

[View this email in a webpage.](#)



## Community Connection

**UMSL**  
University of Missouri–St. Louis



Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

Recently, UMSL celebrated nearly 2,000 new graduates during commencement ceremonies. We are excited to see how these graduates will transform our communities as they embark on new journeys as alumni and professionals in their fields. Indeed, UMSL alumni are leading positive change in our communities. We are delighted to share a feature on Kisha Lee, a UMSL alumna serving the St. Louis Promise Zone as Propel Kitchens' first Executive Director. We are also excited about new developments in the UMSL Accelerate entrepreneurship space under the guidance of UMSL alumnus Dan Lauer. Both of these leaders are opening doors of opportunity for people in the communities around campus and beyond.

### **UMSL Community Connection newsletter**

Received this as a forward?  
[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 Careers**

Summer is such a special season as it usually draws us to explore the outdoors. World Environmental Day falls in June.

During this month, we take a moment to appreciate the Ferguson Farmers Market 21st year of serving the community and surrounding regions with local, fresh groceries and other homegrown and homemade options. Further, we are highlighting a regional "Don't Pollute. Switch Up Your Commute." campaign as part of our collective efforts to improve air quality in our local communities, particularly during the summer months with higher ozone levels. Together, we can make a difference for our environment.

As always, I hope to see many of you out and about in the community this summer. This is the season for picnics, outdoor concerts and celebrations. Let's all take time to enjoy them!

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik  
Chancellor  
University of Missouri–St.  
Louis



## Innovative Community Kitchen, Propel Kitchens, welcomes its first Executive Director, Kisha Lee

Beyond Housing, May 25, 2022

[Propel Kitchens](#) is excited to announce the nonprofit's first Executive Director, Kisha Lee. Propel Kitchens opened in July of 2021 and is a social enterprise platform supporting and creating economic opportunity, equity and justice through food. Targeting residents of the St. Louis Promise Zone in north St. Louis City and County, Propel Kitchens equips St. Louis residents and communities with knowledge and skills to combat persistent economic and health inequities. The kitchen and staff

[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 resources, services and programs at UMSL available to the community.

---

## Events & Resources

---



### UniverCities Exchange: Urban Public Transit - A Complex Route to Equity

June 15, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Online via Zoom

Join a conversation on public transportation and what many advocates are calling a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to remake the state's transportation systems due to an influx of infrastructure funds. Yet how to do that and how to make what comes next an equitable and accessible system are questions that Kansas City and St. Louis continue to contemplate. To register for this free event and receive a log-in link, [click here](#).

---

focus on nutrition and food industry training, education and career placement in jobs with living wages, benefits and wealth-building opportunities.

Lee brings a variety of experience to Propel Kitchens from corporate, nonprofit, and education roles she has held in the past. “Kisha is a strong, transformational leader with a history of professional and community service and extensive experience in public education, health, and policy,” said Board Chair Yvonne Sparks.

Lee comes to Propel Kitchens from CareSTL Health, where she was Director of Grants and Contracts and Director of Compliance. She is currently the President of the Board of Education for the Ladue School District. She holds a master’s degree in public policy and administration with a graduate certificate in nonprofit management and leadership from the University of Missouri–St. Louis. [Read more](#)



## A pitch for the future: UMSL Accelerate’s impact grows alongside new space

The phrase “dense spontaneous collisions” comes up a lot when Dan Lauer talks about entrepreneurship. It’s all about creating opportunities for impromptu meeting between creative, ambitious individuals. There’s no way to predict exactly what will happen. “You’ve just got to create an environment for them,” he says.

That’s exactly what Lauer, founding executive director of UMSL Accelerate at the University of Missouri–St. Louis and founder and creator of Waterbabies, intends to do with the new UMSL Accelerate facility. UMSL Accelerate moved its operations to the former Gallery 210 space during the fall semester. Moving forward, Lauer envisions the facility being a hub for numerous



### Ferguson Summer Concert Series

- Queen's Blvd on June 10 at Plaza at 501, 501 S Florissant Rd
- Downtime on August 12 at Plaza at 501, 501 S Florissant Rd
- Big Rigs on September 9 at the Bandshell at January-Wabash Park, 501 N. Florissant

Music starts at 7:00 p.m. Bring family, friends and dancing shoes! Lawn chair and coolers welcome (no glass). Food will be available for purchase. For more information, [click here](#).



### Wellston Loop Juneteenth Concert Series

- The STL Rhythm and Blues Revue on June 12, 6:00 p.m. at Trojan Park, 6154 Etzel Ave 63133
- Who Is Timothy & Co. on June 19, 2:00 p.m. at the Wellston Community Center, 1414 Evergreen Ave.
- Marquise Knox with performances by Lydia Caesar, Tef Poe, The Trap Band, and DJ Tycoon 314 on June 25, Noon at Wellston Loop

UMSL-led accelerators and a gathering place for collaboration among startup founders and the UMSL community.

It will also serve as a recruitment tool for the university and an economic development engine for the St. Louis region.... "Our mission is to be a first choice for entrepreneur-minded students," Lauer says. "We want to be known in the region, and then the country, as one of the great places to learn." [Read more.](#)



## Normandy School Board Approves Increase to Teachers Salaries, puts district above area average salary for starting pay

The Normandy Schools Collaborative School Board approved the salary scale for teachers for the 2022-2023 school year at the April 12 meeting, which includes an increase that puts salaries for starting teachers above the average starting pay for St. Louis area districts....On the new scale, new teachers with a bachelor's degree will start at a salary of \$43,775, which is up from a starting pay of \$40,000 for the 2021-2022 school year.

That's about \$1,300 above current average starting pay for St. Louis districts. Under the approved scale, a teacher with a doctorate in the Normandy district can earn more than \$113,000 annually, more than any other district according to available 2021-2022 salary scales.

"The board and administration realize that a competitive teacher pay is just one aspect of retaining and attracting excellent teachers, but it is an important one that Normandy is dedicated to," said Dr. Phillip Pusateri, Normandy associate superintendent and chief financial officer. [Read more.](#)

To register, [click here.](#)



### Earthdance Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, June 25, 2022  
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.  
233 S. Dade Ave, Ferguson,  
63135

EarthDance is looking for a small group of dedicated volunteers that can join the farm team weekly during the growing season. For more information and registration, [click here.](#)



### Ferguson Fourth of July Celebration

Monday, July 4, 2022  
10:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

**Parade:** 10 a.m., begins at Plaza at 501 (501 S. Florissant) and ends at January-Wabash Memorial Park (501 N. Florissant).  
**Festival:** 11:30 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. Children's Fun Zone/Vendor Zone, Inflatables, Face Painters, Balloon Twisters, Food Vendors, & More!  
**Fireworks:** 9:15 p.m.

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





## Home Grown

### ***Ferguson Farmers Market begins 21st year of delivering fresh food to the community now under the management of Ferguson-based Live Well Events***

St. Louis County Weekly Community News, Wendy Todd, May 18, 2022

[In May], the Ferguson Farmers' Market began its 21st year of serving the community and surrounding regions with local, fresh grocery options and other homegrown wares. What's different this year is that the market is now under new management. Formerly managed by Town Grove Farmers' Market, Ferguson Farmers' Market is now opening under the organization Live Well Events, also located in Ferguson....I just love having everything back in Ferguson and love working with Live Well," Mary Haux, manager of the Ferguson Farmers' Market said. "They've been an amazing organization. I am really happy to have it all back here in Ferguson."  
[Read more](#), p.1.



## Don't Pollute. Switch Up Your Commute. Campaign Gets Underway

CMT, Mallory Box, May 2, 2022

Transportation is one of the biggest contributors to air pollution. In conjunction with the start of the St. Louis Regional Clean Air Partnership's daily air quality forecasting season, more than half a dozen partners, who collectively provide an array of

### **Ferguson Picnic in the Park** Sunday, July 31, 2022 Noon - 2:00 p.m.

January-Wabash Memorial  
 Park, 501 N. Florissant

Help celebrate National Parks and Recreation Month and all of the hard work that the Ferguson Parks & Recreation Staff contributes to better the community! Enjoy FREE hot dogs, chips, and refreshments (while supplies last) along with bubbles, outdoor games, and surprise guests!

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



### **Good Food Friday with A Red Circle**

Fridays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
 North County Agricultural  
 Education Center, 4521  
 Hamilton Ave, 63120

Join A Red Circle on upcoming 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](#).

transportation options that extend beyond driving in single-occupancy vehicles along with resources and incentives for doing so, are joining forces to kick-off a “Don’t Pollute. Switch Up Your Commute.” campaign. With increasing numbers of people heading back to their offices as we move beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, this summer long effort will work to inform people the way they choose to travel impacts the quality of air St. Louis area residents breathe, while motivating them to modify commuting behaviors as often as they are able.

Area residents can visit [www.SwitchUpYourCommute.com](http://www.SwitchUpYourCommute.com) to download the color-coded air quality forecast, which provides daily updates via email or text stating if the forecast for the following day is a GREEN (good), YELLOW (moderate), ORANGE (unhealthy for sensitive groups) or RED (unhealthy) air quality day. From there, individuals are being encouraged to show they care about clean air by taking transit, carpooling, vanpooling, walking, biking or telecommuting. The site provides detailed information about all transportation options available on both sides of the Mississippi River – and links to associated schedules, pricing, programs, ride matching services, incentives and more. [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!

---



### Summer Lunches at St. Louis County Libraries [Natural Bridge Branch](#)

Weekdays  
Noon to 1:00 p.m.  
7606 Natural Bridge Rd.

Operation Food Search is providing free lunches to children at select SLCL locations this summer, Monday-Friday. Youngsters can enjoy a nutritious lunch along with fun activities. Meals are available free of charge for children ages 0-18. Groups can contact the branch at least 24 hours prior to attending so that the proper amount of meals may be ordered. For more information, [click here](#)

---

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

If you wish to be removed from this group's mailing list. Unsubscribe