



Dear Neighbor,

I was very pleased with the positive reception I received February 17 from the House Transportation Committee when I presented House Bill 100 I introduced that establishes a special Negro Leagues Baseball Museum license plate to raise awareness of the Museum and funds for its operations.

When enacted into law the bill will allow persons who make a \$10 contribution to the Museum to purchase a set of the special plates for a \$15 fee that will be added to their regular registration fees. The plates will include the name of the Museum in capital letters and its logo.

I truly appreciate Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe appearing before the Committee to testify in favor of this legislation, something he seldom does, which signified the bipartisan support for the bill.

I also appreciate my six colleagues from both political parties and different parts of the state who are co-sponsors of the bill – Rasheen Aldridge, LaDonna Appelbaum, Jerome Barnes, Michael Johnson, Ed Lewis and Louis Riggs.

I am hopeful the bill will be recommended for passage by the Committee this coming week.

Senator Barbara Anne Washington of Kansas City has introduced identical legislation, and that bill is awaiting consideration by the full Senate after recently being recommended for passage as a consent bill by the Senate Progress & Development Committee.

I was very sad this week to hear of the passing of a community icon and trailblazer known for never being afraid to speak truth to power, former KCMO City Councilwoman Carol Coe, who was kind enough to give me words of wisdom from time to time. Among her many awards was the Charles Hazley Fearless Leader Award presented to her by the Urban Summit and the recent naming of a bridge near 19th & Vine the Carol Coe Bridge of Opportunity.

On another very sad note, another homicide was discovered in my legislative district on February 17 when officers responding to a shooting call just after midnight in the area of 114th & Sycamore Terrace found 30-year-old Johnny Sanders suffering from apparent gunshot wounds in a vehicle who was declared deceased by emergency medical personnel.

The two other young men who also were homicide victims this year were 29-year-old Myronta Jackson found shot to death in the 11400 block of Grandview Rd. on January 9 and 35-year-old Frank Peters found shot in the 11400 block of Oak on January 6.

Persons with information about any of these homicides are asked to call the Police Department Homicide Unit at 816-234-5043. Missouri now does have a witness protection program created by a bill I co-sponsored that became law last year.

Those wishing to remain anonymous should call the Crimestoppers TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477). A reward of up to \$25,000 is available for information leading to an arrest or filing charges. Persons do not have to testify in court to receive the reward.

As of February 18, there have been 19 homicides reported so far this year in KCMO compared to 21 at the same time last year when the city set a new annual record of 176 homicides far surpassing the prior

record of 151 set in both 2017 and 2019. Four of this year's homicides have been within South Patrol.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my legislative aide, [Kaylee Bauer](#) is ready to help you.

Please scroll down to read about other state government matters and important upcoming local events.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends and family who might want to know the latest news about what is happening in state government and about important local events. Be safe and God bless!

Yours in Service,
Mark A. Sharp



Representative Sharp presents House Bill 100 he sponsored to establish a special Negro Leagues Baseball Museum license plate to raise awareness of the Museum and funds for its operations on February 17 to the House Transportation Committee. The Committee is expected to vote on the bill next week.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, February 19, 2021

MALPRACTICE AWARD CAP FACES SCRUTINY

The Missouri Supreme Court could soon decide the constitutionality of the state's cap on non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases after a lower appellate court determined only the state's highest court has jurisdiction to settle the issue.

The case was brought in 2017 by a woman who alleged negligent actions by her doctors during the delivery of her child and subsequent care caused her to suffer several serious and permanent injuries.

Two years later, a Jackson County jury awarded her \$30,000 in economic damages plus \$1 million in punitive damages. Applying the statutory cap on such damages, the trial judge reduced the latter amount to \$748,828.

Both sides appealed, with the woman claiming the damage cap interferes with her constitutional right to trial by jury by arbitrarily limiting the award jurors deemed appropriate after hearing the evidence, while her doctors argue the punitive damage award should be reduced even further under the state's cap.

The state Supreme Court in 2012 ruled a previous version of the medical malpractice damage cap statute violated a state constitutional provision guaranteeing the right to trial by jury in all causes of action that existed under the English common law prior to the adoption of the state's first constitution in 1820.

However, that same year the high court upheld caps on non-economic damages arising from statutory causes of action created by the legislature after 1820.

In 2015, the legislature enacted a law purporting to repeal the common law cause of action of medical malpractice and replace it with a statutory cause of action. The validity of that law is questionable, however, since it cannot alter the historical fact that medical malpractice was a common law cause of action prior to 1820 and thus constitutionally protected from legislative interference.

In the current case, *Velazquez v. Reeves*, a three-judge panel of the

Missouri Court of Appeals Western District ruled that because it challenges the constitutionality of a statute, the Missouri Supreme Court has exclusive appellate jurisdiction to decide the issue and ordered the case transferred to it.

If the Supreme Court accepts the case, a final decision could come by the end of the year.

LEGISLATION ON OVERPAYMENTS ADVANCES

The House Special Committee on Government Oversight voted 7-1 Feb. 17 to advance bipartisan legislation to block the Missouri Department of Labor & Industrial Relations from forcing tens of thousands of unemployed Missourians to collectively repay as much as \$150 million in excess benefits the Department mistakenly paid out last year as unemployment skyrocketed due to the pandemic.

The Department has admitted that 97.7 percent of the overpayments did not involve fraud and instead resulted from mistakes by the Department. The overpayments largely involved federal pandemic recovery funds. The Federal Department of Labor has authorized states to waive repayment from people who, through no fault of their own, received excess benefits.

This legislation, House Committee Substitute for House Bills 1083, 1085, 1050, 1035, 1036, 873 and 1097 filed by four Democrats and three Republicans, would require the Department to forgo the recovery of incorrect but non-fraudulent overpayments of federal unemployment funds made through no fault of the claimants.

The Committee also voted 7-1 to pass House Concurrent Resolution 30 calling upon Gov. Mike Parson on his own authority to forgive to the fullest extent allowable any incorrect but non-fraudulent overpayments of federal unemployment benefits received during the state of emergency caused by the pandemic without requiring a change in state law.

Both measures now must be recommended for passage by the House Committee on Rules – Administrative Oversight before being considered for passage by the full House.

WEATHER IMPACTS LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS

The winter storms that recently shut down most of Missouri also impacted legislative proceedings, causing the House of Representatives to cancel two days of session Feb. 15-16 while the Senate took off the entire week.

The General Assembly typically operates on a Monday through Thursday workweek during the legislative session, which runs from early January until mid-May. Because of persistent snowfall and sub-zero temperatures, the House only held procedural sessions at which no business was conducted for the first two days of the week before returning for numerous committee hearings and passage of bills by the full House to finish out the week. The Senate didn't convene at all but is scheduled to return to work on Monday, Feb. 22.

The House previously missed a full week of session in January when leaders called off session due to security concerns following the assault on the nation's Capitol and a COVID-19 outbreak among legislators. Lawmakers are a little over a third of the way through the 2021 legislative session, which ends May 14.

Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson

Office of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2021

Governor Parson Announces Improved Home Heating Bill Assistance Through LIHEAP Energy Crisis Intervention Program

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO) – Today, Governor Parson announced that the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Energy Crisis Intervention Program will improve assistance offered to eligible low-income Missourians.

“We are very pleased to announce this improvement to the Energy Crisis Intervention Program, especially given the extreme winter weather our state is currently facing,” **Governor Parson** said. “Since many Missourians remain in crisis for subsequent months, paying only the minimum to keep a low-income household out of crisis tends to prolong the situation. Now, we can make it faster and easier to resolve a household’s crisis situation.”

When a household’s energy source has been shut off or is at risk of disconnection, the winter Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP), which runs November through May, pays the minimum amount needed on the fuel bill to get the household out of crisis. Starting this winter, ECIP will pledge the maximum disconnect amount (up to \$800) toward an eligible participant’s owed balance.

“Winter can be especially harsh for low-income Missourians, and we must do all that we can to assure they can heat their homes to remain safe and healthy,” said **Missouri Department of Social Services Acting Director Jennifer Tidball**.

In FY2020, Missouri provided \$78.6 million in LIHEAP assistance to over 108,000 households. In addition to meeting the income criteria, low-income Missourians must also meet the following criteria to be eligible for winter heating assistance through LIHEAP:

- Be responsible for paying home heating costs,
- Have \$3,000 or less in bank accounts, retirement accounts, or investments, and
- Be a U.S. citizen or legally admitted for permanent residence.

It is very important for low-income Missourians who have received a disconnect notice or know a disconnect notice is coming to get help now to prevent service disconnection at a later date. To learn more about the LIHEAP program, view this [short video](#). Missourians can submit the [LIHEAP application form](#) online.

Missourians in need of information on LIHEAP, Food Stamp, Medicaid, Child Care Subsidy, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefit programs can visit [dss.mo.gov](#). Individuals can also apply for these services 24/7 online by visiting [MyDSS.mo.gov](#). Missourians with questions not specific to an individual's case can use the [DSS Virtual Assistant](#) for immediate answers to basic questions 24 hours a day. Phone assistance is also available, call 855-FSD-INFO or 855-373-4636 Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The [Missouri Services Navigator](#) also has information on over 2,800 programs and services available in the state.

MAYOR

Quinton Lucas

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Mayor Lucas Announces Updated COVID-19 Guidelines for Kansas City
Lucas: As we work to get more Kansas Citizens vaccinated each day and continue to enforce common-sense COVID-19 precautions, Kansas City government is also focused on economic recovery.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas—in consultation with Kansas City Health Department Director Rex Archer, M.D. and Emergency Medical Services Medical Director Erica Carney, M.D.—today announced updated COVID-19 guidelines for Kansas City, effective February 19 at 10 p.m., as our community continues its work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and vaccinate our population.

“I thank Kansas Citians and local businesses for their cooperation and for doing their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 over the past several months during a period where our region, much like the country, experienced a significant uptick in COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths,” **said Mayor Lucas.** “Back then, we said that these restrictions were meant to get us through a very tough moment—and they did. I am proud that due to these efforts, we have been slowly but surely curbing the infection rate in our community, with 10 weeks of decline in COVID-19 cases, taking us back down to early October levels. As we work to get more Kansas Citians vaccinated each day and continue to enforce common sense COVID-19 precautions, Kansas City government is also focused on economic recovery.”

“Based on case numbers and positive trends, the City will be rescinding the city-wide curfew for these establishments, consistent with early October rules to match early October case rates.” **continued Mayor Lucas.** “Instead, City enforcement agencies will focus on holding accountable establishments and events that encourage or allow reckless behavior that threaten the health and safety of attendees; and our Health Department remains focused on getting vaccines in arms as quickly and equitably as possible. Moving forward, we must all continue to take personal responsibility and remain vigilant about taking necessary precautions to drive the infection rate down until all Kansas Citians are safe from this virus.”

“In November, not only were we facing record increases in new cases and COVID deaths, our hospitals were also under tremendous pressure,” **said Dr. Archer.** “Currently, we’re seeing a hopeful reprieve in those areas, but with new, and more highly contagious variants emerging, we must remain vigilant. All Kansas Citians must continue to follow our protocols of wearing masks, maintaining at least six feet

social distancing and take the vaccine when it becomes available to you. Avoiding the next surge is dependent on this.”

Updated guidelines are as follows:

- Restaurants, bars, and taverns may resume operating according to their permitted hours, and no longer need to close to in-person service at midnight, though these establishments must follow Social Distancing Requirements between separate parties and tables, from back of chair to back of chair.
- All attendees and staff at events must follow masking and social distancing guidelines. While events are no longer required to submit a mitigation plan, the Kansas City Health Department will be available for consultation to ensure safety at these events.
- Provided all attendees follow masking and social distancing guidelines, there is no upper limit on gathering size.

Guidelines that remain unchanged:

- Masks must be worn in all indoor spaces with more than one person per room, and all outdoor spaces where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Restaurants, bars, taverns, and events must follow Social Distancing Requirements between separate parties and tables, from back of chair to back of chair.
- Indoor and outdoor patrons at facilities where food or drink is served for on-site consumption (including event spaces) must be seated and masked at all times, except when actively eating or drinking.
- Business and event operators must immediately report any known COVID-19 cases among staff or patrons to the Kansas City Health Department.

Any violations of this order can be sent to COVIDViolations@kcmo.org. Businesses found to be violating these regulations may be fined, suspended, or shuttered by Kansas City government.

Visit kcmo.gov/coronavirus for the Thirteenth Amended Order and a full list of FAQs.

Kansas Citizens interested in signing up for text updates from the City of Kansas City regarding COVID-19 should text COVIDKC to 888-777. They can sign up to indicate their interest in getting the COVID19 vaccine by filling out [this form](#) provided by the Kansas City Health Department, also available in [Spanish](#). For more information, visit the CDC's website at cdc.gov/coronavirus or kcmo.gov/coronavirus You may also call the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services hotline at 877-435-8411 for questions regarding COVID-19 in Missouri.



Strength, Dignity, Quality of Life
MISSOURI HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MISSOURI EMERGENCY RENTAL ARREARS PROGRAM

The state of Missouri's new rental assistance program using funding through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) was passed by Congress in December 2020. On February 11, 2021 Governor Parson signed HB 16 into law, which provides more than \$324 million in funding for rental and utility assistance for Missourians. Missouri Housing Development Commission will administer this funding under the State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR) program. Please click below for more information.

[Please Click Here For Program Information](#)

Please note that the Missouri Emergency Rental Arrears Program (ERAP) is a separate program from above, and is utilizing ESG-CV funding authorized through the CARES Act. This program is open to landlords seeking rental arrears for qualified tenants.

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC



(877) 435 - 8411

<https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/navigator/>

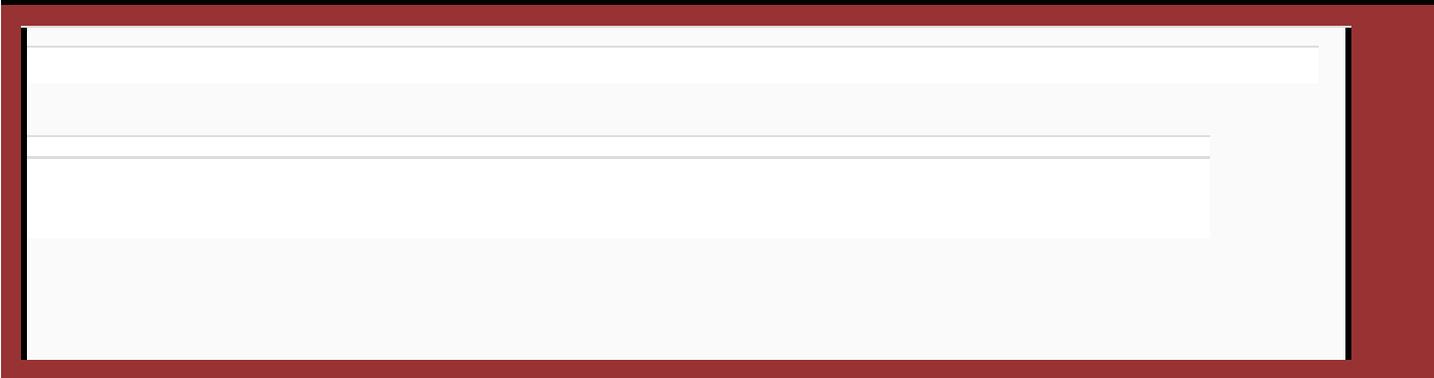
**VACCINATIONS FOR THOSE 65 AND OLDER
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**
4401 E. BLUE PARKWAY, KANSAS CITY, MO 64130



To Register for Vaccination
Use your smartphone
camera on this code.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE







VIRTUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, FEB. 20, 9 AM – NOON

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84171402158>

IN PERSON
SATURDAY, FEB. 27, 9 AM – NOON

Municipal Arena, 301 W. 13th Street

Kansas City, MO 64105

Doors Open at 8:30 a.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 10 AM – 1 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83589032386>

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARINGS

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD | SHARE YOUR PERSPECTIVE | ADDRESS CITY LEADERSHIP

Please join us to provide your feedback on next year's budget.
The proposed budget is posted at [KCMO.GOV/budget](https://kcmo.gov/budget).

LEND YOUR VOICE!

It's that time of year again. The FY 2021-22 Budget was submitted Feb. 11th and will be adopted March 25th.

Attendees will have the chance to hear from the Mayor and the City Council, and will also receive an overview of the submitted document from the Budget Office. All attendees will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Council and general public, too.

If you can't attend the hearings, you can also email your feedback to us at publictestimony@kcmo.org. Please put "proposed budget" in the subject line.

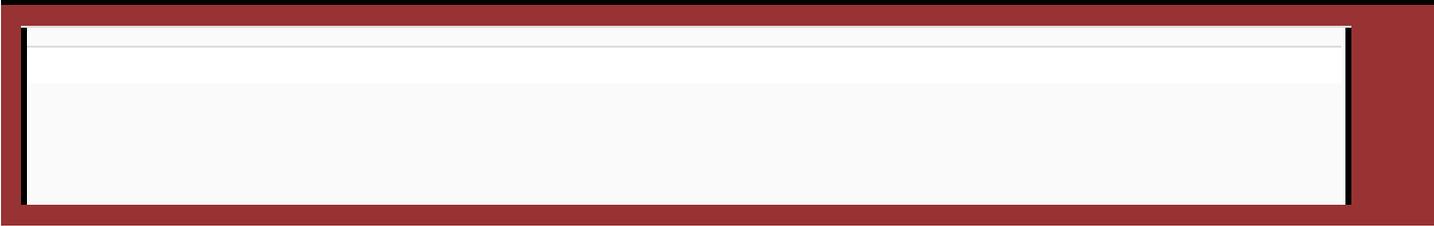


[KCMO.GOV/BUDGET](https://kcmo.gov/budget)



CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

Speak Easy Sessions are opportunities for residents to speak directly to City officials and staff. Expect an interactive session and lots of discussion. We want your ideas to help us run the city better. For more information and other sessions, visit kcmo.gov/speakeasy.



BARRIER BREAKERS

FROM JACKIE TO PUMPSIE: 1947-1959



PRESENTED BY
THE KAUFFMAN
FOUNDATION



First
March 1st
DANCE FR
at the
Piano Hall
TUESDAY, 10:30
Friday 12 noon
Blind

Representative Sharp wearing his KC Monarchs jersey recently visited the new Barrier Breakers exhibit at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum honoring the African-American players who were the first to integrate their respective Major League Baseball teams from 1947 through 1959. The exhibit also honors the first African-American athletes to play in previously segregated professional basketball, football and hockey leagues.



SOUTH KANSAS CITY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Connecting, Educating, Growing Together



Please Join Us Online
for



Music Bingo

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Co-Hosted by:

5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.



Grab a beverage and some snacks and join us online for Music Bingo!

What is Music Bingo?

Music Bingo is just like regular bingo but with song titles in each square. In advance each player will be emailed a Music Bingo Card. When it is time to play, players will tune-in to a live broadcast website featuring Faulkner's Ranch's very own Ranch-J Entertainer who will start the game.

The game is played by listening to a short clip of a song and marking the square if you have it on your card. You are welcome to sing along if you know the song. When a player thinks they have BINGO they simply text a picture of the card to the Faulkner's Ranch -J/Entertainer for verification.

Individual Player - \$20

- 1 Bingo card

Additional Bingo Cards - \$5/each

(Maximum of 3 additional cards per person)

Gold Sponsor - \$250

(Limit 1)

- 4 Bingo Cards
- Company logo on Bingo cards
- Company logo on Zoom screen
- Opportunity to do a two-minute "Commercial" about your business
- Recognition in the March issue of the Chamber's electronic newsletter
- Recognition on the Chamber website
- Recognition on Chamber's Social Media

Silver Sponsor - \$150

(No Limit)

- 2 Bingo Cards
- Company logo on Zoom screen
- Recognition in the March issue of the Chamber's electronic newsletter
- Recognition on the Chamber website
- Recognition on Chamber's Social Media

Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM CST

[Register Now](#)

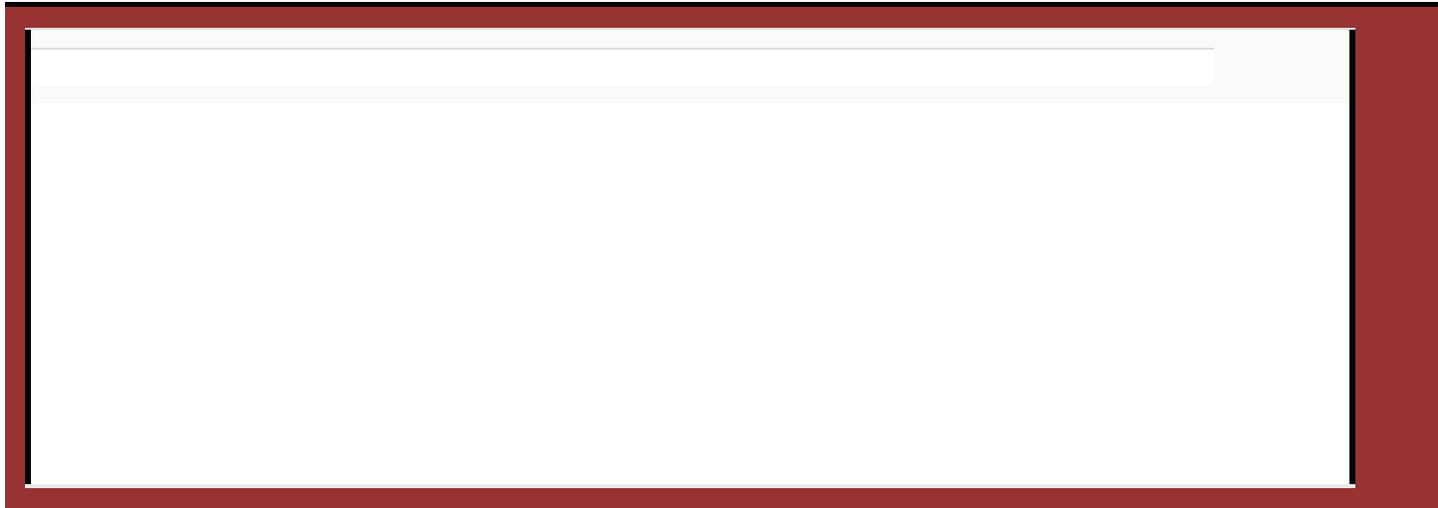
Reservations requested by 2/22/2021

You must register to participate and a Zoom link will be emailed along with your Bingo card(s) a couple of days prior to the event from Faulkner's Ranch DJ.

Co-hosted by:

For questions contact the Chamber Office at

vwolgast@southkcchamber.com





SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

Join the FDIC's Alliance for Economic Inclusion of Kansas City webinar on Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. where we will discuss Small Business Resources to support and enhance low-income entrepreneurs and small disadvantaged businesses development and growth. Due to COVID-19, small businesses struggle to access the resources needed to stabilize their business. The webinar is targeted to small businesses in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area and broad area. In addition, this webinar will assist CRA officers, Small Business Bankers, Loan Officers, and Community Development Lenders and community organizations to help meet the needs of small businesses in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area.

This webinar is **FREE!**



For more information contact:

Teresa Green 816-234-8084 email: tegreen@fdic.gov

WEBINAR

February 25, 2021
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

New Small Business Resources

HUD Section 3 New Rule

Small Business Registry

Small Business Opportunity Portal

New Markets Tax Credits

Credit Building Program

Small Business Grants/Loans



Food Distribution

Call 816-763-3277 x 100 for Appointment

Curbside appointments - 9 am to 2:30 pm Monday, Tuesday and Friday

4 - 6 pm Wednesday and 9 am - noon Saturday once a month

Delivery for homebound - Thursdays

- Food is available once for anyone. Clients out of service area should visit Harvesters website or United Way 211 for pantry in their area.
- Pre-packed food boxes include Giving the Basics hygiene items.
- Please just leave one message. Calls will be returned.

South KC Mobile Food Pantries

With so many people out of work due to the coronavirus pandemic, a growing number of families in south Kansas City are being forced to rely on community food pantries such as Community Assistance Council's to have enough to eat.

Fortunately, Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to five sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

Center District Warehouse, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where

volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103rd St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

United Believers Community Church, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

Ruskin High School, 7000 E. 111th St., from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and food will be loaded in the vehicles when they reach the school by staff and student volunteers. This event is sponsored by the school and Community Assistance Council.

Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

Center High School, 8715 Holmes Rd., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as long as food is left on the third Saturday of the month. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

Coronavirus Facts and Resources

Kansas City

If you would like to receive updates about what the City is doing in response to the coronavirus, text **COVIDKC** to **888777** or go online to kcmo.gov/coronavirus

Missouri

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operating a [hotline](#) for residents and health care providers to call for information and guidance about COVID-19.

The statewide hotline number is [877-435-8411](tel:877-435-8411). The hotline is being operated by medical professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



TIPS HOTLINE

816-474-8477



WEB TIPS

KCcrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP

P3Tips.com



State Representative Mark A. Sharp

Missouri House of Representatives

Room 102-BA

201 W Capitol Ave

Jefferson City, Mo 65101

Phone

573-751-9469

Email

mark.sharp@house.mo.gov

**Please don't hesitate to contact me
with any feedback, questions or ideas!**