

STL Partnership Community Investment

The Community Investment team works with St. Louis City and County to help businesses grow. We work with municipalities to help them create sustainable communities through economic growth.

We are intentional about equitable economic development and work to ensure that our under-served communities have access to the resources that they need to thrive.

Building What's Next: Together

Welcome to 2026! As we step into a new year, we do so with excitement, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to the people and places that make our communities strong.

The start of a new year offers a moment to reflect on where we've been, while also looking ahead with intention toward what's possible when we continue to show up for one another.

January also brings the observance of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, a time rooted in service and unity. To help connect residents, partners, and families, we have compiled a list of MLK celebrations and events happening throughout the region. These gatherings provide space to come together, reflect, serve, and continue the work of building stronger, more connected communities.

As we move forward in 2026, we are also taking an important step by rebranding the Promise Zone newsletter. This refresh is about more than a new look—it's about ensuring this space truly reflects the voices, priorities, and lived experiences of the community.

We will be asking for your input as we shape this next chapter, because this newsletter is strongest when it is informed by the people it represents.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. We look forward to another year of collaboration, listening, and collective impact—and to building what's next, together.

- Quen Agnew, Community Investment

MLK Day Events

With Liberty and Justice for All: MLK in STL

- Friday, January 16 & Saturday, January 17 | 10am–1pm
- January's History Exploration Days will explore the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and how civil rights movements in St. Louis and across the nation worked to ensure all people realize the promise of American ideals.
- Missouri History Museum - 5700 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112

2026 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration—The Dream Reimagined: Youth Voices Uplifted

- Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 2 – 3:30pm
- St. Louis Poet Laureate Pacia Elaine Anderson will lead a poetic journey influenced by Moneta Sleet Jr.'s photographs of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, in conjunction with performances by young people from multiple local schools and performing arts institutions. The program's artistic director, Kathryn Bentley, will host this inspiring celebration featuring music, theater, and dance performed by some of the area's most gifted youth.
- The Farrell Auditorium - One Fine Arts Drive, Forest Park, St. Louis, Missouri 63110-1380

Annual Peace and Justice Mass

- Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 2:30pm
- Join us for the 51st annual celebration of the Archdiocesan Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice on the holiday weekend commemorating the birth and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Most Reverend Mitchell Rozanski, celebrant.
- Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108

24th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute

- Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 6pm
- Our Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute event is always free to the public. This year's program will feature motivational speakers, music, and praise dance. Light refreshments to follow.
- Hazelwood Civic Center East, 8969 Dunn Rd, Hazelwood, MO 63042-2076, United States

41st Annual Bayer YMCA MLK Commemorative Breakfast

- Monday, January 19, 2026 | 7:30-9:30am
- This free community event celebrates 41 years of honoring the life, teachings, and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's theme, "Mission Possible II: Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way," inspired by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, is more than a phrase—it's a call to action. It invites everyone to help build the Beloved Community envisioned by Dr. King, where injustice ends, violence is replaced by compassion, and love becomes the prevailing force. Note: Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to a local food pantry.
- Marriott St. Louis Airport, 10700 Pear Tree Ln, St. Louis, MO 63134

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

- Monday, January 19, 2026 | 10am – 4pm
- As part of our **MLK Community Celebration**, celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.! Families are invited to join us for youth activism workshops, meaningful conversations on race and social justice, interactive storytelling, movement workshops, and crafts.
- MacDermott Grand Hall, **Missouri History Museum** - 5700 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112

MLK Day of Service Event

- Monday, January 19, 2026 | 10am-1pm
- Join us as we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, along with all courageous African leaders who have fought for African community self-determination and self-reliance. This dynamic morning will include historic film clips, delicious treats by our own Uhuru Bakery & Cafe, an overview of the volunteer opportunities in our community that build power back in our own hands. Keynote presentation by Chairman Omali Yeshitela, the living legacy and leader of the Black Power Movement today. Reserve your spot today!
- Akwaaba Hall at the Uhuru House, 4101 W Florissant Ave, St. Louis, MO 63115

25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

- Tuesday, January 20, 2026 | 5pm – 7pm
- This in-person event will include inspiring speeches, celebrating excellence in the community with a formal award presentation, and more. The keynote speaker for this year's event is Kimberly Norwood, JD, Washington University Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law, who will speak on the celebration's theme, Mentoring the Dream: Leading with Light and Love.
- Terry M. Fischer Theatre lobby, St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley, 3400 Pershall Road

Washington University Drum Major Award Ceremony

- Friday, January 23, 2026 | 12pm – 1:30pm
- In a 1968 sermon in Atlanta titled "The Drum Major Instinct," Dr. King said, "Yes, if you want to say I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness." Inspired by these words, we aim to recognize individuals in the WashU Medicine community who embody Dr. King's spirit by leading community-wide service projects, serving as mentors, and standing up against injustices. The Drum Major Award Ceremony will celebrate these upstanders in 2026 with refreshments, snacks, photo booths, and more. Food will be provided, and all are welcome to join us in honoring and celebrating Drum Majors across our campus community!
- Holden Auditorium, Farrell Learning & Teaching Center (FLTC), 660 S. Euclid, St. Louis, MO 63110

More Events



Special Guests



Senator Brian Williams



Councilwoman Rita Heard Days



Councilwoman Shalonda Webb

A Century of Black History Commemorations

FEB. 7, 2026

10AM - 2PM



Special Guests



KSDK Anchor Melanie Johnson



100.3 The Beat's BJ the DJ



Precious Barry Youth Activist

2026 Black History Celebration
Bellefontaine Community Center
9669 Bellefontaine Road
St. Louis, MO 63137

(Shuttle Service Available for
Bellefontaine Neighbors Residents Only)

- BLACK HISTORY SKITS
- SOUL PERFORMANCES
- VENDORS

Performances By:
Riverview Gardens High School Marching Band,
Drill Team & Color Guard



Special Thanks To:
Chairwoman, Alderman, Dr. Alease Dales
Co-Chairwoman Mrs. Marcie Gooden, Federation Block Unit Captain
Productions, Alderman Alicia Smith

WWW.YOUNGVOICESWITHACTION.ORG
ANNUAL MID-ST. LOUIS COUNTY

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

2026 ESSAY CONTEST

MADE POSSIBLE BY THE COMMUNITIES OF PINE LAWN & WELLSTON

TRUE EDUCATION: INTELLIGENCE + CHARACTER

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE
JANUARY 9TH, 2026
@11:59PM CST
ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO TBrooks@NORMANDYSC.ORG

ELIGIBILITY:

- Grades 4 - 5 minimum of 250 to 500 words
- Grades 6 - 8 minimum 700 to 1200 words
- Grades 9 - 12 minimum 1200 to 1500 words

ESSAY CATEGORIES:

- 1ST PLACE - \$250
- 2ND PLACE - \$175
- 3RD PLACE - \$100

YVWA
YOUNG VOICES
WITH ACTION, INC.

NORMANDY SCHOOLS
COLLABORATIVE

MLK 2026 OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE IN FOUNTAIN PARK
THE COURAGE TO BEGIN ANEW: AFFIRMING DIGNITY
AND ACTION IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

"NO MATTER HOW HARD TIMES MAY GET, STICK
TOGETHER, LOVE TOGETHER, AND RISE TOGETHER."
REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

UNITY GATHERING
AT MLK STATUE IN FOUNTAIN PARK
SAT, JANUARY 17, 2026
9:30AM

LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET FROM
CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST), FORMER
BUILDING SITE AT 4950 FOUNTAIN AVE.
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63113

**MLK YOUTH
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**
SAT, JANUARY 17, 2026
11:30 AM - 4:00 PM
PEOPLE'S HEALTH CENTER
5701 DELMAR, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63112

MLK DAY OF SERVICE
MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026*
9 AM - 2 PM
HYLTON POINT II APARTMENTS
933 BELT AVE.
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63113

(* NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - THIS EVENT IS
FOR PARTNERS ONLY)

TO REGISTER FOR THE MLK
YOUTH/EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
SCAN HERE



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH, FOUNTAIN PARK AND LEWIS PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOC., ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.- EPSILON LAMBDA CHAPTER, EPSILON LAMBDA
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, CENTRAL WEST END CHURCH, THE VILLAGE, PEOPLES
COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION, ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE JACKSON LAW FIRM,
COMMITTEEWOMAN YOLONDA "YOGI" YANCIE, AND MISSION STL

#MLK2026STL

ANNUAL MID ST. LOUIS COUNTY

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

CELEBRATION WEEKEND

SATURDAY
JAN. 17
10AM BREAKFAST
NORMANDY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
6701 ST. CHARLES ROCK ROAD | WELLSTON, MO 63133

MONDAY
JAN. 19 MLK PARADE & PROGRAM

10AM PARADE
NORMANDY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
6701 ST. CHARLES ROCK ROAD | WELLSTON, MO 63133

12PM PROGRAM
BARACK OBAMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3883 JENNINGS STATION ROAD | PINE LAWN, MO 63121



RSVP TODAY: WWW.YOUNGVOICESWITHACTION.ORG

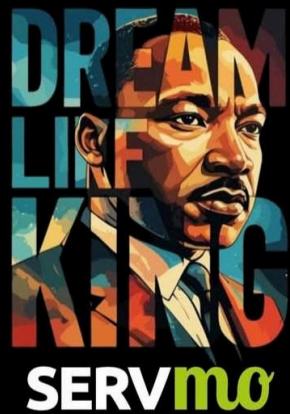


Building BRIDGES OF SERVICE

COMMUNITY UNIT PROJECT

SAT., JAN. 10, 2026 | 1:00PM- 3:30PM

CENTRAL LIBRARY | 1301 OLIVE ST., ST. LOUIS, MO 63103



AMERICORPS IN MISSOURI

Join us for a day of service
honoring the legacy of Dr.
Martin Luther King Jr.

- Distribution of Winter Warmth Kits (new blankets, socks, and gloves)
- Brain health and wellness resources
- Youth and family engagement activities centered on service and unity

Presented in partnership with ServMO / AmeriCorps
LaLa Speaks Foundation
Silence is Deadly. Awareness Saves Lives.
lalaspeaksfoundation.org

MLK 2026 OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE IN FOUNTAIN PARK
THE COURAGE TO BEGIN ANEW: AFFIRMING DIGNITY
AND ACTION IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

"NO MATTER HOW HARD TIMES MAY GET, STICK TOGETHER, LOVE TOGETHER AND RISE TOGETHER."
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



2026 MLK DAY YOUTH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION & DRAMATIZATION

"LOVE AS FORCE: TEACHING THE
PRINCIPLE OF SERVICE WORK"

EDUCATIONAL ESCAPE ROOM EXPERIENCE

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FROM 11:30-12:30 FOR ALL
YOUTH IN ATTENDANCE - REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED

TO REGISTER SCAN HERE



SATURDAY,
JANUARY 17TH 2026
11:30 AM-4:00 PM

PEOPLE'S HEALTH CENTER
5701 DELMAR
ST. LOUIS, MO 63112

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS
BRIAN MCKINLEY AND CAST,
BLACK REPERTORY THEATER

ART PIECES FROM ST. LOUIS ART MUSEUM
TYLER HARRIS AND STAJAH CURRY,
ST. LOUIS ART WORKS

PAINTING AND PHOTOS
WILL BE AUCTIONED ONLINE.

#MLK2026STL

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT 314.367.1818 / WWW.CCCSTL.ORG
ALPHA PHI ALPHA AT MLK@STLALPHAS.COM / WWW.STLALPHAS.COM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
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CHURCH, THE VILLAGE, PEOPLES COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION, ST. LOUIS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE JACKSON LAW FIRM, COMMITTEEWOMAN YOLONDA
"YOGI" YANCIE, AND MISSION STL

MID-ST.LOUIS COUNTY

MLK

FREEDOM MARCH



MONDAY JANUARY 19TH

10:00 AM - ASSEMBLY
11:00 AM - START TIME

WALKERS
 CARS/TRUCKS
 FLOATS

SCAN FOR TICKETS



ROUTE:
Normandy High School to Barack Obama Elementary



URBAN LEAGUE of Metropolitan Saint Louis, Inc.
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES.

Foodbank
St. Louis Area Foodbank

DRIVE THRU MLK FOOD TOILETRIES, MASKS & PPE GIVEAWAY

MONDAY JANUARY 20TH | 12PM - 3PM

URBAN LEAGUE
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS & COMMUNITY CENTER
1408 N. KINGSHIGHWAY BLVD. | ST. LOUIS MO 63113

DRIVE THROUGH ONLY

SPONSORED BY

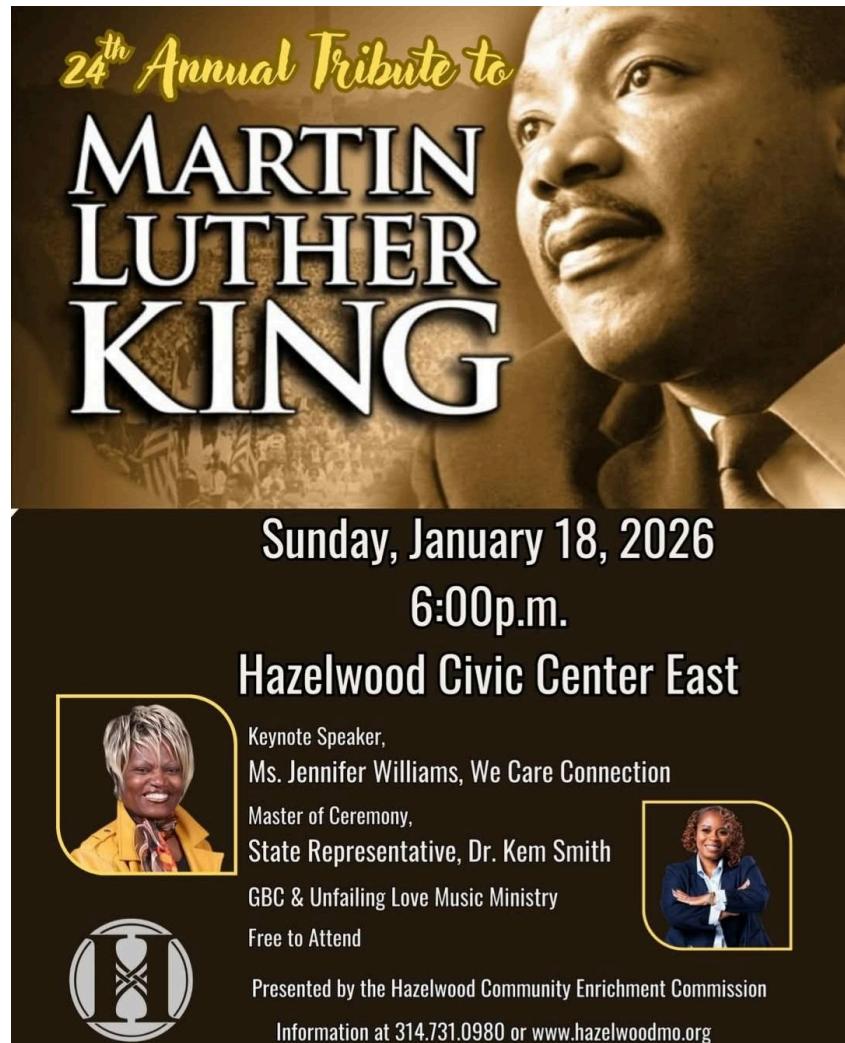
Ameren

Schnucks

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO WWW.ULSTL.COM



For More Information on the Promise Zone...

Check out the STL Partnership Website!

STL PARTNERSHIP

Visit our Website

St. Louis Economic Development Partnership | 120 S. Central Suite 200 | St. Louis, MO 63105 US

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