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UMSL Community Connection

[Click here](#) to sign up for the community connection newsletter.

UMSL Community Card

[Register](#) for a community card to receive benefits and discounts at UMSL events and facilities.



Dear friends, neighbors, and community members,

September is such a wonderful month, full of opportunity as UMSL students have begun their fall classes. It is a lovely time to be on campus as the days begin to cool, and trees start to change colors. We are thrilled to see many students and employees regularly on campus. With this return to campus, we continue to take appropriate health precautions so that students can engage in their education in a safe way. COVID-19 precautions extend to making the campus safe for the community as well, whether for visits to the Mercantile Library to see the anniversary exhibit, or for taking part in an outdoor event like the upcoming UMSL Alumni 5K. To help in these efforts, we are pleased to host vaccination clinics at UMSL, providing easy access to area residents.

Transitions in seasons often give us a chance to reflect. As with every month's newsletter, I am energized by the stories of passionate people and partners engaged in making our community a wonderful place to live. I hope you enjoy the stories of development and opportunity in our newsletter this month and that you make use of the vaccine clinics, the small business supports, and other resources available at UMSL and throughout the community.

Wishing you well!

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St. Louis

UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?

[Procurement Bids](#)

[Construction Bids](#)

Events & Resources



St. Louis County Library Virtual Events

Resources for a Successful
Job Interview

Saturday, September 18
2:00PM

Participants will learn how to prepare for an upcoming job interview, find relevant interview questions and put themselves ahead of the competition. [Click here](#) for more information.

How to Start a Business

Tuesday, September 21
12:00PM

Presented by Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. New or aspiring business owners will learn the basic legal steps to start a business to protect them from liability and costly mistakes and help them be



For 175 Years, St. Louis' Mercantile Library Has Collected The History Of A City — And A Nation

St. Louis Public Radio News, by Evie Hemphill, August 31, 2021

Perhaps the most striking thing about the St. Louis Mercantile Library is the very fact of its existence for 175 years, which makes it the oldest library west of the Mississippi River. But in celebrating that milestone this year, its executive director, John Hoover, decided to do much more than simply highlight that remarkable claim to fame. As the anniversary neared, Hoover dug deep into the library's collections, going through book after book and artifact after artifact, as he began outlining his latest major project, an exhibition titled [“A Nation, A City, & Its First Library: Americana as a Way of Life at the St. Louis Mercantile Library.”](#)

“Sometimes my hands were shaking to see how things were unfolding,” Hoover said of pulling together the show. “The idea that the place has survived and danced, in a way, with history — all of these many 17, 18 decades — is very special.” [Read more](#), then make plans to visit the [Mercantile Library](#) on the UMSL campus.

more successful. In this short time, attendees will learn about business formation and types, choice of name, and business licenses. There will also be a discussion of what legal protections come next. [Click here](#) for more information.



28th Annual Juvenile Justice Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 18
8:00AM to 2:30PM

Normandie Golf Club
7605 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Louis, MO 63133

The tournament format will feature a 4-player team, 18-hole scramble, with prizes being awarded to the top finishers in each of four flights. Refreshments will be available during the event, and at the conclusion, participants are invited to join the group at the Normandie Golf Club pavilion for a BBQ luncheon and beverages. [Click here](#) to learn more.



UMSL On-Campus Pop-Up Vaccine Clinic



Best Value Colleges rates UMSL in top 40 in US for affordable quality online degrees

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is known for providing students with an excellent, flexible education at an affordable price, and online education is a powerful tool in helping students earn a degree.

A new ranking recognizes UMSL for the success of its online programs. This month, Value Colleges named UMSL No. 39 on its list “Top 50 Best Value Online Degree Completion Programs for 2021.”

“At UMSL, we’re proud to offer flexible pathways toward earning a degree, and online courses provide students with an option that works around the many other responsibilities that so many students juggle,” Chancellor Kristin Sobolik said. “We strive to provide all students, regardless of their backgrounds, a high quality and affordable education that works for them, and I’m delighted that this latest ranking recognizes our efforts.” [Read more.](#)



Wednesday, September 22
Wednesday, October 13

UMSL
Millenium Student Center
17 Arnold B. Grobman Drive
Room 313
St. Louis, MO 63121

[Learn more](#) then make an appointments on the [Revive STL](#) website closer to the event date. This event is open to everyone.



Community Development Family Reunion

Thursday, September 23
5:30 to 8:00PM

Cortex Commons
4270 Duncan Ave
St. Louis, MO 63110

Celebrate the stories and company that have shaped the past and present and will continue building a foundation for a shared future. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Cake Walk

Saturday, September 25
12:00 to 3:00PM

Three months after 400 tons of trash removed, Wellston neighbors pleased with progress

KMOV News, By Caroline Hecker, August 27, 2021

Three months after more than 400 tons of trash was removed from a Wellston neighborhood, those who live there said they're excited about the future. "You couldn't drive through there, you couldn't walk through there, you'd step on nails, roughing debris, trash bags, garbage smell, everything," said Bob Pierce, who has lived in the LuLu Heights neighborhood for about five years. "Now look at it! It's clean, just needs some grass cut down, a little trimming up, a little TLC as they say."

The city of Wellston spent more than \$80,000 in 2020 trying to fix the illegal dumping problem that has plagued the neighborhood for years. Couches, mattresses, clothes, toys and other trash littered the neighborhood, making many roads impassible. Neighbors like Pierce were fed up with the poor aesthetics and lack of respect for the area.

For years, shortly after the trash was removed, illegal dumping resumed and much of the progress was lost--until now. In May, the St. Louis County Land Clearance and Redevelopment and Authority partnered with the City of Wellston for a three-day clean up event. In doing so, volunteers removed 400 tons of trash with the help of heavy duty equipment and trash bags. Concrete barriers were installed to ensure one way in and out of the neighborhood, and multiple cameras sit in some of the prime illegal dumping spots. "The change has been great," said Pierce. [Read more.](#)



Bitcoin for everyone: Cool Valley mayor wants to give each resident \$1,000 in cryptocurrency.

St. Vincent Park
7335 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Louis, MO 63133

Grab some goodies along the trail in St. Vincent Park during the 1st Annual Cake Walk. Participants will enjoy music and tasty treats as they leisurely stroll the 1.2 mile, paved St. Vincent Greenway Trail. [Click here](#) for more information.



Ignite Opportunity in our Community

Saturday, September 25
10:00AM to 2:00PM

Online

This Community Conference features insights and hands-on strategies to enhance 24:1 residents' work and participation in education, business, and government.

Featured speakers:

- Senator Brian Williams, Missouri State Senator, 14th District--St. Louis County.
- Congresswoman Cori Bush, United States Representative, Missouri 1st District.

[Click here](#) for more information.

A tiny Missouri town could become the first in the country to put Bitcoin in the hands of every resident.

Jayson Stewart, the Mayor of Cool Valley says he is raising funds to give each of the town's roughly 1500 inhabitants a piece of the digital currency. Many experts expect Bitcoin to grow in value exponentially in the next decade. "My daughter says she thinks it's the next big thing. The digital currency," said Ramona Nickels, a mail carrier who lives in Cool Valley. "Look, it's digital gold," said Mayor Stewart. "I would like to see every single household in my city receive some level of Bitcoin, whether it be \$500 or \$1,000." [Watch and read more.](#)

To learn more about Bitcoin and blockchains, read this [interview](#) with UMSL Professor Mary Lacity.



Neighborhood Leadership Fellows Graduates 2021 Cohort and Opens 2022 Applications

[Neighborhood Leadership Fellows \(NLF\)](#) recently celebrated the graduation of the 2021 class of fellows. As these graduates take the next step in their leadership journey, NLF is calling on residents from the St. Louis Promise Zone to apply to be a part of the 2022 cohort. Neighborhood Leadership Fellows is a nine-month leadership training for community leaders aimed at increasing the voices of North St. Louis City and County residents at civic decision-making tables in order to produce more equitable regional policies for neighborhoods. The program, will meet one weekend a month for nine months from January through September 2022. All participants who are accepted and complete the program will receive a stipend and UMSL Chancellor's Certificate in Civic Leadership.



Ferguson Farmer's Market

Saturdays
8:00AM to 12:00PM

PLAZA at 501
501 S. Florissant Rd.,
Ferguson MO 63135

Enjoy live music and special events in a festive family atmosphere, and discover a wide variety of edible delights, including homemade jelly, farm fresh eggs, honey, spices, and meats. Attendees will find an ever-changing array of gift and specialty vendors, selling everything from cut flowers and bedding plants to hand-painted artwork and small-batch soaps. [Click here](#) to learn more.



"Pay What You Can" Farm Stand

July through November
Fridays
3:00 to 7:00PM
Sundays
11:00AM to 3:00PM

EarthDance Organic Farm
233 S Dade Ave.
Ferguson MO, 63135

Apply HERE from September 11 - October 15th. For more information, [click here](#).



Forward Through Ferguson is accepting applications for Board of Directors + Fall Fellowship program

Forward Through Ferguson engages a wide diversity of skilled and passionate people, united by a common vision of sustainable Racial Equity for the St. Louis region.

By applying their unique powers and talents, FTF Board appointees, staff members, and Fellows of past and present have each done crucial work in laying down the foundation that will serve to turn the organization's goals into the lived realities of St. Louis' Black and Brown community members and secure regional Racial Equity by the year 2039.

As they continue to increase capacity and evolve to match the needs of the communities being served, they consistently look toward new opportunities to expand the team, and with it, the range of backgrounds and experiences that inform the approach to the work. Applications are now being accepted for board service. [Learn more](#).

Fellowships are also available for undergraduate/graduate students, or those with equivalent work experience who have a deep interest in Racial Equity, Policy and Systems Change, social sector startup culture, and collective impact. [Click here](#) for more information.

Applications close at 12:00PM CT on September 28.

Earth Dance Farm's new [Pay What You Can Farm Stand](#) is now available for people to take home summer favorites, fresh from the fields. [Click here](#) for more information.



Registration is now open for the 2021 Chancellor's Certificate in Fundamentals of Planning and Zoning program.

Fundamentals of Planning and Zoning is taught by a team of senior practitioners, who have extensive knowledge and experience in local government planning in Missouri, Illinois and across the nation. Course modules cover planning practices, processes and topics that are crucial for local government success. [Register now](#).



Saint Louis Zoo Career Day Job Readiness Workshop

Saturday, October 2
Free Light Breakfast: 7:30AM



A day at a St. Louis County walk-in clinic shows why some vaccine holdouts are changing their minds

St. Louis Post Dispatch, by Michele Munz, July 23, 2021

Charlotta Brooks had gone to four funerals in the past three weeks for loved ones who died from COVID-19. She lost her 81-year-old grandma as well as two cousins and her son's godmother, all in their 40s. "Right around my age," said Brooks, 43. Last Wednesday, Brooks walked four blocks from her home in Berkeley to the walk-in vaccination clinic at the John C. Murphy Health Center, headquarters for the St. Louis County Department of Health, and got her first dose.

She had been afraid to get the vaccine, having heard claims it was risky and that she could end up in an emergency room. But after seeing family members sickened from COVID-19, she sought information from her church leaders and friends who work in nursing homes and dentist offices. They encouraged her. "If they got it, I should go ahead and get it, too, to prevent getting COVID-19 or giving it to someone else," Brooks said.

Convincing people to get vaccinated has proven a challenge for public health and hospital leaders, even as Missouri became an epicenter for the spread of the infectious delta variant now taking hold in the U.S. Despite rising COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, vaccination rates remained stagnant, state data shows. Just 47% of Missourians have initiated vaccination. [Read more.](#)

Free Workshop Sessions:
8:00AM – 12:30PM

The Saint Louis Zoo
WildCarePark
12385 Larimore Rd., St.
Louis, MO 63138

Free event for anyone who is starting to enter the workforce!

Workshop sessions will feature:

- Career panel discussions with Saint Louis Zoo managers and other regional HR managers, who will share their professional journeys and discuss what they look for in job candidates
 - Tips for a successful interview
 - Practice interviews
- [Register now](#) or email questions to workshop@stlzoo.org.

RSVP by Monday,
September 20, 2021



UMSL Alumni 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, October 16
8:00AM

UMSL Campus
One University Blvd.,
St. Louis, MO 63121



Covid19 Vaccine Info

There is A LOT of information circulating out there about the COVID-19 Vaccine and you might be wondering just what information to trust. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MoDHSS) has developed your go-to resource for the COVID-19 vaccine. Here you will find all the latest information on the state's vaccination efforts, including booster shots. [Click here](#) for more information.



This photograph taken by UMSL photographer August Jennewein is featured in [Eye on UMSL](#).

Louie and a little luck

Transfer student Jay Gaskin was among the new University of Missouri–St. Louis students recently taking part in Serendipity Sendoff outside the Millennium Student Center. Following tradition, Gaskin rubbed the book in the outstretched right hand of the Wayne Goode Statue for luck as UMSL's mascot, Louie, looked on.

Share with Us

Everyone is welcome to participate in the inaugural UMSL Alumni Association 5K Run & Walk. See old friends, meet new ones, enjoy the beautiful surroundings and make strides towards a healthier life. All participants will receive a dri-fit event shirt, the opportunity to win a medal, plus other Triton treats and surprises. [Click here](#) for more information

A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit the UMSL Triton Food Pantry.

We'd love to hear your questions and comments about UMSL and 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!

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