

May 2025



Dear friends, neighbors and community partners,

Another academic year has flown by! We are so excited to celebrate all our new graduates, most of whom will continue to live, work and make a positive impact right here in our St. Louis region. That said, be prepared for a little extra traffic on commencement weekend, May 16 & 17, as we will have many visitors on campus.

The spring has been full of activity as usual. We are always excited to expand our partnerships, and to see new businesses open and opportunities made available to area residents. We have highlighted a few in this newsletter. We are also looking forward to warmer weather and the chance to be outdoors for walks around campus and attending events in the community. I hope to see you out and about!

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**



## UMSL providing educational opportunities, scholarships to students in Ferguson-Florissant International Baccalaureate Program

The University of Missouri–St. Louis and the Ferguson-Florissant School District have launched a new collaboration to expand access to higher education for some of the district's most talented students. As part of the three-year agreement, UMSL will offer direct admission to Ferguson-Florissant students who have been accepted into the district's International Baccalaureate Program. It will also provide a minimum \$5,250 [Gold Scholarship](#) for any who enroll at the university full-time. The scholarships will be renewable each year provided the students complete 30 credit hours per year and remain in good academic standings.

"At UMSL, we believe in empowering talented students with opportunities that help them realize their full potential," said Reggie Hill, the vice chancellor for strategic enrollment and career advancement.... "This partnership reflects our deep commitment to student success, academic excellence and creating pathways that uplift our region." [Read more.](#)



### Summer Camps at UMSL

June and July, 2025  
Applications being accepted NOW!

It's not too late to sign up for an array of summer camps available to local youth from kindergarten through 12th grade. Many of these camps are offered at little to no cost. Camps cover a variety of subject areas including music, writing, business, health, and more, providing enriching experiences that not only entertain but also educate and challenge young minds. [Click here](#) to learn more.



## UMSL Forum Sparks Dialogue on Government Accountability

Recently, more than 50 people from the University of Missouri–St. Louis and the greater St. Louis community came together for the UMSL Forum for Community Dialogue to discuss government accountability. Panelists included David Gipson, City Manager of Clayton; Jason Rosenbaum, Political Correspondent at St. Louis Public Radio; Benjamin Singer, CEO of Show Me Integrity; and Dr. Lara Zwarun, UMSL Associate Professor of Communication and Media. Attendees discussed questions such as, "What are the risks of public



### Ferguson Twilight Run

Saturday, May 17, 2025  
4:30 PM  
Plaza @ 501  
501 S. Florissant

The in-person 2025 Ferguson Twilight Run is taking place in Downtown Ferguson! Virtual FTR activities will take place over the course of the weekend. Pre-Race entertainment starts at 4:30 PM and the concert ends at 9:30 PM. The 1-mile distance starts at 5:00 PM; the 5K starts at 6:00 PM; and the 10K starts at 5:45 PM. Road

mistrust in government, and how can we rebuild that trust?" and "What tools have you used or seen used to promote accountability?" Participants explored barriers to holding the government accountable and shared ideas for encouraging greater civic involvement. The event focused on fostering community dialogue and empowering citizens to make a difference.

With changing topics, the UMSL Forum for Community Dialogue is held twice each year with the next planned for the fall. Enhancing the capacity of individuals and groups to consider multiple viewpoints on issues impacting communities is the objective of this forum. Contact UMSL Community Engagement at [communityengagement@umsl.edu](mailto:communityengagement@umsl.edu) to learn about future events.

closures are expected after 4:30 PM. For event information and registration, [click here](#).



### Canning 101 with Chef Queenie

Monday, May 19, 2025  
4517 Hamilton Avenue

Chef Queenie offers a class that will guide participants through the process of creating their own canned goods from start to finish. Tickets are \$15. [Click here](#) for more information.



## Associated Bank Opens First Branch in Missouri in Dellwood, Tapping into New Market

Associated Bank news, Monday, April 21, 2025

On April 21, Associated Banc-Corp announced the opening of its new St. Louis branch at Dellwood Crossing Shopping Center located at 10044 W Florissant Ave., leasing about 6,000 square feet of space to serve the community. "The Dellwood area represents an important market for Associated Bank, marking our first Missouri branch location," said Shawn McCutcheon, market president for St. Louis. "It's not only a bank location, it's a location to gather and uplift our community and utilize financial expertise, and that's why we also have our Community Advocacy Center adjoining our branch."

The Dellwood branch will be home to a community accountability officer, an affordable lending officer, as well as shared space for other important lines of business partners. It will also house a meeting space for more than 30 people. The local community will be supported through:

- first time home buyer education
- financial literacy and wellness education
- fraud prevention classes
- space for community advocates and nonprofits to gather and host events and learning sessions
- a full-service teller lobby with a 24-hour, deposit-enabled ATM for after-hours banking

[Read more.](#)



### 17th Annual SPRING TO DANCE® Festival 2025

Friday, May 23, 2025 and  
Saturday, May 24, 2025  
5:30 PM  
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

The Midwest region's most celebrated dance festival returns for the 17th year! National professional dance companies from coast to coast flock to St. Louis to bestow their artistry. It's an unmatched buffet of dance, featuring two days of nonstop dance from a wide array of companies. As one of the region's must-see festivals, Spring to Dance offers something for everyone, from modern, ballet and contemporary to tap, aerial, hip hop, flamenco and more,





## A Red Circle brings 'Good Food Friday' to North County

Namratha Prasad, *The St. Louis American*, April 17, 2025

A Red Circle, a non-profit organization based in north county, opened its doors to a third space in Pine Lawn on April 10, 2025. The space includes a community garden as well as a kitchen that hosts chefs who teach the community how to bake bread, store food, and other useful kitchen tips. "It's not just a skill that people learn," founder and executive director Erica Williams said. "They learn that they belong in the healthy food system. They learn that it doesn't matter body size or race." The organization will run its "Good Food Friday" event out of this space, allowing families and residents from all over the region to get vegetables for free.

"Oftentimes, when families are low income, food is put in a box and they're given it, and they don't have any choice, any agency," Williams said. "They might not even know what it is or like what's in there. But here, you know, it's set up as a farmer's market vibe, but also a space where people can just really belong. And then people learn here, too." The building, a small red house, sits on a hill overlooking the garden.... Community Garden Director Erin Tyus said the amount of work that was put in for the building to be open for business was well worth it to provide the community with a space unlike any other in the town. "It's not just food, we serve as a third space for the community," Tyus said. [Read more.](#)



## Bridging Past and Future: The Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center Set to Open in 2025

Lamar Johnson Collaborative online

Currently under construction, the Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center at the University of Missouri-Saint Louis is a dynamic example of vision turned into reality. Guided by

with a distinct, dynamic program each night. Tickets start at \$10. For information and tickets, [click here.](#)



### Ferguson Juneteenth Celebration

Friday, June 14, 2025  
4:00 - 9:00 PM  
806 Ferguson Ave.

The Ferguson Juneteenth Celebration features multiple vendors, food trucks, resale booths, crafts, games, and activities organized by community organizations. [Click here](#) to learn more about the event.



### Let the Music Move You~ Jennings Summer Concert Series

Fridays, May - August, 2025  
7:00 - 9:00 PM  
Koeneman Park  
8937 Old Lucas and Hunt Rd.

Presented by Jennings Parks & Recreation, the Summer Concert Series brings free live music to the heart of the community all summer long. Enjoy performances from local and regional artists including Anjreah, TRU, Keep It Real Band, Danger Zone,

May 2025

insights from the Lamar Johnson Collaborative (LJC)-crafted campus Master Plan, their team is reimagining the structure through thoughtful architecture and adaptive reuse. The design balances historic context with future-forward functionality, creating an open, light-filled environment that fosters engagement between students, future students and their families, and alumni.

Skeet Rodgers, Songbird, and 3 Central. This family-friendly event offers a great way to kick off the weekend with music, food, and community spirit. [Click here](#) to learn more.

From curated material palettes to spatial programming that encourages connection, every design choice supports a unified experience welcoming the next generation while celebrating those who came before. Completion is set for 2025, and LJC can't wait to share more as the story unfolds. [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!

---