



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Wednesday • 03.18.2026

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

stltoday.com • \$4

ST. LOUIS NONPROFIT | BWORKS

FINDING A NEW HOME



LIZ RYMAREV, POST-DISPATCH

BWorks lead teacher Mark Smith, left, shows Omar Shumbusho, 16, how to use a combination bike lock as David Zandate, 16, right, looks on during a bike lesson at the International Institute, on Thursday, March 12, 2026 in south St. Louis. Through the Earn-A-Bike program, Smith teaches students bike riding and safety lessons. “I joined to meet some people and make many friends, and to go to prayer and parks,” Shumbusho said.

Organization buys church building to provide more space for mission

BY COLLEEN SCHRAPPEN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — In the church sanctuary, the executive director of BWorks could picture a bike shop.

It would take some work. Pews would have to be ripped out. Tool boards and repair stands would need to be hauled in.

But after years of looking for a new home for BWorks, Patrick Van Der Tuin knew he had found it in the former Compton Heights Christian Church on Grand Boulevard. The inside was spacious, with plenty of classrooms and storage potential. Outside, there was room to ride: dedicated bike lanes, a park to the north and another to

the south.

BWorks, a nonprofit with the primary focus of getting bicycles into the hands of more kids, closed on the building in late January.

The move itself — from its current space in Soulard — will likely take the better part of this year to complete. The retail and repair shop is just one facet of BWorks. The 38-year-old organization is its own circular economy: Donated bicycles are collected; those in poor shape are cannibalized for parts. Refurbished adult bikes are sold, with the profits going back into programming.

Kids’ bikes are used in free Earn-A-Bike and Learn-To-Ride

sessions, where pupils are taught maintenance, safety and the rules of the road. At the end, they keep their new-to-them set of wheels. A separate program lets children earn computers after six weeks of tech training.

The church purchase expands Bworks’ footprint from 12,000 square feet in the one-time carriage house it rents on Menard Street to 20,000 square feet in the soon-to-be Shaw neighborhood home.

“The hope is to bring all of our operations under one roof,” said Van Der Tuin.

Please see **BWORKS**, Page A5

Foristell approves annexing 216 acres

Residents push back on land being used for possible data center

BY ETHAN COLBERT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

FORISTELL — City leaders here agreed to annex more than 200 acres on the city’s northwest edge, where a data center developer hopes to transform acres of farmland into a sprawling data center campus.

The decision Monday night comes despite strong pushback from residents, who have flocked to meetings for months to oppose the annexation. Some residents said they are concerned that annexing the site — and potentially later approving a data center to build here — could spell the end of their rural lifestyle and disrupt the small-town feel of Foristell. They worry that if a data center is allowed to build here, other heavy industrial developments could follow.

But Foristell’s Acting Mayor Connie Palmer said the decision gives the city some control over how Minnesota-based developer Oppidan Investment Co. and its subsidiary Connect move forward with the project.

“The city is not selling out to developers,” Palmer told the crowd of 50-plus people in the sanctuary of River Oaks Church, where Monday night’s meeting was held. Some Foristell residents had raised concerns about conflicts of interest involving former Mayor Bradley Miller’s employer, the Gates Corporation, a global manufacturer that supplies parts for data centers and other industries. Miller resigned in January.

Foristell’s four-person governing board voted unanimously on each of the three parcels where Oppidan is expected to announce plans to build a data center. The company, which also builds apartment complexes, senior living facilities, grocery stores and large shopping centers throughout the country, is also finishing construction of a data center in Berkeley.

The company has not submitted any plans to the city for the project, but Foristell officials said after the meeting that they expect the company to file a rezoning request for the site in the near

Please see **FORISTELL**, Page A5

‘That’s the place I want to work’

Mercy Hospital’s new president talks about plans moving forward

BY JACK SUNTRUP
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

CREVE COEUR — Mercy Hospital St. Louis is bursting at the seams and it plans to increase capacity through a multiphase renovation project, the hospital’s new leader said in a recent interview.

Tricia McGusty, 49, last week was named the new president of Mercy St. Louis Communities, a role that includes overseeing the Creve Coeur hospital on South New Ballas Road and other St. Louis-area clinics, not including Mercy Hospital South.

McGusty most recently worked as interim CEO for HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest, a 423-bed hospital that is part of a network of 13 hospitals in the

Houston area.

McGusty isn’t a physician. She received her bachelor’s of science from Houston Christian University, and a master’s of business administration from the University of Houston-Downtown.

She will now lead the extensive renovation project for Mercy Hospital St. Louis. The project is in the planning phase and a timeline and costs are still being worked out.

With 715 staffed beds, Mercy Hospital St. Louis is a major regional health care provider, with over 101,000 emergency room visits last fiscal year. The hospital employs 1,362 physicians and advanced practice providers, such as nurse practitioners.

McGusty sat down with the Post-Dispatch for an interview about her background and plans for Mercy moving forward. The interview was edited for length and clarity.

Please see **MERCY**, Page A5



LAURIE SKRIVAN, POST-DISPATCH

Tricia McGusty, newly named president of Mercy St. Louis Communities, poses by a 1973 photo of Sister of Mercy Mary Isidore Lennon and a child on Thursday, March 12, on the Mercy campus in Creve Coeur.

Inside

MARKETS	A6
NATION & WORLD	A7
OPINION	A8
OBITUARIES	A12
SPORTS	B1
LET’S EAT	B12

Activate your digital subscription

Scan to set up your digital login. STLtoday access is included in your subscription. STLtoday.com/activate



Weather

Plan your week: For a 5-day weather forecast for our region as well as the national outlook, please see **PAGE B14**

Recycling center



Vol. 148, No. 77 ©2026

1 M

POST-DISPATCH WEATHERBIRD ®