



Dear Neighbor,

Please join me and five of my colleagues from the Missouri House of Representatives and Senate as we explain some of the most important legislation that will impact our area that was passed by the recently adjourned 2023 session of the Missouri General Assembly at the South Kansas City Alliance meeting at **6 p.m. Monday, June 12, in the Community Room of the front building of the South Patrol Police Campus, 9701 Marion Park Drive.**

I will focus much of my remarks on two pieces of legislation I sponsored to improve public safety:

**-Blair's Law to make discharging a firearm within or into a municipality's city limits with criminal negligence a serious state offense instead of only a city ordinance violation.**

This law is designed to deter the worsening and sometimes deadly barrage of celebratory gunfire we are plagued with in Kansas City and surrounding cities on holidays like July 4<sup>th</sup> and New Year's Eve and on other major events such as the Chiefs recent Super Bowl victory.

It is named after 11-year-old Blair Shanahan Lane who died here after being struck by celebratory gunfire while playing in the yard during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday in 2011.

**-Legislation to remove the out-of-date and non-competitive salary caps for all ranks in the Kansas City Police Department that make it hard for our seriously understaffed department to recruit officers and even harder to retain officers once they hit their salary caps since they can make substantially higher salaries in several neighboring departments.**

This legislation also removes the discriminatory language in state law that prohibits our department from hiring a

police chief who is over 60 years of age, no matter how qualified they are.

**With time running out before this year's legislative session adjourned last month, supporters of these measures were able to add their language to an omnibus anti-crime bill (Senate Bill 189) that passed just a day before the session adjourned. That bill is now awaiting the governor's expected signature to become law on August 28.**



## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

Friday, June 9th, 2023

## **BILLS SIGNED TARGETING TRANSGENDER YOUTH**

Gov. Mike Parson on June 7 privately signed into law one bill prohibiting gender-affirming care for transgender minors, as well as a second bill barring transgender athletes from competing on sports teams that don't correspond with their birth gender.

**Senate Bill 49 would ban gender-affirming surgery for minors, which currently only happens in rare situations, and also outlaw the use of puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy for transitioning minors. Those who have already started transitioning when the bill is slated to take effect on Aug. 28 would be exempt from the latter restriction.**

The bill would impact some adults by prohibiting Medicaid from paying for any gender-affirming care and denying access to such services to those who are incarcerated.

**Senate Bill 39 would prohibit public and private schools from allowing transgender athletes to compete on sports teams that correspond with their gender identity at any level from kindergarten through**

**college.**

As part of an agreement brokered in the Senate, the restrictions on athletic participation, as well as the limits on puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy contained in SB 49, are set to expire in 2027 unless lawmakers later renew them.

Both bills passed on near-party line votes in both chambers, with Democrats opposed.

## **JUDGE RULES AGAINST FORMER AG**

In a scathing 18-page opinion, a Jackson County circuit judge on May 26 ruled former Missouri attorney general Eric Schmitt, now a U.S. senator, acted without any legal authority in late 2021 when he ordered public school districts throughout the state to end measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

**The judge said school districts acted in full accordance with the powers granted them under state law, while Schmitt improperly attempted to interfere with their authority.**

Schmitt claimed a Cole County judge's November 2021 decision striking down four Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services regulations provided the legal

basis for his demand as attorney general that school districts end mandatory masking rules, requirements that students exposed to COVID-19 stay home from school and other related restrictions.

**However, state statutes specifically grant school districts broad authority to prevent the spread of communicable disease among students, faculty and staff – as well as the ability to govern their own affairs – and none of those laws were challenged in the Cole County case.**

**Schmitt sued nearly 50 school districts that refused to end their COVID-19 restrictions. Those cases were either dismissed by judges or voluntarily withdrawn by Schmitt's office as the pandemic subsided.**

But the Lee's Summit School District countersued to seek a declaratory judgment that Schmitt's order was without legal authority and interfered with the powers of local districts.

**In ruling in the district's favor, Jackson County Circuit Judge Marco Roldan wrote that Schmitt's order "exceed the Attorney General's authority, and had no legal force and effect."**

"Former Attorney General Eric Schmitt twice directed the Lee's Summit R-7 School District to rescind its COVID-



19 mitigation measures, even though its Board of Education had validly adopted those measures under Missouri statutes giving the Board of Education broad powers to control and govern the School District's operations," Roldan wrote.

"The Attorney General did not identify statutes or constitutional provisions to support his order, resting his directive instead on a judgment in another case to which no school district was a party, and whose rationale did not apply to the School District," he wrote.

Current Attorney General Andrew Bailey has not indicated if his office intends to appeal Roldan's ruling, and as of June 8 no appeal had been filed.

The case is *State of Missouri ex rel. Eric Schmitt v. Lee's Summit R-7 School District*.

## **PARSON ELEVATES ACTING AGENCY DIRECTORS**

Gov. Mike Parson on June 1 formally appointed Robert Knodell as Director of the Missouri Department of Social Services and Paula Nickerson as Director of the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services. Both Knodell and Nickerson have been running their respective agencies for over a year as acting department directors.



**Knodell, Parson's former deputy chief of staff, has led DSS since October 2021. His move to DSS followed a five-month stint as acting director of the health department. Nickerson has been in charge of the health department since March 2022 and is a 23-year veteran of the agency.**

Giving Knodell and Nickerson the acting director tags allowed them to bypass Senate confirmation. With that designation now removed, the confirmation process will go forward when the Senate reconvenes in January.

## **GOVERNOR PICKS TOP AIDE FOR PSC**

Gov. Mike Parson appointed Dr. Kayla Hahn, a senior member of his staff, to the Missouri Public Service Commission on June 1.

**Hahn can immediately begin serving on the commission, which is the independent regulatory authority for investor-owned utilities in the state, but faces Senate confirmation when the 2024 legislative session gets underway in January.**

**Hahn, who holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Missouri-Columbia, had served as Parson's policy director since August 2018. Prior to**

**joining the Governor's office, she had worked as assistant director and an analyst in the state senate's Division of Research.**

Hahn replaces Ryan Silvey, a Republican who previously served in both the House of Representatives and Senate. She will be the only person on the five-member commission who is not a former state lawmaker.

# OL SKOOL BLOCK PARTY



Bringing family back together.

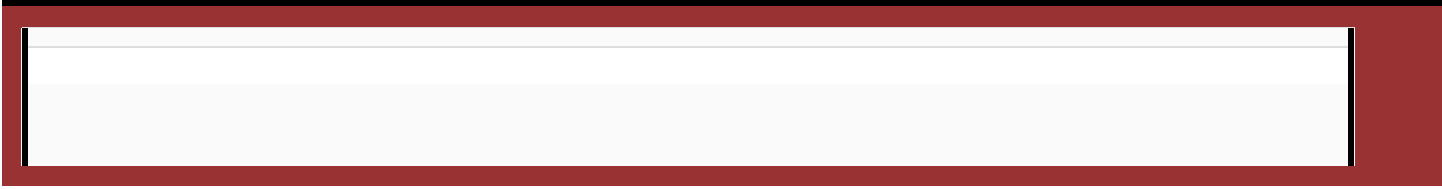


**JUNE 10, 2023**  
**12:00 PM**  
**to 3:00 PM**



**KANSAS CITY MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIVISION**

**Sycamore Park**  
**Block of 108th & Sycamore**





YOUTH TOWNHALL

# STOP THE VIOLENCE

**DATE AND TIME:**

JUNE 17TH

DOORS OPEN AT 10:30AM

PROGRAM RUNS 11-2PM

**LOCATION:**

UNITED BELIEVERS

5600 E 112 TERRACE

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64134

THIS EVENT WILL INCLUDE A  
YOUTH AND ADULT PANEL. LUNCH  
WILL BE PROVIDED, AND THERE  
WILL BE GIFT CARD GIVEAWAYS  
DURING THE PROGRAM.

**RSVP HERE:**



# AILEYCAMP 2023

**FREE 6-WEEK  
CAMP!**

June 5th-July 13th

Ages 11-14



**Enroll your child today!**

[kcfaa.org/aileycamp](http://kcfaa.org/aileycamp)



KC Friends of Alvin AILEY



# COACH JOEL WEBB SKILL DEVELOPMENT CLINIC


**JULY 10, 17, 31**



THERE WILL BE **OBSTACLES.**  
THERE WILL BE **DOUBTERS.**  
THERE WILL BE **MISTAKES.**  
BUT WITH **HARD WORK,**  
THERE ARE **NO LIMITS.**



**1st-3rd grade from 5:00pm-6:00pm**  
**4th -6th grade from 6:00pm-7:00pm**  
**Maximum 30 kids per session**

 **United Believers Community Church**  
**5600 East 112 Terrace**  
**Kansas City, Mo 64137**



**Darron LaMonte Edwards, Lead Pastor**

For **FREE** sign up and more information; contact us at

**[www.jwskilldevelopment.com](http://www.jwskilldevelopment.com)**

**IF YOU HAVE A BASKETBALL, PLEASE BRING IT.**



# FREE TREES!



**CANOPY  
COVER KC**

Kansas City is giving  
free trees to Kansas  
City, Missouri residents

**LEARN MORE AT  
[KCMO.GOV/FREETREES](https://kcmo.gov/freetrees)**

# Formula Distribution!!



Cradle **kc**  Community  
Health Council  
of Wyandotte County

CHC and Cradle KC are a formula distribution site! We have a variety of infant formula available. If we do not have the type of formula you need, we can request it.

Scan the QR code to  
submit your  
request

ee.

contact us at 913-371-9298 if you have  
questions



# Understanding and Accessing **MISSOURI MEDICAID**

More Missourians than ever now qualify for Medicaid expansion, including parents who have not qualified before, and adults without children. Learn to see if you qualify for Medicaid and how to apply.

## Am I eligible?

Medicaid eligibility depends primarily on the size of your household and your gross **monthly** household income (before taxes and deductions). If your monthly income is lower than the number of people living in your home, **you may qualify**.



**1**

**\$1,481**

**2**

**\$2,003**

**3**

**\$2,525**

**4**

**\$3,048**

**5**

**\$3,570**

**6**

**\$4,092**

## How do I apply?

### **GOOD NEWS!**

Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!

#### **Online:**

Visit <https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply> to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal

#### **By Phone:**

Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994

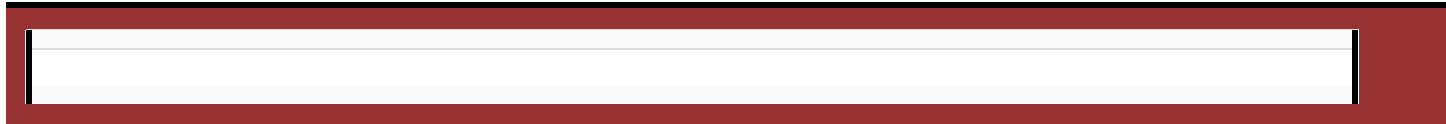
#### **By Mail or Email:**

Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to:

**Family Support Division**  
615 E 13th St  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Or email to:

**FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov**



# 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 Food Pantries

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

**Community Assistance Council**, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email [info@cackc.org](mailto:info@cackc.org) for appointments or questions.

**Red Bridge Area Food Pantry**, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

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.

**Serve and Lift Center – South KC**, 8001 Longview Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Walk-in, call for an appointment or order online at <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/>



**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**

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