Greetings,

In 1957, the Normandy School District bought the Bellerive Country Club and golf course on Natural Bridge Road, then “donated” the site for a token payment to the university to create educational opportunities in higher education for the people living in the area. In 1960, the Normandy Residence Center opened for classes, enrolling 215 freshmen. The University of Missouri provided the faculty. This partnership between the University and the community led to the Normandy Residence Center becoming the University of Missouri - St. Louis (UMSL) in 1963.

UMSL was born out of a university-community partnership. From 215 freshmen to over 100,000 graduates today, this partnership produced access to opportunity for numerous St. Louisans. With over 4,000 alumni living in communities immediately surrounding campus, many neighbors have
benefited from the local community’s decision over 50 years ago.

As a community partner, UMSL takes seriously its role as a facilitator and collaborator on projects that improve the conditions of local communities, whether they involve job creation, health care alternatives, neighborhood renewal or K-12 educational enhancements. Together, we are making a difference for individuals and communities each day. This is something to celebrate.

With Thanksgiving just passed and the new year approaching, now is a time for reflection and gratitude. We want to say “thank you” to you, our neighbors. Your investment and ongoing support of this institution continues to transform lives in the classroom and in the community.

Happy Holidays!

Kristin Sobolik
Interim Chancellor, University of Missouri - St. Louis

UMSL Launches Community Card for Residents in Nearby Communities

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is happy to offer discounts and benefits to households in communities nearby campus through a new community card. The community card is one way the University looks to be a good neighbor. Residents near campus can use this card to access discounted tickets to shows at the Touhill Performing Arts Center, discounts and extra perks at the Recreation and Wellness Center, and a free box of popcorn at sporting events. Residents can find out more information and sign up for a card at umsl.edu/collaborations/card.

Afterschool Homework Help
September 5 - May 14, 2020
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Ferguson Municipal Public Library

Do your kids need help with their homework? Studying for a test? Or maybe just someone to read with them? Bring them to Afterschool Homework Help! Our group of friendly volunteer homework helpers will be on hand to work with your child. For more information, please call the library and ask for Amy. Help will be offered Thursdays starting August 29 4-6 pm. For more information and dates the event will not be taking place, click here.

Ferguson Sewing Club
November 11-August 31, 2020
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ferguson Municipal Public Library

Wanting to learn how to sew? Stop by the Ferguson Sewing Club from 10am-3pm every Monday in the Auditorium.

Preschool Playdate
Holiday Friends Program, December 16th

Holiday Friends is a gift-giving program hosted by Beyond Housing that ensures that low-income families have a little something extra under the tree. Holiday Friends provides an opportunity for people across the region to support families with gifts or through donations. In 2018, Holiday Friends provided gifts to almost 1,000 kids. If you choose to participate this year, unwrapped gifts can be dropped off on December 16th or 17th from 7 AM – 7 PM at Beyond Housing located at 6506 Wright Way, Pine Lawn, MO 63121. Click here to learn more and adopt a family for the holidays.

Jennings School District raising homeless student attendance with new transportation

Story and Photo from St. Louis Public Radio

Jennings School District transitioned to using district-owned minivans to get homeless youth to and from school. The switch is making a difference for attendance and is saving the school district funds. Attendance for students using the minivans is up 2% and the district cut its transportation budget in half.

This shift from using taxi’s to district-owned minivans to get youth to school was made possible through a grant from the Enterprise car foundation. To learn more about Jenning’s transportation strategy and efforts to support homeless youth successfully completing their education, click here.

Winter Market

November 30 - December 14, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Thies Farm and Greenhouses: N. Hanley Location

Winter Market Shop for fresh farm produce and local artisans items at Thies Farm’s NEW Winter Market. Under the cover of our warm, summer-like greenhouses. The Winter Market is open every Saturday starting November 30th to December 14th between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. Local vendors will feature vegetables, fruits, granola, breads, pastries and wines, plus soaps, handmade jewelry and more. Be sure to check out our fresh plants, pottery and new garden accessories.

Jazz for the Holidays

December 8, 2019
Fall commencement ceremonies set to honor more than 1,400 new graduates

The University of Missouri–St. Louis will celebrate more than 1,400 new graduates on Dec. 14 as the university concludes the Fall 2019 semester with a trio of commencement ceremonies at the Mark Twain Athletic Center on North Campus. Beware there may be more traffic than usual during this celebratory weekend. For more information on commencement events, click here.

Share with us: Take the community feedback questionnaire and share input on this newsletter

UMSL is interested to know more about your thoughts regarding the university and how we might better support surrounding communities. Take a short survey by clicking here to share your thoughts!

We'd love to hear from you about how we can improve our communication with the community and hear your questions and comments about UMSL and neighboring communities. We also welcome stories about great things happening in our communities. Your thoughts will help shape content covered in future newsletters to be pertinent to you and your neighbors. Leave any suggestions, questions, or stories here. Thank you!