, you will see some of the historic homes located throughout Old Town Florissant, will enjoy the Car Show on St. Francois, and will experience the friendliness of Florissant residents.

High School Baseball Games

High school baseball games will be played during the Valley of Flowers Festival week. This year three games will be played at Koch Park field #1. The schedule is as follows:

- **Wed., Apr 30 - 7:00 pm - Hazelwood East vs. Hazelwood Central**
- **Fri., May 2 - 7:00pm - McCluer North vs. McCluer**
- **Sat., May 3 - 2:00pm - Dubourg vs. Trinity**

Pitch, Hit & Run Competition

Thursday, May 1, at 6:00 p.m. at Koch Park Field #2

Children ages seven to fourteen may participate in the Pitch, Hit and Run competition. Entrants compete in three stations: pitching, hitting, and running. Winners have a chance to advance to sectionals, and team championships! This program is FREE but it requires pre-registration by May 1st.

To register, call the JKF Community Center at (314) 921-4250 or the James J. Eagan Center at (314) 921.4466.

Council Members

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Greetings Everyone,

Welcome to the Valley of Flowers special edition of the Focus Newspaper. Spring has finally arrived! Whatever your interests, you're sure to find plenty of spring-time fun and excitement in the City of Florissant. The 52nd Annual Valley of Flowers Festival takes place May 2, 3 and 4. This is the oldest and perhaps largest and most enjoyable community festival in the Metropolitan Area every year with a wide variety of family fun at two main venues. Visit the Eagan Center for indoor and outdoor entertainment or the Knights of Columbus Grounds for a day of family fun on the rides and midway followed by some famous Knights barbecue.

The **Wednesday Night Out** events in Old Town sponsored by Old Town Partners will be held on June 25 in front of Korte's, July 30 at the Old St. Ferdinand Shrine, August 27 at Bunkers and Stems and September 24 at Hendel's with each starting at 6:00 p.m. For more information contact the Old Town Partners' office at 314-837-0033.

This year will also mark the **75th Anniversary of the renaming of Florissant** and we are in the process of planning fun ways to reflect on this historic anniversary. We will celebrate 75th Florissant Anniversary of Ordinance 129 which was passed on June 26, 1939 on the first Wednesday Night Out on June 25th which will be in front of the two previous City Halls and hosted by Kortes Custom Framing from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The **2014 Music Under the Stars Summer Concert Series** schedule listing times and dates will be in the Parks and Recreation section of this newspaper. Be sure to check on the schedule performances coming to our fantastic indoor Civic Center Theatre at JJE this spring and summer by visiting our website at www.florissantmo.com or call 314-921-5678.

The first **Florissant Food Truck Knights** was held on Friday, April 23rd sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the City with future food truck nights scheduled for June 12th, August 22nd and October 10th. There will be barrels to collect non perishable canned and dry food for the nearby TEAM food pantry and proceeds from the event will benefit Knight's sponsored charities including TEAM.

As the days get warmer and longer I would like to remind parents to keep an eye on their children as they play outside and to

be aware of their surroundings. Instruct children to memorize their address and home phone number and to be careful around vehicle traffic. Tell them to avoid strangers especially those who try to talk to them from a car or other vehicle and to run home and alert you to any suspicious activity. Report anything unusual to the Florissant Police Department at 831-7000 at once.

Robert G. Lowery Sr. Law Enforcement Center. I am pleased to announce the Florissant Police Department will be hosting an "Open House" on Saturday, May 17th from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. Immediately following the Open House at 2:00 p.m. we will have a ceremony to rename the Police Headquarters in honor of former Police Chief and Mayor Robert G. Lowery Sr. Tours of the facility will be provided, free of charge, for additional information please contact Officer Andy Haarmann at (314) 830-6042.

The **6th Annual Trash Bash** litter cleanup was a huge success. I want to thank City Engineer Tim Barrett along with Eric Zeier and Ryan Corey from the Parks Department Greg Koester, Fred Schaljo, Ralph Meresicky and Kevin Podmore from the Health Department for their hard work. We had 57 volunteers in addition to MSD, MoDOT and Missouri American staff. County Executive Dooley was at a few clean up sites to support the effort. The volunteers really made a difference cleaning four sites including Fountain Creek next to Bangert Park, the creek at Koch Park, the fence line and field at James J. Eagan Center and a portion of the Dunn Road right of way.

Clean Up, Spruce Up, Pick Up, in preparation of the Valley of Flowers. As we prepare for the 52nd Valley of Flowers Festival it is important to remember that the City of Florissant is the Beautiful City for many reasons. Get your neighborhood ready for Valley of Flowers. I am suggesting that we all pitch in and remove unwanted newspapers, trash, debris that is lying about. We have had a long hard winter so grab your rake and let's start sprucing things up. By setting an example you will start a chain reaction that will contribute in continuing the great tradition of the Beautiful City in the Valley of Flowers.

Electronic Recycling Drive; I would like to send out a thank you to Midwest Recycling Center for providing the additional equipment

and manpower for our electronic recycle drive on April 5 at St. Ferdinand Park from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. By recycling your electronic equipment, you save the energy that would be required to produce useful material and prevent hazardous components from entering the environment in landfills.

The **3rd Annual Florissant Resident "Free Document Shredding Day"** was scheduled for on Saturday, April 12 at St. Ferdinand Park- rear parking lot from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The service allows residents to have their sensitive tax, bank or financial records from home to be shredded right in front of their eyes for peace of mind. Cintas Document Management Company was there to professionally shred the material which was processed in a manner in which it can not be recognized or recreated. All material was then recycled. A special thanks to Meridian Waste Services for assisting the City with this event. These two events were coordinated by Health Department Supervisor Greg Koester and his staff at the Health Department.

I have been pleased with the **new commercial developments** that were completed last year. Several large properties are under contract for future developments. There are 3 national name brand chains planning future developments in Florissant.

Coming to Florissant are: CVS Pharmacy, Rally's Restaurant, Wal-Mart Super Center and Culver's Restaurant. The Dress Barn will open in the Cross Keys Shopping Center. Show Me's restaurant has recently opened. The former Wedgwood Tennis Club on New Halls Ferry Road is under contract for a new Retail development. The Plaza Madrid redevelopment project is in the due diligence period.

With summer right around the corner the **Parks and Recreation Department** is busy planning summer day camps, swim team activities, baseball, softball, volleyball and all of the other outdoor events we all enjoy playing or watching our children play. For more information call 314-921-4466.

This past tax preparation season the **Senior Office** helped around 1000 senior residents prepare their 2013 tax return. I would like to commend Peggy Hogan the Senior Coordinator and her staff who always do an outstanding job in assisting seniors with this service that uses many valuable volunteers to make this available free of



charge. For information on the outstanding calendar of Senior Events that are planned for the upcoming months contact the Senior Office at 314-839-7604 or view the Senior Section of this newspaper.

The **Public Works Department** has already started bidding out street projects for the year this will include surface sealing, major street repairs and asphalt and concrete pavement improvement for various locations in the City. We use a priority based point system to decide on which streets receive maintenance attention or major repairs. Our City Director of Public Works, Lou Jearls who is a Professional Engineer, credits this system for spending our limited resources in such a way as to maximize the driving experience of our residents and the appearance of our neighborhoods.

I look forward to seeing you at the Valley of Flowers Festival and other wonderful outdoor events in our Beautiful City.

Sincerely Yours,
Thomas P. Schneider
Mayor of the City of Florissant

St. Ferdinand Parish 225 Year Celebration - An Apology -

In the March issue of the Florissant Focus we ran an article on the St. Ferdinand Catholic Parish's 225 year anniversary which stated that "On Sunday, September 15, 2013, Archbishop Robert Carlson, Mayor Thomas P. Schneider and Father Joe Post along with over 600 faithful, celebrated St. Ferdinand Catholic Parish 225 year existence as a Parish and School."

We would like to apologize to Father Jack Schuler, the Pastor of St. Ferdinand Church in Florissant, for failing to include him in the article.

Best Wishes and Good Luck to All Queen Candidates!

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CITY OF FLORISSANT - PRESS RELEASE

Nino The Clown Brings Zoppé An Italian Family Circus to Florissant's Valley Of Flowers Festival May 2-3



FLORISSANT, MO, March 31, 2014 - Nino the Clown, a former fixture with Circus Flora in St. Louis, is bringing his Zoppé an Italian Family Circus to Florissant in early May to help the city commemorate the 75th anniversary of its name change from St. Ferdinand to Florissant. Zoppé an Italian Family Circus, which pays homage to the first circus that traveled the cobblestone roads of Italy centuries ago, will give several free performances at Florissant's annual Valley of Flowers Festival May 2-3, 2014.

The Valley of Flowers Festival, which opens on Friday, May 2 and runs through Sunday, May 4, will feature the only scheduled appearance by Nino the Clown in the St. Louis area in 2014.

Nino, whose real name is Giovanni Zoppé, is the sixth generation of his family to lead Zoppé an Italian Family Circus. A one-ring circus that honors the best history of the Old World Italian tradition, it traces its roots back to 1842 when a young French street performer named Napoline Zoppé eloped with an equestrian ballerina known as Ermenegilda to Venice and founded the circus that still bears their name.

Zoppé an Italian Family Circus performs in its own, 500-seat, black-out tent, which will be erected at the James J. Eagan Civic Center at the corner of Parker Road and Waterford Drive. "No seat is further than 20 feet from the action," says Zoppé. Free, public performances of the 60-minute circus will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 2 and at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 3.

Additionally, a "pirate school" taught by professional actor David Engel will be staged at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 2 and at 12 noon and 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 3. Other acts to be featured at the annual Valley of Flowers Festival include Babaloo Music and Fun, Kincaid Karacter Puppets, RW Magic and a Cinco de Mayo Band. A 'bubble bus' will be available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 3 and tours of the "Gypsy Rose III Pirate Ship" will be held throughout the day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 3.

"We are thrilled to offer visitors to our annual Valley of Flowers Festival the opportunity to see one of the greatest examples of the traditional Italian circus still performing," said Thomas P. Schneider, Mayor of Florissant. "Nino the Clown has delighted audiences for decades in St. Louis, around the country and throughout Europe. We have the pleasure of bringing him and Zoppé an Italian Family Circus to Florissant for four free, public performances."

Based in suburban Chicago, Zoppé an Italian Family Circus features 20 circus artists, including aerialists, acrobats, jugglers, dancing dogs, equestrian ballerinas and Nino the Clown. The circus is propelled by a central story. This year's theme has Nino unsuccessfully trying to join the

circus, and his humorous attempts to perform under the Big Top. As the New York Times has described it, "the Zoppé circus evokes something from a picture book...the show is frozen in a time long before the high-concept, high-dollar Cirque du Soleil."

The 47-year-old Zoppé, who survived a near-fatal fall 25 years ago,



says that "nobody knows what a real circus is. (Ours) is like the circus was 100 years ago." As its Zoppé an Italian Family Circus web site notes, the venerable troupe became one of the legendary circuses in all of Europe, more of an event than a show.

Zoppé, who was the youngest performer ever inducted into the International Clown Hall of Fame, estimates that 250 of his family members have worked in a circus, most of them as bareback riders. Zoppé himself at age 9 was the youngest performer ever to do a somersault on horseback. His first love, however, is comedy, becoming a professional clown at the advanced age of 10 years old.

"My character name, Nino, was actually my nickname when I was younger," he told a reporter several years ago. "In Italian families, when you are a boy they attach 'ino' to your name, and so I was Giovannino - Nino. Nino is really just me, my child self, a human being with flaws, except playing all of my faults larger."

The City of Florissant presents its Festival performing arts events with financial support from the Regional Arts Commission and the Missouri Arts Council. For more information on the family performances scheduled for the James J. Eagan Civic Center grounds, contact the Florissant Civic Center Theatre box office staff at 314-921-5678. For information on the annual Valley of Flowers Festival, visit www.florissantvalleyofflowers.com or call Katie Mahoney at 837-0033.

Founded in 1786, Florissant is the largest city in St. Louis County, with a population of more than 52,000 residents. The City of Florissant regularly is listed among the safest cities in America for its population range, and provides abundant services for all sectors of the community, including children, young adults and seniors. In 2012, Florissant was ranked among the Top 75 Best Places to Live by CNN's Money Magazine.

Florissant has two community centers, three swimming pools, a renowned theater, a covered skating rink, an abundance of parks and recreational sites, a new championship disk golf course and the only 18-hole municipal golf course in St. Louis County. For more information, visit www.florissantmo.com or call 314-921-5700.

Family Festival of Fun at the James J. Eagan Center



The James J. Eagan Center will host many activities for young children and families. This is a one of a kind celebration with all the performances being FREE. Nowhere in St. Louis County will you find an event with all

SATURDAY ONLY

- Pony rides - Noon - 4pm
- Inflatable rides - 10am to 4pm
- Children's hands-on arts & crafts - Free - 10am - 2pm

Performances by:

- Zoppé: An Italian Family Circus
- Babaloo Music and Fun
- RW Magic
- Kincaid Karacter Puppets
- Preston Pugmire
- Pirate School
- On the grounds from 10am to 5pm
- The Gypsy Rose III Pirate Ship
- The Bubble Bus full of bubble fun



The Gypsy Rose III Pirate Ship

Pretty Baby Photo Contest



To enter your favorite baby, send in a 4" x 6" photo (or smaller - one child per photo) with a \$5.00 registration fee by May 1. Entries after the deadline will be charged a \$7.00 entry fee. Make checks payable to Valley of Flowers Festival. On the back of the photo include - the name of the child, parents' names, address, phone number and age of baby. Send the photo with info and the entry fee to: Valley of Flowers Festival 601 rue St. Charles Florissant, MO 63031

Craft Fair & Flea Market

The annual Pre-Mothers Day Craft Fair will be on the ice rink pavilion of the James J. Eagan Center on Friday, May 2, from 12 noon to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 3, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. At this ever-popular event, local crafters and vendors have a wide variety of products that make for the perfect Mother's Day gift. Returning favorites include: jewelry, one-of-kind gift baskets, gourmet food mixes, unique accessories, and garden ornaments. To reserve a booth, call the Valley of Flowers office at (314) 837-0033 or apply online at www.florissantvalleyofflowers.com.

Florissant Old Town Partners will host their annual Flea Market on the lower level of the James J. Eagan

Sponsor's Informational Tent

Visit with some of the many businesses that help financially sponsor the Festival on the grounds of the James J. Eagan Center from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 4.

Please support our sponsors - without them we could not have this festival.

of the wonderfully talented performers that you will discover in the Valley of Flowers Festival. Performances begin on Friday, May 2, at 5:30 p.m. and continue all day on Saturday, May 3, until 6:00 p.m. There will be entertainment for children as well as entertainment for all ages.

The Festival features on-going performances in large tents and on the grounds. These free performances include storytellers, puppeteers, music, comedy and much more. Times and schedules are listed later in this edition. There will be many other fun activities on the grounds surrounding the tents. Some are free and others require a small fee: Pretty Baby Photo Contest - Free - Open during festival times

Home Grown Plants from the Gardeners of Florissant



The plant sale at the Valley of the Flowers Festival is sponsored by the local Gardeners of Florissant, a not-for-profit Club that is committed to protecting and beautifying the environment and sharing their knowledge with others. This year's sale will include another huge selection of flowers, outdoor and house-plants, vegetables, and herbs at most reasonable prices. Visitors to the sale will find offerings that bloom from spring through late fall and that are suitable for most home environments whether sunny, shady, moist, or dry. There will also be many lovely foliage or flowering hanging baskets as well as pre-planted decorative containers that make outstanding Mothers' Day gifts. (May 11 is Mothers' Day.)

Along with the above offerings, there will be several raffles for valuable garden-related prizes. Anyone interested

in growing a vegetable garden this year will find tables of different kinds of tomatoes, peppers, and herbs along with Club members who are happy to help them decide on particular varieties that will grow well in their yards. Several members are certified as "Master Gardeners" who are always willing to share their expertise with customers.

The Gardeners of Florissant plant sale will be held in the Ice Rink Pavilion at the James J. Eagan Center. It will run from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m. on Friday, May 2, and from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 3. Arrive early for best selection. Additional information on the Club and the plant sale, including information about various plants, can be found on www.florissantmo.com; then search Gardeners of Florissant. When it opens select Projects/Events.

The Food Court Has An International Flavor

The food court tent on the James J. Eagan grounds is a culinary delight. Enjoy the variety of foods from the many nationalities that includes: old-fashioned, American-style barbecued meats and side dishes; kettle corn; funnel cakes; chicken strips; nachos; ice cream; foods of various

Hispanic cultures; and Asian delicacies including egg rolls and crab Rangoon, and much more. Various beverages will be available.

The food court opens on Friday at Noon and continues until 9:00 p.m. Saturday hours begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 10:00 p.m.

Valley of Flowers Festival is May 2nd, 3rd and 4th
Read about all the great events in this issue of the Florissant Focus

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Gerard Henke

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Florissant Civic Center Theatre Presents Valley of Flowers Children's Celebration of Performing Arts

The Children's Celebration of Performing Arts is a fun-filled, exciting family-oriented event beginning on Friday, May 2nd. It will continue throughout the day on Saturday, May 3rd in Florissant Valley Park (grounds of the James J. Eagan Center). There is no admission fee charged for any of the performances, concerts, strolling entertainers, puppet shows, hands-on arts and craft activities and the wide array of theatre events filled with audience participation! Performances in the Big Top and Sideshow Tent will begin Friday evening and continue throughout the day Saturday with additional fun aboard the Gypsy

Rose III Pirate Ship. Young people will have abundant opportunities to enhance their festival visit with demonstrations and plenty of space just to play and have fun using their own imagination.

A Missouri Arts Council festival grant, financial assistance from the Regional Arts Commission, the City of Florissant, Florissant Fine Arts Council, the Valley of Flowers Committee, Florissant Rotary Club and donations from many local area businesses have allowed the FCC Theatre to coordinate this "Children's Celebration of Performing Arts."

ZOPPÉ: An Italian Family Circus



Nino the Clown is Back in Town!



Zoppé: an Italian Family Circus, featuring Nino the Clown, has all the story and excitement of a Circus Big Top-complete with clowns, acrobats, aerialists, horses and performing dogs-just the way it used to be when Florissant was called the village of St. Ferdinand. "No seat is further than 20 feet from the action" in the 500-seat black-out tent says Giovanni Zoppé, a 6th generation performer and now the patriarch of the family-run circus. This up-close,

personal and participatory circus even has a storyline evolving from Nino, a gentle, funny and endearing clown played by Zoppé, who has been trying unsuccessfully to join the circus.

Zoppé Family Circus with Nino the Clown will appear in the Big Top on Friday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Pirate School Under the Big Top



During the show the bumbling pirate professor Billy Bones, played by David Engel, teaches youngsters how to be good pirates with zany lessons on how to stand, talk, sing and laugh like jaunty Buccaneers. Audiences engage in boisterous competitions and learn the finer points of light-hearted mischief while cannons boom, skulls talk, cutlasses drop, bubbles pop and pets run amok.

Pirate School will appear in the Big Top on Friday, May 2 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 3 at 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Hispanic Festival Inc. presents Junior de Mexico!

After the "daytime events" wind down, stick around for a special performance in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. The evening air will be filled with music on Saturday, May 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Sideshow Tent (Presented by Hispanic Festival Inc.).



Preston Pugmire...Beats, Guitars, Bass, Vocals...How Can All of These Sounds be Generated by Just One Guy?



Beats, guitars, bass, vocals - how can all these sounds be generated by just one guy? For the last 4 years, Preston Pugmire has been entertaining audiences all over the US with his looping performance. Electronic floor pedals allow Preston to record anything he plays live, and then layer multiple sounds on top of it, creating an entire song from scratch. He does this right in front of the crowd while keeping them completely engaged and involved. Preston has won several musical contests and garnered a

lot of support. Much of his success is a result of his clean, high energy act, ability to connect with an audience, and how easy it is to work with him on a personal level. With recognizable covers and instantly lovable original songs, Preston's show is amazing and captivating whether you've seen him one time or ten. It is unlike anything you've ever experienced.

Preston Pugmire will be appearing in the Sideshow Tent on Friday, May 2 at 6:15 p.m. and on Saturday, May 3 at 1:00 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

"Babaloo" Music and Fun



"Babalooing" is best described as a stand-up comedy act for kids. A "Babaloo" show is a raucous, fast-paced, high-energy event, involving original songs, slapstick, one-liners, and loads of audience participation with kids (and parents) singing, dancing, throwing bean bags, beating on buckets, and laughing - lots of laughing. Children are kept happy with funny, irreverent songs; they will also sing uplifting songs dealing with sharing, acceptance, and character issues. Every show is different and tailored to the particular audience.

"Babaloo" will be appearing in the Sideshow Tent on Friday, May 2 at 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday, May 3 at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC! WITH RW MAGIC

RW Magic is an accomplished practitioner in the art of magic; he will amaze, astonish and entertain audiences of all ages with his magic show. "Experience the Magic!" with RW Magic, a gregarious entertainer, who has enthralled thousands throughout the country with his close-up magic.

RW Magic will be appearing in the Sideshow Tent on Saturday, May 3 at 11:30 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.



Kincaid Karacter Puppets



The Kincaid Karacter Puppets tour live nationally and present fast-paced family oriented puppet shows featuring slapstick comedy, classic one liners, audience participation, and plenty of thrills and surprises, all presented and performed in a style and manner reminiscent of the classic festival performances of the 1800's.

Kincaid Karacter Puppets will be appearing in the Sideshow Tent on Saturday, May 3 at 10:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The Gypsy Rose III



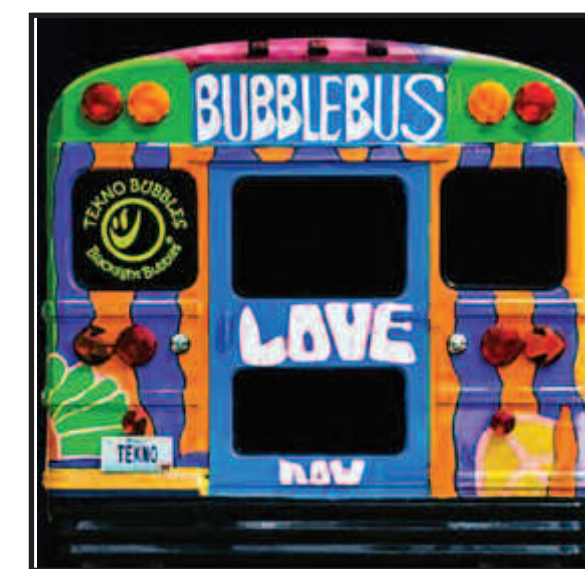
Ahoy Mateys!! Climb aboard the Gypsy Rose III Pirate Landship, where kids can shoot and chase cannon balls, have sword fights and search for buried treasure. ARGH!!!!!!

The Gypsy Rose III provides pirate fun on the festival grounds throughout the day on Saturday, May 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Bubble Bus

It's fun, hip, unique, totally awesome and incredibly cool! Come visit the colorful bubble bus and run through a sea of tiny bubbles, then watch the biggest bubbles you will ever see get launched into the sky. This display of awesome bubble-ness will put a smile on your face!

The Bubble Bus will fill the air with bubbles on the festival grounds throughout the day on Saturday, May 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



2014 Children's Celebration of Performing Arts Performance Schedule

Date/Time	Performer	Location
Friday, May 2		
5:30 pm	Babaloo Music and Fun	Sideshow Tent
6:15 pm	Preston Pugmire	Sideshow Tent
7:00 pm	Zoppé Family Circus	
	with Nino the Clown	Big Top
8:00 p.m.	Pirate School	Big Top
Saturday, May 3		
10:00 am	Babaloo Music and Fun	Sideshow Tent
10:45 am	Kincaid Karacter Puppets	Sideshow Tent
11:00 am	Zoppé Family Circus	
	with Nino the Clown	Big Top
11:30 am	RW Magic	Sideshow Tent
12:00 pm	Pirate School	Big Top
12:15 pm	Kincaid Karacter Puppets	Sideshow Tent
1:00 pm	Preston Pugmire	Sideshow Tent
1:45 pm	RW Magic	Sideshow Tent
2:00 pm	Zoppé Family Circus	
	with Nino the Clown	Big Top
2:30 pm	Kincaid Karacter Puppets	Sideshow Tent
3:00 pm	Pirate School	Big Top
3:15 pm	Preston Pugmire	Sideshow Tent
4:00 pm	Babaloo Music and Fun	Sideshow Tent
5:00 pm	Zoppé Family Circus	
	with Nino the Clown	Big Top
6:00 p.m.	Junior de Mexico	Sideshow Tent

Saturday on the Grounds

- The Gypsy Rose III Pirate Ship
- Tours throughout the day 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Bubble Bus
- Bubble fun throughout the day 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

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Good Luck to Hannah Byers and All the Queen Candidates!



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Good Luck and Best Wishes



To All of the 2014 Queen Candidates

Mayor Thomas Schneider
The City of Florissant

Congratulations to All Queen Candidates from

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Investment Representative

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Best Wishes Libby!



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Hannah Byers
Kolbe Academy Homeschool
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The 2013 Valley of Flowers Queen Candidates

One of these Fourteen outstanding young women will be chosen as the 2014 Valley of Flowers Queen. The coronation will take place at the conclusion of the parade on Sunday, May 5th in the Knights of Columbus Pavilion at the festival ground just east of the Lindbergh and Washington intersection.



Sami Creachbaum
Hazelwood Central High School
Sponsored by Stems Florist



Libby Freesmeier
Incarnate Word Academy
Sponsored by Cannoli's Italian Restaurant

Best Wishes Libby!
The Freesmeier Family

Good Luck Queen Candidates! from Gerard Henke Ward 6 Councilman



Jackie Gamma
McCluer North High School
Sponsored by Hendel's Market Café



Emily Haarmann
Duchesne High School
Sponsored by State Beauty Supply




Kylie Johns
Duchesne High School
Sponsored by VFW Post 4105



Natalie Jones
Marquette Catholic High School
Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 2951

Good Luck to Natalie Jones and All of the Queen Candidates



Best Wishes to All the Candidates!



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Emily Kohnen
Rosati Kain High School
Sponsored by Doozle's Frozen Custard



Rachel Miller
McCluer North High School
Sponsored by Taxes by Revelle



Alex Phifer
McCluer North High School
Sponsored by Don Henefer Jewelers



Megan Purgahn
Orchard Farm High School
Sponsored by Sacred Heart



Taylor Rook
Marquette Catholic High School
Sponsored by Old Town Donuts




Gabrielle Taylor
McCluer North High School
Sponsored by Gater's Pub

Good Luck Kylie!



VFW Post 4105

Good Luck to All of the Queen Candidates!



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Best Wishes & Good Luck to All of the Candidates



We Wish All of the Queen Candidates the Best of Luck!



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Best of Luck to ALL of the Valley of Flowers Queen Candidates!

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Best Wishes to Queen Candidate Megan Purgahn from Your Friends and Supporters at Sacred Heart Church



Good Luck to All the Candidates!

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City of Florissant and Florissant Fine Arts Council
Announces

Music Under the Stars 2014 Summer Concert Series
Tentative Schedule

A Series of Free Outdoor Concerts

Friday - July 4 – Northwinds Concert band
- Florissant Valley Park

Saturday - July 12 – Fanfare Band
- St. Ferdinand Park

Saturday - July 19 – Ground Flow Fusion
- St. Ferdinand Park

Saturday - July 26 – Bob Kuban Brass
- St. Ferdinand Park

Saturday - Aug. 2 – Butch Wax & The Hollywoods
with Theo Peoples
from *The Four Tops*
- St. Ferdinand Park

Saturday - Aug. 9 – Billy Peek Band
- St. Ferdinand Park

Saturday - Aug. 16 – SmashBand Superhits
- St. Ferdinand Park

Sunday - Aug. 24 – Boeing Employees Concert Band
- St. Ferdinand Park

Sunday - October 12 – The Ralph Butler Band
- the Old Town Fall Festival
100 Rue St. Francois

All Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. except July 4th at 7:30 p.m. and October 12 at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

"Music Under the Stars" 2014 summer concert series gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Regional Arts Commission and the Missouri Arts Council.
Contract negotiations are underway. Dates and shows subject to change.

All concerts are outdoors. Bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets for lawn seating. Light refreshments are available. Call 314-921-5678 for additional information or go to www.florissantfinearts.com or www.florissantmo.com



Northwinds Concert Band



Ground Flow Fusion



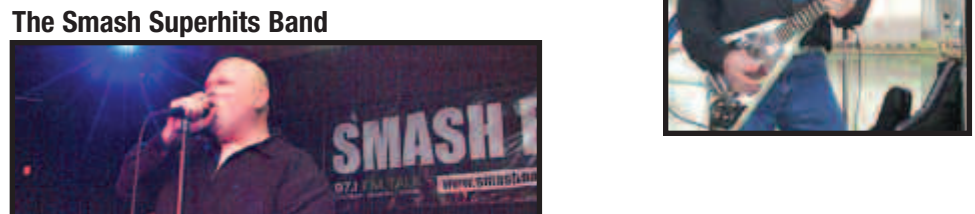
Bob Kuban Brass



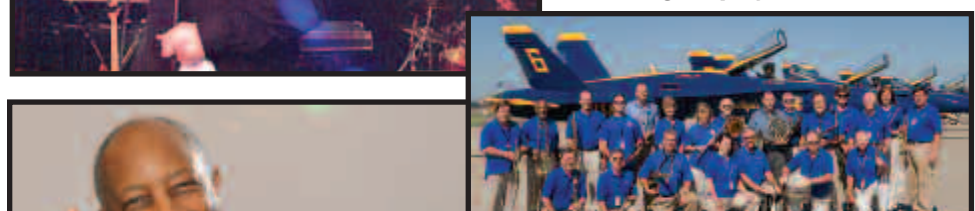
Butch Wax & the Hollywoods



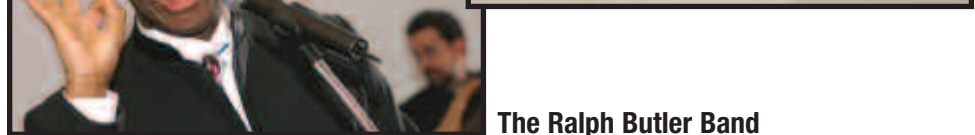
Billy Peek



The Smash Superhits Band



Boeing Employees Concert Band



The Ralph Butler Band

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The Box Office will close each day from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. for lunch. Arrangements to purchase tickets can be made by phone at (314) 921-5678, by e-mail at FCCT@FlorissantMO.com, online at www.FlorissantMO.com, or by mail addressed to: FCC Theatre, #1 James J. Eagan Dr., Florissant, MO 63033. Call 314-921-5678 for additional information 24 hours a day. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. Visa, Mastercard and Discover are accepted. Individual tickets go on sale 45 days prior to the opening of any production.

MAY

Alpha Players present:
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
May 16 – 8:00 p.m. May 17 – 8:00 p.m.
May 23 – 8:00 p.m. May 24 – 8:00 p.m. May 25 – 2:00 p.m.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a hilarious tale of overachiever's angst chronicling six adolescents vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. In a high school gym, long time hostess Rona Lisa Peretti prepares for the annual spelling bee. The current crop of spelling contenders include Chip (the Boy Scout), Schwarzzy (the youngest and most politically aware contestant), Coneybear (the somewhat wide-eyed offspring of hippie parents), Barfee (an allergy-plagued student), Marcy (an over-achieving Catholic school girl), and Olive (a tentative, shy newcomer). Watch as they learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. (For mature audiences.)
ADMISSION: \$18.00 Adults; \$16.00 Seniors/Students; group rates available
Phone information and reservations: 314-921-5678 or www.FlorissantMO.com



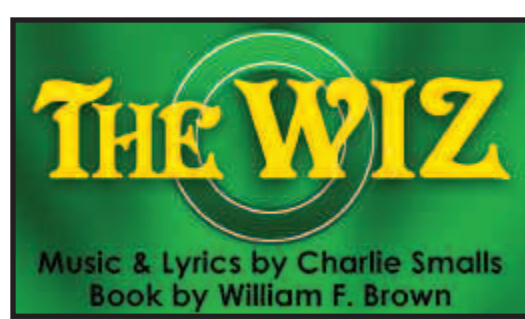
JUNE

Hawthorne Players Present:
Best Of Hawthorne – "America In Harmony"
June 28 – 8:00 p.m.
ADMISSION: \$15.00
Phone information and reservations 314-921-5678 or www.FlorissantMO.com

AUGUST

Hawthorne Players Present:
The WIZ
Aug 1 – 8:00 p.m. Aug 2 – 8:00 p.m.
Aug 8 – 8:00 p.m. Aug 9 – 8:00 p.m. Aug 10 – 2:00 p.m.

THE WIZ, a jazzed, soul-infused modern retelling of L. Frank Baum's "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," was nominated for nine Drama Desk Awards (winning four including Outstanding Musical) and eight Tony Awards (winning seven including Best Original Score and Best Musical). The book by William F. Brown follows Baum's classic fantasy: A tornado rips Dorothy from her Kansas home and drops her in OZ squarely on the Wicked Witch of the East in the midst of Munchkinland. The beloved score by Charlie Smalls includes hits like "Ease on Down the Road," "Brand New Day," "Believe in Yourself" and "Home," which was featured on both Fox's GLEE and ABC's SMASH. Everyone can relate to this show's universal themes: Natural disasters disrupt and disorient lives, whether in Kansas, Oklahoma or Ferguson; most times, good can emerge from this destruction if we just "ease on down the road," remembering we all need the company of good friends on our chosen path. These friends may not look like us; they may be flawed and vulnerable, but if we work together, we can help each other realize our better selves, having adventures along the way. Most importantly, "Believe in yourself!"
ADMISSION: \$20.00 Adults; \$18.00 Seniors/Students; group rates available.
Phone information and reservations 314-921-5678 or www.FlorissantMO.com



Show Schedules and Information are Always Online at www.FlorissantMO.com



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For **Edward Jones**

Reported by
Gary Meyer - Investment Representative
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Turn Your Retirement "Vision" Into Reality

Retirement can be an exciting, active time of your life. But if you're going to get the full benefits from your retirement years — which could last two, or even three, decades — then you'll need to have a vision for what you want to do. And to transform this vision into reality, you'll need to take a "holistic" approach — one that involves a financial strategy, clear communications with family members and an awareness of the challenges that may stand in your way. To articulate and achieve your vision, ask yourself a series of questions, such as the following:

- What do I want to do? When you retire, do you plan on traveling around the world? Purchasing a vacation home? Pursuing your hobbies? Or maybe you're even thinking of opening a small business. Clearly, you have many options — and you'll need to be aware that some choices are going to be more costly than others. If you can identify how you want to spend your retirement years and then put a "price tag" on your goal — or at least come up with a pretty good estimate of how much money you'll need each year — then you can create an appropriate investment strategy. Such a strategy will include both your need for growth — during your pre-retirement and retirement years — and your need for income, especially during your retirement years. Your investment strategy will also need to be based on your risk tolerance, family situation and time horizon — how many years you have until your retirement.
- What "roadblocks" might I encounter? As you work to achieve your retirement vision, you may well encounter some "roadblocks" along the way. One significant roadblock is the amount of health care expenses you might face during retirement. Many people think Medicare will cover everything, but that's not the case — in fact, you could easily spend a few thousand dollars each year, out of pocket, for health care costs. And since these costs typically rise as you move further into retirement, you'll need a reasonable portion of your assets to be allocated to investments with the potential for rising income. Even beyond normal health care costs, though, you'll need to be aware that you could eventually need some type of long-term care, such as a stay in a nursing home or assistance from a home health aide. These costs can be enormous; to cope with them, you need to prepare well ahead of time, so you may want to consult with your financial adviser for possible solutions.
- How can I protect my family? Your retirement vision can't just involve yourself, or even just yourself and your spouse. To fully enjoy your retirement years, you'll want to know that you are helping to protect your grown children from financial and emotional burdens that could fall on them should you become incapacitated in some way. Among the steps you might consider taking is establishing a durable power of attorney, which allows you to appoint an agent to manage your financial affairs, make health care decisions or conduct other business for you during your incapacity. Consult with your legal adviser about creating a durable power of attorney. You will find that having your retirement vision come to fruition can be a great feeling. So, do whatever it takes to make it happen.

Springtime Tree Pollen Creates Challenges for Allergy Sufferers

by Ritu Gupta, MD

An allergist practicing at SSM DePaul Health Center, Ritu Gupta, MD, graduated from the University of Illinois College of Medicine and completed her residency and fellowship training at Washington University Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Springtime in St. Louis has officially arrived, bringing with it allergy season. Tree pollen typically is the number one spring allergy trigger for people who live in this region. Many of us can already see layers of green pollen coating cars and driveways. With more than 40 million Americans having nasal allergies (also called, allergic rhinitis or "hay fever"), this time of year can be difficult. Springtime allergy triggers — primarily tree pollen — cause symptoms including nasal congestion, runny nose, itchy watery eyes and post-nasal drainage. According to the Allergy and Asthma Foundation of America, St. Louis ranks 20th among major cities for the worst spring allergies this year, up from 31st in 2013. However, following the preventative techniques below should help you effectively manage your allergies this season. If your allergies persist despite these measures, you may need to see an allergist. Talk with your doctor. To properly determine the correct allergy medicine, talk to your physician about over-the-counter options such as antihistamines, nasal sprays or nasal irrigation methods. If over-the-counter options don't work, you might need a prescription medication. Identify the triggers. Try to document the times of day and activities that trigger your allergies. Typically, two-thirds of all allergy sufferers experience symptoms throughout the entire year. An allergist can help you determine the source of what's triggering your allergies through conducting an allergy skin test. Prevent pollen from getting indoors. Keep the doors and windows closed when possible and set the air conditioner on recirculate. This will help keep pollen, mold or other allergens from getting inside your home. Your car air conditioner also should be set to recirculate to keep out pollens. Vacuum at least once or twice a week. Frequent vacuuming can help temporarily reduce indoor allergens. Wearing a mask while dusting and vacuuming also can help minimize allergy symptoms while cleaning. If you have a pet, you will need to vacuum more frequently. Try to keep at least your bedroom pet free, so you won't breathe in pet dander while you sleep. Monitor pollen counts and time outdoor activity accordingly. Trees tend to pollinate in the morning, making pollen counts in the early hours very high. By noon, pollen counts are less than half just a few hours earlier. Plan your outdoor activities after lunch or in the evening to avoid the extreme pollen of the morning. Use protective gear while working outside. Remember to wear a pollen filter mask, especially when mowing or doing yard work. Wearing protective goggles while mowing will keep debris and pollen out of your eyes.

What Makes a GREAT Senior Citizen Party?

Wonderful Entertainment, Fantastic Attendance Prizes, a Delicious Lunch, Chances for a Pot of Gold and Gift Baskets, Bingo and the most important thing – OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZENS! The Senior Office would like to invite YOU to come and have a great time with your Florissant friends and neighbors. Listed below are the upcoming parties:

- **ST. LOUIS CARDINAL PARTY & BINGO:** Locally Famous Entertainers “The Scott Laytham & Karl Holmes Duo” will provide outstanding entertainment for this event. An added bonus: A Special St. Louis Cardinal Guest will be flying in – so bring your cameras! We’ll have wonderful attendance prizes as well as chances for a Pot of Gold and Gift Baskets and then we’ll play Bingo! Tornatore’s Catering will provide a delicious baseball lunch of brats on bun, coleslaw, baked beans, pasta salad and all-star cherry pie with whipped cream. There are a limited number of tickets available for this party. Tickets will be sold in the Senior Office in Florissant City Hall from April 7th until May 19th or until sold out. Tickets are for Florissant Residents only and are \$10.00 each. Wear your Cardinal Red and join in the fun! Call the Senior Office at 839-7605 for more information.



Summer Beach Party & Bingo

Cool off from the summer heat at our Beach Party! The most talented MUNY KIDS will be performing for Florissant Senior Citizens at this party! Tickets will be sold to Florissant Residents only in the Senior Office for \$10.00 each from June 23rd until July 28th or until sold out. This ticket price includes the outstanding entertainment by the Muny Kids, a delicious lunch, attendance prizes, Bingo and chances for Pot of Gold and Gift Baskets. Call the Senior Office at 839-7605 for more information.



THE MUNY KIDS!

Always remember you're unique.
Just like everyone else!

SENIORS EVENTS SCHEDULE

MAY

- 2, 3 & 4 - Florissant Valley of Flowers Celebration
- 8 - Silver Words Meeting, JFK, 1:30-3:30pm (sign-ups for Eagleton U.S. Court Building & Lotawata Creek Trip)
- 20 - Senior Citizen Trip for a Tour & Lunch at Historic St. Joseph Carondelet
- 22 - ST. LOUIS CARDINAL PARTY & BINGO, Eagan Center, 10:00-2:00, Lunch, Bingo, Entertainment “Scott & Karl” and a Special Guest flying in! Bring your cameras!
- 26 - City Hall Offices Closed – Memorial Day

JUNE

- 3 - Ticket Sales begin at Dining Center 9-11am for Trolley Tour & Lunch
- 6 - Senior Citizen Dance, Eagan Center, Friday, 7-10pm, The Michael Lacey Band
- 12 - Silver Words Trip to Eagleton U.S. Court Building & Lotawata Creek
- 23 - Ticket Sales begin in Senior Office for Summer Beach Party & Bingo (July 31)

JULY

- 4 - City Offices Closed – Independence Day
- 10 - Silver Words Meeting at the DINING CENTER, 1:30-3:30 Bingo (Hollywood Casino Trip Sign-ups)
- 13 - Ms Missouri Senior Pageant, call the Theatre 921-5678 for more information
- 14 - Senior Citizen Trip – Trolley Tour & Lunch
- 17 - Speaker Series, 1:00, Eagan Center, Room A/B
- 31 - Summer Beach Party & Bingo, Eagan Center, 10:00am – 2:00pm, Lunch, Bingo & THE MUNY KIDS!

AUGUST

- 4 - Ticket Sales begin for The North County Gala – Multi City Big Band Dance Event.
- 5 - Ticket sales begin at Dining Ctr 9-11am, Paddlewheel Boat Cruise & Pere Marquette
- 14 - Silver Words Trip – Hollywood Casino
- 25 - Reservations taken for “Mayor Schneider’s Town Hall Meeting” Call the Senior Office, 839-7605 to make a reservation
- 29 - Senior Citizen Dance, Eagan Center, Friday, 7-10pm, The Nice and Easy Band

Do you like to play Pinochle? How about Specialty Bingo or Crafts? Do You Like Doozles Frozen Yogurt?



You can find all of these things at the Florissant Senior Dining Center. Listed here are our Daily Dining Center Activities. Every day residents enjoy Bingo along with the following activities:

- Mondays:** Pinochle! Join other Senior Citizens every Monday to play Pinochle.
- Tuesdays:** Special Bingo – Local businesses donate prizes for this Bingo Day!
- Wednesdays:** Social Wednesdays - Birthday Parties, Holiday Parties and other fun events
- Thursdays:** Certain Thursdays are designated for DOOZLES DAYS & CRAFT DAYS
- Fridays:** Game Day and Rob Your Neighbor! Make the Dining Center your group’s “meeting” place! Get a group together, bring your own game and play at the Dining Center! Rob your Neighbor is also played on Fridays!

*So get a group of friends together or come and make new friends at the Florissant Senior Dining Center. Residents and non-residents, who are guests of residents, are all invited! The cost of a meal for a resident is \$5.00 and a non-resident is \$6.00. Call the Florissant Senior Dining Center at 839-7603 for more information!

Never test the depth of water with both feet.



Beware Of These Scams

Listed below are the latest scams that have been reported to the Senior Office.

- A letter was sent to a Florissant Resident stating that she had won a major sweepstakes. This letter looked very official with emblems of a few national companies included on it. The last paragraph stated to keep this letter confidential until the cash winnings have been processed and remitted to your designated account. She was advised to call them and give them her bank account information. This person brought the letter to the City of Florissant to inspect. The letter was in fact a scam to get that person’s bank account information. Beware! If anyone contacts you, over the phone or in a letter, and wants your bank account information, your social security number or credit card information - do not give it out!

- A respectable looking couple approached a resident in a City of Florissant Parking Lot on Lindbergh. They acted like they had just picked up an envelope on the lot and found that it had \$3000 in it! They were so sincere. They asked if the resident would be interested in sharing it with them. The couple said they needed the resident to show his sincerity by putting up \$3000 of his own money before they shared the money with him. The resident went to his bank and withdrew \$3000. In the course of the cash being exchanged the resident lost all of his money. Never withdraw any money from your bank account at the request of a stranger. If it sounds too good to be true – it is!

Senior Citizens Beware: Summertime is almost here! Beware of contractors who offer you a “great deal”- tree trimmers, asphalt layers, siding contractors, roofers, etc. If you need work done around your house – YOU contact a reputable company. Do NOT let someone talk you into a “deal”. Contractors who try to “sell” their services with a “deal” that you need to take advantage of right away are usually not a reputable company. Always step back & give yourself time to think about the situation. Tell that person you will call them back. A reputable company will be fine with that! Then you can take your time to check out that company.

Explore St. Louis!

The City of Florissant offers two kinds of trips for Senior Citizens. One is for all Florissant Senior Citizens and the other is for Silver Word Club Members.

Senior Citizen Trips

These trips are open to all Senior Citizens, 60 years of age or older. Please call the Trip Line at 595-3636 for current trip information. Listed below is the upcoming Senior Citizen Trip:



- **ST. LOUIS TROLLEY TOUR & LUNCH AT THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY:** Get acquainted with the popular and local favorites that St. Louis has to offer during this fully narrated 75 minute tour aboard an authentic, climate controlled trolley with brass rails, bells and all! During this tour we’ll stop for a delicious lunch at the Famous Old Spaghetti Factory on Laclede’s Landing.
DATE OF TRIP: Monday, July 14, 2014
TIME OF TRIP: 10:30- 2:30pm
TICKET SALES: Tickets are \$43.00 each which includes transportation, tour and lunch. A limited number of tickets will be sold. First Trip Registration will be held on Tuesday, June 3rd at the Florissant Senior Dining Center from 9:00-11:00am for residents with a current resident card. If there are tickets remaining, a second registration will be held on Tuesday, June 10th from 9:00- 11:00am at the Florissant Senior Dining Center for Residents AND Non-Residents. Non-resident ticket price is \$45.00. Call the Senior Office at 839-7605 for ticket availability.

Silver Words Club Trips

The Florissant Silver Words Club is a Club for widows/widowers, and single seniors who meet once a month with a meeting, trip or some type of entertainment. If you are interested in joining this group, please call the Senior Office at 839-7605. Silver Words Trips are open FIRST to Silver Word Club Members. If there are tickets remaining they will be offered to all Senior Citizens. Listed below is the upcoming Silver Words Trip:

- **THOMAS F. EAGLETON U.S. COURTHOUSE & LOTAWATA CREEK:** Tour this beautiful 29-story St. Louis Landmark and then enjoy a delicious lunch at the “People’s Choice” Restaurant, Lotawata Creek.
DATE OF TRIP: Thursday, June 12th, 2014
TIME OF TRIP: 10:15am – 3:30pm
TICKET SALES: Tickets are \$6.00 each which includes the tour and transportation. Lunch at Lotawata Creek is at your own expense. Tickets go on sale at the May 8th Silver Words Club Meeting to Silver Word Club Members Only. If there are tickets remaining after this first registration, tickets will go on sale in the Senior Office in Florissant City Hall to all Senior Citizens, residents and non-residents on May 9th. Call the Senior Office at 839-7605 for ticket availability or for more information.



2014 City of Florissant Beautiful Home Awards

The City of Florissant is conducting its Beautiful Home Award Program again this year.



The program was established to recognize homeowners who take pride in the appearance of their home and community.

In order to be eligible for the contest a home must be an owner-occupied single family dwelling. Residents may nominate either their own home or other homes in the city. The judging criterion includes, but is not limited to, landscaping, attractive exterior, overall curb appeal and maintenance of the property.

One winner will be chosen from each of the city’s nine wards. The winners will receive recognition from

the City Council, including a certificate of appreciation and a Beautiful Home yard sign.

Previous winners must wait three (3) years before consideration for another award.

Nominations must be submitted with a current photo and may be mailed or hand delivered to the Community Development Office in the Government Building @ 1055 St. Francois or sent via email to tkammermeyer@florissantmo.com.

All nominations must be received no later than noon Friday May 30, 2014.

Sponsored by
City of Florissant Citizen Participation Committee

CITY OF FLORISSANT 2014 BEAUTIFUL HOME AWARDS

I nominate the following home for a 2014 Beautiful Home Award:

Name (if known) _____ Ward _____

Street Address _____ Phone # _____

Submit to: Community Development Office
Florissant Government Building
1055 rue St. Francois
Florissant, MO 63031

(ATTACH A CURRENT PHOTO)

DEADLINE: Friday, May 30, 2014 by Noon

Energy, Housing And Health Fair

The City of Florissant along with the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County (CAASTLC) is holding an ENERGY, HOUSING AND HEALTH FAIR. You will be able to meet with representatives from the City, CAASTLC, Ameren UE, Laclede Gas, MO American Water, lenders and realtors to get information on Homebuyer Incentives, Home Repair, Weatherization & Energy Assistance, Health Screenings, Affordable Care Act Information and much more. We will also have activities for kids and raffles.

Join us for the afternoon on SATURDAY MAY, 17, 2014, 10am – 2pm Florissant City Hall, 955 rue St. Francois. For more information call the Community Development Office at 314.839.7680

Think Green

The Environmental Quality Commission will again have a booth set up in the Civic Center Ice Rink during the Valley of the Flowers Festival. This commission of the City of Florissant is tasked with educating Florissant residents about recycling and recycling events, reducing carbon footprints, developing green areas in the City, providing educational programs, and advising residents about saving resources. Stop by our booth and see what you can learn to improve your home environment, lessen the impact of pollution on the environment, and save money and resources. In the meantime, here are a few ideas to consider doing now:



6. Plant native plants and flowers. They need less care and water.
7. Don’t litter; pick up scattered trash to keep Florissant a clean city.
8. Replace incandescent bulbs with CFLs or LEDs and save electricity and money.
9. Replace older appliances (like refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.) with new Energy Star models to save electricity and money. Annual savings are very significant.
10. Bring your own bags when you shop to keep plastic bags out of the environment.
11. Buy reusable cups and plates.
12. Save water by fixing water leaks in bathrooms, kitchens, and outdoor hose connections.
13. Use solar energy whenever possible from south-facing windows to clotheslines.
14. Carry reusable water bottles.
15. Swap items with friends or check out resale shops.
16. Use ceiling fans for low-cost extra cooling during summer.
17. Walk, bicycle, carpool, or drive an energy-efficient, better mileage vehicle.
18. Shop locally, especially at Florissant Cool City Businesses!

Free Recycle Tote!



The City of Florissant has 65 gallon recycle totes available for Florissant residents. If you would like to receive one of these totes, call the Florissant Health Department at 314-839-7655 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8am and 5pm. The recycle totes are to be used for recycling only and are not to be used for trash pick up or yard waste. Thank you!

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The Florissant Golf Club



All of us at the Florissant Golf Club are excited to get the 2014 golfing season under way after a winter that has lasted way too long!

Continuing with our golf course conditioning and remodeling started last year, golfers will be treated to upgraded tees, bunkers, and open area beautification.

As always, our rates continue to be some of the lowest in the greater St. Louis area, and the only golf course currently that offers a senior rate seven days a week! Seniors (over 55) can enjoy 18 holes of golf for only \$24.00. Also, all of our golf merchandise is priced equal to or less than all of the discount golf outlets such as; Golf Discount, Golf Galaxy, GolfSmith, and Golf Club Liquidators. And, we are a TAX FREE facility! Please give us the opportunity to help you with your golfing needs!

If you are looking for a facility to host your golf outing or charity event look no further as we provide some of the best outing rates in the area. Plus we have a full service bar and grill, and a large deck overlooking the 18th hole for both golf outings and banquet needs. There are still a few dates available for this year so please give us a call and get your outing booked right away.

Golf lessons are provided by PGA Master Golf Professional/General Manager Terry Grosch and Assistant General Manager Eric Ogles. Give us a call and get an early start on your game improvement for 2014. Also, soon we are starting a golf segment on our local television station and we will be looking to answer your golf swing questions.

Please give us a call with any questions and we look forward to seeing you at Florissant Golf Club this year.

Preschool Mini Camp



Join us for a few camp-like activities. You can attend all four days or register for each day individually. These activities will take place at the James J Eagan Center, both inside and outdoors. Children must be potty trained.

Game Day June 11th

Join us for a day full of App inspired games. We will set up real life angry birds, play candy crush, go on a treasure hunt, and even spend a little time on the playground if the weather is nice. All children will go home with a gift.

Bubble Day June 25th

Who does not love bubbles? Join us for an exciting day to play with bubbles. Children will even get the chance to be inside a giant bubble! Kids will not want to miss out on the exciting day.

Water Play Day July 9th

Enjoy a day playing with everything water! We will have the pools filled, the hoses out, and buckets full of water balloons for children to enjoy. Please remember to bring a swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen for this fun filled day. If the weather is bad, we will have a fun day in the gymnasium.

Superhero & Princess Party July 23rd

Kids can enjoy a superhero and princess themed party full of games and activities. Come dressed up as your favorite superhero or princess and enjoy a tea party, superhero crafts, games, and much more!

Ages: 3-5
Time: 9:00-11:00AM
Registration: R 5/1 NR 5/15
Fee per class: R \$8 NR \$12

Family Fishing Tournament



An annual event put on by the Florissant Parks & Recreation Department and City Youth Advisory Commission. A current Florissant Resident Card is required to register. Awards and consolation prizes will be given in various categories throughout the event. The tournament is open to all ages, however, individuals 16-65 years of age are required by state law to have a Missouri State Fishing License.

Date: Saturday, June 28

Time: 9:00-11:00AM

Location: St. Ferdinand Park

Price: FREE-Florissant Residents only pre-registration required

Registration: Begins June 9th at both Community Centers

Please Leave Your Pet At Home In Hot Weather!



On an 85° day it may only take ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach in excess of 100°, even when the vehicles windows have been left open an inch or two. The inside of a car can be 20 degrees hotter even on a pleasant 70° day. Pets most at risk are: young animals, elderly and overweight animals, those with short muzzles and pets with thick or dark-colored coats.

Hot Weather Traveling Tips

- Provide shade when your pet is outside on a warm day.
- Exercise your pet during the coolest parts of the day and never exercise a pet immediately following a meal.
- Walk your pet (s) on grass or dirt when possible as hot asphalt and tar can burn sensitive paw pads.
- Carry a large container of cold water for you AND your pet!
- Get a veterinary checkup before traveling and make sure you have with you all vaccination certificates as well as flea and tick treatments.

If Your Dog Is Overcome By The Heat

Immediately bring down your pet's body temperature by soaking the animal in cool water. Make sure water does not get in to the mouth or nose of an unconscious animal and seek immediate veterinary care.

Animal Cruelty

Most states, county and municipal governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a vehicle under dangerous conditions, which include hot weather. Law enforcement officials including animal control officers, may be authorized to enter your vehicle by whatever means necessary to remove the animal if they feel the life of the animal is threatened. You could have your car damaged, be charged with a crime and fined or imprisoned.

AARP "Driver Safety Program" Schedule for 2014

The Florissant Police Department will be hosting another series of the AARP "Driver Safety Program" during 2014. The dates are:

- Tuesday, May 13, 2014
- Tuesday, July 8, 2014
- Tuesday, September 9, 2014
- Tuesday, November 11, 2014

LOCATION:

Florissant Police Department
1700 N. Highway 67
Florissant, MO 63033

TIME: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

FEE: \$15 for AARP Members,
\$20 for Non-AARP Members

The A.A.R.P. "Driver Safety Program" is a 4-hour classroom refresher that can help you learn the effects of aging on driving and how you can adjust one's driving habits

to remain safe on the road. This program is sponsored and presented by AARP and targets drivers 50 years of age and older. AARP provides a certified instructor to teach the program.

Many insurance companies offer reduced insurance rates for those who successfully complete the course. Check with your insurance company to see if you qualify.

To register contact Officer Andy Haarmann at the Florissant Police Department's Public Information Unit at (314) 830-6042. Seating is limited so drivers are encouraged to register early to reserve a spot in the class. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.



Florissant Police Selling T-Shirts to Benefit the Special Olympics



The Florissant Police is once again selling Missouri Law Enforcement Torch Run T-Shirts to benefit the Missouri Special Olympics. The costs for the shirts are \$10 for sizes youth medium to 2XL and \$15 for size 3XL.

Please contact Officer Andy Haarmann for more information at (314) 830-6042 or ahaarmann@florissantmo.com.

Officer Gary Thieme Retires

Chief Tim Lowery and the entire Florissant Police Department wishes to congratulate and thank Officer Gary Thieme for his many years of service. Officer Gary Thieme retired from the Florissant Police Department in February of 2014 after thirty-four years of service to the Florissant community. Prior to coming to the Florissant Police Department in December of 1979, Officer Thieme worked as a police officer for several years in Pine Lawn and St. John. Officer Thieme performed various roles within the Florissant Police Department, including serving as a D.A.R.E. Officer for several years.

Officer Thieme plans on spending more time with his wife, Kathy, and their daughter, Melissa. Thanks, Officer Thieme, for your dedication to Florissant!



For More Information from the Florissant Police Department visit www.florissantmo.com

Florissant Police Seek Public's Assistance in Copper Burglary Investigation



The Florissant Police Department has continued to see a high amount of copper burglaries that are taking place in unoccupied homes within the City of Florissant. A copper burglary is when someone breaks into the residence, and steals copper piping out of the residence. The burglars then sell the stolen copper to scrap yards.

The police department wants to remind the residents that several of the people who commit these types of burglaries have the appearance of people who are working on the property. Too often, neighbors see the burglars, and simply assume that it

is someone who is doing some sort of work at the property.

The Florissant Police Department is urging the residents to be aware of unoccupied homes within their neighborhoods, and to report any sort of suspicious activity to the police department as the activity is occurring.

Safety Town Returns

The Florissant "SAFETY TOWN" program will be returning for the seventeenth year. Florissant "SAFETY TOWN" is sponsored by the Florissant Police Department, Florissant Rotary Club, Stygar and Sons Funeral Homes, and the Hazelwood and Ferguson/Florissant School Districts.

"SAFETY TOWN" is a nationally recognized safety program for 4, 5, and 6 year old pre-school children. Topics such as Walking Safety, Bicycle/Tricycle Safety, School Bus Safety, Poison Safety, Playground Safety, Stranger Danger, Tool and Toy Safety will be covered. A visit from the Florissant Valley Fire Protection District is also scheduled.

This comprehensive program allows children the opportunity to see a

Police Officer as their friend and teacher. They learn about safety issues through classroom interaction as well as through interactive play in a miniature town, complete with stop signs, buildings, electric signals and the like.

This year, Safety Town will be held from July 7th thru July 18th Monday thru Friday. There will be two sessions offered-either 10:00am-12:00pm or 1:00pm thru 3:00pm. Both sessions will be held at Duchesne Elementary (100 South New Florissant Road). The cost for the two week session is \$15.00.

For more information, please contact Officer Lessie Summers at 314-831-7000 or lsummers@florissantmo.com.

Florissant Police Will Host Open House and Building Dedication

The Florissant Police will be hosting an "Open House" on Saturday, May 17th from 10:00 AM till 2:00 PM. The police department facility is located at 1700 North Highway 67. Immediately following the Open House, a building dedication to former Police Chief and Mayor Robert G. Lowery Sr is scheduled to begin at 2pm on the front parking lot of the police station.

Tours of the facility will be provided, free of charge. Department equipment utilized by the various Bureaus will be on display.

Some the equipment on display will be patrol vehicles, prisoner conveyance van, D.A.R.E. vehicle,

Evidence Technician Unit truck, radar trailers, Traffic Safety vehicles, evidence processing equipment, communications and 9-1-1 system, prisoner processing and holdover area, training room, and other department equipment.

K-9 demonstrations have been scheduled for 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM.

Parking will be available at the Atonement Lutheran Church, 1285 North New Florissant Road. A shuttle bus will be provided to transport the visitors to the police station.

For additional information please contact Officer Andy Haarmann at (314) 830-6042.

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