



Please scroll down and look at this week's Capitol Update which has what I consider to be the great news about the Missouri Supreme Court unanimously upholding the validity of expanding Medicaid to cover more uninsured Missourians that voters approved last August.

Also, be sure to look at the article about the governor's announcement this week of a new lottery offering \$10,000 prizes and \$10,000 educational savings accounts that will be won by 900 Missourians to encourage more people to get completely vaccinated against COVID-19 with a newer variant of the virus surging in areas of our state with extremely low vaccination rates.

And read about a controversial bill recently signed into law by the governor that will eventually provide up to \$50 million annually in income tax credits for contributions to nonprofit educational assistance organizations for scholarships for students from low and moderate income families that will help cover the cost of tuition, fees and textbooks to private K-12 schools.

However, the program also is expected to eventually reduce state funding based on student attendance to public school districts and charter schools as students transfer to private schools since public school districts and charter schools will only be held harmless for a loss of such revenue for five years.

**Please remember the special free household hazardous waste drop-off at Ruskin High School, 7000 E. 111<sup>th</sup> St., will be from 8 a.m. to noon next**

**Saturday, July 31, in the school's south parking lot on E. 111<sup>th</sup> just east of the intersection of Blue Ridge Blvd. and Red Bridge Rd.**

Hazardous waste normally must be taken all the way north to the city's Environmental Campus at 4707 Deramus Ave. to be properly disposed of.

**Please see the flyer below for details on what items will be accepted. Persons may contact Robert Woods with the City Neighborhoods Department at 816-513-8442 if they have any questions.**

The event originally was planned for the school's east parking lot which is the normal drop-off site for many neighborhood cleanups, but had to be moved due to construction.

Thank you to City Council members Andrea Bough and Kevin McManus, the Community Assistance Council and the South Kansas City Alliance for sponsoring the event.

**Please see the flyer below about the Kansas City Fire Department's life-saving program to deliver and properly install free smoke detectors in Kansas City residences that need them that many KC residents don't know about.**

To request delivery and installation of free smoke detectors, persons may call **816-513-4648** or go online to **KCMO.gov/fire** and click on **Fire Marshal Division/Fire Prevention** and then click on **Smoke Detectors** to fill out an online request form.

The detectors the department installs are the latest Ionization detectors with lithium batteries that have a 10-year life. Fire safety experts recommend installing one on every level of a home, in every sleeping area and bedroom and in hallways near sleeping and storage areas.

The department also can provide special smoke alarms that include flashing strobe lights and bed shaking pads for hearing impaired residents.

The majority of deadly home fires occur between midnight and 8 a.m., and many people die from breathing in poisonous gases and smoke while sleeping.

**See the link below to take part in my online survey to learn your thoughts on issues that are likely to be considered during the 2022 session of the Missouri General Assembly.**

[https://xeroxcorp.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV\\_2hma3a8BLwrmIFE?Q\\_CHL=preview&Q\\_SurveyVersionID=current](https://xeroxcorp.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV_2hma3a8BLwrmIFE?Q_CHL=preview&Q_SurveyVersionID=current)

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 joined six of my House colleagues July 20 wrapping diapers at Happy Bottoms for distribution to other area social service agencies to give to families in need. Shown from left are me and Representatives Michael Johnson, Ashley Aune, Patty Lewis, Keri Ingle, Yolanda Young and Emily Weber.**

# WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, July 23, 2021

## SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS MEDICAID EXPANSION

The Missouri Supreme Court on July 22 unanimously upheld the validity of a state constitutional amendment expanding Medicaid eligibility and said services must be provided to the expanded population under the state budget recently enacted by lawmakers.

The high court remanded the case back to the trial judge, who had ruled the other way, to determine how implementation of Medicaid expansion should proceed.

**The Supreme Court said the Medicaid expansion amendment, placed on the August 2020 ballot by an initiative petition and approved by Missouri voters, doesn't directly or indirectly appropriate money and therefore doesn't violate a prohibition against appropriating funds by initiative contained in another section of the Missouri Constitution.**

"The General Assembly maintains the discretion to decide whether and to what extent it will appropriate money for MO HealthNet programs," the court said. (Medicaid is known in Missouri as MO HealthNet.)

"Even though it is highly possible the General Assembly appropriated less money than MO HealthNet programs are estimated to cost in FY 2022, the consequences of failing to fund MO HealthNet fully at the outset or even with a supplemental appropriation are not before this Court because they are not relevant to whether Article IV, Section 36(c) violates Article III, Section 51. Because Article IV, Section 36(c) does not expressly appropriate money for MO HealthNet nor deprive the General Assembly of discretion and require it to appropriate money for its purposes, it does not violate article III, Section 51," the court said.

**Under the federal Affordable Care Act, states can raise their Medicaid eligibility threshold to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, with the federal government paying 90 percent of the cost. Despite voter ratification of the expansion amendment, the General Assembly refused to fully fund Medicaid in the state budget for the 2022 fiscal year which began July 1, the same day the expanded eligibility was supposed to take effect.**

Although the legislature didn't specifically fund Medicaid expansion, the court noted it did fund the overall Medicaid program with no exclusions for the expanded population. As a result, the court said the state Department of Social Services must begin enrolling that population.

“The General Assembly chose to appropriate funds for the MO HealthNet programs for FY 2022,” the court said “This was one of presumably thousands of difficult decisions made each year during the appropriation process. But, having made this decision, DSS and MO HealthNet are bound by article IV, section 36(c) concerning which individuals are eligible to enroll when it spends the appropriated funds. Consequently, DSS has appropriation authority to provide services for all individuals eligible for MO HealthNet, including individuals eligible for coverage and services pursuant to article IV, section 36c.”

**Under the new constitutional provision, an estimated 275,000 more Missourians are eligible for the program. Expansion is expected to bring about \$1.4 billion in additional federal Medicaid spending into the state for the current fiscal year, plus secure for Missouri another \$1.5 billion under the latest federal COVID-19 relief package.**

The case is *Doyle v. Tidball*.

## **NEW LOTTERY AIMS TO BOOST VACCINATIONS**

With new cases of COVID-19 rising significantly in Missouri as the highly contagious Delta variant spreads among the state's large unvaccinated population, Gov. Mike Parson on July 21 announced a lottery with \$10,000

prizes to encourage more Missourians to become vaccinated.

On the same day Parson made the announcement, the state reported nearly 3,000 new COVID-19 cases, its highest single-day total since January.

**Over the last several weeks, Missouri has ranked among the top states in the nation in per capita new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths, according to tracking data maintained by The New York Times. Missouri's vaccination rate remains relatively stagnant at about 40 percent of residents age 12 and up.**

Over the next three months, the state will award \$10,000 prizes to 900 Missourians. The vaccine lottery will be open both to those who haven't yet been vaccinated, as well as those who already have. The prizes will be paid using federal coronavirus relief funds.

**The first drawing will be held Aug. 13, with subsequent drawings every two weeks until the final one on Oct. 8. The Missouri Lottery will oversee the drawings.**

Entries will be divided into three categories: those age 18 and older who receive at least one dose of vaccine *after* July 21, those 18 and older who received at least one dose *before* July 21 and children ages 12 through 17 who receive at least one dose at any time. Vaccinated Missourians can enter the vaccine lottery at [MOSTopsCovid.com/win](https://mostopsCovid.com/win).

Eighty winners – 10 from each Missouri congressional district – from each of the first two categories will be randomly selected to win \$10,000 cash prizes at every drawing. Also, 20 children from the final category will be randomly chosen to receive \$10,000 educational savings accounts through the MOST 529 program administered by the State Treasurer's Office. In all, there will be 180 winners from each drawing.

The vaccination status of winners will be verified prior to announcing their names.

## **TAX CREDITS FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Gov. Mike Parson on July 14 signed controversial legislation into law creating state income tax breaks for persons, firms or corporations that contribute to nonprofit educational assistance organizations that provide scholarships to cover tuition, fees and textbooks at private K-12 schools in Missouri.

As enacted, House Bill 349 authorized up to \$50 million a year in tax credits for the scholarship contributions, an amount that would be annually adjusted for inflation until it reached a cap of \$75 million annually. However, lawmakers later passed Senate Bill 86, which contains a superseding provision limiting the credits to \$25 million for the first year, with a subsequent \$50 million annual cap after adjustments for inflation. SB 86 also limits the number of educational assistance organizations certified to participate in the program to no more than ten.

**Under the program, taxpayers get matching income tax credits equal to 100% of their contributions to educational assistance organizations. The tax credits cannot exceed 50% of a taxpayer's tax liability, but they can be carried forward for four subsequent tax years. Donors may not designate which students will get scholarships.**

**Scholarships are limited to K-12 students who live in cities with a population of at least 30,000 or in more populous counties that have a charter form of government such as Jackson County.**

Each student must have an individualized education plan under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or be a member of a household whose total income doesn't exceed 200% of the cutoff to receive free or reduced price school lunches. Each student also must have attended a public or charter school for at least one semester during the previous year or be eligible to start kindergarten or first grade.

**The bill requires top priority for scholarships be given to students with individualized education plans and those living in households whose total income qualifies them to receive free or reduced price school lunches. After**

**that, scholarships may be provided to students from households whose income doesn't exceed 200% of the cutoff to receive free or reduced price lunches.**

Besides tuition, fees and textbooks at private schools, scholarship funds also can be used for tutoring services, computer hardware and transportation costs for mileage to and from the school the student is attending.

**Charter schools and public school districts that lose students to private schools as a result of the scholarship program can continue to count those students in their average daily attendance for determining state and federal aid for up to five years, or until the student no longer receives scholarship money, returns to a charter or public school or graduates. This provision ends five years after the law's effective date.**

While supporters stress the legislation will be a great incentive for taxpayers to contribute to nonprofit organizations to fund student scholarships to allow students from low income families to attend high quality private schools, critics have charged that the scholarships will probably not be large enough to allow many low income families to afford the remainder of the costs to send their children to private schools and that the program will be more likely to primarily benefit middle income families.

Critics also note that the provision that protects charter schools and public school districts from losing federal and state aid based on daily attendance when their students transfer to private schools ends in five years costing them needed revenue, and the program will eventually cost the state \$50 million a year in lost revenue that is needed to provide adequate levels of state aid for public education and to fund other essential state services.

### **RELIGIOUS BOARDING SCHOOLS NOW REGULATED**

Religious boarding schools are now subject to state regulation under bipartisan legislation Gov. Mike Parson signed into law July 14. Because the bill contained an emergency clause, it became enforceable immediately upon receiving the governor's signature instead of Aug. 28, when most new laws take effect.

**The longstanding problem of unregulated religious boarding schools in Missouri came to the forefront last fall following a Kansas City Star investigation that revealed allegations of abuse at the Circle of Hope Girls Ranch in Cedar County. In March, the state Attorney General's office charged the couple who owns the now-closed school with 101 felony counts, including statutory rape and sodomy, child molestation and child abuse or neglect.**

Not long after, the governor appointed the attorney general to assist Cedar County officials in investigating a second religious facility, Agape Boarding School, over allegations of physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

**With House Bill 557 becoming law, South Carolina is now the only state in the nation to completely exempt religious boarding schools from regulation.**

HB 557 requires religious boarding schools to notify the Missouri Department of Social Services of their existence and follow basic safety requirements, such as submitting to fire, safety and health inspections and maintaining medical records for all residents. The bill also requires the schools to conduct background checks on all employees and volunteers, as well as guarantee parents have access to their children.

### **COURT TO REHEAR ABORTION RESTRICTION CASE**

In an unusual move, the full 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will, on its own motion, reconsider a June ruling upholding an injunction blocking enforcement of a 2019 Missouri law criminalizing most abortions performed after eight weeks of gestation, with no exceptions for cases of rape or incest.

A three-judge panel of the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit on June 9 ruled the injunction was appropriate since the law runs afoul of U.S. Supreme Court precedent giving women a constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy prior to the point of fetal viability, which typically is around 24 to 28 weeks. At eight weeks, women often are unaware they are pregnant.

The decision by the full 18-member court to rehear the case vacates the panel's

ruling. However, the injunction blocking the law's enforcement remains in force while the case is pending.

**The Missouri General Assembly passed the law in question, House Bill 126, as part of an effort in many states to enact highly restrictive abortion laws and provide the U.S. Supreme Court an opportunity to overturn its landmark 1973 decision *Roe v. Wade*, which first recognized the constitutional right to abortion.**

During its fall term, the Supreme Court is scheduled to take up a case involving a Mississippi law banning abortions after 15 weeks of gestation that lower courts ruled unconstitutional.

### **GOVERNOR VETOES FOUR BILLS**

Gov. Mike Parson has vetoed four bills passed by the Missouri General Assembly during its regular legislative session, which ended in May. The rejected legislation related to taxation, transportation, government officials and access to public records.

**In his explanatory message accompanying the veto of Senate Bill 226, Parson said he rejected the bill because of a provision that sought to require local governments to refund property taxes paid by businesses forced to close or restrict operations due to COVID-19. Parson said the broadly written bill was fraught with possible unintended consequences and could harm the ability of local governments to provide necessary services.**

Parson vetoed House Bill 661, an omnibus transportation bill, in part because of a provision to eliminate vehicle emissions testing for residents of Franklin, Jefferson and St. Charles Counties. Federal law requires such testing in those counties, along with St. Louis City and St. Louis County, due to poor air quality in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wrote Parson in June warning that noncompliance with federal law could cost Missouri about \$52 million a year in federal highway funding, a fact Parson mentioned in his veto message.**

His veto of House Bill 362 stemmed in part from a recent loss his administration suffered at the Missouri Supreme Court. A provision in the bill sought to allow government agencies to reject a request for records if the requestor failed to remit a fee in advance. However, the court in June ruled in a case involving Parson's office that government agencies can't condition making records available for inspection on payment of a fee. Parson also said other provisions of the bill relating to the State Auditor's office and oversight of the state's Children's Division were "unnecessary and duplicative".

The remaining veto was of House Bill 685, which contained several provisions relating to elected and appointed government officials. Parson said he vetoed it solely because of a section authorizing registered lobbyists to maintain a campaign committee to run for public office, a practice currently prohibited by law.

### **STATEHOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS TO MEET**

The two partisan commissions separately responsible for drawing new state Senate and House districts will meet for the first time on July 27.

**However, it will be many weeks before they can conduct any substantive work since the U.S. Census Bureau isn't expected to provide the detailed data needed to draw new district boundaries until September.**

The bureau submitted statewide results from the 2020 Census on April 26, which triggered a series of deadlines under the Missouri Constitution for the state Democratic and Republican parties to submit lists of nominees to the governor, who was required to pick redistricting commissioners from those lists.

Gov. Mike Parson appointed the two commissions, each consisting of 10 Democrats and 10 Republicans, on July 9.

After the commissions hold their initial meetings, they will have until Dec. 27 to agree to preliminary House and Senate redistricting plans. As a practical matter,

however, the commissions will largely sit idle for the next few months because of the delay in getting the necessary Census data.

**If one or both of the partisan commissions fail to agree on a redistricting plan for their chamber, which is what frequently happens, then the task passes to another commission consisting of six Missouri Court of Appeals judges selected by the state Supreme Court.**

Candidate filing for the 2022 primaries currently is scheduled to begin Feb. 22, although the legislature could change state law to delay it if necessary.

The partisan commissions play no role in drawing new congressional districts, which will be done by the General Assembly. The governor is expected to call lawmakers into a special legislative session at the end of the year to take on that job.

**Missouri Governor — Michael L. Parson**  
Office of Communications

July 21, 2021

**Governor Parson Launches “MO VIP” Campaign Giving Vaccinated Missourians a Chance at \$10,000**

**(JEFFERSON CITY, MO)** –Today, during a press conference at the State Capitol, Governor Mike Parson announced the launch of a statewide COVID-19 vaccination incentive program, MO VIP, to encourage vaccination among all Missourians age 12 and up. Over the next three months, 900 Missourians who have or will choose to be

vaccinated will win cash or education savings account prizes in the amount of \$10,000.

"We understand that the some Missourians are hesitant towards getting the vaccine, but we must all take personal responsibility and do right by our own health and that of our friends and family by getting vaccinated," **Governor Parson** said. "This new program will compliment our existing efforts to educate Missourians about the importance of getting the vaccine. Our current COVID-19 situation is serious. This Delta variant transmits faster than what we have previously seen and is more likely to impact children and the unvaccinated, so now is the perfect opportunity to get vaccinated and earn your shot at \$10,000."

After months of leading the nation with one of the lowest COVID-19 case rates, the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) entered Missouri and, due to its high level of transmissibility, quickly became the dominant strain in the state and nation. The most effective way to be protected from COVID-19 in any form is through vaccination.

The MO VIP incentivizes vaccination for those who have not yet been vaccinated as well as provides an opportunity for rewards for the 2.8 million Missourians who have already made the decision to be protected through vaccination.

Missourians who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine are now able to enter to win one of the 900 prizes. The first drawing will be on August 13; drawings will occur every two weeks with the final drawing scheduled for October 8. Once Missouri residents receive a dose, they become eligible to enter the sweepstakes at [MOStopsCovid.com/win](https://MOStopsCovid.com/win). Once entered, their entry will be carried over through all the drawings. There is no need to enter more than once. The entry list will be reviewed, and duplicate entries will be removed prior to each drawing. A winner must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be a living citizen of the United States and a permanent resident of the State of Missouri.
- Must be age 12 or older.
- Must have received at least the first COVID-19 vaccination if receiving the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or one dose if receiving

the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, prior to the drawing date (records will be verified).

Those ineligible include the Governor and First Lady, individuals currently incarcerated on the basis of a felony conviction, statewide elected officials, members of the U.S. Congress and Missouri General Assembly, appointees of Governor Mike Parson, employees of the Office of Governor Mike Parson, the Office of the Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Missouri Lottery, and the Office of Administration (and members of ineligible individuals' households).

Entries will be divided into three categories:

- Red: Missourians age 18 and up receiving at least one dose of vaccine **after** July 21.
- White: Missourians age 18 and up receiving at least one dose of vaccine **before** July 21.
- Blue: Missourians ages 12 to 17 receiving at least one dose of vaccine at any time.

Eighty winners will be randomly selected during each drawing from the Red and White categories (10 from each congressional district). These individuals will each receive a cash prize of \$10,000. During each drawing, 20 adolescents from the Blue category will be randomly selected to receive a \$10,000 education savings account through the Missouri State Treasurer's MOST 529 program. This means every two weeks of the program, 180 Missourians will be winners for a total of 900 individuals. These preliminary winners will all have their vaccination status verified.

To allow time for records and eligibility to be verified, confirmed winners will be announced two weeks following each drawing. Entries will be accepted online until 11:59 p.m. two days prior to each drawing. Official rules, frequently asked questions, and a program timeline are available at [MOStopsCovid.com/win](https://MOStopsCovid.com/win).

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is partnering with Missouri Lottery to conduct a fair and secure program with a randomized selection process. DHSS is using federally funded Coronavirus Relief Funds to fund this campaign. This funding was approved under previous and current federal administrations for broad COVID-19 response purposes to include efforts to boost vaccine uptake.

Those without the ability to enter the sweepstakes online can get assistance by calling the COVID-19 hotline Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. at 877-435-8411.

Additionally, local public health agencies that administer COVID-19 vaccines will now be eligible to provide a financial incentive of up to \$25 for each vaccine recipient, up to a total of \$11 million. This program would provide incentives for administrators to pass along to recipients for 440,000 vaccines administered across Missouri and would sunset on December 31, 2021. Local public health agencies are able to partner with enrolled COVID-19 vaccinators within the State of Missouri to be part of this program. Vaccinators should apply by August 15 and can learn more about this opportunity at [MOPublicHealth.com/vaccinators](https://MOPublicHealth.com/vaccinators). This portion of incentives is being funded by CDC Immunizations grant funding.

Get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines and find a vaccine near you at [MOPublicHealth.com](https://MOPublicHealth.com).

From: Kansas City, Missouri Health Department (KCHD)  
KCHD HAN Number: KC 013-21  
Date: July 19, 2021  
Subject: **Kansas City Health Department Issues Public Health Advisory**



## HEALTH ADVISORY

### Kansas City Health Department Issues Public Health Advisory

The Kansas City, Missouri Health Department (*KCHD*) has issued a Public Health Advisory. We are seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations across the Kansas City Metro area, and the State of Missouri related to the growth of the Delta Variant.

At this time, the population most at risk are those that have not yet been vaccinated regardless of their age, and particularly children. It is important that we take the necessary steps to protect ourselves, our children, and others in the community regardless of vaccination status.

KCHD strongly encourages residents to take the following precautions to protect themselves and those in the community.

- **In order to protect yourself and others who are not yet vaccinated you should wear a mask while in any indoor public facility.**
  - With recent increase of hospitalizations from persons with significant underlying medical conditions, including those that may not be able to receive full protection from the vaccine, we are strongly encouraging every unvaccinated resident to wear a mask when in indoor public spaces.
- **After consulting with the Chief Medical Officers from our area hospitals we specifically recommend that individuals with the following conditions get fully vaccinated as soon as possible and also wear masks when around persons that may not be fully vaccinated.** The following medical conditions are associated with increased risk of death from COVID-19.

*For more information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at the link below. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care/underlyingconditions.html>*

<b>**Underlying Conditions with increased risk of death</b>	
Solid Organ Transplant	Reduced Kidney Function
Increased risk over age 65; with considerable increased risk over age 80	Chronic cardiac disease ( <i>coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathy</i> )
Hematological malignancy	Stroke or dementia
Other neurological disease	Diabetes
Liver disease	Respiratory disease, excluding asthma
Cancer (nonhematological)	Asplenia vs intact spleen
Rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, or psoriasis	Other immunosuppressive condition
Hyperlipidemia	

**\*\*If you have more than one of these conditions, this could substantially increase your risk.**

- When in large groups or attending events and gatherings, do not assume everyone around you is vaccinated.
  - **Regardless of if you have these underlying conditions or not, you should get vaccinated as soon as possible.**
- Parents are encouraged to vaccinate children aged 12 or older.
  - The *Pfizer* vaccine has been approved for individuals 12 years and older, while *Moderna* and *Johnson & Johnson (J&J)* vaccines are approved for people 18 years and older.
- Although individuals aged 12 and older are eligible for vaccination, that does not imply everyone is and has received the vaccine.
- **Please stay home if you are sick.** Seek testing if you develop or have any symptoms of COVID-19, even if you feel symptoms are mild to minimal, and are similar to a common cold or allergies.
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet when around people who may not be fully vaccinated.
- Wash your hands frequently and for at least 20 seconds.
- Talk with your friends and family about the importance of getting vaccinated.
  - For parents of children younger than 12 who cannot be vaccinated, the best way to protect those children is to make sure the adults around them are vaccinated.

As a reminder, no vaccine is 100% effective; however, the COVID-19 vaccines are proven to significantly reduce the risk of serious illness, hospitalization, and death.

Due to the rapid increase in reported COVID cases and hospitalizations, and the CDC recommendations, the Kansas City Health Department will be updating the specific guidance for businesses, religious/faith-based communities, and schools over the next few weeks.

To find information about vaccination locations, updated guidance and to read the FAQ, please visit [www.kcmo.gov](http://www.kcmo.gov).

URBAN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

# CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Connect with the UCC elves and friends for our annual Christmas in July Community Giveaway.

Toys/Gift Cards (kids 17 & under... must be in attendance)

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED FOR ATTENDEES**



July 24th		South Patrol Police Dept. 9701 Marion Park, Dr. Kansas City, MO 64137		12Noon 3PM
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Household Supplies - Books - Educational Materials  
Program Information - & More



[www.urbancommunityconnections.org](http://www.urbancommunityconnections.org)

**FREE**

**Smoke Alarm**

**816-513-4648**

**KCFD**

CITY OF  
KANSAS CITY,  
MISSOURI

For more Fire Safety information visit:

**KCMO.GOV/FIRE**



**Join the conversation**

**Tuesday, July 27**

**Wednesday, August 25**

**4:00-5:30 p.m.**

Given the size and scale of the problem, no single entity can tackle illegal dumping alone. We want to hear the community's ideas for developing coordinated and consistent approaches for preventing illegal dumping across our metro area.

**Please join us for a two-part group discussion to be held virtually.** Your participation is important! All are welcome.

***Free to attend***

**Questions about registration? Please contact Nadja Karpilow at**

**816-701-8226 or email [karpilow@marc.org](mailto:karpilow@marc.org)**

A meeting link will be sent to all registered participants before the workshop.

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**Session dates: Part 1 and Part 2**

**Part 1**

**Listening Session**

**Tuesday, July 27**

**4:00-5:30 p.m.**

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**Part 2**

**Plan for Action**

**Wednesday, August 25**

**4:00-5:30 p.m.**

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**MARC Solid Waste Management District**  
**600 Broadway, Suite 200 | Kansas City, MO 64105**  
**phone 816-474-4240 | fax 816-421-7758**  
**| [www.marc.org/environment](http://www.marc.org/environment)**

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**Kansas City Buffalo Soldiers  
Alexander/ Madison Chapter  
155<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



## **CELEBRATION**

Join us as we commemorate the 155th Anniversary of the of the Congressional Act admitting black soldiers in the U.S. Army during peace time. We will also acknowledge the founding Chapter of the 9th and 10th Horse Calvary Association.

**July 28, 2021  
Wednesday, 6 - 8 p.m.**

**The Great Lawn  
17th & Vine, KCMO**

- ◆ Guest Speakers
- ◆ Presentations
- ◆ Multiple versions of the National Anthems
- ◆ Food Trucks
- ◆ Visual Historic Enactment
- ◆ Meet the ONLY Female Buffalo Soldier
- ◆ Photo Opportunity
- ◆ Veterans Salute

For more information, call 816-513-7701

**[buffalosoldierskc.org](http://buffalosoldierskc.org)**





# Sixth District Household Hazardous Waste Collection

**July 31, 2021: 8 AM - NOON**

## LOCATION:

• RUSKIN HIGH SCHOOL  
7000 E 111TH ST.  
KANSAS CITY, MO, 64134

## Accepted items:

- Automotive products
- Antifreeze
- Batteries
- CFL light bulbs
- Fertilizers
- Flammables
- Fuels
- Hazardous Cleaners
- Hazardous Liquids
- Household Cleaners
- Lawn and Garden Products
- Paint
- Pesticides
- Photographiic Chemicals
- Pool Chemicals
- Solvents
- Thinners
- Used oils

## Unacceptable Items:

Appliances, Asbestos, Containers larger than 5-gallons, Explosives, Ammunition, Fireworks, Medical waste and needles, Prescription drugs, Propane bottles that are over one pound, Fire extinguishers, Butan and Freon, Tires, and Yard waste

## Sponsors:



**Councilmembers  
McManus & Bough**  
Sixth District



**For more information,  
contact Robert Woods  
at 816-513-8442**

All staff will be abiding by  
social distancing policy  
and masks should be worn



Presented by The S.A.V.E Program

# Healthy Relationships & Toxic Relationships: Recognizing Red Flags & Building Boundaries

featuring Ciara Dixon,  
Licensed Professional

Counselor  
*Saturday, July 31st*

*12-1PM*

*with a raffle to give away gift cards!*

*must register & attend to win\**

Link to Register:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqceupj4iHNzalip\\_OoYMwzHlxdByUaWx](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqceupj4iHNzalip_OoYMwzHlxdByUaWx)

*Please register using  
the link or at.*

*@YouthAmbassadorsKC in bio*

*Ages 14+*





# FIFTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING

**Date: Monday, August 2, 2021**

**Time: 6:00pm to 7:30pm**

**Location: Southeast Community Center**

**4201 E. 63rd St., KCMO 64130**

**In-person and virtual**

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Name: Robert Farmer

**Title: Senior Vice-President, Urban America**

**Topic: Update on 63rd St. Project**

Name: Officer Bryan Masterson

**Title: Community Interaction Officer, KCPD Metro Patrol**

**Topic: KCPD report**

Name: Frank Thompson

**Title: Interim Director of Health Department**

**Topic: COVID report and vaccination opportunity**

Microsoft Teams meeting  
**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 872-212-5076,,984046603#](#) United States, Chicago

Phone Conference ID: 984 046 603#

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## **Community America Credit Union Sponsors Trivia Night, Chiefs Ticket Package**

CAC is excited to announce Community America Credit Union is a Boardwalk \$1,000 sponsor for Trivia Night Aug. 12! Also, Community America is donating a package of 4 Nov. 7 Chiefs vs Green Bay Packers tickets, Section 124, Row 37, Seats 7 - 10, plus a Red Parking Pass. These are great seats for a great game! The package, a \$1,000 value, will be raffled off at Trivia Night so be ready to purchase your tickets!

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Fox 4's Mark Alford is the Trivia Night MC and, in addition to the trivia categories, we've got audience participation games planned, so you know it's going to be a fun evening! Thank you to **Blue Cross Blue Shield KC, Elliott Threatt, Quad Power Products, Doug and Freida Smith, City Councilman Lee Barnes, Jr.** and **City Councilwoman Ryana Parks-Shaw** sponsors so far. There are sponsorships at various levels and trivia team slots available. CAC would also greatly appreciate any donated tickets or discounts as prizes and donated beverage/bar supplies. It all supports CAC's mission and this community.

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For Trivia Night, you may:

- Bring a team of six for the trivia contest, \$100/team.
- Come on your own and we'll find you a team, \$20/individual.
- Purchase food onsite, donations cash bar. No outside food and drink please.
- Get in the spirit with fun team name, "costume", table decorations. Go with theme for bonus points.
- Join in audience participation games that require no knowledge!
- Sponsor or donate prizes or supplies for the evening and receive recognition

Register/sponsor online **HERE**. Download PDF of reg/sponsor form **HERE**.

Contact Rachel Casey, [rachel.casey@cackc.org](mailto:rachel.casey@cackc.org), 816-763-3277 x 103 for more info.

# KCMO EMERGENCY RENT & UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



*Income and eligibility requirements include:*

## Who is Eligible?

An eligible renter household has at least one person who:

- Has qualified for unemployment benefits, or experienced a cut in income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Is at risk of experiencing homelessness. Risk factors include:
  - Has past due utility bills or rent or has an eviction notice
  - Is living in unsafe or unhealthy conditions
- Has a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income (AMI)

## Income

Household income is determined as either the household's total income for calendar year 2020 or the household's monthly income at the time of application.

## Eligible Expenses

- Current and past due rent
- Current and past due utility bills
- Trash removal

Emergency rent assistance **CANNOT** be used for telephone, cable or internet.

Tenants can apply for emergency rent relief through a new **\$14.8 million assistance fund**.

The funds will be distributed through existing community agencies that specialize in providing these services. Funding is provided by the second Congressional COVID-19 relief package.

## APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE

<https://gkcassistanceprogram.org/>

For more info and other neighborhood services visit:  
[KCMO.GOV/RentHelp](https://kcmo.gov/RentHelp)



## KCMO EMERGENCY RENT & UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### RENT/UTILITY ASSISTANCE

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- **CHES, Inc.** - (816) 533-7417
  - **Mattie Rhodes** - (816) 471-2536
  - **Community Assistance Council (CAC)**  
(816) 763-3277 ext. 108
  - **Metro Lutheran Ministries**  
(816) 285-3137 (North)  
(816) 285-3139 (South)
  - **Reconciliation Services** - (816) 931-4751
  - **Guadalupe Center** - (816) 421-1015
  - **reStart, Inc.** - (816) 472-5664 or  
rentassistance@restartinc.org
  - **Hope Faith** - (816) 540-6915
  - **Journey to New Life**  
(816) 960-4808 or agrove@jtnl.org
  - **Save, Inc.** - (816) 531-8340
  - **United Way of Greater Kansas City**  
Call 211
- Link to online application:*  
[www.mlmkc.org/rent---utility.html](http://www.mlmkc.org/rent---utility.html)
- **Community Linc** - (816) 531-3727
  - **Greater KC Housing Information Center** - (816) 931-0443

### LEGAL SERVICES FOR EVICTIONS

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- **Heartland Center for Jobs & Freedom**  
(816) 278-1092
- **Legal Aid of Western Missouri**  
(816) 474-6750

### OTHER SERVICES

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- **Mid America Assistance Coalition (MAAC Link)** –  
Utility assistance only - (816) 474-5112
- **Community Capital Fund**  
<https://www.ccfkansascity.org/essential-services>

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**NOTE:** Residents of the CCED Sales Tax District in Kansas City, Missouri—*the area bounded by Ninth Street on the north, Gregory Boulevard on the south, The Paseo Boulevard on the west, and Indiana Avenue on the east*— may apply for up to \$3,000 through the Essential Services Fund. to help cover rent, mortgage, utility, grocery, transportation, or quarantine-related hotel expenses.

*Information regarding rent/utility assistance and legal services for evictions.*  
**Call (816) 513-3026 or Contact Tiffany Drummer**



## Important SNAP/Food Stamp Dates to Remember

### Important SNAP/Food Stamp Dates

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is taking extra steps to keep SNAP/Food Stamp recipients aware of upcoming changes and to ease the return to regular SNAP program benefits and operation.

### Apply for P-EBT now

DSS strongly encourages families with students who qualified for free or reduced-price meals in the previous school year to [apply for Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer \(P-EBT\) benefits by July 31, 2021](#). P-EBT helps families cover extra food costs they experienced during the pandemic. The P-EBT benefit amount is based on the time the school reported was not in-seat learning. The monthly amount is \$129.58 if most of the month was not in-seat or \$77.75 if only some of the month was not in-seat. For more information on P-EBT visit [dss.mo.gov](#).

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

**All SNAP households with a student must apply to receive P-EBT benefits for their student.**

### How to apply for SNAP benefits

For your ease, you can apply for SNAP benefits 24/7 online by visiting [MyDSS.mo.gov](#), or sending a completed application and

verification documents by email to [FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov](mailto:FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov), or by fax to 573-526-9400.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

- It is important for you to report to the Family Support Division (FSD) if you now have an income above the maximum limit (contact information below).
- If you are an able-bodied adult without a dependent, you must report any change in your circumstances to FSD (contact information below).

### **Questions:**

- Visit [myDSS.mo.gov](https://myDSS.mo.gov) to start a chat and get immediate answers to basic questions that are not specific to your case 24 hours a day.
- Call the FSD Information Line at **855-FSD-INFO** or (855-373-4636) Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

## **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 semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to six sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

**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.

**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.

**Center School District**, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as long as food is left on the third 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.

**Red Bridge United Methodist Church**, 636 E. 117<sup>th</sup> St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. 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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Phone

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Email

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