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Dear Neighbors and Community Partners,

It's June, and summer is upon us! It's an exciting time on campus and in our community. We recently held commencement for more than 1800 new graduates. We have been recognized by Times Higher Education for gender equality and reducing inequality. This recognition underscores our focus on inclusive prosperity and supporting students from all backgrounds. We remain excited and committed to working with community partners to spur economic opportunity through education.

It is always great to see UMSL alumni and friends continue to make a difference in the community and we are thrilled when

## **COVID-19 Resources**

[Click here](#) to view resources for support during the pandemic.

## **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](#)

they receive recognition for the impact of their work. This month, we highlight a few of these accomplishments and accolades. Further, this year we are celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Mercantile Library. We hope you will find time to visit the special exhibition at the library this summer to commemorate this important occasion.

Finally, we continue to be hopeful as we see a decline in COVID-19 cases in our community. In alignment with the new guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the St. Louis County Department of Public Health, we are looking forward to inviting more people to campus and seeing you in the community.

Wishing you well!

Kristin Sobolik  
Chancellor, University of Missouri-St. Louis



## Recently opened SSM Health Express Clinic serves community from UMSL Patient Care Center

The University of Missouri–St. Louis community and the surrounding neighborhoods have a new option to help fill their basic health care needs in the form of an [SSM Health Express Clinic](#). The walk-in clinic, which opened early March, now shares space with the [College of Optometry](#) in the [Patient Care Center](#) on UMSL's South Campus. The clinic provides non-emergency care to patients 2 years and older. That spans everything from helping with minor illnesses and injuries, non-COVID vaccinations and tests such as blood glucose, mono and rapid stress tests – and beyond.

"We're here for anything that's an acute sick visit," family nurse practitioner Zhanna Goldkamp said. "...We are essentially access to medical care that's convenient and quick."

## Announcements and Activities



### Updated CDC Face Covering and Social Distance Guidelines!

New CDC guidelines are now available for North St. Louis County and the St. Louis region regarding fully vaccinated people not needing face coverings or to social distance with other fully vaccinated people.

For further information, [click here](#).



### Health Needs Assessment

Every 3 years, local hospital systems conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment. This year, St. Louis area hospitals have collaborated to create a community survey.

To take the survey by 6/30/21, [click here](#).



### Normandy Schools Collaborative Staff Recruitment Fair

Goldkamp and fellow family nurse practitioner Brandy Byrd comprise the care team at the UMSL location. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. [Read more.](#)



Executive director John Neal Hoover has had a 37-year career at the St. Louis Mercantile Library. (Photos by August Sonnenberg)

## Mercantile Library celebrates 175 years with an exhibition honoring its place as the oldest library west of the Mississippi

It's a question that John Neal Hoover, executive director of the St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, gets quite often. One that is both simple and exceedingly difficult to answer: “What is your favorite item at the Mercantile Library?” It's simple in the sense that Hoover has spent the past 37 years immersing himself in – and gaining intimate knowledge of – the pieces that make up the library's unique collections. It's exceedingly difficult in the sense that he has a hard time narrowing his list down to just a few favorites. “I could go on and on,” Hoover says... Around 350 of Hoover's favorite pieces are on display as part of this spring's exhibition, “A Nation, A City, & Its First Library: Americana, as a Way of Life at the St. Louis Mercantile Library for 175 Years.”

The exhibition spans the library's atrium and levels 1 and 2 and is broken down into seven main sections, each centering on a different aspect of the library's extensive, eclectic holdings. Hoover and the Mercantile Library staff envision the exhibition, its accompanying book and the year's worth of events surrounding it as a celebration of the longest-tenured continuously running library west of the Mississippi River and its place as a St. Louis institution.

[Read more.](#)

Saturday, June 12  
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at  
Barack Obama School  
3883 Jennings Station Rd.  
Business casual dress is recommended.

The district is looking for qualified and committed individuals for opportunities as a classroom teacher, support staff, food service, maintenance/custodial, information technology, bus drivers and more!

[Click here](#) for more information or apply at the Human Resources page on the [NSC website](#).



### Maline Creek Clean-up - Environmental Justice Days of Action

Sunday, June 13, 2021 from  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
806 Ferguson Ave  
Ferguson, MO 63135

Join earthday365's  
Environmental Justice Days of  
Action!

The Forestwood Park will be the meeting place in Ferguson to help cleanup litter along Maline Creek and the surrounding area, which empties directly into the Mississippi River. For more information, [click here](#).



## Musical theatre educator is the 2021 Ferguson-Florissant School District Teacher of the Year

Community News, May 12, 2021

James Young, a sixth-grade musical theatre teacher at Johnson-Wabash Sixth Grade Center, has been named Ferguson-Florissant School District's 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year... "Anyone who spends any time in the presence of Mr. Young can feel his passion for music and his eagerness to pass on the passion to the young people he teaches," said Dr. Ben Eye, assistant principal of Johnson-Wabash. "Mr. Young exemplifies what a teacher is and should be. He is not afraid to educate the whole student, and he ignites the fire of his student's creativity." Young has been teaching in FFSD for nearly 14 years. After three years in the United States Army, Young took the opportunity afforded to him by the G.I. Bill to go back to school and study music education. His grandmother, Elizabeth Hutcherson-Rucks, a retired music educator, instilled the idea of teaching at a young age. "Being the oldest of eight siblings, my parents taught me the importance of responsibility and being an example for others to follow," says Young.

Throughout his career, building collaborative partnerships have been an integral part of his teaching experience. In addition, he is also committed to creating an environment of learning that is culturally relevant. "In the first few years of teaching, I began to see my calling more clearly. I had the opportunity to reach students who were like me culturally. I felt called to help students learn the enjoyment and appreciation of music in a relevant way," says Young. "In addition to creating an environment of learning that is culturally relevant, I have also strived to create a strong community of learners." [Read more, Community News, Page 6.](#) (Note: Mr. Young is a UMSL alum with a Bachelor's degree in music education).



## 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](#).

## Tommy Terrific "Wild About Magic"

June 13, 2021 from  
2:00 to 3:00 PM  
Virtual - Facebook Page

Children and families can explore the magic in the wildlife around. This virtual program will be available on the library's Facebook page (Tuesday, June 8, 2:00 PM through Monday, June 14.) To view Facebook Page, [click here](#).



## Summer Keyboard Camp





Retiring Jennings School Board President Ms. Rose Mary Johnson gives thanks to all that helped her all these years in the school district during an outdoor meeting Monday April 19, 2021. The junior high school has been renamed in her honor by Supt. Art McCoy (center) and new board president John Schieth (left).  
Photo by Wiley Price / St. Louis American

## Jennings Junior High renamed, honoring Johnson

St. Louis American, April 27, 2021

In gratitude of 27 years of service of Ms. Rose Mary Johnson to the Jennings School District (JSD) and Board of Education, Jennings Junior High School has been renamed Johnson Jennings Junior High School for the tireless service upon the end of her term as the 2020-21 Board President and completion of her service as a Jennings School District Board Member.

Rose Mary Johnson has been a Jennings School District board member since 1994 and has served in each JSD Board Officer role multiple times. She is a retired educator serving as a Principal, Assistant Principal and Teacher in the Saint Louis Public Schools.



Cathy Jenkins (center) is the owner of Cathy's Kitchen in Ferguson. Shown here with her daughters and employees. Micah (left) and Cathy L. (right) on Tuesday, Apr. 20, 2021.  
By Jennifer Smith / St. Louis American

## Upbeat During the Downtimes of

June 14 to 18, 2021  
Online

The UMSL Department of Music is proud to offer the fifth annual Summer Keyboard Camp. This year's camp will be held entirely ONLINE!

The registration fee is \$200. Contact Alla Voskoboinikova with all questions at [voskoboinikovaa@umsl.edu](mailto:voskoboinikovaa@umsl.edu). To register for this event, [click here](#).



## Community Conservation: Reducing the Opportunity Gap in STEM

June 24, 2021 from Noon to 1:00 PM  
ONLINE

The Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at UMSL presents the second event in the Community Conservation Series, Reducing the Opportunity Gap in STEM. The CLIMB Program was created to provide resources and tools for students from urban high schools to have hands-on experiences with UMSL faculty-led research and to understand career pathways in STEM fields. Learn how this program has grown and continues to impact the lives of students in the St. Louis community. To register, click [here](#).

# COVID: Cathy & Jerome Jenkins of Cathy's Kitchen

Sylvester Brown, JR, St. Louis American, April 22, 2021

"We were prepared for COVID." Kathy and Jerome Jenkins, owners of Cathy's Kitchen in Ferguson, answered resolutely when asked how COVID-19 had impacted their business. Their answer was surprising, considering the disproportionate damage the pandemic has wrought on Black businesses, in particular. But the Jenkinses say their years as struggling entrepreneurs and the protests following police killings readied them for the economic chaos caused by the coronavirus. In fact, for the past year, the couple has posted photos and videos on social media of them and their staff dancing, singing, exercising and happily coping despite the restrictions St. Louis County officials put on businesses that negatively and drastically affected their operations and bottom line.

Staying publicly upbeat during the downturn of COVID wasn't a marketing strategy, the Jenkinses insist, it was a manifestation of who they are and what they believe: "We don't separate fun from business," Jerome said. "You could see the stress on people's faces," Cathy added. "People were stuck in the house. Many had lost their jobs. They were so unhappy, so we set out to be happier." [Read more.](#)



Bellefontaine Neighbors Mayor Tommie Persson Sr. takes a picture with former Missouri State Representative Sharon Pace after she was sworn in as the new Mayor of Northwoods Tue. Apr. 27 at City Hall.

Photo by Wiley Price / St. Louis American

## Northwoods welcomes first woman mayor in history

St. Louis American, May 6-12, 2021

[Recently], St. Louis County Prosecutor Wesley Bell swore in form State Rep. Sharon Pace as the mayor of her hometown, Northwoods, Missouri. Pace is the first woman to hold that office. Pace completed four terms in the Missouri State Legislature before retiring to Northwoods. During her time in



### CSA Dance Camp!

June 14 - June 18, 2021  
12:30 to 3:30 PM  
Females Only  
Lutheran North Middle and High School

The CSA Dance staff is excited to offer this camp for all girls in grades 2-9. Dancers will be introduced to a variety of dance styles, including ballet, jazz and hip-hop. No experience is necessary. Dancers will be grouped according to age and ability.

\$65 registration fee. For additional information, and to register, [click here.](#)

### CSA Drama Camp!

June 21 - June 25, 2021  
12:30 to 3:30 PM  
Lutheran North Middle and High School

The CSA Drama Camp was created for students entering grades 4-9 who have an interest in the performing arts. Drama campers will work alongside experienced actors all while having fun on and off the stage. Through the use of acting games, campers will learn about being on stage, stage presence, movement, costuming, vocalization, as well as the technical aspects of theater.

\$70 registration fee. For more information and to register,

the Legislature, she initiated and supported laws to benefit Missourians statewide, especially in economically challenged neighborhoods in North St. Louis County. She also served as an alderwoman in Northwoods for nine years.

Retiring Northwoods Mayor Rev. Everett R. Thomas said "Mayor Pace is a stellar leader who will continue to grow a progressive legacy for the City of Northwoods and set an exemplary model for other North County communities."



## The Times Higher Education ranks UMSL highly for gender equality, reducing inequality

Creating educational opportunities, improving equity, reducing inequality and joining hands with community institutions to spur economic growth – these are values that the University of Missouri–St. Louis holds in the highest regard as part of its strategic goals.

They're also values named by the Times Higher Education as being critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015. With this synergy in values, it's no surprise that THE continues to rank UMSL as an institution that embodies sustainability on its "2021: Impact Rankings."

The Impact Rankings assess universities against the 17 SDGs across four broad areas: research, stewardship, outreach and teaching. UMSL scored highly in several categories. Among them were No. 58 globally in Gender Equality and between 101-200 in Reducing Inequality. The institution also ranked well in Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; in Quality Education; and in Peace, Justice and Strong institutions.

"As the premiere public research university in eastern Missouri, UMSL welcomes a diverse student population

[click here.](#)



### 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).



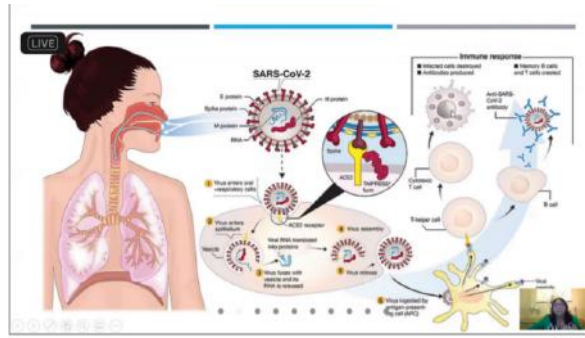
### Farmers Market

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.



reflective of our St. Louis region and from across the globe,” Chancellor Kristin Sobolik said. “This recognition from THE showcases our focus on providing opportunity for our students no matter where they come from and then delivering on that promise as we transform their lives and that of the region and beyond.” [Read more.](#)



This screenshot was taken from the Black Nurses Association of Greater St. Louis online town hall on the evening of April 23 via Facebook Live to particularly address the concerns, misinformation, and disinformation of African Americans surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine.

## The Black Nurses Association of Greater St. Louis hosts an online town-hall to address vaccine hesitancy in the African-American community

Community News, May 5, 2021

Hesitancy to receiving the COVID vaccine is not limited to any one class or community of people. People of all skin colors have been vocal in stating they will not receive the vaccine. However, the Black Nurses Association of Greater St. Louis in collaboration with St. Louis County Public Health Department conducted an online town hall on the evening of April 23 via Facebook Live to particularly address the concerns, misinformation, and disinformation of African Americans.

The Let's Talk About It: Facts vs Fears – The COVID-19 Vaccine included speakers: Dr. Martha Dawson, President of the National Black Nurses Association; Dr. Shalmica Jackson, Marketing Manager for ATCC's (American Type Culture Collection) Drug Discovery and Development; and Michelle Mitchell, Clinical Services Manager for St. Louis County Public Health Department. Dawson stressed focusing on the positives rather the negatives of vaccinations, especially among black and brown skin people.

“Last year about this time when we first started talking about the vaccine, when the vaccine was still in clinical trials –



### Mass Vaccination Event for North St. Louis County

Monday – Friday from  
11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Dellwood Recreation Center  
10266 West Florissant Ave.  
Requirement: To register and  
schedule an appointment,  
[click here.](#)

Note: Walk-ins accepted all  
day; Appointments available.



### North County Small Business Accelerator

Aug. 24-Oct. 8, 2021

Applications are now being accepted! Fifteen (15) small North St. Louis County restaurants and retail businesses will be selected in a competitive process to participate in the new and innovative North County Small Business Accelerator. Over a six-week period, business owners will receive one-on-one mentorship on establishing strategic direction and essential modern business practices focused on a thriving and sustainable model. This program is being offered through a partnership between UMSL, North County Inc., and The Missouri Small Business Development Centers. There is NO COST for selected businesses to participate (the value of the



primarily phase one and moving into phase two – a lot of the statistical data in interviews that were given at that time dealing with the black and brown community showed that around 7% said that they would get vaccinated,” stated Dawson. “Then we started educating our community giving them opportunity to ask questions, and what we saw was a movement. So, gradually we had 14% that said they would get vaccinated. The latest data I have heard this week – 40% of African Americans have said that they will be vaccinated.”  
[Read more, Page 1.](#)

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program is well over \$5K).  
The registration deadline is July 24, 2021. [Click here](#) to apply.

## 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!

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