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Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

What a lovely autumn it has been—and such a busy time of year! We are excited to highlight some of the new projects and activities taking place throughout our community in the newsletter this month, from literacy initiatives for area schoolchildren to revitalization of community spaces and much more.

As we begin to prepare for the holiday season, know how grateful I am to live and work in this community with you. Good things are happening every day and I look forward to our continued partnership in the weeks and months ahead.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Kristin Sobolik  
Chancellor  
University of Missouri–St. Louis





*Photo by K.L. Ricks*

## **Believe it: Literacy lab opens in Barack Obama School**

The St. Louis American, October 7, 2022

The Normandy Schools Collaborative is now home to a Believe Project literacy lab, an initiative of the St. Louis Black Authors of Children's Literature [STLBACL.]. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Barack Obama School on Sept. 29, 2022.

Nike's Black Community Commitment initiative and the Nike St. Louis Air MI Black Employee Network chose STLBACL as a Black Community Commitment 2022 grantees, and it received \$50,000 to support the literacy program. The funds provided will support teacher training, a library of diverse titles (ninety percent of the characters or authors featured in the reading space will be people of color), and a colorful mural by St. Louis-based artist Bill Williams. [Read more.](#)

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## “Transit Stop Transformation Project” at the North Hanley Transit Center Opens to the Public

Kim Cella, October 12, 2022

Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT), AARP in St. Louis and Metro Transit – in partnership with St. Louis REALTORS®, Employment Connection and Bywater Development Group – unveiled the “Transit Stop Transformation” Project at the North Hanley Transit Center, located at 4300 North Hanley Road...The opening comes after a months-long process of getting input from transit riders, area residents, elected officials and stakeholders through a series of virtual design workshops, surveys and community events – and completing construction.

“Transit stops are synonymous with gray space, and when we arrived at this site, it certainly wasn’t the exception,” said Kimberly Cella, executive director of Citizens for Modern Transit, who helped spearhead the transformation. “Yet today, transit riders are welcomed to a colorful, inviting, interactive and vibrant space full of energy.”...The revitalized space features shade structures, seating, musical elements, ground murals and window designs. The project reflects the diverse group of riders who utilize this significant MetroLink and MetroBus connection point in unincorporated St. Louis County. It serves as an extension to the ongoing efforts made by the partners to raise awareness about placemaking around transit, which is a concept that transforms places people simply pass through in route to their next destination – like MetroLink and MetroBus Transit Centers – into active, engaging corridors that connect individuals and neighborhoods by offering access to products, services, activities and green space. [Read more.](#)

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*Honors Day Event*

*Kinloch Event*

## **UMSL Honors College Students participate in Pine Lawn and Kinloch community service events**

Dr. Rob Wilson, an assistant teaching professor and community engagement coordinator for the Pierre Laclède Honors College at UMSL, organized two community service events this fall.

The first was the Honors Day of Service which has taken place once a semester since 2020. On October 15 the college teamed up with community partner Beyond Housing to perform community service in Pine Lawn. About 50 UMSL students, staff, and faculty members participated in mulching, tree-trimming, picking up trash, and cleaning the water basin. Reflecting on the Honors Day of Service, Dr. Wilson said, "I believe it's important for students to give back in the area where they work, live, and play."

The second volunteer event took place in Kinloch. On October 23, the UMSL and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville chapters of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity, working with the UMSL student organization Artists Anonymous, cleared overgrown land removing weeds, trees, and shrubs to uncover an area that used to have a mural. The group plans to return to Kinloch to finish clearing the site of a future daycare that will also have a mural on its wall. Artists Anonymous will work on restoring both murals.

Dr. Wilson said that he wants to encourage students to get out of the classroom and make a difference in the community around them. "It's easy to go to class and go home; but there are some amazing students who want to do more and ask themselves, 'What else can we do to give back?'" he noted. He gives much of the credit to his students. "I coordinate [the events], but the students are the ones that do the amazing work alongside our community partners."

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*Photo by Earthdance*

## **The EarthDance Charlie Cart is in great hands!**

Thursdays are cooking days for the Agri-culinary interns from The Innovation School at Cool Valley, and each student is taking a turn cooking at the farm using their own recipes and farm fresh ingredients (like garlic, basil, hungarian hot wax peppers, tomatoes, and more!) with the intention of devising a cookbook...[Recently] Agri-culinary intern Kevin used the farm's brand new outdoor cooking cart, the Charlie Cart, for the first time. The Charlie Cart will be used in many different ways as part of the farm to school partnership, including for on-farm cooking, as

well as taking it school to school throughout the district for cooking demos (hopefully some of these will be taught by the interns!).

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## Simultaneous chess exhibition takes place in Vinita Park

*St. Louis County Community News, November 9, 2022, p. 3*

On Oct. 15, a simultaneous chess exhibition took place at the Parkview Branch of the St. Louis County Library. Eight chess players played one – Nick Risko. Quietly, with no fuss or fanfare, Risko walked around, and within an hour, check mated seven of the eight players.

Risko's contenders included Wayne, Director of the Knights of Chess Table (a chess club in Maryland Heights), Jon, a newcomer with a photographic memory, and Neerav, a seven-year-old chess prodigy. Risko started playing at this branch of the county library when he was five years old, under the tutelage of the branch's chess instructor, Michael Fletcher. [Read more](#) (p. 3).

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## UMSL Virtual Literacy Clinic Now Taking Applications

The UMSL Literacy Clinic provides tutoring to K-12 students who need support in reading, writing, and spelling. Teachers will administer literacy assessments and design personalized sessions that focus on strengthening skills using evidence based approaches to literacy instruction.

Students who are accepted will be matched with an educator for twelve (12), one-on-one or small group literacy sessions, held after school and/or in the evening. Each instructional program is designed with students' cultural, familial, and linguistic resources and strengths in mind.

Participation in the virtual literary clinic is free and consists of approximately 12 one-hour Zoom sessions in the afternoon or evening. Sessions begin every August and January. [Read more](#) about this program and [sign up](#) soon.

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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 newsletter

Received this as a forward? [Click here](#) to subscribe.

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Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?

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## Community Connect

[Click here](#) to learn about UMSL resources, services and programs available to the community.

## **STL Community LAB**

[Click here](#) to learn about community development trainings and programs.

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### **Events & Resources**

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#### **R&R Mobile Market Volunteer Opportunity**

Wednesdays, November 16 & December 21, 2022

7:15 - 11:00 a.m.

10148 W. Florissant Ave, Dellwood, MO 63136

Volunteer at R&R's Mobile Food Market! Click [here](#) to register, or contact [Britt Starks](#) with questions.

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**St. Louis Ballet: The Nutcracker**  
Saturday, November 26 and 27, 2022  
2:30 or 7:00 p.m.  
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

Gen Horiuchi's *The Nutcracker* has become the region's most popular holiday production. A dazzling set at the Touhill frames the company dancers, professional character actors, and talented students from the school of the Saint Louis Ballet. And now, with a larger cast and some new choreography! For more information, click [here](#). To buy tickets, click [here](#).

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**The Big Bad Day performance**  
Tuesday, November 29, 2022  
7:00 p.m.  
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

Make plans to enjoy the creative work of Normandy Schools Collaborative 3rd graders as they present their original musical, "The Big Bad Day." Coached by Opera Theater St. Louis teaching artist, and accompanied by St. Louis Symphony musicians and Normandy Middle

School and High School instrumentalists, this will be an experience that you don't want to miss! This program is part of the Des Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative at UMSL. For more information, [click here](#).

Refuge and Restoration PRESENTS

**CHRISTMAS**  
AT THE  
**MARKETPLACE**

**FREE ENTRY**

**DECEMBER 3 | 12-3 PM**

**RAFFLES • SHOP LOCAL VENDORS  
HOT FOOD • MEET SANTA • GAMES  
FUN CRAFTS • MUSIC • & MORE!**

**THE BIGGEST HOLIDAY EVENT OF THE YEAR!**  
THIS IS AN OUTDOOR EVENT

**10148 W. FLORISSANT AVE DELLWOOD**  
FOR MORE INFO, VISIT  
**WWW.RRMARKETPLACE.ORG**

**Christmas at the R&R Marketplace & Shop Local Vendors**  
Saturday, December 3, 2022  
Noon - 4:00 p.m.  
The R&R Marketplace  
10148 W. Florissant Ave.

Swing by for delicious eats, shop with local vendors for those last minute Christmas gifts, crafts, games, hot chocolate, Santa, and so much more! Don't forget to bundle up since this is an outdoor event.

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**24:1 Annual Holiday Festival**

Saturday, December 3, 2022

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The Page at Page & Ferguson in Pagedale

Join Beyond Housing and the 24:1 Community for the 2nd annual Holiday festival. Enjoy some holiday fun with free photos with Santa, free cookies and hot chocolate for kids 12 and under, a holiday market with local vendors, tree decorating competition and tree lighting ceremony, a free Christmas tree giveaway, and so much more!

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**Jazz for the Holidays at UMSL**

Sunday, December 4, 2022

3:00 p.m.

UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

Come for an afternoon of LIVE holiday music as UMSL proudly present the annual JAZZ FOR THE HOLIDAYS! This concert features the UMSL Jazz Orchestra, University Orchestra, Vocal Point, UMSL Percussion Ensemble, and the Arianna String Quartet. It's a show not to be missed! For tickets, call (314) 516-4949 or email [ticket@umsl.edu](mailto:ticket@umsl.edu).

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THE OFFICE OF  
— SENATOR —  
BRIAN WILLIAMS



# COMMUNITY INFORMATIONAL & PANEL DISCUSSION

EMERGING &  
NEW CONTRACTORS  
ROADMAP TO  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROJECTS

FREE EVENT  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

WITH BILLIONS OF  
DOLLARS FLOWING INTO  
THE ST. LOUIS REGION  
OVER THE NEXT FIVE  
YEARS, SMALL BUSINESSES  
& M/WBES MUST BE  
GIVEN THE RESOURCES  
& OPPORTUNITY TO  
PARTICIPATE IN GROWING  
THEIR BUSINESS.

## Community Informational & Panel Discussion - Emerging & New Contractors Roadmap to Infrastructure Projects

Wednesday, December 7, 2022  
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
UMSL Campus - Ed Collabiat

With billions of dollars flowing into the St. Louis Region over the next 5 to 10 years, it is imperative that small businesses and MWBEs are given the resources and the opportunity to participate in their individual growth and development. That starts with taking a strategic look at the process and understanding all the variables that go into performing work in infrastructure. Emerging and new contractors will walk away with 3 tools for their success. To register, [click here](#).

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