



Dear Neighbor,

During this time of the year when we traditionally give thanks and show our gratitude for our blessings, I thought it would be appropriate to formally express my thanks to all our public safety personnel who often must risk their lives and personal safety to protect us.

**The KCMO Police Department on December 7 honored 21 of its officers with life-saving and meritorious service awards, certificates of commendation and distinguished service medals which in some cases put their own lives in great danger and also recognized three of its civilian employees and two members of the general public for the outstanding assistance they provided.**

**I have reviewed the circumstances of the incidents that led to the life-saving awards and have no doubt the actions of the 10 officers honored were directly responsible for saving persons' lives in each of these cases.**

I also want to thank the faith community, the charities and the other nonprofit organizations in our community and the many donors, volunteers and businesses that support them for their efforts to help our neighbors who find themselves in need and to help youth in our community prepare for a bright future.

I want to especially thank the **Community Assistance Council**, one of the few full service social service agencies based in south Kansas City, for

providing rent and utility assistance that has allowed many of our neighbors to avoid evictions and keep their lights and heat on, while also providing healthy and nutritious food and personal hygiene items such as diapers.

I also want to express my thanks to the **educational foundations for the Center, Grandview and Hickman Mills school districts** for the significant financial assistance they provide to enhance students' learning and encourage and prepare them to continue their education upon graduation.

And I would like to thank Jackson County Parks + Rec for giving \$1,000 to each of the organizations listed for furnishing volunteers to collect donations from the thousands of area residents who drive through the County's 34<sup>th</sup> annual **Christmas in the Park** animated lighting display at Longview Lake Park which features 175 animated displays containing over 600,000 lights.

My family and I visited the display December 9 and I think it is clearly the best holiday lighting display in the area. **It is open from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Friday & Saturday through December 31.**

It can be accessed from View High Dr. about two miles south of I-470 at the Frank White, Jr., Softball Complex, 3901 SW Longview Park Rd., with an entrance just west of View High Dr. on Longview Rd.

Please contact me at [Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov](mailto:Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov) if there is legislation you would like me to consider sponsoring, co-sponsoring or supporting or legislation you would like me to oppose.

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*



**My father and I visited with superhero Thor and Blue Santa and his elves after dropping off our gifts at the Cram-A-Cruiser event to collect new toys for needy children in south Kansas City at the Dollar General store in the Ruskin Shopping Center. The December 8 event was sponsored by the South Patrol Division and Dollar General. A similar**

**event for needy Grandview children will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on December 16 at the Dollar General store at 302 Blue Ridge Blvd. in Grandview sponsored by the Grandview Police Department and Dollar General.**





# WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

## Friday, December 10th, 2021

### AG THREATENS LEGAL ACTIONS

Attorney General Eric Schmitt is threatening immediate legal action against local jurisdictions with mask mandates for supposedly violating a court order that isn't in effect yet and that some local governments say doesn't even apply to them.

Schmitt also is encouraging parents to report school officials for alleged violations of the order.

Cole County Circuit Judge Dan Green issued the order on Nov. 22 after striking down three regulations promulgated by the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19.

**Green declared the regulations are an unconstitutional exercise of legislative power by an executive branch agency and said any local health restrictions based on the regulations are invalid. Green stayed enforcement of his order until Dec. 22.**

**However, several municipalities and school districts, especially in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas, say their mask requirements aren't based on the disputed regulations and were enacted in compliance with a state law the General Assembly passed this year. That law requires**

**elected officials to approve restrictions and periodically vote to renew them in order to keep them in force.**

According to The Kansas City Star, school districts are also citing a 58-year-old state law granting them broad authority to take actions deemed necessary to control the spread of disease. Both state laws remain in effect since neither have been challenged and aren't addressed by Green's ruling.

State Health Department Director Donald Kauerauf asked Schmitt, whose office was representing the department, to appeal Green's ruling, but Schmitt refused. The department opted not to hire outside counsel to appeal the case on its behalf.

**Even though Green's order isn't yet in effect, Schmitt's office has moved to enforce it anyway by sending letters threatening legal action to local officials. On Dec. 8, his office established an email hotline for parents to report schools that are still enforcing mask mandates.**

Schmitt hasn't explained why the state laws granting local jurisdictions legal authority for their actions are no longer enforceable since no court has issued such a ruling.

## **GOVERNOR PROPOSES EMPLOYEE RAISES**

Changing course on years of small or nonexistent cost of living adjustments for Missouri government employees, Gov. Mike Parson on Dec. 6 announced he will ask the legislature to enact a 5.5% raise for all state workers and establish a \$15 an hour minimum wage for state jobs.

He wants lawmakers to do so in the first month of the 2022 legislative session so the raises can take effect Feb. 1.

**For many years, Missouri has consistently ranked dead last in the nation in average state employee pay. While that fact has long been lamented, little has been done to address it. In a news release, Parson said action is necessary now due to excessive employee turnover rates and the inability of some agencies to fill vacancies at existing salaries.**

The move marks a change of heart on the issue for Parson. For the current fiscal year, Parson recommended only a 2% pay bump for state employees. To save money, Parson delayed the increase from taking effect until Jan. 1 instead of on the July 1 start of the fiscal year, as is traditional. Parson also used his line-item veto power this year to eliminate several targeted pay raises for certain state agencies from the 2022 fiscal year state operating budget.

**Under Parson's latest proposal, the 5.5% hike slated for Feb. 1 would be in addition to the 2% increase already scheduled to kick in Jan. 1. The new pay plan is estimated to cost \$91 million for the remainder of the 2022 fiscal year which ends June 30, and then \$218 million for the full 2023 fiscal year that starts July 1.**

Statements of support for the plan from the chairmen of both the House Budget Committee and Senate Appropriations Committee are included in the governor's press release. The pay raises are to be part of a supplemental appropriations bill lawmakers are expected to take up shortly after the legislative session begins Jan. 5.

## **NOVEMBER TAX COLLECTIONS STAYED STRONG**

Strong income and sales tax collections helped push up net state general revenue collections for November 2021 by 19% compared to November 2020, with collections going from \$811.1 million last year to \$965.5 million this year.

According to monthly data provided by the Missouri Division of Budget & Planning, sales tax collections increased 20.4% for the month, while individual income tax collections also were up 20.4% and corporate income and franchise tax collections rose 27%.

**Net state general revenue collections for the first five months of the current 2022 fiscal year decreased 0.7% compared to the same period in the 2021 fiscal year, going from \$4.53 billion last fiscal year to \$4.5 billion this fiscal year. Through the first four months of the 2022 fiscal year, collections had been down 5% compared to the last fiscal year.**



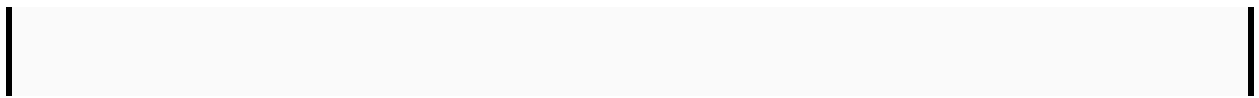
Comparisons between the 2021 fiscal year and the current fiscal year are skewed, however, since the income tax filing deadline in 2020 was delayed from April to July due to the pandemic. As a result, revenue collections in the early months of the 2021 fiscal year were drastically inflated compared to normal years.

**Hickman Mills Educational Foundation is Sponsoring a  
Raffle to Raise Funds for Scholarships and  
Classroom Grants  
For the HMC#1 School District**

**Patrick Mahomes' Autographed and  
Framed KC Chiefs NFL Jersey  
With Super Bowl and AFC Patches  
With Certificate of Authenticity  
Raffle Tickets are \$25  
Only 100 Tickets for Sale**



**Drawing will be December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Tickets are available by emailing  
[hmc1hmef@hickmanmills.org](mailto:hmc1hmef@hickmanmills.org)**





# Free Construction Apprentice Ready Program Now Accepting Applications

- 5 weeks alongside industry experts
- Weekly program stipends available
- Pathway to USDOL registered apprenticeships

**APPLY TODAY!**

## Requirements to Participate:

- 18 years of age or older
- Eligible to work in the United States
- Meet Military Selective Service requirements

## Preferred Credentials:

- WorkKeys Applied Math: Level 5
- WorkKeys Workplace Documents: Level 5
- Pass a drug test
- High School Diploma or equivalent



## Currently Accepting Applications!

For more information, please  
contact Rudy Chavez at  
**(816) 806-1840**  
**[rudychavez@moaflcio.org](mailto:rudychavez@moaflcio.org)** or  
visit **[moworksinitiative.org](http://moworksinitiative.org)**



In partnership with the Missouri AFL-CIO and the Missouri Works Initiative





*santa & mrs. claus's*  
**TOY DRIVE**

*benefitting*  **Children's Mercy**  
KANSAS CITY

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 / 2-5 PM**

LOCATED NEAR CALEB'S ON THE NW CORNER



Stop by OR drive by to see Santa & Mrs. Claus and  
share your holiday spirit by donating a new, unused  
toy to a child in need at Children's Mercy Hospital!





ENTERTAINMENT  
& LIVE HOLIDAY  
MUSIC FROM:





JILLIAN RISOCCE

SWEET TREATS & HOLIDAY CHEER FROM:







DECEMBER 16, 2021  
4:00PM-6:00PM

**DOLLAR GENERAL®**

302 Blue Ridge Boulevard



DONATE AN UNWRAPPED TOY



VISIT WITH BLUE SANTA AND GRANDVIEW OFFICERS





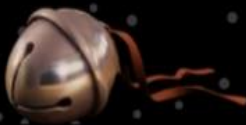
*Your ticket awaits...*



**DECEMBER 17TH  
KCPD SOUTH PATROL DIVISION  
9701 MARION PARK DRIVE  
KCMO 64137**

**6:00 PM SANTA, CHRISTMAS CAROLS,  
FOOD, CRAFTS & FUN  
7:00 PM MOVIE TIME**

*Wear your favorite pajamas &  
bring a lawn chair or blanket*







# Holiday Gift Drive

BENEFITTING  CORNERSTONES OF CARE YOUTH



This season the Martin City Community Improvement District is asking for your help with a Holiday Gift Drive benefitting the youth of Cornerstones of Care at Ozanam. This is your opportunity to bring holiday warmth and cheer to a population that is sometimes overlooked by traditional holiday drives: adolescents and teens.

#### DONATION DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

**ALL STAR CHIROPRACTIC - JESS & JIM'S STEAKHOUSE -  
KC RUNNING COMPANY - LUKAS LIQUOR - MARGARITA'S -  
MARTIN CITY COFFEE - MARTIN CITY PIZZA & TAPROOM -  
RC'S RESTAURANT**

#### Teen gift ideas include:

- headphones/earbuds
- bluetooth speakers
- activity tracking watches/bracelets
- journals
- room decor
- hoodies/sweatshirts
- hydro flask
- hair accessories
- nail polish, makeup
- lotion
- perfume/cologne
- electric razors
- watches/jewelry

#### GIFT CARDS

\$20 increments, please

- Target/Walmart
- Grocery Stores
- QuikTrip
- Restaurants

#### BASICS

- comforters/blankets
- sheet sets (twin size)
- socks/underwear
- scarves, gloves, and hats

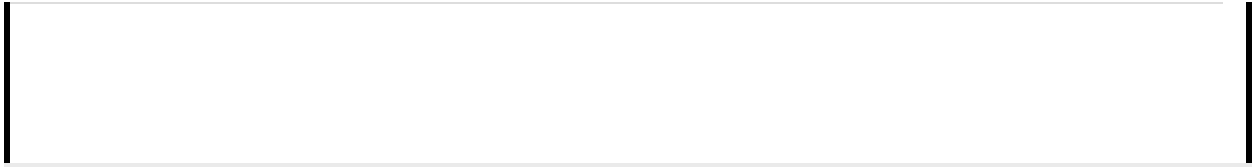
#### QUESTIONS:

Contact Vickie Wolgast with the MCCID at 816-308-1023  
or email: [manager@martincity.org](mailto:manager@martincity.org)



**DONATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH.**





# FREE COVID TESTING

DRIVE-THRU COVID TESTING PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF MISSOURI



NEXTGEN  
DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

PCR COVID TESTING



## PCR TESTING

- Completely FREE
- Drive-thru
- No appointment
- Results within 48 hours, but usually by next day

## 4 DAYS A WEEK AT 2 KC LOCATIONS

### MONDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS

Labor Union Local #663  
Parking Lot  
7820 Prospect  
KCMO 64132  
10am - 6pm

### SATURDAYS

Teamsters Local #955  
Parking Lot  
4501 Emanuel Cleaver II  
KCMO 64130  
10am - 6pm



## HOURS: 10A - 6P

MON: 79th & Prospect

TUE: n/a

WED: n/a

THU: 79th & Prospect

FRI: 79th & Prospect

SAT: 45th & Cleaver Blvd

SUN: n/a

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/community-test.php>

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## South KC Mobile Food Pantries

Many 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 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. (There will be no pantry in January.)

**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 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. 117<sup>th</sup> St., our new date during December is Monday December 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. In the new year we will continue with our fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.



**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**

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**Phone**

**573-751-9469**

**Email**

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