



Dear Neighbor,

As we prepare to celebrate the new year, **I want to implore everyone who reads this to urge their friends, neighbors and relatives not to engage in celebratory gunfire on New Year's Eve and to try to talk anybody out of it who indicates they are considering it.**

At a press conference yesterday at KCMO police headquarters, police spokesman Sgt. Jake Becchina stressed the dangers of celebratory gunfire, explaining that **bullets fired in the air come back down to earth at nearly the same velocity as when they are fired, and can be deadly.**

**Becchina noted celebratory gunfire within the city limits is a city ordinance violation punishable by a hefty fine or jail time. He said a full complement of officers will be on duty the night of New Year's Eve, and they will be prepared to make arrests if they witness or have proof of persons engaging in celebratory gunfire.**

Last New Year's Eve, Becchina said, between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. New Year's Day the Department's ShotSpotter system which is deployed in some parts of the city detected 239 incidents of shots being fired totaling 1,623 rounds. The system uses an array of acoustic sensors to detect shots being fired and the location of the shooting.

Calltakers also received 303 calls reporting shots being fired in the city that he said probably represents only about 30% of the actual number of

incidents, which he said represents the percentage of ShotSpotter activations that are also called in by neighboring residents.

**To provide even stronger penalties that hopefully will deter such reckless and potentially deadly behavior, I have re-introduced Blair's Law (House Bill 1568) to make celebratory gunfire and any other unjustified discharge of firearms with criminal negligence within or into city limits a serious state offense.**

It is named after 11-year-old Blair Shanahan Lane who died after being struck by celebratory gunfire here on July 4, 2011. I had added this legislation by amendment to another bill during this year's session of the General Assembly which passed the House and was recommended for passage without dissent by a Senate committee, but time ran out before the legislation could be voted on by the full Senate.

**At the Senate committee hearing on the bill, Major Kari Thompson, commander of KCPD's East Patrol Division, said calls about gunfire on major holidays like New Year's Eve and July 4 are "just overwhelming" and that police need stronger penalties to deter such irresponsible and dangerous behavior.**

Major Thompson also stressed that reckless gunfire is a problem throughout the year.

**As an example she pointed out the death of 24-year-old KCUR radio reporter Aviva Okeson-Haberman who was found unconscious in her apartment on April 23 after being struck by a stray bullet that came through her window.**

This young lady interviewed me when I was first running for office in the fall of 2019, and I told her about Blair's Law that I planned to introduce if elected to deter reckless gunfire in cities. If the bill had passed in 2020, perhaps her death could have been averted.

House Bill 1568 makes the first violation a Class A misdemeanor, the second a Class E felony and subsequent violations Class D felonies.

I have promised Blair's mom that I will continue to sponsor this legislation

until it is signed into law by the governor.

If anyone would like to contact me about legislation they would like me to introduce or support or legislation they would like me to oppose, please email me at [Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov](mailto:Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov).

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*

# WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Thursday, December 30th, 2021

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS JAN. 5

The 2022 four and a half-month session of the Missouri General Assembly will begin on Jan. 5 with early deadlines to act on two major issues.

**Lawmakers must approve new congressional district boundaries before candidate filing for the 2022 elections opens in February, and they will be under pressure to pass a supplemental appropriations bill that the governor wants to sign into law by the end of January.**

Missouri's eight congressional districts must be redrawn every 10 years to reflect population shifts under the most recent U.S. Census.

**Normally, lawmakers would have undertaken redistricting during the 2021 legislative session. However, since the detailed Census data needed for redistricting didn't become available until this fall due to pandemic-related delays, the task got postponed until 2022.**

The delay puts lawmakers in a tight spot since candidate filing for the Aug. 2 primary elections for congress and other elected offices opens Feb. 22.

Although that gives lawmakers about six weeks to complete the job, given the politically charged nature of redistricting – and the fact that at least a half-dozen Republican lawmakers are considering congressional bids this year and have competing interests regarding the composition of the new districts – this likely will prove difficult to get done in time.

Missouri's congressional delegation currently consists of six Republicans and two Democrats, and that partisan split likely will remain after redistricting. Although some Republicans have floated the idea of crafting a 7-1 map in their favor, there are numerous political and geographic hurdles

to pulling that off, which is why a similar proposal gained little traction during the last redistricting cycle in 2011.

**Lawmakers also will be pressed to pass a supplemental spending bill to sharply increase pay for state workers, a measure Gov. Mike Parson said he wants in place in time for the raises to take effect Feb. 1. Parson wants to provide all state employees with a 5.5 percent raise and also establish a \$15-an-hour minimum wage for state jobs. Missouri consistently ranks dead last in the nation in state worker pay, and Parson said the poor wages are making it difficult to fill state government jobs.**

Another budget issue awaiting lawmakers is fully funding the state's Medicaid program after the Missouri Supreme Court upheld the validity of a 2020 state constitutional amendment expanding eligibility for the program. The high court ruled that while the amendment doesn't require lawmakers to increase Medicaid appropriations, the state can't refuse to provide services to the expanded population.

**Since the court required the state to begin enrolling the expanded population last summer, lawmakers will either have to boost appropriations for the remaining months of the fiscal year or risk the program running out of spending authority. The legislature also must allocate millions of dollars in federal COVID-19 relief funds that are set to expire in 2022 if not spent soon.**

Republicans outnumber Democrats 24-10 in the Senate and 110-49 in the House of Representatives, which will have four vacant seats.

## **ST. LOUIS COUNTY APPEALS REGULATIONS CASE**

St. Louis County is appealing a Cole County judge's recent decision striking down several state health department regulations, a ruling that throws into question what if any authority local governments have to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus.

The county submitted its notice of appeal with the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District in Kansas City on Dec. 28.

**On Nov. 22, Cole County Circuit Judge Dan Green declared unconstitutional four state regulations authorizing the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to delegate responses to public health emergencies to local officials.**

Despite representing the losing party in the case, Attorney General Eric Schmitt refused to appeal and instead began aggressively demanding that local governments cease any efforts to contain the coronavirus, including those based on authority derived from state law and not impacted by Green's ruling.

**Several counties later filed motions to intervene in the case so they could appeal the decision, but Green denied those motions on Dec. 22. However, his denial of the intervention motions created a path to appeal anyway.**

As the litigation proceeds, COVID-19 cases in Missouri and other parts of the nation are hitting some of their highest levels since the pandemic began nearly two years ago as the highly contagious omicron variant continues to spread.

## **REDISTRICTING REACHES NEXT PHASES**

While state senate redistricting commissioners were unable to agree on a tentative plan by the Dec. 23 deadline, state house redistricting commissioners bought themselves more time to negotiate by taking the unprecedented step of submitting two tentative maps – one supported by Democrats and the other by Republicans.

Both commissions consist of 20 members evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, with 14 votes required for a commission to approve a redistricting plan.

**Since the state senate commission failed to submit a tentative plan by the deadline, another commission of six appellate judges appointed by the Missouri Supreme Court will take over the job of drawing new state senate district boundaries.**

With candidate filing for the Aug. 2 primary elections scheduled to begin Feb. 22, the Appellate Redistricting Commission will face an extremely tight timetable for drawing new state senate district boundaries.

**The work of the state house commission will continue. Although the Democratic and Republican commissioners have agreed on new state house districts for most of Missouri, disagreements remain regarding district boundaries for Boone, Greene, Jackson and St. Louis Counties.**

The state house commission must agree to a single plan no later than Jan. 23 or the Appellate Redistricting Commission will take over drawing state house districts as well. The state house commission has scheduled a public hearing on redistricting Monday, January 3, in Jefferson City.

## **JAN. 19 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

Gov. Mike Parson will deliver the 2022 State of the State address before a joint session of the Missouri General Assembly on Jan. 19.

**During the annual speech, Parson will announce his policy agenda for the year and unveil the proposed state operating budget for the 2023 fiscal year which begins July 1, 2022.**

The address is scheduled to be held in the House of Representatives chamber, its traditional location. Following a spat between the governor and Republican House leaders last year over COVID-19 concerns, the 2021 State of the State address was abruptly moved to the Senate chamber just hours before it was slated to start.

## **KC Water to Hold Public Meeting on Rules and Regulations for Water Service Lines, Water Main Extensions and Relocations, and Sewer Service Lines**

KC Water proposes to revise Rules and Regulations for Water Service Lines and Rules and Regulations for Water Main Extensions and Relocations; and to establish Rules and Regulations for Sewer Service Lines.

Revisions to Rules and Regulations for Water Service Lines and Rules and Regulations for Water Main Extensions and Relocations are proposed to formalize use of the City of Kansas City, Mo., Compass KC online platform for plan submittal and review and to clarify language used in the rules and regulations.

Rules and Regulations for Sewer Service Lines are being established in the same format as water service line rules and regulations to provide familiarity to the regulated community; to provide for orderly growth of the City's sewer system, and to assure equitable treatment to all citizens who have transactions with KC Water.

A draft of all three proposed Rules and Regulations and a summary of major changes and provisions of each are posted at [www.kcwater.us/projects/rulesandregulations](http://www.kcwater.us/projects/rulesandregulations).

### **Virtual Public Meeting**

What: Proposed KC Water Rules and Regulations

When: **Monday, Feb. 7, 2022, 1 p.m. CST**

Where: "Public Meeting for Rules and Regulations" link at [www.kcwater.us/projects/rulesandregulations](http://www.kcwater.us/projects/rulesandregulations)

Phone: 872-212-5076 (toll), Conference ID 783 582 256#

Comments also may be submitted in writing via email to Travis W Kiefer, P.E., at [Travis.Kiefer@kcmo.org](mailto:Travis.Kiefer@kcmo.org); or by mail or delivery to Travis W Kiefer, P.E., Permitting & Development Divisions Head, KC



Water, City Hall 5th Floor (East), 414 E 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Written comments must be received at KC Water by 5 p.m., CST, Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

To obtain a paper copy of the draft rules and regulations or for further information, contact Travis Kiefer at 816-513-2139 or [travis.kiefer@kcmo.org](mailto:travis.kiefer@kcmo.org)

Any person with a disability desiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting may contact the 311 Action Center at 311, 816-513-1313, TTY 513-1889 or by email at [actioncenter@kcmo.org](mailto:actioncenter@kcmo.org).

WE CAN DO THIS!!! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY  
COMMUNITY STARTS HERE - 25% TASTES: MA  
FOIL-WRAP COOLING BETTER FRES  
GOODNESS FROM NEARBY OTHER EVER  
GENEROUS LEAD CAN CHANGE THE WAY WE THINK DA  
HELPING FOOD CAN CHANGE THE WAY WE THINK DA  
BURRITOS  
HOUSEKEEPING  
EFFECTIVE  
AN UNUSUAL  
A BETTER  
WORKING  
MADE OF

# DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR  
**HICKMAN MILLS  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5TH | 5-9PM**  
12348 S US HIGHWAY 71, GRANDVIEW, MO, 64030

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **BNZY8G3**  
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

## 13TH ANNUAL GRANDVIEW C-4

*A Night for  
Family Fun*



**Thursday, January 27, 2021**

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

A fundraiser to support teacher grants, student scholarships and other programs, this event is hosted through TriviaHub.

Gather your team through a zoom platform (together or apart) and join us for a competitive game of fun!

### BE A SPONSOR



#### **Mensa - \$1,000**

- 1 free team of 8
- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event
- Logo recognition on-screen during event

#### **Genius - \$500**

- 1 free team of 8
- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event

#### **Brainiac - \$250**

- Website, Newsletter & Social Media Recognition
- Recognition during event

### FORM A TEAM

#### **Team of 8 - \$100**

Gather 8 friends, family or coworkers for a night of fun!

### 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!

**Register online at:**

<https://forms.gle/4GwtMKdpgBW8UCbn8>

**For questions call 913.522.9943**

*Presented by:*



# KIDS EAT FREE



## MEAL DISTRIBUTION

- CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT -

**UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**5600 E. 112 TERRACE, KCMO 64134**

**FRIDAY'S 3PM - 6PM**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT **314.701.7245** OR EMAIL US  
AT **[KIDSEATFREE@INFLUENCECHURCH.COM](mailto:KIDSEATFREE@INFLUENCECHURCH.COM)**

***\*THIS SITE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER***





---

**Keep hospital ERs open for emergencies.**

**Missouri is on track to exceed peak COVID-19 levels, and health care resources are finite.** Hospital emergency rooms still need to care for non-COVID-related emergencies like heart attacks, strokes, and severe injuries and accidents. Help hospitals effectively manage this COVID-19 surge by using one of Missouri's convenient COVID-19 [testing options](#) if your symptoms are not life-threatening.

**Know where to go to get a COVID-19 test.**

Testing is a key component to fighting COVID-19. There are numerous

---

convenient testing options statewide.

- [Regional drive-thru testing sites](#)
- [Local pharmacies](#)
- [Self collection tests](#)
- Primary care physician's office
- Urgent care

**Your help is needed to ensure hospitals can provide lifesaving care to those who need it.**

Hospitals across the state are caring for large numbers of patients, while experiencing staffing shortages and overcrowded emergency rooms with long wait times. Everyone has a role to play in helping hospitals care for patients.

**Share this with your family and friends so they know where to find a quick and convenient COVID-19 test.**

---

## 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., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.



# The January 2022 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:

- KC CS QR Code
- 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.

*\*Note: If your browser is still displaying last month's issue, please try opening the page in an incognito window.*

[View Now](#)



**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](mailto:mark.sharp@house.mo.gov)**

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