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Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

Growth and opportunity are the words that come to my mind when I think about all the wonderful things that are taking place in our community. New construction is a part of that growth and opportunity as we just recently celebrated the groundbreaking of the new USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service Midwestern Laboratory in Normandy down the street from our campus, as well as that of the new [Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center](#) in the space that was the J.C. Penney South building at UMSL, which is the next step to [TransformUMSL](#).

This month, we also want to call out some of our wonderful community partners who are making a difference for people in and around our community. These include St. Louis County Children's Service Fund which provides financial support to mental and behavioral health services including our clinics at UMSL; the St. Louis County Library and a new program at our Natural Bridge branch to assist formerly incarcerated individuals, as well as the library's ongoing free summer lunch program for area youth; and the St. Louis Economic

Development Partnership and Greater St. Louis Inc. for their collaboration on the Build Back Better Regional Grant.

Together, we are investing time, energy and resources to create vibrant places for people to live, work and find success in our community!

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St.
Louis



USDA to build new Food Safety and Inspection Service Midwestern Laboratory in Normandy

STL Partnership Promise Zone, Hannah Nixon, May 31, 2023

The [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) celebrated the groundbreaking of a new [Food Safety and Inspection Service \(FSIS\)](#) Midwestern Laboratory in Normandy, Missouri on May 24. The lab will replace the current testing facility that is located in the Goodfellow neighborhood. The [General Services Administration](#) (GSA), which manages properties on behalf of other government agencies, signed a 20-year lease for the USDA site with a contract value of \$115.4 million. The new site, located in the [St. Louis Promise Zone](#) near the [University of Missouri – St. Louis \(UMSL\)](#) campus on Natural Bridge Rd., is the former Immaculate Heart Convent owned by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd since 1874. Last year, the property was sold to the U.S. Federal Properties Co., a firm that specializes

in the development of properties leased to the U.S. federal government.

The St. Louis lab is one of three in the country. This new lab will address present and future public health challenges through science and technology to ensure that our nation's meat, poultry and processed egg supply is safe and properly labeled. [Read more.](#)



St. Louis County Library program to offer formerly incarcerated people business skills

St. Louis Public Radio Station, Andrea Henderson, May 24, 2023

The St. Louis County Library is launching a small-business program to help formerly incarcerated people in the region learn how to become entrepreneurs. The Small Business Launchpad, which starts in August, will provide 12 participants with business planning workshops and expert-led sessions about business financing. The program also will teach people how to develop business ideas, understand pricing and prepare marketing materials.

Getting a job after being incarcerated is difficult, so learning about entrepreneurship could help people find another way to success, said Megan Phifer-Davis, St. Louis County Library reference department manager. With your own business, she said, "you get to work towards something that you are excited to do every day." The county library received a \$3,500 grant from the Missouri Library Association to fund the six-month program at the library's Natural Bridge branch. People who come out of prison have a hard time obtaining business loans from banks, Phifer-Davis said.

To help participants overcome that barrier, the program will allow them to consult with Grow with Google business and online training, Great Southern Bank, the financial planning

company Justine Petersen and others on how to manage personal and business finances...Learning how to start and grow a business could help formerly incarcerated people gain more economic opportunities, said county library CEO Kristen Sorth. Program applications are due by June 30. [Read more.](#)



FOCUS ST. LOUIS HONORS BUILD BACK BETTER REGIONAL GRANT

STL Partnership, Hannah Nixon, May 27, 2023

FOCUS ST. Louis hosted their 26th Annual What's Right with the Region Awards on May 11, 2023. Each year, the event honors individuals, organizations and initiatives that are making a positive impact within the St. Louis region. This year, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership (STL Partnership) and Greater St. Louis Inc. accepted an award in the category "Enhancing Regional Prosperity" for their collaboration on the Build Back Better Regional Grant.

The grant, worth \$25 million, will create the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Center St. Louis (AMICSTL), which will serve as a hub for research, innovation and start-ups. Rodney Crim, CEO and President of STL Partnership and Jason Hall, CEO of Greater St. Louis Inc. accepted the award on behalf of all of the grant partners. [Read more.](#)



Mental Health Heroes

St. Louis County Community News, Wendy Todd, May 24, 2023

St. Louis County Children's Service Fund brings attention and services to the mental health needs of children across St. Louis County

Since 1949, May has been observed in the United States as Mental Health Awareness Month to raise awareness about mental and behavioral health issues and decrease the surrounding stigma. In observance, the nonprofit, St. Louis County Children's Service Fund (CSF), the largest service provider of its kind in Missouri, has been hosting a series of lunch and learns regarding well-being for youth..."Mental Health Awareness Month present[ed] us with a great opportunity to better highlight and address our community's mental health needs," said Emily Koenig, executive director of CSF.

Attendance has been good and has allowed participants to not only gain information about youth and mental health, but also what CSF offers communities....The nonprofit began in 2008 when a group of St. Louis County voters created the nonprofit and governmental entities to provide mental and behavioral health services to children and families. CSF has invested more than \$450 million in organizations [including UMSL mental and behavioral health services] throughout the community using the "Putting Kids First" sales tax, which allocates a quarter-cent of every dollar spent in St. Louis County to its funding for services that include crisis intervention, counseling, child advocacy, education, and prevention. [Read more.](#)



University of Missouri–St. Louis breaks ground on new Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center

Faculty, staff, alumni, students and supporters of the University of Missouri–St. Louis gathered in Alumni Circle Tuesday afternoon [June 6] to mark the start of construction on the new Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center. The new 31,000-square-foot center will connect to the J.C. Penney Conference Center and is intended to serve as the gateway to UMSL for prospective students and their families while also providing a permanent home for the university's more than 112,000 alumni.

"The Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center will be a place to welcome students into the often-confusing world of higher education while simultaneously giving those who've already experienced its transformative power a place to return to and give back," Chancellor Kristin Sobolik said as she addressed a crowd of about 100 people, some of them spilling out from under the shade of a tent on a warm summer afternoon. The idea for the dual-purpose center excited alumnus Kirk Richter nearly two years ago when he and wife Maureen joined Sobolik on another warm summer afternoon for a golf cart tour of the UMSL campus. They discussed several projects to which the alumni couple might lend their financial support. [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!

UMSL Community Connection newsletter

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

UMSL Contracts

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.

Events & Resources



Community Movie Watch

Friday, June 16, 2023

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

24:1 Cinema

6755 Page Ave., 63133

Everyone is invited to watch *Black Panther* and *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*.

Wakanda Forever with fellow North County residents. 174 seats are available for this event.

Jennings Summer Concert Series

Friday, June 16, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Koeneman Park

8397 Old Lucas & Hunt Rd.

The city of Jennings' Summer Concert Series continues with a performance from Keepin' It Real Band. For more information, contact the Jennings Civic Center at (314) 388-3040 ext. 302.

City of Ferguson Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, June 17, 2023

1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Plaza at 501

501 S. Florissant Rd.

Join the City of Ferguson as they celebrate Juneteenth with live music and performances, food trucks, an art fair, small business vendors, activities for children and more!

City of Dellwood Parade & Community Resource Fair

Monday, June 19, 2023

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Dellwood Recreation Center

10266 West Florissant Rd.

Celebrate Juneteenth in the City of Dellwood at an event to remember! Activities include a community resource fair, parade, skating, trivia, and vendor pop-up. Community organizations and vendors can register here. Click [here](#) for information and links to register.



Acappellooza Summer Concert

Friday, June 30

7:00 p.m.

UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center,
1 Touhill Circle

At this culminating concert of the UMSL Acappellooza Summer Camp students from across the country will be performing the music that they have prepared during the week. They will be joined on stage by international champion chorus the Ambassadors of Harmony and other special musical guests. The concert is **free** of charge. No tickets are required; just walk in, find a seat, and be prepared to be blown away by great acappella music. For more information, click [here](#).



Silver Sneakers/ Renew Active - Fitness Memberships at UMSL Rec & Wellness Center

Eligible SilverSneakers or Renew Active members receive a basic membership which provides access to fitness equipment, group classes, and more at the UMSL Recreation and Wellness Center. SilverSneakers and Renew Active are offered to Medicare-eligible and group retiree members of participating health plans. Call the number on your health plan ID to learn more. For additional information about the UMSL Recreation and Wellness Center, click [here](#).



St. Louis County Seeking Input on Budget

St. Louis County has launched a simulation tool designed to engage the community in the budget process. The County will also host four town halls on the budget in June. The Balancing Act budget simulation allows participants to decide how to increase revenue or decrease spending - or both. [Click here](#) for information and a link to the simulation tool. Anyone interested in providing feedback on the budget can email STLCObudget@stlouiscountymo.gov.



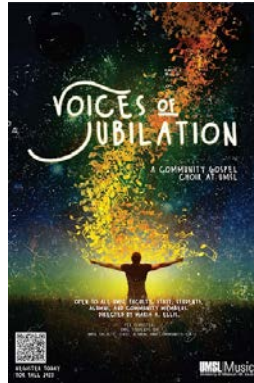
Summer Lunches at St. Louis County Libraries

Weekdays, June 5 through August 18, 2023

Natural Bridge Branch
7606 Natural Bridge Road and other
SLCL locations
Noon to 1:00 p.m.

SLCL and Operation Food Search are teaming up to provide nutritious lunches and activities for area children this summer. Pizza will be provided on Fridays. Meals must be eaten on-site and will be available free of charge for children 18 and under.

Artists from Bread and Roses Missouri will lead a new art project each week during the summer lunch program that helps kids tell a story about themselves, their families, and the community. For more information, click [here](#).



Voices of Jubilation Community Gospel Choir

Tuesdays, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Rehearsals will begin after Labor Day.
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center,
1 Touhill Circle

Directed by UMSL alumna Maria A. Ellis, the UMSL *Voices of Jubilation* is a community gospel choir located in the heart of North St. Louis County. Membership is open to all UMSL faculty, staff, students, and alumni, as well as community members. Rehearsals will be on Tuesday evenings in the Whitaker Room of the Touhill PAC beginning after Labor Day.

Everyone is welcome. Dues per semester are \$30 for Community members and UMSL faculty, staff, and alumni. Dues are \$10 for UMSL students. Interested in joining? [Click here](#) for additional information.

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