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Happy New Year!

As a neighbor and community partner, I hope that you will join UMSL as we prepare for more opportunities and changes to our landscape throughout this new year. We are rolling out the second year of our Transform UMSL initiative, a multi-project effort that is driving our development of the campus for the future. Furthermore, we are excited to see other businesses expanding their operations in our community. This month, we are also pleased to share some new research from UMSL faculty as well as program updates.

To start off 2024, we hope you will join us as we begin the spring semester honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at our annual holiday observance on January 15 at 11:00 a.m. in our beautiful Touhill Performing Arts Center. Celebrations, partnerships, and progress are again in store for us in 2024. I look forward to sharing them with you!

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?

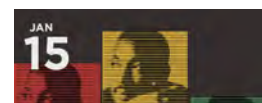
[Procurement Bids](#)
[Construction Bids](#)

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



MacArthur Foundation releases new report from UMSL researchers detailing attitudes about community safety

Professor Lee Slocum was the lead author of the report, which surveyed community members in three states.

New research by investigators at the University of Missouri–St. Louis sheds light on what it means for people to feel safe – and unsafe – in their communities. The 2023 Redefining Community Safety Report [released in December] highlights how people’s feelings are based on their personal safety and security, their perceptions of their community as thriving and socially connected, the fairness and effectiveness of systems they see for preventing and addressing harm in institutions such as the police and courts, and the responsiveness of public safety agencies. But attitudes about safety are also shaped by factors outside traditional measures of crime, including housing-related issues, visible drug use in a community, people’s distrust of police, prevalence of gun violence, people’s sense of belonging and freedom from fear of victimization.

... “The research clearly shows that community safety goes far beyond crime rates,” said Jennifer Ferone, CUNY ISLG’s deputy research director and director of the SJC Research Consortium, in a news release. “To make people feel safer where they live, justice system stakeholders must take a far more holistic approach and listen to community needs, from creating thriving public spaces to increasing access to mental health services. When we center people who are most impacted by crime and the criminal legal system in the conversation around public safety, we can create safer communities for all. This important knowledge development is the type of work that the Consortium was designed to support: meaningful, data-backed reforms that make communities both safer and more equitable.” [Read more.](#)



Fortune 100 food distribution company building new facility in Ferguson

Fox 2 News, Mike Colombo, December 18, 2023

While workers moved ground on Performance Food Group’s new, nearly 350,000-square-foot facility in Ferguson’s NorthPark business development [recently], stakeholders cheered the official groundbreaking. “I’m excited because it’s in north (St. Louis) County,” St. Louis County Councilwoman Rita Heard Days said. Nearly a week after that gathering, Days reflected on what it means to her district. “Clearly, in our area,



UMSL MLK Holiday Observance

Monday, January 15, 2024
11:00 a.m.

UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

“Economic Justice: Honoring Dr. King’s Legacy and Fight to End Economic Inequality and Poverty”

is the theme for the 2024 MLK Day observance. The entire community is invited to this annual commemorative event featuring inspirational speakers, music from the **UMSL Voices of Jubilation Gospel Choir**, and an announcement of the MLK scholarship awards. The 2024 **keynote** speaker is **Ben Jealous**, former NAACP President, Equality activist, and Executive Director of the Sierra Club. The Master of Ceremonies will be Brittany Radford. [Click here](#) for additional information.



Community News Best of North County Awards Voting is now live!

January 1 – 31, 2024

[online](#)

It’s time to recognize favorites in the 2024 Best of North County Awards! Help acknowledge the best of North County by voting on who excels in each category. From January 1-31, participants can vote once per day per category. Only businesses operating in the following zip codes are eligible to win: 63031, 63033, 63034, 63134, 63135, 63136, 63137, 63138, 63140. The winners will be announced in the February 28th edition of *Community News*. [Click here](#) to learn more and vote.

we can certainly use all the jobs we can get," she said. "I was excited to see that they wanted to move there and actually build a brand-new building."

Performance Food Group is relocating from its current warehouse on North Broadway in St. Louis. ... Performance Food Group has more than 150 locations and 30,000 employees. It delivers food and related products to restaurants, businesses, schools, retailers, theaters and convenience stores. The company says the facility will bring nearly \$120 million in new investment and nearly 100 new jobs. Operations at the Ferguson site are scheduled to start in 2025. [Read more.](#)



Clayco to expand in St. Louis, investing \$50 million, creating 400 new jobs

St. Louis County Community News, December 27, 2023, page 4

Newly renovated facility to open in Berkeley at 8455 University Place building on Express Scripts campus at UMSL

Clayco, a full-service, turnkey real estate development, architecture, engineering and construction firm, announced on Nov. 6 that it will relocate and expand its St. Louis offices and operations center, investing \$50 million and creating 400 new jobs. "We're thrilled to see an industry leader and long-time community partner like Clayco expanding its presence in St. Louis," said Governor Mike Parson. ... Clayco, which has multiple offices in Overland and Clayton, will move 580 St. Louis-based team members to a renovated facility in Berkeley. The 230,000-square-foot office in NorthPark Development will provide space for more than 1,000 employees as the company hires additional team members over the next few years. Clayco's Berkeley location will serve as home for various subsidiaries and many of the company's design-build construction functions, including operations, business unit leadership, architecture, process engineering, safety, IT, marketing, finance/accounting and talent management. [Read more.](#)



St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra: Side by Side

Saturday, January 20, 2024
7:30 p.m.

UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

Experience the moment when YO musicians take the stage to perform with their St. Louis Symphony Orchestra counterparts in a side-by-side concert led by Leonard Slatkin, SLSO Conductor Laureate and founder of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. Slatkin leads the combined musicians through *Johannes Brahms' Academic Festival Overture* followed by *Aaron Copland's Lincoln Portrait*, which features narrator and Director of SLSO's IN UNISON Chorus Kevin McBeth, then Jr. *Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's stirring Francesca da Rimini: Symphonic Fantasy after Dante* brings the program to a powerful close. For more information, [click here.](#)



Greek Studies lecture: Dionysios Solomos's "Woman of Zakynthos" (1826-1933) and the Making of Refugees

Monday, February 5, 2024

7:00 p.m. reception

7:30 p.m. lecture

UMSL Millennium Student Center, 312 Century Room

The Greek Professorship at UMSL is strongly committed to making Greek culture accessible and open to the general public and boasts a wide variety of public events. This free presentation by Prof. Artemis Leontis, University of Michigan, is sure to be both engaging and informative.



Neighborhood Leadership Fellows announces newest cohort

Neighborhood Leadership Fellows (NLF) is an advanced leadership training program of [UMSL](#), [MU Extension](#) and the [St. Louis Promise Zone-St. Louis Economic Development Partnership](#). The mission of NLF is to increase and amplify the voices of North St. Louis City and County residents at the civic decision-making tables in order to produce more equitable regional policies for neighborhoods. The primary geographic focus area is neighborhoods within the St. Louis Promise Zone due to the well-documented need for more targeted investment. [Learn more.](#)



CMT web update, Travis Wood, December 13, 2023

Citizens for Modern Transit's team of volunteer Metro Monitors completed 262 surveys during fiscal year 2023 (September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023), covering 31 MetroLink stations and two Metro Monitor volunteers provide a snapshot of the system each month, evaluating security presence at stations and on trains/buses, observing contract and in-house security, determining if fares are being inspected, and gauging levels of customer engagement. CMT provides monthly reports based on the surveys to Metro Public Safety and regularly convenes meetings with monitors and Metro Public Safety staff to discuss safety and security issues.

[Download the FY23 Metro Monitor Annual Report Here.](#)

Volunteer Metro Monitors are needed! Monitors provide a snapshot of the system each month, evaluating security presence at stations, on trains/buses, and much more! This program, for those who ride Metro Transit regularly, offers the opportunity to get involved in transit improvement efforts in the community. Volunteers receive two tickets each month (upon request), along with an online survey to complete about their transit trip. [Learn 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!



MSD Rainscaping Small Grants Program Orientation

Thursday, February 8, 2024
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Beyond Housing
6506 Wright Way, 63121

Join this in-person orientation to the MSD Rainscaping Small Grants Program. Learn about rainscaping in general, how to apply for a reimbursement grant, and tips for success to give an application the best chance of funding. [Click here](#) to check address eligibility. RSVP by January 29th to save your spot. For reservations or information, [click here.](#)



Jazzy Pre-Valentine Day Affair

Saturday, February 10, 2024
7:00 p.m.
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

The night will be one to remember as Grammy-winning saxophonist Gerald Albright, Avery Sunshine, and 3central will be in concert at Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University Missouri-St. Louis for a pre-Valentine's Day concert. General admission \$55-\$75 pp. For information and tickets, [click here.](#)

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