



Dear Neighbor,

I'd like to thank everyone who has expressed their support to me in the last few weeks for passage of Blair's Law (House Bill 1568) that I have re-introduced to make celebratory gunfire and any other unjustified discharge of firearms with criminal negligence within or into city limits a serious state offense.

I'd like to particularly thank the Joint Government Affairs Committee of the Grandview and South Kansas City Chambers of Commerce for including passage of Blair's Law in its top 2022 recommended state legislative priorities. Its passage also is supported by the City of KCMO and the Kansas City Police Department.

**Several persons who have contacted me in support of this life-saving legislation named after 11-year-old Blair Shanahan Lane who died after being struck here by celebratory gunfire on July 4, 2011, told me they were in fear for their safety and the safety of their families due to the large amount of celebratory gunfire in their neighborhoods during the late evening hours of New Year's Eve and the wee morning hours of New Year's Day.**

Others asked me if this is just a problem in KCMO or is it also a problem in other cities in our area. Unfortunately, this dangerous and irresponsible behavior also threatens public safety in other area cities.

Grandview Police Chief Charles Iseman recently responded to an inquiry on my behalf that despite his department distributing flyers at major apartment complexes in his city urging people not to engage in celebratory gunfire and posting this message on social media, complaints about celebratory gunfire were up during this holiday, and residents of four homes reported their homes were hit by bullets.

**When responding to one incident, officers found over 30 shell casings nearby.**

Fortunately, unlike KCMO where two persons required hospital treatment after being hit by celebratory gunfire this holiday, nobody in Grandview reported being struck by a stray bullet.

I had added this legislation by amendment to another bill during the 2021 session of the General Assembly which passed the House overwhelmingly 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.

I am already talking to legislators in both parties this session to assure this life-saving legislation continues to have strong bipartisan support.

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*



**I attended the January 10 South Kansas City Alliance meeting to hear Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) President Bob Kendrick describe the commemorative coins (examples shown here) to honor the founding of the Negro National League at the Paseo YMCA that went on sale by the U.S. Mint beginning January 6. The coins can be ordered online at [www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov) for discounted introductory prices, and the Museum gets a portion of each sale. I also explained to the audience**

**how they can order the special NLBM Missouri license plates to raise statewide awareness of the Museum and funds for its operation that were authorized by legislation sponsored by Senator Barbara Anne Washington that I handled in the House. Please call or email me for more information on ordering the plates or an order form or contact the Museum.**

## **WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE**

### **Friday, January 14th, 2022**

#### **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING BILL ADVANCES**

On an 8-3 party-line vote, a House committee on Jan. 12 approved a Republican plan to redraw Missouri's eight congressional districts to reflect population shifts shown by the 2020 U.S. Census that took place over the prior decade.

The full House of Representatives is expected to debate the bill Jan. 18, with the intent of advancing it to the Senate as soon as it passes the House.

**Lawmakers must have new congressional districts in place before candidate filing for the Aug. 2 primary elections opens on Feb. 22.**

Normally, redistricting would have been completed during the 2021 legislative session. However, since the pandemic resulted in the detailed Census data needed for the task not being made available to states until last fall – and the governor's refusal to call a special session on the subject – the task was delayed until now.

Even if lawmakers pass the redistricting bill by the deadline, the governor would have to sign it into law before the deadline, and it would require an emergency clause in order to take effect as soon as the governor signs it. Without one, pursuant to the state constitution, the bill wouldn't take effect regardless of when the governor signs it until Aug. 28, weeks after the primaries.

Approving an emergency clause in the House might prove particularly difficult if redistricting remains a partisan issue since it takes a two-thirds vote of the entire membership to approve one, and due to several resignations Republicans are one vote short of the 109 votes required in the 163-member House.

Not only would an emergency clause require the support of two-thirds majorities of the entire membership in both branches of the legislature, it is questionable whether one is even constitutionally allowed under the circumstances.

**Rather than something lawmakers can add to a bill at their discretion as a matter of convenience, or even out of practical necessity, the state constitution permits emergency clauses only when “necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety.” As a result, it isn't certain congressional redistricting meets that standard.**

Missouri's congressional delegation currently consists of six Republicans and two Democrats, all who represent districts considered relatively safe for their respective parties. House Bill 2117 likely would preserve that partisan split.

However, some Republican lawmakers have advocated making major changes in our area's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District currently held by Representative Emanuel Cleaver in an attempt to secure a 7-1 Republican congressional delegation.

However, Republican legislative leaders generally have resisted that idea since it would require moving areas with mainly Republican voters from surrounding districts into the 5<sup>th</sup> District and transferring areas with mainly Democratic voters from the 5<sup>th</sup> to surrounding districts. Such a move could

easily backfire and cost Republicans seats over the 10-year life of the plan.

## **KC PUBLIC SCHOOLS REGAIN FULL ACCREDITATION**

The Missouri State Board of Education voted unanimously on Jan. 11 to immediately restore full accreditation to the Kansas City Public Schools. In making its decision, the Board cited improved academic performance by students, better instructional systems and stability in the district's leadership.

**“This is an opportunity to commend the really great things happening in KCPS,” Board President Charlie Shields said. “While this is clearly a significant step in the right direction, KCPS and its leaders still have work to do and must ensure this momentum continues in the district.”**

The Kansas City district initially lost its accreditation in 2000 but made sufficient improvements to achieve provisional accreditation in 2002. The district again lost its accreditation in 2011 before regaining the provisional designation in 2014, a status it had maintained ever since.

## **NET STATE GENERAL REVENUE UP SO FAR IN FY 2022**

Net state general revenue collections for the first half of the 2022 fiscal year which began July 1 were up 4.7% compared to the same period in FY 2021, going from \$5.44 billion last fiscal year to \$5.7 billion this fiscal year, according to data provided by the Missouri Division of Budget & Planning.

**Robust sales tax collections helped contribute to a strong December, which saw net general revenue increase 31.9% compared to December 2020, going from \$904.3 million in 2020 to \$1.19 billion in 2021. Sales tax revenue increased 35% in December 2021 compared to December 2020.**

Although corporate income tax revenue was up 9.9% for the month compared to the prior year, individual income tax collections decreased 4.5%.

Through the first five months of FY 2022, net general revenue collections had been down 0.7% compared to FY 2021.

Thanks to the December rebound, achieving an overall growth in net state general revenue for the first half of this fiscal year is all the more impressive given that collections were skewed upward in early FY 2021 since the deadline for filing income tax returns in 2020 was pushed from April 15 to July 15 drastically increasing income tax collections in early FY 2021.



KC PET PROJECT ♥

# SWEATIN'

## OFF THE SHELTER

# POUNDS

ADOPTION SPECIAL



**\$30**

ADULT DOGS  
30 POUNDS & OVER  
& ADULT CATS

Friday, January 14th - Monday, January 17th

At the Kansas City Campus for Animal Care,  
Zona Rosa Adoption Center, and pets in foster homes.





# CHILLS AND THRILLS

HAIR-RAISING READS!

## 2022 WINTER READING CHALLENGE

JANUARY 15 – MARCH 15, 2022

Read any 5 books  
in 2 months  
to earn a free  
limited-edition mug





**January 16th**

**11AM - 1PM**

**Linwood YMCA**

3800 Linwood Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64128

**Free resources to be given out includes:**

Dog Houses • Pet Bowls • Blankets  
Food • Straw • Pet ID Tags • and More

While supplies last

— KC PET PROJECT —  
**ANIMAL SERVICES**  
— DIVISION —





# 2022 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MASS CELEBRATION



## sc|c

*of Greater Kansas City*

Featuring  
Keynote Speaker

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie



MONDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 6:00 PM

Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church 2310 E Linwood Blvd, KCMO 64109

VIRTUAL & IN PERSON

THEME: FREEDOM & JUSTICE NOW!

**MONDAY, JANUARY 17TH**

**6:00 PM**

**Metropolitan Missionary Baptist  
Church**

**2310 E Linwood Blvd, KCMO 64109**

or ONLINE



# **"Won't You Be My Neighbor?"**

## Speaker Series at Holmeswood

9:00am-Speaker

10:15am-Speaker and Worship

**City Manager Brian Platt**

**"Housing Crisis in KC"**

**January 23**



**Councilwoman Andrea Bough**

**"Tenants' Right to Counsel"**

**January 30**

**US District Judge Stephen Bough**  
**Dion Sankar-Jackson Cty Prosecutor Office**  
**DeJ'on Slaughter-Turner Construction**

**"Re-Entry Court"**

**February 6**



Holmeswood Baptist Church

9700 Holmes Rd  
holmeswood.org

YouTube






## 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:*



## Do you want to work but first need:

- A resume
- Help preparing for an interview
- To know where and how to start the process
- To work out transportation or childcare
- Your social security card, ID or birth certificate
- GED or other training
- Interview clothes
- Other supports



## Join Us for FREE Overcoming Barriers to Employment

INFORMATION • PRESENTATIONS • 1:1 SUPPORTS

10 am - 1 pm, Feb. 16, 2022

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 9420 James A. Reed Road, KCMO

Organizations will share their expertise, services and provide 1:1 supports to help you overcome barriers to employment. If you can, bring basic info of your work history, social security card, ID and/or birth certificate. Masks will be required at all times.

### Catholic Charities

1:1 – Building Your Resume  
Presentation - 10 Tips for a Successful Interview

### Community Assistance Council

1:1 - Get Your Critical Documents  
(bring Social Security Card, ID, Birth Certificate, we'll help get the rest)

### Express Employment Professionals

1:1 - Online Job Applications / Practice Interviews  
Presentation - How to Keep the Job

### Full Employment Council

1:1 – Get Registered in the FEC Employment Portal  
Presentation - Overview FEC's Employment Services

### Goodwill

1:1 – Building Your Resume

### Kansas City Area Transportation Authority

Help With Your Best Public Transportation Route/Options

### Mid-Continent Public Library

1:1 - Assessments and Best Resources for You

### Women's Employment Network

Presentation - Essential Skills You Need for ANY Job

### Also, Walk Away With:

- Resume In Hand
- Childcare Resources
- Interview-Ready Outfit
- Phone Ordered (if needed)
- COVID Vaccination or Booster

## TO REGISTER

REGISTRATION HELPFUL  
WALK-INS WELCOME

Scan QR code:

Visit: [www.cackc.org](http://www.cackc.org)

Email: [info@cackc.org](mailto:info@cackc.org)

Call: 816-763-3277 X 103

For general information:

Rachel Casey

816-763-3277 X 103

[rachel.casey@cackc.org](mailto:rachel.casey@cackc.org)



### Sponsors



# 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*







## Free Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Training

- 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  
[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



THE FULL EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL

## **Community Healthcare Worker**

Start a new career as a  
community healthcare worker,  
at no cost to qualified FEC  
members!

**ENROLLING NOW**

[www.feckc.org/services-registration](http://www.feckc.org/services-registration)

**PLEASE HELP US SHARE THE WORD**

## **Empower has Resources - Needs Hickman Mills Students, Families**



**What is Empower?** A free CAC program for Hickman Mills students and their families with funds, flexibility and supports to improve income, housing stability and mental health and reduce stress.

**Empower client Carolyn and her three kids moved to Kansas City to escape domestic violence. After several months in a hotel, CAC Empower case managers helped her find and apply for new housing and a better-paying job, and gave her confidence and support for a safer, brighter future.**



**What are qualifications for the program?** Have a student in the Hickman Mills School District – there are no income guidelines. Students may, but DO NOT need to, qualify for McKinney-Vento.

**What does the program do?** Two Empower case managers work with a family up to a year, to help adults and students set goals, improve housing and income stability and academic success.

**What does the program cost?** NOTHING. The program is free.

**What is required for adults and students in the program?** Meet regularly with the case manager, participate in Empower activities, and commit to setting and working on goals.

**Who puts on this program?** Community Assistance Council (CAC), the nonprofit that has a food pantry, diapers and emergency rent and utilities assistance in your neighborhood since 1976. The white building below the Ruskin H.S. football field.

**How is it free?** Empower is funded by United Way of Greater Kansas City and Children's Services Fund of Jackson County.

**What is its purpose?** United Way's goal is to reduce student mobility – to stabilize and improve family income and housing and reduce students' changing schools. The Children's Services Fund purpose is to improve student mental health and emotional well-being, so case managers work with students to reduce stress, improve

socialization, support academics and connect to therapy or other resources if helpful.

**How does it help?** CAC Empower funds can be used for about anything that support these goals. Last year CAC paid for Empower students' art classes, track shoes, holiday gifts, and school rewards. And for parents, tuition and laptops for school and certifications, steel-toed boots and work uniforms, or sometime rent or utilities assistance. Case managers have found jobs for students and parents, helped with resumes and job applications, and assisted with housing applications. They've also connected students and parents to mental health supports, legal assistance, community resources and much more.

**Would this program be right for you, or someone you know?** Call Shari or Keesha at 816-763-3277, [shari.simmermon@cackc.org](mailto:shari.simmermon@cackc.org), [keesha.hinkle@cackc.org](mailto:keesha.hinkle@cackc.org), or forward this information.



**Empower mom and daughter set goals at a Vision Board event.**



10901 Blue Ridge Blvd  
Kansas City, MO 64134  
[www.cackc.org](http://www.cackc.org)







## ABOUT COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

- Established in 1976, CAC is the only nonprofit providing this range of human services located in and specifically serving South Kansas City residents.
- CAC serves anyone who lives in the Hickman Mills, Center or KCMO part of Grandview School Districts and meets income and program guidelines.
- All CAC clients are at 150% or less of federal poverty guidelines; 93% of clients fall under HUD's extremely low area median income.
- In 2021, CAC provided \$1.67 million worth of services to about 6,500 individuals from 1,570 families.
- CAC receives about 400 calls a week from residents requesting rent, utilities, food or other assistance.



### CAC Services

- Food Pantry** curbside and home deliveries - partnering with Harvesters and many church, community and individual donors.
- Emergency **rent assistance** - CAC is the SKC frontline of homelessness prevention.
- Emergency **utility assistance** - to keep the heat, lights and water on.
- Hickman Mills **Empower** program - to support job and income stability and mental health for HMC1 students and families - partnering with United Way and Children's Services Fund of Jackson County.
- Short-term case management - **next steps to help remove barriers** to employment and stability.
- Critical documents** - social security cards, birth certificates, IDs.
- Housing, job, SNAP, disability, other **applications assistance**.
- Connections and referrals** to other community resources.
- Computers for resumes and job searches.
- Christmas and Thanksgiving **holiday meal baskets**.
- Diapers and pull-ups** - partnering with Happy Bottoms.
- Hygiene items** - partnering with Giving the Basics.
- Medicines, medical supplies** - partnering with Kansas City's Medicine Cabinet.
- City **Community Action Network site** with blue trash bags and resources.

Coordinating **Overcoming Barriers to Employment Feb. 16, 2022 event** to help residents attain the documents, resume, resources, and interview and essential skills needed to be employment ready.

Partnering with other nonprofits, businesses, churches, KCPD South Patrol, neighborhood associations, school districts, county and city governments and more to support **healthy and stable south Kansas City individuals, families and community**.

**FOR SERVICES - Start an application at [www.cackc.org](http://www.cackc.org); IF NO internet call 816-763-3277 x 100 for food or diapers, 816-763-3277 x 108 for rent, utilities or other assistance. For general information, visit [www.cackc.org](http://www.cackc.org), email [info@cackc.org](mailto:info@cackc.org).**

For organization information, contact Rachel Casey, 816-763-3277 x 103, [rachel.casey@cackc.org](mailto:rachel.casey@cackc.org), 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64134



## 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.



**REMAIN ANONYMOUS • RECEIVE CASH REWARDS**



**TIPS HOTLINE**

**816-474-8477**



**WEB TIPS**

**KCcrimestoppers.com**



**FREE MOBILE APP**

**P3Tips.com**



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**Missouri House of Representatives**

**Room 102-BA**

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**Jefferson City, Mo 65101**

**Phone**

**573-751-9469**

**Email**

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