



Dear Neighbor,

I'm pleased to report that the bill I amended to include Blair's Law designed to deter potentially deadly celebratory gunfire passed the Missouri House of Representatives on April 19 by a vote of 109 to 36, with 7 legislators voting present.

The amended bill (House Committee Substitute for House Bill 944) is now awaiting a hearing by the Senate General Laws Committee. The original bill was introduced to allow discharge of a firearm from a stationary motor vehicle on private property in rural areas to protect livestock from predators.

Other amendments were added to the bill that I didn't support, but with the addition of Blair's Law I strongly believe the amended version will do more to improve public safety than to harm it.

Blair's Law will make celebratory gunfire and any other discharge of firearms with criminal negligence within or into city limits a serious state offense, with the first violation being a Class A misdemeanor, the second a Class E felony and subsequent violations a Class D felony.

Currently celebratory gunfire in Kansas City is just a city ordinance violation unless there are specified aggravating circumstances.

This legislation is named after 11-year-old Blair Shanahan Lane who died after being struck by celebratory gunfire here on July 4, 2011. During the

decade since then, her mother, Michele Shanahan DeMoss, has devoted countless hours to try to reduce celebratory gunfire and warn others of its dangers.

If you or others you know still need COVID-19 vaccinations, please take advantage of the Kansas City Health Department's vaccination site at Smith-Hale Middle School (formerly Hickman Mills High School), 9010A Old Santa Fe Rd., which now is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. A special vaccination clinic will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday, April 24). Persons should park in the south parking lot.

Appointments are preferred but not required, although walk-ins will likely experience longer waits. Insurance is not required.

To make an appointment, go to the city website kcmo.gov and click on Get Vaccinated Now which rotates with other topics at the top of the screen, then click on Find Out More and then click on South KC.

For the week beginning Tuesday, April 27, the site is giving first doses of Pfizer vaccine and second doses of Moderna vaccine. For the week beginning Tuesday, May 4, the site is giving first and second doses of Pfizer vaccine and second doses of Moderna vaccine. After that the site only will administer Pfizer vaccine which is available for persons 16 and over.

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



I attended the ceremony on the south steps of our State Capitol April 22 commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week by celebrating last year's passage of bipartisan legislation I co-sponsored that created a long needed statewide pretrial witness protection program to protect victims and witnesses of violent crimes. This program will save lives and assist in successfully

prosecuting and incarcerating persistent violent offenders before they can harm more victims.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, April 23, 2021

SENATE PANEL DEADLOCKS ON MEDICAID

The Senate Appropriations Committee on April 21 deadlocked 7-7 on restoring funding for Medicaid expansion in the 2022 fiscal year state operating budget.

The funding fight now moves to the full Senate, with a lawsuit almost certain if the spending authority ultimately is omitted from the final appropriations bills.

As of July 1, every Missourian whose income is at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level will be eligible for the state's Medicaid program under a constitutional amendment Missouri voters ratified last year. Without full funding to cover the additional recipients, however, the program could exhaust its spending authority well before the end of the fiscal year. An estimated 275,000 additional uninsured Missourians will be eligible for the program.

After the vast majority of House Republicans stripped the funding for Medicaid expansion from the budget, many supporters, including the state's major medical and business organizations, had anticipated the Senate would prove more reasonable and not go along with defying a voter-approved constitutional mandate. However, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Dan Hegeman, R-Cosby, joined six other Republican committee members in voting against expansion funding. Three Republicans joined the committee's four Democrats in support.

Under the federal Affordable Care Act, the federal government will pay 90 percent of the cost of expansion, or about \$1.4 billion for FY 2022. In addition, implementing expansion will secure an additional \$1.5 billion for Missouri under the most recently passed federal COVID-19 relief bill. Such a large influx of spending would create tens of thousands of jobs and provide a tremendous economic boost to the state.

Gov. Mike Parson has moved to implement expansion as required by the state constitution and requested that it be fully funded for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1. Lawmakers face a May 7 constitutional deadline for completing work on the budget.

STATE HEALTH DIRECTOR RESIGNS

After four years leading the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, Dr. Randall Williams resigned as the agency's director on April 14 without explanation. Given that Williams had weathered several controversies during his tenure, his sudden departure amid no information on its cause came as a surprise.

The news became public in a press release from Gov. Mike Parson announcing he was naming Robert Knodell, his deputy chief of staff, as acting health department director. Williams has made no public statement on his departure.

Former governor Eric Greitens appointed Williams, who had previously served as health department director in North Carolina, to the Missouri post in 2017. Williams stayed on after Greitens resigned in 2018, and Parson repeatedly had expressed support for Williams.

Williams took fire for the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the slow rollout of mass vaccination sites, particularly in the state's major urban areas.

Just two days before his resignation, Williams was a speaker at my request for the virtual monthly meeting of the South Kansas City Alliance,

and provided very helpful information about vaccine availability in the area.

HOUSE EXPELS MEMBER FOR ALLEGED ABUSE

Without dissent, the House of Representatives on April 21 voted to expel state Rep. Rick Roeber, R-Lee's Summit, after the House Ethics Committee issued a report outlining allegations that during the 1990s he had abused his four children, who are now adults. The expulsion, the first in 156 years, came on a vote of 153-0, with one Republican lawmaker voting present.

The committee released its report two days earlier and found credible evidence Roeber had sexually abused two of his children and physically abused all four. Although some of the incidents of abuse were reported to state and local authorities at the time, Roeber was never criminally charged. The committee found Roeber's testimony to be combative and not credible.

After first telling the committee he intended to fight any attempted punishment, Roeber submitted a letter of resignation on April 13 shortly after news broke that House leaders had contacted prosecutors and police in Jackson County expressing concerns about Roeber's continued contacts with a minor child. Two days later, the House unanimously voted to temporarily reject Roeber's resignation pending completion of the ethics report.

The only other legislative expulsion in Missouri history took place on Jan. 4, 1865, when the House voted to oust state Rep. John Sampson of Callaway County for disloyalty to the Union because he had attended a secessionist rally in April 1861.

A Senate expulsion trial against state Sen. Joseph Falzone of St. Louis for allegedly soliciting a \$1,500 bribe commenced on Oct. 29, 1945, but his subsequent resignation on Nov. 1 terminated the proceedings before they concluded.

HOUSE KILLS BILL OVER StL E-TAX PROVISION

The House of Representatives on April 19 voted 70-83 to reject legislation that originally sought to authorize a handful of outstate cities to adopt a special public safety sales tax after a provision was added to exempt many telecommuters from paying St. Louis City's earnings tax.

The original intent of House Bill 394 was to give certain cities the power to ask their voters to approve a half-cent sales tax for their police and fire departments. However, an amendment was added during House debate that would have prohibited St. Louis City from imposing its 1 percent earnings tax on people who live or work in the city on non-city residents who telecommute for city-based jobs.

Without that provision, the otherwise non-controversial bill likely would have passed easily. Instead, Democrats opposed to tinkering with St. Louis' earnings tax and Republicans who didn't like the sales tax combined to provide enough votes to defeat the measure. I voted no.

HOUSE REJECTS LIMITING COMMUNICATIONS

The House of Representatives on April 19 defeated legislation that sought to limit how local governments can communicate with voters regarding ballot measures. The bill fell on a vote of 72-82-1. I voted no.

Under existing law, local governments already are prohibited from contributing public funds to campaigns supporting or opposing ballot measures. However, they are allowed to provide factual information to voters regarding the impact of ballot measures, and local officials are free to issue news releases discussing their positions on them.

House Bill 512 sought to prohibit local governments from distributing any printed materials related to ballot measures. Supporters said new restrictions are needed because local officials sometimes skirt existing

rules. Opponents said the bill's restrictions went too far and would prevent local officials from providing factual information on important public policy issues.



I spoke against passage of House Bill 952 that would prohibit public school districts and charter schools from using material in any courses from the 1619 Project of the New York Times Magazine that

chronicles the profound effect slavery has had on our country since the first slave ship arrived in 1619 when the bill was heard in the House General Laws Committee on April 19. I feel students need to learn all aspects of our great nation's history, both the good and the bad, and that the legislature has no right to censure reputable sources of information just because they include uncomfortable truths or controversial assertions.

DEA NATIONAL RX

DRUG TAKEBACK

SATURDAY, APRIL 24
10:00AM-2:00 PM

PRICE CHOPPER
12220 U.S. 71 HWY
GRANDVIEW, MO





Plant & Tree Giveaway

Want to incorporate some native plants into your landscape? The Discovery Center will host a drive-thru native plant and tree giveaway. Participants may come anytime between the scheduled program hours and should remain in their vehicles while the Discovery Center staff bring the plants and trees to you. This is a free program and quantities are limited.

10 AM–1 PM

Drive-thru

ANITA B. GORMAN DISCOVERY CENTER
4750 TROOST AVE., KCMO · 816-759-7300



Blue Ridge Streetscape Improvements: 87th Street to Bannister Road

Help us design Blue Ridge Boulevard by submitting your ideas and comments on the [interactive map](#) and taking a [short survey](#):

[https://kcmo.mysocialpinpoint.com/
blue-ridge-boulevard-improvements-project](https://kcmo.mysocialpinpoint.com/blue-ridge-boulevard-improvements-project)

The interactive map and survey will be active until April 30, 2021.

For more information, contact:

Maggie Green

Email: maggie.green@kcmo.org

Phone: 816-513-2612

Project website: [https://www.kcmo.gov/Home/Components/
FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/213/360](https://www.kcmo.gov/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/213/360)



Blue Ridge Boulevard Streetscape Improvements

Please submit your ideas and comments and take a brief survey about the design of the Blue Ridge Boulevard from 87th Street to Bannister Road on the [interactive map](#). The interactive map and survey will be active until **April 30, 2021**. You may also watch a recording of the community meeting [here](#). For more information, visit the [Blue Ridge Boulevard Streetscape Improvements webpage](#), or contact Maggie Green, KCMO Public Works Department, 816-513-2612 or maggie.green@kcmo.org.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[WATCH MEETING](#)

KCMO EMERGENCY RENTAL & UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



If you need help now, contact one of these agencies for **IMMEDIATE** assistance:

- **Metro Lutheran Ministry**
Call 816-514-2683 or
Fill out the online application:
www.mlmkc.org/rent---utility.html

*Paper applications available at
3031 Holmes, KCMO 64109 &
1100 NE Vivion, KCMO 64118*
- **Journey to New Life** - Call 816-960-4808
or email agrove@jtnl.org
- **reStart** - Call 816-886-9153 or
email: rentalassistance@restartinc.org
- **Community Assistance Council (CAC)**
816-763-3277 x-108

*Funding is provided by the second Congressional
COVID-19 relief package.*

The full list of agencies and eligibility requirements is posted at:

KCMO.GOV/RentHelp



CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

Apply for assistance:
communitycarelink.com/cares-act-assistance-sign-up



YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

www.caagkc.org

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

CAAGKC provides graduating seniors who are interested in attending college an opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship renewable each year.

Consideration will be given to students who need additional assistance during the current year.

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

- Applicants must reside in Clay, Jackson, or Platte counties.
- Applicants must meet eligibility guidelines
- Scholarship availability is first come first serve
- This program is open to ages 18 to 24
- Technical and vocational scholarships are also available

Please contact Youth Services at 816-358-6868 ext 8317 to apply!

*This program is funded 93% at \$2,529,241.00 with federal funds and 7% at \$174,011.00 with nongovernmental sources for a total amount of \$2,703,252.00. The federal funds are received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division.

Hello Ruskin Staff, Teachers, Students and Community Members!

Just a shout out to all our previous donors to the Blood Drive.
Thank you so much for your donations.

This year, we need your blood donation more than ever!



PLEASE consider sharing the healthy life giving source that you have with others by donating your blood on Thursday, April 29th.

Click here to make an
appointment: https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/71478

LITUP

April 26-May 5, 2021
Register at mymcpl.org/litup



LitUp 2021 Keynote Author: Nicola Yoon and Creative Contest Award Ceremony (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 28 | 7:00 p.m.

Join LitUp 2021 for a virtual conversation with Nicola Yoon, author of *Everything, Everything* and *The Sun Is Also a Star*. At the conclusion of Yoon's talk, stay for the announcement of the LitUp 2021 Creative Contest winners.



LitUp 2021 Featured Authors Playlist (YouTube w/Access Code)

Available to Access April 26-May 5

Access our playlist of exclusive LitUp 2021 interviews with our Featured Authors:

- Linda Holmes, pop culture correspondent for NPR, *Pop Culture Happy Hour*.
- S.J. Kinkaid, author of the *The Insignia Series*
- Ryan North, author of *How To Invent Everything: A Survival Guide for the Stranded Time Traveler*, Marvel's *Unbeatable Squirrel Girl Series*.



LitUp 2021 Creative Workshops (Zoom)

Saturday, May 1

Sign up for one or more of these awesome creative workshops:

Co-Dwelling Poetry with Megan Kaminski - 10 a.m.

Podcast Workshop with KCUR Studios - 11 a.m.

Graphic Viewpoints with Stephen Weis - 1 p.m.

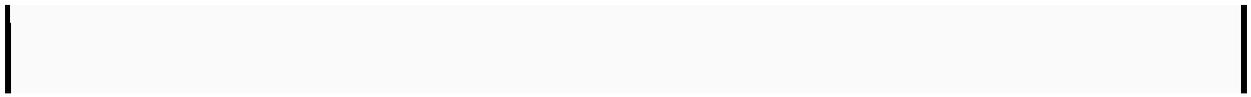
Giving and Receiving Feedback w/Megan Bannen & Co. - 3 p.m.

*Sign up for a workshop by April 24, to receive a LitUp Swag Box. (Space is limited. One box per person please.)



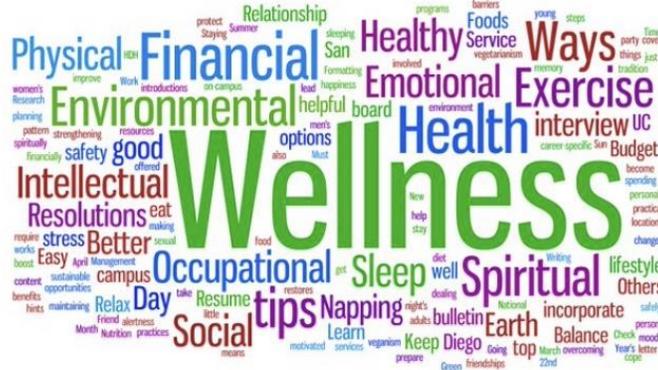
Register for all these programs at mymcpl.org/litup





Because We Care

KC Wellness Event



STOP THE VIOLENCE

&

BE BLESSED

**Free Horse Rides, Live Gospel Music:
Rap, R&B, Rock Climbing Wall, Free
Popcorn, Snow Cone, Hotdogs,
Moon Walks, & More**

SATURDAY May 8th

at

Sycamore Park

10800 Sycamore Terr. KCMO

FROM 12:00-4:00

Participating organizations

*Vison Church KC, All Christians Together
Serving, Concerned Clergy Coalition,
KCPD, YWAM, Heaven Sent Ministries,
Bethel Family Worship Center, Salt and
Light Ministries, Kid City 7, Hickman Mills
Empowerment Center, KCFD, Hickman
Mills Community Alliance, Healthy Blue,
Church of Jesus Christ, IHOP, KCMO
Health, GX International, Team Xtreme,
Swope Health, Imani House, Inglesia Agua
Viva,*

**HIS COMMUNICATION IS SENT ON BEHALF OF
T'RISA MCCORD, INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP OF KANSAS
CITY, MO:**

The next EDC Economic Development Incentive Tools Training Session has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. If you have been unable to attend any of the previous sessions, or if you would like to participate again for a refresher, please register at the link below. Feel free to share this with your contacts and colleagues who may also be interested in participating.

[EDC Economic Development Incentive Tools Training Session](#)



2nd
Annual

GOLF
TOURNAMENT

JUNE 2
0
04 2
1

9:00 AM
SHOTGUN START



**GRAND
SUMMITT
GOLF & C.C.**

Visit website to sign-up:
<http://www.dixongives.com/hickmanmills>

LONG DRIVE & PUTTING CONTESTS

FOUR MAN SCRAMBLE

ENTRY FEE \$80 PER PERSON (\$50 FOR GRAND SUMMITT MEMBERS) • \$320 PER TEAM • HOLE SPONSORSHIPS: \$100

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL CHARLES FARRIS AT
PASTMASTER617@GMAIL.COM

SPONSORS

HICKMAN MILLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION • CSD CREDIT UNION



Sixth District

CLEAN UP

June 12, 2021: 8 AM - NOON

LOCATIONS:

- **RUSKIN SR HIGH SCHOOL**
7000 E 111TH ST.
KANSAS CITY, MO, 64134

Bulky, Brush, Electronics (Price List),
Tire drop off (with or without rim in
it), Document Shredder

- **SOUTH BROADLAND
PRESBYTERIAN**
7850 HOLMES RD
KANSAS CITY, MO, 64131

Bulky, Brush, Tire drop off (with
or without rim in it), Document
Shredder

ELECTRONICS PRICE LIST:

- CRT Monitors = \$5.00 each
- CRT TV's 26" or less = \$30.00 each
- CRT TV's 27" or greater = \$50.00
each
- Wood Console and True Big
- Screen/Projection TV's = \$50.00
each
- LED/LCD/Plasma TV's = \$20.00
each
- Any Freon containing unit=
\$10.00 each

SPONSORS:



Councilmembers
McManus & Bough
Sixth District



CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

PUBLIC WORKS

For more information,
contact Robert Woods
at 816-513-8442

All staff will be abiding by
social distancing policy
and masks should be worn

COVID-19 Vaccine **Walk-In** appointments are now available at our two hospital campuses (2211 Charlotte and 7900 Lee's Summit Road) 7am to 2pm Monday through Friday. In addition, one may schedule a vaccine at www.trumed.org or by calling 816-404-CARE.

The Jackson County Health Department also has same day and appointments available. See <https://jacohd.org/events>

For a COVID-19 test, please see <https://www.jacksongov.org/1190/COVID-19-Test-Sites> for COVID-19 COVID-19 testing locations. Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged.

In addition, those who are *symptomatic* are encouraged to call 404-CARE, option 2, to schedule a drive through test at one of our two hospitals.

How to sign up for the COVID-19 Vaccine

Eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine?

We are making it easier for you to get in line.
Here's how it works:

Go to www.trumed.org
Click on the pop up link that reads
"click here to register."

When you sign up online, we will contact you when the vaccine becomes available. At this point, we are unable to estimate when we'll call for your appointment date.

Wait times depend on vaccine supply.

We appreciate your patience.

You may also call 816-404-CARE (2273) if you want to talk to a scheduler. Lines may be busy. Please be patient.



Food Appointments Available

CAC has food appointments available 9 to 2:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This month after-hours are 9 am to noon, Saturday, April 24. Call 816-763-3277 x 100 for a food appointment. Hygiene items are distributed with food. Happy Bottoms diapers and pull-ups are available without an appointment 9 am to 2:30 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Call 816-763-3277 x 100 to register for diapers.

Basic Financial Literacy Class:

1 - 2 pm, Tuesday, April 27

This class on basics of financial literacy is free and open to anyone.

- Presented by Pauline Eatmon-Johnson, Business Owner and Consultant, Scholar Smarts,
- Register for class [HERE](#) for ZOOM or phone link.
- Contact Julie Reid, julie.reid@cackc.org, 816-763-3277 x 110 with questions.

CAC Showing Brilliance in Resilience in 2020

CAC is thrilled to be one of three KC area nonprofits selected as a finalist for the Nonprofit Connect small nonprofit Brilliance in Resilience award - recognizing how CAC turned obstacles into opportunities in 2020!. We hope you had a chance to vote! Join us May 12 for the virtual Philly Awards to learn the winners in each category! Link [HERE](#).

Emergency Rent, Utilities Assistance Update

In response to the requirements of our current emergency rent and utilities assistance, funding, all requests for rent and utilities assistance must start by filling out the application on the City of KCMO website - <https://gkcassistanceprogram.org/>. That site can also be accessed through CAC's website [HERE](#). South Kansas City residents can select CACSomeone who does not have internet access may leave one message with detailed information on CAC's Emergency Assistance line at 816-763-3277 x 108. We know there is critical need right now, but following this process will help us serve as many as possible. Thank you.

Save the Date - Community Cleanup June 12

Sixth District Community Cleanup Day will be 8 am to noon, June 12. Locations and more details to come.

Community Assistance Council is the social services agency that covers South Kansas City, including all of Hickman Mills and Center School Districts, with a food pantry, Happy Bottom diapers and pull-ups, Giving the Basics hygiene items, KC Medicine Cabinet medicines and equipment, emergency rent and utilities assistance and limited case management. We'd love to give you a tour or provide a program for your organization!

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. 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!**