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## Letter from the Chancellor

Hello!

As you may know, I recently became the Interim Chancellor for the University of Missouri - St. Louis (UMSL). I am thrilled to serve in this new position in addition to my previous role as Provost. I am also excited to be writing to you today.

Our commitment to partnering with you—our neighbors—in building a thriving community is stronger than ever. Over the coming months and years, we will be working to maximize the impact of the university's educational and operational assets to advance the well-being of this community that we call home. Our "Community Connection" newsletter showcases just a few ways UMSL supports improved quality of life. Our economic development team has worked to draw to Natural Bridge Road one of the largest development projects in decades. UMSL Gallery 210 is displaying art in coordination with UMSL's

## UMSL Calendars

Interested in events on campus?

[Campus Calendar](#)  
[Athletics](#)  
[Performances](#)

## UMSL Careers

Interested in a job at UMSL?

[Open Positions](#)

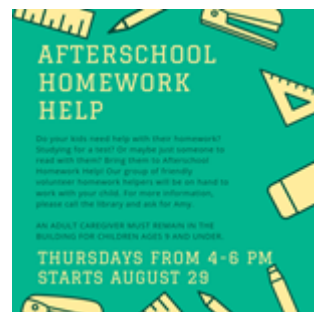
## UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?

[Procurement Bids](#)  
[Construction Bids](#)

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## Upcoming Event



**Afterschool Homework**

Common Read initiative focused on James Baldwin's "If Beale Street Could Talk" this fall. From brick and mortar to arts and culture, UMSL is a partner in creating a vibrant North County.

We also know this work is never done alone. Individual entrepreneurs and organizations like Jonathan Tremaine Thomas and Beyond Housing, in stories below, are investing in our community. Local municipalities and libraries are hosting many events throughout the fall that are sure to get neighbors engaged. We are a proud supporter and partner in the great things taking place in our community.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and I look forward to seeing you on and off campus in the days and weeks ahead!

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



## Local Development: \$60 Million Project on Natural Bridge Announced and 41 New Homes in Pine Lawn Completed

Pearl Companies announced a \$60 Million dollar development on Natural Bridge that connects to the UMSL South MetroLink station. The development expects to bring 237 market rate apartments, a grocery store, and 41 single-family homes and townhomes to the area. The developer expects to close on the properties and begin construction by the middle of next year ([click here to learn more](#)). This project builds on the UMSL led \$20 million redevelopment of Natural Bridge road into a bike and pedestrian friendly street.

While the area looks forward to future development on Natural Bridge, Beyond Housing recently completed a \$10.5 million development that brought 41 three-bedroom units to Pine Lawn ([click here to learn more](#)). This development builds on a 31 single-family housing development in 2017. These investments along with other projects in the area continue to strengthen housing options and neighborhood amenities.

## 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 Farmers Market**  
September 7 – October 26,  
2019  
8:00 a.m. - noon  
Plaza 501

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, cheese, honey, spices, and organic meats. You'll also 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.

If it's homemade, handmade or fresh and tasty, you can buy it at the Ferguson Farmers' Market. Please join in at the next market for lots of delicious fresh fruits and veggies, meats, breads, cheeses, prepared foods and more! Get your garden started right with beautiful plants and flowers.

Come for the farmers, stay for the fun!



## He Came To Be Part of Healing Ferguson, Now He's Hoping A Coffee House Will Help

Jonathan Tremaine Thomas is not originally from Ferguson. He's not even from the St. Louis region or Missouri. Thomas, a North Carolina native, moved here from Indianapolis in 2014, in the wake of Michael Brown's killing and the ensuing unrest. The pastor and entrepreneur says he came to Ferguson not in spite of Ferguson's troubles, but because of them. Thomas, 38, who has long been involved in activism and community work in other cities, wanted to put his skills and experience to use in the healing process. He didn't expect that he, his wife and their daughter would find a warm welcome.

Five years after they arrived, that work includes reopening the popular Corner Coffee House in the heart of Ferguson. After it closed a few years ago, the city lost a business that had served as a hub for the community for two decades, Thomas said.

"The coffee house was always a community gathering spot," Thomas said. "The coffee house was the place where civic leaders would gather. I've met several residents of Ferguson who said, 'My daughter had her baby shower here.' It was a place of social gathering. It was a place of exchange of business ideas. It was a place for people of pretty much every social economic reality."

The coffee house will reopen in the fall under a new name. Thomas plans to use the space as a training platform for teens and adults in addition to a variety of other activities. To read the full interview, [click here](#).

For more dates and information, [click here](#).



**Books and Cookies with the Literacy Initiative**  
Sept. 7 - Oct. 26, 2019  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Ferguson Municipal County Library

Like books? Like cookies? Join us and the Literacy Initiative for a delicious program! Kids in grades 3-5 will read a book together before enjoying some fun reading activities. An adult caregiver must remain in the building during the program. [Register online at today!](#)



**You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown**  
October 3- 5, 2019  
7:00 p.m.  
Incarnate Word Academy

Incarnate Word Academy proudly presents "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" which is based on the comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz. This musical was originally produced in New York by Arthur Whitelaw and Gene Persson. General admission is \$10 and for ticket reservations, please email [mfarrell@iwacademy.org](mailto:mfarrell@iwacademy.org) or call 314-725-5850 x1109.



## St. Louis artist Howard Barry and Chicago photographer Jane Calvin to be featured in exhibitions at Gallery 210

Gallery 210 at the University of Missouri–St. Louis will showcase work from St. Louis artist Howard Barry and noted Chicago photographer Jane Calvin in separate exhibitions, through December 7. The exhibition “Inertia” will feature Barry’s mixed media drawings of historic civil rights events as well as images of the Black Lives Matter movement. “My artwork comes from both a compulsion to create and a need to make sense of the world around me,” Barry has said. “This particular installation features work built around the theme of social justice.” He wants his work to prompt thought and conversation regarding humanity, social justice and race.

The exhibition is part of a yearlong series of programs supporting the UMSL Common Read, author James Baldwin’s novel “If Beale Street Could Talk.” Among the goals of the common read is to spark a wide-ranging conversation about diversity and inclusion in the St. Louis community as well as on the UMSL campus through a shared intellectual experience that connects students, faculty and staff to an important piece of literature. Support from the Missouri Arts Council, Center for the Humanities and College of Arts and Sciences are helping make both “Inertia” and “Chicago Cottages” possible.

## 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!

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