

[View this email in a webpage.](#)



Greetings,

While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and expand, UMSL remains committed to partnership and supporting our community to address the mental and physical health, education, and economic challenges we face. I want you to know I affirm this commitment to you and our community as last month I officially became the eighth Chancellor of the University of Missouri – St. Louis. With tens of thousands of local alumni, students, and employees, UMSL, in many ways, is St. Louis. We know that it is critical that institutions like UMSL do everything we can to support our region's response to COVID-19 and our future recovery.

Over the past month and a half, UMSL and community partners have been hard at work supporting neighbors, families, school children, seniors, and businesses. The coordination across local school districts, libraries, governments, and nonprofits to address food delivery and access has been inspiring. UMSL students have started to have online story time for area youngsters. Our College of Education has developed several online resources and training for area teachers. Affinia Healthcare has established testing sites in our communities which have been significantly hit by COVID-19. UMSL nursing students have been testing Amazon drivers to support the health of essential workers. UMSL has continued work with local partners to share resources and funding opportunities for our local businesses.

As we look to the month ahead, we will continue to bring resources to bear for individuals' and businesses' short-term needs while planning new and safe ways of operating in the future. I hope you take advantage of resources shared in this newsletter, and, importantly, stay safe and healthy.

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor, University of Missouri - St. Louis



Kristin Sobolik Appointed 8th Chancellor of the University of Missouri–St. Louis

In three years, Interim Chancellor and Provost Kristin Sobolik has had an outsized impact on the University of Missouri–St. Louis as an agent of positive change and growth – overseeing and implementing key initiatives that have strengthened the university and expanded its reach across the United States and internationally. Now she will lead on an even larger scale – as chancellor. Click [here](#) to read more about Chancellor Sobolik.



Marcus Robinson will be New Superintendent of Normandy Schools

St. Louis American, April 22, 2020

Marcus Robinson began his new role as superintendent of the Normandy Schools Collaborative on May 1. A St. Louis native, he comes to the district from The Opportunity Trust, which he co-founded, and where he served as the group's executive in residence. In this role, he worked as the systems-level education administration fellow, responsible for district and school support in urban education innovation. Click [here](#) to read more.



Image courtesy of Affiana Healthcare.

Beyond Housing and Affiana Healthcare - New Testing Sites

Affinia Healthcare has opened up two new COVID-19 testing sites in surrounding communities. In order to be tested, Affinia requires a telephone screening prior to arriving on site. It is essential to call the hotline number listed below prior to visiting the testing location. Call for hours of operation:

Affinia Healthcare Locations:
6763 Page Ave., Pagedale, MO 63133
Phone: (314) 833-2777

8960 Jennings Station Road, Jennings, Missouri 63136
Phone: (314) 833-2777



Image courtesy of St. Louis County Library.

STL County Library Donates Diapers and Feminine Products

Throughout the world, grocery store shelves are running low on essential hygiene products. The St. Louis County Library, St. Louis Area Diaper Bank, and St. Louis Alliance for Period Supplies are assisting with this issue by offering free diapers and feminine products to all community members. Click [here](#) to view pickup times and locations.



Students of Service Hosts Virtual Readings of Children's Books

From fantastical tales woven around a campfire to heroic escapades unfolding across black and white pages, humans have been connected by a love of stories through the centuries. Students of Service at the University of Missouri–St. Louis is harnessing technology to share stories with children. Viewers can tune in to the organization's Facebook page at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. most weekdays to hear beloved classics and lesser known works. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Relief Funds and Resources for Small Businesses

COVID-19 continues to present challenges for businesses. Many resources and supports have been developed to aid businesses navigating the pandemic. St. Louis County released its application for their Small Business Relief Program which offers a one-time grant of \$15,000 or less to for-profit entities, sole proprietorships, and non-profit organizations that have their principal place of business in St. Louis County, had 50 or fewer full-time employees as of March 1, 2020, and was closed during the Stay at Home Order.

As many businesses are needing to increase their online presence and sales given physical distancing measures, the UMSL College of Business is hosting the Midwest Digital Marketing Conference virtually this year (sessions occurring from May 20-29). Small or medium-sized St. Louis area businesses are eligible to receive two free tickets and access to over 70 on-demand digital marketing breakout sessions by leading market experts for up to a year. To apply for free tickets, click [here](#).

Over the past month, UMSL and community partners have also hosted webinars about accessing local and federal relief funds as well as health, human resource, and legal issues around reopening businesses. To access recordings of these webinars and other resources, click [here](#).



Images courtesy of the 2020 Missouri Census [website](#) and Missouri Secretary of State [website](#).

Census 2020 has Begun

Census Day was officially April 1, but there is still time to take the census! Self-response has been extended through October 31 and is available online or over the phone. Make sure you and your family are counted. Communities benefit from this data because it affects how funding is managed for city infrastructure, health care centers, the number of seats Missouri has in Congress, schools, and more. To see how your city or county is stacking up against others across the state, review [these rankings](#). Visit <https://2020census.gov/> for more information and to complete the census.

Local Elections Approaching June 2

The Missouri General Municipal Elections originally scheduled for April 7 will now be held Tuesday, June 2, 2020. During the General Municipal Elections on June 2, votes will be cast on local issues and candidates including school board officers and town alder-people. Find out what is on the ballot at the The League of Women Voters Missouri [website](#).

Request for an absentee ballot is extended until May 20, 2020. Learn how to vote absentee or how to vote while in the military and discover where polling will be located on Election Day on [this site](#). If you have any questions, contact the Missouri Secretary of State Office at (573) 751-4936 or Info@sos.mo.gov.

Share with Us

UMSL is interested to know more about your thoughts and questions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and how we might better support surrounding communities during this health crisis. Take a short survey [here](#) to share your thoughts!

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!

COVID-19 Resources

[Click here](#) to view resources for support during the pandemic.

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.

UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?

[Procurement Bids](#)

[Construction Bids](#)

UMSL Bridge Program: Summer Supports for Youth

UMSL's Bridge program provides offerings that equip students with competencies critical for the successful transition to post-secondary education. Bridge is offering a number of virtual programs this summer to continue support of the St. Louis region's youth. Click below to learn more.

Bridge to the ACT
Virtual Summer Academy
Spend the Summer Write
Commit to Success College Prep Talks

Food Finders, Farmers Markets, Victory Gardens, and More!

The **Missouri Food Finder** is a new online tool provided as a courtesy to help consumers and local food sources connect. Discover local food sources at <https://mofoodfinder.org/>.

Farmers Market season is right around the corner. Although it may not be possible to enjoy visiting the market in person, a few vendors from the Ferguson Farmers Market are providing free delivery! For a full list of vendors please visit Ferguson Farmer's Market [website](#) or Facebook [page](#).

Victory Gardens began as a trend during the World Wars. According to the Smithsonian, by 1943, 40% of all produce was grown in Victory Gardens across the United States. Victory Gardens are making a comeback due to the COVID-19 pandemic as a way to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to local communities. Gateway Greening, a STL nonprofit organization, supports over 200 community gardens, some of which are located in this community. Find a Gateway Greening garden or orchard [here](#). Find several other community gardens in the surrounding area in [Ferguson](#), [Florissant](#) and Normandy on their [website](#) and Facebook [page](#). Follow the original article on Victory Gardens [here](#).

Restaurants Pursue Alternatives to Dining In

Several St. Louis area favorite restaurants have been able to find new ways to stay open during the pandemic by offering delivery, takeout, and curbside pickup. See what restaurants are serving food in your neighborhood at Curbside STL [here](#).

UMSL Community Mental Health Resources

UMSL has a variety of mental and behavioral health services and resources available to the public that are now offered online and over the phone.

The [Center for Behavioral Health](#) at UMSL provides psychological services to residents of the St. Louis metropolitan area including adults, couples, children, and families. Psychological evaluation and therapy services are grant-funded and are provided at no-cost to clients/families. 314-516-4357 or www.umsl.edu/cbh/.

The [Community Psychological Service \(CPS\)](#) at UMSL provides high-quality, timely, and affordable psychological services to residents of the St. Louis metropolitan area who would not otherwise be able to afford professional mental health care. Currents services include "Coping with COVID" specific group therapy (5 sessions); Individual Therapy (open ended); DBT Skills Group (open ended). COVID Group (\$50); fees are sliding scale private pay for Individual Therapy and DBT Skills. 314-516-5771 or www.umsl.edu/services/cps/.

The [Center for Trauma Recovery \(CTR\)](#) provides therapy for any type of traumatic event including: sexual assault, intimate partner violence, accidents, disasters, physical assault or other crimes, robberies, violence based on sexual orientation or race, surviving the homicide of a loved one. Fees are sliding scale, private pay (\$30-\$120/session) and insurance is not accepted at this time. 314-516-6738 or <https://www.umsl.edu/psychology/ctr>.

The [Counseling and Social Advocacy Center \(CSAC\)](#) at UMSL assists individuals, couples, and families with counseling provided by professional counselors and graduate counseling students and is operated through the Department of Counseling and Family Therapy in the College of Education. Telehealth counseling services are free at this time and include: Individual Counseling, Play Therapy, Couples and Family Counseling, and Group Counseling. 314-516-4613 or <https://csac.umsl.edu/>.

Other community mental health services of note:

[St. Vincent Home for Children](#) is continuing to support troubled youth in their temporary shelter program. Telehealth counseling is available to support families in need and only requires telephone access. Residents can call 314-261-6011 to talk to a counselor and learn more.

Sanvello is an app designed to help with managing stress and anxiety and has made their app free throughout the duration of the COVID-19 health pandemic.



Image courtesy of Ferguson Twilight Run.

2020 Ferguson Twilight Run Goes Virtual

It's not too late to take part in the annual Ferguson Twilight Run, now in the eleventh year, which will be online on May 16. To adapt to the state of the current health pandemic, the festivities will continue to keep the community's spirits high in a different format. The race has been made more accessible because participants can now compete at their own pace on their own schedule. For more information and to register, visit their website here.

UMSL Community Engagement Office
One University Blvd, 426 Woods Hall | St. Louis, MO 63121
314-516-5267 | www.umsl.edu/collaborations

University of Missouri–St. Louis
Community Engagement
1 University Boulevard
426 Woods Hall
St. Louis, MO | 63121

If you wish to be removed from this group's mailing list, [Unsubscribe](#)