

Dear Neighbor,

The 2023 regular session will begin Wednesday, January 4, at noon. With just a little over a month until session begins, legislators will have a chance to pre-file bills beginning this Thursday, December 1st, which will officially submit them for consideration before session begins and generate numbers for each bill.

I wanted to explain three bills I intend to pre-file this Thursday. After months of drafting and receiving feedback from members of the community, I will continue to push for more crime prevention and public safety measures.

One bill that I know will improve public safety is Blair's Law that I have filed for the last three years, which has inched it's way closer to passage each year I've been in the legislature. Blair's Law would make discharging a firearm with criminal negligence inside or into city limits a state offense. <u>Currently, it is just a city ordinance violation</u>. This bill is named after Blair Shanahan Lane, who was tragically killed here in 2011 by indiscriminate gunfire during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. She was only 11. Another bill to improve public safety I intend to pre-file is my ignition interlock device bill aimed at reducing drunk driving. It is very similar to House Bill 1680 I introduced in this year's regular legislative session that was recommended for passage on a 7-1 vote by the House Crime Prevention Committee and on a 14-0 vote by the House Rules – Administrative Oversight Committee. Unfortunately, the bill didn't make it all the way through the legislative process.

The latest version of this bill will require persons who are caught driving with double the legal limit of alcohol in their systems (even if it is their first intoxication-related traffic offense) to install ignition interlock devices in their vehicles to monitor if they are intoxicated when they attempt to start the vehicle for not less than six months after reinstatement of their driver's license. If persons attempt to start their vehicles while intoxicated they must keep functioning interlock devices in their vehicles even longer until they have completed three consecutive months with no violations. Failure to comply subjects them to further enforcement actions.

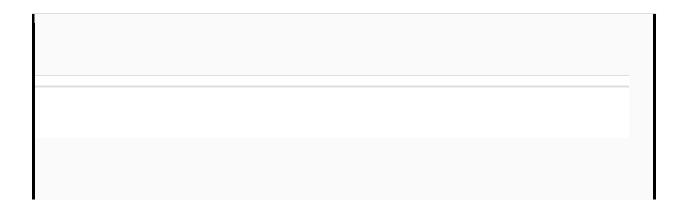
Currently, persons must be caught driving while intoxicated <u>twice</u> before they are required to install an ignition interlock device.

One more bill that I hope the Missouri General Assembly makes a priority is my legislation seeking to use general revenue dollars to provide 70% of the costs needed to provide controlled access entryways to our public schools. For years, Missourians have watched as other states reeled in agony as one of their schools tried to put itself back together after a mass school shooting. Unfortunately, Missouri has joined the list of states that have suffered a mass school shooting after a school shooting in St. Louis City last month.

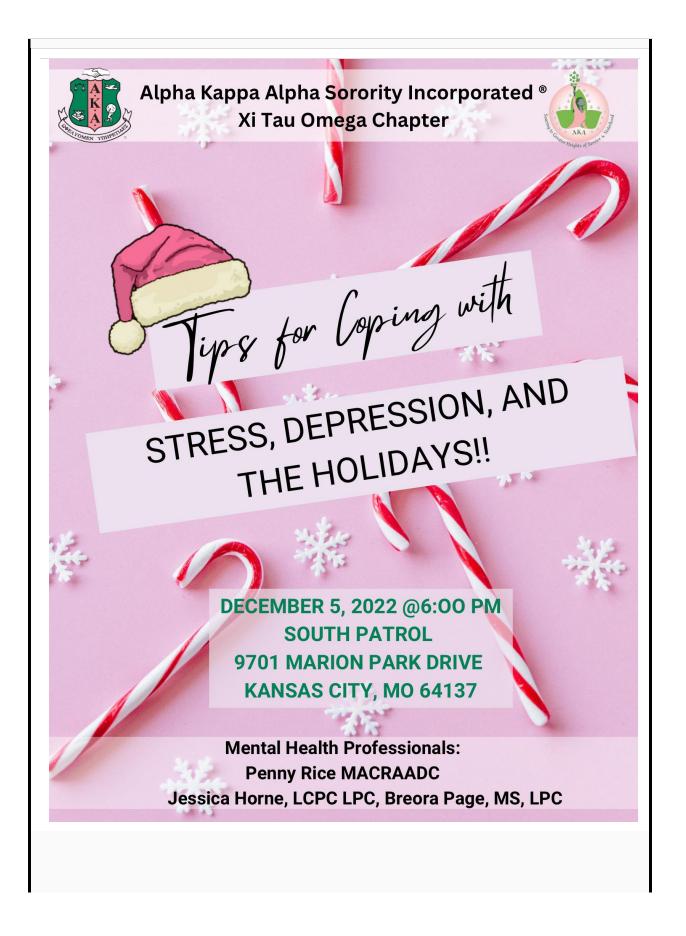
Many school districts have installed safety measures like this already, <u>but every single public school building needs</u> to have controlled access entryways, not just some.



The Hickman Mills Cougars vs. the Ruskin Eagles Rivalry Renewed basketball game was another success. Many of us former students and teachers came out to represent our Cougar pride! This was the second alumni game this year and hopefully this new tradition can continue.









## Understanding and Accessing **MISSOURI MEDICAID**

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nds primarily on the size of gross <b>monthly</b> household deductions). If your monthly number of people living in <b>nu may qualify</b> .	<b>GOOD NEWS!</b> Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!
	Online: Visit <u>https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply</u> to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal
\$1,481	By Phone: Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994
\$2,003	By Mail or Email: Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to:
\$3,048	Family Support Division 615 E 13th St
\$3,570 \$4.092	Kansas City, MO 64106 Or email to: FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov
	nds primarily on the size of gross monthly household deductions). If your monthly number of people living in ru may qualify. \$1,481 \$2,003 \$2,525 \$3,048



## 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 <u>info@cackc.org</u> 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.

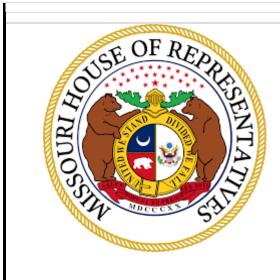
**United Believers Community Church**, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

**Ruskin High School,** 7000 E. 111<sup>th</sup> St., from 3:30 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.





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