

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, August 28, 2023

NEW LAWS TO TAKE EFFECT AUG. 28

Most of the new laws the Missouri General Assembly

passed during this year's regular legislative session will take effect Aug. 28.

These include a prohibition on texting or cell phone use while driving, an expansion of post-partum medical coverage for mothers of newborns, tax breaks for television & film production and tight restrictions on the ability of transgender youth to obtain gender affirming care or participate in school-sponsored sports.

Missouri is one of the last states to impose a comprehensive ban on texting or using a cell phone while driving, but penalties for violations are still 16 months away as police can only issue warnings until Jan. 1, 2025. Even after the grace period ends and police can start writing tickets, the law will prohibit officers from stopping drivers solely because of alleged texting or cell phone use.

Medicaid coverage for post-partum care - previously capped at 60 days - will now last for a full year under an expansion of the program aimed at providing more support to new mothers.

Another important change to the state's social safety net programs lawmakers approved this year ends the socialled "cliff effect" that resulted in participants losing all benefits due to a small increase in income. The state will now offer transitional benefits to make it easier for recipients to financially establish themselves through a gradual reduction of subsidies as their income rises.

Making Missouri a hub for television and film production is the purpose of the new tax incentives lawmakers approved in the state's latest attempt to create tv and film production jobs. Previous incentives the state offered expired years ago due to concerns the revenue lost

through tax breaks exceeded the economic return to the state.

A pair of new laws imposing restrictions on transgender children were the most controversial measures passed this year. One prohibits most gender affirming care for children under age 18, with an exception for youths who had already started hormone therapy or puberty blockers before the law took effect. A lawsuit has been filed seeking to block its enforcement, with the judge in the case expected to rule on a temporary restraining order at any time.

The other law targeting transgender kids mandates that students can only participate on school-sponsored sports teams that correspond with their birth gender. The restrictions apply not only to K-12 sports involving public or private schools, but college athletics as well. Schools found in violation could be punished with the loss of their

state funding.

Another new law of interest increases the minimum state training requirements for law enforcement officers and expands the grounds for which the Missouri Department of Public Safety director may discipline officers.

Lawmakers also have authorized local counties to shield qualifying senior citizens from future property tax increases on their homes, although implementation by counties is optional and a challenge to the law's constitutionality is expected.

SUPREME COURT FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The Missouri Appellate Judicial Commission on Aug. 22 chose three members of the state Court of Appeals as

finalists for an open seat on the Missouri Supreme Court.

Gov. Mike Parson appointed all three to their current judicial posts and will decide which of them replaces Judge George Draper III, who recently retired after nearly 13 years on the high court.

Two of the finalists – Judges Michael Gardner and Kelly Broniec – are part of the appellate court's St. Louis-based Eastern District, while Judge Ginger Gooch is from its Southern District, located in Springfield. All three are University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law graduates.

Broniec, currently the Eastern District's chief judge, served more than 14 years as an associate circuit judge in Montgomery County before Parson appointed her to the Court of Appeals in October 2020. Prior to becoming a judge, she was Montgomery County prosecuting attorney

from 1999-2006.

Gardner was in private practice for nine years before being elected as a Cape Girardeau County circuit judge in 2014. Parson appointed him to the Court of Appeals in February 2020.

Gooch has less than a year of judicial experience, with Parson putting her on the Court of Appeals just last November. She was previously in private practice and had been a partner with the Husch-Blackwell law firm.

Parson must appoint one of the three finalists by no later than Oct. 21 or he will forfeit the selection to the Commission. The two judges not picked this time likely will soon have a second chance as another Supreme Court vacancy will open in October when Judge Patricia Breckenridge retires.

When presented with multiple vacancies on the same court in a short time span, the Commission typically resubmits the names of the previous finalists who were not selected while adding a third to replace the person appointed the last time around.



My father, John Sharp, (left) gives toothbrushes and toothpaste we donated to Reverend Dennis Lester, executive director of the Hickman Mills Community Empowerment Center, at the Because We Care back-to-school event sponsored by the Center and its community partners Aug. 20 at Ruskin High School

which provided free haircuts, hygiene items and other essentials to students and their families. Over 500 persons were served at the event which also provided information about other community resources available to assist and empower Hickman Mills area families.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARINGS

FIFTH DISTRICT

Tuesday, Aug. 29 6 – 8 p.m.

Hillcrest Community Center 10401 Hillcrest Rd Tuesday, Sept. 5 6 – 8 p.m.

Southeast Community Center 4201 E 63rd St





KCMO.GOV/PIAC



Annual Kansas Cíty 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Please Join the American Legion District 5, VFW District 5, DAV, Passantino Bros. Funeral Home, Muehlebach Funeral Care, and The Catholic Cemeteries of Kansas City-St. Joseph

Monday September 11, 2023
5:30—6:00 pm Music by the American Legion Band
6:00—7:00 pm Remembrance Ceremony
First Responder Memorial, Mount Olivet Cemetery
7601 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138
A livestream of the ceremony can be viewed on the
Muehlebach Funeral Care Facebook page

With Special Guests

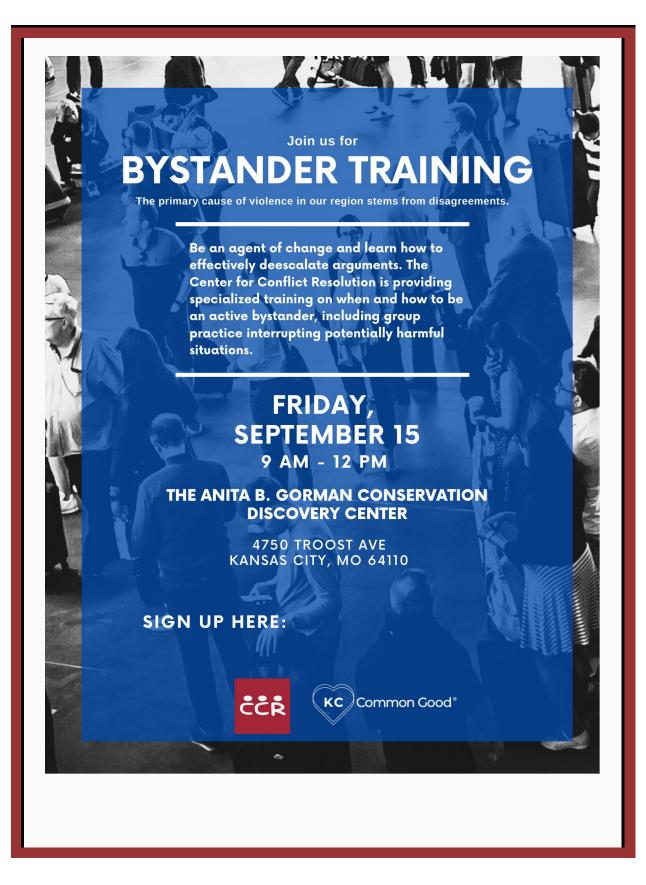
Master of Ceremonies Taylor Hemness KSHB News

Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas

Raytown Mayor Mike McDonough

KCMO Police Chief Stacey Graves

KCMO Deputy Fire Chief





You are invited to have a free table at the Community Job Fair

sponsored by
Ruskin Heights Homes Association,
Community Assistance Council, The Martin City Telegraph

Saturday, September 16, 9:30 am to noon Southside Optimist Bingo Hall, 11154 Blue Ridge Blvd. KCMO 64134

Employers -

If you would like to have a free table at this event, contact Beth Boerger at rhhacommunity@gmail.com or 816-510-4845.









HICKMAN MILLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION'S

21ST ANNUAL

Silent Auction & Gala

Hickman Mills

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 AT 5:00 PM AT CRESTVIEW DAIRY FARM 16499 E 83RD ST, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF GREAT FOOD, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, PRIZES, AND A FUN AUCTION!

TICKETS \$50/PERSON





Part-Time Child Care Jobs Now Hiring!

North Kansas City Kansas City Public Schools Center Hickman Mills Grandview

LINC Caring Communities Sites

Contact: Carol Green, (816) 739-9314, cgreen@kclinc.org

Apply: kclinc.org/jobs

South KC Food Pantries

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

Community Assistance Council, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email info@cackc.org for appointments or

questions.

Red Bridge Area Food Pantry, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

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

Center School District, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

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 staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

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.

Red Bridge United Methodist Church, 636 E. 117th St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.

Serve and Lift Center – South KC, 8001 Longview Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Walk-in, call for an appointment or order online at https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/





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