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Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

May is a very exciting time for the university community as we look to the future and endless possibilities. This month, UMSL is celebrating more than 1,700 graduates during our commencement ceremonies. These graduates will undoubtedly go on to make incredible contributions within our community and far, far beyond.

We also continue to be enthusiastic about partnerships and projects taking place throughout the community, and particularly the work underway to [TransformUMSL](#). Earlier this month, we celebrated the kickoff of a [\\$12.1M renovation of the University Libraries](#). In June, we will break ground on the new [Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center](#) in the space that was the J.C. Penney South building. There is so much happening at UMSL and it certainly is a wonderful time to be a part of this university and community!

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St.
Louis

UMSL Community Connection newsletter

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St. Louis Anchor Action Network wins Business Journal's Innovation in Philanthropy Award

Health care systems, higher education institutions, corporations and nonprofits with deep roots in the St. Louis region have coalesced around a shared goal to enhance economic opportunity and have established the St. Louis Anchor Action Network with a focus on strengthening communities that have faced decades of disinvestment.

The network, co-led by the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Edward Jones has specifically focused on intentional hiring and career development, purchasing and community investment in 22 ZIP codes, most in north St. Louis and north St. Louis County, that have been impacted by more than a century of systemic racial and spatial inequities.

The St. Louis Business Journal honored the network for its ongoing efforts when it named it one of four recipients of the 2023 Innovation in Philanthropy Awards. The awards, now in their fourth year, are meant to celebrate local partnerships for going above and beyond standard philanthropic practices in new and creative ways. [Read more.](#)

Events & Resources



Summer Farmers' Market

Recurring every Saturday
8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
Plaza @ 501
501 S. Florissant, Ferguson

Founded in 2002, the award-winning Ferguson Farmers' Market is now celebrating its 22nd delicious season. This Saturday morning tradition offers fresh fruits and veggies, picked within 24 hours and brought directly to market by the friendly farmers who grow them.

This market offers live music and special events in a festive family atmosphere, along with a wide variety of edible delights including homemade jelly, farm fresh eggs, honey, spices, and meats. It also offers an ever-



Network Teams with Rebuilding Together to Serve Wellston

Community Action Network, May 4, 2023

A ribbon-cutting ceremony in Wellston marked both an anniversary and the start of a new partnership that will help Wellston homeowners. Rebuilding Together St. Louis (RTSTL), which provides home modifications and repairs for older adults, veterans and people with disabilities, was commemorating 30 years of making a difference in St. Louis. It was also celebrating the beginning of a relationship with the Community Impact Network. The Network will provide funding to help RTSTL assist even more people in Wellston.

Jeff McPherson, president of the board of RTSTL, said the partnership between the two organizations makes perfect sense and will be a boon for Wellston residents. “We’re hopeful it will lead to a long and fruitful relationship, beneficial to both organizations but mostly beneficial to the folks in this area,” McPherson said....Community Impact Network CEO Winston Calvert agreed, saying the Network is looking forward to continuing to help families in Wellston and throughout the 24:1. The new program will include RTSTL performing repairs focused on health, safety, and independence for older adult homeowners in Wellston. The Network will work with RTSTL to identify these homeowners, with a focus on homes adjacent to or nearby the Housing Authority of St. Louis County’s Wellston project. [Read more.](#)

changing array of gift and specialty vendors, selling everything from cut flowers and bedding plants to hand-painted artwork and small-batch soaps. For more information, click [here.](#)



Ferguson Twilight Run
Saturday, May 20, 2023
Plaza @ 501
501 S. Florissant, Ferguson

The 14th annual Ferguson Twilight Run will host its event welcomes participants to run or walk 1-mile, 5K or 10K distances. All distances are offered virtually with unlimited participation; virtual races can be completed on individual schedules.

The Ferguson Twilight Run will be held at Plaza @ 501. The 1-mile distance starts at 4 :00 PM.; the 5K starts at 4:45 PM.; and the 10K starts at 5:15 PM. For the safety of in-person runners and walkers, there will be staggered starts between pace groups for the 5K and 10K. Road closures are expected between 3:45 and 8:30 PM. For more information, click [here.](#)



Berkeley church celebrates 100th anniversary

Fox2 Now, Joey Schnieder, April 29, 2023

One north St. Louis County church is officially marking its centennial. The Prince of Peace Church in Berkeley is celebrating its 100th anniversary ... Senior pastor Willie E. Kilpatrick says he was impressed with the progress of the church since he started serving there. "When I came here 23 years ago, we had, approximately, 23 ministries. Now we have 33. We have boys mentoring, we have outreach that we do, community activities. That has certainly been a great beacon of light in the city of Berkley."



Empowering youth

St. Louis County Community News, Wendy Todd, May 10, 2023, p. 1

The Ferguson Youth Initiative works to give teens a voice through education, cultural arts, technology, outdoor activities, community service and more.



Metrolink seeks feedback at Open House

Monday, May 22, 2023
4:00 to 7:00 PM
In-person Open House at
Beyond Housing,
6506 Wright Way

OR

Virtual Open House on
Wednesday, May 31, 2023
6:30 to 8:00 PM

Community members are invited to share their thoughts at the MetroLink open house. Four potential light rail alternatives are being studied for the North STL County Community Connector. Attendees will learn firsthand about each alternative and can ask questions and share thoughts. Also, information about the latest on enhancing MetroLink security will be shared. Click [here](#) for additional information.



EHollaBack STL Curve The Urge II Summer Academy
Mon-Thurs, June 5-8
Mon-Thurs, July 17-20
UMSL Millennium Center
17 Arnold B Grobman Dr.

Open to youth ages 15-18 years old, Curve The Urge II

As summer approaches, many parents are looking to involve their children in productive activities. One organization that offers a number of opportunities to engage is Ferguson Youth Initiative. The organization was founded in 2010 by the citizens of Ferguson, specifically, Dr. Dwayne T. James, Dr. Jackie Lewis-Harris (UMSL) and Gail Babock to “give teens a voice.” The nonprofit provides programming involving education, cultural arts, technology, outdoor activities, community service and opportunities for employment.

One of their popular programs is Mentors in Motion, in partnership with the Arts & Education Council at Ameren, where participants learn about making music and the music industry including marketing and merchandizing. The latest cohort of students created a song and accompanying music video....

The nonprofit has worked to empower 5,000 teens over the past 13 years. All but one of FYI’s programs are open to non-Ferguson residents. Those interested in participating in the organization’s programming can find out more information at www.fyiferyouth.org. [Read more.](#)



A garden classroom in Ferguson-Florissant will be part of a national bee research project

St. Louis Public Radio, Kate Grumke, April 24, 2023

Valaree Logan gardens alongside Teontae Simms, 12, as part of the Permaculture Project of Metropolitan St. Louis and partnering with the south St. Louis-based Custom Foodscaping and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History....“This program is designed so we can be part of something bigger than ourselves,” Logan said. “This is a way to disconnect and ‘fast’ from social media.”

is a free sexual risk avoidance education program designed to foster healthy and mature relationships. This program includes sessions on dating violence, teen pregnancy & STI prevention, self-esteem development, and success planning. It is designed as a stand-alone program or a follow-up for youth who have participated in the Curve The Urge and/or Project Y-Chat Now programs.

There are two summer camp sessions. Curve The Urge II is free to participants and is sponsored by the UMSL Missouri Institute of Mental Health and the Family & Youth Services Bureau. Click [here](#) to register.



UMSL Music Camps

June and July, 2023
UMSL campus

Music summer camps at UMSL are available for area middle and high school students each summer. Participants will learn valuable skills from UMSL faculty and have a great time on campus. Music camps this year include:

- Accapalooza
- Keyboard Camp
- Latin Jazz Camp
- Strings Camp

On a perfect spring day last week, Ferguson-Florissant sixth grader Arionna Mcallister was digging in a garden bed outside her class. She was preparing a hole for a small mint plant. “I’m taking my time, and it feels good out here,” she said. Arionna and her classmates at the Mark Twain Restoration and Wellness Center were moving aside compost to dig holes for plant starters. They are creating a regenerative community garden — plants like lamb’s ears were chosen to create a tactile experience for students, while chamomile, lemon balm and mint can be used for tea.

The garden is a collaboration among the Ferguson-Florissant School District, Project Lab St. Louis, Custom Foodscaping, Seed St. Louis and even the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. The students will be partnering with a garden in Anacostia in Washington, D.C., to compare research on bees. The project has been months in the making. Last semester, students cleared invasive grass and helped Custom Foodscaping prepare the raised beds. [Read more.](#)



Friends, supporters gather to celebrate upcoming renovation of University Libraries

John Neal Hoover stood near the north wall of University Libraries and peered out through the floor-to-ceiling windows at the Quad in front of him on a sun-soaked Monday afternoon at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. The Endowed Mercantile Library Executive Director was joined by UMSL Chancellor Kristin Sobolik, Dean of Libraries Christopher Dames and an assembled crowd of more than 50 friends and supporters, all on hand to celebrate the kickoff of a \$12.1 million renovation project intended to revitalize the library space over the next year and a half.

Like Hoover, the other attendees were left to admire the breezy but clear spring weather from behind the glass with currently no direct access from the library to the Quad. “One of our board

- Clarinetquest Clarinet Camp

Click [here](#) for information and links to register.



UMSL Summer Bridge Academy

June and July, 2023
Applications due May 26
UMSL campus

The UMSL Summer Bridge Academy offers academic enrichment courses in mathematics, science, written and oral communication, career research, personal and professional development and activities that support college planning. The program is held from mid-June to mid-July for students in grades 9 through 10. Classes meet weekly on the UMSL campus Monday through Friday from 7:45 AM to 12:00 Noon.

The application deadline for 2023 is May 26. Click [here](#) for information and to register.

members, Gene Mackey, and his father, who designed this building, once told me while standing right here, ‘You know, there was always a plan to do a door here,’” Hoover said, eliciting laughs from the audience. That plan is finally becoming a reality, and the creation of the new north entrance will be the most visible of the changes to come during the upcoming renovation. [Read more.](#)

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

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