



## Letter from the Chancellor

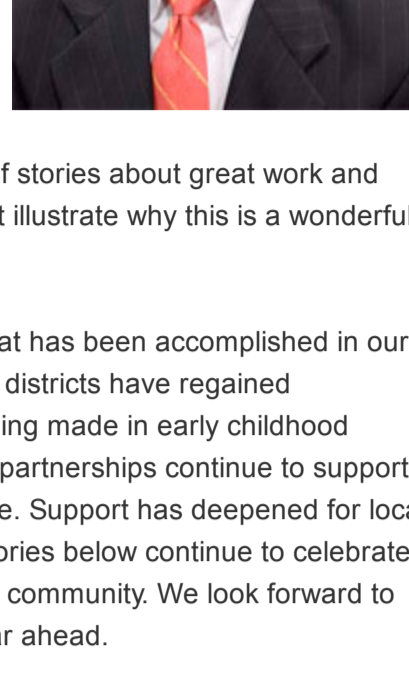
Greetings!

At this time last year, the Thanksgiving edition of our *Community Connection* newsletter was only our third issued. A year later, our readership has doubled. We've now shared over a year's worth of stories about great work and opportunities in North County that illustrate why this is a wonderful community to call home.

At UMSL we give thanks for all that has been accomplished in our community this past year. School districts have regained accreditation. Investments are being made in early childhood education. University-community partnerships continue to support youth from kindergarten to college. Support has deepened for local businesses and start-ups. The stories below continue to celebrate the dedication we all have for our community. We look forward to more newsworthy work in the year ahead.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Tom George, Chancellor, University of Missouri–St. Louis

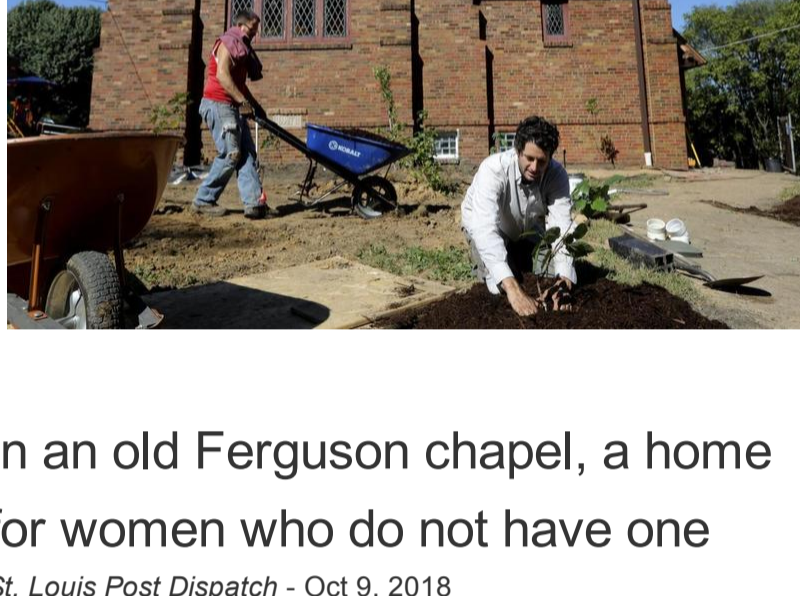


## New 'We Transform Lives' mission statement on display on university buildings

You can hardly miss it if you drive down Natural Bridge road.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis made its new mission statement "We Transform Lives" a physical part of campus by installing large-scale banners on the sides of three buildings along Natural Bridge Road.

With the release of the [2018-23 strategic plan](#), UMSL declared its mission to reshape the lives of people, particularly students, through "exceptional educational, research and engagement experiences that inform, prepare, challenge and inspire." UMSL aims to impact individuals and communities that comprise the greater St. Louis region and beyond....The decals are part of a larger campaign to increase the community's awareness of UMSL's new mission statement. [Click here](#) to learn more.



## In an old Ferguson chapel, a home for women who do not have one

*St. Louis Post Dispatch* - Oct 9, 2018

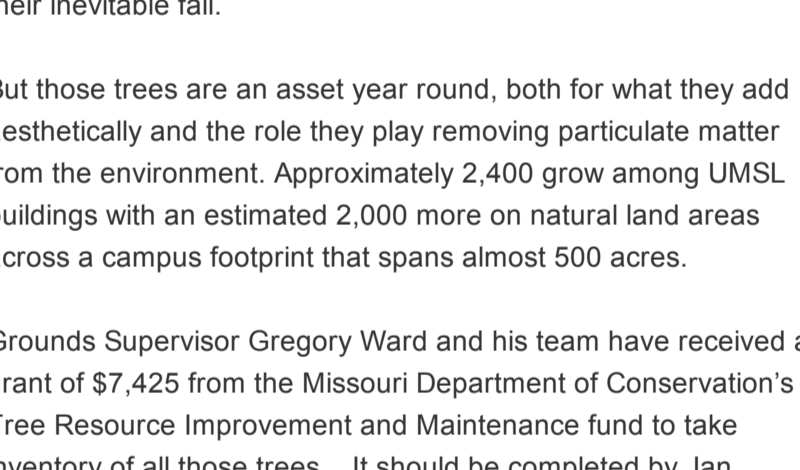
**FERGUSON** The little chapel on the hill, vacant for more than a decade, will soon be home to women who do not have one.

For more than a year, All Among Us, a small nonprofit group, has been slowly renovating the former home to Zion Lutheran Church into what will be a women's care center, providing housing for up to two years along with a variety of services with one simple but challenging goal: a stable living environment.

"Everything I've done for 12 years has led up to this," said Cathryn Shaw, executive director of All Among Us. "We are ready for this. We are doing something nobody else is doing in St. Louis and I think it's going to be lovely."

The center is not a shelter, Shaw said, but a place where up to 12 women can live, find their footing and eventually get a place of their own. But it does not end there. Every woman who successfully completes her time with the center is expected to come back and help newer residents. Hearing firsthand from those who escaped the cycle of poverty, who know the challenges that got the women there and the pitfalls that lie ahead.

The women living at the new center will have access to mental health care and financial literacy classes. They will work toward an employment plan that can include more education, interview skills and transportation assistance. [Click here](#) to read the rest of the article.



## Missouri Department of Conservation awards TRIM grant to UMSL to inventory campus trees

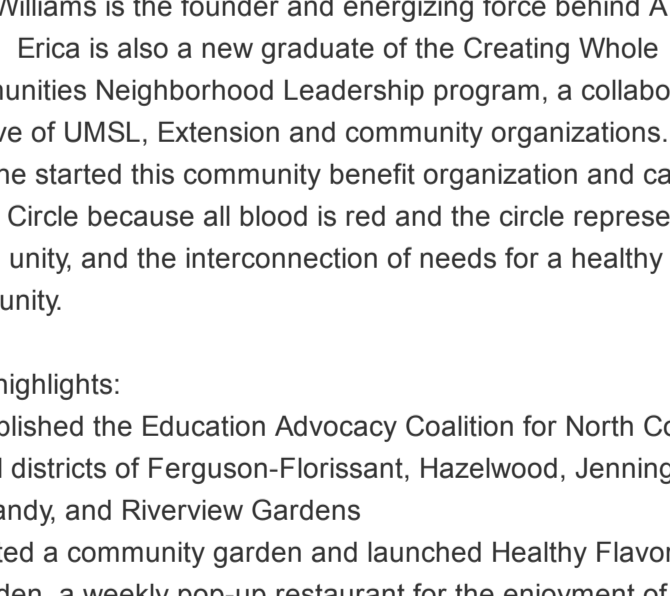
It's around this time every year that trees garner the most attention on the University of Missouri–St. Louis campus as their leaves begin exploding in bright colors of red and gold before their inevitable fall.

But those trees are an asset year round, both for what they add aesthetically and the role they play removing particulate matter from the environment. Approximately 2,400 grow among UMSL buildings with an estimated 2,000 more on natural land areas across a campus footprint that spans almost 500 acres.

Grounds Supervisor Gregory Ward and his team have received a grant of \$7,425 from the Missouri Department of Conservation's Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance fund to take inventory of all those trees... It should be completed by Jan. 1st...This upcoming tree inventory will be made publicly available in the New Year using Davey's TreeKeeper urban forestry management software. The web-accessible page will show each individual tree overlaid onto a satellite picture of campus. Classes can be scheduled via email at [wardgk@umsl.edu](mailto:wardgk@umsl.edu).

Making the information publicly available will open up research possibilities and educational programming. There are plans to develop self-guided tours of spring flowering trees, UMSL's largest oak, interesting species and more. The site can be customized so that visitors can upload photos of trees or share such images on their Facebook accounts.

[Click here](#) to read this full article and learn.



## A Red Circle

*Community Organization Highlight*

Established in 2017 and headquartered in Ferguson, A Red Circle has a mission focused on the holistic betterment of the community, reversing the effects of racism one person and cause at a time. A volunteer-run organization, A Red Circle was created to address this disparity by promoting economic development through a racial equity lens. Focus areas are employment, education, holistic living, policy, and the arts. Initiatives of A Red Circle address income inequality; educational achievement and discipline practices; access to healthy, affordable food; civic engagement and economic justice; as well as exposure to and enjoyment of the arts.

Erica Williams is the founder and energizing force behind A Red Circle. Erica is also a new graduate of the Creating Whole Communities Neighborhood Leadership Program, a collaborative initiative of UMSL, Extension and community organizations. She said she started this community benefit organization and called it A Red Circle because all blood is red and the circle represents safety, unity, and the interconnection of needs for a healthy community.

- 2018 highlights:
- Established the Education Advocacy Coalition for North County's school districts of Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, Jennings, Normandy, and Riverview Gardens
  - Planted a community garden and launched Healthy Flavor Bistro & Garden, a weekly pop-up restaurant for the enjoyment of an affordable, healthy meal in North County
  - Partnered with St. Vincent Home for Children to work with the older children on transitioning into adulthood
  - Conducted survey on Healthy Food Access in 63137 zip code
  - Collaborated with local pastors and elected officials to address food insecurity and employment issues
  - Started the Racial Equity Book Club
  - Collaborated with Magnify Your Voice on a Ferguson Bus Stop Makeover initiative
  - Registered voters and provided transportation to the polls

A Red Circle is planning a special Thanksgiving event at St. Vincent Home for Children. The community is invited to eat, play games, sing carols, and have a great time with wonderful kids who, otherwise, might not have a Thanksgiving celebration and meal. Email [events@aredcircle.org](mailto:events@aredcircle.org) or call (314) 522-2021 for information. This is a great opportunity to have fun and make a difference in the life of a foster child in North County!

## Questions, Comments or Share a Community Story?

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!**

## UMSL Community Connection

[Sign up for this monthly newsletter!](#)

## UMSL Calendars

Interested in events on campus?

[Campus Calendar](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Performances](#)

## UMSL Careers

Interested in a job at UMSL?

[Open Positions](#)

## UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?

[Procurement Bids](#)

[Construction Bids](#)

## Upcoming Events



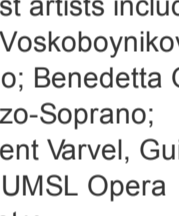
[November 24, 2018](#)

### Ferguson Shop Small Business Saturday

Between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., visit all the amazing businesses, restaurants and shops in the downtown business district! Refreshments, drawings and more! Check out the [Ferguson Citywalk Facebook](#) page for info.

### Small Business Saturday in Old Town Florissant

Start your day early in Historic Old Town Florissant. Family owned and individual owned businesses are the heart of this community! Check out the event on the [Florissant Old Town Partners Facebook](#) page.

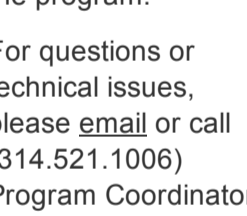


### Love Is Where You Find It!

November 27, 2018 7:30 p.m. Touhill Performing Arts Center

Presented by UMSL Music, "Love is where you find it!" features soprano Stella Markow in a vocal evening of romantic meanderings. Love is explored through the works of Debussy, Satie, Menotti, Delibes, and others. Guest artists include: Alla Voskoboinikova, Piano; Benedetta Orsi, Mezzo-Soprano; Vincent Varvel, Guitar; and UMSL Opera Theatre.

[This event is free and open to the public.](#) Call the Touhill at (314) 516-4949 or [click here](#) more information.

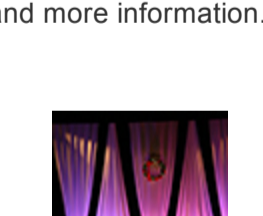


### Earthdance Apprenticeship Information Session

November 28, 2018 6:00 p.m. [Online \(Click Here\)](#)

Learn about the Farm & Garden Apprenticeship Program with EarthDance's farm educators. Ask questions, learn more in-depth details, and speak to the farmers at EarthDance about the program.

For questions or technical issues, please [email](mailto:email) or call (314.521.1006) Program Coordinator, Chelsea.



### Kenny G: The Miracles Holiday and Hits Tour

November 30, 2018 8:00 p.m. Touhill Performing Arts Center

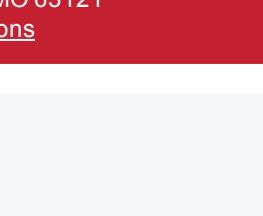
In a recording career that spans almost three decades and 23 albums, Grammy Award-winning saxophonist Kenny G has grafted elements of R&B, pop and Latin to a jazz foundation solidifying his reputation as the premiere artist in contemporary jazz. Join this iconic, best-selling musician for a memorable holiday music celebration! Tickets range from \$49 to \$99. Call the Touhill Ticket Office at (314) 516-4949 or [click here](#) for tickets and more information.



### Jazz for the Holidays

December 2, 2018 3:00 p.m. Touhill Performing Arts Center

This holiday favorite showcases holiday songs with a jazz flair. The 3pm concert features such classics as "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "The Christmas Song," "Jingle Bells" and selections from A Charlie Brown Christmas. To add to the celebration, [this event is free and open to the public.](#) Call the Touhill at (314) 516-4949 or [click here](#) more information.

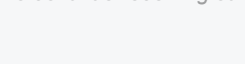


### Ambassadors of Harmony "Sounds of the Season"

December 7 -9, 2018 Touhill Performing Arts Center

The holiday season doesn't begin in St. Louis without the Ambassadors of Harmony! This December, the Ambassadors of Harmony chorus will once again rekindle the joy and magic of the holidays with its always popular Sounds of the Season concert. Call the Touhill Ticket Office at (314) 516-4949 or [click here](#) for tickets and more information.

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