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Greetings Neighbors and Community Partners,

We are officially into summertime. It's been good to be outside and nice to see people again as more and more are getting vaccinated. As we continue to open up and get out and about more, I am excited to share that UMSL is partnering with the St. Louis County Health Department to offer community vaccination clinics on campus each week through the end of July. We hope this provides an easy vaccination option for community members. Given the lingering impact of the pandemic, we hope many are able to access the supports and resources available in our community. In addition to the excellent programs regularly offered at our local library, the Natural Bridge branch will now have social workers onsite to help meet immediate needs of residents. The County has Emergency Rental Assistance funds available, and UMSL is partnering with North County Inc. and the Missouri Small Business Development Center to offer a Small Business Accelerator workshop series to strengthen small retail and restaurant businesses in North St. Louis County.

For those personally seeking to grow professionally, enhance their education, or get more involved in improving their communities, UMSL provides opportunities. Registration for the fall semester is now open and there are several information sessions taking place later this month. And for those looking to build skills to foster community growth, our Neighborhood Leadership Academy might be a great fit. All this and more is included in our July newsletter.

Enjoy!

Kristin Sobolik  
Chancellor, University of Missouri-St. Louis

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## Five St. Louis County Library Branches To Get In-House Social Workers [including Natural Bridge Branch]

St. Louis Public Radio, May 10, 2021

Starting in the fall, users of five St. Louis County library branches will be able to get help from an on-site licensed social worker. The St. Louis County Children's Service Fund is covering the majority of the \$715,000 cost of the Community Resource Initiative. The social workers, who are employed by an organization the fund already uses, will help connect library users with services like mental health care, job training and treatment for substance use disorder. Though the program is intended for those 19 and younger, no one will be turned away, said the fund's executive director, Emily Koenig. [Read more.](#)



## No Peeking! Teaching empathy with Girls Inc.

Eye on UMSL, published weekly, is a photo page featuring the work of campus photographer August Jennewein. One of the latest photos features Riaz Zaidi, a graduate research assistant in the College of Education at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, [as he] stood by and observed a group of K-12 students from Girls' Inc. as they performed a blindfolded exercise using the Empathy Toy Teacher's Kit earlier this month in the Ed Collabitat.

Zaidi and Keith Miller, the Orthwein Endowed Professor for Lifelong Learning in the Sciences, have been working with students from Girls Inc. for six weeks during the summer each of the past four years. They give short lectures, conduct exercises and play games to help teach the students about science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In the exercise Zaidi observed, two students from each group were blindfolded. One student with a finished toy would feel the toy and give instruction to the other blindfolded student with a disassembled toy on how to build it. The experience is intended to help students practice the skill of empathy and see how that helps the students improve universal learning skills, including critical thinking, creative dialogue, teamwork and collaboration, autonomous learning and making real-world connections.



## For Keyon Harrold, Jazz St. Louis Role Is A Musical Homecoming

St. Louis Public Radio, May 28, 2021

Renowned jazz musician Keyon Harrold works with the best in the music industry: Beyonce, Jay Z, Maxwell, Rihanna, Snoop Dog. He's appeared on dozens of albums and major film projects, and he received acclaim for his trumpet performances in Don Cheadle's Miles Davis biopic "Miles Ahead."

The Ferguson native is now offering his expertise to a St. Louis organization that was integral to his musical ascension: Jazz St. Louis. [Last] month, the Ferguson native was appointed to a three-year term as the nonprofit organization's creative adviser. "I plan on using my experience and my reach to bring some of these people here, and to do something special," he said on St. Louis on the Air. [Read more and listen](#) to the interview at St. Louis on the Air.



## UMSL to host St. Louis County COVID-19 vaccination clinic starting Friday through end of July

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is partnering with the St. Louis County Department of Public Health to serve as a COVID-19 vaccination site beginning Friday and running through the end of July. The Department of Public Health will be offering both the Pfizer and the Johnson & Johnson vaccines at the site on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center. The clinic will operate on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 to 6 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Louis County is prepared to administer as many as 250 vaccinations per day at UMSL. Walk-ins are welcome, and appointments are available at [stlcorona.com](https://stlcorona.com).

“The University of Missouri–St. Louis is committed to being a good community partner and supporting the health and well-being of our neighbors, and we are glad to be able to do that by partnering with the St. Louis County Department of Public Health to serve as a vaccination site,” Chancellor Kristin Sobolik said. “We encourage everyone in the UMSL community and our neighbors to get vaccinated.” [Read more.](#)



**Registration now open for the 2021 Neighborhood Leadership Academy**

For almost two decades, people who care about the neighborhoods where they work and live have come together to learn new skills and build networks needed to create livable communities. This is the foundation of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy. During the 10-session course, NLA connects UMSL resources – Creating Whole Communities and University of Missouri Extension – with residents who are interested in improving communities. NLA is offered yearly and has a network of 300 alumni, with participants earning a Chancellor's Certificate from UMSL.

UMSL created the program in 2002 as part of its outreach to the St. Louis community. Now the program has expanded statewide with a virtual platform. Participants are actively involved in their neighborhoods and develop a project specific to the needs in their communities. Academy participants may be municipal elected officials, neighborhood association members, community-based organization staff or resident volunteers. Many have never had any formal training for the community work that they are trying to accomplish. [Read more](#), then be sure to [register](#) before August 16 to get an early-bird discount.



## Giving small businesses a boost

Community News, June 23, 2021

### Small Business Accelerator workshop which will help 15 small businesses in North St. Louis County

The year 2020 was not a good year for many businesses, particularly small businesses. However, North County Incorporated (NCI) has partnered with the Missouri Small Business Development Center-St. Louis Region and the University of Missouri-St. Louis to launch the six-week North County Small Business Accelerator workshop which will help 15 small businesses in North St. Louis County.

The workshop, valued at \$5,000 per participating business, is designed for retail and restaurant establishments. "It is anticipated that businesses that will take advantage of this program will likely have less than 25-30 full time employees," stated Rebecca Zoll, NCI President/CEO. "In the past, most of the businesses (that) have participated in NCI's small business initiatives have truly been 'mom and pop' neighborhood businesses with 10 or less employees. However, we have not set a definite limit on the number of employees necessary for this pilot program." Businesses will be selected from the questionnaire/applications completed by July 24 at <https://northstlouiscounty.com/accelerator-form/>. The workshop will take place Aug. 24 – Oct. 8. [Read more, Page 1.](#)

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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!

### **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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## **Announcements and Activities**

# Saint Louis **COUNTY**

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# **CARES**

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### **St. Louis County Emergency Rental Assistance Program**

Funds are still available through the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) providing back rent and temporary rental assistance for low- and moderate-income households that have had a loss of income, have qualified for unemployment benefits, faced significant costs, or experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals as well as landlords and property owners may be eligible for this assistance. [Click here](#) to learn more or contact the Call Center at (314) 806-0910.

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St. Louis County **Library**

### **St. Louis County Library Summer Reading Club!**

June 1 - August 7, 2021  
Online

The St. Louis County Library's popular summer reading club offers great prizes for the whole family! Participants earn points for reading, attending virtual library events and completing Community Activities. For further information and to download a reading log, [click here](#).

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### Container Gardening with Herbs

July 14, 2021 from  
10:00 to 11:00 AM  
Virtual

Learn the basics of how to start a container garden in your own home. To register, [click here](#).

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### Financial Tools and Educational Resources

July 15, 2021 from  
7:00 to 8:30 PM  
Virtual

Learn how to use library resources to research equities, stocks, mutual funds, ETFs, and insurance (including MediGap). Uncover resources to educate yourself and stay up to date on happenings in financial markets. A recording of this live virtual program will be posted to YouTube within three business days. To register, [click here](#).

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### Career Prep

July 17, 2021 from  
2:00 to 3:00 PM  
Virtual

Learn how eCourses can help with exploring careers, studying for job certifications and preparing for occupation exams. There are 100 spaces available for this event. To register, [click here](#).



### Electronics Recycling

July 17, 2021 from  
9:00 AM to Noon  
6100 Natural Bridge Rd, just east of Jennings Station Rd.

Spectrum Ecycle Solutions will be accepting all electronic and technology devices for secure and eco-responsible recycling. Items accepted include all office and home technology-related devices and electronics such as computer monitors, keyboards and hard drives. Additional items include any size flat screen TV/monitor, any size tube or console TV and big screen TV's. To visit the Spectrum Ecycle website for a complete list of all accepted items, [click here](#).

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### Good Shepherd Arts Center "From the Heart" exhibition

July  
ONLINE

The next virtual exhibit of the Good Shepherd Arts Center is "From the Heart," fiber art by Laura Saunders Kaiser. Laura shares her thoughts in thread about nature, hometown, dysfunctional communication and life in general. To view, [click here](#). Prior exhibitions like Valerie Hosna Davis' beautiful photographic meditation on water lilies and lotuses: "Beautiful Creations." can be found in exhibit archives <https://goodshepherdarts.org/exhibit-archives>.



### Good Food Summit

July 23 & 24, 2021  
UM Extension at UMSL  
8225 Florissant Road  
and Online

Attend the Good Food Summit to discuss and plan how to improve North County's food system! There will be networking, meals, activities, community engagement, a funder panel, and more. Attend in person or via Zoom. To register, [click here](#).

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### **Garden work days at A Red Circle!**

Tuesdays, 10:00 AM to Noon  
Healthy Flavor  
Community Garden  
351 Chambers Road, 63137

Thursdays, 9:00 to 11:00 AM  
N. Co. Ag Ed Center  
4521 Hamilton Ave, 63120

RSVP at [gardeners@aredcircle.org](mailto:gardeners@aredcircle.org).



### **Farmers Market**

Saturdays, 8:00 AM to Noon  
Plaza at 501

Summer food and fun is here. Don't miss fresh produce, food vendors, fresh cut flower bouquets, bedding plants, live music and more.

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### UMSL Summer Preview

July 30, 2021 - In-Person  
August 3, 2021 - Virtual

Explore the exciting possibilities that await you at UMSL! UMSL Summer Preview provides prospective undergraduate students with the opportunity to meet with our nationally recognized faculty, speak with current students, and learn more about degree programs, admissions and scholarship opportunities.

To learn more about this program and other admission events for transfer or returning students, and professionals looking to boost their education, [click here](#).

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UMSL Economic & Community Development  
One University Blvd, 341 Woods Hall | St. Louis, MO 63121  
314-516-5267 | [www.umsl.edu/collaborations](http://www.umsl.edu/collaborations)

University of Missouri–St. Louis  
UMSL Economic & Community Development  
1 University Boulevard  
341 Woods Hall  
St. Louis, MO | 63121

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