



Dear Neighbor,

This week the General Assembly attempted to pass congressional redistricting so that we could finally have congressional boundaries solidified before the August 2<sup>nd</sup> primary elections. Unfortunately, that did not happen as the House overwhelmingly rejected the Senate's redistricting version in a 129-26 vote.

**I was one of 26 members from both parties to vote in favor of approving the Senate version of congressional redistricting. I voted for it despite my opposition to many of its provisions because it made the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in the Kansas City area much more compact instead of stretching toward mid-Missouri so whoever represents the district can**

**concentrate on our needs in the metropolitan area.**

Currently, Missouri has eight congressional seats. The majority of voters in six of them generally favor Republican candidates, while voters in the other two generally vote Democratic. Many impartial observers have said if congressional boundaries were drawn fairly instead of favoring the majority party, the likely result would be five Republican-leaning districts and three Democratic-leaning districts.

However, that is extremely unlikely to happen currently since the majority party now enjoys over two to one margins in both the House and Senate.

In fact this year the opposite has occurred, with a small group of hardline conservative Republican Senators pushing all session long for a gerrymandered map that carves up our area's 5<sup>th</sup> District currently represented by Congressman Emanuel Cleaver so it would lean Republican, leaving only a St. Louis area district likely to remain in Democratic hands.

**Many legislators at this point believe the House and Senate will not come to terms, forcing the court system to step in and**

**essentially do our job for us.**

Please read the article in the Weekly Update for a more detailed account on the redistricting stalemate.

**Locally, please join me tomorrow from 10 to noon at Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103<sup>rd</sup> St. on the north side of I-435 just east of Holmes Rd. for a listening session hosted by the South Kansas City Alliance and the South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce to hear what south Kansas City residents and other interested persons think are the most important qualities and qualifications for our city's next police chief and what should be the new chief's top priorities.**

**Participants' written comments will be collected and formally presented to the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners BEFORE it selects the finalists for this extremely important position.** Please see the flyer below for more details.

If anyone would like to contact me about legislation they would like me to support or oppose, please email me at

[Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov](mailto:Mark.Sharp@house.mo.gov).

**Here are my committee appointments:**

**Crime Prevention**

**Elementary & Secondary Education**

**General Laws**

**Joint Committee on Legislative Research**

**Special Committee on Urban Issues**

**Special Committee on Public Policy: Ranking Minority**

**Member**

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, you can contact my legislative aide Kaylee Bauer at [Kaylee.Bauer@house.mo.gov](mailto:Kaylee.Bauer@house.mo.gov).

**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*



**Students in the United by Creativity program based in south Kansas City and ran by Shakyra Washington (right) came to the capitol this week where I introduced them on the House floor and took them by to visit with Speaker of the House Rob Vescovo (left).**

# **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

Friday, April 1st, 2022

## **STALEMATE ON CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING**

Candidate filing for the Aug. 2 primary elections closed March 29, but Missouri lawmakers still have not approved new congressional districts.

**The House in January passed its plan (House Bill 2117) to redraw Missouri's eight congressional districts in accordance with the 2020 U.S. Census that would likely maintain the current split of six Republicans and two Democrats.**

It took the Senate two months to approve its version as



conservative Republican hardliners blocked the process in a failed attempt to approve a redistricting plan they hoped would result in a partisan split of seven Republicans and one Democrat.

A few days before the end of candidate filing, the Senate eventually settled on a plan that would likely maintain the current 6-2 Republican-Democratic split. However, the congressional boundaries approved by the Senate are vastly different from those approved by the House.

**Just hours before the filing deadline, the House voted to ask the Senate to agree to appoint a joint House-Senate conference committee to negotiate a final version. The Senate rejected the request the next day and demanded the House accept the Senate version.**

**The House responded on March 31 by outright rejecting the Senate plan on a lopsided 129-26 vote before again requesting negotiations to attempt to work out a mutually acceptable version. Shortly thereafter, the Senate adjourned until April 4 without considering the request. A leader of the hardliners**



**said at a subsequent news conference that there will be no negotiations.**

For now, congressional candidates are filed under the outdated congressional map lawmakers enacted in 2011. However, both the state and federal constitutions require districts to be based on the most recent Census. Litigation already has been filed seeking to block the state from using the outdated map for the 2022 elections and asking the court to draw new districts given the legislature's failure to do so. Many Democratic leaders believe a court is more likely to produce a map which could likely yield a 5-3 Republican-Democratic split based on Missouri's voting patterns in recent elections.

Although candidate filing has closed, primary ballots won't be finalized until late May, giving lawmakers more time to approve new congressional districts.

**PLAN ADVANCES TO WEAKEN VOTING RIGHTS**

The House of Representatives on March 30 granted first-round approval to legislation that could severely weaken the voting rights protections in the Missouri Constitution. The measure requires a second vote to advance to the Senate.

The state constitution currently guarantees voting rights to “**all**” U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years old, Missouri residents and registered to vote. House Joint Resolution 131 would change that provision to say that “**only**” people who meet those requirements can vote.

**That simple one-word shift would eliminate the constitution’s current absolute guarantee of voting rights to those who meet the constitutional requirements and enable the legislature to pass laws to disenfranchise certain subsets of otherwise eligible voters.**

HJR 131 also contains provisions aimed at blocking efforts to adopt ranked-choice voting or other methods that allow voters to cast ballots for multiple candidates. But the way those provisions

are worded could have unintended consequences.

One provision specifies that voters can only cast one vote for a particular office. This would seem to constitutionally prohibit Missouri's traditional method of conducting school board elections in which two or three board seats are up at a time. Voters now get to cast a ballot for as many candidates as there are contested seats, with the top vote-getters winning.

Another provision says that the winner of a party's primary "shall be the only candidate for that party for the office at the general election." This absolute language appears to constitutionally block the selection of a replacement candidate if a primary winner subsequently dies or withdraws his or her candidacy prior to the general election.

If both chambers approve HJR 131, it automatically would go on the Nov. 8 statewide ballot for voter consideration. The measure is one of several being considered this year that would restrict voter rights.

## **GOVERNOR CLAIMS COVID-19 CRISIS OVER**

At a March 30 news conference, Gov. Mike Parson said, “The COVID-19 crisis is over in the state of Missouri, and we are moving on.” Although new cases in recent weeks have dropped to their lowest level since last June, Missouri has seen sharp declines before only to experience large surges in cases as new variants sweep the state.

**In fact, the state is a just a couple of months removed from a massive peak in cases in January as the highly contagious omicron variant ravaged the state. As recently as Feb. 10, Missouri was still reporting at least 2,000 new cases a day before those numbers began to go down.**

Parson, who has largely taken a hands-off approach to fighting the pandemic over the last two years, said his administration will now treat COVID-19 as an endemic disease, like seasonal

influenza.

**Since the pandemic began in early 2020, there have been more than 1.4 million reported COVID-19 cases in Missouri and nearly 20,000 reported deaths. Both numbers likely are low due to underreporting of cases and misclassification of deaths.**



*Dedicated to a Unified Vision for South Kansas City, Missouri*



**SOUTH KANSAS CITY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

## **WHAT QUALITIES & QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD OUR NEXT POLICE CHIEF HAVE?**

**The South Kansas City Alliance and the South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce are hosting a listening session from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 2, at Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103<sup>rd</sup> St., on the north side of I-435 just east of Holmes Rd. to hear from south Kansas City residents and other interested persons on what qualities and qualifications they feel our next Kansas City police chief should have.**

**The event will include breakout sessions for small group discussions on what values and experience participants feel are essential for the new chief and what should be the new chief's top priorities.**

**All participants will be asked to submit their written**

**responses to these questions and related topics**  
**which will be formally submitted to the Kansas City**  
**Board of Police Commissioners as it begins its**  
**national search for a new chief this spring.**

**This is one of six listening sessions scheduled around the city by a coalition of 15 business, civic and interfaith groups to get broad public input from throughout the city on what qualities and qualifications are most important for our new chief to have and what should be the new chief's top priorities BEFORE the Board narrows the field of candidates or makes a final hiring decision.**



# Kansas City, Missouri Police Chief Community Listening Sessions

**YOU ARE INVITED** to share your thoughts and help strengthen community trust between Kansas City residents and the KCMO Police Department by attending a free **Community Listening Session**. The discussions will be future-focused, centered on the desired priorities for and possible qualifications of the next KCMO Chief of Police. The findings from the community sessions will be presented to the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners at an upcoming Police Board meeting. **Walk-ins are welcome**, or you can RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com); search for Kansas City Police Listening to register.

## **\*Northland Community Listening Session**

**Tue, March 29, 2022 6-8 PM**

Northland Neighborhoods Inc.  
5340 NE Chouteau Trafficway  
Kansas City, MO 64119

## **\*West Side Community Listening Session**

**Wed, April 6, 2022 6-8 PM**

Mattie Rhodes Center  
1701 Jarboe St.  
Kansas City, MO 64108

## **East Side Community Listening Session**

**Sat, April 2, 2022 10 AM-Noon**

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center  
3700 Blue Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64130

## **\*Northeast Community Listening Session**

**Thurs, April 7, 2022 6-8 PM**

Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce  
2657 Independence Ave  
Kansas City, MO 64124

## **South Kansas City**

### **Community Listening Session**

**Sat, April 2, 2022 10 AM-Noon**

Evangel Church  
1414 E. 103rd St.  
Kansas City, MO 64131

## **\*Midtown/Downtown**

### **Community Listening Session**

**Thurs, April 14, 2022 3:30-5:30 PM**

KC Chamber Board Room at Union Station  
30 W Pershing Road, First Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64108

*\*virtual option available*

## EVERY VOICE MATTERS

*These sessions are presented by a coalition of business, civic, and interfaith organizations working together throughout Kansas City.*

- Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City
- Black Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City
- Civic Council of Greater Kansas City
- Downtown Council
- Getting to the Heart of the Matter
- Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
- Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City
- Hispanic Economic Development Corporation
- KC Common Good
- Northeast Chamber of Commerce
- Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Prospect Business Association
- South Kansas City Alliance
- South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

**Can't attend a session?  
Scan the QR code below  
and fill out the online survey.**



# FREE SATURDAY NATURE PROGRAM

*for 4th-8th Graders*

MARCH 26 - MAY 14 2022



Enjoy some "me" time while your child makes new friends and has fun in nature!

#### DATES

Saturdays March 26 - May 14, 2022

#### TIME

10am - 12pm

with 30 minutes of optional creative play before and after class

#### LOCATIONS

At 2 different locations:

- Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, 4750 Troost
- Lakeside Nature Center, 4701 East Gregory Blvd.



**SIGN-UP NOW!** → Full details and registration at: [greenworkskc.org/programs](https://greenworkskc.org/programs)

Questions? Contact [Desiree@greenworkskc.org](mailto:Desiree@greenworkskc.org)



GRANDVIEW  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION  
students · staff · community

Please join us for the

## *Jane Bryan Distinguished Alumni Awards Brunch*

---

*Saturday, April 9, 2022  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

*Armacost Car Museum  
4200 E. 135th Street  
Grandview, MO 64030*

*Tickets: \$40/person; \$300/table of 8  
Purchase ticket here: <https://forms.gle/4h5wUTdo2RFP9YFP8>  
(Please note the venue does not allow children under 16)*

---

### *2022 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients:*

*Andre L. Davis  
Corporate & Community Engagement Executive  
1985 Graduate*

*Ryan P. Hobbs  
Assistant Professor at Penn State College of Medicine  
2000 Graduate*

*Annette Turnbaugh  
Missouri State Representative ♦ 1976 Graduate*



HyVee®



# HAMS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

In partnership with local first responders,  
we're giving away 500 Hormel Cure 81 hams  
to families in need.

**Tuesday, April 12**

**4:00 p.m. start**

The event runs for up to two hours  
or until all hams are distributed.

**KCPD East Precinct  
2640 Prospect Ave  
Kansas City, MO 64127**





**Little Blue River Cleanup April 16, 2022**

**9am-1pm @ Little Blue Valley Park**

**8259 S. Noland Rd. KCMO**

**Register Online**

**[mostreamteam.org/calendar-of-events.html](https://mostreamteam.org/calendar-of-events.html)**

**or**

**SCAN ME**







**MIDWEST**  
**POOL**  
MANAGEMENT

**NOW HIRING**

**LIFEGUARDS & MORE!**

**BAY  
BUDD  
GROVE  
GORMAN  
BRUSH CREEK  
LINE CREEK  
SPRINGS**

**APPLY**  
**WWW.MIDWESTPOOL.COM**  
**(816) 350-2628**  
**FOLLOW US ON:**



**FREE!**

**LIFEGUARD  
CERTIFICATION**



## Need Help Paying for Internet?

The COVID-19 pandemic has made internet access more important than ever. If you need internet access for work, school, job seeking, or accessing services, we may be able to help.

This program is open to people who live in the greater KC region. It is only open to households with limited incomes.

### It can help you:

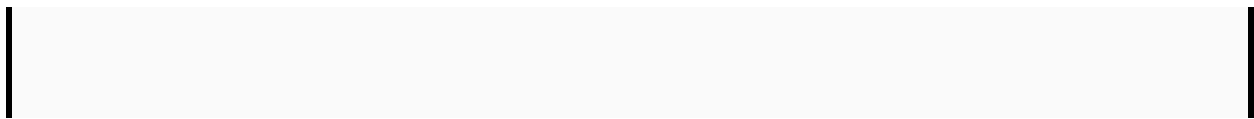
- Find affordable internet service
- Pay off an old balance
- Get caught up on your current internet service
- Pay for internet service for six months

## Funds are limited. Apply Now!

Call **816-200-0599**, visit  
**<https://kcconnect.me>**  
or scan this code with your  
mobile device. Some  
restrictions apply.







# Medicaid Enrollment

We can help!

**Kansas City Health Department**

2400 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64108

Every Tuesday 12:00pm - 4:00pm

## FREE assistance

from experts with

**KC Care Health Center & Swope Health**

(Since Medicaid was expanded to include more people,  
you could be eligible!)



**swope**HEALTH





## SPORTS, COOKING & ARTS

Every Wednesday Night  
5:00 - 7:30 PM

- Open to Ages 8-13
- Dinner Provided

9701 Marion Park Drive | KCMO 64137  
2ND BUILDING ON CAMPUS IN THE GYM



ONE TIME REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR!

# FREE

## Smoke Alarm

### 816-513-4648

### KCFD

CITY OF  
KANSAS CITY,  
MISSOURI

For more Fire Safety information visit:

## KCMO.GOV/FIRE

# KIDS EAT FREE

**AGES  
18 AND  
UNDER**

**WHILE  
SUPPLIES  
LAST**

## **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*



## 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.

**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.



**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!**