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Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

This summer, which is flying by, has been filled with the making of wonderful memories, and most of them include our hot summer temperatures! In August, as we do each year, we are entering our fall semester and welcoming students back to campus. Although summer is coming to an end, the transformative changes for our campus and exciting times promise to continue. In the months ahead, I am looking forward to seeing the positive changes that will take place as UMSL remodels many of our existing spaces to redevelop and transform campus.

Among the events and happenings that we will celebrate this month, the expansion of the St. Vincent Greenway is high on list. This beautiful trail runs through campus and is a jewel for the community. We also celebrate and highlight some of our local businesses, and we relaunch our Community Cardholder program. This program is a part of the university's Anchor Institution Initiative offering residents of neighboring communities access to select campus resources with special benefits.

As summer winds down, I hope to see you out and about, and as always, I encourage you to continue to participate and get involved in our community.

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St. Louis



UMSL Community Connection newsletter

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

UMSL Community Card

[Register](#) for a community card to receive benefits and discounts at UMSL events and facilities.

UMSL Careers

[Click here](#) to learn about job opportunities at UMSL. Check back regularly for new listings.

UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL? [Procurement Bids](#)
[Construction Bids](#)

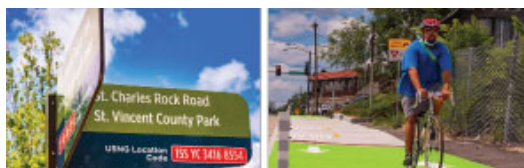
Community Connect

[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.

Events & Resources





Great Rivers Greenway debuts two projects to provide more accessibility to walking and biking paths across St. Louis region

St. Louis Community News, Wendy Todd, July 26, 2023

Thanks to Great Rivers Greenway, there are nearly 130 greenways that allow community members throughout the St. Louis area and St. Charles County to have more outdoor spaces connecting people and places. The organization is celebrating the creation of two new projects, an expansion of the St. Vincent Greenway and a \$15 million of funding for the Brickline Greenway project from the State of Missouri Capital Improvement Budget for 2024.

The new paved and accessible St. Vincent Greenway path connects Pagedale to the Rock Road Transit Center and existing greenway in St. Vincent County Park. The Brickline project, which is estimated to cost \$245 million, is envisioned as up to 13 miles of biking and walking paths that will connect up to 14 neighborhoods. The project is slated to begin in five to ten years, as Great Rivers continues to raise funding. Great Rivers Greenway is a public agency created in 2000 by a vote of residents in St. Louis, St. Louis County and St. Charles County mandating that a sales tax be put in place to support parks and greenways through the regions. The belief is that greenways offer a multitude of health and socioeconomic benefits. [Read more.](#)



Art in Ferguson's Storefronts

Ferguson Neighborhood News, Beth Von Behren, July 2023

This summer, the University of Missouri School of Visual Studies, in partnership with the City of Ferguson and its downtown business district, hosted the inaugural Art in Storefronts exhibit in the windows of downtown Ferguson merchants. The goal for the program going forward is to host one or two exhibits each year...

The multi-storefront exhibit, a part of the Art in Storefronts initiative, is a walk-up exhibit designed to connect art with communities throughout the state while reinvigorating commercial spaces affected by the economic downturn of the Covid pandemic. Participating businesses for this summer were Hive Cafe (235 S. Florissant), Soulcraft (431 S. Florissant), and XCelsior Events Center. The exhibit is made possible by a

Neighborhood Leadership Academy 2023

Registration open until August 31, 2023

The Neighborhood Leadership Academy connects resources at the University - Creating Whole Communities and the University of Missouri Extension - with neighborhood leaders from across the state of Missouri to learn together through a virtual or in-person project-based curriculum, developing the skills and building the networks necessary to create healthy, vibrant and whole communities. The academy takes place from September through November. For more information, click [here](#).



UMSL Saturday Academy for high school students

Applications due by September 8, 2023 (session starts October 7)

UMSL Bridge Saturday Academy students are immersed in mathematics, science, written and oral communication, career research, personal and professional development and college planning. The program is held on the first two Saturdays of each month from October through February and provides an intensive 10-Saturday course of study for students in grades 9 through 12. All activities will be held on scheduled Saturdays from 7:45 AM to 12:00 PM. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

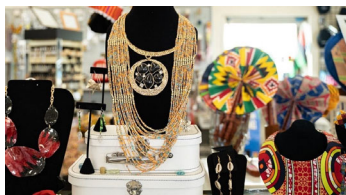


University of Missouri program called Art on the Move through the School of Visual Studies in the College of Arts & Sciences.

It provides real-life experiences for students and alumni as well as hands-on professional career-building opportunities by returning them to their Missouri hometowns or other Missouri communities to share their art. Art on the Move is supported by a strategic partnership between the University, MU Extension, UMSL's Art Department, the Ferguson Special Business District, and the participating businesses. [Read more.](#)



Good Food Friday with A Red Circle
Every Friday
12:00 PM to 4:00 PM
North County Agricultural Education Center,
4521 Hamilton Ave., 63120



Join A Red Circle on Friday afternoons at the North County Agricultural Education Center in Pine Lawn to explore the community garden and receive fresh produce. For more information, click [here](#).

From a Small Business to One of the Leading Sellers of Wigs Nationwide

Our24:1 Community News, July 19, 2023

Afro World began its journey at 7276 Natural Bridge Rd. in 1969 selling men's toupees, and quickly grew into selling women's wigs and hair care products. Since 1969, not only has Afro World been a considerable staple in the Black community, especially the 24:1 Community, but they have been a leading seller of wigs nationwide. It was not until 2000 when Sheila Little-Forrest took over her father's, Russ Little Sr., business....

We started the conversation with the current president of Afro World, Sheila Little-Forrest, by asking what some of Afro-World's major accomplishments were. The response was more than we could have imagined! Sheila said, "Within the time span of 53 years operating, we have employed many people and provided money for Black families. People that could not have gotten a job we gave them a chance. That alone is an amazing accomplishment!" [Read more.](#)



Social Workers at St. Louis County Libraries
Monday - Thursday
9:30 AM - 7:30 PM
with limited hours on select Saturdays

Social workers are now available at five county library branches: Florissant Valley, Lewis & Clark, Natural Bridge, Rock Road and Weber Road. Social workers can provide free one-on-one advising and assistance to connect patrons with vital resources and referrals to service providers in the community. To learn more, click [here](#).



The Newest Pagedale Nightlife Attraction

Our24:1 Community News, June 20, 2023

The latest nightlife venue to join the 24:1 Community, the bar simply known as The Drink House STL, has become a go-to spot where community members can meet up with friends, enjoy a relaxing drink, and even live music on special



Black in Business: A Panel Discussion
Wednesday, August 16, 2023
6:00 PM
Natural Bridge Branch
7606 Natural Bridge Rd.,

occasions. Having officially opened its doors just a month prior, the establishment has since then been running at full speed ahead, rapidly growing in popularity and becoming a focal point of the local scene. Introduced to the public in mid-May, The Drink House STL has joined Carter Commons as its most recent addition. [Read more.](#)



Transform UMSL Initiative Supports University Equity Goals

As the University of Missouri–St. Louis embarks on one of the most ambitious initiatives in its 60-year history – [Transform UMSL](#) – to [physically redesign its campus footprint](#), it is embracing its mission to transform lives, including a core tenant of that mission to build inclusive prosperity throughout St. Louis. The university is working with teams of construction and design contractors as Transform UMSL gets under way, and every effort is being given to identify companies from within local communities most impacted by disinvestment and economic inequities.

Two years ago, the university served as the lead and founding member of the [St. Louis Anchor Action Network](#), a coalition of public and private institutions committed to addressing economic disparities in 22 St. Louis ZIP codes that make up the network’s mission footprint. UMSL, along with network members, including co-founding partner, Edward Jones, pledged to increase hiring and purchasing percentages within that footprint. As a result, all Transform UMSL projects, including two first-phase initiatives – the renovation of the [University Libraries](#) and the construction of the new [Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center](#) – have engaged local contractors from within those target ZIP codes.

....

Demolition that began on the southern portion of the J.C. Penney Conference Center will make way for construction of the new welcome and alumni center. [Hillsdale Demolition Contracting](#), a minority woman-owned business founded by Lakkia Davis-Hynes, is conducting the demolition. Meanwhile, [Eddy Design Group](#), a woman-owned firm, is leading the architectural design of the Thomas Jefferson Library and St. Louis Mercantile Library renovation, which is scheduled for completion in the next year and a half. [Read more.](#)



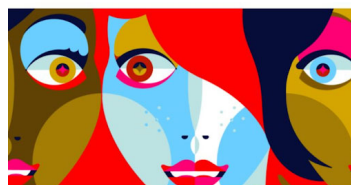
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This is a panel discussion on the challenges, successes, and opportunities in running a minority-owned business, and how SLCL can support those efforts. St. Louis-based entrepreneurs will share how they have learned to thrive and the importance of community to encourage other entrepreneurs. To register, click [here](#)



Jennings Summer Concert
Friday, August 18, 2023
7:00 PM
Koneman Park
8937 Lucas and Hunt Rd.
Jennings, 63136

Free live concert featuring 3 Central with contemporary sounds in Jazz. Their selections are fresh and innovative, offering originals, today's hits and yesterday's classics done with style and ingenuity. Early arrival is advised.



The Merry Wives of Windsor by TourCo
Friday, August 24, 2023
6:30 PM
January-Wabash Park
501 N Florissant Rd.,
Ferguson, 63135

Bring your own chair or blanket to enjoy a FREE 90-minute outdoor performance of "Merry Wives of Windsor" that is reminiscent of a 90s sitcom, put on by TourCo, a traveling caravan of six actors, who are part of The



UMSL Relaunches Community Cardholder Benefits

St. Louis Shakespeare Festival. For more information, click [here](#).

The UMSL Community Card along with the *Community Connection* newsletter are part of the university's Anchor Institution Initiative—a commitment to intentionally apply the University's resources in partnership with the surrounding community to build a strong North County and metropolitan region. The UMSL Community Card allows residents of municipalities surrounding the campus to access some University resources at discounted prices and receive special benefits. Some cardholder benefits include:

- INSIDER discounts on select shows at the Touhill Performing Arts Center (see [web page](#) for current listing)
- Access to the Recreation & Wellness Center for free on the 1st Friday of each month, and membership at a reduced rate
- Opportunity to rent various event spaces at the Recreation & Wellness center (rates and fees vary)
- Discount of 20% off items on the first Friday of each month at the UMSL Triton Bookstore in the MSC
- A free, small fountain drink on the last Friday of each month at the UMSL Nosh Food Court in the MSC

Additional benefits and discounts are added on occasion, so cardholders should [check the web page for updates](#).

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!

University of Missouri—St. Louis
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St. Louis, MO | 63121

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