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# Community Connection



Friends, neighbors, and community partners,

What a beautiful spring it has been! I hope many of you were able to join my inauguration recently where we celebrated so many positive things taking place at our university and in our community. I am including coverage on the event below with information about the launch of our new "Rise Up for St. Louis" initiative. I hope you will join in partnering and supporting this endeavor.

As we wrap up another academic year with a virtual graduation scheduled for this week, it is evident that we have accomplished much and are moving forward. We hope you see this in some of the feature articles. As I said in my inauguration, "Together, we will Rise Up for St. Louis as a beacon of hope, a force for good and a powerful agent of change in our community and beyond."

Kristin Sobolik  
Chancellor  
University of Missouri-St. Louis



The University of Missouri-St. Louis community gathered to celebrate the inauguration of Kristin Sobolik as the eighth chancellor in the university's history during a livestreamed event Friday morning. (Photo by August Jennewein)

## Chancellor Kristin Sobolik unveils ‘Rise Up for St. Louis’ initiative aimed at increasing inclusive prosperity

Dr. Kristin Sobolik was inaugurated as the eighth chancellor in the University of Missouri-St. Louis' history on Friday morning after being appointed to the position last April.

She used the livestreamed event to lay out her vision for expanding the university's visibility and influence in the St. Louis region.

"My goal is to establish UMSL as the top urban, metropolitan research university in the nation," Sobolik said during the virtual event attended by hundreds of faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters. "While doing so, we will further strengthen and deepen the university's roots and impact here in St. Louis."

Sobolik announced a new initiative and direction for the university, called "Rise Up for St. Louis." It is focused on elevating UMSL's partnerships to help drive the region forward while modeling and embracing inclusive prosperity. The university also aims to work with partners to eliminate barriers in St. Louis that for too long have inhibited change.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Rep. Cori Bush calls for ambitious action to combat climate change during webinar hosted by UMSL, WUSTL**

U.S. Representative Cori Bush understands the impact climate change can have on people's lives, not just in coastal cities or far away islands, but right here in the Midwest.

The first-term congresswoman from St. Louis was once unhoused, living in her car with her children in the summer as the heat filled the inside of her vehicle on 90-degree days. Other times, Bush and her children did have housing, but she was often unable to afford to turn on the air conditioning.

"I can remember that feeling viscerally," Bush told an audience of primarily college and high school students who tuned in to a recent keynote address in a Missouri Climate Dialogues webinar titled "Green Recovery, Climate Solutions and a Just Transition" and hosted by the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Washington University in St. Louis.

Because of climate change, Bush said the number of 90-degree days in St. Louis has increased by an average of 11 per year compared to when she was a child. That's put a strain on many people, particularly those living in low-income communities. Some of them are now Bush's constituents. [Read more.](#)

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## **UMSL graduate Rob Jones gets a boost from the Joint Engineering Program to build a business of his own [in Wellston]**

University of Missouri-St. Louis graduate and St. Louis business owner Rob Jones said it took a lot of determination to buy the company he helped build as an employee – and to earn a mechanical engineering degree while he was building it.

"Pursuing a technical field like that while working full time is extremely difficult," Jones said. "If you want to do that, you probably shouldn't have a job that taxes your mind all day long and then try to take classes at night. It is the nontraditional way. But if you fight hard enough and want it, you can do it."

Jones has been the president and owner of John Harder & Company, a custom forklift attachment business, since 2019. He started working at the company right out of high school in 1987 as a laborer. While working there full time in a variety of roles over the years, Jones took weekend and evening classes in the UMSL/Washington University in St. Louis Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program to earn a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 2012.

Before enrolling at UMSL, Jones had considered other engineering programs, but he had been told there was no way he could work full time and manage those programs.

"I couldn't quit my job," Jones said. "So the option to be in the JEP, that option gave me the possibility to pursue my career path." [Read more.](#)

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Submitted photos

The St. Vincent Home for Children outreach van travels daily to provide personal care bags filled with essentials, PPE, information about St. Vincent's services, and snacks to at-risk youth ages 10-19 in the St. Louis region.

By *Community News – St. Louis County*, April 21,,2021

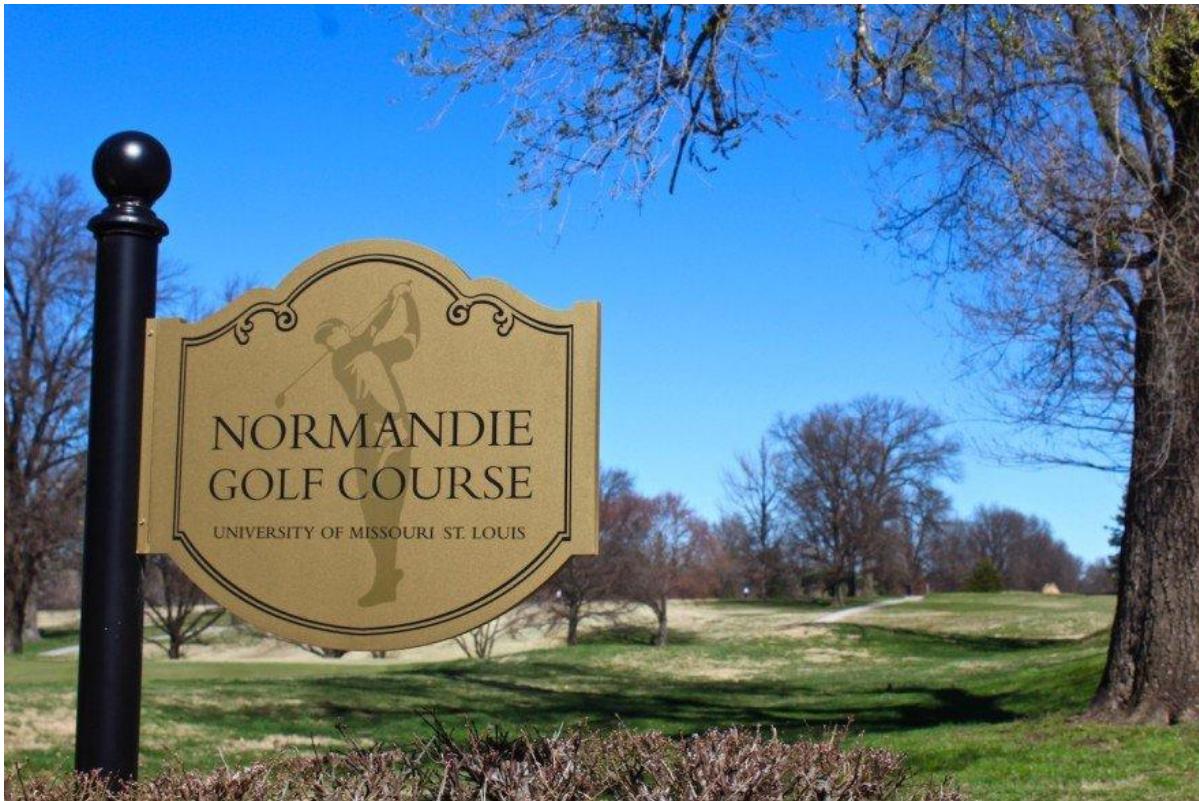
## Reaching out to homeless youth: St. Vincent Home for Children has received a grant to fund its Street Outreach Program

The Federal Department of Health and Human Service's Family and Youth Services Bureau's Runaway and Homeless Youth Program has awarded a \$600,000 Basic Center Program grant to St. Vincent Home for Children. St. Vincent will use the grant over the course of three years for its Street Outreach Program which provides personal care bags filled with essentials, PPE, information about St. Vincent's services, and snacks to at-risk youth ages 10-19 in the St. Louis region. "This program is really important," states Latosha Fowlkes, Executive Director for the home. [Read more](#), Page 1.

Available to help youth 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, St. Vincent's Home for Children offers:

- Supportive Housing: Street Outreach Program (Emergency Shelter for Homeless Youth)
- Transitional Living Program
- Outpatient Supportive Services

For more information, call (314) 261-6011, or visit [www.saintvincenthome.org](http://www.saintvincenthome.org)



## Nicklaus to lead Normandie Golf Course project

Golf legend Jack Nicklaus has joined the effort to purchase and renovate the historic [Normandie Golf Course](#) in North St. Louis County. The course is currently owned by the University of Missouri-St. Louis, which has a lease-purchase agreement in place with the Metropolitan Golf Foundation and Beyond Housing.

UMSL [bought the course](#) in late 2014 for \$1.4 million with private funds donated exclusively for that purpose. The campus sought to save the course to ensure it remained a community asset for future generations. It agreed to the lease-purchase arrangement with the understanding the property would remain a golf enterprise.

Nicklaus Design will lead the project and Mr. Nicklaus will donate his services for the renovation of Normandie, which was built in 1901 and is one of the oldest public golf courses west of the Mississippi. Nicklaus will not only lead the design effort, but he will also support the group's fundraising efforts to purchase the property and make golf improvements. Upon completion of the project, Normandie will become a Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course.

"The appeal of this project to me was to be involved in an effort that could serve as a catalyst to change needed in our country today, beginning with parts of St. Louis County," Jack Nicklaus said. "Restoring Normandie for a community in need will have a long-lasting positive impact on the lives of youth in St. Louis." Read more.

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## Food On The Move

### A Mobile Food Pantry Is Coming To The St. Louis Region To Help Families Who Need Food

St. Louis Public Radio, By Andrea Y. Henderson, April 15, 2021

The economic downturn during the coronavirus pandemic has led more people in the St. Louis region to worry about how they will afford food. In the past year, the St. Louis Area Foodbank has seen about a 40% increase in people needing food assistance.

Many of those most in need live in north St. Louis and north St. Louis County, where there is limited access to grocery stores or healthy foods. To help meet the need, the St. Louis Area Foodbank will start sending a traveling fresh food pantry to communities that need it the most.

[Food on the Move](#) will use a 28-foot truck to offer fresh vegetables, canned goods, dairy products and various meats for free to people who do not have enough food to eat. [Read more.](#)

*Food on the Move will be at the Rock Road MetroLink Station in Pagedale every 3rd Monday from 2:30 – 3:30 PM.*



Photo courtesy Josh Renaud

Viper Bots Miles Nasiiro and Joseph and Josie Renaud watch as their teammates Ludi Renaud and Micah Nasiiro run the robot at the game table during a FIRST Lego League qualifier on Feb. 20 at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

By Community News – St. Louis County, April 14, 2021

## Ferguson robotics team competes in FLL Eastern Missouri regional championship

Viper Bots, a robotics team in Ferguson, competed in the FIRST Lego League (FLL) Eastern Missouri regional championship on March 27, where their robot took fifth place and they presented a new board game they developed. The team, consisting of Ludi, Josie and Joseph Renaud and Miles and Micah Nasiiro, was one of just 14 area teams to earn a spot in the regional championship. They advanced after winning the "champions award" and the top robot score in their qualifier at Southeast Missouri State University on Feb. 20.

In FLL, teams of fourth through-eighth graders build and program a robot to score points by completing autonomous missions, and they develop a research project related to the season's theme. This year's theme, "RePLAY," was about encouraging physical activity. The Viper Bots created a fitness board game called "Sofa Potato" in which players collaborate to capture the world's laziest mastermind. Their board game and even downloadable, printable PDFs, can be found at <https://github.com/Viper-Bots/sofa-potato>.

[Read more](#), Page 3.

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## Community Awards & Recognitions



**Congratulations** to NLF for earning a national award from the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals! The award in the "Diversity" category recognizes a member or group of members who have developed an outstanding effort or program that ensures meaningful diversity and inclusiveness."

**Congratulations** to neighbor Charlese McBride for being honored by the Breakfast Club Inc. as one of their Shining Stars! This award is given for significant contributions to the success of The Breakfast Club Inc. in addressing the needs of underserved breast cancer survivors and women at risk for breast cancer in the St. Louis area.





## Normandy Earns National Honors for Music Education Programs - 2 Years Straight!

Normandy Schools Collaborative has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education for the second consecutive year. Now in its 22nd year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. [Read more.](#)

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## Share with Us

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](#)

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## Events & Resources



Check out a variety of mental health services and resources at UMSL that are featured on the [UMSL Community Connect web page](#). Link to other resources and events throughout the state offered by University of Missouri collaborations. Here are a few of the listings.

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### **Zoom Fatigue – Free Online Training**

This is a free 15-minute training that offers strategies on how to combat Zoom Fatigue! [Click here](#) to go to the training page.

**Helping Clients Maintain Recovery During Traumatic Catastrophes and Pandemics**

May 26, 2021 from  
1:00 to 4:00 PM

Professional training for clinicians working with clients covering the relationship between catastrophes, traumatic stress symptoms, and strategies for reducing relapse during a crisis.  
[Click here](#) to register.

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**Mental Health First Aid Course**

Sessions: May 26; May 27; June 04, 2021

Learn how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Free for MO residence. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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*A Nation, A City, & Its First Library*

Americana as a Way of Life at the  
St. Louis Mercantile Library  
for 175 Years

Exhibition on Levels 1 and 2, and Atrium Level  
Beginning April 9, 2021

WWW.UMSL.EDU/MERCANTILE

*St. Louis Mercantile Library  
At the University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Founded 1846*

175th Anniversary, 1846 - 2021

**UMSL | St. Louis Mercantile Library**

**A Nation, A City, & Its First Library: Americana as a Way of Life at the St. Louis Mercantile Library for 175 Years**

Selections from the St. Louis Mercantile Library Art Museum On Level One. The Mercantile Library has collected and exhibited art since its founding in 1846, making its art collection a key element in its cultural and educational mission. For more information, [click here](#). For tour scheduling, call 314-516-7248 or email [MercantileLibrary@umsl.edu](mailto:MercantileLibrary@umsl.edu)

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**Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL)Summer Youth Camp.**

June 14 - August 6, 2021 from 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Camp Offered 10 Locations - MO & IL

**North County Club**

Teen Center of Excellence 9200 West Florissant

Limited Spots Available

BGCSTL offers area kids and teens summer of friends, activities and exploration! Summer campers, ages 10-18, are exposed to a variety of learning and participate in educational, recreational and social activities as well as field trips, social recreation and cultural activities on-site and in the community.

Limited spots are available. For more information, [click here](#).



**Mass Vaccination Event for North St. Louis County**

Monday – Friday from  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Dellwood Recreation Center  
10266 West Florissant Ave.

Requirement: Register first ([COVID-19 Navigator](#)) then to schedule an appointment, [click here](#).

Note: Walk-ins accepted all day; Appointments available from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.



## St. Louis County **Library**

### Racism Is a Health Crisis - 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge

Registration begins on Wednesday, May 12 from 3:00 - 4:00 PM  
(Discussion on Fridays)  
Virtual

The YMCA of Metro of St. Louis presents area adults a challenge to expand understanding of equity and social justice and explore various health-related topics and how they impact the community.

This challenge asks participants to make daily time and space for 21 days to foster understanding and identify ways to dismantle racism and end discrimination. To register, [click here](#).

Each Saturday via email, registrants will receive a list of daily tasks and a separate registration form to participate in a facilitated discussion of the week's activities on Fridays at 3:00 PM. Space is limited.

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### Gardening for Crafters

Monday, May 17 from  
6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Online

Presented by Artscope, participants will discover a range of plants they can grow that are great for natural dyes, pigments, and crafts.

Teens and adults. To register, [click here](#).

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### Virtual Programs

#### **Yoga Story Time**

May 15 from  
10:00 - 11:00 AM

Exercise your child's body and mind with yoga poses, songs and stories. Dress in comfortable clothes and have a yoga mat or towel to use. Ages 3-8. Registration required. To register, [click here](#).

**Virtual Chess Tournament**

May 22 from

12:00 - 2:00 PM

Player Check-in: 11:00 - 11:45 AM

Enjoy this free introduction to tournament chess hosted by the St. Louis Chess Club. **All skill levels welcome, though participants must already know how to play chess.**

Grades K-8. Tournament will take place virtually via the LiChess.org platform. Four rounds of play with an awards ceremony. Registration required. To register, [click here](#).

**Ferguson Twilight Run 10M/5K/10K**

Saturday, May 15

Make plans now to take part in this annual community event running through Ferguson's beautiful historic neighborhoods. The 2021 event includes a 10-mile, 5K, 10K, and 1-mile race options. (Note: the event is scheduled to be in person, but plans will be modified and changes made based on state, county, and city safety guidelines related to covid-19 at the time of the event.) For more information, [click here](#).



**Art at the Market**  
Ferguson Market  
Saturdays

Art at the Market is back. This is a partnership project of the Good Shepherd Arts Center. Children's arts events start at the beginning of May 2021. Throughout the month, artists and fine crafters will share their work with market visitors.

- May 15, Bridigitte Atkins, Phancy Fingers and Feet Boutique, will display and sell her handmade jewelry.
  - May 22, Denise Magditch will share her lighthearted dinosaur cartoons, which she screen prints onto tee shirts.
  - May 29, Showay Chang, will showcase pottery, jewelry and origami.
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Earthdance Juneteenth Celebration  
Saturday, June 19, 2021  
2:00 - 6:00 PM  
233 S. Dade Avenue in Ferguson.

All are welcome to the Earthdance Juneteenth Celebration. The event will include music, storytelling, art, food vendors.

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UMSL Community Engagement Office  
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314-516-5267 | [www.umsl.edu/collaborations](http://www.umsl.edu/collaborations)

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