

Ferguson Has A History Museum

Ferguson, indeed, does have a Historical Society and a History Museum and we are moving forward with the help of our readers of the past four weeks. We encourage any of you reading this article to join in the conversation. Contact information is at the bottom of this article.

This month's article is a Good News/Bad News article.

First – the good news: as mentioned in last month's article on the Ferguson Cabooses, work has actually begun to bring the cabooses up to visiting standards. As soon as all the work is



ALL ABOARD!
for our
2nd Annual FUNDRAISER
*Celebrating the History of Ferguson
in an Historic Home*

Fellowship, refreshments, silent auction, and raffle items!
Sunday, Nov 2, 2025 • 2:00-4:30pm • 100 S. Clay Ave

\$25 per person
Venmo, Cash App or contact
ferghistoricalsociety@gmail.com
for other options to pay.

Venmo
Cash App



complete, the History House will let you know. Also, in the good news department – we are having our annual open house on November 2nd. If you got your newspaper early enough to be aware of the fund raiser – hopefully you came and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon. If it is too late, we will cover the event in the December paper and you can look forward to attending next year. Last year we raised money to get our website up and running. By the end of this year, it will be up and running and ready to serve all who are interested. More on this

in December.

There is more good news! Lee-Hamilton School will be celebrating it's 75th anniversary. Lee-



Hamilton Elementary School is located at 40 Powell Avenue. I did attend Lee-Hamilton on its inaugural year, so there are pleasant memories of being in a brand-new school. Congratulations on 75 years of service to the Ferguson community.

Alas – there is also bad news on the horizon. The Ferguson Historical Society has lost a wonderful member of our group – Sandy Hunter. Sandy, who grew up in Ferguson, graduated from Ferguson High School, had a lifetime of service to the Ferguson community and a long-time Board of Directors member of the Ferguson Historical Society, will be missed by many. Thank you, Sandy for being who you were and all that you did to serve Ferguson.



Other bad news but not as bad as it could be, we are losing another Board of Directors member because she is moving to join her family members in the Chicago area. Jeannie Boettcher also grew up in Ferguson (just down the street from me), graduated from Ferguson High School, taught her career in the Ferguson-Florissant schools and has served the Ferguson community in countless ways. She is retiring from the Ferguson Historical Society as vice-president. We love you, Jeannie – will miss you greatly – wish you the best in Chicago – and hope to stay in touch.

Still more bad news: we are losing a major business in Ferguson – Ferguson Brewing Company. The Ferguson Brewing Company



has served our city for over 15 years – first as the Hill Brewing Company (2010) and finally as Ferguson Brewing Company. Originally the building served as a liqueur store for many years (St. John Liqueur) and a barber shop, along the Paul Avenue side. The stone gorilla on the side is part of the company logo and a great thing on which to climb. The early 2000's was a time of

growth for micro-brews – local breweris – usually serving pub food and small batches of small batch beers.

Hill Brewing, later Ferguson Brewing became our own local brew pub. Current owner, Rob Wiesen, in an article in the St. Louis Post Dispatch, indicated that the current climate for brew pubs is declining. That along with increased product costs and a more competitive dining climate have led to his decision to close the pub. Ferguson Brewing is just one of at least five local, metro micro-breweris which have closed in the past several years. Ferguson Brewing survived not only the Covid-19 era (with call-in and pickup at the back of the building), but also a disastrous kitchen fire. Wiesen has indicated that while the pub did not find a buyer, a local Fergusonian has purchased the building.



Above is a photo of the interior of Ferguson Brewing – a sight many of us have enjoyed many times over the past 15 years. Great pub food and wonderful local beers were (and still are until December 20th) served here. Many of us will not only miss the local beers but the really-great root beer. This was a weekly lunch date for many local business people as well as employees of UMSL. Evenings saw many families and small groups enjoying dinner. Upstairs was a party room, the Sky Room, available for large groups. We will all miss this wonderful place.

That's the good news and bad news for now. If you have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact **Jerry Benner** at fjbenner@mindspring.com. You are also welcome to visit the History Museum. Please email me at the address to set a date and time to visit. Board meetings are on the third Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Interested people are invited to attend the meetings.

“The Ferguson Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Ferguson Missouri. Membership is open to all sharing our interest.”

