



Dear Neighbor,

Kansas City experienced a devastating past week as we saw nine homicides with five happening over the weekend and three happening in south Kansas City, all caused by gun violence.

Through Friday, July 15, KCMO had experienced 82 homicides, the same number we experienced by that date in 2020 which ended up with 157 homicides, down from 179 during the record breaking year of 2020.

As of July 15, there had been 11 homicides in South Patrol, the same number as last year by that date.

Our per capita homicide rate is way higher than many cities with a reputation of being very violent like Chicago.

As our Board of Police Commissioners conducts its national search for a new police chief, I hope our community can let members of the BOPC know how important we feel it is to hire a chief that will make reducing homicides and other violent crimes the

department's top priority and that we want Board members to ask candidates to explain in detail how they will accomplish this.

I will continue to fight for state legislation to reduce gun violence and the deaths and injuries it causes by again sponsoring Blair's Law which will make it a serious state offence to discharge a firearm with criminal negligence within or into city limits to help deter the senseless celebratory and indiscriminate gunfire that has killed or injured numerous victims in our city and caused countless instances of property damage.

This bill has inched closer to passage every year I have sponsored it going back to 2020, winning overwhelming support in the House only to stall in the Senate. I will not stop pushing it until it passes both branches of the legislature and is signed into law by the governor!

Now that session is over, this is the perfect time to start looking into what bills or legislative priorities I can spearhead in next year's legislative session. If you have any suggestions on what those could be, please respond back to this email.

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.

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

Monday, July 18, 2022

DEMOCRATS SEEK ABORTION LAW CLARIFICATION

The top Democratic leaders in the Missouri legislature on July 11 asked Gov. Mike Parson to expand a planned special legislative session to include legislation clarifying that neither birth control nor treatments for ectopic pregnancies are illegal under a new law that bans abortion under nearly all circumstances, including those involving rape or incest.

Since Missouri's abortion laws only apply to the termination of a fetus after conception, birth control medications and devices remain legal since they prevent conception from occurring. Likewise, an exception in the new law allowing for abortions in "cases of medical emergency" appears to cover ectopic pregnancies, which are fatal to the fetus and pose grave risk to the mother unless the pregnancy is terminated.

Since the law took effect, however, there has been widespread confusion among the public and medical providers about its scope, as well as concerns that a prosecutor motivated by political considerations or an anti-reproductive rights ideology might bring charges in these cases anyway.

In a joint letter, House Minority Leader Crystal Quade, D-Springfield, and Senate Minority Leader John Rizzo, D-

Kansas City, asked the governor to include the issue in the upcoming special session to clear up any legal ambiguity and prevent the possibility of a malicious prosecution over a woman using birth control or a doctor treating an ectopic pregnancy.

Although Parson has publicly stated that birth control remains legal in Missouri, guidance his administration issued on July 13 pertaining to what constitutes a medical emergency under the law proved not helpful, with the state Department of Health and Senior Services saying it's up to the discretion of local prosecutors and law enforcement to determine whether criminal charges are warranted.

On July 1 Parson floated the idea of a special legislative session to enact a major income tax cut, an idea that received no serious discussion during the recently concluded regular legislative session. Parson said the details of the tax cut have yet to be developed, and he doesn't know when the session will take place.

Under the Missouri Constitution, the governor controls what lawmakers can consider during a special session. If Parson does include legislation to clarify that the use of birth control and treating ectopic pregnancy remain legal in Missouri, he could narrowly limit the parameters of this subject to constitutionally preclude the consideration of further restrictions relating to reproductive rights.

FEDERAL JUDGE DISMISSES SCHMITT'S LAWSUIT

More than two years after Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt sued the Chinese government, claiming that the country was responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic, a federal judge dismissed the case on July 8, saying U.S. courts have no jurisdiction to hear it.

The lawsuit was widely ridiculed when Schmitt filed it in April 2020 during the early months of the pandemic. It took Schmitt more than a year to even serve the defendants, and the case never made much progress after that before U.S. District Judge Stephen Limbaugh Jr. dismissed the case.

**“All in all, the court has no choice but to dismiss this novel complaint for lack of subject matter jurisdiction,”
Limbaugh wrote in his dismissal order.**

A spokesman for Schmitt said the attorney general intends to appeal Limbaugh’s ruling, the Missouri Independent reported.

FISCAL YEAR ENDS WITH GENERAL REVENUE UP

The 2022 fiscal year ended June 30 with net state general revenue collections for the year up 14.6 percent compared to FY 2021, going from \$11.24 billion that year to \$12.88 billion for the just ended fiscal year.

Net general revenue collections had increased 13.9 percent through the first 11 months of FY 2022 before a strong June pushed the percentage growth for the year even higher. Net revenue collections for June 2022 increased 20.5 percent

compared to those for June 2021, going from \$1.22 billion that year to \$1.47 billion.

The state operating budget for the 2023 fiscal year, which began July 1, authorizes \$12.5 billion in general revenue spending.

Registration
is **Free**

Open to kids
ages 6-12

SUMMER Care CAMP

first call



**The Caring Camp program helps kids gain a healthy,
productive lifestyle by focusing on education,
resilience, and safety.**



Join us for a **FREE 3-day camp** intensive. We look forward to unpacking the impact of substance use in the family. CARE CAMP helps children develop and/or maintain healthy communication and a positive, productive lifestyle by focusing on education, resilience, and safety. All the while enjoying some camping favorites (s'mores, dirt 'n worms, and on the last day ending with some hot dogs!) Contact Danielle Reeves if you are interested and if these dates don't work - be on the lookout more will be announced!



Contact Danielle Reeves, Family Services Youth Counselor, at 816-895-8386 or

dreeves@firstcallkc.org



"Lights On KC"

A FREE POOL PARTY FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Friday ~ July 22, 2022 ~ 6:30-9:30pm

The River Pool

7130 Ralston ~ Raytown, MO 64133



This FREE Pool Party is designed for Elementary School Students (Grades K-5).
Parental Authorization & Release MUST be submitted for Students to participate.

Registration Deadline: 7/12/22

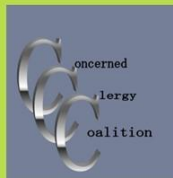
Register by emailing: Concernedclergykc@gmail.com or call 816 497-4886

{Leave Parent's Name / Child's Name(s) / School / Grade / Age / Contact Info}



"Lights On KC" is a community Violence Prevention Initiative providing safe recreational activities for youth/young adults.

****In case of heavy rain, we will have to reschedule at a future time.****



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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



MEAL DISTRIBUTION

- CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT -

**UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
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FRIDAY'S 3PM - 6PM

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT 314.701.7245 OR EMAIL US
AT 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 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 913-313-0250 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. 103rd 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. 111th 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. 117th St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.



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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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Jefferson City, Mo 65101

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573-751-9469

Email

mark.sharp@house.mo.gov

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