





Tweet



Dear Neighbor,

Persons may now apply to the Kansas City Election Board for absentee ballot applications and mail-in ballot applications for the August 4 primary election which also includes a proposal to expand Medicaid coverage in Missouri as 36 other states already have done.

Under the new provisions of Senate Bill 631 which I voted for, persons 65 years of age or older, persons who have contracted COVID-19 or other persons who are considered to be at increased risk of contracting it because of underlying health conditions or because they live in a licensed long-term care facility may vote absentee without the necessity of getting their signatures notarized.

Persons who are permanently disabled were already allowed to cast absentee ballots without getting their signatures notarized.

The new law also allows all Missouri voters to cast mail-in ballots in

the election, but their signatures will have to be notarized.

Voters may go on the Election Board website at www.kceb.org, click on Absentee Voting at the top and then click on Forms & Applications to print off absentee or mail-in ballot applications or a form to request absentee ballot applications for every election if they are permanently disabled.

They also may call the Election Board at 816-842-4820 to request that the applications or form be mailed to them. July 22 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for requesting absentee or mail-in ballots be mailed to voters. Unlike absentee ballots that may be turned in by mail or in person, mail-in ballots must be returned by mail.

Persons may begin voting by absentee ballot in person at 8 a.m. Tuesday, June 23, at the Election Board office in the basement of Union Station's southeast corner.

The provisions of Senate Bill 631 allowing expanded absentee voting without requiring signature notarization and allowing mail-in voting by all voters with signature notarization will expire on December 31.

Please scroll down to read more about important upcoming local events, Including:

1. The 6th Council District cleanup from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 20, with drop off sites at the east parking lot of Ruskin High School and the parking lot of South-Broadland Presbyterian Church, 7850 Holmes Rd., which will accept bulky items such as old furniture & mattresses, leaves & brush and tires. The Ruskin site also will accept appliances and electronics. There is no charge for washers, dryers and stoves. There is a \$5 charge for CRT monitors, a \$10 charge for any items containing Freon, a \$20 charge for LED/LCD/plasma TVs, a \$30 charge for CRT TVs 26" or less and a \$50 charge for CRT TVs 27" or more and wood console

- & big screen/projection TVs. Persons dropping off items are requested to wear masks.
- 1. A free food distribution for the first 500 needy families from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, at Grandview High School, 2300 High Grove Rd., sponsored by Jackson County, Fox4 Love Fund and Sheriff Darryl Forte's office. Families are asked to clear trunk space in their vehicles since they will receive boxes of produce and dairy products that will be loaded into their vehicles.

Email is probably the best way to reach my office. If you are unable to quickly reach me, my assistant <u>Brian Farmer</u> is ready to help you.

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

Mark A. Sharp Weekly Capitol Report Friday, June 19th, 2020

FEDERAL LGBTQ RIGHTS RULING COULD IMPACT STATE LAW

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on June 15 that federal law prohibits employment discrimination against gay and transgender employees could result in Missouri courts applying the same standard when interpreting state anti-discrimination statutes.

In a majority decision written by Justice Neil Gorsuch, the federal high

court ruled 6-3 that a provision of Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibiting employment discrimination "because of sex" encompasses discrimination based on sexual orientation or sexual identity.

"An employer who fires an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex," wrote Gorsuch, a member of the court's conservative wing. "Sex plays a necessary and undisguisable role in the decision, exactly what Title VII forbids."

While the decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County* empowers Missouri residents who were fired based on their LGBTQ status to sue over employment discrimination in federal court, Missouri courts have yet to fully recognize discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity as being covered by the Missouri Human Rights Act (MHRA). However, that could soon change because of *Bostock*.

The Missouri Supreme Court took tentative steps in that direction in February 2019 in *Lampley v. Missouri Human Rights Commission*. In that case, the state high court ruled 5-2 that a gay man could sue the Missouri Department of Social Services for employment discrimination on his claim that he was terminated for not complying with male gender stereotypes held by his superiors, which the court said is a type of sex discrimination prohibited by the MHRA. In the majority opinion, the court noted that its precedent requires Missouri courts to consider applicable federal Title VII precedent when interpreting the MHRA.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court ruling says Title VII's prohibition on sex discrimination protects gay and transgender employees, and the Missouri Supreme Court says it must follow federal Title VII precedent, that appears to be a strong indication that in future cases Missouri courts will interpret the existing anti-sex discrimination provisions of the MHRA as encompassing discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.

But until Missouri courts reexamine the issue, LGBTQ advocates are expected to continue to push the state legislature to enact the Missouri

Nondiscrimination Act, which would provide specific protections for sexual orientation and identity in statute, not just in employment, but also covering housing and various other public accommodations.

CASE SEEKS EXPANSION OF ABSENTEE VOTING

The Missouri chapters of the NAACP and League of Women Voters on June 15 asked the state Supreme Court to declare that state law allows any registered Missouri voter concerned about contracting COVID-19 from a crowded polling place to cast an absentee ballot without having it notarized.

With applications for absentee ballots already being accepted for the Aug. 4 primary, the court is expected to issue a quick decision.

Although many other states allow voters to request an absentee ballot without stating a reason, Missouri limits absentee access to those with a statutorily authorized excuse, including "incapacity or confinement due to illness." The plaintiffs contend the ongoing pandemic is sufficient to qualify for that exemption, while Secretary of State John Ashcroft disagrees.

Adding a wrinkle to the case is that on June 4 Gov. Mike Parson signed legislation into law that expands remote voting options. Senate Bill 631, which I voted for, authorizes registered voters age 65 or over, or those of any age who have a medical condition that makes them especially vulnerable to COVID-19 or who have contracted COVID-19 or live in a licensed long-term care facility, to cast an absentee ballot without getting their signatures notarized. It also creates a vote-by-mail process for all other Missouri voters, but mail-in ballots would have to be notarized.

While the state's attorney argued SB 631 renders the case moot, the plaintiffs said the expanded voting provisions will expire after this year's elections, while the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to continue well into 2021.

Although Gov. Parson by executive order has allowed electronic notarization of documents until August 28, Ashcroft's office has indicated that can't be used for absentee ballots. The plaintiffs claim requiring inperson signature notarization defeats the purpose of persons voting by mail to try to limit their close contact with other people.

PARSON LIFTS STATEWIDE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Gov. Mike Parson lifted all statewide restrictions related to COVID-19 as of June 16, even as the number of cases in the state continues to increase. Missourians had been subject to some level of state-imposed restrictions since March 21, although Parson began easing requirements in early May.

However, Parson also extended his executive order declaring a statewide state of emergency through the end of the year. The order was slated to end on June 16. The extension is primarily to allow the state to continue receiving federal disaster aid. It also allows Parson to continue to have the power to waive certain state laws and regulations.

Despite touting Missouri as fully reopened, Parson still encouraged Missourians to maintain practices to limit the spread of COVID-19, even though the state no longer requires them to do so. Cities and counties can still impose local restrictions, but most are also easing back.

"We must remember COVID-19 is not gone," Parson said in a June 11 news release announcing the easing of restrictions. "It is still extremely important for everyone to continue social distancing. Be proactive. Avoid large crowds, and if you can't social distance, take extra precautions to protect yourself and those around you."

As of June 17, there had been 16,625 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Missouri and 909 confirmed deaths due to the virus.



Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson Office of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 15, 2020

As Missouri Reopens, Unemployment Requirements Return

Jefferson City, MO — As Missouri continues to reopen under the Show Me Strong Recovery effort and businesses resume operation, the Missouri Department of Labor's (DOLIR's) Division of Employment Security (DES) announces the return of unemployment requirements.

Work Search Activities Resume

Beginning with the week of July 5, 2020, individuals wishing to continue to receive unemployment benefits (including the \$600 federal supplement available through July 25, 2020) will be required to perform work search activities that had been lifted for those that had filed a coronavirus-related unemployment claim.

Work search activities are required for programs including regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Extended Benefits (EB), and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). Individuals with an employer-submitted recall date, in approved training, and those employees on the Shared Work program will be exempt from the work search requirement. All other claimants will be required to perform and report three work search activities per week to remain eligible for benefits. Union members

with a hiring or referral hall may contact their hall three times per week or attend training for the required number of work search activities.

Qualified work search activities include, but are not limited to, filing an application (online or in-person) with an employer or through job posting sites or attending a job fair, job interview, reemployment service or skills workshop. Part-time employment performed during a week is credited on a per-day basis.

Missouri Job Centers are available to assist unemployed workers with these requirements by providing customized job searches through jobs.mo.gov, job fairs, Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) appointments, workshops to help develop and refine skills and other training programs. Employers are encouraged to post job openings on MoJobs. For more information about services available through the Missouri Job Centers, visit jobs.mo.gov.

Employer Account Charges Will Resume

Also beginning July 5, 2020, employers will once again be charged for unemployment claims against their account. Employers wishing to reduce the amount of charges being made against their accounts are encouraged to report employees that either refuse to return to work or are receiving pay through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Employers can report those instances through their UInteract account or by visiting labor.mo.gov and clicking on "Report Employee Work Refusals" or "Report PPP Wages Paid to Employees." Separately, guidance will be provided related to the Shared Work program and any continued waiver of employer account charges.

Waiting Week Resumes for All New Unemployment Claims

For those filing for unemployment in Missouri on or after July 5, 2020, a waiting week requirement will again be imposed. The waiting week is the first week of a claim for which the individual is eligible for unemployment benefits but during this week, such individual is not paid benefits. Individuals who are approved for benefits may receive compensation for the waiting week as the last payment on the regular unemployment claim.

The DES reminds unemployed workers that they should report any earnings (including PPP payments) and any work refusal when filing their weekly request for payment. Failing to do so will result in an overpayment of unemployment benefits. Any overpaid benefits (including the \$600 federal supplement) will have to be repaid before an individual can receive any future unemployment benefits. Additionally, failing to report earnings and work refusals can be considered fraud and the individual could be subject to fines of up to 100 percent of overpaid amounts and criminal prosecution.

For questions regarding Missouri unemployment, please utilize the DES virtual assistant at labor.mo.gov/coronavirus.

NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOUSING SERVICES

6TH DISTRICT

CLEAN UP EVENT

Join us for our annual 6th District Clean up event open to all residents that live in the 6th District.

Saturday,

JUNE 20, 2020 SOUTH
BROADLAND
PRESBYTERIAN
&
RUSKIN SR
HIGH SCHOOL

8 A.M.

SOUTH BROADLAND PRESBYTERIAN

7850 HOLMES RD KANSAS CITY, MO, 64131

- · Waste tires
- Bulky items
- · Leaf and brush

RUSKIN SR HIGH SCHOOL

7000 E 111TH ST.

- · Waste tires
- · Bulky items
- · Leaf and brush







ALL STAFF WILL BE ABIDING BY SOCIAL DISTANCING POLICY AND MASKS SHOULD BE WORN.



For more information, call Robert Woods at 816-513-8442







Grow Bag

Marlborough Victory Garden Give-Away

For Unemployed & Limited Income Residents of Marlborough
Gregory to 89th ~ Troost to 71 Highway
Bring 1D or utility bill to verify residency







Saturday June 20, 2020 8026 Paseo 10am-2pm

Pull Along Sidewalk for Loading 3 Grow Bags Into Your Vehicle

(or until they are gone)

200 Gardens Available

Garden = Tomato Plant + Okra Plant + Mustard/Cabbage + Growing Instructions
One Garden Per Address







All Participants Asked to Wear Masks and Keep Distances Questions? vegenuity@gmail.com or (816)510-8132

Brought to our neighbors in Marlborough by:



Stony Crest Community Works









SWOPE HEALTH IS SEEKING COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO HOST

COVID-19 TESTING

Swope Health is offering Coronavirus testing at NO COST to individuals who are experiencing symptoms of the disease: cough, fever, headache, tiredness, muscle aches, or new loss of taste or smell; who have been in close contact or exposure to someone with COVID-19 over the past 14 days; or are considered high-risk, including those with an underlying chronic disease or condition that can weaken the immune system, healthcare or daycare personnel, individuals older than age 65, or persons living with a disability.

There are NO COSTS incurred by COVID-19 testing hosts.

COVID-19 testing sites require:

- Large outdoor parking lot or area with a separate entrance and exit for drive-through and walk-up testing.
- Volunteers or security to assist with traffic flow.
- Access to bathrooms for testing staff.

Swope Health qualified staff will provide:

- Testing supplies and services.
- Patient registration forms and follow-up test results.
- Traffic cones, tables and chairs.

If you are interested in hosting a COVID-19 testing event, contact Marielena Marroquin at mmarroquin@swopehealth.org or Amy Kuhnlein at akuhnlein@swopehealth.org

SWOPEHEALTH

www.swopehealth.org 🖪 🗷 💿



An Update on CAC's COVID-19 Services, Processes and Response



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Currently CAC is providing food for up to 20 families each day, about double normal distribution. About half of those are new clients and new to assistance.

Drive up on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 9 am - 2:30 pm -

- Clients/new clients drive up to CAC; we ask that clients STAY IN THEIR CARS.
- CAC staff/volunteer asks client for name, address, income, how many people in family. Clients are checked against CAC's database.
- Pre-packed food will be brought out and placed in client's vehicle.
- CAC can serve up to 20 families per day. After that, clients may return on another distribution day.

Frequency - Each household may receive food from any one pantry per month.

Service area - CAC serves residents in this area:

- Kansas City, MO 85th Street and South (ZIP codes 64114, 64131, 64132, 64134, 64137, 64138 [not Raytown], 64139, 64145, 64146, 64147, 64149)
- All of Hickman Mills School District (including part in 64030)
- · All of Center School District
- Households outside CAC's service may receive food from CAC one time then should go to their local pantry.
- · For a list of pantries, visit Harvesters website, or call 211 for United Way's directory.

Delivery to homebound on Thursdays. Clients must call 816-763-3277 x 100 for an appointment. Leave one message only. Calls will be returned.

HAPPY BOTTOMS DIAPERS

Drive up on Thursdays, 10 am to 2 pm -

- · Current Happy Bottoms clients may drive up to CAC to pick up diapers, pull-ups once per month.
- If client has never received Happy Bottoms diapers, they must call 816-765-7455 or 785-845-0323 to preregister before they can receive diapers.

EMERGENCY RENT and UTILITIES ASSISTANCE

- Call 816-763-3277 x 108 and leave one message with name, address and need. Calls will be returned.
- · Be prepared to provide proof of income, residence, number in household, eviction or cut-off notice.
- · Staff is processing emergency assistance by phone and email.
- Check our website www.cackc.org for updates on the evictions or utilities cut-offs moratorium.

OTHER EMERGENCY or Kansas City's Medicine Cabinet ASSISTANCE

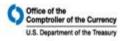
Call 816-763-3277 x 108 and leave one message with name, address and need. Calls will be returned.

Clothing Closet -

- · To minimize contact right now, the CAC clothing closet is closed.
- CAC is not accepting clothing donations during this time.
- · Please email info@cackc.org for an emergency clothing need.

For more information, visit www.cackc.org, contact Rachel Casey, rachel.casey@cackc.org, 816-763-3277 x 103, cell 816-682-2356.

Rev. 4-27-20



Redister Now! **Community Development** Forum Webinar

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



You are invited to the Community Development Forum - Webinar Click on the link for the summary and to register.

South KC Mobile Food Pantries

With so many people out of work due to the coronavirus pandemic, a growing number of 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 semitruck that serves as its mobile food pantry to four sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

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.

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 food will be loaded in the vehicles when they reach the school by staff and student volunteers. This event is sponsored by the school and Community Assistance Council.

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.

Martin City K-8 School, 201 E. 133rd St., from 11 a.m. until food runs out on the third Saturday of the month. This event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church.

Free Food Distribution

Jackson County, the Fox4 Love Fund and Sheriff Darryl Forte's office are partnering to provide free fresh produce and dairy products on a first-come, first-served basis to 500 families from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at each of three upcoming events including one Wednesday, June 24, at Grandview High School, 2300 High Grove Road.



Truman Medical Centers has available services for **Jackson County residents** during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

If you are experiencing a fever, a new cough or new shortness of breath, you can call **404-CARE (2273)** and speak to a health care professional to be screened for COVID-19.



Coronavirus Facts and Resources

Kansas City

If you would like to receive updates about what the City is doing in response to the coronavirus, **text COVIDKC to 888777** or go online to kcmo.gov/coronavirus

Missouri

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operating a <a href="https://hotspace.ncb/hotspace.n

The statewide hotline number is <u>877-435-8411</u>. The hotline is being operated by medical professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) is a one-time benefit that helps families cover food costs for children who qualify for free or reduced meals at school but are not in school due to the pandemic.

Who can get help?

You may qualify for P-EBT if you have a child in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 who would have received free or reduced price meals at school if schools were holding in-person classes.

A family that has lost income may also be able to get P-EBT, even if a child did not previously get free or reduced price meals.

How do I apply?

- If you received Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits in March, your P-EBT benefit was automatically loaded to your EBT card. If you did not get your benefit, call 855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636) for help.
- If you did not get Food Stamp (SNAP) benefits in March, you need to apply and provide your income information for March, April and May. You can apply online at https://Emergencymealsurvey.com/MO or by using the paper application sent by your school. If you need an application, call 855-FSD-INFO (855-373-4636) and ask our team to mail you one.

Questions?

You can visit **myDSS.mo.gov** any day, any time to start a chat. You can also call **855-FSD-INFO** (855-373-4636) to speak with a team member.



On August 4, Missouri votes to expand Medicaid.



UNEMPLOYMENT

How to File?

If you're eligible, you'll need the following:

- 1. Your Social Security number;
- 2. Any amount you were paid in the past week, before taxes and deductions:
- 3. The name and mailing address of each job you worked in the past 18 months;
- 4. The dates you started and ended work at each of those jobs.

If this is your first time filing for unemployment please watch **this video** on unemployment basics. Visit <u>uinteract.labor.mo.gov</u>, create an account and file your claim. If your job loss is related to coronavirus issues, make sure to check a box that says "COVID-19" in your

application to waive a requirement to search for a new job amid the crisis.

Missouri provides benefits for up to 20 weeks, which can be extended to 33 weeks under the federal provisions.

The state will pay you up to \$320 per week, and the federal government will provide \$600 on top of whatever you get from the state for each week you're on employment prior to July 31.

Benefits can be paid within 22 days unless there is an issue with your eligibility, which on average can take 4-6 weeks to resolve.

You should continue filing weekly requests for payment even if you have not yet received benefits.

Regional Claims Center representatives are available by phone Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM by calling:

Kansas City Claims Center: <u>816-889-3101</u> or visit <u>Missouri Unemployment Website</u>

Please visit the Missouri Department of Labor's website for more information about COVID-19 FAQ's for Businesses and Workers: https://labor.mo.gov/coronavirus

US Department of Labor has a few sites dedicated to Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions



Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations are now open

The Center Education Foundation Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor we confer on alumni who have distinguished themselves in their career and/or community service. At the 2020 Autos & Auctions Gala we recognized Tom Apel ('72), Carol DiRaimo ('79), and Dr. William Baskin ('74). You can see all of the recipients over the last nine years on our <u>Distinguished Alumni webpage</u>.

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award. Alumni who graduated in 2011 or earlier are eligible. Click here for the nomination form, which can be returned by mail or email. Nominations are due by October 15, 2020.

If you have questions, please contact Rick Chambers by phone to 816.863.2254 or by email at Rick@CenterEducationFoundation.org.

GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS 816-474-TIPS HOTLINE

FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator

SUBJECT: Reward Increase – 9 Year Old Dominic Young Homicide

KANSAS CITY, MO --- The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline continue to seek information in the January 20, 2018 homicide of 9 year old Dominic Young Jr. at 71 Highway and Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.

Dominic Young Jr. was apparently hit by a stray gunshot while occupying a vehicle driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic's father was hit by gunshots from other vehicles apparently engaged in a gunfight according to statements.

KCPD found a possible crime scene near the intersection where the father said the shooting happened. When the father arrived home in Grandview, Dominic was not responsive. Grandview police initially responded to the father's home and found the boy in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

A number of community leaders and organizations including State Representative Richard Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, former City Councilmen Scott Taylor, Scott Wagner, John Sharp; the City of KCMO and Concord Fortress of Hope Church (Pastor Ron Lindsay) have come forward to increase the existing reward in the case up to \$30,000.00. Those leaders are available for comment in regard to the case.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Greater Kansas City TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477), TIPS may also be submitted electronically at www.KCcrimestoppers.com, or by downloading our NEW mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.



Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards Tips Hotline

816-474-8477

Web Tips

www.KCcrimestoppers.com

Free Mobile App

www.P3Tips.com



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Please don't hesitate to contact me with any feedback, que

stions or ideas!