



Dear Neighbor,

My happiness for being sworn in for my first full term in the Missouri House of Representatives January 6 soon gave way to great sadness and anger when I realized a mob was storming our nation's capital in a futile attempt to prevent the certification of the election victory of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

As we all know now, this resulted in deaths and numerous injuries, including the death of a Capitol police officer from injuries he sustained and injuries to over 50 other officers. Many members of the mob were wearing military garb and other protective gear, and some carried Confederate battle flags or wore clothing with anti-Semitic messages.

There also was a "Stop The Steal" rally in front of the capitol building in Jefferson City during our swearing in attended by well over 100 people by my count, including several with military-style rifles slung over their shoulders.

**Although this Jefferson City rally was peaceful, looking at television coverage of a similar "Stop The Steal" rally at our state capitol on November 7, I saw a man holding a sign with Ballot Box crossed out, followed by Jury Box and then Cartridge Box, which said One Down, Two to Go.**

Unlike in some countries, Americans don't have to resort to violence when there really has been election fraud.

We have a well-established system for resolving election disputes in the courts, and our courts have overturned elections when there has been credible evidence of mistakes or intentional wrongdoing that have impacted the results.

But there has been no such evidence regarding our recent presidential election. At least 96 state and federal judges appointed by office-holders from both political parties, including President Trump, dismissed or ruled against over 50 lawsuits challenging the results filed in six states by his campaign or other supporters, according to the Washington Post.

**I hope we can all remember that there are many more things that unite us than divide us. Just because we disagree strongly with other Americans on certain issues, that does not make us enemies!**

During my short time in the Missouri House, I have never taken cheap shots at legislators from

the other political party, and I hereby commit that I will always try to treat all people with civility when we disagree.

I will continue to do my best to find common ground with members of both political parties as we did last year when the bipartisan bill I co-sponsored to enact a long overdue witness protection program in Missouri passed the 163-member Missouri House with only three no votes and passed the Senate with no dissenting votes.

**Hopefully, now having this program funded and implemented will encourage more witnesses to come forward so more of the persistent violent offenders who commit many of our city's most violent crimes can be prosecuted and incarcerated before they hurt others. The Kansas City Police Department reported 176 homicides in 2020, a new record for the city far surpassing the previous record of 151 homicides set in 2017 and 2019.**

Unfortunately, the first reported 2021 homicide in the city occurred in my legislative district about 10 p.m. January 6 in the 11400 block of Oak with the shooting death of 35-year-old Frank W. Peters and the serious wounding of another man. Anyone with information should call the KCPD Homicide Unit at 816-234-5043. Witnesses who wish to remain anonymous may call the TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS.

There was both good news and bad news about celebratory gunfire in Kansas City and Grandview the night of New Year's Eve.

**The good news was that nobody was wounded or killed by celebratory gunfire in either city, and calls complaining about such gunfire in Grandview were down from 16 last year to only 12 this year.**

**The bad news was that occupants of 12 residences in KCMO reported their homes were struck by indiscriminate gunfire between 6 p.m. December 31 and 6 a.m. January 1. A KCPD spokesman reported he couldn't recall more than four or five homes being hit by gunfire during past New Year's holidays.**

KCPD's ShotSpotter gunfire detection system that has been installed in some areas of the city recorded 240 gunfire alerts (up from 216 last year) during this 12-hour period indicating about 1,600 shots were fired. KCPD also received 271 calls (down from 316 last year) complaining about shots being fired according to the spokesman.

**Police Chief Richard Smith is asking the public to contact KCPD's community interaction officers in their Patrol Divisions to report the locations where celebratory gunfire repeatedly occurs. He has said he is examining the possibility of installing surveillance cameras in those areas to help identify the shooters.**

Persons may find out how to contact their community interaction officers by going online to [kcpd.org](http://kcpd.org), clicking on Contact Us, then on their Patrol Division and then on Community.

Officers Aaron Whitehead and Mary McCall are the South Patrol community interaction officers, and they may be contacted by email

at [Aaron.Whitehead@kcpd.org](mailto:Aaron.Whitehead@kcpd.org) and [Mary.McCall@kcpd.org](mailto:Mary.McCall@kcpd.org).



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Representative Mark A. Sharp being sworn in with the freshman class marking the first day of the 101st Missouri General Assembly, January 6th, 2021.

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## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

### **Friday, January 8, 2021**

#### **STORMING U.S. CAPITOL OVERSHADOWS FIRST DAY OF SESSION**

The 101<sup>st</sup> Missouri General Assembly got underway on Jan. 6 but proceedings in Jefferson City were overshadowed by events in Washington, D.C., where a mob stormed and broke into the U.S. Capitol as Congress was formalizing President-elect Joe Biden's Electoral College victory.

Opening day activities in the Missouri General Assembly began around the same time Congress was undertaking its normally ceremonial role of counting the electoral votes from the recent presidential election.

**In remarks prepared in advance but delivered as the mob action was continuing, House Minority Leader Crystal Quade, D-Springfield, warned that refusing to accept the outcome of elections is what totalitarian governments do and embracing that mindset will destroy our democracy.**

"In the coming months, we must restore faith and trust in government," she said.

**Republican House leaders did not mention what was taking place in the nation's capital during their opening day speeches, but several issued strongly worded statements later in the day denouncing the violence.**

State Rep. Justin Hill, R-Lake St. Louis, skipped being sworn in for his fourth term of office to attend the pro-Trump rally in Washington but assured the St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper he didn't participate in the storming of the Capitol. Last month Hill filed a resolution signed by 66 other House Republicans calling on Congress to overturn Trump's Electoral College defeat, but the full House never acted on it.

The 2021 legislative session runs through May 14, with lawmakers required to complete work on the state operating budget for the 2022 fiscal year no later than May 7.

**One of the major issues with budgetary implications for the 2022 fiscal year will be**

**implementing the expansion of Medicaid as approved by Missouri voters last August. That constitutional amendment effectively increases the income cap for Medicaid eligibility for low income Missourians 19 to 64 years of age to 138% of the federal poverty level.**

Federal funding through the Affordable Care Act is available to pay 90% of the cost of expansion. Missouri became the 38<sup>th</sup> state in the nation to authorize Medicaid expansion and take advantage of this available funding.

Missouri currently has one of the most stringent income caps for Medicaid in the country. Expansion will help Missourians with no health insurance who make too much to qualify for Medicaid now, but don't make enough to afford coverage through the health care exchange.

The ballot language for the expansion measure estimated it would decrease health care costs for local governments but have a one-time cost of about \$6.4 million for state government. By 2026, the ballot language estimated the measure's financial impact would range from costing the state \$200 million annually to saving it about \$1 billion annually.

**Another issue facing the 2021 session will be the once-a-decade task of redrawing the boundaries of Missouri's Congressional districts to account for population shifts since the 2010 U.S. Census. With the 2020 Census results still not finalized and reported to the states, the always contentious redistricting process likely won't begin until March.**

Republicans outnumber Democrats 24-10 in the Missouri Senate and 114-48 in the House, which has one vacancy from Columbia that will be filled following an April 6 special election.

### **PARSON TO BE INAUGURATED FOR A FULL TERM ON JAN. 11**

**Gov. Mike Parson and the other four statewide elected officials who won election in November will be inaugurated at noon on Jan. 11 on the steps of the Missouri Capitol. However, most of the traditional Inauguration Day activities, including the inaugural ball, have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Parson, a Republican, was elected lieutenant governor in 2016 but became governor on June 1, 2018, when his predecessor resigned while facing possible impeachment proceedings over allegations of personal and professional misconduct. Parson won election to a full term last year.

Of the other four statewide officials who are beginning new terms, Parson appointed three of them, all Republicans, to fill vacancies – Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe, State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick and Attorney General Eric Schmitt. They all won full terms last year. Only Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, also a Republican, begins a second term in his current office after originally being

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elected in 2016.

### **GOVERNOR RELEASES \$126.9 MILLION IN WITHHELD FUNDING**

**Gov. Mike Parson on Jan. 6 released \$126.9 million in state spending authority for the current state fiscal year that he previously withheld, including \$25.9 million for the Missouri Department of Higher Education.**

Parson imposed \$449 million in unilateral budget cuts for the 2021 fiscal year in July to keep state spending in balance amid an expected decline in revenue collections due to the negative economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. In a news release, Parson said revenue collections had improved sufficiently to allow some of the withheld funding to be released. The 2021 fiscal year runs through June 30.

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Representative Yolanda Young and I are extremely excited to have Kaylee Bauer working with us this session as our legislative aide! She's the former aide to Rep. Deb Lavender and recently received her M.P.A. from Missouri State University.

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**Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson**

Office of Communications

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 6, 2021

**Governor Parson Announces \$68 Million in Federal Funding for Higher Education Institutions**

*\$68 Million in Federal Budget Stabilization Funds Appropriated for Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Projects at Missouri Public Universities*

**(JEFFERSON CITY, MO)** – Today, Governor Mike Parson announced over \$68 million in Federal Budget Stabilization Fund appropriations for infrastructure and capital improvement projects at Missouri's public universities and State Technical College of Missouri.

Releasing these funds will help address major repairs and restore campus buildings to maintain a safe environment.

“Public universities play a major role in their local communities, serving a variety of needs in addition to their traditional academic roles,” said **Governor Parson**. “This has never been more clear than the COVID-19 crisis when higher education institutions have offered up facilities for ultra-cold vaccine storage, contributed to the state's PPE supply chain, and provided job training for unemployed Missourians. These funds will help provide much needed support to our public universities just as they have done for our communities.”

With many public and private partnerships, college campuses are not only centers of cultural and historical significance but also vital parts of community health and wellness. Public higher education institutions have a facility footprint of over 2,400 buildings with approximately 60 million maintainable square footage throughout Missouri.

Comprehensive reviews in 2009 and 2018 by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development found that significant maintenance and repairs are needed to continue providing Missouri college students with quality facilities for learning.

“Projects like roof repair and updating an old boiler aren't flashy, but they are absolutely essential to maintaining safe and effective learning environments for students,” **Commissioner of Higher Education Zora Mulligan** said. “Governor Parson has been committed to these investments since his time in the Missouri Senate when he championed legislation that authorized \$400 million in bonds to repair college campuses and state buildings. We are grateful funds are being released to address deferred maintenance on our campuses and appreciate the Governor's continued support.”

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**City creates stronger snowplowing game plan for future storms**

*New City Manager implements changes to snow operations*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 5, 2021

City Manager Brian Platt met with our snow operations team to evaluate our response to the New Year's Day snowstorm and to create a more aggressive strategy to plow and salt during snowstorms.

"Through a smarter and more collaborative deployment of our already available resources, we will be able to deploy an additional 50 trucks and 100 drivers for all future snowstorms," said Platt, who spent New Year's Day observing and supporting the team plowing city streets. "We will create a larger, 24-hour plowing operation during storms."

To get there, we are making immediate changes that include:

- increasing the amount of salting during storms
- adding overnight shifts to residential routes
- instituting a more aggressive approach to snow removal on residential streets
- plowing multi-lane arterial streets with multiple trucks working in tandem to make sure the street is fully cleared on the first pass
- assigning all available employees in solid waste and the water department to snow operations during every snow event
- suspending trash and recycling during big storms to make those drivers available for snow plowing
- deploying additional snow removal vehicles throughout snow removal operations
- improving communication and coordination during snow operations
- identifying additional municipal fleet vehicles that can be deployed for snow removal

"I thank our Public Works Department and city workforce for its dedicated efforts to treat our roads, bridges, and neighborhoods pre- and post-snowfall," Mayor Quinton Lucas said. "Still, we have significant work to do to ensure the City more quickly provides the services we've promised to our residents, and today we are enacting significant reforms to improve the delivery of these services, including deploying more snow response teams to work round-the-clock to clear our roads and sidewalks, and improving the treatment of residential streets in all neighborhoods so our roads don't turn into sheets of ice days after the storm is over."

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As we head deeper into winter months, Kansas City government will continue working to ensure our roads are plowed and safe for you and your family as you travel throughout our community.”

Next steps include buying another mini-plow to clear protected bike lanes, as well as adjusting staffing and maintenance work to support these improvements in our snowplowing operations.

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***Pre- Registration is Required***

**Use this Link to Register**

**<https://mako.exchange/scheduler/registration/?location=2730>**

**TESTING IS INSIDE THE BUILDING**



*Helping you stay safe!*

## **FREE COVID TESTING**

**Everyone must pre-register online for an appointment at:**  
<https://mako.exchange/scheduler/registration/?location=2730>

**Location:**

Bruce R. Watkins  
Cultural Heritage Center  
3700 Blue Parkway  
KCMO 64130

**Date:**

Monday, January 4th  
Monday, January 11th  
Monday, January 25th  
Monday, February 1st

**Time:**

9:00am - 3:00pm

**For Information:**

DaRon McGee  
dmcgee@cb-kc.org

**A Special Thanks to Our Community Partners:**



## Local COVID-19 Testing Sites

This information is being provided for your information.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services continues to offer FREE COVID-19 testing to Missouri residents. Individuals seeking this testing opportunity should visit our website at [www.health.mo.gov/communitytest](http://www.health.mo.gov/communitytest) for a listing of events and a link to register. Residents are encouraged to visit this website frequently as new events will be added regularly. While registration guarantees testing, walk-ins to the event will be accommodated if registration slots are still available.

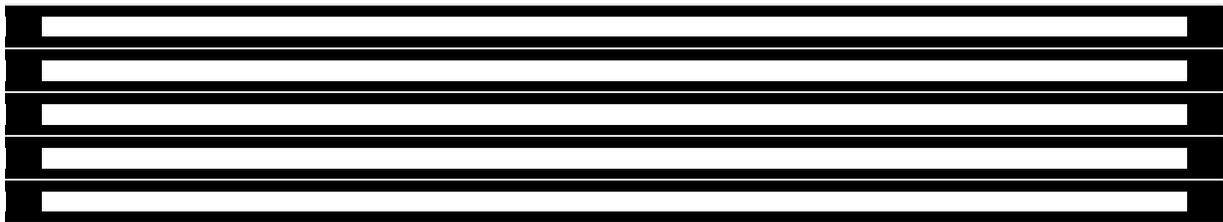
The following events have been scheduled for the next 2 weeks:

**January 7-8th, 9am-4pm: Kansas City Zoo (Cheetah Parking Lot on south side of zoo), 6800 Zoo Dr., Kansas City, MO 64132**

**January 11th, 9am-3pm: Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center, 3700 Blue Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64130**

**January 13th, 9am-6pm: Worlds of Fun, 4545 Worlds of Fun Ave., Kansas City, MO 64161**

**January 14-15th, 9am-4pm: Kansas City Zoo (Cheetah Parking Lot on south side of zoo), 6800 Zoo Dr., Kansas City, MO 64132**



Be a part of the 12th Annual  
Grandview C-4

# Trivia Night

Thursday, January 14, 2021

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**TRIVIA NIGHT IS GOING VIRTUAL!**

Presented by Grandview Education Foundation.

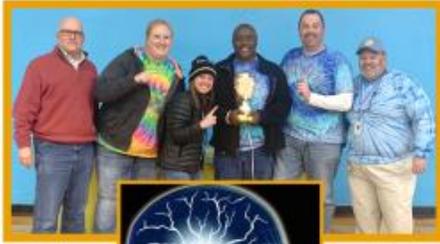
Supports teacher grants, student scholarships and programs.

Hosted through TriviaHub, join us for a competitive game of fun!

Gather your team through a Zoom platform (together or apart).

More information on team dynamics available after registration is received.

**Win the coveted BRAIN TROPHY!**



**BE A SPONSOR** Circle level, or visit <https://bit.ly/GEFTriviaNight> to pay online.

Mensa - \$1,000      Genius - \$500

Brainiac - \$250      Know-It-All - \$100

**FORM A TEAM** \$100 for a team of up to 8 players. All Welcome!

*Clever team names, uniforms, cheers, and more will be applauded and awarded! Registration is available online at: <https://bit.ly/GEFTriviaNight>*

## DONATE GOODS OR SERVICES

With a virtual format, we will gladly accept donations of gift cards or certificates to offer as prizes throughout the evening. Thank you for your consideration!

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Retail Value \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Mary King, 816-977-5765, to arrange pickup of item, or arrange to drop-off.

**Sponsors, donors and teams will be recognized throughout evening.**



[www.grandvieweducationfoundation.org](http://www.grandvieweducationfoundation.org)

PO Box 546 • Grandview, MO 64030





# Harvest Report



Select  
Saturdays  
9:00 AM - Noon

**NOVEMBER**  
7th, 14th, 21st

**DECEMBER**  
5th, 12th, 19th

**JANUARY**  
2nd, 16th

**FEBRUARY**  
6th, 20th

**MARCH**  
6th, 20th

## Winter Market

HJ's Community Center  
6425 Wornall Road

SUSTAINABLE FARMS  
ARTISAN FOOD  
LOCAL PRODUCE  
HOLIDAY GIFTS

sponsored by



[www.brooksidefarmersmarket.com](http://www.brooksidefarmersmarket.com)

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## 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. 103<sup>rd</sup> 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. 111<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## 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](https://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.

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## UNEMPLOYMENT

### How to File?

If you're eligible, you'll need the following:

- Your Social Security number;
- Any amount you were paid in the past week, before taxes and deductions;
- The name and mailing address of each job you worked in the past 18 months;
- The dates you started and ended work at each of those jobs.

If this is your first time filing for unemployment please watch [this video](#) on unemployment basics. Visit [uinteract.labor.mo.gov](https://uinteract.labor.mo.gov), create an account and file your claim. If your job loss is related to coronavirus issues, make sure to check a box that says "COVID-19" in your application to waive a requirement to search for a new job amid the crisis.

Missouri provides benefits for up to 20 weeks, which can be extended to 33 weeks under the federal provisions.

The state will pay you up to \$320 per week, and the federal government will provide \$600 on top of whatever you get from the state for each week you're on unemployment prior to July 31.

Benefits can be paid within 22 days unless there is an issue with your eligibility, which on average can take 4-6 weeks to resolve.

You should continue filing weekly requests for payment even if you have not yet received benefits.

Regional Claims Center representatives are available by phone Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM by calling:

**Kansas City Claims Center: 816-889-3101 or visit**

[Missouri Unemployment Website](#)

Please visit the Missouri Department of Labor's website for more information about COVID-19 FAQ's for Businesses and Workers: <https://labor.mo.gov/coronavirus>

US Department of Labor has a few sites dedicated to Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions>

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## **The January 2021 issue of Kansas City's Most Wanted is now available.**

Your monthly delivery of Kansas City's Most Wanted is here! Take a look at this month's local fugitives and see if you recognize anyone. If so, submit an anonymous TIP and you could receive a cash reward! No one will ever know except you.

TIPS can be anonymously submitted via the following methods:

- The TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477)
- Online at [www.kccrimestoppers.com](http://www.kccrimestoppers.com)
- The P3 Mobile App

Thank you for your continued support of the Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers program.

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Email truncated