



*Florissant Missouri*  
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**NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE  
From the Office of the Mayor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**75th Anniversary of a place called Florissant June 26, 2014**

Dear Friends of the Beautiful City of Florissant in the Valley of Flowers,

Welcome to the 75th Anniversary of a Place Called Florissant. Have some birthday cake to celebrate the progress of the last three quarters of a century.

As you know the City of St. Louis was named after a French saint and is having a yearlong celebration of the 250th anniversary of their founding in 1764. The Louisiana Territory was ruled alternately and collaboratively by both France and Spain. Around that same time French Catholic pioneers traveling down the Mississippi stopped in a place that took their breath away, a place where the soil was so fertile and rich that flowering plants burst forth in abundance, and a place that they used their French word for Flourishing to name this valley Fleurissant.

Twenty odd years later in 1786 the Spanish Governor was on a tour of the Louisiana Territory and came upon our prospering village. Being a bureaucrat he felt compelled to inflict some government upon our ancestors and appointed the Frenchmen Francis Dunegant to become the Commandant of the village to be named after the 12th century Spanish Saint and bestowed the name San Fernando on our town.

Thomas Jefferson's statue at our State Capitol reads. 3rd President of the United States, Author of the Declaration of Independence, and Father of the Louisiana Purchase. When we became part of the United States territory in 1804 the name of our village was anglicized to St. Ferdinand. Missouri became a state in 1821 and the village of St. Ferdinand was incorporated under the laws of this state in 1829 and 1843 and the City of St. Ferdinand was granted a Charter by Missouri in 1857 which stayed in effect until 1963 when our current Charter took effect.

But the original French name which also became anglicized and was spelled Florissant never went away and persisted on historical documents letters and maps and even on a narrow gage railroad to downtown St. Louis that used to terminate near what is now Goeke produce located

on you guessed it “St. Ferdinand Road. If you are confused then you know why Mayor Bangert and his City Council passed ordinance number 129 officially changing the name of our City from St. Ferdinand to Florissant on June 26th 1939, 75 years ago tomorrow.

I hope that you have had a chance to read the 36 page special edition of the Florissant Valley Reporter which is dedicated to telling our story. If you liked the magazine I have good news for you in that we have an entire page in the next Florissant Focus prepared by Reporter Editor Tony Brockmeier with permission from Focus editor Mark Goldstein to include it. I hope you enjoyed exploring our past 75 years as much as we enjoyed bringing it to you.

Tomorrow we get right back to working towards the progress of the next 75 years with two town Hall meetings at the Civic Center Theater at 2 PM and 7 PM. We hope to see you there. With our best wishes for the continuing progress of the beautiful city of Florissant in the Valley of Flowers, I remain

Thomas P. Schneider  
Mayor

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