Welcome Guide
Welcome to St. Louis and Washington University Medical Center!

The Washington University Medical Center Housestaff Auxiliary (WUMCHA) has compiled this Welcome Guide to provide helpful information for those of you relocating to the St. Louis area. Inside you’ll find information on St. Louis neighborhoods, places to dine and shop, resources for children, and information on where and how to settle into St. Louis. We hope you find the Welcome Guide to be a useful resource as you make the transition to St. Louis.

WUMCHA is a group of people affiliated with the Medical Center as medical students, residents, fellows, attending-level physicians and spouses or significant others of the same.

Our annual Welcome Brunch will be held Saturday, July 15, 2017 in the Queeny Tower at the Medical Center Complex (for more details, refer to the flyer on page 8). All new, potential, and returning members are invited to attend the brunch which serves as a great opportunity to learn about more about WUMCHA-sponsored activities and special interest groups (SIGs).

In addition to reading this guide, please visit our website at www.WUMCHA.com for more information. We welcome you to join WUMCHA now by submitting an online application found on our website or use the form on page 9.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

WUMCHA Executive Board

Note: WUMCHA gratefully acknowledges the generous, continued support from the following organizations and institutions: Barnes Jewish Hospital, BJC HealthCare, the Graduate Medical Education Office of Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Barnes-Jewish Hospital Auxiliary, Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, St. Louis Children’s Hospital, and Washington University School of Medicine.
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Note: The purpose of this guide is to provide information for newcomers. WUMCHA obtained information from various resources in compiling this information. The list of businesses is not exhaustive. The guide does not discredit businesses not listed that may offer the same services. WUMCHA in no way endorses the businesses that are listed in this guide.
What is WUMCHA?

ABOUT WUMCHA
WUMCHA, the Washington University Medical Center Housestaff Auxiliary, was formed in 1982 to address the unique needs of people affiliated with the Medical Center. These people, the majority of whom have relocated to St. Louis, have special life stresses that WUMCHA strives to address. Our 140+ members are a diverse, dynamic group of individuals. Our current membership originates from 6 countries and 35 states, lives in 31 different neighborhoods around St. Louis, and represents over 42 medical specialties. Over 74% of the individuals have children, and 34% are stay-at-home moms/dads.

MEMBERSHIP
Eligible members include:
• Individuals associated with the Medical Center in the following ways:
  o Medical students, residents, fellows or attending physicians of Washington University, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis Children's Hospital, or Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology
  o Spouses or significant others of medical students, residents, fellows or attending physicians of the above
• Other Medical Center-affiliated individuals who petition the board for membership
• Individuals who are not affiliated with the Medical Center but meet the following criteria:
  o A resident or fellow at a St. Louis area hospital
  o The spouse or significant other of a resident or fellow at a St. Louis area hospital

Annual dues of $35 for Washington University affiliated (without children), $40 for Washington University affiliated with children, and $55 for non-Wash U affiliated. Please visit WUMCHA.com for an online membership form or see page 9 in this guide.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: THE HEART OF WUMCHA
Special Interest Groups (SIGs) serve the many interests and needs of members. Groups meet monthly, bi-monthly or weekly in members’ homes and throughout the St. Louis area and include:

- Book Club
- Taste of the Town
- Adult Social Club
- Work from Home Club
- Moms and Babies Group
- Weekend Playgroup
- Weekday Playgroup

The list of WUMCHA SIGs is dynamic year to year. If you do not currently see a SIG that meets your needs and interests, all of our members are encouraged to initiate new groups that do. Be as creative as you like!
What is WUMCHA?

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:
CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES, ADULT EVENTS, SEMINARS
Whether a trip to a local wine bar, a holiday party at a fun restaurant, a day at the St. Louis Zoo, watching the Balloon Glow in Forest Park, attending a seminar, or going out for drinks and sushi, WUMCHA events offer something for everyone. Most months, WUMCHA organizes activities that cater to both adults and children. For those with children, participation in events such as a Halloween party or Gymboree event can be a great way to meet other parents and take part in some of the family-focused activities in the area. Adult activities are a great way for couples or singles to meet, mingle and get to know the local area. Check the monthly newsletter, our Facebook group page, or www.WUMCHA.com to see what’s coming up soon!

Some of the 2016-2017 WUMCHA activities included:
- Welcome Brunch
- Children’s Halloween Party
- Cookies with Santa
- Family Pool Party
- Disney on Ice
- Chocolate Tasting
- Children’s Gymboree Outings
- Valentine’s Cookie Exchange
- Fall Picnic
- Service events
- Holiday Party
- Farewell Tea at the London Tea Room

OUTREACH SUPPORT NETWORK
The Outreach Coordinator plans service projects and coordinates meal service for new mothers and members with special needs (e.g. illness in the family).

Google™ DISCUSSION GROUP
Do you need to find a dentist? Hairdresser? Vet? Great Indian food? Have a great event idea and want to find other interested WUMCHA members? Using the WUMCHA listserv, send an email to ask WUMCHA members for suggestions! WUMCHA uses a Google Group Forum, and Facebook to keep members up to date with events and provide an online community to members. Contact our Social Media chair at wumchasocialmedia@gmail.com to be added to the listserv Google Group, as a member of our Facebook page, or if you are having difficulty receiving our updates.
What is WUMCHA?

WUMCHA CONTACTS
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the following 2016-17 Executive Board Members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Becca Loving</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>816-457-0995</td>
<td><a href="mailto:b_loving@hotmail.com">b_loving@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumchapresident@gmail.com">wumchapresident@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Jarrett Alvarado</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>813-391-4176</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nicolejarrettphotography@gmail.com">nicolejarrettphotography@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumchatreasurer@gmail.com">wumchatreasurer@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayla Anderson</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>217-473-8726</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kayla.colwell@gmail.com">kayla.colwell@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumchasecretary@gmail.com">wumchasecretary@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alli Chan</td>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>219-616-1522</td>
<td><a href="mailto:achelgren@gmail.com">achelgren@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumchamembership@gmail.com">wumchamembership@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Huang</td>
<td>Recruitment Chair</td>
<td>949-266-4195</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jennyh601@gmail.com">jennyh601@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumcharecruit@gmail.com">wumcharecruit@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryna Williams</td>
<td>Outreach Chair</td>
<td>773-220-1610</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bryna.williams@gmail.com">bryna.williams@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumchaoutreach@gmail.com">wumchaoutreach@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashleigh Mathew</td>
<td>SIG Coordinator</td>
<td>703-283-1438</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ashleigh.mathew@gmail.com">ashleigh.mathew@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumchaSIGs@gmail.com">wumchaSIGs@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara Snyder</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>416-760-1297</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laramcsnyder@gmail.com">laramcsnyder@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumchanewsletter@gmail.com">wumchanewsletter@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allie Wallace</td>
<td>Marketing Chairs</td>
<td>919-656-1352</td>
<td><a href="mailto:allie@rosemagic.com">allie@rosemagic.com</a> <a href="mailto:preya.vyas@gmail.com">preya.vyas@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumchamarketing@gmail.com">wumchamarketing@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preya Vyas</td>
<td></td>
<td>757-572-7697</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Lunt</td>
<td>Lead Adult Social</td>
<td>928-965-4554</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emilylnunt@gmail.com">emilylnunt@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:elizabeth.glamore@gmail.com">elizabeth.glamore@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumchasocial@gmail.com">wumchasocial@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Glamore</td>
<td>Coordinators</td>
<td>708-704-7442</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah Briscoe</td>
<td>Children’s Coordinator</td>
<td>202-716-3010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:noahbriscoe@gmail.com">noahbriscoe@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumchachildrenscoord@gmail.com">wumchachildrenscoord@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archana Ramachandran</td>
<td>Social Media Chair</td>
<td>214-870-2095</td>
<td><a href="mailto:archanas0930@gmail.com">archanas0930@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wumchassocialmedia@gmail.com">wumchassocialmedia@gmail.com</a></td>
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2017 WELCOME BRUNCH

Saturday, July 15, 2017
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Queen Tower
Barnes-Jewish Hospital

Win great door prizes!
On-site babysitting provided!

Discover all that WUMCHA has to offer!
RSVP to wumchasocial@gmail.com. There will be on-site babysitting available, but you must RSVP for a spot for your child(ren)
About St. Louis

2017-2018
Membership Form

Membership Information
Stop! This form can now be filled out online at www.wumcha.com under the membership tab. Thank you!

Eligibility:
Affiliated members include people associated with Washington University Medical Center in the following ways:
- Medical students, residents, fellows or attending physicians of WU, BJC, Children’s Hospital or Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology
- Spouses, partners or significant others of medical students, residents, fellows or attending physicians
- Others affiliated with WU who petition the Board for membership (contact Membership Coordinator)

Questions?
Contact Ali Chan, Membership Coordinator:
wumchamembership@gmail.com

Annual dues:
Affiliated Members: $35 per year, per family
Non-Affiliated Members: $55 per year, per family
($17.50 after 12/31/17)
($25.00 after 12/31/17)

Please make checks payable to “WUMCHA.”

Mail this form & a check for the annual dues to:
Ali Chan
5228 Gilson Ave.
Saint Louis, MO 63116

Directory Deadline:
Form and dues must be received by August 15th, 2017 for your information to be included in the 2017-2018 Membership Directory.

Primary Member’s Information (the person who plans to be most active with WUMCHA):

Name
Birthday (month & day)

Address
City
State
Zip

Phone (with area code)
Email address

Hometown (city & state)
Moved from (city & state)

Occupation
Affiliated with Wash U Med Center? (Y/N)

Education/Occupation Background [e.g. BA Psych – WashU, etc.]

Department, if applicable (i.e. Surgery, Peds, etc.)
Program Year for ‘17-’18, if applicable (e.g. PGY 1) # Years plan to be in STL

Spouse/Significant Other’s Information: (if applicable)

Name
Email address (if wish to receive WUMCHA email correspondence)

Occupation
Affiliated with Wash U Med Center? (Y/N)

Department, if applicable (i.e. Surgery, Peds, etc.)
Program Year for ‘17-’18, if applicable (e.g. PGY 1)

Children’s Names & Birthdays (including year): (if applicable)

Or fill this form out online at www.wumcha.com
**About St. Louis**

**AREA CODES**
The greater St. Louis area has two area codes: 314 and 636. The 314 area code is designated for the city of St. Louis and counties east of I-270. The 636 area code is used for the western counties. The area code for southwestern Illinois is 618.

**NEWSPAPERS**
*The St. Louis Post-Dispatch* is the major daily newspaper in St. Louis
www.stltoday.com

*The Riverfront Times* is a free weekly newspaper that features some classified ads. It comes out every Wednesday and is available at many shopping centers and restaurants.
www.riverfronttimes.com

*Suburban Journals of Greater St. Louis* is a community newspaper featuring local, community-submitted content. They list houses for sale or rent, apartments to rent, and new or used furniture. Print editions are distributed on Wednesdays to subscribers and selected households in Madison County, IL and St. Charles County, MO.
http://www.stltoday.com/suburban-journals/

*The Webster-Kirkwood Times* is a local paper with house and apartment listings for the Webster Groves and Kirkwood areas. It is distributed on Fridays and can be found in stores and restaurants in these two towns.
www.websterkirkwoodtimes.com

*The St. Louis American* is Missouri's largest, most widely-read weekly newspaper targeted to African Americans. Founded in 1928, it publishes 70,000 copies each Thursday and distributes them, free of charge, at more than 800 locations throughout St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County and portions of Illinois. 314-533-8000 or www.stlamerican.com

Other St. Louis publications that might be helpful include:
- St. Louis Business Journal www.bizjournals.com/stlouis
- St. Louis Magazine www.stlmag.com
- ALIVE Magazine www.alivemag.com/
- Feast Magazine www.feastmagazine.com
- Sauce Magazine www.saucemagazine.com
About St. Louis

TAXES

Sales Tax
Missouri sales tax is approximately 7% and varies by community as cities and counties can impose a local sales and use tax. For details, visit the Missouri Department of Revenue website http://dor.mo.gov/business/sales/.

Income Tax
An earnings tax of 1% is imposed on all salaries, wages, and other compensation of residents of St. Louis City (no matter where earned), and salaries of non-city residents earned in St. Louis City (i.e., Barnes-Jewish, Children’s). Non-city residents who work at other locations (i.e., Barnes West) may apply for a refund of city taxes for the percentage of time worked outside of the City. For information, see http://stlcin.missouri.org/collector/earnings-tax-home.cfm.

Personal Property Tax
Personal Property Tax is assessed each calendar year on the value of assets you own on January 1. (This is different from the property taxes you pay on your home.) You will receive a notice from the tax office in January each year to report your personal property details (i.e., cars, boats, RVs). Complete and return the form by the deadline to avoid penalties. In November/December, you will receive a personal property tax bill. Payment is due by December 31 and can be made online, by check, or in person. For more information:
- St. Louis County Department of Revenue: http://revenue.stlouisco.com/collection/ppinfo/
- St. Louis City Assessor’s Office: http://stlouis-mo.gov/government/department/assessor/assessors-office-personal-property-section.cfm
- St. Louis City Collector of Revenue: http://stlcin.missouri.org/collector/

VOTER REGISTRATION
St. Louis County residents may register to vote when applying for a Missouri driver’s license, at any of the St. Louis County Public Libraries, at the municipality’s City Hall or online at http://www.co.st-louis.mo.us/YourGovernment/Elections/VoterRegistration. City residents can access voter registration information at www.stlelections.com/. For further information call the Election Board Voter Registration information at 314-615-1800 (County) or 314-622-4336 (City).

UTILITIES

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<td>City Water</td>
<td>314-633-9000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stlwater.com">www.stlwater.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Water (Missouri American Water)</td>
<td>866-430-0820</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mawc.com">www.mawc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ameren UE (electricity) MO</td>
<td>800-552-7583</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ameren.com">www.ameren.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District</td>
<td>314-768-6260</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stlmsd.com">www.stlmsd.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Laclede Gas (emergency)</td>
<td>314-342-0800</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lacledegas.com">www.lacledegas.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>(customer service)</td>
<td>314-621-6960</td>
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<tr>
<td>AT&amp;T (wireless)</td>
<td>800-331-0500</td>
<td><a href="http://www.att.com">www.att.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(telephone, internet, and television)</td>
<td>800-288-2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter Communications (telephone, internet, cable)</td>
<td>888-438-2427</td>
<td><a href="http://www.charter.com">www.charter.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DirecTV (satellite television)</td>
<td>888-777-2454</td>
<td><a href="http://www.directv.com">www.directv.com</a></td>
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About St. Louis

PLACES OF WORSHIP
Below is a sampling of places to worship in the St. Louis region. When available, general websites that provide links to area churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and other meeting places are provided.

Bahá’í Faith
- Bahá’í Information Center, 30 West Lockwood Avenue, 63119 314-963-1415  
  http://www.practicalreligion.com/

Baptist
- St. Louis Metro Baptist Association: http://stlbaptist.org/2.0/ 314-571-7579
- Second Baptist Church, 9030 Clayton Rd: http://www.2ndbc.org/ 314-991-3424
- Hanley Road Baptist Church, 7701 Maryland Ave, Clayton 314-726-4939

Buddhist: http://www.stlthaitemple.org/watstlhome.php
- Buddhist Temple, 890 Lindsay Lane, 63031 314-839-3115

Catholic
- The Archdiocese of St. Louis: www.archstl.org/ 314-633-2222
- Catholic Student Center at Washington University: www.washucsc.org 314-725-8134
- Little Flower Catholic Church: www.little-flower-parish.org 314-645-1445
- St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church: www.stgabrielstl.org

Christian Reformed: www.trinity-stl.org
- Trinity Christian Reformed Church, 1703 McKelvey Rd. 63043 314-434-0998

Christian Scientist: www.csinfostl.org/
- 8th Church Skinker and Wydown 314-231-0300

Church of Christ
- McKnight Road Church of Christ, 2515 S. McKnight Rd. 314-962-7026
- Samuel United Church of Christ, Clayton 314-727-9540
- South Side Church of Christ, 4600 Broadway, 62111 314-353-8500

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon)
- 6740 Loughborough Ave., 63123 314-832-7109
- 3905 McPherson Ave., 63108 314-533-0409
- Many other locations: www.lds.org or www.mormon.org

Episcopal: www.diocesemo.org/
- The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, 1210 Locust, 63103 314-231-1220

Hindu: www.hindutemplestlouis.org/
- Hindu Temple of St. Louis, 725 Weidman Rd., 63011 636-230-3300

Islam: www.islamicfoundationstl.org
- Islamic Center of Greater St. Louis, 517 Weidman Rd., 63011 636-394-7878
About St. Louis

Jehovah's Witness
- Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 953 Laredo Ave., 63138  314-355-5600

Jewish
- Jewish Information Service: www.jewishstlouis.org  314-432-0020
- Jewish Community Center, Chesterfield, Creve Coeur  314-432-5700
- Bnai Amoona, 324 S. Mason Rd. (Conservative)  314-576-3688
- United Hebrew Congregation, 13788 Conway Rd (Reform)  314-469-0700
- Bais Abraham Congregation, 6910 Delmar Blvd (Orthodox)  314-721-3030
- Chabad at Washington University: www.chabadoncampus.org  314-721-2884

Lutheran
- Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis: www.lutheranfoundation.org/content/  314-231-2244
- Bethel Lutheran Church, 7001 Forsyth Blvd., Clayton  314-863-3112
- Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., 63122  888-843-5267

Methodist
- Grace Methodist, 6199 Waterman Blvd. 63112  314-863-1992
- Webster Hills United Methodist Church, Webster Groves 63119  314-961-3164
- The Journey (multiple locations)  314-863-8448
- Windsor Crossing Community Church, Chesterfield  636-532-1212

Non-denominational/Contemporary Christian
- Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Rd.  314-991-0955
- New City Fellowship, University City  314-726-2302
- The Journey (multiple locations)  314-863-8448
- Windsor Crossing Community Church, Chesterfield  636-532-1212

Presbyterian
- Bonhomme Presbyterian, Chesterfield  636-532-3486
- Central Presbyterian, Clayton  314-727-2777
- Crossroads Presbyterian Fellowship, Maplewood  314-644-0030
- Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, Ladue Rd. and Mason Creve Coeur  314-434-0753
- Ladue Chapel, 9450 Clayton Rd.  314-993-4771
- Presbyterian of Giddings-Lovejoy, 2236 Tower Grove Ave. 63110  314-772-2395
- Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, 63108  314-367-0366

Quaker: www.stlouisfriends.org/
- Quaker Religious Society of Friends, Rockford1001 Park Ave 63104  314-588-1122

Unitarian: www.firstuustlouis.org/
- 1st Unitarian Church of St. Louis, 5007 Waterman Blvd., 63108  314-361-0595
Getting Around

PERSONAL CAR
A car is a near necessity for Washington University employees. Even if you live close to the Medical Center, check with your department as some require rotation months at other institutions such as the VA, Shriner’s, community clinics, etc. Carpool scheduling is difficult to arrange due to the fact that residents, even those within the same department, have different schedules.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
Contact the Metro Transit-St. Louis office at 314-231-2345 from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Friday. Current fares, routes, and rules are available at http://www.metrostlouis.org/Default.aspx. Children ages 5-12 may ride for a reduced fare, and children under 5 are free. There are usually additional charges for transfers. Weekly and monthly passes may be purchased at many locations. Wash U employees (which include many fellows) are eligible for a free U-Pass: http://parking.wustl.edu/metro.htm

MetroLink (Commuter Train)
MetroLink is the regional commuter train that runs from Illinois through downtown St. Louis, with branches that terminate at Lambert International Airport and the community of Shrewsbury/Landsdowne. There is a stop at Barnes-Jewish Hospital/Central West End. Tickets can be purchased from a machine at each station. Be sure you have a validated ticket before boarding. There is an additional fee when riding from the airport. (Tip: Purchase your return ticket at your home base station before you leave.)

Bus
St. Louis bus service is somewhat limited and some routes have been suspended in recent years. Few people use the bus to get to the hospital. There is reliable service, however, from some areas including Maplewood and parts of St. Louis City (Kingshighway, Lindell).

Call-A-Ride
This public transportation service is predominantly for people with disabilities. Limited general public use is allowed in certain areas of St. Louis County on weekends. Applications and further information can be obtained by calling the Customer Service and Cancellation Line at 314-289-5230. Reservations for rides may be made by calling 314-652-3617 between 7:30 am and 4:30 pm daily. www.metrostlouis.org/RidingMetro/HowToRide/MetroCallARide.aspx
Getting Around

VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND DRIVER'S LICENSE
You have 30 days from becoming a Missouri resident to register and title your car. It is recommended to do this and get a license before you or your significant other begins work as it can be VERY time consuming.

To obtain a Missouri driver’s license and car registration, go to the Missouri Department of Revenue Office or an Authorized Agency. Be sure to visit the Missouri Department of Revenue website regarding Motor Vehicle Registration before you go (http://dor.mo.gov/motorv/).

Missouri Department of Revenue Motor Vehicle and Drivers’ License Office locations: http://dor.mo.gov/offloc/

St. Louis City
   Central West End  3917 Lindell Blvd. 63018  314-531-0700
   South Kingshighway 4628 S. Kingshighway 63109  314-752-3177
   Downtown St. Louis 1200 Market St. 63103  314-622-4231

St. Louis County
   Chesterfield 1711 Clarkson Rd. 63017  636-530-9500
   Clayton 7638 Forsyth Blvd. 63105  314-863-5331
   Creve Coeur 12943 Olive Blvd. 63141  314-878-2110
   Maplewood/Deer Creek Office 3238 Laclede Station Rd. 63143  314-645-1044
   Olivette 9652 Olive Blvd. 63132  314-692-8222
   South County 27 Ronnie’s Plaza 63126  314-843-5223

Car Registration
Complete instructions are online at: http://dor.mo.gov/motorv/titling.php#newresident
To register your car, take the following to the Department of Revenue or Authorized Agency:

1. Personal Property Tax Waiver: Obtained from Tax Assessor’s Office
   St. Louis County, 41 S. Central Ave., Clayton 314-615-5500
   Hours: 7:00 am - 5:30 pm Monday/Wednesday/Friday and 7:00 am - 6:00 pm Tuesday/Thursday

   City of St. Louis, 1200 Market St., City Hall Room 115, St Louis 314-622-4050
   Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday

   Branch Offices: Open 7:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday
   North County  21 Village Square Shopping Center, Hazelwood 63042  314-615-7400
   South County  4546 Lemay Ferry Rd., St. Louis 63129  314-615-4000
   West County  74 Clarkson Wilson Center, Chesterfield 63107  314-615-0900

   When going to the Tax Assessor's office, bring:
   a. Name, address, and social security number of person on car title
   b. Proof of ownership such as title, title application, or registration
   c. Personal property tax receipt from your previous location, if you have one
2. Car Title
If you still have a loan on your car, you need to obtain a special form from your loan company documenting proof of the lien-holder.

3. Signed application for Missouri Title and License (Form 108)

The state of Missouri requires any person who registers a motor vehicle to have liability insurance. Motor vehicle owners are required to show proof of insurance when registering a motor vehicle or renewing his or her license plates. You must keep some proof of insurance in your vehicle at all times. If a law enforcement officer asks for proof of insurance and you cannot show it, the officer will issue you a ticket.

5. Safety Inspection certificate
Safety Inspections are available at many local service stations, auto dealerships, and repair shops for about $12. Look for the Missouri Inspection Center designation sticker and call ahead or make an appointment to avoid a long wait or wasted trip. MO safety inspection must be less than 60 days old.

6. Emissions Test
Emissions tests are necessary for some cars according to year of manufacture. In some cases, inspection waivers may apply to your car. http://dor.mo.gov/motorv/help.php#emissions

For the future...once you have completed this cycle upon arrival in St. Louis, your registration, and safety and emissions tests are valid for two years.

Obtaining a Missouri Driver's License
1. If you are new to the state of Missouri, bring your out-of-state driver’s license, and documents to verify name, date of birth, place of birth, social security number, and Missouri residential address. http://dor.mo.gov/drivers/idrequirements.php

2. If you were married recently and want to get your license or other documents in your new name, you must bring your marriage license.

3. You'll be required to pass an eye test. You may have to take a road test as well (i.e. if you let your license expire).

4. Bring cash for the license fee, though some offices accept credit card and debit cards. You can write a check, but your name must be imprinted on it to be accepted (no “starter” checks).
Where to Live: Real Estate Guide

St. Louis has some of the most varied and affordable housing in the Midwest, with an abundance of single-family homes, condominiums, and apartments. The internet provides comparisons of city-by-city cost of living breakdowns. Helpful websites include Zillow.com, trulia.com, realtor.com and stlrealtors.com. Some other helpful resources and blogs include:

https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/neighborhoods/
http://explorestlouis.com/visit-explore/discover/neighborhoods/

FINDING AN APARTMENT

Apartments in the far north, south and west are generally less expensive than those closer to the city. However, many people have found that the savings are much less than anticipated after driving time and gas mileage are considered. Below is a list of resources for finding an apartment. Some neighborhoods don’t advertise, so definitely walk or drive around and look for “Apartment for Rent” signs. Contacting building management is also helpful as some buildings may have open apartments but not “For Rent” signs outside. Craig’s List (www.craigslist.com) can also be a useful resource for renting or subletting apartments.

Apartment Guide
Published monthly, this booklet lists available apartments and can be obtained for free at all St. Louis grocery stores, at www.apartmentguide.com, or by calling 314-567-7703.

Apartments for Rent
This free magazine is available at area grocery stores or at www.ForRent.com.

Apartment Exchange
This service advertises apartment listings in the area. There is no fee to look, but there is an application fee. Located at #4 Sunnen Dr., Suite 120, Maplewood, MO 63143 or call 314-647-0330. www.apartment-exchange.com

Apartment Search Inc.
This computerized search system has access to over 50,000 units in the St. Louis area. There is no fee (all fees are paid by the unit owner). Located at 1033 S. Holmes Ave, St. Louis, MO 63126 or call 314-821-4999 or 800-286-3092. www.apartment-search.com

Real Estate Agents
Many agents will be happy to assist you with rental searches. Ask for their areas of expertise. Most do not charge for their services.

The St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association (RCGA)
This organization offers a new resident packet with excellent information on taxes, cost of living, utilities, licenses, and a comparison of school districts. Located at One Metropolitan Square, Suite 1300, St. Louis, 63102, 314-231-5555. www.stlrcga.org

Note: A Catch the Spirit of St. Louis brochure introduces the area and is available at https://issuu.com/wustladmissions/docs/st_louis_brochure_2014_web?e=3287470/7981700
VISIT: WWW.WUMCHA.COM
TO SEE HOUSES FOR SALE BY WUMCHA MEMBERS
Where to Live: Real Estate Guide

Below are short descriptions of neighborhoods in Greater St. Louis. Feel free to contact WUMCHA members who have volunteered to be **WUMCHA Contacts** for more information on the areas that we’re proud to call home.

**ST. LOUIS CITY**

**Central West End/DeBaliviere**
Vibrant and diverse, this area is a cosmopolitan community where elegant homes, condominiums, small businesses and eateries line tree-shaded streets and create a medley of atmospheres reminiscent of Europe, New York and vintage St. Louis. The Central West End is on the north end of the hospital complex extending 2-3 miles north and east. It is walking distance to Forest Park, and with a majority of shops and restaurants located along Euclid Street. The Central West End is located 1-3 miles, or a 5-10 minute commute from the hospital complex.

**The Hill/Clifton Heights**
These two different neighborhoods are small and unique. The Hill/Italian district is known for fabulous Italian food, European style markets, and small town feel. Clifton Heights is a small family neighborhood dominated by the craftsman style brick homes with a "best family park" award from St Louis Magazine. Both are on the I-44 corridor and 10-15 minutes or 3-4 miles from the hospital complex.

**Dogtown/Clayton Tamm**
Dogtown is a traditionally Irish section of St. Louis, Missouri, best known for its St. Patrick’s Day parade. Here you’ll find brick bungalows, some newer construction homes and popular pubs and restaurants. This neighborhood located just south of forest park is bordered by the I-64/40 on the north and I-44 on the south allowing for easy travel throughout the area. Located about 3-4 miles from the hospital and a 10-15 minute drive.

**Holly Hills**
This neighborhood is a quiet, primarily residential community north of Carondelet Park in south St. Louis. Housing primarily consists of red brick bungalows, elegant mansions and family-sized homes on comfortable sized lots. Residents enjoy the park’s recreational opportunities, from ice skating to boating, fishing, picnicking and hiking. Holly Hills is located approximately 5 miles, or a 15-20 minute commute, from the hospital complex.

**Lafayette Square**
Distinguished as the oldest and the most picturesque of the city’s historical districts, this vintage neighborhood is lined with mansions, townhouses and row homes constructed in architectural styles fashionable from the Civil War through the 1900s. The undisputed jewel of the neighborhood is 30-acre Lafayette Park, the oldest park west of the Mississippi River. With recent revitalization there are multiple fun new restaurants and shops within walking distance. Lafayette Square is convenient to Interstates 44 and 55 and only 10-15 minutes, or 5-8 miles from the Barnes-Jewish Hospital complex.
Where to Live: Real Estate Guide

Shaw and Tower Grove South
Diversity is the hallmark of these two historic neighborhoods, bringing international flavor to the St. Louis cityscape. This area offers an eclectic commercial district, which includes Vietnamese, Thai and Chinese cuisine, ethnic grocery stores, coffee & gelato shops, unique boutiques, vintage clothing stores and Asian import centers. The spectacular Tower Grove Park borders both neighborhoods, offering whimsical pavilions, a seasonal farmers market, a statuary, fountains and replicas of classical ruins. Neighboring the park is the acclaimed Missouri Botanical Garden with its beautiful grounds, premier research and educational programs. Richly designed entryways with carved fretwork, built-in hall benches, stained glass windows and elaborate staircases are commonly found in the neighborhoods’ historical homes. Shaw and Tower Grove South offer close proximity to major highways and hospitals. They are located approximately 10-15 minutes, or 5-8 miles south of Barnes-Jewish Hospital complex.

Souland and Benton Park
The Soulard and Benton Park neighborhoods are known for their brick sidewalks and 19th century architectural treasures. Residents are drawn to the neighborhoods by their distinguished red brick federal-style row houses and Italianate–style houses popular in the St. Louis Victorian era. Locals enjoy relaxing and socializing in the area’s parks, gardens, cafés and specialty stores. Dozens of merchants line Cherokee Street’s antique row with treasure-laden shops. The Soulard Farmer’s Market is known for its fresh produce and other foods. This colorful neighborhood comes alive with festive outdoor celebrations, including the nation’s second-largest Mardi Gras Festival and Bastille Day Festival. It is located near Interstate 55 and downtown St. Louis and is approximately 5-8 miles, or a 10-15 minute commute, southeast of the hospital complex.

Downtown
Historic downtown St. Louis is a bustling center of industry, culture and entertainment. The downtown area has undergone a myriad of changes and modifications in recent years, and has been reinvented as a neighborhood for the 21st century Midwesterner. Downtown’s Loft District blurs the line between work and play, thanks to a cohabitation of major corporations, small businesses, beautiful residential lofts, boutiques, galleries, restaurants and nightspots. The compute is approximately 15 minutes and 5 miles east of the hospital.

St. Louis Hills, Northampton and Southampton
St. Louis Hills is situated in the southwest portion of St. Louis, between Hampton Ave., Chippewa Street and River Des Peres. With each building claiming an individual style, this neighborhood boasts a unique charm. A family-oriented neighborhood, St. Louis Hills surrounds the 60-acre Francis Park with an array of stately brick homes. It also boast Ted Drewes frozen custard, make sure to try it out. Close to Interstates 44 and 55, the area is approximately 5 miles, or a 10-15 minute commute, from the hospital complex.
CENTRAL ST. LOUIS COUNTY

**Brentwood and Richmond Heights**  
The neighborhood of Brentwood mixes beautiful older homes with newer construction and reflects the city’s evolution since it was established in 1919. Conveniently located off Interstate 64/40 and Interstate 170, it provides a small-town atmosphere with excellent access to world-class metropolitan amenities. This community boasts one of the larger shopping malls in the area, the Galleria, and is home to a unique sidewalk shopping area called The Boulevard. It is located approximately 5 miles, or 10-15 minutes, from the hospital complex.

**Clayton**  
This neighborhood features brick homes nestled on peaceful tree-canopied streets. The majority of these well-kept and elegant homes are 40 to 100 years old. It is home to many art galleries, boutiques and fine restaurants, as well as one of the top art fairs in the country every September. The St. Louis County courthouse and other government buildings are located there. This neighborhood also has a wonderful public school. Clayton is approximately 5-8 miles, or 10-15 minutes, from the hospital complex.

**Maplewood**  
This diverse neighborhood is an inner rig suburb of St. Louis that has a hip small town vibe. Centered on historic route 66, boasting multiple festivals throughout the year, a mix of restaurants and shops lining the main avenue, with several parks, a wonderful recreation center and good schools this little town in a big city is a great place for family living. This neighborhood is 15-20 minutes and 8-10 miles from the hospital complex.

**Kirkwood**  
Known for its small-town ambience, the “Green Tree City” showcases a refurbished and still operating train station built in 1893. The surrounding specialty shops, antique stores, bakeries and restaurants are favorite meeting places. Residents enjoy the community’s sports fields and aquatic center. With architectural styles for every taste and budget, housing options range from cozy starter homes to exquisitely restored Victorian mansions. Kirkwood is home to Powder Valley Nature Center, Magic House Children’s Museum, a farmer’s market and the annual Greentree Festival. It is in close proximity to all major highways and is located approximately 15 miles, or 20 minutes, from the hospital complex.

**Rock Hill and Glendale**  
The community of Rock Hill lies between Kirkwood and Webster Groves and offers an attractive array of homes with neighboring parks. The community provides easy access to major highways and is located approximately 10 miles, or 15-20 minutes, from the hospital complex.

**Shrewsbury**  
An “inner suburb” of St. Louis, Shrewsbury provides diverse housing that ranges from quaint brick bungalows to stately Victorian homes. The friendly, welcoming small-town atmosphere houses established neighborhoods and excellent schools. Shrewsbury is located approximately 8-10 miles, or 15-20 minutes, from the hospital complex.
Where to Live: Real Estate Guide

University City
Located adjacent to Washington University, this cozy suburb has charming historic homes. “The Loop,” a four block commercial district along Delmar Blvd., is home to a diverse population of writers, painters, musicians and artists. The district’s 90 bustling shops, galleries and restaurants complement the nearby Center of Creative Arts and the Craft Alliance. U City also borders the west end of Forest Park. It is located approximately 5-7 miles, or 10-15 minutes, from the hospital complex.

Webster Groves
This active, diverse community dates to the pre-Civil War era and continues to attract families seeking a comfortable suburban lifestyle. Quality schools, wonderful parks, recreational center, intriguing theatre, active civic and social groups make this community a family-oriented choice. Webster Groves is approximately 10 miles, or a 15-20 minute commute from the hospital complex.

SOUTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY
Crestwood
Crestwood offers a diversity of housing that spans several decades and encompasses a variety of styles, from brick bungalows and ranches, to rambling contemporary homes nestled in wooded foothills. This town is served by the Lindbergh School District, although some areas attend Affton and Webster Groves. It is located between I-44 and I-270, approximately 8-10 miles, or 15-20 minutes, from the hospital complex.

Fenton
Nestled between Gravois Rd., Highway 141, Bowles Ave. and I-44, Fenton offers appealing bungalows, charming country homes and delightful ranches. Convenient amenities dot the area, including award-winning schools, local shops, and a 70,000 square foot recreational center. It is located approximately 15-20 miles, or 40-45 minutes, from the hospital complex.

Oakville & Mehlville
This cluster of unincorporated communities covers a 44 square mile area with expanding residential and suburban development bordered by Interstates 55 and 270. Served by the Mehlville School District, Mehlville and Oakville combine with Concord and Lemay for a regional population of 90,000. They are approximately 15-20 miles, or 30-40 minutes, from the hospital complex.

WEST ST. LOUIS COUNTY
Ballwin
Ballwin offers outstanding educational opportunities and beautiful subdivisions with shopping centers, parks and recreational facilities. The community is served by the Parkway and Rockwood School Districts. Nearby Interstates 64/40 and 44 provide easy access to metropolitan St. Louis. Ballwin is approximately 20 miles, or 40 minutes, from the hospital complex.
Where to Live: Real Estate Guide

Chesterfield
Characterized as a young and vibrant city, Chesterfield is a place where reverence for the past blends seamlessly with urban lifestyle. A wide range of custom housing is surrounded by shopping malls and the community is served by the award-winning Parkway and Rockwood School Districts. Chesterfield is ideally located along the high-tech corridor of Interstate 64/40 and is approximately 25 miles, or 40-50 minutes, from the hospital complex.

Creve Coeur
In addition to offering numerous housing opportunities, Creve Coeur is home to two private colleges, private high schools and primary schools, two public school districts and approximately fifteen houses of worship. It is located 10-12, or 20-25 minutes, from the hospital complex.

Eureka
Just minutes from leading employers and St. Louis attractions, Eureka offers a friendly hometown and the award-winning Rockwood School District. Six Flags, fine restaurants, antique shops, and even snow skiing await you. The city is located along Interstate 44, with Highway 109 providing a north/south corridor. It is approximately 25-30 miles, or 40-45 minutes, from the hospital complex.

Ladue and Olivette
Olivette is a suburban, residential community with an economic base represented by a mixture of manufacturing, commercial enterprises, numerous small specialty shops and support services. It has more city parks per person than most of the St. Louis area neighboring communities and is served by the Ladue School District. Interstate 170 borders Olivette along its eastern edge, providing convenient access to metropolitan St. Louis. It is located 8-10 miles, or 15-20 minutes, from the hospital complex.

NORTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Florissant
The oldest municipality in St. Louis, Florissant is proud of its old-town historical district and charming refurbished homes. Other highlights include the 600 seat Florissant Civic Theater, Aquatic Park and Old Florissant Golf Club. Florissant’s expanding residential neighborhoods are abundant with new ranch homes and courtly subdivisions that harmonize contemporary, Tudor, Colonial and traditional architecture with meticulous landscaping. The city is brimming with recreational activities that include swimming pools, skating rinks, parks and much more. It is located approximately 15-20 miles, or 25-30 minutes, from the hospital complex.

Hazelwood
Noted for its resident and business diversity, Hazelwood is known for its accessibility to major highways and strong local economy. Housing accommodates a wide range of tastes, with 20- to 40-year-old traditional ranch homes and bungalows, as well as newer two-story and ranch homes. An outstanding park system affords endless recreational activities. Hazelwood is approximately 15 miles, or 30-40 minutes, from the hospital complex.
ST. CHARLES COUNTY

St. Charles
St. Charles offers an abundance of newer home construction from the last three decades. Traditional ranch and two-story homes grace tree-shaded streets and well-developed lots. Historical St. Charles hosted the Lewis and Cark expedition in 1804 and was Missouri’s first capital in 1821. Local amenities showcase turn of century styling of the area’s French heritage. Historical Main Street, hugging the riverfront, is bustling with quaint shops, antique districts and intimate restaurants. The city hosts the popular Festival of the Little Hills (August) and Christmas Festival (November/December) and is located approximately 25-30 miles, or 45-50 minutes, from the hospital complex.

O’Fallon/St. Peters
Distinguished as one of the fastest growing cities in St. Charles County, O’Fallon offers a wide selection of home styles and settings in handsome subdivisions. Its highly rated school districts have developed rapidly, ensuring local availability of a quality education in well-equipped, modern classrooms. They are located along Interstate 70, approximately 25-30 miles, or 45-60 minutes, from the hospital complex.
Things to Do

From a downtown rich in both historical and new architecture, to bustling suburbs, and quiet, elegant residential neighborhoods, St. Louis is one of the country’s best places to live. There is rich cultural activity, with entertainment ranging from nightlife to family events, unsurpassed restaurants, diverse industry and a moderate climate. Please contact individual attractions for seasons and hours of operation, performance schedules and admission fees. Telephone numbers and websites are subject to change.

ST. LOUIS WEBSITES

Below please find websites that will help you find the latest and greatest in the metro area:

- www.stltoday.com, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch website
- www.riverfronttimes.com, website of the Riverfront Times, the local alternative newspaper
- www.slfp.com, St. Louis Front Page, an internet-only newspaper, lists events, attractions, restaurants and art galleries
- www.explorestlouis.com, the website of the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission; call 1-800-325-7962 for more information
- www.stlouis.missouri.org, the official City of St. Louis website
- http://www.stlouisco.com/, the official St. Louis County website
- www.saucecafe.com, an extensive restaurant guide
- http://Stlouis.craigslist.org, a non-profit website that features apartments, job listings, classifieds and various group information in and around St. Louis

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The following are some of the annual events (a number of which are free) in the St. Louis area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Mardi Gras</td>
<td>Soulard</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mardigrasinc.com/">www.mardigrasinc.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day Parade &amp; Run</td>
<td>Downtown St. Louis</td>
<td><a href="http://irishparade.org/">http://irishparade.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>St. Louis Marathon</td>
<td>Downtown St. Louis</td>
<td><a href="http://gostlouis.org">http://gostlouis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Tower Grove Farmer’s Market (through Oct)</td>
<td>Tower Grove Park</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tgmarket.org/">www.tgmarket.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fair U City</td>
<td>University City</td>
<td><a href="http://fairucity.com/">http://fairucity.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clayton Farmer’s Market (Saturdays through Oct)</td>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td><a href="http://www.claytonfarmersmarket.com/">http://www.claytonfarmersmarket.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shakespeare in the Park (through June)</td>
<td>Forest Park</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfstl.com/">http://www.sfstl.com/</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Things to Do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Whitaker Music Festival (free, through Aug)</td>
<td>Missouri Botanical Gardens</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mobot.org">www.mobot.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring House &amp; Garden Tour</td>
<td>Lafayette Square</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lafayettesquare.org/">www.lafayettesquare.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taste of Clayton</td>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ci.clayton.mo.us">www.ci.clayton.mo.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>4th of July Parade/Community Days Carnival</td>
<td>Webster Groves</td>
<td><a href="http://www.webstergroves.org/">http://www.webstergroves.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fair St. Louis</td>
<td>Arch Grounds</td>
<td><a href="http://celebratestlouis.org/">http://celebratestlouis.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bastille Day Celebration</td>
<td>Soulard</td>
<td><a href="http://www.soulard.org/">http://www.soulard.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Festival of Nations</td>
<td>Tower Grove Park</td>
<td><a href="http://www.festivalofnationsstl.org/">http://www.festivalofnationsstl.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Festival of the Little Hills</td>
<td>St. Charles</td>
<td><a href="http://www.festivalofthelittlehills.com">www.festivalofthelittlehills.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greentree Festival</td>
<td>Kirkwood</td>
<td><a href="http://www.greenreefest.com">www.greenreefest.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Big Muddy Blues Festival</td>
<td>Laclede’s Landing</td>
<td><a href="http://lacledeslanding.com/events/big-muddy-blues-festival/">http://lacledeslanding.com/events/big-muddy-blues-festival/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japanese Festival</td>
<td>Missouri Botanical Gardens</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mobot.org">www.mobot.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gateway Cup Bicycle Race</td>
<td>Various areas of the city</td>
<td><a href="http://gatewaycup.com/">http://gatewaycup.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Great Balloon Race &amp; Glow</td>
<td>Forest Park</td>
<td><a href="http://www.greatforestparkballoonrace.com/">www.greatforestparkballoonrace.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Louis Art Fair</td>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td><a href="http://www.saintlouisartfair.com/">www.saintlouisartfair.com/</a></td>
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<td>St. Nicholas Greek Festival</td>
<td>Central West End</td>
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<td>St. Louis Wine Festival</td>
<td>Forest Park</td>
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<td>Shaw Art Fair</td>
<td>Tower Grove</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Best of Missouri Market Festival</td>
<td>Missouri Botanical Gardens</td>
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<td>Columbus Day Parade &amp; Festival</td>
<td>The Hill</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>St. Charles Christmas</td>
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<td>Old Webster Groves Christmas Open House Holiday House Tour</td>
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<td>Holiday Parlor Tour</td>
<td>Lafayette Square</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lafayettesquare.org/">www.lafayettesquare.org/</a></td>
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Things to Do

ST. LOUIS FAVORITES

Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour
A free hour-long tour takes visitors to the historic six-story brew house, Clydesdale stables, packaging plant and hospitality area. The tour center is at 12th and Lynch Streets.
314-577-2626 or www.budweisertours.com

Forest Park
One of the largest city parks in the nation, Forest Park is home to an annual hot air balloon race in September. The 1,300 acre city park features a zoo, science center, art and history museums and the Muny Opera. It offers activities for people of all ages including boating, biking, fishing, golf, tennis, skating and picnicking. In 1998, it underwent a $100 million restoration to return it to its original glory at the time of the 1904 World’s Fair. 314-367-7275 or http://www.forestparkforever.org/

Gateway Arch and Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
The 630-foot high, stainless steel monument is an engineering marvel and a symbol of the city’s role as the gateway to the west. Ride to the top for a panoramic view of the city and visit the underground museum and IMAX movie theater. 877-982-1410 or www.stlouisarch.com

Grant’s Farm
Named for President Ulysses S. Grant, who once farmed its land, this estate is operated by Anheuser-Busch. A tram tour takes visitors through a natural game preserve (with deer, antelope, buffalo, and more) to the Bauernhof, with stables, carriages, a zoo and the famed Clydesdale horses. Open mid-April through October. 314-843-1700 or www.grantsfarm.com

Missouri Botanical Garden
Internationally acclaimed for its horticultural displays, educational programs and scientific research, the garden is one of the city’s “must-see” attractions. It houses 79 acres of sculptures, fountains, the Climatron, a children’s garden and many specialty gardens, including the largest traditional Japanese garden in the country. Throughout the summer there are free concerts on Wednesday nights. Special events and floral displays are held throughout the year. Admission is free to St. Louis City and County residents on Wednesdays and Saturdays before noon, discount admission other times with valid ID. 314-577-5100 or www.mobot.org

Missouri History Museum
The history of St. Louis, Missouri and the American West are on display at this fascinating (and free!) museum. Included in the extensive collections are memorabilia from the 1904 World’s Fair, Charles Lindbergh, early river travel, weapons, art, historic costumes, and St. Louis’ unique Veiled Prophet events. During the summer, the museum offers free concerts on Tuesday evenings. It is located in the Jefferson Memorial Building at Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park. 314-746-4599 or www.mohistory.org
Things to Do

St. Louis Art Museum
The original building was designed as the Fine Arts Palace for the St. Louis 1904 World's Fair. Restored in 1988 and considered one of the country’s premier art museums, it exhibits over 33,000 works, ranging from ancient treasures to modern masterpieces. Frequent special exhibitions are presented. Admission to the featured exhibitions is free on Fridays. There are free family programs every Sunday afternoon with hands-on art activities and a tour through the Galleries. The museum admission is free and located in Forest Park near the Forsyth Blvd. entrance. Parking is free in the two lots located on the north side of Fine Arts Drive, across from the Museum, but the underground garage fee is $15 daily. There is a café and a restaurant on site. The Museum is closed on Mondays. 314-721-0072 or www.slam.org

St. Louis Science Center
This Science Center features more than 700 hands-on exhibits, life-sized animated dinosaurs, an underground tunnel, Omnimax Theater, a planetarium and public telescope viewings, a discovery room for kids, Amazing Science Demonstrations, First Friday evening events for adults, Build-A-Dino, and gift shops and dining. There is a fee for some attractions and programs and those require tickets or reservations. General admission is free to the public. The center is located in two buildings that are connected by a skywalk: 5050 Oakland Ave. and the southeast corner of Forest Park. There is a free parking lot at the Forest Park entrance and at 5050 Oakland Ave. parking is $10. 314-289-4440 or www.slsc.org

St. Louis Zoo
Located in Forest park, the St. Louis Zoo is one of the great zoos of the world. Dedicated to preserving endangered species, this free facility offers the Jungle of the Apes, Big Cat Country, River's Edge, Bird House and Puffin and Penguin Exhibit. There is an additional charge for the Children’s Zoo, train, sea lions show, and carousel. The Children's Zoo and carousel are free during the first hour the zoo is open. A new polar bear habitat is expected to be completed in 2015. During summer months, free concerts are offered on Friday evenings. Food and drinks can be purchased around the Zoo or you can bring your own snacks. Street parking is free in Forest Park. The price for parking in the Zoo lot is between $10-15 depending on the season. 314-781-0900 or www.stlzoo.org
DINING AND NIGHTLIFE BY NEIGHBORHOOD
The following is a list of some favorite neighborhoods for dining and shopping. For a more extensive list of restaurants, visit www.diningstl.com or www.saucemagazine.com.

The Central West End – St. Louis
The trendy Central West End, located just north of the hospital, is known for its diversity, unique shops, antique shops, cafés, galleries and stately homes. You will find a variety of ethnic restaurants as well as eateries that offer more traditional American fare. Many restaurants offer sidewalk seating, perfect for people-watching and soaking up the flavor of the neighborhood. Prices vary from inexpensive to pricey, with something for everyone. This area is also home to the historic Chase Park Plaza, which houses a movie theatre. After dinner or shopping, stroll through the historic neighborhood and admire turn-of-the-century homes. www.thecwe.com, cwe.scene.com/.

Dining Highlights
- Bar Italia – Upscale Italian. 13 Maryland Plaza. 314-361-7010 www.baritaliastl.com
- India’s Rasoi – 25 N. Euclid. 314-361-6911 www.rasoi.com

Hotel
- Chase Park Plaza Hotel – 314-633-3000 or 877-587-2427 www.chaseparkplaza.com
- Parkway Hotel – 314-256-7777 www.theparkwayhotel.com

Nightclub
- Mandarin Lounge – A fun hotspot with a rooftop lounge. 44 Maryland Plaza. 314-367-4447 www.mandarinlounge.net (Open Thursday – Sunday)
- Club Viva – Your connection to experience Latin, roots reggae, and international music. 408 N. Euclid. 314-361-0322 http://clubvivastl.com/ (Wednesday - Saturday: 8:00 pm - 1:30 am)
Things to Do

Clayton
This suburb offers upscale boutiques, the Ritz-Carlton hotel, and a wealth of restaurants, some of which are rated among the best in the country. Prices vary from inexpensive to very expensive. The Clayton Farmer’s Market, open Saturday mornings from May to October, offers local produce (much of it organic) and other farm products. Clayton is conveniently located west of the hospital. Take I-64/40 to Hanley Rd. and go north. www.ci.clayton.mo.us or www.claytoncommerce.com/

Dining Highlights
- **Almonds** – Contemporary cuisine. 8127 Maryland Ave. 314-725-1019
- **BARcelona** – Spanish tapas. 34 N. Central Ave. 314-863-9909
- **Cardwell’s** – Diverse contemporary menu. 8100 Maryland. 314-726-5055
- **City Coffee House & Creperie** – French crepes and coffee, great for breakfast and lunch. 36 North Brentwood Blvd. 314-862-2489
- **Crossing** – Contemporary/ eclectic. 7823 Forsyth Blvd. 314-721-7375
- **Harvest** – Fine contemporary cuisine. 1059 S. Big Bend Blvd. 314-645-3522
- **House of Wong** – Chinese food, dine in or delivery. 46 N. Central. 314-726-6291
- **I Fratellini** – Italian, great coconut cake. 7624 Wydown Blvd. 314-727-7901
- **India’s Rasoi** – 7923 Forsyth Blvd. 314-727-1414
- **Kaldi’s Coffee Shop** – 700 DeMun. 314-727-9991
- **Kilkenny’s Pub** – Authentic Irish cuisine. 20 N. Central 314-725-0161
- **Miso on Meramec** – Japanese/sushi. 16 N. Meramec. 314-863-7888
- **Niche** – Contemporary. 7734 Forsyth Blvd. 314-773-7755 http://nichestlouis.com/
- **Protzel’s Delicatessen** – 7608 Wydown Blvd. 314-721-4445
- **Remy’s Kitchen and Wine Bar** – Contemporary cuisine, modern setting. 222 S. Bemiston. 314-726-5757
- **Wasabi Sushi Bar** – 16 S. Central Ave. 314-721-9970

Hotels
- **The Ritz-Carlton** – 100 Ritz Carlton Dr. 314-863-6300 or 800-241-3333 www.ritzcarlton.com (Ask about Washington University special rate)
- **Seven Gables Inn** – 26 N. Meramec. 314-863-8400 or 800-433-6590 www.sevengablesinn.com
Things to Do

The Hill
One of the top “Little Italy” neighborhoods in the country, The Hill is known for its famous restaurants and bakeries, painted fire hydrants, and bocce ball courts. The Hill is bounded on Kingshighway to the east, Shaw to the north, Hampton to the west and Chippewa to the south. www.hill2000.org/

Dining Highlights
- Charlie Gitto’s on the Hill – Authentic Italian, reservations recommended. 5226 Shaw Ave. 314-772-8898 www.charliegittos.com
- Favazzia’s on the Hill – 5201 Southwest Ave. 314-772-4454 www.favazzas.com/
- Giovanni’s on the Hill – St. Louis’ only four-star Italian restaurant, reservations recommended. 5201 Shaw Ave. 314-772-5958 www.giovannisonthehill.com
- Lorenzo’s Tratoria – 1933 Edwards St. 314-773-2223 www.lorenzostrattoria.com/
- Trattoria Marcella – Modern Italian, intimate setting. 3600 Watson Rd. 314-352-7706 www.trattoriaimarcella.com/

Lafayette Square
Lafayette Square is St. Louis' oldest historic district and was declared a National Historic District in 1979. The neighborhood surrounds a three-acre Victorian Park, which is the oldest park west of the Mississippi River and the centerpiece for 375 Victorian homes of French Second Empire, Romanesque, Italianate, Queen Anne and Federal designs. Today, 90% of these structures have been restored to their original beauty. Park Avenue is home to a number of interesting restaurants and shops. Experience Old Time Baseball with the St. Louis Perfectos in Lafayette Park. www.lafayettesquare.org

Dining Highlights
- 33 Wine Shop and Tasting Bar – 1913 Park Ave. 314-231-9463 https://www.facebook.com/33wine
- Square One Brewery – 1727 Park Ave. 314-231-2537 www.squareonebrewery.com/
Things to Do

Shaw/South St. Louis/Tower Grove South/Benton Park
South City is a broad patchwork of neighborhoods that can be very charming. There is a lot of local creativity brewing in these neighborhoods, as evidenced by the eclectic mixture of eateries, arts, antiques, and music enterprises. The Tower Grove Farmer’s Market is a highlight and one of the largest in the area, often featuring free music. Check out the free yoga adjacent to the market on Saturday mornings.

The Shaw neighborhood, part of the Garden District, began as a clearing the French called Prairie des Noyers. Much of this expansive natural prairie was purchased by Louisville's Captain William Chambers in 1816. About the same time, the prairie captivated Henry Shaw, a 19-year-old seeking his fortune. He bought his piece in 1840 to the north and west of Chambers and built his country home, Tower Grove House. He also began planning and installing his magnificent garden, now known as the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Henry Shaw gave St. Louis the grand pleasure park, now known as Tower Grove Park, in 1868. In addition to dining and shops, Antiques Row along Cherokee Street is well marked with explanations of the area's history.

Dining Highlights
- Banh Mi So – Vietnamese. 4071 S. Grand Blvd. 314-353-0545
- Blackthorn Pub and Pizza – 3735 Wyoming St. 314-776-0534
- Blues City Deli – 2438 McNair Ave. 314-773-8225
- Courtesy Diner – 3153 S. Kingshighway Blvd. 314-776-9059
- Gelateria Del Leone – Gelato, Coffee. 3197 S. Grand Blvd. 314-776-3500
- Ices Plain & Fancy – Ice Cream. 2256 South 39th Street. 314-601-3604
- The Mud House – Breakfast/Lunch. 2101 Cherokee St. 314-776-6599
- O'Connell's Pub – 4652 Shaw Ave. 314-773-6600
- Pho Grand – Vietnamese. 3195 S. Grand. 314-664-7435
- Sasha's On Shaw – Great wine list & fireplace. 4069 Shaw Blvd. 314-771-7274
- The Shaved Duck – BBQ/Soul. 2900 Virginia Ave. 314-776-9570
- Sidney Street Café – Cozy, romantic, elegant. 2000 Sidney St. 314-771-5777
- South City Diner – Laid-back diner cuisine. 3139 S. Grand. 317-772-6100
- Sweet Art – Baked goods and art. 2203 S. 39th St. 314-771-4278
- Thurman Grill – Like Cheers, a local bar/restaurant where everyone knows your name. 4069 Shenandoah Ave. 314-772-8484
- Tower Grove Creamery – Ice cream. 3101 S. Grand Blvd. 314-772-2456
- Wei Hong – Chinese Bakery/Restaurant. 3175 S. Grand Ave. 314-773-8318
- World’s Fair Donuts – Donuts. 1904 S. Vandeventer Ave. 314-776-9975
- The Vine Mediterranean Cafe & Market – 3171 South Grand Blvd 314-776-0991

Coffee
- The Mud House (see above)
- Sump Coffee – 3700 S. Jefferson Ave. 917-412-5670
Things to Do

Soulard
This attractive neighborhood dates back to the early 1800s and has been extensively renovated. Soulard hosts one of the nation’s largest Mardi Gras celebrations, and the Soulard Farmers Market (314-622-4180) offers inexpensive produce, a variety of other foods, and street entertainers. Soulard is also home to a variety of good restaurants. www.soulard.org

Dining Highlights
- **Bogart’s Smokehouse** – BBQ. 1627 S. 9th St. 314-621-3107
- **Broadway Oyster Bar** – Cajun food, local and national St. Louis-style blues bands. www.broadwayoysterbar.com 736 S. Broadway. 314-621-8811
- **Frazer’s Restaurant and Lounge** – 1811 Pestalozzi St. 314-773-8646
- **McGurk’s Irish Pub** – Casual Irish, entertainment, patio dining. 1200 Russell. 314-776-8309
- **Mission Taco Joint** – Mexican. 908 Lafayette Ave. 314-858-8226
- **Van Gogh’s** – Martini Bar and bistro, trivia nights. 3200 Shenandoah. 314-865-3345

Coffee
- **Soulard Coffee Garden** – 910 Geyer Ave. 314-241-1464

St. Louis (Downtown)
Downtown St. Louis has undergone many changes in recent years, including the development of the Washington Street warehouse district, which boasts many restaurants, museums, galleries, shops, and loft apartments. Cardinals Stadium is home to the 2006 and 2011 World Series Champions. www.downtownstlouis.org

Dining Highlights
- **Bailey’s Range** – Burgers, ice cream. 920 Olive St. 314-241-8121
- **Death in the Afternoon** – American. 808 Chestnut Street. 314-621-3236
- **Jazz at the Bistro** – Features national and international jazz artists. www.jazzstl.org 3536 Washington Ave. 314-534-3663
- **Lucas Park Grille** – Serving weekend Brunch, Lunch and Dinner 1234 Washington Ave. 314-241-7770
- **Morgan Street Brewery** – Microbrewery, pool tables. 721 N. 2nd St. 314-231-9970
- **Pepper Lounge** – Late night dancing. 2005 Locust St. 314-241-2005
- **Schlafly Tap Room** – American brew pub. 2100 Locust St. 314-241-2337
- **Wasabi** – Sushi. 1228 Washington Ave. 314-421-3500

Coffee
- **Park Avenue Coffee** – 417 N 10th St. 314-231-5282
Things to Do

Rock Hill/Maplewood
Rock Hill is a small neighborhood surrounding the intersection of Manchester Rd. and McKnight, south of the Brentwood and Ladue neighborhoods. There are several restaurants and shops as well as a new shopping area along Manchester. [www.rockhill.mo.net](http://www.rockhill.mo.net) Maplewood is an up-and-coming area bustling with trendy restaurants and boutiques, all in a walkable setting. [www.cityofmaplewood.com](http://www.cityofmaplewood.com)

Dining Highlights
- **Acero** – Italian. 7266 Manchester Rd. 314-644-1790
- **Boogaloo** – Cuban/Creole. 7344 Manchester Rd. 314-645-4803
- **Farotto’s** – Family-friendly, St. Louis-style pizza. 9525 Manchester Rd. 314-962-0048
- **Hacienda Restaurant** – Mexican, popular happy hour, outdoor seating/bar. 9748 Manchester Rd. 314-962-7100
- **Nachomama’s** – Casual, family-friendly Mexican, drive-thru option. 9643 Manchester Rd. 314-961-9110
- **Schlafly Bottleworks** – Intriguing bar-type menu. 7260 Southwest Ave. 314-241-2337
- **Trainwreck** – Food, live music, sports bar, and nightclub; reservations recommended. [www.trainwrecksaloon.com](http://www.trainwrecksaloon.com) 9234 Manchester Rd. 314-962-8148

The University City Loop
Located on Delmar Blvd., east of Kingsland Ave., the Loop has numerous ethnic restaurants, unique shops, and vibrant nightspots that offer great live entertainment (including Blueberry Hill and The Pageant). As you walk down Delmar, look down to see the names of famous St. Louisans on the St. Louis Walk of Fame. The Farmer’s Market is a good place to find fresh produce and other items. [www.ucityloop.com](http://www.ucityloop.com)

Dining Highlights
- **Blueberry Hill** – St. Louis landmark, classic American food and live music. [www.blueberryhill.com](http://www.blueberryhill.com) 6504 Delmar. 314-727-4444
- **Fitz’s** – Classic American cuisine, root beers and sodas. 6605 Delmar. 314-726-9555
- **Fork & Stix** – Thai. 549 Rosedale Ave. 314-863-5572
- **House of India** – 8501 Delmar. 314-567-6850
- **Mission Taco Joint** – Mexican. 6235 Delmar. 314-932-5430
- **Pi Pizzeria** – Pizza, cocktails. 6144 Delmar. 314-727-6633
- **Pin-Up Bowl** – Pizza, bar food, bowling, kid friendly. 6191 Delmar. 314-727-5555
  - The Melting Pot – A romantic evening of fondue. 6683 Delmar. 314-725-4141

Coffee
- **Blueprint** – 6225 Delmar. 314-266-6808

Nightclub
- **The Pageant** – Midsize concert venue for up-and-coming bands. 6161 Delmar Blvd. 314-726 6161 [www.thepageant.com](http://www.thepageant.com)
Things to Do

Webster Groves/Kirkwood are historic streetcar suburbs located off I-44. These cities offer tree-lined and charming main streets, historic homes and family friendly activities. www.webstergroves.org or www.ci.kirkwood.mo.us.

Dining Highlights
• Big Sky Café – New American. 47 S. Old Orchard Ave. 314-962-5757
• Café Provencal – French. 427 S. Kirkwood Rd. 314-822-5440
• Citizen Kane’s – Steak House. 133 W. Clinton Pl. 314-965-9005
• Cyrano’s – Outdoor dining, brunch, dessert. 603 E. Lockwood Ave. 314-963-3232
• Dewey’s Pizza – Gourmet pizza. 124 N. Kirkwood Rd. 314-821-7474
• Katie’s Pizza & Pasta – Gourmet Italian. 9568 Manchester Rd. 314-942-6555
• Olive + Oak – Wine Bar. 102 W Lockwood Ave. 314-736-1370
• Robust Wine Bar & Café – Wine Bar. 227 W Lockwood Ave. 314-963-0033
• Serendipity Homemade Ice Cream – Real ice cream. 8130 Big Bend Blvd. 962-2700
• Stratton’s Café – Coffeehouse. 8103 Big Bend Blvd. 314-961-2900

Westport Plaza and Maryland Heights
Westport Plaza offers shops, a variety of good restaurants, and entertainment (including a comedy club). Located in Maryland Heights at I-270 and Page Blvd. 314-576-7100 or www.westportstl.com

Dining Highlights
• Drunken Fish – 639 Westport Plaza. 314-275-8300
• Priyaa – Indian. 1910 McKelvey Rd. 314-542-6148
• Wok Express – 12209 Dorsett Rd. 314-291-6821

Other Places Worth Mentioning
These restaurants didn’t fit into the above neighborhoods but deserve to be mentioned.
• Annie Gunn’s – 16806 Chesterfield Airport Rd. 636-532-7684
• Atlas – Italian and French. 5513 Pershing Ave. 314-367-6800
• Brio – Italian. 1601 S. Lindbergh Blvd., Plaza Frontenac. 314-432-4410
• Cardwell’s at Plaza Frontenac – Steaks. 97 Plaza Frontenac. 314-997-8885
• Chris’ Pancake House – Kid friendly. 5980 Southwest Ave. 314-645-2088
• Five Bistro – 5100 Daggett Ave. 314-773-5553
• Franco – French. 1535 S. 8th St. 314-436-2500
• Hunan Wok – Kid-friendly Chinese. 2428 S. Brentwood Blvd. 314-962-0898
• Mai Lee Restaurant – Vietnamese/Chinese. 8396 Musick Memorial Dr. Brentwood. 314-645-2835
• Oberweis Dairy – Great desserts. Kirkwood, Creve Coeur and South County
• Onesto Pizza and Trattoria – 5401 Finkman St. 314-802-8883
• Racanelli’s – Pizza, many locations.
• Sam’s Steakhouse – 10205 Gravois Rd. 314-849-3033
• Stir Crazy – Pan-Asian, menu or make your own stir fry. 10598 Olive Rd. 314-569-9300
• Ted Drewes Frozen Custard – A St. Louis favorite. 6726 Chippewa St. (open year round) 314-481-2652; also at 4224 S. Grand Ave. (seasonal) 314-352-7376
Things to Do

- Tony’s – Italian, Best Dining/Service in St. Louis, expensive. 410 Market St. 314-231-7007
- The Woman’s Exchange Tearoom – 9214 Clayton Rd. 314-997-4411
Things to Do

SHOPPING

Saint Louis Galleria – Richmond Heights. The Saint Louis Galleria has all the basics, plus many others. Major department stores include Macy’s, Dillard’s, and Nordstrom. Other stores include Anthropologie, Banana Republic, Express, Limited, Ann Taylor, Gap, J.Crew, La Coste, H&M, Restoration Hardware, Apple, Bare Essentials, Harry and David, Aveda, and Nine West shoes, among others. Restaurants include The Cheesecake Factory, Sarker Japan Sushi Bar, and California Pizza Kitchen. The Galleria also features an independent movie theater. Located at Brentwood Blvd. and Hwy. 40. 314-863-5500 or www.saintlouisgalleria.com

The Boulevard – Richmond Heights. The Boulevard is an outdoor shopping area featuring upscale retail, fine dining, and luxury residences. Retailers and restaurants include Crate & Barrel, Ann Taylor Loft, P.F. Chang’s China Bistro and Maggiano’s Little Italy. Located on Brentwood Blvd, across from The Galleria. www.theboulevard.com

Plaza Frontenac – Frontenac. This upscale shopping experience features Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Pottery Barn Kids, one-of-a-kind boutiques, designer clothing shops, and great restaurants. This is the only mall in the area that hosts Sur La Table and BCBG. Plaza Frontenac has a fine art movie cinema, a spa, and several gourmet restaurants, including Cardwell’s, Canyon Café and the Zodiac Room at Neiman Marcus. Located at Lindbergh and Clayton, south of I-64/40. 314-432-6760 or www.plazafrontenac.com

St. Louis Union Station. This National Historic Landmark, built in 1894, was once the busiest passenger rail terminal in the world. After a multi-million dollar renovation, it is now a hotel, shopping and dining complex. The main building has frescoed ceilings, stained glass windows, gold leafing, and a 65’ high vaulted ceiling over the Grand Hall. It houses many small tourist shops and great eateries. Located at 1820 Market Street. 314-421-6655 or www.stlouisunionstation.com

West County Center – Des Peres. West County Center has over 150 stores and eateries, featuring three department stores, Nordstrom, Macy’s, and JCPenney. Other highlights include Aldo Accessories, Clarks, Elephant Bar Restaurant, Guess, Soma Intimates, Abercrombie & Fitch, Apple, Barnes & Noble, Bebe, Brooks Brothers, H&M, and Sephora. Located at Manchester Rd. & I-270. 314-288-2020 or www.shopwestcountycenter.com/shop/westcounty.nsf/index

Chesterfield Mall – Chesterfield. This mall has over 150 stores, including Macy’s, Dillard’s, Sears, Coach, Gymboree, Journeys, Buckle, Pottery Barn Kids, and J. Jill. It features an AMC Megaplex Theater and restaurants such as Cheesecake Factory, California Pizza Kitchen, Houlihan’s and St. Louis Bread Co. Located at I-64/40 and Clarkson Rd. 636-532-0777 or www.chesterfield-mall.com/shop/chesterfield.nsf/index

South County Center. This mall has over 100 stores including Dillard’s, Macy’s, Bath & Body Works, Foot Locker, Payless, Victoria’s Secret and RadioShack. Located at I-55 and I-270 on Lindbergh Blvd. 314-892-8954 or www.shopsouthcountycenter.com/shop/southcounty.nsf/index
Preferred Outlets at Warrenton – Warrenton. Features Nike Factory Store, Gap and much more. Located at 1000 Warrenton Outlet Center. 636-456-5045

St. Louis Mills – Hazelwood. St. Louis Mills combines manufacturers’ outlets, specialty retail, restaurants and entertainment just 16 miles northwest of downtown St. Louis. The more than 200 stores include Gap Outlet, The Children’s Place, Guess Factory Store, and Cabela’s. Sports entertainment includes NASCAR SpeedPark (www.nascarspeedpark.com), PlanNine (Plan-nine.net) Skatepark and the Ice ZONE (stlicezone.com), the official practice facility of the St. Louis Blues. Located at 5555 St. Louis Mills Blvd. 314-227-5900 or www.stlouisoutletmall.com

Taubman Prestige Outlets – One of the two outlet malls located in Chesterfield. Taubman features stores such as Furla, Gap Factory, Brookstone, Lucky, and Hickory Farms. Located at 17017 N Outer 40 Rd. Chesterfield, MO 63005 or www.taubmanprestigeoutlets.com

St. Louis Premium Outlets. The second of the two outlet malls in Chesterfield, Premium Outlets has over 90 outlet stores, including, Ann Taylor, Coach, J. Crew, Nike, Kate Spade New York, Saks Fifth Avenue Off and others. Located at 18521 Outlet Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63005. (314) 399-8163 or http://www.premiumoutlets.com/index.asp
PERFORMING ARTS

Dance St. Louis – St. Louis. Dance companies and artists of international acclaim perform a regular season. The group also provides extensive dance workshops. Located at 3547 Olive St. #301. Phone: 314-534-5000, Box Office: 314-534-6622 or www.dancestlouis.org

Edison Theatre – Washington University. Outstanding dance, music, and theater companies perform regularly in several venues. Located at 6445 Forsyth Blvd., Room 203. 314-935-6543 or www.edisontheatre.wustl.edu

Fox Theatre – St. Louis. The “Fabulous Fox” is St. Louis’ most spectacular entertainment showcase, presenting Broadway shows, country stars, jazz, pop, rock and contemporary concerts, and classic movies. The renovated theatre, with its Siamese Byzantine architecture, is one of the highlights of the city. Located at 527 North Grand Blvd. For show information and tickets call Metrotix at 314-534-1111. www.fabulousfox.com Wednesday evenings (date night)

Muny – Forest Park. The country’s oldest and largest outdoor theatre, the Muny presents Broadway musicals, plays, dance companies, and popular headliners every summer. A winter season of productions takes place at various locations. For tickets call the Muny at 314-361-1900 x550 or Metrotix at 534-1111. www.muny.org Wednesday evenings (date night)

Mustard Seed Theatre at Fontbonne University – Clayton. This theatre department presents four shows a year, ranging from comedy and drama to children’s productions. Found in the Fine Arts Building, Fontbonne University, 6800 Wydown Blvd. 314-719-8060 or http://www.mustardseedtheatre.com

Opera Theatre of St. Louis – Webster Groves. One of the most adventurous opera companies in the country, this group presents full-scale productions in English of classical and new operas with exceptionally talented artists. Located on the Webster University Campus, 130 Edgar Rd. 314-961-0644 or www.opera-stl.org

The Pageant- St. Louis. Popular concert nightclub featuring national acts. Located in the University City Loop at 6161 Delmar Blvd. 314-726-6161 or www.thepageant.com Wednesday evenings (night spot)

Reperatory Theatre of St. Louis – Webster Groves. “The Rep” is famous for its ambitious productions of the classics, as well as its commitment to the presentation of new plays. It is housed at the Webster University Campus, 130 Edgar Rd. 314-968-4925 or www.repstl.org

Roberts Orpheum Theater – St. Louis. This architecturally elegant theatre regularly presents theatre and popular entertainment. 314-588-0388 or www.orpheum-theater.com

The Sheldon – St. Louis. This concert hall, noted for its fine acoustics, hosts performances of the St. Louis Symphony Chamber Orchestra, Endangered Arts Society, and other theatre and music groups. Located at 3648 Washington Blvd. 314-534-1111 or www.sheldonconcerthall.org
Things to Do

Stages St. Louis – Kirkwood. This theatre company performs in the Kirkwood Community Center at 111 South Geyer Rd. 314-821-2407 or www.stagesstlouis.com

St. Louis Black Repertory Company – St. Louis. This non-profit community theatre showcases black history and art through live theatre. Performances are held at the Grandel Theatre located at 3610 Grandel Square. 314-534-3810 or www.theblackrep.org

St. Louis Shakespeare Festival. A wonderful FREE summer theater event in Forest Park. Many fun activities are held prior to the show which are fun for the whole family! www.sfstl.com

St. Louis Symphony – St. Louis. Highly acclaimed throughout the world, this award-winning orchestra presents a season of great classical music featuring incomparable guest artists. It is based in one of St. Louis' most elegant and acoustically perfect buildings, Powell Hall. Visit the website for free community concerts and student, children and educator discounts. 314-534-1700 or www.stlsymphony.org

Touhill Performing Arts Center. Located on the campus of the University of Missouri St. Louis, The Touhill Center is a fairly recent addition to the St. Louis Arts scene featuring classical, opera, jazz, dance and international performances. Located at 1 University Blvd. 314-516-4949 or www.touhill.org

Verizon Wireless Amphitheater – Maryland Heights. Built in 1991, this 20,000-seat amphitheater offers a state of the art sound system and four video screens for a front row view at all times. World-class entertainers perform from May through September. Located at 14141 Riverport Dr. 314-298-9944 or www.livenation.com

Webster University Community Music School – Webster Groves. This school hosts a variety of concerts from its faculty and students. It also offers classes for all ages. Located at 535 Garden Ave. 314-968-5939 or www.webster.edu/community-music-school/
Things to Do

SPORTS

Professional:

St. Louis Cardinals (Baseball) – St. Louis. Cheer on the 11-time World Series and 19-time National League Champions at Busch Stadium! The season runs from April to October and the stadium is easily accessible by Metrolink. 314-345-9600 or http://stlouis.cardinals.mlb.com

St. Louis Blues (Hockey) – St. Louis. The NHL team plays about 40 home games at the Scottrade Center between October and April. The stadium is easily accessible by Metrolink. 314-622-2583 or http://blues.nhl.com

Gateway Motorsports Park (Racing) – Madison, IL. The facility, located just 5 minutes from downtown St. Louis, hosts various events, including the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series and National Hot Rod Association races. 618-215-8888 or www.gatewaymsp.com

Collegiate/Amateur/Other:

St. Louis University Billikens – St. Louis. SLU has a NCAA Division I athletic program, including the well-known men's basketball team. The Chaifetz Arena hosts SLU basketball games, as well as numerous other collegiate and non-collegiate sports and events. 314-977-5000 or www.thechaifetzarena.com and www.slubillikens.com

Gateway Grizzlies (Baseball) – Sauget, IL. Watch the 2003 Frontier League Champions play at their home field, GCS Ballpark, in nearby Illinois. 618-337-3000 or www.gatewaygrizzlies.com

Fairmount Park Race Track (Horse Racing) – Collinsville, IL. Year-round horseracing, thoroughbred and harness just 10 minutes from downtown St. Louis. 314-436-1516 or 618-345-4300 or www.fairmountpark.com
Things to Do

HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE
Visit www.mostateparks.com for a list of historic sites and state parks in Missouri. There is now a free mobile app to download; Official Guide for MO State Parks & Historic Sites.

Campbell House Museum – St. Louis. Featured on the National Register of Historic Places, this charming home retains the fine Victorian furnishings and memorabilia of its original owners. After a monumental five-year, $3 million restoration the museum now stands as one of the most accurately restored 19th Century buildings in America, reflecting the high-Victorian opulence of the 1880s. It is open Wednesday - Sunday. Tours are by appointment only January and February. Admission and a guided tour is $8, children 12 and under are free. Located at 1508 Locust. 314-421-0325 or www.campbellhousemuseum.org

Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis – St. Louis. Both Byzantine and Romanesque architecture are featured in this 1907 edifice. One of America's most beautiful cathedrals, it is noted for its exquisite interior and famous mosaics, incorporating over 100,000,000 pieces of stone and glass. The Basilica is open every day from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm, and tours are offered between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm by reservation only. Adults: $2 and Students: $1. Located at 4431 Lindell Blvd. 314-373-8241 or http://cathedralstl.org/intro/

Central Library – St. Louis Public Library Main Building. Interior features of this Italian Renaissance structure include stained glass windows, painted ceilings, and carved marble details. The library's collections consist of 1.5 million books and nearly 3 million periodicals, government documents, films and photographs. Tours are available Mondays at 11 am, and Saturdays at 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 1:00 pm. Located at 1301 Olive St. 314-241-2288 or www.slpl.org/

Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion – St. Louis. An exquisite example of Greek Revival architecture, this antebellum museum house displays furnishings of the period and the largest permanent collection of memorabilia from the 1904 World’s Fair. Café De Menil is located in a lovely carriage house on the grounds. Located at 3352 De Menil Place. Guided tours of the Mansion are available on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm and Saturday from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Admission is $5 per adult and $2 for children under 12. Group rates are available. For special tour dates or to reserve a large group please call the Mansion at 314-771-5828. Some months are open by appointment only. 314-771-5828 (museum) or 314-771-5829 (café) www.demenil.org

Christ Church Cathedral – St. Louis. Founded in 1819, Christ Church Cathedral is the oldest Episcopal parish west of the Mississippi. The Christ Church Cathedral complex includes the 500-seat Cathedral itself, the Bofinger Chapel and the Bishop Tuttle Memorial (BTM) building. It is known for its magnificent stained glass windows and Aeolian-Skinner organ, but its crowning glory is its reredos. Located at 1210 Locust St. 314-231-3454 or www.christchurchcathedral.us/. Online brochures are available for tour information.
Hanley House – Clayton. This Greek Revival-style farmhouse, built by Martin Hanley in 1855, has been authentically restored and furnished. The farmstead is the oldest structure in the City of Clayton and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Open Saturday and Sunday. 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday by appointment only. Located at 7600 Westmoreland. 314-290-8553 or www.claytonhistorysociety.org/hanleyhouse

Jefferson Barracks – South St. Louis County. Jefferson Barracks was a major military installation until 1946. Many Americans, including Zachary Taylor, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, and John J. Pershing served there. The 426 acres include exhibits, educational programs, amphitheater and special events. Museum buildings are open Wednesday – Sunday, 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Located at 345 North Rd. 314-544-5714 or http://www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation/ParkPages/JeffersonBarracks

Oakland House – Affton. The Oakland House is a completely restored mansion built in 1853 and hosts special events during Easter and Christmas seasons, when the parlors are festively decorated, and children’s activities (such as puppet shows and crafts) are offered. Located at 7801 Genesta. 314-352-5654 or www'afftonoaklandhouse.com/

Old Cathedral – Downtown St. Louis. Built over 180 years ago, the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, is St. Louis's first Catholic Cathedral West of the Mississippi and includes a museum with religious artifacts. Located at 209 Walnut. 314-231-3250 or http://www.oldcathedralstl.org/

Old Courthouse – Downtown St. Louis. This beautiful Greek Revival-style courthouse and museum holds displays on St. Louis history and is famous for being the site of the Dred Scott case. You can walk through the museum seven days a week from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm or join one of the tours offered throughout the day. Admission is free. Located at 11 North 4th St. at Market Street. 314-655-1700 or www.slfp.com/oldcourthouse.html

Samuel Cupples House and Gallery of St. Louis University – St. Louis. Philanthropist Samuel Cupples built this impressive Romanesque-style mansion, which is now a museum and art gallery. Open Tuesday -Saturday from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, with free admission for self-guided tours. Located on the SLU campus at 3673 West Pine Mall. 314-977-6630 or 314-977-2666 http://www.slu.edu/x72681.xml

Sappington House – Crestwood. The museum complex houses the Thomas Sappington home (built in 1808, furnished with authentic antiques), a library of Americana, the Sappington Barn restaurant and a gift shop. Tours are Wednesday - Friday (11:00 am – 2:00 pm) and by appointment on Saturdays. Adults $3 and children $1. Located at 1015 South Sappington Rd. 314-822-8171 or http://sappingtonhouse.org/

Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum – St. Louis. Memorabilia, weapons, and photos depict St. Louis' active military involvement from 1800 to the present. The names of those who lost their lives in World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam are carved on monuments. Open daily. Located at 1315 Chestnut. 314-622-4550 or www.stlsoldiersmemorial.org/
VISUAL ARTS AND MUSEUMS

American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog – Des Peres. A fine arts collection revolving around "man's best friend" is displayed in the historic Jarville house, former home of Edgar Queeny, located in Queeny Park. Dog friendly, with events throughout the year. Dog lovers must visit the gift shop! Located at 1721 S. Mason Rd. in Queeny Park, West St. Louis County. Closed Mondays and holidays. 314-821-3647 or www.museumofthedog.org

Center for Creative Arts (COCA) – University City. COCA offers a variety of classes in theater, music, dance and visual arts for children and adults, as well as camps and workshops. The Millstone Gallery at COCA is free and presents contemporary art exhibitions by regional and nationally recognized artists. Located at 524 Trinity Ave. 314-725-6555 or www.cocastl.org

City Museum – St. Louis. Great for date night, family fun, and for out of town guests (see Thing to Do - Kids of All Ages)

Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) St. Louis – St. Louis. St. Louis’ contemporary art museum presents a broad range of media, topics, and artists, with the goal of engaging people of all ages in a dialogue about contemporary art and ideas. Open Tuesday - Sunday. Admission is free. Located at 3750 Washington Blvd. 314-535-4660 or www.camstl.org

Craft Alliance Center for the Visual Arts – University City/Grand. A distinctive showcase for contemporary crafts, this gallery, studio, and shop regularly exhibits works in ceramics, glass, metal, wood, and textiles. Classes and family programs are offered. Two locations: 6640 Delmar Blvd, University City (314-725-1177); open Tuesday – Sunday and, 501 N. Grand Blvd, (314-534-7528); open Wednesday - Sunday. www.craftalliance.org


Laumeier Sculpture Park – Sappington. A 105-acre sanctuary, Laumeier is an open-air museum exhibiting outdoor sculpture in a natural setting. The park also hosts festivals (including a great art festival Mother’s Day weekend), concerts, dance performances, and other exhibitions. There are paved walking paths as well as trails through woods. Pet friendly. There is an Art Gallery on the grounds. Admission is free. Open daily from 8am-30 min after sunset. Located at 12580 Rott Rd. 314-615-5278 or www.laumeiersculpturepark.org

Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum – St. Louis. This gallery houses an impressive permanent collection of art. It organizes special loan exhibitions and presents faculty/student shows. Free admission. Open daily from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm, except Tues and University Holidays. Located near the corner of Forsyth and Skinker on the Wash U campus at 1 Brookings Drive. 314-935-4523 or www.kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu
Things to Do

The Missouri History Museum – St. Louis. The History Museum preserves St. Louis and Missouri history through exhibits, programs, research, publications, archives, and permanent collections. Open daily from 10am-5pm (10:00 am – 8:00 pm on Tuesday). Admission is free unless noted. Located in the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park at Lindell and DeBaliviere 5700 Lindell Blvd. 314-746-4599 or www.mohistory.org

McDonnell Boeing Prologue Room – North of Lambert International Airport. This museum reflects on decades of aerospace science and engineering, tracing the company's history from biplanes of yesteryear to space stations for tomorrow, including actual Mercury space capsules. The Prologue Room is open for self-guided tours to the general public only June, July and August, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday. Although, closed to the general public, tours for groups of 10+ can be arranged. The exhibit is not open weekends. Guided tours are available throughout the year from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday. Free admission. Located in Building 100 at the corner of McDonell and Airport Rd. 314-232-6896 or www.boeing.com/companyoffices/aboutus/tours/proloqueroom/index.html

National Museum of Transportation – South St. Louis County. This museum features trains that you can climb onto, old cars, buses, and more. A miniature train or fire engine will run around the grounds for you to ride. The museum is also home to the Creation Station, where young children can learn hands-on about transportation (see Kids of All Ages section). Hours vary depending on season. Group and guided tours available with reservation. 3015 Barrett Station Rd. 314-965-6885 or http://transportmuseumassociation.org

St. Louis Art Museum – Forest Park. This building was originally designed as the Fine Arts Palace for the St. Louis 1904 World’s Fair. Considered one of the premier art museums in the country, it exhibits more than 35,000 works of art, ranging from ancient treasures to modern masterpieces. Frequent special exhibitions are presented. It hosts Family Sundays each month. There is an outstanding restaurant and gift shop. Closed Mondays. Free Admission unless otherwise noted. Located in Forest Park at One Fine Arts Dr. 314-721-0072 or www.slam.org

St. Louis Science Center – St. Louis. The Science Center is a wonderful place for everyone featuring a Discovery Room for preschoolers, plenty of hands on exhibits, an Omnimax theater and a planetarium. The Center always has special exhibits and events. General admission is free, and parking is $10. Some free parking is available by the planetarium entrance in Forest Park. Family membership includes parking vouchers, Discovery Room admission, Omnimax tickets, reduced admission to special events, and complementary admission to science centers around the country. Located at 5050 Oakland Ave. 314-289-4400 or www.slsc.org
Things to Do

KIDS OF ALL AGES

Bob Kramer’s Marionnettes – Central West End. See how marionettes are made, learn about the history of puppetry, and watch a puppet show at one of the longest running on-site puppetry theatres in the US. Reservations required. Showtimes Monday - Saturday 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Sunday 1:00 pm. Located at 4143 Laclede Ave. 314-531-3313 or www.kramersmarionnettes.com

Children’s Zoo and Insectarium – St. Louis Zoo, Forest Park. Although admission to the zoo and insectarium is free, there is a charge for some special attractions, such as the railroad. The children’s zoo, carousel, and Caribbean cove are free for the first hour after opening. The zoo hosts numerous events throughout the year, such as Jammin’ at the Zoo, Boo at the Zoo, and a holiday light display. Open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily 314-781-0900 or www.stlzoo.org

City Museum and World Aquarium – St. Louis. A unique place that has a 10-story slide, hamster-wheel, ferris wheel, airplane, train rides, a floor devoted to fantasy-land creations, hands-on activities, such as glass blowing, and much more. The museum houses independently operated World Aquarium, which is an interactive animal exhibition and rehabilitation center, only accessible in conjunction with the purchase of City ticket. Great place for parties. Hours vary seasonally. Located at 701 N. 15th Street. 314-231-CITY or www.citymuseum.org

Creation Station at the Museum of Transportation – South St. Louis County. A special area inside the Museum of Transportation, designed for babies and preschool children. Learn hands-on about transportation with Thomas the Tank, Lincoln Logs, LEGOS, puzzles, boats, cars, puppets, and more! Great spot for birthday parties. Call for reservations, sessions fill fast! Located at 3015 Barrett Station Rd. 314-965-8668 or www.transportmuseumassociation.org

Delta Dental Health Theater – St. Louis. This theater is the only one of its kind in the world, offering unique health education programs. 45 minutes presentations include an educator's demonstration with films, puppets, and 16 three-foot high fiberglass teeth. One-dollar admission. Recommended for preschool - 3rd grade. Ticket office open Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Located in Laclede’s Landing Historic District at 727 N. 1st St. 314-241-7391 or www.ddhtstl.org

Discovery Room at the St. Louis Science Center – Forest Park. Located in the St. Louis Science Center, the Discovery Room has 45 minutes hands-on programs and is designed for children ages 0-8 to play with science and technology. Purchase tickets at the Science Center entrance. Located in Forest Park at 5050 Oakland Ave. 314-289-4424 or www.slsc.org

Eckert’s Country Store and Farm – Illinois (three locations). A favorite day trip for many, Eckert’s farms offer strawberry, blackberry, peach, apple, pumpkin and Christmas tree picking and market throughout the growing seasons. All farms feature wagon rides, pony rides, a Kids’ Corral with a petting farm and Halloween displays. 618-233-0513 or www.eckerts.com
Things to Do

Faust Park St. Louis Carousel and Butterfly House – Chesterfield. This restored 1920’s carousel features 64 hand-carved horses. The nearby butterfly house contains more than 1,500 free flying butterflies. There are free concerts in the park on Tuesday evenings in the summer. Both attractions hours vary seasonally, so check ahead of time. Faust Park, 15185 Olive Blvd 314-615-8328 or www.stlouisco.com; Butterfly House, 636-530-0076 www.butterflyhouse.org

Gateway Riverboat Cruises – on the Mississippi Riverfront by the Arch. Established in 1884, Gateway Riverboat Cruises is the oldest river excursion company on the Mississippi. The 19th century replica steamboats, Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher, are located directly below the Gateway Arch on the St. Louis Riverfront. They offer sightseeing cruises of the St. Louis Harbor, dinner cruises, and entertainment cruises. Buying tickets in advance recommended. 877-982-1410 or www.gatewayarch.com/experience/gateway-arch-riverboat-cruises

Magic House – Kirkwood. Originally opened in 1979 in a Victorian mansion the now expanded house is a wonderful, participatory children’s museum. It engages children in hands-on learning experiences. Recognized for multiple accolades including one of the country’s best. It is great for kids 1-12 and includes a special baby/toddler area. Classes and summer camps are offered. A must-do site for families. Located at 516 S. Kirkwood Rd., Kirkwood. Winter and summer hours vary, so call for details. 314-822.8900 or www.magichouse.org

Movies for Mommies Matinee – Saint Louis Galleria Cinema, Brentwood. Better known as the Cry Baby Matinees, held the first movie showing on select Wednesdays (10ish), welcomes moms with babies and young children. Kids 3 and under are free. Located at 30 Saint Louis Galleria. To find out what’s playing, call 314-725-0808 or www.stlouiscinemas.com/Galleria

Powell Symphony Hall Family Concerts. The St. Louis Symphony offers special concert series for families, great for children ages 5-12. Before the concert, kids can try out the various instruments in Wightman Grand Foyer. Located at 718 N. Grand. 314-534-1700 or www.stlsymphony.org/family

Purina Farms – Gray Summit. This farm features pets and domestic animals, educational displays, hands-on activities, animal demonstrations, and seasonal displays and activities. Reservations are required; admission is free. Days and hours vary by season. Located at 200 Checkerboard Drive. 314-982-3232 or www.purina.com/purina-farms/purinafarms.aspx

Raging Rivers Water Park – Grafton, IL. This large water park has 20 acres of water fun, including slides, wave pools and a lazy river. Located about 30 minutes from the Arch at 100 Palisades Pkwy. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day. 618-786-2345 or www.ragingrivers.com

Rombach’s Pumpkin Farm – Chesterfield. First opened in 1914, this is large pumpkin farm has lots of pumpkins, a play area, hay rides, face painting, BBQs, pony rides, and a general store. Located at 18639 Olive Street Rd. Open 7 days a week 9:00 am – 6:00 pm during season. 636-532-7265 or http://rombachsfarm.com
Things to Do

Six Flags St. Louis – Eureka. Thrilling rides, live entertainment, shopping, special events, and a large water park come together in this nationally known theme park. Located about 30 minutes from downtown at 4900 Six Flags Rd. 636-938-5300 or www.sixflags.com/stlouis

Ted Drewes’ Frozen Custard – South St. Louis. A popular St. Louis tourist attraction, Ted Drewes’ Frozen Custard is better than ice cream. There’s nothing quite like a frozen “concrete” on a hot, humid St. Louis night. They also sell Christmas trees in December. Two locations: 4224 S. Grand (314-352-7376) and 6726 Chippewa (314-481-2652) or www.teddrewes.com

Thies Farm and Greenhouse – St. Louis/Maryland Heights. This “farm in the city” has vegetable and fruit picking year-round, as well as a farmer’s market, and classes. In October, it is known for Pumpkinland with straw castles, swings, hay wagon rides, live animals, and lots of pumpkins. Two locations: 4215 N. Hanley Rd., 314-428-9878 and 3120 Maryland Heights Expressway. 314-469-7559 or www.thiesfarm.com

Wabash, Frisco & Pacific Railroad Association – Glencoe. Located 25 miles from downtown St. Louis, this is a must for all train fans. The railroad takes a two-mile trip along the Meramec River on Sundays, May – October. Trains depart every 20 minutes starting at 11:00 am and ending at 4:15 pm. A $4 donation is asked per ticket. 636-587-3538 or www.wfprr.com

Whittle Toy & Train Factory – Valley Park. Miniature hand-crafted wooden train factory. Watch as toy trains are carved and painted and play with the giant train tables. Thomas and Brio pieces (trains, tracks, movies, engineer hats) are available for purchase. Free. 24 Front St. (near Hwy 141 and Marshall Rd.) 636-861-3334 or www.woodentrain.com
**Things to Do**

**PARKS AND NATURE**

For more information on parks, contact the Missouri State Parks Department of Natural Resources at 800-334-6946 or [www.mostateparks.com](http://www.mostateparks.com). Also contact St. Louis County Parks Department at 314-615-4386 or [www.stlouisco.com/parksandrecreation](http://www.stlouisco.com/parksandrecreation).

**Creve Coeur Lake and Memorial Park – Maryland Heights.** This park offers a 320-acre lake for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing, a six-mile trail, a shorter hiking trail, athletic fields, an archery range, picnic sites, tennis courts, and a Frisbee disc golf course. Adjacent Memorial Park has a large playground, sand area, and a sheltered picnic area. Located just west of I-270 off Dorsett Rd.

**Lone Elk Park – South St. Louis County.** This drive-through park features bison, elk, and deer. There is also a nature center and wild bird display. Picnic or hike in designated areas. Admission is free. No pets allowed (even in vehicles). Near I-44 and Hwy 141. 314-615-4386 or [www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation/ParkPages/LoneElk](http://www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation/ParkPages/LoneElk).

**National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows – Belleville, IL.** This 200-acre site is home to the largest outdoor shrine in the country. Eight devotional areas are open 6:00 am - 10:00 pm. It has light displays during the Christmas season. On Hwy 15 east of I-255. 618-397-6700 or 800-682-2879 or [www.snows.org](http://www.snows.org).

**Powder Valley Nature Conservation Center – Kirkwood.** This 112-acre area has paved trails (stroller friendly) for hiking/walking. An indoor facility features animal/plant displays and a children’s room with hands-on activities such as a puppet stage, pelts, puzzles, and animal masks. Free. Open Tuesday-Saturday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Trails open 8:00 am - 6:00 pm daily (standard time) and 8:00 am – 8:00 pm daily (daylight savings time). No pets allowed. 11715 Cragwold Rd. 314-301-1500 or [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder).

**Rockwoods Reservation – Wildwood.** This 1,844-acre forest and wildlife preserve features more than 13 miles of hiking on eight trails through forests and caves and around streams and ponds. Rocks to climb and many picnic sites. There is also a free education center, open 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday. Located between I-44 and Manchester Rd on Hwy 109. 636-458-2236 or [http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/rockwoods-reservation](http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/rockwoods-reservation).

**Shaw Nature Reserve – Gray Summit.** This arboretum, owned by the Missouri Botanical Garden, has seven hiking and cross-country ski trails. The park is open daily from 7:00 am until sunset; the Visitor Center is open 8:00 am - 4:30 pm on weekdays and 9:00 am – 5:00 pm on weekends. Admission is $3 for adults (free to MOBOT members); children 12 and under are free. No pets allowed on the grounds. 636-451-3512 or [www.shawnature.org](http://www.shawnature.org).

**Wild Canid Center – Eureka.** More popularly known as the Wolf Sanctuary, this survival center for wild canids (wolves) has both a daytime program/tour from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm ($10) or tour only from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ($8). These programs only occur Friday - Sunday and reservations are REQUIRED. The center also has “wolf howls,” (in the fall a “campfire wolf howl”); check the online calendar for dates, again reservations needed. They also have a Wolf Festival in September. Located just off I-44 at Entire Rd. 636-938-5900 or [www.endangereddwolfcenter.org](http://www.endangereddwolfcenter.org).
Things to Do

DOG PARKS
Visit www.dogparkusa.com/missouri/st-louis or Bring Fido for specifics on each of the parks listed below as well as more dog parks currently in the works.

**Arnold** – Paw Park, located in Arnold City Park on Lakeside Dr.; free.

**Central West End** – Lister Dog Park, located at Taylor and Olive. Must be a Central West End resident or employee. Permit required.

**Chesterfield Dog Park** – Located at Eberlein Park on Old Baxter Rd. Must be a resident of Chesterfield to join. www.chesterfielddogpark.com

**Compton Hill** – Water Tower Dog Park, located at Compton Hill Reservoir Park on S. Grand. Permit required. www.watertowerfoundation.org/dogpark.asp

**Creve Coeur Dog Park** – Located in Conway Park off of Conway Rd. Permit required. www.creve-coeur.org/index.aspx?NID=382

**Florissant** – Located in Duchesne Park, behind Manion Park, Graham Rd. at Manion Park Rd. Permit required.

**Frenchtown Dog Park** – Located in Soulard at approximately 10th and Emmet. Permit required. www.frenchtowndogpark.com

**Maplewood** – Located in Kellogg Park on West Point Dr. at Rannells. Permit required.


**Shaw Neighborhood** – Located at Thurman and Cleveland. Permit required. http://shawstlouis.org/attractions-amenities/shaw-dog-park/

**Southampton** – Southwest City Dog Park, located in Wilmore Park at Jamieson and Hampton. Permit required. www.swcitydogpark.org

**St. Louis (downtown)** – Located at 14th and St. Charles in Lucas Park. Permit required.


**University City** – Located at the corner of Vernon and Pennsylvania, dog park tags required from city hall in order to use (FYI: all University City dogs must have a UC license on their collars). www.ucitymo.org/index.aspx?NID=281

**Wentzville** – Located in Quail Ridge County Park, in St. Charles County, south of I-70, approximately where I-70 meets Highway 40. Open access, free.
**DAY AND WEEKEND TRIPS**

**Alton, Elsah, Graffton, Illinois.** Alton is located 25 minutes from St. Louis and offers a day’s worth of sightseeing, antiquing, and shopping in a river town steeped in history. Sights around town commemorate the Lincoln–Douglas debates, the Underground Railroad and other Civil War events. The National Great Rivers Museum explores the impact of the Mississippi River on the region and the Alton Belle Casino offers gambling. Take Highway 367 to Alton. Contact the Alton Convention and Visitor’s Bureau at 618-465-6676 or 800-258-6645 or [www.visitalton.com](http://www.visitalton.com)

**Augusta, Missouri.** Augusta is located on the bluffs above the Missouri River Valley, a 35-mile drive from St. Louis. Explore this scenic town by biking or walking the Katy Trail (the longest of the National “Rails to Trails”), checking out the Daniel Boone Home and the Lewis & Clark Trail or visiting area wineries ([www.montelle.com](http://www.montelle.com), [www.mountpleasant.com](http://www.mountpleasant.com)) or micro-brewery ([www.augustabrewing.com](http://www.augustabrewing.com)). [www.augustamissouri.com](http://www.augustamissouri.com)

**Cahokia Mounds.** This designated United Nations World Heritage Site shows daily life of the Mississippian culture. Admission is free but donations are accepted. Located 8 miles from downtown St. Louis. Open daily 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; closed Monday - Tuesday from November - April and most major holidays. Take I-55/70 east to Highway 111 exit and follow signs. 618-346-5160 or [www.cahokiamounds.org](http://www.cahokiamounds.org)

**Hannibal, Missouri.** In the river town of Hannibal you can explore Mark Twain’s boyhood home, the Mark Twain Museum and other fun historic sites. About 2 hours from St. Louis; take I-70 West to Hwy 161 North. [www.hanmo.com](http://www.hanmo.com) and [www.visithannibal.com](http://www.visithannibal.com) and [www.marktwainmuseum.org](http://www.marktwainmuseum.org)

**Hermann, Missouri.** Tour wine cellars and taste the award-winning wines of Missouri’s finest wineries ([www.adampuchtawine.com](http://www.adampuchtawine.com), [www.hermannhof.com](http://www.hermannhof.com), [www.stonehillwinery.com](http://www.stonehillwinery.com), [www.oakglenn.com](http://www.oakglenn.com)). The City of Hermann prides itself on being German and hosts many festivals throughout the year, including Maifest and a month-long Oktoberfest. It also has an outdoor amphitheater used for public summer concerts. About 90 minutes from downtown St. Louis; take I-70 west to Hwy. 19 South 15 miles to Hermann or I-44 West to Highway 100 west to Hermann (or take the Amtrak). For more information, contact the Visitor’s Bureau at 800-932-8687 or [www.hermannmissouri.com](http://www.hermannmissouri.com)

**Hidden Valley Ski Resort – Wildwood, MO.** This downhill ski and snowboard facility is a fun place to unwind and burn off some energy. Located about 45 minutes from the hospital. Call first to check snow conditions! 636-938-5373 or [www.hiddenvalleyski.com](http://www.hiddenvalleyski.com)

**Johnson’s Shut-Ins State Park – Middle brook, MO.** The title “shut-ins” describes an area of rocks in between two cliffs where water has to run, creating “natural water slides”, so swimming is quite popular. Camping and hiking along part of the Ozark trail are also popular, with rock climbing allowed seasonally by permit. A short walkway takes visitors to an observation deck. Picnic tables and a playground make the park ideal for family outings. Campsites can be reserved. Limited capacity, so arrive early. About 2 hours from St. Louis. 573-546-2450 or [www.mostateparks.com/jshutins.htm](http://www.mostateparks.com/jshutins.htm)
**Things to Do**

**Kimmswick.** Voted one of the 100 best small town getaways by Midwest Travel, the once thriving river town has undergone restoration, and it is now a living museum, featuring original buildings, specialty shops, and antiques, as well as the summer home of the Busch family and the Mastodon State Historical Site. Special festivals take place in October and December. Located 22 miles south of St. Louis, take I-55 south to the Imperial/Kimmswick exit. For more information, contact the Kimmswick Visitors Center. 636-464-6464 or www.gokimmswick.com

**Lake of the Ozarks.** This famous get-away spot for St. Louisans is known for boating, fishing, water skiing, hiking, and shopping. Located about 170 miles from St. Louis. For a free information packet, call the Lake Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-451-4117 or visit www.funlake.com.

**Meramec Caverns.** One of Missouri's most spectacular natural wonders boasts mineral formations that were 400 million years in the making. Entertaining tours take you through the five-story cavern and Jesse James hideout. Within the grounds are a motel, campground, restaurant, boat rides and canoe rentals. All caverns are handicap accessible. Children under five are free. Located about one hour from St. Louis, (I-44 west to exit 230/Stanton). 573-468-2283 or www.americascave.com

**Missouri State Parks.** Missouri Department of Natural Resources publishes a brochure on state parks. Many of the parks are within a two-hour drive of the St. Louis metro area. Call 800-334-6946 to request a brochure or visit www.mostateparks.com.

**Pere Marquette State Park.** This picturesque state park features Pere Marquette Lodge and is a great place for wintertime Bald Eagle watching. Located about 1 hour from St. Louis near Grafton, IL. 618-786-3323 or www.greatriverroad.com/Pere/PereIndex.htm

**St. Charles.** St. Charles was Missouri’s first capital in 1821, and the entire National Historic District has been beautifully restored. The town has numerous festivals and special events and nearby wineries. Located approximately 30 minutes from St. Louis (I-70 west to the North 5th St. exit). Contact the St. Charles Visitors Bureau for information. 800-366-2427 or www.historicstcharles.com

**St. Genevieve.** This first permanent European settlement west of the Mississippi is located 60 miles south of St. Louis. Attractions include the Church of St. Genevieve (founded in 1759), the St. Genevieve Museum, and the Amoureaux House. The town boasts some of the most impressive French Creole architecture in America, and you can hike at Hahn State Park. Take I-55 south to Hwy. 32 East. 800-373-7007 or http://visitstegen.com/

**Springfield, Illinois.** Illinois’ state capitol provides a fun day trip filled with Abraham Lincoln historic sites and over 15 museums, including a Fire Museum, Air Combat Museum and more! About 2 hours away from St. Louis. 800-545-7300 or www.visit-springfieldillinois.com.

**Washington, Missouri.** This beautiful, historic river town with a distinctive German heritage is located in the heart of Missouri Wine Country, about an hour away on I-44. Washington's rich history includes such famous individuals as Daniel Boone and Lewis & Clark. Don't forget the wineries! 636-239-7575 or www.washmo.org
LIBRARIES

The library is a great place to get to know in a new city or rediscover in a city you've lived in for years! In addition to books, computers, and story times, there are special exhibits, author lectures and workshops and some of the best reference resources you'll ever find – all for free. Your closest library is only a click away. Most systems let you look up items online and request them to be sent to the system branch nearest your home address, or you can select to have them held at a branch near your work or child's daycare.

There are several different systems in the region, all with their own rules on borrowing privileges, internet use, etc. As part of a reciprocal agreement from the libraries listed below, any person who lives in one of the systems can get a library card in another system with proof of ID and address. St. Louis Public Library (often referred to as “City”) and St. Louis County Library are the two biggest library systems in the region. There are 17 City Branches plus a Film Library and 21 County Branches. Eight municipal libraries form the Municipal Library Consortium (MLC) of St. Louis County; they are not part of the County Library system, but their catalogs are connected. A valid library card from any of the member libraries can be used in any other MLC library.

Visit the St Louis County website to see all of the systems available: [http://www.slcl.org/](http://www.slcl.org/) or use these handy websites to find a branch near you, search the catalog, reserve or renew book:

**St Louis Public Library** — 314-241-2288 or [www.slpl.lib.mo.us](http://www.slpl.lib.mo.us)

**St Louis County Library** — 314-994-3300 or [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org)

**Municipal Library Consortium of St Louis County** — [www.mlc.lib.mo.us](http://www.mlc.lib.mo.us) (Site lists each branch location, hours, phone number, and link to websites.)
Resources for Kids

PROGRAMS

Parents as Teachers. This state-funded program is often free of charge and available to parents with children through age three. A parent educator will come to your home to teach you how to encourage your child’s development. Due to budget constraints, availability of resources may vary between school districts. Please contact your district directly by calling 314-432-4330 or searching for district specific information at www.parentsasteachers.org

Early Childhood Education Centers. Many school districts maintain early childhood education centers, with courses and playtimes for parents and children. Families from outside the school district may participate in activities. Some districts with ECECs include Kirkwood (314-213-6136), Brentwood (314-262-8521), Parkway (314-415-6950), Clayton (314-854-6900), Ladue (314-993-5724), University City (314-721-2965), Webster Groves (314-963-6440), and Afton-Lindbergh (314-729-2434). Contact the school district directly to find out if they have an Early Childhood Education Center.

COCA – Center of Contemporary Arts. Experience a wide range of classes in theatre, music, and dance for children and adults. Located in University City, COCA also offers theatre events, gallery exhibitions, and outreach programs. 314-725-6555 or www.cocastl.org

Community Music School. Affiliated with Webster University, the Community Music School offers a variety of music classes, including Early Childhood Music Education Programs and Suzuki violin. 314-968-5939 or www.webster.edu/cms

Cooking Classes. If your youngster is a budding chef, there are cooking classes at COCA, Dierberg’s (www.dierbergs.com), Schnucks (www.schnuckscooks.com) and the Kitchen Conservatory (www.kitchenconservatory.com or 314-862-2665).

Gifted Resource Council. This non-profit agency offers classes, special courses, and activities for bright children age three through grade 9. 314-962-5920 or www.giftedresourcecouncil.org

Gymboree Play and Music. Gymboree offers a variety of play, music, art, yoga, and sign language classes for children from birth to 5 years, seven days a week. Families pay a one-time membership fee (waived if you have been a member at another Gymboree) in addition to monthly class fees. Open gym playtime is available to non-members several afternoons a week for a nominal fee. Located in Webster Groves. 314-961-3000 or www.gymboreeclasses.com

Kindermusik. Classes, from birth to 7 years, develop lifelong appreciation of music and movement through this nationally recognized program. www.kindermusik.com

Magic House Classes. Programs. This children’s museum has “My First School” for 2½-3½ year-olds and summer camp for school age children. Family programs are offered throughout the year. 314-822-8900 or www.magichouse.org

Soccerdome. Soccer for all ages. Located in Webster Groves. 314-962-9248 or www.vettasports.com
Resources for Kids

St. Louis Family Attractions Card. This free card is available at Dierberg’s, Shop ‘n Save, and Schnucks and online at www.familyattractionscard.com. It offers free or reduced price admission to attractions such as the Magic House, Missouri Botanical Garden and Butterfly House, as well as discounts for restaurants and hotels.

St. Louis Symphony. The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra offers three concert series for students: Kinder Konzerts (grades K-3), Young People’s Concerts (grades 4-6), and Young Adult Concerts (grades 7 and above). 314-533-2500 or www.stlsymphony.org and search under “Community & Education.”

Story Times. St. Louis County and City Public Libraries offer story times. Look for details at your local branch, St. Louis City at www.slpl.lib.mo.us, St. Louis County at www.slcl.org, and the Municipal Consortium of Libraries at www.mlc.lib.mo.us. Many libraries have toys, books, and tapes/CDs/DVDs for checkout. Borders and Barnes & Noble also host story times.

Swimming Classes. There are numerous opportunities for swimming classes. Contact your YMCA or community pool. Two community centers with extensive offerings (infant to adult) are Maplewood/Richmond Heights (314-645-1476) and Clayton (314-290-8500). These are also fun pools to visit during open swim hours. In the summer months, several community pools offer “Toddler Time”, such as Kirkwood, Webster Groves and Des Peres Pools. Some pools are only available to residents or guests of residents. Des Peres Lodge (314-835-6150) has Water Waddlers pool time during the winter and summer for kids under 6; non-residents are welcome.

Theater. St. Louis provides many opportunities for live theater. Each summer, the Muny has one musical that is oriented toward younger audiences. Several children’s theaters include:

COCA (see above) 314-725-6555
Edison Theater Ovations for Young People, Washington University 314-935-6543 http://edisontheatre.wustl.edu
St. Louis Family Theatre Series, Florissant 314-921-5678

Tumbling, Gymnastics, Art and Dance: While there are many opportunities to attend classes, the following are recommended by our members (especially for younger children):

All-American Gymnastics, Olivette http://allamericangymnastics.net/ 314-426-2496
Arts in Motion (classes start age 2) www.artsinmotion-stl.com 314-968-4583
COCA (see above) 314-725-6555
Gymboree Play and Music (see above) 314-961-3000
The Little Gym, Creve Coeur (and other locations) www.thelittlegym.com 314-439-1100
St. Louis Gymnastics Centre, Webster Groves www.stlouisgymcentre.com 314-968-9494
Team Central Gymnastics Academy, Maryland Heights (other locations) www.teamcentral.org/ 314-291-0101
Yucandu Crafts for Kids, Webster Groves www.yucandu.com 314-963-4400
Resources for Kids

PLAYGROUNDS AND RECREATION
The St. Louis area is known for its many beautiful parks and wonderful playgrounds. We cannot list them all, but here are some of our favorites. Check your neighborhood for others and visit https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/parks/parks/browse-parks/index.cfm for information on all the St. Louis City parks and http://www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation for St. Louis County parks.

Barnes-Jewish Hospital Playground – St. Louis City
Directions: Located south of Barnes-Jewish Hospital next to the main parking garage.
Description: This is a sunny park with swings and two playgrounds. Great for children of all ages. Park at a metered lot or the parking garage.

Blackburn Park – Webster Groves
Directions: Take I-44 west, exit at Elm and go south. Left on Glendale Rd., left on Edgar Rd., and the park is on the right.
Description: This is a shaded park with trails, picnic areas, and play equipment with a sand/rock table for young and older climbers. Good for walking dogs, a picnic, a sunset walk, or a game of tennis. A pavilion can be reserved for gatherings. 314-963-5600.

Carondelet Park – St. Louis (South City)
Directions: South Grand Blvd. and Loughborough Ave.
Description: This beautiful park is the 3rd largest in St. Louis. Great for jogging and dogs. The playground is new with water features. There are playing fields, horseshoe pits, picnic shelters, and ponds with a boathouse, ducks and fishing. In the summer, it hosts a concert series on Sunday nights.
https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/parks/parks/browse-park.cfm?parkID=5

Central Park – Chesterfield
Directions: Located just west of the Chesterfield Mall, 16365 Lydia Hill Dr.
Description: Central Park is a 38 acre park that includes the Chesterfield Family Aquatic Park, a playground with areas designed for younger and older children, swing set, benches, pavilion, picnic tables, and umbrellas. http://www.chesterfield.mo.us/central-parkinfo.html

Deer Creek Park – Maplewood
Directions: Located on the west side of Hanley Blvd./Laclede Station Rd., south of Manchester.
Description: This park has play fields and a playground geared towards older children. In the summer, there is a Sno-cone stand and lots of sand for digging.

Demun Park – Clayton
Directions: From the Clayton/Skinker intersection, travel west on Clayton and turn right (north) onto Demun Ave. (at the corner of Southwood)
Description: There are 2 playgrounds available, one for toddlers and the other for older children. A low iron fence with a gate keeps youngsters safe from traffic. The winding walk around the central raised garden is a great path for little ones to ride their bicycles.
Resources for Kids

Des Peres Park – Des Peres
Directions: Located at the corner of Manchester Rd. and Ballas Rd., just east of I-270.
Description: This park has a playground with a soft rubber surface. There are two park areas: one for toddlers and one for older children. An imitation rock-climbing wall is in the area for older children. There is a sprinkler in the summer and a nicely paved fitness/walking path around a duck-filled lake.

Faust Park - Chesterfield
Directions: 15185 Olive Blvd. Take I-64/Hwy 40 west to exit 19B to merge onto Olive Blvd. and travel about a mile and a half.
Description: This park is right across the parking lot from the Butterfly House and an indoor carousel. (Both the Butterfly House and carousel are closed on Mondays.) It has a great playground area with a “sponge surface” for toddlers on up. There are faux rocks and a rock wall that older children love to climb on. Picnic tables are located on the outskirts of the playground area.

Fenton City Park – Fenton
Directions: Take I-44 west of I-270 to Bowles Ave., turn left on Bowles, left on S. Highway Dr., and right on Larkin Williams. Go one and a half miles to the entrance to the park.
Description: This park has three playgrounds, shelters, a paved path, and numerous sports fields. A golf course is located across the street. Call 636-343-0067 to reserve shelters.

Forest Park Dennis and Judith Jones Variety Wonderland – St Louis City
Directions: Enter Forest Park and park across from the visitor center
Description: A half-acre playground designed for children of ALL ages complete with climbing structures, slides, swings, see-saws, water features and a secret garden. Picnic tables are located north of the playground behind the visitor center and there is a café with bathrooms inside. http://www.forestparkforever.org/experience/destinations-2/playgrounds/

Forest Park Turtle Park – St Louis City
Directions: The park is at Oakland and Tamm avenues, on the south side of Forest Park just across Highway 40.
Description: Turtle Playground features three large and four small turtles and a snake to climb on. There are also swings. This is a good place to visit on your way to the zoo.

Francis Park – St. Louis (South City)
Directions: Take I-44 to Jamieson and head south; after you pass the traffic light at Chippewa, turn left at the first stop sign (Eichelberger); go one block and turn left on Donovan. The park is on the right down the hill.
Description: This is a nice shady park with terrific equipment, especially for younger kids. The surface is made of tiny rocks, so you may want to avoid sandals. Free concerts in the summer.

Heman Park – University City
Directions: Located off Olive Street Rd., near Midland.
Description: This is a large park with a pool, good tennis courts, children’s play equipment, and loads of open space.
Resources for Kids

Kirkwood Park – Kirkwood
Directions: Take Kirkwood Rd. (Lindbergh Blvd.) to Adams Rd. and head west; the playground is behind the tennis courts.
Description: This large, very shady park has two soft surface playground areas, lots of swings, and a great sandbox area. In the summer a sprinkler is turned on, so bring swimsuits and towels. There is a lake with ducks as well as picnic areas and a walking path.

Laumeier Sculpture Park – Sunset Hills
Directions: From I-44 west, exit Lindbergh and go south. About a mile down turn right onto Rott Rd. and follow the signs to the park at the Main North Entrance on your left or continue on Rott Rd. to park at the West Entrance where the Children’s Sculpture Garden is located.
Description: This park is very dog friendly. It has wood-chip and dirt trails through wooded area with sculptures along the way. The trails are great when the heat rises, especially in the morning. Trails are not good for strollers, but there is an upper area with cement paths and sculptures that is fine. There is no playground equipment although kids can climb on the sculptures in the Children’s Sculpture Garden and run in the open fields. Bathroom and water fountain are only on upper walking area. The park frequently has special events and music during the summer. www.laumeier.com/

Larson Park – Webster Groves
Directions: From I-44, exit Elm north. Turn left on Lockwood Ave., right on N. Rock Hill Rd., left on W. Kirkham, left on Denver. Park is on the corner of Denver and Clairmont.
Description: This park has lots of playground equipment, including a small climber with slides for younger children and a larger climber for older children. It also has a climbing wall, restrooms, and a pavilion.

Lewis Park – University City
Directions: Delmar at Yale
Description: This park has a nice pond and playground equipment for big kids and little kids. There are woodchips under the playground.

Lindenwood Park – St. Louis (South City)
Directions: Located off of Jamieson between Lindenwood and Pernod
Description: There is a big playground (lots of shade), picnic area, and tennis courts.

Memorial Park – Brentwood
Directions: Take Brentwood Blvd several blocks south of I-64/Hwy 40 and turn left on Strassner. The park is located across the street from the YMCA.
Description: Lots of space to run and play, with two playgrounds (one for older children and one for younger), swings, and a sheltered picnic area.

Minnie HaHa - Sunset Hills
Directions: 801 Old Gravois Rd 63127
Description: Minnie Ha Park includes two shelter areas, two restrooms, one canopy area, over a mile of asphalted walking trails (great for strollers!), and a scenic overlook on the Meramec River with a shelter.
Resources for Kids

Mooney Park – University City
Directions: East of Hanley and north of Delmar on Jackson Ave.
Description: This is a very shady park with swings and two playgrounds, one for toddlers and one for older kids who are good climbers. The playground area is set back from the street, with several picnic tables. No bathrooms.

Oak Knoll Park – Clayton
Directions: The park entrance is off of Big Bend just north of Clayton Rd.
Description: This is a shady park with lots of wonderful equipment for all ages (no swings). The surface is made of shredded tires and is very soft—kids dig in it like sand so you may want to bring toys. Bathrooms inside building are not always available.

Queeny Park – Ballwin
Directions: 550 Weidman Rd. Take Manchester Rd. west of I-270 then north on Weidman Rd. The park is one mile ahead on the right.
Description: The playground is designed for older children with climbing equipment and tunnels. A paved trail and a public pool are also available. The park offers hiking, horseback, and cross-country ski trails, hayrides in the fall, and indoor and outdoor ice skating rinks in the winter. It also hosts the American Kennel Club dog museum (art museum).

Route 66 Park
Directions: Off I-44; 97 North Outer Rd., Suite 1 Eureka, MO 63025
Description: Located along the original Route 66 corridor, the nearly 419-acre park is a boon to those who want to enjoy nature. Excellent opportunities to picnic, exercise, birdwatch or study nature. The park bounds with more than 40 types of birds and a diverse set of trees, plants and animals. Picnic sites are scattered beneath the shade trees. Level walking, bicycling and equestrian trails are located throughout the park. Great for family bike rides!

Schroeder Park – Manchester
Directions: Take Manchester Rd. west of I-270 to Woods Mill Rd. (Hwy 141), go south for approximately 1/2 mile, then take a sharp right onto Old Meramec Station Rd. Go straight at the four-way stop into the park.
Description: One playground with a sandbox is for young toddlers, one for older children.

Shaw Park – Clayton
Directions: Take Brentwood Blvd. about 1 mile north of I-64/Hwy 40 to Shaw Park Dr. Turn left and stay to the right to get to the parking lot.
Description: This is a large, very shady park with lots of picnic tables and shelters. There are two playgrounds: one is shaded and on a rubber surface; the other is larger on a mulch surface with a sand area and swings, but has less shade.

Stacy Park – Olivette
Directions: Located between I-170 and Lindbergh Blvd. off Olive. From Olive, turn south onto Old Bonhomme Rd.
Description: There are several playground structures for all ages of children, swings, a large sheltered picnic area, and a paved walking trail. Free concerts in the summer.
Resources for Kids

Sugar Creek Park – Des Peres
Directions: From I-270, exit Dougherty Ferry and head west. The park is on your right.
Description: A nice sunny park with a playground, swings, picnic areas, and a paved walking trail. A sprinkler is on during the summer, so bring towels.

Suson Park – South County
Directions: I-270 south to Tesson Ferry Rd. Turn right and go about three miles (watch for the McDonald's). Turn left on Wells Rd. The park is on the right.
Description: This park has a free petting zoo open daily from 10:30 am - 5:00 pm April - September and 10:30 am - 3:00 pm October - March. There is a large man-made pond for catch-and-release and ducks (not able to feed). The playground is designed for older children. The park is great for picnics.

Tilles Park – Ladue
Directions: Corner of McKnight and Litzsinger, south of I-64/Hwy 40.
Description: There is a nice walking/exercise path around the park. The playground is amazing and for children of all ages and abilities. There is a large play structure that little ones can run around, but not access the area for older children. It’s wheelchair accessible, even within parts of the play structure. There is a huge water play area, a large sandbox, and swings. There is also a music making section with wooden xylophones, drums, and rattles. A beautiful drive-through display of festive lights is an attraction that is available Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day.

Tower Grove Park – St. Louis (South City)
Directions: Located between Kingshighway and Grand (at Arsenal).
Description: This park has two play structures (one for older children and one for younger children), a wading fountain, a duck pond, and walking trails. In the summer there are free weekly music/theater shows for children. The Farmer’s Market is open on Saturday mornings. Pavilions can be rented for group events. The Piper Palm House is a historic conservatory that has a wonderful brunch on Sunday mornings.

Vago Park – Maryland Heights
Directions: Located north of Dorsett Rd., just east of Fee Fee Rd.
Description: It is divided into two sections. The front section has a large shaded playground, swings, a toddler-size playground, a sand area, and two sheltered picnic areas. The back section has two more playgrounds, picnic tables, a basketball court, and a paved walking path. All playgrounds are on rubber surfaces.

Vlasis Park- Ballwin
Directions: Take I-270 to Manchester Rd. west to Seven Trails Dr. Turn left on Park Dr.
Description: This park has equipment for younger and older children, with sprinklers to play in when the weather is warm. It also hosts restrooms, pavilions, picnic tables with umbrellas, and ponds to watch the ducks.
Resources for Kids

**Watson Trail Park – Sunset Hills**
Directions: Take Lindbergh south of I-44. Turn right at Eddie and Park Rd. The park is ahead one block on the left side.
Description: It has a playground plus a duck-filled lake and several hiking trails.

**Whitecliff Park – Crestwood**
Directions: Take your favorite route to Grant's Farm and continue on Grant Rd. as it curves into Pardee Rd. Turn at the park entrance sign.
Description: The lower level has a shaded pavilion and wooded walking trail (great for dogs and adults who want a nice picnic area). Curving around to the upper level brings you to baseball fields, a sand volleyball court and the Crestwood Community Center. The Center offers classes (exercise, dance, children activities) for residents and non-residents and has a gym, basketball court, and racquetball courts. At the top level is the Crestwood pool, a St. Louis winner due to its lazy river, water slide, toddler play area, and large swimming area. The pool is open to residents and non-residents. Also on the upper level, is a playground with rubber surface and swings. The covered pavilion may be rented. Wooded walking trails are available on this level, as are bathrooms and lit tennis courts.

**Willmore Park – St. Louis (South City)**
Directions: Take I-44 to Jamieson and go south several blocks. The playground equipment is on your right. Enter the park further south on Jamieson and wind back around to park.
Description: This is a large, beautiful park in south city with playground equipment, several ponds with geese and fish, a nice walking trail (~1.5 miles), and several covered picnic areas. It is also home to one of the best dog parks in the city: www.swcitydogpark.org
Choosing a Babysitter
Find sitters by talking to friends and calling local schools, colleges and nanny services. Your place of worship, if you have one, may also be an excellent place to find sitters. Other resources include:

Nanny services often offer babysitting services.

Nursing Schools - Most of these schools have an area for posting for babysitting services and requests. A few allow you to fax your posting, and they will post it for you. Below are contact phone numbers.

- UMSL College of Nursing 314-516-6066
- Chamberlain College of Nursing 314-991-6200
- Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes Jewish College 314-454-7055
- Lutheran (Medical Center) School of Nursing 314-577-5850
- St. Louis University School of Nursing 314-977-8900

WUMCHA There is currently a babysitting cooperative set up for babysitting exchange. Contact WUMCHA if you would like to be added to this group. There also may be members who are willing to baby-sit for extra income. Just send out an e-mail and ask!

DAY CARE
As in many cities, infant care fills up fast, so it is important to register for a spot at multiple centers as soon as possible; there is often a waiting list.

Missouri Division of Family Services Child Care Licensing Unit will provide current licensing information for day care centers. 573-751-2450

The Child Day Care Association compiles a list of in-house day care providers as well as day care centers in the area you specify. If you are a Washington University employee, this list is free. 314-531-1412 or email: info@childcaresl.org.

Childcare Solutions, Inc. (now part of TLC for Kids) provides full-time, part-time, summer, temporary newborn and group care referrals. 314-725-5660 or www.tlcforkids.com

St. Louis Children’s Hospital Child Development Center is available to anyone affiliated with the Barnes-Jewish or Washington University. Waiting lists are common, but the center offers flexibility and a discount for Barnes and Washington University employees. 314-454-4700 (Newstead) or 314-362-0777 (Clayton).

Other Day Care Options
There are a number of reputable centers in the St. Louis region. Take some time to visit them, ask questions, and ask WUMCHA members for referrals. Some options include:
Resources for Kids

**St. Louis City**
Developmental Child Care Center 314-645-1211

**Brentwood**
Elaine Rosi Academy for Children 314-968-0515

**Chesterfield**
Jewish Community Center -Fox Building (non-denominational) 314-442-3456

**Clayton**
Clayton Child Center Preschool 314-727-2643
Clayton Child Center (infant/toddler) 314-726-0440
The Clayton Family Center 314-854-6900
First Congregational Church 314-721-5060
Samuel Church Pre-K School 314-721-5437

**Creve Coeur/Ladue/Olivette**
JCC Early Childhood Center 314-442-3107
Deutsch Early Childhood Center (Temple Israel) 314-432-8076
Shirlee Green Preschool at Shaare Emeth (Jewish, Reform) 314-569-0048
The Goddard School 314-677-1414

**St. Louis**
B’nai Ammona Early Childhood Center (Jewish, Conservative) 314-576-3688 x127
Epstein Hebrew Academy (Jewish, Orthodox) 314-994-7856
Saul Spielberg Early Childhood Center (United Hebrew, Reform) 314-434-3404

**Webster Groves**
Berry Patch Professional Child Care Center 314-962-4499

**West County**
Centre at Conway 314-434-3300
Manchester United Methodist Church Circle of Friends Preschool 636-394-6867

**University City**
Shaare Zedek Early Childhood Center (Jewish, Conservative) 314-727-2565
University City Children’s Center 314-726-0148
University United Methodist Church 314-863-8055

**Nanny Services**
TLC for Kids – [www.tlcforkids.com](http://www.tlcforkids.com) 314-725-5660
Resources for Kids

Day Care for Sick Children
Washington University has partnered with Bright Horizons Family Solutions to offer employees sick child back-up coverage options for up to 20 days of care during the year. You must register your family with the service prior to using it. For more information, see the “Back-Up Care” link on the Wash U Human Resources website http://medschoolhr.wustl.edu or contact HR for more information (314-362-7916).

Other sources of childcare for sick children include:
Children's Home Society of St. Louis http://chsmo.org/ 314-968-2350
(ONLY for children with developmental disabilities)
Childcare Solutions, Inc. (part of TLC for Kids) 314-725-5660
www.tlcforkids.com

Parents Day Out Programs (PDO)
PDO’s are popular childcare options. Run through many of the Protestant churches in the area, they are often quite affordable and open to non-members. Check with churches in your area for more options. Some Early Childhood Educational Centers also offer PDOs.

Bonhomme Presbyterian Church (Chesterfield) 636-532-3486
Brentwood Congregational Church 314-962-9966
Brentwood Early Childhood Center 314-262-8521
Central Presbyterian Church (Clayton) 314-727-2777 x145
Circle of Friends Early Childhood Center 636-394-6867
Emmanuel Episcopal (Webster Groves) 314-961-2393
The Heights (Richmond Heights Community Center, 2hr max, parent must remain in facility at all times) 314-645-1476
Kirkwood United Methodist Church 314-966-8167
Kirkwood First Presbyterian 314-965-0326 x27
Ladue Chapel 314-993-4771
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church (Brentwood/Webster Groves) 314-968-2360
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Crestwood) 314-843-8448
St. Peter’s Playgroup (110 N. Warson Rd.) 314-993-6774
Webster Groves Presbyterian Church 314-962-9210 x3105
Webster Hills United Methodist Church 314-961-3164 x226
PRESCHOOLS

With the exception of Afton, all St. Louis County school districts offer full- and part-time tuition-based preschool to district residents. (See “Schools” for district websites.) Note: Children outside of Clayton may apply to the district; Ferguson-Florissant offers free full-time summer pre-K before kindergarten to those who have not previously attended pre-school.

There are a number of private preschools in the area. Because many have waiting lists, it is strongly suggested that you put your child’s name on the lists at schools that interest you. Pre-registration often starts in Nov/Dec for the next fall. Even if a list is full, there are often cancellations, so call in the summer to check enrollment status. The waiting list for Washington University’s Nursery School can be over one year long; those affiliated with Wash U have priority. Note: Many preschools also offer daycare for younger children; call and ask!

**Brentwood**
Brentwood Congregational Church, 2400 South Brentwood Blvd. 314-962-9966
Direct line 314-962-0537

**Crestwood/Sunset Hills/Sappington**
St. Lucas Nursery School, 11735 Denny Rd. 314-884-6126
Lindbergh Early Childhood Education, 4814 S. Lindbergh Blvd 314-729-2484

**Chesterfield**
Bonhomme Presbyterian Church, 14820 Conway Rd. 636-532-3486
Claymont Preschool at St. Mark, 601 Claymont Drive, Ballwin 636-386-KIDS
Chesterfield Montessori Children’s House, 14000 Ladue Rd. 314-469-7150
Parkway Early Childhood Center, 14605 Clayton Rd., Ballwin 314-415-6970

**Clayton/Ladue**
Centre at Conway, 13725 Conway Rd. (West County) 314-434-3300
PEEPS Preschool (3-4 years) at Central Christian School, 700 S. Hanley 314-727-4535
Clayton Family Center, 301 Gay Ave. 314-854-6900
Clayton Early Childhood Center, 1 Oak Knoll Park 314-725-2325
Ethical Society Nursery School, 9001 Clayton Rd. 314-991-1353
First Congregational Church Preschool, 6501 Wydown Blvd. 314-721-7404
Ladue Chapel Nursery School, 9450 Clayton Rd. 314-993-3993
Ladue Early Childhood Center Preschool, 10601 Clayton Rd. 314-993-5724
Salem Methodist Preschool, 1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd. 314-991-8601
Samuel Church Pre-Kindergarten School, 320 N. Forsyth Blvd. 314-721-5437
St. Michael’s Episcopal Nursery School, 6345 Wydown Blvd. 314-721-1502
Forsyth School, 6235 Wydown Blvd. 314-726-4542
Resources for Kids

**Creve Coeur**

Countryside Montessori School, 12226 Ladue Rd. 314-434-2821
Hope Montessori Academy, 900 N. Mason Rd. 314-878-1770
Jewish Community Centers Association Preschool 314-432-5700

**Kirkwood**

Christ Community Lutheran School, 110W Woodbine Ave. 314-822-7774
The Lab School, 514 E. Argonne Dr. 314-822-8282
Eliot Unitarian Chapel Preschool, 216 E. Argonne Dr. 314-821-0982
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood Preschool, 100 E. Adams 314-965-0326 x27
Kirkwood Early Childhood Center, 100 N. Sappington Rd. 314-213-6136
Kirkwood United Methodist Preschool, 201 W. Adams Ave. 314-966-5223
Villa Di Maria Montessori, 1280 Simmons Ave. 314-822-2601

**South County**

Casa Dia Montessori, 610 Kinswood Ln. 314-892-4446
Notre Dame Preschool, 320 E. Ripa Ave. 314-633-7029

**South City**

HopeMark, 6273 Eichelberger St. 314-832-8115
Union Pre-School, 3543 Watson Rd. 314-647-0898

**University City**

Washington University Nursery School, 6926 Forest Park Pkwy. 314-935-6689
University United Methodist (UUM), 6901 Washington Ave. 314-863-7904

**Webster Groves**

Ambrose Family Center, 222 W. Ceder Ave. 314-963-6440
Emmanuel Episcopal Church Nursery School, 9 S. Bompart Ave. 314-961-2393
The College School, 7825 Big Bend Blvd. 314-962-9355
Faith Academy of Montessori, 44 N Gore Ave. 314-961-1411
Webster Groves Presbyterian Church Early Childhood Center, 45 W Lockwood Ave. 314-962-9210 x3105
SCHOOLS
In St. Louis, certain public school systems and/or proximity to highly desired private schools greatly affect home values. (Similar homes in various districts can vary by as much as $300,000.) A high percentage (around 40%) of students in St. Louis City and County school districts attend private schools or pay tuition to attend a school in a district other than where they live. Take this into consideration when looking at neighborhoods. A lot of children may be on the block, but they may attend 2-3 different schools. Even students in “prestigious” public school districts often attend private schools. High quality educations can be found in both public and private schools.

Search Criteria Awareness – When looking at schools, a number of criteria can be used to determine how the schools rate in comparison to others. While some school districts “brag” about low student-to-teacher ratios or high spending per student, this often does not translate to better or inferior districts. Schools with a high number of students with social, physical, and/or learning difficulties may have more teachers per student and spend more money per student.

Testing – The State of Missouri tests all students using the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) system. Generally, schools with higher MAP scores are better schools. Schools within the same district may vary greatly in test scores, with some exceeding averages and others deemed “at risk.” Most high schools concentrate on the ACT (as most state colleges in Missouri prefer ACT scores). Generally, districts with higher ACT scores are better. There are, however, schools that have slightly lower averages because many students take the exam (including those not going on to college) or schools with very high averages because a small number of students take the exam.

School Vacation Calendars – Most schools start their school year in mid-August and finish at the end of May. A few have extended school years with only one summer month off. Many schools have early release or early start days once a month. You may need to take this into consideration if you work and need childcare for elementary students.

Healthcare – If your child has special needs, there are schools that are more aptly suited to teach your child. In fact, some districts have joined together to design a special school district for students with special needs. Few schools have full-time nurses, so if you have a child that may need consistent nursing care or regular medication, you may want to take that into consideration. With parental communication, however, most schools without nurses are great at adapting to and providing care for students with medical needs.

Safety – Like most major cities, there are several St. Louis area schools (public and private) that may not necessarily be as “safe” as others. Crime statistics can be obtained from the district’s police department. In addition, because certified teachers are in abundance in this state, a high number of non-certified teachers at a school may raise red flags. If you’re worried about a child waiting for a bus or walking to school in a neighborhood, you can check out Missouri’s Sex Offender website to see home locations of registered offenders.

www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/PatrolDivisions/CRID/SOR/SORPage.html
Resources for Kids

Special Programs – Schools vary greatly in programs offered. If you have a particular area of interest for your child(ren), you may want to examine the schools’ special programming. For instance, at least two public school districts in the county are nationally recognized for their early childhood programs. There is a nationally known private school for students with learning disabilities, with the aim at helping students overcome their disabilities and enter a mainstream classroom. About one-third of public districts emphasize performing arts, often having early start music instruction in elementary school and nationally recognized bands, orchestras, and theater productions. Most schools have traditional athletic sports, and many also offer competitive sports such as water polo, lacrosse, fencing, alpine skiing, and tennis.

Public School District Information

Whether you have school-aged children, infants, or no children at all, you can learn a lot about the area in which you live by the caliber of the public schools. Although WUMCHA does not make any specific recommendations about school districts, do not hesitate to talk to members about their reasons for district preferences. (For the most part, you will probably find someone preferring each district.) A good resource for comparing districts is the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website: http://dese.mo.gov/. In the “School Statistics” section, you can find information on every district in the state.

Do not necessarily think a district you desire is “out of reach” due to high-priced homes or “far away” locations. There are affordable homes for a resident’s salary in every district. (You may have to look hard with some, but they are there.) Also, some districts have strange borders. You may find that 85% of the district is over 30 minutes away from the hospital, but a small sliver is near a highway, only a 15-20 minute drive from work. Do not rely solely on zip code searches when looking for a home – almost all districts cover several zip codes.

Parents As Teachers – The State of Missouri started the national Parents as Teachers (PAT) program for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and children with special needs. It is very active in St. Louis. PAT is affiliated with public school districts, so services/programming varies district-to-district. (You do not have to have a child attending public school to participate in PAT programs.) PAT offers free home visits, services, and screenings (hearing, development, speech) for young children. Many districts offer early childhood programs, activities, parenting seminars and other events (often free of charge). Some districts have indoor discovery centers, which may be open to their non-residents for a small fee. Because of the benefits and little or no cost, a high percentage of WUMCHA families with young children participate in PAT programs. www.parentsasteachers.org/

Transportation – Because of the busier nature of St. Louis streets, most public districts offer free bus service. (Few students in St. Louis county districts walk or ride public transportation to schools.) To increase racial diversity, many of the St. Louis county school districts will provide transportation for minority students to attend their schools and St. Louis City magnet schools will often arrange transportation for non-minority students to attend their schools.
Resources for Kids

St. Louis Public School District - www.slps.org/
The St. Louis Public School District includes 45 elementary schools (including 1 Montessori), 14 middle schools, 2 small high schools, 4 comprehensive high schools and 7 non-traditional high schools (i.e., Magnets, Choice Schools and 1 Career and Job Training high school for special needs adolescents), and 5 alternative schools. Several of the schools in this district have lost accreditation. The District also offers 23 magnet schools with special concentrations, including, visual & performing arts, language, and technology. To increase diversity, attendance is open to non-African-Americans residing in St. Louis County for all grades from kindergarten onwards. Preschool enrollment in the magnet schools is restricted to St. Louis City residents.

St. Louis County School Districts:
http://www.stlouisco.com/yourgovernment/othergovernmentagencies/countyschooldistricts

The Special School District of St. Louis County is a collaboration among 23 school districts in St. Louis County to serve the needs of students with disabilities. It runs two technical schools (one in south county and one in north county) aimed at providing graduates a specific trade (e.g., electrician, computer repair, nurses' aide). These technical schools also offer partial enrollment with area high schools, where students take classes at both their home district school and learn technical training. www.ssdmo.org/
## Resources for Kids

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<td>Wellston</td>
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Resources for Kids

Private School District Information
St. Louis has the highest number of Catholic schools in the nation. There are also a number of other religious-oriented private schools including, Jewish, Lutheran and inter-denominational Christian schools.

Private schools that are not affiliated with any religious entity are also in abundance. Most of these are affiliated as the “Independent Schools of St. Louis”. St. Louis also has quite a few boarding schools. The highest concentration of private schools is in western St. Louis County.

Many private schools have additional fees/fundraising/expected donations in addition to regular tuition. Most have uniform requirements as well. Since private schools are a popular option, you will often find uniform basics (navy and khaki shorts, pants, and skirts) at discount and department stores.

Private Schools
The following two websites cover most (but not all) private schools in the St. Louis area:

Independent Schools – www.isacs.org
Archdiocese of St. Louis Catholic Education – www.archstl.org/education/

Homeschooling Information
There are several resources available for families who homeschool their children:

Homeschooling in Missouri – www.homeschoolcentral.com/support/missouri_homeschool.htm
The greatest percentage of homeschooling families reside in West County – www.wcche.org
An annual St. Louis homeschooling conference – www.stlhomeschoolexpo.com/
Sports Programs for Homeschoolers – www.orgsites.com/mo/stlchristianhomesports/

Missouri K-12 Virtual Instruction Program (MoVIP) - This program is open to all students, private, public, and homeschooled. MoVIP students are guided through their courses over the Internet by Missouri certified teachers. To assure student success with virtual learning, a variety of web-based, technology resources (streaming audio and video, computer animations, email, newsgroups, chat rooms, bulletin boards, digital portfolios) are provided. Teachers communicate with students and parents on a regular basis via phone, email, online chats, instant messaging, and discussion forums. There is no cost to the student or district if there are state-funded seats available and the student is not full-time with a Missouri public school. A tuition paid program is available for students to take MoVIP courses that are not state-funded. http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/movip/
SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES
Missouri’s Early Intervention Program, for children aged birth to 3, is called First Steps. At the time you decide to participate, a service coordinator is assigned to work with you and evaluate your child. Service Coordination is provided by someone from the Bureau of Special Health Care Needs or St. Louis Regional Center. Regional Center is recommended, if you are given the option. Your service coordinator will help you find providers in your community and assist in obtaining the services your child will need. Families should contact their county First Steps office for more information at 866-583-2392 or visit https://www.mofirststeps.com/.

Children three years and older receive services through your home school district. The quality of education and the services offered is different depending on the school district, so investigate your school districts carefully.

The Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County collaborates with school districts to provide services for students with disabilities. A complete list of early childhood special education (ECSE) sites and contact information is available on the internet: 314-989-8411 or https://www.ssdmo.org/ssd_services/early_childhood.html

There are many family support groups in the St. Louis area specific to your child's diagnosis. Please feel free to call a former WUMCHA member and mother of a child with special needs Lynn Schmidt at 636-536-5283 for help with negotiating the system or recommendations on First Steps providers.
Below are some helpful hints for international residents living in the U.S. for the first time.

**INTERNATIONAL FAMILIES**
The St. Louis Center for International Relations (121 S. Meramec Ave. Suite 1111, Clayton, MO 314-615-8141) has a guide designed to assist international visitors staying in the area for an extended period. Other information may also be obtained by e-mailing info@worldtradecenter-stl.com

**WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL WOMENS CLUB**
The purpose of this informal group of women is to meet new people, make new friends, visit American homes, practice English, enjoy time in the U.S. and have fun. The group sponsors numerous talks and events throughout the year. http://womansclub.wustl.edu/

**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS (SSN)**
It is essential to get an SSN as soon as possible, whether or not you intend to work (or are allowed to work) while in the U.S. All children will also need SSNs by the time you file your first U.S. tax return (due annually in April). To get an SSN, visit the local Social Security Administration Office with your documentation (i.e. passport, visa details, employment details). The office will usually send out SSNs within a couple of weeks. Social Security Administration Offices are listed under "Government Offices United States" in the central section of the White Pages Telephone Directory. www.ssa.gov/ssnumber

**DRIVER’S LICENSE (DL)**
Although it is legal to drive with most foreign driving licenses or with an International Driver's License, it is advantageous to get a Missouri license. Car insurance may be very expensive without a Missouri (or other U.S.) license. The license may also be used as a check guarantee in many stores. The Missouri driving test has three parts: a multiple-choice test, a vision exam, and field driving test. Before taking the test, get a copy of Missouri Regulations from the Department of Revenue (see the “Getting Around” section: page 13). It is very important to read the information book thoroughly, as you may be tested on minute details. Usually you can take the test without making an appointment. If you pass the test, your photograph will be taken, and you will be given a document that you can use as a temporary driver's license until the permanent one is mailed to you (usually within a couple of months).

**BUYING A CAR** (also see Vehicle Registration and Driver’s License: page 14)
If you buy a new or used car, sales tax (approx. 7%) is payable to the Department of Revenue when you register the car. You will receive the license plates for the car at this time.

When first registering the car, get a Personal Property Tax Waiver (see Driver's License/Car Registration). When renewing the registration in subsequent years, you need a Personal Property Tax receipt. (Personal Property Tax is assessed each calendar year on the value of assets you own on January 1st, such as cars.)
CAR INSURANCE
Most insurance companies will not insure cars for people who do not have a current U.S. driving license. Many have very high premiums for people with no U.S. driving history and will not take a "no claims" record from other countries into account. It is worth shopping around. Some insurance companies will lower the premium after the first year. Premiums can often be paid monthly or quarterly by arrangement.

Some insurance companies who have been helpful to drivers without U.S. driving history include Farmer's Insurance Company and American Family Insurance Company.

AAA (Automobile Association of America) (www.aaa.com)
For a moderate annual fee, members can get the following services:
1. Roadside assistance if car breaks down, tire bursts or if you run out of gas
2. Free maps and tour guides of all states in United States and Canada
3. Free route planning maps for trips
4. Mechanical inspection on used cars prior to purchase for nominal fee
5. Travel agency service
6. Traveler’s checks with no administration fee

STATE IDENTIFICATION CARDS
If you do not drive, you may obtain a photo non-driver license for identification purposes only. Non-driver licenses expire on your date of birth six years after you apply (as long as you are over 20 years old). To obtain a non-driver license, go to the Department of Revenue Office with two forms of acceptable identification, and pay an $11.00 fee.

St. Louis City
AAA St. Louis License Office – 3917 Lindell Blvd., 63018; 314-256-3951
South Kingshighway – 4628 S. Kingshighway, 63109; 314-752-3177
St. Louis City Hall – 1200 Market St., Room 106, 63103; 314-622-4000

St. Louis County
Affton – 9503 Gravois Rd., 63123; 314-631-1311
Chesterfield – 1711 Clarkson Rd, 63017; 636-530-9500
Clayton – 7638 Forsyth Blvd, 63105; 314-863-5331
Creve Coeur – 12943 Olive Street Rd., 63141; 314-878-2110
Olivette – 9652 Olive Blvd., 63132; 314-692-8222
South County – 27 Ronnie’s Plaza, 63126; 314-843-5223

Additional offices/phone numbers: www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/drivers/license.htm
BANKS
There are a variety of regional and national banks in St. Louis. Some stores will only accept checks with numbers above fifty. Other stores, especially grocery stores, issue their own check cashing cards, otherwise, a driver's license or state identification card is required as proof of identity when writing any check.

The two largest banks in St. Louis are:
Bank of America – www.bankofamerica.com
US Bank – www.usbank.com

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION / TELEPHONE
With a wi-fi connection on a smartphone, tablet or computer, you can make free or very low-cost calls overseas. Just make sure your smartphone is connected to wi-fi and not your mobile data network, otherwise you will be charged high data roaming rates. Here are some suggestions for your device:

Download a Voice-Over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) app such as:
  - Skype: free calls to other Skype users; cheap to call a land line or mobile phone
  - Google Talk
  - Fring: video chat in groups
  - Whistle: free calls to other Whistle users; free calls to any US phone for 20 minutes
  - Tango
Download a text message app such as:
  - WhatsApp Messenger: text other WhatsApp users
  - Viber

The major company providing long distance/international telephone service is AT&T. There are also a number of smaller companies. All these companies have different international packages, which give substantial discounts over regular rates and have specific hours when you can phone at the cheaper rates. Some companies include their charges with the monthly phone bill, others are paid separately. Here are a few telephone numbers and websites:

AT&T: 1-800-ATT-2020 www.att.com
Sprint: 1-800-877-4646 www.sprint.com

To call from the US to a phone abroad, you must dial the US exit code: 011

TAXES
Income tax is assessed for the calendar year. Income tax returns must be filed by April 15 of the following year. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has many explanatory booklets to help you in filing your tax return. You can also employ a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to complete your return in your behalf. Forms can be obtained for free at many public libraries, banks and post offices, or downloaded from the IRS website at www.irs.gov